



# Dette Flies: What's your 'angle'



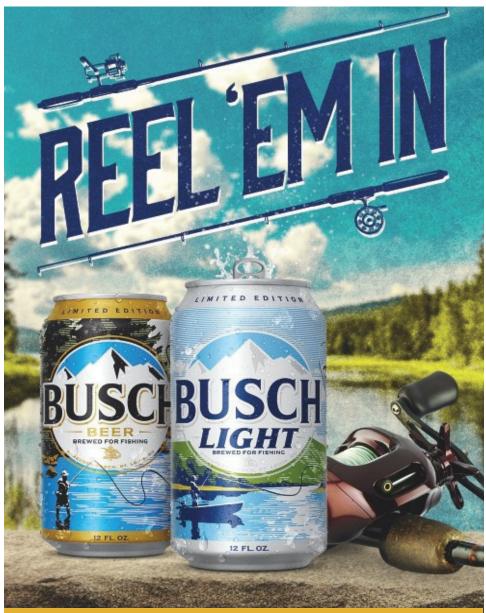
STORY AND PHOTOS
BY CRYSTAL TWEED

ette flies has settled into their new location in Livingston Manor. They have been in their new space for seven years. Kelly Buchta, co-owner of Dette Flies spoke about the benefits of having a small shop that is connected to the area and environment. The shop takes pride in being a part of the community and having a real connection to the products that they sell. Over the years they have developed relationships with their customers, giving time and attention to each person that comes through the door.

"We're here to help anglers learn and expand their skill so they have better enjoyment. We are always willing to teach. After all

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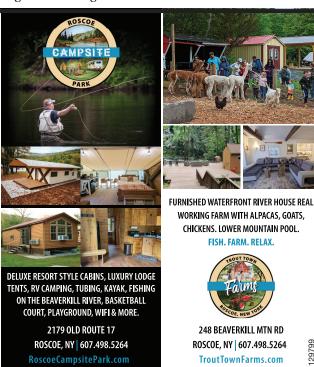
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fishing is a stress relief a way for us to temporarily forget the problems of the world. At the shop we look to assist people on their angling journey. For 97 years our shop has always been willing to teach, to show, and provide information to our customers. We love this area."

Retired biology teacher, Bob Adams who is also part of the crew at Dette Flies, teaches beginner fly tying classes and an all-new Etymology class which stemmed from anglers inquiring about bugs and hatches they would see out on the water. Visitors would come into the shop curious about what bugs were hatching next or looking to identify a bug they came across during their last trip on the water.

The next Beginner Fly Fishing Workshop is scheduled for April 5. Duration is 5 hours and participants can expect to get both classroom and hands on cast-





Far left: Choose the vise that suits your personal needs while tying flies.

Rods are displayed and grouped by size.

At right: Fly tying materials

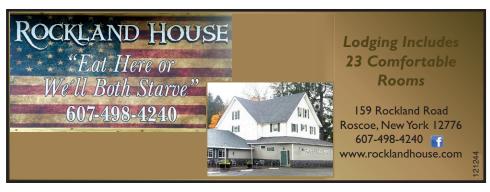
ing experience. All gear for the class is provided by the shop.

Dette Flies is a one-stop shop for all your angling needs. They carry a wide range of rods, fly tying materials, gear & tackle and endless assortment of flies, hooks, vises, hackle and more. Anything an angler would need for the water you can find at Dette. Stop in an get outfitted for the water and shop their apparel section. Dette is proud to carry a large variety of waders for men and especially women.

On April 12 they are offering a free casting clinic. Etymology classes are



upcoming in April or May. You can also book a private Encounter lesson if you are a beginner looking to start your fly-fishing journey. The annual event Trout About Town, coincides with their season opener. The local even is a family friendly event that includes a parade, vendor fair, and other festivities. To schedule a private class, inquire about upcoming clinics you can visit their website at detteflies.com.





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TROUT, 2025 CATSKILLS CONFIDENTIAL 5

## Join the Catskill Fly Fishing Center for their Annual Dinner Banquet

### BY TIM MC CAUSLAND AND CRYSTAL TWEED

n May 31, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum (CFFCM) will host its Annual Banquet at the Rockland House in Roscoe, an evening dedicated to celebrating the rich history and bright future of fly fishing in the Catskills. This year's banquet will be especially meaningful as we honor three individuals whose contributions have left a lasting impact on the sport, the community, and conservation efforts: Rick Miller (posthumously), Martha Mason, and Judy Van Put.

Each year, the CFFCM's
Banquet brings together
anglers, conservationists,
supporters, and friends
to recognize those who
have dedicated themselves
to preserving and promoting
the traditions of fly fishing, generally
and the CFFCM, in particular. This year's
honorees exemplify that commitment:

Sulliv.

"Va."

- Rick Miller (honored posthumously) was a cherished figure in the Catskills fly fishing community, known for his craftsmanship, knowledge, and generosity in sharing the sport with others. His legacy as a passionate advocate for fly fishing and conservation will continue to inspire generations.
- Martha Mason has been instrumental in fostering a love for fly fishing through her leadership, education, and advocacy. Her unwavering support for conservation efforts has helped protect and preserve the waters we hold dear.

Martha says, "I am truly honored to be recognized but have to admit that

I was taken aback and quite shocked when I was informed of the CFFCM's decision. At first, I resisted as I do not like attention drawn to me and am happy to serve in the background as a volunteer. I have been involved with the CFFCM for decades. I am humbled, honored, and excited to be included in the ranks of those who have been recognized before me (including my husband Tom Mason in 2023) and those that I join this year... my friend and neighbor Judy Van Put and my long-time, dearly missed friend, Rick Miller."

• Judy Van Put, a respected writer, historian, and conservationist, has played a critical role in chronicling the rich heritage of fly fishing in the Catskills. Her dedication to storytelling and environmental advocacy has kept the region's traditions alive for new generations. Judy writes a weekly column, Streamside for the

**Sullivan County Democrat.** 

"Van Put shared with the Democrat what this honor means to her, "Frankly I was shocked to learn that I was to be honored as a Catskill Legend. After my initial shock, I felt humbled and honored, and I am very much looking forward to celebrating, especially with my friend and neighbor, Martha."

"The CFFCM Annual Banquet is always a special night, but this year's event will be truly unforgettable as we honor three remarkable individuals who have given so much to the fly-fishing community," said Tim McCausland, CFFCM Trustee and Annual Banquet Chair. "Rick, Martha, and Judy have each contributed immensely to our shared legacy, and we are proud to celebrate them."

The evening will feature a cocktail hour, dinner, awards presentations, raffles and auctions, and the opportunity to connect again with friends and stewards of the sport. Proceeds from the Banquet will support CFFCM's mission to preserve and promote the art, history, and science of fly fishing. McCausland continued. "While we recognize the immeasurable contributions of our honorees, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is also dedicated to introducing the sport to a new generation of anglers. This event is a great opportunity for those 'emerging anglers' to learn about the marvelous culture that is American fly fishing."

Tickets for the Annual Banquet will be available through the CFFCM website and are expected to sell quickly. For more information or to reserve your seat, visit www.cffcm.com. Join us as we celebrate these remarkable honorees and the enduring spirit of fly fishing in the Catskills.

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### Catching anglers in the Big Apple is a goal of the CFFCM

Catskill Fly Fishing
Center & Museum
Director of
Operation, recently
brought a curated
box of fly fishing
books and flies
from the museum
to New York City,
aimed at promoting
and educating the
public on the art of
fly fishing.

STORY AND PHOTO BY NEW YORK CITY CORRESPONDENT LAURA STABBERT

n March 6 The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum (CFFCM) launched 'Hook & Book' with Filson, on the second floor of the Filson Flagship store located at 876 Broadway in New York City's Union Square neighborhood in Manhattan. The event had fly fishing history, company and drinks. Catskill Brewery and Wyoming Whiskey provided libations for the crowd.

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center works with Filson several times a year to promote the sport of fly fishing. Filson was established in 1897 in Seattle and originally was created to outfit folks on their way north to the gold fields.

Clinton C. Fison was the outfitter for the brave pioneers. Filson continues to outfit folks who enjoy the outdoors in

2025, including anglers.

Laura Colangelo of the Fly Fishing Center and Museum, located at 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, was in attendance to support the sport.

Colangelo started as Director of Operations at CFFCM on March 1st, 2025. She previously worked at Dette Flies, famous in the fly fishing community.

Dette Flies is a fly fishing shop located in Livingston Manor. Colangelo was excited to join the team at the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum and the current task at hand was educating the public on fly fishing and the Catskill Mountains.

"We live and breathe the Catskills, and it's our opinion we have the best fly fishing in the world," said Conangelo.

The Catskills is regarded as the birthplace of American dry fly fishing, and proud of the legacy.

The CFFCM supplied curated boxes for the exhibit, which represented different aspects of angling and members of the executive board of trustees were present to help answer questions and educate the crowd.

The CFFCM sporadically has events in NYC in an effort to continue to keep the sport of fly fishing popular.

Judy Van Put was in attendance at the Hook & Book event. Judy, a well known member of the Catskill fly fishing community, will be inducted as a Catskill Legend at the CFFCM annual dinner on May 31st.

Judy will be inducted alongside Rick Miller and Martha Mason and tickets to the dinner, held at the Rockland House in Roscoe, are open to the public and can be purchased at cffcm.com. Judy Van Put will also be present for the first cast at Junction Pool on April 1st.







Many anglers start fishing early, even from early childhood, and still can remember the thrill of catching their first fish! Ed and Kaia having a blast.

### BY JUDY VAN PUT

e are fortunate to be able to enjoy this beautiful water-rich area of upstate New York and its prime "Blue-ribbon" trout fishing. And although few began fly-fishing as young children, many of us who have grown up nearby have had their first experiences fishing with spinning rods as youngsters and can still remember the thrill of catching their first fish. And some have gotten "hooked" on fishing, wanting to learn how to fly-fish as they got a bit older. Each year there are newcomers to the sport, some of whom are lured by the legends, or fascinated by the flies, captivated by the casting and intrigued by the intricacy. Fishing is a subject that has been written about more than any other sport; beginning from as far back as 1496, with Dame Juliana Berners' A Treatyse of Fysshynge Wyth an Angle, to Izaak Walton's The

Compleat Angler written in 1653, and continuing on to present-day.

Fly-fishing involves trying to entice a fish to take (eat) a hand-tied lure (fly) that is made to imitate a living insect. The fly itself is a work of art, made of feathers, fur, perhaps some tinsel, carefully wound with gossamer thread onto a hook. The finished fly is then tied on to an extremely fine monofilament tippet, which is attached to a leader, and then a graduated fly line held on the reel.

The act of casting the line through a beautifully supple, long fly-rod, is also an art. Unlike fishing with a spinning rod, where the heavier weight of the bait or lure carries the light monofilament line out toward the fish fairly easily, fishing with a fly-rod involves using a relatively weightless fly and casting the (heavier) flyline, which unfurls and carries the fly out, landing it delicately over the fish, which requires practice, timing and accuracy.



BLOOD-KNOT a 20-inch tippet to your leader, tag end untrimmed for a dropper. Tie a Leadwing Coach-man on the tippet, a Royal Coach-

for assistance from other fly-fishers when learning to cast a fly-rod; many are happy to offer helpful tips and even a lesson or two!

Fly-fishing is, for many, a life-long activity. There are a number of facets involved in the sport in addition to catching fish: from learning how to 'read water' to find where the fish lie, to perfecting your casting, to tying flies, even to building a flyrod. But learning to fly-fish is not all that difficult. Similar to learning how to ride a bicycle, there may be bumpy starts and stops, sloppy casts and tangled lines, but with enough time spent, once you master the rhythm and timing, you've got it! Fly-casting does not involve a lot of strength (which is why women can cast as well as men) but rather timing and coordination and 'feeling' the line as it passes overhead.

When you are starting out, you should practice casting in an open area with no bushes or tree branches to interfere -

ideally a pond or large pool on the river; even a parking area or driveway will work. It's a good idea to practice casting before you attempt to fly-fish on the stream. Tie a small piece of brightly colored varn on to the end of your tippet; you will have less chance of becoming tangled and it will be easier to practice with than having a fly (hook) at the end of your line that can become caught.

Begin with your rod tip pointing down and strip off some line from the reel, moving the rod tip from side to side to send the line down through the guides. Then holding the line still in your left hand, smoothly lift and pick up the rod until the tip is overhead at about the 2:00 position behind you and pause slightly to let the line begin to straight-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12** 

**SPRING. 2025** TROUT II









#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

en out, then move the rod forward to cast the line and lay it down in front of you. Practice this a number of times until you get used to 'feeling' the line move through the rod and having it land gently out in front of you; it's all that is needed for wet-fly fishing. You can work on 'false casting' (not putting the fly down on the forward cast to dry the fly in the air) for dry-fly fishing after you feel comfortable and have more experience with the basic cast.

When teaching newcomers to the sport, we often begin with wet-fly fishing, as it involves less casting since you are fishing your flies below the surface. And we usually fish with two wet flies or a wet fly and a nymph at once, as fly-fishers in Ireland and Scotland and old-time Catskill trout fishers would do.

For the wet fly rig, tie a wet fly or nymph to the end of your tippet. This is considered the "end fly" and will most likely be the fly that the trout takes. Next, tie on a dropper (a section of tippet about 12 inches in length) about 20 inches above the end fly. Tie a brightly-colored wet fly, such as a Royal Coachman, to the end of the dropper. This will attract the fish's attention. Cast the flies lightly across the stream and allow them to swing downstream with the current – no false casting is done, as you want the flies to sink and remain under the surface. Once the flies are downstream of you, slowly retrieve them with a slight 'twitch' to the line, which





Practicing in an open area – like a driveway with no overhanging branches in which to become entangled – will help you to concentrate on the line overhead and perfect your casting before heading to the river.

gives the flies "life". Hold the line in your left hand to maintain tension and the rod in your right, giving a little movement to the fly. When the cast is completed and the line straightens below, use the rod tip to move the fly a time or two before gently picking up the line for the next cast. Be ready to gently set the hook if you see the line suddenly stop; a trout will take the fly most often when the line is taut on the swing, which takes place near the end of the cast. Oftentimes a trout will hook itself, and you'll need to be ready to reel it in.

Wet-fly fishing can be very productive in the early spring months of April and May, before the major mayfly hatches begin, and when waters are high and discolored; use of a weighted fly or split shot added to the line will help keep your flies closer to the bottom, which is

where most trout activity will be during the early season. Concentrating on fishing with wet flies or nymphs (below the surface) should be most productive in the early season - and easier as far as getting used to casting a fly-rod. Visit your local fly shops or sports store and ask questions; many will post a hatch chart that you can use as a guide to figure out which flies to purchase. For example, tiny Blue-Winged Olives (mayflies) and little Black Stoneflies are among the earliest flies to hatch, followed by Quill Gordons, then Hendricksons and Red Ouills. Some favorite early-season nymphs and wet flies to try include the Hare's Ear, Blue Quill and Leadwing Coachman.

Don't be afraid to ask other fly-fishers you may encounter any questions that CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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may arise - chances are they will be happy to give advice, perhaps lend a hand (or a fly!) and help as best they can.

Whether you decide to focus solely on casting well enough to catch fish, or go a bit further into trying your hand at tying a fly or even building a fly-rod, be sure to visit the Catskill Fly-Fishing Center & Museum- (https://cffcm. com/) for all the above activities. And many local fly shops are offering fly-tying lessons and sessions right now - including Dette Flies in Livingston Manor and Trout Town Flies in Roscoe - as well as fly-fishing lessons a bit later in the season.

Fly-fishing is an exciting, rewarding and beautiful pastime in which to get involved - why not start today!



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