

# Crossroads Anglers

FLYFISHING CLUB SINCE 1994

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

## From the President



November is here as I write this and I have to say that for most of us the season is over. Some of us (Steve) had his best season (his words), but for others it was not a very productive year. There is some trout fishing around and I hope if you go you stay warm.

I just came from a very successful steelhead trip, I had the pleasure of taking Sumner Levine with me and he could not believe what fishing on the Erie Tribs is like. When you see Sumner ask him as I do not want to steal his thunder.

We are having a special speaker this month, Dan Trela, who will talk about the Swift River. For those of us who have fished the Swift I am sure we will learn some new techniques.

The December meeting will change due to Christmas Eve. Watch the web site for the new date.

Well, I have to edit photos from the steelhead trip so I will making this letter short

Hope to see everyone at the meeting,

—Joel

## Guest Speaker for November

### Dan Trela

Hear about the Swift River from an expert!



Dan with Swift landlocked salmon.

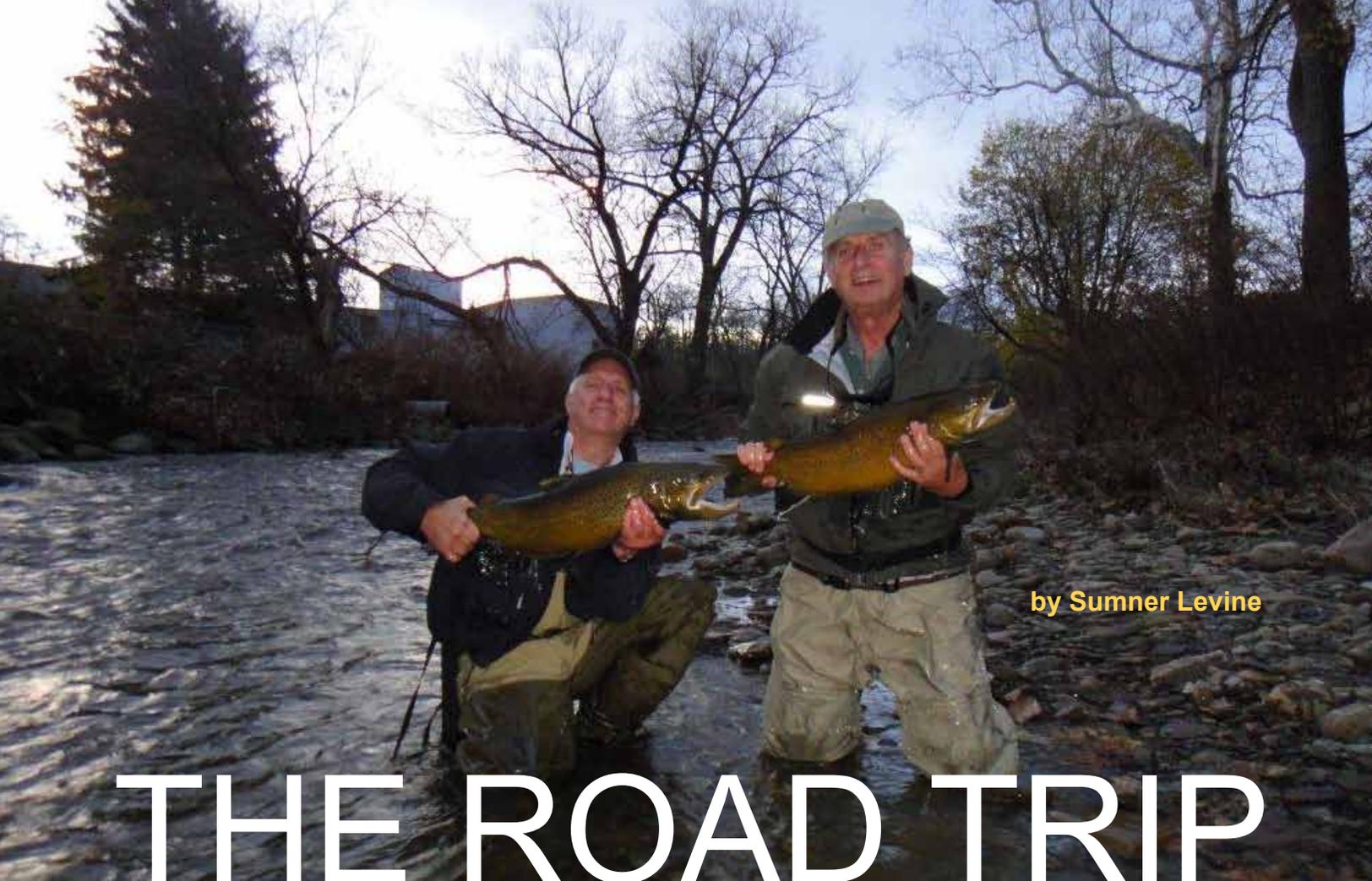
DAN TRELA is a Ware, Massachusetts resident and a life-long central Massachusetts fisherman. He fishes the Swift River every day and when the hatch is on, he also fishes the Quabog, Quabbin, and other local hot spots. He can tell you what shade and variety of dry, nymph or emerger rainbow and brookie are taking today and distinguish it from what they took yesterday. He pumps a stomach or two, identifies, then preserves the contents to take home to his shop. There he will tie that particular pattern for his return to the water.

Although Dan ties nymphs and shares them with friends, he only fishes dries. "On the top is more fun to me just because I get bored fishing nymphs; I catch too many," Dan says.

Joel & Sumner's  
Excellent Adventure  
**THE ROAD TRIP**

*Starts on page 2!*

Continued on page 6. ►



by Sumner Levine

# THE ROAD TRIP

\* \* \*

*Most of us have heard about Pulaski, New York and the great steelhead fishing. Many of us, including myself, have made the trip with two or three other guys, filling the car with gear, and taking off for the weekend. Landing six hours later in Pulaski, we find a place to stay, stop by the local sport shop for a license, and listen to local news of conditions and which flies have been catching fish. Strange, they are never the ones I have tied all year – so we buy the flies, get some food and head back to the hotel for a night's sleep and make plans for the next day's fishing. The next few days, we fish with hundreds of other souls, all on the same adventure. We might catch a fish or we might lose a fish and that's about it. We head home with war stories about the adventure for the coming year.*

*My friend Joel has been talking about a DIFFERENT adventure, one of actually catching fish – showing us pictures of past catches. He asked me if I would like to join him on one of these adventures and after much thought I said...“YES!”*

## The Cast of Characters

Joel Kessler, CA president      Sumner Levine, CA editor  
Michael Prairie, Guide (716-860-9926)

**Saturday:** Joel picked me up around 7:30 a.m. and off we went. Our destination for this adventure was Williamsville, New York – an eight hour drive. About four hours into the trip we stopped for lunch at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY, dropped ten bucks on the slots in two minutes, got back on the road, and arrived at a Microtel in Williamsville around 3:00 p.m.

After checking in we were off to Walmart for licenses, and then a trip to Dick's for spikes for my wading shoes. I had been *obsessing* about not finding my korkers at home and, improvising, drilled a dozen screws into each of my shoes (the same ones I used to hang my gutter guards last week).

After seeing the price tag (!) for the korkers and thinking I would only use them once, I reluctantly left the spikes in the store.

On to Wegman's for dinner and breakfast supplies, and back to the hotel to sleep, if possible, as our guide was picking us up at 5:30 a.m. *The story goes there are umpteen fishermen out there in the morning and it can be really hard to find a spot – hence the crack of dawn.*

**Sunday:** At the appointed time we met our guide, Michael, packed our gear in his jeep and took off. It's dark

and it's pouring rain and I say to myself – *stay positive, stay positive!* An hour and a half later, we pulled off on a side road and stopped. The rain had stopped and no other fishermen were around. Our guide was surprised. We got into our gear – already in our waders for the early start – so we were ready to go in ten minutes. Joel looked at me and said "Follow me carefully, and watch your step, this gets tricky." *You tell me this now!*

Over the guard rail and under the highway bridge we go, *Oh my* – the slope of the dirt under the overpass was at least 45 degrees. *Just follow in their foot steps, keep your weight to the right, and concentrate on each step,* I thought.

After coming out on the other side of the bridge, Joel turned to me and said this is *bushwhacking* and off he went down the trail with me still concentrating on where to put my feet. *Again, you tell me this now!*

The trail led to a small stream. We walked in the stream, following the path, down and down into at least a 100-foot gorge. At the bottom was a small stream, maybe ten feet wide – *are we going to fish this?* Then we start to walk down stream and I notice I'm walking on flat shale rock – *hope these screws in my boots work.* It's getting wider but pretty shallow and my boots are working fine.





There's a fine algae on the shale but the screws are working their magic and the rocks do not feel slippery. Nonetheless, I do shorten my stride, watch where I'm stepping, and try to keep up. I notice the guide is chugging right along with Joel right behind him, and I think to myself – *they must be part mountain goat!*

The river got wider, and we came to a waterfall. Michael walked out, put his foot in a hole and forcefully pushed out about six steelhead that then swam down stream. *Hopefully, we would meet them later.*

We kept walking down stream until Michael spotted fish in a run, and we started to cast to individual fish – like in the Swift River. Six casts later I was on. I remember Michael saying “get him on the reel, let him run.” Seventy feet away, the fish made a spin on top of the water and spit the hook. Wow, I hooked my first steelhead! Michael pointed out three more fish – all I could see was a slightly darker blur where he is pointing – and after a dozen casts, I am on, again. This time, the hook holds and after a five-minute fight I landed my first steelhead – about a six pound dark male! Joel and I landed seven fish and lost four in that one run.

We moved up stream just below the falls to a large hole. Michael added split shots to my line and showed me

where he wanted me to cast. Second cast I was on, lost it down river, next cast I was on again and landed it (fouled hooked). Two casts later, I was on again and landed it (fouled hooked again). According to Michael the hook was too large. He replaced my fly with a #12 low water nymph (clearly, Michael did not want me gaffing his fish – #12 will make sure of that). I hooked a few more and lost them.

I noticed Joel and Michael were heading down stream. *(OK, enough of this! I decided to follow.)*

Michael pointed out fish to Joel and he started casting. He waved for me to follow and we found a big hole with a large flat rock in front of it. I started casting – ten casts, add split shot, ten more casts, add split shot – nothing. Michael, moved me to the other side of the hole – ten more casts, nothing. Then Michael told me to turn sideways and cast backhanded – drive the split shots into the top edge of the hole. Four casts later I was on and landed a nice seven pound bright steelhead. *Lesson: Casting angles are everything!*

Downstream, Michael spotted a large bright hen in a slight eddy. Joel told me to give it a try, so I stepped up and began casting, but could not get the fly in the right lane. After about 15 casts, I asked Joel if he would like to try – *attempting to be an adult and not a selfish kid.*



He made about twenty casts. Michael changed split shot and directed Joel to cast from different angles, then a male moved up beside the hen and the fifth cast took Joel's fly. Ten minutes later Joel landed a steelhead, probably weighing 10 or 11 pounds – the largest steelhead of the day.

At that point, Joel and I were beat and starving. We walked back to the car, had lunch, and decided to try a new spot looking for browns. Two miles later, we stopped in a neighborhood with a river running through it. We walked across a bridge, down the bank and started fishing (easier to fish than the last place and no other fishermen around). We landed six bright steelhead – the largest about eight pounds – fishing deep with a balloon float along a line of riprap.

Michael moved us around the bend in the river and had me fish a riffle – pointing out fish and giving advice on where to cast. After a number of poor casts, he moved me again and again, so I could present the fly properly, never getting upset or raising his voice, just patiently guiding me to make the right presentation – clearly an excellent guide.

Finally, I hooked up to a big hen brown and landed it – about eight pounds. Later, both Joel and I hooked up to

two male browns and landed both. We took pictures and looked at our guide and cried, "Uncle!" It was now dark and we were running on adrenaline and little else. Joel and I stood watching while Michael continued to look for fish in the dark. This guide worked for us from start to finish – in this case 12 hours.

We headed to the hotel, unloaded our gear, thanked our guide and were about to drag the gear into the hotel when Joel turned to me and said, "There is fishing and there is catching" and we responded in unison, "Today was catching!" ■



## Step by Step

# FLIES - LITTLE RAINBOW TROUT

by Marcelo Morales

ORIGINALLY, BUCKTAILS WERE STREAMERS whose wings were made with white-tail deer hair. Today, bucktails are those streamers whose wings are made with different hairs, and not only deer tail.

The first elegant flies I tied 30 years ago were bucktails, like this one that I especially like. It served me well when fishing for landlocked salmon in the greater Curruhué Lake, though it was born in the streamers golden era in Maine. We can find in this series other flies like the Little Brown Trout and the Little Brook Trout, also very effective.

Practice is needed if we want to tie these streamers correctly, achieving the correct proportions and using the right amounts of hair. The results are highly gratifying.

After tying micro flies that require the skills of a surgeon, it's nice to set a big hook on the vise and play with some color hairs, maybe make something that reminds us of a Patagonia sunset as the colors in the fireplace evoke visions and memories.

**Step 1** Choose a hook that goes well with the elegance of the fly. Daichii 2271, a hook for salmon streamers and Dee style flies is perfect. Carefully select a shiny green bundle of bucktail and even it out. It's key to choose deer tails with hair of the same length. The hair must be softly frizzed and be straight at the same time, with good tips. Uneven hair with fine twisted tips is impossible to even out. Once we even the green hair bundle, tie it with turns of white thread from the front to the bend of the hook.

**Step 2** Go back to the front with the white thread. Tie the flat tinsel on the lower side of the body. If the tinsel is finer it will be better, you can cut it diagonally to use it. Tie the fine tip first and you will get an elegant ribbing.

**Step 3** Use some dubbing to make an underbody in the center section of the body. Always use a lighter thread color so the dubbing color does not vary when wet, here black thread can ruin our fly.

### Tying Materials

Hook: Daiichi 2271/2.

Thread: 8/0 white, and black for the head.

Tail: White Bucktail, shiny green.

Body: Pale pink dubbing.

Ribbing: mid silver Tinsel.

Wing: White Bucktail, shiny green, pink, and grey squirrel.

Barb or throat: pink Bucktail.

Cheeks: Jungle Cock.





**Step 4** Place some more dubbing, go to the back and then to the front shaping an even body.



**Step 5** Time to place the tinsel. Pay attention to the number of turns and the inclination so the result is pleasant to the eyes. Generally, 5 or 6 turns with a 45° inclination is correct. Separate the turns a bit more where the fly gets thicker, it has a good visual effect.



**Step 6** In the same way that we made the tail, even out a White bucktail bundle and tie it so it reaches the tips of the tail. Do not use too much hair, for 3 more bundles go over the white one. We do not want to ruin the head, the silhouette and the fly's grace in the water.



**Step 7** Carefully, place a pink bucktail over the white one, then a green one, and then the grey squirrel back (the middle section of the tail has better hair). Make a conic shape by trimming the hair. Each hair should be shorter than the previous one. Some tiers use the two middle hairs shorter and other variants. After tying the wing, add an even short pink bundle to resemble a throat or barb.



**Step 8** Use the black thread and tie the two Jungle Cocks (or similar materials), finishing a short conic head that goes well with the thickness of the fly. Cement with some cyanoacrilate to make the head last longer and then varnish with our favorite lacquer.





His expertise in aquatic insects is second to none. His tying techniques are quick, precise and productive. Watch him tie his famous bumble bee...it's amazingly realistic. Then, on the opposite end of the difficulty spectrum, the "cigarette butt." Dan is a retired Ware pharmacist and way back when he smoked, at the end of a slow day fishing, he would toss the butt into the water. When something hit it, he went home to tie a white balsa wood stub. I always carry at least two with me. "Never forget to fish the butt," Dan says.

Dan has built all of my fly rods and two of my spinning rods. He is a Sage, St. Croix, Pac Bay and Winston dealer. His annual January newsletter lists special prices on blanks. He is D.T. Kustom Tackle, 16 Woodland Heights, Ware, MA 01082 and can be reached at [trelarods@comcast.net](mailto:trelarods@comcast.net). —George Forte



Small fish,  
big fish,  
and cigars.



## 2013 Annual Crossroads Anglers Fishing Tournament

Categories will be based on species including but not limited to:

Striped bass	Sea trout	Fluke	Atlantic Salmon	Peacock bass
Largemouth bass	Pickrel	Rainbow trout	Tiger trout	
Albie	Bluefish	Redfish	Salmon	
Smallmouth bass	Brook trout	Steelhead	Brown trout	

**Contest will end November 30, 2013. Certificates will be presented at the December Crossroads meeting.**

This is a very simple contest with the winners enjoying perpetual bragging rights.

- It is open to all Club members.
- Fish must be caught using a flyrod.
- Results must be measured, photographed, and hopefully released.
- Each winner will be determined based on the entire length of the fish.
- All reported results will be based on the honor of the contestant.

Results will be regularly posted right here as they come in.

The results you see are merely current entries. Submit your entries by:

1. posting on the message board
2. e-mailing Steve Dewar at [dewar1028@gmail.com](mailto:dewar1028@gmail.com)
3. mailing the old-fashioned way: 10 Colleen Dr, Lakeville, MA 02347



# Special *Savings* for Crossroads Members

Discounts will be offered to members of the Crossroads Anglers who show their Club membership card to the following businesses when they reserve their date out on the water:

**Captain David Porecca, River & Riptide Anglers**  
 Fly & Light Tackle Charter and Guide Service  
**10 percent discount** for Crossroads Anglers Members  
 401-392-1919, [www.riverandriptide.com](http://www.riverandriptide.com)

**Captain Gary Swanson, Striper-Charters**  
 13 Harbour Hill Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
 508-353-4009, [CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com](mailto:CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com)

**Captain Vern (Rob) Robinson & Son, Rock N Reel 24**  
 85 Seymour Street, Berkley, MA 02779, 508-822-6756

**Capt. Tom W.**  
 Private Charters for both Fresh & Saltwater Guide Service  
 Conventional & Fly-fishing  
**15 percent discount** for Crossroads Anglers Members  
 781-408-1215



## Crossroads Anglers 2013 Officers

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~ November 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting 6:30pm ELECTION DAY	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

~ December 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting 6:30pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm Doubt it	25 Christmas	26 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm Meeting moved to here???	27	28
29	30	31	<b>Notes:</b>			