TROUT TIMES



Vanguard Chapter

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BACK TO THE RIVER

By L.E. Walla



VANDERBILT— Twelve eager Vanguard members made the annual pilgrimage to the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRCSF) the weekend of August 7-9th to do our annual conservation project with the Upper Black River Council (UBRC) and Huron Pines.

We all trickled in at different times throughout the day on Friday. After bringing our gear and food in for the weekend and picking out our bunks, we wandered down to the river to see what was hatching and to try our luck at catching some of the brook trout and rainbows that call the Pigeon River home.

After a nice evening of fishing we sat around the campfire, told some fish stories and eventually headed off to our bunks to try to get a good night's rest for the next day's project.

For the past two years we have been working within the PRCSF on erosion projects for two sinkhole lakes that needed well-deserved attention of building controlled pathways down to the water's edge. This year we had requested to get back to doing a river project. To the overwhelming agreement of Huron Pine's Carol Rose, that is what we did.

The project started with a 15-minute drive from the PRCSF Staff House to an

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unimproved two track into the woods where we met Nico Tucker, the crew leader for UBRC, who gave us instructions on where we would park our vehicles to then load up our gear and bodies into trucks to venture down the rest of the way to the work site on the Black River.

We met the other three staff members of the work crew and our hosts, Carol and Paul Rose, to get briefed of what we would be doing for the project. Carol gave a very nice summary on what the UBRC goals were for continuous care for the Black River and for maintaining a healthy and sustainable brook trout population.

Our project for that day would be creating silt management beds on certain areas in this stretch of the river. We were doing this project in the area that once was the Blue Lake Club property that years ago had been sold to the state. The

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WORK WEEKEND

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area is known as the "chimney area" due to the only remnant, a chimney, of what used to be one of the buildings that once stood there.

The UBRC crew had already been at work cutting trees and striping the boughs and branches for us to haul down to the river bank to be used as the material we would construct the sediment beds from.

approximately eight feet in length. This rod, with the duck bill attached, is then driven in to the river bed as deep as one of our eager, strong young volunteer is capable of driving it, usually to a depth of around six feet.

After the cables are driven and the structure securely anchored to the river bed, we then backfilled the structures with small sticks, branches, and pine boughs to create the perfect silt and sediment bed to filter the water. This allows the river channel to have good exposed gravel for the fish to thrive in.

tional TU publication from the summer 2015 issue, I strongly encourage you to do so. It shows what concerns and how the type of work we do on the Black River is helping to make coldwater and trout habitat better for generations to come.



The crew was very eager to demonstrate a new pulley and winch system they recently acquired and put it to action. The new system worked quite well and was much less cumbersome than the old chainsaw style power winch and we were able to move some sizeable logs of around seven inches in diameter by 16 feet long with ease.

We floated the large logs into place at around eight feet from the bank and parallel to the river. We then nailed a smaller diameter perpendicular to this log, one on each end.

The next task was to attach an eight foot length of 1/8 inch diameter cable to the log system at each joint and at each leading edge at the river back. At the end of the cable is what's referred to as a "duck bill" anchor.

This duck bill has a socket that accepts properly ground-to-fit re-rod of

After a nice steak dinner, it was off to the river again to catch an evening hatch. There were a few caddis, tiny blue-winged olives, and even a couple of small, yellow stone flies that were hatching. There were a few little brook trout caught and it was a beautiful evening. We finished off the night with a campfire and eventually found our way to our bunks.

Sunday morning we had breakfast and did a cleanup of the lodge and everyone headed home with many stopping on the way to fish some of our favorite stretches of river.

Another successful river project weekend complete! Thank you to the 12 Vanguard members for taking the time out of your busy lives to head north to put your boots to the ground and give back to the environment.

On a side note, if you haven't read the report State of the Trout in the na-

Dear Mr. Butts:

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to attend the Trout Unlimited camp organized by the Kalamazoo Chapter. I appreciate the scholarship that [the Vanguard Chapter] gave me. I had the best camp experience ever.

Some of the things we learned at the camp were; learning how to tie flies with Josh Greenberg (the author of Rivers of Sand), fly casting, the easiest and best way to make trout habitat, the trout's diet, wader safety, and fly presentation with Glen Blackwood.

A couple of activities we did were fish the Au Sable River every night, collecting micro-invertebrates, electro-shocking, making lanyards for our tippet and fishing tools, a canoe trip, and a special float trip on Au Sable River boats. One of the most interesting parts of the camp to me is when Howard Johnson taught us about the Mason Tract and the beginning of Trout Unlimited.

Thank you again for the scholarship. I look forward to going to another Trout Unlimited Camp. I will see you this Thursday to tell you more about it and the other members.

Sincerely,

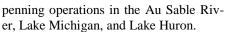
Michael Behm

President's Corner

By Larry Butts

The Vanguard Chapter was well represented at the Michigan TU Council meetings in July with Jeff Gerwitz in attendance for Vanguard, past president Tom Quail as Vice Chairman, and Joe Barker as editor of the quarterly magazine.

I want to make you all aware of the potential for damage to our fisheries and our fresh water resources. At the spring Council meeting we were made aware of applications having been submitted for instream and net-



At the July 11th meeting we approved a policy statement that details our concerns and reasons against approval of these permits for circulation to our membership and to our contacts in state government. The reason for the policy statement follows.

Recently, Dan Vogler, owner of Harrietta Hills Fish Farms and President of the Michigan Aquaculture Association, requested a permit from the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and with assistance from Michigan Sea Grant, to allow aquaculture, or commercial fish farming.

The farm would be located at an old "tourist hatchery" on the East Branch of the Au Sable River. The plan is to increase fish production from the *current* 10,000 fish per year to 300,000 fish per year.

Another in-stream application has been sought as well for two proposed net penning operations in Lake Huron near Alpena and Bay De Nock in Lake Michigan.

As a result of these permit applications and proposals, the MRARD, DEQ and DNR have created and appointed a

Science Panel. This Science Panel appears to be working secretively, in that very little if any public comment is available and there are no notices of meetings.

DNR Director Keith Creigh was asked, "Is the Science Panel asking themselves, 'If Michigan proceeds with Net-

Penning, then what?' or 'How can Michigan make this happen?" The answer was, "Probably the latter."

That answer elevated our concern for aquaculture operations in Michigan.

The issues associated with the proposed fish farms include pollution in the form of feces and uneaten food pellets, the introduction of antibiotics and increased water temperatures in the river.

They will be raising fish that have been genetically engineered to grow faster and larger than native trout and in fact are not actually trout.

Similar operations in Canada have experienced and documented the aforementioned problems and have had large numbers of fish escape into the wild, where they are an invasive species.

A copy of this Policy is available on this website as well as a copy of my letter to US Representative Candice S. Miller of the 10th Congressional District. I would urge you to read both and write your State and National representatives.

MITU ADOPTS AQUACULTURAL POLICY

By Joe Barker

HIGGINS LAKE— At the summer meeting of the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, representatives passed a comprehensive policy position regarding aquaculture in the state and in the Great Lakes.

The policy is in response to the State of Michigan's recent issuance of a permit to a private entity to begin commercial fish rearing operations at the old fish hatchery in on the East Branch of the Au Sable River in Grayling. The operation is aimed at providing fish for food consumption rather than stream stocking. The capacity of the fish hatchery will increase dramatically pursuant to the permit.

The policy states MITU's concern that the State's regulations are not adequate or satisfactory to protect Michigan's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds from aquaculture impacts. MITU believes the risks posed are too great and the potential harms are devastating. Aquaculture occurs in three basic forms: closed pond systems, stream flow through systems, and open water net pen systems.

In general, MITU does not support aquaculture unless it is strictly regulated in a way that ensures no harm to Michigan's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. This means that regulations for aquaculture must ensure that no impacts occur from this activity, and that all risks posed are eliminated. Private operations must not be subsidized by the public by allowing negative impacts or diminishment of the state's natural resources or the existing uses and benefits provided by those natural resources.

MITU believes the potential harms posed by aquaculture include higher water temperature and lowered dissolved oxygen from stream flow through sys-

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AQUACULTURE

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tems where diversions of flow from coldwater streams are shunted through raceways or ponds and discharged back into the same stream as is the operation at the Grayling fish hatchery.

Nutrient pollution can also be introduced into the water bodies receiving the discharges of wastewaters from flow through systems or from open water net pen systems. Phosphorus is often the limiting nutrient in aquatic systems, and very small changes in the level of it can lead to significant changes to aquatic ecosystems.

Addition of antibiotics and growth hormones to the fish food similar to other large-scale meat productions operations may be released into public waters where they can affect natural bacterial communities' dynamics and resistance (influencing frequency and severity of disease outbreaks), wild fish health, and public drinking water supplies.

Aquaculture poses a threat of disease introduction to wild fisheries. Fish raised in a facility are often acquired from other places and may bring diseases with them. Also, large and dense fish concentrations increase the probability of disease and the severity of disease outbreaks.

Fish escape from aquaculture facilities is inevitable. Escapement can introduce new invasive and foreign species which can result in complete ecological imbalances (i.e., Asian carp – a result of an insufficiently regulated aquaculture operation). More often under-assessed is the introduction of domesticated gene pools from fish species that are found in nearby waters.

To protect against these potential harms, MITU's policy asserts there is a need for strict regulatory standards and frequent testing and monitoring. All aquaculture operations must be required to provide bonds to the State of Michigan sufficient to cover all costs of natural resource damages and harms to Michigan's sport fishery.

TROUT TIMES

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Larry Butts, President Joe Barker, Editor

CONNECTIVITY TO OUR WATER RESOURCES

By Larry Butts

We live in a time where we as a species are increasingly separated from the world we live in. Rather than visit friends, we tweet, text, or post on Facebook, and in the process become more and more removed from the world around us. Similarly, our schools no longer teach our pioneer history of hunting and farming and "living off the land," and so we are further separated from the world we live in.

In a recent segment on one of the cable news channels, students from several Ivy League colleges were asked where their food comes from. Most answered the supermarket. Thinking they were joking the reporter asked if they had ever bought produce or meat from a farmer's market. Although some of them had, none had been on a real working farm and the thought of harvesting meat through hunting was largely abhorrent.

Perhaps more alarming was the answer to the question "where does your water come from?" Most answered that it comes from deep wells or reservoirs. When asked "are you concerned about pollution in the lakes and streams?" most replied no, because it has no effect on our drinking water.

To be fair, most were aware of sewage treatment plants and were quite comfortable that "it was all treated and safe." Prescription drugs being flushed into the sewer system or run-off from farms and golf courses that are not treated by the sewage treatment process, was something none seemed aware of, not to mention the effects that these have on people.

Point source pollution from fertilizers containing phosphates from farms and golf courses have been a problem for years and are only now being addressed.

See CONNECTIVITY, next page.

Paint Creek Woody Debris Removal #1

By Jeff Gerwitz

ROCHESTER— Vanguard members Frank Pankala, Eli Stanesa, Dave Weeks and Jeff Gerwitz showed up on Paint Creek, along with the Clinton Valley TU Chapter and the Clinton River Watershed Council to remove one of the woody debris sites that we identified during our survey early this summer.

This site was just north of Tienken Road. It was amazing what a dozen or so people with two chainsaws can do. While two guys cut up the wood, the rest of us floated the pieces to the bank where we carried it up the bank to a spot that

was far enough removed that they would not end up back in the creek during the next high water event.

All of the debris was completely removed in about two hours and you can see from the before and after pictures that the result was absolutely spectacular.

There will be a second debris removal later this summer so if you are interested in helping just watch your emails. I would like to say one thing to the chainsaw operators for the next event

- SMALLER PIECES PLEASE!!!





CONNECTIVITY

Continued from prior page.

And now we are facing large scale aquaculture in the form of "fish farms" raising genetically altered fish that will result in additional pollution from their feces and uneaten feed pellets.

Those of you who fish our northern streams have had to contend with kids in canoes, kayaks and inner tubes, and have watched several of them dump their bottles, cans and trash into these rivers.

My theory is that this trashing our rivers is yet another example of people being disconnected from the world around them. If they were aware of the problem, perhaps they would care.

The point that I am trying to make is that a large segment of our population is unaware of the importance of maintaining our rivers, lakes and streams and that not doing so will impact us all for years to come. We need to do a better job of educating our children, our neighbors, and our elected officials of how we live in one world and that all things are indeed connected.

A good place to start is by working with the teachers who conduct the Salmon-in-the-Classroom projects and speaking up at meetings with the DNR, and other government agencies charged with maintaining our public trusts.

VANGUARD CHAPTER

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Any questions or to book your trip – just email at kelly@michiganstreamside.com or call at 989-889-5374.

UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCE AT SPRING OUTING

By Joe Barker

GRAYLING—It's certainly not the first time the U.S. has embraced English culture. The Beatles are the most notable example to us Baby Boomers. But being served Spotted Dick at May's Vanguard Chapter spring outing at Riverview Lodge in May was an unexpected experience.

No, it's not as bad as it sounds. Although I can't attest to that firsthand. I avoided it and left the room shortly after it was opened. Dave Watson, the Chapter's resident transplant from Jolly Ole' England, who if you haven't met at any outings or conservation

stead. Since the Vanguard spring outing doesn't qualify as highbrow, I'll stick with Spotted Dick. But enough with the double entendre.

It's a pudding popular in Britain containing dried fruit, usually raisins, and commonly served with custard. The raisins, or sometimes currants, are the source of the spotted reference. The "dick" part is more obscure. Apparently, dick has been used as a term for pudding since the 19th century or may simply be a corruption of the word pudding according to Wikipedia.



events, can be found working the fly shop in Bass Pro at Great Lakes Crossing, sprung Spotted Dick on attendees to the outing after dinner on Saturday.

The name Spotted Dick has been the source of enough amusement that some sophisticated establishments prefer to refer to it as Spotted Richard in In any event, Spotted Dick was introduced by Dave as dessert following the steaks everyone grilled up after many had returned from a hard day of fishing. And that's an apt description. The fishing was hard.

Much like opening weekend of the

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WEEKEND OUTING

Continued from prior page.

regular trout season, there were plenty of bugs in the air and in the water over the weekend, but feeding trout were few and far between. Weather wise you couldn't ask for much better. Temperatures warmed into the mid-60s by the time most everyone had arrived at Riverview on Friday evening. On Saturday afternoon the thermometer tickled 75 degrees and it bumped up another 5-10 degrees by Sunday afternoon. By that time most everyone had shoved off for home after frustrating fishing on Friday and Saturday.

The water temperature on the mainstream of the Au Sable River below McMaster's Bridge, just across the road from the lodge, did climb to 54 degrees by mid-afternoon on Saturday, which should have been enough to get trout feeding on the smorgasbord of Hendrickson and Sulphur mayflies, with scattered varieties of stoneflies and caddis.

Yet, on the float from McMaster's to Parmalee Bridge by two boats occupied by Joe Swantek, Al Woody, John Sabina, Tom Quail, and myself, rises to floating bugs were extremely rare. One or two small brookies foolishly grabbed a nymph under the surface, and Al had the distinction of catching the biggest trout of the weekend. Rather fortuitously, after the anchor had been dropped upon spotting a couple rising fish, Al hooked a 16" Brown trout on his Zoo Cougar streamer as it swung in the current below the boat. Go figure, after all the flailing of fly lines we had been doing that day.

Of course, as any fishing guide will tell you, or at least I will, the hardest part about catching trout is spotting them in the first place. At least that's the story that Sherri Walla, Larry's wife, is sticking to. On their fishing excursions, she spotted a couple rising fish on the river that she pointed out to Larry, who then caught them to her dismay.

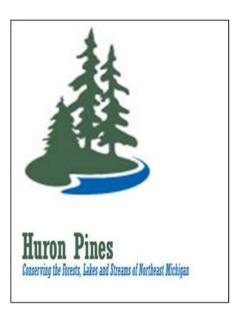
But like the few other fish caught that weekend, they were undersized for a river like the Au Sable. There were a couple novice fishermen who attended the outing for the first time as Chapter members and had the good fortune of catching their first trout on a fly rod. Regardless of the size, that made the weekend worthwhile for them.

Add to that a great fish fry orchestrated by Scott Hummon on Friday evening and lively euchre games between casual conversation over a beer and Tiger games on TV and everyone had an enjoyable weekend, despite a dissappointing head count of trout brought to the net.

This year's outing hosted 28 members, some old and some new. Many thanks to Chapter president Larry Butts for bearing the brunt of the grunt work to make sure there was plenty of food, including sandwiches and chips that fishermen could pack with them on their afternoon fishing excursions.

This is the fourth year that Riverview has hosted the outing, which serves to raise a little money for the Chapter's conservation coffers. There was some discussion about maybe moving the outing to later in the season in hopes of having more fish attend, but much of that depends on availability.

In any case, everyone is looking forward to next year's unexpected experience.



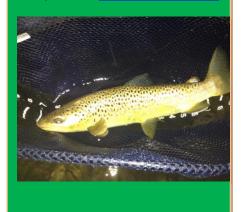


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What's to Carp About? It's Fishin' Isn't It?

By Joe Barker

TRAVERSE CITY— Joe Swantek was caught a little off guard when Al Woody and I asked him if he was game to get up early the next morning after a night of Hex fishing to chase carp in Grand Traverse Bay. He'd brought his trout gear and flies, but hadn't anticipated more heavyweight fishing. But when's the last time you heard Swanky turn down a fishing opportunity?

Al and I had been on a dry run in the west arm of the bay the day before looking for carp. Dry in the sense we saw few carp and had even fewer opportunities to cast to them.

But we had been trolling around the bay at a most inopportune time, the middle of the day on a bright, sunny day. That made spotting cruising fish easy, which is exactly why we didn't see very many of them. They are sagacious enough to not be in shallow water when they are more vulnerable.



The urge to spawn though is a strong. The morning is when they'll more readily roam into the shallow water and reed beds; the males chasing a fecund female.

So despite a late night of fishing for Hex, we decided to impede the desires of the carp to seed in the reeds in the hope they might feed. It was already late in the season for finding carp frolicking in the shallows, being almost mid-July. But like the Hex this season, everything was late. Steady rains and cold nights had delayed the call of nature.

The three of us cast off from Bower's Harbor in my 17½ foot Princecraft ski/bass boat and successfully fired up the 115-horse Evinrude after a few coughs and sputters. The weather conditions were perfect. There was barely a breeze, making for only a ripple on the water. The sun peeked over the tree tops producing a slight glare that Polaroid sunglasses helped neutralize.

Our first stop on the flats at the tip of the harbor was not encouraging. Al and Joe were much more familiar with the spot than I was, having used a fishing guide to track down carp there previously. Standing on the bow of the boat operating the trolling motor we quietly cruised over the rock strewn bottom in two to four feet of water. But there was nothing to be seen. Dark shadows on the bottom turned out to be ghosts of large boulders.

We fired up the motor and made a dash across the bay to Tower Island, which is a quiet wilderness reserve, where Al and I had been the day before. Typically, the carp will be found on the flats of the windward side, taking advantage of the warmer water being

blown towards land. But where we had seen a few fish the day before, there was vacant water now.

Our optimism was fading as we trolled around the northern point of the island and cruised through deeper water tinted green, blue, and beige with rocks silhouetting the sandy bottom. It was then we spotted the first dark shadows that actually coasted along the bottom. They weren't particularly shy of the trolling motor in the six to eight feet of water, but getting a fly down to them proved difficult.



The more we trolled, the more fish we spotted, and the longer we trolled, the closer to shore the carp began to swim. Sometimes it was only a single fish, other times a pair, once in a while a pod of four to six fish. We cast to a number of fish, using a Killer Crayfish pattern that sported orange spotted rubber legs and bronze barbell eyes. Often though, if we were able to cast 40 feet, the fish would make sure to cruise 50 feet away.

We dropped Al off on the shore of the island to pursue the fish in the shallows and reeds where they were occasionally making a commotion. Swanky and I stuck to chasing fish in deeper water, although we were no more successful than Al in convincing love-struck carp to slow down and take a look at our flies.

That is until Swanky, using my 7 weight steelhead rod, with a nice Orvis reel, and a Killer Crayfish from my fishing vest tied to the leader, was alerted to a carp that seemed to actually be poking around the bottom not far from the boat.

"Swanky, there's a fish checking out my fly. See him? Keep your fly in

See CARP, next page.

The Banana Hopper

By Joe Barker

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from my upcoming book, "Fly Fishing with the Little Fat Bastard" (that I hope to finish one of these days). Late summer and fall are hopper season, and this is one of my go-to fly patterns. I prefer the smaller sizes of #8 and #10. You can make it doubly effective by adding a foot of tippet to the bend of the hook and attaching a small foam ant. Happy fishing!

STEP 1. After making a nice thread base on the hook, tie in a red hackle tail. The tail is typically rather short.



STEP 2. Tie in a poly post about a quarter of way back from the hook eye. I tie it in with the short end facing forward, approximately the length of what I intend the post to be.



STEP 3. Double the poly over and tie it down again so that the post is twice as thick. This is particular important because of the size of the fly and the fact that you'll be winding a fairly good size hackle around the post.



STEP 4. Make a few wraps in front of the poly to stand it upright. You can trim the post to length or leave it long until the end. By leaving it long, you have a little extra poly to hold onto when you wrap the hackle.



STEP 5. Cut a piece about 1/8 wide from a sheet of yellow foam. Sometimes the best foam to use can be found at a craft store rather than from a fly shop. The craft store foam is closed cell foam just like at the fly shop, but tends to be softer and more pliable. That makes it easier to wrap around the hook. Another advantage: it's a lot cheaper from the craft store. Tie the foam to the top of the hook shank directly in back of where the poly post was tied in. Tie down the foam the entire length of the hook. This will allow for a nice even body once the foam is wrapped.



CARP

Continued from prior page.

the water." The words were no sooner out of my mouth then the fish stuck its nose up at my fly, swam over to Swanky's, and inhaled it. Swanky set the hook and away the carp went, stripping line off his reel as it made a dash for downtown Traverse City.

I stepped on the trolling motor, trying my best not to throw myself overboard as I stood on the bow, and gave chase. The carp zigged and we zagged in pursuit. The carp dove into deeper water and Swanky strained to pull him to the surface.

After about a 10-minute spirited fight, the five pound bronze, broad carp called it a day and rolled to the surface. I slipped the landing net under him, took a couple photos, and allowed him and Swanky to catch their breaths before releasing the carp (not Swanky) back into the water.

"Nice job, Swanky, you get credit for reeling in the fish that I saw, pointed out to you, chased, and loaned you my rod, reel, and fly to catch!"

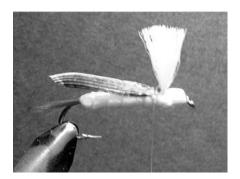
"Thanks, Barker. I think I'll drink one of your beers now too."

STEP 6. Wrap the foam up the entire body of the fly making sure to wrap close to the post both in front and behind it. The foam should be wrapped all the way to the hook eye and should be relatively even throughout. Tie down the foam and trim it even with the post.



STEP 7. Cut a 1/4 inch piece of mottled turkey wing quill. I usually coat a wing

quill section with finger nail polish or head cement to make it tougher and so it doesn't split as easily when being attached to the fly and when it's been gnawed on by a hungry trucha. Attach the wing tight against the post and tie down with several wraps about a 1/8 inch wide so that the wing will not pull free from the foam easily. The foam being pliable, it is important to make your wraps rather firm, but without distorting the foam body too much.



STEP 8. Round rubber legs usually come attached together in strips. Take this strip and separate two rubber legs, but keep the two legs together, unseparated from each other. Tie a knot in the set of legs to make a knee joint. After pulling the knot tight so that the joint does not unwind (if you have that problem add a little glue to the joint to keep it together), trim one end short, about a 1/4 inch long to form the lower leg.



STEP 9. Attach one set of rubber legs to each side of the body. Secure both behind and in front of the post and trim the legs in front of the post just behind the hook eye.



STEP 10. Cut a thin piece of foam. Try to make it as thin as you can because it will be used to hide the base of the wing case and the legs, but you don't want to build up this section of the thorax too much.



STEP 11. Tie in the thin strip of foam behind the post.



Step 12. The foam should be tied far enough back to allow for two wraps behind the post before crossing the foam to the front of the fly and making a wrap closest to the hook eye and work a couple more wraps back toward the post. The foam can be tied down just below the hook post using the wraps to smooth the thorax.



STEP 13. Tie in a rooster grizzly hackle, concave side down, along the top and side of the post, securing it both in front and back of the post. Add a small amount of clear topcoat or head cement to the tie in point for the hackle securing it firmly to the foam. Adding a touch of glue to the post itself will make sure the wraps of the hackle around the post stay attached and don't slid up after repeated use on the stream.



STEP 14. Make about four or five wraps of hackle around the post and trim off in front of the post, making sure to secure it snuggly before tying off your knot. After trimming the thread, remove the fly from the vise and add glue to the bottom of the fly over the thread wraps. One of the hazards of this type of parachute fly is that the sharp dentures of a hungry trout have a tendency to cut the thread wherever it might be exposed.

