

Phoenicia Library's

JERRY BARTLETT MEMORIAL ANGLING COLLECTION



NEWSLETTER 2023

Hank Rope, 1940 – 2023

We are dedicating the major part of this newsletter to Hank Rope, who passed away in March. Hank was a perennial contributor to the newsletter, reporting on the “trout in the classroom” program, and heading many fly-tying classes at the library.

Here’s what Beth Waterman, our co-chair, wrote upon receiving the news of Hank’s death:

“Hank was on the steering committee of the Angling Collection at the Phoenicia Library and one of our early and ardent supporters. He taught fly tying at the very beginning, and helped with rods and reels, books and programs as we grew the collection. He ran the Trout in the Classroom at the Phoenicia School where he endeared himself to the students and teachers. His passion for fishing manifested in many selfless activities like Casting for Recovery with breast cancer survivors at Frost Valley.

Hank and I both reside in Big Indian. I saw him occasionally on his daily walks to the Post Office. We went to the same gym. I swam and he fished in a remote pond. Our paths crossed, though not often. It was always a pleasure to see him. I miss him already, but I take comfort that he and Muriel will be side by side again in the great hereafter.”



Dany Davis, NYCDEP Stream Studies Coordinator/Geologist, sent this tribute.

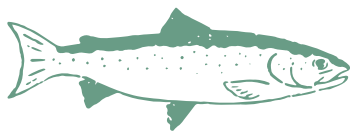
“I was deeply saddened by the news of Hank Rope’s passing. Of the many fantastic people in the Catskill angling community I have met and professionally engaged with through the years, Hank was one of the most rewarding engagements in my career as a fluvial geomorphologist in the Catskills. What initially started off as a bristly encounter (partially due to my working for NYCDEP), ended up being a sincere positive engage-

ment every time we got to see each other. Many years ago we even gave a public presentation in Phoenicia together as we narrated an aerial video I had taken of Esopus Creek from a helicopter following the April, 2005 flood. I learned a lot about Esopus Creek from Hank. I truly felt respected by Hank, and I hope he felt the same from me. I hadn't seen him for the past 3 years and am sad to know I will not get to see him again and share our stream stories. He truly is a Catskill streams legend in my world."

Brett Barry created a marvelous, completely fulfilling podcast that includes several interviews with Hank speaking of his love for trout and his happiness at living in the Esopus corridor. Listen to it; we think you'll agree: <https://www.kaatscast.com/remembering-hank-rope/>

"Just two weeks before the start of trout season, the Catskills lost a paragon of angling. Henry "Hank" Rope, Jr., wore out a pair of wading shoes every year, he once told us, fishing Catskills creeks and tributaries. Hank shared his love of the sport through his Big Indian Guide Service and volunteered his time with Trout in the Classroom at a community elementary school.

We recorded Mr. Rope on several occasions over the years, and this week we're joined by two friends — Bethia Waterman and Jane Wolfrom — with memories to share." Brett Barry, creator of @Kaatscast.



Thank you!

This is a list of people who've helped us through donations over the past year. Helen Chase, Herbert William Birns, Robert Gulnick, Glenn Kirby, Douglass Bartlett, Steve Stanne, Anita Siegenthaler, Selby, Nick Lyons, Paul Hoyt, Cliff Schwark, the Neversink Association, Shirley Darrow, and

Terrence P. Cummings in memory of Edward O. Cummings, biologist, naturalist, and avid angler.

Visit our website

Yes, even in the pastoral heart of the Southern Catskills, we've got a website. Our recent programs are archived on the news/events tab. Check it out. www.catskillanglingcollection.org. We have applied for funding to do two programs this fall to add to our Sporting Legends of the Catskills series on our website.



Parting Shot

The Jerry Bartlett Collection exists as the result of private donations of everything from time to money, to books, to sweat and elbow grease; and offers of any or all of these are gratefully accepted and appreciated.

Our book donation policy is restricted by the available space on the shelves. We would especially like to acquire books that focus on the Catskills. Book duplication can be avoided by contacting Beth Waterman either by phone or email.

If you'd like to volunteer to put on an angling-related workshop or demonstration, or if you have questions about the collection, please get in touch with our chairman Beth Waterman (845) 254-4116, or our co-chair Doris Bartlett (845) 688-7101.

We'd like to encourage you to add your e-mail address to our list so that you can receive occasional announcements of special events, workshops, future newsletters, and a plethora of other good fishy things. Please send your e-mail queries to bethia.waterman@gmail.com.

Cheers,

Mike O'Neil

Docent, Civis et Piscator Dei Gratia
