

## 2009 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Inductees

On Saturday, October 17, 2009, at 3:00 PM the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum will induct into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in recognition of their major and significant contributions to the fly fishing community.

Gardner Grant, Bob Clouser, Dan Blanton and Roman Moser and posthumously Frederick Halford and George E.M. Skues.

### 2009 Class of the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame:

**Bob Clouser** is immediately recognized as the inventor of the one of the most unique, innovative, and productive fly pattern styles of all times, The Clouser Minnow. Originally designed for fly fishing for the smallmouth bass on the Susquehanna River, it has become one of the most productive fresh and salt water fly patterns ever. Through Bob's keen interest and education in pursuing smallmouth with a fly, his energy has brought attention to this species and elevated it to a game fish status for the fly rodder worldwide. Warm water fisheries are very similar to cold-water fisheries and require maintenance to keep fish healthy and alive. Bob has been a champion in educating a new generation of fly fishers. Like Henshall's early works on Black Bass, Bob brings forth a new respect for fly fishing to all warm water species.

**Roman Moser** is our first living international Hall of Fame inductee. Roman started his fly fishing career as a fly tyer in his native Austria at age 15. After receiving his Masters Degree in Natural Sciences, he taught at the Business Academy in Gmunden and supplemented his income as a fly fishing and casting instructor with Hans Gebetsroither (a good friend of Charles Ritz and Lee Wulff). Roman's expertise continued and soon introduced both Western and Eastern Europe to fly fishing techniques to catch local species of coarse fish including carp, walleye, and pike. He proved to the world that by adding a gold bead to his nymphs and those proven patterns of others, fly fishers would catch more fish. This innovation also created a new dimension to fly patterns and a controversy among fly fishers worldwide, *lure or fly?* Today beadhead patterns are highly regarded and recognized as one of the greatest improvements to flies of the past century. To improve and rebuild the rivers of Eastern Europe, Roman introduced the Whitlock Vibert boxes with great success. Today Roman continues to bridge the world fly fishing community with fly fishing products, techniques and healthy environmental programs.

**Dan Blanton** for his major influence on modern fly fishing and fly fisherman over the past 40 years. Dan developed the techniques now used throughout the world for fly fishing in deeper water with fast sinking lines and special flies. One of the most prolific writers and columnists, his website is considered the most informative on the Internet educating today's and tomorrow's fly fishing generations worldwide. His signature fly, *The Whistler* is immediately recognized by all saltwater fly fishers.

**Frederick Halford**, the father of *dry fly fishing*. Not the inventor, simply the proponent who launched dry fly fishing *only* as a way of fly fishing life. Although one sided in theory and practice, Halford brought forth casting techniques, equipment, entomological study and imitative fly tying into the forefront, specifically to top water fishing. His correspondence with Theodore Gordon initiated an American Revolution in modern fly fishing and truly American fly tying that continues today.

**George E. M. Skues** is considered one of the greatest trout fishermen that ever lived. Through his experimentation and observations, Skues proved to the dry fly fishing purists that undersurface, sub subsurface and *in surface* feeding, was commonplace for trout. Of course, many dry fly fishermen of the time considered this to be heresy and stir debate. Skues' early observations and tactics continue as proof today that fly fishermen have to be well versed in reading water, insect life cycles, and understanding the feeding pattern of fish for on stream success. Ultimately, Skues continues to influence and encourage fly fishermen to explore and experiment as he did 100 years ago.

**Gardner Grant** for his lifelong contributions in preserving, protecting, and promoting fly fishing. Gardner's past includes: president of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Federation of Fly Fishers, national director of Trout Unlimited, director of The Atlantic Salmon Federation, director of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, Chairman of the Board of the American Museum of Fly Fishing, founding director of the NYS Environmental Planning Lobby, organizer and co-chair of the Wild Trout Symposia I, II, and III. He organized the 1<sup>st</sup> *catch, tag, and release* experiment with Atlantic salmon in Iceland, made two trips to Moscow to arrange the first angling trip to Russia by westerners since 1917, was a bluefish and striped bass fly fishing pioneer. These are just a few of the many achievements, recognitions, and accomplishments of this concerned and generous benefactor to the sport of fly fishing.