

# CFFCM's Castabout

Catskill Fly Fishing  
Center & Museum  
845-439-4810

Volume 5 Issue 11

November 2009



## New Members

Aaron Jasper  
Diana & David Kolstad  
Long Island Chapter of  
Trout Unlimited  
Doug Priebe  
Gene Wilson Jr.

## November Thomas Herrington Membership Winner

Each month we award a prize in our monthly CFFCM membership drawing. All members in good standing are eligible. So if your dues are paid and up-to-date, the next winner could be you!



**Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Review** With a forecast of rain and up to 8 inches of snow accumulation, we were treated to a dry and clear weekend. Our afternoon induction ceremony, officiated by MC Dave Brandt, ushered in another six members to the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. This honor is bestowed upon those who have made a significant and recognizable contribution to the overall sport of fly fishing.

The 2009 Inductees were honored with a brief history of their noted accomplishments and contributions. The late Frederick Halford, *father of the dry fly*, began the ceremony with Terry Shultz receiving the award. It is planned to ship Halford's award to the London Fly Fishers Club to be hung in his honor. Keith Skues, great grandnephew of the late GEM Skues, came in from England to accept the award on behalf of the family. Keith, a BBC broadcaster, shared some family stories of his great granduncle as creator of nymph fishing that caused controversy among the 'true' fly fishers of the time who considered it heresy. Dan Blanton and Bob Clouser were unavailable to attend to accept their awards due to fishing commitments outside of the country, a justified excuse for every fly fisherman. Dave read a wonderful testimony of Dan from Lou Tabory (HOF 2007) and Bob sent in a gracious acceptance letter. Terry Shultz accepted the awards on their behalf. After the reading of Gardner Grant's bio and merits, Gardner's son Gary, shared some stories of his father and his admiration for him. He then presented the HOF Certificate to him. Following Gardner's acceptance comments, Keith Fulsher, Gardner's closest friend, made some comments that they rely on one another and have to fish together; "Gardner needs help getting in and out of the river and in return, Gardner has to tie on my flies that are smaller than a size 10". Joan Wulff remarked that it was Gardner who introduced Lee and her to the Catskills when they were searching for the perfect place for their flyfishing school; a moment in history. Austria's Roman Moser was honored to be 'the first living alien' in the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. His major accomplishments of being a fly casting instructor, fly innovator, and riverkeeper on Austria's Traun River have enabled him to study and pass on his experiences as a contribution to fly fishers everywhere.

Following the ceremony, dinner was held at King's. After dinner, President Miriam Stone spoke about our new HOF members and asked them to the dais for any further comments. Gardner Grant shared his appreciation for the award and that "it's all about fly fishing". Roman Moser told us how important an *American Hall of Fame award* is to Austrians. He was featured on the front page of the largest daily newspaper in Austria leaving little room for world news and relegating only a small photo of President Obama to the bottom right hand corner. Keith Skues entertained the audience with some true British humor and reminded everyone that like clues and blues, it is pronounced Skues.

Wrapping up the evening were some closing comments by long time member and former CFFCM trustee, Tom Woodbury. Tom reminded us of the history from the early contributions of letters from Halford to Theodore Gordon the making of perfect dry flies ensued with generations of followers. He appropriately tied in both Skues and Moser who stimulated the acceptance and continued improvement of nymph fishing. He spoke of the building of fly fishing through the improvements of our rivers and protection of our fisheries from Darbee to Grant, the establishment of new types of fishing and new avenues in both fresh and saltwaters in different parts of the world and the joining of all fly fishermen. Tom spoke of the prose we read that relishes our desire to fish, rekindling more pleasant thoughts, and the desire to return next season. He reminisced of just a few years back when Ernie Schwiebert, at this same ceremony, replied to the posed question "What is so important about fly fishing that makes it so wonderful for you?" His reply ... "everything".

## Streamside Notes

### Streamside Notes

Just when you thought you were out of the woods, another tree falls. Thank you for your response to our call to purchase raffle tickets and send in additional funds for our necessary repair and replacement projects. I would like to thank 'Our Pal Al Himmel' once again for his concerns about the CFFCM. We received another handsome check that will be used for our immediate needs and upkeep in the museum. He seems to know in advance when we need help. However, we still have a way to go in finding that path out and meeting our financial needs.

Another blip showed up unexpectedly after our last mailing; our heat died in the gift shop and offices on Friday, October 2. Agnes was cold and made sure I was aware of it. At the present time, we are using space heaters to take the edge off the chill and Agnes. We had local electricians and heating people in for ap-

praisals and estimates, however, solutions and quotes have not been acceptable. After a frantic call to Jack Leary, CFFCM member and volunteer electrical engineer and consultant, he drove in from CT. He has gone over the entire electrical and heating service and has given us a suitable solution at a cost that is more acceptable. It is great to have such talent in our volunteer pool. The heat will soon be on again.

We have a couple of more opportunities to get together before the snow sticks. The Arts of the Angler Show, A Night in NY and our Holiday Open House are approaching fast. Let's stay in contact. I am working on a new exhibit to replace the TU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary display in 2010 entitled "Dead Fish" and could use your help. If you have a photo, or vintage postcard that shows dead fish next to a creel or a slew of them on a stick, or an old mounted fish, we will gladly put it to good use. More details to follow.

In closing, I came in the other morning to find a WWII duffel bag, a completely loaded and well-equipped vest and a lined Sage rod and reel leaning up against the counter in the gift shop. When Shelly came in, she told me that an older gentleman brought them in the night before just as she was locking up. According to Shelly, the man said, "Pass this on to someone younger that will put it to good use. I fell once, got up and then fell again. It is time for me to hang it up for good. I just can't do it anymore." And then he left. I know we will all reach this point sometime in our lives and hope we can realize it before it is too late. Again, this is what Joan Wulff continues to talk about, replace yourself and bring in another fly fisherman.

It's all about fly fishing.

Jim Krul

### The winners of the Members Hall of Fame Raffle were:

- #1. Orvis Helios 9' 6W 4PC Fly Rod - Robert Geisman
- #2. Certified Walt Dette Fly - Gardner Grant
- #3. Simms Mesh Vest with Accessories - Rick Miller
- #4. Renzetti Series 2000 Travel Vise - Norman Russell
- #5. Tying Catskill Dry Flies by Mike Valla, signed with Fly - John Shanahan
- #6. Redwood Creed Wines and CFFCM Glasses - John Szot



**Recent Acquisitions:** From **Tom Smithwick**, a 1968 hand written letter from Everett Garrison to Bill Fink discussing epoxies, ferrules, and heat treating. From **Gardner Grant**, a signed copy of Richard Bell's book, *Pootatuck-The history of the Pootatuck Club in Newtown, CT.* for our library. From **Joan Wulff**, several of Lee's saltwater flies, a 12" Tandem Lake Trout Fly tied by sculptor of the Lee Wulff bronze statue, Bob Wolf, her signed Winston visor and another for fundraising, and some vintage Wulff fly line materials for our line exhibit. From artist and sculptor **Lewis Trowbridge** a handsome carved brook trout for fundraising.

### Last Casts: Ron Pidgeon.

Ron was one of the charter members of the CFFCM. Since our inception, Ron always seemed to be around. He was at every event, on Saturdays for every guest fly tyer session, at the Catskill Fly Tying Guild meetings, and on the Catskill Streams. Ron and his best friend, constant companion and wife Teddy, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary with us last year on Jubilee Day. Mike Canazon said he was one of the greatest Catskill fly fishermen he ever met. Every time they fished together Mike would always pick up something new and fishing with Ron was a great pleasure. Ron will be missed by Mike and all of us in the fly fishing community. He was a special man.

**November 14 & 15, The Arts of the Angler, Danbury CT** This is our third annual off-site fly fishing show to be held at the Ethan Allen Inn, just off exit 4 on Route I-84 in Danbury CT. To date there will be over 30 fly tyers providing nonstop fly tying demonstrations, 60+ vendor booths availing everything from a spool of thread to that most obscure piece of fly fishing tackle. Our presentations will include how to select a used bamboo rod, furling leaders, and learning about the return of Atlantic Salmon to Lake Ontario Tributaries. There are a wide variety of fly tying classes by Bob Lindquist, Dave Brandt, Ralph Graves, and Mike Martinek. You can learn how to mount your own flies and make your own reel. We will once again host The Book Exchange allowing you to buy and sell your used books; simply price them in the top right hand corner with your initials, drop them off at the book exchange table and enjoy the show. You can pick up your unsold books on your way out or any money from sales. A live auction will be held on Saturday night at 7:00 PM following a prix fixe dinner at 5:30 with a sampling of Redwood Creek Wines. On Sunday, Authors Keith Fulsher (*Hairwing Salmon Flies, Tying and Fishing the Thunder Creek Flies, and Atlantic Salmon Fly Tyer*), Mike Valla, (*Tying Catskill Style Dry Flies*), John Murdock (*Northeast Trout, Salmon, and Steelhead Streams*), and Kathy Scott (*Moose on the Water, Bamboo on the Bench, Headwaters Fall as Snow, Changing Planes*) will be on hand from 11 AM – 2 PM to sign books and answer questions. At High Noon several of the fly tyers will compete in a blind fly tying contest and you get to declare the winner. Both days are filled with everything that fly fishers like. If you can't attend yourself, send a friend. If you can attend, bring a friend. Latest updates on this show will be on our website [www.cffcm.net](http://www.cffcm.net), and our Facebook Fan Page: Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum.

---

**Join us December 1 in NY for the Fly Fisher of Distinction Awards.** Every organization and club has one. They are the ones who do the behind the scenes work, provide the best advice, and have made a lasting contribution to that organization. They may be the best fisherman in the group or simply the one who appreciates it the most. Ultimately, they are the fly fishers of distinction. Every year we hold a winter fund raising event in New York City. We have dubbed it "A Night in NY". Over the past several years, we have found it most enjoyable to host these evenings at the intimate and historic Anglers' Club of New York. The past two years we have hosted Roasts and Toasts, first with Joan and last year with Hoagy. This year, trustee Andy Boyar has suggested we host an evening at the ACNY and have three individual clubs select their Fly Fisher of Distinction. This first year the three clubs/honorees are Balsam Lake Club/Jim Bacon, The Woman Flyfishers/Vicky Linville, and The Beaverkill Trout Club/ Elbert "Rusty" Husted. You will find their profiles on our website and Facebook Fan Page. The event is Tuesday, December 1. The evening will begin at 5:30 for Cocktails with an elegant dinner at 7:00 PM. After dinner, each individual will be honored by their club, sharing anecdotes and stories regaling their candidate followed by the inductees' comments. At the end of the evening, CFFCM President Miriam Stone will present each honoree with a custom-made CFFCM Fly Fisher of Distinction award. This should be fun night. **Please Note:** There is limited seating available and on a first come, first serve basis. Please make your reservations soon as it will be a sell out. \$125 per person. All proceeds will benefit the Center.

Do you have a Fly Fisher of Distinction in your group that deserves a special night next December? If you are interested in participating, please contact us at your convenience: planning never starts too soon.

**CFFCM Holiday Open House is Saturday, December 5** Please join us for snacks and spirits of the Holiday Season from 4 PM – 7PM in the museum. This festive get together includes staff, local friends and members, and CFFCM volunteers. It is not formal but simply a good time to share the season with friends.

---

**Membership Renewal Packets to Follow Soon.** It seems our last mailing may have confused some members. We included an orange membership form for you to pass on to a prospective member, complete for a gift membership, or pass off to someone who may be interested in joining us. As Joan Wulff said, we have to replace ourselves. Repairs and improvements to our physical plant could be financially accomplished if each of us just brought in one new member. We received 50 renewals (which we always welcome) and one new member.

You will soon be receiving your 2010 membership renewal packet. It will also include information on making an end of the year donation for tax purposes, a 2010 list of events and activities, etc. Watch for it. If you still have the orange membership application, please pass it on or give a gift membership to someone for the Holidays.

Catskill Fly Fishing Center  
& Museum  
845-439-4810  
flyfish@catskill.net

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Liberty, NY 12754  
Permit No. 5811

P.O. Box 1295  
1031 Old Route 17  
Livingston Manor, NY 12758

We're on the Web!  
[www.cffcm.net](http://www.cffcm.net)

**Dated Material:**  
**November 2009**

---

## CFFCM Emergence Chart

### **2009 Calendar of Events**

#### **November**

14/15: Arts of the Angler Show, Danbury CT

#### **December**

1: A Night in NYC-Winter Fundraiser

5: Holiday Open House

*Illustrations provided by member Jack Pangburn.*

*This publication is made possible with the support of these fine sponsors of the CFFCM. Should you be in the area, please stop in and say "hello and thanks" as a fellow member. Interested in being a Business Sponsor? Call us.*

**Buffalo Zach's, Roscoe NY**, members receive a free cup of coffee with eat in or take out lunch or dinner; **Creekside Cabins, Roscoe, NY**, accommodations on the Willowemoc, conveniently between Roscoe and Livingston Manor with kitchen facilities—receive a free gift with your stay, **Ramsey Outdoor**, 3 locations **Ramsey, Paramus, & Ledgewood NJ** providing all of your fishing and outdoor needs 10% discount with CFFCM membership card; **Live Bait, Roscoe, NY** a casual restaurant and pub open for breakfast, lunch and dinner; **Pepacton Cabin Rentals** Catskill Mt. style—fully equipped cabin rentals—on the banks of the East Branch Delaware River [www.pepactoncabin.com](http://www.pepactoncabin.com), **Roscoe Wine & Liquor—Roscoe, NY—** 10% discount on purchases, not to be combined with any other offers and **Annie's Place, "Main Street" Roscoe, NY** contemporary and antique gifts for the home; **The Reynold's House Inn and Motel** in the center of Roscoe, walking distance to restaurants and shops, [www.reynoldhouseinn.com](http://www.reynoldhouseinn.com)

---