

CFFCM's Castabout

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Catskill Fly Fishing
Center & Museum
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The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 30 Years in the making 1981-2011

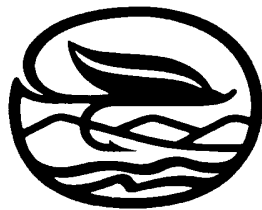
The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum was incorporated in 1981. The premise was to build a place to: 1) preserve the past, 2) protect the present; 3) promote the future of fly fishing; and, 4) create a fly fishing center where all fly fishermen would be welcome to meet, experience education, and share fishing experiences.

It did not happen overnight. For years prior to incorporation, Elsie Darbee often spoke with fellow anglers, locals, and patrons of the Darbee fly shop about the importance of preserving fly fishing history. Furthermore, according to Elsie, there was no better place for a fly fishing museum than in the Catskills, as it was the birthplace of American dry fly fishing and held a rich tradition and legacy. In 1978 Elsie assembled a dozen anglers and local residents for a meeting at the Antrim Lodge to discuss such a project. By the end of the evening, Elsie had established an investigative group to explore the feasibility of building a museum. The effort gathered momentum and united local businesses, residents, anglers, fly fishing celebrities and industry professionals, each of whom was dedicated to make it happen. The names joining the Darbee's included Dette's, Wulff's, Lee's, Jorgensen, Fried's, Shultz, Davis', Polanish, Vadala, Horak, Sherwood, Hobb's, Sprague's, Krupp, and many others who worked in solidarity. Elsie's dream was in the works and it had the strength to continue on after her death in 1980.

In 1981 this group incorporated The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum as a nonprofit organization. They solicited grass root support from fly fishing organizations and clubs to promote the project. The result was inspiring because they received over 300 individual donations of \$10.00. Now the organization was in place and the search began for a suitable location between Willowemoc and East Branch. The volunteer force now numbered over 500.

After a long, cold winter in early 1982, the Van Aiken Farm, (our present location) on the banks of the Willowemoc Creek, midway between Livingston Manor and Roscoe, was selected. It was ideal. It had acreage, fishing water access, restorable buildings, and location, location, location. However, access was either a slight unmarked turnoff from the Quickway, the new Route 17, or over a narrow cable foot bridge from old Route 17. This site selection required another committee, one to search for a suitable vehicular bridge to access the property. In order to connect the bridge to the property, it was necessary to purchase the old O&W Railroad right of way from New York State as well as the property between the river and old Route 17. The search for a bridge continued.

Meanwhile, a temporary museum was established in Roscoe, in the old theater building. It officially opened on April 1, 1983, complete with fly tying demonstrations. Artifacts not on display were stored in the Sullivan County National Bank Building in Roscoe. The foremost business at hand was to continue fundraising and seek donations of artifacts, books, and other historical documents to grow the museum.



New Members

Robert Colson
Howie H. Guja
Robert Kwas
Richard Niezabitowski
Justin T. Seeley
Michael Smith
Jack Steber
Ronald Steber
Paul Stemp
Larry Zirkel

January Membership Winner

Hank Rope

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!

Soon renovations were planned for the Van Aiken property and membership drives were initiated. In July, a bridge was selected and the new mission was how to fund it. The cost estimate was \$50,000. It was determined that a special *bridge committee of 100* members be established and invited to a special dinner that fall. This dinner took place in October 1983 and Catskill Legends: Van Put, Wulff's, Dette's, Flick, McDonald, Heacox, Davis, Zern, Schwiebert, Lee, (George) Gordon and Francis were present. The event was a success and the bridge was purchased and erected in 1984. Brass name plates of the 'Committee of 100' were affixed to the structure. In September, President Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter spent five days fishing and promoting the Center with a special fund raising dinner. President Carter's visit provided a continuance of the momentum.

Twenty-six years ago, the Bridge was dedicated on May 26, 1985 and the first Youth Environmental Educational programs were held in August.

Restoration on the farmhouse provided for office space and a museum area in May 1986 and contents from the Roscoe location were moved in. Over the next two years, the farmhouse was expanded to include the gift shop and additional museum space while fundraising continued for the new museum. The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum was now coming of age. Planning for the new museum was in full swing with conceptual drawings completed in May 1993. Only two years later on May 28, 1995, the new building was officially opened.

As Ernie Schwiebert said when he was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame a few years back, "There are some museums that house dead things and are themselves dead. However, you, The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is alive and continues to breathe new life into fly fishing. ..."

Now, 30 years later, with the support and energy of so many, Elsie's dream lives on.

Flyfishers of Distinction 2010. On November 30, 2010, at the Anglers Club of NY, friends, families, and CFFCM members gathered to honor the 2010 Flyfisher of Distinction Honorees Sara Low and Howard F. Guja. Each honoree was sponsored by their respective clubs - The Juliana's Anglers and The Highland Field and Stream - for their individual dedication and service to benefit their organization and the fly fishing community.

Sara Low: Juliana's Anglers joined together to celebrate Sara's many contributions to their organization since joining in 1995 including: drafting of the club's by-laws, serving on the first board of directors, and contributing to developing the club's annual fly fishing school for women. In describing Sara, many members shared personal stories regarding her enthusiasm, energy, spirit and dedication. In several instances it was noted that sometimes her enthusiasm got carried away and ended up with Sara in a humorous situation all which ended well. In addition to recognizing Sara's in-house accomplishments, they mentioned her contributions to fly fishing as a remarkable fly fishing guide, TGF director, curator in developing a CFFCM award winning exhibit "The History of Women in Fly Fishing", involvement with the International Women Fly Fishers, TV appearances and speaking engagements.

After telling her side of the stories, Sara shared her appreciation for being recognized and to have had the opportunity to tell how much she enjoyed flyfishing and the people in it. Joan Wulff, in reply to anecdotes, re-introduced herself to Sara.

It was noted that Sara is recognized as a ranked croquet player in her spare time, but a champion flyfisher all of the time.

Howard Guja: Members of The Highland Field and Stream Club unanimously chose Howard as their distinctive and most respected Flyfisher of Distinction. During a humorous and entertaining presentation by fellow club members, everyone in attendance learned of Howard's prowess with a fly rod, ability to catch every species of fish under any circumstance, and his willingness to share his vast fishing knowledge. In several instances anecdotes exposed everything about Howard including women's underwear, much to everyone's delight. One memorable story of Howard was of him grilling a Weakfish for dinner. When a fellow member happened to stop by, looking at the grilling Weakfish he commented that it was so big it might qualify for an IGFA fly rod record. After dinner they discovered it was indeed a record and they had eaten it. The following day Howard went out and caught an even larger Weakfish that continues to stand as the IGFA record (11 lb. 2 oz., 7/13/85). Ultimately it was agreed that Howard is a true sportsman, friend and role model for all.

Howard could not refute the tales and admitted their truths, taking great pleasure in hearing of them again and actually living them. Throughout the stories, Howard's exemplary traits as a selfless, enthusiastic and passionate angler rose to the surface. Taking the bait, Howard confessed to the audience that other than his family, fly fishing was the next greatest thing. Every fly fisherman would find Howard a true role model.

Streamside Notes

Years come and go. Some are better than others, but together we manage to get through them either way.

In the final days of December and just before our membership cards were printed, Mary Dette made it under the wire as a new business partner. Mary, now with the help of grandson Joe Fox, runs the oldest family run fly shop in the USA, Trout Town, Roscoe. That's 82 years of tradition. We also received some last minute financial contributions to get over the hump. I thank you all.

From the looks of things, 2011 is starting off on the right foot. We have a new ceiling in the museum and the roof issues have been remedied. A couple of times, when talking to our contractor, I felt like the Pope asking Michelangelo, "When will this be done?" We will start washing everything down and doing some touch up painting soon. When ready, we will start putting the museum back together and changing exhibits.

Joining the *Italian Fly Fishing Experience* exhibit will be *Celebrity Fly Fisher Clark Gable, Brook Trout, Skeletal Reels from the Richard Lodge collection* (another ORCA sanctioned exhibit) and a couple of others.

Our presence in the fly fishing community continues to grow among other organizations. We received some unexpected and generous donations from The Catskill Fly Tying Guild and the Federation of Fly Fishers North East Council. I have also attended a couple of meetings with other clubs who are interested in assisting us to meet our financial needs as we continue to move forward. After satisfying our ceiling costs, we will work on our want list that includes: insulating our bunkhouses for early stays (Healing Waters visitors found it extremely cold this past spring), minor roof repairs on our tool shed, new phone system, carpeting the education building, repairs to our Ed. Building foundation, kitchen and bathroom facilities, pavilion lights, and new shelves in the acquisition room just to mention a few. This is a 'wish list' and will be tackled as funds allow. Like home, it never seems to stop.

In addition to other organizations there are corporations and businesses that would like to sponsor the CFFCM. The many businesses that participate in our shows, sponsor events, are our business partners. Many items for our auctions are compliments of these businesses and we recognize them for it. Our latest sponsor: Bamboo Rod-maker, Marc Aroner, has joined forces with Retigouche River Lodge to host a week of fishing the Restigouche. We are to be the benefactor of the proceeds. Please note that this is an open program that will be promoted to their existing customers and the public. In addition, Trustee Mike Valla donated all of his proceeds from the limited edition of his latest book The Classic Dry Fly Box and his publisher, Whitefish Press, did the same for a total of just about \$6,000. I am sure we will see others who want to be recognized as CFFCM supporters. Join me in thanking them by visiting their web sites and sending an email of thanks.

You will also find our 2011 event and activity calendar in this issue. We will continue to host these events for the year and will add others as they come along. Last year we programmed over 80 event days, if you take out the days from our Holiday Open House (By the way it was great this year to see so many of our members) and Fly Fest, we average over one day of activity out of every four, and that does not include the planning that goes into it. That brings me to volunteers. I like them. If you would like to participate and lend a helping hand, drop me a line.

I suppose I should quit while I am ahead. If I told you everything now, there would be no reason to read the rest of the 2011 Castabouts. I welcome your assistance in making 2011 one of those better years.

It's all about fly fishing.
Jim Krul

Guest Fly Tyers to return April 2. Ted Patlen will once again open the 2011 Saturday guest fly tyers program in the museum. The CFFCM is happy to host this weekly event from April until October 1, from 1 until 4 PM. This exciting program is made up of CFFCM members from coast to coast who share their favorite and traditional patterns in a casual atmosphere in the museum. This is a great opportunity for new tyers, visitors, and members to spend a Saturday afternoon. If you would like to participate as a 'guest tyer' please call and give Erin or Pat a couple of preferred dates to fit into the 2011 schedule.

April 2, Season Opener. Put it on your calendar. You will not want to miss this one. This could be the social event of the year for Catskill Fly Fishers.

Winter Address? Don't miss any CFFCM Castabouts or information while you are away. All members who season in another location are more than welcome to send us your mailing address. If you are renewing your membership, please write in any seasonal address changes and the dates associated with each address.

RENEWALS Thank you all who have renewed as members for 2011. For those of you who haven't, please help us avoid any further reminders and renew at your earliest convenience.

Don't forget....to bring in another member in 2011. New members will receive a ___ print and a new book from our bookshelf. Referring members will be rewarded with same (if you bring in more than one, your reward will not be duplicated). Members Welcome.

Learn to make a bamboo rod. Anyone can do it, according to our professional instructors and partners David van Burgel, Kathy Scott, and Art Port. For ten years the CFFCM has sanctioned this all inclusive and successful class in rod making. Every inch of this truce craft is covered; tools, cane selection, splitting, planing, sanding, joining, wrapping and final finishing. You will not only get the training you need to make a rod, you will leave with your own work when completed. The 2011 class will run from June 24 through June 29. Space is limited. For more details call the Center.

First Up... February 12, 9 AM – 4 PM Fly Fest and IceCapades. Take a drive to the Center on Saturday February 12th for the 2011 CFFCM Fly Fest and IceCapades sponsored by Catskill Flies. Fly Fest is a social gathering of fly tyers held in the museum. Every year this event gets bigger and bigger with a record number of 52 tyers in action last year. Catskill Flies and ring leaders JB Martin, Jack Ganz, and Catskill John Bonasera are out to break that record. The Ice-Capades on the pond ice fishing derby will once again be orchestrated by Jan Weido, Skip Alford and friends from the Mid Hudson TU. Guy Carlson will drill some holes on our pond and then man the grill roasting weenies provided by Paul Stock while Mike Canazon supervises. Sue and Rich Post from Fur Fin and Feather donated the bait fish for the kids. Agnes and Tony will have hot chocolate and surely a treat or two. Until then, Mike and Guy will be monitoring the ice thickness on a daily basis. Everyone is welcome, dress warm and bring your kids and grand kids. A good time will be had by all.

CFFCM Overhauled Website Approaching. We will soon have a new website. The ladies in the office (Erin and Pat) have been gathering and loading new information, photos, and facts. Is there something that you would like to see included? Would you like to volunteer as a discussion monitor or provide answers to specific questions? If so, please send an email to us at flyfish@catskill.net. The expected launch date is March.

Globalflyzation 2011 – Italy. *Flies from Poland* was first, and then there was *New Zealand Fly fishing*, *FBI - Flies from the British Isles*, *Flies and Fishing from Japan*, and last year's *The Art and Flies from Sweden*. We now welcome **The Italian Fly Fishing Experience.** Our friends from Italy must have been preparing for more than a year to compile every element of fly fishing for this exhibition. We have received a reel, rod, collection mounts, flies, and all sorts of maps and artwork to grace the wall in our International fly fishing exhibit space. Like all of our International exhibits, allow yourself enough time to enjoy viewing this unique display in its entirety. To be on display from February through December 2011.

New Sponsor Members: Restigouche River Lodge and Marc Aroner. We are proud to accept The Restigouche River Lodge (RRL), New Brunswick, Canada and Marc Aroner, Bamboo Rodmaker as CFFCM Sponsor Members. The RRL and Marc Aroner have joined forces to offer a hosted week of fishing on the Restigouche River with proceeds to be donated to the CFFCM. The chosen week is the week of July 24 and considered the best week of dry fly fishing for Atlantic Salmon. If you are interested in taking this trip please feel free to contact the RRL at www.restigouchelodge.com, Marc at www.spinozarods.com, or email us at flyfish@catskill.net for details and questions. We thank them both for their generosity.

Ten and Two An Anglers Journey on-line magazine, A couple of months back the online magazine *Ten & Two- An Anglers Journey* Winter issue was released. This magazine can only be viewed on-line at www.tenandtwomagazine.com. A 263 page issue entitled "Catskills Revival" features the Catskill rivers, people, and places in magnificent detail. You will find this magazine to be of the finest quality for those fly fishermen who appreciate and enjoy art, food, places, and rivers. Give yourself ample time when you visit this site over these cold months ahead and be prepared to return. You cannot get it all in one sitting. We thank editor and publisher Walter Hodges for sharing the Catskills with his worldwide readers.

Rules to Fish By from Al Himmel's book *Fly Fishing Fever* available in our gift shop delivered for \$6.49.

Unavoidably, today's crowded streams will create head to head encounters between two anglers seeking the same fish. Such encounters will require some semblance of rules to go by, so tempers do not become frayed, and the joy of the day is not destroyed. Each of us must do unto the other guy as we would have him do unto us. In most cases the upstream fisher should be left to his wiles, while the downstream fisher should either reverse his direction, or else leave the water and move well upstream beyond where he would interfere with his fellow fisherman. More generously, the best solution is to find another location to fish. Certainly, it is always a mistake to begin fishing where it is known that the water is already being fished. One car at a given site is sufficient to warrant further exploration to find a site that is unoccupied. Stream courtesy cannot be too excessive.

As I fished the Eastkoy several years ago, a young spin fisher approached the pool I was fishing. He left the water and asked how I had done. Using my favorite hair winged coachman fly, had been a stroke of genius, and I proceeded to brag about the number of trout taken. The young man was impressed, so I gave him a copy of the fly and made him promise to join Trout Unlimited. My fly convinced him that fly fishing was the way to go and he later informed me that he had joined TU. He also became a president of the Western New York Chapter of that organization. Stream courtesy has its own rewards.

2011 CFFCM Calendar

- February** **12** Fly Fest and IceCapades (sponsored by Catskill Flies)
- April** **2** Season Opener Junction Pool (A Surprise is in the works)
A days event in cooperation with the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce
Two Headed Trout Dinner at the Rockland House
- May is Maycation month...**Plan a mid week visit and take advantage of CFFCM Business Partner's Specials.
- May** **7** Long Island Fly Rodders Annual 'Stream Clean' and Picnic to be coordinated with participation with Roscoe Chamber of Commerce and assisted by Long Island Boy Scouts
- May** **28** CFFCM Annual Dinner
- June** **24-29** Education Month –
Bamboo Rodmakers Class
- July** Youth and Family Education Month
9 & 10 Youth Fly Fishing Education Weekend; ages 8 –11
16 & 17 Youth Fly Fishing Education Weekend; ages 12-14
23 & 24 Youth Fly Fishing Education Weekend; mixed ages
- August** **6 & 7** Summerfest, Anglers Market & Jubilee Weekend
- 14** Fifth Annual Ralph Graves Memorial Golf Tournament
- September** **9-11** Catskill Rodmakers Gathering
- October** **1** One Fly Contest (sponsored by Catskill Flies)
- 8** Fly Fishing Hall of Fame
- November** **12/13** Arts of the Angler Show, Danbury CT
- 29** Flyfishers of Distinction, ACNY
- December** **3** Holiday Open House

The above schedule does not include the many days we will be hosting organization fly fishing weekends, Healing Waters Programs, Casting for Recovery, Club picnics, events, dinners, activities, School programs, and others, etc.

If your club, organization, group, etc would like to use the CFFCM property for any event, please call the office for details.

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Dated Material:
January 2011

CFFCM Emergence Chart

2011 Calendar of Events

February

12: Fly Fest and Ice Capades

April

2: Season Opener at Junction Pool with a Surprise
Two Headed Trout Dinner

May

7: Long Island Fly Rodders Annual Stream Cleanup

June

24-29: Bamboo Rodmakers Class

July

9/10: Environmental Youth Educations ages 8-11

16/17: Environmental Youth Education ages 12-14

23/24: Environmental Youth Education mixed ages

August

6/7: Summerfest, Angler's Market & Jubilee Weekend

14: Annual Ralph Graves Memorial Golf Tournament

September

9/11: Catskill Rodmakers Gathering

October

1: One Fly Contest sponsored by Catskill Flies

8: Semi-Annual Meeting and Hall of Fame

November

12/13: Arts of the Angler Show, Danbury CT

29: A Night in NYC-Winter Fundraiser

December

3: 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.

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.pepactoncabinrentals.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; **Dette Fly Shop**, Roscoe, NY - America's oldest family owned fly shop for all your fly tying needs 607-498-4991 **The Reynold's House Inn and Motel** in the center of Roscoe, walking distance to restaurants and shops, www.reynoldshouseinn.com; **Catskill Flies, Roscoe, NY** for all your fly fishing needs and guiding services, check local water conditions at www.catskillflies.com; **Madison's Main Street Stand, Livingston Manor, NY**; Pizza, subs and more; www.madstand.com or 845-439-4368; **Rockland House/Motel Roscoe, NY** Come stay with us, excellent rates in our newly renovated motel & serving dinner daily, www.rocklandhouse.com or 607-498-4240; **Tennanah Lake Golf & Tennis Club** 18 hole golf course, driving range, Tennis Club, Inn at Tennanah full service dining, catering on & off site, heated pool, tennis courts & row boat rentals www.Tennanah.com or 607-498-5000 and **Country House Realty** for fine homes to fishing cabins convenient to the Neversink, Willowemoc and Beaverkill Rivers. www.CountryHouseRealty.net