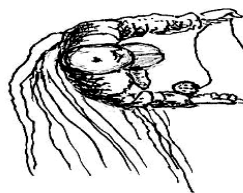


The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum



CASTABOUT



**Catskill Fly Fishing
Center & Museum**
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Happy New Year. Despite the many economic, environmental and physical plant challenges we faced in the year 2011, the CFFCM had a very successful year. This success was a result of: you, our members, our partner clubs and organizations, industry associates, friends, and local neighbors.

Having just reviewed the Event Calendar for 2011, it appears we had well over 100 days of CFFCM related activities and programs. Considering there were only 4 program days from December 1 through March 30, a lot was happening in the remaining 250 days. Our property has hosted many fishing related and non-fishing gatherings; schools, clubs, organizations, and others that enjoy the history and area. Through the work of many, our activities have gained worldwide attention and international participation.

Many of our new and improved events, including The Hardy/Greys Cup bamboo rod casting competition and Kizuna/Woodstick event, provided international exposure. As a result, our membership has expanded.

The Museum continues to be refreshed. We add and change permanent exhibits and rotate temporary exhibits as a means to increase return visits from members and passersby. Our collections continue to grow through generous donations of unique, quality acquisitions that come to us as gifts.

There were several camera crews on the premises this past year, from as far away as Japan, taping TV programs, interviews, and website episodes. Our exposure through hundreds of newspaper mentions and many magazine articles has created a high level of branded recognition.

An unexpected and generous financial contribution from Becky Fay and Arthur Rosenberg came at the right time and gave us a much needed boost.

We made many improvements...our bunkhouses have been insulated and face lifted, our kitchen and baths have been remodeled and brought up to handicap standards and modernized. We plan new construction to accommodate the Wulff Gallery and a generous meeting room and The Catskill Rodmakers Heritage Craft Center.

Ultimately, the CFFCM is a team spirited group that goes beyond borders, and has become the center of fly fishing. Now, 31 years after Elsie Darbee planned it to be, it certainly is.

2012 The Year of Our Club Partners. While the CFFCM is driven by our individual membership, we also gain much support by our partner clubs and organizations. Trout Unlimited and FFF Clubs, Fly Tying groups, fishing related non-profits, and local private river clubs all contribute to the mix. You most likely belong to one of them. Thank you for encouraging their support. Two of our most active partners are the **De Bruce Trout Club** and the **Mid Hudson Trout Unlimited**.

Just upstream from the CFFCM is the private De Bruce Club located on the Willowemoc. This club generously opens its waters for our '365' level members to reward their membership. In addition to providing us with a reward, their members are individual members of the Center and participate in many of our events. We are currently finalizing details which will allow Healing Waters vets visiting the CFFCM to have a day's access to the club water while here.

Mid Hudson TU is one of our champion clubs. They provide it all. They have contributed thousands of dollars, initiated and coordinated the Ice Capades fishing day that coincides with Fly Fest, provided the willow cuttings for bank restoration, coordinated a group effort with Greene County and Croton Watershed TU Chapters to provide food and guiding to our Healing Waters programs, and most recently recognized the CFFCM as honoree at their annual dinner. They are one of the CFFCM's greatest allies and we appreciate their support.

We welcome the opportunity to share partnerships and make a difference. We will have an area in the museum this year to recognize our affiliate fly fishing community groups. Join us and join their ranks.



New Members

**Thanks to our
membership
campaign, you will
find our new
members listed
elsewhere in
Castabout**

**January
Membership Winner
Daniel & Jeannette
Shortall**

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!



Streamside Notes

Well we ended the year with a big finish....the new bathrooms and kitchen remodeling has been completed. Trustee John Checchia, owner of Will Hardware, Livingston Manor, was the chairman of this project from start to finish. Without John's building knowledge, liaison with local contractors and financial assistance in providing fixtures, etc. the project would not have come to be. Thank you John for taking ownership of this project for the CFFCM. If you are in 'the Manor', stop in Will Hardware and say hey to John. In addition to John's help, Trustees Bob Colson and Jack Ganz paid for a new stove and oven and Anthony Magardino the 3 bay sink. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of Rubbermaid cabinets, a bathroom fixture, or stove hood, shelving, etc. we

welcome your help. If you cannot help us at this time, we understand. If there is a change and something specific you would like to help with, we will gladly accept it later; 2012 is just getting started.

Our new exhibits are in works including *Saltwater Fly Fishing* and *The Spanish Fly*. If you have something you feel should be included in either exhibit or an idea for a future exhibit you can drop me an email direct via alcoif@aol.com

If you belong to a club or organization that is searching for a way to make a contribution to the CFFCM and the fly fishing community, please tell them there are projects right here that need support.

Thank you for sending in your 2012 renewals and additional funds. Your member packets are in production and you will see them soon.

We are off to a running start. For the past 13 years that I have been involved here at the CFFCM, there have been several attempts to expand the CFFCM facility; now we are actually going to do it. Following Fly Fest and the Jan Weido IceCapades in February, we will have our Annual Members Only Book sale in March in addition to our first rod repair and refinishing classes.

For all of you who have said 'one of these days I am going get around to refinishing this old rod', the time has come. Call us right now and make a reservation to do it. Better yet, make 2012 the year to 'do it all'!

Remember, on January 1, there are only 91 days to the Opening of NY Trout Season. See you at Fly Fest.

It's all about fly fishing.
Jim Krul

Last Casts

It is with sadness to inform you of the loss of our good friends, Art Wilson and Don Spurdle. They will be missed in our fly fishing community.

Arthur Wilson. A long time Catskill Fly Fisher and member of the CFFCM and member of the East Jersey TU, Arthur passed away on November 13. When not fishing, Arthur and his wife Lucille, were frequent visitors to the CFFCM over the past 30 years.

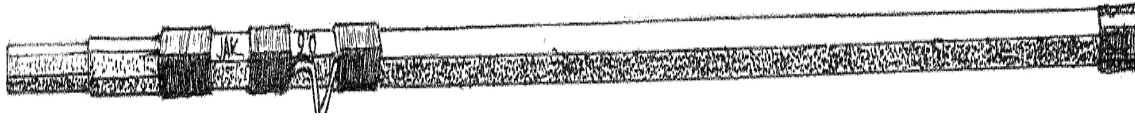
Don Spurdle. Don passed away at his home on Saturday evening, November 28, 2011 at age 69 in Monmouth Hills, Middletown, NJ. A life-long fly fisher, Don traveled the North, Central and South Americas in pursuit of both fresh and salt water fishes, yet took the most pleasure on his favorite 'home waters' in the Catskills. Don was a long time member of the Clear Lake Club in Roscoe, NY, respected fly fisher and a good friend to the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. A service in his memory was held on Dec. 16 at St. Georges by the River, Rumson, NJ. In lieu of flowers, contributions were made to "Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum".

Recent Donations and Acquisitions to benefit the CFFCM: From **John Sickenius:** books for our library and fundraising; from **Todd Alving:** a wooden rod tube; from **Michael McGuire:** books for library and fundraising; **Ted Rogowski:** Joan's Portrait by Richard Rosenbauch, now hanging in the Museum, *Forgotten Flies* by Paul Schmookler & Ingrid Sils and five saddles for fundraising; from **John Feldenzer:** books for our library and fundraising; from **'Doc' and Mary Fried:** four wreaths to add to our festivities at our Holiday Party

New Members: Edward C. Alves, Ulf Borjesson, Ferrell Coppedge, C. Edward Dobbs, Rick Downey, Jan Edman, James Emery, Zachary Goldstein, Ben Grossman, Harvey Grossman, E. Daniel James, Patrik Johansson, James P. Klein, Johan Klingberg, Jerry Knapp. Charles Licata, Duff Meyercord, Bruce Moorhead, Jr., John Sabol, Whit Seelke, William E. Shembedo, Lynn Smith, Graeme Stemp-Morlock, Mike Tucker, Clyde C. Tuggle, Sydney Waud, Stephen Wilson, Matt Whishneski

Winter Hours: The CFFCM office will be open from 9 AM - 4 PM Daily, Monday through Friday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. Beginning Sunday, April 1, 2012 we will return to our 7 day a week, 9 AM - 5 PM schedule. If you call during the winter months and no one answers, please leave a message for a call back as we may be closed due to inclement weather. If you are planning a visit, please call in advance for road and weather conditions. The office number is 845-439-4810.

The Mid Section



A series of monthly columns of specific interest from CFFCM members and Trustees.

They welcome your comments and queries

What Color is Your Pheasant Tail?

Greg Belcamino

Sort of brownish tan, with some black bands, right?

Not always. Just head down to your local fly shop, and you'll find several dyed colors: red, olive, black, brown, yellow and bleached are the usual choices. Look harder, or look elsewhere, and you'll find them in all the shades of the rainbow. Some will be merely dyed, and some will be bleached and dyed, which makes for a more solid – and more vibrant – color. But who ties with all these dyed PT's? I do.

Nothing says your Pheasant Tail nymphs have to be tied with natural pheasant tails. And nothing says that you need to tie your PTN's with only one color. Consider that the abdomens of all nymphs are segmented. Does a standard PTN give much of an impression of segmentation? Probably not. Sure, the copper wire ribbing may have that effect, but my own feeling is that the bit of flash it adds is more important than anything else. But mix two contrasting colors of pheasant tails, and you've suddenly created a segmented abdomen. Try using four fibers of your primary color, and two fibers of something darker.

You can also use different colors of pheasant tails to create in-between shades. For some reason – don't ask me why – burgundy is an incredibly effective color for nymphs. Mix natural with burgundy, and you get a reddish-brown, which approximates the color of a Hendrickson nymph. Blue is also an effective color. I've had very good success with blue PTN's, and also tie them with a couple of fibers of black mixed in. Combining gold with natural or dyed brown creates a nymph that may pass for a PMD or sulfur. My magic PTN on Montana spring creeks this fall was olive mixed with bright green. I lost the largest trout I ever hooked on that one.

And, while we're on the topic of PTN's, here's another thought. When Frank Sawyer invented the PTN, he tied it on a straight-shank hook, and fished it with his version of the "Leisenring Lift," to imitate a swimming chalk-stream *baetis* nymph. But we don't fish chalk streams on this side of the pond, and dislodged nymphs in fast water are likely drifting in a curled posture, not swimming. So try tying your PTN's on curved scud hooks; I believe that these are more imitative, and more effective.

It's your choice whether or not to add a bead. I use tungsten beads on all my PTN's. Tiny 1/16" beads are now available; it's a pain to get them on your hooks, but they let you tie down to no. 22's, and perhaps beyond. With such tiny flies, the bead gives a little flash, but more important, it helps get the nymph through the film. A 2xh hook and fluorocarbon tippet help, too.

Finally, consider coating the wingcase on your PTN's. Use two light coats of epoxy or Liquid Fusion (a one-part urethane glue). This adds durability, and imitates the expanding gas-filled thorax of a hatching nymph.

The PTN is one of the easiest flies to tie, and one of the most effective. You can make it even more effective by using different colors, and tying on curved hooks. If you have questions about pheasant tails or any other fly-tying materials or techniques, feel free to contact me at greg.belcamino@gmail.com.

Bug-Bond

Tony Loli

You have to wonder about an organization that gives an award for an adhesive. In fact, the Total Flyfisher Tackle Awards Runner-up for 2011 was Bug-Bond. Moreover, it won the Best Fly Fishing Innovation category in Total Flyfisher magazine's reader's survey. So what's the big deal and is this really a product that needed improvement?

A conversation with David Edwards, the British inventor, put this sticky question into perspective. He was unhappy with the tacky curing involved with the existing adhesives and wanted something better. Also, existing light-cured acrylics were expensive in England. So, he invented Bug-Bond but what are the claims?

His invention is claimed to be optically perfect and, when cured correctly, to have a tack free surface. Further benefits are that it is resistant to yellowing when exposed to sunlight and also has a degree of flexibility when cured. Also, there is no waste as with mixing two-part epoxy.

With Bug-Bond, one coat could replace 3 or 4 coats of varnish. This saves tying time and eliminates the need of a drying wheel. The one thing you have to get used to is that it isn't sticky and it doesn't need that much UV light to cure the material. BUG-BOND is available in 2 viscosities: BUG-BOND Original and the lower viscosity version BUG-BOND Lite. (Shades of "Less filling – tastes great." If you have to ask, you're too young.)

Both versions of BUG-BOND include a standard applicator and come in a 20ml bottle. To allow a more precise application of the fluid, a BUG-BOND Tip Kit is available. This includes a replacement bottle top and 5 UV shielded dispensing tips.

Bug-Bond continued:

To cure BUG-BOND, a UV light of a specific wavelength is required. The company currently sells a Professional UV light powered by a single AA battery and an entry level Multi-UV LED light powered by 3x AAA batteries. (Isn't there always a catch?) You can get all the details at bug-bond.moonfruit.com.

Has your glue ever won an award? I didn't think so.

Bamboo Journal - #4

Chris Bogart

Memories of bamboo fly rods stir passions in people. Bamboo fly rods seem to have souls. They are like a first love and you never forget them. A good bamboo fly rod will last a life time. It grows old with you and fits you like a well-worn pair of jeans or loafers. Your casting style seems to echo the rod's behavior. It is a friend, companion and confidant. It knows your actions before you do. I have my faithful companions to the exclusion of other rods. These rods just feel right. They have caught more than their share of fish over the years. They have also missed their share and we reflect on the memories.

When people ask me which bamboo fly rod they should get, I say pick one up and cast it. When it is right for you, you will know it immediately. The bamboo fly will pick you. I always tell people there are a lot of good bamboo fly rods but you need to find the one that is special for you. The rodmaker's gatherings are a good place to cast a number of rods to find what you like. Wineries have wine tastings, you test drive cars and, of course date, your future wife. Getting a bamboo fly rod is a little like that. You will use this rod for many years to come, so take your time and taste well.

Don't buy a rod because people rave about it. A bamboo fly rod is too personal for that. You may end up with a rod that doesn't speak to you in that oh so personal way. I have had customer's come to buy a rod and after they have cast the ones I have in the shop, choose a model totally different from what they thought they wanted. I remember one gentleman who thought he wanted my JJ Lives model. He cast and casted it and really could not get the rod to cast right. As soon as he picked up my Blue Ridge Classic he threw the nicest loop and the line just lay out nicely. He casted again, same thing, another wonderfully smooth cast. I told his wife that was the rod for him, but let him choose. He went back to the original JJ Lives, again not a good cast; the rod did not work for him. Later, when we talked, it turns out that he has arthritis in his elbow and shoulder and that prevents him from making a good quick cast. He needed a softer slower rod. He chose the Blue Ridge Classic because it suited him and the rod spoke to him.

There is a lesson for everyone, don't buy a rod based upon what you heard. Go cast it and you will know very quickly if it is for you. If it does speak to you, you have a lifelong friend.

Where in the world

Terry Shultz

Exploring Tennessee' Trout Streams

Late October in Tennessee is a lovely time to fish, with fall colors still abundant and temperatures moderate and brown trout beginning their spawn. I met up with three guides in Boone NC, where they work out of a shop, Appalachian Angler (<http://www.appangler.com/>). These are the same fellows who guided me and friends so wonderfully on the Kanektok in Alaska last summer, Theo and Haden Copeland (twins) and Dave Stelling. Each day, one of them would pick me up at my RV in a campground four miles from the shop. We then would spend 2 hours on a drive over the mountains and into Tennessee, with views of some of the highest peaks in each state, to the rivers for our day-long float.

First two days we floated the Watauga, a tributary of the South Fork of the Holston, which then joins the North and Middle Forks to form the main stem of the Holston. That, in turn, meets the French Broad (real name!) and they together form the Tennessee, which, of course, thereafter flows into the Mississippi. Theo hosted me first day and Dave second. Nymphing early in the day brought some smallish browns to the boat. As we progressed, we found both browns and rainbows, some with good size. Theo introduced me to the old style of "wet fly fishing" and that produced several nice fish. I had not done that in years and had forgotten the technique, but it works! Just put a classic wet fly on your leader and then cast out and hold the rod tip up high while gently retrieving the fly through the water just below the surface.

Third day, Haden brought me to the South Fork of the Holston where we found very low water and floated, sometimes with challenges from the rocky shoals, about 5 miles, down to Boone Lake, where we pulled out. The fish on this river were larger and were evenly split between browns and rainbows. For the first two hours or so we could not get any action, and then as trout do they turned on. Using heavy split shot and tiny nymphs, we managed a series of good sized fish to the boat. Great fun! Another delightful day!

Fourth day I was scheduled to depart for the Chesapeake fishing for stripers, but Theo invited me to join him for the morning on Boone Creek, a tributary of the Watauga in Boone NC, where he has access to private water. With the threat of snow to start any moment and the temperatures dropping, we made our way down the stream from pool to pool, with many big fish, browns, rainbows and brookies, visible in the water. By floating nymphs into their mouths and watching for the flash of their lips, we were able to hook and land several of these beauties, but oh were they reluctant, often swimming away from a succulent fly floated toward them. At mid day I departed my N.C. guide friends and made my way in my RV through sleet and rain out of the mountains and on across North Carolina toward Virginia and the Chesapeake. You can see my photos at <http://shultzexpeditions.org/Tennessee%202011/>.

Fly Fishing Profile in the Past

Mike Valla

George Parker Holden
(December 26, 1869-July 17, 1935)

He called it a compact, pocket streamside manual but George Parker Holden's 1919 *Streamcraft* offered to readers everything he felt the "novitiate angler at streamside desires to be informed about." Yet in his opening pages, Holden conceded that one particular facet of angling-related-know-how--- the construction of a split bamboo rod---required a book of its own. Only a year after publishing *Streamcraft*, Holden decided to "sing the song of split bamboo" with his monumental work *The Idyl of the Split-Bamboo*. Since its release, *Idyl* has been considered a tremendously important work, one that is still discussed and admired today among cane-rod-building aficionados. A decade later, Holden offered his final fishing title, *Angling: Recollections and Practice* (1931).

While *Streamcraft* is instructive (covering tackle rigging, casting, flies and fly tying), Holden's *Idyl* and *Angling* are not only instructive, but also entertaining and thoughtful. They offer the reader intermixed spiritual thoughts surrounding years spent on lake, river and stream. Not surprisingly, Holden occasionally interjected contemplative musings in his books: he greatly admired Princeton University professor, theologian, and writer Henry van Dyke (1852-1933). In all of his books, Holden referred to van Dyke, who is best known in angling circles for his classics *Little Rivers* (1895) and *Fisherman's Luck and Some Other Uncertain Things* (1899).

Holden's books---together with his contributions to *Forest and Stream*, *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor America*, *Outdoor Life*, and the Anglers' Club of New York bulletins---were informative and influential. Out of his angling expertise and passion would emerge many followers and admirers; among them were cane rod rod-builder protégé Everette Garrison (1893-1976) and our own Catskill-region fly angler and tier Harry Darbee (1906-1983). Both of these individuals would rise to (and perhaps surpass) Holden's level of fame---Garrison as one of the most talented, creative, and influential rod builders who ever held bamboo in his hands, and Darbee as the Catskill trout fly personified.

Harry Darbee wrote, in his *Catskill Flytier*, that *Streamcraft* "probably had as much influence on fly tiers and fishers as anyone else in his day. His book was the first one I owned, and I almost memorized it in the early days of our commercial tying."

Darbee credited Holden as the first person to write about Catskill fly-tying lore. In *Streamcraft*, Holden introduced names that anyone visiting the CFFCM would quickly recognize as our own---Theodore Gordon, Roy Steenrod, Herm Christian, George M.L. LaBranche and Louis Rhead. And as Darbee obviously recognized, *Streamcraft* helped raise the profile of those individuals.

George Parker Holden---rod builder, fly tier, passionate fly angler and teacher---died of a cerebral hemorrhage on July 16, 1935, at the same hospital in Yonkers where he served on the staff for 40 years. He left to us not only his books, but his impressions of what fly fishing was in his time.

Backcasts Volume 1.4

Rick Bannerot

As we plunge into 2012, one can't help but think of the Grateful Dead's lyrics: "What a long, strange trip it has been." Looking back 50 years ago to the year 1962, you have to marvel at the radical changes we have experienced on this earth, and yet a surprising percentage of the people on this planet 50 years ago are still alive! We are the product of the post-World War II "Baby Boom"; and the beneficiaries of some pretty extraordinary advancements in medicine, particularly the eradication of such deadly contagions as yellow fever, small pox, polio and measles. The UN announced that the earth's population was now 3 billion, and growing.

A. John Henderson, eventually one of Canada's most acclaimed master fly tyers, was encouraged to take up the craft after complaining to his friend Lee Wulff about the cost of store-bought flies. On a related note, Sam Walton opened the first WalMart. (Sam must have read the UN press release, because WalMart now is the largest retailer of fishing gear in the world.)

Fifty years ago we were in the grips of the Cold War with nuclear sabers were being rattled, and much to the delight of the bonefish and giant trevally swimming around the flats of Christmas Island, the U.S. nuclear test fizzled and was eventually moved to the Bikini Islands. The novel *Fail Safe* was published, and Kennedy went eyeball-to-eyeball with Khrushchev for twelve long days over missiles in Cuba and, thankfully for all of today's fly fishers, Nikita blinked.

The *first* personal computer (LINC) was developed, and John Glenn sat on a launching pad knowing that NASA had sent *Ranger 3* to the Moon three weeks earlier, and only missed the whole thing by 22,000 miles! 4 hours and 56 minutes later he successfully returned to earth as the first American to orbit our little planet.

In another interesting (and little known historical fact), the Air Force loaded a female black bear into a plane and launched the bear, in a capsule, out at 35,000 feet going at supersonic speed of 850 m.p.h. She landed safely, proving that you could survive parachuting at supersonic speed, and that the Air Force was going to need a bigger and probably more expensive shovel to clean up the capsule after the bear exited.

Backcasts continued:

Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson, and Wilt Chamberlin scored 100 points in a single game. At the other end of the spectrum, the Philadelphia Phillies moved out of their hotel in Clearwater, Florida because the hotel refused to admit black players and the Rev. Martin Luther King was arrested in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi for civil disobedience.

To the delight of a guy like John Alden Knight, (inventor of the Solunar Tables and 2011 inductee in to the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame), the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn aligned within a 16-degree arc. Unfortunately there is no record of whether the fishing was very good or very bad that day.

On the literary and entertainment fronts, Rachel Carson published her seminal work on conservation, *Silent Spring*, launching a whole new generation of environmental activists. Unfortunately, 1962 also saw the deaths of such literary giants as William Faulkner, Herman Hesse, and the poet e.e. cummings. We also lost the iconic Marilyn Monroe and the first "U.S. National" in the vernacular of 1962 South Vietnam. Walter Cronkite became the anchorman of *The CBS Evening News* and Johnny Carson took over *The Tonight Show* for the next 30 years. The Beatles charted "*Love Me Do*", Bob Dylan released his first album, and we heard the harmonies of the Beach Boys for the first time when they sang "*Surfin*", launching a whole new wave of music.

The CIA revealed to U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy that they offered \$150,000 to assassinate Fidel Castro; the Mafia insisted they'd do the job for free...They probably should have left that job for the newly formed Naval special services group dubbed SEALs.

We end the year 1962 on a tragic-comic note befitting a year of big hits and wild misses; oceanographers sailed to view the predicted eruption of Myojin, an undersea volcano south of Japan. It blew beneath them, and nobody survived. Indeed, what a long, strange trip the last 50 years have been.

Collectors Corner

Jerry Girard

All About Flies

One of the things I've enjoyed throughout the years has been and is the fly displays. Catskill history isn't just about early American expansion, the settling of the mountains, the finding of fabulous trout streams or the vacation destination it's become. For flyfishers, many of American flyfishing traditions started here. However, flyfishing in America started in Colonial Pennsylvania, more particularly, in Philadelphia.

Colonial aristocrats settling in Philadelphia, and later British officers, brought fly fishing tackle and methods from England where it had been practiced since the 15th Century. As the city grew, merchants and craftsmen began to supply the needs of the populace, which included fishing tackle. A number of merchants offered imported fishing tackle, when available, as early as 1731. Even Benjamin Franklin in 1741 sold fishing items in his printers shop.

Recreational expansion into the Catskill mountains occurred in the 1840's and by the 1850's angling notables, such as Thaddeus Norris, fished the Beaverkill River, the Willowemoc Creek and the surrounding waters. Norris published, in 1864, the *American Angler's Book* which established "The American School Of Flyfishing" and became the first American angler's "bible". He planted the seeds for the development of American dry fly fishing and the Catskill style flies. Theodore Gordon learned to fly fish and to tie flies from Norris' book taking "Uncle Thad"'s advice of " fishing your flies dry and up-stream" as practiced in the 1850's. With that advice and correspondence with Frederick Halford of England, Gordon developed the beginnings of dry fly fishing and the Catskill style of tying flies.

Our current museum opened May 28, 1995 and my son and I were fishing the area streams during that week which included a visit to the new museum. One of the first exhibits that attracted me was the early Catskill flies. They were mounted on a pyramid type base and the fly on the top was tied by Theodore Gordon. Descending from the top were examples of those who tied in the style: Herman Christian, Roy Steenrod, Reuben Cross, George LaBranche and many other (that I've forgotten!). Over the years not only just flies, but complete exhibits featuring Preston Jennings, Art Flick, Winnie and Walt Dette, Elsie and Harry Darbee and Ray Bergman can be viewed. Guest tiers every weekend during fishing season are developing and teaching new refinement and styles of Catskill patterns as well as other innovations.

In a sense, every fly fisherman is a collector. Each of us has a collection of flies: dry flies, wet flies, emergers, nymphs, streamers and a list of specialty patterns. Freshwater, moving water patterns, stillwater patterns, salt water and every kind of species patterns. We have endless choices for fishing. But guess what, we have a collection! True, we use the flies, but we also have learned about the flies: How to fish them. Where to fish them. Who tied them and how they originated. We learned their history! Some of us might even have broadened that collection by including historical examples, not to be fished, but to be studied and admired. The flies of Norris, Gordon, Christian, Steenrod, Cross, Flick and all of the numerous others can only add to the beauty of the collection. And pursuit of any historical fly will add not only another dimension to your collection, but also enhance your fly tying. Try It!

First is Fly Fest and The Jan Weido IceCapades On February 11, 2012 the CFFCM is once again proud to host the perfect mid winter blues ender, Fly Fest sponsored by Catskill Flies and the Jan Weido IceCapades sponsored by The Mid Hudson TU. (This event has been named in recognitions of Jan, a champion in youth education and one of the founders of IceCapades along with Bob Meyen and Skip Alford a few years back. Jan died in October 2011).

Fly Fest will feature fifty or so fly tyers gathered in the warmth of the museum from 9AM until 4 PM. IceCapades will be any brave souls who gather on the ice on the pond for ice fishing or kabitzing. Hot dogs and hot cocoa will be served in the Darbee Vinceguera pavilion.

You are welcome to one Icy Hot day in the Catskills.

Wulff Gallery/Workshop Update. We continue to move forward with the expansion project for the CFFCM. During the cold months ahead, we will be tightening up plans with local ordinances for approvals. This project will require some funding. To date both cash and materials have been received to make this happen. More will be required and financial initiatives are being constructed. At the present time there are several hand crafted rods available for sale at the gift shop. These have been donated to be sold and all proceeds to go directly to the construction fund. We have a nice selection now from Al Medved, Tom Smithwick, Bob Taylor and Ray Gould. These are all trout models. Prices range from \$800 to \$2,795. A complete list of items will be in the February Castabout.

The 'Bamboo Mike' Strip Show, New for 2012. Rest assured that Mike will keep his clothes on. Over the past few months we have had many inquiries on just what to do with that 'old rug beater' that needs a good going over. Of course I am referring to that bamboo rod that was acquired at a garage sale, flea market, non-fishing friend, or found in the attic. Most have been held onto for 'one of these days' I will refinish it. Well, now is that time. 'Bamboo' Mike Longuill, Mike Canazon, and Bob Taylor have agreed to bring their many years of refinishing experience to the CFFCM and provide the tips, tricks, and techniques in two specialized classes: *Stripping Down Old Bamboo Rods* and *What Do I Do Next?*

Session I, Stripping Down Old Bamboo Rods, presented by Bamboo Mike Longuill on Saturday, March 31 from 9:30 AM – 4 PM.

In Session I, Mike will teach the proper steps to remove and harvest rod hardware, remove/strip finish, cork grip refinishing, reel seat analysis and prep for guide placement and application.

Students will leave with a stripped rod and ready for next steps leading to *'What to do Next.'*

Session I cost is \$175 for members and \$200 for non-members. Class includes necessary materials and a 'redo' rod. If you bring your own redo rod, the cost is \$125 for members and \$150 for non-members.

Session II, What to do Next? Saturday, April 14, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Respected rodmakers, Bob Taylor and Mike Canazon, will share their techniques for finishing a bamboo rod blank or stripped down rod from start to actual finishing. Students will learn how determine correct guide placement, guide application and wrapping, reel seat and cork grip positioning. Before leaving, a detailed rod varnishing demonstration will be taught allowing the students to do this at home.

Cost, \$125 for members and \$150 for non members.

Bonus Sign up for Members: Both sessions with rod \$250 or without rod \$200. Non Members \$300 with rod, \$235 without rod but with membership. For more information or registration for these classes, please call the CFFCM office [845-439-4810](tel:845-439-4810) or email flyfish@catskill.net

Got Books? Too Many? Downsizing? We welcome your donation of books. Now is the perfect time as we prepare for our annual member book sale. Books are used in four different ways here at the CFFCM. 1. We can use some titles to our permanent book library. 2. To sell to fellow members in our Annual Members Only Book Sale 3. For sale in our Gift Shop. 4. Donated to Healing Waters members, chapters, youth or new fly fishers. Please feel free to mail, via US Media Mail any titles you no longer want and give them another life.

More Members, More Members....When you bring in a new member it does more than increase our CFFCM membership. Through new members we receive another person who appreciates and contributes to the mission of the CFFCM to preserve, protect, and promote fly fishing. There are often new talents that can assist in many ways sharing their knowledge with others or volunteering to help us accomplish a new task if not making it easier do to so. To assist each of us to bring in a new member you can take advantage of our new member incentive program. All new members will receive their choice of one title: *Trout Fishing in the Catskills* by Ed Van Put, *Trout Water In Pursuit of the World's Most Beautiful Fish* by Jim Rowinski and *Rivers of Restoration Trout of Unlimited First 50 Years of Conservation* by John Ross. As a referring member, you too can have your choice of the same books. Help us increase CFFCM membership and resources. Put it at the top of your New Year's Resolution list.

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and Museum
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www.cffcm.net

Dated Material:
January 2012

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CFFCM Emergence Chart

2012 Calendar of Events

February

11: Fly Fest Sponsored by Catskill Flies
Jan Weido IceCapades sponsored by Mid Hudson TU

April

1: Season Opener at Junction Pool

May

26: CFFCM Annual Meeting and Banquet

June

22- 27 CFFCM Cane Rodbuilding School

August

4/5: Summerfest, Jubilee Weekend & 2nd Annual Hardy Cup
12: 5th Annual Ralph Graves Invitational Golf Tournament

September

8/9: Rodmakers Gathering

October

6: One Fly Contest Sponsored by Catskill Flies
TBD: Semi Annual Meeting & Hall of Fame

November

10/12: Arts of the Angler Show, Danbury CT
27 or Dec 4: Winter Fundraiser at ACNY

December

1: 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.

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