



COLORADO

WOMEN

# FLYFISHERS

A sociable club for women who flyfish

May 2004 Vol. VIII, No.5

## MAY MEETING

**DATE:**

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

**TIME:**

5:30 - 6:30 Social Hour

6:30 - 7:30 Dinner (Optional, \$9.50)

7:30 - 8:30 Program

**PLACE:**

Piccolo's Restaurant

3563 S. Monaco Parkway, Denver

**PLEASE BRING:**

A donation for our monthly Raffle

A flyfishing friend *New guests are welcome!*

### How to Get There

Piccolo's is located at 3563 S. Monaco Parkway, Denver, approx. one-half mile east of I-25 near the southwest corner of Hampden and Monaco in the King Soopers shopping center. Go to the private banquet room on the right side of the restaurant. We will be there!

*At our May meeting...*

## How to Handle Outdoor Emergencies with Nancy Gilbert

Heart attack, broken bones, lacerations and heat exhaustion — the unexpected part of flyfishing. Yet, all are commonplace in our Rocky Mountains. So should we carry a first aid kit? Extra water? Learn CPR? Nancy Gilbert of the Denver Chapter of the American Red Cross will address those questions, and more. This overview will cover the basics. In-depth classes are available at the offices of the Red Cross. Donations to the American Red Cross would be appreciated and are tax deductible. —*Diane Meyer, Program Chair*

## CWF Calendar

Apr. 30	CWF Weekend Trip
- May 2	Arkansas River
May 4	Monthly Meeting
May 8	CWF Day Trip, Hot Sulphur Springs area, Colorado River
May 11	CWF Board Meeting
May 22	CWF Day Trip, Big Thompson River
June 1	Monthly Meeting
June 4	CWF Weekend Trip, Red Feathers Lakes
June 8	CWF Board Meeting
June 10	Girl Scout Clinic, Waterton Canyon

## Welcome New Members

Karyn Brandt - Denver  
Cathy Crawley - Colorado Springs  
Pat DeRosia - Lakewood  
Carmen Gali - Littleton  
Wendy Grummons - Denver  
Tammy Mankie - Highlands Ranch  
Rhonda McCormick - Arvada  
Linda Olin - Loveland



**FOUL HOOKED:** American Rivers, a non-profit environmental organization, has released its 2004 Most Endangered Rivers report. The Colorado River, confronting mounting problems with radioactive, toxic, and human waste, topped the list of ten rivers. Other rivers on the list include the No. 3 Snake River (WY, ID, OR, WA) and No. 6 Spokane River (ID, WY). The report presents alternatives to proposals that would damage rivers, identifies those who will make the crucial decisions, and points out opportunities for the public to take action on behalf of each listed river. For more information, click on <http://www.amrivers.org/mostendangeredriversof2004announced.html> — Ed.

## BACK CAST

APRIL 2004 MEETING  
BY ARLYS WARFIELD

**B**ill Edrington, owner of Royal Gorge Anglers fly shop in Canon City, has spent years studying the spring dance of the caddisfly on the Arkansas River. Club members who attended the April meeting were the beneficiaries of his knowledge. Fortunately, those unable to attend can still reap the benefits since most of his lecture is contained in his new book, "Fly Fishing the Arkansas."

Edrington began by describing Arkansas River conditions this year. The river is running low and clear due to drought conditions; there will be little runoff since snowpack on the many area 11,000 to 14,000-high mountain peaks is just 30% of last year. And March—usually our wettest month—was uncharacteristically dry. Some bugs have already begun to hatch near Canon City.

*"Caddis start to hatch on the Arkansas around Tax Day, even though most anglers refer to the phenomenon as the Mothers' Day Hatch."*

BILL EDRINGTON

Caddis start to hatch on the Arkansas around Tax Day, even though most anglers refer to the phenomenon as the Mothers' Day Hatch. The most heavily fished area is between Parkdale to Salida. Although caddis can also be found on other rivers, such as the Rio Grande, the Gallatin, the Roaring Fork and the South Fork of the Snake, the Arkansas is an especially good river due to its unimpeded flow and excellent oxygenation. Caddis like water



PHOTOGRAPH BY COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE

**NO, NO, IT'S BETTER THAN A DIAMOND:** Carol Stegink watches a caddis actually hatching on Lisa Rattenni's finger! They both said it was really neat to see it come out of its cocoon and walk around.

Freestone rivers have spikes in temperatures all day long. Generally, the Arkansas is not a good river to fish in the morning, but if you must, go to your nymph box and get out the stonefly nymphs and caddis larva. In the late morning, temperatures go up and you can go to your large dries (#10-12 Stimulators) with size 14 caddis pupa, LaFontaine's sparkle pupa and beadhead pheasant tails as 24-inch droppers. In the early afternoon, drop (24 inches) an unweighted caddis pupa off a size 14 elk hair caddis and swing it in the riffles, working it up and across the river. Don't dead drift it, skate it (dead drift mayflies, not caddis!). By 5 p.m., the females come back, and you can fish the backwater eddies and the calm water near the shoreline with bright green eggs and spent caddis. Edrington suggests we would do well to fish later in the day—and stay late since the bigger fish eat at dark.

Edrington's Words of Fishing Wisdom

- Caddis like breezy, warm, clear days; blue wing olives like damp, dark days.
- Listen to your guide. He/she wants you to have a good time so he/she puts you in to their

in the 52° - 55° temperature range, and the Arkansas in the Salida area is advantageously cooler than the Canon City area because of its elevation; it fishes well into May.

A long discussion of the Life Cycle of the Caddis followed, with too much detail to go into here. Suffice it to say that caddis

pass through four stages in the life cycle: egg, Brachycentrus larva, pupa and adult.

**Rig Up for the Time of Day**

As a freestone river, the Arkansas does not have a steady, regular temperature as do tailwater rivers which fish the same way all the time.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
system of catching fish.

- To keep from spreading whirling disease, clean your boots, gaiters, and waders with diluted chlorine and water.

- When floating on the river, give the front seat to the beginner — it's the best position for catching fish. Or, at least you and your partner should alternate positions during the day.

- Fluorocarbon tippet does not breakdown; therefore, it is necessary to put it in your pocket and take it with you to keep it from strangling fish, or otherwise causing havoc with the environment.

#### THE RAFFLE

I have thrown in the towel trying to keep up with whom wins what in these high-energy Raffles. The hubbub and furor and screaming drowns out the one member who eventually finds her ticket and notes meekly that she indeed *is* the winner. Therefore, all I can factually record are those winners who (1) are seated near me, or (2) I can recognize from across the very crowded room (there are so many new members that I hope I am forgiven for not being able to read their name tags from 40 paces). So . . . here is what I do know: **Pam Hafemann** won the combo hemostats, scissors and nippers; **Anita English** got the chocolate fish candy; **Jeanie McCord** won the \$20 gift certificate from the Royal Gorge Anglers; **Judy Gigliotti** got the flexible flashlight; **Diana Pahnke** got both the fishing cap and the Arkansas River map; **Kathleen Harrington** won the fleece fishing shirt; **Anne Zadrzil** won the Columbia zip-off pants (but I saw **Diana Kynel** walk out the door with them so I think Anne wanted the SplishSplash card deck that Diane had won); **Cheryl Gerlitz** won Pat Dorsey's Fly-of-the-Month ensemble; and, **Fran Sturgis** got to take home the 12 flies and flybox donated by **Mary Kuchynika**. The CWF Traveling Fly Box went home with either **Doreen** or **Naomi Takeda**, but no one would help me find out which. Maybe they'll share it. ■

#### Buddy Trips Debut

This year CWF is offering several Buddy Trips in which more experienced Club members volunteer to "buddy up" with less experienced members. They will answer questions and provide on-stream demonstrations of fishing techniques and skills. The three Club trips selected occur on April 17, May 22 and July 31.

## TWO CLUB TRIPS BLOOM IN MAY

### SATURDAY DAY TRIPS TO THE COLORADO AND BIG THOMPSON RIVERS

BY CAROL STEGINK, TRIP CO-CHAIR

#### Colorado River Trip Saturday, May 8

The section of the Colorado River we will visit is just down river from Parshall where the Williams Fork River flows into the Colorado River. This section of river parallels U.S. Highway 40. It is full of beautiful brown and rainbow trout. Also, since it is close to the highway, it is easily accessed.

##### Where to Meet

We will meet at the T-Rex Parking Lot at the Morrison exit off I-70 west at 7 a.m. We will take I-70 westbound out of Denver, then U.S. 40 over Berthoud Pass, through Winter Park, Frasier, Tabernash and Grandby. Continue west on Highway 40 through Hot Sulphur Springs and Byers Canyon. The next town is Parshall. We will pass the turnoff to Parshall and continue down Highway 40 to the first parking area on the left side of the road.

##### What to Bring

A four or five weight rod, lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent and water.

##### Suggested Flies

The types of flies that work at this time of year are midges, blue wing olives or baetis, possibly caddis, streamers and scuds. For more details on flies to use, contact your local fly shop the week before the trip.

##### Trip Coordinator

Please call Carol Stegink at 303-771-2078 for answers to any questions.

#### The Big Thompson River Trip\* Saturday, May 22

\*A Buddy Trip

As mentioned in the April newsletter, "Sneak Peeks," the Big Thompson River is a fun trout stream full of lots of beautiful cutthroat, brown, rainbow and brook trout. The river flows down from Rocky Mountain National Park, through Estes Park on east and through the town of Loveland. U.S Highway 34 runs parallel to it and, therefore, it is easily accessed.

##### Where to Meet

We will meet at the parking lot at I-25 and 88th at 7 a.m. and leave there between 7:15 and 7:30. We will travel to Loveland and then up U.S. Highway 34 to the Handicap Acces-

sible pull-off. We can then work up the river.

##### What to Bring

A four or five weight rod, lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent and water.

##### Suggested Flies

Flies to use at this time of the year are midges, i.e. black beauty, brassie, midge larvae, and baetis, such as the pheasant tail (beadhead or flashback) and, for a dry fly, use a Parachute Adams. Streamers may also work. Don't forget to contact your local fly shop for other suggestions.

##### Trip Coordinator

Please call Carol Stegink at 303-771-2078 for answers to any questions. ■

#### SNEAK PEEK

Our second weekend trip!

#### Red Feather Lakes June 4, 5, 6

TRIP COORDINATOR:  
CAROL STEGINK

Red Feather Lakes is a cluster of small lakes in the Northern Colorado Rockies surrounded by summer cabins and commercial development. This group of 14 lakes is about 50 miles northwest of Fort Collins. Six of the lakes are open to the public for trout fishing and boating. The main ones among these are Parvin Lake, Dowdy Lake, West Lake and Bellaire Lake. Parvin Lake access is walk-in only.

These are great lakes to belly boat on during run off when the rivers are too high to fish.

There are campgrounds at Dowdy, West and Bellaire lakes. For those who don't want to 'rough it,' lodging is available in the town of Red Feather Lakes.

##### Suggested Flies

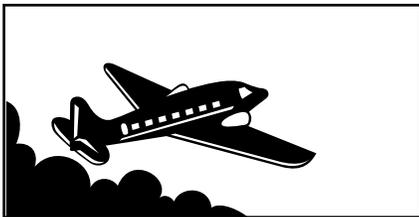
Dry flies: # 12 - 16 Callibaetis Com-paradun; # 10 Damselfly; # 12 -16 Elk-hair Caddis; # 14 - 20 Mosquito/Midge. Wet Flies: # 10 -16 DMC scud, olive or gray; # 6 Woolly Bugger, black/ brown, black/olive; # 10 - 16 Halfback Nymph.

## MEMBER NEWS

FRONT RANGE AND WESTERN SLOPE NEWSMAKERS  
BY NANCY RUTHERFORD TURLEY

### Retirement Tales

**CAROL STEGINK** is reaping the benefits of retirement in a big way! She, along with **PAT NILSSON** and **SANDY WRIGHT**, ventured on a weeklong fishing trip to Belize in March under the auspices of The Trout Fisher. Word back from them says it was a wonderful trip. Pat hooked into a lot of bonefish, Sandy caught two permits on an 8-weight rod (very difficult to catch!) and Carol caught a 45-50 lb. tarpon on a 10-weight! (It took her about 1 hour and twenty minutes to land it!) They had their own little island to fish from! Ask



them about it! Carol also headed for Hawaii with husband Cal and relatives in mid-April for a week long vacation and then plans a two-week trip to Peru in June to help out at a hospital southeast of Lima where she will most likely work in the operating room.

**DEE BOND** and husband Jim have also been traveling a lot. They may be moving to a patio home if their current house on the markets sells. But first, with their new, and larger, fifth wheel camper, they may tour for a year around the U.S. before settling down for a bit! They recently babysat their two youngest grandkids, 14 months and 2 months old in Breckenridge, while their parents skied. This was after a visit to Tucson and hitting Grand Junction on the way home (*see more news on her fly-tying limelight below*)! Next on the venue was a trip to Nebraska to see Jim's family.

Congratulation to **SUE ARMSTRONG** who will be retiring in late May/early June from her years of service as a high school home economics teacher. Currently she is teaching at Thunder Ridge High School in Highlands Ranch. Aside from fishing, Sue has also been very involved in dog shows. She and husband Dennis plan to move to Crawford on the Western Slope when Dennis retires — still several years down the road. They already have property there and a yurt built to stay in!

**CORDIE MEDINA** is next — late June or

early July — and she is already making plans for her next leg in life. Among fishing and continued traveling, she will now do some part-time jobs she *wants* to do!

### A Tale from the Ripped

Proud Mom **MARION NUTT** is still glowing over the accomplishments of her two children. Steven, recently married, is living in the Cherry Creek area, working for MCI and loving it. Daughter Melissa, has also been in the limelight lately, having won the *Ms Fitness Mile High* competition in March! Then, on April 3 Melissa competed in the 2004 NPC Northern Colorado Fitness & Figure Championships and walked away with the 1st place in the Fitness Tall Class, 1st Place in Figure Medium B Class, Overall Fitness Champion, and Overall Figure Champion titles under her belt. (Interesting aside, my husband, Steve Turley, coached Melissa when she was a young teenager. Small world!) Melissa will be in an upcoming quarterly *Ms Fitness* magazine.

### The West Slope Hip-sters . . .

Long-time West Slope CWF member **CAROL OGLESBY**, along with several other old timers from CWF, participated in the Western Colorado Fly Fishing Expo in Grand Junction in March. Carol, along with husband Pat, were the principal organizers for this event, which went off beautifully. This year, 19 women participated in a women-only, all-

#### WHY CWF CLUB TRIPS ARE SO GREAT BY CAROL NEVILLE

Have you gone on a Club trip, yet?  
You would have been able to fish  
with other women who love flyfish-  
ing as much as you do, right?

Did you meet another Club  
member and make a new friend?

Did you pick up some pointers  
from someone more experienced?

Did you get to fish a new place?

Did you learn something?

Did you enjoy a beautiful out-  
door day in Colorado?

Oh yeah, did you catch fish?

day clinic which Carol coordinated.

Part of the venue for the entire weekend included fifty or so fly-tiers at work for others to observe. Two of these were our own CWF members, **SUE ARMSTRONG** and **DEE BOND**. Dee, once again made the news, this time on the *front page* of the Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel*! A wonderful photo — she did us all proud, as did Sue and old CWF members **BJ LESTER** and **CATHY GREENWALD**. By the way, BJ, known as a woman fly-tier extraordinaire, is planning to move from Boulder to the Grand Junction area soon.

Speaking of the West Slope, women fly-fishers are coming out of the woodwork so to speak! A nucleus of about twelve women in the Grand Junction area are forming a new women's fishing club — their club name is still in the making! Ten of them ventured out to Elk Creek Lodge near Meeker on April 2nd for their second guided outing. **CAROL OGLESBY** and **NANCY RUTHERFORD TURLEY**, also members of CWF and old member **NANCY BURDETTE**, were three of the ten who enjoyed a great day of fishing where all caught some nice fish. They also all got to know Ellen Dailey while fishing with her for the first time. Ellen, a transplant from Albuquerque/Santa Fe area, is one of the co-founders of She Fishes, another women-only flyfishing club located out of Albuquerque!

### . . . And Some Cool Clips

**CWF VEEP DIANE MEYER** continues to be in the flyfishing-published world. Did you see her article in the Spring issue of *Fish & Fly* magazine about the Arkansas River and Salida? Not only did she write it, her own photos were used. *Congrats, Diane!*

Featured in the *Colorado Springs Gazette* on March 28th in an article called "Women Catching On," were many CWF members! Sports writer Dennis McKinney tagged along on the Cheesman Canyon Gill Trail trip on March 13th and captured some good photos and quotes from about ten our members. Featured in photos were **CHRIS JUVAN**, **DIANE KYNCL**, **SHERRI MOORE**, **SUZANNE SNEED** and **KAREN WILLIAMS**. Also mentioned were **JOAN BYERS**, **DANA RIKIMARU**, **CRAIGE STANTON** and **CAROL STEGINK**. Dennis said there are now 27 states with women-only flyfishing clubs! Go women! ■

*Got news? Have you experienced any chance meetings?! Let us know! Please send news to Nancy Turley (nanwritr@bresnan.net) or Arlys Warfield at arlys@earthlink.net.*

# THE FLEDGLING FLY FISHER

A BEGINNERS'S NOTEBOOK — CHAPTER TWO: CASTING  
BY DANA RIKIMARU

*This is the second in a series of articles designed to help the beginning flyfisher absorb the basic skills required to go on the river and enjoy the day.*

**M**ost beginning casters will make remarkable improvements with just a few tips to remember. Practice these techniques first, without having any line in your rod. You can either do this when you are practicing in the backyard, or right before you string-up your rod. In either case, attach your reel onto the rod, and then simply do not string it up.

First, grasp the rod with your thumb on top of the handle. Begin each cast with the tip of the rod pointed at an angle below your knees (or the rod parallel to the ground or water). Relax your arm and bend only at your elbow while bringing the rod handle and your casting hand up to the level of your ear. You know you are doing this right if you can turn your head and look at your hand/reel/handle (h/r/h) and h/r/h at eye level. If your h/r/h is anywhere below your shoulders, make your thumb parallel with the handle, and bend your



elbow. Your rod, at the top of your cast, should be pointed almost straight up to the sky.— or slightly back over your casting shoulder (at around 12:00 or 1:00).

Slowly bring the rod down to parallel with the ground again. Now, speed up the process. Think of your backcast as bringing the rod “up” instead of “back.” The forward cast would then be “down” instead of “forward.” If you think of your entire cast as being 100% of energy, then put 65% of that energy into your backcast, and 35% energy forward. The tendency is to put 80% back and 20% forward, so fight that intuition.

With a strong, decisive backcast, the line (when strung-up through the rod guides), accelerates up and back quickly, and many problems will be averted. After you bring the rod back in the backcast, the “stop” at the top must be abrupt and decisive.

Commit to a firm stop — no “hedging”!

You must wait long enough for the line to straighten out in the air well above your shoulders, and then begin the forward motion by hinging at your elbow.

And, lastly, to improve your cast dramatically in a very short time, consider taking a lesson or clinic from an experienced and qualified casting instructor. You will be surprised how quickly your cast will improve!

But you must remember to practice, practice, practice! ■

*Dana Rikimaru is an Orvis Endorsed Guide, Head Instructor of the Orvis Colorado Fly Fishing School and Certified Federation of Fly Fishers Casting Instructor who guides and teaches for the Blue Quill Angler in Evergreen. Signed copies of Dana's book, “Fly Fishing, A Woman's Guide” are now available at [www.bluequillangler.com](http://www.bluequillangler.com).*

## POP SHOT QUIZ

THE CATCHING CLINIC

PLAYING YOUR FISH IS A TWO-HANDED JOB



PHOTOGRAPH BY M. LUKE FASOLDT, CABELLAS

Lisa Rattenni is shown here at the April CWF Educational Clinic demonstrating the correct technique for playing \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a.) a big fish. (over 12”)
- (b.) a small fish. (up to 12”)

Answer:

(b.) is correct. Small fish can and should be played by merely stripping them in as you would bring in line for another cast.

However, if a big fish takes your fly, keep the line pinched in your casting hand, as you should have done for the strike, and reel in any slack between the stripping guide and the reel as quickly as you can. To give yourself a cushion to do this, you can drop your rod tip and give him some slack. Flies weigh so little that a fish has trouble throwing them, as he [*sic*] has no weight to work against. Using the reel allows you to play a fish against a smooth mechanical drag instead of against the uneven pressure of your fingers on the fly line.— *Tom Rosenbauer, “The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide.”*

# CWF Clinic Participants Find Happiness After Snowstorm and Inclement Casting

BY DAWN DOBSON, EDUCATION CHAIR

Thanks to all our wonderful participants who literally weathered a snowstorm getting to Pine — it was a very successful annual clinic. Out of 42 enrollees, we only had five who couldn't make it. We had a group of 20 women who signed up for our beginner's strand so we are definitely making gains by inducting new women to the sport.

Feedback on the evaluation forms was extremely positive, with the exception that people just couldn't get enough time with our fabulous team of instructors. Jean and Michael Williams provided our beginners with an outstanding base of information and techniques; their knowledge and patience was appreciated by all. The expertise of Dan Wright allowed Club members to analyze and improve their casting technique regardless of their skill levels. The always flexible and smiling Dana Rikimaru was knowledgeable and patient as she shared technique and strategies related to casting, dry fly fishing, and sub-surface fishing. Last but not least, our intermediate/advanced members were thrilled by catching several nice fish while working with Kirk Deeter and Brian Schmidt, developing technical skills in pocket water.

We will look at extending the time for classes next year as well as possibly expanding the curriculum based on interest.

The catering services provided by the Jones family rounded out a perfect day as members enjoyed the club's signature "Southwestern Grilled Chicken Sandwiches" which were to die for.

CWF is very appreciative of the support from Perfect Drift Fly-fishing Club in allowing us to access such prime water. Paul Turner's diligent management of this wonderful section of stream sets the bar for ecologically sound fishery management. As a result, CWF members got to practice new skills under ideal conditions, resulting in several beautiful fish being caught. Our very own membership chair Diana Pahnke was able to land a beautiful 3-4 pound fish. In addition, I'm not sure if it was rigged or what, but yours truly got into a gorgeous 4-5 pound rainbow.

Anyway, a great time was had by all, and if you missed out this year, watch for details for next year's event as we plan to have a repeat performance same sport, same spot, same time of year, and more FUN! ■



PHOTOGRAPHS BY M. LUKE FASOLDT, CABELLAS

HAPPINESS IS CATCHING: Catching really, really, really big brown trout, that is. Happy guide (Dana Rikimaru) and happy client (Diana Pahnke) make for a hap-hap-happy day!



YES, VIRGINIA: This is indeed what a 4 to 5 pound brown trout looks like up close. Here's lookin' at you! (Whatta fish, Dawn! Whatta photo, M. Luke Fasoldt!)

## MANY MINI-CLINICS

The CWF Education Committee is working on providing a series of regional mini-casting clinics for Club members of all skill levels.

### Area Casting Clinics

Jerry Morrell of Two Guy's Fly Shop in Lafayette will be teaching classes for those who live in the Northern Metro area, and Dan Wright will be teaching classes in the Southern Metro area.

### Watch for Schedules

Although the dates were not confirmed at press time, we will offer at least one class in May and the rest will be offered throughout the months of June, July, and August. Please watch for postings on [cwftalk@topica.com](mailto:cwftalk@topica.com) and announcements at our monthly meetings, as well as in future newsletters. If you haven't subscribed to *cwftalk* as yet, e-mail Craige Stainton at [craigefish@aol.com](mailto:craigefish@aol.com). Don't miss out on a great opportunity to tighten those loops, and rid yourself of those pesky wind knots! — Dawn

## EDUCATIONAL CLINIC

CASTING ABOUT: STEALTH FISHING

BY ROSEMARY WIESE

**T**he angler as predator? Yes, of course. You may not like the way that sounds, but that's what you are to a trout. Trout know that death comes from above — from an osprey, a mink, a heron and . . . an angler.

Fish are paranoid creatures, especially when feeding. Your footstep, your shadow, your rod glinting in the sun, your fly line overhead will send fish fleeing to cover. On popular streams, they have to feed when anglers are around or they would starve; on remote waters, they can stay hidden until you go away.

### Sneak Up on Fish

So, you have to sneak up on fish. In order to catch them, you have to get close enough to cast accurately yet not let them see you. To do this, you have to figure out where they are likely to lie, what they are eating and how (rising, etc.), water conditions (current, obstructions, etc.), casting constraints and angles.

Many anglers spook trout before their first cast. In order not to do this, stand well back from the water — 10 to 15 or 20 feet. Take a look at what's going on. Don't tromp over to the stream bank to rig up or change a fly. Stay out of the trout's "cone of vision" by taking advantage of bushes or trees close to, or in, the water.

### Walk Softly

When you approach the stream bank, walk softly. Keep in mind that vibrations are picked up by the fish's lateral line. If you have to get into the water, remember that vibrations travel quickly through it, so be slow and quiet and deliberate. Even then, it is nearly impossible to move without disturbing the water or stream bottom. Stay out of the water when you can. Fishing doesn't necessarily mean sharing the fish's element.

Check the air over the stream for bug life. Look in the nearby bushes or grasses for signs of a recent hatch, or



terrestrial activity. Are trout rising? Is there any evidence that they are feeding subsurface? Make your fly decision *before* approaching the water so you are ready to cast when you get there.

### Think About Your

### Cast

Find your likely lie and determine the best angles before casting. Do you have room to cast? Are there rocks or debris in the water, or currents that will cause drag? Is there streamside cover you can use? If not, crouch or crawl to minimize your presence. Approach from the side or behind the fish. (Fish usually face upstream and let the food flow to them.) Try not to make false casts over your prey but rather to the side and below . . . and only one or two at that! Remember the trout's "cone of vision." You don't want the fish to see your rod or line in the air. Cast lightly so you don't slap the water. Learn the parachute and curve casts as well as the roll cast. Also, dapping and the "bow-and-arrow" cast can be used to great advantage.

### Other Things to Consider

- Do a little homework before fishing a stream so that you are pre-prepared. Look at guidebooks, magazines, or check the web for hatch and water flow information. Talk to a local fly shop.
- Wear polarized sunglasses and a hat to cut the glare and to aid in spotting fish.

- Take a hike. Fish away from other anglers, if you can. Usually a short walk will get you to fresh water where you can practice stealth without interference from other anglers.

Stealth fishing — especially on smaller streams — will help you make more hook-ups and provide for a more successful fishing day. Give it a try.

Tight lines. ■

*Reprinted with permission from the Northwest Women Flyfishers Newsletter, July 2001.*

## Sharon: The Other Bud's for You Budweiser Announces Conservationist Award(s)

*Sharon Lance, V.P. of Colorado Trout Unlimited, has sent CWF an appreciation letter for our support in her efforts to become the 2004 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year. Although she did not win, she is receiving a \$5,000 grant to be used at CO TU. Sharon feels her participation in this event has helped to bring about a greater awareness of Trout Unlimited and its mission. Excerpts from her letter appear below.*

Dear Fellow TU members,

The results of the 2004 Budweiser Conservationist of the Year have been announced. Eddie Bridges, a conservation advocate from North Carolina, has won. Mr. Bridges is currently the executive director for the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation and he conceived, lobbied and developed to have legislation passed enacting the Wildlife Endowment Fund which has currently raised \$74 million to protect and nurture wildlife. Congratulations to Eddie and to those organizations he represents . . . There is some good news. Budweiser and the National Wildlife Foundation have donated a \$5,000 consolation award to Colorado Trout Unlimited, and, hey, — you know me — I'll try to get National TU to match those funds. Also, TU garnered a great deal of positive exposure as a conservation organization. Thank you all for supporting me, and Colorado Trout Unlimited.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lance, V.P., CO TU

### Attention CWF Members: Cabin to Let

I have a source for renting a cabin on the Williams Fork. It can sleep up to 8 persons but 5 - 6 comfortably. It has two bedrooms: one with double bed, another with bunk bed; pull-out sofa, futon and air mattress. It has one bath, kitchen, washer/dryer, cable TV and phone. Located across from the reservoir. Cost depends upon number of persons (4 people = \$100 per night) to maximum of \$150. Most weekends in summer are open. Any one interested? For reservations, contact Marion Roper at [marion.ropers@comcast.net](mailto:marion.ropers@comcast.net).

## Fly Tiers Corner

### Sparkle Dun Dry Fly

This was first tied by Craig Mathews of West Yellowstone. If I had only one dry fly in my box, this would be it. Because of its design, fish see it as an emerging mayfly. However, it also looks like an adult or a spinner. I have also fished it during a midge hatch in the middle of winter!— *Greg Garcia, Trout's Flyfishing, 1077 Old S. Gaylord St., Denver (www.trouts.net)*

#### Recipe

Hook: #18-20 TMC 100, or TMC 2488, for a different look

Thread: Light Olive 8/0

Body: Nature's Spirit Grey Olive

Shuck: Z-Lon Olive or Ginger, very sparse.

Wing: Deer Hair or Early Season Elk

#### Tying Instructions

Step 1: Stack hair and measure to hook shank.

Step 2: Tie in, pointing forward over eye at thorax.

Step 3: Wrap hair in behind and stand hair up.

Step 4: Make a small thread base in front of the wing.

Step 5: Tie in shuck the length of the body.

Step 6: Dub tapered body and continue in front of the wing to support hair — keeps it from tilting forward.

Step 7: Whip finish head . . . and go catch some fish!

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

APRIL 17 RIVER CLEAN UP CLEARS UP

A DIRTY CLEAR CREEK

BY JOANIE MCCORD,

SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIR

**O**n Saturday, April 17, about 30 CWF members, a couple of brave husbands and three wonderful souls from Patagonia met early in the morning at our usual meeting place of Morrison Rd and I-70. We could tell by the wonderful turnout and by the spectacular weather – not a cloud in the sky – that it was going to be a great day for the 2004 annual CWF River Clean Up project.

Due to their efforts, Clear Creek River between the towns of Dumont and Idaho Springs — and for a bit above Empire — is by far a cleaner area. For about three to four hours in the morning, six teams of us cleaned, pulled, prodded, lugged, tugged and hauled trash of every conceivable size, shape and weight! We were definitely tired and ready sit — we *had to sit* since the wind, which arrived just in time for lunch and would have blown our chairs away — and relax, which we did with hot dogs, potato salad and sodas, compliments of CWF.

After lunch we were treated to a talk, discussion and demonstration about streamers by Mark Leonard, husband of CWF member Gloria Leonard and owner of Your Fishing Partner fly fishing store in Idaho Springs. After the clinic several of us stayed and fished the river

## Liz's Casting

### Clinic Quiz

BY LIZ WATSON

*Reprinted with permission from the Northwest Women Flyfishers Newsletter, January, 2001.*

- Which of these formulas estimates the weight of a fish in pounds? (length and girth in inches)
  - Length x girth x girth, divided by 80
  - Length x girth x girth, divided by 800
  - Length x girth, divided by 28,000
  - Length x girth, divided by 800
- In the double haul, the length of the haul \_\_\_\_\_
  - should vary between the backcast and the forward cast.
  - should always be less than six inches.
  - should vary with the casting stroke.
  - should be shorter on the backcast than the forward cast.
- Weedguards on flies can be made of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a single strand of monofilament.
  - a monofilament loop,
  - wire.
  - all of the above.
- Which is the strongest knot?
  - Bimini twist
  - Clinch knot
  - Surgeons knot
  - Blood knot
- When casting with sinking lines, weighted line, or a heavily weighted fly, do not use \_\_\_\_\_
  - very tight loops.
  - a slow backcast.
  - a water haul.
  - an oval cast.

Answers:

1. (b); 2. (c); 3. (d); 4. (a); 5. (a)

we had worked so hard to clean. It was truly a fun, productive day.

A big THANK YOU goes to the members who drove their pick up trucks and SUVs to let us use them so we could cart the trash and large items to the drop off area!

Another big THANK YOU goes to all who participated, I know you worked hard — *your efforts showed*.

Stay tuned for the next Special Projects outing — our annual summer picnic. This year the picnic will be on Tuesday, July 13. More details will follow in next month's newsletter. ■

# NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORT

## NORTH ISLAND STEALS THE BARZ'S HEARTS

BY PAT BARZ

The “trip of a lifetime.” Would we do it again — in a heartbeat! Were the fish incredible — Yes! Were the accommodations and people as special as we were led to believe — Yes! Was the scenery gorgeous — Yes! Was it summer weather with clear, blue skies and day after day of dry fly fishing — NO! (But this wasn't New Zealand's fault. Blame the weather patterns for creating what old-time New

Zealanders were calling “the storm of a century.”) The flyfishing club where my husband, Don, and I work (?) had affiliated with Distant Waters, an organization that plans flyfishing trips to New Zealand. This February we were offered the opportunity to check out the special flyfishing package to the North Island of New Zealand and, more specifically, the waters around Lake Taupo. It was tough to tear ourselves away from work, and it took us at least 10 seconds to decide to go.

The brochure, the CD and the informa-

tion we had received didn't begin to do the whole trip justice. The fishing, the scenery, the accommodations, the people and the guides were everything promised and more. The weather did play a factor (their February climate is equivalent to our August) since it limited dry fly fishing to only one day, but what a day! Don claimed a 28-inch, 7-pound rainbow on his third cast with a size 12 Parachute Adams, and I picked up a 26-

inch, 5-pounder after a blind cast over a bush with a size 12 Royal Wulff. Fortunately, Leigh the guide was there to yell, “strike,” so the unseen fish and I could meet. The second day featured a helicopter trip into backcountry that would have been at least a three-day walk. Another “thrill of a lifetime” for me who had always longed to travel by helicopter. It rained all day but what a beautiful little stream with huge fish caught on nymphs. Don also had a double with fish and guide trapped by the net — but

that's a story for another day. With clouds hanging low, the helicopter trip out was a touch exciting, but our pilot exuded confidence. The third day was a “lay day,” as they say in New Zealand. The full strength of the storm hit with 70 mph winds and horizontal moisture. This was grandparent-shopping time!

The next three days were spent with another incredible guide, Chris, who introduced us to big fish via float tubes in overflowing rivers through channels of trees, blackberry bushes and unknown giant ferns. I almost went down with the boat, also a story for another day. Chris worked hard. We saw a lot of country and fished numerous areas trying to find water that was clear enough and protected enough. No complaints, Mate, we caught fish, beautiful fish — despite what the full-blown southerly wind produced.

Finally, we have to mention the wonderful accommodations at the Caboose Taupo Hotel, the only log building in Taupo. Overlooking Taupo Lake, the largest lake in the Southern Hemisphere, our dining table held delicious breakfasts and dinners. The staff could not have been more helpful, and we left feeling like we were saying goodbye to old friends and family.

The trip back felt much longer than the flight over, but special memories are truly sustaining. ■

*Pat Barz, a long-time CWF member and former vice-president, can be found catching many trout in local area rivers and streams with Don, her flyfishing guide husband.*

Your contributions to the CWF Newsletter are very welcome! Send them to arlys@earthlink.net



WHAT A HAUL: Although North Island is known for rainbows (South Island for browns), Pat caught this 24-inch, 6-pound brown — the only brown caught on the entire trip. It was caught in a flooded river, up against flooded trees.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DON BARZ

# YOUR RAFFLE DOLLARS AT WORK

## CWF CONTRIBUTES TO WHIRLING DISEASE RESEARCH

BY CRAIG STANTON

The whirling disease study in the Windy Gap Reservoir on the Colorado River has recently received \$200 from CWF. The donation, made to The Whirling Disease Foundation in Bozeman, MT, will be matched by the Foundation, resulting in \$400 contributed

toward the study.

Scientific Anglers has donated flies and fly boxes to be sold to raise the \$20,000 needed for the study. CWF's donation was the purchase of 10 of these boxes at \$20 each. These flies and fly boxes will be used in Club activities.

If you are interested in contributing to this study by purchasing boxes for your personal use (other than these 10), please contact Craig Stanton for information, or you can e-mail Dave Kumlien, Executive Director, The Whirling Disease Foundation at [whirling2@mcn.net](mailto:whirling2@mcn.net). ■

## The Raffle Corner

May 2004

### Mothers' Day Hatch of Prizes from Pat Nilsson

Your May Raffle will offer you 21 chances to win approximately 58 items, with a value of \$247. There will be a big change for the lucky Club member who wins the next CWF Traveling Fly Box: You need to return the fly box with 12 flies at next meeting, but you will also win the VIP \$9.00 certificate donated by Piccolo's Italian and Mexican Restaurant.

#### Featured Fly Shop

Our featured Fly Shop in May is YOUR FISHING PARTNER located in Idaho Springs, (303) 567-1500. Be sure and stop by and thank Club Member Gloria Leonard and husband Mark for their generous discount for Raffle items, plus an extra \$25.00 gift certificate.

Thanks to Our Business Donors

Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor Dan Wright has donated another one hour individual fly casting instruction suited to your skills. The Blue Quill Angler in Evergreen donated six (6) Blue Dun, size 20, Pat Dorsey's Fly-of-the-Month Club flies ([www.blue-quillangler.com](http://www.blue-quillangler.com)).

*" There will be a big change for the lucky Club member who wins the next CWF Traveling Fly Box."*

The Trout Fisher (303) 369-7970 donated assorted fly tying materials. CWF members thank you all.

Thanks to Our Member Donors

These Club members donated some very useful and unique items: Willie Tebow, Diana Pahnke, Cordie Medina, Connie Rogers, Georgia Peterson, Carol Stegnik, Debbie Seiden and Susan Kelley. Your donations are

appreciated and needed. If you plan to donate, please tag your items with your name and the approximate value of the item.

#### Door Prizes

The 20 free door prize tickets will be drawn after the program. To save time, please remember to get your door prize tickets early in the evening at the membership desk.

#### Raffle Ticket Specials

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, or \$5.00 buys 6 tickets, or — even better — \$10.00 buys you 13 tickets.

Tickets will be drawn around 7:15 before the program starts. Thank you to all the CWF members who buy Raffle tickets and make this Raffle a success. Your participation in the raffle is our main financial support to allow CWF to be the best fishing club out there and one of the most active. —PN.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### CWF May Be Eligible for Your Employer's Matching Gift Program

RECENTLY CWF RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR paperwork about our 501c3 Nonprofit Education Organization from a member whose employer offers a matching gifts/funds for charitable contributions.

Jeanette Montoya works for The Piton Foundation, a subsidiary of the Gary-Williams Energy Corporation. That organization's founders established their Employee Matching Gift Program as a demonstration of private sector commitment to the welfare and improvement of our society.

Thanks go to the Gary-Williams Energy Corporation for their support in matching Jeanette's membership dues. Thanks also go to Jeanette, a CWF renewing member, for making the effort to follow through with the gifting program.

Does your employer have a matching gifts program? CWF is a registered 501c3 Nonprofit Education Organization and as such may be eligible for possible matching programs and for possible tax deductions for your contributions. You may want to check with your employer and tax preparer for opportunities involving CWF contributions.

— *Craig Stainton*

## CWF Board of Directors 2004

### President

Craig Stainton  
[craigefish@aol.com](mailto:craigefish@aol.com)

### Vice President

Diane Meyer  
[diane@dianemeyerphoto.com](mailto:diane@dianemeyerphoto.com)

### Secretary

Karen Williams  
[karenwilliam@pcisys.net](mailto:karenwilliam@pcisys.net)

### Treasurer

Sherri Moore  
[samoore99@msn.com](mailto:samoore99@msn.com)

### Education

Dawn Dobson  
[dobsond@earthlink.net](mailto:dobsond@earthlink.net)

### Funding

Pat Nilsson  
303-752-2474

### Membership

Diana Pahnke  
[dpahn@earthlink.net](mailto:dpahn@earthlink.net)

### Newsletter Editor

Arllys Warfield  
[arlys@earthlink.net](mailto:arlys@earthlink.net)

### PR-Outreach

Lisa Rattenni  
[lisar@lisaratts.com](mailto:lisar@lisaratts.com)

### Special Projects

Joanie McCord  
[flyfishingjmac@netzero.net](mailto:flyfishingjmac@netzero.net)

### Trips

Chris Juvan  
[cjuvan@colliersb-k.com](mailto:cjuvan@colliersb-k.com)

Carol Stegink

[stegfish@cs.com](mailto:stegfish@cs.com)

### This Issue

Editor: *Arllys Warfield*  
Proofreaders: *Cindy Gomez, Karen Williams, Judi A. Wood*  
Production: *Sandy Wright*

Printed by Alpha Graphics in Denver.

### Web Site

[www.colowomenflyfishers.org](http://www.colowomenflyfishers.org)

Please check the membership roster in the Members Section of the CWF web site for any errors. Send corrections to [dpahn@earthlink.net](mailto:dpahn@earthlink.net).

# Girl Scouts "Get Hooked on Flyfishing" Clinic Needs CWF Teachers

BY MARION NUTT

The second CWF "Get Hooked on Flyfishing" Girl Scout Clinic is Saturday, June 12th at the Kassler Center at Water-ton Canyon. The clinic begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. *Girl Scouts Want You June 12.* I need enthusiastic instructors in the areas of KNOTS, FLY

TYING, ENTOMOLOGY and CASTING. I would like two or three instructors in each division. Upon completion of instruction, the girls will earn Girl Scout "Sports For Life" Interest Project patches!!! Please contact Marion Nutt at 303-793-0949 or at rxnutt@aol.com. ■

# To Find a Friend on the River Learn the CWF Secret Handshake

BY CHRIS JUVAN

The founders of CWF noted that, once we flyfishers are suited up in waders, vests and hats, we all look alike on the river — especially during the winter months. In order for one member to recognize another on the river, a secret handshake of sorts was devised. The resulting action was the following: In the event you are fish-

ing and would like other Club members who may be in the area to join you, tie a bandana on your car antenna or rear view mirror. This will allow other Club members to know you are fishing in the area. You would be surprised the number of times I have had other CWFers join me on the river because I used the secret handshake! ■

## LAST CAST

*"Angling may be said to be so like the [sic] mathematics that it can never be fully learnt."*

IZAAK WALTON  
1593 - 1683

Forgot your password? The password to the Members Only Section of the CWF web site is located on the bottom of the current CWF Roster. Or, e-mail Lisa Rattenni at [lisar@lisaratts.com](mailto:lisar@lisaratts.com) for it.

## CWF 2004 MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

Enclose a check for \$25 made payable to Colorado Women Flyfishers.

NEW MEMBER (over 18? yes  no )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

The Club does not sell or trade or give away members' e-mail addresses.

Flyfishing Ability: (circle one) Professional Advanced Intermediate Beginner

I would like to serve on the following committees: (Circle as many as you like!)

Programs Membership Special Projects Education

Outreach/PR Newsletter Raffles/Funding Trips

MAIL TO COLORADO WOMEN FLYFISHERS, P. O. BOX 101137, DENVER, CO 80250 - 1137