



# COLORADO WOMEN

# FLY FISHERS

*A sociable club for women who flyfish*

September 2006 Vol. X, No. 9

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

**DATE:**

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

**TIME:**

5:30 - 6:30 Social Hour

6:30 - 7:30 Dinner (Optional, \$10.00)

7:30 - 8:30 Program

**PLACE:**

Piccolo's Restaurant

3563 S. Monaco Parkway (near the corner of Hampden), 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 September meeting...*

## THE COLORADO RIVER: TOP TO BOTTOM

**with Dan Wright**

The Colorado offers over 100 miles of fishing opportunities. Dan Wright's program centers on the fishing opportunities that exist from the Shadow Mountain tailwater to State Bridge and beyond. Other sections of the Colorado offer the opportunity to catch rainbow, brown, brook and lake trout, plus kokanee, all in one day. He'll discuss the flies they take, from dry flies on top to the streamers on the river bottom — and when to go on the under-explored areas.

Dan is a certified Master Fly Casting Instructor and owner of the Colorado Academy of Fly Casting ([www.fly-castingacademy.com](http://www.fly-castingacademy.com)). He is an author of numerous magazine articles and a great supporter of Colorado Women Flyfishers. — *Diane Meyer, V.P. and Program Chair*

## COMING SOON

OCTOBER SPEAKER: Bill Dvorak, "Flyfishing the Gunnison Gorge"

## CWF Calendar

September 5 . . . . . CWF Meeting  
September 9 . . . . . Club Day Trip,  
Dream Stream  
September 12 . . . . . CWF Board Meeting  
September 23-24 . . . Club Weekend Trip,  
San Juan River  
October 3 . . . . . CWF Meeting  
October 7 . . . . . Club Day Trip,  
Williams Fork River  
October 8 . . . . . Race for the Cure

### Welcome New Members

Sandra Desmarais . . . . . Westminster  
Kim Genevay . . . . . Grand Junction  
Linda McKenna . . . . . Ft. Lupton  
Janice O'Shea . . . . . Englewood  
Louise Waldo . . . . . Westminster  
Nanci Wallace . . . . . Ft. Lupton

• 48 New Members Enrolled in 2006.



*FOWL HOOKED: My prize catch-and-release of the Lake City Club Trip was caught on my 5 wt., 9-ft. rod, with a size 16 Pale Morning Dun on 5x tippet. My fly was snatched in midair by a five-inch, violet-green swallow. After gently playing the bird through its frantic aerodynamics, I landed it on the bank. Then I carefully held the bird, folded its wings and unwound the tippet from its body and wings. The bird was "fair hooked" in its mouth, and I was able to remove the debarbed hook easily. It immediately flew when released, seemingly unharmed judging by its flight.*

— Nancy Sherman

*Thank you, Nancy. One can never be too careful when casting to rising fish. Sometimes other species await your lure. — Ed.*

## BACK CAST

### AUGUST 2006 MEETING — DWB: WATER WHEEL

BY ARLYS WARFIELD

There was so much audience participation that if his presentation had been only a question-and-answer-program it would have been successful. But Dave Bennett of the Denver Water Board (DWB) gave the members and their guests (not the least of which was Anne Nichting's mother, a former Water Board member herself) much, much more with his information-packed slide show, which detailed how the board manages the 700,000 acre feet of water for the City of Denver — with emphasis on how its policies affect the anglers in the area. Dave began by describing the South Platte Collection system (Antero, Strontia, Elevenmile and Cheesman Reservoirs), the Roberts Tunnel Collection System (Dillon Reservoir) and the Moffat Collection system (Gross and Williams Fork Reservoirs).

Antero has been closed since 2002 but has been filling up after repairs and will re-open next year; Strontia is closed to fishing and is filling up with sediment in the aftermath of the Hayman Fire of 2002; Elevenmile has the best fishing on the South Platte; Cheesman survived the Hayman devastation but it, too, has large amounts

***"Surprisingly, many ranchers in South Park have found that water has a higher value than their land and have sold their water rights to the DWB."***

of sediment choking it; Dillon is the largest reservoir in the system, holding 40% of the total water storage; Gross is in a remote area (one needs a good map to find the way there), but has excellent fishing just below the South Boulder Creek outlet, with 10- to 12-inch rainbows and cutthroats caught on dries; Williams Fork water is used as trade with other water agencies since its water cannot be tunneled to Denver.

The DWB's management philosophy is to manage their water resources for water providers, for recreation and for the environment. To that end, it has recently instituted the South Platte Protection Plan — a collaborative agreement with water providers, business, environmental organizations, recreational groups, governmental agencies and organizations. It provides benefits not available under the previous Wild and Scenic River Plan; it develops alternate water supplies to the Two Forks Project; and it created a million dollar endowment to be used for future water needs.

In answer to several questions from the audience, Dave, himself a 20-year flyfisherman, stipulated that the DWB has created for fishing interests:

- minimum flows below Spinney, Cheesman and Elevenmile (about 40 cfs);
- has managed water temperatures below the reservoirs;
- has created reservoir outflow guidelines to minimize impacts to fishing. (Chris Juvan has asked about the recent high flows coming out of Williams Fork Reservoir and was surprised to learn they were not due to water management policy but rather to high run-off spilling over the dam.) He discussed the benefits of high flows after a good winter of heavy snow: the heavy flows benefit the river by flushing out sediment. The DWB is mindful of how flows affect spawning rainbows in the spring (browns spawn in the fall, when flows are at their minimum).

Dave outlined the obligations the DWB has to its water providers and to the farmers who now struggle to get the effluent water they previously received — agriculture received as much as 90% of the total water storage in the past, but that number is declining (the city's recycling of water diminishes how much is released downstream). Surprisingly, many ranchers in South Park have found that water has a higher value than their land and have sold their water rights to the DWB.

Pat Nilsson asked why water rates have gone up when household usage has gone down. Dave reminded us that DWB does not receive tax money; it is a private agency doing business with the same expenses whether or not usage fluctuates. He said Denver is the wrong place to build a city since 70% of the water is on the western slope. It costs DWB \$10-15,000 per acre foot to develop new water resources, but Aurora is paying close to \$30,000 to build a tunnel to bring more water to their households. Highlands Ranch was developed using well water, but ground water is not renewable; therefore, when it is gone HR must find alternate — and expensive — resources.

Today's average household uses about 1.6 acre feet of water per year; DWB has 345,000 acre feet of supply available but demand is only 285,000. DWB anticipates a build-out demand of 425,000 a.f. and is preparing long-range plans to meet it. ♦

## PROFILE OF A 10-YEAR MEMBER

### CAROL OGLESBY, AN HONORED WESTERN SLOPE CWF

BY NANCY RUTHERFORD TURLEY

2006: THE  
TENTH  
YEAR OF  
CWF

You might have been one of the Denver area CWF members who met Carol for the first time on the river while helping out during the National Fly Fishing Championship in Boulder, where Carol acted as a controller along with her husband Pat. Or, you may have been one of the 2001 CWF Education Clinic participants who received the benefit of Carol's Federation of Fly Fishers certified fly casting instructor skills in 2001. Or, you could have attended any flyfishing

**Carol has been a CWF member continuously, but her heart and time have been dedicated to the Western Slope area.**

venue in Western United States for the past 15 years and would most likely have had the opportunity to meet her as an attendee, fly-tying demonstrator or casting instructor.

It was at one such venue that several of us first met Carol and her husband Pat — in December, 1996 at the First International Women's Flyfishing Festival in San Francisco. The focus of this gathering was to encourage the formation of women flyfishing clubs throughout the U.S. Although Carol was not present in Denver for the formation of CWF, she was one of the first members to join from "afar" that first year, 1997.

Carol has been a CWF member continuously, but her heart and time have been dedicated to the Western Slope area fishing interests. Along with Pat, she has helped shape the personality of flyfishing in the Western Slope area. She and Pat met in Crawford, Colorado, in high school. Married now for 32 years, they have been partners in many ways. They both exhibit to me a humility and breadth of knowledge of flyfishing unsurpassed in this locale.

They are featured authors or subjects for flyfishing articles in Grand Junction's newspaper, *The Daily Sentinel*, where Pat's photography often accompanies articles in the

#### CAROL OGLESBY:

#### FFF 2006 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Carol Oglesby was awarded "Woman of the Year" at the recent Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Conclave in Bozeman, Montana, July 25th through July 29th.

The FFF ([www.fedflyfishers.org/begin.php](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/begin.php)) is an international service organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of flyfishing through conservation and education. Its Woman of the Year award is presented annually to that individual or director who has demonstrated unusual devotion to the FFF and, through outstanding contributions, has benefited the Federation as a national or international organization.

This is a very prestigious award, proven by some of the past award winners, which include Joan Wulff (1988), Maggie Merriman (1995), Joan Whitlock (1996), Rhea Topping (1999), Dorothy Schramm (1998) and Ruth Zinck (2003). We are so proud of you, Carol! —NRT



PHOTOGRAPH WITH PERMISSION FROM THE COLORADO NFFC STEERING COMMITTEE

**SERVICE ACE** Carol volunteers her time as a controller at the June 2006 Colorado National Fly Fishing Championship in Boulder.

paper. Along with being a contributing writer to the national FFF magazine, *The Flyfisher*, Carol is also the newsletter editor of the Grand Valley Anglers Trout Unlimited club newsletter, the *Territorial Trout Tribune* and *Piscatorial Post*. Her ability to paint pictures with words is a unique gift.

Among her other talents and credentials, she and Pat coordinate the TU/FFF monthly programs at the Grand Valley Anglers meetings and have acted as coordinators for eight years of the Western Colorado Flyfishing Exposition held in Grand Junction. This past March's Expo boasted attendees and visitors from Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona and all parts of Colorado. Carol has also organized the Women's Clinic associated with the Flyfishing Expo for four years.

A petite 5'1," her stature might fool you, as she can haul in the big trout with the best of them. She has been on many salt-water fishing expeditions over the years, having brought in jack cravelle, bonefish, bluefin tuna, barracuda, pargo, sierra and snook. But her favorite area to fish is a small mountain stream she calls "Paradise Creek" — a place where she scattered her father's ashes last September.

Carol has a dry sense of humor, enjoys cultural activities, loves to laugh and also enjoys singing, reading, writing and spending time with angling friends around the country. She works as the office administrator for Mesa County Facilities and Parks and is a member of the women's flyfishing group in the Grand Junction area nicknamed, "The Dames." Those of us who have known Carol over the years agree she certainly deserves the award given to her at the recent FFF Conclave in Montana for her immense time and energy dedicated to flyfishing. ♦

#### Scott Fly Rod for Sale

8 ft, 3 wt Model: A2 Used once, mint condition. \$225.00 case included. (Retail \$285.00) Will support manufacturer's guarantee.

— Diane Meyer at [diane@dianemeyerphoto.com](mailto:diane@dianemeyerphoto.com), or telephone 303-988-0546

## Diane Meyer's Advice for Better Digital Images



Streams, fly rods, trout, and megapixels are all

essential ingredients for great flyfishing pictures. Pixel is short for "picture element." It is the smallest part of the digital camera's sensor. The word "mega" means "million." So megapixel means the picture is made up of one million pixels, or "picture elements." The greater the number of megapixels, the more information the sensor can capture and the more an image can be enlarged. Don't be stingy with your flashcard — **set the camera to its highest megapixel possible** (or go to your camera store and have them assist you), and you will produce better quality digital images . . . and with better reproduction in the newsletter!

*A professional writer and photographer, Diane is a member of ASMP, ACFW, EP. Watch for next month's issue for more of Diane's useful advice for shooting better fishing photos. — Ed*

## CLUB TRIP REPORT

### DELANEY LAKES TRIP A BEAUT

BY PHYLLIS VINSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR

It has been pointed out that there was no report in the last newsletter on the Delaney Butte trip. I attribute that to loss of memory directly associated with my reduced quantity of blood by the end of the trip. The voracious appetites of the myriad mosquitoes were not affected by the thinning of our blood with tequila. It was reported that some mosquitoes were flying erratically, however.

In any case, we stalwart few — **Gayle Civish, Chris Juvan, Sherri Moore, Suzanne Sneed Faerber** (temporarily returning to us from the midwest), **Joanne Sondock, Stephanie Stouff**, two dogs and I — braved the elements in pursuit of the trophy fish rumored to be in the Delaney Butte Lakes. Those that caught these fat and feisty rainbows had a good fight and a healthy bend in their rods. ♦



**DAY'S END** Chris Juvan's dog Barney is a stern companion.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUZANNE SNEED FAERBER

**DOG(S) TIRED** Stephanie Stouff, Joanne Sondock, Phyllis Vinson, Gail Civish, Chris Juvan, Barney and Sherri Moore collapse after a tiring but successful day on the lake. But Marley was still standing.

## **GO FISH THE DREAM STREAM**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 DAY TRIP TO SO PLATTE RIVER BELOW SPINNEY RESERVOIR**

BY PHYLLIS VINSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR

The section of the South Platte between Spinney and Eleven-mile Reservoirs is called "The Dream Stream." These three miles or so of meandering meadow stream in South Park offer easy wading and the opportunity to chase rainbows, browns, and cutthroats from 12 to 20 inches. This is a very popular stretch of river and can be crowded, but there is plenty of river with loads of fish. On this stretch of the Platte, there are no trees to eat your fly. This means that there are also no trees to block the South Park winds, which can be fierce.

Come prepared for these with an optionally heavier rod than you would normally use if you have one. As always in Colorado, there's the possibility of an afternoon thunderstorm.

### **Directions**

The Dream Stream is located off US 24 near Hartsel. To get there go south from US 24 on CR 23, east on CR 592, and then south on

CR 59 to the river. Two parking areas give access to the river. If you turn west on CR 592, you can access the river near the Spinney Reservoir. This parking lot requires a State Parks Pass.

### **Flies to Use**

Our September trip should offer some technical dry fly fishing during the morning trico hatch. Later in the day caddis may lure fish that are still looking up. Other options may be BWOs, PMDs, hoppers, scuds and the ever-present midge.

A small parachute Adams works well for the female tricos. Black and gray RS2s can be used later in the day — maybe floating behind your favorite hopper or caddis pattern. Don't leave home without your South Platte standard flies, like the San Juan Worm, Black Beauty and Copper John.

Let's join in and chase the big ones in The Dream Stream! 🚌

## **GO FISH THE SAN JUAN RIVER**

**SEPTEMBER 23-24 WEEKEND TRIP TO SAN JUAN, NEW MEXICO**

BY PHYLLIS VINSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR

The San Juan River below Navajo Dam in northwestern New Mexico offers 10 miles of good water. The first 3.75 miles are New Mexico "Quality Water" and contain mostly rainbows that average 14" to 20," but even larger fish can be caught. The remaining water contains some browns. The river is about 400 miles from Denver and 45 miles from Durango. It is a classic tailwater with prolific insect life. Water temperatures remain stable, never rising above the mid-40s.

The San Juan can either be waded or floated. Anglers can wade much of the river, especially the upper part, but crossing can be dangerous due to the strong flow and dropoffs. Also, the rocks are covered in moss and are very slippery.

### **Lodging**

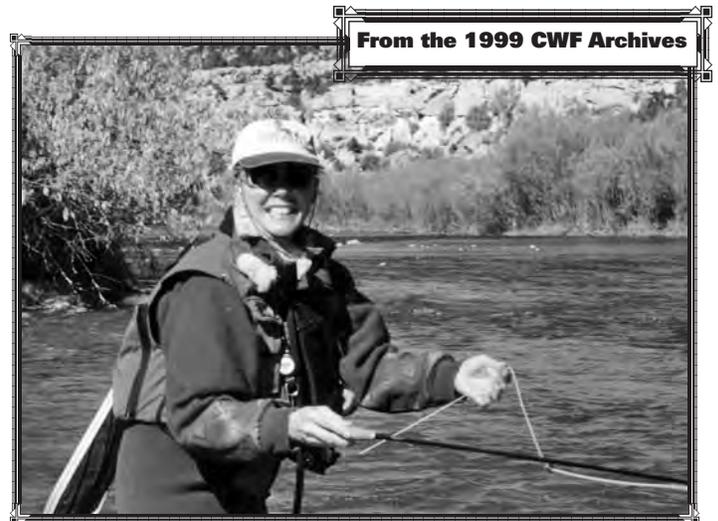
Abe's Motel & Fly Shop: [www.sanjuanriver.com](http://www.sanjuanriver.com)  
(505) 632- 2194

Rizuto's Fly Shop: [www.rizutos.net](http://www.rizutos.net) (505) 632-3893

Rainbow Lodge: [www.sanjuanfishing.com](http://www.sanjuanfishing.com) (888) 328-1858

### **Camping**

El Rio RV Park, 683 Hwy 511, Blanco,  
New Mexico 87412, (505) 632-7783 [www.elriorvpark.com](http://www.elriorvpark.com)  
Cottonwood Campground, Navajo Lake State Park



From the 1999 CWF Archives

**MAID MARION MENDS** A real Nutt about housekeeping lines on the San Juan

(877) 664-7787 [www.newmexico.reserveworld.com](http://www.newmexico.reserveworld.com)

### **What to Bring**

Long, thin leaders (5x to 7x) and long, drag-free drifts are the ticket for both dries and nymphs. When there are hatches, the angler must match the hatch, and the insect to match is usually quite small. When in doubt, bring midges.

If you have questions, contact our trip coordinator Diane Brians at (970) 726-9370 or email her at [troutdancer@hotmail.com](mailto:troutdancer@hotmail.com). 🚌

## **SNEAK PEEK The Williams Fork Club Day Trip: Saturday, October 7**

Our final trip of the season will be to the Williams Fork River near Parshall. This will be a repeat performance for those of you who attended our diverted Fraser River Trip.

We will carpool from the I-70 Morrison Exit. Plan to meet at 6:45 a.m., with departure promptly at 7:00. After travelling over beautiful Berthoud Pass, we will regroup at Mo Henry's Fly Shop in Fraser. Flows permitting, we will park at the pull-off near Parshall and cross the Colorado River, where we hike in about a mile to the confluence with the Williams Fork.

Crossing the river can be difficult and the hike does involve crossing some slippery, muddy streams but the trees along the Colorado can be quite spectacular. With luck, brown trout will be running and we'll get to explore some of the new changes in the river caused by a 1,000 cfs "spillage" that occurred earlier in the season, changing the landscape of the river quite a bit.

Check next month's newsletter for more information on flies and equipment. See you there! — Dawn Dobson, Trips Co-Chair

## CLUB TRIP REPORT

### THE FRASER RIVER TRIP

BY DAWN DOBSON

Unfortunately, the river goddess was not with our eight participating members for this excursion. After consulting the local expert, Diane Brians, as well as Mitch at Mo Henry's Fly Shop, we determined that fishing the Fraser during the high water temps and low flows would be harmful to the livelihood of the fishery.

When we checked in at the fly shop, they suggested we cross the river and fish the Williams Fork, as it was reportedly fishing well and had newly-created habitat caused by

**. . . we determined that fishing the Fraser during the high water temps and low flows would be harmful to the livelihood of the fishery.**

a large release of water from the dam. Later at our monthly meeting, we found out from Dave Bennett of Denver Water that the "release" was actually "spillage." The river was definitely different, especially at the confluence. A few fish were caught early by **Diane Brians, Jane Francen** and **Chris Juvan**, while **Joan Sondock** was reeling them

in slightly upstream from the confluence. Down on the lower sections, **Barb Keller** and **Gayle Snook** were tempting risers just below the confluence on the Colorado. Later, as the temperatures rose, we made our way back down the Colorado and shared our picnic lunches with our canine members, Annie and Barney. While most of us dined on melted cheese and crunched crackers, Joan began to cast to a couple of risers. **Nancy Sherman** soon appeared from upstream and spoke of many cooperative fish up above.

Not able to resist the excitement, we all eventually waded into the cooling waters, only to be teased and somewhat tormented by what must have been at least a million rising trout. Chris swore they were all jumping around me, though I refused to acknowledge their presence (mostly due to their reluctance to take one of the numerous flies I offered them). Finally, Barb Keller cracked the code and began to land fish after fish. After much laughter and grief, we all safely crossed the river and headed for home, recording a successful day for all. ♦

## CLUB TRIP REPORT

### AAAH, THE FRYING PAN AND ROARING FORK RIVERS TRIP: WEEKEND OF MANY DELIGHTS

BY DAWN DOBSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR



PHOTOGRAPH BY ARLYS WARFIELD

**FLOAT TRIP SUCCESS STORY** A happy Phyllis Vinson and her nice rainbow caught on the Roaring Fork

This year's trip to the Frying Pan River was a smash hit. We had 21 members and at least six guests. Many of our group arrived on Thursday and others stayed through the weekend until Monday. We received a warm welcome from Tim, Will, and Kirk at Taylor Creek Fly Shop, as they told us our timing was great and there was a smorgasbord of insect activity, including the legendary green drakes and PMD hatches.

The flows on the river seemed somewhat elevated, although the waters ran clear throughout the weekend. Crossing the stream for those of us who are height-challenged was somewhat difficult, although everyone seemed to find and attract fish to their offerings.

#### Floating the Roaring Fork

On Saturday, Arlys, Phyllis, Diane and I took a float trip on the Roaring Fork River from Carbondale to the confluence with the Colorado in Glenwood. Diane almost set a record for the most fish caught in the first



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAWN DOBSON

**DIANE BRIANS & CO.** She's the hopper-dropper-dropper aficionada.

section as she reeled in five fish in the first mile or so. Our guides, Mike and Ry from the Taylor Creek Fly Shop, were knowledgeable about the river and patient as they worked with us on perfecting our technique using streamers to entice large fish from undercut banks and pockets. The fish that were caught were robust and healthy, often surfing through oncoming rapids as we attempted to bring them to net.

#### Assorted Fishing Sites

Several other members, including **Janet Lopez, Carol Stegink, Jane Francen,** and **Nancy Sherman,** ventured onto the higher

sections of the Roaring Fork to explore the smaller waters found near Aspen. And almost everyone made at least one visit to a large section of the river known as “Old Faithful,” approximately 3/4 of a mile down from the dam, where there is an abundance of prime water and very willing fish. Because of the popularity, we re-named this area as the “CWF Parking Lot Hole,” as the pull-off was always filled with CWF members.

**Julie Church** initiated her daughter by bringing her on her first flyfishing trip, and **Alexis Ralston** was sighted sharing brie and crackers during one of the parking lot rendezvous.

**Extracurricular Activities**

In addition to filling the river, our membership fulfilled the “social” portion of our mission by partaking in several Mollie B campfires, hosted by **Joanne Sondock**, **Chris Juvan**, and **Craige Stainton** in the mosquito-free zone at Ruedi Reservoir. On Saturday night **Judy Norman**’s friend Annie from Fraser entertained the group with her musical washboard-harmonica-guitar ensemble, followed by a special encore performance by furry companion Dingo,

the Blue Heeler, who could fetch beverages and give high fives!

Meanwhile, as if that wasn’t enough fun, many of us ventured back to Carbondale to the ultimate backyard barbeque hosted by **Trip Coordinator Genevieve Villamizar**. After being awed by the spectacular landscaping (designed of course by our host), we were treated to an array of wonderful salads and the most amazing anisette-spiced grilled pork tenderloin! All of this was prepared by Genevieve after her morning of fishing on the nearby Crystal River. **Karen Savage**, **Jody Yehle**, and **Betty Petersen** felt the trip from Aspen was well worth it, while **Nancy Sherman** and **Jane Francen** were rejuvenated by the camaraderie after a long day on the river. A big thanks to Genevieve and Annie for making this a memorable evening for all.

**Don’t Miss this Trip Next Year**

The scenery in this beautiful canyon accompanied by the cheers and smiles of women catching fish on dries made for quite a climax to our fishing season. If you weren’t able to join us, consider making it a priority on our future return trips, as this is truly one of the best watersheds in the state. ◆



PHOTOGRAPH FROM JUDY NORMAN

**AFTER-HOURS JOY** Chris Juvan, Carol Stegink, Alexis Ralston, Craige Stainton and Diana Pahnke enjoy Annie’s Saturday evening entertainment around the campfire at the Mollie B Campground.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM JUDY NORMAN

**RED TAIL IN THE SUNSET** Judy Norman went night-fishing for this big brown with its unusually red tail.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ARLYS WARFIELD

**CAL STEGINK DRAWS A CROWD** Club members stop to analyze the fish-and-catch situation at the newly-named “CWF Parking Lot Hole” on the Frying Pan.

**OF MOOSE AND MEN — AND SEVERAL WOMEN WORKING HARD AND LOOKING FOR SOCKEYE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES**  
 BY LISA RATTENNI

*This July trip was not primarily a fishing trip, but rather a “mission” through the Covenant Community Church in Arvada to the Alaskan Christian College, Soldotna, AK, which needed a student dining hall. After long hours of dry walling, mudding, sanding, priming, painting and other construction duties during the day, we “missionaries” were free to do as we pleased in the evenings (which stayed light until way after midnight). What else is there to do in Alaska but fish for salmon?!*

**Soldotna, AK**

Just 145 miles south of Anchorage lies the small town Soldotna, with a population of about 3,800. The Kenai River runs through it on its way to Cook Inlet. To the east of town lie the community of Sterling and the Kenai Mountains. To the south are the communities of Kasilof, Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, Anchor Point and the City of

**... flyfishers typically focus on the Upper Kenai River and its numerous rainbow trout.**

Homer. Soldotna is home to the Kenai Fishing Academy, just a short walk from where we were staying in the Alaskan Christian College dorms. The Upper Kenai River was in walking distance from our dorms. It is Alaska’s most famous fishing river and best known for its runs of giant king salmon (a.k.a. chinook). The world-record king was caught here in 1985 and weighed over 97 pounds. During our visit, an 86.5 lb king was caught — not far from the world record!

While the kings draw many anglers to the Lower Kenai, flyfishers typically focus on the Upper Kenai and its numerous rainbow trout. Fish over five pounds are common. Larger rainbows to twenty pounds or more have also been caught. In addition to the rainbows, Dolly Varden are plentiful, with many caught weighing four to six pounds. Sockeye salmon



**MOOSE HEAVEN** One of the glories of Alaska

(a.k.a. reds) arrive in the middle of June and stay through August.

During large runs, sockeye have returned to the Kenai in numbers exceeding one million — but not this year. Unfortunately, when we arrived, the headlines of the local paper read, “2006 Worst Sockeye Year,” — not exactly what I wanted to see. Sockeye were having their worst run ever. Only 270,990 sockeye had been counted coming up the Kenai River by the Fish and Game sonar — a long way from the lower-end goal of 650,000 they were hoping for; therefore Kenai River was closed to sockeye fish-



**TALL ORDER** Lisa was tops on the Spackling Team.

ing! During the historic seasonal peak of the river’s sockeye salmon run, the banks of Alaska’s most popular sport fishing river were abandoned and silent.

**Sockeye to Me**

However, conveniently located only an hour ride to the north was the world-renowned Russian River. This is perhaps the most famous salmon fishing location in the world! Many sockeye salmon swimming up the Kenai enter the Russian River and spawn throughout its system.

This was my only bright note, mine and hundreds of other anglers. Combat fishing is alive and well in Alaska — not exactly my kind of fishing. I did manage to “catch” two sockeye on my fly rod (I use the term loosely since sockeye weren’t really feeding



**OOOPS** A snagged sockeye is memorialized.

and, therefore, many were just snagged by our hooks). For the number of people fishing, and low count of fish in that area, that was a pretty good deal — at least for me. Actually, my proudest moment came when I caught a very, very young trout (about 5 oz.) on a hook that was twice the size of the fish! Perhaps that took more skill (luck) than snagging a 10-pound sockeye. Needless to say, it was much easier to land!

I convinced myself it was a good thing I did not catch a lot of salmon, I would have lost them to the bears anyway, as many of my co-angler friends so gracefully did. We were able to chase away the black bears, but there’s just no sweet-talking brown bears. I am grateful we did not come across any grizzlies.

Synchronized casting is simply not my



**THIS IS ALASKA?** No, this is not the flats below the Toilet Bowl on the Frying Pan during the green drake hatch — it's the Russian River north of the Kenai River.

cup-of-coffee, but we all had empty coolers to fill and only two days to fill them.

### Go for the Halibut

On our one day off, the gang agreed to rent a charter to go fishing for halibut. Again, not really my cup-of-coffee, but desperate times make for desperate measures, and this was a quick fix for our empty coolers. We all managed to catch our limit in just one hour. At \$17.99 per pound for halibut here in Colorado, our catch well covered the cost of the charter, and was well worth my lowering myself to bottom feeding fishing. At least these fish were caught, not snagged.

### Trout At Last

By Friday, after working long hours at the

school and frustrating fishing at night, the only other flyfisher on the trip and I decided to go off on our own to fish the local lakes for trout. I needed to redeem myself, even if the trout were only 13" long — that was good enough for me, catching (not snagging) fish on a dry fly! It was nice to have so much room to cast and to watch a dry fly be slurped by a hungry fish. We fished until midnight on the last night and came back to camp more content than ever.

Alaska was more beautiful than I imagined, and the group of people I was there with were amazing. Going fishing on this trip was just an extra bonus. Catching all the new friends I have made is certainly priceless. ♦



**THE POSE THAT REFRESHES** Bottom feeder fishing filled the coolers of these happy anglers.

## CHILI

### IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER (APRÉS FISHING)

*The Saturday night Chili Cook-off at the recent Club trip on the Arkansas River generated many requests for the chefs to publish their award-winning entrées. Here is this month's entry.*

### Arlys Warfield's Havana Moon Chili

(Adapted from the *epicurean.com* recipe)

- 2 T. vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pound 1" diced pork
- 1 pound 1" diced chuck
- 1 - 14 1/2-ounce can beef broth
- 1 - 28-oz can whole peeled tomatoes, drained
- 2 T. balsamic vinegar
- 1/3 cup golden raisins
- 2 T. chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp ground allspice
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup pimiento-stuffed green olives, halved
- 1/2 cup slivered blanched almonds
- 2 cups cooked black beans
- 2 cups cooked white rice

Heat the vegetable oil in a Dutch oven. Stir in the onion and garlic and cook until soft. Add the pork and beef, and cook until browned. Drain off the excess fat.

Add the beef broth and tomatoes, squashing each tomato by hand before adding it. Stir in the vinegar, raisins, spices, and salt. Bring to a boil; reduce the heat and cook 30 minutes, partially covered.

Uncover and cook for 30 minutes more. Add the olives and almonds and cook an additional 5 minutes.

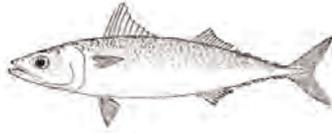
To serve, place a mound of beans and a mound of rice in each bowl. Ladle the chili on top.

Serves 4 to 6.

## The Raffle Corner - September 2006

### Jody Yehle's Fish Story

September! What a great month! We're nine months into the year, six months into the trip schedule, three months into the summer, and only a few minutes into the fabulous



September newsletter! But, does this mean that time is passing by too quickly? Nah! It just means that we've had one more month of great fishing.

Speaking of great fishing, we have a great fish story this month: It's all about how our Membership Chair, Cathy Poirier, landed the big one. Yes, Cathy met Kerry Caraghar while fishing at Deckers and charmed this new Fishing Manager of the **Cherry Creek Orvis Store** into having Orvis be **our featured fly shop this month**.

Kerry, a local boy born in Pine and raised on the South Platte, was only too happy to contribute to our Raffle and offer up Orvis' support for CWF and its mission to fill the rivers and lakes of Colorado with women. (*Is that a new stocking program? No, stockings are definitely not required. But I digress.*) Kerry has been guiding in Colorado for years and reaffirmed that his best clients are women, because they listen (*shhh, don't upset the others*), something we all know to be true. So, in honor of September, and summer coming to an end, and local kids growing up to be Orvis Guides, let's get on with the monthly Raffle!

### Orvis Fly Shop Donations . . .

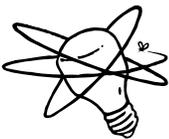
We have a Wader Tote, to tote your wet waders. A Magni-Clipper, for those of you who still refuse to use bi-focals. A Multi-Tool, for all those various jobs that require a little more than fingernails and incisors. A Leader Wallet, to hold all your leaders instead of all that pesky money. A 16-compartment Fly Box, so you can separate the flies that work today from the flies that worked last week. Some Non-Toxic Oval Split Shot, in case you want to actually get your nymph into that deep hole where the fish live.

### . . . and More

Plus, of course, our CWF Traveling Fly Box, Pat Dorsey's Fly of the Month, and all of the other member donations that we love so much.

Get yourself over to the Orvis Store in Cherry Creek at 2701 East First Avenue, or call (303) 355-4554. And if you're so inclined (*as opposed to reclined*), Sept. 30th is the beginning of Orvis Days, where you can listen to the experts from Angler's Covey and North Park Anglers talk about fishing in their neck of Colorado, or Crosby Bean of Breckenridge Outfitters on streamer fishing, or hear Pete Griffen talk about fishing in Rocky Mountain National Park. The following Saturday, Oct. 7th, you'll find five or six Trout Unlimited's expert fly tyers, including Charlie Craven, tying and talking for your entomological pleasure.

That's our fish story for the month — it proves you meet the nicest people on the river. See you at the Raffle! — JY



### Websites of Interest from Lisa Rattenni

This says it all (at least for me): Zen and the Art of Fly Fishing  
<http://www.californiaconnected.org/tv/archives/448>

Here's one way to fish (I think these are Asian carp):

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-760820435866344019>

These folks have a lot of cool stuff!!

<http://xo.typepad.com/blog/2006/07/fisherdog.html>

Good overall fishing site: <http://www.fliesandfins.com>

2007 Denver Flyfishing Show: January 5, 6, 7 — Denver Merchandise Mart

<http://www.flyfishingshow.com>

Sportsman Expo 2007: Denver, January 25-28 — Convention Center

<http://www.sportsexpos.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewlocation&locationnumber=3>

Frequently check out Moldy Chums site at <http://www.moldychum.com>

### CWF Board of Directors 2006

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#### Newsletter

Copy and art deadline is the 15th of every month.

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#### Website

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Send roster corrections to  
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#### cwftalk

Send requests to subscribe to  
[arlys@earthlink.net](mailto:arlys@earthlink.net).

## CWF BOARD POLICIES RE-STATED

- 1 CWF does not allow our member list to be used for any commercial purposes. *(Reviewed and reaffirmed at the February, 2006 BOD meeting.)*
- 2 CWF does not sell, trade or give away member contact information to outside vendors. *(Reviewed and reaffirmed at the February, 2006 BOD meeting.)*
- 3 CWF does not allow commercial advertising in its monthly newsletter; however, members' small personal classified ads that are not related to a commercial venture and that are related to flyfishing are published free of charge as an accommodation. *(Reviewed and reaffirmed at the February, 2006 BOD meeting with modifications made at the March, 2006 meeting.)*
- 4 Board members are allowed to purchase shirts with the Club logo at cost. *(Reviewed and reaffirmed at the April, 2006 BOD meeting.)*
- 5 The Board will select gifts for departing Board members with recommended values of these gifts to be up to \$150 per two-year term for President, up to \$100 per two-year term for Vice President and up to \$50 per two-year term for all other Board members. *(Reviewed, revised and revisions adopted at the April, 2006 BOD meeting.)*
- 6 CWF's policy is to restrict monthly meetings to members, prospective members, guests of members or guests of the Public Relations Chair. *(Reviewed and reaffirmed at the April, 2006 BOD meeting.)*
- 7 Any item purchased by a Club member that is not included in the budget requires prior Board approval for reimbursement. *(Reviewed, revised and revisions adopted at the April, 2006 BOD meeting.)* ◆

## LAST CAST

***"Flyfishing is the most fun you can have standing up."***

**ARNOLD GINGRICH  
1969**

### CWF 2006 MEMBERSHIP Membership for Calendar Year (January - December)

\_\_\_ RENEWAL

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

\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER (over 18? yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_)

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The Club does not sell or trade or give away members' contact information to outside vendors; however, rosters are printed quarterly for members' personal use only.

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**



COLORADO WOMEN FLYFISHERS, INC.

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

P. O. Box 101137

Denver, CO 80250-1137

Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**PROFILE OF A 10-YEAR CLUB MEMBER**

**AND CLUB TRIP INFORMATION FOR**

**SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, PLUS**

**A MISSIONARY'S LIFE IN ALASKA.**