

COLORADO

WOMEN

FLY FISHERS[®]

A sociable club for women who flyfish

May 2007

Vol. XI, No. 5

MAY MEETING

DATE:

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

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!

Take light rail for a new and less stressful trip to the meeting.

At our May Meeting...

COOL NYMPHING TECHNIQUES

with Janice O'Shea

For a good part of the year, and a good part of each day, nymphing is the best way to attract timid trout in cool waters. Janice, one of CWF's original members and the owner of Trout Trips, will be speaking about cool nymphing techniques and the hottest places to use them.

A Colorado native, Janice has been flyfishing for over 20 years and guides out of three shops in the Denver Metro area. For a preview check out her website at www.trouttrips.com. — *Jody Yehle, Vice President and Program Chair*

LOON SOON

Diane Kyncl informs us that those of you who ordered from Loon will be pleased to know that the products have arrived. Diane will distribute them at the May meeting. If you are unable to attend, please contact Diane to make arrangements for pick up or delivery.

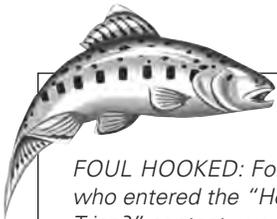
CWF Calendar

April 28-29	Club Weekend Trip Arkansas River, Salida
May 1	CWF Meeting
May 5	Club Day Trip, Waterton Canyon
May 8	CWF Board Meeting
May 19	Club Day Trip, Pella Ponds

Welcome New Members

Teresa Corley	Littleton
Eileen Egloff	Westminster
Barb Francklyn	Colorado Springs
Susan Kragseth	Denver
Carol LeClair	Aurora
Roseanna Neupauer	Lafayette
Betsy Pruett	Denver
Birgit Roesink	Denver
Ann Squibb	Arvada

• 48 New Members Enrolled in 2007.



FOUL HOOKED: For those of you who entered the "How Many Club Trips?" contest, we regret to inform you that there was no clear winner. Not even Chris Juvan, who somehow failed to remember that she actually joined CWF in April, 1997, the first year of its existence, not the second year as previously published. Therefore, the revised total of Club trips she attended would be increased by at least four, or a total of 132. In light of the confusion surrounding this contest, fly boxes will be sent to all members who spent quality time in a futile attempt to come up with the correct answer. — Ed.

Parenthetically, it should be noted that Chris was ecstatic to find out she was one of the elite first-year members! To which we are reminded of Miguel de Cervantes' quotation from 'Don Quixote':

"My memory is so bad, that many times I forget my own name."

BACK CAST

APRIL PROGRAM: FISHING THE ARKANSAS RIVER

BY NANCY SHERMAN

A full house welcomed Greg Felt of the ArkAnglers Fly Shop to our April meeting. He gave us the scoop on the Arkansas River from its all-year fishing to the "Mother's Day Caddis Hatch," which we hope to hit on our late April Club trip to Salida.* Greg provided copies of the Central Colorado Fishing Guide 2007. (He also authored many of its articles.) This free publication is packed with information — from river and city maps to year 'round fishing tactics, flies and more — and is available at most lodging establishments in Salida-Buena Vista-Canon City area.

Arkansas River Fishing History

The current healthier status of the river for both fish and insects is a direct result of cleanups of toxic heavy metal water contamination from Leadville area mines in the upper river. As a result, the life span of the wild brown trout (the dominant trout species) has increased from three years to seven/eight years (and they're much larger than ever before). The insect populations have also benefited, becoming more numerous and diverse. There are some rainbows in the river, but their numbers have been depleted by whirling disease. For sheer numbers the

"For sheer numbers the Salida to Howard stretch has the greatest fish population: 3,500 to 4,000 trout per mile."

Salida to Howard stretch has the greatest fish population: 3,500 to 4,000 trout per mile! Much of this crowd is due to the nutrient-rich limestone riverbed that produces larger quantities of insects.

The Arkansas River is freestone (not dammed) for 120+ miles from just south of Leadville to the Pueblo Reservoir. The upper river has one lake and two reservoirs on tributaries that significantly augment the flow after runoff during summer months to benefit the kayakers and white water rafters.

These are Turquoise Lake (which receives water by tunnels from the western slope via the Frying Pan/Arkansas River Project), Twin Lakes Reservoir and Clear Creek Reservoir.

The river's clear, spring flow — generally 200 to 400 cubic feet per second (cfs) — increases dramatically to 3,000 cfs or greater during runoff, which occurs from mid-May until mid-to late June. Outside of the runoff time period, there are few muddy days on the entire river; if muddy, it is usually from an individual tributary and can be avoided by moving upriver above it. The Arkansas River offers all-year fishing: stoneflies and midges in the winter; blue winged olive mayflies (BWOs) and caddis in the spring; yellow Sallies, stimulators, terrestrials and pale morning duns in the summer; terrestrials and BWOs in the fall and nymphs and streamers throughout the year.

April Club Trip Information

For our upcoming April 28-29 trip we will be looking to fool fish with life-stage imitations of blue wing olive mayflies and brachycentrus caddis flies, as well as stoneflies (large and small golden stones) and streamers. The BWOs are more apt to hatch on cloudy days and are usually localized (go a few hundred feet and the hatch may not be there), so look for rise forms. The emerging BWO is a poor swimmer and will be in the riffle to the riffle/pool zones. The fish often key on the emerger, not the dun (adult), which is generally found in the midpool to tail-out zones. Look for the dun's characteristic "sailboat" wing profile. Imitate the BWOs with sizes 16-20, usually a #18. A dun (conventionally hackled or parachute BWO, Brook Sprout or Adams) with an emerger, pheasant tail or RS-2 dropper can be very effective.

"The brachycentrus pupa stage will be in faster water, and its emergence is triggered by 52 to 54 degree water, which occurs around midday."

The black-bodied brachycentrus caddis adult is a chartreuse-to-bright green cased larva with a black head. The trout will feed on these cased caddis larvae. The caddis larvae seal off their cases to pupate. The pupa stage of the brachycentrus caddis (short lived) is a very good swimmer and can be imitated with pupa and soft hackle flies. It will be in the faster water, and its emergence is triggered by 52 to 54 degree water,

which occurs around midday. Use a water thermometer to monitor the temperature during the morning. Fishing a #16 adult caddis (black foam or peacock body) with a dropper (caddis larva then switching to a pupa) can be the ticket.

The caddis hatch gradually moves upriver from Canon City towards Buena Vista with the warming water, but it can be delayed/halted a day or more by a cold front. Hopefully it will be in the Salida area during our trip. Avoid being in the middle of the blizzard hatch, as your fly will be too outnumbered and hard to see. Move upriver to the leading edge of the hatch for better success. By midafternoon most of the fish in the active hatch area are so sated with caddis they will stop feeding, so take a break. Wait for the evening (about 5:00 to 6:00 when the sun is off the water) and use an egg-laying adult (black or peacock body with an orange or green butt) for great dry fly action.

Public Areas to Fish

Paved highways (U.S. 24, 285 and 50) parallel much of the river, providing miles of mostly easy public access (BLM, State Wildlife Areas and easements) from numerous shoulder pull offs and fee areas. If you park in a fee area, pay \$5/day/vehicle or have an annual State Parks Pass. Private property boundaries are usually well marked. As you're driving, look for small signs along the roadside stating entering or leaving public lands.

For our late April trip most of us will fish from about five miles north of Salida downstream to Texas Creek, about 35 miles of river, allowing anglers to spread out and enjoy non-combat fishing. Where you concentrate your efforts will depend on the weather, both just before and during the trip.

With spring fishing on the Arkansas River in full swing and the "Mother's Day Caddis Hatch" starting, go to the ArkAngler website (www.arkanglers.com) for fishing reports. Each day you will find updat-

ed river flows (cfs) and the general location of the caddis hatch. Refer to a map to track the hatch.

Author Notes

In the early 1990s the Environmental Protection Agency established superfund cleanup/water treatment sites at two locations near Leadville, mining areas with significant toxic heavy-metal contamination of the Arkansas River headwaters. These toxic heavy metals had profoundly negative effects on the lifespan of the trout and numbers and diversity of insects for many miles downriver.

With the improved water quality the river has become known nationally and internationally for its exceptional brown trout fishing. About 150 miles of the Arkansas River are managed by the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, a coalition of Colorado State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service. Also, conservation organizations, communities, businesses and private citizens helped and continue to aid in the recovery and public accessibility of this river.

The Raffle

The featured fly shop, **ArkAnglers of Salida** (see also its fly shops in Buena Vista and Pueblo), provided a Fishpond wading staff won by **Janet Canaan** and a fly box with 50 flies won by **Anne Zadrzil**. Other winners were: **Erin Williams**, a lanyard (donated by Char Bloom); **Ellie Reiser** and Brigit Roesink (guest), the February and March Pat Dorsey's flies of the month; and **Susan Turner**, a hat. **Karen Savage** had the winning ticket for the CWF Traveling Fly Box. ♦

✱ **If you are going to fish the Arkansas River between April 15 and May 15, check the Members Only section of the CWF website for a 10% off coupon from Greg Felt of ArkAnglers in Salida. You can print it and take it with you. The coupon is good for any retail sale (not trips) during this period. This is just one way we can support our supporters — and yet another benefit of CWF membership!**

GO FISH WATERTON CANYON THE MAY 5TH CLUB DAY TRIP

BY PHYLLIS VINSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR

Waterton Canyon offers a wonderful fishing opportunity close to Denver. The canyon runs 6.1 miles between Kassler (near the inlet of Chatfield Reservoir) and Strontia Reservoir. Access is provided by a dirt road paralleling the river over that distance. Public autos are not allowed on this road but it is suitable for bikes and hiking.

Deer and bighorn sheep are often your companions while fishing this stretch of the South Platte. Note: Dogs are not allowed in the canyon, for the protection of the bighorn sheep.

While the fishing usually gets better as you progress up the canyon, in general this is not trophy water. An occasional migratory monster from Chatfield can be caught in the lower water. The fishing rules change above the Marston Diversion from bait fishing below to flies and lures above.

The canyon has walls that rise approximately 1,000 ft. from the riverbed. The river drops from an elevation of approximately 6,100 ft at the head of the gorge to approximately 5,500 ft. at the canyon mouth. It is an incredible oasis close to the city that many hikers, bikers, fisher folk and equestrians appreciate.

Some landmarks to gauge your location in the canyon: Pipeline - 1 mile; Highline Diversion Dam - 1.8 miles; Marston Diversion Dam - 3.3 miles; Mill Gulch Bridge (the only place road crosses



river) - 4.3 miles; Strontia Springs Dam - 6.1 miles

Gear to Bring

You should bring your favorite midge, BWO, caddis, stonefly and small crayfish imitations.

Directions & Meeting Place

You can access Waterton Canyon by traveling south on Wadsworth Blvd. (Hwy 121), south of C-470. The road turns left at Kassler (just before you reach the Lockheed Martin plant). A short distance down this road (just before it crosses the river), there is a large parking area directly across from the trailhead. From here, you can bike or hike into the canyon. The path is wide and reasonably flat. We will meet at this parking lot at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions contact me at (303-690-6737), PHYLV@compuserve.com. ♦

GO FISH PELLA PONDS

THE MAY 19TH CLUB DAY TRIP

BY DAWN DOBSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR

In an effort to outsmart the run-off, we elected to visit one of the Open Space Parks in Boulder County. Pella Ponds are located at the Pella Crossing Open Space Park, approximately one mile south of Hygiene, near Longmont. This beautiful park has several ponds that offer access from the shoreline, bellyboats, and other non-motorized boats (for fishing only).

Two of the ponds are right next to the parking lot and are easily accessible from the parking lot. For those who are a bit more adventurous, three other ponds are located just

if you don't own a boat, fishing from the banks can also be productive.

Gear to Bring

You will want to bring a 5-6 weight rod, 4x leader, 4x, 5x, 6x tippet, with plenty of split shot or a sinking leader. If the fish are not rising, we will be trolling woolly buggers, leeches, and minnow imitations below the surface. Attaching an emerger or San Juan Worm can be enticing to those wily bass cruising the weeds. It may also be wise to bring chironomids, and damsel fly patterns. Others recommend the use of "poppers" – large

patterns tied using corks and large eyes. As it is springtime in the Rockies, you'll want to dress for all types of weather. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and a cooler with a lunch. Boulder County Open Space Parks allow 3.2 beer only, and no bottles. There are several picnic tables and

From the 2006 CWF Archives



BASS FISHING IS FUN Carol Stegink (above) catches a nice one on a traditional 5-weight fly rod last year on the Pella Ponds trip. But Anita English nailed this nice 17-inch on a 3-weight rod — then marked her journal to remind herself to pack the 5-weight this year.



over a half mile away from the parking area. These latter three receive less fishing pressure and may well be worth the walk. All of the ponds contain warm water species such as yellow perch, bluegills, smallmouth and largemouth bass. All ponds are designated catch-and-release for the bass species.

We are hoping to have a few of our experienced anglers give us a few tips on the warm water methodology and are encouraging those who have extra belly boats/fins to bring them along so others may try them. Even

benches distributed throughout the area as well as restroom facilities.

Car Pools

We plan to carpool from the Wal-Mart parking lot at 136th and I-25. The Wal-Mart is located on the west side of I-25, and we will rendezvous on the northwest end of the lot at 7:45 a.m. and depart promptly at 8:00 a.m. That should get us up to the Park around 8:45.

To get to the park, take I-25 north to Highway 66 (Lyons Exit), which is just past Longmont. Head west on Hwy 66 through

From the Presidential Suite

We all know by now that the more meetings and Club trips you attend, the more you will feel connected to the Club. For you new members, these are the best ways to feel included and get to know other Club members.

So, I thought this month I'd let you know what your Board of Directors has been up to. First, we have a brand new CWF brochure to hand out to prospective members at trade shows and other events. It is the first Club brochure we have had in our ten year history, and it has all the information that describes our Club, plus it includes a membership application. It is slick and very professional — thanks to Janet Canaan, who designed it.

After research done by Karen Williams and other Board members, it was decided last month to purchase a new laptop computer for the Club. It will be used for all the trade shows and any other time we have a table for CWF promotion. It will also be used for the slide show at our annual holiday party. WOW, how very cool! Members will no longer have to donate their personal computers and pray nothing happens to them along the way.

CWF clothing? No, we haven't forgotten about Club logoed clothing. More is coming — we should have samples to try on at the Saturday night party in Salida and at the May meeting.

One last item: All Board meetings that meet at REI are open to our membership. So, for those of you who feel so inclined to add another meeting to your schedule, please feel free to join us.

See you at the May meeting!

Joanie McCord, President

most of Longmont, turn left (south) on N. 75th St. Drive about a mile to the town of Hygiene. The park entrance is just south of the main intersection in Hygiene (just over the railroad tracks) on the left hand side of N. 75th. If you are interested in joining us please sign up at the next member's meeting, or email me at dobsond@earthlink.net. ♦

SNEAK PEEKS

THE GREEN RIVER, Dutch John, UT

Weekend Trip: June 9 - 10

For those of you who may have been hibernating, you will want to wake up and make the reservations for a spectacular trip to the Green River in Utah. The Green River is one of the most scenic rivers to float. If you haven't booked a trip, you may want to reconsider – but do it fast! You may still be able to reserve a float trip with Ole Mo Guide Service at (435) 885-3342.

Many of us have already booked with Trout Creek Flies Shop, (435) 885-3355. You may want to consider extending your trip to Monday or Tuesday for a better chance of getting a guided trip.

Lodging

We will base our operations in or near the small town of Dutch John in Utah. We have quite a contingent booked at the Deer Run Campground, which has running water and showers. Reservations can be booked at www.reserveusa.com. If you aren't into roughing it, you can also reserve a condo at the Flaming Gorge Lodge, (435) 889-3773.

Catching the Hatch

We are hoping to catch the fish during their notorious feeding frenzy when they gorge themselves on cicada beetles. These bugs can be quite horrifying to anglers, especially when crawling across your glasses or neck. However, they are like prime rib to the huge brown trout in this river.

It is always best to check in with the area fly shops or the website www.fishgreenriver.com for what's happening on the river. Typically, the PMDs and caddis are beginning to hatch mid-June, and the cicadas hatch between mid-May and mid-June. Ants and scuds can also be productive.

Finally, if you are really adventurous and have made the investment in a pontoon boat, you can join our CWF Flotilla as we attempt to float the river without contributing to the local swim team. This trip is really a blast — we haven't been there for a couple of years, so you won't want to miss it! — *Dawn Dobson*

THE BLUE RIVER, Day Trip: June 23

The Blue is a scenic Gold Medal river containing rainbows, Snake River cutthroats, cuttbows and browns. It can be flyfished from the Dillon Reservoir dam downstream to Kremmling, although by far the largest percentage of the public access is found between Dillon and Green Mountain Reservoirs (10 of the 17 miles) where we will be fishing.

Colorado Highway 9 runs parallel to the river and river access is clearly marked by DOW signs and at parking areas. There are also several National Forest easements. Some of the access points are Blue River Campground, Sutton Unit, Eagle's Nest, Palmer Gulch, and the Blue River State Wildlife Unit. Fish in this area range from 9 to 15 inches.

Runoff usually occurs mid-May to mid-June, so we should be in good shape. But don't be put off if the flows are higher than summer levels as the fishing can be good then – just fish the edges. It is said that the Blue fishes the best at over 400 cfs.

We should be seeing PMDs, caddis and maybe some leftover stones. If we are lucky our date will catch early green drakes.

— *Phyllis Vinson*

PUBLIC EVENTS CLUB MEMBERS PROMOTE WOMEN FLYFISHERS IN GRAND JUNCTION

BY NANCY RUTHERFORD TURLEY

At the recent Western Slope Flyfishing Expo, held March 31 and April 1st in Grand Junction, about six women anglers from the area sponsored a booth specifically to promote women flyfishing. This group included three or four CWF members.

Sponsored mostly by the women in the Grand Valley Anglers Trout Unlimited Chapter and the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), the booth was deemed a success — at least if one could judge by the 55 women who took sign-up sheets to consider the upcoming April 28th Women's Flyfishing Clinic, also sponsored by TU, to be held in Grand Junction and Palisade.

What made this booth unique was that brochures and information that sponsored women-only sources and organizations were available to visitors. CWF's new brochure, beautifully designed by Janet Canaan, was given out, as was the Casting for Recovery (CFR) brochure. A resource list of flyfishing guides, books written by women for women and women's organizations (CWF; CFR; Ladies, Let's Go Fishing).

Our CWF professionals who guide were given special mention in the listing of flyfishing services. The booth enticed women with a backdrop and picture board showing women having fun fishing, tying, learning, posing, et cetera!

One of my most significant conversations was with a woman who had just turned 70. When she approached each milestone decade (40, 50, 60) she had decided to learn something new (sewing, biking, etc). For her 70th birthday, she decided this was the year she was going to learn to flyfish! One is never too old to learn and enjoy such a meaningful sport and enjoy the camaraderie of all ages of women who love to flyfish. ♦



PHOTOGRAPH FROM NANCY RUTHERFORD TURLEY

CWF PRESENCE AT THE WESTERN SLOPE FLYFISHING EXPO Club Members Nancy Burdette, Nancy Turley and Carol Oglesby greet visitors to the Women Fly Fishers Booth.

EDUCATION
SAVE MAY 9 FOR THE
NEXT FLY TYING SESSION
 BY ANITA ENGLISH, CHAIR

We have held two fly tying sessions for beginners, intermediates and experienced tyers at my house in April. We will hold at least one more this season on Wednesday, May 9, again at my house at 6:30 p.m. Directions from Denver: West on I-70 to Ward Road (one exit past Kipling). North on Ward Road to 64th. Left (west) on 64th to Quaker. Right (north) onto Quaker. Quaker to 72nd. Right (east) onto 72nd. 71st place is the first right turn. You will be facing south. The address is 16234 W 71st Place; a red Durango will be in the driveway. If you would like to participate, please call me at (303) 424-2354 or email SB33MVP@aol.com. ♦



Diane Kyncl masters her new tying rig.



Barb Keller takes a break to watch the pros.

MEMBERS TEACHING MEMBERS Fly tying is fun when the group gets together around the breakfast table to learn from each other. Chris Juvan teaches Joanne Sondock (top photo); Arlys Warfield, Chris, Joanne, Barb Keller and Mary Ellen Freas concentrate on their work; and (below) Joanne, Diane, Russ Kyncl, Anita English and Mary Ann struggle to find just the right piece of fluff for their Arkansas River special fly.

OUR GUIDING LIGHTS

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CLUB'S FISHING PROFESSIONALS

AN INTERVIEW WITH KAY DUSHANE BY NANCY RUTHERFORD TURLEY

This is the fifth in a series of interviews with Club members who serve as professionals in the industry.

Q: Kay, we know you are a guide in the Denver area, but what is your flyfishing background?

A: I started fishing in 1996 when I just went along with a friend. But from the moment I picked up the rod on a river, I knew this was something I needed more of! I loved it immediately. It's so great to experience new places in a way that makes you feel part of the environment, instead of merely looking at it.

I have used flyfishing as a springboard to travel to Florida, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Alberta, The Bahamas, Mexico — and, soon, Venezuela and Alaska. What a gift! I am lucky enough to have the means to dedicate a lot of time to flyfishing, usually over eighty days per year.

Q: What was your previous occupation and how and why did you start your flyfishing career?

A: I was a social studies teacher and soccer coach for Denver Public Schools for a few years. My situation changed so that I didn't have to continue teaching to survive, and so I made the decision to quit. My flyfishing "career" grew out of my love for the sport and desire to share my appreciation with others.

As it was intimidating to me in the beginning, I liked the idea to demystify flyfishing for those who want to try it. It doesn't require a huge financial investment to fish, nor does it require a head full of confusing information. But, at times, it can be unnecessarily presented as such to beginners.

Q: Where do your clients come from (as in, how do they find out about you)?

A: Until I started to work with Trout Trips and Janice O'Shea, I worked out of retail fly shops, and so my referrals came from



PHOTOGRAPH BY JANICE O'SHEA

KAY'S HOME WATERS The South Platte in Cheesman Canyon holds big fish.

the respective fly shop — and eventually word of mouth. Sometimes people request a woman guide (although not as often as you might think). Trout Trips has built up a great client bank and has earned an unsurpassed reputation in the area, so most of my current clients come through Trout Trips.

Q: On what rivers do you guide, and do you specialize in a particular style of guide trips?

A: I only guide wade trips, as I have no rowing experience. My local expertise is certainly the South Platte, as that's the river I fish the most for myself. I also guide on the Arkansas and Clear Creek. I guide first-ever beginners to the been-fishing-twice-a-year-for-the-past-three-decades folks. I actually enjoy guiding on larger group trips or corporate trips, as the people are usually just happy to be there with their friends and/or co-workers, and the vibe can be really fun.

Q: What is it that makes guiding anglers, or wannabe anglers, fun for you?

A: I like getting anglers on the river fishing ASAP and using the river as the classroom. It's much easier to build knowledge stream side, than by trying to explain techniques off the river. Again, I like to simplify flyfishing and get it out of the realm of the esoteric and elite. When someone first hooks into a fish, it can be such a hoot—there's always some real laughter that goes along with that experience.

As time went by, I learned a fair amount about bugs, knots, flies, rod speed, line taper, casting, et cetera. But, as a guide, I try not to focus too much on that in the beginning, as it can be intimidating.

I love fishing and catching, and that is the experience that one needs as a motivation to learn more about bugs, knots, flies, and all those other things. ♦

CFW CLASSIFIED ADS

CAMPER FOR SALE

Niagara Elite 2003, GVW 3,500 lbs., Coleman Pop-up. Excellent Condition. Loaded with upgrades and extras. \$12,000. Call or email. — *Joanie McCord (303) 344-8055*

WADERS FOR SALE

Women's large Wright McGill Waders. \$100.00. Almost new. — *Janice O'Shea (303) 518-4337 or fishing@trouttrips.com*

CFW SHIRTS FOR SALE

Logoed shirts in various sizes, summer weight. — Contact *Chris Juvan (303) 480-0985 or waderhigh@aol.com*

HOW TO HIRE A FLYFISHING GUIDE

The big-time fishing season is upon us, and one thing you may be thinking about is hiring a guide. Club member Connie Rogers has been hiring flyfishing guides on and off for the past five years. Here are her personal observations for selecting a guide, preparing for the trip so that it meets your expectations and some considerations for tipping — all intended to help make it a good experience for both of you.

Selecting the Guide

The first thing to remember is that different people want different things from a guide. So in selecting a guide be sure to consider what you want out of the trip. Do you want to learn a new technique? See a particular hatch? Fish a particular river? Is having a woman guide important to you? Evaluate your objectives and then ask around. You should first ask your fishing buddies —and even other guides — for a recommendation based on your criteria, then also ask about their experience with the guide they recommend. If you can get no recommendation, or your preferred guide is already engaged the day you want to go, be sure to let the fly shop know what you are looking for so they can match the right person to fit your needs. If they don't seem to care, try another fly shop. Also remember there are guides who are experts on multiple rivers and work through guide services not attached to a particular fly shop.

Preparing for the Trip

Be sure to ask what equipment you need to bring, and what is included in the price of the guide trip (flies? lunch/beverages? trans-

portation?). Let the fly shop/guide know at the outset if you have any special needs. This includes health issues, mobility limitations, a fear of wading and, if the trip includes a meal, any dietary restrictions. Be sure to repeat this information to the guide before you get on the water; even if you already conveyed it when you booked the trip, this information doesn't always reach the guide.

On the Trip

Begin your trip with an open mind. You hired a guide for a reason. Trust your guide and do what she or he says. Absorb all the information and suggestions the guide offers. Even advanced flyfishers can learn about new water, a different technique, or benefit from a reminder about a habit gone bad. If your expectations are too narrow you may miss some very important opportunities for learning.

At the same time, let your guide know upfront if you have a specific goal for your day. Maybe quantity of fish is more important to you than size; you're more interested in catching cutthroats than browns; you'd like to learn a new technique or more about bugs. Every guide wants to provide the best day possible for you (their tip depends on it). Knowing your goals and preferences helps them focus on meeting your needs and expectations.

Understand that every day on the water is not spectacular. Some days it just doesn't happen. Don't necessarily blame the guide. Did your guide still provide good conversation, equipment, help, safety, lunch? Did you learn something about flyfishing, the river, the

bugs, the fish, or the natural history of the area that you didn't know before? If you answer "yes" to any of these, then it was a good trip.

If the fish just aren't biting that day, it is rarely the guide's fault. Last year Debby Ratliff and I were out with Carol Neville the day after a snow, and there was just no caddis hatch. Debby and I agreed that we'd rather be with a guide on a tough day than on a good day. You can catch fish on your own on a good day, but being with a guide on a tough day gives

you an opportunity to learn how to handle that — and you will benefit from it for the rest of your days. That day Carol taught me how to see the take and set the hook when the fish were taking a caddis emerger on the swing, and I have probably doubled the amount of hookups since then, including a monster rainbow on the San Juan River just two days later.

Sharing the Guide

There are only two kinds of folks when it comes to sharing a guide: the guide hog and the caretaker. First and foremost, don't be a guide hog and don't allow your fishing partner to be one either (and try not to put the guide in the middle). The caretaker is always telling the guide to pay more attention to the fishing buddy. This often happens with couples or when an experienced angler takes out a less experienced friend and really wants him/her to get hooked. In this situation each person takes the guide aside and expresses that what he/she wants is for the other one to catch fish or otherwise have the more special experience. You paid for your share of the trip, so you should expect your share of the guide's insights and help.

Tipping the Guide

First and foremost, tip your guide. Guides are seasonal workers who provide all their own equipment, transportation, even flies and lunch for your day. They have no job benefits and are paid minimally by the shop or guide service for your trip. The tip is the majority of the compensation they receive for your day on the river. No guide could afford to guide without tips. The tip is for their knowledge, experience, watching for the safety and fishing status of one person while untangling a line or landing a fish for the other one. The tip is for their skill in pacing your day, providing lunch, water, sunscreen, minor first aid, or at least being prepared in case any of that was needed. The tip is for watching your fly, the fish, the bugs, the obstacles on the bank and/or rowing the boat. Catching and landing fish is, of course, the reward — and no one wants that more for you than the guide.

The obvious question, then, is how much to tip? The generally accepted minimum is 15-20% of the trip cost. If you feel you have had an especially productive day in terms of learning, catching, general congeniality or any other reason, it is certainly appropriate to tip above that percentage.

In summary, do your research, know and express what you want, share fair and take care of the guide that takes care of you. (*And mend, mend again, mend again . . .*) ♦



PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNIE ROGERS

GUIDES CAN TEACH NEW WAYS TO FISH Navajo Guide Jude Duran teaches Debby Ratliff the intuitive way of sight nymphing without an indicator on the San Juan River.

CLUB TRIP REPORT

CATCHING FISH AND SNOWFLAKES ON THE BIG THOMPSON RIVER MARCH 24TH

BY PHYLLIS VINSON, TRIPS CO-CHAIR

Although the weather was threatening all day, stalwart women of CWF braved the elements to make the opening trip of 2007 a great success. We had 16 in attendance.

As planned, we met at the fly shop in Loveland and got the scoop on the river's bug life. We were told that midges still held sway

in the upper river, but that stones were the word on the lower river, and my seine bore this out.

The ten of us proceeded up the river to our first fishing spot. It wasn't long before a few of the crew came down from Estes Park to join in the fun. **Carol Stegink** started us off by catching the first fish of the day (and truth be

told, she kept on catching everywhere she went), but soon afterward others got into the act. Later **Janet Lopez** and **Sandy Wright** joined us on the river — I think to supervise 'cause I didn't see them in the water.

At one time we were blessed with the most beautiful shower of huge snowflakes! During that brief period, I'm not sure if anyone was paying full attention to her lines. I know I wasn't.

After noon, we decided to move a little up river but **Anne Zadrazil** and **Jeanette Bourdon** decided to stay the course, and they were rewarded with some first-time fish cooperation. **Pat Nilsson** and I took on the fish at one spot, while others stopped at the next pullout. When we arrived at the next stop, there were reports of fish being caught from those who were taking a well-earned break in their vehicles.

Like a hatch, we proceeded upriver, stopping at several spots before finishing at Olympus Dam in Estes Park. At each stop some of us would get a chance to play with the bright, beautiful and feisty fish of the Big Thompson and appreciate the beauty of the day. What a way to start the season! ♦



PHOTOGRAPH BY PHYLLIS VINSON

The stone in my seine.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDY WRIGHT

A VIEW FROM THE TOP The water's too cold for even the big horn sheep.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PHYLLIS VINSON

SNOWFLAKES KEEP FALLING ON MY ... But the beauty of spring is a joy to Chris, Joanne, et al.

The Raffle Corner - May 2007



As I just finished my taxes (April 15 was this issue's newsletter deadline), I was thinking how nice it would have been to take a deduction for a donation to CWF for the Raffle. I'm particularly looking for big-ticket items for the July picnic. At the picnic we will have a Silent Auction with (so far) a bamboo rod, a two-for-one Alaska fishing trip and a Phyllis Vinson fly box chock full of flies. I would love to get an underwater camera donated, but I can only dream ... or can I? We will have a Raffle and door prizes as well at the picnic, so save up your monies.

May Meeting Raffle Items

The Raffle items at the May meeting will be particularly interesting to the flyfishing beginners who just completed the CWF Educational Clinic and need to get equipped. We will have a Cabela's fishing vest, fly line, Islander reel and Pat Dorsey's May Fly of the Month, Craven's #20 Juju Baetis.

Door Prizes

The door prizes this month include a fish pillow, a fish candle, fly tying material, 4x tippet, soft weight, hard weights and, from Loon, Top Ride and dry coat.

See you soon and good luck to all! — *Karen Williams, Fundraising Chair*

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 1997 ...

2007: THE
ANNIVERSARY
YEAR OF
CWF

- ... the original annual CWF membership dues were \$15?
- ... the first Board members were elected on February 11?
- ... the first elected Board had eight members? By the end of the year, it had expanded to 11 positions.
- ... Club meetings were held at the Twin Dragon Chinese Restaurant on South Broadway?
- ... the first CWF newsletter was published for February on

pink paper titled, *Colorado Women Flyfishers News*? In it, the February program meeting was billed as "Girls Just Wanna' Have fun...at long last, Colorado has a flyfishing club for women!"

- ... our first president, Suzy Patterson, was also the first newsletter editor?
- ... the first official Club trip was to the Blue River on March 8?
- ... in the May newsletter, Chris Juvan was mentioned as a participant in the second official Club trip on the Eagle River on April 12?
- ... there has been an annual Club trip taken for the "Mother's Day Caddis Hatch" on the Arkansas River every year since 1997?
- ... the first overnight, out-of-state trip was to Saratoga, Wyoming, on the North Platte River in September?
- ... the Bob Awards, given at the annual CWF Holiday Party, originated from an incident on the Williams Fork River trip August 23?
- ... the CWF by-laws were officially completed and approved by the Board of Directors on October 26?
- ... the CWF logo, designed by Deborah Duke, was chosen by the membership from a contest; it was approved at the November program meeting?
- ... nearly 70 members and guests attended the first annual CWF Holiday Party on December 14 at the Wazee Supper Club in downtown Denver? — *with thanks to Nancy Rutherford Turley, Club Secretary, February 1997 through December 1999.*

CWF Board of Directors 2007

President

Joanie McCord
scottishfisher@comcast.net

Vice President

Jody Yehle
jyehle@ricochet.com

Secretary

Nancy Sherman
anglers@peoplepc.com

Treasurer

Betty Peterson
betty@bettypeterson.com

Education

Anita English
SB33MVP@aol.com

Fundraising/Raffles

Karen Williams
karenwilliam@comcast.net

Membership

Ellie Reiser
elliejr@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor

Arlys Warfield
arlys@earthlink.net

Public Events

Dawn Blom
dawnblom@comcast.net

PR-Outreach

Janet Canaan
jcanaan@jcanaan.com

Special Projects

Jane Francen
fisher.jane@hotmail.com

Trips

Dawn Dobson
dobsond@earthlink.net
Phyllis Vinson
PHYLV@compuserve.com

Newsletter

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

Editor and Publisher Arlys Warfield

Proofreaders Connie Rogers,
Miki Seeley, Nancy Sherman

Production

Jane Francen, Carol Stegink
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Website

www.colowomenflyfishers.org

Membership Roster

Email roster corrections to
elliejr@earthlink.net

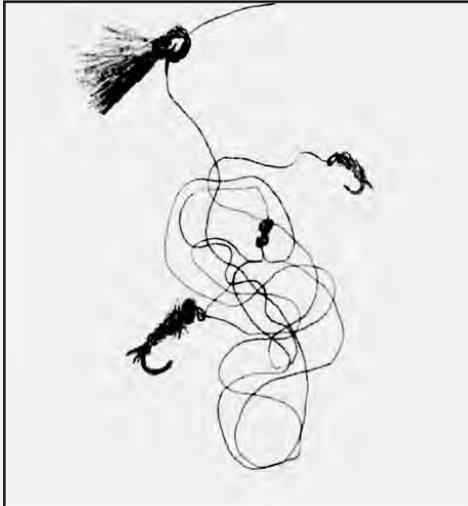
cwfTalk

Email subscription requests to
arlys@earthlink.net

LAST CAST

***"Oh what a tangled web we weave
When first we practise to deceive!"***

SIR WALTER SCOTT
MAMION, CANTO VI, STANZA 17



***Nymphing Anglers,
beginner to advanced:
"Oh what a tangled web we weave
When fish we practice to deceive!"***

NANCY SHERMAN
TEXT AND ART
APRIL, 2007

CWF 2007 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	Public Events

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THIS ISSUE:

LOOK FOR **ARKANSAS RIVER CADDIS REPORT**

AND **HOW TO HIRE A FISHING GUIDE**

THE RAFFLE CORNER, **PLUS**

GUIDING LIGHTS - PART FIVE **AND**

LOTS MORE!

JULY PICNIC The annual Club family picnic will be held Tuesday, July 10 at Prospect Park. All members and their friends and family are invited. Bennett's Bar-B-Que will again cater the affair. Check your closets for useable fishing and camping items for the Gearage Sale. See the June newsletter for registration information.