



**COLORADO WOMEN
FLYFISHERS.**

A sociable club for women who fly fish

February 2010 Vol. XIV, No. 2

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE:

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

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 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 February meeting...

COMPETITIVE FISHING

**with Riley Cotter
and Rob Kolanda**

Have you ever considered competitive fly fishing, or wanted more information, but you just didn't know who to ask?

Here is your chance! Riley Cotter and Rob Kolanda will be presenting the art of competitive fishing at our next meeting.

Even if you are not interested in competition, come to learn about some of the "secret flies" and special rigging and rods they use. They will also be demonstrating the art of Czech nymphing.

Riley Cotter has been a member of Team USA for three years, and is currently on hiatus.

Rob Kolanda is also on hiatus from competition.

—*Mary Manka, V.P. and Program Chair.*

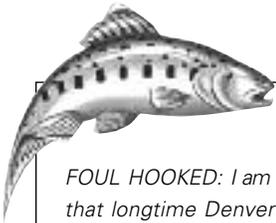
CWF Calendar

Feb. 2 CWF Monthly Meeting
Feb. 9 CWF Board Meeting
Feb. 13 West Denver Chapter
TU Fly Tying Clinic
Feb.27-28 . . Bass Pro Shops Spring
Fishing Classic

Welcome New Members

Debra Chrystal
Nancy Denniston
Janet Kiyota
Jane Pratte
Lynne Robertson

● 5 New Members Enrolled in 2010



FOUL HOOKED: I am sad to announce that longtime Denver Post outdoors writer Charlie Meyers passed away from lung cancer on Tuesday, January 5.

I learned about many wonderful places to flyfish from Charlie's articles when I first moved to Colorado.

The first section of the paper I would read on Wednesdays would be "Charlie Meyers Outdoors." But more than that, he did a lot to help the people and places that make up the Colorado outdoor scene.

He wrote about the DOW's possible mismanagement of funds in the past, how to help stop poachers, and places that could use habitat improvement.

A true sportsman to the end, his wishes were that when he passed on, in lieu of flowers, donations would be made to Colorado Trout Unlimited in Boulder.

*I feel like I've lost a friend.
—Kellie Keenan-Heatherly*

BACK CAST

JANUARY MEETING:

KAREN DENISON; FLYFISHING THE RIO GRANDE

BY FELICIA OLSEN

Within Mineral and Hinsdale Counties in the southwest quadrant of Colorado, more than fifty miles of the Rio Grande headwaters invite flyfishers. Both counties are sparsely populated and ninety-five percent of the acreage is public land, primarily The Rio Grande National Forest. Flyfishing opportunities abound, from small streams in high-elevation meadows to the Rio Grande River.

Fishable waters fall into several categories—small streams, medium-sized streams, and two large reservoirs. The big water of the Rio Grande begins below the Rio Grande reservoir. Small streams are often fished from the bank, and may be crossed in a few steps. They are often meadow streams with pocket water most successfully fished with smaller dry flies. Some small streams are Miners, Shallow, Texas, Squaw and Lost Trail Creek. Expect a short walk at the very least, to reach the nicest spots.

Medium-sized streams are usually fished while standing in the stream, but a good cast will reach the other side. These may be gravel-bottomed or cobbled. Fish medium-sized streams with a variety of nymphs and dries. Parts of Clear, Ute and Goose Creeks, as well as the Rio Grande above the reservoir are all medium-sized streams.

There is a fair amount of private land on the big water stretches held by ranchers and lodge operators. Access is granted to lodge guests, or by booking a float trip through local guide services, especially in early summer when runoff is high.

By mid-summer, the water recedes and wading is a better option. *However, nowhere on the Rio Grande is easy wading, even if you are a strong wader. Get a staff, tie it to you, make it your friend, and know how to use it.*

Because it is high elevation, averaging between 9,000 to 10,000 feet with no appreciable tailwaters, the Rio Grande headwaters should be considered a summer to fall fishery. Average daytime temperatures in the summer hover around seventy degrees, dropping to the low forties at night. The weather can be extreme and rain showers should be expected during the day—carry rain gear.

"Take a DOW rule book with you. Have your fishing license handy. There are a lot of regulations here"

**KAREN DENISON
OUTSPIRE**

Trout species in the area are rainbows, an abundance of browns, brook trout and the beautiful Rio Grande cutthroat trout found only in headwater streams.

Special fishing regulations apply to protect resident fish in a number of waters; take along a DOW rule book if you visit. It is highly probable you will see a Ranger and your license will be checked—be sure to have it with you.

Numerous insect hatches from late May through September keep fish fat and happy. Caddis flies, giant stoneflies, green drakes and pale morning duns all make annual appearances. A varied selection of standard fly patterns is effective, but stoneflies—both nymphs and dries should be sizes 6-12, with caddis and mayfly patterns in sizes from 10 to 14. Dry flies should be durable and well-hackled. Nymph patterns with some amount of peacock herl are always popular with these fish.

Creede is the only town within the uppermost headwaters, and the nearest hotels and bed and breakfasts will be located there—including; but not limited to, The Creede Hotel, Antlers Lodge, Soward Ranch, Freemons Cabins, and Lost Trail Ranch. One of Karen's favorites is the posh 4UR Ranch. They own and manage seven miles of Goose Creek, some riverfront on the Rio Grande, and several small lakes. More accommodations are available, but call ahead. The summer months are busy—don't leave lodging to chance.

For campers, there are a number of USFS campgrounds with bathrooms, and picnic tables; some also have utility hook ups. Camping along forest roads in the area is also a viable option, if you choose. ☺

—Karen Denison is an FFF-certified fly casting instructor and owner of Outspire, an outdoor guide service in Sante Fe, NM. She is also involved in Women's Wine and Waders Fly Fishing Retreat. For more information, visit the website: westernwomeninwaders.com

Roading for Redfish: A Christmas Trip to New Orleans and Beyond

BY ARLYS WARFIELD

This is the first in a series of two articles on fishing in Louisiana and Texas

It started out as a Thelma-and-Louise sightseeing excursion through Texas. It turned into a sightseeing and fishing trip in two states. **Jane Francen** and I had never been to Austin. Two fishing friends told us we should combine our need to tour with our love for flyfishing, first by redfishing out of Port Sulphur in Louisiana and then fishing for 18" silver trout in the limestone Guadalupe River out of Austin.

We rode off a week before Christmas on I-70, drove south to San Antonio through Lubbock (the Buddy Holly Museum was a trip-and-a-half!), were moved by the story of the Alamo and enjoyed partying on the River Walk. But our goal was redfish. So on we went down I-10 to New Orleans... and beyond.

We were booked into the Woodland Plantation, an antebellum home on a defunct sugar plantation hard by the Mississippi River, halfway down Route 23 in West Pointe a La Hache. (If you want to see a nice etching of this place, buy a bottle of Southern Comfort and look at the label.) We walked to the levee, checked out the warning sign for gators and snakes and moved into our lush pre-Civil War furnished rooms.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARLYS WARFIELD

The Woodland Plantation

Our fishing guide, Captain Kirby LaCour (trust me, you can't make this Southern stuff up!) met us after an eggs Benedict breakfast and drove us down past towns rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina. The entire area was devastated below the plantation, which suffered damage to only one building.

In 1994, LaCour was one of only two guide services that truly began to pioneer flyfishing in the marshes and shallow oyster-laden waters of southeast Louisiana for redfish and other inshore species. But the most prized game fish is the redfish. Redfish are wary and will spook very easily. This is especially true in shallow water. We approach quietly, poling the boat and taking extra care not to make any unnecessary noises. Our 20-foot skiff has the stability for us to cast without rocking the boat.

The sky was quite overcast for most of the day. The glare made it difficult to see fish unless they were right below us, puddling the

water into a brown slurry when they were spooked by our boat. We cruised out near the Gulf of Mexico through a maze of grassy peninsulas and islands that separate endless bayous, channels, ponds and oyster flats. Once out there, everything looked pretty similar, especially when we were focused on seeing fish in the water. It was an eerie sensation when no other angler was seen and we were counting on our captain not only to find fish, but also to find our way home!

The wildlife is abundant on the edges of the bayous. Herons soar over grey skies and ospreys stand watch on the highest branches, searching for prey. Loons dive deep below the surface of the water to find food, and pelicans fill the marsh.



Two new fishing friends head out to the bayou ahead of us



The Redfish fly box (just one of many)



Redfish, also known as red drum have a red-dish overall coloration and one or more spots at the base of the tail.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

EDUCATION

CWF FLY FISHING CLINIC

BY ANNE ZADRAZIL, DIRECTOR

The CWF Spring Clinic will be held over the weekend of April 24th and 25th at North Fork Guest Ranch, located southwest of Denver on US Hwy 285 in Shawnee, CO. The CWF Fly Fishing Clinic will be held over 2 days this year to accommodate the growing number of members who want to attend.

Participants will receive more individual attention because the class sizes will be kept to a maximum of 6–8 ladies. Also, you will find ample space to sit and eat in the lodge without playing musical chairs. Each day will be a full day clinic. Registration will begin at 7:30am and classes will end at 4:00 pm. As always, we will have excellent instructors, prime fish habitat and good eats (breakfast and lunch).

The beginners classes will be held on Saturday, April 24th. It is designed to give beginners the basic skills and information to fish safely, ethically, and with confidence. Those who enroll for this day will attend all 6 classes offered. One just needs to choose the sequence in which they want to attend them.

The intermediate/advanced classes will be held on Sunday, April 25th. They are designed to give the more experienced fly fishing woman the opportunity to learn new techniques and improve old skills. I have several brand new offerings; Line Dancing with **Carol Neville**, and Fish with a Pro by **Dana Rikimaru**. We will also have some repeat classes with some special tweaks; Intermediate casting with video for feedback with **Kay DuShane**, and of course, last years ever popular Czech Nymphing with **Sandy Wright**.

If you would like to attend the clinic, the cost will be the same as last year—\$100. To register, please fill out the enclosed form; front or back, depending on what level of experience you are. Mail the form and your check payable to Colorado Women Flyfishers to: Anne Zadrazil, 2521 S. Monaco Pkwy, Denver, CO 80222-5802. Paypal is a new payment option this year. Find information on the CWF website.

Because CWF subsidizes this special clinic, it is open to members only. Spouses, friends and guests will not be able to attend this clinic. Registration confirmation packets will be mailed to participants. Packets will include details on carpooling, directions and equipment lists. If you have additional questions, please call me at 303-756-0642 or email me at zadzrazilfishes@yahoo.com

Roading...Continued



Jane and her 7 lb redfish (the biggest caught that day)



Arlys and Captain LaCour struggle with dinner

Jane and I were casting both near the boat, and 30 feet away. The fly of choice was the Bob Clouser Minnow. We never got over the thrill of having one of these heavy, fighting fish take our fly and run with it! Jane and I caught and fought 40 beautifully colored redfish that day, ranging in weight from two to seven pounds. We saved a 4+ pounder to have our Cajun chef prepare it for our dinner. It was delicious, and we slept very well that night!



Jane and Arlys enjoy a real Cajun redfish dinner

REDFISH EQUIPMENT

Rods: 7–8–9–10 weight rods will all work (We used 8–weights); saltwater reels with good drag; weight forward floating line (we used 20# hand-tied leaders: 5 ft. of 40#, 3ft. of 30#, 2ft of 20#.)

Flies: baitfish patterns such as Clouser Minnows, Lefty's Deceivers, crab and shrimp patterns. (We caught our fish on Clouser Minnows)

CLOTHING

Fishing slacks, fleece underwear, long-sleeved fishing shirts, fleece jacket, rain jacket with rain pants, gloves, non-slip boat shoes, hat for sun and rain protection, polarized sunglasses in amber, waterproof boat bag, sunscreen and lip protection, and a camera.

LICENSE

You will need to purchase a non-resident Louisiana Fly Fishing License. Call to obtain a 3–day, non-resident license before you arrive. It costs \$8.00 and can be purchased by calling toll free 1-888-765-2602. Payment is by Visa or Mastercard only. You will receive a confirmation number—make sure you bring it along with you on the trip.

GUIDE: Captain Kirby LaCour > www.redchasercharters.com

LODGING: Woodland Plantation > www.woodlandplantation.com

CLUB TRIPS:THE BULLETIN BOARD EDITION

GRAB YOUR GEAR-2010 HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

BY AMY SLAUGHTER

The top secret schedule has been reviewed, improved and approved by the CWF Board and can finally be revealed! The Colorado Women Flyfishers must really be ready to get on the water, as the interest in the schedule has been incredible! Thanks to all who emailed, called and cornered me at the meetings to put in requests. You will see old familiar trips, and a few waters that the CWF has not been to in a while. More detailed information for each trip will be published in future newsletters. Members are encouraged to contact me by email at: home2pws@mindspring.com or give me a call at 303-823-9618 to sign up for the trips or to **volunteer to be a trip coordinator**.

The 2010 CWF Trip Schedule

DATE	LOCATION
March 27	S. Platte River, Deckers
April 10.....	Pella Crossing Ponds, Hygiene
April 24-25.....	North Fork Clinic, Shawnee
May 8-9*	Arkansas River, Salida
May 15	Catamount Reservoirs, Pikes Peak
June 5.....	Crystal Lakes, Upper Arkansas River
June 26-27.....	Rio Grande River, Creede
July 10.....	Boulder Creek Watershed, Boulder
July 24-25	Trappers Lake/White River, Meeker
August 14-15	Roaring Fork/Frying Pan Rivers, Basalt
August 28	Joe Wright Reservoir/Poudre River
September 11-12.....	Taylor/East/ Gunnison Rivers
September 25	RMNP, Big Thompson River
October 9-10	Lower Arkansas River , Cañon City

* *This trip is scheduled on Mother's Day weekend*

Club trips will be reviewed periodically and location changes made if necessary. Every attempt will be made to have a trip on the specified date; however, the location may change due to water or fire conditions. Announcements of changes will be made as timely as possible at monthly club meetings, on [cwfTalk](http://cwfTalk@google.com), from the trip sign up sheet and on the website.

CWF Board of Directors 2010

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CLIP AND SAVE

CWF 2010 TRIPS :RESERVATION INFORMATION

WEEKEND TRIPS, LOCATION, ACCOMODATIONS, FLY SHOPS / GUIDES

May 8–9–Arkansas Salida, CO

Fly Shop/ Guides

Arkanglers**
7500 W US Hwy 50
Salida, CO
719-539-3473
www.arkanglers.com
Contact: Greg Felt

Lodging

Super 8 Motel**
719-539-6689
www.salidasuper8.com

Camping

4 Seasons RV Park
719-539-309

JUNE 26–27: Rio Grande River Creede, CO

Fly Shop/ Guides

Rio Grande Angler
13 S.Main St.
Creede, CO
877-656-3474

Camping

Info at
www.creede.com
Marshall Park Campground
River Hill Campground
Thirty Mile Campground
www.reserveamerica.com
ed. note—see Backcast for hotel suggestions.

** Discount for CWF members.

Please wear CWF clothing when visiting.

July 24–25: Trappers Lake east of Meeker, CO

Lodging

Trappers Lake Lodge
www.trapperslake.com

Camping

North Fork Campground
White River N.F.
www.forestcamping.com

August 14–15: Roaring Fork/ Frying Pan near Basalt, CO

Fly Shops/ Guides

Frying Pan Anglers
132 Basalt Center Road
Basalt, CO
970-927-3441
www.fryingpananglers.com

Taylor Creek Fly Shop
183 Basalt Center Cir.
Basalt, CO
970-927-4374
www.taylorcreek.com

Lodging

Green Drake Motel
Basalt, CO
970-927-4747

Comfort Inn- Carbondale
Best Western - Eagle

Camping

Mollie B Campground
www.reserveamerica.com

September 11–12: Taylor/ Gunnison Rivers, Gunnison

Fly Shop/ Guides

Three Rivers Resort &Outfitting
970-641-1303
www.3riversresort.com

Lodging

Three Rivers Resort
www.3riversresort.com
Camping, Cabins, RV sites

Camping

One Mile Campground
Rosy Lane Campground
Lodgepole Campground
www.recreation.gov
Other campgrounds are available in
Taylor Canyon - No reservations.

October 9–10: Arkansas River/ Lower Cañon City

Fly Shop/ Guides

Royal Gorge Anglers
1210 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, CO
1-888-994-6743
www.royalgorgeanglers.com

Lodging

Arkansas River KOA
www.coloradocampingkoa.com
Loma Linda Motel
800-526-2686
Cotopaxi, CO

National forest campgrounds have reservable sites. Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or www.reserveamerica.com. Creede, Trappers Lake and the Taylor River have additional campgrounds with non-reservable sites. For more information on an area's campgrounds go to www.forestcamping.com, or to the specific national forest website. The Rio Grande National Forest website is www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/recreation. The White River National Forest website can be found at www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/recreation, and the Gunnison National Forest website is at www.fs.fed.us/r2/gnug/recreation.

Volunteer to be a trip coordinator– It is a fun and rewarding experience!

PUBLIC EVENTS

SHOW UPDATES

BY DAWN BLOM, DIRECTOR

Thanks to all of you who supported our efforts at The Fly Fishing Show. We signed up a few new members, renewed memberships on a couple of past members, and sold plenty of raffle tickets. The next two shows are both in February: **The West Denver Chapter T U Fly Tying Clinic** is Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, and the **Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic** takes place on Saturday and Sunday, February 27 & 28.

The Trout Unlimited show runs from 8:30-3. Admission is \$10.00; they do have fly shops listed on their website offering \$2.00 off coupons. If you attend the show, stop by to see our own **Phyllis Vinson**. Maybe you can learn one of her killer secret patterns.

The Bass Pro show has quickly become one of our club favorites. We'll be out there from 10-5 both days. CWF will be front and center, selling brats and dogs, running the kids' fishing pond, and managing a table for membership and tying demos inside.

I still need volunteers for both shows, so don't be shy! It is a great way for new members to get involved. Contact me to get in on the fun.

One last thing—I am bringing raffle tickets to our meeting in February for those of you who are interested in a chance to win a two-day float trip with Greg Mueller and a three night stay at Red Butte Ranch on the North Platte River in Wyoming.

For those of you who can't make the meeting or the shows, but would like to purchase tickets, you can send me a check and I will put a ticket in the drawing for you. Tickets are \$5.00 each and the drawing will be held on February 28 at the Bass Pro Shops. You do not need to be present to win.

LAST CAST

“Get a wading staff, tie it to you, make it your friend, and know how to use it.”

KAREN DENISON

OWNER OF OUTSPIRE

CWF 2010 MEMBERSHIP

Membership for Calendar Year (January - December)

___ RENEWAL (Member since ___)

Enclose a check for \$30 made payable to Colorado Women Flyfishers. Members are required to sign an Acknowledgment of Risk and Release of Liability Form as a condition of membership.

___ NEW MEMBER (over 18? yes___ no ___)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Other Phone [specify CELL (c) or WORK (w)]: _____

The Club does not sell or trade or give away members' contact information to outside vendors. Rosters are printed 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!) Education Membership

Programs Special Projects Public Events Outreach/PR Newsletter Raffles/Funding Trips

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

*** Enclose Signed Acknowledgment of Risk and Release of Liability Form.**

Contact Maria Scordato, Membership Director, at rscordots@yahoo.com for copy.



COLORADO WOMEN FLYFISHERS, INC.

www.colowomenflyfishers.org

P. O. Box 101137

Denver, CO 80250-1137

Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail

IN THIS ISSUE

2010 CLUB TRIPS The Bulletin Board Edition

SHOW UPDATES Buy Raffle Tickets

ARLYS' AND JANE'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURES

April CWF Clinic Details