

# COLORADO WOMEN FLY FISHERS. ©

*A sociable club for women who fly fish*

March 2010 Vol. XIV, No. 3

## MARCH MEETING

**DATE:**

Tuesday, March 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 March meeting...*

## FISHING IN ALASKA with JOHN PERRY

It's on everyone's "bucket list"— fishing in Alaska. This month John Perry of Anglers Alibi Alaska will be presenting the wonders of fishing the Bristol Bay area of Alaska.

With five species of salmon, monster rainbow trout, arctic char, grayling and northern pike, the area offers some species for every fishing fanatic.

John will offer tips on fishing during the summer months, when to fish for certain species, and what files and equipment you might need.

Need a fishing buddy? Grab a bear!

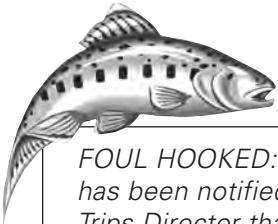
*—Mary Manka, V. P. and Program Chair*

## CWF Calendar

March 2 . . . . . Monthly Meeting  
March 9 . . . . . Board Meeting  
March 27 . . . . . S. Platte River Day Trip

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION: Please send any published articles featuring CWF, or written by a CWF member, to Club Secretary Deb Tooley, Keeper of the CWF Archives.

**Don't forget  
to renew your  
Colorado  
fishing license  
before  
March 31!**



*FOUL HOOKED: The Editor has been notified by the Trips Director that a most valuable resource for information on the Mothers Day Caddis trip to the Arkansas River has an egregious error. In the January edition of the newsletter, Trips Information page, the phone number for ArkAnglers in Salida, CO is incorrect. The correct phone number is 719-539-4223. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this might have caused. -ed.*

## BACK CAST

### FEBRUARY MEETING: COMPETITIVE FLYFISHING

BY FELICIA OLSEN

**W**hat do you mean “No slide show?” As it turned out, one-half of our Competitive Flyfishing Team marked the wrong date on his calendar! Not to worry, Riley Cotter “mended the line” and provided the crowd with an information-packed hour combining his experience in fishing, guiding and competition with easily translated tips on becoming more successful at fishing on any level.

Riley Cotter started fishing at the age of 15 with the help of a family friend who “gifted” him with some old gear. According to Riley, it didn’t take long to catch the fishing bug – “I spent all of my money on new fishing gear.” Starting young and living in Vail, it isn’t too difficult to understand how he has mastered the art of flyfishing on his own. Riley does proclaim that he is self-taught. Not a small detail when considering he qualified for the 2004 ESPN Outdoor Games and finished 2nd place in casting and 4th place overall in his first competition.

The presentation covered a brief history of Czech Nymphing and Polish nymphing. These styles are very conducive to competitive flyfishing, and very compatible in the fast moving waters with deep pools and riffles found in many of Colorado’s rivers. The short tight lines allow for better feel of the fish taking the hook, and a better hook-up ratio compared to dry fly fishing. These methods reduce the play in landing fish, and that results in lower fish mortality rates.

**“Your feet are your most useful tool in the water.”**

RILEY COTTER

“Your feet are your most useful tool in the water.” One rather unconventional piece of advice was – if you are certain a fish is in an area you are fishing but not getting any hits, wade through the hole, spook the fish, find the pools. You can always come back to the spot after the fish has gotten over its fright and returned. Common sense is a given here; don’t wade into water that is too deep or hazardous or during run-off!

“A river is much less intimidating when you start small.” Dissect a stream and fish around you, pick it apart. Fish are typically up close. According to Riley; 20 ft. of line will cast over the top of three to four fish.

Another tip involved fly boxes. Prepare your “go to” box before you set out for the day. This box will have the flies that are working in the area, and your favorite patterns – “the sure thing.” Stick with one box to avoid getting overwhelmed and rely on your gut feeling. “If you have a fly in mind when you go to your box; stick with it! Don’t start second guessing on which fly to choose.”

His tips also included some about lakes. Use a sinking line that has been degreased by using “Snake River Mud” or the fine silt found on the shores of lakes. New line is coated in an oil film that prohibits the sinking ability of the line. Sinking line allows for a nice retrieve, and flies won’t bounce in the chop. Sinking lines are available in different weights for different applications, for example, fishing in a boat or standing on shore.

Look at a lake like a river. Fish will be found where there is food. If you see rising fish, go to them first. If there aren’t any rising fish, look for transitions in the water – fish will always hang out in a drop off, right off shore. Drift or pull flies across the seam of water where receding water meets incoming water. Also, look for wind lanes and bubble lines. Wind lanes and bubble lines are the only thing on a lake that will imitate current, bringing food.

And last, but not least...ninety percent of fish will hit when you “hang” the fly – translated that means – don’t pull the fly out of the water immediately at the end of the retrieve. Chances are a fish has been following the fly up through the water and will take it just before it exits. So, take a breath or glance around, pause for a minute before reeling in that line... you might just get lucky! ■

# GO FISH THE SOUTH PLATTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

BY AMY SLAUGHTER, TRIPS DIRECTOR

The South Platte River below Cheeseman Canyon can best be described as a survivor. It can also be described as a river that holds some big fish. Big or small, it is worth the drive. Several CWF members fished this area on New Year's Day and others have made the trek here since. It should be noted that fishing Cheeseman Canyon is also an option, and is just north of Deckers. Some hiking is in order, but the fish will be waiting for you. Join us for the first official CWF trip of 2010.

## Carpools

We will meet at the US 285 Park-N-Ride in the town of Aspen Park at 7:15 am. We will leave promptly at 7:30 am. The drive to Deckers via Pine Junction turn-off takes about one hour. A final CWF checkpoint will be behind Flies and Lies in Deckers between 8:15-8:30 am.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STAFILA MCGUFFEE



Julie Church at the S. Platte, New Year's Day

## What to Bring

5 wt. rod, 5x leader, and 4x to 6x tippet. For flies, small midges are the ticket (size 18 to 24), black beauties, RS2's, top secrets and brassies all work. Pheasant tails, San Juan worms, glo-bugs, and streamers are always good options. BWO action may be picking up, so plan accordingly.

## Questions?

Call Amy Slaughter at 303-823-9618 or email me at home2pws@mindspring.com.

**Trip Coordinator: Kelly Heatherly**

# SNEAK PEEK

## PELLA PONDS Hygiene, Colorado Day Trip: April 10

Pella Ponds are located west of Longmont and just south of Hygiene. The entrance to Pella Crossing is located one mile south of Hygiene, east off of North 75th Street.

There are warm water species such as bluegill, perch, crappie, smallmouth and largemouth bass – All fun to catch on a fly rod! These ponds are designated as catch-and-release fishing for the largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Belly boats and other non-motorized, portable boats are allowed, so break them out and join us.

Bring your 5 wt rod, 3x or 4x leaders and tippet. Sinking lines are best here, but you can sink a long leader with split shot and still catch fish.

Flies include poppers, woollybuggers, leaches, minnows, and damsels. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

**Trip Coordinator: Fran Sturgis**

# EDUCATION

## GEAR UP FOR THE WOMEN'S CLINIC

BY ANNE ZADRAZIL

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 two 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 7:30 am. 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. They are 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 six classes offered, one just needs to choose the sequence in which she wants to attend them. The intermediate/advanced classes will be held on Sunday, April 25th. They are designed to give the more experienced flyfishing women 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 with **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 year's ever popular Czech Nymphing with **Sandy Wright**.

If you would like to attend the clinic, the cost will be \$100.00, the same as last year. To register, please fill out the form (if you need a copy, it can be found on the CWF website) front or back, depending on what level of experience you have. Mail the form and check payable to CWF to Anne Zadrzil, 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 allowed to attend this clinic. Registration confirmation packets will be mailed to participants. Packets will include details on carpooling, directions and equipment lists.

The North Fork Ranch is offering CWF members a special rate to stay overnight for \$90.00 and dinner for \$35.00 during the flyfishing clinic April 23rd, 24th and 25th. Members can make reservations directly by contacting Karen May at [info@northforkranch.com](mailto:info@northforkranch.com)

Personal fishing at North Fork Ranch will not be allowed during the clinic weekend. If you would like to fish the private stretch of river on the North Fork Ranch, you will need to contact Kevin Gregory at [www.northforkranch.com](http://www.northforkranch.com) for additional cost and reservations. There is free public fishing access about one-half mile from North Fork Ranch.

If you have additional questions, please call me at 303-756-0642, or I can be reached by email at [zadrzilfishes@yahoo.com](mailto:zadrzilfishes@yahoo.com) ■

# Roading for Redfish . . . and Beyond

BY ARLYS WARFIELD

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ARLYS WARFIELD



**A LIMESTONE RIVER.** If you have never fished a watershed with limestone formations, you are in for a treat. There is virtually no plant growth and the fish match the color of the bottom of the river, silver.

*This is the second of a two-part series on the flyfishing adventures of Jane Francen and Arlys Warfield over the December 2009 holidays.*

Jane had barely begun to fish when her line went taut and the beast had started to run. It was big. And it fought. It ran and ran, and then . . . gone. Several more casts with a heavily weighted red zebra midge brought the same result: strong, running fish and then . . . gone. This is how our day on the Guadalupe River in southwestern Texas began.

## West on I-10

We had come to this river after several memorable days celebrating the season by red fishing in southern Louisiana and touring New Orleans. We had driven west to Austin — there to visit friends and to find out why they're in love with trout fishing the tailwaters of the Guadalupe River, just north of the town of New Braunfels and below the Canyon Lake Dam.

Here was their sales pitch to us: "Trout Unlimited stocks at least a dozen or so private leases on the Guadalupe several times a year. Most of the stocking is done in a trophy zone, but all TU lease members must practice catch-and-release; like I said, it's mostly finicky, tailwater nymphing (size 20 thread midges, soft hackles, etc). That said,

the fish are pretty impressive, and it has been written up as one of America's top 100 trout streams (although, I suspect the novelty of 24" rainbows in Texas has something to do with that!)"

This sounded very inviting, although I did wonder why I see so many Texans here on Colorado rivers with this good fishing in their own home state. But we soon learned it pays to keep an open mind about new fishing opportunities. As an example, I went to the Cherry Creek Orvis store to pick up some red fish flies and ran into their senior business manager, Mike Clough. I told him our plans. He said the Guadalupe River was the most beautiful river in the lower 48 and proceeded to give us wet fly tips for fishing there. He also recommended that we visit the Sportsman's Finest fly shop in Beecave, TX ([www.sportsmansfinest.com](http://www.sportsmansfinest.com)), just outside of Austin for more information (a great tip, a great fly shop).

## Down to the River

So we stored our red fishing 8 weights, brought out the 5s and waders and boots, and headed down I-35 toward San Antonio to the FM 306 exit north to Sattler and Canyon Lake. We were fortunate to be the guests of a member of the Guadalupe River Chapter of T.U. ([www.grtu.org](http://www.grtu.org)), which administers a Lease Access Program providing members a "path to the river" over private property to legal-

ly access the Guadalupe River. This was a pretty sweet deal, since it limited the amount of combat fishing on a river heavily populated with anglers looking for beautiful and large silver rainbows in a limestone river.

We left Austin early on a very cold but sunny morning, got to the river about 8 a.m., where a few anglers had already arrived. We donned our neck gaiters, warm gloves and headed in. Jane was hitting that run over and over again, but nothing to the net. Then she got the hang of controlling these hefty silver rainbows on the reel and scored time after time. They gave us quite a thrill. It was one of the best fishing mornings we have ever had. Beautiful fish, gorgeous surroundings — and, nearby, the charming Gristmill Restaurant in historic Gruene to enjoy fabulous après fishing lunches of ribs and mashed potatoes. ■



Jane and Arlys show off their hefty rainbows.



## Members on the Move

**N**ews flash: CWF member **Connie Rogers** is on her way to Washington D. C.! “I will be the Department of the Interior's Deputy Solicitor for Energy and Mineral Resources. I'll be a political appointee and senior member of the Department's legal office overseeing the legal issues involved with energy and mineral development (including renewable energy) on the outer continental shelf and Interior-managed public lands throughout the US. I start mid-February and will serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of the



PHOTO BY CAROL NEVILLE



PHOTO BY LISA TIMMONS

**A Girl and her Mayfly**

Interior and President. I look forward to tying a lot of flies and investigating mid-Atlantic trout waters. I'll be back in Colorado for weekends on a regular basis—so hopefully I'll see folks on the river from time to time, if not as often.” Bon voyage, Connie. Enjoy your stay, but come back soon. ■

**Donna Lynne Keefover** will be leaving us as well. She is making a move to Dallas, Texas with LabCorp. “I have been a member of this organization for six years and have enjoyed every moment of it, and will miss each and everyone of you very much. I do plan on staying an active member of the CWF, and will be back to visit. Thank you so much for all of the fun, education, fine tuning of my technique, camping and fishing stories, good wine, Sweaty Betty's and fishing!”

### **A Note About the Importance of Being A Trip Coordinator**

Generally, you don't get more out of something than you put into it. If you don't think you are getting enough out of CWF, maybe being a trip coordinator would be an easy way to remedy that. You don't have to be an expert flyfisher. Here is all you need to do:

- (1) Show up for the Club trip;
- (2) Be willing to maintain a list of members going on the trip;
- (3) Work with the trip director to provide information to members in the newsletter about flies, lodging and directions;

(4) Be prepared to call participants, if the trip is changed;

(6) Recall details of the outing and write an article for the next newsletter. (If this scares you, don't worry about it. Just give Amy your notes and she will write it up for you).

This is a good way to meet more members and give something back to our great flyfishing club. Besides, it is a ton of fun!. If you can commit, call me at 303-823-9618, or email [home2pws@mind-spring.com](mailto:home2pws@mind-spring.com). — Amy Slaughter

## From the Presidential Suite

**Ladies of CWF** – the club is beginning to take on the look of a 21st century organization. There have been some changes on your Board of Directors, of which I believe you should be aware.

Our first change, as many of you found out at our last monthly meeting, is that **Aprille Hill** has graciously accepted the responsibility of being your Membership Director for 2010. Maria Landes had to step down due to some new happenings in her life that conflict with our Tuesday Meetings. Welcome Aprille!

The next change is the addition of a board position. The board has chosen to add the position of Technical Director that will begin immediately. **Deb Nelson** has graciously accepted this seat on the board. There is a long list of duties she is performing already (and I emphasize the word long). Welcome Deb!

The last and final change the board made has to do with the PR/Outreach Director's position. This position will be phased out at the end of Mary Ellen's term in 2011. There were many reasons leading to this decision. As of now, the main duties for this position are putting articles in the newspaper announcing our monthly program, organizing and purchasing CWF logo clothing, and working closely with the Tech Committee. Obviously the Tech Director will now oversee any Tech Committee duties, and the logical person to be contacting the newspapers is the Vice President, since she is in charge of programs and acquiring speakers anyway. As for the clothing, that is actually a part of fundraising, and since fundraising has now taken on a new and different look than in years past, this will return to that position.

So there you have it. Some re-organization and streamlining and you all are now up to date with what is going on. It's a new year, with a new look, with great happenings as a result!

**Joanie McCord,**  
**President**

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

### **WEST DENVER CHAPTER T.U. FLY TYING CLINIC**

PHOTOS BY KIM GREENFIELD



**Phyllis in her element—What a smile!**



**Is Phyllis teaching one of her “top secret” patterns?**



**Dawn is extolling the virtues of CWF**



**Phyllis Vinson sharing her skills**

Long time CWF member **Phyllis Vinson** and Public Events Director **Dawn Blom** are hard at work representing the Colorado Women Flyfishers at the West Denver Trout Unlimited Fly Tying Clinic, where Phyllis was invited to be a guest tyer.

From the looks of it, Phyllis is achieving success in perpetuating the sport, while Dawn is putting her skills to work perpetuating the club!

#### **Members Password Alert**

On April 1, there will be a new password for the members-only section of the CWF website. The new password can be found on the bottom right-hand corner of the members' roster, which will be in the April newsletter mailing. Please do not share the password with non-members. The roster is intended for internal CWF member use only. Also note that periodic updates of the roster will appear in the members-only section of the CWF website.

## **CWF Board of Directors 2010**

### **President**

Joanie McCord  
*scottishfisher@comcast.net*

### **Vice President**

Mary Manka  
*erinchrism@earthlink.net*

### **Secretary**

Deb Tooley  
*datooley@gmail.com*

### **Treasurer**

Betty Peterson  
*betty@bettypeterson.com*

### **Education**

Anne Zadrazil  
*zadzraifishes@yahoo.com*

### **Fundraising/Raffles**

Cheryl Gerlitz  
*cagerlitz@yahoo.com*

### **Membership**

Aprille Hill  
*alhill1040@aol.com*

### **Newsletter Editor**

Felicia Olsen  
*drgnce6645@aol.com*

### **Public Events**

Dawn Blom  
*browntroutnlabs@gmail.com*

### **PR-Outreach**

Mary Ellen Freas  
*mefreas42@msn.com*

### **Special Projects**

Marion Roper  
*marion.roper@comcast.net*

### **Trips**

Amy Slaughter  
*home2pws@mindspring.com*

### **Newsletter**

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

**Editor** Felicia Olsen

**Proofreaders** Miki Seeley,  
Nancy Sherman, Deb Tooley

**Production** Jane Francen,  
Carol Stegink, Nancy Sherman

**Printer** Alpha Graphics, Denver

### **Technical Director**

*deb\_nelson@comcast.net*

### **cwftalk@google groups.com**

Email subscription questions to  
*karenwilliam@comcast.net*

### **Membership Roster**

Email roster corrections to  
Aprille Hill at  
*alhill1040@aol.com*

## A Guide to Fishing Ethics and Etiquette on the River

At the August, 2007 program meeting Connie Rogers distributed the Trout Unlimited publication, "Fishing Etiquette," to remind members of various items, both legal and polite, to consider while fishing. Some of them are as follows:

- Know the rules and regulations — carry your fishing license.
- Don't stress the resources: use barbless hooks; stop fishing when water temperature rises dramatically; do not cast to spawning fish; stay off spawning beds; handle caught fish with care (make sure net and hands are wet before handling fish and do not squeeze the fish); never insert anything into the gills of the fish; cut tippet if it is too difficult to extract hook; keep fish in water while setting up for photograph.
- An angler who has a fish on has the right of way.
- Always approach another angler from behind and to the side. If you spot anyone near a section you want to fish, it is theirs until they move on. This includes an angler just studying the water, a person having a picnic at bankside and people playing in the water or just enjoying scenery.
- Talking to another angler is acceptable and quite proper. Not talking to another angler is acceptable and quite proper.
- If on the river bank, swing out up to 20 feet so as to not spook any fish upstream from the angler.
- An angler that is traveling upstream always has the right of way over an angler traveling downstream.
- Stay on trails; erosion is created by anglers taking short cuts to the river.
- Do not trespass; it is a criminal offense.
- Floating etiquette: Know the rules and regulations for float craft and safety equipment.
- After getting your boat in the water, move it out of the way to the upstream side of the ramp, thus allowing others to put-in. At the end of the float, practice the reverse and move your boat to the downstream section while fetching your trailer
- As you float and fish, give wading anglers a wide berth. Resist casting just upstream of a wading angler.

## LAST CAST

***"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope."***

**JOHN BUCHAN**

### 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](mailto:rscordots@yahoo.com) for copy.



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:

Go fish the **S. Platte River** on March 27

Take a Sneak Peek at **Pella Ponds**

don't forget to renew your Colorado

**Fishing License**

and Member News!