



BACKLASH

Capital District Fly Fishers

Conserving – Restoring – Educating
Through Fly Fishing



January 2007

President's Message

The Christmas Party is over and was a great success; my thanks to everyone for their help and participation. The presentation was very good and very true no matter how you look at it. It made me stop and think about friends and why I fly fish. The Christmas holiday will be over when you read this so my hope is that you got what you wanted. I am wishing everyone a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year filled with lots of fishing.

We need to start thinking about what presentations we want to see. Do we or do we not want on the water meetings? If so where and what do you want to do at them? We, the officers and the board are looking for suggestions, so please speak up. The only really bad suggestion is the one that wasn't made.

With the New Year come new things. The tying classes are starting and help is always needed and appreciated. The Great Outdoors Show and other events are on the horizon so make a resolution to volunteer to help at the different events; it's worth it and fun.

See you at the meeting

Paul Sinicki
President

January Meeting

Polish Community Center January 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Dave Brandt, Catskill fly tier and instructor for the Joan Wulff School of Fly Fishing will be our speaker doing a program for which he is famous – Catskill Dry Flies. He will also tie a Wulff pattern **WITHOUT TOOLS OR A VISE!**

Fly Tiers Corner 6:30 – Catskill Dries
Featured Tier: Dave Brandt

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Click here to go to the [FFF Web Page](#)

Click here to [Email FFF](#).

Reminder

You CDFE dues are due for 2007 —

a membership application is attached, if you have not yet sent in you 2007 dues.

For those of you who are Federation of Fly Fishers members, PLEASE remember to put your FFF membership number on your application. CDFE gets a credit on our affiliation dues for each FFF member in our ranks. If you are not yet an FFF member, give yourself a Holiday treat and join FFF by going to www.fedflyfishers.org or call (406) 222-9369, YOU WILL NOT BE SORRY YOU DID!!!

Know how to tie flies – Want to show others – Want to learn more?!?

The CDFE Fly Tying Classes start this month. Contact Paul or Rodney if you're interested in instructing or being a floor walker. Help is always needed and appreciated. Even if you're new to tying, take it from your editor – one of the best ways to learn more about the craft is to teach it!!!

Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance Corps
15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park, NY
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

From Rodney:

To say the least, the Holiday Party was a big success!!! We had 48 members and guest in attendance. The number of donated items by both members and merchants were GREAT again this year. We had items of interest for every taste, sure there were a lot of fly fishing items, but there was everything under the sun as well.

The Club members want to say THANKS to those who offered up the raffle items and they are:

Richard Atkinson
Lou Bruno
Bill Donato
Federation of Fly Fishers
North Eastern Council

Ron Briggs
Ed Cuchane
Cliff McReavy
Feathercraft Merchants

Brad Mohr
Louise Priddle
John J Prokorym
Charles Shoemaker
Walter Susko

Tom Passarelli
Rodney Priddle
Paul & June Sinicki
Marianne Susko

&
Anonymous

Keep in mind that we will need another dose of raffle items, so plan ahead and set a few things aside over the coming year for the next party, then all you need to do is remember where you put them when the next Holiday party comes around again.

DVD & BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

The Trout Whisperers by Pete Bodo
Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006
278 pages, hardbound, not illustrated, suggested price \$24.95

Every so often a novel using fly fishing as the basic plot is published. A few of them turn out to be good reads. This unfortunately, is not one of these. The story line is of a pair of longtime fishing buddies on an annual fishing trek to Montana. The events and tribulations of both a long term relationship and fishing together are portrayed in what can only be describes as a failed attempt at parody or a really bad farce. This book has a one page 277 pages of unnecessary detail having little or nothing to do with the story line. This is definitely one book you can pass up.

Thunder Creek Flies by Keith Fulsher
Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006
109 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price \$34.95

The Thunder Creek style of fly pattern is one that for some reason has not gotten the press it should. This revised and augmented edition of the author's original 1973 book is therefore very welcome. Along with the originally published patterns are new patterns for saltwater making this style of fly even more useful. The tying instructions and the history of the style and patterns is well written and beautifully illustrated by the superb photographs of David Klausmeyer. The book opens with a chapter on the evolution of flies for imitating baitfish, and continues with chapters on the history of the development of the Thunder Creek patterns, a chapter on designing Minnow flies, and a chapter on the fish the Thunder Creek series is intended to imitate. The book then provides a chapter describing how to tie these great flies in great detail in both text and picture. The book then concludes with a chapter on tackle for fishing baitfish imitations, fly selection and fishing techniques, saltwater Thunder Creek patterns, and the need for continuing stewardship of the habitat of fish. The especially designed end papers add a very nice touch. The design, editing, printing are all top notch. This is a book every fly tyer will want to add to his personal library and refer to often for inspiration and information.

Featherwing & Hackle Flies for Salmon & Steelhead by Chris Mann

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006

222 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price \$39.95

This is a beautifully executed book on a very interesting segment of fly tying, feather wing and hackle flies for Atlantic salmon and steelhead. The most striking feature of this book is the computer generated color illustrations of the flies. These illustrations replace the traditional photographs of actual flies and while they are clearly more functional in showing detail, they do lack the soul of a real fly reproduced photographically. From a practical point they are excellent instructional aids however. The writing is very well done and easy to read and the design of the book is also excellent making for a book that will be read and re-read many times.

The book is divided into a short introduction, a well-written general history, and worldwide development of the feather wing and hackle styles of fly patterns for salmon and steelhead, followed by a section on the feather wing flies of Europe and a section of the feather wings of North America. One of the most interesting features of the book is the way it shows how various regions of the world cross-pollinated one another the development of these types of flies. These are followed by a catalogue of dressings of a great number of classic and current fly patterns from all over the world. The catalogue is arranged to have the recipes on one page and thumbnails of the flies on the facing page. The book concludes with a very user-friendly bibliography and index. There are no tying instructions included. However, if you are interested in tying feather wing and hackle flies for salmon and steelhead, this book is an excellent resource. In fact, this is a book you may want two copies of, one for your reading table and one for your tying bench.

Early Northwest Fly-Fishing by Blaine Hallock

Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR, 2006

232 pages, softbound, illustrated, B&W, suggested price \$19.95

This book is a manuscript that was written in the late 1940's by a native Oregonian about fly fishing from the 1890's to 1950. As such it has historical significance in that it presents the

fishing, camping, and trekking of the time first hand. And it is so well written that it is a real page turner. While the history is documented it is done so in an easy to read manner that brings out the enjoyment the author got from the outdoors of his time. There are observations of fishing not only in the classic rivers of the Pacific Northwest but of Alaska, Singapore, Japan, Panama, the South Pacific, Japan, Mexico and more. Here are stories of strange fishing and funny fishing circumstances brought about by the much different travel arrangements of 50 to 100 years ago. The author also had produced all of the line drawings for the book and family members provide numerous period photos of the author and the fishing locations. For anyone with a curiosity about fishing around the world this is a must read. It is a book that can be given as a gift to any fisherman safe in the knowledge it will be appreciated.

A Passion for Steelhead by Dec Hogan

Wild River Press, Mill Creek, WA, 2006

319 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color and B&W, suggested price \$59.95

Dec Hogan is a steelheader's steelheader. He is one of those rare individuals that have a passion that has only grown with time and who never lost his sense of wonder of it all. This book truly conveys this to the reader. The passion and love of steelhead, their habitat, and the pursuit of them with a two handed fly rod is so wonderfully presented the reader can not help but smile and start packing for the river. This book is so much fun to read you forget you are actually being taught an art by one its true masters. The illustrations by Greg Pearson are some of the most enlightening ever printed to show the reader exactly what is going on when we swing our flies to steelhead. Likewise, his illustrations of the casting strokes are superb. The photography of the rivers and the fish are of the high quality expected in coffee table art books. The photographs of the flies are nicely done and the large size of the images makes them excellent illustrations for the fly tyer. It is, however, the writing style of Dec that makes this book a must have volume. The writing draws readers beside a campfire to listen to Dec tell tall tales of great rivers and great fish. It simply can not get any better than this if you are fortunate enough to have the incurable steelhead virus. And in every tale told there are lessons which can make the reader a better caster, better fisherman, and better fly tyer. The only distractions in this book are the first chapter and the last chapter written by two guest authors. Neither chapter belongs in this book. They don't fit any more than a first chapter by Darwin on the evolution of Man and a final chapter by a lawyer on divorce laws would fit in Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. I strongly suggest you skip both chapters and simply enjoy the really great story told by Dec Hogan. You will not be disappointed.

The editing, design, and layout of the book are extremely well done. The large format allowing the use of very large illustrations and photographs is one of the great features of the book and makes the experience of reading it even better. Buy this volume and be inspired.

Looking for new ideas? Got some to share? Come out to the Fly Tiers Guild

Tuesday nights, Colonie Youth Center, 5 First Avenue, Latham
Share patterns – Chew the fat – Cheaper than therapy

Upcoming Events Calendar...

January 2 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
January 3	Fly Tying Classes Session 1
January 9 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
January 10 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	Dave Brandt – Catskill Fly Tier and Instructor for the Joan Wulff School of Fly Fishing will be our featured speaker doing a program, for which he is famous for, Catskill dry flies. We will also have him tying a Wulff pattern WITH OUT ANY TOOLS, including no VISE!!! FTC Catskill Dries Featured Tier: Dave Brandt
January 16 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
January 17	Fly Tying Classes
Jan 19-21	Marlboro, MA Fly Fishing Show
January 23 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
January 24	Fly Tying Classes
Jan 26-28	Somerset, NJ Fly Fishing Show
January 30 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
January 31	Fly Tying Classes
February 6 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 7	Fly Tying Classes
February 13 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 14 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	Marla Blair – Marla Blair, a.k.a. “Bette Muddler” will join us for tips and tales while guiding on western Massachusetts and Connecticut rivers. Bonus Raffle: a two-person guided trip on a river discussed that night FTC: the Jailbird Featured Tier: Marla Blair
February 20 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 21	Fly Tying Classes
February 27 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 28	Fly Tying Classes
March 6 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
March 7	Fly Tying Classes
March 13 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
March 14 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	R Stockton - "Successful Nymphing" Bob will show us his winning ways to successful nymphing. FTC Nymphs Tier: Lou Bruno

Mar 16-18	Great Northeast Outdoor Show – Empire State Plaza
Mar 16-18	Saltwater Fishing Expo - Somerset, NJ

January Meeting

Polish Community Center January 10th, 7:00 p.m.

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Fly Tiers Corner 6:30 – Catskill Dries
Featured Tier: Dave Brandt

Coming Up...

Great Northeast Outdoor Show – Empire State Plaza

March 16 – 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

March 17 – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

March 18 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Details to follow...

The BACKLASH - Is the official publication of the Capital District Fly Fishers Inc. and is published monthly from September through May, with summer editions as needed.

Submissions for publication **must** be in the editor's hands two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled monthly meeting.

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