The American Fly Fisher

Journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing

SUMMER 2009 VOLUME 35 NUMBER 3

Traveling

For many, summer is a season for traveling, and this issue takes you to Argentina and New Mexico—places to which German brown trout traveled before you.

Our two feature articles are both, in part, about the success of nonnative fish introduced to new waters. In "A Hundred Years of Solitude: The Genesis of Trout Fishing in Argentina," Adrian Latimer takes us to Patagonia, offering first a bit of geological history, then some history about the importing of fish during the early part of the twentieth century. He notes that although the lakes and rivers seemed perfect for trout, there weren't any, and "Thus began what you may view either as one of the greatest human interferences in natural history, sowing the seed for abundant and wonderful trout waters, or a shocking destruction of biodiversity." *Successful* doesn't begin to describe how species took to these waters, and Patagonia is now one of the greatest fly-fishing destinations in the world. Latimer details some of the personalities who helped make it so. The article begins on page 2.

Turning then to New Mexico, Samuel Snyder takes a look at the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, tracing its story "as it moved into the waters of present-day New Mexico . . . to its eventual demise." Part of that demise had to do with the introduction of nonnative species—introduced species that can only go "wild," never "native." In "Restoring Natives in New Mexico," Snyder considers why native fish should be preserved and restored. The practice of restoration indeed raises some controversial and complicated issues. In considering restoration in the context of trout and fly-fishing communities, Snyder notes that "the species we seek to restore and the practices by which we restore them have much to teach us about how to be human in the midst of natural spaces—how to be, in other words, native to the waters we fish and the bioregions within which we reside." The article begins on page 10.

In this issue's Notes and Comment section (page 18), Gordon M. Wickstrom notes (in "A Note on Writing the History of Fly Fishing") that we need more than one type of historian to get a grasp on this sport's history, and John Alevras comments (in "Wulff and Hewitt: Light Tackle for Large Salmon") that Edward Ringwood Hewitt might have rightful claim to the earliest pursuit of these big fish with very light tackle. And in Notes from the Library (page 24), Jerry Karaska reviews Ken Callahan and Paul Morgan's important updated resource, *Hampton's Angling Biography: Fishing Books 1881–1949* (The Three Beards Press, 2008).

Both the museum and the fly-fishing world have lost some greats of late. Mel Krieger, famed casting instructor and 2003 recipient of this museum's Heritage Award, passed away in October; see page 20 for Marshall Cutchin's note. In January, we lost Marty Keane, noted author, historian, and purveyor of classic tackle. He was a major supporter of the museum, providing identification, authentication, and appraisals for us (see our notice on page 21). Executive Director Cathi Comar, in her message to the membership, notes four other dear friends whom we've recently lost ("An Important Resource," inside back cover).

It is with great pride that we announce that the American Museum of Fly Fishing has received reaccreditation from the American Association of Museums. Ours is one of only five accredited museums in the state of Vermont; nationally, fewer than 800 museums hold this honor. To read more about this, as well as to check in with what we've been up to, turn to Museum News (page 22).

Safe summer travels to all.

Kathleen Achor
Editor

From Alfred M. Mayer, Sport with Gun and Rod Vol. II *(New York: The Century Company, 1883), 563.*

The American Museum of Fly Fishing
Preserving the Heritage of Fly Fishing

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ON THE COVER: *Bébé Anchorena, in 1961, with 24-pound world-record brown caught off Boca Chimehuin. From the collection of Francisco Bedeschi.*

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A Hundred Years of Solitude: The Genesis of Trout Fishing in Argentina

by Adrian Latimer

Bébé Anchorena, in 1961, with 24-pound world-record brown caught off Boca Chimehuin. From the collection of Francisco Bedeschi.

In 1961, in Argentina, a man with a splendid name waded into the famous Boca Chimehuin just below the Devil's Throat and cast a fly. He was Bébé Anchorena, one of the early heroes of fly fishing in Patagonia. As darkness fell, he staggered out of the river soaked, bloodied, and exhausted, but clutching a world-record brown trout that weighed 24 pounds. Argentine fly fishing was on the map.

But how? When Magellan first looked for the passage west to the Pacific in 1520, there were no trout or salmon in Argentina (or Chile). The most exciting fish you could have found was a perch. Darwin studied a mass of flora and fauna on his legendary 1831–1836 expedition aboard the HMS *Beagle,* but none of the fauna had adipose fins. Even as the great explorers of the nineteenth century discovered the Lake District, the Andes, and the amazing multiplicity of rivers and still waters, there was not a trout or salmon to be found. And yet now Patagonia offers some of the finest, unspoiled fly fishing in the world in surroundings that are as beautiful as any and far less populated than most.

If we go even further back into the mists of time, we can see how this pristine landscape evolved. Interestingly, the key to the whole ecosystem is the lakes. I am no geologist, but books by Bill Leitch[1] and Marcelo Beccaceci[2] offer a fascinating introduction to the ice age history and formation of the Andes. About two hundred million years ago, the continents of what are now Africa, India, and Antarctica were united as Gondawandaland. The Sahara was somewhere around what we'd now call the South Pole and was ice. As the continents split apart during the Middle Cretaceous period (a mere hundred and fifty–odd million years past), the Atlantic Ocean rose up for what is now three thousand miles of water between them. Meanwhile, the South American Plate drifted west for millennia, until it collided with the Nazca Plate heading east, way under the Pacific. The latter, being denser rock, was forced under in the collision, and the plates continue to move in opposite directions. Of course, this monumental crash caused massive frictional heat, and boiling magma surfaced through the inevitable cracks in the earth's crust. The Andes began to rise. As the plates rubbed, bent, and buckled, huge chunks of rock were thrust upward, and the land was rent by earthquakes. When Darwin crossed the Andes, he found marine fossils thousands of feet above sea level, which triggered the scientific research and thinking that was to culminate in the hugely controversial *Origin of the Species* and his theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest.[3] The mountains and ridges of volcanoes were born. At 4,300 hundred miles long, the South American cordillera is the longest continuous mountain range on the planet.[4]

In fact, there was a second age of volcanism, a mere fifteen million years ago, which formed the beautiful, threatening ice cones that we see today, their heads regally in the clouds, waiting to belch destruction into the air. Nor have these volcanoes finished their work yet: in

This chapter is an extract from Adrian Latimer's *The River at the End of the World: Fly Fishing in Argentine Patagonia,* to be published by Medlar Press in October 2009. Approximately £25/US $40, hardcover. Available from www.medlarpress.com or in the United States from Callahan Books, callahan@cheshire.net. All royalties go to the North Atlantic Salmon Fund and the Wild Trout Trust.

The Perito Moreno Glacier in the icefields of southern Patagonia creates a dam across the Brazo Rico arm of Lago Argentino in this photo from 2004. Image courtesy of the Image Science & Analysis Laboratory (http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov), NASA Johnson Space Center, ISS004-E-9707.

1991, the Hudson volcano erupted in Chile, carpeting Santa Cruz in stifling, poisonous ash and killing more than a million sheep.[5] Even more recently, as I write this in May 2008, Chaitén is erupting in Chile, sending a plume of ash 10 miles into the sky and leaving a cloud that has crossed the Andes into Argentina, heading for the Atlantic coast, five hundred miles away. The nearby towns of Chaitén and of Futaleufu on the border are being evacuated, covered in a thick layer of ash, so toxic in its acidity that it kills all vegetation and damages watercourses. From a purely selfish fishing point of view, the effects on the rivers in the Chubut region may be serious, but they are a salutary reminder of the ever-present force of the Andes. According to radiocarbon dating, the last time Chaitén erupted was in the year 7420. Oh, and that's before Christ—more than nine thousand years ago.[6]

But back to that previous age. At the same time, the ice age came, eventually covering the whole of what is now Patagonia with a freezing thick layer. And when I say thick, I mean up to four thousand feet of glacier, pushing the earth's crust down with its weight and carving channels out of the mountains as if with a butter knife. The ocean soon filled these enormous wounds (now known as the Beagle Channel or Magellan Straits) down in Tierra del Fuego. About nine thousand square miles of glacier still exist in Patagonia today. Argentina only split off from Antarctica about twenty-five million years ago, at what is now Drake's Passage or Strait.

The facts are difficult to comprehend, but one third of the earth's surface used to be ice (now it is one tenth), and sea level was more than a hundred meters lower than today.[7] At their peak, the glaciers extended 60 miles east of Lago Argentino, and the Atlantic coast was a hundred miles farther east than now.[8] The glaciers sculpted the mountains and valleys that we see currently and pushed east into the flatlands, but as the climate warmed and they melted, little moisture reached across the Andes, thus leaving the semiarid desert that is the steppes. A few millennia earlier, hundred-foot-long dinosaurs were happily munching the trees and shrubs until the smothering carpet of volcanic ash solidified them into stone, leaving petrified forests and whole fossilized tree trunks.

Darwin gives you the scale of it all:

> The geology of Patagonia is interesting. . . . The most common shell is a massive gigantic oyster, sometimes even a foot in diameter. These beds are covered by others of a peculiar soft white stone. . . . This bed extends for 500 miles along the coast. At Port Julian its thickness is more than 800 feet! These white beds are everywhere capped by a mass of gravel, forming probably one of the largest beds of shingle in the world: it certainly extends from the Rio Colorado to between 600 and 700 nautical miles southward; at Santa Cruz it reaches to the foot of the Cordillera; half way up the rivers its thickness is more than 200 feet. . . . If this great bed of pebbles was piled into a mound, it would form a great mountain chain! When we consider that all these pebbles, countless as the grains of sand in the desert, have been derived from the slow-falling of masses of rock on the old coast-lines and banks of rivers, and that each of them has since been slowly rolled, rounded and far transported, the mind is stupefied in thinking over the long, absolutely necessary lapse of years.[9]

But as the glaciers retreated, they left huge, empty valleys at the foot of the peaks; hence those all-important lakes. If you look farther north, above Patagonia toward the Caribbean, there are no such catchments of still water at the source of rivers. What happens is then dependent on rainfall and snowmelt, creating streams of wildly fluctuating temperature and water flow, an inhospitable habitat for trout. But in Patagonia you have the magnificent lakes as natural reservoirs, and it is no accident that the best fishing is around such areas as San Martín, Bariloche, and Futalaufquen, the lake districts. The Pleistocene glaciers deposited those lovely riverbeds of gravel that so impressed Darwin, "handmade" for large trout to spawn in.[10]

The First Stocking of Trout in Argentina

But handmade by whom? Not the omniscient digits of Nature. The lakes and rivers might have been perfect for trout, but there weren't any. Instead, they were full of smaller fish that for some reason did not really benefit from the terrain. They developed neither in size nor geographic range. And they were not considered "sporting" by fishermen of the age (or now). Thus began what you may view either as one of the greatest human interferences in natural history, sowing the seed for abundant and wonderful trout waters, or a shocking destruction of biodiversity.

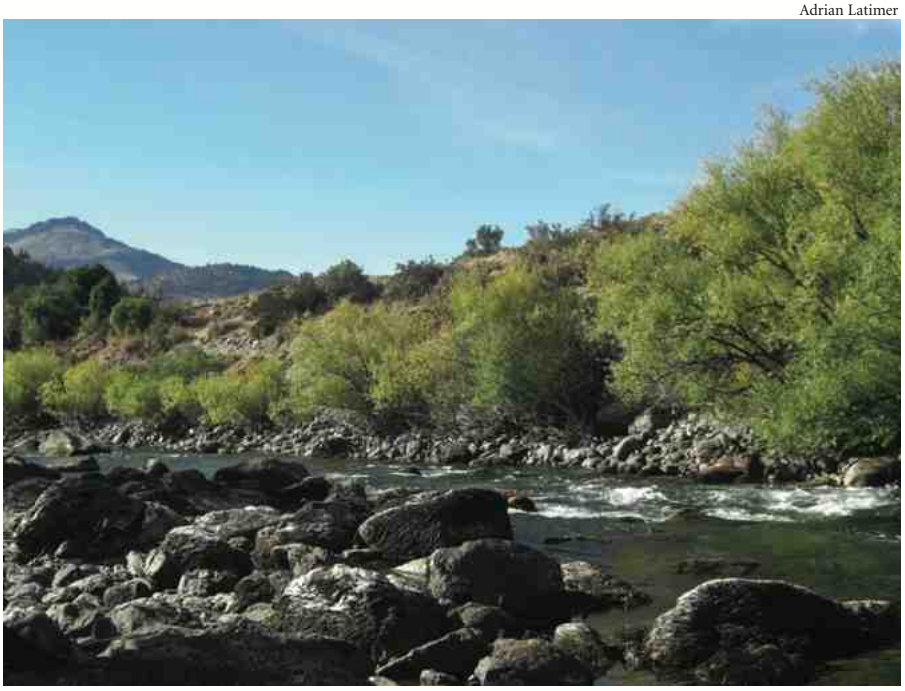
When I was a kid, I can remember being taken by my grandmother to the Hurlingham Club in London. It was all very posh; the sort of place where one ate genteel (but tasteless) cucumber sandwiches and sipped tea from porcelain cups while watching croquet. Well, believe it or not, in 1893, the English were doing just the same in Buenos Aires, at *their* Hurlingham.[11] The only difference was that polo replaced croquet and cricket. Amongst the grounds wound the little Arroyo Moron, and rainbow trout were stocked. The stream was too slow and warm for the fish to survive, but the idea was there. When Francisco "Perito" Moreno was sent by the Argentine government to explore Patagonia and, especially, the frontier with Chile, he saw the possibilities and reported back in 1875.[12]

By 1892, a Frenchman, Ferdinand Lahille, was commissioned by the Museo de la Plata to undertake a study of the underwater fauna of the lakes and rivers. He found perch, "criolla trout," pejerrey, peladilla, and puyen. Italian and American fishery scientists followed, and by 1903, American John Titcomb took a nineteen-day trek to get to Nahuel Huapi (Puma Island), sent by the Argentine government to set up the first hatchery. He chose a small stream that drained into the Rio Limay.[13]

The result was a slightly overzealous importation of fish of all sorts, and in 1904, fish roe were shipped by Eugene Tulien[14] from the United States via Southampton in England to Buenos Aires. The only boats that had big enough refrigeration units were in the United Kingdom, but the initial fish actually came from the States—a million whitefish eggs, a hundred thousand brook trout, and fifty thousand landlocked salmon, although he also picked up fifty thousand brown trout eggs in Germany. The boxes arrived, pretty much safely, on April 25, a day that surely goes down in angling history. The whitefish were all put into Lago Nahuel Huapi and disappeared forever, no doubt to the relief of modern fly fishers. Stranger things followed: rainbow trout arrived a month later,[15] but so did freshwater cod (burbot?) and several species of Pacific salmon. They were planted any- and everywhere. The cod also vanished, and the Pacific salmon could not cope with heading east to the wrong ocean and never returned from the Atlantic. From 1904 to 1910, eight shipments of *Salmonidae* roe came from the United States and later from Europe. Hatcheries were set up, and in 1930, the Argentine government received 175,000 brown trout roe from Chile.

And thus was created perhaps the world's largest and finest wild-trout region as the introduced fish adapted to the area and spread like wildfire. Sportfishing, a novel idea, began to take off; the first trout taken from Lago Nahuel Huapi weighed more than 7 pounds and fell to Ernesto Riketts (another American) in 1915. What is amazing is that what we now take for granted did not exist a mere century ago. Let's take one of the best-known and prettiest rivers in northern Patagonia, the Rio Traful. It is famous mainly because of its stocks of landlocked salmon from Maine, *Salmo salar sebago.* The popular story is that an ox-cart drover was carrying eggs destined for the hatchery at Bariloche when he noticed that they were hatching. In a panic, he poured them into the nearest river, the Traful, and by 1914, they were known to be spawning. The great

Adrian Latimer



The Rio Traful, March 2008.

American fisher, architect, and writer Ernie Schwiebert tells a slightly more detailed version of the accidental stocking, whereby the fisheries biologist in charge of the eggs from Lake Sebago in Maine became worried that the eggs were about to die and thus decided to create a minihatchery trough and try to rear the eggs there. He built a small spawning channel in the Cuyin Manzano, put dams across to control the water flow, and settled the eggs into suitable gravel found in the riffles. The eggs did indeed hatch, and the biologist and his cavalry escort guarded them briefly to protect them from bird predation until the fingerlings dropped downstream into the main river. (Fewer than a hundred miles away, there had been major frontier battles with the Araucan Indian warriors, and dangerous war parties were known to be loose in the Andean foothills; hence the military protection.) A decade after the initial stocking, and six thousand miles south of Maine, world-record–sized landlocked salmon were being caught.[16]

What is sure is that the Estancia Primavera was built in the 1920s by an Australian, Guy Dawson, who came out to farm Corriedale sheep and decided to stay. By the 1930s, he had set up the first guided fishing trips, but the Depression finished him off financially and he sold out to a French military attaché, "Pim" Lariviere. Dawson was one of the founding members of the Club Norysur on Lago Melinquina and one of the country's first star fishermen. The estate became so famous for its salmon runs to the lake that General Perón (husband of Evita) confiscated it as a sporting retreat for his retinue, and it was only given back under the revolutionary junta of General Aramburu. Dawson recorded a 26-pounder caught on a spoon, which would have been the world record if claimed and verified, and there were several caught that weighed in the mid-20s—all because of a chance mistake, a very diligent fishery scientist, and a military escort.[17]

But fly fishing remained a minority sport, a few exclusive Portenos (Buenos Aires dwellers) meeting on the lawn of the Palermo Gardens to practice casting and clink whiskies. By the last half of the century, the Traful and other hot spots, such as the bocas (where lakes drained into rivers) of the Chimehuin and Correntoso, were attracting both wealthy Argentine fly fishers (in a country where most fishers used cruder methods) and a worldwide "fishing aristocracy," especially from the States. This was what we might call the first era, the very birth of Argentine fly fishing, headed by Bébé Anchorena, Jorge Donovan, and Prince Charles Radziwill (a Polish exile). At the time, the level of sophistication was low. This was a largely British-dominated set, and tackle was basic—they did not even know how to nail-knot their backing to their fly line. Rods, lines, and flies were heavy (split-cane bamboo), and the target was the huge trout of the bocas, trophies to be grappled ashore and killed. One must also remember the sheer effort

of actually getting there: no planes, no Route 40 (three thousand miles of road, the backbone of Patagonia). To travel from Buenos Aires to Neuquén to catch a fish involved serious dedication.[18]

The Origins of Argentine Fly Fishing and the American Influence

By the second half of the century, new influences were trickling in from the States. Donovan had founded a fly-fishing association back in Buenos Aires and met Joe Brooks in New York in 1954, a moment that became the real genesis of fly fishing in Patagonia. Donovan happened to be passing the Trail & Stream store one snowy morning on Lexington Avenue and decided to pop in and have a chat about fishing. Brooks was then unknown to him, but before long he found himself in Florida's Islamorada marveling at the crystal water, coral reefs, and amazing back shoot and double haul of the master caster. Brooks first went to Argentina in 1955 to fish the Rio Grande at Estancia Maria Behety with Donovan and Anchorena. He arrived with strangely short fiberglass (Ted Williams) rods and immediately caught fish while the locals watched "open mouthed." He went on to land a 12-pound fish, a fly-caught record at the time (how things have changed since!). They then rode up to the Chimehuin and fished the Quilquihue. I will let Donovan take up the story:

> To our surprise, Joe tied on a dry fly. He entered the stream in a place where we had never seen anybody fish before and started working upstream. Although the wind was strong enough to affect the average caster, it didn't bother Joe in the least. After a time, we felt that this unfamiliar method would not be productive and were about to suggest going to another pool when Joe hooked a nice rainbow. Just to prove it wasn't an accident, he hooked nine more. They all ran between three and four pounds.[19]

They then went to Lolog Lake, where Donovan heard that Brooks "caught quite a few up to seven pounds and that he chose to return these to the water. This was somewhat of a shock. Up till this time we never released trout, nor did we waste them. Conservation was an unknown topic for us and even less familiar than fishing with a dry fly, something about which we at least had heard."[20]

This was when Patagonia took off as a sporting destination. From here started the flow of new techniques, know-how, and a cast of star American fishers and writers: Schwiebert, Lee and Joan Wulff, Roderick Haig-Brown, Charles Ritz, Lefty Kreh, Don Williams, Art Lee, and their ilk. President Eisenhower even fished on the Traful, and Billy Pate searched for big browns for twenty-two years in a row. Art Lee fell in love with the Malleo and its dry-fly hatches. With them, these high-profile Americans brought modernity. Brooks taught the nail knot and the double haul, and imported new tackle, such as those fiberglass rods. He was recognized as "the prophet." The locals learned quickly—Anchorena landed a 17-pound leviathan off the Chimehuin on a dry Wulff pattern, and in Brooks's style, to prove it was not a fluke, took another on a skating spider.

On that first 1955 trip, Brooks ended up on the boca at Chimehuin. Donovan and Anchorena took several fish of 9 to 12 pounds, but the great American topped them with a 15- and then an 18-pounder, at the time the fly-caught record. But let's fast-forward a few years to 1961 and the mighty trout that beat even that.

The Chimehuin is dominated by Lanin, the Fuji-like, snow-capped volcano that peers down from twelve thousand feet at Lago Huechulaufquen. Centuries ago, an earthquake split open a crevasse in the walls that encircle the lake, and the river flooded out into the Devil's Gorge, surging through channels in the black lava, the water whipped into spray by perennial 50-mile-per-hour winds that rage down the lake.

Amidst such scenery, Bébé Anchorena waded out to cast his streamer (by now on a Ted Williams fiberglass rod). The fly was actually a saltwater bucktail streamer and is in itself an interesting piece of history.[21] Let Joe Brooks start the story:

> "What do you have there, a shaving brush?" Jorge Donovan asked me. We were standing at the Boca of the Chimehuin River, on the east slope of the Andes in Argentina and I was tying a 1/0 Platinum Blonde fly on my 3X tippet. The long, tandem-winged bucktail did look a little like a shaving brush. But the only lather I had in mind was the foam a big brown trout would whip up when he hit that fly. This was my first trip to Argentina, back in 1955. Packing my tackle at home I kept thinking about the 10-, 12-, 14- and even 20-pound brown trout that Jorge Donovan had told me were in the Argentine rivers. Remembering that old theory that a big trout likes a big mouthful, I had reached into my salt-water tackle box and picked out a handful of "blonde" flies—big, white bucktails that I used for striped bass.[22]

Jorge Trucco now takes it up:

> The Patagonia region of Argentina is, fishing-wise, so similar to the American west that all American flies apply to Patagonian fly fishing. Here again, Joe Brooks pioneered this trend of American flies in Patagonia. And what's more, he brought some patterns that were actually uncommon in the West. He introduced the "blonde" in five versions: honey, black, strawberry, platinum and Argentine. The "blonde" was originally a saltwater fly and it was tied with bucktail on a 3407 Mustad hook,

Joe Brooks. From the collection of the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

and was not designed to attract trout; however, these "blonde" flies were extremely effective on big browns, especially in the Chimehuin.[23]

Those first fish caught by Brooks, Donovan, and Anchorena in 1955 were taken on a Blonde, four of them weighing more than 9 pounds. But the origin of the fly remains obscure. Joseph Bates[24] attributes it to Homer Rhode and his 1950s Tarpon Bucktail fly, along with Joe Brooks, but Brooks seems more precise in claiming ownership:

> Back in 1939, when I used to fly fish for stripers in the Susquehanna River near Port Deposit, Maryland, and in the shallows of the Chesapeake Bay, I used a white bucktail on a 1/0 hook. I took plenty of small stripers, but for three years nothing over six pounds came to my flies. That's when I started thinking about a bigger fly, something that would look like the size to seven-inch-long alewives, herring or anchovies, such as stripers feed on. I tied a three-inch-long white bucktail wing right in back of the eye of a 1/0 hook, another three-inch wing at the bend of the hook, then wrapped the body with silver tinsel. That was the Platinum Blonde, the first of the series. It raised the average weight of the stripers I took.[25]

Either way, when Anchorena cast, he had a white shaving brush of a fly at the other end of his line. Schwiebert gives a gripping account as told him by Anchorena.[26] Bébé had worked down the pool with long casts when a huge boil threw spray into the air. The fish sulked and then lunged downstream; Bébé stumbled after it, falling heavily, bruising his ribs and gouging both knees badly while desperately trying to unknot the line that had caught round his reel. When he finally managed to free it, the fish stayed out in midstream so that he was convinced it was fouled round a rock. His spirits fell, and he hurt physically, but he went downstream and pumped hard at the fish, alternating pressure and slack for ten minutes. When he had given up hope, the fish moved and then stopped again. Bébé knew it was now tiring and forced it to the surface, where it rolled and charged downstream toward a dreadful deadfall of tangled logs that had come free from the shoulder of the volcano and wedged in the rocks during high water. It was already dark. He kept dragging the fish off balance as the moon rose so high it lit up the canyon and flashed off the great belly as the fish flopped, weakening. Inch by inch he fought it into the rocky shallows and reached with the gaff. The fish made one last run for the current, as his arms shook. The gaff stuck and held, the fish thrashed wildly, showering Bébé with water, then twisted free, almost pulling him into the river. He aimed again and hauled the beast ashore. His scales bottomed out at 20 pounds.

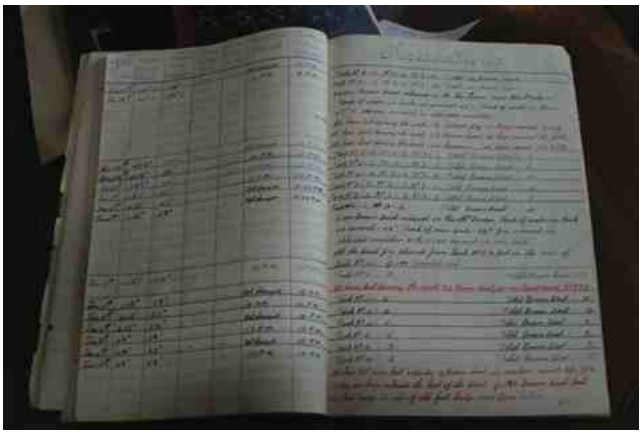
Jorge Donovan. From the collection of Jorge Trucco.

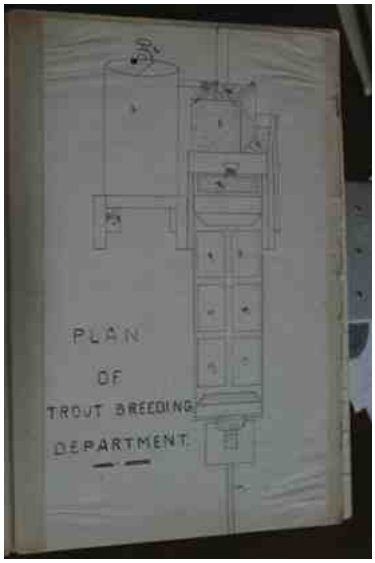
The Arrival of Professional Guides and Modern Ethics of Conservation

By the 1970s, the mood was changing, a transition largely achieved and related to me by Jorge Trucco.[27] Anchorena's record had fallen to a fish a pound heavier by Luis Peirano on the other great boca, the Correntoso (claimed by some to be the shortest river in the world—it runs between two lakes for a few hundred yards only).[28] Old pioneers were still there, longing for their double-figure dreams from the bocas, but a new generation began to see the delights of delicate dry flies on the Collon Cura or Malleo. Whereas previously fish shorter than 20 inches would have been sneered at as small fry, now the pleasure of fishing 4-weights and size-18 hooks began to spread. Trucco was a financier by trade, but by 1978, he'd given it up to concentrate on his passion and bought a hotel in San Martín de los Andes. I am dead jealous—he rubbed shoulders with the great pioneers, but also enjoyed and fought for those first unspoilt days of dry fly when a hundred fish a day was not uncommon.

But it was not a free ride. Trucco went to Wyoming every year to learn how guided trips worked. He brought back foreign expertise and, somewhat unpopularly, foreign guides who knew how to angle a drift boat down the current, roll cast and switch, tie Ephemeroptera, and recognize a larva, nymph, and subimago. With Donovan, Trucco set up the first real fly shop in the country. He also started the long haul to convince the locals, both fishers and regulators, to legitimize and protect fly fishing and the fish themselves as pressures built up.

Donovan had been the first to understand the need for catch and release, an ethic already taken for granted in the United States. But in Argentina, it was controversial, against the grain, and seen as a terrible threat to tourism (whereas, of course, it was actually an essential criterion to encourage the yearned-for American fishing visitor to come). Emotions ran high, and local complexities muddied the waters further; some extreme fly fishers in Buenos Aires demanded that trolling on the lakes (the lifeblood for many lodges) be banned outright. Trucco lived in Patagonia, unlike the early Porteno pioneers, and was there to engage the fight locally, on the riverbank. Mentored by the scratch golfer, great caster, and record holder Anchorena, he was able to bridge the gap to modernity and largely to American fishing practices. He introduced the first rafts made in Argentina to float the rivers. In 1983, he set up with Frontiers, the international fishing outfitters/travel firm, and the foreign "colonization" of Patagonian fly-fishing outfitters began as the word spread and zealots the world over rushed to the southern end of the planet to taste the extraordinary fishing that was available. Float trips





Clockwise from above: A portrait of John Goodall, Goodall's hatchery log, a detailed stocking report, Goodall's hatchery design, and some of Goodall's flies. All images from the collection of Steffan Jones.

on the Collon Cura, the Limay, and the Alumine added another dimension.

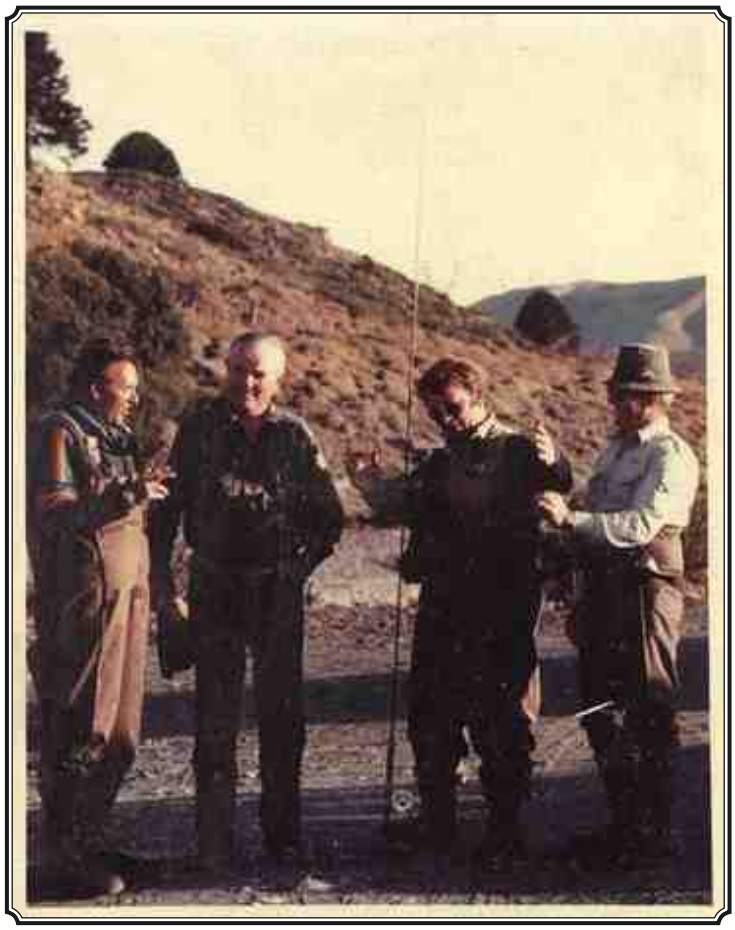
After intense lobbying, the first fly-fishing catch-and-release regulations started in Neuquén in 1985 and on the fabled Chimehuin in 1992. Now it is pretty much universal,[29] although floating and public access brings its own problems of excess fishing pressure and a need to restrict—or at least control—access. An example is the Chimehuin. By the 1980s, it suffered from too many public access roads, but it was then controlled and improved. Now it has allowed float trips, which could increase the number of rods and threaten that critical balance that needs to be respected between the resource and the paying demand.

The (Accidental) Introduction of Sea-Run Brown Trout into Tierra del Fuego

But this evolution was mainly in the finest, lake-fed districts of northern and central ("Welsh") Patagonia. These days, Argentina is probably even more famous for its world-beating sea trout, yet another freak fortuity between man and Nature. In the closing years of the nineteenth century, an impoverished Spanish immigrant, José Menendez, bought some land at the very end of the earth and started to farm sheep. By the early twentieth century, he had the largest estancia in Tierra del Fuego and five million sheep. At Villa Maria, the "King of Patagonia," as Menendez was known, had an Englishman as his manager: John Goodall, who loved to fish—for trout, not for mullet (of which they still catch quite a few today). The rest, of course, is history, and the Menendez great-grandchildren now own some of the most famous sea-trout lodges in the world.

Clara Bridges was the granddaughter of one of the first white families to reside permanently in Tierra del Fuego. She was born on the Falklands/Malvinas islands in 1902 and was raised on her parents' Estancia Harberton. In 1930, she married the aforementioned John Goodall, who was an engineer contracted on the Menendez estancias to construct and administer a meat-freezing plant in the town of Rio Grande. Later, they conceived two sons, and the family still manages estancias on Tierra del Fuego. From what they say, John was fishing mad. He was seldom home, being either out with a rod or looking after the hatcheries, which he produced and managed by himself.

Goodall had gone back to England temporarily and set to work to stock rivers back home in Argentina.[30] In 1935, one hundred thousand eggs were shipped over from Europe via Puerto Mott in Chile, packed in egg churns, moss, and water. Amazingly, more than sixty thousand survived and were stocked in tributaries of the Rio Grande and then the Gallegos. The riverbeds here are formed of small, loose gravel, perfect for spawning, so natural reproduction took off way beyond everyone's expectations. But natural food in the rivers was inadequate, so some of the fish went out to sea, where they discovered the Sardina Fuegina, huge schools of baitfish off the Tierra del Fuego and Santa Cruz coasts. As whale populations



Boca Chimehuin: Bob Solomon, Bébé Anchorena, Jorge Trucco, Don Williams, April 1983. From the collection of Jorge Trucco.

plummeted, the lower rungs of the food chain exploded. There was no need to travel far; fewer than a hundred miles offshore, the world's fattest sea-trout run was established. A 20-pounder will have spawned four times.

Of course, at the time, this was all unexpected. Goodall's diaries show brooks, rainbows, and "browns." Nobody then distinguished between the resident and sea-run version of the brown trout. (In England, Hugh Falkus[31] was one of the first who did, and he demanded that they be treated and fished for separately, dedicating a whole book to the subject.) Goodall's flies were traditional Scottish wet flies: Alexandra, Professor, and his most successful one—the mysterious Prince Charlie.[32] On further investigation in Tom Stewart's *50 Popular Flies, Volume IV* (London: Ernest Benn, 1973), I discovered that the Prince Charlie is an old loch fly—made up of a red floss tail and body, gold rib, black hen throat hackle, and gray mottled partridge tail feather wing—presumably named after Bonnie Prince Charlie, the eighteenth-century pretender to the Scottish throne. It has fallen out of use, but is having a bit of a comeback. They were tied in relatively small sizes and fished in a traditional Scottish loch style, three on a cast. But the fish came as a plump surprise, as a note from September 1944 shows:

> Today Val Hardy called me to see a large brown trout. I examined the fish and no doubt it was a brown trout. This fish was caught in the nets about Tres Puento in the sea, it weighed 6.05 kilos or 14.22 lbs. This fish was well spotted with brown spots not red and fairly silvery on belly. A female.[33]

At first the fish were exploited purely for sport and food, and by the 1980s, they were in sharp decline. Then came the growth of worldwide luxury sportfishing and the tenets of catch and release and fly only. What is ironic is that I am told (though cannot verify) that the original eggs came from River Thames trout, and now that they are abundant in Rio Grande and almost extinct in the Thames, there is an idea of trying to restock the mother from the child, sending eggs from Argentina to England, as the fish in Tierra del Fuego are still genetically pure Thames stock.

Patagonia Today: A Haven for Fly Fishing

For the sea trout, it was the 1980s and 1990s that saw many of the most famous lodges set up—Kau Taupen, Villa Maria, Bella Vista—many on working estancias, who presumably saw an extra source of income in leasing what was fast becoming the most sought-after sea-trout fishing in the world. Old houses were refurbished and became comfortable, purpose-designed fishing lodges. The major outfitters moved in fast, and now you can find offers all over the Internet. Nets are being removed and fly-only catch-and-release regulations imposed on most private beats. Happily, both the numbers and average size of the catches are up, year on year. That once-record 12-pounder of Joe Brooks is now only a pound or two above the *average* weight on the Grande just fifty years later. To catch a record today, you'd need to triple that size. Nor would Brooks recognize the scene as it is now: several lodges on both sides of the river all the way up to Chile; dozens of rods from all over the world rolling out heavy Teeny lines with often double-handed (Spey) carbon-fiber rods; and modern nymphs with twitching rubber legs or, more spectacularly, a Bomber skimming and skating across the surface. I am sure the latter fly is something of which the American father of Argentine dry-fly fishing would have very much approved.

Argentina has developed a sea-trout technique all of its own, differing on Rios Grande and Gallegos, and the new millennium is seeing yet another new world open up on the Rio Santa Cruz, where the Pacific Northwest is meeting the glacial majesty of the Andes and the South Atlantic. A unique steelhead fishery is developing that will require its own techniques and where the history book is still virgin, waiting for today's pioneering fishers to write it.

Thus it was that the somewhat haphazard stocking of multiple alien fish species, the dogged persistence of the early converts, the influx of accomplished experts such as (especially) Joe Brooks and Mel Krieger, and the vision of locals such as Jorge Trucco transformed an inhospitable playground for the wealthy fly-fishing aficionados of Buenos Aires into one of the greatest fly-fishing destinations in the world, with accommodation, guiding, and up-to-date fishing techniques to match the smartest outfitters in the Rockies or the poshest tackle stores on Fifth Avenue. Let me quote one of the most influential fishers, Mel Krieger: "Patagonia has be-

come my church. I find inspiration, solace, adventure, companionship, solitude, and all of my other needs in this wondrous corner of our planet. I will continue to return to Patagonia until I no longer have breath."[34]

A mere century ago none of this existed. The first stockings of trout were in their infancy, and nobody yet thought of fly fishing for them. Guides, entomology, and current angling technology were mainly unknown. Sea trout were a species from the other, northern, hemisphere, a long, long way off. And yet now, after just a flicker of an eyelid in the millennia of Andean history, the region supports the greatest sea-trout fishing anywhere. Landlocked salmon and brown trout have passed into the world-record books of history. Anglers from the world over jostle to cast upon the unspoiled wilderness streams that flow like crystal jewels down from the volcanoes and glaciers of the world's longest mountain range and give rise to fantastic fly hatches and their feeding trout.

All in that blink of an eye. A hundred years of glorious, trout-filled solitude.

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Rio Grande modern flies tied by the author. Photo by Adrian Latimer.

Restoring Natives in New Mexico

by Samuel Snyder

Benjamin Casarez

A Rio Grande cutthroat.

As we have introduced nonnative fish [brown trout] not only to fishless waters but to waters containing native fish, we have lowered a kind of ecological eggbeater into some glorious native ecosystems, resulting in changes that, though they may have been wonderful for fishermen, were disastrous for these beautiful little worlds that had been cranking along just fine without our help since the last ice age.

—Paul Schullery, *Royal Coachman: The Lore and Legends of Fly-Fishing*

If the philosophical, theoretical, and practical values associated with cutthroat trout were better understood, insensitivity and opposition to their restoration and protection would greatly diminish.

—Robert Behnke, *Trout and Salmon of North America*

Lately, I have been giving a lot of thought to the work of Wes Jackson. Many in the fly-fishing world might not know who Jackson is, but I think they should. Jackson is biologist, plant geneticist, philosopher, activist, and founder of the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, where he works on perennial grasses and plants looking for ways to combat soil erosion, pesticide use, and other prominent issues facing American agriculture. What interests me, as a fly fisher, is not necessarily his work on perennial grasses, but his philosophical approach to "place."

Jackson believes that "the majority of solutions to both global and local problems must take place at the level of the expanded tribe, what civilization calls community. In effect," he explains, "we will be *required* to become *native* to our little *places* if we are to become native to this *place,* this continent . . ."[1] Jackson's insistence on becoming native to place is one voiced in a variety of ways by philosophers, writers, and activists who identify with bioregionalism and the importance of place. Many of these writers are in fact fly fishers, fly-fishing authors, and trout conservationists—Roderick Haig-Brown, among others, comes immediately to mind. But what does it mean exactly to become native to place? Understanding how humans might become native to their places is an interesting issue to ponder, particularly in the midst of increasing efforts to preserve or restore native species of trout, such as the Rio Grande cutthroat. If humans can become native, the issue of native fish is another matter entirely. Take this vignette as an example.

Are They Native German Brown Trout?

In July 2007, my cousins and I rode in a van through New Mexico's Valles Caldera National Preserve toward the Rio San Antonio, a small meandering stream dividing a nearly 90,000-acre volcanic valley, or *caldera.* Upon arrival to our beat on the stream, we hoped to sneak up on and catch as many small and wily brown trout as possible in the time and space provided. Several other anglers, who we could only assume had similar goals for their own day, accompanied my cousins and me on this van ride to the San Antonio. About halfway to the stream, the passenger in the front seat of the van asked the driver what kinds of fish he could expect to catch. "I know they are trout," he inquired, "but what *kind* of trout?"

The van driver, acting as tour guide, replied that we would be catching German brown trout. With a confused look on his face, the fellow in the front seat replied with another question.

"Are those native fish?" he asked.

To this question, I replied, "No, they are from Germany!"

Ignoring my response, he asked the driver again, "Are they native fish?"

She responded with the same answer I had given, "No, they are from Germany. The fish native to this area are Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Salmo clarki virginalis*), of which there are not many left in the Valles Caldera. However," she continued, "one could argue that the German brown trout have gone 'wild,' for they have not been stocked in many years. Ahh, look, here we are at the river . . . "

The passenger in the front (my cousins and I were left to believe) perhaps spent the day pondering the difference between "wild" and "native" trout. My cousins and I, in turn, laughed about the exchange, remarking on how a German (of any sort) could be native to New Mexico.

This article is excerpted from "Debating Natives in New Mexico" in Samuel Snyder, *Casting for Conservation: Religion, Popular Culture, and Environmental Politics of River Restoration* (PhD dissertation, Gainesville, Fla.: University of Florida, 2008).

However, some months later, I found myself musing over the definitional criteria of "native," particularly in the context of fishing and ecological restoration. The brown trout on the Rio San Antonio have not been—and will never be, according to ecological standards—native to New Mexico. They can only go "wild," never "native." If it is questionable whether a fish can become native, how can humans? If humans can indeed become or at least strive to become native to place, what can native species teach humans about being native? More importantly, how might the restoration of native species, such as the Rio Grande cutthroat, help humans become native to their own places? These are questions that I will explore here.

In doing so, I will argue that for both humans and nonhumans, the concept of *native* is, while different, highly important. *Native* can be a tricky term when applied to humans, but it is crucial for the preservation of the planet's biodiversity. I believe that understanding biodiversity and the problems native species face, and engaging efforts to restore habitats and species themselves, are crucial to becoming what philosopher Andrew Light calls "ecological citizens," a concept that has many similarities to Jackson's native.[2]

In this article, I will briefly trace the story of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout as it moved into the waters of present-day New Mexico and to its eventual demise. This journey is significant because it highlights why native fish like cutthroat should be preserved and, more importantly, restored. However, restoration is a highly contested practice; I will review some of those issues. Finally, I will look at the upshot of restoration in the context of trout and fly-fishing communities. In the long run, I believe that the species we seek to restore and the practices by which we restore them have much to teach us about how to be human in the midst of natural spaces—how to be, in other words, native to the waters we fish and the bioregions within which we reside.

When Coronado Came, the Cutthroat Went Away

The European encounter with indigenous peoples of the Southwest has been told many times. It has been written that when Jesus came "the corn mothers went away." The early expeditions of the Spanish not only affected populations of local indigenous peoples, but also the native fish species of the Southwest.[3] As the expedition of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado moved north in search of the mythical gold of the Seven Cities of Cibola in 1540, they traveled into what is present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico. While camping near the waters of what is believed to be Glorieta Creek in the Pecos Wilderness, which flows into the Pecos River and then into the Rio Grande, Pedro de Castaneda de Najera reflected that "Cicuye is located in a small valley between snowy mountain ranges and mountains covered with big pines. There is a little stream which abounds in excellent trout and otters."[4] Castaneda de Najera's journal entry is, as far as we know, the first written record of trout in North America. Moreover, there is little doubt that the "excellent trout" were Rio Grande cutthroat—the only truly native trout to this geographical region.[5]

Frederic Remington (1861–1909), Coronado Sets Out to the North, *1905, oil on canvas. Published by* Collier's Weekly *in 1906 as part of The Great Explorers Series. Original painting believed destroyed by the artist in 1908.*

The trout that Coronado's men encountered were "excellent" and vast in number, but the impact of colonialism in North America on cutthroat trout, like it was on native peoples, was rapid and devastating. In fewer than one hundred years, the cutthroat trout vanished from most of its historic range.[6] The Rio Grande cutthroat trout, one of fourteen subspecies of cutthroat, is endemic to the upper Rio Grande River basin of Colorado and northern New Mexico and the Pecos River in New Mexico. It arrived in these waters by way of a 100-million-year geographical and evolutionary journey that distributed the cutthroat trout geographically more than any other salmonid species.[7] The length of this story is important when one considers the rate at which cutthroat have disappeared. Despite a 100-million-year evolution, within one hundred years of their fateful encounter with Europeans, many species of cutthroat were seriously endangered, in peril, or already extinct.[8]

Nonnatives Stocking Nonnatives: The Decline and Present Status of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

The Rio Grande cutthroat currently occupies roughly thirty-nine streams, or 7 percent of its historic New Mexico range. According to a recent report by the United States Forest Service (USFS), approximately two hundred self-reproducing populations of Rio Grande cutthroat are known to exist in the Rio Grande, Canadian, and Pecos river drainages.[9] These populations are spatially restricted, highly fragmented, and primarily confined to headwater streams, which in some cases may represent marginal trout habitat.[10]

In their present distribution, cutthroat trout are threatened by habitat disturbances related to activities such as grazing, logging, mining, road construction, and water extraction. Because of increased habitat and population fragmentation, the small size and isolation of many populations leaves them at an increasingly greater risk to the negative effects of habitat disturbance, disease transmission, and the deleterious effects of nonnative species.[11]

In recent years, numerous efforts have emerged with the goal of protecting, preserving, and/or restoring native trout to their endemic waters around North America. Following this trend, state and

federal agencies in Colorado and New Mexico have initiated efforts to protect and augment current populations of Rio Grande cutthroat through habitat improvement projects, fence enhancements to exclude livestock and elk from grazing on stream banks, and the construction of barriers in certain streams to prevent upstream migrations by nonnative trout. As a result of many of these activities, according to a 2006 report, the population numbers of Rio Grande cutthroat "appear to be stable."[12]

Despite apparent stability, Rio Grande cutthroat trout continue to be at risk. Maintaining stability requires ongoing and active management. Beyond habitat disturbance, most experts agree that "the greatest threat to the stability of Rio Grande cutthroat is the presence of nonnative trout."[13] According to Robert Behnke, "The most significant aspect of the cutthroat life history, ecology, and biology that can be offered to explain their great decline in distribution and abundance concerns the cutthroat trout's susceptibility to hybridization with rainbow trout and replacement by brown trout and brook trout in streams and lake trout in large lakes."[14] By the late 1800s, the U.S. Fish Commission began introducing nonnative trout into environments that historically supported cutthroat trout as the only salmonid species. Conventional wisdom of the time believed that nonnative trout could easily fill the voids in cutthroat caused by overfishing or habitat degradation.

That same "conventional wisdom" held that anglers more widely embraced brown and rainbow trout as "sporting" fish. Patrick Trotter explains that since the early days of the American West, "it [the cutthroat] has been much maligned by sportsmen for its gullibility and lack of sophistication, and much neglected by fishery managers."[15] And although these perceptions, Trotter and others admit, are changing, a preference for brown trout and a prejudice against Rio Grande cutthroat still hinder projects to secure their future existence.[16] Many anglers, and quite a few whom I encounter in my fieldwork as a social scientist, still prefer to catch brown trout over cutthroat. They believe that brown trout are smarter, faster, and harder to catch.[17]

In addition to the goals of replacing game fish, early fisheries management programs of the early to mid-1900s operated on misconceived notions that native and nonnative fish species were hardly different, and that the introduction of nonnative stocks would prove "beneficial" to old populations, which risked negative effects of "interbreeding."[18] Today we know this cannot be further from the truth, as is evident in continued efforts to restore and preserve distinct species and subspecies to promote biological diversity.[19] And despite the preference for catching brown and rainbow trout, anglers today are gradually joining the ranks of conservation biologists and forestry officials by professing the need to protect and restore populations of native Rio Grande cutthroat.

Why Native? Values of Biodiversity

As I argue elsewhere, there are a number of fly fishers who believe that the most fundamental fly-fishing experience potentially emerges from quiet quests for native fish in their isolated, native waters.[20] Anglers often compare these experiences with more "profane" excursions of catching nonnative, hatchery-reared trout on a crowded stream. David James Duncan elevates native fish above hatchery-reared trout when he explains that the opposite of native is hatchery.[21] John Gierach argues that by valuing native fish, one is immediately making a statement against nonnative hatchery trout:

> I don't care much for hatchery trout. They're better than no trout at all, but otherwise they're inferior in every way to their wild relatives. . . . Hatchery fish are, well. . . they're from a *hatchery;* they don't seem to belong in the stream, they're often the wrong species (rainbows where cutthroats should live, for example), most are pale and sickly looking when compared to wild fish and, having been raised on Purina Trout Chow, they aren't very good to eat.[22]

Beyond the trout itself, however, such fetishization of native trout says as much about the endemic homes of the Rio Grande cutthroat as it does about the actual fish in question. Gierach, celebrated by anglers for his rants, ramblings, and religious reflections on everything fly fishing, argues in *Fly Fishing Small Streams* that fishing for native fish in small streams "probably *is* pure fly fishing," in part because the small streams are the ones that contain wild, native trout.[23] These streams and their native inhabitants are so highly sought by the purist crowd because they offer seclusion, privacy, and a chance to engage nature personally. Also important to these anglers is the knowledge that what is good for native trout is often good for other native species of the same areas; or, the idea that what is good for native species might be good for people.

I am always keenly interested in stories told by fly fishers of how angling can lead to increased awareness of whole ecosystems. I encounter these stories often and,

From a pen drawing by Lionel Edwards in W. Shaw Sparrow, Angling in British Art *(London: John Lane, The Bodley Head Limited, 1923), facing page 71.*

perhaps, with increasing frequency. They start with fishing, then learn about the bugs, or flies, of fly fishing, which leads to rudimentary streamside ecology. This expanded vision, anglers often reflect, provides a picture of the whole upon which native trout depend. According to John Randolph, editor of *Fly Fisherman,* one's knowledge and awareness should expand to the point that catching fish recedes as the primary goal of fishing. At this point, according to Randolph, the angler should reach "the tenth level," as he calls it. This is, potentially, when an angler can sit on the side of a stream and *watch* fish rather than catch them.[24] These expressions mirror valuations of biological diversity prominent in biocentric or ecocentric forms of environmental ethics, which often draw upon various natural sciences, conservation biology, or even the practices of restoration ecology in which species are valued in relationship to the life of the ecosystem. In these moments, anglers value the native cutthroat not because it is something they want to catch, but because they know it is there or because they learn to see the cutthroat in the context of the entire biotic system of life, rather than merely as a game species.

In his famous articulation of the "land ethic," Aldo Leopold describes the "trend of evolution" as the elaboration and diversification of biota of the ecological community.[25] Like Leopold, what conservation biologists and fly fishers alike appreciate about native cutthroat, among other species, is the cutthroat's contribution to an evolutionarily and biologically diverse ecosystem. Understanding the entire biotic community, according to luminary conservation biologist Michael Soule, should lead humans to realize that native species, the foundation of biological diversity, are often on the brink of extinction.[26]

Because some species face extinction, humans are reversing evolution's trend and causing another great extinction.[27] Like an asteroid in slow motion, humans have gradually caused the sixth extinction phase through the extirpation of native species, loss of ecosystem protection, fragmentation of habitat, invasion by disruptive exotic or nonnative species and diseases, pollution, and climate change. In light of this history, Soule explains that "the reduction of the biological diversity of the planet is the most basic issue of our time to which we must respond" through the restoration, protection, and preservation of all remaining members of the biotic community.[28] But restoration is highly controversial.

Debating Restoration

On a basic level, ecological restoration represents the physical attempt to make landscapes whole again. Restoration specialist Dan Daggett writes that "restoration offers a way to become native once again."[29] According to Eric Higgs, restoration can range from "arresting invasive and weedy species" to "reintroducing missing plants and animals to create an intact web of life." All of this demands "understanding the historical conditions that led to present conditions."[30] In the case of New Mexico, for example, restoration entails not only restoring Rio Grande cutthroat to their native waters, but restoring the rivers and watersheds of the native cutthroat, all the while understanding why those waters are crucial for their survival and all of the historical threats that have put both fish and rivers in jeopardy.

From Genio C. Scott, Fishing in American Waters *(New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1869), 355.*

Whether we are talking about prairies or cutthroat trout, some environmental philosophers oppose the practices of restoration. Two of the most vocal opponents are Robert Elliot and Eric Katz, who argue that restored systems are "lies" that "fake nature."[31] A restored landscape, watershed, or species can never have the same value as the original system. Moreover, Elliot calls ecological restoration a lie because he fears that the idea of restoration is too easily co-opted by those wishing to first degrade an ecosystem; it is what Andrew Light calls "malicious restoration."[32] This is opposed to "benign restoration,"[33] which seeks to restore an already degraded system or species, such as those in question in New Mexico or the American West.

Both Katz and Elliot also believe that "the practice of ecological restoration can only represent a misguided faith in the hegemony and infallibility of the human power to control the world."[34] In other words, it amounts to hubris. How can humans, who have messed so much up already, actually fix their errors?

However, restoration need not equal control of nature. New Mexico restoration specialist Bill Zeedyk teaches a method of stream restoration called "induced meandering,"[35] which requires humans to build some small barriers into a stream while allowing nature or the water to take its course and reshape the stream over time. Induced meandering provides a nice model for avoiding hubris in any restoration project because it takes the impetus off humans and places it on the process of nature. Moreover, research shows that ecosystems do not restore themselves and instead need a little help, particularly in removing nonnative species that might tend to outcompete native species. Opponents argue, however, that the removal of nonnative species really revolves around satisfying the needs and interests of humans.

For example, the environmental advocacy group Wilderness Watch warns that restorations are all about sport, not a concern for biodiversity. "The purpose," they insist, "is to remove stocked trout and replace them with listed trout, in an effort to boost the population to a level that will allow delisting and resumed sport fishing of these species."[36] However, this point hardly holds water in all cases. The Rio Grande cutthroat (after more than ten years of petitions) was only proposed for listing as an endangered species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 2008. Anglers are part of the valuable fight in the push for this listing, all the while realizing that if the trout is listed as endangered, they might not be able to fish for it.

Endangered Species Act listing aside, angler enjoyment of catching native

INTERIOR VIEW OF NORTHVILLE HATCHERY: CLARK BOXES IN FOREGROUND; CLARK-WILLIAMSON BOXES IN BACKGROUND; GIRLS PICKING EGGS AT THE RIGHT.

From U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, A Manual of Fish-Culture *(Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1900), plate 28.*

trout in their native and isolated locations is not sufficient reason for restoration. According to Ted Williams, anglers should "defend native fish not because they are fun to catch or good to eat or beautiful, not because they are anything, but because they *are*."[37] Despite holistic proclamations on the intrinsic value of native species by the likes of Williams, the angling community seems largely divided on the issue of trout restoration. Some anglers do not see the need to mess up one perfectly good trout stream in the name of another trout stream. However, restoration is hardly the same thing as removing one trout and putting in another. Instead, "an entire aquatic ecosystem changes in response to the characteristics of predator species."[38] Bill Schudlich, chair of the New Mexico Council of Trout Unlimited (TU), explains that although anglers enjoy catching them, we should not seek to conserve cutthroat as a target for angling. Instead, cutthroat trout need restoration because "the native fish of New Mexico are as much a part of our natural heritage as the Carlsbad Caverns and the Rio Grande. If we don't restore these fish, something unique and special about New Mexico will be lost."[39] But even if one agrees with the end result, some fear the process. The most contentious of all issues revolves around not only the methods for removing nonnative species, but also the act of removing them altogether.

In the case of trout, the USFS, Environmental Protection Agency, and all trout conservation organizations unanimously maintain that the piscicides antimycin A and rotenone are the most benign and successful tools available for achieving goals of restoration. Opponents, however, claim the use of piscicides is an understudied and unnecessary "poisoning" of public waters.[40] According to Sean Ferrell, the director of fisheries for the southwest region of the USFS, neither the chemicals nor their use in restoration are understudied.[41] Both chemicals are naturally occurring and require incredible quantities to pose any threat to a person. For example, in the concentrations used for fish removal, a person of roughly 154 pounds must consume 20,000 gallons for rotenone-treated water in a twenty-four-hour period to have potentially fatal results.[42] For antimycin, a person would have to consume double that quantity. Although extremely high doses of these chemicals are necessary to pose any threat to humans, these chemicals are quite effective in small doses at killing fish.

Whether using chemicals or electroshocking techniques, restoration projects always entail some level of violence (i.e., killing fish), and that makes others more than uneasy. However, fisheries biologists or restoration ecologists will remind you that the acts of introducing nonnative fish were equally violent. Repairing the damage from one form of violence unfortunately necessitates a bit more violence. Reflecting on this double bind, restoration ecologist William Jordan III likens the goals of restoration to the repayment of a debt for much larger sins committed. "Everything we take from nature," he reflects, "sometimes by persuasion or collaboration, sometimes by outright theft. Either way, the debt we incur is, or ought to be, a constant concern. For many, restoration is an attractive idea because it offers a way of repaying that debt."[43] This repayment involves difficult decisions and actions, but as Ferrell explains, "you cope with the pain by realizing that in several months this stream, through proper attention to restoration, should be healthier than it was without those native species."[44] Restoration therefore provides outlets for making ecosystems whole again, but doing that demands understanding the system in question.

Restoring Knowledge, Becoming Native

In *Bright Waters, Bright Fish,* Roderick Haig-Brown connected fly fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation to the development of a scientific understanding of nature and an "ethic of land, air, and water."[45] Like fly fishing, restoration ecology can and should foster the development of a scientific appreciation of nature, as well as a deepened ethic of respect for nature.

J. Baird Callicott argues that restoration should teach about the spatial and temporal fit of a species to an ecosystem. Fit, he insists, not necessarily history, is a crucial parameter; a restoration makes sense if the species in question still fits in the ecosystem.[46] In the case of Rio Grande cutthroat, assuming all predators aside, they still fit in the cold headwaters of New Mexico streams, and the same goes for other native trout around North America. The focus on fit recalls Jackson's discussions of "native," as he believes humans have forgotten how to work with nature rather than work against it, as we do nowadays. In other words, humans need to learn how to fit into their bioregions. If fishing, as many fly fishers argue, can teach us about fish or streamside ecology, and if our contemplation of native fish might reveal what is wrong with an ecosystem or watershed, then restoration projects offer ways for us to actively engage those issues. Indeed, many are making this connection, as is evidenced not only by statements and policies from TU, Federation of Fly Fishers, and countless grassroots groups like New Mexico Trout, but also through their endeavors in projects like TU's Bring Back the Natives or the Western Water Project. These are but two of many local, regional, or national initiatives aimed at restoring rivers, watersheds, and the native fish who are at home in those waters.

Restoration, unlike fishing, however, is a highly collaborative enterprise. If fly fishing is celebrated for the solitude it brings the angler, restoration can potentially bring anglers and other concerned stakeholders together to work for the common good of the community and bioregion. Becoming an "ecological citizen" or "native" to place has as much to do with learning how to work with and

for nature as it does negotiating how to work in human communities. Restoration can potentially do this. It can teach us about the ecological history of place while simultaneously engaging its cultural history. Biodiversity, in other words, can teach about cultural diversity. Nowhere is this point more evident than in efforts by various indigenous groups around the United States to restore native trout.

In New Mexico, the Jicarilla Apache, as well as the Nambe and Santa Clara Pueblos, are currently initiating projects to restore Rio Grande cutthroat to the waters of their reservations, some of which are native cutthroat habitat.[47] Elsewhere around the country, tribal peoples are teaming up with the USFS or TU, for example, to restore native fish to their bioregions. As Tim Zink details in *Trout,* reservation lands are becoming critically important strongholds for certain native trout.[48] And according to Lavern Broncho, a Shoshone-Bannock elder, native fish protection is integral to the protection and reinvigoration of Native American culture on the reservation. He believes that as fish declined, so did traditional knowledge. Their restoration programs, then, "are a way to keep that knowledge alive"[49] However, indigenous groups are not the only ones who can benefit from such work. TU's director of resources, Joe McGurrin, believes that these fish also represent our American heritage and that we can learn a lot from them.[50]

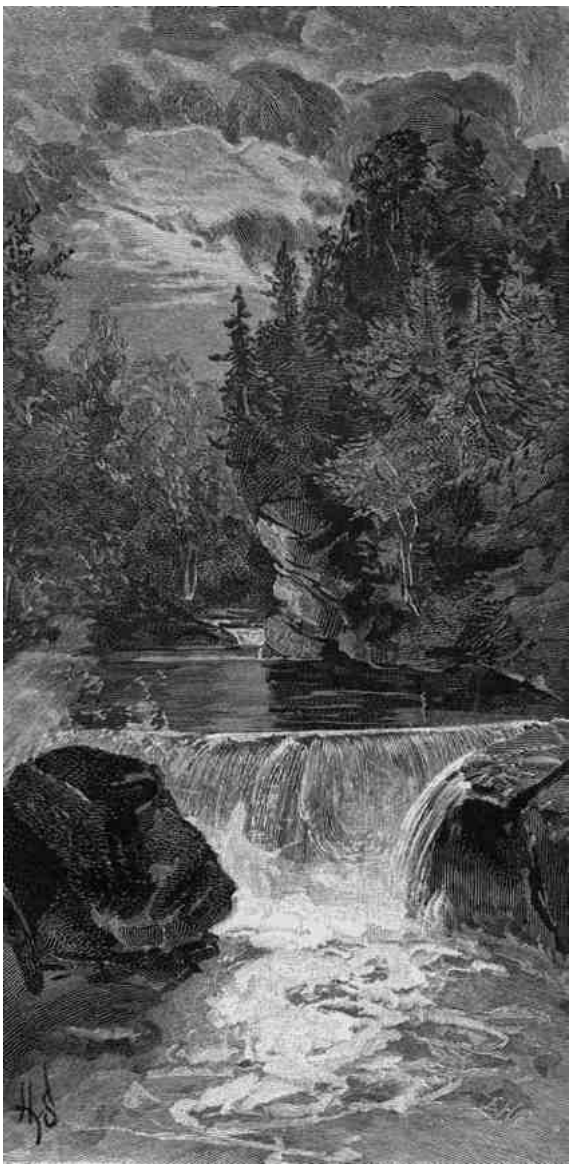
The combination of heritage and community is an enticing element to restoration of native fish. Restoration can potentially give rise to more collaborative forms of conservation in which various stakeholders work together for a common good. As Light says, "one of the more interesting things about ecological restorations is that they are amenable to public participation" and that participation is vital for a strong community.[51] Just as fish and human communities are dependent on healthy watersheds, for example, healthy watersheds are dependent on healthy human communities. For these reasons, fly fishers should not only use fishing to think about and engage the fate of native species, but we should also use native species to think about how we might at least work toward creating strong, sustainable, native communities.

Understanding Native

In his aptly titled article "Native," David James Duncan, like Jackson, explains that humans must find the ability to become natives to our places and that "we'll have to, in order to remain alive."[52] Further, he passionately argues that "industrial man has [messed] up so bad that a lot of the native work to be done over the next few centuries is going to be repair work."[53] This repair work is certainly restoration work, and restoration work is native work. Native work will have as much to do with seeking mutualism and embeddedness in human-to-human relationships as it will in human-to-nature relationships.

For Duncan, the word *native* is a lofty word that everyone must earn. Despite all his efforts through writing and on-the-ground activism to restore, protect, and preserve the various natives of his own bioregion, Duncan doubts that he would ever consider himself native to Montana. To call his own life, which includes the trappings of TV, electricity, a car, and a "garden that sucks," a native life, he insisted, "just diminishes the word."[54] The word *native,* whether we are talking about nonhuman animals or human animals, according to Duncan, "is an honor that we must earn afresh, every day. Our individual words, actions, and purchases either do or do not contribute to the health of what Aldo Leopold calls the "biotic community."[55] To become native, it is those words, actions, and purchases that hold the keys. Across the American landscape and elsewhere, anglers, hunters, ranchers, and other stakeholders are increasingly working together to restore native species, rivers, and watersheds. In these initiatives, practices in nature, such as fishing or restoration itself, provide innovative new outlets or entryway activities for individuals and groups to rethink what it might mean to understand, value, and engage both nature and community.

Duncan is correct; *native* is a serious word that we should not take lightly. Seen in the proper light and done for the right reasons, perhaps native fish restoration offers a few tools for improving our generational odds of becoming native to place. Through restoration, humans must learn about the entire ecosystem and its history, not just the species in question. This means learning a great deal about the biological and cultural history of places such as New Mexico, where Rio Grande cutthroat swim. Pushing things beyond the watershed, becoming native also demands understanding how what is happening in New Mexico might shed light on issues in other places where water, fish, and human communities are at stake.



From Alfred M. Mayer, Sport with Gun and Rod Vol. I *(New York: The Century Company, 1883), 413.*

Endnotes

1. Wes Jackson, *Becoming Native to This Place* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1994), 2–3.
2. Andrew Light explains that "the goal of an ecological citizenship is to bring together the interests of a human community to be fair and open and conducive to allowing each

member of a community to pursue his or her own private interests while also tempering these pursuits with attention to the environment. A strengthened relationship with nature is to be found in forming open-ended organizational bonds that entail specific moral, and possibly legal, responsibilities to create for the nature around one's community and respect the environmental connections between communities." Andrew Light, "Restoring Ecological Citizenship," in Ben A. Minteer and Bob Pepperman Taylor, eds., *Democracy and the Claims of Nature: Critical Perspectives for a New Century* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2002), 153–72, 159.

3. The subhead title is a play off Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500–1846* (Palo Alto, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1991), in which he details the effects of Spanish colonialism on the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. The statement "when Jesus came the corn mothers went away" is a quote from a Pueblo Indian who lamented the uprooting of their traditional religion and society at the hands of Franciscan missionaries in New Mexico. See also Jon Butler, Grant Wacker, and Randall Balmer, *Religion in American Life: A Short History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 34.

4. Patrick Trotter, *Cutthroat: Native Trout of the West* (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 1987), 2. The quote Trotter uses was taken from G. P. Hammond and A. Rey, eds., *Narratives of the Coronado Expedition* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1940), which contains a text of Castandeda de Najera's history of the expedition.

5. Ibid., 5.

6. Robert Behnke, *Trout and Salmon of North America* (New York: Free Press, 2002), 139.

7. Ibid., 1. See also Trotter, *Cutthroat: Native Trout of the West,* 21.

8. Jerome Stefferud, "Rio Grande Cutthroat Management in New Mexico," in Robert E. Gresswell, ed., *Status and Management of Interior Stocks of Cutthroat Trout;* American Fisheries Society Symposium (1988, no. 4), 90–92.

9. Victoria J. Pritchard and David E. Cowley. "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout: A Technical Conservation Assessment." Prepared for the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Species Conservation Project (28 July 2006), 3. Available online: www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/riograndecutthroattrout.pdf. Accessed 30 July 2007.

10. Stefferud, "Rio Grande Cutthroat Management," 91.

11. Behnke, *Trout and Salmon of North America;* Pritchard and Cowley, "Rio Grande Cutthroat"; Trotter, *Cutthroat: Native Trout of the West.*

12. Pritchard and Cowley, "Rio Grande Cutthroat," 3.

13. Ibid. Moreover, conversations with wildlife managers confirm this point. Fisheries specialists such as Sean Ferrell and Chuck Dentino of the USFS expressed frustration with continued stocking of nonnative fish, such as brown trout, into waters designated as native Rio Grande cutthroat habitat.

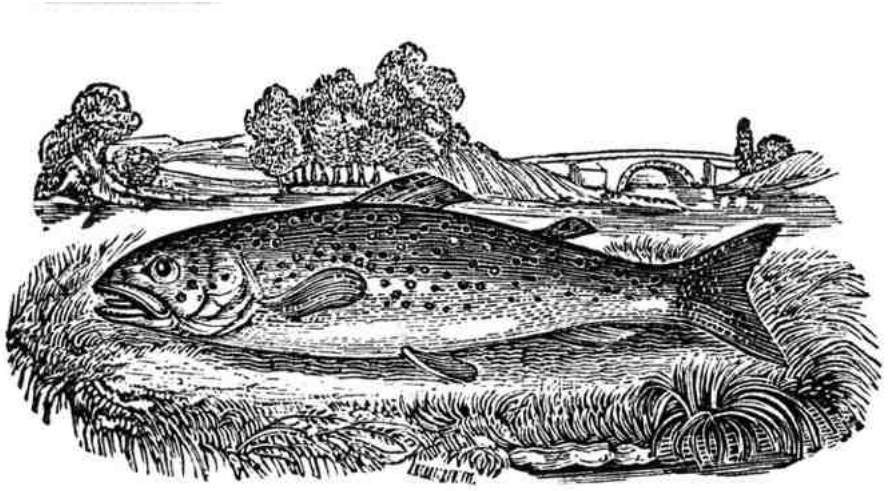
14. Behnke, *Trout and Salmon of North America,* 140.

15. Trotter, *Cutthroat: Native Trout of the West,* xii.

16. Ibid.

17. In *Royal Coachman: The Lore and Legends of Fly Fishing* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999), Paul Schullery notes on page 189 that "standards and values" of trout anglers are changing: "our understanding of wild ecosystems has evolved so that we have higher expectations when we insist on wild trout in our streams." However, he notes confusion and controversy when he states, "We just don't agree on those expectations," in part because there is confusion about the difference between "wild" and "native." Schullery notes that "native is getting to be the important word."

18. Thomas P. Gable, *First Report of Game and Fish Warden of New Mexico, 1909–1910–1911* (Albuquerque: New Mexico Printing Office, 1912), 33.



From The American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine Vol. II *(Baltimore: J.S. Skinner, 1831), 238.*

19. For further research on the deleterious effects on cutthroat from interbreeding with rainbow trout, see Fred Allendorf, Robb F. Leary, Nathaniel P. Hitt, Kathy L. Knudsen, Matthew C. Boyer, and Paul Spruell, "Cutthroat Trout Hybridization and the U.S. Endangered Species Act: One Species, Two Policies," *Conservation Biology* (2005, vol. 19, no. 4), 1326–28; Fred W. Allendorf and Robb F. Leary, "Conservation and Distribution of Genetic Variation in a Polytipic Species: The Cutthroat Trout," *Conservation Biology* (1988, vol. 2, no. 2), 170–84; Robert Arlinghaus, Steven Cooke, Jon Lyman, David Policansky, Alexander Schawb, Cory Suski, Stephen Sutton, and Eva B. Thorstad, "Understanding the Complexity of Catch-and-Release in Recreational Fishing: An Integrative Synthesis of Global Knowledge from Historical, Ethical, Social, and Biological Perspectives," *Reviews in Fisheries Science* (2007; vol. 15), 75–167; Donald E. Campton and Lynn R. Kaeding, "Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Hybridization, and the U.S. Endangered Species Act," *Conservation Biology* (2005, vol. 19, no. 4), 1323–25 (Allendorf and Campton debate some of the political implications of trout interbreeding, particularly when attempting to protect trout under the Endangered Species Act); M. C. Quist and W. A. Hubert, "Bioinvasive Species and the Preservation of Cutthroat Trout in the Western United States," *Environmental Science and Policy* (2004, vol. 7), 303–13 (which traces the effects of nonnative species on the preservation of cutthroat trout).

20. Samuel Snyder, "Casting for Conservation: Religious Values and Environmental Ethics in Fly-Fishing Culture," *The American Fly Fisher* (summer 2008, vol. 34, no. 3).

21. David James Duncan, *My Story as Told by Water: Confessions, Druidic Rants, Reflections, Bird-Watchings, Fish-Stalkings, Visions, Songs and Prayers Refracting Light, from Living Rivers, in the Age of the Industrial Dark* (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2001), 100.

22. John Gierach, *Fly Fishing Small Streams* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1989), 20; italics his.

23. Ibid., 27.

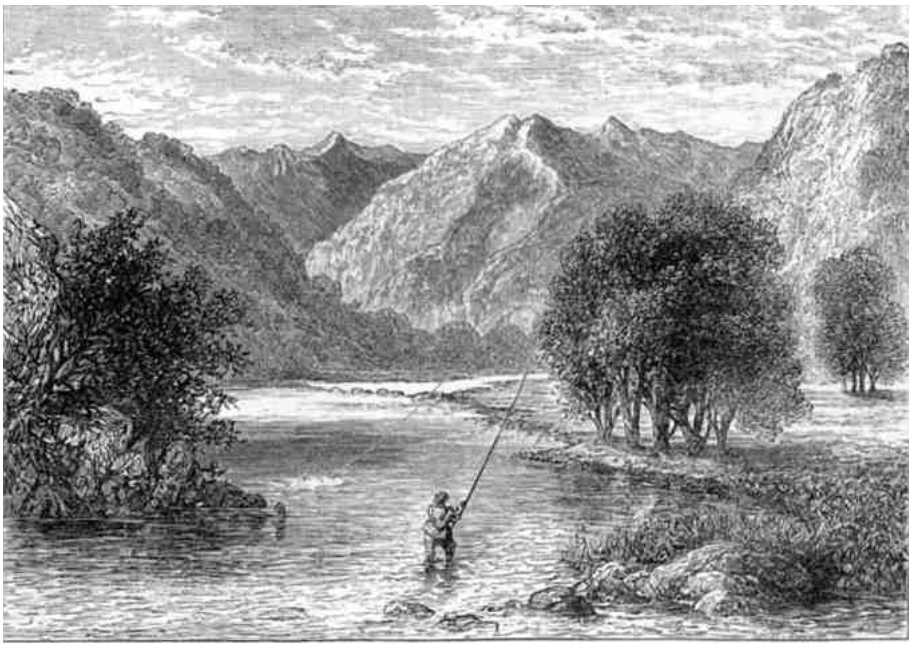
24. John Randolph, *Becoming a Fly Fisher: From Brookie Days to the Tenth Level* (Guildford, Conn.: Lyons Press, 2002).

25. Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There,* 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1968), 216.

26. Michael Soule, "What Do We Really Know about Extinction?" in C. M. Schonewald-Cox, S. Chambers, B. MacBryde, and L. Thomas, eds., *Genetics and Conservation* (Menlo Park, Calif.: Benjamin-Cummings Publishing Company, 1983), 115.

27. Soule, "What Do We Really Know about Extinction?," 116. See also Dave Foreman, *Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2004).

28. Michael Soule and Bruce Wilcox, *Conservation Biology: An Evolutionary-Ecological Perspective* (Sunderland, Mass.: Sinauer Associates, 1980), ix.



From Edward Hamilton, Recollections of Fly Fishing for Salmon, Trout and Grayling *(New York: Orange Judd Company, 1885), facing page 86.*

29. Dan Daggett, *Gardeners of Eden: Rediscovering our Importance to Nature* (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Thatcher Charitable Trust, 2005), 6.

30. Eric Higgs, *Nature by Design: People, Natural Processes, and Ecological Restoration* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2003), 1.

31. For full explanations of these terms, see Robert Elliot, *Faking Nature: The Ethics of Environmental Restoration* (New York: Routledge, 1997) and Eric Katz, "The Big Lie: The Human Restoration of Nature," *Research in Philosophy and Technology* (1992; vol. 12), 231–34. Katz repeats his position in "Another Look at Restoration: Technology and Artificial Nature," in Paul H. Gobster and R. Bruce Hull, eds., *Restoring Nature: Perspectives from the Social Sciences and Humanities* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2000), 37–48.

32. For a pithy overview of the debates over ecological restoration, see Andrew Light and Eric Higgs, "The Politics of Ecological Restoration," *Environmental Ethics* (1996, vol. 18), 227–47.

33. Ibid.

34. Eric Katz, "The Problem of Ecological Restoration," *Environmental Ethics* (1996, vol. 18), 222–24, 222.

35. Steven Carson, interview with author, 19 January 2007; and Bill Zeedyk, *An Introduction to Induced Meandering: A Method for Restoring Stability to Incised Stream Channels* (Santa Fe: The Earthworks Institute, Quivira Coalition, and Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, 2006).

36. Ted Williams, "Environmentalists vs. Native Trout: Sometimes the Good Guys Are Part of the Problem," *Fly Rod & Reel* (April 2004) [Online: Accessed 20 July 2008]. www.flyrodreel.com/Fly-Rod-and-Reel-Online/April-2004/Environmentalists-Vs-Native-Trout/, paragraph 19.

37. Ted Williams, "Ann and Nancy's War: Restoration of Imperiled Fish Just Got Shut Down When It's Needed Most," *Fly Rod & Reel* (October 2005), 26; italics his.

38. Higgs, *Nature by Design,* 117. For further studies on the effects of introduced brown or lake trout into native cutthroat waters, see, for example, Ronald Knapp, Paul S. Corn, and Daniel Schindler, "The Introduction of Nonnative Fish into Wilderness Lakes: Good Intentions, Conflicting Mandates, Unintended Consequences," *Ecosystems* (2005, vol. 4). In this article, Higgs describes the effects of nonnative trout on the viability of four native amphibians and two native reptiles in Yosemite National Park. After a multivariable study measuring elevation, water quality and depth, and fauna populations, Knapp concludes that the "results of the current study provide strong evidence that in Yosemite National Park, introduced trout have profoundly altered the distribution of two of four native aquatic-breeding amphibians and both of the widely distributed garter snake species" (275). There are numerous studies—too many to list here—detailing the negative consequences of introducing nonnative trout into a variety of waters.

39. Bill Schudlich, "Trout Unlimited Awarded $460,000 to Restore New Mexico's Native Fish" (Trout Unlimited press release: 11 July 2006). This point was also reiterated in an interview with the author on 16 July 2006.

40. See Williams, "Ann and Nancy's War."

41. Sean Ferrell, interview with author, 17 February 2007.

42. Williams, "Ann and Nancy's War." See also Dirk Young and Thomas Steeger, "Environmental Fate and Ecological Risk Assessment for the Registration of Antimycin A," prepared for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Chemicals, 2007; and Kevin Ott, "Antimycin: A Brief Review of Its Chemistry, Environmental Fate, and Toxicology," www.newmexicotu.org/Antimycin%20Summary.pdf. Accessed 23 June 2008.

43. William Jordan III, *The Sunflower Forest: Ecological Restoration and the New Communion with Nature* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 96.

44. Ferrell interview, 2007.

45. Roderick Haig-Brown, *Bright Waters, Bright Fish: An Examination of Angling in Canada* (Vancouver, B.C.: Douglas & McIntyre, 1980), 130–34. For an astute exploration of Haig-Brown's conservation ethos as emanating from his fly fishing, see Arn Keeling, "'A Dynamic, Not a Static Conception': The Conservation Thought of Roderick Haig-Brown," *Pacific Historical Review* (2002, vol. 71, no. 2), 239–68.

46. J. Baird Callicott, "Choosing Appropriate Temporal and Spatial Scales for Ecological Restoration," *Journal of Bioscience* (2002, vol. 27, no. 4), 409–20.

47. Deborah Begel, "Debate Rages over Fish Poisoning," *High Country News* (7 May 2001, vol. 33, no. 9) [Online: accessed 26 January 2007]. http://vault.sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/cover/toc/11015/index.htm, paragraph 2.

48. Tim Zink, "Restoration on the Reservation: Protecting Native Fish on Native Lands," *Trout* (Spring 2005), 28–33; 56.

49. Quoted in Zink, "Restoration on the Reservation," 31.

50. Zink, "Restoration on the Reservation," 28.

51. Andrew Light, "Restorative Relationships: From Artifacts to 'Natural' Systems," in Robert France, ed., *Healing Natures, Repairing Relationships: Landscape Architecture and the Restoration of Ecological Spaces* (Sheffield, Vt.: Green Frigate Books, 2007), 95–116, 97.

52. Duncan, *My Story as Told by Water,* 101.

53. Ibid., 108.

54. Ibid., 100.

55. Ibid.

A Note on Writing the History of Fly Fishing

by Gordon M. Wickstrom

To get a dependable grasp on the history of fly fishing, we need two, not just one, of our leading historians of the sport, both well known and regarded in these pages.

First, we need Paul Schullery to gather and organize, with his scholarly precision, the necessary historical data and then remind us that we will not find exact points of origin for any of the significant steps in the development of fly fishing; rather, we will discover our history in coincidence, simultaneity, overlap, sharing, borrowing, accident, and even cribbing—all spread here and there over time and space.

Then we need innovator-historian John Betts's remarkable insights into the complex, often surprising, often remote historical pressures, events, and developments that have had to combine in just exactly the right way to get at something new; for instance, getting guides on rods and knots out of lines. I have presumed to label Betts's analysis *the Caxton effect* because some years ago he brought me up short with his insistence that I include William Caxton (1422–1491), the first printer of books in English, in any discussion of the history of fly fishing. Who would have thought such a thing! The Caxton effect often takes us far afield from angling and into general history in order to understand a particular phenomenon in the history of fly fishing.

So, then, it takes Schullery and Betts both to write our history. But, alas, such historical methods can never be exactly popular because they remove the element of the romantic and dramatic from historical discourse. The "great man" theory of history is reduced to old nostalgia. Betts and Schullery, like good postmodernists, teach that nothing is as original and singular as it might have once seemed—or as we would like it still to be. Invention is never as instantly inspired as we once thought. History is thick and turbid. The *voilà!* is gone out of it. And we feel somehow deflated.

And to top it off, Betts insists that fly fishing is a quite small matter in human culture. It is much less than we would like, devoted as we are to it. (Only recently in a doctor's office, I noticed a thick, dazzlingly slick magazine called *American Cheerleader*—a "journal" quite surpassing in cultural avoirdupois that of our fly-fishing lot.) We are not, it hurts to say, the center of the universe of human diversions.

Still, both Betts and Schullery can teach us how we may continue to treasure what we have got and what the ancients in our history have handed down to us. Betts insists that our historical forbears were in no way less capable than we, that their work was keenly inventive and imaginative, and that it exactly suited their needs. A good postmodernist might say he *valorizes* them.

~

Gordon Wickstrom has written for this journal for so long and has grown so old in the process that he wonders that he can keep going, even with contributions as slight as this. He says he hopes that the ghost of Austin Hogan, who first recruited him to the journal in 1969, can forgive him his left-wing tendencies.

Wulff and Hewitt: Light Tackle for Large Salmon

by John Alevras

Like most older steelheaders and Atlantic salmon fishermen, I was inspired by Lee Wulff and his many notable achievements. By the 1940s, fly fishers were reading in magazines of his exploits using 7-foot fly rods of 2½ ounces to catch large salmon and viewing films of him fishing for and landing salmon without the use of a rod (using line and fly only). The magazine articles continued, but it was Wulff's dramatic, professionally produced movies of the 1950s and '60s that convinced us of what could be accomplished with featherweight tackle. It motivated rod manufacturers to produce 6-foot rods weighing an ounce or two; it motivated steelhead and Atlantic salmon anglers to seek their trophies with diminutive rods and small flies. In 1964, when Wulff and a small group of fly fishermen formed the Sixteen/Twenty Club (using a no. 16 fly to land a 20-pound salmon), a legion of anglers followed who wanted to achieve the standard of excellence established by Wulff.

No one thought to question that Wulff might not have been the first to pursue *Salmo salar* with such delicate tackle. We simply applauded his talents and what we perceived to be original exploits. But

did you know Lee Wulff was likely not the first to capture Atlantic salmon on extreme light tackle and tiny flies?

In the 24 February 1934 issue of the *New Yorker,* in a column titled "Profiles: The Compleat Angler," Geoffrey Hellman, writing of the many and diverse accomplishments of Edward Ringwood Hewitt, states, "Mr. Hewitt is a pioneer dry fly salmon fisherman, having taken this sport up in 1913. On the Terra Nova in Newfoundland, he once took a twenty-five pound salmon on a one-ounce rod using a No. 16 trout fly and, just to make it harder, a leader that breaks at a pound."[1] Hellman's article was also referenced by Hewitt in his 1943 autobiographical book *Those Were the Days.*[2]

Hewitt was a man of innovation in just about every aspect of his life. He was privileged to fish for Atlantic salmon throughout eastern Canada and the British Isles, and it is easy to envision him challenging himself with light trout gear for *Salmo salar,* particularly in an era when salmon were plentiful and catches were often large.

So who really was first at catching large Atlantic salmon on 1-ounce bamboo fly rods and no. 16 flies? I believe it was Hewitt. In Lee Wulff's 1940 book, *Leaping Silver,* he clearly demonstrates he was using very small flies for Atlantic salmon when he writes:

> Seven years ago, after whittling down my smallest trout flies down to the point where they would barely float, some low-water dry flies solved a problem for me. Since ordinary dry flies are designed to float in moderately fast water the same feather would float a hook two or more sizes larger on the glass-calm water of that particular drought condition. By thus *increasing* the size of my hooks I was able to land salmon where before I had been losing them on No. 14 and No. 16 dry flies. The variant pattern lent itself best to this type of fly since its small wheel of fine, stiff fibers presented the least bulk to the fish rising up to take them.[3]

Later in the same chapter, Wulff writes of using leader tippets down to .008 and light single-handed rods, but nothing smaller than 9 feet.[4] In a 1946 *Field & Stream* article, "Spare the Rod and Prove the Point," Wulff writes:

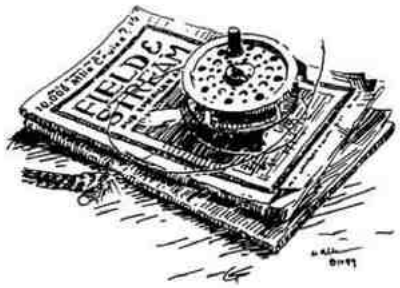
> But in 1940, for the first year I used the 2½-ounce rod none of my fish gave me special trouble and they came in at about the same speed as on a 5-ounce rod. An 18-pounder was my largest fish of that season, which still left room for doubters to say, "You're just catching small ones. A 30-pounder will show up your small rod." Then in 1942, a 30-pounder clamped down on my fly and was landed in twenty-six minutes without difficulty.[5]

It is likely that Hewitt and Wulff knew each other. I am confident Wulff would have read Hewitt's *Telling on Trout* (1926) and *Secrets of the Salmon* (1922), as well as his magazine articles. They were both members of the Anglers' Club of New York, where exploits were touted at daily luncheons and in the wonderful quarterly bulletin of the club, but I could find no evidence they dined together at the long table and shared their exploits and theories. Possibly it was Hewitt who motivated Wulff just as Wulff influenced so many of us. Could it have been Hewitt's innovation and theatrics of catching large Atlantic salmon on diminutive gear that ignited Wulff's desire to challenge convention, innovate, and publicize his accomplishments? Wulff's use of a modified Variant (the Variant was Hewitt's invention) back in the 1930s to catch salmon suggests that this is the likely historical sequence in the development of the use of light fly tackle for big fish.

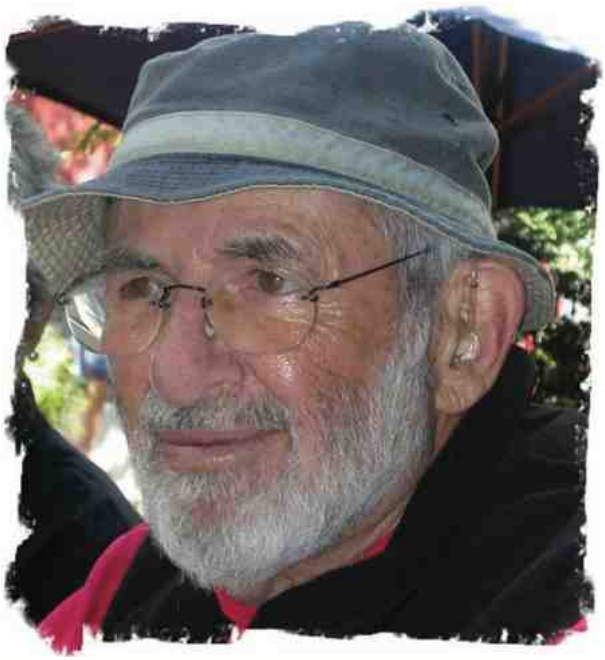
ENDNOTES

1. Geoffrey Hellman, "Profiles: The Compleat Angler," *New Yorker* (24 February 1934), 23–26.
2. Edward R. Hewitt, *Those Were the Days* (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1943), 285.
3. Lee Wulff, *Leaping Silver* (New York: George W. Stewart, 1940), 67.
4. Ibid., 73.
5. Lee Wulff, "Spare the Rod and Prove the Point," in Lee Wulff and John Merwin, ed., *The Compleat Lee Wulff* (New York: Truman Talley Books/E. P. Dutton, 1989), 50.

John Alevras is a passionate book collector and steelhead fisherman who contributes regularly to fly-fishing magazines. His book, Leaves from a Steelheader's Diary, *will be published this winter by Frank Amato Publications.*



Mel Krieger
28 August 1928–7 October 2008



Mel Krieger. Image courtesy of Fanny Krieger.

Lee Wulff, Joan Wulff, and Mel Krieger together at a fly-fishing trade show in the late 1980s. Image courtesy of Joan Wulff.

Famed casting instructor Mel Krieger died peacefully on October 7 after a short illness. Krieger was a renowned fly-casting instructor who taught clinics all over the world and was an early innovator in the use of video to communicate effective fly-casting techniques. In addition to the print version of *The Essence of Fly Casting,* he produced at least four DVDs on fly casting and fly fishing that remain essential resources for novices and experts alike. Mel was always on the leading edge of new ideas in fly fishing, from rod design to guide certification to casting techniques.

Krieger was an active member of the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club for more than four decades and drew thousands of visitors to the club to participate in clinics and demonstrations. He was particularly passionate about trout fishing in Argentina, where he ran schools and started the Mel Krieger Foundation, which supports fly-fishing education for children.

During his lifetime, Krieger was honored with multiple awards from the Fly Fishing Federation, including the Ambassador Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, and FFF's prestigious Lapis Lazuli Ring. In the early 1990s he devoted himself to the creation of the organization's Certified Casting Instructor Program, which has since played a key role in fly-fishing education worldwide. Born in Wisconsin but a longtime California resident, Krieger was also a Northern California FFF Hall of Fly Fishing Fame inductee.

In 2003, Mel Krieger was the recipient of the American Museum of Fly Fishing's Heritage Award. The Heritage Award honors an individual whose commitment to the museum, the sport of fly fishing, and natural resource conservation sets standards to which we should all aspire.

Krieger's infectious humor, personal charisma, and dedication to teaching earned him the adoration of fly fishers worldwide.

Marshall Cutchin
MidCurrent.com

Martin J. Keane
6 March 1937–30 January 2009

Jim Hardman

Martin J. Keane and his then–future wife Lillian in 1984.

Martin J. Keane—noted author, historian, and purveyor of classic tackle—died at his home in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, on 30 January 2009.

His book, *Classic Rods and Rod Makers,* was first published in 1976 and helped initiate a new appreciation for the craft of rodmaking. Recognition of makers and their styles helped kindle a renaissance in building, collecting, and certainly fishing classic cane rods.

As a collector from the 1960s, Keane recognized in other collectors and historians the desire to acquire traditional rods. Sensing the opportunity, he published his first list of preowned tackle for sale in 1972. His lists were widely disseminated, and as his reputation spread, he became a recognized authority: first in rods and later in reels and fly-fishing accoutrements.

Marty, as his friends knew him, had a remarkable command of the English language and was not only one of the first dealers in classic tackle, but also became affectionately recognized as the dean of tackle dealers. As the market expanded and as collecting interests grew, Marty offered counseling and appraisal services to new collectors, families, and institutions desiring to assess market conditions and values.

In the early days of the American Museum of Fly Fishing, Marty donated many days of his time in Manchester, Vermont, identifying rods, helping to catalog the growing collection, and making recommendations for proper storage. Over the years, he has been a tireless and willing supporter of the museum in providing identification, authentication, and appraisals.

Marty and his wife Lillian were certainly comfortable with friends at trade shows; shortly after their marriage in 1985, they attended the Northeast Antique Anglers Show and were greeted with "What are you doing here? You're supposed to be on your honeymoon!"

Marty attended the museum's Fly-Fishing Festival in August 2008 and received the acclaim and respect due from his peers. Visitors waited for the opportunity to say hello, visit with him, and share memories. In addition to many other tributes, Marty was recognized by the Catskill Museum of Fly Fishing, being inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in October 2007.

The Martin Keane catalogs have ceased publication, but the man and his legacy live with us.

Rest in peace, friend.

Museum News

Kim Murphy

Conversations on Cushner. *Adriano Manocchia* (pictured) *was one of four artists who spent their Valentine's Day with us this year as the museum hosted an event called* Conversations on Cushner. *We all learned a lot about the art that inspired William Cushner as we watched Adriano demonstrate the art of etching; Ellen McCaleb, wood carving; Bill Newcomb, fly tying; and Carolyn Conte, framing. Thirty people visited the museum that day to see the demonstrations and be awed by the Cushner collection.*

Museum Receives Reaccreditation

The American Museum of Fly Fishing is pleased to announce that it has received reaccreditation from the American Association of Museums. We are one of only five accredited museums in the state of Vermont; nationally, fewer than 800 museums hold this honor.

The American Association of Museums (AAM), founded in 1906, is located in Washington, D.C. This organization assists museums of all kinds (including zoos, aquariums, and botanical gardens) to develop and maintain standards of practice. The AAM also collects, compiles, and distributes information, acts as an advocate for the museum field, and supports the many initiatives undertaken by museums to increase the educational importance of these institutions. The accreditation program began nearly forty years ago and "has served as the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability."

To achieve AAM accreditation, a museum must complete a thorough self-study, then undergo an on-site visit by peer reviewers. These peer reviewers are museum directors from various disciplines who volunteer their time to evaluate an institution's facilities, practices, and procedures. A detailed report is written and submitted to the accreditation commission, who must then consider the report and the multiple binder self-study submitted by an institution. If accreditation is approved, an institution undergoes the same process every ten years to receive reaccreditation. This is a rigorous process and can only be successfully undertaken with full staff and trustee commitment.

The American Museum of Fly Fishing submitted its initial accreditation application to AAM in the early 1990s. Accreditation was received in 1993. Our ten-year evaluation was postponed between administration changes and placed back onto the evaluation schedule with the arrival of our new executive director, Cathi Comar, in 2008. The two peer reviewers who volunteered for this assignment are avid fly fishermen who brought a keen sense of our subject to their evaluation. The on-site visit included discussions with all staff members, volunteers, and trustees, as well as a tour of both buildings and grounds.

The museum was reviewed by the accreditation commission this past March (as they meet only twice a year). Formal notification of the commission's decision was received on April 3, and the sounds of jubilation could be heard from all. With this accreditation designation, the American Museum of Fly Fishing has demonstrated a high standard of practice, which translates positively in funding proposals, grant applications, loan requests, and other programs in which our processes are reviewed by others.

We appreciate all of the effort put forth by the staff, trustees, and volunteers. We wish to specifically thank our deputy director, Yoshi Akiyama, for compiling the information and documents needed for the self-study and making sure that the museum stayed on course. Our many thanks for your devotion to our cause!

Accredited by the American Association of Museums

Recent Donations

R. A. Massen of Healdsburg, California, donated a three-piece, 9-foot bamboo fly rod made by Geo. I. Varney and restored by David B. Van Winkle. **Leon Martuch** of Windermere, Florida, gave us a two-piece, 8-foot, 1-inch Russ Peak Glass fly rod, serial No. 11712.

John Betts of Denver, Colorado, sent along a copy of Fred Buller's *The Domesday Book of Giant Salmon* (Constable, 2007). Robert Miller of Tucson, Arizona, donated *The Gully,* a book compiled and edited by Alfred G. Davy (self-published, 1985).

Gordon Wickstrom of Boulder, Colorado, sent us a set of bound copies of ten years (volumes 1 through 10) of his privately published quarterly, *The Bouldercreek Angler: A Gazette for Those Who Fish.*

Jim Hardman of Dorset, Vermont, donated a collection of sixty-seven books. And **Mrs. Norman Kline Tiefel** donated a collection of thirty-two books in memory of Jimmie Kline. (For a detailed listing of these book donations, please contact the museum.)

In the Library

Thanks to the following for their donations of recent titles that have become part of our collection (all titles were published in 2008 unless otherwise noted):

Victor R. Johnson Jr. donated an autographed copy of his new book, *America's Fishing Waders: The Evolution of Modern Fishing Waders* (EP Press).

Frank Amato Publications, Inc. sent us Barrett Mattison and Evan Jones's *Fly-Fishing in Patagonia: A Trout Bum's Guide to Argentina;* Dave Chermanski's *Flyfishing Knots & Leader Systems;* Doug Rose's *Fly-Fishing Guide to the Olympic Peninsula* (fully revised edition); and D. C. Reid's *Vancouver Island Fishing Guide.*

Skyhorse Publishing sent us Lefty Kreh (with Chris Millard)'s *My Life Was This Big and Other True Fishing Tales* and Peter Kaminsky's *The Fly Fisherman's Guide to the Meaning of Life.*

Coch-y-Bonddu Books sent us a reissue of the 1882 James Lees and Walter Clutterbuck's book, *Three in Norway by Two of Them.* **Medlar Press** sent us John Goddard's *The Passionate Angler: The Autobiography of John Goddard.* And **Yale University Press** sent us the paperback release of *Tight Lines: Ten Years of the Yale Anglers' Journal* (2007).

Upcoming Events

July 18
Ice Cream Social
American Museum of Fly Fishing
Manchester, Vermont

August 15
Fly-Fishing Festival
American Museum of Fly Fishing
Manchester, Vermont

September
Dinner and Auction
Napa Valley

October 3
Artists Reception
J. Russell Jinishian Gallery
Fairfield, Connecticut

October 17
Annual Board Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting
American Museum of Fly Fishing
Manchester, Vermont

October 29–30
Friends of Peter Corbin Shoot
Location TBA

November 12
Anglers All Dinner
Washington, D.C.

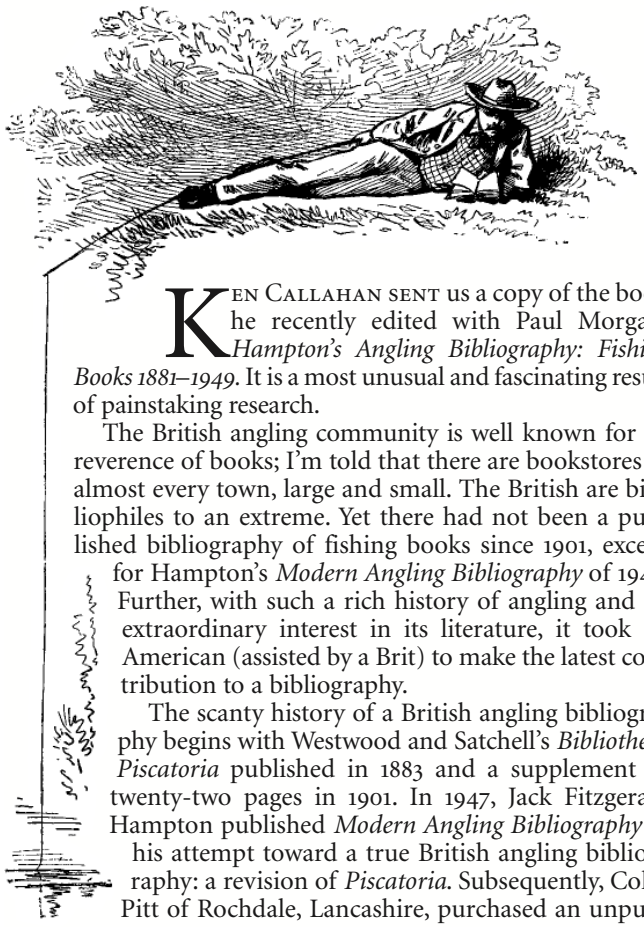
For additions, updates, and more information, contact Kim Murphy at (802) 362-3300 or check our website at www.amff.com.

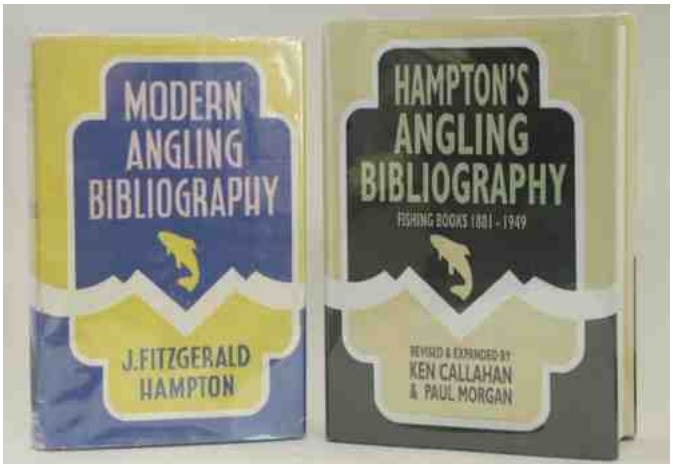
Correction

We misidentified the artist of an illustration on the inside front cover of the Winter 2009 issue. The illustration, *Salmon Fishing: Refreshment,* is actually one of a pair of aquatints by Newton Fielding (1837) and not the work of artist Lionel Edwards. We regret the error.

Kim Murphy

Museum Trustee and Dinner Chairman John Mundt (pictured, standing) *welcomed the seventy guests who attended the Anglers' Club of New York dinner and auction on March 5. Our first fund-raiser of the year, this annual event is often the highlight of spring, offering a chance meet old and new friends and enjoy the spirited live auction it's become famous for. The museum would like to thank all of those who contributed to the auction's success: Tim Bontecou, Peter Corbin, George Gibson, Luther Hall, Carmine Lisella, John Mundt Jr., David Nichols, Judy Pisarro, Kris Rollenhagen, Gary Sherman, Mark Sherman, Nancy Sloan, Richard Tisch, the Anglers' Club of New York, and Smith Optics. We'd like to especially thank Clark Comollo of Comollo Antiques and Fine Wines for generously donating his auctioneering services.*





Ken Callahan sent us a copy of the book he recently edited with Paul Morgan, *Hampton's Angling Bibliography: Fishing Books 1881–1949*. It is a most unusual and fascinating result of painstaking research.

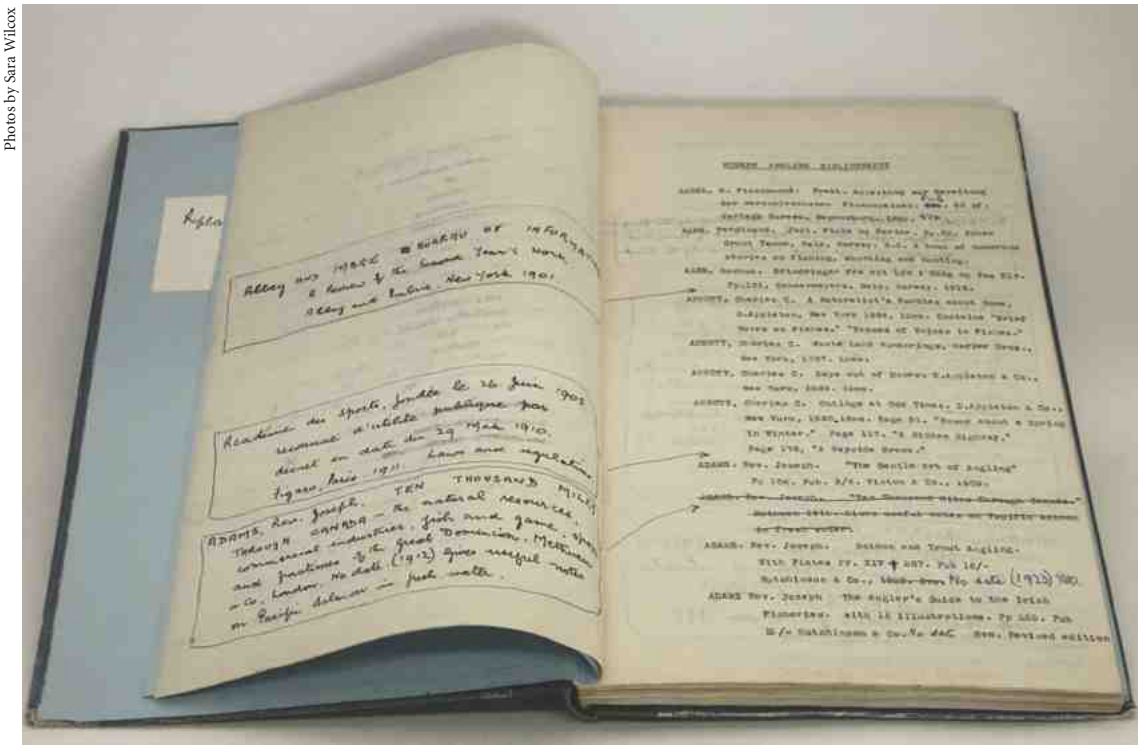
The British angling community is well known for its reverence of books; I'm told that there are bookstores in almost every town, large and small. The British are bibliophiles to an extreme. Yet there had not been a published bibliography of fishing books since 1901, except for Hampton's *Modern Angling Bibliography* of 1947. Further, with such a rich history of angling and an extraordinary interest in its literature, it took an American (assisted by a Brit) to make the latest contribution to a bibliography.

The scanty history of a British angling bibliography begins with Westwood and Satchell's *Bibliotheca Piscatoria* published in 1883 and a supplement of twenty-two pages in 1901. In 1947, Jack Fitzgerald Hampton published *Modern Angling Bibliography* as his attempt toward a true British angling bibliography: a revision of *Piscatoria*. Subsequently, Colin Pitt of Rochdale, Lancashire, purchased an unpublished manuscript by Hampton in which he updated his bibliography. In this manuscript, he commented: "Replaced by 2nd Edition Revised/J. F. Hampton 15.1.49." This manuscript comprised 142 typewritten pages, plus notes and interleaved pages in Hampton's handwriting. Ken Callahan purchased it in 1997.

Callahan has been a New Hampshire book dealer for thirty-three years, a lifelong bibliophile, and a British book enthusiast for twenty-five years. He was somehow persuaded to produce a new book incorporating Hampton's 1947 and 1949 editions. This entailed making corrections, eliminating many American notations, and adding items that Hampton missed. His close friend, Paul Morgan, a book dealer from Machynlleth, Wales, provided additional materials and corrections, bringing this new bibliography up to 1950. The new book is heavily revised with fourteen pages of new essays and 184 pages of new material.

Besides this unusual history of a British angling bibliography, Callahan and Morgan pursued considerable research to

Photos by Sara Wilcox



The Hampton manuscript.

learn "Who was Jack Hampton?" They called upon many of their British friends to scour public and private records, but to no avail! After ten years, Callahan comments that he was able to learn very little. Some of the few facts: Jack Hampton was born in Hampton, Middlesex, in 1909 and died in Birmingham in 1983. In one record (the 1976 *International Authors and Writers Who's Who*), he had a listing as "Contrbr. of articles on fishing to: Field Sports; Historic Houses & Antiques; etc.; Broadcaster, Norwegian Radio, BBC Wales. Hons: Silver Medalist Int. Culinary Exhibit." On the title page of *Canteen Cookery,* by Jack Hampton, London, 1953, the honors following the author's name are "Associate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Fellow, Hotel and Catering Institute; Catering Manager, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds (South Wales) Ltd." Further, Callahan found eleven variations of Hampton's name printed on title pages, articles, or listings in directories. Callahan comments: "Whoever Jack Hampton was, his [book] was a valiant attempt at updating the sadly underdocumented bibliography of British angling literature, and for that we owe him our thanks" (p. 13).

The Callahan and Morgan book is also unusual because it incorporates considerable detail as additions to the originals. For example, there are thirteen entries for Harry Cholmondeley-Pennell, including title changes, various editions, table of contents, detailed descriptions of illustrations and bindings, and comments on his biography. The entries for Frederic Michael Halford are so detailed one gets the feeling that you are holding each book in your hands.

Callahan concludes his comments by pointing out that Hampton intended his work as a stopgap toward a true British angling bibliography. This latest book is also a next step in that goal of a comprehensive British work.

—Gerald Karaska

Ken Callahan and Paul Morgan, editors
Hampton's Angling Bibliography: Fishing Books 1881–1949
Illustrated by Paul Cook
Machynlleth, Wales; Ellesmere, England; and Sharon, New Hampshire, USA: The Three Beards' Press, 2008
303 pp.
Available from Callahan & Company Booksellers, PO Box 505, Peterborough, NH 03458; (603) 924-3726; FAX: (603) 924-9645
$50 (hardcover)

CONTRIBUTORS

Adrian Latimer works as a risk manager for a major oil-field multinational service contractor and likes to pack a travel rod with his PC on business trips. He first picked up a rod about thirty-five years ago, when his great uncle got him casting small Mepps spinners into the river that ran along his garden. These days Latimer likes to take a fly rod to English chalkstreams, to Iceland (for salmon, trout, and sea trout), and annually to Vermont; this year he hopes to fish in Argentina and on Russia's Kola River. Despite chasing after huge fish, he still gets excited and tense casting a size 20 Trico for 8-inch brookies on Vermont's Batten Kill.

Latimer, who was born in Calcutta, now lives just outside Paris with his wife and three kids.

Ben Casarez

Samuel Snyder, Ph.D., is currently a visiting assistant professor of religion and environmental ethics at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan. As graduate of the University of Florida's graduate program on religion and nature, his dissertation, "Casting for Conservation: Religion, Popular Culture, and Environmental Politics of River Restoration," explores the role of angling in the American conservation movement, paying special attention to contemporary grassroots movements and ecological restoration. In spring 2010, he will be the John Daniels Fellow at the National Sporting Library, where he will continue to research the evolution of ecological thought and behavior in American angling, paying attention to the subcultures of fly fishing. Beyond religion and environmental ethics, his research interests include environmental dispute resolution, grassroots collaborative conservation, and sustainable agriculture. When he is not being an academic, fishing, or writing about fishing, he is working in his garden or getting ready to move to Anchorage, Alaska.

Estancia del Zorro

Patagonia's Estancia del Zorro is in the Coyhaique Alto mountain range on the Chilean-Argentine border, 23 miles northeast of Coyhaique, Chile. The 15,000-acre Estancia rests in the habitat of the red fox (zorro), the namesake of the lodge.

Photos by Brian O'Keefe

Many of these waters are seldom fished and some have only recently been discovered, producing diverse fishing conditions from exciting dry-fly action to challenging sight fishing in pristine, crystal clear waters where fish can grow as large as 32 inches. The Estancia Del Zorro spring creek is a mere 200 yards from the lodge and offers easy walk-in fishing for large, heavy brown trout. You will also have the unique opportunity to explore private freestone streams in both Argentina and Chile—two countries in one trip reached by 30- to 90- minute rides by four-wheel-drive vehicles from the lodge.

For more information on Estancia del Zorro, please contact:
Jay Burgin • 12530 Highway 41 • Dillon, MT • 59725
800.378.5006 • www.estanciadelzorro.com

Use the code AMFF to book your accommodations and 10% of your lodging charge will be donated to the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

2009 Fly-Fishing Festival

Saturday, August 15
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The AMFF Fly Fishing Festival returns on Saturday, August 15, during the popular Sidewalk Sale Days in Manchester, VT. From antique dealers to artists, reels to rods, a unique mix of over 40 artisans, collectors, conservationists and more will be assembled on the museum grounds on Route 7A in Manchester. Returning this year will be our popular Antiques Road Show with guest appraiser and museum member Carmine Lisella on hand to assess your antique gear. This event will take place under tents, rain or shine.

Gadgets and Gear: 20th Century Innovations in Fly Fishing

Our newest exhibit, *Gadgets and Gear: 20th Century Innovations in Fly Fishing,* is now open! This exhibit about the creative, often ingenious, and sometimes wacky designs in fly fishing inventions features:

- patent drawings dating back to 1882
- The Passport, a 5-foot fly rod that fits in your pocket
- several fly tying innovations created by Chauncy Lively
- an authentic line braider in action

Fly on the Wall: The Art of William Cushner and *40 Years: Reflections in the Sport and Art of Fly Fishing* will also continue to be on display.

A River Never Sleeps: Conservation, History, and the Fly Fishing River

A Public Symposium at the National Sporting Library

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Speakers include:
James Prosek *on native trout species,*
Hoagy Carmichael *on the Grand Cascapedia River,*
Bryon Borgelt *on the Au Sable River (MI), and*
John Ross *on* Rivers of Restoration. *Moderated by*
Samuel Snyder

Pre-registration required. Contact etobey@nsl.org or 540-687-6542 x 11.

***On exhibit:* Art of Angling**

Sept. 11, 2009 - Jan. 30, 2010

National Sporting Library
P.O. Box 1335
Middleburg, VA 20118
www.nsl.org

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Volume 35:	Numbers 1, 2

Back issues are $10 a copy.
To order, please contact Sarah Moore at (802) 362-3300 or via e-mail at smoore@amff.com.

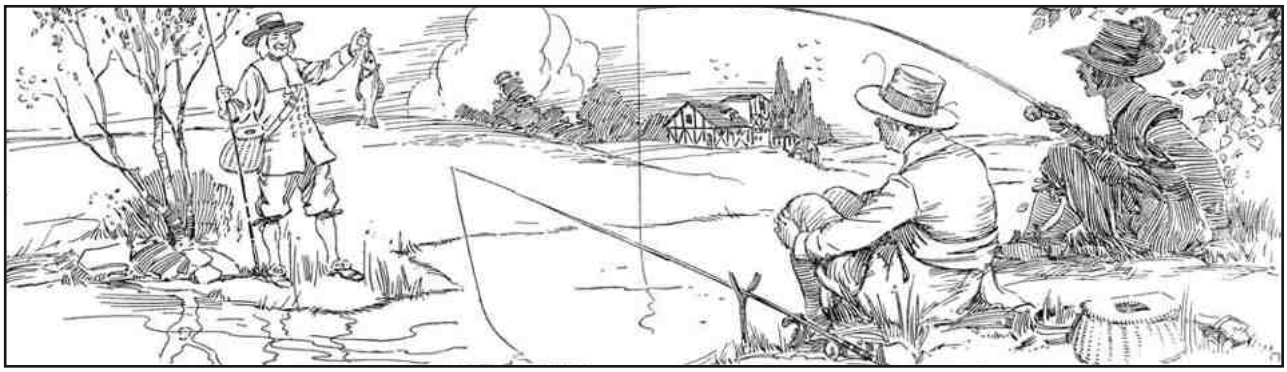
Announcement of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the American Museum of Fly Fishing will take place in Manchester, Vermont, on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at 9:45 A.M.

Members will vote on the election of new trustees, officers, and any other matters that may be presented. Members should contact the American Museum of Fly Fishing for a copy of the agenda any time after October 7, 2009, at (802) 362-3300.

The annual trustees' meeting will follow the membership meeting at the same location.

An Important Resource



From Field and Stream, *April 1920, p. 1129. Bound volume 1919–1920, Vol. 24.*

Museums are important resources for their members and for visitors, collectors, history buffs, and researchers. The American Museum of Fly Fishing is no exception.

A Place to Learn: *The American Fly Fisher* is our most important vehicle for providing current scholarship and history on the sport of fly fishing by both recognized and up-and-coming writers. Whether you want to know about the history of a fishing location or a famous fishing fly, this journal is the place to look. The museum has also supported the publication of various fly-fishing history projects, including the highly acclaimed *American Fly Fishing: A History* by former Executive Director Paul Schullery, *The Great Debate* by Gordon M. Wickstrom, and our most recent exhibition catalog, *Ogden M. Pleissner: The Sporting Grand Tour.* (By the way, we have learned a lot about how members feel about our journal! Thank you for the responses to the survey, and we hope you will notice some changes in the coming issues.)

In our gallery we present well-researched and well-developed exhibitions. *Anglers All: Humanity in Midstream* outlined the history of fly fishing and displayed some of the most significant objects in our permanent collection, including the oldest documented flies in the world. This exhibition has also traveled to various venues across the country to inform and teach many. We've recently focused on the art of our sport with last year's exhibition, *Ogden M. Pleissner: The Sporting Grand Tour,* and our current exhibition, *Fly on the Wall: The Art of William Cushner.* Our next feature exhibition, *The Ladies of Fly Fishing,* will present the history of contributions made by women.

This year marked the beginning of our gallery demonstration series. During the first two sessions, we brought artisans together to teach the art of fly tying, print making, framing, and fish carving. Throughout the year, several schools are able to take advantage of our free-admission policy for school groups, using our gallery as a place to teach and the existing exhibition to complement class work. We have plans to develop a formal educational system and work with schools to better link our exhibitions with school curriculum. Stay tuned!

A Place to Research: Our 7,000-volume research library is more than a beautiful space. This library boasts the best collection of fly-fishing publications assembled in a single location. We owe many thanks to private collectors who have selected our museum as the repository for their book collections. The library is an invaluable tool to our staff. Researchers, seeking to support a theory, travel here to delve into the collection. And, I am happy to report, we have some visitors who simply enjoy the opportunity to sit and take in the tranquility of their surroundings.

We receive at least two research inquiries per week. The museum offers to complete about an hour's worth of research, then, like most museums, we charge a modest research fee to cover administrative time. These questions may require information from our permanent collection, archives, or library, and we try our best to answer all questions. Similarly, when researchers need direct access to the collections, museum staff will pull objects and records so important data can be compiled.

A Place to Have Fun: Summer in Vermont is a very special time. Come to our casting pond and practice your technique, or attend our July ice cream social to meet the staff and to partake of some of Vermont's tasty treats. August is Fly-Fishing Festival time. Vendors, demonstrators, and craftsmen join for a day to celebrate the many dimensions of our sport. Our fund-raising events are held in Manchester as well as various locations around the country, including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Ohio, and California. These events are spirited evenings filled with fishing stories and updates about the museum.

The museum has been fortunate to have many supporters through the years who have recognized that we are an important and unique resource. Over the past several months, some of these supporters have died, including Irene Hunter, a local supporter who contributed to the new building fund; Robert Johnson, who served on our board of trustees; Gary Angus, who hosted fund-raisers in California and contributed to the new building fund; and Bob Murphy, avid outdoorsman and longtime local member, who visited our gallery regularly and encouraged fellow fly fishers to join and support the museum. These supporters meant a great deal to us both professionally and personally. Their contributions were key to creating and maintaining this place where we fly fishers, collectors, history buffs, and researchers gather to have fun. We miss them.

Come visit soon to discover what you enjoy most!

Cathi Comar
Executive Director

The American Museum of Fly Fishing

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WEBSITE: www.amff.com

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF FLY FISHING, a nationally accredited, nonprofit, educational institution dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of fly fishing, was founded in Manchester, Vermont, in 1968. The museum serves as a repository for, and conservator to, the world's largest collection of angling and angling-related objects. The museum's collections and exhibits provide the public with thorough documentation of the evolution of fly fishing as a sport, art form, craft, and industry in the United States and abroad from the sixteenth century to the present. Rods, reels, and flies, as well as tackle, art, books, manuscripts, and photographs, form the major components of the museum's collections.

The museum has gained recognition as a unique educational institution. It supports a publications program through which its national quarterly journal, the *American Fly Fisher,* and books, art prints, and catalogs are regularly offered to the public. The museum's traveling exhibits program has made it possible for educational exhibits to be viewed across the United States and abroad. The museum also provides in-house exhibits, related interpretive programming, and research services for members, visiting scholars, authors, and students.

JOIN!

Membership Dues (per annum)

Associate	$50
Benefactor	$100
Business	$250
Sponsor	$500
Friend	$1,000

The museum is an active, member-oriented nonprofit institution. Membership dues include four issues of the *American Fly Fisher*. Please send your payment to the membership director and include your mailing address. The museum is a member of the American Association of Museums, the American Association of State and Local History, the New England Association of Museums, the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, and the International Association of Sports Museums and Halls of Fame.

SUPPORT!

As an independent, nonprofit institution, the American Museum of Fly Fishing relies on the generosity of public-spirited individuals for substantial support. We ask that you give our museum serious consideration when planning for gifts and bequests.