

Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.

Presents the 50th Annual
FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

featuring **Bob Lindquist**

For online reservations & more info:

CTFlyFish.org

Maneeley's Banquet & Catering, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor

Bob Lindquist is a self-confessed fly fishing fool. He has waded the waters of Long Island with feathered frauds in search of finned friends for over forty years. Bob has fished the Delaware River system and the waters around Albany for another three decades and has built his retirement home on the banks of the Main Stem of the Delaware. In addition, Bob has a blossoming passion for both Atlantic Salmon and Steelhead. Bob is a member of the Whiting Feathers Pro Staff and has worked with numerous other companies



EXPO: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$3 admission

Children under 16 FREE

- Presentations
- Fly Tyers Row
- Kids' Fly Tying Table
- Vendor tables
- Demonstrations



BANQUET

Bucket Raffle & Presentation

\$45 per person

5:30 p.m. Cocktails & Raffle viewing

6:30 p.m. Dinner, Presentation, & Drawings

"Why We Fly Fish"

Reservations: CTFlyFish.org OR

Phil Apruzzese: (860) 489-4319 - pjapruz@aol.com

RSVP by January 24

Open seating or reserved tables of 10







JOHN BILOTTA


Cell: **301.351.0121**
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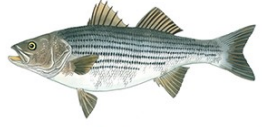
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From the vest of the President



Our January 8th meeting will be our annual Pizza & Fly Fishing Movie night and our election of officers will be conducted as well. I am happy to inform you that all of our board members that currently hold elected positions have agreed to serve our CFFA for the upcoming year as well as all of the non-elected positions. The movie we will be playing that night is “Live the Stream: The Story of Joe Humphreys”. I can tell you that this is worth seeing. It is 90 minutes long so we will coordinate the evening the best we can so you can enjoy your pizza and every minute of the movie. If for some reason you can't be at this meeting I highly recommend that you pour yourself a favorite beverage on an upcoming cold winter evening and stream the movie into your home. Invite some of your fly fishing friends over, tie some flies, tell some stories and make a night of it.

February is the winter month without a Wednesday meeting and without a newsletter but as you all know it is the month we hold our annual Fly Fishing Expo and Banquet. These events are extremely important to our CFFA as they are our biggest fund raisers each year. We'd love to see all of our members attend one or both events. This year our featured guest will be Bob Lindquist. He is a self confessed Fly-Fishing fool that has waded the waters of Long Island for over 40 years and has fished the Delaware River system and waters around Albany for another 3 decades. Bob will present a program during the Expo about Atlantic Salmon fishing in Labrador and also be available for questions throughout the day. The presentation he will share at our banquet is titled “Why We Fly Fish”. I have heard some very positive comments about it.

A list of vendors, fly tiers and seminars will be constantly updated on our Facebook Page and our CFFA Web-

3 site so you can check either to keep informed. Please contact Roger Plourde if you'd like to help with our Expo in any way or Kurt (yes our retired Banquet Chairman) if you want to assist in any way with our Banquet.

Some other events in January that may interest you are the FVTU Annual Tag Sale on Saturday January 4th from 9am-1pm at 321 New Britain Ave. Farmington and the CT River Salmon Association 44th Annual Dinner on Jan. 11th, 5pm at the USS Chowder Pot IV in Hartford. Information on both events can be found on their websites or Facebook Pages.

Gary

About our Banquet speaker this year

Bob Lindquist is a self-confessed fly fishing fool. He has waded the waters of Long Island with feathered frauds in search of finned friends for over forty years. Bob has fished the Delaware River system and the waters around Albany for another three decades and has built his retirement home on the banks of the Main Stem of the Delaware. In addition, Bob has a blossoming passion for both Atlantic Salmon and Steelhead. Bob is a member of the Whiting Feathers Pro Staff and has worked with numerous other companies.

Bob uses his training in mathematics, physics, philosophy and education to form an analytic approach to fly fishing. His work has led to articles in Fly Tyer, Salt Water Fly Fishing, Fly Fisherman and Japanese Fly Fisherman magazines. He is a recognized fly tyer who has appeared at many shows including those held in Danbury, Somerset, Edison, Lancaster and Marlborough. Recently, Bob has added a passion for photography to his fly fishing and tying addiction. As a retired teacher and coach, Bob uses his public speaking skills to give presentations to clubs throughout the Mid Atlantic and North East regions.

Bob's presentation during the evening banquet will be *Why We Fly Fish*, where he will examine how flyfishing reaches up toward something greater and in towards self-realization. This presentation examines why we passionately pursue our pastime... and its place in our lives. Surfing waves of fish, flies, family relations and the very best of friends, *Why We Flyfish* is a cathartic exposition of the long rod and all it touches.

John Manfred



King Salmon is located roughly 300 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is a small town of not more than a few hundred people. Once very much more active because of the Air Force base that thrived there. No longer active, the base is now manned by a mere skeleton crew that keeps the runway cleared. If you imagine the Aleutian peninsula as the trunk of an elephant with the head of the beast representing Alaska, the town of King Salmon would appear as the eye. Approximately 10 miles up the Naknek River. The river hosts literally millions of returning salmon funneling into Bristol Bay each year to maintain their phoenix like death and rebirth. Virtually every species of Pacific salmon will visit this river annually. King, sockeye, red, chum, silver salmon all take their turn to spawn in this river and its tributaries; a pageant worthy of note and wonder. These salmon provide the fuel that supports an ecosystem that is quite amazing. Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, grizzly bear, and a host of other organisms including humans partake of this period-

ic feast.

I have returned to this extraordinary place five times in the past 20 years and in my mind it remains the primo fishing destination of anywhere in the world. I have fished New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Ireland, Ecuador, Panama, Mexico, Belize, New Brunswick, British Columbia, as well as a wide variety of states in the US of A. Alaska, especially the Bristol Bay fishery remains at the top of the list.

With the preceding information in mind I had decided about a year in advance to revisit this special place with a few of my fishing companions. What started out to be a small group of gents with whom I have had the pleasure of participating in this noble pastime turned into a sizable number; thirteen to be exact. I contacted Tom Baumgardner of Rainbow Bend Lodges to see if he could handle that number of sports. I

was ecstatic to find that he could. In fact we took over every bed in the lodge. Now this august group representing seven states – Maine, Connecticut, North Carolina, Florida, Texas, California and Oregon converged on King Salmon by way of Anchorage where we all met at the Dimond Center Hotel. We did the shopping for our self prepared meals while we were in Anchorage. The lodge specializes in angling while the culinary skills are left to the anglers – a cost saving factor that was significant. Since several of us delight in our gustatory expertise, we ate rather well for the five days at the lodge. The cost for the food came to something like sixty bucks per person. Not sure about the others but I came away from the adventure 10 pounds heavier.

The deal with the lodge was 5 days of guided fishing. Gear provided by the lodge. Filleting and cryovacing of fish, a fly-out to a hotspot within 100 miles of the lodge. It turned out that the fly-outs were the most exciting experience for me. Our destination was Featherly

creek which was an hour's flight from the lodge aboard a 1957 DeHavilland Beaver. A craft that looked like it had just come out of the factory.

It had been completely rebuilt from stem to stern. Chris, our pilot, clearly loved his role as bush pilot. His plane was rigged for tundra flying with huge balloon tires designed for landing on the tundra.

The flight afforded us a bird's eye view of a spectacular sunrise over volcanic up-thrusts, meandering streams, mirror-like lakes and ponds, stunted fir trees though only 10 ft. tall could be a hundred years old. The growing season is very short and so are the growth rings. We landed on a gravel scree that was carved out of the tundra by Mother Nature's own D19 Caterpillar bulldozer, a frozen wind of a hundred plus miles per hour that grades frequent



portions of the tundra forming these sometimes convenient landing strips for willing bush pilots. This scree was about a mile from our target so we had to do some bush-whacking to get there through arroyos tightly packed with a jungle of vines and alders that crowded into these aberrations which provided escape from those 100 mile winds. Walking on the tundra was a piece of cake compared to these deviations. We would hack our way through one area only to find it not to the liking of Carson, our guide, who had us backtrack to another vantage point. By this time the temperature inside my waders had to be about 110. Finally, after nearly reaching the absolute limit of my 79 year old left knee, we entered Nirvana. The stream had to be an apparition it was so beautiful. The fishing was spectacular. We caught Dolly Varden and grayling that exceeded 20 inches. Not only were they a challenge for our 6wt rods, but there was a fish on every third cast. My rod finally exploded on one of

the Dollys breaking at the tip with a resounding snap. Fortunately Carson had an extra. Obviously this was not a first for him. These fish were beautifully colored. I can see where the Dickens inspired Dolly Varden came from. They resemble the east coast cousin known as our brook trout, also in the char family. The Dolly, however, has more paint on its palette

The stream was filled with spawning sockeyes their bright red bodies signaling that they were beyond their edible stage. They would be so numerous as to be forced to dart between your legs as they steamed up the creek to do their thing. That is, lay their eggs, have them fertilized and proceed into the next life. We fished for the Dollys and grayling by dropping a single plastic egg imitation over the tops of the sockeyes. The egg would frequently bounce off their backs to sink beneath them where the waiting Dollys and grayling were sucking up whatever the females were dropping. Weren't they surprised when

they discovered an occasional egg that stuck to their lips.



Grayling are yet another char, not as colorful as the Dolly but beautiful in their own right with their dorsal sail.

Returning to the much larger Naknek, the action there was not as furious. Our target fish, the silver salmon, had not yet arrived in its usual stunning numbers probably because of the very hot summer we were having. Instead of blankets of swarming fish there were only pods

of 4 or 5 fish that were hard to spot. We did catch silvers but not in the expected numbers.



I did not experience the other fly-outs this trip but others did and found them equally rewarding. A tundra trip to Bible Creek was similar to Featherly. The other one to Brooks Camp was by float plane; not only the bear watching capitol of the world but an excellent rainbow fishery as well. When you had your fill of catching rainbows you can hike to a raised platform where you can observe grizzlies commanding the top of Brooks Falls waiting for a leaping salmon to dare to approach their open jaws.

Alaska seems to be doing an admirable job of caring for its fishery. A good example is the catch-and-return poli-



cy on streams that are not stocked. A fisherman must return these wild bows to their homes, hopefully to grow to trophy sizes. The Naknek and the Brooks Rivers are proof that this practice has been successful. Rainbows in excess of 30 lbs. are not uncommon in these waters.

The five days at Rainbow Bend rewarded us with many bear sightings, eagles, caribou, Even a lone wolf, tails and tales galore.

I don't know that I'll live long enough to do it but, you know, I might try for a sixth visit to this magical place.



John Manfred has written another story for us with pictures for us to enjoy.



Top photo is a fresh salmon, bottom photo is not so fresh



CFFA 2020 Banquet Dinner Reservation
Saturday February 1, 2020
Maneeley's, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT

You are invited to attend this year's annual fundraiser and banquet celebration. Come out and enjoy a night of camaraderie, a great speaker's presentation and some "tall fish tales".

Cocktails, cash bar and preview of prizes from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Seating is on a "first come first served basis" If you wish to reserve an entire table (8 – 10 seats) you must phone Phil Apruzzese @ 860-489-4319. The dinner is \$45.00 per plate. Just fill out the form below and mail with your check.

Mail this Reservation Form and your Check by 1/26/2019
TO: Mr. Phil Apruzzese 1369 Mountain Rd. Torrington Ct. 06790
Please Make Your Check out to CFFA

Name _____

Address _____

Contact phone _____

Email address _____

Number of Prime Rib _____ Number of Stuffed Sole _____

Number of Chicken Marsala _____ Number of Vegetarian Spinach Ravioli Primavera _____

Gluten Free _____

Number of Reservations@ \$45.00 each _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please cut this out or print it and send it in thank you

CFFA 2020 Annual Expo and Banquet

Feb 1, 2020

9:00am-3:pm

Maneeleys Banquet and Catering

61 Rye St

South Windsor CT

The vendors are lined up. You will find everything from beautiful art to hooks and hackle you've been looking for. The row of

fly Tyers will be there showing and teaching everything from Salmon flies to Woolly Buggers and Clouser minnows. We'll have 3 shows for you to enjoy. Rods, fly fishing books and vendors who can give you just about any information your looking for. For the \$3 admission fee it's a deal. C'mon out and shake off the cabin fever and get ready for Spring.



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