

American Fly Fishing Literature

Of Flowing Waters



North Fork Stillaguamish River

2010 Exhibit

The Paul and Mary Ann Ford Fly Fishing Collection

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Innocent stranger!
Thou who readest these lines!
Perhaps you never caught a trout.
If so, thou knowest not for what
life was originally intended.
Thou art a vain, insignificant mortal
pursuing shadows!
Ambition lures thee, fame dazzles,
wealth leads thee on, panting!
Thou art chasing specters,
goblins that satisfy not.
If thou has not caught a trout,
this world is to thee, as yet,
a blank, existence is a dream.
Go and weep.

Thaddeus Norris

Of Flowing Waters

This year's exhibit displays books about fly fishing on American creeks and brooks; streams and rivers—flowing waters. You will encounter fly fishers who have pursued their sport from cradles of fly fishing in the East to fly fishing frontiers in the West. The older books tend to be plain of typography and photography while many of the newer books include elaborate designs and stunning color photographs. The books reflect immense change in fly fishers' attitudes concerning how to preserve good fishing. Older generations of gentlemen and lady anglers tended to catch and keep as many fish as they and their guides could carry. Early industrialists thought nothing of polluting and damming waters—so long as their own club waters were intact. Those actions and attitudes have changed somewhat today. But enough! Let's look at some books.

The East

Dawson, George. **Pleasures of Fishing, With Rod and Reel For Trout and Salmon.** Sheldon & Company. New York. 1876. Pp. 264. First edition, first printing. Gold embossed lettering on a bright green cover. Very fine condition. Bruns, in **Angling Books of the Americas (1970)**, states, "This was the first book dedicated (entirely) to fly fishing in America." A New Yorker, who wrote for the *Albany Evening Journal*, Dawson was an example of the well-educated, prosperous and socially prominent associated with the development of American fly fishing. He traveled the northeast for trout and into Canada for salmon. Dawson is as much philosopher as fisher. Nevertheless, he counted, kept, weighed and killed the fish he caught. He fished in the grand style accorded the wealthy. When such folks talked about "camping" along a stream, they most often were accompanied by servant types who "facilitated" fishing trips.

1

Fox, Charles, K. **This Wonderful World of Trout.** Foxcraft. Carlisle, PA. 1963. Pp. 296. Privately printed. First edition, first printing. 1532 of 3000. Signed. He writes, "Even when you know right where the trout are and you are sure you are going to catch some; it isn't exactly wonderful; something doesn't fit." That was Charlie and his take on the wonderful world he created for all of us. This angler, a "limestone legend" from his beloved Pennsylvania waters, loved those waters as much as the fish and the subtle gentle deception of a well wrought and cast fly.

2

_____. **This Wonderful World of Trout.** Freshet Press. New York. 1971. Pp. 338. Revised and limited edition. Number 176 of 350. Signed. Blue leatherette boards

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with gold embossed jumping trout and lettering. Water imaged marbled end papers. Introduction by Ernie Schwiebert, Jr. Illustrations by Edward Everett and Ned Smith. In matching blue leatherette over fiber slipcase.

4 _____ . **Rising Trout**. Foxcraft. Carlisle, PA. 1967. Pp. 163. Privately printed. 842 of 3000. First edition. Signed and in an almost new dust jacket. A most interesting early chapter notes how introduction of the wily brown trout into eastern streams to replace the gullible and almost extinct native brook trout saved Pennsylvania's limestone creek fly fishing. And Charlie pondered. "Why do big trout take after dark?" We know and won't tell! Much written here about the world class Letort where Fox lived. Thanks be to the brown trout—especially when we recall that a brook trout is not a true trout but rather a char!

5 Francis, Austin, McK. **Land of Little Rivers, A Story in Photos of Catskill Fly Fishing**. Beaverkill Press. New York. 1999. Pp. 279. Photography by Enrico Ferorelli. First edition. Signed. New in new dust jacket. Inside front and back covers are decorated with a full color map of the Catskills and its streams. This oversized 13 ¼ by 10 inch volume is a glorious pictorial history of what many claim to be the "cradle of American fly fishing." The color photography is magnificent. Francis has written eloquently about the region's waters and its fly fishers—the likes of Washington Irving, "Uncle" Thad Norris, Theodore Gordon and ladies who formed their own fly fishers club. Francis does us the great favor of including a chapter titled "Literature of Catskill Fly Fishing." **Land of Little Rivers** is a brilliant contribution to our understanding and appreciation of Americana fly fishing.

6 Herbert, William Henry. **Frank Forester's Fish and Fishing of the United States and British Provinces of North America**. Richard Bentley. London. 1849. Pp. 455. First edition, first printing. Green leather boards with gold embossed spine, marbled endpapers and page fore-edges. A bit shelf-worn. Raised in London of wealthy parents and educated at Cambridge, Herbert was shipped off in 1831 to New York for some unknown reason and became one of the first among the Catskill fly fishers. Herbert adopted the pen name, Frank Forester and wrote scores of immensely popular sporting articles as well as novels and scholarly works. This encyclopedic work identifies most of North America's sport and food fish as well as means to catch some of them. (Herbert was a fly fisher.)

7 Forester, Frank. (William Henry Herbert). **Trouting Along The Catsauqua**. Second edition. Privately printed for the Angler's Club of New York by the Derrydale Press. 1927. Pp. 39. Limited edition. Number 214 of 423. Frontis by Gordon Ross. Tan and black buckram boards with paper titles. Uncut page fore-edges from what appears to be

hand-made paper. Very fine condition. Of trout and the finest cognac, this little story tells of experiences on a Catskill stream. It is a classic expressing the author's appreciation of nature and fish—in the grand tradition of H.D. Thoreau.

Humphreys, Joe. **On the Trout Stream.** Stackpole Books. Harrisburg, PA. 1989. Pp. 228. New in new dust jacket. Signed. Lots of photos. For the coffee table and study, this is most instructive about trouting the Pennsylvania's great limestone creeks—and mostly for brown trout. This is "how-to-do-it" in the most positive sense.

8

Irving, Washington. **The Angler.** Cassino. Boston. 1892. Privately printed. Pp. 21. Quarter bound in green leather with gilt edging and hand painted vellum boards and marble endpapers. Pages printed only on one side. Etched illustrations by Louis K. Harlow. Inscribed by Eugene Connett, founder of the Derrydale Press to actor Harry Caesar. Fine condition. This poetic-like narrative is taken from Irving's **The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.** (1819). Here we learn about an old angler with a one-eyed cat who lives in a one-room cabin in the Catskills.

9

Judd, David, W. **Life and Writings of Frank Forester** (Henry William Herbert). Orange Judd Company. New York. 1882. Volume 1, Pp. 299. Volume 2, Pp. 300. First edition, first printing. Green cloth boards. Gold embossed spines. Fine. This is an immensely useful contribution to the social history of American sport fishing and hunting.

10

Limestone Legends. *The Papers and Recollections of the Fly Fishers' Club of Harrisburg 1947-1997.* Compiled by Norm Shires and Jim Gifford. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA. 1997. Pp. 356. Paper. First edition, first printing. This is more than a club history. It is filled with articles by the likes of Charlie Fox and Vince Marinaro who cut their teeth on brook trout that prospered in Pennsylvania's limestone streams and who were true students of fly fishing as well as stream protection and restoration. Said another way, these individuals knew that there was more to fishing than just the fishing. The fact that university scientific resources were available at State College where the estimable George Harvey taught at Penn State was significant. But let's not overdo the seriousness implied here. This collection is filled with good food and drink and laughter.

11

Macdougall, Walter, M. **Remembering Dud Dean.** Countrysport Press. Camden, ME. 2001. Pp. 251. Compiled and introduced by Walter Macdougall. First edition, first printing in new dust jacket. Fine except for previous owner's name on front end paper. Dud Dean was a fictitious, wise and witty Kennebec guide created by the inimitable Reverend Arthur Macdougall who wrote a raft of Dud Dean books, scores of fishing articles and served thirty-six years as pastor in a Kennebec, Maine village. Macdougall

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made a unique contribution to Americana fishing literature with his use of the “down east” vernacular. Most of his books are held by Special Collections. This volume contains some stories not published previously in book form and, too, his son’s commentary. Great reading with a subtle undertone of social class difference between fly fishers and the “common man.”



A spring creek rainbow

13

Van Put, Ed. **Trout Fishing in the Catskills.** Skyhorse Publishing. New York. 2007. Pp. 437. Introduction by John Merwin. First edition, first printing. New in new dust jacket. Inside cover pages are a black and white map of “The Great Catskill Rivers.” This oversized 11 by 9 inch beauty tells us of the history and philosophies of trout fishing the Catskills. We walk the geology of a region rich in nutrients for native brook trout. And we learn of the near extinction of these fish and the rainbows and browns that would follow them because of the confused notions wealthy industrialists, often fly fishers, who seemed not to understand that mill and factory induced pollution destroyed their sport. We meet famous fly fishers and are introduced to wars over what techniques are best to attract a fish. Theodore Gordon and our beloved Sparse Gray Hackle show up. And we meet hope based in conservation. This is a must read.

14

Wright, Leonard, M. Jr. **Neversink.** Atlantic Monthly Press. New York. 1991. Pp. 1991. First edition, first printing. New in new dust jacket. Some science, some technique, some stories and much love for a Catskill River where Wright cast so many flies and did well in restoring depleted fish populations. He is guilty, however, of fishing for

landlocked salmon in Neversink's reservoir. But at least he cast from shore and did not troll a Grey Ghost. Or did he?

The Mid-West

Fields, Wayne. **What The River Knows, An Angler in Mid-Stream.** Poseidon Press. New York, 1990. Pp. 252. New in new dust jacket. Second edition. This is of the author's thoughtful experience on one Upper Peninsula Michigan River. It is about how the author grows with a river that helps shape his life. This book is an example of the growing interest (in recent American angling literature) in introspection brought on by the angling experience.

15

Traver, Robert. (John Voelker). **Anatomy of a Fisherman.** McGraw-Hill. New York. 1964. Pp. 117. Photographs by Robert W. Kelley. Oversized. 11 ¼ x 9. First edition, first printing. Fine in fine dust jacket. Voelker, a former Michigan Supreme Court Justice, became famous for his book and major film, **Anatomy of a Murder**. Then this guy who liked to masquerade as an old reprobate with a tin cup of whiskey in one paw and a stogy in the other became world famous for his fly fishing books. (**Trout Madness**, 1960) and **Trout Magic**, 1974.) **Anatomy of a Fisherman** tells of Voelker's yen for lots of fish, lots of toys that anglers collect—and he admits that he keeps his big fish! What a character. His cabin on Michigan's Upper Peninsula was filled with good cheer. He has popularized and enriched American fly fishing like few other fly fishers—dead or alive.

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_____. **Anatomy of a Fly Fisherman.** Peregrine Smith. Inc. Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City. 1978. Reprint of the above. New in new dust jacket.

17

McCullough, James. **Voelker's Pond, A Robert Traver Legacy.** Huron River Press. Chelsea, MI. 2003. Pp. 144. Photography by Ed Wargin. First edition, first printing. Signed. New in new dust jacket. This gloriously illustrated book captures "cabin life" at Voelker's one room fishing hangout hidden in woods on a little pond's bank. From this place of both solitude and social pleasure, Voelker took off in his clunker and headed for secret fishing destinations. To see and read this book is to feel the joy of Voelker's angling life.

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The West

Baughman, Michael. **A River Seen Right, A Fly Fisherman's North Umpqua.** Lyons & Burford. New York. 1995. Pp. 134. Photography by J. D. Callaghan. New in new dust jacket. Signed. "Umpqua" means "thunder water" and there is enough of that in this

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Oregon trout and steelhead river—and you might have heard plenty of “thunder” at the Steamboat Inn! Flowing below Douglas fir and sugar pine over black bedrock and white gravel, this is a place for fish of ferocity and strength. Baughman’s vignettes are stirring and so is a warning. The river utters, “Don’t destroy me with dams and deforestation and over fishing.”

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Brooks, Charles, E. **The Henry’s Fork.** Winchester Press. New York. 1986. Pp. 209. Deluxe limited edition. Number 204 of 500. Superb map by Paul Chinelli. Oversized. 11 ½ x 9. Maroon leather boards and in matching gold embossed slipcase. Charlie Brooks of West Yellowstone wrote scores of magazine articles and several books about his beloved western rivers. The Henry’s Fork of the Snake River was one of his favorites. This delightful book tells the river’s story in terms of geography, big fish, new flies, novel fishers and a cast of “odd” characters. Every good trout drift was named—do you like Coffee Pot or Cardiac or Bathtub. Take your pick!

21

_____. **Fishing Yellowstone Waters.** Winchester Press. New York. 1984. Pp.160. Photography by Dan Callaghan. First edition, first printing. Fine hand-drawn map of the Yellowstone region. Oversized. 11 ½ x 9. Fine in fine dust jacket. Charlie describes and fishes some of the greatest of Yellowstone area rivers—the Madison, Gallatin, Firehole, Gibbon and Gardner. And more.

22

Holt, John. **Knee Deep in Montana’s Trout Streams.** Pruett. Boulder, Co. 1991. Pp. 143. Deluxe limited edition. Number 16 of 100. Signed. Quarter bound in tan leather with blue marbled boards. Inside boards match cover. A black Woolly Bugger Holt tied is inset on back of front board. He has been a very popular angling author for years. Few write like Holt. We see him with a beer in one hand and steering his wreck of a truck over precipitous terrain watching for deer and elk—eyes certainly not on the road. He’s relaxed! Here we find him on the Bitterroot and Beaverhead, Bighorn and Musselshell. He fishes well and tells a great story. They don’t make many like him anymore.

23

_____. **Reel Deep in Montana’s Rivers.** Pruett. Boulder, Co. 1993. Pp. 143. New in new dust jacket. Signed. He’s at it again. This time he’s fishing the Flathead, Swan River and on down to the Jefferson and back up to the Sun. Some of Holt’s humor is diminished by his concern for a changing Montana. Overgrazing is ruining streams. There seem to be more poachers. Industrial dumping is growing rather than decreasing. Be sure to read his short piece, “All Along the Watch Tower” at the book’s conclusion.

24

Hughes, Dave. **Big Indian Creek, October 23-29, 1994.** Stackpole Books. 1996. Pp. 82. First edition, first printing. New in new dust jacket. Signed. “It’s all a matter of doing as opposed to not doing.” That’s the thought Dave leaves with us as we turn the last pages

of his trip into Oregon's Malheur Refuge—a vast area of desert with forest above—and a brook here and there where a trout or two may be taken for dinner. Hughes is probably the “dean” of northwest fly fishing writing. He is immensely productive and an ever popular speaker. Yet thinking through this little book must have given him second thoughts about what it means “to do.”

Lindsay, Charles, and Thomas McGuane. *Upstream. Fly Fishing in the American West.* Aperture. New York. 2000. Pp. 89. New in new dust jacket. Oversized. 11 ¼ x 11 ¼.. Boards are of gorgeous, heavy gray-green linen with title authors' names embossed. Signed by both.. Lindsay did the exquisite and often impressionistic photography and McGuane the writing— glimpses and shadows of reality. Just brilliant!

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Meyers, Steven. *Streamside Reflections, Fly-Fishing for Trout and Salmon.* Thunder Bay Press. San Diego. 1990. Pp. 143. New in new dust jacket. Light gray heavy linen boards with silver embossed title. Oversized 12 ½ inches by 12 ½ inches. Meyers has published much about his fishing life in southern Colorado's San Juan mountain country. But never anything like this. Here, his essays and his photography, including the frontis by Val Atkinson take us from one edge of America to the other and beyond.

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Introduction & annotations by Paul Ford



Fall on the Wenatchee River

Enjoy thy stream, oh, harmless fish,
And when an angler for his dish,
Through gluttony's vile sin,
Attempts—a wretch—to pull thee *out*,
God give thee strength, oh, gentle trout,
To pull the rascal *in*.

Peter Pindar
Ballad to a Fish in the Brook



The Paul & Mary Ann Ford Fly Fishing Collection

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