



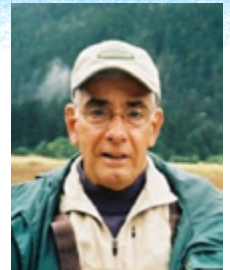
The Salty Tippet

Volume 1, Issue 2

tarponcoastflyfishers.com

FALL 2023

President's Message



TCCF President
Frank Cuttone

Fall is Here, Fishing Shirts Go On Sale

Hello TCFF members! Fall is upon us and the fishing is picking up big time. Check out the fishing photos in this issue and check out the new fishing shirts that will go on sale at the next TCFF General Membership meeting.

test summer in 10 years. As new Floridians, my wife and I were just fine with the heat.

Hope to see you all at the October 11th meeting at the **Coyote Rojo!**

Hope everyone survived the hot-

- Frank

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TCFF fishing shirts go on sale for TCFF Members at the next general membership meeting at the Coyote Rojo, Wednesday, October 11th.



Bob East with a nice Bow from the North Platte River near Casper, Wyoming. Read about Ray Cannata and Bob East's trip out west in Fishing the Big Horn and North Platte Rivers, page 4.



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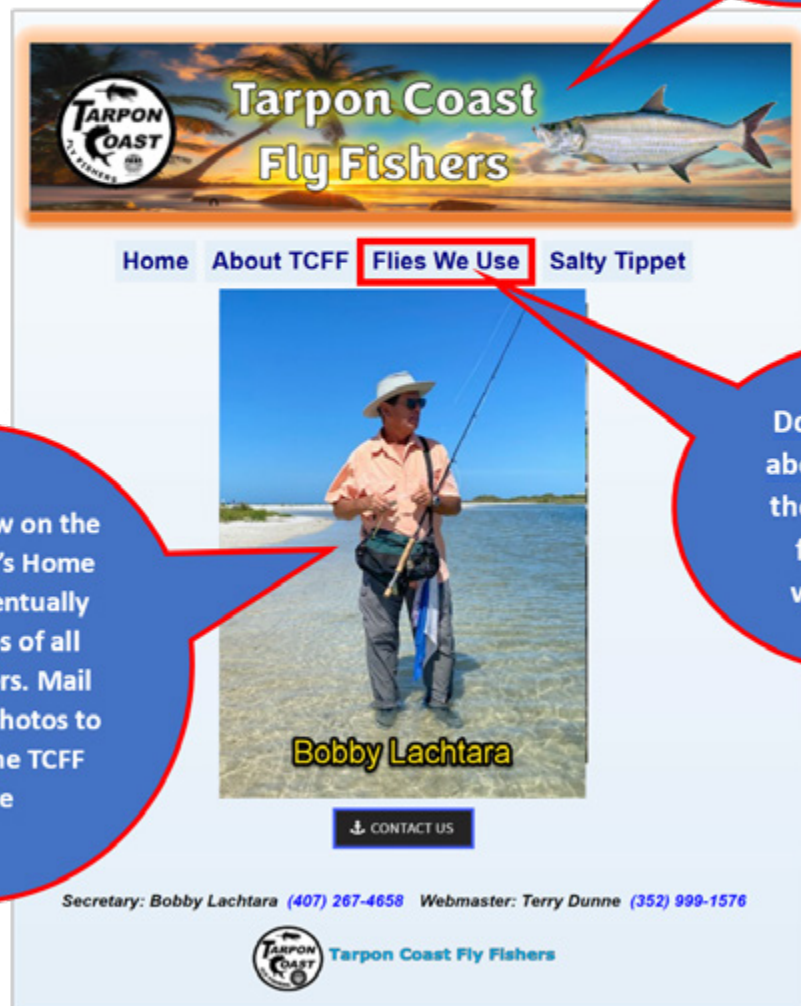
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Terry Dunne
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TCFF's Website Modified

Changes have been made to the TCFF website:



New Masthead Graphic

The slide show on the TCFF website's Home page will eventually show photos of all TCFF Members. Mail or text your photos to appear on the TCFF website

Documentation about how to tie the flies we use for local salt water fishing

Fishing w/Lowell

TCFF President Frank Cuttone took a guided trip with Lowell Bebout to catch the fine fish shown in the photos below. See Lowell Bebout's advertisement on page 8



Good-sized Redfish



Handsome Snook

Bob East & Ray Cannata, July 2nd – July 11th

Fishing the Bighorn & North Platte Rivers

Day 1

We flew from Tampa to Denver, rented a car, then drove to **Casper, WY**, to fish the **North Platte River**. Casper is about half way to the **Bighorn River** in **Fort Smith, MT** so Casper was a logical stop.

Day 2

We checked into the **Hampton Inn** in Casper, enjoyed a full breakfast the following morning, then drove to the **Cowboy Drifters** (Wyoming's premier fly fishing service), where we connected with our guide named **Colt** and put in at the **Grey Reef** launch site.



Healthy 22-inch Rainbow too big for the net caught by Ray Cannata

The water was high and off-color, so the guide rigged up a 3-fly system with worms mostly and several split shot with a strike indicator. Bob and I caught several trout in the 15–19 inch range, all very healthy. As we proceeded downstream the weeds became a major problem, every cast resulted in weeds on the fly. Car trouble developed in a flat tire that was resolved and ultimately



Bob East with a good-sized Rainbow from Wyoming's North Platte River

repaired at Walmart but delayed our start fishing for the next day.

Day 3

Our guide **Colt** was advised I did not want to deal with weeds again so we decided to fish the water between the reservoir dam and the after-bay dam. The water in this section was clear of weeds and held larger fish but required more rowing effort from the guide. We tipped the guide well because of the extra effort because the fish we caught the past two days were large and healthy... all rainbows and browns caught on worms.

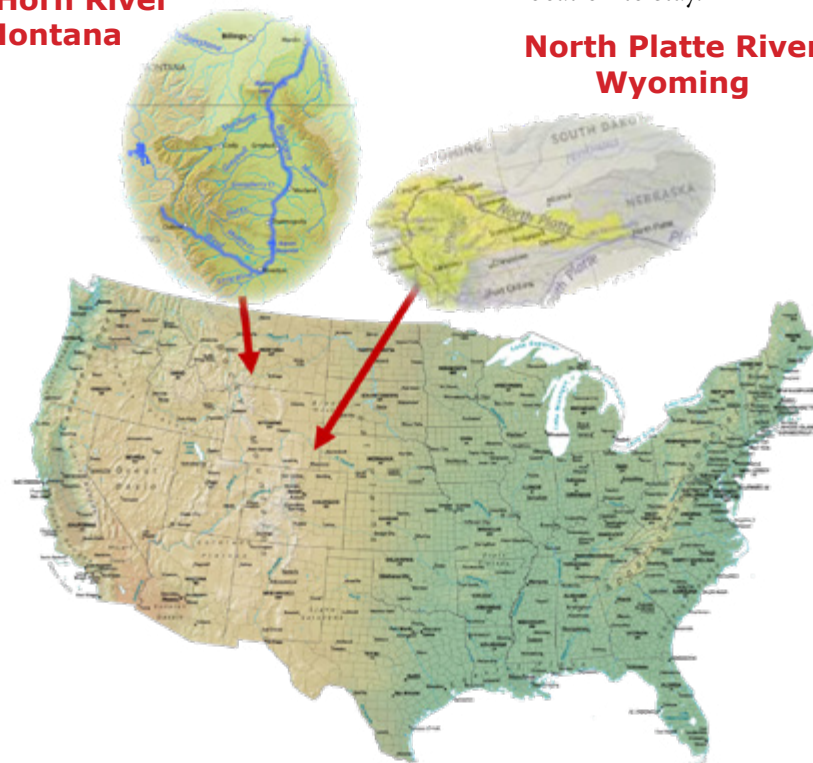
Day 4

We checked out of the Hampton Inn and drove to the **Bighorn River**. We stopped along the way to fish a section of the **North Platte River** called **Freeman Canyon** near the **Pathway Reservoir** dam. This section provided good wading and we caught

several large Rainbows (17 inches) using a 3-fly rig with size 18 **Pheasant Tails** and **Caddis Puppas** with a strike indicator. After two-to-three hours we left and drove four hours to the **Bighorn Lodge** in **Montana**, checked in, unpacked, and got ready for dinner at 6:00 pm firm.

Big Horn River Montana

North Platte River Wyoming



Day 5, 6, 7

We fished with **Mike**, our guide, on the **Bighorn River**, and caught lots of rainbows and browns in the 15–17 inch size, which was somewhat smaller than the fish previously caught on the **North Platte**. The water was very high, running about 15,000 cubic-feet per-second vs. the usual 3,500–5,000 CFS, so the fish were scattered, a difficult situation for the guides. We had no dry fly opportunities. Fishing was

heavy weight bouncing on the bottom with worms and eggs at times using balloons as indicators.

The accommodations at the **Bighorn Lodge** were OK. The room was tight, food was good, the attitude of the employees was good, as was the weather on the trip. Other guests were pleasant and recommended Montana's **Clark River** to fish and **Missoula, MT**, as a location to stay.

Day 8

We checked out of the **Bighorn Lodge**, browsed three fly shops, packed up after breakfast, and proceeded back toward **Casper, WY**, stopping at the **North Platte River** in **Freeman Canyon** again to wade fish. Here Ray caught a **22-inch Rainbow**, the largest rainbow of the trip. The fish was larger than the net. All seven fish were caught on **Size 18 Pheasant Tails** and **Pale Morning Dun's**.

We left after a couple of hours and drove back to **Casper, WY**, and checked into the **Hampton Inn**.

Day 9

We drove to meet the new guide **Augie** (who was with a different company), put in at the popular access, and floated the **North Platte** after the guide checked out a few access points only to find the water dirty with runoff. We drove further upstream to the **Grey Reef** area below the **After Bay Dam**. We caught some fish but, as we floated downstream, the weeds got worse and the catching diminished. Egg patterns produced as well as worms in this section on this day. The best part was the lunch, which was the best lunch of the entire trip, but the guide was the worst. He was lazy, too relaxed floating down

the river with the drift doing 180-degree circles in the water while other anglers in other boats were fishing.



Ray Cannata with a nice Brown from Montana's Big Horn River

Equipment For Trip

A **5-weight** rod is adequate for all fishing and a **3X** or **4X** tippet is fine. Bring sun gloves for hand and a wide brim hat for the strong sun to protect your face, head, and neck. Also bring eye cleaner packs. Floating fly line is fine, no others necessary. Fishing earlier in the season minimizes the weed problem but you will be nymphing. Dry fly fishing is in August/September but watch out for the weeds.

A Good Fishing Trip

We caught many large healthy trout despite the heavy water flow on the **Bighorn** and the muddy water on the **North Platte** that flows through **Casper** where there is public access from across the **Hampton Inn** at the **Community Park**.



Wyoming's North Platte River

— Ray Cannata

Three Months on the Road - Summer 2023

Alaska & Back

After an ominous start with a truck breakdown our first day out, we continued on with an eight-day journey to meet our friends and travel companions in Great Falls, MT.

We departed heading north into Canada, first to Calgary and then north again to Edmonton. At Edmonton we turned west heading towards the beginning of the Alaska highway in Dawson Creek. This was the last of civilization for awhile. Our next major stop was Laird Hot Springs Provincial Park for some soaks & relaxation in the hot water.

We finally arrived at the U.S. border crossings and an overnight stop in Tok, AK. From Tok we went south to Valdez and found out that the salmon had not yet come in.

We had Peter Pan Fish Distributors call us when a boat came in and we bought two pounds of King Salmon fresh off the boat. It was really good. We finally arrived at our most frequent base, Anchorage. We made several outings from there.

Bob & Carol Bebout called to let us know that Costco had king crab legs at \$30-a-pound. I had been waiting for the crab in order to celebrate our anniversary (a lot cheaper than \$70-a-meal for 11 ounces).

We went to Seward only to discover that our favorite local eating

place for a bucket of butts (Hali-but) was closed.

We stopped at the visitor center to see Exit Glacier. Jim went on an outing from there with Bob & Carol Bebout fishing on the Russian River for Red Salmon. Back in Anchorage, we celebrated 4th of July with our friends at the Bebout's cabin. Lot of fun and full tummies from traditional fare. After picking up three more members of our caravan traveling with our friends, we went to Denali National Park.

Jim & I traveled alone up to Fairbanks to see the sights. After leaving Fairbanks, we met with our

friends again and traveled south to the Kenai River where Bob and Carol store their boat for some fishing. Everyone had fun & red salmon were caught. We returned to Anchorage for our friends guest to catch their return flight home. We departed for the south after that. We took the Cassier highway out of Whitehorse, traveling close to the coast in British Columbia. A short detour to Stewart, BC/Hyder, AK to visit the boardwalk to see the bears was not successful since the Chum Salmon had not come in yet.

We did see a black bear as we returned from driving 20 miles to see the Salmon Glacier. We departed from our travel companions in southern British Columbia and traveled west through Jasper & Banff National Park before returning to Great Falls and, from there, home.

— Michelle Humphrey





BeBout Fishin' Time
Capt. Lowell Bebout

Fishing Charters
USCG License & Insured

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Fly Fish the Nature Coast

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