



Founded 1994 by Armand Courchaine  
<http://www.crossroadsanglers.com>

Meeting Date: April 22nd, 2008, at 6:30 PM

## From the President

Spring has officially arrived. I managed to get out to wet a line and have been lucky enough to land several nice trout. I hope that all of you have had the time and good fortune to land the first fish of spring.

I would like to thank George for bringing the scouts to the March meeting and everyone who helped out. It was truly a great success. It has been quite some time since I have seen the joy in a young person's eyes and the look of wonder over a new accomplishment. ([See thank you letter from the Boy Scouts on our website.](#))

I would also like to welcome a new member, Dennis Polumbo, into the club—please make him feel welcome. We still have openings for new members, so if you know of someone who might enjoy learning the joy of fly fishing or tying, please have them stop by at the next meeting.

We have a special treat to offer the members at our April meeting. Marla Blair will be our guest speaker and has been kind enough to offer to take two people on a guided trip. We will be offering the trip as the raffle prize this month. Good luck to all.

We will be holding several club trips in the next few months and will have sign-up sheets at the meeting. Let me know if you have an interest

in attending. It's a great way to learn if you are new to the sport.

Tight lines,

David Ferretti

## Agenda

April 22nd

Doors open 6:30 PM

Fly Tying with Marla Blair

7: 15 Announcements

Raffle: Guided trip with Marla Blair for two people

**Presentation by Marla Blair**

## New Members

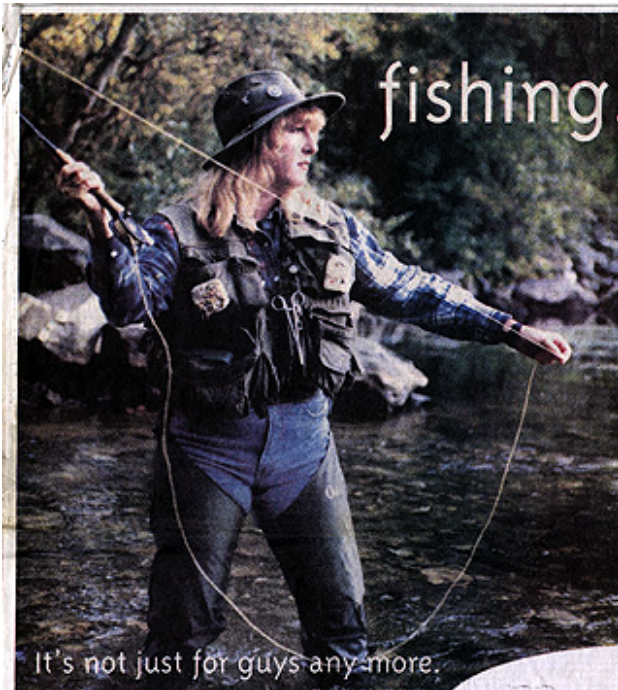
Welcome, Dennis Polumbo.

## Marla Blair

“The fly lands softly on the water just seconds before it is nipped from the surface by a rainbow trout. The line slices through the clear water as the angler puts pressure on the fighting trout. With the long whip-like fly rod bent under the strain of a hefty fish in the fast water of a pristine stream, a passer-by says ‘Look! It's Bette Midler flyfishing!’ Well, they are almost right. It is professional Celebrity Look-A-Like

for Bette Midler, Marla Blair. Marla is so much more than a dead ringer for Bette Midler, she is the Top Female Freshwater Fly Fishing Guide/Instructor for western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut and has been since 1993.”

*[From Women Anglers website](#)*



## Tips & Tricks

### **Rob Lurie**

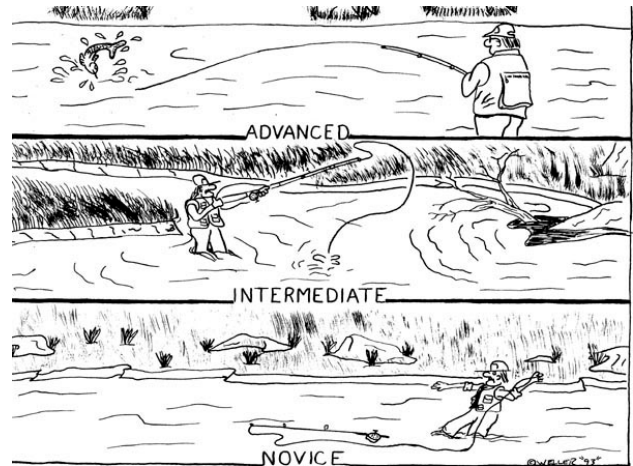
Spring has sprung and outdoor activities begin! At our last meeting fly casting and tying were abundant. Many people brought out their fly rods to “exercise” them for the first time this season. I’d be willing to bet there were a few sore arms and shoulders the next morning. As with other sports, a little warm up can pay off. I have tried a bit of aerobic movement to loosen up prior to fishing. It helps.

Casting tempo is interesting to watch. Like a metronome, the longer the cast, the longer the pause between back and forward cast. As a challenge, start false casting with about 30-40 feet of line. Gradually slow your tempo down until the loop collapses. It may take a bit longer stroke and opening your loop up, but it is an

interesting exercise to see just how much, or little, effort it takes to make a good cast. I have done this with several students and it is amazing to see the results. The bottom line is fewer false casts, less effort, and more fishing enjoyment.

Try it!

Rob



## How to Fix a Stuck Fly Rod

*Thanks to Joel Kessler*

First of all, do not panic—unless the rod is somehow holding the door closed on a burning car with a baby trapped inside, which is highly unlikely, time is on your side.

**Do:** Get a helper: Four hands are better than two. Both of you clean your hands. Get rid of anything that would make your hands slippery, like grease from your fried chicken lunch, Dapper Dan hair treatment, 10W40, etc. Also clean the rod. Use rubbing alcohol for this. Now get one guy on either side of the ferrule and pull. Make sure your hands are away from the guides and you are pulling straight!

**Chill Out:** Often the reason the rod is stuck is that it was put together when cool and now it’s warm. This tightens the connection. Lay the rod

on a table and put a bag of ice on the ferrule for 20 minutes or so. Then follow the instructions above. In the field I've submerged rods in the river for a while to cool them off. I've never had this fail.

**Do not:** Twist the rod. Use pliers, wire cutters, vice grips, bench vices, or any other mechanical equipment to hold the rod. Use the guides to get a better grip on the rod. Heat the rod with a lighter, blow torch, candle, match, friendly dragon, or any other heat source (heat is really bad for epoxy).

*Great Outdoor Blog*, Scott Wood, Fly Fishing Product Manager. [Great Outdoors Website](#)

## Report from Board

Our balance in checking as of April 10, 2008 is \$1,799.28. Our membership income (\$725 as of April 10, 2007) is down somewhat (\$600) so

far in 2008. If attendance at meetings is also lower, that would explain \$347 in raffle income so far this year compared with \$656 as of this date in 2007. We have also spent less in speaker fees (\$300) in 2008 as compared with \$1,000 this time last year.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Forte, Treasurer



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