

Catskill Region Fishing A Paradise For Anglers

(NAPSA)—Fishing season in the Catskill Region is launched each year during the dawn hours of April 1 and runs through October 15. This annual event is held where the Beaverkill and Willowemoc rivers meet at Junction Pool in Roscoe, NY. At the ceremonial cast this season was honorary guest and talk show personality Sally Jessy Raphael, who joined Joan Wulff, a renowned instructor for the celebration. Of the 10.9 million American fly fishing enthusiasts, 25 percent are women and the number is growing.

Sally Jessy's love of the sport began 20 years ago and for the past 11 years her passion for fly-fishing has grown while studying at the Wulff School in Lew Beach, NY, with Joan Wulff. When asked how she became involved with fishing Sally Jessy says, "I decided that I needed to be alone because I was with the world too much. Being pacifistic by nature, I asked people what sport could I do that is not competitive and was told that I could stand in a stream and if I didn't have a cell phone I was in. I came up to the Catskill region and met Joan Wulff and began taking her classes."

One of the top instructors for fly fishing, Joan has written several books on the subject, including *Joan Wulff's Fly Fishing: Expert Advice from a Woman's Perspective*. She has received many awards for her expertise with fly-fishing, as well as her work with both the fishing industry and conservation. The school's Web site is www.royalwulff.com or call (845) 439-5020.

Fly-fishing requires exact precision in hand-eye coordination to move a fly line through the air and unroll it into a target area no larger than a teacup. Enthusiasts



Sally Jessy Raphael and Joan Wulff fishing in the Catskill Region.

from the tri-state region can cast a line within two hours of leaving home. Jim "Coz" Costolnick, host of *In Search of Flywater* on ESPN2, marvels at the proximity. "Standing in the gem-clear water, looking out at the trees and watching as a white-tail deer hops by, you just can't believe you are only two hours outside of New York City," he observes.

The vibrant water supply of the Catskill Region supports one of the strongest freshwater fish populations in the world. Providing optimal conditions for large brown and rainbow trout, the tail waters of the Delaware River's main stem and the point where it meets with East and West Branches attract experts and enthusiasts from around the world.

A wide choice of lodging locations adds to the pleasure of a fly-fishing trip in the Catskill Region, and many well-stocked specialty stores can outfit a guest with all the necessary gear.

Located on the banks of the Willowemoc Creek, the Catskill Fly

Fishing Center and Museum is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving America's fly-fishing heritage, teaching future generations of fly fishers and protecting the fly-fishing environment. An environmental research center is under development here. Visit www.cfm.org.

Everyone 16 years of age and over needs to be licensed to fish in New York State freshwaters. Licenses may be purchased at chain and discount stores, sporting goods stores, campsites, and Town Clerk offices. Complete information is available at www.dec.state.ny.us.

The Catskill Region is an ideal choice for a warm weather escape. The glorious landscape is superb for walking and hiking; sporting options are extensive. Visitors can explore the region's antique shops, art galleries, museums, craft shops, cinemas and theaters and fine dining. For a preview, visit www.CatskillRegionToday.com. Drive two hours...then fly-fish the waters of the Catskill Region.