

# Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum

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Dear Catskill Rodmakers,

It's May, and we are well into planning the 2017 Catskill Rodmakers Gathering to be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 8 to 10 at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum (CFFCM) in Livingston Manor. Looking back on last year's Gathering, I am sure you will agree it was an excellent event.

At this time, we are arranging a full weekend of activities focusing primarily on "hands on" rodmaking. We have programs that feature Catskill bamboo rodmaking history and programs that feature both the basics of the craft for newer attendees, and the more advanced finer points for the experienced. The theme of this year's gathering is "Year of the Brookie" and once again Kim Mellema has come up with outstanding artwork for the logo.

Cost is \$90 per participant if you register by July 31. We are also considering some special in-depth workshops on Friday if we find there is significant interest. These potential workshops are listed on the registration form and will require a small additional fee at a later time if the level of interest is sufficient to conduct the workshop.

The popular pot luck dinner will be held as usual on Friday night at the CFFCM with Dave Fitch demonstrating his latest culinary creations. We are also welcoming back the Dead End Café in Parksville, NY as our caterer for this year's event. Many fondly remember them from earlier gatherings. After a lapse of several years, Tom is now back in the restaurant and catering business. He has promised me some new specialties for this year's gathering, along with some past favorites. I am working with him to plan meals that insure everyone's dietary needs can be met and satisfied.

This year's Harold Demarest Rod Makers Challenge is a 6'6" 4wt rod designed for fishing small streams for brook trout (in keeping with the theme). The first 15 registered entrants will receive a fly line to use in the challenge at no cost, generously donated by Royal Wulff Products.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to conduct a program or workshop, or if you have an idea for something you want to see. We are looking for ideas, and we want to get as much rodmaking into the event as we can.

Also remember that the CFFCM only basically breaks even financially on registrations, food, supplies, etc. Fundraising relies primarily on the raffle, auctions and other side events. Please consider generously donating items to the raffles and auctions, and participating in them as well.

Looking forward to gathering for the "Year of the Brookie."



Chris Bogart