

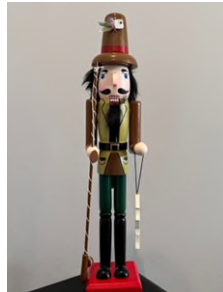


## Holiday Banquet Notes 2023

The Cape Fear Fly Fishing Holiday Banquet took place at the Member's Club House. There was some confusion on the location, since the announcements indicated it would be held at Founder's, same as last year. A lesson learned is that we should have the names and numbers of all members readily available to alert them of at the last minute. It all worked out since Jim Larson had most people in his contact list on his phone. We had approximately 40 guests registered for the event. The tables were decorated by Big Jim's wife with beautiful large poinsettias and a unique Fly Fisher Nut Cracker. That was an exceptionally big hit. A tag underneath one of the chairs at each table indicated the surprise of the winner for the table poinsettia. A raffle ticket placed at each table setting was used to determine the Nut Cracker. Steve Moore also donated fly rods which were a great addition to the raffle prizes.

Rick made the name tents which people picked up at the entrance and took to tables of their choice. The meal choices for the couple were on the back of the tents along with payment option. A continuous power point slide show of fishing accomplishments was on display in the dining room. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by the club. Social hour ran from 6 PM to dinner at 7 PM.

During dessert Jim Larson was master of ceremonies and presented awards as humorous and thoughtful. Everyone enjoyed Jim's commentary and creativity. Unfortunately the Members Club does not have a large screen for power point presentations, so they responded with a projector and large screen, although not optimal it worked, in the future we may have a club projector for these situations.



The Rev wrote an excellent synopsis of the event and it is included as follows:

"The banquet went very well and demonstrated a good spirit. The body language of the event was terrific as was the spread for cocktail hour. We are very glad that Ruth Ann Donaldson seems to be recovering well from her injury when she fell going down the steps at the Members Club.

The general feeling at my table was that the main course offerings did not live up to expectations, especially the chicken cordon blue and short ribs. For instance, I removed a fairly significant pile of connective tissue and unappealing fat and the chicken cordon blue apparently

was not particularly delicious in that the ham, cheese and sauce were not holding their own in the dish. The mash potatoes were almost runny. I don't eat at St. James with any regularity but it was not up to the standards I enjoy when I do. It may be that our table, which was the last to be served had food that had cooled down a bit and didn't get to us when it was at its best, Oh well.

Having the big screen was great. We have a new standard of excellence in that regard. If nothing else, it reminds those of us who go on some trips to make sure we take pictures when our boat mate has caught a particularly significant fish or an event of some humor occurs (such as brother Harvey breaking the welds on the chair and holding the fish). With cell phones, we can take pictures of all sorts of events on our trips.

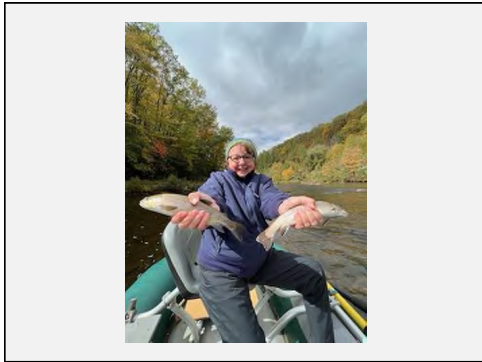
I also commend Big Jim for the right mixture of humor and dubious achievement awards with serious awards. These are the stories that give life to the club and serve as a bond of sorts!

In my view, we are beyond where we were when the pandemic hit. So let's keep up with the hard work.

Rev

The winners each received a certificate acknowledging their achievement as follows:

12/13/23



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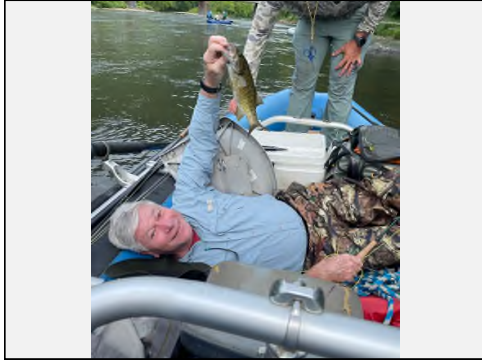
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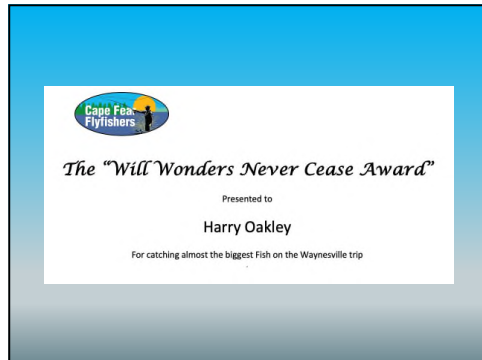
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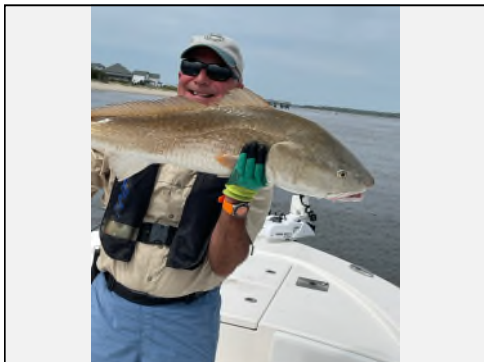
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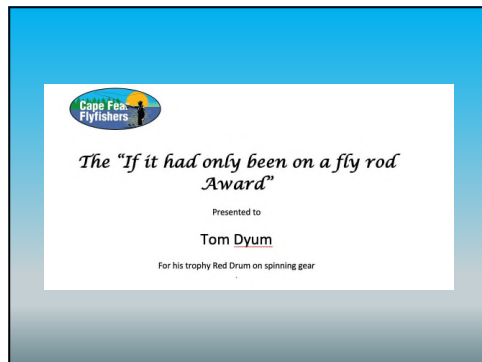
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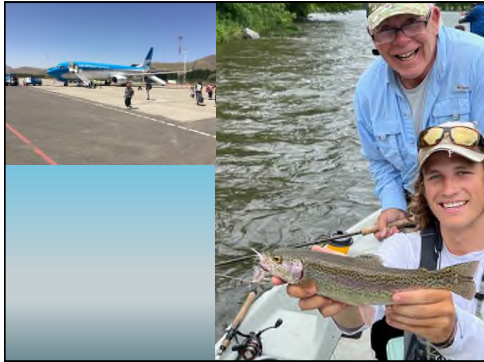
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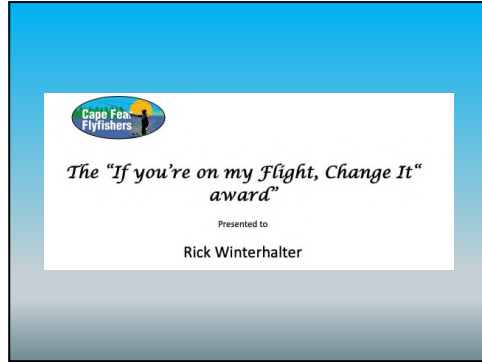
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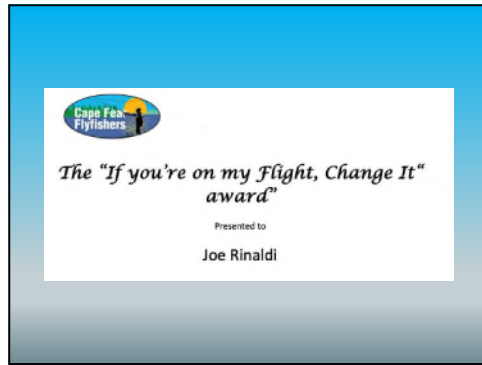
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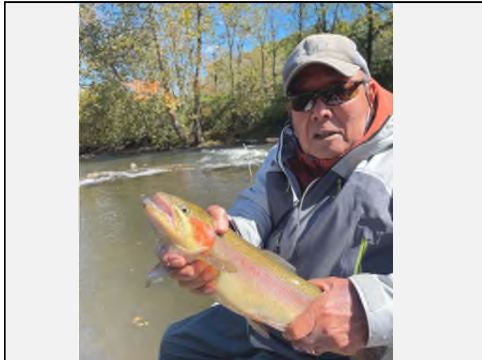
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## The "Energizer Bunny Award"

Presented to

**Joe Fetter**

For being the most energetic and helpful new member







Jim Larson's Award for President 2023

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Falkenstein  
Cape Fear Flyfisher's Secretary