



THE JERRY BARTLETT ANGLING COLLECTION
presents
SPORTING LEGENDS OF THE CATSKILLS

Sporting Clubs

Saviors of our Catskill Rivers

Saturday, April 28, 2018
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
at the Phoenicia Library

Community Meeting Room
(Elevator Access available)

The presentation by Austin 'Mac' Francis and Bethia Waterman will discuss the history and origins of sporting clubs and preserves, both public and private in the Catskills.

By the late nineteenth century overharvesting of fish and game, water pollution and deforestation caused by tanning and other industrial uses, and abandonment of overworked farms resulted in dramatic declines of fish and game stocks. The rising consciousness of a need to protect and conserve water, forests and wildlife led to the creation of Phoenicia Fish and Game, Upper Esopus Rod and Gun, and Stony Clove Rod and Gun in Shandaken. A hundred years ago these groups of sportsmen became advocates and activists leading the way for local citizens to become involved in environmental conservation. We will celebrate their colorful, rebellious, and occasionally blasphemous history.



Austin McK. Francis is owner and publisher of The Beaverkill Press, a small literary press specializing in sporting and outdoors books. He is the author of two books on squash racquets and six books on fly fishing, including the magnificently photographed and illustrated *Land of Little Rivers* and *Catskill Rivers, Birthplace of American Flyfishing*. **Bethia Waterman** is one of the founders of the Jerry Bartlett Angling Collection and a resident of the Town of Shandaken.

For more about the Jerry Bartlett Memorial Angling Collection, and Catskills fishing lore, techniques and history, visit:

www.catskillanglingcollection.org

PHOENICIA



LIBRARY

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www.phoenicialibrary.org