

# **Dusty S. Wissmath, Director**

## ***Dusty Wissmath's Fly Fish School/Guide Service***

### **Education:**

I received a B.S. Degree from the University of Wyoming in Wildlife Biology, National Park Administration. I also attended classes at the University of Wyoming Law School and the Olin School of Business at Washington University.

### **Work Experience:**

African Wildlife Foundation – Wildlife Biologist, Liaison Officer  
Whitetail Mountain Resort – Director of Retail Operations  
Dusty Wissmath's Fly Fishing School & Guide Service – Director

I've been involved with the fly fishing industry in some form since I was in college in the 1970's and spent my summers guiding outside of Saratoga, Wyoming. Between undergrad and grad school I managed a fly shop, tied commercially and guided, learning from the ground up about building blocks of our industry and the challenges that we face.

My career as a wildlife biologist and liaison officer for an NGO conservation organization gave me experience dealing with the issues concomitant with private interests on public lands – something that we as fly fishermen are well acquainted with. In addition, I spent considerable time on Capitol Hill learning how to be an advocate and speaking with members of Congress as a representative of the conservation community. I've continued to visit the Hill dealing with issues on behalf of the fly fishing community and I would look forward to using this experience as a Board member of AFFTA.

For the past 20 years I've served as the Director of Retail Operations for a ski resort. This entails responsibility for all buying, budgeting, staffing, and marketing decisions for the independent ski shop located at the resort. I feel that the ski industry parallels the fly fishing industry very closely and both are affected by the same economic, climatic, social, political and business factors. I think that the years spent in this position have provided me with an insight into the outdoor sports industry that would be beneficial to AFFTA.

For the past 14 years my fly fishing school and guide service has been based at the ski resort where I'm employed. I've taught fly fishing for a number of years and have instructed at the L.L. Bean in Virginia and I still teach at the Joan Wulff School as well as my own. We conduct classes on weekends April through October, guide in PA, MD, VA and I host destination trips in the U.S. and internationally. I am a F.F.F. Certified Casting Instructor and serve on the F.F.F. Guides Association Board of Governors and several fly fishing manufacturers pro staffs. I've been involved with Project Healing Waters since its inception as well as the Congressional Casting Call – now the Jim Range National Casting Call.

As a freelance fly fishing writer and photographer I also understand the importance of communicating with not only the members of our industry, but the current and prospective participants in our sport. We face a number of serious challenges, not the least of which is the necessity of bringing new people – especially young men and women into our sport. AFFTA is facing the challenge of representing its members to the best of its ability with the limited resources that it has. These are important issues and I feel that my experience and knowledge could be put to good use as an AFFTA Board Member and I would be honored to serve.