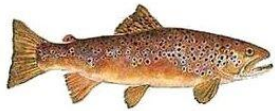




LINES & LEADERS



The Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



Volume 36 No. 4

Organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters."

December 2007

DECEMBER MEETING

Ryan Sansoucy
"Hush" Fly-Fishing



Come to December's member's meeting and listen to Ryan Sansoucy...from HUSH FLY-FISHING... the **LOUDEST** thing on water. Hush is for a breed of angler that is ready for a change. Hush brings a new sense of unity on and off the water...whether you only have a few chances to fish a year or if you are a hardcore nutcase. Ryan will be talking about flats fishing for stripers and inner coastal saltwater fly fishing salt ponds and open water flats. He will also talk a bit about the future for fly fishing and the passion that binds us together.

Come join us for what sounds to be a different but very fun evening!!

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT
DATE: Wednesday, Dec 12th, 2007
TIME: Fly Tying, Tackle Swap, Raffle:
7:00 - 7:30 PM
Program: 8:00 - 9:00 PM



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

'Tis the season already! Where does the time go? First things first, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season. It's good to see so many of you attending our monthly meetings. Lou and I headed to Danbury for Jim Krull's Arts of the Angler show early in November. It was a cold windy day and it seemed like a good way to spend some time. It was great to see so many of our members in attendance. I got to chat with some old friends that I don't get to see too often like Fishy Fullum and Dave Brandt. It seems the only time I get to see them is at the shows although Fishy keeps trying to make his way up here so we can do some fishing together, so far it hasn't happened. I guess I just have to make more time to fish. I didn't even get to inflate my float tubes this past year. Maybe I'll bring it to the club's class at the pond in the spring. I'm thinking of getting a flotilla together in the spring and hitting some of the small ponds around the state, so if any of you have a tube and are interested let me know.

The expo and banquet plans look like they are going well; Kurt tells me we have lots of nice raffle prizes again this year. If any of you would like to tie some flies or donate prizes to our banquet please let Kurt or myself know. Tickets are the same price as last year and you will need to print a form from our website www.ctflyfish.org and click on the banquet link print the form and send it to Mike Stewart along with a check and choice of meal. It's going to be a special event as it is every year and this year we have Bob Clouser as our speaker. For those of you that do not have computers, not to worry you will find a form in the newsletter that you receive in the mail. If you have a problem receiving the newsletter and need a form please feel free to let me know and I will print one out and mail it to you along with making sure you receive a newsletter. I hope you can all make it.

We have been asked for two fly tiers to tie at Cabela's starting in December. They would like us to tie twice a month on a Saturday and Mary Edwards is the person to talk to if you are interested.

We are signing people up for the Dodge Truck Fishing and Hunting Show February 15,16, and 17th anyone interested can sign up by contacting our vice president of activities Bob Winot. You don't have to be a fly tier to help; you can come and work at our table for 2 hours by talking to people about fly-fishing and CFFA. (Continued on Page 6)

CFFA CLUB NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Reminder! December is the time to renew your membership. Please send your payment to CFFA or to Phil McCormick. You can mail your payment to Phil at 268 Buff Cap Road, Tolland, CT, 06084, Email: phil.mccormick@alliedprinting.com

BOB CLOUSER TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE NEXT BANQUET

We will have BOB CLOUSER as the guest speaker at the next CFFA Banquet. Bob is world renowned and has published many books on fine and effective fly patterns. To this date, renowned flyfisherman Lefty Kreh, has caught 86 species on the Clouser minnow alone.



Clouser Minnow

FLY TYER'S NEEDED

Fly tyers are always welcome to tie during the social hour at our monthly members meeting. Don't be shy! It is a great way to share your skills, teach others, and you get to show off a bit too! Contact John Baracchi if you are interested. Check the CFFA message board in the week preceding the meeting and you can volunteer online if you prefer.

HELP OUT AT THE CFFA BOOTH AT THE NORTHEAST HUNTING & FISHING EXPO

The Northeast Hunting and Fishing Show will be held in downtown Hartford February 15th through the 17th. If you are interested in helping out at this show contact Bob Winot or John Baracchi.

VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATION

Bruce Rich has been nominated for the position of VP of Promotions.

Expo Guests

This year's expo guests will feature Bob and Brian Shumaker of the Susquahanna River Guides. (Expo Feb 9, 9am-3pm, no charge)



COMING EVENTS

Next Board Meeting DEC 5
Next Membership Meeting DEC 12

SHOWS AND EXPOS

2008 Northeast Hunting and Fishing Expo, CT Expo Center Hartford, CT FEB 15-17, 2008
www.fishinghuntingexpo.com

2008 Fly Fishing Shows JAN 18, 19, 20 2008
-Royal Plaza Trade Center Marlborough, MA

-Garden State Expo Center Somerset, NJ JAN 25, 26, 27, 2008

2008 "The Springfield Sportsmans Show" at the "Big E," West Springfield, MA FEB 21-24, 2008

2008 Fly-Fishing Exposition, Shriners Auditorium Wilmington, MA DATES TBD

CFFA CLASSES/EVENTS

2008 Fresh and Salt Water Fly Tying Classes January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and February

2008 CFFA Annual Banquet And Exposition Feb 9, 2008

2008 Freshwater Fly-Fishing School March 6, 13, 20, 27 with the casting instruction on stream classes to be announced.

2008 Saltwater Fly-Fishing School
* Mar/April 2008

2008 Cape Cod Fishing Trips:
First trip: * Dates TBD
Second trip: * Dates TBD

OTHER EVENTS

HFFA Annual Expo And Banquet, Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT Dates TBD

CT River Salmon Association 32nd Dinner & Raffle (see page 3) Jan 26, 2008

* For actual dates please visit our website at www.ctflyfish.org

CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION



32ST ANNUAL DINNER AND RAFFLE/AUCTION

Saturday, January 26, 2008

The Hawthorne Inn 2421 Wilbur Cross Highway,
Berlin, CT

Tickets \$ 39.00 per person

Guest speaker
Renowned Salmon Authority
FRED WHORISKEY
Vice President for Research and Environment
Atlantic Salmon Federation

Raffle and Auction items include fresh and saltwater tackle and equipment, limited edition and original art work, guided trips and other items which provide excitement and enjoyment throughout an evening of good fellowship.

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or Jim Carroll at (860) 231-5181

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Saturday, February 9, 2008

at Maneeleys

65 Rye Street

South Windsor, CT 06074

This year's banquet speaker will be

Bob Clouser

In addition to this program, prizes will be offered through door prizes, a Special Raffle, and the General Conservation Raffle. Anyone wishing to donate prizes for the banquet may contact John Baracchi at (860)895-1181. All prizes will be greatly appreciated and all donations will be acknowledged in "Lines & Leaders." Reserve the date and time on your calendars! DINNER RESERVATION FORM can be found on our website at www.ctflyfish.com. An order form is also in this month's LINES & LEADERS on page 4 if you prefer to mail a hardcopy.

DEP Salmon Stocking

Over 400 salmon were stocked into the Naugatuck and Shetucket rivers during November. Some of these fish were also stocked into Crystal Lake in Ellington and Beach Pond in Voluntown because of insufficient river flows in the early part of the month. Sixty of the stocked fish are over 18lbs and several topped the scales at over thirty pounds. Remember, Catch and Release only until Nov, 30. This was one of the beasts that was stocked in November. Anglers Beware!



President Orders Game Fish Status for Red Drum, Striped Bass

Executive Order creates legacy of conservation

ST. MICHAELS, MD - Surrounded by conservationists and anglers on the shores of historic Chesapeake Bay, President Bush today signed an Executive Order establishing gamefish status for red drum and striped bass in federal waters. The Order is a landmark victory for recreational anglers who have fought for decades to restore and conserve two of the most coveted sport fish in America.

"With this action, the President has secured a legacy for the recreational anglers and conservationists who have worked so hard on behalf of our marine resources," said Walter W. Fondren III, chairman of Coastal Conservation Association. "When CCA began to work on recovering red drum 30 years ago in Texas, we never imagined an event like this would ever be possible. We owe a debt of gratitude to the President for recognizing the high value placed on these resources by the citizens of this country."

U.S. Presidents have issued executive orders since 1789, usually to help direct the operation of executive officers. The Executive Order signed today by President Bush instructs the Secretary of Commerce to put regulations in place establishing gamefish status for red drum and striped bass in federal waters, and encourages the states to take similar actions in state waters.

"From the darkest days of overfishing in the late 1970s and early '80s, hundreds of thousands of people have worked tirelessly to conserve these resources," said David Cummins, president of CCA. "The President today has delivered the only reward that mattered to any of them - a better future for the resources they cherish."



Banquet Hard Copy Reservation form:

Dinner Reservation Form

Date _____

No. of Reservations
at \$39.00 per person: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Dinner Choice: Prime Rib Baked Stuffed Shrimp Chicken Breast with vegetable herb stuffing

MAIL CHECK TO:
Mr. Michael Stewart
215 Loomis St.
N. Granby, CT 06060

My First Tarpon

By John Springer

This past January some friends went to Cancun with my wife and I. When you go on a trip like this taking a friend that likes to fish is a plus. Before we went, I asked around about any fishing opportunities near the resort area we stayed at. Everyone said I had to go three or four hours away for any type of fishing, but a friend told me to Google the words "fly fishing Cancun." When I did several guide services came up but the one I chose was "Tarpon Cancun." The manager of this company is Elba and she's very much in the know about what fish will be around and what we could expect to catch. She told me that there would be baby Tarpon around, Snook and Barracuda. I told her I wanted to try some of my own flies and she said fine; she also told me the guide would have his own flies. That turned out to be a good thing since what I use here in Long Island sound caught nothing.



After several days of doing things with our wives it was time for Brad and I to go fishing. Elba picked us up at our hotel and we had the company of several anglers, one was a fly fisher. He explained that the fishing was ok but that we were going to have to fish deep because it was high tide. There was nothing new about that statement, but at least we didn't have to hear "you should have been here yesterday." We drove about thirty minutes and then got on a road that reminded me of the bumpy roads I traveled on in Russia. Elba swerved and dodged as many pot holes as she could and after about twenty five more minutes we arrived at the docks. There were plastic tarps set up for shade over tables. It was very laid back and I am sure a fun place to have a drink after fishing. As this was a vacation with our wives, we did not get to sample it. Elba introduced us to our guide Alex Padilla who has been guiding for 8 years. Off we went for about a thirty minute ride. Then we entered a lagoon where we were going to go fishing. Several boats went by us leaving the area and Alex explained they were lobstermen and were done for the day.

A short time later he killed the engine and poled us to within fifty feet of the mangroves and told us to cast toward the indentations in the brush. This type of fishing is everything you have heard or read about. You **MUST** be able to make a cast from the boat and get your fly under the branches and get it as close to where the bush enters the water as you can. I found it easier to make the cast side arm myself. If you are going to go and do this type of fishing practice this casting **BEFORE** you go. Your day will be much more enjoyable and your guide will be happy also. Remember he wants you to catch fish just as much as you want to catch them.

While fishing, you could hear the birds without the engine running and the stillness of everything else made you feel like you were in a jungle. About every five minutes you would see a disturbance in the water and you new there was bait fish getting attacked by the Tarpon and Snook underneath. Alex looked at my flies before we started and picked one out for me that he thought would work. My flies did not work. He asked me what they were used for and I explained about striper and blue fish in the Northeast. After about a half hour I gave up and asked him for one of his flies. He gave me an orange fly and I tied it on. The first thing I noticed was that it was a size 2 hook instead of 2/0. After several casts I saw the flash and felt the tug of my first Tarpon. I raised my rod sharply just like I do for Trout fishing, and watched my fly leave the fish's mouth and fly over my head. Alex said "sir, sir!" and proceeded to tell me how to set the hook. I said "I know, I know!" and explained how I had read many times what to do when you hook a Tarpon. This happened three more times but Alex never yelled at me surprisingly. We have all read about guides that tell you "65 feet at 2 PM NOW!" and if you blow the cast or spook the fish they let you know it. Alex is very laid back and both Brad and I enjoyed the day because of him. Brad fished with a plug for the Tarpon but they were not in the mood for it. After a few hours Alex took us to another spot. The water and the mangroves looked the same but we had mosquitoes and had to put on repellent. I wanted to know why we did not have them the first part of the day and was told "no mosquitoes in the lagoon only in the jungle." I did not question him but someday perhaps I will understand the difference between the two area I was in. While I was there, it all looked the same. One difference between the two areas was the size of the fish. The three times I had a Tarpon take my fly, they were all about 8-10 pound fish, about 2-3 times the size of the earlier fish. Another thing you read about Tarpon fishing was that when they jump, you bow to them. If you don't, you will lose the fish because of their hard mouth and tendency to spit the hook. Soon it was time to make a decision if we wanted to stay and continue Tarpon fishing or go for Barracuda, we went for the Barracuda.

While traveling along with our feet up and the wind blowing warm in our faces I was thinking "life is good." Then, Alex gave us our lunch and it got better. It was a nice break and soon we came to a spot where he threw the anchor out. He said "fish now," I showed him my flies again and he picked out a 5 inch Whitely chartreuse and white estaz marabou fly. On my second cast a Cuda took it, my fly line and much of my backing before I lost it. "Wow," was all I could say. After that, I could not get them to hit. They would follow it to the boat then turn away. Alex told me to strip faster but I still could not get them to strike. I switched to a spinning rod and only managed some short strikes the rest of the day. Brad, using a plug on the other hand, hooked about 8-9 of them and landed 4-5. We let Alex get the lure out of the very nasty mouths of the fish. As always, the day ended too fast and we headed back to the docks. Elba met us and wanted to know as soon as we stopped how our day went. She was very happy to see us smiling and talking about fish lost and fish caught. She drove us back to our hotel and I gave her a hug and kiss. We both were very happy with our day on the water and would come back in a heart beat. If you are in Cancun on a family vacation and can get away for a half day I strongly recommend these people. We did not catch the biggest fish in the world but had plenty of action to keep us happy. As I understand, about 3-4 hours away from Cancun you will get a shot at bigger fish but at different times of the year there are bigger fish were we fished too.



New Regulations Proposals for the Farmington River

If there is enough support, these proposals will be written into a regulations package and possibly make the changes law. These proposals would most likely go into effect in 2009.

1. The current upper (West Branch) TMA would be expanded to the abutments below Whittemore pool, extending it an addition 1.5 miles (4.5 miles total).
2. A seasonal TMA would be established from the Goodwin Dam downstream to the newly expanded West Branch TMA (Whittemore abutments). It would be catch-and release from 9/1 until opening day, and from opening day until 9/1 a two fish, 12 inch limit would be in place. The total distance for this area would be about 3.5 miles.
3. 3. From the Route 219 bridge (lower end of West Branch TMA) downstream to the Route 44 (Satan's Kingdom) bridge there would be a 2 fish, 12" limit. We suggested that that area also be made seasonal TMA like the upper part of the river. This area is about 2.75 miles long.
4. From the Route 44 bridge downstream to the Route 177 bridge (Unionville) would revert back to a 5 fish limit, 9" minimum. This would eliminate the Trophy Trout area from the Rt 44 bridge to the Lower Collinsville Dam, and the lower TMA from the Lower Collinsville Dam to the Rt 4 bridge. This area would be approximately 10 miles in length, with the current lower TMA accounting for about 4 miles of this distance.

The DEP will be holding open meetings sometime after the first of the year to discuss these ideas and we look forward to your feedback.

VEST OF THE PRESIDENT – Continued from page 1

Once again it will be at the convention center George and Kristi are still working out the details with the parking but I hear that there will be parking across the street for \$9.00 a day which is a lot better than \$20.00 a day. I am trying to find out if the lot on Market Street will be shuttling people from the \$5.00 lot again this year. I'll let you all know as soon as I know.

Jon and Scott Goldman tell me that the Robert Goldman Memorial Library is up and running. They are loaning out some of their dad's favorite publications to members in memory of their dad. I had the pleasure of sitting with Mr. and Mrs. Goldman at our banquet at my first CFFA banquet, they are two of my favorite people and I will miss Robert. Jon & Scott will be loaning the books at our monthly meetings and you can also return them there as well. I think it's a wonderful way to remember their dad and I hope you will all make use of their generosity.

I need to remind everyone once again Maneeley's has asked that we do not bring any alcoholic beverages into the banquet facility. It is illegal and we ask that you respect the law. There will be a cash bar available.

Charlie, Mary and I headed to Somerset New Jersey for the fly tier's symposium the week after the Danbury show. We met some old friends and spent the day just walking around and meeting new people and shopping, although I only bought some v rib and tinsel I managed to escape the show spending just seven dollars and I have to say that's a new record for me and my wife was pretty pleased. Mary and I met Chris Reeves and his lovely wife Caroline. Chris and Caroline were celebrity tiers at the show and Chris gave Mary and me a couple of his flies for our collections. They were visiting from England and they mentioned that they would like to come to Connecticut next year as they never ever caught a largemouth or smallmouth bass on a fly. I extended an invitation to them and told them that we have several members that would be more than happy to show them where to catch some quality fish in our state.

The purpose of our message board is strictly informational and I would like to ask all of you to please try and keep that in mind when you post. The board is not the place to criticize others and argue with them. Please keep in mind that if a derogatory or argumentative post shows up that it will be removed by our webmaster. Let's all try to play nice the board is not the place for confrontation.

January is election of officers, if you would like to run for an office or would like to nominate someone to run for office please contact the nominating committee chairman Charlie Place. You can contact him at our December meeting or via the message board.

I want to thank each and every one of you for making the CFFA so successful in 2007. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year. The CFFA is the best club in the nation because of all of you. Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm.

Remember; please send your reservations to the banquet in before January 25 2008. We are looking forward to another wonderful evening. Hope to see all of you there.

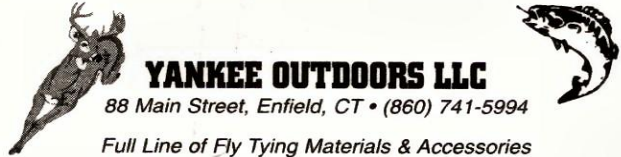
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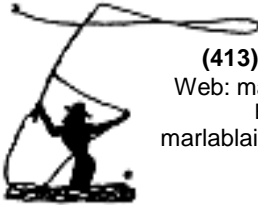


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