

Lines & Leaders

December 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

**FROM THE VEST OF
THE PRESIDENT**

**CFFA DECEMBER
MEETING**

Rich Strolis

**CFFA BANQUET
& EXPO**

RUSSIA

By John Springer

SIMPLE TRICO

By Dlick Wemmell



Bruce Rich Lands an Albie Photo By Phil McCormick



From The Vest Of The President

I want to start this month by wishing all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas! Ah yes, the season once again is upon us. To all of our non-Christian members and their families Happy Holidays. I hope you all get to spend some quality time with your loved ones and friends this holiday season. I want to also wish all of you a Happy New Year.

Uncle Teddy (Ted Rzepski) is on the mend after knee replacement surgery and I would like to wish Unk a speedy and healthy recovery. One step at a time, Unk; you will be good as new before you know it.

Congratulations are in order: our Lines and Leaders editor and his sweetheart Val have tied the knot. Congrats Todd and Val. You are a wonderful couple and I wish your both all the happiness in the world. Remember Todd a smart husband keeps his mouth closed and his checkbook open! Just a little advice from

a guy that 's been married for 36 years.

I see we now have a new Facebook page, I have been a regular lately on facebook reconnecting with my old high school friends. Our web page is finally up to date thanks to the nice work by Nils and

Mary.

Mary Edwards has returned as our publicity director and we are all happy to have her back and she didn't waste any time getting things in order.

Now for the newsletter issue: if you have an email address, please make sure we have it so you can get your newsletter emailed to you in color. If you do not own a computer it seems the newsletter is getting to you via snail mail about a week after our meetings which does you absolutely no good at all. So we are working on that issue and we promise to try and get it out to you before our meetings each month so you can see who our monthly speakers will be. I apologize for neglecting you folks - you are very important to me and the blame is entirely mine. I will get my vest to Todd earlier and that way he can get



the newsletter to the printer earlier so everyone should be informed as to club functions in plenty of time. Be patient and we will fix this problem. I promise.

January is election of officers and I will not be seeking re-election. I have been president for six years and have enjoyed almost every minute of it. I feel that the club has come a long way in six years however, it's time to turn the reigns over to a fresh face. New people with new and better ideas to keep CFFA going in the right direction. I plan to stick around and continue to work to make CFFA successful. Then I will be able to visit and maybe even tie before meetings so I'm kind of looking forward to those options. Please submit any nominations to the election committee chairman Ted Rzepski.

Kurt and Roger need help setting up the expo and banquet so please be generous and give them some of your time. Step up and volunteer.

Denise is working on getting some long sleeve tee shirts with our logo on them to sell at our meetings so look for them very soon. I'm sure they will go fast.

Dr. William Vincent was our speaker at our November meeting. His program talked about bug borne diseases and I'm sure everyone learned a thing or two that they could put to use.

We will be tying again in December at Cabela's on a Saturday and also a Sunday Bruce Rich has the details

so let him know if you are interested. We could always use some fresh faces so come on sign up! And don't forget I believe there will also be a store discount involved but I'm not certain there has been in the past you can check with Bruce on that also.

Thanks to our tiers at the November meeting, John Walker, Bill Keister, and Bruce Rich.

Don't forget to support our sponsors they are very good to CFFA so let's return the favor.

See you at the meeting, bring a friend. Tight Lines: John



CFFA Expo/Banquet

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is pleased to announce its 41st. Annual Fly Fishing Expo and Dinner Banquet on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Our Honored guest will be Lefty Kreh. The Expo will be open from 9am until 3pm. There will be many fly-fishing shops and dealers at the Expo along with flyfishing programs and clinics throughout

the day.

Our evening Banquet will begin at 6:00pm with cocktails followed by dinner at 7:00. Lefty Kreh will be the Banquet speaker. Awards and raffle follow dinner. Tickets are \$40.00 per person. Both the Expo and banquet will be held at Maneeley's, 65 Rye Street, S. Windsor, Ct. 06074.

Reservations for the banquet must be made in advance and received no later than January 29, 2011. Checks need to be made out to CFFA. Please include a copy of the banquet reservation form for your meal choice which can be obtained from our website or later in the newsletter.

You have a choice of Chicken Marsala, Roasted Prime Rib of Beef with au jus or a Seafood Stuffed Filet of Sole for dinner. A garden salad with house dressing, penne marinara and dinner rolls with butter are served with each meal. Desert is warm apple crisp with vanilla ice cream. Vegetarian entrees are available upon request.

Mail checks and reservations to Mike Stewart, 215 Loomis Street, N. Granby, CT 06060. For more information contact Mike Stewart at 860-654-4288 or 860-653-4203 or go to www.ctflyfish.org and click on banquet for more information.

Russia By John Springer

The plans for this year's trip started at the end of the last trip when my Russian friend Sergey said, "Dos Vodonya John," in 2008 when I left him. Two years goes by fast when you're 58 and thinking about big free-flowing rivers, Spey rods, beautiful Salmon flies, great food and plenty of Vodka -- and who can forget the infamous Bania for bathing? One part of the trips that never ceases to amaze me is the big smiles on the faces of the many fishermen



I have been so lucky to meet. Without a doubt I am sure you have heard all the bad news from TV, Radio and newspapers about Russians. never having experienced anything besides a warm welcome from these people and making seven visits. I can tell you most of what you have heard is false.

A fellow fisherman came with me, Bill Keister. Bill is a self taught certified casting instructor as well as a great fly tier and fishermen, a good fishing partner to have along.

Because I have friends in Russia, my trip's cost is about a third what others must pay. Besides plane fares, the cabin we stayed in cost \$45 a day, that was for a warm bed, a hot meal at night and a boat ride up and back to the pools we where would fish. Our license fee each day was \$45. We would spend about 12 hours a day on the river then come back.

You can't fish for 9 days with a Spey rod for that many hours; breaks are taken for food, drink and a nap or two.

Each trip is different as to the amount of fish I have caught. As a rule I do not keep track of the amount of fish I catch, but in Salmon fishing I do. You've all heard that they are the fish of a thousand casts', Sergey likes to say in Russia it's eight hundred. Even though we were about 5 days earlier than past trips and they had much snow





Russia Continued By John Springer

last winter by the time we got there, the water on the Kista was coming down and it seemed not as many fish were coming into the river. That being said I did hook 24 fish and landed 10 of them. But just being there, is such a great experience that losing so many does not matter to me. That old saying "there's more to fishing than catching fish" makes a fishing trip much more enjoyable if you live by that expression. You learn to enjoy the people and the conversation much more if you're not just trying to catch more fish.

Years ago I was very fortunate to meet and make friends with George

Terpening. He used to always say to me when I was in a hurry to get to the river, "Johnny, I have already caught all the fish; I don't have to catch them again." He would then explain to me that when he went fishing it was to meet and talk to new people, have a drink and a good meal and catch a few fish. As I was young I did not understand that then, but I sure do now. Terp would really have enjoyed fishing with these Russians; they all seem to subscribe to his way of thinking.

Each day was the same routine; a time was set up the day before for Genaday to have the boat ready.

We would get up and eat breakfast. We would boil a big kettle of water and make tea and open one of those dried soup mixes and prepare it, they really fill you up and last quite sometime. By the time it was "ready to eat" we would have our thermos filled up and our food sack filled up. Our goodie bag consisted of some type of cheese, sausage, cookies, bread and some dried fruit. After we ate, Genaday would take 3 fishermen at a time up river. We crossed a big fresh water tidal area and headed up river to where the river dumped into the fresh water estuary and hike up to "the first pool". The area

Russia Continued By John Springer



we were allowed to fish is about three quarters of a mile long, after that the river is private. Inside the area we are allowed you have about ten spots that consistently

produce fish. As the water drops you lose some holding water so fishing gets a bit tougher. Perhaps you have heard that a spot that holds a fish that is taken will fill up

again with another fish, it's very true in Salmon fishing. Sometimes it takes a few hours sometimes a day. But there will be another fish there for sure. Sometimes as many as 5 fish will be taken from that same spot as all of us would fish it several times each day. As our morning progress the other fishermen will show up and would ask how we were doing and what flies we had luck with. We showed each other our flies and you got some ideas for what to tie or found out what you were using was wrong. For this trip I spent the winter tying tube flies. I only made about 10 patterns but had them in different weights from plastic tubes to brass. You must go prepared to cover the water from top to bottom no matter what the water temperature is. Ally's shrimp flies worked at the start of the trip, while Green Highlanders were working at the end of the trip.

Each of us would have a favorite spot, mine was



Russia Continued

always because I had hooked a good fish and I am sure they all felt the same, but we would always keep taking steps down river as you made your cast if someone was behind you. Nine days of fishing the same section of river might seem boring to some, but not to me. I guess the reason was because I know it will be two years before I go back to such a beautiful place and fish with such a good friend. Our last day of the trip was like all the rest. You party to much the night before, sleep much too little, fish way to hard, eat too much.

It's a long drive about five hours back to Sergey's house, but it is a quite ride really so many things go through your mind knowing it will be two years till I am back. Nothing like the same trip nine days before when you are talking about fishing catching up on what's new and telling funny stories. Then Sergey fires up his bania and we have our last real Russian bath together eat our last meal and pack. Take a two hour nap and drive 3 hours to the airport for our trip home that takes 28 hours door to door. Totally exhausted you get home but with so many wonderful memories to share with my wonderful wife I must tell her everything before I fall into a deep sleep. And dream about 2012 and my next trip, and what to do to improve myself so I don't lose 14 fish.



December Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

Rich Strolis will present, "The Farmington River: Tips, Tactics and Facts about a Northeastern Tailwater Fishery"

Rich Strolis is an independent guide on the Farmington River in the state of Connecticut.

A transplant of sorts of over a decade ago, he grew up just north of the line in the foothills of the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts. Learning to fish at an early age, Rich converted to fly fishing at the age of 11 and hit the ground running. Shortly after he learned how to tie flies and a lifelong passion ensued. Always wanting an edge, Rich

spends a great deal of time on the water refining techniques, designing new patterns and helping others refine their skills. Rich after years of prodding

from several of his fishing friends and loyal customers has just entered his first year as a commercial tier so his unique patterns are now available for purchase.

You can visit Rich's website for more information <http://www.catching-shadows.com/catching-shadows/Home.html>

Admission to our monthly club meetings is free, and as always the public is invited to attend.

For more information and directions to the meeting call 860-747-3324 or visit the CFFA website at www.ctflyfish.org

Now is the time to purchase your tickets for the CFFA's annual expo and banquet. It is Saturday, February 5, 2011 - 6:00pm - 10:30pm at Maneely's , 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT.

Lefty Kreh is the honored guest for our 41st. annual banquet. You can fill out a dinner reservation from on our website: www.ctflyfish.org

Mary Edwards
CFFA Publicity Chairman

Dinner Reservation Form

Print this page and fill in your dinner selections. Verify that the number of dinners matches the number of guests you selected. The total amount to mail with the reservation should be noted on the form. You can also fill out the form online at www.ctflyfish.org The dinners are \$40.00 per plate. You have to contact Mike Stewart if your reservation is for 3, 5, 7 or more people for seating at the same table. Use the Contact Us form and select "Banquet Seating" to let Mike know you how many guests you have.

Mail Reservation Form and Check **(by 1/29/2011)** To:

Mr. Michael Stewart
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Make Check payable to CFFA

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Number of Prime Rib Dinners: _____

Number of Stuffed Sole Dinners: _____

Number of Chicken Marsala Dinners: _____

Request for Vegetarian Dinners: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING DEC 1st

NEXT CLUB MEETING DEC 8th

Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by me, the editor, although not caught on a fly and surely not a fish my new bride Valerie is a keeper for sure. We were married Nov. 16th on the beach in the Bahamas on Paradise Island. I was advised by a passer by after this photo was taken, "don't drop her", I didn't. If you have a photo of the great fish you have caught, please send it to the Editor at: todd.gorman@mac.com

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Simple Trico

Hook: Tiemco 2488 Pupa Hook

Thread: 6/0 Black

Body: Thread

Wing: White CDC & White Pseudo Wing (Fine)

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

Stop by the December meeting to see Dick tie this fly and maybe pick up a few pointers from him.

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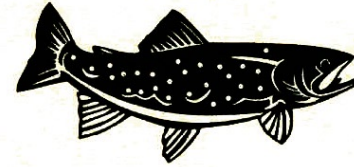
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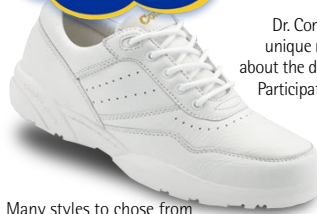
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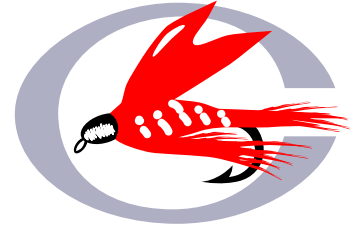
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