

Lines & Leaders

April 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

CFFA APRIL MEETING

Fly Tyers Symposium

CASTING FOR RECOVERY

Important Information Please Read!
**DIDYMO FOUND
IN CT**

A STRANGER NAMED JOEY

By John Springer

88
By Dick Wemmell



Bruce Rich Showing The Way At The American School For The Deaf



From The Vest Of The President

“Why does a Frenchman kiss a lady’s hand? He has to start somewhere. In either seduction or fly fishing it’s silly to proceed without a plan.”

Gary LaFontaine
The Dry Fly
1990

This is the first time in six years that “the vest” has a new voice. I want to start by thanking John Baracchi for his faithful service to our club as President for all those years. John not only maintained what has long been a great club, he helped make it even better with his common sense, his humor and his hard work. John made certain that CFFA was accessible to everyone with an interest in fly fishing. He made himself available to everyone and he excelled at welcoming new members. It’s no wonder that Lefty Kreh said, “CFFA must be the best fly fishing club in the country”.

It is a very great honor for me to serve in this position. Thank you for showing confidence in me. I was surprised when John nominated me to replace him. My first thought was that there are a

number of folks better suited than myself. I spoke with those folks, and they convinced me that I was their choice at this time. With their backing, and with your support, I’m sure we will keep this club on course. In asking for support from you, the members, I mean that I want to hear from you, whatever you have to say regarding our club. Grab me, phone me, email me, send me a personal message

from our website, or come to a Board meeting. It’s your club, and I need to hear from you in order to best do my new job.

For those of you who don’t know me, I’m the guy always passing around sign up sheets for volunteers to participate in club events. I’ve been CFFA’s Vice President of Promotions for the last several years, and before that I was CFFA’s liaison to the Willimantic River Alliance. I’ve had the pleasure of taking every course CFFA offers except Rod Building. I’m a member of Strippers Forever and I recently re-joined Trout Unlimited. I’m a current member and a past officer of the Willington Fish & Game Club and of the Eastern CT Sportsman’s Club. Many years ago I was brought to my first CFFA meeting by a great outdoorsman named Jack Marchesseault, and my appreciation of this club has been continuously growing ever since. Although Jack is no longer with us, his hand will help me guide this good ship.

One of the biggest snowstorms



in a winter full of snowstorms caused the cancellation of our January meeting, which historically is the meeting when most of our membership renewals occur. We have yet to recover from that as the number of "paid-up" members is currently low. If you have not already done so, please mail your \$25 renewal to Phil McCormick, or see him at the April 13th meeting.

Our Board of Directors has undergone some recent changes. Richard Gaudreay has taken over my old position as V.P. Promotions. Dick Heffernon departed as Secretary, and we thank him for years of terrific service. Phil McCormick is now our Recording Secretary, and Phil is also remaining as Membership Chairman. Gary Steinmiller stepped-down as Education Chairman after doing an outstanding job for 22 years and we are grateful beyond words for his contribution to CFFA. Richard Gilligan (Gilli) is the new Education Chairman.

Gilli is off to a great start, having graduated eight students from this year's Fly Tying Classes. Our Fly Fishing Classes now have 18 students enrolled. The casting instruction for these students is scheduled for 9:00am on Saturday April 9th at the Firemen & Policemen Pond in East Hartford. FFF Certified Casting Instructors (and CFFA members) Bill Keister and John Grady will conduct the lesson, but we also need more members to help one-on-one with the students. The date or time may change, so please contact Gilli, Ted Rzepski or myself if you'd like to participate.

Gilli is also teaching fly tying to our country's war veterans at the Newington VA Hospital every

Thursday for one hour starting at 11:30am. Most of these vets have recently returned from overseas and are re-acclimating to stateside life. CFFA members David Papp and Paul Edberg have been helping Gilli at the VA. David also donated a tying kit and Paul donated a Regal vice to this program. We are proud of, and grateful to, these fellow members, and our vets. This is an on-going program that CFFA may become more involved with in the future. If any of you would like to donate your time and/or materials, contact Gilli or myself.

For the 17th straight year, John Springer is conducting fly tying classes at the West Hartford American School for the Deaf with the help of several other CFFA members. Uncle Teddy led the last class in a couple of saltwater patterns. One of the students I assisted was a girl who had one entire arm, including her hand, covered by a cast and sling. Like all the other kids, she was happy and eager to tie flies, and like most of them, she had been in previous classes with Mr. Springer. At first I wondered how this could work with her having the use of only one hand, but she had no hesitation and she quickly started directing me whenever another hand was needed. Before long our three hands were synchronized like a well-oiled, silent, machine. She was picky about the material colors that went into her fly, and she took great pride and joy in the entire process. I'll never forget those flies we tied, nor can I ever forget her spirit. With 15 kids in the class this year, we could use some extra help for the remaining two classes on April 4th and 11th. If you want a great experience,

just show-up at ASD at 5:00pm on those Mondays. You do not need to bring any equipment, just an appetite for the free cafeteria dinner we get before class.

Hope you all get to do some early season fishing to talk about at our April 13th meeting. I'm still trying to clean and organize my gear from last year and to incorporate all the newly tied flies and other stuff acquired over the winter. My wife Christine and I plan on attending the Virginia Fly Fishing & Wine Tasting Festival April 16 - 17, and then spending five days on the Jackson River in the hills of western VA. If any of you plan to be down there, let me know.

Most of us have a potential cover photo, fish picture, favorite fly pattern, or a fly fishing story (true or fictitious) that's worth sharing. Lines & Leaders Editor Todd Gorman encourages all members to submit these types of items for possible inclusion in future editions of this newsletter.

Our sponsors support us, so please remember them before you make a purchase elsewhere. Please make sure your CFFA dues are paid-up. Consider bringing a friend to our next meeting, which features some of the best tiers anywhere in our Fly Tiers' Roundtable. That's how I got started here; a friend brought me to a meeting. And as one of our more famous (dearly departed) members, Gary LaFontaine reminds us, we've got to start somewhere.

I've been happily married to a wonderful woman for 29 years, so I don't have much to say about seduction, but I'll have more to say about plans for our fly fishing club in future editions.

><<)))*> Bruce

A Stranger Named Joey By John Springer

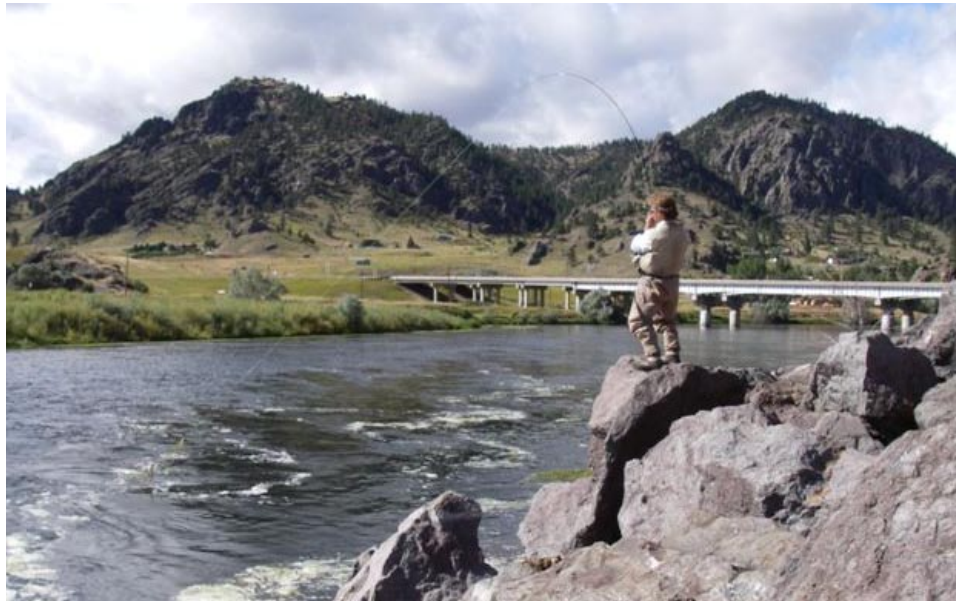
A stranger named Joey
By John Springer

The people I have met through fly fishing never cease to amaze me. This past year my friend Mike and I were fishing the Missouri river and it was slowwwwww. I always get a kick out of fly fishermen that use that term. Most of the time when they do, it means they have caught nothing.

Our fishing was not quite that bad but we were only catching small fish and an occasional "real" Missouri river trout. Mike and I have our favorite spots that are always good to us, but not this time.

Oh, did I mention the weeds? I'm not sure if it's because I am getting older or what but the weeds seem to be getting worse and worse in that river. If you have never been there, the entire river bottom is covered with very long vegetation we call "salad". Every cast while nymphing you must clean off your hook, same with streamers. We did run into another fisherman this year who shared one of his secret flies with us as well as how he deals with the weeds. He uses a long fast sink tip line and said it helps out as you get down below the weeds that are floating in the water. As we did not have one of those lines, it will be something to try out next year. This advice and a hot fly did not help us for this trip, but Joey did.

Mike and I have been staying at Frenchy's in Wolf Creek for almost 15 years now and Amel, the owner, has been telling us about Joey from NY for a few years now, this year we met him. Sometimes it's just luck that can really make your vacation. Running into Joey



made our trip to the Missouri River turn into something memorable.

Amel introduced us and Joey asked how we were doing, we said, "not very well at all." Before I could tell him how it usually is he said, "I am going right now. Come with me, I'll show you where I fish and how I rig up to catch them and what flies I use." He then proceeded to tell us about a 6 pound fish he lost the night before and how he had to cut his line and jump into the river to get his line unwrapped from the cement support for I-15, then his knot between the line and backing broke. Fish and fly line were gone. Mike and I looked at each other and said, "we have to get a bit to eat then, if its ok we will join you if that's ok." He told us where he would be and told us some flies to pick up at the shop before we came down; we followed his instructions and did just that.

Along the river there is a road called Frontage Road and the river pushes into the banks where they have huge boulders so the road does not get undercut and swept away in high water. That's

where the fish were. Lots of hiding places down there and all the food coming down river gets swept into the sharp banks, along with ALL the weeds. But you know what? Joey was right there were fish of all sizes there and none were small.

So we dealt with the weeds and climbing over the rocks and caught fish and lost some real nice ones I might add. He even showed us a second spot that was loaded with fish and much easier to fish, we dubbed that hole "dead rattlesnake hole" as there was a dead snake on the road that was in the sun for sometime and stunk like hell.

We spent about 5 hours with our new friend and wanted to take him out but he could not join us as he had to work the next day. Joey is a real trout bum, he pays for his fishing in Montana by painting houses, staying at Frenchy's and living as cheaply as he can. Very smart man; he knows what's important in life.

Mike and I went back several times on our trip and one time I was walking the bank and saw a fish that looked to be some were

A Stranger Continued

between 30-36 inches. They have very big carp in the Missouri river and I thought that was what I was looking at first, then it opened its mouth and I was it was the biggest brown trout I had ever seen. I have heard people talk about fish that size and have seen big fish swim under boats I had been in, but not this big. I backed off, got below that fish, tied on a big fly and tried for him. On about the 5-6th cast, the line did go tight and start to move, and in about 3 seconds the fly came lose and that fish was gone. I could have hooked it in the mouth or its side fin, I'll never know. What I do know is I got a shot at the largest trout I have ever seen because of a fellow named Joey who took the time to help two strangers he just met out of the goodness of his heart. And that is something you just don't see much of today.

I'll have another life long fishing memory because of a stranger named Joey. If you're lucky enough to make it to the "Golden Years" like my dad and some of my fishing friends who can't walk well anymore those memories are all you will have. I hope I am lucky enough to have lots of them.

Didymo in West Branch

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that the highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as "didymo", has been discovered in the West Branch Farmington River, a very popular trout stream in northwestern Connecticut.

The presence of didymo was first confirmed in the northeastern

Didymo in West Branch Continued

United States in 2007, and has since spread to other popular trout streams in a number of northeastern states (New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia). This is the first report of didymo in Connecticut.

DEP first learned of the possible presence of didymo in the West Branch Farmington River from several anglers on March 18th. One of these anglers also provided an initial sample to DEP. Following initial review by DEP staff, samples were sent to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation where biologists have direct experience identifying didymo. Late last Friday, Vermont officials confirmed that the sample was indeed didymo.

"This find is very troubling," said DEP Deputy Commissioner Susan Frechette. "Extensive blooms of this organism can harm the river ecosystem and decrease its recreational and economic value. In an effort to confirm identification, staff from DEP's Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse surveyed a number of sites in the river and a major tributary along a seven mile stretch of the West Branch Farmington River in Hartland and Barkhamsted. Unfortunately numerous clumps of didymo were found at all the surveyed sites in the river downstream of the Riverton bridge. Once didymo has spread, there's no practical way to remove it from a river."

Didymo is most frequently found in cold, relatively shallow streams and rivers having a rocky bottom, characteristics that are also typical of good trout habitat. During blooms, didymo can form thick mats of material that feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color. These mats

form on the bottoms of rivers and streams and can potentially smother aquatic plants, aquatic insects and mollusks, impact fish habitat, and alter aquatic food chains. Dense mats of didymo can also reduce the recreational and aesthetic value of the affected river. Since didymo also prefers areas open to sunlight, it is not anticipated that this species will become problematic in smaller headwater streams as long as they have well shaded riparian and naturally forested riparian areas.

Humans are the primary vector responsible for the recent spread of didymo. Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions. To prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, DEP asks that anglers, especially those who also fish the Farmington River or streams outside Connecticut, and other users practice CHECK, CLEAN, DRY procedures.

CHECK: Before leaving a river, stream or lake, remove all obvious clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing & footwear, canoes & kayaks, and anything else that has been in the water and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the site. If you find any later, clean your gear and dispose of all material in the trash.

CLEAN: Soak/spray & scrub boats and all other "hard" items for at least one minute in either very hot (140°F) water, a 2% bleach solution, or a 5% dishwashing detergent solution. Absorbent materials such as clothes and felt soles on waders

CFFA Membership Renewal Form

Please Print Clearly

Change of Address New Member Membership Renewal

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Total Enclosed: _____

Anyone who is interested in serving on any committee, please speak with Bruce Rich at any monthly meeting.

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Didymo in West Branch Continued

should be soaked for at least 40 minutes in very hot water (140°F), or 30 minutes in hot water (115°F) with 5% dishwashing detergent. Freezing thoroughly will also kill didymo.

DRY: If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.

The above procedures will also be effective against other unwanted organisms.

Didymo is just one of a number of aquatic invasive species that have either invaded the state or are threatening to do so. DEP will continue its work to combat the spread of invasive species, focusing on prevention, education and early detection. DEP is an active member of the Invasive Plants Council and supports both an Invasive Plant Program and an Aquatic Nuisance Species Program in collaboration with the University of Connecticut. When available, DEP has provided funding from a variety of sources to educate the public on the threats posed by invasive species and to

combat specific invasive species including fanwort, water chestnut and hydrilla. In addition, the DEP has recently proposed new regulations to prohibit the possession or importation into the state of a number of invasive invertebrates.

Since its discovery in the northeast in 2007, DEP has taken additional precautions to prevent the introduction and/or spread of didymo (and other invasive species). DEP's Inland Fisheries Division instituted an operational "Biosecurity" policy for its own field operations, including elimination of the use of felt-soled waders. Also, as part of its invasive species outreach efforts, informational fliers on didymo were distributed to many of the state's

bait & tackle shops and information about didymo has been prominently displayed in the CT Anglers Guide and on its website.

Individuals wishing to report possible sightings of didymo and other aquatic nuisance species can contact DEP's Inland Fisheries Division at 860-424-3474. More information on didymo and other aquatic nuisance species can be found on the DEP website (www.ct.gov/dep) or in the CT Angler's Guide (www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/fishing/anglers_guide/anguide.pdf). An excellent source for detailed information on didymo is the Biosecurity New Zealand web site (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo>).

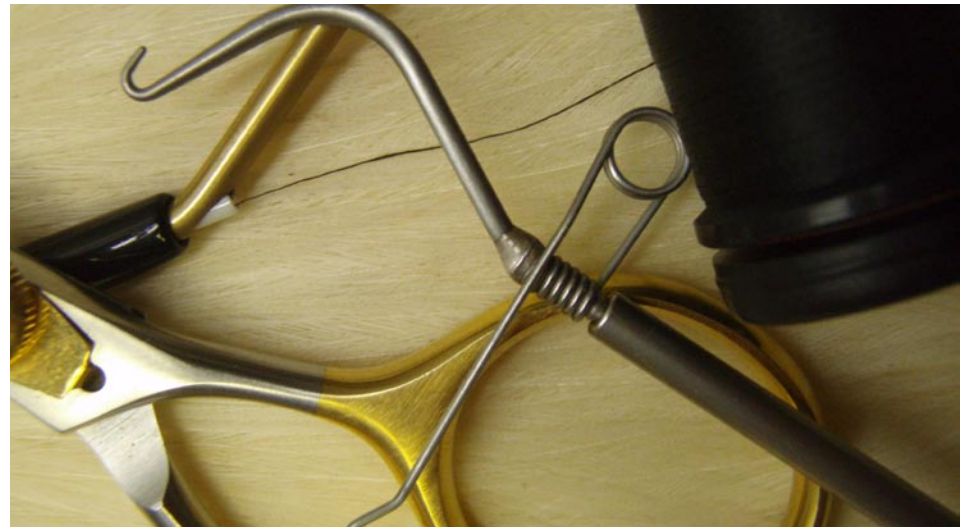
Coming Events

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:
APRIL 6th
NEXT CLUB MEETING:
APRIL 13th**

CFFA Table at JT's Fly Shop "Spring Fling" in Union, CT on April 9th

CFFA Table at CT Audubon "Earth Day" in Glastonbury, CT on April 30th

Contact Richard Gaudreay if you wish to help out with either of the above two events



April Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

This is our annual Fly Tyers Symposium!

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

Mary Edwards
CFFA Publicity Chairman

The University of Connecticut Health Center Auxiliary invites you to its first



Casting for Recovery Day

April 30th from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon in support of Casting for Recovery (CFR), a national, non-profit organization that offers counseling, education, medical information and a fly-fishing experience to women recovering from breast cancer.

Spend an afternoon at Farmington's Winding Trails getting to know the soothing pursuit of fly fishing and the art of fly tying. Wander its picturesque trails and enjoy the work of artists painting "en plein air."

- Participate in fly tying and casting demonstrations: 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Indulge in a delicious pig roast: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Tap your toes to music by the Sky Blue Boys of Vermont: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Make your bids in a diverse silent auction: 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Cost for the pig roast is \$50.00 per person (\$20.00 tax deductible). Cash bar. Proceeds from this event will help underwrite the opportunity for up to three breast cancer survivors treated at UCONN's cancer center to attend the 2011 CFR retreat. Winding Trails is in Farmington on Route 4 just 2.2 miles west of the Route I-84 exit.

_____ I/we wish to attend _____

_____ I cannot attend, but wish to make a contribution.

Enclosed is my ___check ___Mastercard ___VISA in the amount of \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Please respond by April 25 to: UCHC Auxiliary, c/o Gift Shop, 263 Farmington Ave, Farmington, CT 06030

Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING APRIL 6th

NEXT CLUB MEETING APRIL 13th

Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by John Springer, the lucky angler in the photo is Ron Dunleavy. Ron was able to land this nice Atlantic Salmon on the Shetucket, Ron and John braved cold water and lots of hiking to get to this fish. I would say it was worth the effort. 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



88

Hook: Tiemco 300

Thread: 6/0 Black

Body: Front 1/4 Green Ultra Wire, Rear 3/4 Red Ultra Wire

Wing: Wood Duck Flat

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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

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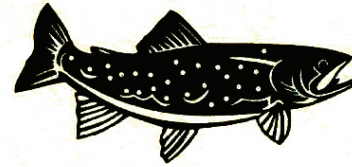
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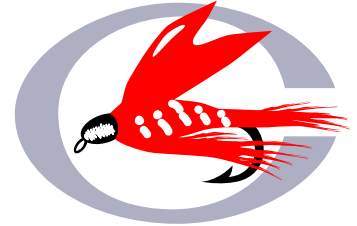
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April 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



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Fly Fisherman's Association

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