

# Lines & Leaders

www.ctflyfish.org

December 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

## FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

### DECEMBER MEETING

Capt. Ray Stachelek

### CFFA BANQUET & EXPO

### CRSA ANNUAL DINNER

### COLORADO RIVER

By Don La Chance

### THE "??"

By Dlick Wemmell



Rob Edwards Lands Some Steel Photo By Mary Edwards



**From The Vest Of The President**

“The only people who become weary of angling are those that bring nothing to it but the idea of catching fish.”

Rafael Sabatini  
1875 – 1950

Rafael Sabatini was an avid fly fisherman and salmon fly tyer, but is best known as a prolific author of novels. His writing usually combines adventure, history and romance as exemplified in *The Sea Hawk* and *Captain Blood*. His quote above reflects my own feelings that fly fishing is about much more than catching fish; it’s a platform from which life is experienced and a vehicle for personal expression. Fly fishing is the beauty of the natural world. It’s exciting and fun. It’s diverting and relaxing. It is hobby, science and sport. It’s community with others and peaceful, quiet moments with oneself. It offers ways for us to contribute to the betterment of our world. As Sabatini

implies, what you bring to fly fishing determines what you derive from it.

I’m especially mindful of all of this as our fish-catching season slows down (except for the salmon & steelhead crazies). Our club offers many ways to keep your fishing

spirit thriving, beginning with our December 14th meeting featuring Captain Ray Stachelek’s presentation on fly fishing the cinder worm hatch. Owner of Cast a Fly Charters out of Rhode Island, Capt. Ray is an innovative tyer and frequent contributor to *Fly Tyer* magazine and other publications. He is a good friend of our club and his talks are always enjoyable and informative. We’d like to see more folks tying at the meetings so anyone who ties flies before this meeting (setup by 6:45) will receive twelve free raffle tickets for that night’s drawing. For everyone attending the December meeting there will be free copies of three different recent editions of *On the Water* magazine courtesy of Doug Cameron in their circulation department.

CFFA’s next Fly Tying Classes



begin on January 5th. Our January 11th meeting is Pizza & Movie Night and election of officers. Any member is eligible to be nominated for office, plus there are openings on our Board of Directors and committees for anyone interested in bringing more to their fly fishing experience. We really need more help with the Expo/Banquet Committee, the monthly raffle and the Willimantic River stewardship.

Our Expo is February 4th at Maneeley's from 9:00am till 3:00pm featuring dozens of exhibitors and vendors along with a free technical seminar on nymph tricks by special guest Loren Williams. The Banquet follows at 6:00 and tickets (\$40) are going fast! Loren will have a program with appeal to even non-fishers. The raffles are expected to be better than ever, including a 60-ticket-only raffle (\$20) for a Thomas and Thomas Horizon 2 nine-foot, four-weight, four-piece rod with a Ross Evolution 2 reel and Airflo Polyfuse line with backing (tickets on sale at the monthly meetings or by sending a check to CFFA).

I'm writing this column before Thanksgiving and I'm really hoping that another natural disaster does not impede distribution of this newsletter as it has in two of the last three months. Like many of us, Todd Gorman was without electricity for over a week as a result of the October snowstorm but somehow he managed to get the November newsletter out via email prior to the

meeting, for which we are very grateful. Unfortunately, the company that does our printing was again terribly backlogged in November, as they were in September after

the tropical storm. Instead of a very late mailing, I decided not to snail mail any printed copies in November, although I had some available at the meeting that I printed myself.



**CFFA Expo/Banquet**

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is pleased to announce its 42nd. Annual Fly Fishing Expo and Dinner Banquet on Saturday, February 4, 2012. Our honored guest will be Loren Williams. Loren is a life-long fly angler with over 35 years of experience. His roots originate in the native brook trout streams of northeastern Pennsylvania and have since spread across the globe. Various mentors and experiences have molded him into the angler and teacher that he is today; perhaps none more than his ongoing tenure with Fly-Fishing Team USA. In

2005 Loren was selected as the team's first fly tier. In 2007 he was selected as an angling member, a role he proudly continues to maintain. In addition, Loren is a past head coach of the US Youth team and continues to serve on the coaching staff where he eagerly engages the talented youth of our country. Loren also has decades of experience on many of Lake Ontario's tributaries.

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

## Vest Continued

My apologies to those of you who did not get Lines & Leaders in November. If you have an email address, please make sure the club has it when you renew your dues.

I want to wish all our members a very merry holiday season. Here are my suggestions for your gift shopping list that keeps your dollars local and supports our club:

Membership to CFFA (\$25)

Jan/Feb Fly Tying Class (\$30 - \$50)

Feb 4th Banquet (\$40)  
CFFA patch, hat or shirt (\$2 - \$20)

Premium trout outfit raffle ticket with a 1 in 60 chance (\$20)

March/April Fly Fishing Class (\$30 - \$50)

Bring a friend to a CFFA meeting (free)

Anything from the local advertisers in this newsletter.

With so much going on this winter, I'll never grow weary of fly fishing.

><<)))\*> Bruce

## CFFA Expo Continued

will begin at 6:00pm with cocktails followed by dinner at 7:00. Loren Williams 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 27, 2012. 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. 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, penna marinara and dinner rolls with butter are served with each meal. As always a great desert is included. 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 860-653-4203 or go to [www.ctflyfish.org](http://www.ctflyfish.org) and click on banquet for more information.



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### RESERVATIONS:

Download a reservation form at [ctriversalsalmon.org](http://ctriversalsalmon.org)  
or call Tom Chrosniak (860) 519-7451 / [tchrosniak@comcast.net](mailto:tchrosniak@comcast.net)  
Jim Carroll (860) 236-5181 / [jcarrrolljr@comcast.net](mailto:jcarrrolljr@comcast.net)



## Colorado's Fry Pan and Colorado River

Its 3:00 am, now it's 4:00, now 4:30 now 5:00, I can't sleep. That's it I get up. I have that restless night every year just before the 6 of us head out somewhere in the US for our annual 4 night and 3 day September fly fishing trip. This year we headed out to the little town of Basalt, Colorado for our too short trip, planning to hit the Frying Pan and Colorado Rivers. We would all like to stay longer but with our busy schedules the 2 days of travel and 3 days of fishing seem to be all we can seem to coordinate.

This time we were fortunate, there was a nonstop direct to Denver, and then a quick 4.5 hour drive to Basalt with only one pit stop along the way at the "Dam Brewery" located in Dillon, CO. Since two of us were driving we were restricted to non-alcoholic but we all did at minimum sample the "Dam Beer" which was pretty damn good.

Our outfitter for the trip was Frying Pan Anglers, one of two fly shops in town, the other being Taylor Creek. We chose FPA based on the reviews that we found on the web and I will say we were not disappointed.

We stayed at Taylor Creek Cabins, also found on the web and highly

reviewed. This set of cabins once owned by the other fly shop in town is now owned by Frying Pan Anglers. For an added bonus, if you stay at the cabins while using guides from the FPA shop there is a discount. We had a large cabin with accommodations for 5, plus one on the pull out futon which was assigned by lots. Being in the mountains around Basalt with no neighbors and located 7 miles from the small center of town we did have a magnificent view of the night sky and the Milky Way.

Two of our days were going to be spent on the Frying Pan, a tailwater fishery flowing from Ruedi Reservoir out from the dam meandering about 12 miles losing 3,000 feet in elevation before finally dumping into the Roaring Fork River in Basalt. The River flows were controlled at 300 cfs and did not vary the entire time we were there. 300 CFS didn't seem high compared to the Farmington but on the Frying Pan it did make the wading extremely difficult in some areas. Although there were a number of close calls, none of us took a dip the entire time we were in CO. To mix it up a bit and hopefully get into some larger fish one day was

also going to be spent on the Colorado doing a float trip covering some 8 miles just.

Each day the plan was to fish the morning, meet up at lunch swap some lies they do it again in the afternoon. Well that didn't work out, we ended up just fishing our way through the full day and met around 5 to 6 PM back at the shop then went back to the cabin for an adult beverage or two followed by dinner at the Riverside Grill where we continued to tell tall fables, each of us trying to best the last story told.

Now one more sleepless night of anticipation....

On the first day we met at the Frying Pan Anglers fly shop in Basalt, "buddied" up and met our assigned guides Cameron (who is scheduled to be do a presentation at an upcoming club meeting this winter), Mike and Harry. I paired up with Ted, and along with Mike our assigned guide headed off to the Frying Pan spending the day at a hole called "Upper Old Faithful" and that it was. Ted and I fished mostly tandem nymphs and dry droppers on 4 weight rods and pulled some 20 browns, cut bows and bows out between the 2 of us. The fish were mostly in the 10 to 14" range and had all the fight you would expect from a wild fish.

Day 2 started at the shop, we met up with the guides and then headed to the Colorado for a float trip. After a few false starts, a charity tournament forced our relocation three times to prevent over crowding, we ended up an hour away at a put in called the "Silt" where we only saw one boat outside of our group over the whole day. The fish counts were sporadic in our group ranging from a low of 1 to a high of 12 fish per man. All of the fishing was done with nymphs using 3 flies in tandem. Bob Greenstein one of the club members did pull a nice 19" bow out about a couple of hundred yards from the take out and Rick a buddy of ours from DC landed a 24" brown during the float trip. We asked about

## Colorado Continued

whitefish as they seem to be the junk fish of the west and were told that there were very few on the river, 2 or 3 at most. Well, Ted Rosenkrantz another club member and I each hooked 2 with largest of the 4 measuring in at 22". Ted even managed to pull in a genuine Colorado Sucker over 20" and a decent size Chub.

The final day for the group was back on the "Pan" which we all preferred. It was also a dry fly day. Small flies size 22 to 28 on 7X tippet. Most of the fish ran 10 to 14". Gary, my brother and his buddy Rick were killing them on size 28 Adams and stopped fishing at 4 PM only because they had no more flies. Gary landed 12 fish and Rick nearly as many. Ted did better than me with about 10 fish for the day and I had a measly 5. I think that was partly my fault as I found myself just standing in the river staring at the red rock walls of the canyon just down stream. Bob and Carl spent their day up at the head of the river on the flats by the Ruedi Dam. Bob caught 3 or 4 nice fish but probably the best catch that day was Carl, who managed to land a 19" brown on 7X tippet just before calling it quits.

We ended up with a last night in town at one of the local eateries then headed back to the cabin to pack for the early morning trip back to Denver and flight to Hartford. All of us agreed the trip went off without a hitch, except for my speeding ticket on the way back to the airport but that's another story. The fish caught by all, the scenery and weather was perfect and the accommodations were top shelf. Every year wherever we have gone, we always say we are coming back but when planning the next trip we find a new destination and have never had a bad trip. Plans are already underway for our trip for next year.



## December Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, Dec., 14, 2011 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

January's guest speaker will be Captain Ray Stachelek.

Captain Ray Stachelek is a recognized, authoritative saltwater guide in Southern New England. He is known for his resourcefulness and canny ways of putting clients on trophy fish with a fly. No matter what the species, Ray has the insight to target them. His knowledge, experience, and performance records are second to none. His clients can attest after catching their personal best. Capt. Ray is also a professional fly tier, another asset that works well on the water. His patterns are featured in fly shops and catalogs around the nation. His innovative flies are time tested, proven; often duplicated.

A licensed U.S.C.G Captain, Ray operates Cast a Fly Charters

full time since retiring from the educational field. He has seen many changes in the state of the fishery and environment over the last fifty years. All this accumulated knowledge naturally helps each season with the many changes in migration and fish stock assessments.

As a former teacher, his thirty- three years of presenting information comes across natural and refreshing. His honed classroom skills make learning interesting and fun. The Power Point Presentations hold your attention with captivating photography and pertinent information. The subject matter is presented logically, systematically and easy to understand regardless of skill level.

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](http://www.ctflyfish.org)

# 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](http://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 1/27/2012)** To:

Mr. Michael Stewart  
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Make Check payable to CFFA

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Number of Chicken Marsala Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

Request for Vegetarian Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Coming Events

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DEC 7th**

**NEXT CLUB MEETING DEC 14th**



## Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by Mary Edwards. Mary's husband Rob is holding a nice looking Steelhead from S. Sandy Creek in NY. If you have a photo of the great fish you have caught, please send it to the Editor at: [todd.gorman@mac.com](mailto:todd.gorman@mac.com)

## Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



### Squirrel Tail

Hook: 7X Streamer

Thread: Black

Body: Yellow Uni-Stretch

Rib: XS Gold Mylar

Beard: Red

Wing: Squirrel Tail

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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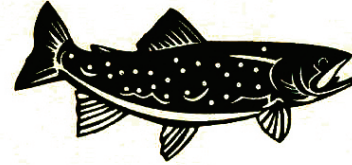
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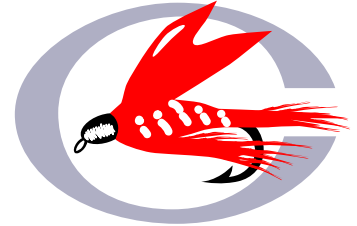
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# Lines & Leaders

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December 2011

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 **Connecticut**  
Fly Fisherman's Association

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FLY FISHERS

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