

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

CFFA MAY MEETING Peter Aarrestad

CFFA MEMBER SUGGESTIONS







From The Vest Of The President

"If fishing interferes with your business, give up your business ... the trout do not rise in Greenwood Cemetery."

Sparse Grey Hackle Fishless Days, Angling Nights 1954

That advice is impossible for most of us to follow all the time. This month's quote is offered simply as a reminder to keep trying to schedule fishing time. Fly tying can be a satisfying interlude of just a few minutes. Fly fishing however, requires significant chunks of time out of our busy schedules. Planning fishing time is the key for me, although plans to go fishing don't always succeed. For example, I recently had to cancel a trip to Virginia due health issues with my 92 year old mother requiring her to move out of her home of 52 years. (Anyone interested in a two bedroom cape in Stratford?) It's alright when plans fall through because I know that in the end, the more I plan, the more time I'll spend on the water. I'm planning a campout on the Farmington in early May, and another campout on the Housatonic June 5th to 7th.

Let me know if you want to plan to hookup with me.

Sparse Grey Hackle is the colorful pseudonym taken by journalist and author Alfred W. Miller in the 1930's when he began writing powerful articles to save his beloved Catskill trout streams from human abuse. Without his efforts, I may never have been able to fish legendary Catskill waters like Hendrickson's Pool on the Beaverkill River in Roscoe, NY where both that mayfly insect and its imitative fly pattern got their names. We owe a debt of gratitude to conservationists like him, and we owe it to future generations to be conservationists in our own time.

Part of CFFA's mission is to preserve fly fishing and to conserve game-fish waters. I take that mission seriously. Recently our club has participated in the progress being made to reduce the commercial striped bass harvest, to research fish disease, to contain didymo, and to improve the Rainbow Dam fish way on the Farmington River. You can follow some of these efforts on our website under The President's Blog. It is up to groups like ours to counterbalance well funded commercial interests and plain old human ignorance. This is why we need someone to fill the position of Conservation Chairman on our Board of Directors. Kurt Jagielow has moved out of that post to become our Banquet Committee Chairman, which is a fulltime board job that he's actually been doing superbly for many years. Whoever takes the Conservation position will be free to decide what to do with it: legislative issues, stream cleanups, raising public awareness, etc. I will provide close support.

Along the same lines, I'd like to strengthen our ties with The Willimantic River Alliance because they do terrific work protecting the entire Willimantic watershed. They also improve river access, trails and public information. In the past our club has sort of adopted the four mile fly fishing only section of the Willi known as the Cole Wilde Trout Management Area, which I consider to be world-class (or nearly so) trout water. WRA's President, Larry Diamond, is a CFFA member. A spot on our board is waiting for anyone willing to be CFFA's Liaison to the Alliance. WRA only has a handful of meetings and events each year. Please contact me if you are interested.

Ever hear of the American Casting Association? CFFA member John Field is President of this national non-profit association (www.americancastingassoc.org) that focuses on teaching casting skills and conducting amateur competitions of casting distance and accuracy. When I first met John, I said, "I don't like to think of fly fishing as competitive". John replied, "Not fly fishing, fly casting competitions that result in better fishing skills." That makes sense to me, especially since I often could use better fishing skills. Whether it involves rigging the gear or the mechanics of the

stroke, we all need help with our casting at times, just like professional athletes always have trainers. CFFA members have a free opportunity to learn from the experts on July 9th & 10th when ACA holds fly and plug casting events at Cabela's in East Hartford. John has invited CFFA members to participate as organizers and officials for these events that will feature instruction and demonstrations by expert casters and contests for walk-on amateurs of all ages. Let me know if you can join us for a few hours either day. I know you'll be a better caster when you leave.

Our country's war veterans continue to learn fly tying from Richard Gilligan 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. This is an on-going program so if you'd like to donate your time and/or materials, contact Gilli or myself.

Our last meeting until September occurs on May 11th, so please make sure your club dues are paid and that any books borrowed from the Goldman Library are returned. The speaker will be Peter Aarrestad, Director of CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division, whose program will contain some very timely topics.

The board considering is organizing more small events like float tube outings, picnics, and paddle boat trips, so let us know if you have any interest or suggestions. Stay in-touch with CFFA happenings on our website over the summer. Think about our sponsors before shopping elsewhere. Be safe out there. It's peak season, so remember the words of Sparse Grey Hackle and make some plans to fish! ><<)))*> Bruce

CFFA Seeks Member Suggestions

The CFFA Board would like to get suggestions from members of the club. We really want to know what you are thinking. Do you have any suggestions or ideas about monthly meetings? How about the expo and banquet? How about guest speakers and club activities? Any and all ideas are welcome and they will be discussed at the board meeting in September.

Here is what you need to do. In the entrance of the clubhouse, look for the club's new "Suggestion Box" on the table along the far wall. There will be a supply of pens as well as suggestion papers for you to fill out. If you like you may include your name or if you prefer, you can keep it anonymous.

I would also like to dress up the website with photographs of club members and their fishing adventures. Please include a brief description of the photograph such as name of the person, where you were fishing, size of the fish, etc. Send your summer fishing photos to moscowgem@ sbcglobal.net and please include CFFA photos in the subject box of the email.

Mary Edwards Publicity Chairman

May Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

The speaker for our May meeting will be Peter Aarrestad, Director of the CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division. The primary focus of Pete's presentation will be Didymo, an invasive alga recently found in the Farmington River.

Pete received his BS in Biology from Eastern Connecticut State University and an MS in Fisheries and Natural Resource Management from University the of Connecticut. He has provided leadership in numerous governmental professional and organizations, including serving as President of the Instream Flow Council, a national organization working to advance the scientific and ecologically sound management of riverine systems. Pete has been with DEP for over 24 years in various positions marine with both and inland fisheries, including serving as Supervisor of the Inland Fisheries Division's Habitat Conservation and Enhancement Program prior to his July 2010 appointment as Director of Inland Fisheries.

Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING: MAY 4th NEXT CLUB MEETING: MAY 11th

Volunteers needed for American Casting Assoc. at Cabela's July 9th & 10th. Contact Bruce Rich or Richard Gaudreau.

Volunteers needed for Scout Days at Cabela's, 11 - 4 on Sunday June 26th. Contact Bruce Rich or Richard Gaudreau.

Didymo Cleaning

With the recent discovery of Didymo in the Farmington river knowing how to clean your equipment properly is more important than ever to help stop the spread of this highly invasive species.

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 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.

What is a 2% solution? Three ounces in a gallon of water (which is 128 ounces)*. There are eight ounces in a cup, so that's around a half cup of bleach to a gallon of water.

What is a 5% solution? Seven ounces in a gallon of water*. That's around a cup of detergent in each gallon of water.

FREEZING THOROUGHLY WILL ALSO KILL DIDYMO. (if you're allowed to put your waders and boots in the freezer) DRY: Drying will also kill didymo, but items must remain completely dry (inside and out) for at least 48 hours.

Source: Biosecurity New Zealand



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Grand Lake Stream Caddis

Hook: Barbless Dry Fly Size 16 Thread: 6/0 Black Body: Medium Dun Spectrum or Other Dry fly Dubbing Hackle: Brown & Grizzly 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.

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Ostrich Bugger Hook: Mustad 3906 Thread: 6/0 Black Body: Natural Color Ostrich Herl Back: Copper Flashabou Tail: Marabou Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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P.O. Box 380268 East Hartford, CT 06138

