

Lines & Leaders

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November 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

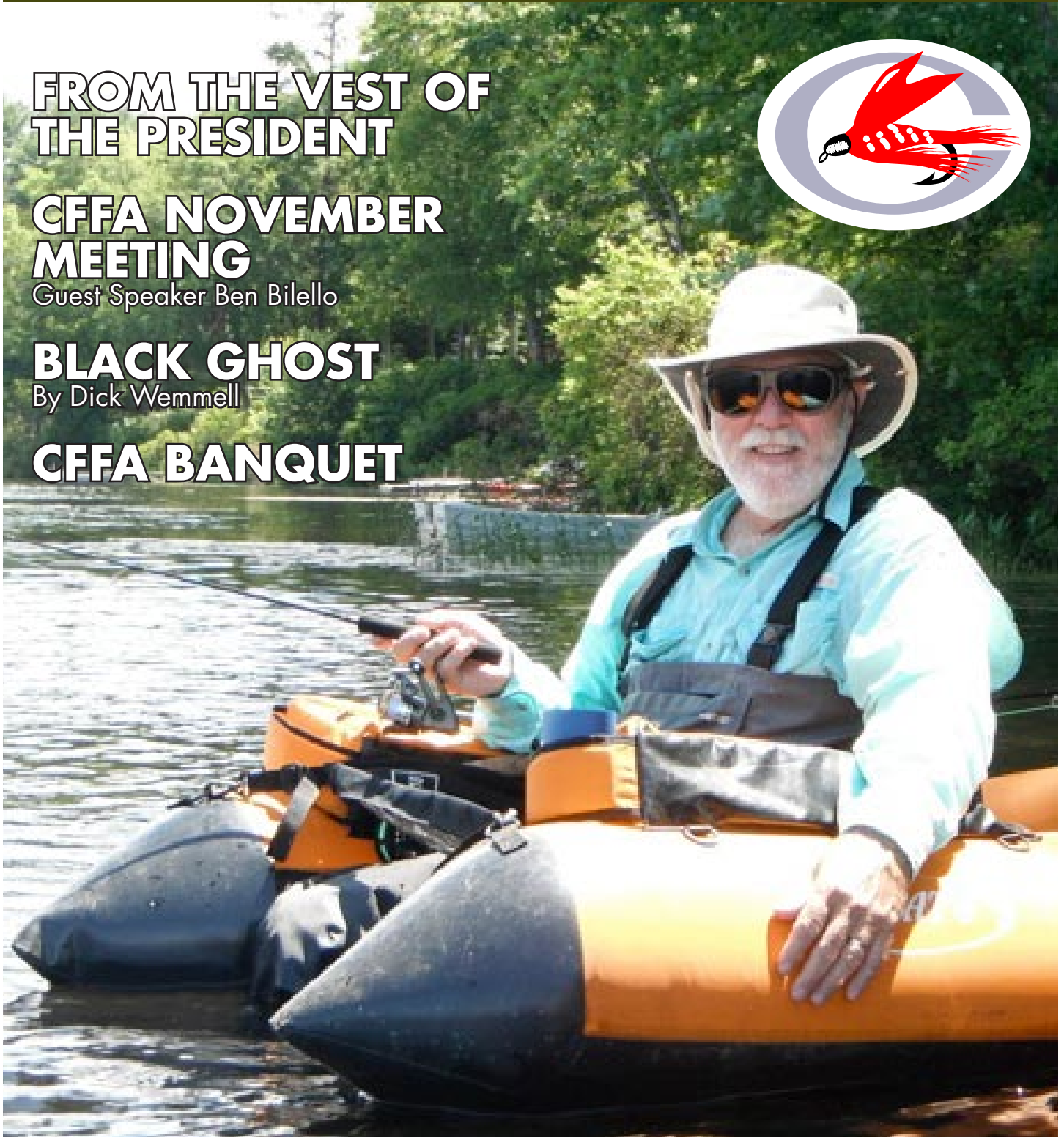
CFFA NOVEMBER MEETING

Guest Speaker Ben Bilello

BLACK GHOST

By Dick Wemmell

CFFA BANQUET





From The Vest Of The President

"There are as many reasons why and ways to fish as there are people who do it"

Russell Chatham
Dark Waters
1988

A lone woman was preparing to launch her kayak into Nauset Marsh as Christine and I were landing our kayaks. It had been a beautiful cruise on a day of spectacular weather in autumn of 2011, but the tide was dropping fast, with a couple of hours still to go before dead low. We had just encountered water too shallow to take a full stroke without the paddle hitting bottom, and the deeper channels were even more challenging because they were rapidly draining out to sea. When I mentioned those conditions to the lone woman, she replied, "Yeah, I'll be dragging my yak at times to get back, but it should be loaded with clams!" Immediately I understood why she was prepared to drag a kayak through wet sand and muck. She was going fishing, and that's a small price to pay for pursuing one's passion. Shell fishing holds the same kind of excitement to

some folks that fly fishing does for me, and heaven knows what I go through for that.

On this late October trip I encountered all kinds of fishermen: a guy surfcasting into Cape Cod Canal during a driving rainstorm, kids floating bobbers from a bridge on the Bass River, boats rigged to troll for tuna heading out before dawn, people throwing crank baits for fresh water bass in a kettle pond.

Then there was my old buddy Tom, who is strictly a bait and lure guy. He and his wife often stay at the same place that Christine and I do, a resort located where the Parker River meets Nantucket Sound. Tom and I do not stay in contact in any way, but I always hope to see him when I'm on the water in Massachusetts. Our sole connection is happily sharing a favorite fishing spot together. Although he does not fly fish, Tom always shows great interest in my flies and tactics, and I learn a lot from his angling methods and experience. He and I have spent many productive hours fishing side-by-side from a dock on the Parker

River. We say that we bring each other luck, but we had not seen each other in several years. Sure enough, my first striper of this trip came at the exact moment when Tom stepped onto the dock to say a long overdue "Hello".

As fly fishers, we are all part of a large and diverse family of recreational fishers. Although our methods differ, this family shares many common interests including ecology protection, public access, and love of nature. Unfortunately, our numbers are dwindling. Fewer people are fishing (in any way) with each passing year. Perhaps it's the economy, or some cultural trend like video games. Whatever the reasons, it does not bode well for our planet or for our future generations. You should be proud to be a member of a club that actively recruits and trains new fly fishers and tiers, and that supports the interests of our entire fishing family in many other ways.

The above quote comes from Russell Chatham, who has referred to fly fishing as "... a necessary passion". This 72-year old has authored several angling books and collections of essays which are at times quite ribald. He is best known as a painter. His intricate lithographs can each use up to 50 separate plates to portray the spiritual aspects of landscape and waterscape. Chatham grew up in the steelhead country of California and now makes his home near the Yellowstone River in Livingston, Montana.

We have confirmed that our Expo/Banquet special guest will be Loren Williams, trout and steelhead specialist from New York State. It's time to start thinking about tickets for our February 4th Banquet. Mark your calendars and please try to sell tickets and to

donate raffle prizes. Paul Edberg has joined the Expo/Banquet Committee, which could still use a couple more members to help with the production of our club's most important event.

Ben Bilello will be the presenter at our next meeting on Wednesday November 9th. Ben is a renowned local fly tier and well travelled fisherman whose program will be about the Connecticut broodstock Atlantic salmon fishery. I think this fishery alone is worth the cost of a fresh water license in our state. Ben is providing an 11-page handout to each person attending. The handout outlines his presentation topics including fly tying recipes and additional Atlantic salmon fishing and fly tying resources.

Denise has CFFA hats and shirts that make great holiday gifts. These items are a good value and they promote our club and its causes. Phil is ready to renew your membership, which is especially important to the life of CFFA during these tough economic times. Scott and Jonathan have the extensive, and continuously growing, Goldman library open for free book loans.

After countless years of solo service, Walt needs help with the monthly meeting raffle. Please consider stepping-up to help out with this essential job. You get to handle a lot of neat gear, and it does not take much of your time.

With a full class of beginner tiers, Richard Gilligan encourages all members who tie flies to join us at 6:45 on Thursday nights at Cabela's to help with the students. More advanced tiers are invited to contact Gilli about leading one of the remaining classes, which end on November 17th. He could also use some help at the Newington VA on Thursday mornings throughout

the year. It was certainly an honor to have four recent vets from his program attend our last meeting.

There's plenty of fishing left in this season. Our salmon fishery is just cranking-up. So far 150 salmon have been released into the Shetucket River, 50 into Crystal Lake, 100 into Mount Tom Pond, and 100 into the Naugatuck River. These salmon range up to 18 pounds each. Following the spawn in November, DEEP expects to have approximately 500 more salmon available from its Kensington Hatchery. This autumn's warm weather could keep saltwater fly rodders busy into December. The onset of cooler temperatures will make pike hunters happy. Smallies and bucket mouths can still be had. Over the past two months DEEP stocked 32,800 adult trout plus another 30,000 yearlings into our fresh waters. There's such an enormous variety of ways to fish, of people who fish, and of reasons to fish.

Whatever your motivation ... whatever your means ... fish hard!

><<)))*> Bruce

November Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

Ben Bilello will be the guest speaker for November
For Connecticut anglers,

broodstock Atlantic salmon fishing is one most reliable ways to catch a large fish in fresh water. For anglers who fish for sea-run Atlantic salmon in Canada or Europe, the broodstock fishery is a good way to practice presentation close to home. For anglers new to Atlantic salmon fishing, this fishery is a great way to learn the techniques used to catch Atlantic salmon around the world.

When he's not behind a set of drums in a concert hall, jazz club, or recording studio, Ben Bilello can be found either on the water or behind the vise. While he's an avid trout fisherman and fly tyer, Ben's true fly fishing and tying passion is the Atlantic salmon. Ben has spent several seasons chasing sea run Atlantic salmon in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, landlocked Lake Ontario Atlantic salmon in New York and broodstock Atlantic salmon at home in Connecticut.

Ben's classic, artistic and hairwing salmon flies can be seen at his website www.benbilello.com/salmonflies. Ben is available for tying lessons, lectures and demonstrations. He can be reached at ben@benbilello.com

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

CFFA Banquet

Time is moving quickly and preparation for CFFA's event of the year, the annual banquet, is well under way. I have assumed the responsibility for organizing this year's raffle and ask for your assistance.

Each year, the raffle committee has witnessed a decline in the items donated by tackle manufacturers and merchants and recognizes that this trend will most likely continue. The state of the economy requires that belts be tightened and the ever-increasing demand for "freebies" from organizations like ours which are springing-up by leaps and bounds throughout the nation necessitate "giving policy" changes in even the most affluent of businesses. Though we expect positive results from our solicitation campaign of manufacturers and merchants, responding generously in the past, it would be naïve to assume that gifts can continue to be as bountiful as they have in the past.

Individual CFFA members have unselfishly contributed in the past banquet raffles, offering a wide assortment of items and often displaying gifted creativity and talent. We belong to an organization of incredible capabilities and diversity among its membership. I am hopeful that out of this storehouse of skills and interests, the people of CFFA will come forward, as they have always done, to make this year's raffle one to please everyone.

I see this raffle as an opportunity for the men and women of this club to share

their abundance of angling paraphernalia, their fly fishing sideline, or special ability. Fly tiers, rod builders, artists, photographers, woodworkers, craft people of all sorts; how about something for the raffle? Prizes need not be directly related to fly fishing for our source of devotion to this sport is complex and as varied as those individuals who engage in it.

I am certain that with your support this banquet evening will be a rousing success and a display of togetherness and friendship which is what I cherish most about CFFA.

All prizes and suggestions concerning the banquet raffle may be addressed to:

Kurt Jagielow
Ph. 203-288-7123
14 Earl Ave. Ext.
Email kjagielow@gmail.com
Hamden CT 06514

Note, The above request for banquet donations was originally written by Myron Schulman, banquet chairman, and was posted in the January 1978 Lines and Leaders. Thank you Myron.



Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING NOV 2th
NEXT CLUB MEETING NOV 9th

The CFFA will be holding its annual Fresh & Saltwater Fly Tying Classes on six consecutive Thursdays starting Oct.13th at 7:00pm at Cabela's meeting rooms near the deli.

For more information contact Richard Gilligan phone: 860-667-1441, email: fishing_retired@att.net or log on to www.ctflyfish.org



Banquet Guest Speaker Loren Williams

Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by Ted Rzepski, the lucky man in the photo is Gordon Telford. Gordon landed the Albie off the coast of RI. 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



Black Ghost

Hook: 7X Streamer Hook
Thread: Black
Rib: X-Fine Silver Mylar
Tail & Beard: Yellow
Body: Black Uni Stretch
Wing: Polar Bear
Eyes: Painted
Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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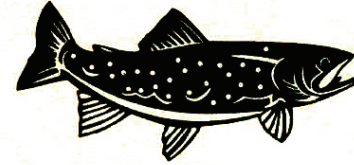
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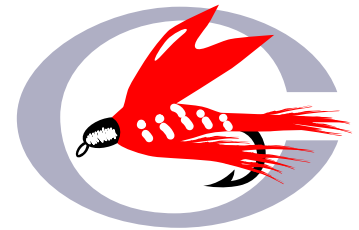
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Fly Fisherman's Association

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