

Lines & Leaders

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October 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

**FROM THE VEST OF
THE PRESIDENT**

**CFFA OCTOBER
MEETING**

Guest Speaker Jim Turecek

WILLI STREAMER

By Dick Wemmell

DICK LOWERY

By John Springer





From The Vest Of The President

“Something to think about: If you fish the wrong fly long and hard enough, it will sooner or later become the right fly.”

John Gierach

Does that mean that I don't need three dozen fly boxes? Certainly presentation trumps fly selection most of the time. A lousy fly well presented, will always out-fish a great fly that is poorly presented. There are some very successful anglers who pride themselves on always carrying just a handful of patterns. I've considered doing that for a season; just think of what that would do for my fishing skills. However, I'm not likely to do that anytime soon, partly because I'm unwilling to pay the initiation fee in terms of catch-rate, but mostly just because I have a love affair with flies. I'm fascinated by the classic fly patterns, by the cutting-edge new ones, and by most in between. I enjoy reading about flies, and watching others craft them. I take great pleasure in my own fly tying process, from the inspiration phase to the fishing phase, and in the tweaking

phase which sometimes follows the fishing. Heck, I even like to repair my beat-up flies, and to salvage the hooks from those which are beyond repair. (Don't knock it - it keeps me out of the bars at night.)

Fishing makes me feel like a little kid again, and fly tying gets me all excited too. For example, this past spring I started tying Klinkhamer style flies in anticipation of the Hendrickson hatch. The first time I used them was on the Farmington and they really produced big time. Not all of my presentations were good, but very few of my good presentations were ignored by the trout during the hatch. Of course, I possibly could have caught as many trout using other types of flies, but the experience would not have been as rewarding. The anticipation felt during the tying process was fulfilled on the river. I've since had success with Klinkhamers in many situations, including still waters. So all the dry flies I've tied lately have been in the Klinkhamer style. It's become my current BFF (Best Fly

Forever).

If you are interested in tying better parachute flies, I highly recommend the techniques favored by Hans Van Klinken, the originator of the Klinkhamer Special. His Klinkhamer parachutes constitute a unique style, one that is uniquely effective and durable. These flies are highly visible to the angler, yet their abdomens hang tantalizingly down well below the water's surface for the fish's benefit. I often use them as strike indicators because Klinkhamers float like icebergs when tied properly with many wraps of quality oversized hackle. They can be made to mimic many types of mayflies, caddis and midges by changing profile, material and color. There's no need for any exotic materials, however I would suggest using the official Partridge #15BNX Klinkhamer hook because its wide gap increases hookups and the approximate twenty-degree bend in the heavy shank (about one hook gap behind the eye) makes the fly ride more upright above the water, while, at the same time, hanging more vertically beneath the surface. These Partridge hooks have been hard to find lately. You can make your own by putting the appropriate bend into a 3X long curved hook similar to the TMC #200R. Alternatively, I've found that the Gamakatsu #C15-BV vertical eye emerger hook works for short-bodied flies, and I've heard of a Daiichi #1160 Klinkhamer hook. Again, the most essential thing is to study Klinken's methods, which can be found in the December 2006 edition of Fly Fisherman magazine and by Google search.

I've been thinking a lot about fly tying lately because CFFA's Fly Tying Classes begin on October 13th at Cabela's. These classes are among the greatest things our club offers. Separate classes are given for beginning fresh water and beginning saltwater fly tying. The talent and the experience of the people that teach these classes are awesome. Any given class is likely to have hundreds of years of experience represented by our members that show up to help out. The presenters include professional tiers, authors, guides, and many other folks who make fly tying an art form. Whenever I attend a class I learn something new, or I am reminded of something forgotten. At \$50 (non-members price) for all six sessions, these classes are the greatest value around, and they may be the perfect gift for someone you know.

This month's quote comes from John Gierach, one of the most popular living fly fishing authors, and probably the most quotable. His humorous writing style embodies the spirit of our sport while showing reverence for its ethics, traditions and natural environments. I like that he listens to classic rock music on those long drives to fishing spots, although he gravitates toward Zeppelin, whereas I'm more of a Deadhead. John Gierach's latest book, *No Shortage of Good Days*, was published in May of this year.

Don't miss our next meeting on October 12th featuring Jim Turecek, a professional fly fisherman who has worked as an instructor, guide, lecturer, and fly fishing theoretician. Among other things, he also crafts handmade custom knives. Jim will present

"The Connecticut Shoreline from the Quinnipiac River to the Housatonic River" including a display of the primary prey species and the flies that best imitate them.

I think I need more fly boxes.

><<)))*> Bruce

October Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

Jim Turecek is a fly fisherman and tier with over forty years of experience. He is a professional fly fisherman who has worked as an instructor, guide, lecturer and fly fishing theoretician for thirty years. Jim has fished for and caught just about every species you can catch on a fly rod, in fresh and salt water. Besides his intimate knowledge of the rivers and coast of New England he has extensive experience throughout the Caribbean and has traveled widely in pursuit of new angling experiences. Jim is on the water a couple of hundred times a year following the fish throughout the seasons.

Since 1979 Jim has been crafting handmade knives. His one-of-a-kind knives are some of the finest examples of the art of cutlery found in the world today. An internationally known artisan, his award winning knives and flies can be found in some of the leading collections in the

United States, Europe and the Orient. His work is actively sought by collectors who wait years for an example of his craftsmanship.

Jim has been the subject of articles in books and magazines such as "Fly Fishing in Saltwater" and "Blade" magazines. Pictures of his flies and knives have been used as examples of excellence in numerous magazines and books both domestically and internationally. Also, Jim was recently featured in a television segment of "Valley Worthy of Note", broadcast on a local TV station.

The Connecticut Shoreline From the Quinnipiac River to the Housatonic River

This lecture and slide presentation will cover a large section of the Connecticut shoreline. We start at the New Haven Sandbar, then travel west to Bradley Point and the Oyster River in West Haven, then journey over to Anderson's Landing and Silver Sands, Milford. We will end up at Milford Point at the mouth of the Housatonic River. We will explore some very diverse habitats from flats and sandbars to the rips of the Charles Island tumbolo. With forty years of fly fishing this area I will give you a serious insight into these areas and its prey species and their predators.

I will also have a display of the primary prey species found in New England and the flies that best represent them. All my patterns were designed in the mid seventies after many hours of underwater study. I never designed a fly until I

October Meeting

have watched the prey species I am trying to imitate in its natural habitat. 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

Dick Lowery

Another angling brother passed away recently. I think it's safe to say that every fly fisherman and women in Connecticut and a few thousand spin fishermen as well as out of state anglers also have fished the TMA of the Farmington River. Those anglers enjoyed hundreds of thousands of hours and caught God knows how many fish because Dick Lowry led the fight with the help of other members of the Farmington River Anglers Association over 25 years ago to get that TMA in place.

Do not think it was an easy fight, it was not. The Connecticut DEP had to be convinced it was a good idea that took quite some time to do, as we all know nothing comes easy with people that are not used to change. Land owners along the river, and there were many, did not want anglers walking up and down the river year round in front of their homes. Most of all meat fishermen did not want "their" fish taken

away from them and left in the river for catch and release. Up until the C&R section was put into effect by the end of June almost all the fish were gone and people did not fish until the following year on opening day. But Dick and some others knew there could be great fishing year round and started the movement that has given us the great fishery we have today.

I went to my first FRAA meeting over 25 years ago and he was President then, I joined right up because he made you feel welcomed and I saw his enthusiasm for the river right away. Dick was a great motivator when it came to getting people to do things. He got great speakers at the monthly meetings as well as the yearly banquet. The yearly picnics were a great time for adults as well as kids, I remember he always had someone get a huge piñata for the kids to bust open and get goodies out of. When I told him my dad had a luncheonette many years ago, he put him to work cooking for everyone working the grill all day. He would stop by over and over telling him what a great job he did. I guess he did that with everyone because even his board members stayed with him for many years keeping the club going.

Dick was not perfect by any means and some people had issues with him, he was never afraid of a "heated debate" and always got his point across. But the Farmington River truly came first in Dick's life. And for this we should all thank him when we step into

the river to fish and get that first take by a nice hold over trout.

John Springer

Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING OCT 5th

NEXT CLUB MEETING OCT 12th

The CFFA will be holding it's 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

Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by Mary Edwards. 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



Willi Streamer

Hook: 6X Streamer Hook
Thread: Black
Rib: X-Fine Silver Mylar
Tail & Beard: Red
Body: Black Thread
Wing: Black Poly
Eyes: Painted
Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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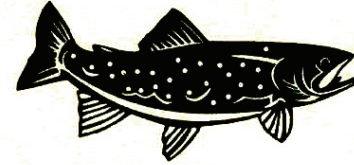
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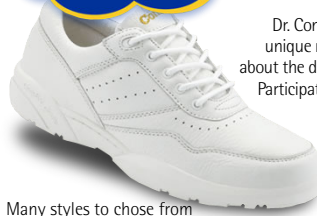
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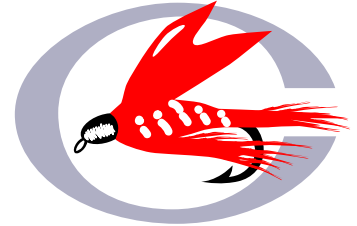
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