

Lines & Leaders

September 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

CFFA SEPTEMBER MEETING

Guest Speaker Capt. Mark
Dysinger

SOFT HACKLE STREAMER

By Dick Wemmell

ALBIES, ALBIES, ALBIES!

By John Baracchi





From The Vest Of The President

"Angling may be said to be so like mathematics that it can never be fully learned."

Izaak Walton
The Compleat Angler
Circa 1653

Fly fishing is much more of a journey than a destination. This summer my journey brought me to fishing from a float tube for the first time. With the help of some fellow CFFA members, especially John Baracchi, I purchased my first tube and our informal group had a handful of "flotilla" outings on various lakes in Connecticut. Together we discovered quiet waters like Uncas Lake, a semi-remote gem where no motors are allowed. The participants changed from trip to trip, and it was always fun to see a new member show-up at the launch site. I think the only one to make every trip was the newly retired Uncle Teddy, who has an uncanny knack for catching trout despite the fact that he is a saltwater specialist and a newbie to the sweet water.

Unless the wind is blowing strong, fishing from a tube is tranquil and relaxing, and you literally become "one" with the environment. Casting while seated is never ideal for me, but the upright float tube posture is about as good as it gets. Tubes are great for stealthily approaching the shallows and making precision casts amid structure for warm water species. One can also use a sinking line to plumb the depths with a slow troll, a method that never failed to yield us a few trout. The shore-side lunches and the good camaraderie helped make these outings some of the highlights of my summer. I'd like to see more flotillas and similar group trips, perhaps in paddle boats, or on foot, or even using bicycles to get to remote locations. Every trip is announced on the CFFA website Message Board, and all members are always invited. If you have an idea for a trip, just float it out there.

Izaak Walton claimed to have passion for fly fishing, not mastery of it. I can identify with that! Walton is best known for writing *The Compleat Angler*, a classic guide to the joys of fishing that combines practical information with folklore and ballads. It's the story of three friends: a hunter, a fowler and a fly-fisherman all hiking along a river in early May. The old-style English writing is a bit cumbersome, but this short work contains an amazing number of quotable meditations on the sporting life. It's still in print and the text is also available online. Walton expanded *The Compleat Angler* several times, and the last edition in 1676 contained an addendum by his fishing buddy Charles Cotton that describes 65 fly patterns. This summer's issue of *Fly Tyer* has a fascinating article by Andrew Marshall about his journey to tie all of those flies using seventeenth century techniques.

This summer's issue of *Fly Tyer* also contains a great article by Captain Ray Stachelek about my friend Richie Tillman and his flies. The article includes a photo of many of our friends at the most recent CFFA Expo.

The only official club activity over the summer was our helping to host the American Casting Association's very informative two days of demonstrations at Cabela's. Thanks to all you members who showed-up, and a special thanks to Marilyn & Ray Elling and to Pauline Bishop of Casting for Recovery for

helping us to staff the event.

I'd say this summer has been above average for fishing in both fresh and saltwater. One exception is that the number of small striped bass caught continues to decline, which does not bode well for future years. CFFA will continue its support of research and legislation aimed at striped bass conservation. At least this summer offered large numbers of hungry bluefish to help keep our salty rods bent.

The Board of Directors heartily welcomes Ed Mitchell as our new Conservation Chairman. It's hard to imagine a better person in that position. We still have an opening for Liaison to the Willimantic River Alliance. If you love to fish the Willi, you've got to love what this group does to protect the river and to enhance access to it. Contact me if you'd like to know more about this undemanding position on our Board.

We've changed the dates of our Fly Tying Classes from the dead of winter to the six Thursdays from October 13th to November 17th. They will be held at Cabela's meeting rooms starting at 7:00pm. So mark your calendar if you or anyone you know is interested in beginning to tie fresh or saltwater flies. Registration is available on our website, at our meetings or by contacting Richard Gilligan.

Our next meeting is Wednesday September 14th at 7:00pm at the Clubhouse in East Hartford. Any member is invited to setup at 6:30 to

tie flies before the meeting. CFFA member Captain Mark Dysinger will present "Pike on the Fly – A Worthwhile Pursuit". This is certain to be a fascinating program on an often overlooked area of our sport.

I used to bemoan the end of summer, but now I really look forward to the autumn. The weather will be fabulous at times with less muggy heat and fewer biting insects. Getting on the water at dawn and dusk will require losing less sleep, and most fish will become more active in preparation for winter. Normally shrewd fish will actually behave stupidly in the middle of a sunny day, and I plan to be there. Yeah, I love the fall.

Remember to treat your gear after river fishing like it contains Didymo. Keep our sponsors in mind before you buy elsewhere. Consider sending Todd Gorman an article and/or photo for future issues of this newsletter. Bring a friend to our next meeting and that person may begin a fishing journey that can never be fully learned, but always enjoyed.

May your own fly fishing journey always bring you to beautiful places, and then give you something interesting to do while you are there.

><<)))*> Bruce

Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING SEPT 7th
NEXT CLUB MEETING SEPT 14th

October Meeting

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

Presentation: Pike on the Fly – a Worthwhile Pursuit

Pike are often viewed as a nuisance species, one that is beneath the effort of many fly anglers. This presentation highlights life history, gear, flies, local and global fishing opportunities, and their enigmatic traits that often make them a perfect target for fly fishing.

Captain Mark Dysinger specializes in flyfishing for northern pike and smallmouth bass in freshwater, and the northeast slam of striped bass, bluefish, and false albacore in salt water. He is a lifetime member of CFFA, and past instructor of fly tying and fishing classes for the club. Captain Mark has fished extensively across North America, and his works have appeared in numerous print and online publications. He resides on the Connecticut coast with his wife Anne and daughter Lucy.

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



Albies, Albies, Albies! **by John Baracchi**

In 2002 when I moved back to Connecticut, I had only fished the saltwater once or twice from my tube for a cutthroat trout run before they would chase the salmon up river to eat their eggs.

Of course I'm talking about fishing the salt with a fly rod. While growing up, I would spend time in the summers at Crescent Beach in Niantic where my grandmother had a summer home. I used to fish the saltwater almost every day. I would catch flounder, blackfish, bluefish and porgies. I would gather mussels for bait or catch those little green crabs and use them for bait as well or trade them at the bait shop for sandworms, but I had never fished the salt with a fly rod.

I have two fly fishing bags that I use: one is for freshwater stuff and the other, which really has never been used is for saltwater stuff. I had tied up some saltwater flies and put them away in the saltwater bag. But up until this eventful day I had never used them. I bought a 9 wt. St. Croix blank and made a rod. I bought a SA saltwater reel and put a line on it. It just sat there for 3 or 4 years in my closet. I would go to meetings, listen to the guys talk about the stripers and blues and

albies that they would catch and think one of these days I'm going to head to the ocean and give it a try.

It was October 2009, and I was not working at the time. I checked my email and there was one from Charlie, one of my fishing buddies asking me if I wanted to go fishing for false albacore tomorrow. At first I thought I don't know because I don't want to embarrass myself with my less than superior or maybe even inadequate casting skills. After thinking about it I thought, "why not it's a good opportunity and we will be on Jerry's boat." Plus I'm sure Jerry and Charlie being the "Old Salts" that they are would be more than willing to teach me. As it turned out I was right. I agreed to go and Charlie told me to meet him and Jerry at the commuter lot in the morning. After packing a lunch and gathering my gear, I headed to the parking lot where I was soon met by Charlie and Jerry and we headed to the marina. We boarded Jerry's boat and headed out into the salt. Jerry has a fish finder but he never even has to look at it as he is so good at spotting where the fish are. He would look out over the water, point and say there are some fish over there and I would look and see waves, just waves. I remember thinking, what fish?

Charlie suggested I put something white on so I tied a Left's white deceiver. After we cruised to where Jerry said the fish were he said "put your line out here". So as the boat moved slowly, I put the line out, it wasn't in the water for 5 seconds and wham! Fish on! I played it for a couple of minutes and got it into the boat. It was a nice albie, what a beautiful fish these albies are. Charlie took my camera and snapped a picture of us. He showed me how to release

the fish. After one or two more fish hooked and or landed, my fly was pretty much wasted so I switched and put on a Ray's Fly; it is also white with a peacock wing or topping. I can't tell you how many of these torpedoes I hooked and landed. Nor can I tell you how many Charlie caught, but I can tell you that according to Charlie and Jerry it was the best day ever for albies.

Jerry was such a great captain and guide that when he didn't see any fish to cast to he would tell us to throw our lines in and he would troll. We trolled back and forth until Jerry spied more fish but as we trolled, I caught fish on every pass.

Jerry didn't fish much but I think he had more fun watching Charlie and I fish than catching the fish himself.

I have never experienced anything like what I experienced that day in October. I have caught King salmon, silver salmon, native steelhead, sea run cutthroat trout etc., but I can tell you this, pound for pound these false albacore are the best fighting fish that I have ever caught, ever! When one fish gets into your backing 3 or 4 times on one run that's a fish that doesn't want to give up. There is definitely no quit in these fish at all. As I left for home, I remember the pain in both of my arms. The next morning I could hardly move my arms but I'll take that pain in trade for a day like we had any day. It was a good pain, a rewarding pain and eventually the pain went away but the memories will never go away.

I don't think I will ever experience another day of fishing like I did that day. I couldn't of have better teachers than Charlie and Jerry and I doubt if I will ever top that awesome day of fishing.

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



Soft Hackle Streamer

Hook: Mustad 3366 Size 10

Thread: Hot Orange

Tail: 2 clumps of Maribou One Each Tied On The Top And Bottom Of The Hook

Cheeks: Woodduck

Bead: Brass

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

Board of Directors

President • Bruce Rich (c) 860-450-6390 (e) ergopro@comcast.net

Activities VP • Bob Winot

Environment VP • Stan Calabrese: (h) 569-2923

Promotions VP • Richard Gaudreau: (h) 860-745-0548 (e) readfr1@cox.net

Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 871-8703

Legal Secretary • Mark Barbieri (h) 623-8187

Treasurer • Lou Fabrizio (h) 793-0547 (w) 571-5190

Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 649-4227

Advisory Board • Charles Place (h) 623-9912 (w) 704-7888

Advisory Board • Ray Riley (h) 721-0547

Advisory Board • John Baracchi

Conservation Chairman • Open Position

Education Chairman • Rich Gilligan (h) 860-839-2070

Indoor Facilities Chairman. • Denise Dauray

Legislative Chairman • Vin Ringrose (h) 828-4642

Membership Chairman • Phil McCormick (h) 871-8703

Newsletter Chairman • Todd Gorman

Program Chairman • Roger Plourde (h) 747-4297 (w) 747-3324

Publicity Chairman • Mary Edwards

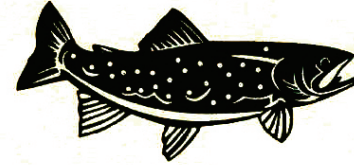
Webmaster • Nils Christensen



John Synnott
Instructor and Guide

37 West Main Street • Vergennes, VT 05491 • 802-989-0398
www.streamandbrook.com • info@streamandbrook.com

UpCountry Sportfishing



352 Main Street, P.O. Box 44 • Pine Meadow, CT 06061
Phone: (860) 379-1952
www.FarmingtonRiver.com

ityeflies.com
leslie wrixon Fly Dresser



111 Crest Road
Wellesley, Massachusetts
02482

lesliewrixon@ityeflies.com
508 7338535



South Windsor Neck and Back, LLC

Chiropractic Neurology Center
1330 Sullivan Avenue South Windsor, CT 06074 (860) 644-2437

Andrew P.T. Gregory, DC, DACNB
Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board

www.FunctionForLife.com

Dr. Kenneth Wichman

Manchester Podiatry Center, P.C.



Podiatric Medicine
and Foot Surgery

Participating in Most Health Plans

117 E. Center St. Manchester, CT 649-3338



South Windsor Neck and Back, LLC

Chiropractic Neurology Center
1330 Sullivan Avenue South Windsor, CT 06074 (860) 644-2437

Rosanne M. Gregory, DC
Doctor of Chiropractic

www.FunctionForLife.com



Fly tying for all.com

Over 150 videos totaling
Over 30 hours

Video downloads on fly tying
For all levels from beginner to expert
Categorized by technique, fish and flies

www.FlyTyingForAll.com



Diabetic Footwear Medicare Covered*



Many styles to chose from

Dr. Comfort "extra depth" shoes are specially designed for the unique needs of the diabetic patient. Ask your podiatrist today about the difference Dr. Comfort shoes can make to your health! Participating in Most Health Plans. Now available exclusively at:

Dr. Kenneth Wichman
Manchester Podiatry Center, P.C.
117 E. Center St. Manchester, CT 649-3338



664 Buckley Highway
Union, CT 06076
860-684-1575
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com

Quality Service
& Repairs



A&P Auto Sales & Service

Alma or Pablo Zuniga
365 Main Street
East Hartford, CT 06118

P: (860) 568-0202 F: (860) 568-0505

Stitched Concepts

Corporate Apparel

Apparel Embroidery for All Your Company Needs

Ted Koch

27 Naek Rd., Unit 7
P.O. Box 2065
Vernon, CT 06066

Phone 860-872-4455
Fax 860-870-4598
www.stitchedconcepts.com
info@stitchedconcepts.com



YANKEE OUTDOORS LLC

88 Main Street, Enfield, CT • (860)741-5994

Full Line of Fly Tying Materials & Accessories

Lic. - Kayak Rentals
Fresh & Salt Water Tackle
Hunting Supplies & Daily Permits
Rod & Reel Repair
Fresh & Salt Water Live Bait

www.yankeeoutdoors.com



Mark Beaudoin
Guy Beaudoin

ON THE RIVER

Fly Fishing Instruction with Charlie Place

Learn where trout hide, what their habits are, and how to catch them using nymphs, streamers and dry flies.

Send for a free electronic brochure to learn more about this unique fly fishing teaching service.

Send to: ontheriver@snet.net

Over 25 years fly fishing experience

Connecticut Outfitters

Hartford Club Sport Center

"Fishing and Outdoor Specialists Since 1979"

554 Wethersfield Avenue • Hartford, CT 06114

Gary L. Brummett
860 296-0110
Mobile: 860 539-3067

Outdoor Enterprises, LLC
www.ct-outfitters.com

JET Electric

Residential, Commercial, and Industrial
Fully Insured

Jason Trott
East Hartford, CT
860-282-1291
860-818-5541
290-933 Shop

Lic. 189250



By Appointment:
(860) 747-3324

Cedar House

Custom Picture Framing
Shadow Boxes • Custom Mirrors

146 New Britain Ave (Rt. 372)

Rear Building

Plainville, CT 06062

Roger Plourde



**WILLINGTON
PIZZA
TOO**

Route 74 Phelps Crossing
Willington, Connecticut
(860) 429-9030

www.willingtonpizza.com

B-Mar Flies

Bruce Marino

Over 40 Years of Fly Tying Experience

Home: 860.653.8288

Cell: 860.967.9338

Email: bmarflies@aol.com

46 Fern Hollow Dr.

Granby, CT 06035

www.bmarflies.com



Ron Shute
Office: 886.677.4661 • Cell: 860.306.0888
Direct/Fax: 860.735.7461
Ron.Shute@Raveis.com
www.Raveis.com/RonShute
200 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

raveis.com

"The Best Website in Real Estate"

100,000+ MLS listings updated daily • School reports
Mapping of sold/listed homes • Online home evaluation
Quality for low rates - William Raveis Mortgage and Insurance



Since 1988

CONNECTICUT'S FLY FISHING LEADER

FLY ROD RENTALS • TYING MATERIALS • TYING CLASSES
• FLY FISHING SCHOOLS • LOCAL INFORMATION • FFF CERTIFIED INSTRUCTION

FEATURING: SAGE, MARCH BROWN, ST. CROIX, ECHO, SA MASTERY
DEALER, ROSS, BAUER, TIBOR, REGAL, RENZETTI, SIMMS, PATAGONIA,
COLUMBIA, AIRFLO, ENRICO FLIES, FISHPOND, EX OFFICIO, KORKERS,
WATERWORKS/LAMSON, UMPQUA, RIO, DYNAKING AND MORE!

75 MAIN STREET • OLD SAYBROOK, CT • (860) 388-6585

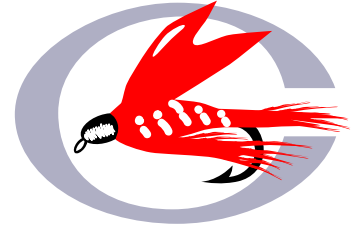
www.northcove.com

Our advertisers exist to provide you with excellent products and services and they do need your support. Mention that you are with CFFA, they do appreciate the feedback and patronage from club members. Plus they are an excellent source for information on gear, tackle, fishing tips, and current conditions.

Lines & Leaders

September 2011

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



P.O. Box 380268
East Hartford, CT 06138

FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

FF

