

# Lines & Leaders

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April 2012

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

## FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

## APRIL MEETING

Fly Tyer's Round Table

## LAKE FRANCIS GRAY GHOST

By Dick Wemmell



CFFA Remembers Charlie Place





### From The Vest Of The President

"An old phrase evokes the fly-fisher's spring: the sweet of the year"

R. Palmer Baker

The Sweet of the Year 1965

If you enjoy fly fishing in the Catskills, you'll probably enjoy the book, *The Sweet of the Year*. It is one man's homage to classic Catskill waters, history, and legendary fly fishing people.

The quote seems appropriate because spring is also a very sweet time to be a fly fisher in Connecticut. However, this year the sweetness started in February with incredibly mild weather that has pretty much stuck around, at least through late March when I'm writing this. Spring started on March 20th, but before that I did more winter trout fishing this

year than all previous years combined. Manageable river flows and the stocking of over 12,000 trout into the Trout Management Areas in February inspired many of us to wet a line while enjoying the warm air. As you would expect, nymphs and streamers were working. Not so expected for that time of year is that trout were hitting many dry flies like Elk Hair Caddis, Dancing Stoneflies and even March Brown Floaters. All that made for spectacular late winter and early spring fly fishing in our TMA's. I just hope no one got a new ice fishing outfit last Christmas.

CFFA's 2012 Beginner and Advanced Fly Tying Classes have concluded and I want to join Education Chairman Richard Gilligan in acknowledging the members who helped with the classes, including Kyle, Gordon, Phil, Gary, Uncle Teddy, Don O, and JB. Thanks to those who taught a class: Bob Winot



## Charlie

On April 1, 2012 our very own past president, friend and valued member Charlie Place passed away.

I would like to say a few things about my good friend. Charlie could be seen at our CFFA meetings, outings, helping out at our classes and at our expo and banquet. Charlie was a valuable member always willing to help out, always with a positive and calm outlook. He treated everyone with respect and dignity and always had an amusing anecdote or story to tell.

Whether it be a story about one of his many fishing trips to Montana, Florida, Mexico, Canada, or to the Caribbean. Charlie was easy to befriend and someone everybody loved to be around.

He would show up with his scruffy beard and his hair curling out from under his ball cap he always wore and his plaid shirt and jeans. He was a no flash no frills type of guy. He rarely got excited and handled every situation with a calm and cool demeanor.

You always knew where you stood with Charlie, he didn't care how much your rod or reel cost, and he didn't care what you drove or how big your house was. He always told you what was on his mind but did it in such a way that he didn't offend. He had a way of getting his point across. After all he would say "it's only a fishing club, chill out." Nothing was a big deal to Charlie, unless of course we were planning a trip to a fly fishing show or of course a fishing trip.

Charlie was a great travelling companion and his amusing stories on the ride made the time

pass quickly. His usual travelling buddy was Jerry but I had the good fortune on occasion to be his travelling companion. Jerry for some reason was never big on fishing shows or float tubing so Charlie would email me whenever it was time to hit the shows, meet at my house jump in my truck and off we would go. Always a good time, always a fun ride and always because Charlie made it so.

When I became president of CFFA in 2005, Charlie was there to answer questions to help steer me in the right direction and encourage me. "You are going to screw up from time to time" he said "but don't worry about that stuff just dust yourself off and keep on trying, you will be fine, don't worry it's only a fishing club." He was as usual correct, and I knew he would always be there to lend his support and he was.

I have been fortunate to know Charlie even if it was for a short time, he was my friend, my mentor and travelling and fishing buddy. I could not have asked for better. He was a great listener and always made sense when I had a problem. He has helped me in so many ways and I thank him for that.

My heart is heavy as I write this and this lump in my throat doesn't seem to want to go away. I miss him already; I will never forget him, his wit, his wisdom or his friendship. He was never flashy, he was never fancy he was just Good Ole Charlie. Thank you Charlie for everything. Thank you for crossing my path and for the lessons learned. I will miss you dearly my friend. Good bye for now but I somehow feel our paths will cross again. Rest in peace my dear friend, I will miss you always.

John Baracchi



## April Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

This month's program will be our annual fly tyers round table. We will have a dozen different tyers tying different fresh and salt water patterns. Stop by and pick up a few new tricks.

The microphone will be made available to those who would like to share a few words at the meeting in memory of our dear friend Charlie Place.

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 or visit the CFFA website at [www.ctflyfish.org](http://www.ctflyfish.org)



## Charlie Place

Charles S. Place of Windsor Locks, formerly of East Hartford, died peacefully Sunday (April 1, 2012) at St. Francis Hospital with his loving wife by his side. He was born February 18, 1947, in Colchester, Vermont, the son of Helen (Towle) Place and the late Stanley Place. He graduated from East Hartford High School and served his country in the U. S. Air Force. After 38 years, he retired from Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in 2008. An avid fly fisherman, he loved to spend his time in the rivers and streams of North America, as well as the Atlantic and Caribbean Oceans. He was president of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association from 1995-2000. A published outdoor writer, he spent countless hours writing and reliving his adventures with his many fishing buddies. The New England Outdoor Writers Association awarded him 1st place in Best Magazine Column in 2004. He wrote a monthly column for "On the Water" magazine for many years entitled "On the Fly." He leaves his devoted wife of 42 years, Kathleen (Norton) Place and two loving daughters, Jennifer Place Hogan of Windsor Locks and Kathryn Place of Suffield; four loving grandchildren, Nicholas, Cormac, Maeve and Nuala Hogan. He leaves his mother Helen (Towle) Place of Windsor Locks; his sister Sharon (Place) Marziale, her husband Lawrence of Windsor, and their children, Michael Marziale of Sarasota, FL and Christina Marziale of Greenbelt, MD; stepmother Lynda Place of Putney, VT; stepsister Lynda Sillner of Keene, NH and stepbrother Eric Hinkle of Putney, VT. Charles is also survived by his uncle Bruce Towle and wife Karen of Hinsdale, NH; sisters-in-law Madlyn (Norton) Brink of San Antonio, and her fiancé Donald Gray; Martha (Norton) O'Connor of Windsor Locks; many nieces, nephews, cousins, great nieces, and a grand niece. He was predeceased by his nephew Peter Stath.

Calling hours will be Friday, April 6th at the Carmon Poquonock Funeral Home, 1816 Poquonock Ave., Poquonock section of Windsor from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made and sent to Windsor Locks High School (W.L.H.S.) Charles Place Outdoorsman Award, 58 South Elm Street, Windsor Locks, CT 06096. For online condolences, please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).

## Coming Events

**NEXT BOARD MEETING APRIL 4th**  
**NEXT CLUB MEETING APRIL 11th**

### Trail Cleaning Day:

The CFFA will be having a trail clean up day at the Willimantic River TMA on Wednesday April 25. We will work to re-open and clear the trails of any debris and trash.

Anyone interested in helping with the trail clean up is welcome to attend.

We will be assembling at the west bound rest area on I-84 at 10:00 A.M. Please bring lopping shears, hand saws or chain saws. Depending on the number of volunteers, we will split into groups to cover several areas.

Upon completion of our work day the CFFA will sponsor pizza at Willington Pizza 2.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation notice will be on the message board at [www.ctflyfish.org](http://www.ctflyfish.org).

Thank you,  
Bob Winot  
Activities VP



## Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by John Springer. 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



### Lake Francis Gray Ghost

Hook: 6X Streamer

Thread: Black

Body: Yellow Floss

Rib: XS Silver Mylar

Under Wing: Peacock

Wing: Dun Marabou

Cheeks: Mallard

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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## Vest Continued

and Robert Stowe. Special thanks to our professional tyers: Leslie Wrixon who taught two classes and Mike Stewart who taught four.

Spring is also the sweet spot for club related activities, and there is plenty happening. Our April 11th meeting features the annual Fly Tyers Roundtable with about ten of the area's best tyers demonstrating and discussing their fresh and salt water patterns. The Goldman Library will be receiving book returns, but will not be loaning books at this meeting.

Our Fly Fishing Class will have the casting clinic at the P&F Pond on Saturday morning April 14th starting

at 8:00am. There are about 15 students in the class, so please consider coming out to help teach casting to these beginners.

JT's Fly Shop in Union is having their Spring Fling on April 14th & 15th with a sportsman tag sale, fishing equipment reps, fly tying, raffles and contests. For the first time in many years I'm looking forward to Opening Day of fishing season

on April 21st because it will be nice to visit some different waters after having spent so much time at the TMA's already this year. Activities Chairman Bob Winot is leading a CFFA sponsored riverside trail cleanup at the Cole Wilde TMA on the Willimantic River on Wednesday April 25th.

Walt has done the raffle

at our monthly meetings for a very long time and he is at the point now where he really needs some help. We all enjoy the raffle, and the money it brings in supports our club's activities. Anyone who can step up and help with the raffle would be doing our club a great service.

Todd is always looking for contributions to this newsletter, so don't hesitate to submit photos or articles. Please visit the advertisers in this newsletter before shopping elsewhere. Remember to always treat your gear like it carries Didymo.

It's a fly fisher's spring – enjoy the sweetness!

><<)))\*> Bruce





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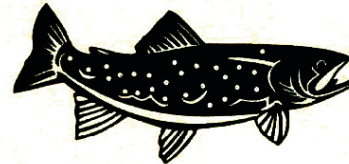


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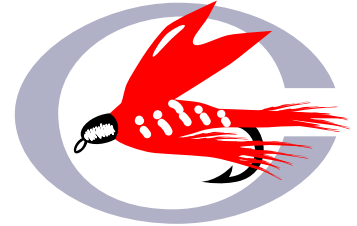
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 **Connecticut**  
Fly Fisherman's Association

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FLY FISHERS

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