

Lines & Leaders

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January 2012

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

**FROM THE VEST OF
THE PRESIDENT**

**JANUARY
MEETING**

Pizza and a Movie

**CFFA BANQUET
& EXPO**

**CRSA ANNUAL
DINNER**

SPEY CASTING

By John Springer

**PERRY STREAM
SPECIAL**

By Dick Wemmell



Burlington Falls Photo By Todd Gorman



From The Vest Of The President

"CFFA must be the best fishing club in the country."

Lefty Kreh

I'm not sure if Lefty ever wrote that down, but many of us heard him say it, more than once. Perhaps he was referring to the large number of people that turnout for our events, or the enthusiasm for all types of fly fishing that he feels when he's with us, or the diversity of our membership. I do know that Lefty tells it straight (unless he's pulling a joke on you) and his words say a lot about our club and its members, past and present. So as this new year begins, I thought I'd take inventory of our club and give you a kind of "state of the club address".

Financially CFFA is doing well, with no debt and with annual income generally matching annual expenditures. Our fly fishing and tying classes graduated over two dozen beginners during this past year. We reached out into the community in 2011 to bring the pleasures and traditions of fly

fishing to girl and boy scouts, to war veterans, to students at the American School for the Deaf, and to the general public at venues such as retail stores and the Audubon Center. In accordance with our mission to preserve and promote fly fishing we are partners with other groups like the Federation of Fly Fishers, The American Casting Association, Casting for Recovery, and the Coalition of CT Sportsmen. To help conserve game fish waters we make our voice heard on legislative issues and we are active with the Fisheries Advisory Council of the CT DEEP, with the Willimantic River Alliance, and with Stripers Forever. Every issue of our newsletter is outstanding in quality. The Goldman Library offers one of the best collections of angling literature that is available totally free to the public. Our members include women and men of all ages, and of all levels of fishing experience from beginners to certified instructors and professional

guides, authors and fly tyers. CFFA members stock fish into rivers, perform trail cleanups and help with the trout and salmon classroom programs. Our monthly meetings continue to offer the most interesting regional speakers. Our expos and banquets are among the best attended events sponsored by any fly fishing club, and they feature the very top speakers in the fly fishing world.

There's a lot to be proud of here. You belong to a truly great club, and it's you, the members, that have always made it so.

I would be remiss if I did not also inform you of a negative trend. Total active members number about 230, which is down from a high of just over 300 several years ago. Attendance at our meetings has been slowly trending downward, and now averages about 50 people per meeting, which is over one-third less than it was a decade ago. This trend is typical of organizations like ours at this point in time. Instead of joining a club, many people today use the internet for information, discussion and fellowship, although it is not the same. Fewer people are fishing and buying fishing licenses with each passing year. Young folks are less appreciative of the outdoors. Adults are often over-scheduled or suffering economic hardships. The generation that built our club is slowing down and thinning out, and not enough younger folks are coming in to replace them. All of this also results in our club having committees that are understaffed and important positions that remain vacant. A

few of our fellow members have carried a heavy load for a long time, and they could use some help. Unless more members step up and become involved in the operation of our club, I am unsure of how long we can continue doing everything that I mentioned above.

Perhaps the greatest thing CFFA offers is the opportunity for individuals to get involved with our activities. When I became more active with CFFA, my enjoyment of fishing increased, and so did my skills, my number of fishing buddies and my number of favorite fishing spots. Do you ever feel the urge to give back? Through our club you can protect the environment, help kids develop in healthy ways and share your passion with others, all while upholding a great tradition. It's not hard work when enough people get involved, it's fun and rewarding. Never think you need to be good at fly fishing to participate more at CFFA. One of the great strengths of our club is that it has always been comprised of people with all levels of fishing experience. You don't need to be able to cast a fly line 80 feet to help preserve and promote the pleasures and traditions of fly fishing and to conserve game fish waters.

I would appreciate hearing any ideas you have about how to boost membership and to get more folks active in running our club. If you are inclined to get more involved, now is the time. If you can't get more involved now, then consider just expressing some gratitude to the people on our board and committees that keep this

club going. Too often the only feedback they get is from someone with a complaint. So take a moment and thank them for the time and energy they donate to maintain the great

heritage that is CFFA.

Our next Fly Tying Classes begin on Thursday January 5th at the Clubhouse (not Cabela's this time). Our January 11th meeting is Pizza & Movie



CFFA Expo/Banquet

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is pleased to announce its 42nd. Annual Fly Fishing Expo and Dinner Banquet on Saturday, February 4, 2012. Our honored guest will be Loren Williams. Loren is a life-long fly angler with over 35 years of experience. His roots originate in the native brook trout streams of northeastern Pennsylvania and have since spread across the globe. Various mentors and experiences have molded him into the angler and teacher that he is today; perhaps none more than his ongoing tenure with Fly-Fishing Team USA. In

2005 Loren was selected as the team's first fly tier. In 2007 he was selected as an angling member, a role he proudly continues to maintain. In addition, Loren is a past head coach of the US Youth team and continues to serve on the coaching staff where he eagerly engages the talented youth of our country. Loren also has decades of experience on many of Lake Ontario's tributaries.

The Expo will be open from 9am until 3pm. There will be many fly-fishing shops and dealers at the Expo along with flyfishing programs and clinics throughout the day.

Our evening Banquet

Vest Continued

Night and election of officers. Any member is eligible to be nominated for office, plus there are openings on our Board of Directors and committees for anyone interested in bringing more to their fly fishing experience. As I write this, we really need more help with Publicity, the Expo/Banquet Committee and the monthly raffle. Let any board member know if you wish to nominate yourself or anyone else.

Our Expo is February 4th at Maneeley's from 9:00am till 3:00pm featuring dozens of exhibitors and vendors along with free technical seminars including one on nymph tricks by special guest Loren Williams. The Banquet follows at 6:00 and tickets are going fast. Loren will have a banquet program with appeal to even non-fishers. The raffles are expected to be better than ever, including a 60-ticket-only raffle

(\$20) for a complete premium 4-wt. outfit for which tickets are on sale at the January meeting or by sending a check to CFFA, and you need not be present to win. Look for our Expo/Banquet ad in the January special edition of On the Water magazine which will have extra distribution at the big fly fishing shows in Marlboro and Somerset, and at the Hartford and Providence boat shows.

Please get your dues into Phil McCormick along with your updated contact information. If you can donate some flies or other gear to the Banquet raffles, bring them to the meeting on January 11th with a sticker showing your name. Remember that there is no meeting in February because of the Expo/Banquet.

May your year be happy, healthy and fulfilling.

><<))*> Bruce

CFFA Expo Continued

will begin at 6:00pm with cocktails followed by dinner at 7:00. Loren Williams will be the Banquet speaker. Awards and raffle follow dinner. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

Both the Expo and banquet will be held at Maneeley's, 65 Rye Street, S. Windsor, Ct. 06074. Reservations for the banquet must be made in advance and received no later than January 27, 2012. Checks need to be made out to CFFA. Please include a copy of the banquet reservation form for your meal choice which can be obtained from our website. You have a choice of Chicken Marsala, Roasted Prime Rib of Beef with au jus or a Seafood Stuffed Filet of Sole for dinner. A garden salad with house dressing, penna marinara and dinner rolls with butter are served with each meal. As always a great desert is included. Vegetarian entrees are available upon request. Mail checks and reservations to Mike Stewart, 215 Loomis Street, N. Granby, Ct., 06060. For more information contact Mike Stewart at 860-653-4203 or go to www.ctflyfish.org and click on banquet for more information.



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Jim Carroll (860) 236-5181 / jcarrolljr@comcast.net



Spey Casting By John Springer

Spey Casting with Jerry and Fred

By John Springer

Most of us but not all could use some help in our casting or even learn something new like Spey casting. If you're not in either of those groups then read no further. Several years ago Dave Goulet offered, through Classic & Custom fly shop, Spey casting lessons at a very reasonable cost. Since I was going to Russia and wanted

to learn, my wife treated me to a lesson with Jerry Jahn. Jerry is a great teacher and covered everything you might want to know about lines and rods before we went out to start casting. We did the actual casting in the Farmington River. I tried hard to absorb all he taught me but to be honest, I came up short. Jerry told me to come back and spend more time with him 'til I got it down. When I asked him how much the private lesson

would be he told me it was free; he just wants people to learn from him and he was not worried about money. After the second lesson I went to Russia and was able to use my Spey rod to catch Salmon. When I came home I put my rod away for 2 years.

In that time Jerry teamed up with his buddy Fred and now they run their own school, SpeyCasting – North East, LLC, with instruction on the Farmington River.

Spey Casting Continued

Our local TU chapter got a group together for a Saturday class, the cost was \$50 per person. Compare this to any other lessons offered through any shops and I think you will find it a very affordable price. When I showed up, I was very surprised when Jerry said I did not have to pay, he told me you only pay one time after that when you come back its free. Let me know if you get that type of guarantee any place else. Fred does most of the classroom lesson and Jerry does the casting to show you what Fred is telling you, and then they take you on the river and work with each student for the entire afternoon. Because they work with small groups of 3 or 4 students, you get plenty of individual attention and tips. Everyone was casting by the end of the day and when we left Jerry told us they are on the river almost every Saturday & Sunday and to come by if you need any help. They have all the Rio and Airflo lines and demo rods/reels for Spey casting, they can't be beat. So you'll learn with the correct equipment right from the start. They teach all types of casting and unless you have a good friend who will spend all day with you for free, these guys are the next best thing.

If you are interested e-mail fkrow@yahoo.com to schedule a class date.



January Meeting

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

January is our annual Pizza and a Movie Night!

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

ctflyfish.org

Now is the time to purchase your tickets for the CFFA's annual expo and banquet. It is Saturday, February 4, 2012 · 6:00pm - 10:30pm at Maneely's , 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT.

Loren Williams is the honored guest for our 42nd. annual banquet. You can fill out a dinner reservation from on our website: www.ctflyfish.org

Mary Edwards
CFFA Publicity Chairman

Dinner Reservation Form

Print this page and fill in your dinner selections. Verify that the number of dinners matches the number of guests you selected. The total amount to mail with the reservation should be noted on the form. You can also fill out the form online at www.ctflyfish.org The dinners are \$40.00 per plate. You have to contact Mike Stewart if your reservation is for 8 or more people for seating at the same table. Use the Contact Us form and select "Banquet Seating" to let Mike know you how many guests you have.

Mail Reservation Form and Check **(by 1/27/2012)** To:

Mr. Michael Stewart
215 Loomis St.
N. Granby, CT 06060

Make Check payable to CFFA

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Phone No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Number of Prime Rib Dinners: _____

Number of Stuffed Sole Dinners: _____

Number of Chicken Marsala Dinners: _____

Request for Vegetarian Dinners: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING DEC 7th

NEXT CLUB MEETING DEC 14th

Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by Mary Edwards. I don't know who caught the fish but my guess it was from a float tube. 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



Perry Stream Special

Hook: 6X Streamer

Thread: Black

Body: Gray Floss

Rib: XS Silver Mylar

Wing: White, Blue and White Polly Wing

Cheeks: Mallard

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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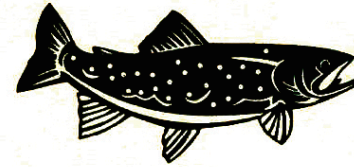
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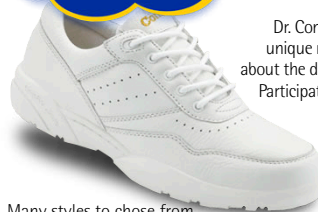
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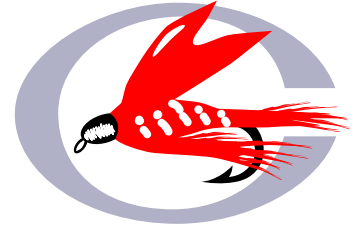
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 **Connecticut**
Fly Fisherman's Association

P.O. Box 380268
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**FEDERATION OF
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