

# Lines & Leaders

www.ctflyfish.org

September 2012

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

## FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Ron Merly

### ICEBERG

By Dick Wemmell







### From The Vest Of The President

"... many rivers, streams and lakes are cleaner now than they have been in the last 100 years. Rivers such as the Willimantic, Naugatuck, Pequabuck, Quinnipiac, Connecticut and Farmington, once seriously polluted, are now used for many recreational pursuits."

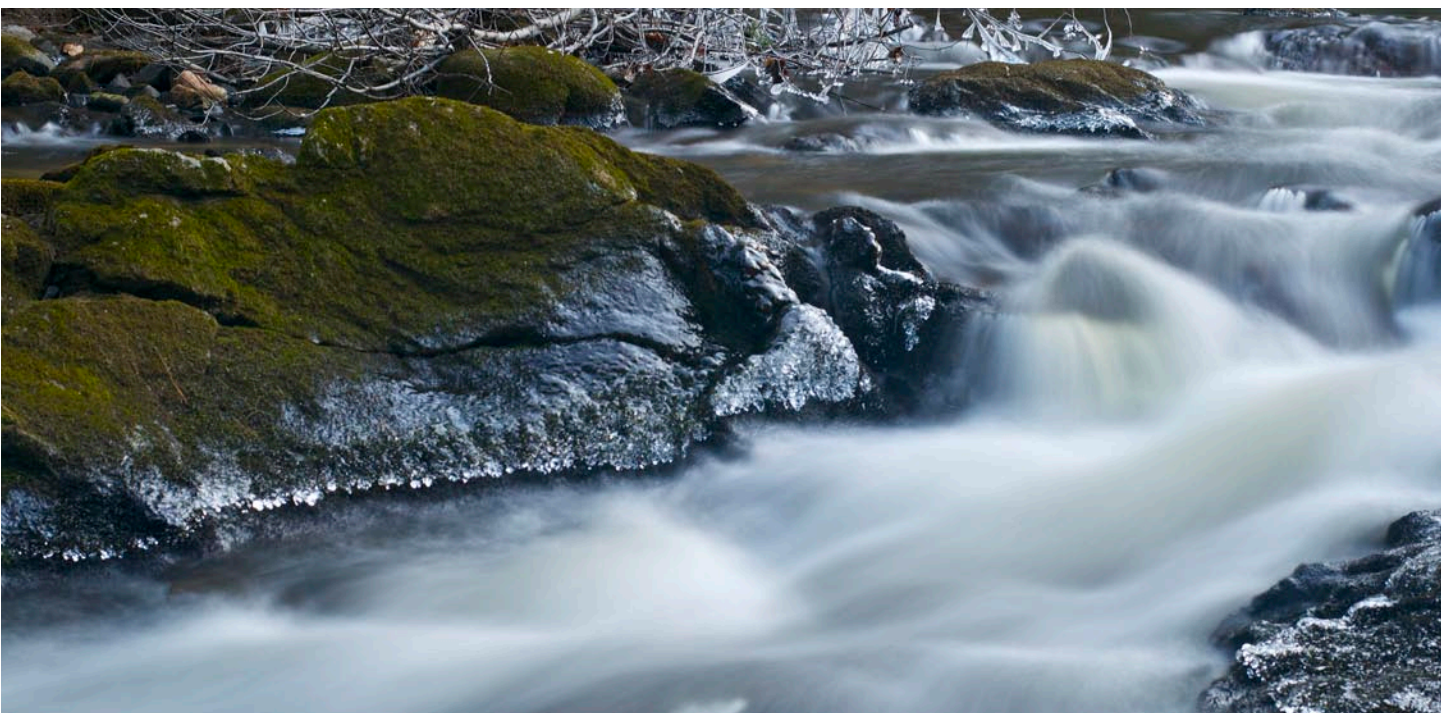
DEEP website page: 40 Years of the Clean Water

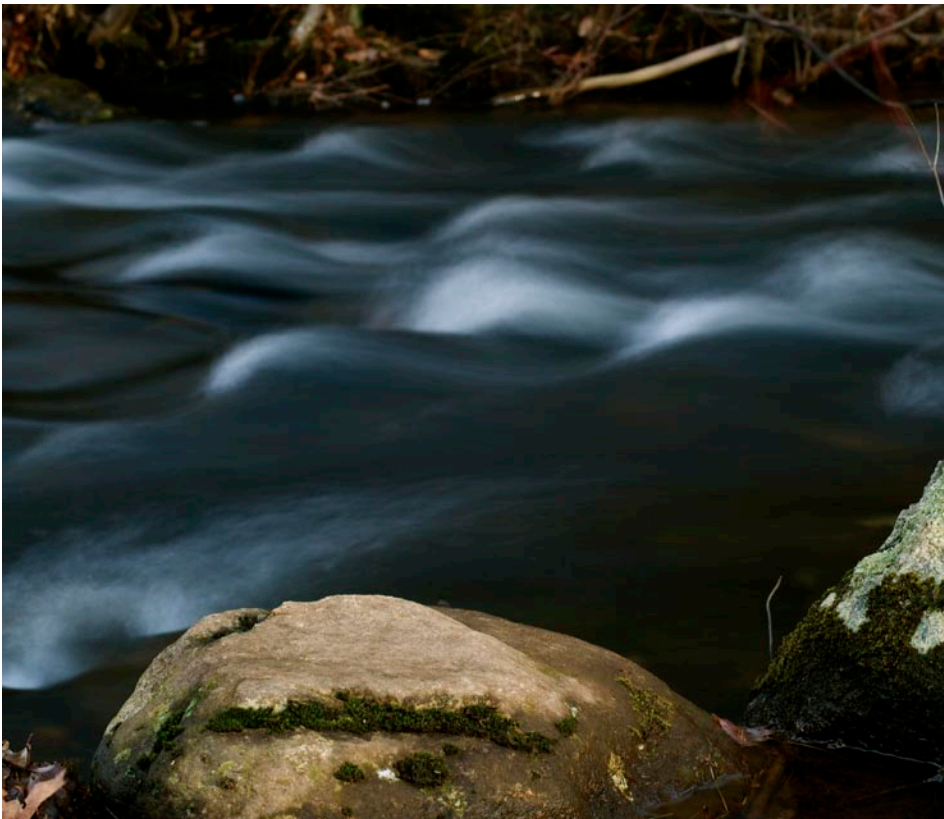
Act

The Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 was based in part on the Connecticut Clean Water Act of 1967. Both Acts have generated ongoing political and judicial controversy. For example, President Nixon initially proposed a Clean Water Act, however he vetoed it when Congress

sent it to him for signing, then both the Senate and the House overrode Nixon's veto and it became law in October of 1972. One thing is as clear as clean water: Connecticut fishermen have benefited greatly from these laws.

Anglers will also be affected by some very recent federal proclamations. In May of this year, U. S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar designated the 410-mile-long Connecticut River as America's first National Blueway, saying restoration and preservation efforts on the river are a model for other American rivers. Salazar said Blueways will be given priority for programs the agency administers, such as funding for fisheries restoration or water conservation. In July however, his department announced it will no longer supply fry or smolts to the Connecticut River salmon





## May Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

This month's program will be presented by an avid fisherman, Ron Merly has been fishing 45 years. He has held the current Connecticut State record for sea-run brown trout since 2006. A self-taught writer, he was awarded 1st place in the Best Article Magazine category by the New England Outdoor Writers Association in 2009 and 2010. He has served as President of the Nutmeg Chapter of Trout Unlimited since 2009 and has been a member of the Nutmeg T.U. Board of Directors since 2000. Ron will be speaking about the vast flyfishing opportunities that are found within the state of Connecticut. He personally visited nearly 300 streams that are contained in his book *Flyfishers Guide to Connecticut*. The book is a where-to-book that describes the accessibility of the trout waters available to us in Connecticut.

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)

## Vest

restoration program. I suppose that would make sense to me if I were a politician. Nevertheless, it seems like the Connecticut River becoming America's first Blueway should be a step in the right direction.

In June of this year, the U. S. Department of Interior designated over 21 miles of the Willimantic River, including the Trout Management Area, as a National Recreation Trail (NRT). Most NRTs are land trails. The Willi is one of only 63 water trails to receive NRT status, making it a poster child for river reclamation – more on that later. The NRT program celebrates and preserves our nation's greenways while encouraging people to enjoy outdoor activities.

Among other benefits, this program provides technical and funding assistance for each trail.

However, it takes more than governmental laws and proclamations to make Connecticut's waters as clean, stable, accessible, and fishable as they are today. It also requires a lot of people continually dedicated to those tasks. Some of those people work through fishing clubs like CFFA, Trout Unlimited Chapters, Farmington Valley Anglers, Housatonic Fly Fishermen, and other fishing organizations including those that focus on the health of our marine fisheries. We are also fortunate to have many competent people working in the DEEP Fisheries and Natural Resources Divisions, and to have open communications with them through the



Fisheries Advisory Council. In addition, some of our great fly shops do a lot for their local waters. Most of us fly anglers appreciate the contributions of these groups, and we try to support them.

Many fishermen are unaware that we also benefit from the work of other organizations in our state. Have you ever hiked a Blue Blazed Trail to a fishing spot? You have the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) to thank for that trail. CFPA is not a state agency. It is a private, nonprofit association that maintains over 825 miles of hiking trails in Connecticut - the entire Blue Blazed Trail System - much of which is made possible by CFPA coordinating with private landowners. There is not enough space here to mention half of what CFPA does for our natural resources, so if you want to know more check them out at [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org).

Also on a statewide level, The Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a nonprofit group dedicated to protecting and enhancing Connecticut's rivers, streams, and watersheds. They are very active legislatively, promoting environmentally sound state policies. They also assist the state's many river and watershed groups, and educate the public about the importance of water conservation and

aquatic habitats.

The waters we fish are cared for on a regional level by organizations like the Thames River Basin Partnership (TRBP) which covers most of eastern Connecticut plus small parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. TRBP grew out of workshops held by the region's Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Some of TRBP's goals are to preserve that area's agricultural heritage and its biodiversity, to protect its surface and ground water, and to improve its coastal zone. Among its many activities, TRBP supports bioassessments in every wadable stream that drains into the Thames, and it promotes farming practices that maintain the health of watersheds.

Another regional group that serves the quiet corner of our state is The Last Green Valley, which seeks to preserve cultural, water and land resources in the region defined by the Quinebaug and Shetucket river systems. The U.S. Congress has designated this valley as a National Heritage Corridor (one of only 49 National Heritage sites), recognizing the region as a unique national resource and making it eligible for assistance from the National Park Service. It is the last predominately undeveloped green space in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington D.C. This corridor shows-up as an area that is void of

lights in certain nighttime satellite photos. The Last Green Valley conducts river cleanups and also makes funds available to other groups that wish to perform cleanups. Visit their website at [www.tlgv.org/index.php](http://www.tlgv.org/index.php) to learn about the many other ways they serve the region and its waters.

Regional groups like these exist throughout our state. They are mostly comprised of volunteers, and are mostly grassroots in nature. They often assist each other to achieve common goals, and they partner with more localized groups, such as the Willimantic River Alliance (WRA).

I've been involved with WRA for some years, first as a liaison from CFFA, and now also as a WRA board member. WRA is a coalition of local groups and individuals that includes representatives from the towns that the Willimantic River flows through and a DEEP Watershed Manager. The mission of WRA is to protect and preserve the Willimantic River through stewardship, cooperative and educational activities, and enjoyment of the river. It sponsors outings to highlight the river's recreational features and forums that encourage regional cooperation. WRA provides publications and a web site ([www.willimanticriver.org/index.html](http://www.willimanticriver.org/index.html)) that expand awareness of the river, including specific maps for anglers, paddle boaters and hikers.

## Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" was submitted by Ted Rzepski. It is of Jerry Wade with a large striper caught off of Napatree Point RI. 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



### Iceberg

Hook: Size 10 4X Streamer  
Thread: Chartreuse 6/0  
Body: Chartreuse Ice Dub  
Wing: Chartreuse Mallard Flank  
Head: Chartreuse Ice Dub  
Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

## Board of Directors

President • Bruce Rich (c) 860-450-6390 (e) [ergopro@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:readfr1@cox.net)  
Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 871-8703  
Legal Secretary • Mark Barbieri (h) 623-8187  
Treasurer • Paul Edberg  
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  
Banquet Chairman • Kurt Jagielow  
Conservation Chairman • Ed Mitchell  
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 • Open  
Webmaster • Nils Christensen

It is a vigilant watchdog over the quality and quantity of water in the entire Willimantic River watershed, which continues to be threatened, mostly by the desires of land developers. It enhances river access by helping with signage, trails, launch sites and parking. The Willimantic River Alliance was instrumental in the river recently becoming a National Recreation Trail, and in 2003, the river being designated a Connecticut Greenway. These achievements help ensure that public access will be maintained and that the river will remain healthy.

Like so many bodies of water in Connecticut, the Willimantic River was once very unhealthy. Around 50 years ago several cyanide spills at a Willington plating plant annihilated all fish and insect life for several miles down river. Pollution also came from Stafford on a regular basis, where the municipal sewage treatment was not much more than a screen. Mills in Stafford released untreated wastewater containing toxins into the river. Various colored dyes were apparently part of that wastewater because the old-timers at my Willington fishing club tell of watching the river change from one bright color to another on an hourly basis. I've heard that fishermen left the river with different colored waders than they came with. By 1963 it had become so bad that the state completely ceased stocking the Willi.

The demise of the Willimantic River was typical of what was happening throughout our state and throughout our country. Highly publicized events included the evacuation of the town of Centralia in Pennsylvania due to an underground mine fire which started in 1962 and still burns today, and the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catching fire in 1969. The resulting national uproar fueled the environmental movement and led to the creation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Clean Water Act. Connecticut was among the first states to enact its own strong environmental policies.

Factories along the Willimantic River were ordered to stop polluting and to pay for the cleanup. State grants aided the town of Stafford in building a new tertiary treatment system for their municipal wastewater. Eventually the Willi began to run clear again, caddis flies began to hatch again, and in 1973 the state resumed stocking trout. Members of the newly formed Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association recognized the potential of the reborn river and began calling for a year-round, fly fishing only area. Soon a three mile section of the river was established for that purpose. Our club has provided stewardship of this section ever since. It was later named The Cole Wilde Trout Management Area in honor of the DEP Fisheries official who had valued the Willi since before its troubles began. Today the Willimantic remains a prime trout fishing river, and one of its tributaries that also flows through Stafford, Roaring Brook, is managed for wild trout.

As anglers we often get to experience clean flowing streams and clear lakes. These are among the most beautiful things on our planet. On this 40th anniversary of The Clean Water Act I'm mindful of how fragile those waters can be in our modern world. Let's remember to be grateful for all the effort, past and present, which enables us to enjoy so much good fishing today.

Ron Merly has visited nearly 300 of those good spots to fish and he writes about them in this year's "must have" book: Fly Fisher's Guide to Connecticut. Ron is our featured speaker as CFFA's new season kicks-off on Wednesday September 12th at the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse. Hope to see you all there.

><<)))\*> Bruce

## Coming Events

**NEXT BOARD MEETING SEPT 5th**  
**NEXT CLUB MEETING SEPT 12th**



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

## MILL RIVER FLY RODS

Quality Fly Fishing Equipment at Great Prices!

P.O. Box 6013  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
**(203) 815-2414**  
Lynn and Bill Lanzoni



[WWW.MILLRIVERFLYRODS.NET](http://WWW.MILLRIVERFLYRODS.NET)

### 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](http://www.stitchedconcepts.com)  
info@stitchedconcepts.com



By Appointment:  
(860) 747-3324

## Cedar House

Looking to buy Fly Fishing Tackle, Tying Materials,  
Firearms and related items. Custom Framing

*I have some very nice used rods and reels for sale.*

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](http://www.willingtonpizza.com)

## UpCountry Sportfishing



352 Main Street, P.O. Box 44 • Pine Meadow, CT 06061

Phone: **(860) 379-1952**

[www.FarmingtonRiver.com](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.com)



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

[raveis.com](http://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



Providing Professional  
Home Inspection Services  
In MA & CT

## East Coast Home Inspections, LLC

MARK ROY

Home Inspector of the Year

P.O. Box 558  
Enfield, CT  
e-mail: [mark\\_roy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark_roy@sbcglobal.net)

(860) 763-4030  
(800) 263-2267  
[www.eastcoastinspect.com](http://www.eastcoastinspect.com)

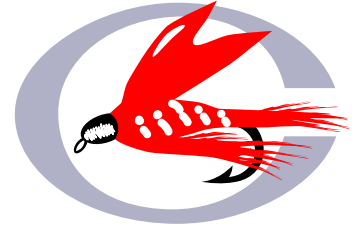
Our advertisers exist to provide you with excellent products and services and they do need your support. Mention that you are with CFFA, they do appreciate the feedback and patronage from club members. Plus they are an excellent source for information on gear, tackle, fishing tips, and current conditions.

# Lines & Leaders

[www.ctflyfish.org](http://www.ctflyfish.org)

September 2012

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



[www.ctflyfish.org](http://www.ctflyfish.org)

 **Connecticut**  
Fly Fisherman's Association

P.O. Box 380268  
East Hartford, CT 06138

FEDERATION OF  
FLY FISHERS

FF

