

Lines & Leaders

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May 2013

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

**FROM THE VEST OF
THE PRESIDENT**

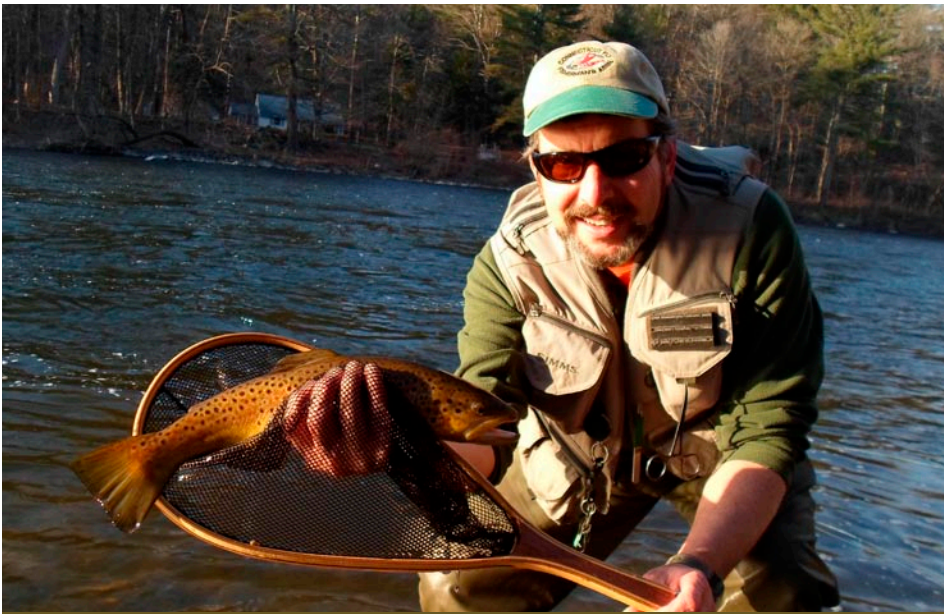
**MAY
MEETING**

Steve Babbitt

PERCH FLY
By Dick Wemmell



Jamie's First Catch On A Fly Rod



From The Vest Of The President

“Teaching is the highest form of understanding.”

Aristotle

Teaching and learning about fly fishing have always been at the core of CFFA, especially in the springtime

and this year is no exception. Our March monthly meeting offered many useful insights from local guide Marla Blair, and our April meeting featured some of this area’s best fly tiers demonstrating

their skills at the vise. The tradition will continue at our May meeting with a presentation by local guide Steve Babbitt who works at JT’s Fly Shop in Union. I can always trust Steve to steer me toward the right gear for me. He is an expert on northeastern Connecticut waters and a nymph fishing specialist. His program on steelhead fishing at our May meeting will include tips to enhance all of your fly fishing.

I became serious about fly fishing only about fourteen years ago. I’ll always be grateful to CFFA for the thorough and affordable instruction it provided to me through its fly tying and fly fishing classes. Now I’m even more grateful to be involved with teaching those



same classes. As Aristotle implies, teaching fosters an understanding of the subject that may not be otherwise attainable. One thing that means for me is not losing sight of the fundamentals, which is easy to do as the scope of fly fishing expands in many directions. Sure, I sometimes enjoy tying articulated streamers with Fish Skull heads, 3-D eyes and synthetic flash, then fishing them on tandem fly rigs beneath strike indicators. But I'm just as likely to catch a fish with a basic Woolly Buggie swung in the current. Working with beginners keeps me mindful of things like that. Sometimes it's fun to just keep things simple.

It's also just plain rewarding to help others find joy in fly fishing. We recently had the casting instruction session for our current beginner fly fishing class and although the focus was on learning to cast, nearly half the students caught their first trout on a fly. I've had the pleasure of witnessing that "first" many times, and I'll never grow tired of it. It was especially nice to see Kevin Fuller lead both his 12-year old niece and 14-year old nephew to their first fly fishing trout. Big time thanks go out to our members who came to assist that day: Richard Gilligan, Gordon Tedford, Phil McCormick, Ron Dunleavy, and Certified Casting Instructor Mark Philippe. Special thanks go to Master Casting Instructor Bill Keister for leading the session. Although I now attend these events to



March Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm

May meeting features local guide Steve Babbitt. Steve grew up in a family of serious trout fisherman, so naturally he was fishing with a bubble by the age five. 38 years ago he started to fly fish and has never looked back. Steve has fly fished in Canada for Atlantic salmon, Florida for Snook & Tarpon, and the American west for trout. In the mid 90's he began to guide part time and

also started tying flies for a local sport shop, which soon turned into a full blown commercial tying venture. In 2003 Steve took a trip to a place that he swore he would never fish again and fell in love with steelhead. He's been making at least one to two trips to NY for steelhead ever since. A nymphing specialist, Steve's program on steelhead fishing will benefit all of your fly fishing. 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

Coming Events

NEXT BOARD MEETING MAY 1st
NEXT CLUB MEETING MAY 8th

Roscoe Trip:

May 17 - 19

Help Wanted:

Publicity, Website, and Banquet



Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" is by Ryan, he was a student in the fly fishing class and this is his first catch on a fly. Nice work Ryan congratulations. 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



Perch Fly

Hook: #8 4X Long Streamer

Thread: Dark Green 6/0

Body: Gold Flashabou

Throat: Orange Polar Fiber

Wing: Yellow then Dark Olive Polar Fiber

Use Black Marker to add Vertical Lines to Wing

Eyes: Painted

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

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Vest Continued

help teach, I always learn something from watching guys like Bill.

We really, really need more assistants for the on-the-water session for this large class of beginners because some of the regular helpers are unable to make the date. It will be Saturday May 4th on the Willimantic River TMA starting at 8:00am. Phone Richard Gilligan at 860-839-2070 to let him know if you can make it anytime that morning to help a beginner get into the river. The class will meet at the westbound rest stop between exits 70 & 69 on I-84 in Willington, in the truck parking area

past the building. You don't need to have expertise, just some experience and a willingness to help. Sharing your enjoyment of fly fishing with others is the absolute best way to increase your own enjoyment of fly fishing. That's the truth.

Another opportunity to attain "the highest form of understanding" will come on Saturday June 8th with A Sporting Chance for Youth Day at Riverfront Recapture in Hartford. CFFA has again been invited to tie flies and teach casting at this event that focuses on kids. We had an amazing time at this event last year, but we can only do it again if enough members volunteer. Call Richard Gaudreau at 860-745-0548 if you can participate.

If you have any Goldman Library books, please return them this month because the May meeting is our last one until September. I want to thank all of our members, and particularly our board of directors, for making this another great year for CFFA. Remember to always treat your gear like it might contain an invasive species. Try to support our sponsors before buying elsewhere. Have a safe, happy summer. And may you know the level of understanding that only comes through teaching.

><<)))*> Bruce





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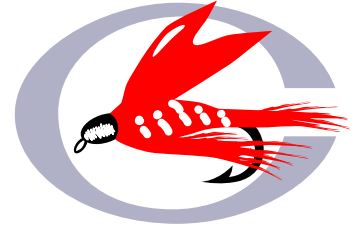
Our advertisers exist to provide you with excellent products and services and they do need your support. Mention that you are with CFFA, they do appreciate the feedback and patronage from club members. Plus they are an excellent source for information on gear, tackle, fishing tips, and current conditions.

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