

# Lines & Leaders

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

November 2013

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



From the vest of the president

November meeting guest speaker

John Springer

Dick Wemmell's fly box

## From the vest of the President



new waters within an easy day's drive.

Our first stopover in northwestern Pennsylvania was at a log cabin on the banks of the Clarion River in the Clear Creek area of the Allegheny National Forest. The Clarion did not yield any trout from the stretch near our cabin, so I'm going to conveniently blame that on the unseasonably warm and dry conditions we had for October. That piece of water did contain several smallmouth bass that wanted my deer hair mouse and Clouser crayfish. A one

***"Perhaps fishing is, for me, only an excuse to be near rivers."***

*A River Never Sleeps (1946)*

Roderick L. Haig-Brown

After many years of dedicated service, Todd Gorman is stepping down as editor of Lines & Leaders. Our club has been extremely fortunate to have a talented graphic artist producing a creative newsletter every month, and a beautifully unique banquet poster every year. The quality of his work is always far beyond what can be expected of a local fishing club. Todd, our deepest thanks for your outstanding contributions to CFFA.

Thanks also go to John Springer for having the courage to step into the role of newsletter editor. This will be John's first experience as an editor, but he brings many years of involvement with CFFA (he's a Life Member) and with other fishing clubs. He will also be assisted by his resourceful wife, Sandy. Let's all support John in his new role, especially by submitting photos and articles for him to publish. You will see what an avid fly fisher John is by coming to our next meeting on Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>, because he will be the presenter.

I don't hear Connecticut anglers talk much about fishing northern Pennsylvania, although it's about the same driving distance from here as are many fishing destinations in the state of Maine. I recently had the opportunity to spend some time touring and fishing northern Pennsylvania while returning from my nephew's wedding in Cleveland. It's certainly someplace to consider visiting if you are interested in experiencing

hour drive upstream brought us to the East Branch Clarion River, a tail water that was flowing swift and cold. There we found chunky rainbows displaying brilliant fall colors that were eager to take green caddis larva rock worm flies.

This mountainous area contains upper reaches of the Allegheny River, Kinzua Creek and many, many other fine trout and smallmouth streams that I often read about in the Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. Lake Erie and some of its tributaries are within a couple hours drive. These Allegheny Mountains are accessible from Interstate 80, but Route 6 in the northern tier offers a much more scenic ride as it meanders between farms in rolling hills and forested peaks separated by deep river gorges. There is a lot of beautiful wilderness out there and not many services, so we learned to keep a close eye on the fuel gauge and to not be picky about where we ate lunch because the next restaurant could be 50 miles away. The backwoods roadways are mostly paved and are generally in better condition than the paper company roads serving much of back country Maine.

This area offers a fair number of nice campgrounds. Renting a clean, well equipped cabin is very affordable in October, just be sure of the condition of the place because there are plenty of rundown rustic camps in these woods. There are good trails for hiking, and wildlife abounds throughout the area. We saw plenty of deer and turkeys, a few bald eagles, a family of black bear crossing the road, and a pine martin with a mouse in its mouth. Man-made attractions are scarce and

*(Continued on page 3)*



mostly limited to tourist traps like petting zoos, although the state parks have some neat historic sites.

It is worth the side trip to see what remains of the 301 foot high Kinzua Railroad Bridge built in 1882. After being destroyed by a tornado the part still standing has been made into a skywalk.

Our second cabin was in north central PA on the banks of Pine Creek, amid a huge tract of state forest. A list of the good trout streams in this area would look like a phone book. Despite the name, Pine Creek is really a major river, draining nearly a thousand square miles and flowing 87 miles long. For 61 of those miles Pine Creek is paralleled by a well maintained multi-use rail trail having its own frequent rest stops, canoe launches, camping areas and bridges over the river. The rail trail provides access to remote trout habitat for anglers willing to hike or bike a ways.

The fall foliage rivals that of New England. Strange rock formations are everywhere. The topography is often dramatic. About 20 miles upstream of our cabin, the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania is formed by Pine Creek Gorge where the canyon rims tower up to 1,400 feet above the river.

We stayed in Cedar Run which is just a few miles upstream of the more famous Slate Run. Each village has one inn with a restaurant. The Cedar Run Inn is historically quaint and strives for gourmet food with draw-out service that includes a palate-cleansing course of sherbet. Slate Run Inn has a cool bar with old flies under the glass top and serves decent food that comes out fast. I think the only other business in either town is Wolfe's General Store containing the Slate Run Tackle Shop and the only gas pump for an hour in any direction. Ask Dave Wonderlich in the fly shop where to

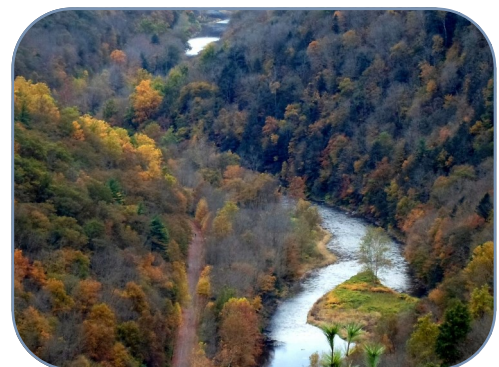
fish, and he will be happy to tell you. I also asked him to define the word "Run" because it seemed to mean different things. He told me that steep mountain streams are often named "Runs" and they offer excellent fishing for the native brook trout. These runs eventually feed into a major river and that section of the major river is also referred to by the name of the run. A village built at the confluence of a run and a river may also share the name of the run. So, Slate Run flows down the mountain and joins with Pine Creek in the section of Pine Creek

known as Slate Run which is in the Township of Slate Run. Are we clear on that?

I enjoyed good dry fly fishing on Pine Creek because, despite the season, something was usually hatching. Caddis, midge and tiny blue winged mayfly imitations all worked for me at different times. A parachute black ant also worked several times, not that I saw any real ants on the water, but I think the trout remembered them from previous weeks. My good luck may have had something to do with the heavy fall stocking given to this river. Many of the areas I fished were under Pennsylvania's Delayed Harvest regulation, which requires artificial lures and a daily creel limit of zero between September and June. This enhances the survival rate of trout stocked in the fall and helps keep the river full of fish at least until the next summer. Works for me.

You will be hearing more about Pennsylvania trout streams at our Expo and Banquet in January because our special guest will be Eric Stroup who hails from that state. Eric is a younger generation guide and author whose DVD's and webcasts are revolutionizing the way we learn about fly fishing.

><<)))\*> Bruce





## How I got to the Nolichucky River

By John Springer

In the late fall of 2012 my wife and I were in Nashville Tenn. In the downtown area the state has quite a bit to see with water fountains granite monuments to define all the time that has gone by and telling you what happened during the different time periods. There is also a cement map of Tennessee that is one block long and beautifully done. And there was a state information office. Sandy and I walked in and the 2 employees there were very excited to have someone to talk to. The young lady asked if there was something I was interested in, I told her how the state information centers on the highway had each part of the state broken down and plenty of brochures to read on everything, except state campgrounds and fresh water fishing. The young lady very excitedly asked me if I wanted to know her favorite place to fish where she would catch big fish, immediately I said YES! She told me to get a map and proceeded to write down some streets and areas I should make my way to when I got to eastern Tenn. Needless to say I put that map in a safe place till Thanksgiving week when I was fishing the South Holston River and took a day to find my way to the Nol-

ichucky river. When I got to a nearby town of Irwin I went into the library and asked the librarian if she knew anything about fishing she said no, when I asked the second one she told me to get back on the highway and go to the next exit and go to the local hotel. So that's what I did and that's where I met Melissa. When I walked in she jumped up and asked me if she could help me with a room, I smiled and told her I felt foolish coming in but what I was trying to find out was where to fish the Nolichucky river. Mellissa beamed got all excited and said do you wade fish? Do you wear those rubber pants? I said yes to both questions, she said you must fish with my grandpa! And gave me his number. I felt a bit awkward about that and smiled and said perhaps you should call grandpa and ask him if he wants to take me fishing? She said sure and did it was so funny listening to her describe me and tell him how I fished in rubber pants and like to wade. She smiled at me and said he wanted to take me fishing, at that I took the phone and said hi to grandpa and introduced myself and reminded Tom I was a Yankee, he said he knew that and it was not a problem. He also said it was a bit cold and asked me to call back in a few days when it warmed up a bit, no problem I said. A week later I called and

got to speak with Tom and set up a day. As always I brought lunch for my host and got there a bit early. Tom wanted to show me 2 spots in case he left I would know another spot to fish. What happens here is the hatchery in the fall stocks the older breeder rainbows that are no longer needed; they do this when the water is cold as this river is a smallmouth fishery in warmer weather. Tom and I fished a big pool together he with a lure me with woolly bugger. My host did much better than I in that he landed all of the fish he hooked while I hooked and lost most of mine. The fish were all big and beautiful, lunch on the side of the river was great as it always is and Tom and I got to know each other a bit more. A week later we fished again and this time my reflexes were much better and we worked our way through the pool several times. It was early December and the temperature hit close to 70° so it was like an early fall day in New England. I stayed with a woolly bugger and did very well knowing that my old best friend Terp was watching me. Back in 1987 Terp and I met and he introduced me to the woolly bugger and it has never failed me that December day was my last day of trout fishing for 2012 and it was very memorable.

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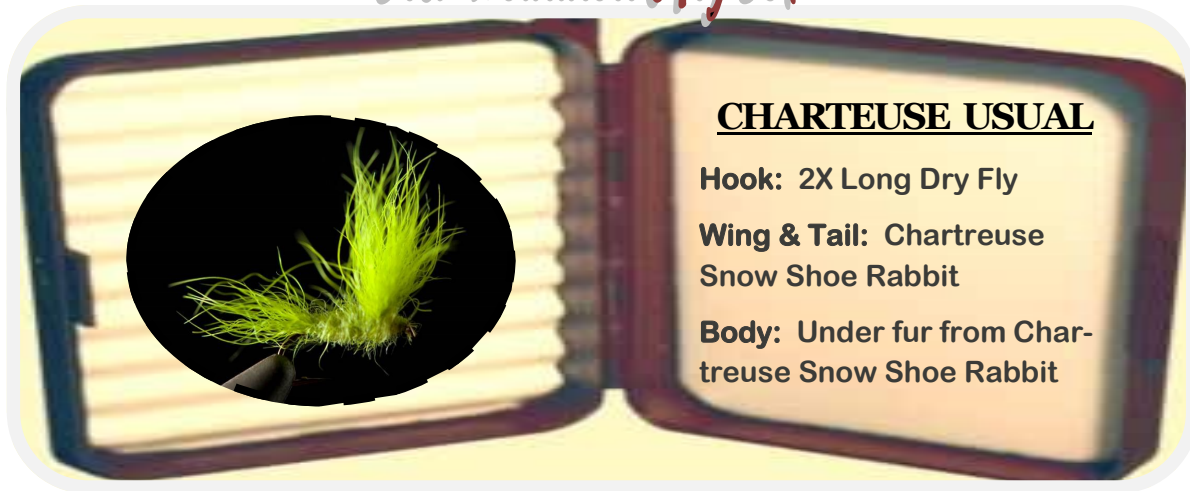
## How I got to the Nolichucky River

Tom and I had another great streamside lunch shared some stories and he invited me to fish for Red's in Florida in winter when he goes. I said that would be great and another fishing friendship was formed. My friend Teddy calls the way I meet people and have great fishing good Karma from some of the things I have done in

my life. Whatever it is I'm sure glad I have it.



## Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



### CHARTEUSE USUAL

**Hook:** 2X Long Dry Fly

**Wing & Tail:** Chartreuse  
Snow Shoe Rabbit

**Body:** Under fur from Char-  
treuse Snow Shoe Rabbit

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# Catch of the Month by Kevin Fuller

Fished the upper Connecticut River between First Connecticut lake and Lake Francis in Pittsburg. Landed several nice Land-locks using a baetis soft hackle wet fly, the trick is to "not" set the hook

when you feel a bump. Instead of jerking the line quickly just raise the rod slowly while saying "are you still there".



## Message from our speaker

Our program for November will be on Benet Springs State Park in Missouri, Chattahoochee in Helen Ga. Nantahala River in NC. Raving Fork on the Cherokee Reservation, Dukes creek in Ga. Chattooga in NC and Smith Creek inside Unico State Park in Ga. There is a slew of fishing opportunities here and they are only a 2 day drive away and its very cheap to stay down there as well as eat the most wonderful barbeque you can imagine. Please bring paper and pen to write down the information I will be sharing with you about these

places. I spent the winter and early spring of 2012-13 fishing these places. I have been fishing and traveling since 1986 and consider myself very lucky to have explored so many wonderful places and meet so many wonderful people that share much information with me. Hope to see you there. If time permits I will also be showing fishing opportunities on the Ct. River in New Hampshire in springtime.

John Springer

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**STARTING IN NOVEMBER, ONLY MEMBERS THAT ARE  
LIFETIME, HONORARY AND PAID TO DATE WILL BE RE-  
CEIVING NEWSLETTER**

Captain Mark Dysinger



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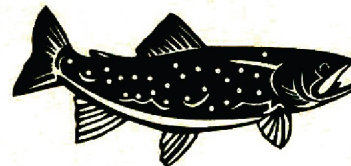


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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmington River TROUT UNLIMITED

ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE

Weds. Nov. 6, 2013

6-9 p.m.

Farmington Community Center

321 New Britain Ave.

Unionville, Ct

ADMISSION FREE

Arts of Angling Show

Nov. 16 & 17 @

The Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury

## SAVE THE DATE

**Monthly Board meeting November 6th**

**Monthly meeting November 13th**

The Connecticut River Salmon Association's

38 TH ANNUAL DINNER

January 18, 2014

USS Chowder Pot in Hartford



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FEDERATION OF  
FLY FISHERS

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