

Lines & Leaders

www.ctflyfish.org

September 2013

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

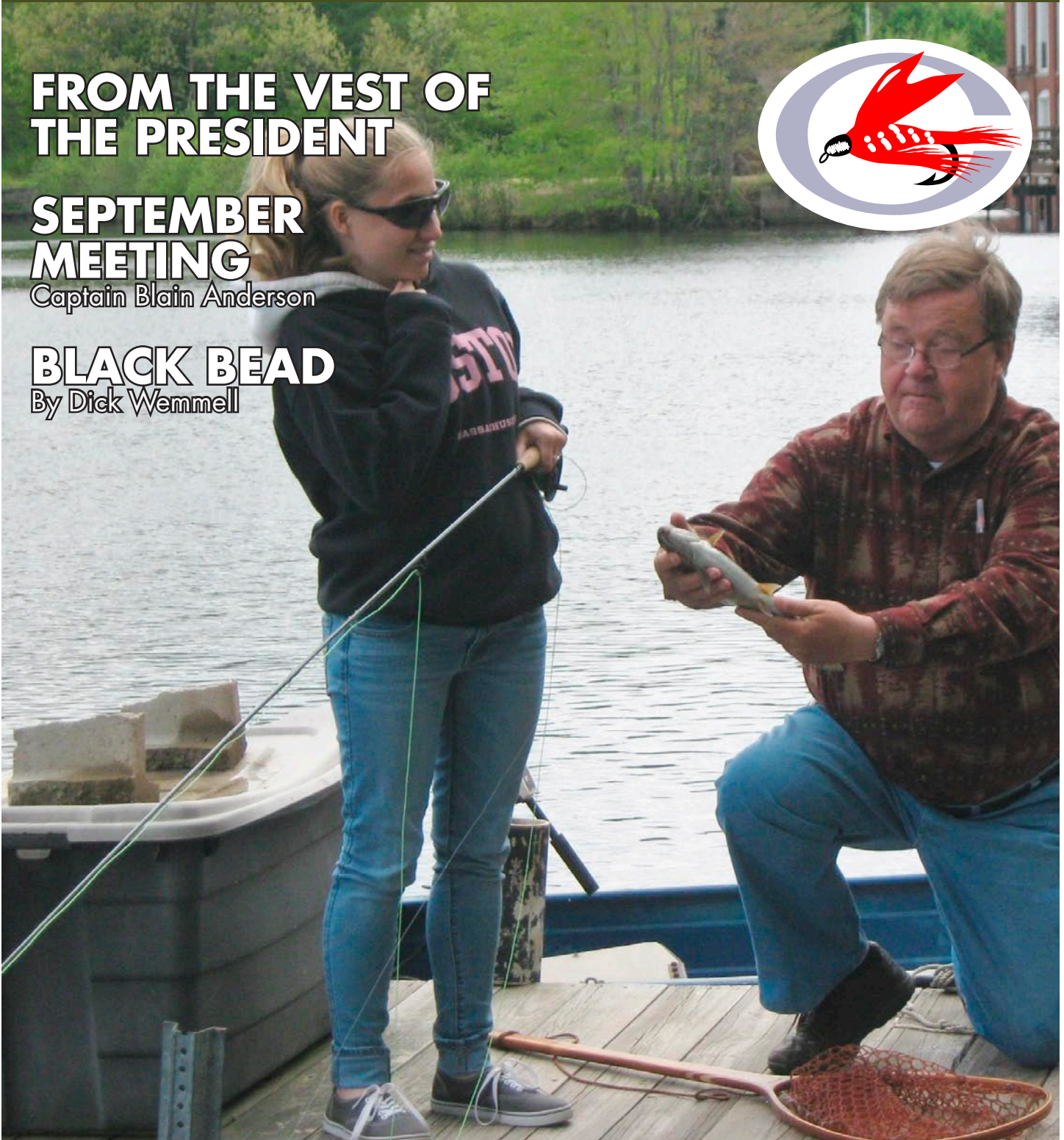
FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

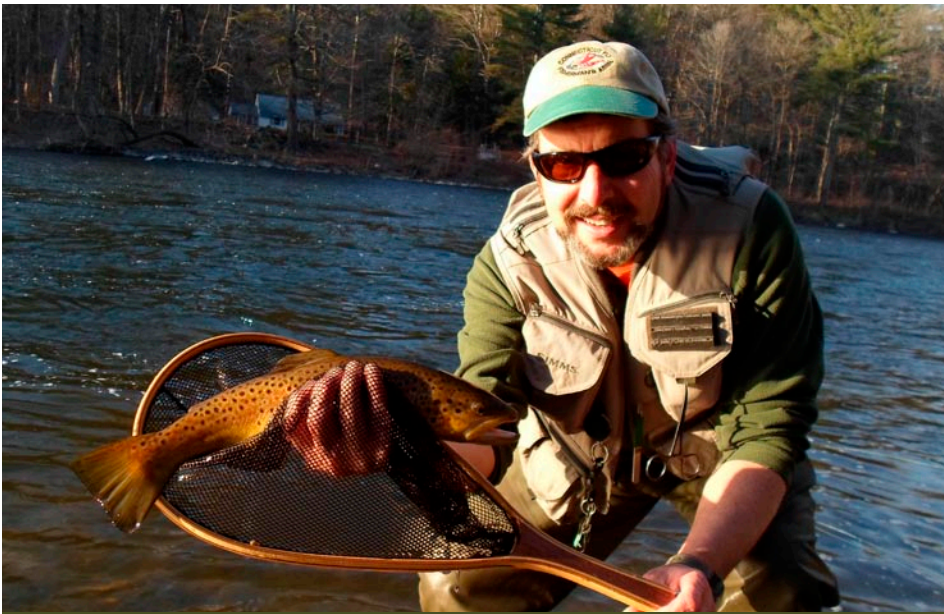
SEPTEMBER MEETING

Captain Blain Anderson

BLACK BEAD

By Dick Wemmell





From The Vest Of The President

"Everybody laughs the same in every language because laughter is a universal connection."

Yakov Smirnoff

September marks the end of CFFA's summer break and the beginning of another nine months of club activities. Things that occurred back in the spring can seem like old news, so in past Septembers I've chosen not to write about them in this column. I'm making an exception this year because so much happens in the life of our club between September and the last time this column is written in mid-April.

My favorite day in May was the day that the fishing picnic for high school students from the American School for the Deaf was hosted, for the first time, by the Willington Fish & Game Club. These kids had been taught fly tying last winter by CFFA members led by Kevin Fuller, something our club has done since the program was founded by

John Springer 18 years ago. This year the program was in need of a new location for the fishing picnic. Several CFFA members also belong to the Willington club, including Phil McCormick and myself. Phil obtained permission from WFG to have the ASD outing at their beautiful facility. Those of us involved with ASD were prepared to run the entire event ourselves, as we had in years past when it was held at another private club. But things were very different this year because many of the WFG folks came out to help run the event. Even before the bus bringing the ASD kids arrived, the WFG guys had been at work cleaning their clubhouse and manicuring their grounds. Chairs and picnic tables had been setup. Gas barbeque grills were readied. A handful of motorboats had been fueled-up and their captains were eager to take kids fishing. Phil had all the food and drinks prepared.

Kevin brought all the fly rods, reels, lines and leaders the program has acquired over the years and we made up some casting outfits and some trolling rigs.

It may be difficult or impossible for these kids to hear voices, but communicating with them is never very hard because they pay attention and are eager to learn. They're really good kids and it's a lot of fun to hangout with them. They express joy in the universal language of laughter, which occurs spontaneously every time they feel a fish tugging on their line. Their laughter is contagious, and we all shared a lot of that day. I'm happy to report that the kids all caught fish, and they had a great time doing it, as I'm sure you can see from the photos we've asked Todd to include here.

WFG does an excellent job of managing their year-round trout fishery, largely thanks to Len Ertel who heads-up that effort. Len is always willing to share his vast knowledge of fish and fishing with anyone who is interested. I met Len at WFG when I was new to fly fishing and he quickly became one of my greatest fly fishing and tying mentors, and he also helped get me started with CFFA. Len goes way back with our club and he can tell you a lot about the old days at CFFA. That's Len on the cover of this newsletter at the ASD fishing picnic with one of his newest pupils.

On April 24th Bob Winot again led a bunch of us on

a cleanup of the Willimantic River Trout Management Area. In early spring this river provided great fly fishing and it received heavy use, especially prior to Opening Day. I guess fly anglers don't leave a lot of trash because we found almost none, except behind the I-84 rest stop. Our work that day mainly involved clearing the riverside trails of brush and deadfalls, and improving trail markers. By splitting into two work parties we were able to cleanup most of the TMA trails in just a few hours, after which we enjoyed a nice lunch at Willington Pizza Too.

The Board of Directors met at George's in Unionville on May 1st, and many members used the occasion to fish the Farmington River before dinner. The beginning of this summer will be remembered for being hot and wet (NOAA reports that July was the hottest single month on record), however much of the spring was cooler and drier than normal. The Hendrickson mayfly hatch began a bit later than it has in recent years at my favorite spot to fish it on the Farmington in the American Legion State Forest. I first went on April 29th hoping to hit that hatch but the afternoon was cloudy and cool, with no Hendricksons in sight. It was a Blue Wing Dun kind of day, and thankfully I had spent a couple of evenings last winter tying up Blue Wing Olive parachutes in sizes 16 to 22, which provided a fair amount of mid-day dry



March Meeting

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association will present a fly fishing program on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT., at 7:00 pm.

Captain Blaine Anderson is one of the few year round guides in CT. He earns a living fishing saltwater, freshwater and on the ice. Whether its northern pike and spring run stripers on the Connecticut River, bluefish, trophy stripers, false albacore on Long Island Sound or walleye, pike and crappie on the ice, he has developed the reputation for getting his clients onto

fish. He has appeared on TV shows, radio interviews and has several published articles and photographs to his credit. When not on the water, Blaine presents seminars to clubs and sportsmen's shows throughout New England. His major sponsors include Humminbird, Minn Kota, Skeeter, Shimano as well as several lure sponsors. Blaine is a member of Skeeter's Factory Salt Water team and is once again running their new top of the line SX 240 Bay in the 2013 season. For more information and directions to the meeting or visit the CFFA website at www.cfflyfish.org

Vest Continued

fly action. The following days featured sunny afternoons that finally brought up large numbers of Hendricksons which were gulped by lots of rising trout. But the river was becoming low, slow and clear, making catching them harder than in years past. Using long, light tippets, paying close attention to line management, plus a good dose of luck combined to bring some fish to hand. Unlike previous years however, my totals fell just short of double digits every afternoon. There were some good sized holdover trout in the mix, including an eighteen inch brown that Phil plucked off the surface from the shallows. It doesn't get much better than that around here.

The Willimantic River TMA was again the scene on May 4th when Richard Gilligan led the on-stream instruction for over a dozen students from this year's Beginner Freshwater Fly Fishing Class. The students were shown how to wade and where to cast, and some even caught trout. A few weeks earlier, many students from this large class caught their first trout-on-the-fly during the casting instruction at the Firemen & Policemen's Pond in East Hartford, which was featured in the May edition of Lines & Leaders. As happens every year, some of these students wrote to Gilli praising the classes, thanking him, and thanking our many members who assisted. It's so rewarding to read these thank you notes, especially when a student mentions going fly fishing on his or her own and catching fish.

Our last monthly meeting was May 8th and featured a very well received presentation on Great Lakes steelhead by local guide Steve Babbitt, who can be found at JT's Fly Shop in Union. \$100 was collected that night for the Charles Place Outdoorsman Award thanks mainly to a generous donation from Jerry Wade. Someone is needed to manage CFFA's involvement with this Award, so speak to a board member if you are willing to do that.

Some of our members were at Mathies Cove in Peoples State Forest on May 11th

Coming Events

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

Help Wanted:

Publicity, Website, and Banquet



Catch of The Month



This "Catch of the Month" is by Lou Fabrizio, he caught this bonefish in Cozumel. Nice catch Lou, congratulations.

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Black Bead

Hook: #12 Wet Fly Hook

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Black Rabbit with Flash

Bead: Chartreuse

Fly tied by Dick Wemmell

Board of Directors

President • Bruce Rich (c) 860-450-6390 (e) 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
Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 871-8703
Legal Secretary • Mark Barbieri (h) 623-8187
Treasurer • Chuck Koteen
Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 649-4227
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

Vest Continued

for the Spey Clave, which I hear was quite fun and instructional. I hope to someday make it to one of the Spey Claves, but this year I chose to participate in a Take a Vet Fishing event which occurred on the same day. The Eastern Connecticut Sportsman's Club in Ashford hosted 35 war veterans at the club's private pond in partnership with the Veterans Outreach Mission, which is six years old and based in Branford. Every vet had multiple hookups with the native warm water species and the trout that were stocked for this occasion. Most of these current and former service men and women are living in VA Hospitals. Their spirits are cheerful and they are really avid anglers. Not one of them stopped fishing during the occasional rain shower that dampened that day. In fact, the only time they stopped fishing was to enjoy the large assortment of food served by the club members. A good time was had by all, and I look forward to more fishing with the vets.

During the third weekend in May, six of us went on a CFFA sponsored trip to Roscoe, in the Catskills, which is widely considered to be the classic home of American dry fly fishing. The lack of spring rains made for spotty fishing, especially on the Beaverkill River which was rated as fair-to-poor by the guys returning from it.

We all stayed at The Baxter House B&B owned by Ken Tutalo who also runs a guide service out of his fly shop next door. Ken reported that the guided trips on the East Branch Delaware River were finding some big trout. We've had some great drift boat trips on that river, but I don't think anyone from our group went this year. Lou and J.B. had fun, and some luck, float tubing on a lovely secluded lake we had found during a previous trip. The Willowemoc River was fishing fairly well, especially at Hazel Bridge Pool where Phil and I ran into good hatches of March Browns and BWO's on Friday and Saturday evenings, allowing us to tussle with about a dozen trout between us each night. There always seems to be trout rising at Hazel

Bridge. It nurtures the soul of a fly angler to get away for an inexpensive weekend in the Catskills and share some fishing, meals, drinks, and laughs with friends, both old and new. If you get to Roscoe, be sure to check out the new bar & grill called Courtyard, located just a mile or two past The Baxter House on Route 81.

It was nice to review all that late springtime stuff for a change. Turning our attention to the future, I hope we see you all at the meeting on Wednesday September 11th. Just in time for the fall run, we'll have a presentation on false albacore fishing by year-round Connecticut guide Captain Blaine Anderson. We'll also hear about all the other types of fishing he does in every season.

><<)))*> Bruce



CFFA Marketplace

Captain Mark Dysinger



T: 860-452-4154
C: 203-815-8412
E: fishstalker@comcast.net
W: www.flyosophy.com

MILL RIVER FLY RODS

www.MillRiverFlyRods.com

Lynn and Bill Lanzoni

(203) 815-2414

backcast@MillRiverFlyRods.com



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
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

UpCountry Sportfishing



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

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

www.FarmingtonRiver.com



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 06083
e-mail: mark_roy@sbcglobal.net

(860) 763-4030
(800) 263-2267
www.eastcoastinspect.com

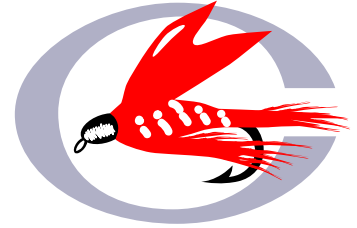
Our advertisers exist to provide you with excellent products and services and they do need your support. Mention that you are with CFFA, they do appreciate the feedback and patronage from club members. Plus they are an excellent source for information on gear, tackle, fishing tips, and current conditions.

Lines & Leaders

www.ctflyfish.org

September 2013

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



www.ctflyfish.org

 **Connecticut**
Fly Fisherman's Association

P.O. Box 380268
East Hartford, CT 06138

FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

FF

