

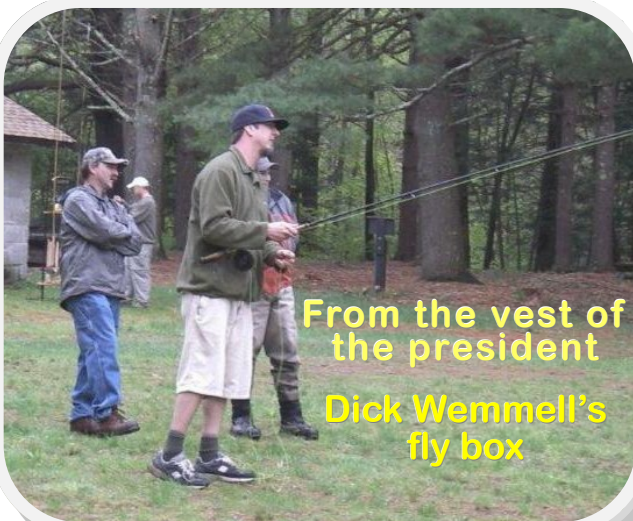
Lines & Leaders



April 2014 April meeting Fly Tyer's Round table

www.ctflyfish.org

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



From the vest of
the president
Dick Wemmell's
fly box



2014 New England Spey Clave III

On Saturday May 17 Fred and Jerry at Spey Casting Northeast will be hosting another event at Mathies Grove on the Farmington River. This will be the third year that Fred and Jerry put this on. It's a great day and there will be a bunch of rod companies and many people including Andrew Moy, Rich Murphy, Mark Sedotti and Fred Wilson will be on hand to show you how to use a Spey and switch rods. They have reels as well as all the lines for this on hand to match up with the equipment on hand. Professional Fly tier Ben Bilello will be tying proven flies for salmon. Trout flies will be tied by the Farmington River Anglers Association, who is sponsoring this event.

Free Admission to park & event

Location:

Mathies Grove on the Farmington River

Food provided by The Complete Angler, of Darien, CT.

For more information email fkrow@yahoo.com

9 AM until 4 PM MAY 17TH

RAIN OR SHINE

Raffles for Spey Rods - Proceeds go to FRAA.

From the vest of the President



A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself." Laura Gilpin

Connecticut rivers are especially magical to me in April. All at the same time, they seem to be flushing away the barren chill of winter while gushing with a resurgence of abundant life. Before most plants even sprout new leaves, the river responds to the lengthening daylight with increasing activity among its inhabitants. The river beckons me to step into it, to become a part of the resurgence. April is a very special time to fly fish our local rivers, and the fishing seems to improve with every passing day of the month.

I hope you all can experience plenty of fly fishing this April. I'm hoping that this year's slowly melting snowpack will result in decent stream flows throughout the month. Opening Day in Connecticut is the third Saturday but even before then you can go to one of the fifteen Trout Management Areas offering year-round catch and release fly fishing. Many of these TMA's have holdover trout, some have wild trout and DEEP will be stocking over 10,000 hatchery trout into these areas before the end of the month.

My go-to early season flies are small streamers, caddis larva and egg patterns, but I'm always on the lookout for hatches of stoneflies, midges and tiny Baties mayflies. Even when nothing is hatching, the recently stocked trout will often hit a stimulator dry fly. Perhaps that's because they are accustomed to being fed floating pellets. Perhaps they are just clueless. If you want to see all kinds of flies being made, just come to our meeting on Wednesday April 9th when our program is The Fly Tyers Roundtable. You'll be able to watch closely as ten or more of our area's very best fly tyers do their thing. As always, it's free and open to

the public, so bring a friend. Our meetings also feature a neat gear raffle, an amazing free library, fashionable club hats and clothing for sale, and free hot coffee accompanied by sugary snacks. Nothing on cable TV can beat that!

Our new website is viewable now, but it's still under construction as of this writing. In fact, it looks sort of empty. It is CFFA's website, and if you are a CFFA member then it is your website and it needs your input. Please, don't let the Board of Directors be the only ones putting content onto the site. I'm acting as a gateway to our website developer, so email me stuff like your photos, your own fiction or nonfiction, and any articles in the public domain that you'd like to see posted on our site. If you want to check out the site so far, the old address still works: www.ctflyfish.org.

Sorry to ask so much of you, but CFFA has a legendary tradition to uphold here. So let's review: 1) Come to our April 9th meeting with a friend. 2) Submit something to our new website. 3) Go fly fishing a lot in April - immerse yourself into a moving, living part of the earth, and catch some magic.

><<)))*> Bruce

Our April Meeting will be our fly tyers round table.

The featured tyers will be;

Mark Dysinger

Al Petrucci

Ted Rzepski

Tom Baronowski

Steve Culton

Joe Clinger

John Walker

Dick Wemmel

Bill Keister

Mike Stewart

Note from your editor

I'm looking for some fishing stories, big or small. Here is my last fishing report from 2013 perhaps you do something like this too?

Last fishing report for 2013, Hard to believe it was exactly 9 months ago I started fishing for this season down south on the Chattooga river and it ended on the Shetucket River with my friend Chef Boy. Ron said the rain was going to come early so we started a bit early in down town Baltic his favorite spot there is even a rock with his name on it! Ron wanted to make sure I got a fish as he always does and told me what fly I should be using and how to fish it. I did as I was told with some more coaching on my retrieve. Nada. Went through the pool a second time changing flies, took the water temp it was about 33 degrees, just above freezing but my feet were nice and warm with the foot heaters Sandy got for me at Ocean State, the rain came as promised we were starting to get discouraged but we kept going.

You could hear the church tower

chime 12 times I started to get hungry no snacks in the vest either life is hard some-



times. We spoke about the woolly buggie and I was using it and then changed over to a heavier one, put another mend in the line as the water was cold and right in the area Ron said they would be, wham fish on.

No big birds of pray flew by me today to remind me of my friend Terp who use to whistle and make bird sounds at

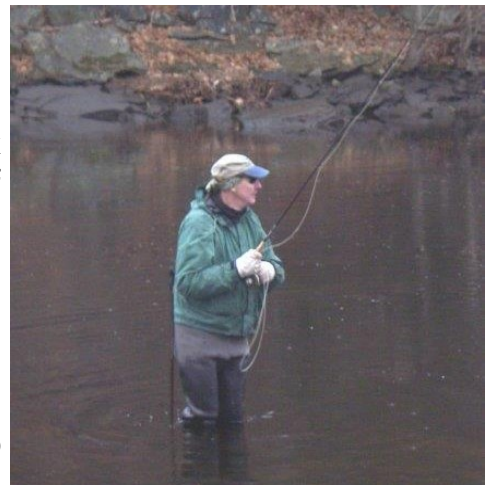
them but he was there along with others that I have lost. Each time the fish would swim away saying he was not ready yet was for someone close to me.

Chef Boy kept taking pictures he's getting much better at that now. We released the



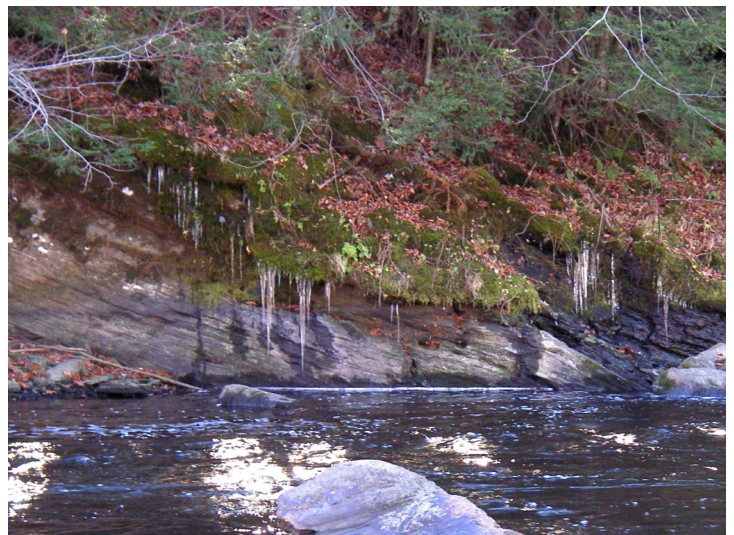
fish I held it up right in the water and the pain of that water on my hand was hard, when I made mention to Chef he said "quit your complaining" and smiled.

He wanted me to go back and see if there was another one I said no you try that's it for me, it was the perfect way to end 2013. We



went back and ate our lunch in the car we had Sweet Bologna from Pa. with baked ham on Rye with sweet jalapenos on it.

Life is good. John



Georgia Troutng 201

The “Drag-Free” Drift

Jeff Durniak

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division

1. Dress right – drab clothing & polarized glasses. Leave the white cap at home!
2. From the bank, read the water: predict the trout lies and find your casting locations.
(Hint: in your mind, break up a large river into a bunch of small streams.)
3. “Hunt” – move slow; stalk like a heron.
4. Get Close: 10-20 feet (which means you’ll have 0 to 10 feet of fly line on the water).
5. Split shot! Use enough to “tick” the bottom. Change the number/size of shot with each spot fished. Most marginal anglers fish OVER the trout.
6. Strike indicator – cork, yarn, or buoyant dry fly. Put it at twice the water depth. Slide indicator up/down with each spot.
7. What fly? “How” is more important than “what”, but standards are #8 black bugger, #12 peach egg, #14-16 prince, #16-20 pheasant tail. Hatch chart: www.rabuntu.org.
8. Stop false casting! Use roll cast, water load, or Belgian cast (midcurrent.com)
9. Cast upstream (opposite shoulder) and leave rod tip down 1-2 seconds after line hits water.
10. “Hi-Stick: - raise and lower rod at same speed as the current
11. “Drag-Free” strike indicator at same speed and line of travel as leaf or bubble. Most of your good drift is over when the indicator is directly across from you.
12. At end of drift, hold tight and let fly swing (for hits on the uplifting emerger).
13. “Paint the pool” with your casts. Three casts to good lie, then hit another. In other words, fish for all the eager fish rather than pound away at the one spooked or selective trout (exception: Smithgall). If possible, move your body instead of casting farther.
14. Set the hook with a sidearm, downstream wrist snap. Strike everything, since every 20th “rock” will have an adipose fin. Waaah-HOOO! (Rabunite term for “fish on”)
15. Drag-Free is like learning to ride a bicycle. Practice these techniques for 30-60 minutes and they will become second nature.
16. Grip and grin. Push fish out toward camera!
17. Find a mentor. Learn from a better angler, then...

Be a mentor. Pass it on!

Good Luck!

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Board of Directors

President • Bruce Rich (c) 860-450-6390 (e) ergopro@comcast.net
 Activities VP • Bob Winot
 Environment VP • Stan Calabrese: (h) 860-569-2923
 Promotions VP • Richard Gaudreau: (h) 860-745-0548 (e) readfr1@cox.net
 Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 860-871-8703
 Legal Secretary • Mark Barbieri (h) 860-623-8187
 Treasurer • Chuck Koteen
 Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 860-649-4227
 Advisory Board • Ray Riley (h) 860-721-0547
 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) 860-828-4642
 Membership Chairman • Phil McCormick (h) 860-871-8703
 Newsletter Chairman • John Springer (h) 860-510-2383 (e) cffa@comcast.net
 Program Chairman • Roger Plourde (h) 860-747-4297 (w) 860-747-3324
 Publicity Chairman • Open
 Webmaster • Nils Christensen

PONTOON BOAT FISHING

By: John Baracchi

As most of you already know I am a big fan of float tube fishing, in fact I now own three of them and I don't know why I just do. Float tube fishing is my favorite way to fish I can explore small ponds and lakes and my hands are free the whole time and yes, I can even troll if I wish to.

I have talked a great many of our members into purchasing float tubes in fact several of you have even approached me and asked several questions on the subject. I have tried kayak fishing but didn't care for it because I had to keep laying my rod down to paddle so I decided a kayak was not in my future.

I would like to talk about pontoon boat fishing; you know those funny looking boats with the pontoons on the side the steel frame and the seat. I'm sure you have seen them in magazines. Well, yes I happen to own one of those also.

Once you purchase your pontoon boat I suggest you seriously look at the outcast brand because you get what you pay for and they back their product up as well. Okay, you need to put the frame and seat together you need to attach the pontoons and you need to fill them with air. As with float tubes do not inflate them all of the way unless you are fishing from them they too can expand from the heat and break the seams so always carry a pump and always let some air out when you are transporting or storing your boat.

Your pontoon boat comes with a set of oars and oar holders. You will still need your fins and I will explain why. I usually row to where I want to begin fishing and because you sit higher in the water than with a tube you will find it much easier to move across the water. Once I get to where I want to fish I put my oars in the oar holders and now my hands are free to fish. Most tubes have an anchor bracket and some even come with a platform for a battery and a mount for an electric motor. But I caution you if you do add an electric motor and you reside here in the people's republic of Connecticut then you will have to register your pontoon boat and that means paying property taxes on it and registration fees every year.

So, you are now fishing from your pontoon boat, you don't have your anchor down and there is a slight wind, before you know it you are further away from where you started to fish so you can either row back or just kick back with your fins. I usually fish the perimeter of ponds or lakes so I like to just kick along, but be careful you sit much higher in the water and the wind will move you along pretty easy in fact much easier than with a tube.

The drawbacks to owning a pontoon boat is how do I transport it and how and where do I store it? Can't help you there, I happen to have a pickup truck so I don't have a problem with it my problem is finding a place to store it when I'm not using it. I have seen people transport them on a trailer or even strapped down to a roof rack. The boat will be a bit heavier than a tube and it is a little awkward to carry but you will get the hang of it I'm sure. They do make wheels which support one end of the boat so you can easily wheel it to the water and back like a wheelbarrow. Most brands have a platform or box on them so you can easily store your fishing gear and a drink and a little something to eat also.

Make sure you wear a pfd just to be on the safe side. You will find that pontoon boat fishing is just as enjoyable as or even more so than a tube. I happen to like both methods.

Take your time, shop around carefully, don't just look at price look at options, like storage, foot pegs etc.

My pontoon boat has two compartments with zippers on it so I can put my fly boxes and leader and tippet materials in it. I usually fish an intermediate line but I do carry a spare spool or reel with a floating line on it just in case.

Remember some pontoon boats are priced very low but as I said before you get what you pay for so make sure you try and spend a few bucks more and buy a boat from a reputable manufacturer with a good guarantee and available support if you should need it.

One more thing, if fishing in Connecticut and you put an electric motor on your boat you will need to register it which means you will have to pay property tax on it every year. I don't find the need for a motor. Try and fish small lakes and ponds that don't allow big power boats on them, Lake Hayward would be a good example. You can find a list of ponds and lakes to float tube or pontoon boat fish in the State of Connecticut publication Paddlers Guide to Boating in Connecticut. It is available in the state book store.

I hope this little bit of information will help you if you decide that a pontoon boat is in your future.



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



OFFICIAL MEMBER OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S
Outfitters, Guides & Business Members Program

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

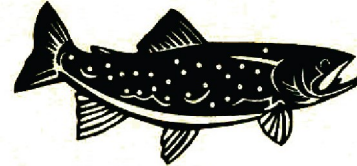


**WILLINGTON
PIZZA
TOO**

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

Capt. Mike Duclos

• Tiderunner Charter •

Saltwater Fly, Spin & Drift Fishing
Stripers, Blues, False Albacore, Bonito

Pine Island Marina
Groton, CT 06340
(413) 427-1198

www.tiderunnercharter.com
mduclos@tiderunnercharter.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,



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fishing Class Casting Instruction
at P&F Pond April 12th, 9am
Opening Day April 19th, 6am
Free Spey and Switch Rod event
on Farmington River

SAVE THE DATE

Monthly Board meeting April 2nd, 7 PM
Monthly meeting April 9th 7 PM
Fly tyers roundtable



P.O. Box 380268
East Hartford, CT 06138

FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

