

Lines & Leaders



March 2014

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

From the vest of the president

March meeting
John Shaner
Soft Hackles



Dick Wemmell's
fly box





From the Vest of the President

"The brotherhood is sharing the experiences ... something I don't think you can take away, that will always be strong, one fly fisherman to another, because we live for the same reason." Joan Wulff

CFFA's recent Expo felt like a brotherhood of fly fishermen sharing their experiences, one fisherman to another. Our Expo was a venue where artists shared their visions, fly tiers shared their patterns, and local guides shared their knowledge. Other exhibitors displayed and explained fish management programs, fishing destinations and angling literature. There was also an enormous amount of fly fishing and tying equipment; everything from the latest trends in gear to classic antiques, including a tag sale table full of bargains. But what made this year's Expo so very special was the record-setting number of people that came. Paid attendees numbered 291, which is nearly a hundred more than last year! In addition there was also about 60 exhibitors and CFFA workers on-hand to make this the best little fly fishing show around. A detailed "thank you" list will appear elsewhere in this newsletter, but I just want to say a general thanks to all our members, guests and exhibitors that made this Expo such an unprecedented success.

We are still analyzing *why* so many people attended this Expo. The fine weather that day certainly helped, and we also tried some different advertising methods this year. A major factor seems to be word-of-mouth among both attendees and exhibitors. Our Expo is gaining a well deserved reputa-

tion for being convenient, affordable, fun for all, and chock full of quality fly fishing content. That is largely due to Roger Plourde and he deserves our gratitude for all the work he puts into organizing the Expo.

Our Annual banquet followed that evening and it was also a pleasure to attend. Maneeley's did a fine job with the food and the raffles were spectacular. Special guest Eric Stroup's enjoyable program was especially well received by the non-fishing spouses present. Our deep appreciation goes to Banquet Chairman Kurt Jagielow for working throughout the year to make both the Expo and the Banquet so successful.

It's time we start thinking about spring fishing and along those lines I want to remind everyone that CFFA's Beginner Fly Fishing Classes start on Thursday March 6th at Cabela's. Phone Richard Gilligan at 860-839-2070 if you or someone you know is interested in attending. In my opinion these classes are the very best value of their kind.

CFFA will have four kid's fly tying classes at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) in West Hartford this spring. Classes will be from 6:00 to 7:30 pm on the following Tuesday nights: March 18, March 25, April 1, and April 8. If anyone is available to help with this amazing program please contact Kevin Fuller for more details:

kevinfuller27@comcast.net

Looking at the deep snow outside my window right now, it's hard to believe that spring begins when the vernal equinox occurs on March 20th. Hopefully by then the snow will be gone, our streams will be free of ice and we will be casting into them. I remember in 2011 we could wade and fish our streams starting in February and throughout all of March. I really enjoyed that. Back then I was becoming fond of global climate change, but now I hear it's causing an arctic vortex that is bringing us all this cold and snow. At least I'm getting a lot of flies tied. I'm looking forward to learning more about soft hackle wet flies at the CFFA meeting on Wednesday March 12th when John Shaner of Hardy & Greys will present a program on tying and fishing Spiders and related fly styles. Hope to see you all there, because in a certain way, we all live for the same reason.

><<)))*> Bruce

About March Speaker - John Shaner

I have been fly fishing for as long as I can remember and caught my first trout on a fly I tied myself in 1965. I grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York and was fishing the Catskill Rivers as soon as I could drive.

Over the years I have fished for trout extensively across the US and have made several trips to England to fish the famous Chalk Streams and other rivers. A list of the rivers I have had the good fortune to fish would be fairly long! I have a special love for Montana and Wyoming and I lived in West Yellowstone, MT for a number of years. My favorite rivers are the Beaverkill and the West Branch of the Delaware in New York, the Firehole and Madison in Yellowstone Park, the Abbots Worthy beat on the Itchen, and the rivers Eden and Eamont in Cumbria.

I have also fished the Bahamas, Belize, and Florida for saltwater species.

I have worked in the fly fishing business since 1985 and have managed fly shops, guided, and worked as a sales representative for Orvis, Cortland Line, and since 2008 for Hardy & Greys.

My interest in fly tying goes back to boyhood. I am mostly self-taught but have studied many techniques over the years and have a special interest in reproducing traditional patterns. The Catskill style of dry flies was my first love, but in the past 15 years my focus has been on British wet flies. I have a special fascination for "Spiders" (Americans call them soft hackles), and enjoy tying and fishing these simple, elegant, and deadly flies. I also like to experiment with new patterns, but am a bit of a traditionalist in my use of materials. I seldom incorporate synthetics into my flies, preferring natural silk, fur, and feathers.

My other passion is collecting tackle and angling books. My "library" (which is getting out of hand!) is primarily devoted to books detailing the development of flies and tying techniques.

I am a member of The Anglers' Club of New York and The Flyfishers' Club of London.

Currently, I live in southern New York State, just a few minutes from the West Branch of the Delaware and Beaverkill.

Happy Banquet award winners



Seth Walter with Mike Stewart's fly box - 1st Hatch Award



This years recipient of the Scarlet Ibis Award, Chuck Koteen with his new rod.

From the Editor

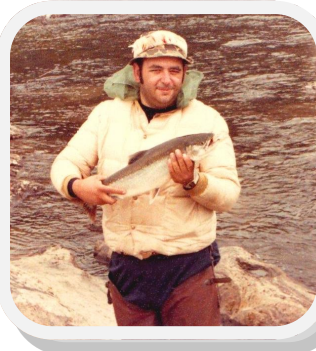
Several years ago I realized that everyone had great stories to tell about a fishing trip they went on, but they felt they could not write about it for whatever reason. I came up with a list of questions that I felt I could ask and try to put something together for that person that would be of interest to other fly fisher's what your about to read is my first one. As time goes on I will think of other questions to ask and try to improve this. If you would like to try this let me know I can email you the questions and you can just answer them and I'll call you if I need some clarification or more information. Keep in mind this is new to me and its being told sort of like a third party repeating it.

My first interview was with Richard Gaudreau who is on the board of directors at CFFA, VP of Promotions and takes care of the monthly raffle. It did not take long in talking to him to realize he has been to many very interesting places to fish in his life, now because of health reasons he does not get around as much. It was wonderful to spend an hour on the phone with him doing this and hearing him go back to 1972 and relive one of trips to Tasuiyak Lake Camp. Here's how Richard remembers this trip. Hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed hearing it.

["Richard's Trip of a Lifetime"](#)

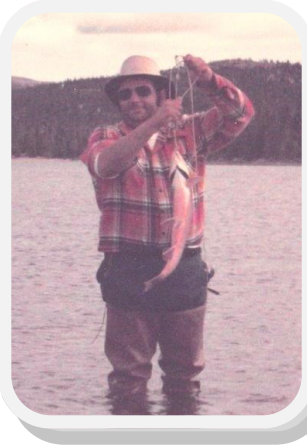
Tasuiyak Lake Camp is located 360 miles north of Goose Bay Labrador. I would fly in from Connecticut to Montreal, then to Goose Bay then we got on a single engine Havilland Otter, in later years they got a turbo prop they were a bit bigger but fully loaded! 18 passengers all the space between seats up to shoulder high had luggage as well as bicycles and anything else that the native Indians needed that lived in the bush. With that type of a loaded aircraft and strong head winds it would take 15 minutes to cross the Frazer river to our north, a lot went through our minds at that time! Airlines today give you a cookie and soda; they had no food on that 5 hour trip. The pilot used paper charts and crossed off land marks as he went along. In later years they put in radio beacons so it became much safer. One of the other things the pilots had to allow for was the compass had a 13 degree error in the magnetic north. Plane was the only way to cross the Frazer River unless you went by boat as there were no roads. This trip took 5 hours as we made a few stops to let off the Eskimo's and mail, the largest stop was Nane. Nane was big city with a deep port and a salmon canning factory it was also our last stop to get fuel to make the camp.

We lived in basic cabins and all ate our meals together I shared my cabin with 3 other anglers. We all ate breakfast and dinner together, for lunch and this was always our favorite meal our guide made a shore lunch this was usually a fresh fish we killed. Breakfast and dinner were made up of the same foods you eat at home we were never fed wild game. There is no bar or any place to go you stayed in camp and



brought your own if you wanted to drink. A fellow named Reed owned and ran our camp he had the fishing rights on the Tasuiyak River as well as the lake so the people at our camp were the only ones there for the week we fished.

I found the best time to go was August. We were fishing for Artic Char very much like the Dolly Varden they have in Alaska, only these fish at this time were much larger 10-30 pounds! In Alaska they were 5-10 pounds. Lake trout that we trolled for were in the 20-30 pound range, we used sinking fly lines for these not down riggers. One time I had a char on and a lake trout came off the bottom it looked to be 50 pounds or better, he grabbed that char like nothing and swam away. We did not have much in the way of



dry fly fishing so we did not carry dry flies, but one night the fish came up we used greased Mud-dlers to catch them on top only happened one time but it was very memorable. In the river we used west coast steelhead flies, the Thor being my best fly and a Sun Rise second in size's 2 or 4 on wet fly hooks worked very well. Tippetts ranged from 8 to 12 lb. test.

The area was very wild and scenic; you only had spruce trees from the river's edge to about 30

feet up the bank, after that it was caribou moss. Walking on this was like walking in deep snow, it was all tundra no mountains. We had bears almost every night around the cabins scavenging for food. One night they knocked over the propane bottles we were wondering if they were going to rip the cabin down. Each night they put up spike boards at the door of our cabin to deter the bears and the windows were high enough they could not climb in. We never saw bears going after the fish and only one time I had about a 400 pound one charge me. Thank God he stopped 20 feet away and left. That bear became a problem and so a few weeks after we left they had hunters come in and take care of it. One day we went out to the float plane and a small bear had gotten tangled up in the mooring ropes and drowned itself. I had a 357 that I would take for this type of fishing but



you're not allowed in Canada to have one, it's not like Alaska in this respect.

Reed had his own Cessna 180 and so we got to make one trip with him down toward the ocean were there was a very tall water falls of course fishing was great and we got to see some Caribou, not in big herds like you may have seen on TV as this was

August and they were not herding up yet. The reason they do herd up in fall is to go toward the south as it's a bit warmer also you have trees to protect them from the harsh winter winds as there is no place to get out of the wind in the tundra.

We all know from our past trips what goes through your mind on the way home. Your family, the fishing, new friends you made the fish you caught maybe going back to work. I had a little something extra to think about. We left the camp and stopped at Nane for fuel it was very late so we spent the night in the nursing station with no food. Next day they gave us just enough to make it to Hopeville where we got just enough to make Goose Bay. The pilot forgot to switch tanks after taking off from Nane and after going up 100 feet we ran out of fuel he had to hand pump fuel to get enough pressure in the tank to get it to flow into the engine. The harbor has many very large rocks in it and we had dropped down about 30 feet above the water when he finally got it going and we were able to climb out. It was a hell of a way to end our trip.



My first trip cost about \$1,200 and my last in 1984 was about \$2,000. With some digging I found the web site for the camp .

<http://www.arcticcharfishing.net/>

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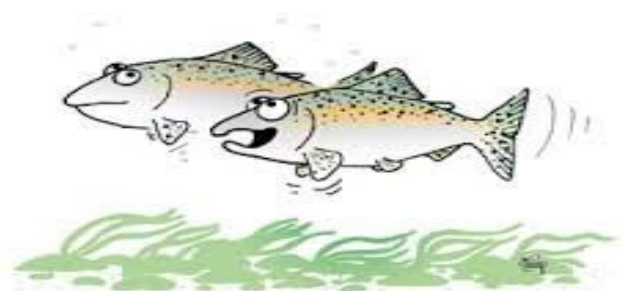
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Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Soft Hackle Smelt Fly

Hook: #10 Mustad 3366
 Thread: Red 6/0
 Bead: Silver Tungsten
 Flash: 2 Strands Krystal Flash
 1st Wing: Lavender Marabou
 Top Wing: Light Dun Marabou
 Throat: Partridge
 Eyes: Jungle Cock



"Let's jump a few times
 just to drive the fly fishers crazy!"

**CFFA wishes to Thank those that made the expo happen;
JOB WELL DONE!**

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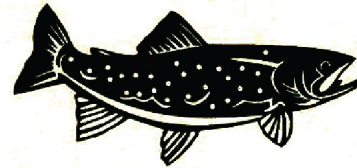


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Dan Smith with his new vise being put to good use

SAVE THE DATE

Monthly meeting March 12th

CFFA Beginner Fly Fishing Classes at Cabela's begin **March 6th** call Richard at 860-839-2070 for details.

American School for the Deaf (ASD) Fly Tying
6 - 7:30 pm Tuesdays beginning **March 18th**

To help with this program contact
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Coming Events

The 2014 HFFA Dinner Meeting

Saturday, March 15th

from 5:00PM to 10:00 PM

at iL Monticello, 577 South Broad Street,
Meriden, CT

Ticket price is \$40.00 in advance or \$45.00 at
the door. Any questions, contact Allison
Brown at Brown13am@aol.com

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