

# Lines & Leaders



May 2014

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

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

**May meeting** ♦ Neal Hagstrom, DEEP Fisheries Manager and Biologist



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



## 2014 New England Spey Clave III

On Saturday May 17, Fred and Jerry from *Spey Casting Northeast* will be hosting another event at Mathies Grove on the Farmington River. This will be the third year Fred and Jerry put this on. It's a great day and there will be a several rod companies and many people including Andrew Moy, Rich Murphy, Mark Sedotti and Fred Wilson on hand to show you how to use a Spey and switch rods. They have reels as well as all the lines for this 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](mailto:fkrow@yahoo.com)

**9 AM until 4 PM MAY 17TH**

**RAIN OR SHINE**

Raffles for Spey Rods - Proceeds go to FRAA.



“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”

*Theodore Roosevelt*

## From the vest of the President

The April Fly Tyers Roundtable is always one of our most popular meetings of the year and last month's Roundtable was no exception. Over sixty people enjoyed watching up-close as ten of this area's most talented tyers crafted fresh and salt water flies. Thanks again to all the tyers for sharing their creations and their passion for fly tying.

Thanks also to Dick Heffernon for informing everyone at the April meeting that Connecticut is considering becoming a disposal site for the by-products of fracking activities. Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking”, is a method of extracting natural gas from deep in the ground by injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into dense rock formations such as shale, in order to crack the rock and release the gas. According to a report released last year by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, “commonly used frack-

ing products contain many chemicals that are known or possible human carcinogens regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, or listed as hazardous air pollutants”. In addition, when these fracking fluids return to the surface, they often also contain long-term radioactive materials from deep inside the earth. Although there is some regulation of these discharges, fracking residue is not yet considered a hazardous waste due to a loophole in federal law, and it is partially exempt from regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. There have been hundreds of reports of polluted rivers, ruined wells and contaminated air related to fracking.

Pennsylvania alone has over 6,000 active natural gas wells producing billions of gallons per year of toxic and radioactive water that needs to be dealt with above ground, and even more that remains underground.

Although there have been improvements in storage and treatment technology, there hasn't been an overall industry solution for this wastewater. According to Anthony Ingraffea, an engineering professor at Cornell University, "In Pennsylvania, disposal of wastewater has been and will remain a chronic problem because they produce it in very large quantities". Even more wastewater will be produced nearby if New York State approves fracking to tap its potentially large natural gas deposits. New England currently has no fracking wells, but our state government is seriously considering allowing this highly contaminated wastewater from other states to be stored or treated in Connecticut because of the economic gain it will bring.

Several bills in the works at the General Assembly would allow fracking waste into Connecticut and require DEEP to regulate it. However, many see that as problematic due to today's level of technology, as well as budgetary and staffing concerns at DEEP. These bills have received

support from the oil and gas industry. One bill before the General Assembly *would have completely banned fracking waste in our state*. Senate Bill 237 is the one Dick Hefernon distributed literature about at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. It *was* supported by CT Rivers Alliance and other environmental groups. **However, on April 30<sup>th</sup> an amendment was added to this bill which turns it into a law requiring DEEP to develop regulations to manage fracking residual, thereafter allowing it into Connecticut.** If you are so inclined, this is a good time to let your representatives know how you feel about importing *any* fracking waste. Without a doubt, big business interests are making their voices heard on this issue.

Domestic natural gas production helps our nation to be energy independent. However, the technology does not yet exist to deal with the waste products of fracking without risking major and permanent damage to our environment. CFFA's Board of Directors discussed this issue at a recent meeting and believes that fracking waste should not be allowed in Connecticut.

CFFA has a long history of being active in state policy issues. In the 1970's our club was instrumental in having the state's first catch-and-release fly fishing only area designated on three miles of the Willimantic River. Last year we helped to save the Kensington Hatchery from the budget axe, and we helped to prevent Farmington Valley Water from being pumped to Uconn. So far in 2014 I have submitted testimony on behalf of CFFA in favor of SB 241 to reduce fishing and hunting license fees for 16 and 17 year olds, and I opposed SB 405 which would eliminate many public hearings in the subdivision development process. I made the phone calls Dick suggested in support of SB 237 when its wording completely prohibited fracking waste and I submitted testimony when that bill was in committee.

You can read more about CFFA's influence with

policy makers on our new website in the **About CFFA** section under **Club History** which was written by our Legislative Chairman Vinny Ringrose, and in the September 2012 Lines & Leaders found under **Resources/Downloads**. Our new website is still unfinished and could really use more photos and articles from you, the club members.

After the fly fishing only area was established on the Willimantic River, CFFA erected a kiosk at the west-bound rest stop on I-84 in Willington near a path



that leads to that section of the river. The kiosk contains a map of the Trout Management Area, a hatch guide and other information about the river. After decades of service, the kiosk needed refurbishing, so we had a work party there on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Now the kiosk looks like new and it should withstand the elements for a good long time. Thanks to Bob Winot, Ted Rzepski and Gary Bogli for coming out to work on the kiosk. Special thanks to Mark Lucas for donating the materials and his roofing skills, and to Ron Dunleavy for his painting prowess.



Our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting features longtime friend of our club Neal Hagstrom, DEEP Fisheries Manager and Biologist. Neal's talks are always enlightening and he will also be taking questions about our state's fish and fishing opportunities. Anyone wishing to tie flies at the May meeting is encouraged to do so. Weather permitting, there will be a casting clinic on the lawn behind the Clubhouse from 6:00pm until the meeting begins at 7:00, so bring your gear if you want to learn or want to teach some fly casting techniques. This will be our last meeting until September so I wish everyone a very safe and fishy summer.

><<)))\*> Bruce

## About the size of many of the fish in our Trout parks this year

This year's fish many have noticed are small. As I understand from a hatchery manager there are several reasons. Cold winter frozen ponds at Burlington prevented fish from being fed. Quinebaug hatchery was down by a third of employees for sometime. The fish did not get graded, if you don't grade small fish and leave them in non graded ponds, they do not get bigger because bigger fish are more aggressive. Take the small fish out and in the same pond, they will grow. They were short staffed by a third, but this year some slots have been filled. So next year should be better. We can only hope the people in Hartford don't short change us, again.

The Editor

## Natchaug Day, a tradition

By John Springer

Back in 1986 my friend Dan Smith started a tradition called Natchaug Day. About 5 years ago when we met he invited me. I've only gone a few times as I was working or not around but I know I'll try to go as long as he invites me. Fly fishing is steeped in traditions, you all know the different ones you've read about them or experienced them yourself, but if not you don't know what you're missing. Dan's emails started months be-



fore the big day the countdown if you will. Invites are sent out; new people are invited as long as they're not going to act stupid or be politically correct. You may think it's the fishing that day that brings us together, but it's not. It's the

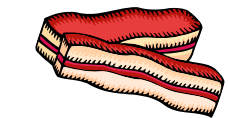
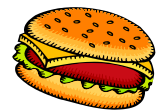
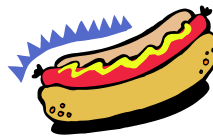


food and camaraderie of guys busting on each other and nobody getting offended. Today that's hard to come by. Dan and some of the guys get up early, to make sure they get "the" table that they set up on each year. It's always freezing when I have gone but Dan has plenty of adult beverages to fortify the troops. There will be home made chili, potato salad, chips, good salsa, potatoes, the largest slices of bacon you have ever seen, eggs, hot dogs and burgers. But the main

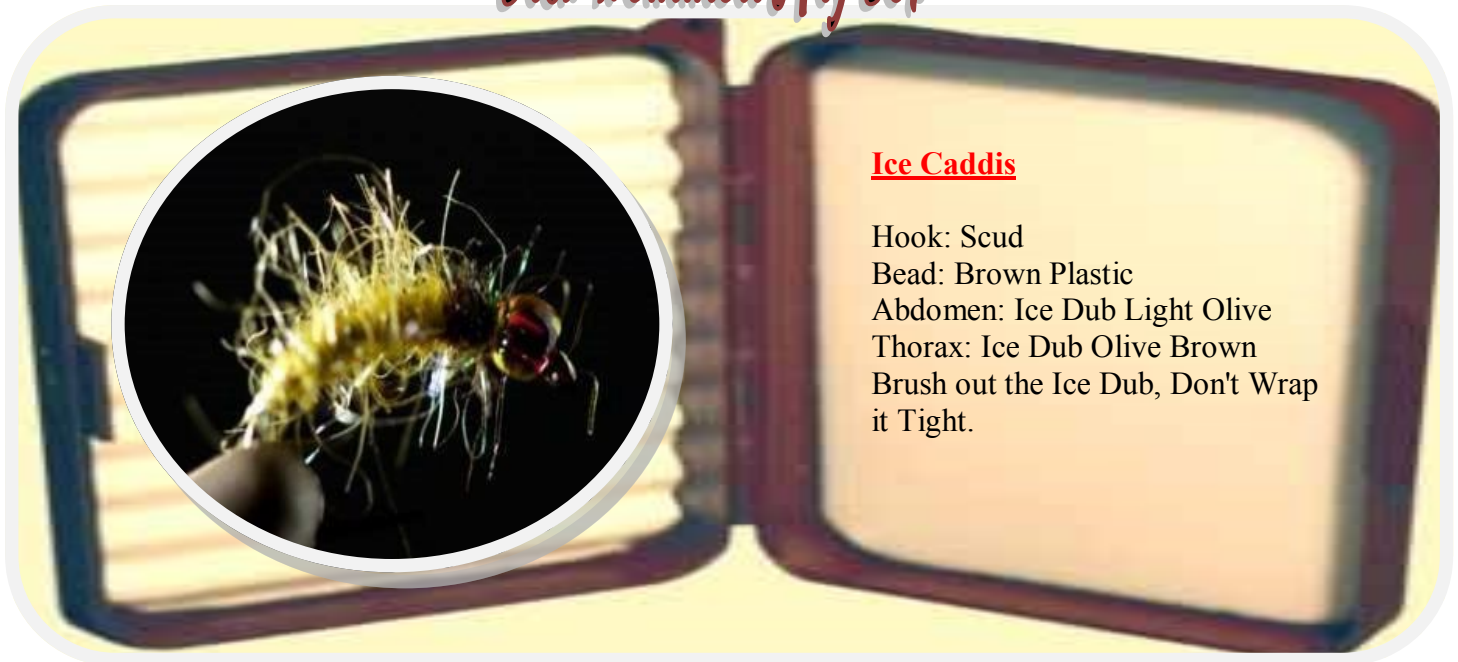


course the food everyone waits for every year is the Brats that Dan has shipped in from Wisconsin. If you never had them, they are not like any sausage you have eaten. Dan boils them in beer during the week with onions. The new term in cooking that applies to the taste of that beer soaked sausage I believe is "infused". They sit in

his fridge for several days just soaking after they are boiled then he finishes them off on the grill. While this is all going on some people fish, others just hang at the grill eat and talk. About noon it has warmed up and there are caddis flying by heading up river for hours, the way they fly you would think they had someplace important to go to. Stone flies fall from the bushes and into the water and if it has not been to cold you will see a few rises. Chef Boy will be out with a dry trying to get one to take. Some of the guys fish with worms and will do well as the water is cold, but along about 2 PM if conditions are right some Hendrickson's will start to pop, this gets our attention fast. Dan and the guys who came at 6 AM to set up and get the "table" will be gone by now and my friends and I will stay and fish till late afternoon. Before you know it the day is done, another Natchaug Day with good people is over and it will be 364 days till the next one but the smell of that sausage and the laughter is embedded in your mind forever. It's a tradition.



## Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



### Ice Caddis

Hook: Scud  
 Bead: Brown Plastic  
 Abdomen: Ice Dub Light Olive  
 Thorax: Ice Dub Olive Brown  
 Brush out the Ice Dub, Don't Wrap  
 it Tight.

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Monthly meeting May 14 7 PM**

**Neil Hagstrom Casting Clinic outside before meeting, weather permitting**

"John Walker, winner of this year's Barbieri award for longtime service to our club, explains a fly he is tying at the April Roundtable". John was left out of the March Newsletter as we had no picture of him, he gives many hours of his time to make our club what it is like so many others do and have done. We have 2 positions open now perhaps you have some time to give back to your club? I assure you its time well spent. Editor

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Fly Fisherman's Association**

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FLY FISHERS**

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