

DECEMBER 2015

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The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

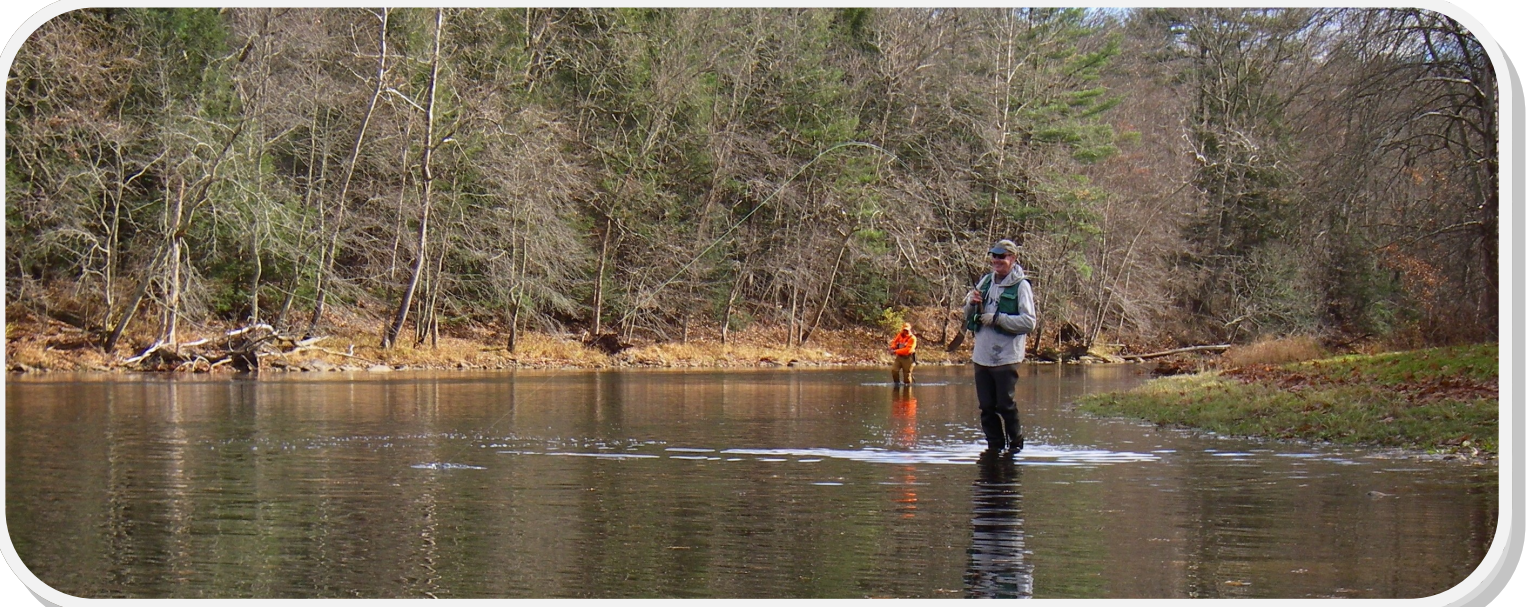
DECEMBER MEETING

STEVE CULTON THE LITTLE THINGS

FROM THE VEST OF THE
PRESIDENT

READ HIS MESSAGE AND IF YOU THINK
WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS WORTH SAVING

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



"Nothing worth having is easy"

Common Saying



From the vest of the President

This month's quote, or epigraph, is another common saying that I've often used because it contains so much truth. Take, for example, all the fine fishing available in Connecticut due to our three highly functioning hatcheries, which always produce far more revenue for our state than they cost. Yet, three times in the past five years CFFA has had to join the successful fight to save Kensington Hatchery from the budget ax. Now, as part of his emergency mid-year budget cuts, the governor is proposing to completely close all three hatcheries on January 1, 2016. Such closures, even for a short term, would result in the devastating permanent loss of legacy genetic strains of trout and salmon. You can sign a petition opposing these closures at <https://www.change.org/p/connecticut-governor-connecticut-state-house-connecticut-state-senate-stop-governor-malloy-and-save-our-state-fish-hatcheries>. Our legislators are currently working on alternative proposals, and we should have more information about this by our December 9th Monthly Meeting. But things may happen fast, so as soon as possible it would help if you could express your concerns to your state reps via phone, mail, email or in person.

Our amazing fly fishing club is another worthwhile thing that is not always easy to maintain. I'm especially mindful of that as I draw near to completing five years as your president. So I'm pleased to report that our club is very healthy in terms of finances, programs, and activities. That's due largely to the loyalty of our members. Like most of the other clubs, we could use more and some younger members, but the ones we do have are simply the greatest. I'm very grateful to all of you for keeping our membership numbers steady and our member participation strong throughout the recent years. The success of CFFA reflects your support.

The other key to the strength of CFFA is the dedication of our board of directors. Through their efforts we've been able to accomplish things like making our Expo *the big* winter fly fishing event in Connecticut. The club is also saving many dollars each year because the board found ways to hold classes and board meetings at free venues outside of the Clubhouse. The board has led the way to having anglers' voices heard on issues such as Farmington Valley water diversions and hatchery closings. In recent years we established an attractive Facebook page, completely rebuilt the club's website and introduced a new vibrant newsletter that far surpasses expectations for a club our size. In addition to these new accomplishments, the club has managed to continue all its great traditions that are so worth having. But all that is never easy, so please remember to thank our hard working board members and to support them whenever you can.

For example, you can support our Newsletter Editor by sending him stories and photos. You can support Denise by doing some holiday shopping for club apparel. Phil works hard tracking our many members and this is the time of year when you can help him by renewing your membership on time. Kurt and Roger knock themselves out making our Expo and Banquet so outstanding and they could really use some extra hands, especially setting-up

the room in the morning and during the transition in the afternoon.

It may not always be easy, but our club is usually fun, often productive and always worth having. Hope to see you at the Clubhouse on Wednesday December 9th when the ever-popular Steve Culton will show us how to do some little things better.

><<)))*> Bruce

Something for all to think about from your editor

Again as you can see we are under attack, again you can see that working people and retired people are under attack. Again people that pay their own way and are not looking for a hand out, are under attack. We all know that our 3 hatchery's will not be shut down, no brainer. But as we all know they have been trying to close Kensington for years as Bruce pointed out and this will be how they will do it, it will be called a compromise. We will give you 2 and you will lose 1. people will walk away and be told to be happy, some will believe we won! But you didn't you lost. Think I'm wrong? Just look at all the taxes we pay to drive to keep up roads and bridges. Its never enough and it never will be. Look at education, they blamed teachers pay years ago. So they get paid more, no problem tough job we know that. We feed kids in man schools several times a day because they can't learn when hungry. They need the proper tools were told so we give them technology. Big problems more money does not help. Killing off a hatchery that can save about \$250,000 a year will not help any of our problems. What it would pay for is to replace more cement storm drains on our roads. Ever wonder how they wear out so fast? I looked at

some by the road one day they were going to be used as fill someplace contractor said it was time to replace them. I've walked the streets of New York City some of them have been there a pretty long time they still function. We all know what Hartford does with our money, send a letter and tell them you know to and you fish, remember fish can't write.

John Springer

Our Speaker this month Steve Culton

THE LITTLE THINGS

They say that 10% of the anglers catch 90% of the fish. If that's true, it's not because those 10% are supernaturally gifted angling demigods. It's not because they are lucky. It's because *they do a lot of little things* that other anglers don't. As a guide, I have the opportunity to observe how people fish. I see their mistakes as well as their triumphs. When I'm fishing, I am constantly making adjustments and trying new approaches. That's what *The Little Things* is all about – seemingly minor factors that can make a big difference in your fishing.

(Steve Culton is a fly fishing guide and instructor, fly tyer, and freelance writer. His work has appeared in *American Angler*, *The Flyfish Journal*, *The Drake*, *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Fly Rod & Reel Online*, and the *Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*.)



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Drawing to be held at the CFFA Banquet

Feb. 6th 2016

Winner need not be present

Tickets can be purchased at monthly meetings or by sending a check made out to CFFA

c/o Kurt Jagielow

14 Earl Ave

Hamden CT 06514

“ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS”

**IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE BANQUET
FOR OUR TABLES YOU CAN BRING IT TO THE MONTHLY MEETING AND
GIVE IT TO ANY BOARD MEMBER. IT WILL BE TAKEN TO THE BANQUET BY
ONE OF THEM. FLIES ARE ALWAYS A WONDERFUL PRIZE TO WIN AND AL-
MOST ALL OF YOU TIE THESE ARE ALWAYS GREATLY APPRECIATED**

Steelheading 2015

I have been fishing in November for Steelhead on the Salmon River in Pulaski, N.Y. on and off since the mid 1980's. Back then the numbers of fish were high and anglers were allowed 3 Steelhead per day. This meant if you were in a drift boat with a friend a total of 9 Steelhead could be caught and kept, three for you, your friend and your guide. A pool of fish could be wiped out pretty quick.

The rules are different today. The fish are protected and must be released in the lower river at the Douglaston Salmon Run and both the Upper and Lower Fly Fishing Only areas or the top end. The limit is one fish per day in the middle of the river. This has helped to make the fishery better, especially for the conservation minded fisherman.

This year we tried something new. Our group of 7, four from Maine and three from Ct. stayed and fished in the DSR (Douglaston Salmon Run) on Sat. and Sunday. The results were not what we were hoping for as we all got skunked. But the experience was excellent. Only 65 anglers were allowed on the run each day and we could move from spot to spot with ease and the people we did encounter were excellent. The scenery and the river were pleasant to the eye and left a lasting impression. I can only imagine how it would be with a fresh run of Steelhead moving through. It does cost \$55 to fish here and it is a gamble, but I would take a chance again in a heartbeat. I look at it this way, I also play golf and I pay to play about the same amount as the DSR, and more often than not I end up pissed off after 18.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we stayed and fished outside the DSR. Most of the Steelhead were in the upper 1/3 of the river as were most of the anglers. We eased into different spots and were finally rewarded. All but one of us got a steelhead to a net. Single egg patterns worked as well as nymphs. It paid dividends to change your fly frequently especially if you knew you were fishing over fish. If that did not work it was time to try a lighter tippet. When that failed it was time to move on.

This can be a physically demanding adventure, especially when you fish like we did from dawn to dusk. But it all pays off when you are rewarded with a fish like this. Makes me feel young again, I like that.

Tips for those willing to try.

Fish Sunday afternoon through Mid-Week if you can.

Make note of where others are catching fish.

Observe their setup and presentation

Stop fishing and watch someone fight and land a fish.

Dress warm and stay dry



ctflyfish.org

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presents

The 46th Annual Fly Fishing Expo & Banquet

Feb. 6th 2016

Featuring
Ed Mitchell

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lecturer
Most recent publication
Along the Water Edge

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RSVP BY Jan 29, 2016

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\$3.00 Admission

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Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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Roger Plourde

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Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

FARMINGTON VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED
Covering, promoting and restoring North America's wilder fisheries and their watersheds.

ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE

Tuesday, January 5, 2016
6 - 8:30 p.m.
Farmington Community Center
321 New Britain Avenue
Unionville, CT
FREE ADMISSION

Please consider donating used spinning gear to TU for inner-city kids!

Questions? - Call Bill Case at 860-678-7245 In the event of dangerous weather conditions, visit www.fvtu.org for updates on this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting Wed. Dec. 9th at
Clubhouse, 7pm - The Little
Things

The Fly Fishing Show Marlbor-
ough MA. Jan. 22, 23, 24 2016

Somerset NJ. Jan 29, 30, 31 2016

Hartford Hunting and Fishing
Show Feb 13, 14, 15 2016 CT
Convention Center

SAVE THE DATE

Beginner Fly Tying Classes start at
Cabela's Thurs. Jan. 7th, 7pm -
call Peter 860-620-2317



P.O. Box 380268
East Hartford, CT 06138

FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

