



**Eddie Hudon with his son Ray on the Raven Fork River, Cherokee North Carolina**

**JANUARY MEETING**  
**ALAN PETRUCCI FISHING SMALL**  
**STREAMS**

**FROM THE VEST OF THE**  
**PRESIDENT REMINDER!!!**  
**PLEASE RETURN YOUR**  
**BOOK**  
**TO OUR LIBRARY!**



Ron Dunlevy & John Springer making the best of the worst winter, ice fishing



My student from the Naugatuck Railroad Museum Alex Neisloss fishing the Naugatuck with a fly for the first time, size 6 woolly bugger

## From the vest of the President

*“Basically, everything works out well in the end if you just fish enough.”*

John Gierach



Once again John Gierach has expressed homespun wit with a few simple words. We should all heed those words, especially this time of year when both our local freshwater and salt water fly fishing opportunities are ramping up. I really want to encourage those of you who are new to fly fishing to just get out there and accrue some experience on the water. That’s essential to learning to fly fish. Even if you go alone, you’ll learn a lot, and you’ll probably experience some peaceful reflections too. Just be extra careful whenever you fish alone. Let someone know where you’ll be, and put your cell phone in a waterproof container.

I know we have a lot of new fly fishers among us because our Beginner Fly Fishing Class has 30 students. Education Chairman Peter Naples thanks all the CFFA members that came out to help these students at the casting clinic last month. **We really need more volunteers to help with the final session Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> on the Willimantic River. This is a very large class and some of the regular helpers are unable to make the date. Please phone Peter at 860-620-2317 to let him know if you can assist that morning. It’s important that you contact Peter so he can keep you informed of any schedule changes and of the new location to meet up with the group.**

**Both state operated rest stops along the Willimantic River Trout Management Area are completely closed for repair.** You don’t need to be an expert to assist these beginners, you just some experience and a willingness to help. Sharing your enjoyment of fly fishing with others is the best way to increase your own enjoyment of fly fishing.

Speaking of May 9<sup>th</sup>, that’s also Free Fishing Day in Connecticut. Anyone can fish our inland and marine waters without a license for that one day and no registration is required. There are two other days this year when anyone can fish for free, but you must register with DEEP Fisheries for free fishing on those additional days – see the 2015 Anglers Guide or contact DEEP Fisheries for free registration details. Also new this year is half-price fishing licenses for 16 and 17 year-olds. I hope CFFA members use these opportunities to encourage others to participate in the sport we love.

Thanks to all of you who contacted Connecticut legislators about the proposal to close Kensington Hatchery. There has been no official action on this yet. The Appropriations Committee has missed two deadlines for dealing with this issue, and have now taken the discussion behind closed doors along with many other budget concerns. If the committee eventually votes to keep funding Kensington, it will then require approval by the General Assembly, so continuing to remind your own local reps of your support for Kensington can only help.

Our May 13<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting features a presentation on fishing local small streams by Alan Petrucci, who hosts an excellent online blog named *Small Stream Reflections*. **This will be our last monthly meeting until September, so please make sure your club dues are paid and that any books borrowed from the Goldman Library are returned.** Thanks to all of you for helping CFFA to have another great season!

><<)))\*> Bruce

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



*Alex Neisloss, first trout landed on a fly. I've been teaching kids for about 25 years; it's very rewarding*

IF you don't think its important to have new people learn about fly fishing, take a look around the meeting room, any of them and I go to them in other states as well as Connecticut. Were getting older and who do you think when they want to close our hatchery's or build a copper mine on one of the last places we have big runs of salmon and now our wonderful government wants to put OUR national forest in the hands of local states ( what do you think will happen when they need money to help out the special American's who don't work and live off of those that do?) remember were up to 48% in America getting something from the government. Just who do you think will fight for what is left? It won't be the fishermen who buys a license and fishes 2 weeks and puts his pole away. It will be the sport fisher who is more involved, who besides the sport fisher who goes to fishing shows, ties flies and perhaps reads about fishing during winter and gets a newsletter and perhaps fishing magazines and shows up at a meeting will write a letter or make a call to let local politicians know their thoughts? Give that some thought when you see some young person make a bad cast or fish the wrong water and you laugh to yourself about it because you know more. That person you help might be the person who gets so excited about fly fishing, he or she will give up some time to fight for what we all love.

A little side note about hatchery's. Ct. wants to shut down our only hatchery with pure water instead of putting some money into it to just keep it going. Perhaps you don't think that's important because Atlantic Salmon did not come back. You all know how many advancements in medicine you have seen, I would

think that in time just maybe they will figure out how to save what's left or the Atlantic Salmon and if they do and Kensington is gone and sold off we will lose the pure water and the land, it will never be back. And if you don't think pure water is important you may notice the fish seem a bit smaller this year. Most of all the trout you fish for come from Quinebaug and I THINK they are having problems with the water. Only money will fix it and it will take noise to make that happen. North Carolina is building another hatchery I was told while I fished there, that's forward thinking. They are also stocking some new water where some fellows opened a fly shop this past fall. You will see some more pictures as well as another story about this past April when I fished there. I checked airfare's to Montana \$900 to go at the end of June. You can drive to our southern states in a day or two depending how much you want to push it. Plenty of free access, lots of good books written about it, they have Delayed Harvest waters in several states. They load them up with fish in October and its C&R till June. Think about what we have. Oh and one more thing, there are many out of state license plates along the river, big money coming into the general fund for those southern states. Ct. could also.

**On Saturday May 9th Helpers Needed for Wil-li River Class at new location - call Peter Naples 860-620-2317 and Kevin Fuller will need a few people to help with the students from ASD on May 19th kevinfuller27@comcast.net**



## 2015 CLASS REUNION BY JOHN SPRINGER

Funny how things work out sometimes for you. My wife's class reunion is this year and you know how it goes, people in charge send out messages looking for class mates to let them know about this and questions are asked. Like what are you doing now and where do you live. Well it turns out one of Sandy's class mates is now a fly fishing guide on several of the rivers I fish in and around Cherokee North Carolina. Sandy contacted Eddie and said we were going to be there and how much I loved to fly fish that area and so I got to meet Eddie Hudon and his son Ray and spend a day on the Raven Fork fishing, telling stories and chiding each other all day. Eddy left me alone but we could see each other and when fishing slowed down for me, he invited me to fish his spot. Since he has been fishing these waters for 10 years he knows them very well, all his flies are tied by an old timer who fished them all his life. His flies work very well I could not help but realize Eddie's a smart guy for doing this. A bit more about this later. They had last stocked this part of the river last fall so the fish now in the water for 5 months were much more difficult to catch and were not eating the fly called the "Brain", no this was like fishing for wild fish out west only closer to home and much cheaper. My cost for 3 days of fishing the C&R water at Cherokee was \$52, well worth the price. Ray kicked back and watched us and added comments but was tired from driving 14 hours; he played the gille for us each time we got a big fish. As always happens for some reason our conversation got around to food, I said how I had not had much good Italian food since I left Connecticut, Eddie the perfect host said "I know a place, it's called Frankie's" and so we went later with our wives. Wonderful way to end the day. It rained hard that night and so the water came up and turned to chocolate, Eddie is hard core like myself and so we went. My expectations were not high looking over the bridge at the water; the only bright side was not many people were fishing. What I have found fishing these conditions was to use San Juan worms, at the fly fishing show in New Jersey I was introduced to some new material to make a rubber worm. So I said I was going to try it, Eddie said good choice. They work! A local fly from down that area is the "Mop" I had used it

last fall but caught nothing with it, Eddie said to try it out now it was a great fly, he had them himself. They worked. They are still experimenting with this material down there but it holds promise, and it's from a mop! Like many rivers, golden stone flies work and with the dirty high water Eddie gave me one of his to use, it took my best fish. He also told me exactly where to fish, nothing like local knowledge. During the week I was there we also fished the Nantahala River and the Tuckasegee river's, again Eddie showed me the best places to fish and since the both rivers had been stocked hard as it was the opening of the season we got many fish. But if you hunted you found the hold overs from last October's stocking. They are way ahead of us in the south as they have what is called "Delayed Harvest Waters" they fill the river with fish in late fall and it is no kill till June the following year when the water gets warm. Since there are so many out of state cars parked along the river it must work for the state coffers. They are even building a new hatchery in North Carolina to keep the fishermen happy where as Connecticut wants to close one and our fish are getting smaller. If some really great fishing that starts very early compared to the Northeast and also remember it gets cool down there later interests you check out these rivers and I would strongly recommend Eddie as a guide for a day he could show you more in a day than would take you many trips to learn on your own, that really goes for any new place you go to. <http://bluechipflyfishing.com/> it took me awhile to figure that out. If you go check out the mom and pop hotels in Whiter N.C. they are cheaper than in Cherokee. Lots of cheap places to eat. The local fly shop is called River's edge. Also in Bryson City very close by is another fly shop and starting this fall the Tuckasegee River in that town will be stocked with 5,000 fish to see how it works out so fishermen have even more waters to visit. There is much more to do in Bryson city also if you want or need more. I'm very lucky to have met my wife and the 3 days I fished with her old school mate, well it was another bonus in my life. Eddie and another red neck friend will be fishing the Missouri with me, their first time there. I'm looking forward to showing them the way.



Ravin Fork bow on a yellow stone fly



Larry Goulet, who is he? The game warden who made dam sure the Salmon river was well stocked and always tried to get the fish stocked in area's that were a benefit to anglers. He helped me land a fish when I had a reel problem on this day.

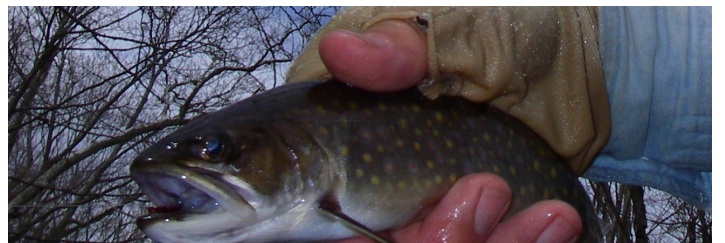


Larry giving Ron Dunlevy some instructions on how to play and land a fish.

Fish Porn from spring of 2015 take some pictures for me and I will put them in!



**Natchaug River In April, Hendrickson time**



Ct. has many wild trout streams, the fish are not big as a rule, but they are beautiful and they grow in places that you will find very peaceful to visit.

# Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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**YOUR club needs one of you to come forward to fill one open Position . Perhaps you have a few hours a month, As you already know some of us give many hours each month so everyone can enjoy themselves. And if you think your busy so are we but we enjoy doing this how about giving it a try? Bruce is waiting to hear from 1 member to be our Environment VP Chairman please consider stepping up to give this a try. There is a reason you see the same names on the board, they enjoy it.**



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If you fish the Shetucket River you will be interested in this. The power company operating the Scotland Dam is not living up to the new agreement and so fishing has suffered a great deal. The water last fall went up and down sometimes 6 times a day. Fish have high water lies and low water lies, fishing was not good. I have been on top of this since November working with some members of Thames Valley TU. Bill Hyatt from DEEP called me and sent me a 8 page document to read. DEEP is going after this issue aggressively. It will depend on if the power company wants to go to court or live up to the agreement as to how long it will take. We spoke about the size of the fish, again this year and money is what is needed but they do have plans for improvements at the Quinebaugh hatchery. Its because of a shortage of water so a recycling system and water cleaning system will be installed. This is very badly needed.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Last Monthly meeting until  
September 9th**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sat. May 9th**

Helpers Needed for Willi River Class at new location -  
call Peter Naples 860-620-2317

**Wed. May 13th**

Monthly Meeting 7pm at the Clubhouse -  
Fishing Small Streams by Alan Petrucci



P.O. Box 380268  
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