



The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

Dick Wemmell's fly box

April Meeting Fly Tyers round table

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

Here is a interesting web site to look at while you wait for the snow to melt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7MiPagrXzA

- List of names: Ted Rzepki, Tom Baronowski, Matt Baronowski, Stan Otlowski, Gary Steinmiller, Dick Wemmell, Al Petrucci, Steve Culton, Bill Keister, Joe Klingler, John Walker, Mark Dysinger, Mike Stewart, Bob Winot.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Peter Naples our new Education chairmen has asked for help this year. As Gary points out there are many students and at this time only 7 volunteers have come forward to give some time. The date's are April 18th at the Firemen & Police Pond just for casting . May 9 on the Willimantic river will be in the river to show how to mend line, fish dries, wets, and nymphs. If the student catches a fish great that is not the point of the day. I think its very safe to say at least 95% of you reading this had a mentor I was very lucky to have several. It takes a group of very good people to run this club I can assure you it's the best one going. Just ask about membership in other clubs as well as people coming to the monthly meetings. Peter is very new to this position we would not want to see him leave it after a year because he could not get a bunch of you to come out for part of a day to give a hand to a student. You might be very surprised at the outcome of the day by making a new friend and fishing partner. Most of these students already bait fish so they know places to go you may find a new secret spot. If none of that happens I will tell you you'll feel good at the end of the day. I started teaching kids around 1988 and still help out today I can assure you it does give you a feel good feeling. Please show Peter that CFFA has great members who will make some time to give back to a sport that has brought many hours of enjoyment to their own lives, his number is 860-620-2317.

Helpers Needed

(Stream Instruction)

CFFA Members your help with our annual stream instruction is needed again this year. Bruce made this announcement at our last meeting when he introduced our new Education Chairman Peter Naples. I am not sure how many of you contacted Pete and offered your assistance. If you did, thank you, if you did not, please consider helping. This year's class has between 25 -30 new students which is great. We even offered a 2 for 1 deal for a parent and a child 16 or younger and got some takers. In a perfect world we would love a 1 to 1 ratio of student to instructor. You do not need to be an expert caster or an entomologist, just be a companion and share your passion. Most of us had someone as a mentor when we started, and passing that on just feels good. Believe me. If you look at our current & past board members a good majority had their 1st experience with our CFFA in one of our educational classes. They, our classes and board members are an important asset to our association. It is our offered educational opportunities (Library, Programs, and Classes) that make the CFFA what it is. So please contact Pete and offer some assistance. You won't be disappointed. Pete can be reached at pnaples0865@yahoo.com or 860-620-2317 for the date and time.

Gary Steinmiller

From the vest of the President

"Tying flies is, from the very start, an act of hope."

Bill "Bugs" Logan



Our April 8th meeting at the Clubhouse features our annual Fly Tyers Roundtable where you can see both fresh and salt water flies being made. You'll be able to watch closely as fourteen 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 TV can beat that!

Our current Beginner Fly Fishing Class has well over twenty students so we need nearly that many members to help with the two on-water sessions. The first on-water session is the casting lesson on Saturday April 18th at the Fireman & Policeman's Pond in East Hartford. We'll also need plenty of help for one or more river sessions yet to be scheduled. It is really important for the beginners to have one-on-one assistance

during these sessions, so please call Peter Naples at 860-620-2317 to let him know you will help and to find out all the details. After the session, you can do some nice spring fishing.

As I write this, the fate of Kensington Hatchery is with the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly. If you have not already contacted them, you may still have time to do that. Until they vote on whether or not to continue funding the hatchery, they will accept public comments by phone, email, or snail mail. You can phone them with your comments at 860-240-0390. If you prefer email, CFFA's website has information about how you can send an email in support of the hatchery, and that will remain on our home page until the committee stops accepting comments.

If the Appropriations Committee votes in favor of Kensington Hatchery, it still will not be safe, because it must then be voted on by the entire legislature. So now is a great time to contact your own local legislators about this because they may have influence while it is in committee, and they will eventually have to vote on it if it survives the committee. Find your state senator and representative and their contact information at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>, or phone your Town Hall to get that information. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a sample letter that you can use all, or part of, when contacting your legislators. You can even cut it out, put your name and address on the bottom, and mail it to your state reps. Don't squawk later, get busy now!

><<)))*> Bruce

Find your state senator & rep at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

Folks without computers can phone their Town Hall to get those names & addresses

I am writing to oppose the proposal to close the Kensington Hatchery in order to save \$195,000 in DEEP's budget because this hatchery generates far more money for our state than it costs. A 2011 study by the CT Center for Economic Analysis at UConn reports that \$38 in economic activity is generated by every \$1 our state spends on natural resources. Decreased fish stocking will lead to less angler hours realized, less tourism, less revenue for small businesses and therefore less tax and license revenue for CT. According to DEEP, current stocking programs generate about 2.1 million fishing trips per year that drive a \$50 million revenue stream into our state's economy.

As you may recall, funding for this hatchery has been on the chopping block in the last several budget cycles, but each time the legislature, after becoming aware of the value of the hatchery and the programs it supports, has restored the funding.

Kensington Hatchery is unique in that it supports the last genetic strain of Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon, and a uniquely vibrant strain of large Seeforellen Brown Trout, both of which will be forever lost if the hatchery closes for just a few days. It is also the only source of juvenile trout and salmon for two very popular school programs: Trout Unlimited's "Trout in the Classroom" and the Connecticut River Salmon Association's "Salmon-in-Schools" which reach approximately 15,000 students per year in 170 schools. These school programs, carried out with the help of volunteers, are a cost-effective way of raising environmental awareness in Connecticut's youth. The hatchery also raises other trout that are stocked in our state waters.

The state's other two hatcheries are already at full capacity and, even if they were not, they lack the ground water quality and the chilled water capability necessary to raise Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon, the Seeforellens, and the trout and salmon eggs used in the school programs. The legacy strain of Connecticut River Salmon is the result of a more than 40 year breeding and recapture program, and that gene pool will disappear if Kensington is closed. Moreover, the post-spawn brood stock are released into Connecticut waters, providing over 7,000 Atlantic Salmon fishing trips for anglers each year.

Anglers are understandably frustrated with a system which requires them to pay license fees and to pay excise taxes on the fishing equipment they buy - which combined generates \$7.3 million in revenue to State coffers - only to see the programs they fund be cut in tough budget years. Which is why I support Representative Tong's bill (HB 6047), which would establish a task force to investigate sustainable funding for recreational fishing in general and the hatcheries in particular. Please support the passage of HB 6047, and until it, or something similar is enacted, support continued funding for Kensington Hatchery in this budget cycle.

Preserving Kensington Hatchery makes good sense economically, educationally, and environmentally.

Sincerely,

The best day of his fishing trip

By John Springer

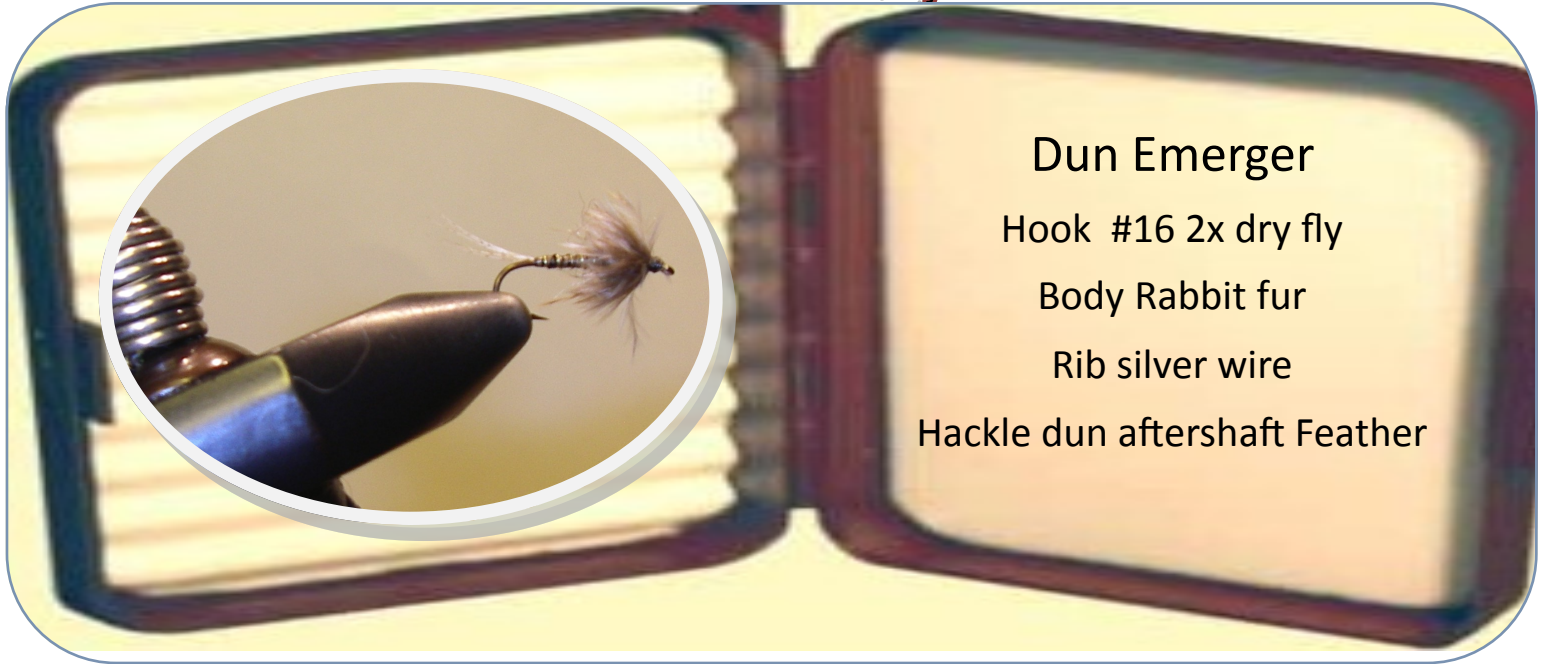
I interviewed Doctor Herb Van Kruiningen for a story about his best Atlantic salmon trip. His story surprised me. I hope you enjoy it.

Herb has been fishing Canada for over 20 years and the last 6-7 on the Matane River in Quebec province, with his friend Brian; they have been going to the same camp, Les Camps Tamagodi on Rt 195 in St-Rene-de-Matane. The owner of the camp Dennis and his son would let them know where the fish were if they were high or low Dennis would also fish with Herb and his friend at least one time on their visit. If you saw cars at a pool you did not fish it of course and moved on. The Matane River has 80 public pools, only on the upper 40 closed during hunting season you still wear orange on the lower pools in the fall. July is a very good time to go, as a run comes in. I have been Salmon fishing for 15 years and the little I know about them is that timing is everything. My good friend Ben always likes to say it takes two things to have a good shot at Salmon. Money and the luxury of being able to go when someone says the fish are in NOW so come. The river for those of you in Connecticut is the size of the Farmington, a medium size river. Cleats are a good idea as the river has boulders the size of basketballs in some areas, other parts the bottom is gravel, of course a wading staff is always a good idea. You need a Canadian fishing license and permits to fish each day, but a guide is not necessary. Herbs for flies liked a size 2 black leach tied with chartreuse or pearl topping. His friend Brian as well as the locals likes to use Blue Charm's in size 6 or 4 they also like small flies 8-10s. Green butt Black bear in a 6 is a favorite also. You can't add weight to your leader nor use weighted flies in Canada, sinking leaders are also not permitted.

Herb and his friends did not cook they took with them cereal and peanut butter on toast for breakfast, and they made sandwiches for lunch. After fishing they went out to eat they enjoyed the Hotel Le Metropole, also in St-Rene-de Matane for dinner. One of the things I have learned from Dave Goulet in our trips to the Canada is the local food leaves much to be desired. You must remember most of this fishing is in areas far from towns. This trip each of them got a grilse Herbs on a Mickey Finn Brian's on a Blue Charm.

"Our fishing was not very good and it was our last day so we tried pool #15, Les Cedars. It was our first time at this spot so we each took a different trail in, Brian was above me. I could see I had to cross as the water below on the far side looked best". When you salmon fish you must enjoy casting, they are known as the fish of 10,000 casts, while working my way toward a good looking spot I marked it as it was under the third spruce tree. Nature called and Herb got out of the river leaving his vest and rod in front of the spruce tree. After taking care of business he looked around the area for a good stick to cross the river on his way back, when he came through the trees no rod or vest. He was sure he left it in the exact spot he was looking and became very distraught when he could not find them. After an hour of searching he signaled Brian to come down and help, they locked arms and did a grid search for an hour and half. Brian figured it had been stolen. Neither had seen another angler so they were sure nobody came and stole it but as Herb said, I'm positive I left it right here. There were 2 trails back toward some houses; they each took a different path to check to see if the home owners had found the equipment. They decided the thing to do was to let Dennis the owner of the camp know what happened and ask him to put up a notice about it and hope someone turned everything in after finding them. They went back to the river and crossed over to where Herb had entered the stream and he saw his equipment, right where he left it, surely a very happy moment. Herb's lesson from this was that no matter how positive you can be about something, you can be wrong. Say's something about the reliability of eye witnesses! All he was thinking about was that third spruce tree and how good the water looked and finding a stick to cross back over. That was all the distraction that was needed for all this to happen. But it did make his most memorable fishing trip. Something I will take a liberty at saying is carrying a wading staff on his hip would have saved what was left of his fishing time and perhaps, just perhaps there was another fish under that third spruce tree. But we won't know till he goes back.

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Dun Emerger

Hook #16 2x dry fly

Body Rabbit fur

Rib silver wire

Hackle dun aftershaft Feather

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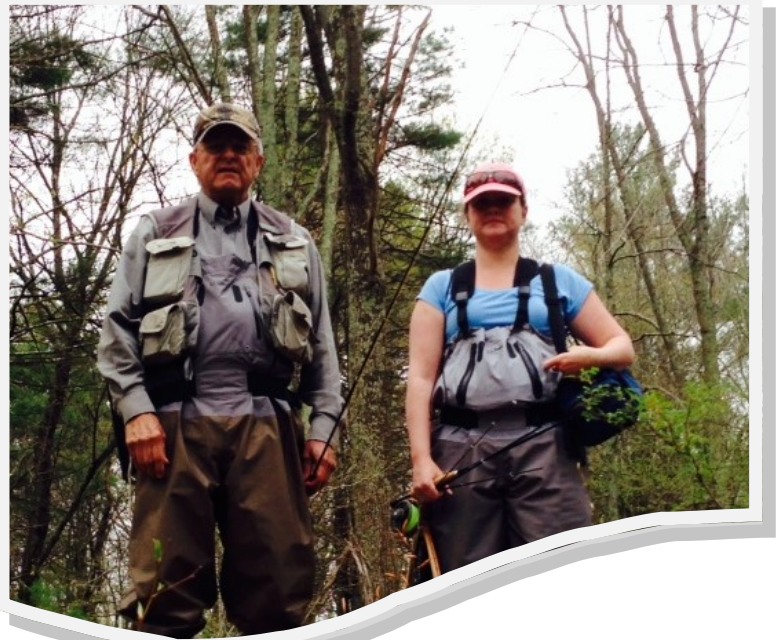
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YOUR club needs one of you to come forward to fill one open Position . Perhaps you have a few hours a month, if that to fill this position? As you already know some of us give many hours each month so everyone can enjoy themselves and learn more about fishing. 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 V.P.



So when you look at these pictures does it look like anyone is having a bad time? This could be you next year in the April newsletter. Seriously, Peter does need help 2 times. Even if you can only help one time it would be appreciated very much. Give him a call 860-620-2317

Captain Mark Dysinger



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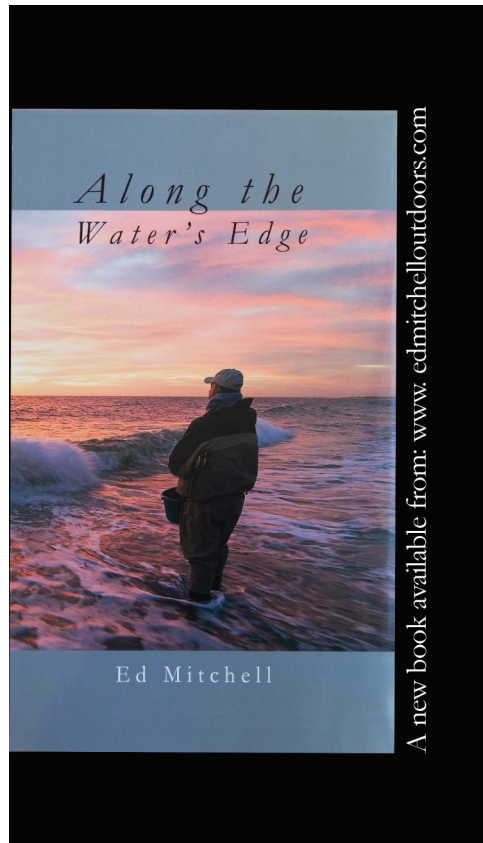
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. April 8th Monthly Meeting at the Clubhouse - Fly Tyers Roundtable
- Sat. April 11th Opening Day of Fishing - the 2nd Saturday in April this year
- Sat. April 18th Casting Class at the F&P Pond in E. Hartford - HELP NEEDED! - CALL PETER 860-620-2317
- May 9th Final fishing class on the Willimantic River HELP IS NEEDED CALL PETER 860-620-2317



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