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The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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FROM THE VEST OF THE
PRESIDENT

Opening Day
April 1941



From the vest of the President "Tis the Season, plan accordingly"

What New Englander does not enjoy spring? My guess is not very many people. There is something for everyone, especially for people who enjoy being outdoors.

As fly fisher's, the cold winter nights spent tying flies for the new season are done, the flies are all neatly arranged in their seasonal fly boxes. All of our equipment, waders, net, rods, reels, lines, were given a once over and we are ready to go. We start observing the weather with a little more interest. It did not matter much when we were stuck inside with the thermostat set at a comfortable number. However, now weather conditions must be considered as you form a fishing game plan. Strong wind and fly fishing don't mix very well; it is your biggest hassle. If the forecast says it will be real windy I'll leave my float tube in the garage, I'll also stay away from the coast where the wind is usually stronger and colder in the spring. Instead I'll pick a river; it may be a small one or a big one and the actual location on the chosen river will be selected based on the wind direction. Because rivers run in valleys there is always somewhere the effect of the wind can be minimized if you plan accordingly. Rain also figures into our plans. We all have the clothing to keep us dry in the rain so that is not the problem, it's the spring rain along with snow melt that have dramatic effects on the level and clarity of our streams and rivers.

I **NEVER** leave home without checking out this website that monitors Ct. Stream flows <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>. I highly recommend that you bookmark this sight and check it often before and after a day of fishing. If the river conditions were to your liking check the site and document the numbers in your river journal. Do the same if the conditions were not favorable. This way you can optimize your precious free time the next time you hit that river. I know my preferred levels at all of my favorite rivers and as a result I'm never am disappointed when I arrive. The decisions don't end here. Once you pick the river and arrive at the location, the puzzle solving continues. Spring hatches include stoneflies, mayflies and caddis in various color and size. Which one shall I start with, or should I begin with two flies in tandem, work upstream or downstream, subsurface or on the surface, retrieve fast or slow? If I've done my homework from the beginning, I should be able to execute a game plan that ends with positive results. It's the planning, anticipation and puzzle solving that make fly fishing so exciting and now that spring is here, let the games begin. Form a plan and get outside.

Gary

About the cover

The Editor

Last year Sandy and I went to the Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester Vt. Great place and also if you read they have a very good deal on used books. They have the covers for the New Yorker Magazine on display and I took pictures of them, they did this each year in April. Hope you enjoy it. I have several stories written by local fishermen and members to put in, I would like some more and also pictures please keep that in mind while your fishing now and have a bit of time to write something. Stories by just regular fishermen make a wonderful read, many have told me that.

John

CFFA Happenings

This spring we are conducting our annual Fresh Water Fly Fishing School for beginners. Pete Naples has done a great job as our Education Chairman coordinating all aspects of it. Pete will be asking our membership to assist these classes at our upcoming meetings and for those that can't make a meeting; please contact him if you have an interest in lending a helpful hand. Our educational classes, along with our library and monthly programs are what make us a viable organization in my opinion.

Recently I have observed efforts by 2 of our board members that I applaud and I'd like to mention. Both of them implemented new ideas that require participation to be successful. First, Dan Price organized a gathering of members to fly fish together on a river last fall. I know most of us love the solitude that fly fishing provides, but it can also be quite enjoyable to spend some time with others that share your passion. I'm pretty sure Dan is going to continue this in the upcoming season. The word will be passed along on our Face Book page at <https://www.facebook.com/CTFlyFish/?ref=ts> so check in once in a while if this kind of event interests you. I think you can read the page without being a Face Book member as it is open to the public. Then just show up or call Dan. We did this a few years ago when John Baracchi got a bunch of us to go "Float Tube Fly Fishing" together. Everyone enjoyed it and it's something we can do again. John has his own Armada of tubes for newbies that want to give it a try.

The second idea came from Bob Winot. He started a fly swap, another good way of getting members to interact with each other. I participated in his 1st swap of streamers and his second swap that were wet flies. My guess is there are some

members among us that have tying skills and don't participate for the simple reason they won't fish with a fly they did not tie themselves. To them I say "it is better to give than receive. Give it a try, accept the flies, copy the ones you like and give the flies you won't fish to someone you meet on the river or to a friend that does not tie". Others may not think they tie well enough to get in. To them I say "the only way to get better is to tie. So get in, you'll become a better tier because you did".

Our April meeting next week is our Round Table of Fly Tiers. Roger has some of the best fly tiers in Ct. participating. Yes, spring is here. Get out and enjoy an evening with others that share your passion. Gary



My Opening Day with friends

Ron Dunlevy guided Kevin Fuller and myself on our first day of fishing for 2016. Fishing was great lunch was great a great time was had by all. Send me some pictures from your trips big or small fish they are all good.

The Editor



Practice what you preach. (A fish story.)

Everyone has heard of the saying " Practice what you preach." Well, Peter Naples, Education Chairman, Rich Gilligan graduates of the Fly Tying Basic & Advanced Classes; Fly Fishing classes; a member of the "Train the Trainers, in the Art of Presenting the Fly" taught by Bill Keister, Master Fly Casting Instructor. Took this imperial knowledge and applied they on a recent float boat trip with Harrison Anglers on the Deerfield River on November 2nd.

First, no one instructed me on how to descend a 38 degree slop to the river, covered in leaves, moss, rocks, etc. Sliding on ones back side is acceptable. Once comfortable seated in the drift boat, off we go. It's never too cold, nor does it ever get old to fish.

Using all lessons learned we proceeded to cast 30-50 feet to our target until the guide *politely* reminded us the fish are neared the boat. No need to cast that far, and *especially*, " Do not roll--cast in the boat." Why, see me at next meeting and I'll show the back of my head. Nice if I knew that prior to roll-casting the bead headed Woolly Bugger. Well, Peter and our guide Tom were safe.

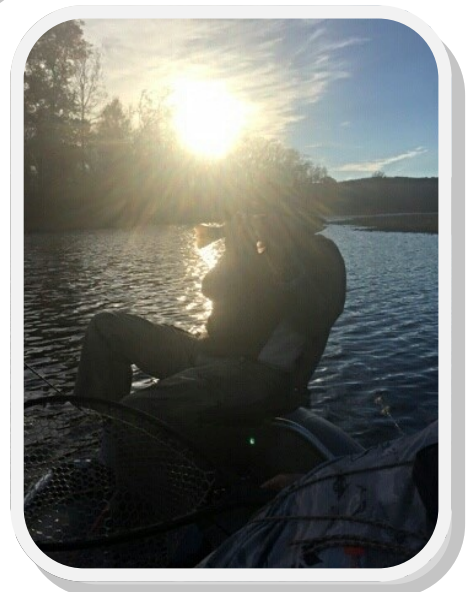
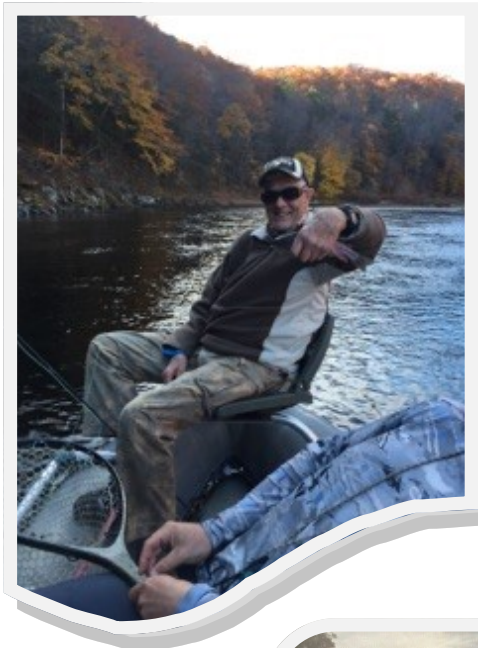
Fishing was a little slow from 9a.m. untill 11:30 a.m. Thing picked up with the first rainbow caught about 12:00 noon. Thirteen (13) rainbows were caught from noon to 4 p.m. Peter 7, Gilli 6; out fished! No respect for elders. That biggie brown is still lurking. This was the first day of daily savings time. Got dark early.

To make thing easer in establishing the length and weight of each catch of the day, we decided on a " Hand Hold" necessary to display fish method." Example, one hand hold, nice size; two hand hold nicer fish. We never caught a three hand hold!

Here is Peter's Two Hand Hold. And here is what a One Hand Hold looks like.

And lastly, here is the first rainbow caught. Excellent picture, sun at back, great view of fall foliage, good view of river. Well, guess the "photographer" needs lessons. It might be the biggest, brightest, two hand hold of the day. Well, we will never know.

A Fish-ie Story. Richard Gilligan (a.k.a. Gilli)



Students at the American School for the Deaf this winter and the CFFA members who teach them. 20 years ago this program started, Kevin Fuller and his volunteers keep it going. About 19 kids this year, Kevin will need help on May 17th to give a hand with casting and tying on flies you get a free meal so give Kevin a call and let him know you can



John Baracchi one of my biggest supporters for the program on the right. Peter Naples trying to figure out how to thread a bobbin on the left. Below is Kevin Fuller helping a kid, something he truly enjoys.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

River Instructions for the new fly fishers are needed on April 23rd Please give Peter Naples a call at 860-620-2317 to let him know you can give him a hand, remember you were new yourself.

May 17th Kevin Fuller needs help with the students from the American School for the Deaf give him a call to give a hand 860-632-2171

SAVE THE DATE

April 13th monthly meeting

June fishing in Vermont check out their website for these fish



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FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

