

 **Connecticut
Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.**

Presents 47TH ANNUAL

FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of CFFA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

featuring

Greg Hoover

Veteran fly tyer & fly fisherman

Entomology Professor, Penn State University

Co-Author, "Great River, Great Hatches"

For more info: CTFlyFish.org

Maneely's Banquets

65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT



EXPO

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$3 admission

Children under 16 FREE

Presentations

Fly Tyers Row

Kids' Fly Tying Table

Vendor tables

Demonstrations



BANQUET

Bucket Raffle & Presentation

\$45 per person

6 p.m. Cocktails & Raffle viewing

7 p.m. Dinner, Awards, Presentation, &

Drawings

Some Personalities of Great

Rivers of the United States

Reservations: Phil Apruzzese (860)-489-4319 or

pjapruz@aol.com or CTFlyFish.org

RSVP by January 28

Open seating or reserve tables of 10.

December Meeting

Paul Dinice

From the vest of the President

&

Dick Wemmell's Fly of the Month

Our first trip to Montana

By John Baracchi



Lou and I have been fly fishing together since I returned to Ct. in 2002. We fished Roscoe, Vermont, the salt in Rhode Island and we always talked about when we retire taking a trip to Montana. So on December 31st by coincidence Lou and I both retired from our jobs. In January we travelled as we usually do every year to Somerset for the fly fishing show. There we interviewed guides about fishing in Montana there we met a guide Nate was his name he owns and operates Montana Trout on the Fly. We liked Nate so we booked a September trip with him.

September 6th we flew into Bozeman picked up our rental car and headed to our reserved cabin in a campground in Camron Mt. The cabin was clean cozy and the beds were comfortable, we had a kitchen and stove which we didn't use and what the heck how much time were we going to spend in the cabin anyways?

We met Nate the next morning around 6:30 it was a Wednesday, Nate likes to get out early because he likes to hit the holes before other guides do so we had no problem getting up early to meet him. After checking our licenses we hopped in Nate's truck and headed to the Madison River between Ennis and Camron I guess. Scenery was awesome we saw bald eagles one golden eagle lots of deer crossing the river at different times and lots of prong horn antelope too!

The Madison was pretty shallow and at times the drift boat scraped the bottom but along the way we would cast and drift through holes which Nate called buckets and we would get strikes, many times we would miss hookups and Nate was beginning to get frustrated. After a while Nate asked us to get out and wade but I had great difficulty as I was on the mend from shingles and still in a lot of pain so I couldn't wade for too long. I went back to the boat and watched as Lou hooked this monster of a brown trout which must have took him 20 or 30 minutes to land and time after time I thought he would lose it but he landed it finally.

Thursday was my best day I hooked several fish many whitefish and some small rainbows and browns and finally I hooked a nice size brown on a size 18 fly. Later on that day we were fishing hoppers and as I remember Lou did quite well with them but as we were getting ready to land at the boat dock I spotted a hole I asked Nate if I could cast to it he said sure go ahead so I did and the second that hopper hit wham fish on! I hooked and landed a nice big rainbow so along with the many fish I landed and Lou landed not counting the strikes we missed it was a pretty good day.

Friday we fished but it was windy and we didn't do so well caught a few lost a lot of them but all in all a good day and fish or no fish it still beats working. We headed to the tavern had beer with Nate told him we would see him in Somerset in January and headed back to the cabin.

Saturday we headed to Yellowstone, and to our surprise were given senior national park admission cards so that we can enter any national park for free! Lou wanted to see Old Faithful and so did I so we headed there looking at the hot springs and herds of elk along the way. Old Faithful was awesome to say the least and we headed back to Bozeman for the night.

This Montana trip was a dream come true for Lou and I and we still talk about how we miss Montana and when we will be able to go back there. We had a great time and thanks to our wonderful attentive guide Nate we even learned a lot. Especially me because those of you that know me also know I'm not a big river guy, I prefer the solitude and comfort of my pontoon boat or float tube I'm more of a Stillwater guy but the Madison River has me hooked and maybe just maybe I should explore more of the rivers around here. Hopefully I will and hopefully I will fish Montana again real soon.

Nate will be at Somerset in January so if you happen to attend the show make sure you stop by and say hey to him.

J.B. :0)



From the vest of the President



The winter season is here and that is a busy time of year for our CFFA. Our educational classes are forming and the plans for our upcoming banquet are being finalized. Neither happens without contributions from our membership.

Our dates are set for our beginning fly tying classes. They will happen on Thursday evenings in January and February at Cabela's in East Hartford. These classes offer beginner students a great initial experience in the art of fly tying. We provide everything they need tool and material wise along with plenty of wisdom. We will also be assisting Kevin Fuller lead the fly tying classes at The American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. Both programs allow members a chance to share their passion and beat the winter doldrums at the same time.

Kurt & Roger are working on our annual Expo & Banquet and things are going accordingly. This upcoming year we celebrate our 50th anniversary and Denise is working on a CFFA patch recognizing this achievement. It will be available soon. Please arrange you schedules now so you are free to attend one or both events this February 4th.

I realize a good number of our members are not able to attend our monthly meetings for one reason or another so I will continue to share events of our previous meeting through this vest.

CFFA member Bill Keister was our November speaker and his presentation was excellent. Three

members demonstrated their fly tying skills prior to the presentation and all received plenty of attention. We also had three young men that were attending their 1st CFFA meeting and all expressed an interest in becoming members and participating in our upcoming classes.

Making 1st timers feel welcome at all of our meetings is very important to the future of our CFFA and something we should continually strive to accomplish.

When our BOD announcements were done, I asked if anyone had any questions or suggestions and we had a few. One member advised everyone that the television station (CPTVSP) broadcasts a few shows that may be of interest. The name of the 1st show is "Fly Tying: The Angler's Art" and "The New Fly Fisher" was the second. Thanks for bringing this to our attention Ed. My DVR has been set to record both since your announcement was made and I'm enjoying both. Check your provider for the channel number. I have Frontier and the number is 065.

The other member's suggestion was that we need to attract some younger members. On this we all agree. Upon hearing this CFFA member, Don LaChance approached me during our refreshment break with an idea. I liked it and he has since moved quickly. He contacted the local council of the Boy Scouts of America and firmed up the possibility of our CFFA, along with Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited, help scouts attain their Fly Fishing Merit Badge. We will be moving forward with this and will need assistance from our membership in this worthwhile deed. I will keep you informed as we move along. In the meantime I will start taking names of members with an interest in helping.

Don is the new Vice President and Membership Chairman of the Farmington Valley T.U chapter and very involved with their program, **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing**: (PHWFF) is a program started in 2005 at Walter Reed Medical Center to help disabled veterans heal through fly fishing. There are over 160 programs nationally in support of our veterans. A number of our CFFA members have been participating in this program. It is a good chance to give back to those who gave

so much. The tying instructions take place once a month on Thursday mornings from 10am-Noon at the VAMC building in Newington. The future dates are 1/19, 2/16, 3/16. Fly casting instruction happens in April & May and a field trip to the Farmington River happens in June. As Veteran's Day was just celebrated last month with parades and free dinners this is an opportunity to give a veteran something they can enjoy throughout the year, maybe a lifetime. Consider this time volunteering truly worthwhile. Contact me and I'll pass your name along.

So there you have it. Opportunities abound to help you get through this winter season. Some are evenings and some are daytime events. Please help when and where you can. You won't regret it, I promise.

Gary

MOP FLIES

While fishing down south last year, my friend Eddie Hudon, of Blue Chip Fly Fishing, showed me some Mop Flies. I was very taken back by the looks of them to say the least. It happened the water was very high on this day and dirty; he gave me one of his orange flies. It caught fish and I was hooked. Since then people up here have discovered them; our president included. The material for these flies has been bought in Target, Auto supply stores, Ocean State Job Lot to name a few. They also had it in small amounts in bags in North Carolina at fly shops. "GOOGLE" mop flies and check them out.

A fly that worked very well for me a few weeks ago was the Donkey Kong fly Eddie shared with me I think the rubber legs are a trigger with that fly.



Note from fellow Angler

While doing this months newsletter I got this email from a transplanted Yankee I know in Georgia, follow his instructions for more info on Mop Flies as well as the great fishing they have in Georgia.

Your gang may be informed and entertained by googling "north Georgia trout online."

To sneak a peek before joining, click on "message board" and then "jump right in. "You'll see the mop fly in the "tying tips" forum. You'll also see my north GA. reports in General Info. Hope this fire-side chat room helps keep y'all interested and outa mischief til your streams and fingers thaw. Happy holidays to your fine Yankee bunch!

Dredger



CLUB MEMBERS DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST

Thank you Paul Nott for sharing even though you could have had a better fishing partner in your pictures :-). These pictures were taken deep in the woods of Maine. Thank you to those that sent in some pictures more are always welcome with a write up on what and where they were taken. This month we have some secret spots shared by several long time members and even the fly that worked best for them.



PAUL NOTT'S BROOKIE FLY



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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Eddie Hudon guide, Blue Chip Guide service all the waters around [Cherokee North Carolina](#) really showed me around. eddiehudon66@gmail.com



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Monthly Meeting December 14th 7 PM Speaker - Paul Dinice

This is a very different program. Instead of focusing on catching more fish, or discussing a fly fishing destination, the primary focus is on the fly fisherman. What is it that drives us to be so passionate about the 'Quiet Sport'? This program examines the various 'stages' in a fly fishers life, including the initial 'discovery' of the sport, the need to learn and educate ourselves more about it, it's addictive powers, the friendships it has helped us form, the spirituality it has given us, and how it has provided us with a better understanding about where we fit in the world and universe.



SAVE THE DATES

**FARMINGTON VALLEY
TROUT UNLIMITED**
Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's noblest fisheries and their watersheds.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
6 – 8:30 p.m.
Farmington Community Center
321 New Britain Avenue
Unionville, CT
FREE ADMISSION

ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE

* 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.fvu.org for updates on this event.

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P.O. Box 380268
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