



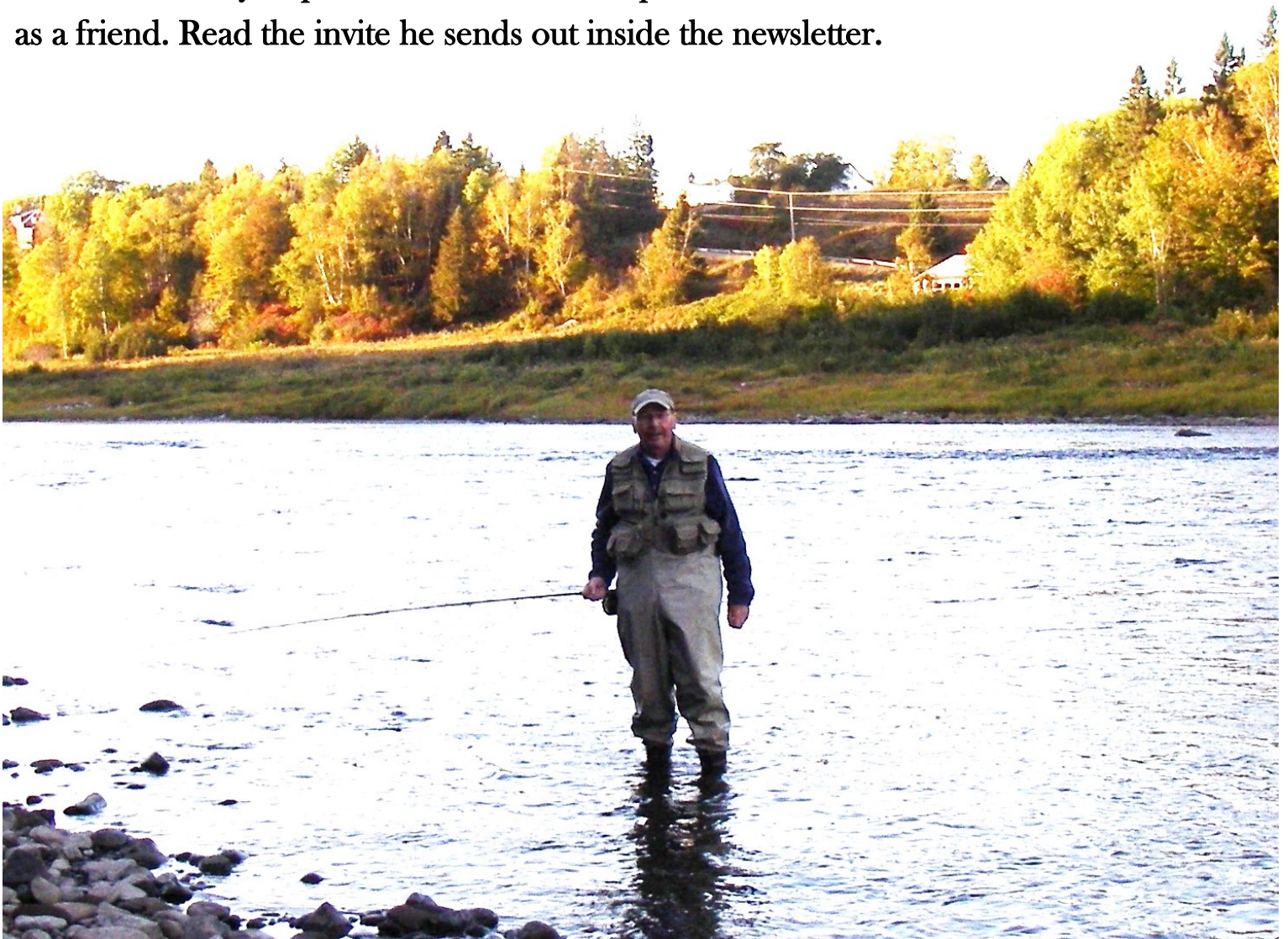
FROM THE VEST OF THE
PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER MEETING
BILL KEISTER

DICK WEMMELL'S
FLY OF THE MONTH

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

Dave Goulet who was the most generous fly shop owner that I know fishing his beloved Miramichi river this past fall, he has fished the river for over 40 years and everyone you meet in the Gray Rapids area knows and respects him. I am most fortunate to have him as a friend. Read the invite he sends out inside the newsletter.



From the vest of the President



It is now November and fly-fishing for the majority of us is winding down if not over. I tend to fish when conditions are favorable right through the winter and I know a few of you do also. For us diehards there are still some opportunities to catch some great fish. Locally November is a great month to target Northern Pike. Pike up to 36" go on the feed before winter and can be found in the coves off the Ct. River until they freeze over. I throw large flies with my 8wt. from my Fishcat 4 float tube during the warmest part of the day when I target these. If Pike don't interest you, our state hatchery stocks a good number of brood stock Atlantic Salmon in selected lakes and rivers throughout November. They are not easy to catch but when you do you may have a salmon weighing up to 15 lbs. at your feet to admire. The Ct. Anglers guide is your best resource for information on what waters are stocked with these along with the correct regulations explaining how one can legally fish for them. Warm waders and fleece under them are a wise choice.

November is also the best month to catch a trophy steelhead trout in my opinion. The Salmon River is a short 4 1/2 hour ride from Hartford to Pulaski N.Y. In November the steelhead are fresh out of the lake and about as strong and acrobatic as any fish you will ever catch. The water in the rivers they ascend is still relatively warm

(50's), and they are eating well on Chinook & Coho Salmon eggs as their spawn has recently happened. I make an annual trip with my buddies and I know a bunch of our members make the trip also. Hooking a steelhead is hard, landing one is even harder. Two years ago I hooked 19 in a 4 day trip and only landed one. My leader only broke once, all the other were lost when angry steelhead threw the hook right back at me. Last year my hooked to landing ratio was much better but still not great. Like a baseball hitter if you succeed 3 of 10 times you are doing as well as the best when fly fishing for these magnificent fish. It is disappointing to lose so many but when you finally successfully land one the feeling of disappointment leaves and elation replaces it. If you choose to give it a try be warned there is nothing easy about this endeavor and it is totally addicting.

Our October meeting like most of our meetings was very well attended. I was very happy that John Walker displayed his Fly Tying skill prior to the presentation. Judging by the crowd around him I'm guessing everyone learned something they could use when they sit down at their own vice. I always enjoyed tying before our meetings and I do miss it. Our speaker Jim Turecek gave a good presentation on saltwater fly fishing the Gloucester area. It is less than 3 hours from Hartford and very appealing. Jim is really a wealth of knowledge and I did not get to pick his mind as long as I would have liked to. As it was he had a crowd around him until 9:30 and would have stayed longer if there were more questions. I did invite him to our annual expo and he said he would love to be part of it if he is available that day. We also had a few members from Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited in attendance and received a nice donation from them in honor of Bruce Rich. They also made a few announcements of their upcoming events that can be found on their website <http://fvtu.org/> for those of you that were not at the meeting.

The saying goes technology is great when it works. It is true. We began using a service named Mail Chimp last month. Mail Chimp is free and used by many to get information to their membership. If you receive an elec-

tronic church newsletter it is probably sent via Mail Chimp. We decided to use it outside our monthly newsletter to get reminders and important messages out to our members instantly. We will not bombard you with these. When there is a trail clearing or stocking scheduled on the Willimantic River we can use it. When legislation at the capital might affect fishing we can use it. When we hold another mentoring session and we need to get the word out we can use it and so on. The only thing we need is your e-mail address. We do have the majority of our membership on hand. The group we have the least of are our Life Members. Some of them became life members before e-mail was around. If this is your case and you'd like to stay informed our Facebook Page has a new column where you can give us your e-mail address. If you don't feel good about that option you can call or send a note to our membership chairman Phil McCormick. Better yet, if able, we'd love to have your presence at one of our monthly meetings you can hand deliver it to us. A huge thank you goes to Debbie Jagielow for setting this up.

Gary



I want to thank Irv Stanly and Gary Bogli for sending me these pictures and for taking a kid fishing, something not done enough.



GENTLEMEN: [this salutation does not apply to MNY]

Yesterday setting outside at first light I was startled to hear a large flock of Canada Geese flying overhead and even though the temps have been in the mid 90,s for some time, all thoughts immediately turned to salmon fishing. Time is approaching fast for the 46th ANNUAL GATHERING OF A SELECT GROUP

OF EXTRAORDINARY SALMON ANGLERS [this statements excludes those among us who use bait and cone heads.] This years gathering will take place at the completely renovated Chipper Lodge [A.K.A. CHEZ FONTLEROY] We will have the use of this luxurious facility courtesy of the new owners Patrick ,John and Christopher Byrne. The camp comes appointed with hot and cold water, showers, dish washer, and a complete kitchen

[SORRY MNY NO PEELERS]

Numerous additional appointments are 3 bedrooms all wood walls and floors a gas fireplace ,a/c, a vast collection of angling art, a fly tying room and many other appointments which includes a huge covered porch which runs the full length of the camp and has a beautiful view overlooking the famous Grey Rapids Pool.



The trip will be 2 weeks long and you are invited to come both weeks or one. or part of one
The dates are as follows

1ST WEEK ARRIVE SATURDAY SEPT, 24 [NO FISHING THAT DAY THROUGH LEAVE EARLY SATURDAY OCT. 1 NO FISHING THAT DAY

2ND WEEK ARRIVE SATURDAY OCT.1 [NO FISHING THAT DAY] THROUGH LEAVE EARLY SATURDAY OCT 8 NO FISHING THAT DAY

IN CASE OF HIGH WATER WE MAY DECIDE TO LEAVE EARLY

PLANS REGARDING GUIDES, FOOD AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS NEED TO BE MADE QUICKLY, PLEASE R.S.V.P.A/S.A.P

This was my email from Dave back in August if you know Dave, you know how much he loves to bust chops and how he feels about New Yorkers. One angler had a fish on for a few seconds, one angler had a hit. No fish were caught and as Dave said to me, if you come up and you don't catch a fish and this means you had a bad trip, don't come that's Salmon fishing.



This letter was written by the board of directors for the Farmington River anglers. This is a very important issue take a moment to read it and give them some support by making a phone call, writing a letter or sending an email.

A Letter to the MDC Representing the views & opinions of the FRAA Membership and Board of Directors

The FRAA submits the following letter, signed by our President, representing the approval by vote of the membership, to the MDC Board of Directors. Our goal is to protect and conserve the sport fishing waters of the Farmington River. Further, we seek a voice within the framework of the MDC operations as pursuant by the MDC Charter, section 2-14. We seek to do so in spirit of cooperation, goodwill and compromise, so as to protect what is considered the Jewel of Connecticut - The natural resources of the Farmington River. A Letter to the MDC Representing the views & opinions of the FRAA Membership and Board of Directors

A fellowship of anglers, organized to preserve and promote the pleasures and traditions of angling, to conserve sport fishing waters; especially the Farmington River and it's watershed.

We respectfully ask that MDC conduct scheduled, advertised meetings, every two months, hosted by qualified MDC personnel, who can directly respond to the public inquires on MDC's water management, policies, procedures and planning efforts. This meeting may need to include DEEP representatives when needed. Summary: The MDC's needs to be publically transparent and responsive concerning MDC's handling of the public's water.

- We respectfully ask to publically review, re-visit, discuss, and debate needed adjustments, tweaks, additions and updates to MDC regulations at the above public meetings. MDC should encourage and promote, input from end users and recreational stakeholders, on regulations, charter revisions, legislation etc. for water distribution within the State of Connecticut. Summary: MDC's outspoken encouragement for public involvement and MDC meeting transparency is vital for this process to maintain credibility in the eyes of the general public.

We respectfully ask that all facets of the Farmington River Watershed (FRW) be allowed to flow, in balance, to better protect the resource. When all parts of the FRW system are involved, we lessen the strain of employing only the West Branch in response to drought conditions. We believe that re-creating and then keeping the East Branch water flowing, would offer a better balanced flow and cooler, stabilized water temperatures, especially during times of drought, downstream of the Rt. 219 bridge. Summary: The East Branch particularly needs a consistent, seasonal water flow to protect flora and fauna down to the confluence of the West Branch, allowing continual flow benefits downstream through to Collinsville and beyond. •

We respectfully request that a State of Connecticut Legislative Representa-

ive, possibly from the Environmental Committee, be present for and requested to attend, in writing, by the MDC, to the above requested public meetings, conferences, roundtables etc. Summary: The Legislative Branch needs to be represented and take part in the public meetings of the MDC so as to report back to legislative sub-committees and thus protect the Farmington River's stakeholder's interests.

For example: How did MDC respond to the 2013 Fish Kill? What specifically was learned and how were these lessons implemented? Summary: What specific regulation updates were implemented due to the lessons learned of the 2013 Fish Kill? For example: Too much strain is now placed on only one portion of the FRW, specifically the West Branch resources of Colebrook and Hogback. The East Branch's resources also needs to be involved, without last minute exclusions by the MDC, so as not to ham-string planning in time of drought and to promote balance within the entire FRWS system. Summary: One central, public web site is needed for a reference by the public so as to better understand all limitations in place during a drought, along with any new proposed restraints on water flow (CFS). For example: A review and revision to 1990 era regulations that require "immediate seasonal high-water releases of over 150 CFS from Otis Reservoir". Review and updating of this outdated regulation will enable better planning controls for a more balanced flow over the entire season, especially taking into account the now better-than-normal possibility of low summer-to-fall rainfalls. Summary: Better early-wet season planning is needed to better anticipate late season drought. For example: After a regularly scheduled, weekly, Monday morning flow review meeting conducted by MDC, the west Branch's CFS is adjusted, in accord to decisions reached at this closed meeting. Why is this weekly CFS adjustments not broadcast immediately, via email, to ALL interested parties? At present, this public water distribution decision has limited email distribution through a pre-qualified email list which is pre-approved only by MDC. Any stakeholder should be able to receive these weekly emails. Summary: All stakeholders and end-users need to have available the weekly MDC CFS decisions via email. For example: We need to re-visit the water demands and regulations concerning Rainbow Dam. This should include a new FERC license of the dam, a review of it's construction and the licensing of any future modifications and the overall water demand and usages. Summary: The grandfathered clauses and agreements need to be re-negotiated - with revised water demands.



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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The educated trout and other myths

UPCOMING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE



**Handmade Gifts, Delicious Treats,
a Visit with Santa . . . and more!**

Saturday, November 19th

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Porter Memorial Hall

The First Church of Christ, Congregational, 1652
75 Main Street • Farmington, CT 06032 • www.firstchurch1652.org

What you believe about trout determines what you will do when they get hard to catch. Do you think trout get smarter as they get older? Are there PhD trout? Do they learn about fly patterns and the tactics that anglers use to catch them? How do they make decisions about what they are going to eat? Using personal experience and a body of literature this program examines how trout perceive their world. How they make decisions about what they are going to eat. What part prey image plays in the process? How past ideas have affected the way we fish today. The program seeks to answer the question of why if they are such simple animals they can appear to be such intelligent, discriminating animals. And why they can thwart good anglers on a pretty consistent basis with a brain the size of pea.



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FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

