

October Meeting Jim Turecek

Special Thanks!

Al Sonski! After dedicating 31 years to rearing salmonids, has retired.

Al began his career with the DEP back in 1985 at the Quinebaug Valley Trout hatchery as a Fish Hatchery Supervisor. In 1989 he transferred to the Kensington Hatchery in the same position, at a time when the hatchery was used solely for the production of Atlantic Salmon as part of the cooperative multi-state Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon restoration project. Al's keen intellect and overall knowledge base allowed him to assess, diagnose and solve any problem regarding the fish he was raising or the operation of the Kensington facility. His career spanned over 31 years. Al's experience, dedication to his profession and keen sense of humor will be sorely missed by the Inland Fisheries Division and especially those who worked closely with him over these many years.

The millions of fish that Al produced over his 31 years undoubtedly have made great fish stories and memories for Connecticut's Anglers, helped to raise awareness of trout and salmon for hundreds of thousands of Connecticut's youth

(through supporting school-based fish programs), and gave hope for many that Atlantic Salmon could one day return to the Connecticut River after being driven to extinction in the late 1700's.



Al, we and the sportsmen of Connecticut are grateful for your professionalism and service, best of wishes and tight lines in your retirement!

From Editor, I got to know Al from TU about 5 years ago. He always welcomed questions about his fish IE: how they were raised what goes wrong, what goes right. He took the time to show my friend and I the Quinebaug Hatchery from start to finish with the fish raising. Believe me when I tell you more goes on than you know. Al was part of a very small group of people that raised our fish that we dream about catching and think about all the time. He and his men are very dedicated to making us happy. My friend Ron the Chef Donleavy have fished with Al and look forward to many more years of friendship with him. It is very sad that every time the state spends more than it takes in for so many non tax payers they always want to cut places like our hatchery's and the staff that we pay for in our license fee's. This is why when each attack and there will be many more you are asked to write a letter or make a call to your representative to let them know you fish and don't want any cuts towards the hatchery's or the staff and you don't want less fish grown either.



From the vest of the President



October is here and with it are cool mornings and warm afternoons, a superb month to be outside enjoying whatever you like to do most. If you're a 1st light fisherman you can sleep a little later and if you love the evening hatch or bite you don't have to wait as long. It is also a great month to target migrating fish. Our shoreline becomes an avenue for both baitfish and gamefish.

Last Thursday, 9/22, I took a ride with my friend Joe K scouting the shore. We stopped and looked along the way beginning in New London and ending in Narragansett R.I. Joe has evolved into a fine Salt & Fresh Water Fly Fisherman and a great fly tier since joining our CFFA. Way back when I was a beginning fly fisherman in 1972, Joe was my High School baseball coach. We both had a passion for fishing, I would talk fly fishing and he would talk spin fishing. I kept in touch for a few years after high school and we ultimately drifted apart until my kids were in high school 2000 -2003. I was at a basketball game one evening when the football coach working security came up to me and asked, "Guess who is now into FLY Tying?" I called Joes wife Pat the next day to inform Joe about our CFFA. He instantly joined,

took all of our classes and now helps wherever and whenever he can. We now tie flies and fly-fish together regularly, it's amazing how life has its twists and turns and we somehow end up where we are supposed to be. Oh yeah, the trip to Narragansett was a successful one. We fished the ebbing tide on the Narrow River. The weather was about as perfect as it gets for casting flies. It had been a while since I last threw a long line. My timing was off in the beginning but did get in rhythm pretty quick, much quicker than my golf swing does after a long layoff. Joe, on the other hand, was easily reaching the other side of the channel where the Hickory Shad were holding. His line of choice was an intermediate and at the end of his leader he attached two identical flies, the Orange Ruthless. If the Shad saw it they ate it. He pretty much had at least one fish every cast, sometimes two. Joe tied this pattern at one of our Fly Tying Round Tables and handed out tying instructions at the same time. If you were there and got them I suggest you tie some up as this pattern is also a proven winner with striped bass, if not try a Google search for the tying instructions. About the time daylight faded into darkness we had each caught plenty of fish so we called it a day, a fine fall day.

Our September meeting was very well attended and Gary Bogli put on a wonderful presentation of what Labrador has to offer. It was great to see everyone after a long hot summer. For those of you that were not able to attend, Tom Chrosniak , president of the Ct. River Salmon Association presented our CFFA with a donation in honor of Bruce Rich. The money will be used wisely. Bruce would be pleased. Tom also mentioned that they are short on volunteers for their Salmon in the School program they provide annually. A few CFFA members that have volunteered in the past stood up and spoke about how rewarding an experience it was to participate. Any time we can help educate our young children with environmental and conservation issues it tends to pay back down the road. So if you were not at the meeting and you'd like some details on this program call Tom at 860-729-5064.

I am really looking forward to the upcoming meeting. I have fished the Gloucester area a few times with good results. It is not a long ride so I will be taking notes. In fact Jim Turecek has so much experience I am going to invite him to be part of our Expo this February 4th. I hope he is available that day and willing to tie flies in our fly tiers row. He is a wealth of knowledge. I'd love to see some fly tying prior this meeting and all of our monthly meetings, or any tips & tricks your willing to share.

Our brand new mentoring program where CFFA members continue to educate former students and new members is getting its start on Saturday October 8th on the Farmington River. Members will be needed to share their knowledge. If you are available that day please consider lending a hand. Call the number for Phil below or e-mail to let him know you will be there. I love this idea and consider it an investment in our CFFA future. Gary

Join experienced CFFA Members on the 8th of October, 2016 for a CFFA "New" Member On Water Day

Where: Peoples State Forest - Matthies Grove, Barkhamsted

Park in Lot on Left for Fishermen

Time: 7:30 a.m. to.....

Free Coffee and Donuts from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Sign Up by October 7, 2016 – Email: Phil Apruzzese, pjpapuz@aol.com or call Phil: 860-459-7540

New members are any member in good standing (paid membership) over the past 3 years. Not a current member? Join on or before Oct. 8, 2016 and you can join us for a great day. <http://ctflyfish.org/.../35-membership-form-new-or-renewal.ht...>



Speaker of the month

JIM TURECEK

This lecture and slide presentation takes you on a tour of a number of the beautiful spots in the area surrounding Gloucester and Rockport, Mass. We will explore a number of different habitats from the tidal creeks of the Anasquam to the rockbound shores of Gloucester and the beaches and jetties of Rockport and Cape Ann. You will be awed by the pictures of the mass migration of immature bunkers, and the feeding frenzy of bass and bluefish that follow them, as they travel down the sea coast. After seeing this talk, you will understand why I have been making this a yearly journey for the last three decades. I will give you an in-depth look at this area and its prey species and predators.

I will, also, set up a display of a number of the prey species from the area and the flies that best imitate them. All of my fly patterns were designed in the mid seventies, after many hours of studying the prey species under water.



Some scenes from the Maramchi river



Olympic Fly Fishing,

Why Not?

(Reprinted from Facebook Post August 21, 2016)

By Dan Price

Watching the Olympics for the past two weeks has given me an opportunity to do some serious thinking. Actually, the miserable hot and humid weather has really put a dent in activities outdoors, particularly fly fishing for trout in the Farmington River. This article or rant was really inspired by my wife when she casually queried, "Does the Olympics have fly fishing as an event?" "Well of course not, I callously re...plied. Fly Fishing is of those sports that sit in the middle between Chess and Tiddlywinks when it comes to the Olympics. It takes years of practice, stong will and a good deal of intestinal fortitude." So, it probably wouldn't, (ah, maybe), qualify as an Olympic event.

Then the old gray cells began to percolate and produced a bit of off the wall analysis. Why not have an Olympic Fly Fishing Event? We have all the requirements: Men and Women are equally eligible. (check); Water Sport? – (check); Multiple Categories: Fresh or Salt Water, River, Stream, Pond or Lake, Summer and Winter (check); Fish Species Galore – Trout, Bass, Stripers, Salmon etc. (check)

What about athletics skills needed? – Fly Casting Skills Competition – Distance, Accuracy, Types of Equipment, Saltwater, Spey, Freshwater and on and on. Oh, don't forget style points are covered in the casting competition as judges can decide the relative merits on a 6 point scale of a well placed Overhead, Roll, Steeple or Slack line cast. How about adding Fly Tying as an event? – 3 heats with nymphs,

dries and wets. If athletic skills are important, we can have backcountry fly fishing with trekking, and in different conditions, such as rain, snow and mountain terrain. I think this puts us right up with Nordic Combined in the winter sports.

Reviewing some of the lesser known Olympic sports, I thought that Fly Fishing could easily compete with Rhythmic Gymnastics, Beach Volleyball, or Synchronized Swimming. (I want to apologize now if I have offended any practitioners of these other sports).

Fly Fishers of Connecticut, the IFF and the world, let's start a movement to get Fly Fishing and all the fun and competitiveness of our sport to be entered for 2020 under exhibition status. Surely, after a two week trial in 2020, the Olympic organizers would immediately move Fly Fishing up to permanent status.

Think about it, when you get tired of watching the 39th heat for some event, you can just tune in to the Fly Fishing Olympic Channel, and catch (pun intended), the gripping tension and awesomeness of the fly fishing competition. By 2024, Fly Fishing should become an official Olympic sport alongside all the great events that we have come to know that comprise the Olympics.

If this doesn't work, maybe we can just get together at some local establishment and hold a liars contest.

Let your voices be heard. Shout out for Olympic Fly Fishing!! Please send endorsement and support letter to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Committee.



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Millers River Special Pattern by Paul Kukonen

Hook- Sealey #17628

Thread- UTC 140

Tail-Golden Pheasant Tippetts

Body- Gold Braided MylarWing-Yellow
Bucktail on top Black Squirrel tail

Shoulders- Gold Pheasant red side feather

Cheeks-Jungle Cock

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