



Hardy Bridge over the Missouri river on a July evening

SEPTEMBER MEETING SPEAKER

Gary Bogli

On Left Ron Dunleavy on the Salmon River with another fish, after a hard morning of fishing we shared a sandwich from the Colchester Market if you have never been there, try it. Below Yolanda Springer at the Quinebaug Hatchery a place she enjoyed very much.



**In
Memory
of the
women
in the
red hat**

From the vest of the President



The dog days of August are typically the time of year when I get some things done around the house in order to free up some time for fall fishing. As all of you know this summer has been way too dry and our rivers and streams have suffered. So this fall will be a bust for trout fishing unless we get our waters replenished by Mother Nature. We are so lucky to have the bottom release of water that keeps the upper reaches of the Farmington River cool during these stressful times. It's the only game in town for many miles. I pray that some of the great fish in the lower TMA find a way to survive this drought. I have not fished below Collinsville since the beginning of July. That's when the water temperature started to hit the 70 degree mark in the evenings. Some states (Montana) shut their rivers down at the 70 degree threshold to protect their money maker. Connecticut does not so it is up to us to fish with the well-being of our precious trout in our minds. Please use a thermometer and common sense when you get to the river.

If we don't get the needed rain there is always something else to fly fish for. Saltwater shorelines will soon have Bonito and False Albacore joining up with Bluefish and Stripers and one that gets very little attention, the Hickory Shad. These fish

are much underrated and take a fly with gusto. They probably average 1 ½ -3 pounds and 14- 20 inches. Use your lightest saltwater outfit for these and you will enjoy every minute of each battle. In fact if these fish inhabited our freshwater streams and rivers my guess is they would be a prime target and the rivers would be crowded with fly fishermen seeking them. And if the Salt is not your thing try fly fishing for some carp, bass, pike, or sunfish to float your boat until our rivers recover.

Happenings

Pete Naples and Richard Gilligan are exploring the feasibility of conducting an advanced fly tying school that would focus on advanced techniques. This school is still in an initial planning stage so if you have any suggestions on what you would like to be included please contact us. Your thoughts are important and will be given consideration.

Don La Chance from Farmington Valley T.U. and I had a meeting at his suggestion in July to discuss the possibility of sharing publicity of each of our organizations events to help promote them where we would both benefit. They would still do their thing and we would still do ours but both would be able to draw volunteers from each organization to ensure the events success. A few of their members helped us with the live cart stocking of the Willimantic last spring and their help was very much appreciated.

I know it's early to be talking about our February Expo & Banquet but 2017 is a special year for our CFFA. It's our 50th anniversary so let's make the day and evening memorable. We have secured our featured guest that will be available throughout the expo and also at dinner. I'd love to see tables filled with members that attended in previous years and were a big part of what we are today.

Gary

1st Atlantic Salmon Fishing Trip By Ben Bilello

In anticipation of my first Atlantic salmon fishing trip, I was a sponge, soaking up as much information as possible from any and all sources. My destination was where many North American salmon fishermen get their start, the Miramichi River. Reading books and articles on the Miramichi was helpful, but they didn't answer all of my questions. Unbeknownst to me, I already knew an authority on Atlantic salmon fishing, fly tying and, most of all, the Miramichi fishery itself.

Dave Goulet was the proprietor of the Classic and Custom Fly Shop in New Hartford, Connecticut. The shop was a stone's throw from Connecticut's premier trout stream, the Farmington River. A major tributary of the Connecticut River, the Farmington once hosted a run of Atlantic salmon in its freestone days. Very few salmon return now, but the river has taken on new life as what many consider the best tailwater trout fishery in New England. The Farmington is known for its prolific hatches and finicky brown trout. Dave is a bonafide expert on both. Many of his original fly patterns have become staples in the boxes of local anglers. If one has a question about the Farmington, its trout or its insects, Dave Goulet most likely has an answer.

My primary mentor and entrée into the world of Atlantic salmon fishing was my good friend and professional music colleague, Doug Schlink. When Doug told me to talk to Dave in preparation for our Miramichi trip, I was surprised. I was already a C&C customer, but I thought Dave was the local trout fishing/fly tying guru. It turns out he was the local salmon fishing/fly tying guru, as well. The Connecticut trout fishing community is relatively large. The local salmon fishing community is much smaller, which might explain why I hadn't known about Dave's expertise. Coincidentally, it was Dave who helped Doug prepare for his first Atlantic salmon fishing trip about twenty-five years earlier. I announced my plans to Dave and, that day, I left his shop with a list of a dozen "must have" flies for late September on the Miramichi.

After one evening salmon fly tying session with Doug and the requisite material hunt which followed, I became a salmon fly tying machine. I remember bringing a handful of Blue Charms to C&C for Dave to inspect. He was very encouraging and always provided helpful fly tying tips. I stopped by the shop and got my dose of salmon wisdom before every Farmington River trout fishing excursion. Before I knew it, my first Miramichi trip had come and gone, but the experience left me even more hungry for information than ever.

Much to my wife's chagrin, I made plans to return to the Miramichi the following September. Knowing that we would face extreme low water conditions, Dave added a few special flies to the list he had written for me the previous year. One of the flies, Fran Stuart's "Dragon," could only be found in the out-of-print classic, "Flies for Atlantic Salmon" by Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen. Fortunately, I found the book used and added it to my rapidly growing library. As I

thumbed through the book, I noticed that Dave had contributed several flies. In addition to tying several standard patterns, Dave supplied dressings for a few of his original salmon flies. "Bette Jane," "Chipper Lodge" and "Golden Girl" all caught my eye, but my favorite was Dave's "Catch-A-Me Lodge," a sort of small Dee fly, but tied with relatively short wings.

Whenever I found myself with enough free time between musical engagements, even if it meant driving forty-five minutes in the wrong direction, I headed to C&C to hang with Dave and pick his brain. He was always willing to talk salmon fishing and tying but, being a music lover, he picked my brain over various music related topics. I talk music nearly everyday, so I tried to steer him back to salmon. Dave talked fishing nearly everyday and would try to steer me back to music. Either way, it was always a good conversation.

When Dave retired and closed the shop in 2009, it left a big void in the Connecticut fly fishing community. Classic and Custom was the last "old time" fly shop left in the state. Most of the remaining shops sold tying materials one could expect to find just about anywhere. C&C was the place for funky stuff that Dave packaged himself. All of the shop's flies were tied in-house, not bought in bulk or farmed out to commercial tyers. Above all, C&C was the only fly shop in the area where one could talk salmon fishing with an angler as experienced as Dave.

Even though C&C is gone, Dave's sage advice is only an email away. Every now and then, a seemingly unanswerable question will pop into my head and I'll ask Dave for his input. He is quick to reply and the answer is usually as helpful as it is humorous. Atlantic salmon fishing can be a tough racket though, with friends like Dave, it rarely feels that way.



Ben Bilello wrote a digital book, *Flies for Connecticut Salmon* how to tie and fish them for anyone interested in salmon fishing in Connecticut what flies work how to tie them. This book also covers flies that work for wild fish and how to fish them. The photography is world class in his book contact him at benbilello@gmail.com

In Memory of the Lady in the Red Hat

A year ago my mother passed and I want to share a story she wrote in March of 1992 for the Hammonaset TU newsletter. When my father retired I taught him how to fish and my mother would come each month to our TU meetings and be the greeter at the door, she also ran our Christmas party as well as anything asked of her. I would bring her to the Quinebaug Hatchery to fish in late winter before they closed it off to us and diverted the monies from that to stocking cat fish for urban fishing. She loved fishing with the guys and would wear her red hat almost all of the time; past club member Steve Murphy dubbed her the "lady in the red hat" she got to fish the Gallatin River in Montana as well as fish for stripers on the Thames river with my good friend George Kelly.

when my father took me fishing the rule was everything we caught we took home! It was cooked up and eaten, nothing like fresh fish my dad would say. Now after fishing all day with you it is home to moms cooking of farm raised fish. Yet we still get to sit around and talk about the number and size of the fish we caught and released. But best of all they will be there next time we go. With this the son was proud the father had learned from him.

A Father and Son's Day of Fishing or a Lesson Learned By Yolanda Springer

One day John called his dad, "I just picked my new fly rod from Fran Mac Donald, let's go fishing" and by the way I have a surprise for you I'll be over soon.

Now dad anxiously awaited John's arrival, he had his lunch packed all fishing gear ready to go. When John finally did arrive dad was beside himself, just like the boy in all men. What was the surprise he wanted to know! Well John said "Because today I will be using my new rod I'm going to let you use my old one and will teach you to fly fish. Well dad how do you like my surprise?"

Now this was not what father had in mind. "Well son not today" my arthritis is bothersome today and besides I have my bait and rod all set to go but thanks anyway.

Now John's a persistent boy so he said, "Dad I think you used that excuse up already. It is more like you can't teach an old dog new tricks".

Father was not going to let John off; I did learn something new from you since you have been taking me fishing. What I catch I should release. You see John



From Bruce's wife

To Everyone at CFFA,

As you know, my husband Bruce loved to fly fish and he also love the CFFA. He gladly served as president for 5 years and was happy that he was able to make a contribution back to the club as well as to the future of fly fishing. He felt very strongly that learning to fish also meant learning to treasure and protect our environment. I think he himself lived up to those ideals.

I want to thank the board and everyone else for the support you have given Bruce over this past year as well as during his term as president. Many of you attended his wake and the celebration party afterwards so I hope you were able to take one of his hand tied flies to remember him by.

Also thank you for all of the cards as well as the donations to Habitat for Humanity or the CFFA education fund. Your generosity and caring are truly appreciated.

Bruce would often say "Relax - it's just a fishing club" but I know he believed that CFFA is much more than that. He was honored to be part of such a great group of people who are all committed not only to the wonderful sport of fly fishing but also to preserving our clean waters and natural resources for future generations.

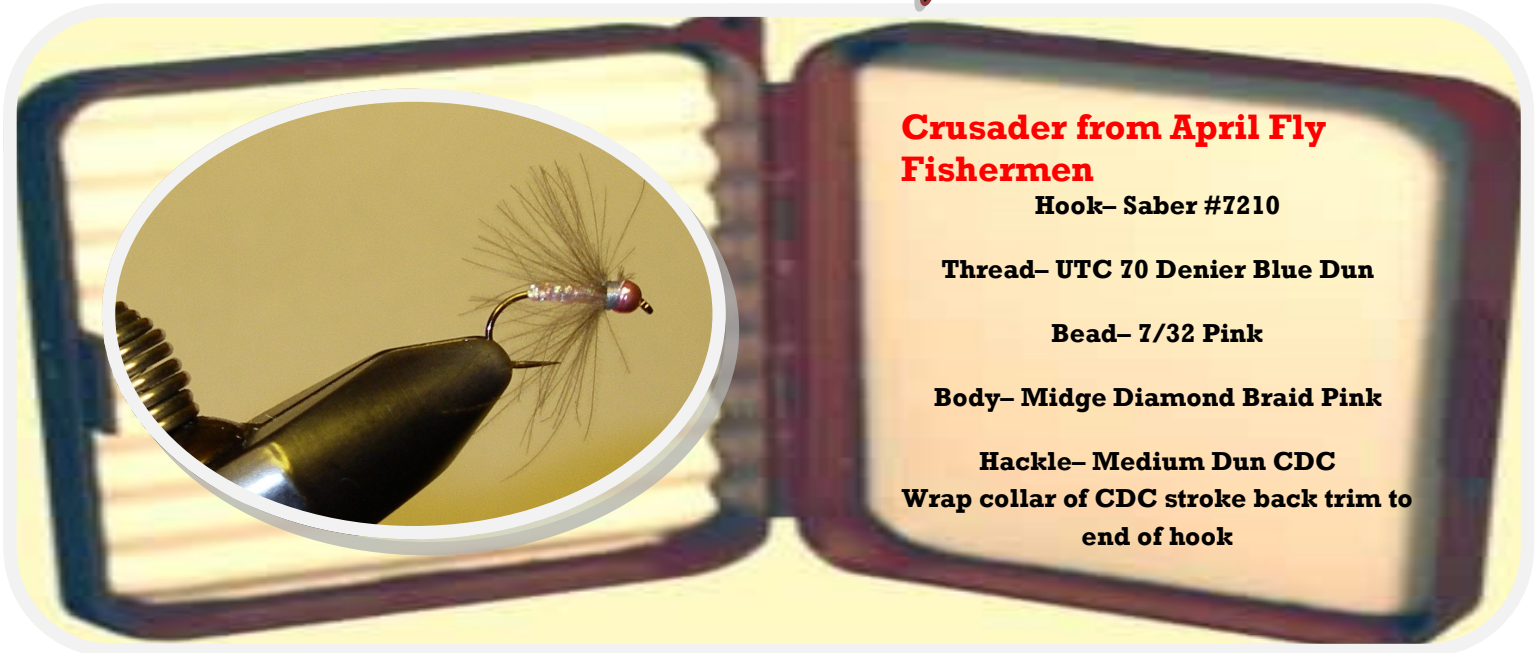
Please take a moment and think of Bruce next time you are out on the water with your fly rod in your hand. As he would say "tight lines!"

Thank you again for everything,

Chris Rich



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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September Speaker

Join Gary Bogli on his fishing forays to Labrador. Travel on a unique wilderness train along the Moise River making the transition into the taiga region of Canada. Catch a grand slam: brook trout, landlocked salmon, pike, white fish and lake trout in the same day. Be the only ones fishing the waters of the Ashuanipi River System in early July then again in August. Every day was a new adventure and 3 - 5 lb. brookie were the norm. Gary is a retired Middle School social studies teacher. He has been fly fishing for over 50 years and is a past president and active member of Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association and education consultant of Connecticut River Salmon Association.

UPCOMING EVENT

Our 50th year banquet is February 7, 2017 Kurt has a great speaker lined up everything is in place. Mark your calendars now so your family will know about it and if someone calls to say lets do this or that on that day you can say no I can't I have a wonderful banquet with my club and my friends to go to on that day. Don't wait till the last minute to mark that day. Things have a habit of getting in the way :-)

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 14 Monthly meeting

Board of director meetings are

10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 1/4



 **Connecticut
Fly Fisherman's Association**

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FLY FISHERS

