



FROM THE VEST OF THE  
PRESIDENT  
DICK WEMMELL'S  
FLY OF THE MONTH

APRIL MEETING  
FLY TYERS ROUND TABLE

## From the vest of the President



The trend continues. The word must be out about our CFFA. Like our Expo and Banquet our March meeting was very well attended. We needed to add chairs so everyone had a chance to sit and enjoy our program. Speaking about the program, Mark Wittman presented some history along with fishing opportunities in the Adirondacks. When it was over everyone had all the information they needed to take a trip there. Mark stuck around quite a while after the program answering all questions that may have remained including the flies, leaders, lines, and reels he uses most often.

Bob Winot & Ted Rzepski tied flies prior to the meeting and both were surrounded by many onlookers. As you know I believe this is important and something that adds to the overall experience on meeting nights. If you are not comfortable fly-tying in front of strangers that's understandable, perhaps you could share another skill that might aid fellow fly-fishers. Knot tying, making coiled sighters, building leaders, blending dubbing, making strike indicators are just a few things that come to mind. When I arrived last Wednesday evening and walked into the kitchen area Dick Wemmell was demonstrating how to make a synthetic hackle using Organza Ribbon. He had a group of interested fly-tiers watching every move

he made. The flies he produced and shared with us using such hackle were impeccable as are all of the flies he shares with us monthly in "Dick Wemmells Fly Box". Dick was gracious enough to cut me a piece so I could give it a try when I get to my vice.

As I stated above about the word being out, I am happy to tell you that we have 37 beginning fly-fishing students enrolled in our spring fly fishing school. We had to stop at this number and sadly told more than 15 other students they would have to wait until next year. I announced to everyone at our meeting that we will need help from our membership during the casting instruction 4/1 P& F Pond East Hartford and the stream instruction on 4/22 Willimantic River TMA. I believe helping a new student learn is the single most important function we do. They are the future of our CFFA. It is our opportunity to make their initial contact with CFFA a pleasurable experience. Think back to when you began fly-fishing, someone probably helped you establish the passion you have for it today. Take this opportunity to share and pass that passion along. Pete Naples is currently forming a list of helpers. Take it from me this is a stressful time for our Education Chairman. The uncertainty of how many helpers would show up drove me crazy when I had his position. Despite this, we always ended up with plenty of help and in the end the students got what they paid for and deserved. Please do me a favor this year, if you intend to show up, let Pete know through e-mail or a phone call that he can count on you, I know he will appreciate it.

I also announced at the meeting that everything is in order and plans are being finalized for our participation with the boy scouts fly fishing merit badge. If you know of a scout aged 13-17 that would like to register they must go through the scout council. I am told the 1<sup>st</sup> day they can sign up is April 1, 2017. I am very happy to inform you that I received my 1<sup>st</sup> boxes of flies from CFFA members John Chapin and Brett Doering. They will be given to each scout that attains their badge. I hope to receive many more from CFFA fly tiers prior to the event on Saturday May 13. The class is limited to 14 scouts so if you decide to help please tie 14 flies, one for each scout. I can think of no better incentive to get them

started. Like I mentioned at our meeting make something you enjoy tying and they can be trout or pan fish patterns. If 20 people tie 14 flies each we will be able to give away 280 flies. Each scout will go home with 20 flies to enjoy during their learning curve. We have 2 meetings left so you can either bring me the flies in person or you can put them in the mail. Each scout will also receive a junior CFFA membership that will carry them until next January.

Our next meeting on April 12 is our annual Fly Tiers Round Table. If you know anyone that has an interest, this is the meeting for them. They will be able to observe all kinds of techniques used by some of the best fly tiers in Connecticut.

Gary



Dr. Maria Ellis, CFFA member with a Rainbow trout caught 3/21/17 guided by Harrison Anglers, Swift river, Massachusetts. Photo by Ted Rzepski

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association  
Policy on Public Lands and Waters of Connecticut  
And  
The United States  
Position Statement

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is a Connecticut organization dedicated to the support, enhancement and protection of the recreational opportunities and enjoyment of fishing with the artificial fly. We do this through teaching all aspects of fly fishing and most importantly through our advocacy, demonstration and voice for conservation of our natural resources. Clearly, conservation of fishes and their habitats is fundamental to our opportunities and those of our children to fly fish. Those habitats largely are the connected waters of Connecticut and of the United States; the streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries that must remain clean, healthy and functional. Just as important are the health and wellbeing of the watersheds that recharge, nourish and protect the function of our wetlands. These habitats collectively reside by ownership, law and public policy as public resources and lands. Many are managed and protected by state or federal agencies or environmental law on the public behalf, while others are protected by private interests or environmental organizations in perpetuity as conservation easements.

Regardless of ownership or legal designation, they collectively are much more valuable than simply as wetlands, watersheds and fish habitat. These are the habitats of a vast array of wildlife, plant and insect species, including those that may be threatened or endangered with extinction across our country.

What must not be forgotten is that these very landscapes of minerals, waters and plants are essential to our own quality of life as human habitat. These are the landscapes that grow the plant communities that produce the clean air we breathe and process carbon dioxide into oxygen.

The wetlands that clean and recharge our sources of fresh water are necessary to all living beings. There is no question that these lands must be protected for our recreational interests and our own quality of life as humans.

Not the least of importance is the economic value of access to these public lands and waters for study, enjoyment and appreciation. Nationally, these values now exceed three quarters of a trillion dollars, returned into our economy each year. Federal lands alone return \$650 billion dollars into the U.S. economy and support an estimated 6 million jobs.

Past United States Presidents have respected public lands and waterways. The National Forest System was created by the Land Revision Act of 1891 which was signed under the presidency of Benjamin Harrison. This Act was a result for harm being done to the watershed of the San Gabriel Mountains by area ranchers and miners. President Theodore Roosevelt has been deemed the country's first environmentalist. He recognized the profound values of public lands when he "applied his presidential prerogatives in setting aside 200 million acres and preserving for public benefit several scientific, historical and scenic sites." In his 1903 designation of the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge on the east coast of Florida and again in 1906, when he signed the National Monuments Act, protecting sites like the Grand Canyon. This was the first of what now comprises millions of acres across our continent that serve the public benefit and preserved countless wildlife sanctuaries, national forests and federal game reserves. It is through their foresight that these open lands were saved and will remain in public trust, preserved for a growing America to enjoy for future generations.

Unfortunately, our public lands and the biological, social and economic values they represent are now threatened with narrow interests by those who seek to transfer budgetary responsibility and/or liquidate these essential public lands! Our preserved public lands are precious to all Americans and any proposed changes to exploit them is unacceptable.

Therefore, it is CFFA Policy to advocate for the essential protection of public lands and waters of Connecticut and the United States for their ecological, recreational, economic function, value and to endorse as public policy the administration of these lands to include applicable law, finance, policy and management responsibility, as necessary to assure enjoyment, health and other public benefits.

It is our position that any proposal to change, transfer or liquidate ownership and or management responsibility of public lands has a significant likelihood to adversely affect the biological health, function and wellbeing of natural systems and the wildlife species they support. It further is our position that any such proposed action should receive full evaluation for public review and comment in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. It is through such Policy and position that opportunities to enjoy fly fishing will endure throughout the generations.

The following was written by fly fishing guide Eddie Hudon who lives and guides out of Whitter NC. I am very grateful that he shared this story with us so we can all become better fly fisher's. I know Eddie and he is a wonderful fly fishing teacher and guides on some of the best waters in Western North Carolina. Blue Chip Guide Service

MEND...MEND...KICK...MEND

By Eddie Hudon

It's January, Happy New Year! I hope the holidays were good to you. The beginning of the year gives most of us a chance to organize the fly box, add some new equipment to the arsenal, and get excited for the new year to come. All this preparation is great, but one of the most important things you need to do when either dry fly fishing or nymphing, is to be sure you have a good mend and are drag free. What is the MEND: "The act of moving your fly line during the drift, to create a specific presentation on the fly."

While there are many different types of mending, I would like to discuss implementing a good drift, to my first time fly fishing clients.

Most of the people I talk to that have never fly fished before, always say to me, " isn't that hard to do? I think I would wrap the line around my body while trying to cast the line" While they are telling me how hard they think it is, they always bring their arm back and forth in a motion that looks like 3-4 false casts. When I explain that there is an application for that type of casting, however, what we would do is a more simple approach. For all my first time fly fishing clients, I like to introduce



These pictures were taken in Georgia, the above was taken at Dukes Creek.

28 inch Brown caught in the Hooch these fish of course are the exception but they are in the water for anyone to fish. These are not private waters. If you are interested in learning more Google Georgia fishing. I have been to several places and as I tell people, spring comes early and fall comes late and winters are mild. They have miles of Delayed harvest waters that are C&R from Oct till opening day in the spring.



Above Tocca Delayed Harvest

Below is the state record Walleye



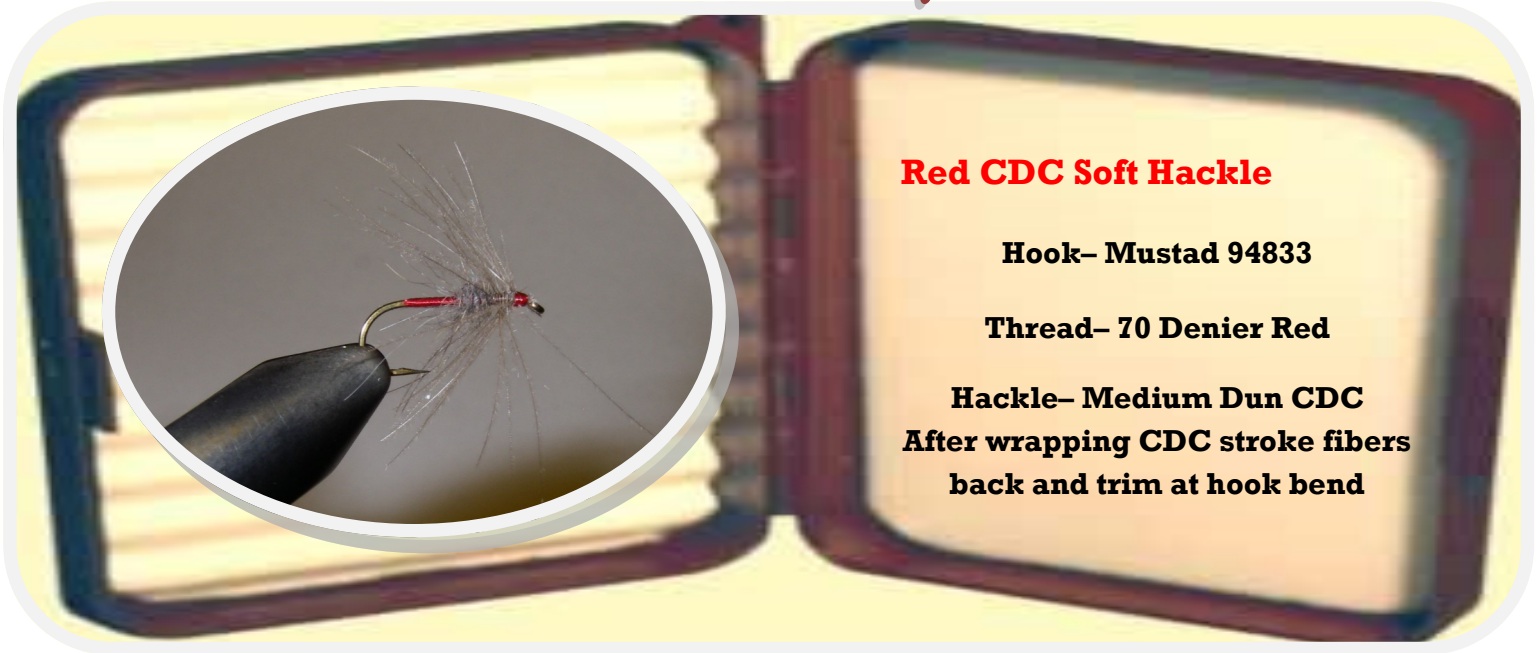
Here are web sites to check out to find our some more about the great fishing they have. As I write this newsletter I am in North Carolina fishing the grass is green, trees are in bloom water temperature is mid 50's I will write more about that next time. These web sites are for Georgia fishing.

<http://riverthroughatlanta.com/>

[Jake@unicooutfitters.com](mailto:Jake@unicooutfitters.com)

<http://www.gon.com/fishing/state-monitoring-chattahoochee-brown-trout>

# Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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My good friend Mr. Esq. fishing the Hendrickson Hatch on the Farmington River last year. About 2 weeks from now the hatch should be on!



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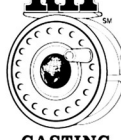
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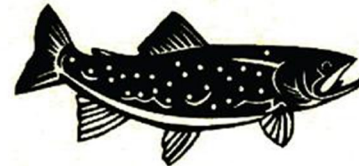


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them to nymph fishing. I begin by explaining what we are trying to achieve, when casting the line a little up stream, letting the current take the line and indicator down stream. Once the line is in front of them, I explain that the flies we are using are just about to reach the bottom, and we don't want to disturb the indicator or flies. This is where we need to mend the line up stream and get a good drift. Without it, chances of catching a fish are minimal. At first, they cast and try mending, most time to soon, or they move the flies and indicator. After a few failed attempts, they always say, " here, show me." So I proceed to explain what I am doing while I go through the motions. About 75% of the time, I catch a fish. Now they are believers Because they are new to the sport, they never follow a routine. Here is what I have been successful doing:

We will finish this up next month, with pictures to show what happens when you follow Eddies instructions

## Save this Date

April 12 is our annual Fly Tiers Round Table Meeting. You can learn from our best tyer's

Please read Gary's Message you will see what dates help is needed for our class's as well as the Boy Scouts your board works very hard to make this club enjoyable to all its members, many don't have enough free time to do this work, we are asking for some members to step up and give a day or two of their time. As Gary said someone helped you when you started perhaps you remember this?



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FLY FISHERS

