

# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

MARCH 2017

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President Gary Steinmiller John Bar-  
racci, Joe D'Addario  
Jr, Dr. Vincent Rin-  
grose, Gary Bogli



Al Sonski ex-  
cepting a spe-  
cial award for  
all his years  
dedicated to  
making us hap-  
py raising our  
fish.

Dan Price excepting the Scarlet Ibis award for all he  
does for our club as a board member

## FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT DICK WEMMELL'S FLY OF THE MONTH MARCH MEETING

Kevin Fuller excepting the Ted Barbieri award for all  
his years with the Fly Tying program at ASD





## From the vest of the President



This wasn't just another CFFA Expo & Banquet. This Expo & Banquet was special. The entire day/evening was a celebration of our CFFA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Expo started with a bang. At 9 AM the parking lot was full and so was the convention room inside. It's the 1<sup>st</sup> time I can remember people needing to park behind the building. This year we topped last year's record attendance and that made for some happy vendors. I believe all of them said they want in next year. Our featured speaker Greg Hoover presented a fine seminar that contained many suggested tips and was available for questions the entire day. Every time I looked there was someone at his table observing and listening or actually sitting in Greg's chair being coached through tying a stonefly. It was the same for all of the 26 vendors and the fly tiers that occupied "Fly Tier Row", a constant flow of fly fishing enthusiasts making purchases and admiring talent.

Throughout the day members were seen reacquainting with members and the conversations and smiles were genuine. It really had the feel of a reunion but even better because of the shared passion of Fly Fishing. I had the pleasant experience of reacquainting with Elmer Latham. Elmer was our CFFA President when I became a

member in 1984. We shared some memories and talked with some current and past BOD members. He is doing fine and still loves tying flies.

Elmer was not the only past president I would encounter. The evening banquet had 5 past presidents attend, Dr. Vincent Ringrose (1970-73), Joe D'Addario Jr. (1973-75) & (1979-80), Gary Bogli (1987-90), Ray Riley (2000-05), and John Barracci (2005-11) It was a great to see all of them and having two of our first three presidents attend was special. I did contact past President Ken Parkany (1975-77) who resides in Georgia. He sent well wishes and expressed his deep fondness of his memories of our CFFA. Also attending were many past BOD members and all were gracious enough to stand as a group when asked to be acknowledged for having played a big role in our 50 year history.

Not to be forgotten on this evening were the many that shared a role in our history and could not attend. I'm certain they were on the minds of many in attendance and pleasantly remembered.

Appetizers, dinner, awards, a presentation by Greg Hoover and our raffle were the order of the evening. The awards went to 3 very deserving recipients. A special award went to Al Sonski for all of his years of dedicated work at the Kensington Fish Hatchery. The Ted Barbieri award named after CFFA's first president was given to Kevin Fuller, a non BOD member who has lead our fly tying school at the American School for the Deaf for the last 5 years and helped our CFFA in many other ways. The Scarlet Ibis award, given to a current BOD member selected by me as your current president, was presented to Daniel Price. Dan not only did his job of publicity chairman with excellence he was a big part of virtually every event we held during this past year. It was an honor to present all three of these awards to these dedicated recipients. This year's fundraising raffle contained a great variety of prizes as always and it went smoothly and quick. The bamboo rod outfit grand prize was won by a father and his 13 year old son. They are new members that enrolled in our beginning fly tying class this January. My wife Linda and I walked out to our car at the end of the evening with them. They were excited and we

hope they enjoy the outfit together for years to come.

Our annual Expo/Banquet requires a tremendous amount of planning and coordination. I thank every vendor and all of our members for their assistance. Every one of you should be proud of the final result. Roger Plourde our program chairman and Kurt Jagielow our banquet chairman lead this effort. They are professional, courteous and sincere in their effort to give us this wonderful day and deserve our gratitude.

As we move into March we remain busy, our beginning Fresh Water Fly Fishing School will begin along with our Fly Tying classes at the American School for the Deaf. The dates for our Fly Fishing school classroom sessions are March 9,16,23,30 at Cabela's in East Hartford 6-9 PM. The dates for tying at the American School for the Deaf are March 7,14,21,28. Classes are from 6:00 PM SHARP to 7:45 PM. Volunteers can arrive between 5:15 & 5:30 for dinner in the Cafeteria. The school provides a cafeteria meal to all volunteers that come directly from work. Anyone interested can reach Kevin Fuller at 860-632-2171 or [kevinfuller27@comcast.net](mailto:kevinfuller27@comcast.net). Our next monthly meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be Mark Wittman presenting "A Fly Fisherman's Guide to the Adirondacks". I am also going to investigate the possibility of stocking the Willimantic River with "Live Carts" again this spring. We did it last year and the resulting fishing was better throughout the river. I am hoping the state will allow stocking on Saturdays before opening day like they did last year. This way we might get some younger (non-retired) members to help. Last year's volunteers were a perfect example where our minds say "yes we can" and our bodies come along. The next 5 days or longer our bodies said "What the hell were you thinking?" If we do get a Saturday but don't get some younger members to help, the stocking by live car **will not happen**. I will try for Sat March 25<sup>th</sup> so we get the most out of a spring season when the Willimantic fishes best. Pete Naples has informed me that our casting instruction at the P&F pond in East Hartford is going to take place Saturday April 1 and our stream instruction on the Willimantic is scheduled for Saturday April 22th and Bob Winot has informed me that our spring trail clean-up on

the Willimantic River will be held Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping the Boy Scouts will help again this year. They were a big help last year.

Regarding the Boy Scouts Fly Fishing merit badge, we are working together with Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited to help scouts attain their badge. We have secured a date and a location. The day is Saturday May 13 and the location is the P&F pond in East Hartford. The plan for this 1st year is to have a group of 12-14 scouts perform all that is required to earn their badge along with assistance from both organizations. If you feel like you would like to contribute please contact me. If your busy that day but still want to do something, tie up some flies and get them to me and we will distribute them to each scout. Something simple that that they will have fun fishing. A great incentive to get them started.

Gary

I want to thank club member Chuck Koteen for taking the time to take all the pictures you see from our big day. As Gary said this day is more like a grand reunion among friends and I know when I say that everyone enjoyed this aspect of the day. Editor

## Greg Hover giving a great presentation at our banquet





A lot of thanks to our Vendors, the Board and so many volunteers who step up every year to make the Expo and Banquet the success that it is. The crew of people who showed up to set up for the banquet helped get it done in record time. There are names I forget every year as were running around all day. My thanks to all of you.

### 3-Tand Reels

Ben Bilello & Robert Richeson

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Tom Chrosniak

Christine Rich

The Goldman Families

A Friend Of the River

Gordon Tedford

Gary Bogli



## Being a pain in the ass, By John Springer

Several years ago the state of Connecticut was involved with FREC and re-licensing of the dam at Scotland Ct. First Light power owns this dam on the Shetucket River. Somehow someone at DEEP signed off on an agreement with the power company that would allow them to have a several inches of water to hold back at the Scotland Dam. The reason for this several inches was explained to me this way. Should the wind be blowing down river it would be possible that the water could be going over the dam faster than what was coming into the impoundment above the dam so it would not be "run of the river". The power company took the position that this meant they could hold back this water and each time the impoundment grew to the top, they would turn on the generator and let the water come through and raise the river back up until the water behind the impoundment dropped down this several inches. If you fished the river during this 2 year period you know that the water was coming up and going back down many times a day. This made fishing very difficult. At the start when this was going on people told me the reasons for it were to blow out leaves from the dam in the fall, they were working on the new generator that would make power at a very low flow, or trees were stuck in the dam. I spoke to John Preston at Thames Valley TU and asked him if I could look into this for his chapter and John said ok. I got the number for the fellow in charge of the project Gary Smolen and called him. Long story short he informed me that the power company had the right to make money; the agreement on the Shetucket was not the same as on the Housatonic, that agreement was "natural flow". I explained to him what happens when the water goes up and down so many times a day; again he told me they had the right to make money. I thanked him for his time and the battle started. Bill Hyatt who runs DEEP now is someone I had known for almost 30 years so I called him about this. I explained what was going on he did not know about it and so the process started. Nothing in state government moves fast as we all know and meetings between the DEEP and Power Company started. At first the power company was not going to give in

but in time they caved in as I GUESS they learned the state had the upper hand. Bottom line is someone at state allowed that several inches for a reason and it was not for pond and release. It took many calls and my time to stay on top of what was going on but in the end we won. As I explained to Bill, fish have high water lies and low water lies and that water going up and down so many times a day simply drove the fish crazy. I also called First Light several times, sad to say my friend Gary retired and so I never got to tell him that yes you have the right to make money, but we have a right to fish. A fellow named Stewart took over his job he was not so cocky when we spoke. I never found out who at DEEP let the power company pull a fast one on us, but I do know one thing. One person becoming a pain in the ass can make a difference. Think about this next time you're asked to write a letter or make a call when something to do with our fishing comes up on the chopping block in Hartford.



I want to thank Chuck Koteen for taking the time to take so many great pictures to share with us.



# Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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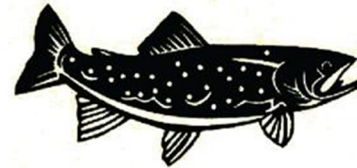


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## UPCOMING EVENT

CFFA supporter and Artist Charlie McCaughtry and myself in deep conversation about fishing



Mark D. Wittman, PhD. The Adirondacks: A unique history and brook trout fishery

This talk will present the unique features and history of these famed mountains and it's brook trout and will include some resources for planning your first trip to the Adirondacks.



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