

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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MAY 2017

These pictures were taken by club member Mike Hiza



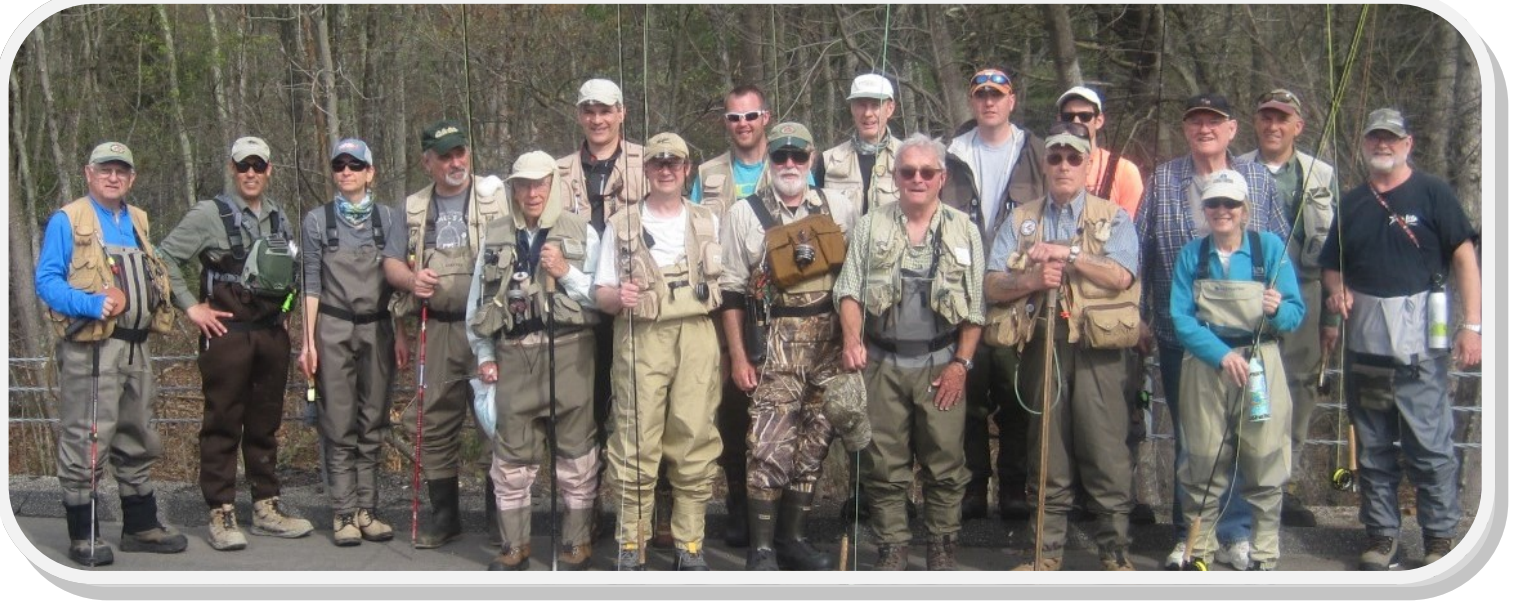
FROM THE VEST OF THE
PRESIDENT
DICK WEMMELL'S
FLY OF THE MONTH



MAY MEETING
Neal Hagstrom



From the vest of the President May 2017



Our winter months are for talking fishing and now that spring has arrived it is time to get outside to do some fishing.

Once again our April meeting was well attended as our CFFA hosted its annual Fly Tying Roundtable. A dozen excellent fly tiers displayed their talent. It was nice to see many of this year's students of our tying school present and observing the multitude of techniques and patterns. Events in April also included a Trail Clean-Up of the Willimantic TMA led by Bob Winot. At least a dozen members donated their time and assisted with saws, loppers, and bags for trash. The trails are now clear and ready for traffic. We had some members who had never been to the Willimantic River before so we described the named pools and advised them on how to fish them so it was not "All Work". They can now return at their leisure and feel a little more confident when they do. On April 22nd we held our casting instruction. Despite an incorrect weather forecast that featured rain instead of sunshine our Saturday casting instructions for this year's fly-fishing students went very well. It was very nice to see such a mixture of students in this year's class. One of our CFFA goals is to attract more women and children to the sport of fly-fishing and this year's class coordinated by Peter Naples had a very nice number of both. I have been doing this a long time and this year's class was probably the

most determined I have seen. Brian age 9 was our youngest student and his determination may have inspired the entire class. I thank his mom for recognizing his passion and allowing him to explore it. There was another teen age student named Ed that was brought to this year's class by a non-fishing parent. Ed lives in Willington and close to the Willimantic TMA where he will be able to hone his skills.

We had a very nice group of volunteers come out on this raw day to help teach and all of them were very patient and polite with each and every student. Their help is very much appreciated by the students and by me.

April 29th was the day we held our on the river instruction on the Willimantic River TMA. We had a great day finally, warm no wind and very nice water levels and temperatures. Plenty of members were present to help these new students. In some cases it was their first time standing in moving water. The comradery was excellent and each student walked away with the beginning touch of a journey they will continually fill with knowledge and enjoyable experiences, memories for a lifetime.

Our last meeting until September will be held May 10th when Neil Hagstrom, Chief DEEP Fisheries Biologist, discusses Connecticut's Rivers and stocking program. A Q&A will follow. This meeting will be your last chance to bring

back books that you previously borrowed from our library. Please make a note to yourself if this pertains to you. I will be collecting the books because the Goldman's will be away for this meeting. It will also be a good chance to bring me your 14 flies that we are going to distribute to the boy scouts that will be attaining their Fly-Fishing Merit Badge with our help on May 13. Prior to the meeting at 6PM a few members have volunteered to demonstrate fly casting and lend a hand to anyone wishing to cast a fly line (weather permitting).

Some final good news, our CFFA is now in possession of 8 "Live Cars" that will enable us to stock the entire length of the TMA on the Willimantic River. I was contacted by John Jascot through our CFFA website. He notified me that Nathan Hale Ray High School was looking for someone to take the cars they had off their hands. These cars will make the job much easier as they are very portable. Thanks go to CFFA member Ron Dunleavy for picking up the cars and storing them for our use and to John Jascot who I do not know for contacting us.

Enjoy your time wherever and whenever you may fish this season and thanks for supporting our CFFA.

Gary

Dick waiting for the new students to arrive :-)



As the Educational Chairperson. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped out for, Fly Tying, Fly Fishing, Casting Class and On the water Class; without those who offered time these classes would not be the success they have been. Casting Class was a raw day, but the assistant instructors were there making sure the class objectives were met. The On the water day, started out cloudy, then became warm and somewhat muggy. Again the assistant instructors did an awesome job once again meeting the objectives for this class. All students who attended shared with me they learned a lot and enjoyed the day. Dan hooked the biggest trout, Michell caught the most trees, Dede helped Ray catch my fly rod, Ed is hooked, Bret got everything flowing. Again my thanks to all, volunteers and class participants.

Pete Naples

Educational Chairperson

CFFA (Pictures by Pete Naples)



Continued from last month

Mend Mend Mend by Eddie Hudon

from Here is what I have been successful doing:

I tell them to just keep it simple and repeat a drag free drift.

CAST, follow your line, throw a MEND, another mend, Kick out some line, and a final MEND. Somewhere in that routine, we end up hooking into a fish (providing I have the right fly , correct depth, and the perfect weight) Once they repeat, and have success, their confidence grows. I mean, step back and let them go., especially on the set . Oh my goodness, in the beginning they usually just pull the line up stream. After we have been together for an hour, they are setting down stream like a pro.

It's so much fun when it all comes together. (By the way ~ the woman are easier to teach because they listen. The guys, well, are guys)

This is just one of many different types of mending. Here are a few others:

Cross Stream Mending * Quarter Downstream Mending * Downstream Mending

Reach Cast * Slack Line Cast * Parachute Cast * High Sticking

I believe 2017 will be another great year for fishing in Western North Carolina. I hope to see you on the river. I know you will be catching more fish, MEND away.

As you can see from the pictures of Eddie they have some great fishing in his area. I spent a week fishing a month ago and did hook into and lose 4 very large fish. As I carry a camera I always tell the truth :-) but I still had great fishing and only one day did not catch anything. Fishing with Eddie is always a great time and I'll be down there this November with friends who are looking forward to this fishing.





Last year Larry Goulet received an award from CFFA for all his years of dedication to fishermen as a game warden. I mentioned that in speaking to Larry that he told me he would still be going out when stocking accrued and would be around the Salmon River always watching for dirt bags. Well I'm happy to say he is a man of his word and when you talk to other anglers on the Salmon river they will tell you they saw the "warden" either today or the other day still here. And Larry is also there when the guys come to stock giving advice where he thinks they should put the fish. Ron Dunlevy took us both out to Marie's at the top of the hill from the river, Larry's favorite place. Larry is a man of his word and still cares, a volunteer in every sense of the word. Should you be up there give him a tip of your hat he deserves it. You can see Aidan Plante with a nice brown trout here that with his dad's instruction he was able to catch along with 4 others at the handicap ramp on the Salmon River. This pool is the hardest hit pool on the river!



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Millers River Emerger

Hook– 7231 Saber 2x long size 10

Thread– UTC Black 70 Denier

Tail-Short Partridge clump

Body– Peacock

Rib-Red small Ultra wire

Wing– Flat black hen feather

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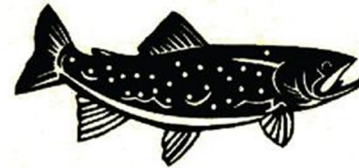


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UPCOMING EVENT

Our speaker for May will be Neal Hagstrom the fish biologist for DEEP Talk Topics. -An overview of the State of Connecticut's Stocking Program. What the next few years hold in store. An open Q&A session will follow.

Every wonder about our member who gives me the flies you see each month? Here he is. Our own Dick Wemmell



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FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS

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