

# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

December 2018

If you are interested in the wonderful fishing for big fish that takes place in Vermont come to our meeting and you will learn a great deal about the Black River and Walloomsac River located in central Vermont. This fishery takes place because of very dedicated people at the Bennington Hatchery, these people get very little credit for what they do but I will explain what 2 1/2 years of labor produces for us to enjoy. You will learn about flies and great food and drinks, come out and have a few laughs.

John Springer



## Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



### **Dragon Fly**

**Hook- #8 2 X long**  
**Eyes- Black Plastic Bead Chain**  
**Body- Rams Wool Olive**  
**Hackle-Olive Partridge**



# From the vest of the President



Our November membership meeting showcased what CFFA is all about. We had Bob Romano present an excellent program on Fly Fishing the Rangeley Lakes region of Maine. Close enough to drive to. Four fly tiers tied flies prior to the meeting demonstrated their skills and answered all questions and our library run by the Goldman brothers was up and running and jammed with customers as they browsed the many resources available to take home on loan. It might be too cold to enjoy fly fishing but it's perfect to sit down with a good book and read about it. And yes the stories, cookies and coffee as well as CFFA apparel. Attendance was outstanding as it is at most all of our meetings. More than one person came up to me and said they enjoyed the evening very much.

At our November BOD meeting we decided to pursue the necessary steps that will enable our CFFA the ability to accept electronic payments for future payments for membership, educational classes, and banquet reservations. Checks and cash will still be accepted also for those that prefer it that way. We are also in the process of acquiring a card reader to be used at our expo and banquet, this way if you see something you like and are a little short on cash you won't need to run out to an ATM. We also discussed the format of our annual April meeting which has always been a fly tying roundtable. Some of our tiers have moved away and are no longer available

so we discussed the possibility of replacing them with members displaying other tricks of the trade like making coiled or straight sighters used in euro-nymphing, Knots, Furred Leaders, yarn strike indicators etc. These are just a few suggestions and we would love to hear from you if have something you would like to share with members in April. Roger also informed us that a few of the vendors that have been reliable participants at our annual expo have moved on and therefore not available this coming year. He asked me to ask if you know someone that may like to take their place. So if you do know someone that might want a table please have them contact Roger at 860-919-3513. The date of our upcoming Expo & Banquet is February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be here before you know it. Circle the date now on your 2019 calendar and ask a friend to come along.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on December 12 and I wish all of you a healthy happy holiday season.

Gary



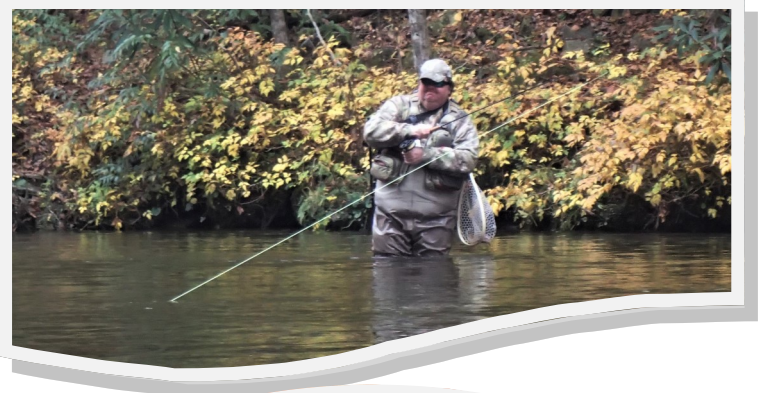


# 2019 60 Ticket Raffle **ONLY 60 Tickets will be sold !!**

Winston Blix 8'6" 4pc. 4wt. Rod Orvis CFO III Reel w/Spare Spool

Rio 4 wt. line Teeny T-130 Line Tickets are \$20.00

Tickets can be purchased at the December and January monthly meetings or by mailing a check to CFFA c/o Kurt Jagielow, 14 Earl Ave. Hamden Ct. 06514



Club Members fishing out of state this past month getting in their last licks before winter and high water sets in.

**FARMINGTON VALLEY TROUT UNLIMITED**  
 Saturday, January 5, 2019  
 9 am – 1 pm  
 Farmington Community Center  
 321 New Britain Avenue  
 Unionville, CT  
 ADMISSION: \$2 – UNDER 16 FREE  
 Snow Date Saturday, January 12\*

## ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE

\*At this event, Trout Unlimited will collect donations of rods and reels for inner-city kids!  
 Questions? – Call Bill Case at 860-578-7245 In the event of dangerous weather conditions, visit [www.fvu.org](http://www.fvu.org) for updates on this event.

## ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE

**Farmington Community Center**  
 321 New Britain Avenue  
 Unionville, CT

**From I-84 West Exit 38 (Rt. 6):**  
 At the 6th traffic light, (3.9 mi.) take a right on New Britain Avenue. Follow through 2 stop signs and then another 1.8 miles to the Community Center on your right.

**From Unionville:**  
 Take Plainville Avenue (Rt. 177) south over the bridge to the first traffic light. Turn left on New Britain Avenue. Go 0.7 mi. The Center is on your left.

Sponsored by the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

# A Fish Tale -One of Those Nights -August 17, 2018

By Carl Ochnio

[cjflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:cjflyfisher@gmail.com)

Just back after spending a good part of July fishing many of my favorite streams and rivers in southwestern Colorado and northern New Mexico. For me, there is nothing like it. I have been visiting western waters since the early 1970's, and I enjoy the typography, solitude and beauty of the southern Rockies. Oh yeah, the food, culture and history are a real nice bonus. Why do I feel the need to suddenly pick up a guitar and strumming John Denver's Rocky Mountain High? Let's get on with this tale.

So I am back home in Connecticut and need to get back on the local river to reset my expectations, get used to crowded rivers and pressured, and in many cases, very selective trout.

So in my immediate haste to "get out" on the water, I neglect to check on current conditions and arrive at the river and discover the water is running a little high. Evidently, while I was traveling, this summer's rainfall had been unusually heavy in New England.

It is late afternoon and the bugs start popping. Plenty of sulphurs and isonychias and on cue, the trout become active. I am anticipating a fun evening. Wait a minute, I don't seem to have any of these patterns in my vest. I have failed to reorganize my fly boxes and am well stocked with patterns that worked well for opportunistic trout in high altitude, western streams.

Oh well, despite my lack of appropriate offerings, I decide to carry on. Surprisingly, I am into fish...plenty of them... they are taking about everything I tie on, a tan caddis, olive caddis, light Cahill's, spinners and a really nice rainbow on a G.F.A. (General Foam Attractor) pattern I just started tying. I feeling pretty special and wonder why I spend so much time and effort traveling? This wonderful river is just a short drive and a great resource.

Well that was fun trip and after a wonderful ride home, I make plans to return as soon as possible. In addition, I

intend to take the time to thoughtfully reload my fly boxes and oh, don't forget the Sulphur's and Iso's.

So yesterday afternoon, I head back to the river. Same place, same time and the conditions looked great. A few sporadic rises, but it is early. I start by tying on a dry fly offering. There are a few fly fishers spaced out on the river above and below me. I sense everyone seemed focused and waiting for things to start happening. I begin casting, others are rolling out their lines, and it is library quiet. The surface of the pool is calm, but fish don't seem to be actively rising. After a while, I start changing patterns. As I look around, others seem to be changing flies. The guy below seems to have switched over to a nymph rig. Either he is uninformed or knows something. I keep changing dry flies and decide to keep a careful eye on that nymph below me. The quiet is occasionally interrupted, as those silent fly fishers begin to call out, "seen any risers yet?"

It beginning to feel like this trip might turn into be a head scratcher. I continue to change flies, using all I had success with the other day. I don't immediately notice, but one by one, my fellow fly fishers silently begin to slip away. Finally get a refusal on my G.F.A. pattern and I begin to see some bugs break through the meniscus and take flight. I am confident things are going to start to pop. I look around and discover that I am the only fly fisher in sight. I think that those poor guys are going to miss a great night. I continue to be optimistic and decide to stick it out.

I tie on a small blue winged olive, another refusal. I drop my tippet down a size and throw on a smaller BWO and nothing. As it begins to get dark, I tie on a spinner pattern and clearly see a quality rainbow come up to take a peek. He tracks it for a bit and then disappears just as quickly as he appeared. That is what they must be waiting for. I tie on a variety of spinner patterns and get some great looks... and more refusals. Think that if I had this many refusals when I first starting dating, would have probably become a monk. Well let's refocus here, I assume the more rejection I get, the closer I will be to breaking the ice. Won't be long now.

Okay, daylight is diminishing and time is running out... overall I am having a good time and seeing fish, but it



would be nice to hook one up...I start repeating pattern selections...maybe an olive CDC caddis? More looks, more refusals. I begin to drift into thought... thinking about next summer's trip to the Rockies. Boy, I sure do miss it. Why I am wasting my time here? These fish are too snotty. I begin wading to the bank and my parked SUV while continuing to cast and scan the surface for risers. Nothing.

he would like to hear from you he will be happy to hear from our members. [carl.ochnio@gmail.com](mailto:carl.ochnio@gmail.com)>

As I leave the river and reach solid ground...my cartoon mind imagines just throwing my entire fly box into the river in a fit of frustration...but I have a feeling...on that particular night...the fish would have just thrown the entire fly box back onto the bank. Welcome home!

Editor note, I'd like to thank Carl for taking the time to write this for us, he has some more for us, any comments



Some more club member's trip pictures





# Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.

*Presents the 49th Annual*

## **FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET** **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019**

*featuring* **Rich Strolis**

- Connecticut native, popular speaker on fly fishing and fly tying across the Northeast and Eastern seaboard
- Signature fly designer for the Montana Fly Company
- Passionate in chasing trophy trout and various other apex predators on streamers
- Visit: [www.catchingshadows.com](http://www.catchingshadows.com)



**For online reservations &  
more info: [CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org)**

**Maneeley's Banquet & Catering, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor**

### **EXPO**

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**\$3 admission**

**Children under 16 FREE**

- Presentations
- Fly Tyers Row
- Kids' Fly Tying Table
- Vendor tables
- Demonstrations



### **BANQUET**

**Bucket Raffle & Presentation**

**\$45 per person**

**5:30 p.m. Cocktails & Raffle viewing**

**6:30 p.m. Dinner, Presentation, & Drawings**

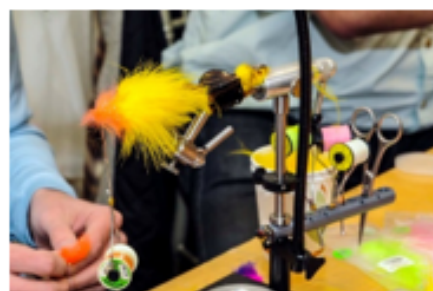
*Fishing Alaska on a Budget*

**Reservations: [CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org) or**

Phil Apruzzese: (860) 489-4319 - [pjapruz@aol.com](mailto:pjapruz@aol.com)

**RSVP by January 26**

*Open seating or reserved tables of 10*







**Michael Smith**  
Licensed Guide

Serving MA, CT, and NY

39 Brandon Road  
Dudley, MA 01571

Phone: 1 (508) 341-8745  
E-mail: [DriftSmith@charter.net](mailto:DriftSmith@charter.net)  
web: [www.DriftSmithOutfitters.com](http://www.DriftSmithOutfitters.com)

## MILL RIVER FLY RODS

[www.MillRiverFlyRods.com](http://www.MillRiverFlyRods.com)

Lynn and Bill Lanzoni

**(203) 506-6600**

[backcast@MillRiverFlyRods.com](mailto:backcast@MillRiverFlyRods.com)



**JOHN BILOTTA**

Cell: **301.351.0121**  
[jbilotta@georgetownflyfishing.com](mailto:jbilotta@georgetownflyfishing.com)  
[georgetownflyfishing.blogspot.com](http://georgetownflyfishing.blogspot.com)



**Angler**  
ADVENTURES  
Your Gateway to the World's  
Top Fishing Destinations

Email: [info@angleradventures.com](mailto:info@angleradventures.com)  
Phone: 860-434-9624; 800-628-1447  
Website: [www.angleradventures.com](http://www.angleradventures.com)

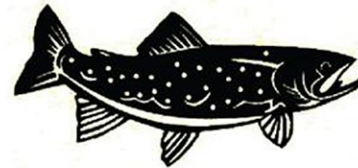


**WILLINGTON**  
**PIZZA**  
**HOUSE**

Route 32 • 25 River Road  
Willington Trading Center  
Willington, Connecticut  
**(860) 429-7433**

[www.willingtonpizza.com](http://www.willingtonpizza.com)

## UpCountry Sportfishing



352 Main Street, P.O. Box 44 • Pine Meadow, CT 06061

Phone: **(860) 379-1952**

[www.FarmingtonRiver.com](http://www.FarmingtonRiver.com)

**HIGH HOOK**  
OREGON



*Wines*

Love life. Go fishing. Care for the planet. Drink wine



T. MARK SEYMOUR  
PRESIDENT

[WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM](http://WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM)

22 LEADMINE ROAD  
LEVERETT, MA 01054  
413-218-0638

[MARK@FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM](mailto:MARK@FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM)

Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses

**JT'S FLY SHOP**

664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076  
860-684-1575

[jtsflyshop@yahoo.com](mailto:jtsflyshop@yahoo.com)

TEAM7x FLY FISHING  
Individual and Group Instruction

team7x.com  
401-216-8155

ATLANTIC SALMON FLY FISHING ON THE SHETUCKET RIVER



WE FIND 'EM...YOU HOOK 'EM!

Our advertisers exist to provide you with excellent products and services and they do need your support. Mention that you are with CFFA, they do appreciate feedback and patronage from club members. Plus they are an excellent source for information on gear, tackle, fishing tips and current conditions.



## Board of Directors

President • Gary Steinmiller

(c) 860-563-0040 (e) [steinmillergary@yahoo.com](mailto:steinmillergary@yahoo.com)

Activities VP • Bob Winot [rwinot25@cox.net](mailto:rwinot25@cox.net) 860-292-1685

Environment VP • Phil Apruzzese ( e) [pjapruz@aol.com](mailto:pjapruz@aol.com)

Promotions VP • Richard Gaudreau:

(h) 860-745-0548 (e) [readfr1@cox.net](mailto:readfr1@cox.net)

Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 860-871-8703

Legal Secretary • Mark Barbieri (h) 860-623-8187

Treasurer • Chuck Koteen

Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 860-858-5633

Advisory Board • Ray Riley (h) 860-721-0547

Advisory Board • John Baracchi

Banquet Chairman • Kurt Jagielow

Conservation Chairman • Ted Rzepski

Education Chairman • Peter Naples 860-620-2317

Indoor Facilities Chairman. • Denise Dauray

Legislative Chairman • Vin Ringrose (h) 860-828-4642

Membership Chairman • Phil McCormick

(h) 860-871-8703

Newsletter Chairman • John Springer

(h) 860-510-2383 (e) [cffa@comcast.net](mailto:cffa@comcast.net)

Program Chairman • Roger Plourde

(h) 860-747-4297 (w) 860-747-3324

**Publicity Chairmen Dan Price**



P.O Box 380268

East Hartford, CT 06108



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

