

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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MAY 2018



From the vest of the President



Our annual April fly tying round-table was once again a success and drew a nice crowd. The fly tiers displaying their craft had many years of experience and I thank them all for sharing their techniques and patterns with all of us. It's always nice to see students from our fly tying schools and fly fishing schools at our meetings and this was the case at our April meeting. We did hold our casting instruction at the P&F pond in East Hartford on Saturday April 7 and despite the cold temperature all of the students learned plenty and went home a better fly caster. Bill Keister has volunteered his time as lead instructor for many years and he once again led the class this day. Our CFFA is very thankful and appreciates Bill's effort. Dan Price posted some photos of the day taken by him and Chuck Koteen along with a short summary on our Facebook Page. The students will have their day on the Willimantic River TMA with a CFFA member to complete the course April 28th.

At our April BOD meeting our board members were shown the site plans for construction and operation of a truck stop and restaurant by Love's Travel Stop to be located adjacent to Roaring Brook just south of the Nipmuck State Forest. Our past president Bruce Rich expressed our CFFA concerns about this project with a letter to DEEP when he was president. Despite this, the project continues moving forward so we have once again

written a letter expressing our concerns with the next step, Love's application to the DEEP to install and operate their SWAS. A SWAS is a system that conveys treated wastewater back into the ground. The proposed SWAS is capable of handling up to 9,000 gallons per day of wastewater.

On Monday April 9th I was contacted by Bryan from the Quinebaug Hatchery. He wanted to know if we wanted to stock the Willimantic River TMA with our "Live Cars" that we received last year from Nathan Hale Ray High School. I jumped at the chance and sent out an e-mail to members that have helped us before. I called Bryan back and let him know we were ready and he delivered. On Friday the 13th we float stocked the TMA from Roaring Brook down to the Rt.84 overpass. These carts were a dream to use and could easily be maneuvered by a single person. Ron Dunleavy was our leader of this event and everything went smooth because of him. Others that helped were Dan Price, Gary Bogli, Robert Heitman, John Ferrantino, Joe Kowalczyk, Joe Klinger, Mark Packer, John Walker, Bud Russell, Steve Graefe, Irv Stanley and Tyler Paquette. So the trails are clean and the fish are there. Spring fishing should be very good in the Willimantic TMA this year.

Upcoming events include a CFFA promotion of Fly Fishing at the Southington Library in May and the Essex Library at a date to be determined. You should be able to find information on the libraries websites. Our outing with the students from the American School for the Deaf is scheduled for May 15.

I am passing this along to our membership and you can share it with your friends if you want. Our program chairman Roger Plourde has acquired CFFA's Paul Beaudreau's entire collection of fly fishing equipment, tying materials, books and tools. Paul is still around & well but he is no longer using any of the above. I can tell you he had only the best of everything. Roger is selling a large collection of trout flies for \$1.00/fly and whatever else Paul had. He always tied his flies with the best hooks and materials available. If you don't tie your own flies this is a chance to stock your boxes with the best you can

get. If you do tie your own flies most materials are marked down 50% of what they sell for in stores. Call Roger if you are interested 860-919-3513.

This is your last newsletter until next September and our last meeting until next fall. Our May 9th and will feature "The French Fisherman" Antoine Bissieux. His presentation is titled "Where, when and how to nymph the Farmington River". I hope all of you have a wonderful spring and summer and for the beginners in our classes remember to be patient and keep a journal of your experiences. We'd love to hear about them in a story in our future newsletters.

Gary



I got to fish Big Snowbird, Fires Creek and the Pigeon Rivers with my friend Eddie Hudon the first week in April. These rivers are in Western North Carolina they have miles of Catch and Release water from October till the First Saturday in June. About 900 miles away, beautiful Smokey Mts. Thousands of fish. <http://bluechipflyfishing.com/> all you need to know about this.



Fly Fishing New Orleans?

By John Manfred

A few months ago a friend called me to ask if I'd like to join him and two others on a fishing expedition to New Orleans. At first I thought he was joking, but soon discovered that he was quite serious. He had heard from another fisherman he'd met bone fishing in Exuma that the redfishing in N.O. was extraordinary. I told him I would think about it. Not to doubt him, I went on line to check it out and was pleasantly surprised. U-tubes of folks catching 30lb. fish in the Louisiana bayou peeked my interest. Who would have thought such a thing existed. I called Stan back with three words, "Count me in."

Stan made all the arrangements. We stayed at the Courtyard Marriott for the first night (Monday) allowing us to visit the WWII Museum, which, itself, was fantastic. We spent the afternoon there as well as the next morning. We had a taste of blackened redfish and N.O. jazz that night. By Tuesday afternoon we were ready to hop into the hired van, which took us to our destination – The Dogwood Lodge. Now this is no ordinary fishing lodge. It is a retired Coastguard buoy tender built in 1940. It happened to be 77 years old, just like me, but in much better shape. It was docked at a canal leading to the vast complex of meandering waterways called "the marsh" by the locals. The double rooms were compact but quite comfortable. The capacity of the vessel was 12 sports. We were lucky enough to have occupied the last two rooms. There was a luxurious lounge/bar area where the fish tales were endless as well as the booze in the open bar. All meals, guides, gear and accommodations for three days of fishing and four nights cost just under \$2000.00. If we stayed at the hotel back in the city we'd have paid much more.

Up at 6:30 AM Wednesday; hearty breakfast at 7:00 and on the water by 7:30. The 17 ft. flats boats took close to an hour to reach the desired fishing grounds at 30 mph. You do the math. The day was overcast so sight fishing was difficult. Fortunately several fish showed themselves by their tailing. Their dorsal fins and tails would splash about as they were busily feeding in shallow water. My first fish was a 10 pounder that ended up with a quick release by wrapping my leader around the boat's trim tab. "Snap!" Brandon, our guide, preferred his flies to the ones I had tied for the trip so I did not start out using my own flies. At mid day we were just finishing our lunch when I noticed an incredible amount of splashing about a hundred yards from our beached

boat. It looked not unlike a school of hungry bluefish smashing through a pod of baitfish in Long Island Sound. I yelled to Brandon, "Are those fish I see splashing out there?" His response was "Hold on!" While he quickly started the motor, backed away from our lunch stop, and headed toward the thrashing fish. They turned out to be cravelle jacks. Brandon shut the motor down and rigged up a 9wt rod. Dangling the fly overboard while he was setting the drag on the fly reel a fish came up from under the boat and attacked the fly. He slammed the line back to set the hook and handed the rod over to Stan. A half hour battle later Stan was so tired that he could not turn the fish, by now a hundred yards into the backing. He handed the rod to me. I set the drag even tighter and with all my strength was able to finally gain a few turns on the reel. It seemed forever but he finally tired and we were able to boat the fish – a handsome 30 pounder. Time for a photo opportunity and release.



The second day of fishing was even harder than the first as a cold front had moved in. Not only was there no sun but the wind was howling. Fly-fishing was out of the question. Judd, our guide for the day, brought out the spinning rods. He demonstrated the rig, which consisted of a popping cork about three feet from a plastic bait. He winged it out a hundred and fifty feet, gave it a hard gurgling jerk and the whole thing disappeared under water. The first cast and a fish was already on. Wow! That was easy. Judd handed off the rod to me and after a considerable fight a 26 Pound red drum showed up to have his picture taken. You might have guessed it – that easy first fish was the last of the day.



The third day was the most exciting of all. The sun finally came out and we were able to sight fish. Not only did David and I catch several fish, but my u-tube fly turned out to be a killer. One of the fish weighed in at 22 pounds. Happy campers all.

Peter Naples ran the casting clinic for the students again this year. The following volunteers helped out.

Dan Price, Gary Steinmiller, Bill Keister, Gary Bogli, Ron Dunleavy, Chuck Koteen, Bob Winot, Phil Apruzzese, Chris Brezzo, Paul Rice, Kevin Fuller, Mark Lucas.



Bill Keister explains to the students that the fish are in the water, this is where you cast. It does not mean you will catch them but you will have a much better chance at it if you get your fly out there!



The week before opening day Ron Dunleavy was the point man for the stocking by live carts on the Willimantic river. The fish got spread out so people should have more enjoyment fishing. We thank the volunteers that came to help out. As you can see Ron it also pointing out where to put the fish to his volunteers.



Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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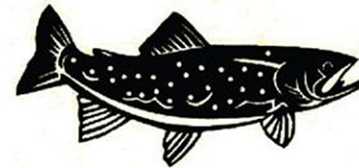


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UPCOMING EVENT

Lots of good times with friends, take pictures and send them to me for next season please



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