

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

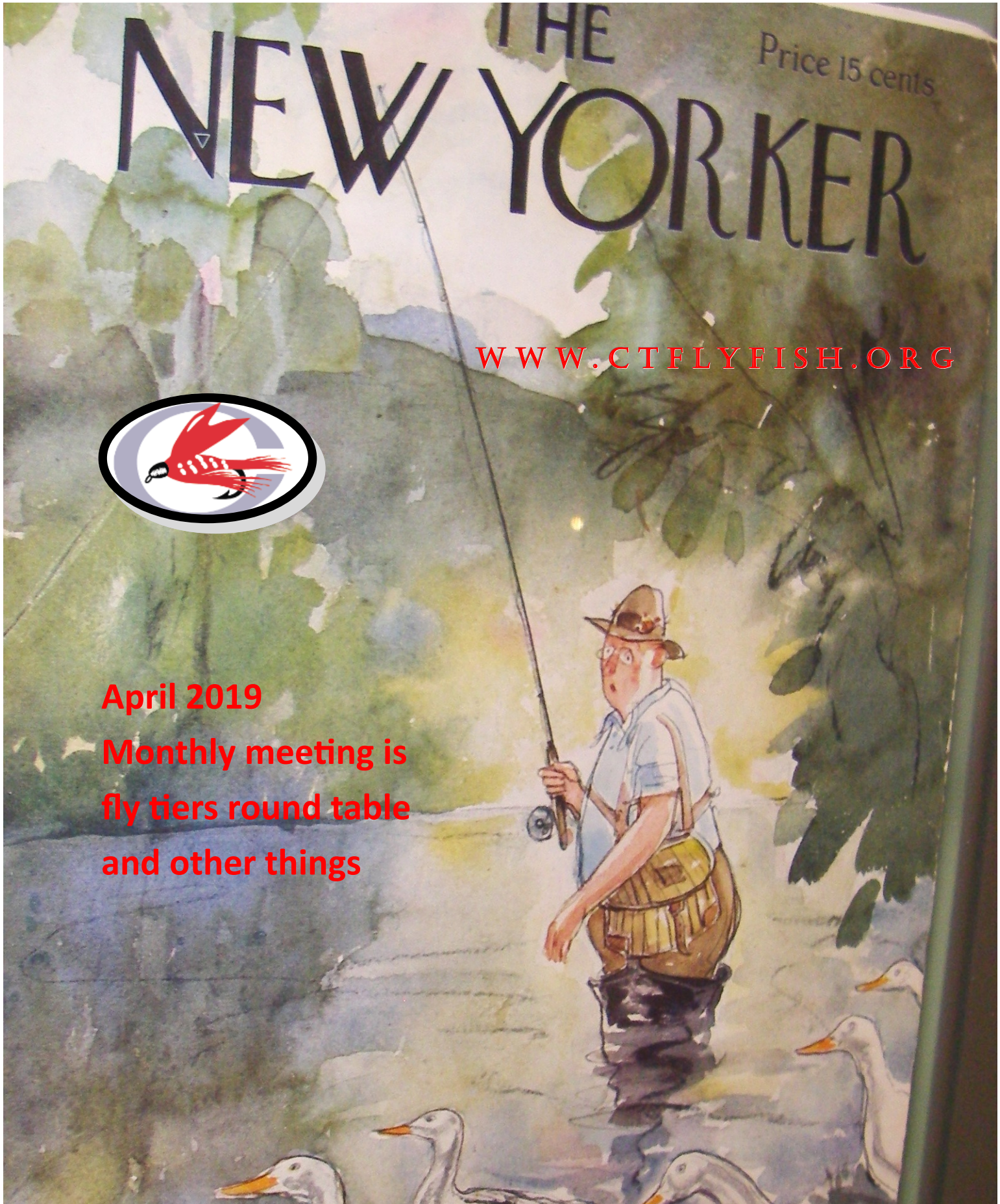
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**April 2019**

**Monthly meeting is  
fly tiers round table  
and other things**



## From the vest of the President



Once again Neil Hagstrom provided our CFFA with an informative presentation at our March meeting. He is going to be missed when he retires from the DEEP later this year or early next year. We at CFFA wish him a very happy retirement when that time arrives. We had a very good crowd and Neil engaged with everyone in attendance.

Last night was our final tying class with the students at the American School for the Deaf. Kevin Fuller lead these classes along with a number of CFFA assistants. It was very nice to see some new faces volunteering this year and judging by the smiles on their faces I believe they will return next year to assist again.

Our beginning fresh water fly fishing class led by Pete Naples is full with 25 or so new fly fishing students. Pete asked me to ask for your assistance with these new students especially at class 4 April 11th at Cabela's during our knot tying instruction and at our casting instruction on April 27th at the P&F pond in East Hartford and our stream instruction May 4th on the Willimantic River. Pete can be reached at 860-620-2317. Please call him if you have any questions about either of these classes or if you want to be counted on as assistant. These students may be the future of our CFFA so try your best to be there.

Once again this spring we will do our best to stock the Willimantic River TMA with "Live Carts". This process will spread trout throughout the entire TMA and create a better fishing experience for anyone that fishes there. I have contacted the manager of the hatchery and have received a commitment to work with us as long as conditions of the river permit us to do the stocking in a

safe manner. The TMA has already been stocked with 800 trout in late February.

Our next meeting on April 10th is our annual Fly Tying Roundtable however this year we are trying something a little different. We realize a lot of our members don't tie flies so we are going to have some members exhibit various tricks of the trade. We hope this appeals to everyone and if you have a tip or a trick that you would like to share just show up with your materials and we will get you a table or you can contact Bob Winot at 860-571-1914 and let him know you want to do something that night.

Gary

Our meeting on April 10th will be our annual Fly Tiers Roundtable. Come join us for a night of camaraderie and conversation as we join some of the best tiers in the area as they demonstrate their skills. Learn a new technique and a pattern or two.

New this year will be a few hands on demonstrations explaining fishing methods that may be new to you.

Any interested tiers or demonstrators contact Bob Winot at [tabermana@cox.net](mailto:tabermana@cox.net)



## Setting Goals For A Day The On River

By Carl Ochnio

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Congratulations, you've made the decision to go fishing. For most anglers it is a pretty easy decision, often referred to as a no-brainer. The feeling that you should get out on the water can be initiated by a nice day, a demanding work schedule, or simply a call from a friend who provides a promising river report.

Back in high school, all it took was this simple statement, "Hey, let's skip and go fishing," and a few of us were on our way. Funny story, one nice spring day a few friends and yours truly decided to ditch school and go fishing. We were hiking a narrow trail to the river and when of all things, we saw our guidance counselor and high school principal coming up the trail *from* the river. There was nowhere for us to hide. It seemed like we were doomed. Initially we recognized them by their faces, but wait, they were in waders and carrying fishing rods! Respectfully, we moved to the side of the trail, most likely with our heads down, awaiting our fate. Of all things they smiled and said good morning, and then walked right past us. The next day we were anxious and awaited our call to the office. It never came, and there was never an official reprimand for the hooky fishing incident. This is clear evidence that all it can take is a nice day to pull a fly-fisher away from their responsibilities. Sensibly used, most of us can use a "mental health" day once in a while, even a high school principal and guidance counselor.

Let me get back on task. You have decided to go fishing. Now skip ahead to the end of that very day, when you are breaking down your rod and packing up your gear. What guidelines will you use to judge the success of the outing? My guess is that most of us wait until the end of day to evaluate the trip. As an alternative, how about beginning to identify your goals before you set out?

Does making the choice to go fishing imply the trip will be rewarding just because you were able to get out on the river? Maybe you learned something new, had a great conversation with a fellow angler, or discovered a potential new hot spot? Would that be satisfying? Well wait, what about the fish? Can I shed some light on how most others will judge that day? If someone asks you what you did yesterday and your response is I went fishing, they likely will ask how you did.

Have you ever wondered why the "catch and release" philosophy took so long to gain momentum? Twenty years ago, if you went fishing, then returned home, someone would ask a simple question, "Did you catch anything?" If you happened to land a few fish and then produced an empty stringer, well who would believe you? It's a bad rap, but isn't it common knowledge that fisherpersons are generally well known for spinning yarns? To that point, John Gierach even titled one of his books, [All Fisherman Are Liars](#). Not long ago, many of us probably owned a creel. We would catch a fish, then promptly stuff it in there, and when we returned home, we could actually present evidence of our success. I am convinced that digital cameras and smart phones are examples of technology that have helped to advance the "catch and release" movement. Years ago, who would choose to lug around a self-developing Polaroid Land camera (last produced in 1983) and then take selfies with it? Today, we can take a photo, bring it home and actually validate our success with a grip and grin pose. I have to believe this topic requires further research and there is a possible dissertation lurking there for a savvy graduate student.

Now what percentage of your fellow anglers think it is just okay to get out on the water? It sounds good, but a trip to the river always seems more fulfilling when you actually do what you set out to do. That is, catch fish!

When you packed up in the morning and pulled out of your driveway, what was your goal? Was it simply to catch fish? Are you prepared to fall short of that goal? What if you don't hook up? You just might experience a skunk. Not latching up with a few fish could be processed and felt in a number of ways.

The ideal conditions for me to have a skunk is when nobody else is hooking up (file that under misery loves company) or if I am fishing a stretch of river all by myself, and there is not a soul around. The worst is when there is another person within my field of vision and they seem to be bringing fish after fish to their net. For added effect, said angler is a hooting and hollering for all to hear. At times, based on body language alone, I can share little joy in their success, but hey, that is just me. Okay, maybe I am beginning to show early signs of C.O.M. syndrome, that's cranky old man syndrome.

My personal preference for an ideal day on the water is a fish an hour. Don't ask how I ever came up with this, but it works for me. I find that if I hook up with a fish once an hour, it keeps me focused, optimistic and engaged. Should I be fishless for an hour, I start to drift, lose confidence, and start thinking about my ever expanding "to do" list. Fishless for too long and I begin to wonder if I'll ever catch a fish again.

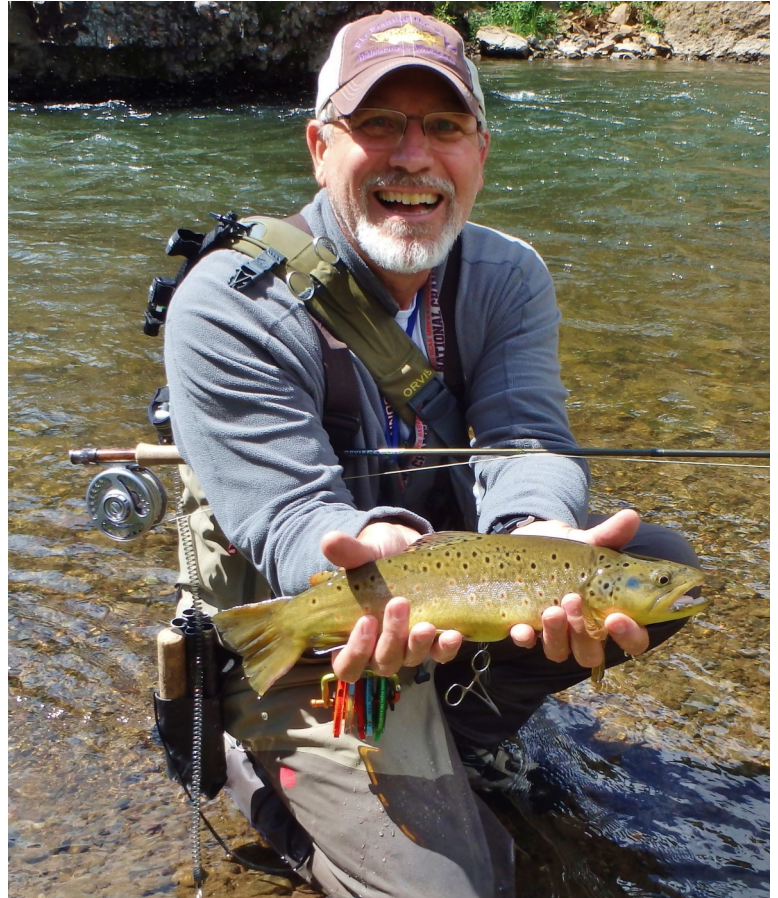
What would make a satisfying day on the water for you? Would it be landing fish after fish that were just stocked and are all podded up in a pool? For some, this could be a perfect day, or maybe it's just one particular fish on the opposite bank, rhythmically sipping on the surface. It is a challenging eddy that requires a long cast across conflicting stream currents. After repeated fly and tippet changes, you finally get that perfect cast resulting in a tug and play a beautiful rainbow to the net. That single fish and particular situation might send some anglers home smiling. Different strokes for different folks.

Why did you decide to go fishing? What did you set out to do? Psychologically it might be better to define or temper your expectations before you pull out of your driveway. It may help to make your next trip a better experience.

Should the success of your next day on the river be based

solely by a hard fish count? The more fish, the better the day? Here's a quote from Henry David Thoreau, who stated that, "Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after."

Hopefully your next day on the water is successful, whatever goals you set and don't forget your camera. Sorry, but as an angler, you'll still probably require P.O.C., that is proof of catch.



Again I would like to thank Carl for sending me one of his great stories about something we all love so much, I enjoy Carl's insight into why we go fishing and the way his stories show us all its more than just about the fish we catch, I'm waiting for him to include something about enjoying food on the river with his friends :-)

There are always so many people to thank for making the Expo and Banquet a success. A BIG Thank You to all of the Vendors, Tiers, Donors and Attendees for helping CFFA have another successful Expo and Banquet. Thanks to Rich Strolis for endless enthusiasm, sharing of information and two great presentations, he helped make the day. Congratulations to Phil Apruzzese on winning the Grand Prize Winston Outfit. We hope you land many large fish. When you do please write an article for the newsletter and send it to John Springer the club newsletter editor. Pete Naples and Roger Plourde and my wife Deb I thank you for all you do.

Here's to next year. Let's make it another great event.

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# Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



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