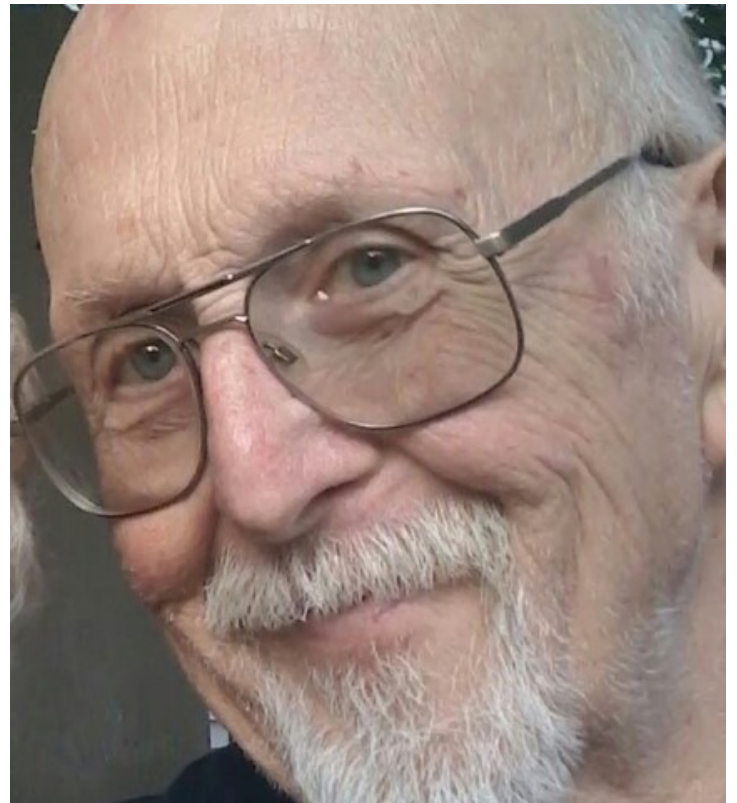


The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association  
[WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG](http://WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG)

December 2019



*Save the Date!*

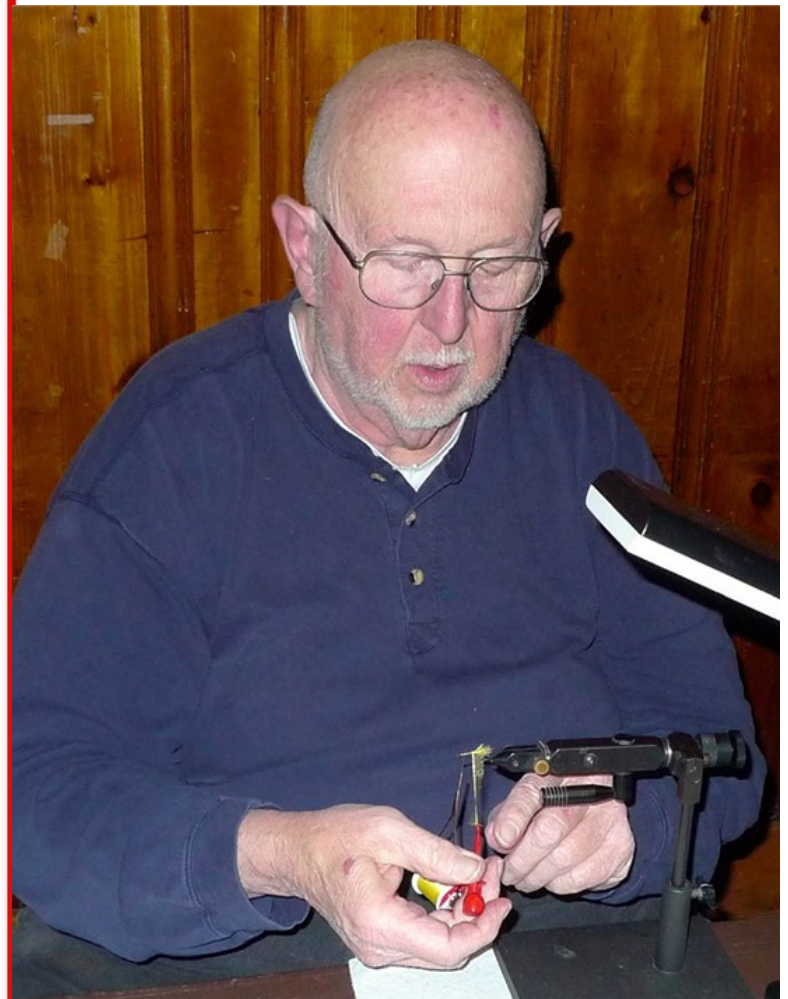
**Fly Fishing Expo & Banquet  
Saturday, February 1**



**Expo 9am – 3pm | Banquet 5:30 pm**  
Presentations, vendors, fly tyers row,  
kids' fly tying, awards, bucket raffle

*Follow updates on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/ctflyfish](https://facebook.com/ctflyfish)*

*Ticket sales start mid-December on  
[ctflyfish.org](http://ctflyfish.org)*





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 <p><b>FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL</b></p>  <p>CONSERVATION - EDUCATION - PASSION</p> <p>RAUL (RAV) RAMOS - FFI CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR</p> <p>Individual / group fly-fishing lessons   <a href="mailto:ramosray007@comcast.net">ramosray007@comcast.net</a>  1.860.559.0369</p>	<h2>UpCountry Sportfishing</h2>  <p>352 Main Street, P.O. Box 44 • Pine Meadow, CT 06061  <b>Phone: (860) 379-1952</b>  <a href="http://www.FarmingtonRiver.com">www.FarmingtonRiver.com</a></p>

## Our Speaker for December will be Rob Nicholas

Rob is a full time guide on the Housatonic and Farmington rivers, located in the Northwest corner of Connecticut, and has been operating *Housatonic Anglers* since 1993. Rob's knowledge of the sport comes from 25 years of guiding but he also continues to learn more about angling for trout through extensive travel to Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, Labrador, the UK, and the American West. All the guides he has fished with in these areas have helped him grow as an angler, caster and fly tyer. Rob conducts his guiding mostly from drift boats but wade trips are also offered. He likes to mix it up when guiding, switching between 10' nymphing rigs, streamers with sink tips, wet flies, and, of course, his favorite, dry fly fishing. All of these methods require different skill sets and Rob helps teach his clients how become more effective at catching trout on a consistent basis given current conditions.

In addition to guiding, Rob runs a booking agency called *Angling in the Andes, The Best of Patagonia* which focuses on the best outfitters & lodges in Argentina and Chile. The lodges and outfitters that he recommends he knows personally because he has fished with them many times over the past 20 years so there are no surprises. Unlike other booking agents and even the lodges themselves that promote and "dress up" the fishing in their respective area, Rob will give you the real skinny on what to expect if you travel to Chile or Argentina. By selecting lodges and outfitters in a variety of very different locations, Rob can assist you in finding the place that best fits your fishing preferences and budget. Some of these trips are hosted by Rob and he also offers group discounts to clubs that put their own group together.

Over the years Rob and his clients have taken thousands of photographs and video of Chile and Argentina. To see these images and videos posted on YouTube have a look at Rob's two websites. [www.anglingintheandes.com](http://www.anglingintheandes.com) and [www.housatonicanglers.com](http://www.housatonicanglers.com)



## From the vest of the President



I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving Holiday no matter what you decided to do. It is now the time for our CFFA to get serious about our upcoming educational classes and our annual Expo and Banquet. The dates and curriculum of our January fly tying classes are on our website and our Facebook Page and have been submitted to various publications. If you'd like to participate in this class or know someone that does please refer to the postings and share the information with perspective students. Our Expo and Banquet will follow. If you are a past vendor or know anyone that might want to exhibit at the Expo please contact Roger Plourde for pertinent information. Also the vendors that do come can use your assistance getting their equipment and materials into and out of the venue before and after the Expo. Looking ahead a month we did purchase the DVD Live the Stream: The Story of Joe Humphreys and it is the movie we will be showing during our Pizza & Movie night at our January membership meeting. We will also be holding our annual election of our officers that evening. Don't let this keep you away, most everyone serving currently is returning as far as I know.



In our previous newsletter I mentioned that I had two trips scheduled to fish for steelhead on the Salmon River in New York. Both trips were fun and both trips were very different as far as the weather conditions. The first trip was a Sunday to Friday trip with the guys from JT's



Fly Shop. I jumped at their invitation to join them on their annual excursion despite having never fished with any of them previously. One thing that made my decision easy was the fact that we would not be fishing on the weekends when the number of anglers on the river increases tremendously. Another factor in my decision was that I would be joining a bunch of good

guys with plenty of experience chasing "Steel". Each and every day we fished steelhead were hooked and brought to a waiting net and the warm weather was icing on the cake. Our best day of the trip fish wise was on a warm rainy day with a major cold front on the way. I have heard that a falling barometer is good for fishing, it was this day as the seven of us landed 12 steelhead out of 37 hooked.

The second trip was courtesy of an invite to Ron Dunleavy and I from CFFA BOD member Phil Apruzzese. This was the third year in a row the three of us fished in November for Steelhead and the third year in a row we encountered snow during our trip despite going a week earlier this time. I was sweating the 1st trip fishing in my breathable waders and needed my 5mm neoprene waders, gloves, hand warmers and wool hat on this second trip. Phil has been making this fall trip with his sons for many years and they attended this year as well. Aaron made the 7 hour trip from Maryland and Ian drove from Torrington CT. I really enjoyed my time fishing with and meeting his boys for the first time. In the two previous years they showed up when Ron and I headed for home. Despite the cold weather and the holiday (Veterans Day) crowds we were lucky enough to find space to fish near each other every day. We hooked and landed Steelhead along with some very nice Brown Trout and small Rainbow Trout. I must say I am both amazed and inspired with Phil's determination and his stamina. There is a song written by Toby Keith inspired by Clint Eastwood



on You Tube that was brought to my attention by Gary Bogli named “Don’t let the Old Man In”. People like Gary and Phil along with many other CFFA members live by these lyrics. Goggle it and give it a listen.

If any of the above has created an interest in fishing for Steelhead I highly recommend you either stop by the JT’s Fly Shop table at our annual Expo in February or call them if you can’t wait that long. They will answer all your questions and get you off on the right foot. Their number is in this newsletter in their advertisement.

Thanks to everyone that returned their borrowed books to our library and I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season.

See you on Dec. 11  
Gary



Note from Editor about 11 books have been returned to the library. There are about 12 more missing please check for this so we don’t have to call you up. We are so lucky to have this done for us losing books is not good.

John

Herbert VanKruiningen shared a picture of his wonderful Atlantic Salmon he caught while fishing Canada this fall.



## Dreaming About Hitting the Road For A Great Fishing Adventure?

Becoming a little blasé about fishing your home waters? Feel you know them a little too well? Beginning to recognize your catch and suspect you have possibly landed a certain fish for the third time this season? Starting to notice the same cars in the pull outs, and anglers who apparently plan on wearing the same attire throughout the season? This should worry you. Particularly when you run into a fellow angler and you observe they're wearing a new pair of waders. You could be in trouble, since you haven't noticed that your significant other recently changed their hair style.

So you begin to dream about fishing pristine rivers and visiting exotic fishing locations. This is the first step in breaking out of your comfort zone and experiencing a great adventure. Let's start by not taking your local streams and rivers for granted. They are special places where you have history, honed your casting skills and refined your ability to read water. These spots have unique spirit and soul. It's where you learned about insects and hatch cycles. Through years of experience wading these sites, you are able to quickly pass by pools that aren't productive. Congratulations, it appears that you have "mastered your domain."

This has resulted in you coming down with a case of the "grass has to be greener" syndrome and it has deeply rooted itself in your psyche. You picture mountain rivers surrounded by snow-capped peaks and anglers with huge grins on their faces, holding enormous and colorful trout. For well-seasoned anglers and boomers, those images were burned into their memory during their youth. These tantalizing photos appeared on the covers of "monthly" sporting magazines such as *Outdoor Life* and *Sports Afield*. Have a little empathy for our youngest generation. They may not have a chance, as similar images, referred to as "fish porn" is available on a variety of devices twenty-four hours a day. Even though it is a new technology, the shots are the same. Great places, giant fish and grinning faces. Different medium that with any luck, will have a similar influence on today's youth referred to as Generation Z. We can only hope.

It sure is enticing to toss around the idea of traveling to blue ribbon and world class fisheries. Where you envision the fish attacking your dry flies the same way opportunistic seagulls swoop down on french fries dropped on a seaside boardwalk. Do places like this really exist? Are there days, during specific seasons, where this can happen? Sure, just don't expect it to necessarily happen at the exact moment you arrive at your dream destination.

Obviously, one of the reasons you plan a destination angling trip is to run into some fish. Hopefully a few really nice ones or one really enormous oinker. Consider that an underlying part of an adventure is it provides the opportunity to experience change. The food, history, and wildlife could be uncommon or unique. The traveling angler should make an effort to investigate, experience, and engage themselves in these things while fishing away from home. Those historic markers passed on the highways and byways can really be fascinating. If possible, stop and check them out. If time does not permit a stop, safely Google information on your phone as you cruise down the highway. It could add another very satisfying dimension to your traveling experience.

An added benefit of travel? It can provide an opportunity to totally immerse oneself in angling. When I take a day trip to fish local waters, and should the conditions be off, my mind can wander to the long list of chores waiting for me at home. I know this sounds inconceivable, but at times, those thoughts can be simply overwhelming and within two hours, I find myself at home, mowing the lawn.

When you are fishing 2,000 miles away from home, I can report through experience that the power of a "to do" list completely loses its clout. An angler is then free from these intrusions and there can be plenty of time, to simply fish. When on a trip, I typically fish a half day and your first response might be "is that all?" Well just do the math. A day is 24 hours in length, then a half day is 12 hours. This is the routine you can very easily adapt to. On the water early, then lunch, fish early afternoon, take



a break or nap and then get out for the evening hatch and then back at the cabin after dusk. The first day or two might be an adjustment, then you find yourself falling into a Zen like trance and the days seem to just fly by. A fishing trip can provide concentrated time to improve and accelerate your angling skills. That never ending “to do” list doesn’t stand a chance during an extended fishing adventure.

After all the planning, preparation and money you have invested, anticipate things working against you. When you arrive at your destination, be prepared for a fly shop employee, fellow angler or guide to burst your bubble. You might hear things like

“you should have been here last week, or come in next week, should have been here yesterday, the hatch was early this year or will be later due to the high runoff.”

Just as that comfortable local stream you have been fishing for years goes through cycles and has its own ups and downs, realize, so do destination locations. It just hap-

pens. If you are planning a trip, have backups. Outline Plan B, and Plan C, in advance. It is to your advantage to have numerous options, other than relying on a good book.

Last summer, due to high run off from a historic snowfall in Colorado, I had to move down to Plan B for a few days. I regularly like to fish one particular river. The ideal flow rate for me is 80-120 cfs. When I arrived two years ago, it was running at 28cfs. I didn’t think it could get any worse and it went down to 18 cfs. This year, due to the snowpack it was running around 325 cfs and muddy. Challenges happen and an integral part of a traveling fly fishing enthusiast’s mantra should be flexibility and resilience. Should travels take you to fish isolated waters having few options, you could be in trouble. Look for places that offer easy access to waters that can serve as an escape plan. Just in case that main river turns coffee brown for a few days due to rain, a mud slide, or a wild fire that just happens to shut down the national forest you planned to hike in.

In traveling to remote locations, it’s also prudent to adopt a NASA like philosophy and have redundant equipment and backup options. The “local” fly shop might be 50 to 100 miles away on a dirt track road. I don’t know why, but when on a dedicated fishing trip it is amazing how much gear one can

## Dick Wemmell's Fly Box

We mourn the loss of Dick Wemmell, a teacher, a friend and a great fisherman. “Dick Wemmell’s Fly Box” inspired us to be our best at the vice and on the water. We remember Dick with a smile on his face and a fish in his hand. Dick is survived by Charlotte, his wife of 57 years, his four children and six grandchildren.

Dick has been sending in flies for me to publish in our newsletter for many years I don’t know how many to be honest, I always knew I could count on him each year an envelope would come in the mail with flies and a card for each one. He was a true volunteer of CFFA for so many years, had a great way of telling a story and a beautiful smile. About a year ago he shared with me he was dying and so I thanked him and started looking for another person to fill this box, when he told me he was doing better I said well then send me flies! Your not off the hook as your not going anywhere yet. He chuckled said he did not want to step on any toes. I assured him he was not and send me flies, he use to send me 8 but he sent me a few more last time. Thank you Dick.

lose. Hopefully, it is simple items such as floatant or nippers. Recently, while sitting on the bank of a remote Colorado river, I nearly burned a hole in my waders as the rays of a powerful mid-day sun passed through my hat magnifier. That is a situation that is difficult to foresee. That reminds me, in the future always bring a wader repair kit.

Because you are fishing new water, the question will be where and how to fish? If you are planning a short stay of a day or two, consider booking a guide. It will save time, as the learning curve might be steep. As an example, if the plan is to visit the San Juan Quality Waters in New Mexico for a day or two, a local guide could be a good investment. It's a unique fishery with specific techniques and set ups that might be completely foreign to you. No doubt, it's a great place to cast a line and the fish are plentiful. Should an angler plan on using their favorite # 12 Pheasant Tail or Hare's Ear nymph with 4x tippet, they might run into an occasional fish, but they might really miss out. If your trip should be a bit longer, there could be adequate time for a "do it yourselfer" to figure things out.

Upon arrival, try to get an overview or update on the current fishing conditions (the easy way). The other option is learning through trial and error (known as the hard way). I have found that local fly shops can be helpful, if one simply asks. They can direct you to productive spots and point out what is working. Consider purchasing a few of their recommended flies as they are in business to sell merchandise, not to serve as your personal trip guide. Just don't expect them to tell you where they fish on their day off.

Sometimes one should listen carefully or be a bit skeptical. Should you inquire about a remote, high altitude lake you came across on Google Maps and someone says, "don't waste your time" or "never heard of it." Your initial thought might be, are they trying to just save me time or steer me off? That particular response is tough to evaluate. Let curiosity, intuition or sense of adventure be your compass. Remember that Jerry Seinfeld felt compelled to visit Tuscany just because the "Maestro" told him there were no places available to rent.

While traveling, it is not wise to go solo as so many things can go wrong. It's also nice to be able to share experiences with a good friend. It can also trim your costs and enable you to travel a little longer. Choosing a travel partner can make or break a trip as you will be spending considerable time togeth-

er. Try to find someone who is not picky about food, isn't a bad morning person or going to drive you to the poorhouse because their commitment is to a "first class only" life style. It is a delicate balance, but when you find the right person, nurture that relationship. Good travel partners can be hard to find. Celebrate their catches as if they were your own and don't participate in a daily fish count. Ideally it is not about competition and hopefully everyone has "their" good day.

My hope is everyone has an opportunity to make a trip to their dream place. Here are some quick tips: modulate your expectations, do your research well in advance, buddy up with a great travel partner, plan on some great moments, and be ready for some trip challenges that you have no control over. Be sure to take plenty of pictures, tell some great stories when you get home and inspire others to step out of their comfort zone and have their own great adventure.

Travel safe...have fun



Carlos asked me to put this now so people could think about making trips next year, it's a great idea to think about during the coming weather. I want to thank him and others for taking the time to send in their stories. Editor



# Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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**FARMINGTON VALLEY**  
**TROUT UNLIMITED**  
Conserving, promoting and restoring trout streams, education, fishing and their surroundings.

Saturday, January 4, 2020  
9 am - 1 pm  
Farmington Community Center  
321 New Britain Avenue  
Farmington, CT  
ADMISSION: \$2 - UNDER 16 FREE  
Save Date Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

### ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE

All this event, Trout Unlimited will collect donations of rods and reels for inner-city kids!  
Questions? - Call Bill Case at 860-879-7245. In the event of dangerous weather conditions, visit [www.fvtu.org](http://www.fvtu.org) for updates on this event.

