

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



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March 2019

Neal Hagstrom, DEEP fish biologist will be the speaker at our March meeting. "Changes in managing wild trout habitat- does more wood mean more fish?"

There has been new information coming out of Vermont and New Hampshire showing that adding more wood structures to streams can actually increase the number of fish in a brook. What does this mean for Connecticut and how can you help out?

Neal has been a stream biologist with DEEP's Fisheries Division for over 30 years. He started learning his trade from Dr. Whitworth, the UConn professor of fisheries, in Storrs during the 70's and studied in Grand Forks, North Dakota and Auburn, Alabama with some of the best Fisheries folks around. He worked in California's Sonora Deserts for his first five years as a professional Biologist before returning to New England to lead the State's Stream Survey project in 1988. You can find him at DEEP's Eastern District Headquarters in Marlborough.



From the vest of the President



Once again we pulled it off. A wonderful Expo coordinated by Roger Plourde and a real nice Banquet coordinated for the last time by our retiring banquet chairman Kurt Jagielow. Kurt has been running our banquets for a long time and they have all come off without a hitch. I and the entire membership of our CFFA thank you Kurt for a job well done and wish you and Debby well for years to come.

As for the EXPO we had a very nice crowd and after patrons were greeted by Denise, Christine and Phil they walked into the exhibition. Here there was something for everyone, youngsters tying their 1st fly with Kyle Dauray, 3 educational seminars, new fly patterns displayed on Fly Tyers Row, deals on equipment & fly tying materials, or just running into old friends that you have not seen in a while. Our featured guest Rich Strolis presented an excellent seminar and made himself available throughout the day to anyone and everyone. I'm told the final number of paid attendees was 360 and I was especially happy to see many students from our present and past Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Schools in attendance. I only got to talk with Sam Gertner for a short time but he and his mom Camela each took our class last year and per Sam they are enjoying their new hobby. We'd love to hear from all recent students about your endeavors, so feel free to send them to our newsletter editor John Springer. Many of our present students walked out with a bag of merchandise purchased with assistance from our education chairman Pete Naples or other assisting CFFA members. The results of these efforts can create lasting bonds and lead to a membership that will continue to grow. I applaud all of you

for your actions.

Appetizers, dinner, awards, a presentation by Rich Strolis and our raffle were the order of the evening. The two annual CFFA awards went to 2 very deserving recipients. The Ted Barbieri award named after CFFA's first president was given to Ed Bowsza, a non BOD member who is frequently found at our stream and casting instruction for new students, our trail maintenance on the Willimantic River. Ed also recently helped our CFFA with fly-fishing instruction at the Boy Scout Jamboree. The Scarlet Ibis award, given to a current BOD member selected by me as your current president, was presented to Phil Apruzzese. Phil not only did his job of Environmental V.P. with excellence, he represented our CFFA assisting with casting and stream instruction for our beginning students along with offering his knowledge in our annual mentor program. He also accepted all of our 2019 banquet payments, dinner selections and seating requests.

On occasion our CFFA presents a special award at our annual banquet. Our 2019 banquet was one of those occasions as our BOD voted to recognize Bill Hyatt. Bill and his wife Barbara were our guests for dinner and we presented Bill with an engraved fly box for his many years served and his recent retirement from our state DEEP. Bill's efforts helped create the Original Farmington River TMA followed by several more TMA's in 1994. Under his leadership our state's first Trout Management Plan was completed in 1999 and he initiated a wide range of New Trout programs in 2002. These programs involved both stocked and wild trout. He was always approachable and willing to listen and talk. He constantly worked to protect the resources we cherish and has always been a friend of our CFFA.

It was my honor to present these awards to each of these dedicated recipients.

Turn to Page 5 for the rest of Gary's message





Your looking at the man who ran fisheries and made it much better, the man who is #2 in running the banquet, his wonderful wife and kids really do all the work. Your looking at the Game Warden who still is out there watching for us and the man who raised our fish for well over 20 years.. Thank you one and all.

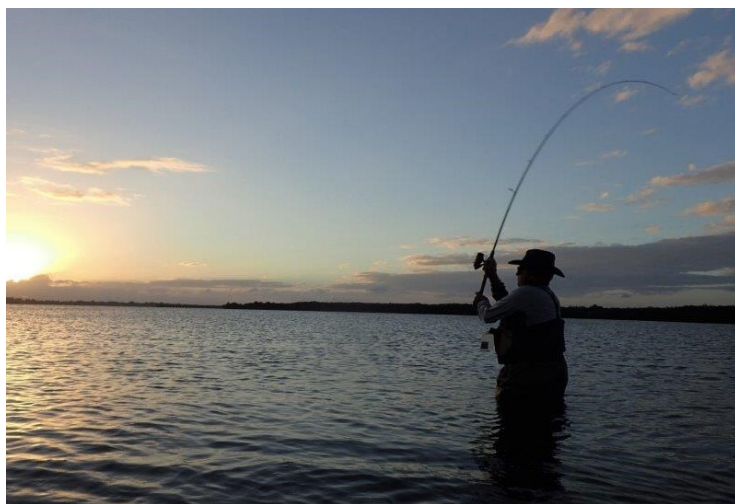
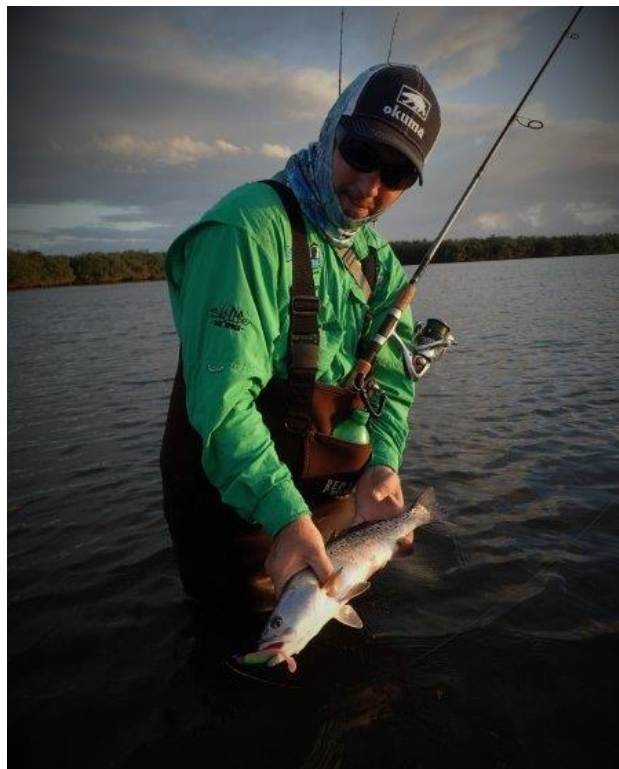


I want to thank once again Chuck Koteen for taking the time to take pictures all day for us to enjoy, like our other board members he gives a great deal of his time so we all can enjoy our club even more



Got out to fish in the saltwater last winter with Jason Arman who is a wading guide down in Port St. Lucie Florida. He does not fly fish but said I was welcome to if I wanted I figured the best thing to do was go with the flow and so I let him rig me up while I learned some new water. It's a beautiful place on the river Manatees were around us, as well as some small fish that kept jumping. Jason said we would catch sea trout and we did. I had to get use to the retrieve for this as it's different than stripper fishing back home. As you can see the man comes very prepared. He showed me several times how to retrieve and what we were looking for. Not sure how I'll use this retrieve on a fly rod but I'll try. I caught a very large ray when Jason saw this he took the rod away from me and had me step out of the way and tried to get the fish to shore so he could let it go, at the last second it got off. I figured with my boots on and waders I was all set he assured me I was wrong and if something this big had it hit me with its tail I would have had a problem. Fishing slowed so we moved to another spot and as the sun got very low I got a very nice fish; it was a first to get one that size for me. Later Jason got a cat fish and was hoping we would get a snook as the light got real low before it got dark but that did not happen. I will go out with him again next year to learn some more about the fishing down here, he was \$100 for half day, he never stopped talking. When I say that I don't mean just BSing, but he talked to me all day about the fishery, how to catch them and other places to try at different times of the year. He takes out bait fishermen also, but prefers to use artificial's and we got along fine I do wish I had hooked up with him sooner but as they say better late than never. As for fly fishing from what I experienced I'd say the last hour and a half before dark the fish come in closer and you can do fine with a fly rod without blowing out one's shoulder and that's what I was concerned about also.

John Springer



March is now here and it is a busy month. We will be conducting our Beginner Fly Fishing School on the evenings (March 21,28) (April 4,11) at Cabela's, with casting instruction on (April 27th) at the P&F pond in East Hartford and stream instruction on the Willimantic River (May 4). We'll also be teaching fly tying to students at the American School for the Deaf on Tuesday evenings in March from 6PM-7:30 PM, meals are available for instructors at 5:30 in the cafeteria. Cleaning up the trails on the Willimantic River is scheduled for (April 6 morning) . I will also be exploring a possible live car stocking of the Willimantic River TMA. If you'd like to become involved with any of these events Pete Naples (860-620-2317) is your contact for our Beginning Fly Fishing School, Kevin Fuller (860-632-2171) for the American School for the Deaf classes and Bob Winot (860-571-1914) for the trail maintenance on the Willimantic TMA and talk to Ron Dunleavy or myself if you want to help stock trout. At our next monthly meeting on March 13 Neal Hagstrom (DEEP Fish Biologist) will be our speaker. The title of his presentation "Changes in managing wild trout management - does more wood mean more fish?

Gary

Ernie "Boots" Boutiette, was my Mentor, my Friend, and the biggest reason I became and remained a member of our CFFA. Our difference in age (35 years) meant nothing when we initially met and he taught me to tie my first fly in the CFFA fly-tying school in the early 1980's. He offered me an open invitation to his home that I used many times over the years. He would greet me and say, "Come on up to my fly-tying room" and he would demonstrate the correct technique when I was having trouble with a particular fly. I loved to listen to his stories about fly tying and fishing. With his advice I bought my 1st graphite fly rod from CFFA rod builder Ed Roberts, bought my 1st vice, and took my 1st trip to Grand Lake Stream Maine. He was always willing to share anything and everything and I admired that trait. Over the years we fished together in Maine and on Jerry's boat many times. His enthusiasm never waned even as age advanced. He always said yes when I asked him to instruct in our fly-tying classes and he always tied 2 flies for every student in our fly-fishing classes. Many years ago I ran a

CFFA trip to Pulaski for Steelhead that he came along on and he ribbed me about that trip forever. It was "Too cold and not enough fish, when I go fishing I want lots and big" a favorite saying of his. On a recent visit with him I brought him some flies to inspect and he looked at them under the huge magnifying glass he used to read with and his critique was positive. Our conversation varied but concentrated on the fun we had fishing together over the years on Jerry's boat and at Grand Lake Stream. I mentioned that I had been up in Pulaski recently and his response was "You still going to that awful place, you need your head examined". I will never forget "Boots". I tie flies almost as much as he did and they are all tied on his vice, the one he gave me when he stopped tying. Last time I saw him in early January I told him that Vice should go into the Guinness Record Book for most flies tied. He laughed and called me a fanatic. It was a good visit and when I got home I said to my wife "if that was my last visit with Ernie it was a good one". It was.

Sincerely
Gary


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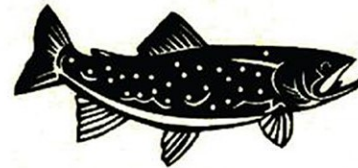


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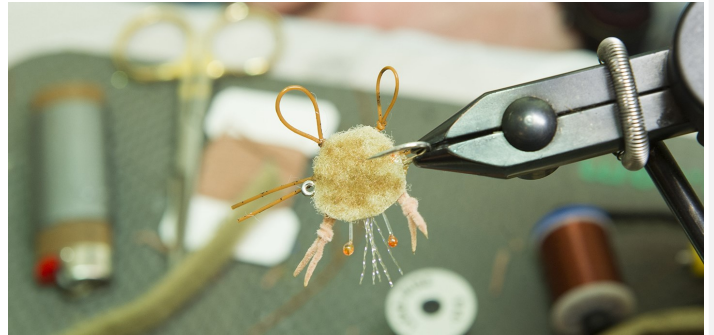


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UPCOMING EVENT

By the time you read this the stone flies will be starting to show on the Willimantic, it will be a month before the Hendrickson's will be out, stocking will have started if the water is low enough and your fly boxes should be filled :-)



 **Connecticut**
Fly Fisherman's Association

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