

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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May 2019

.....Our Speaker for May.....

Field is a writer, conservationist and fly-casting instructor. John has spent extensive time exploring the waters of the Northwest Territories and the provinces while on the mast of Canadian Sportfishing Magazine. He also filmed in the Amazonas in Venezuela and elsewhere while shooting and co-producing **Hunt for Big Fish** with Larry Dahlberg. John has decades of experience flats fishing the Florida Keys and striped bass fishing in the Northeast. John also makes regular fishing trips to the Balkans of Europe and the Yellowstone region. He is past-president of the New York City Chapter of Trout Unlimited and past president of the ACA (American Casting Association). John is an FFI Master Casting Instructor and author of two books; **Fly-Casting Finesse- A Complete Guide to Improving All Aspects of Your Casting**, Skyhorse Publishing, 2015 and **ACA's Beginner's Guide to Fly Casting- Featuring the Twelve Casts You Need to Know**, Skyhorse Books 2018. He is currently working on another book titled, **Trophy Striped Bass on the Fly**, Stackpole Books. It should be available in 2019. John's feature articles have been published in Fly Fisherman Magazine and many others and John has contributed to several books by other authors. Visit his website- fieldflyfishing.com"



The pictures below were taken at our April meeting where members share their fly tying methods and favorite flies with all of us. We had demonstrations on how to make a good dubbing mix as well as how to make your own Euro nymphing leaders.



Once again I want to thank Chuck Kotten for taking his great pictures and sharing them with us.



From the vest of the President



We are ready for Spring fishing, bring it on. Last week was a busy week for us at CFFA. On Saturday April 6th a number of members led by Bob Winot volunteered their time to help clean up the trails in the Cole W Wilde TMA on the Willimantic River. All trash was removed including a sewing machine and downed trees blocking passage were cut and moved. We were done by noon and some of us went for a nice lunch at Willington Pizza.

A float stocking was scheduled for Tuesday April 9th but Mother Nature did not cooperate. The rain we had Monday raised the level of the river to an unsafe height so the float stock was cancelled. The state was still coming with the trout so 4 CFFA members led by Ron Dunleavy assisted with the net stocking. We spread the fish out the best we could and the guys from the hatchery were a pleasure to work with. The TMA received 800 pounds of trout according to Dave who was driving the truck.

On Wednesday April 10th we had our membership meeting featuring fly tiers from the area demonstrating their talents. Kurt's daughter Jane was our youngest fly tier but her age did not stop her from tying some beautiful flies. It was very cool to observe the composure and confidence she exhibited while tying in front of complete strangers. I am looking forward to watching her progression in the years to come. I thank all the tiers that volunteered their

time to demonstrate their talents. The evening was not entirely fly tying as a few members also demonstrated knots, sight leaders and tricks for threading your leader through the eye of a small hook. All of you are to be thanked also. This meeting brought in some new faces and I enjoyed getting to chat with the 1st time visitors.

Thursday evening we were at it again as our 28 students in our fresh water beginning fly fishing school led by Peter Naples were taught a few necessary knots so they can add a leader to their fly line, a piece of tippet to their leader, and most important a knot to tie their fly to the end of the leader. When the class was over the students could perform all the knots they were taught. Now they just need to practice. A good number of CFFA members showed up to assist with this class and the students benefited from your presence. I thank all of you for making time to do this.

Our casting instruction for our students happened on Saturday April 27 at the P&F Pond in East Hartford once again this year. Our lead instructor was CFFA member Ray Ramos. Ray, certified casting instructor by Fly Fisher's International, demonstrated the basic fundamentals of casting to the entire class while our CFFA volunteers observed also. After the initial instruction everyone of the students found a space to practice what they had learned from Ray with assistance from Ray and the CFFA volunteers. By the end of the class most everyone could perform what they had learned and then some.

As this newsletter was going to print there is another stocking of the Cole W. Wilde TMA scheduled to take place. It will happen a few days prior to our students on stream instruction. We will be ready to float stock again if the river recedes to a safe level. If not we will do the best we can to spread the trout around. Come mentor a student in the morning on May 4th and fish the TMA in the afternoon. Check out our F.B. Page or call Pete Naples for postponements due to high water.

As you can see it takes many volunteers to make our events and our association a success. I thank all of you that have volunteered in one way or another throughout the year and I look forward to continuing our work as we move forward. This is our last newsletter until September and our meeting on May 8th is also our last membership meeting until September. Enjoy your summer season.
Gary





Casting for Recovery - Donation of Flies Needed

I want to thank all the members who made flies for Casting for Recovery last year, which they used at their recovery weekend in June to make earrings. It's that time again this year, and I'm seeking support from members to make a pair of the same files to donate to Casting for Recovery. Please bring the flies to the May meeting. I will make sure they get to Casting for Recovery by June. Below are some samples of earring they made from the flies we donated last year. They said by far the flies with the chartreuse color were their biggest seller. Thank you for your continued support! Denise



One Cast...

By Chuck Koteen

The Big Four game fish in Espiritu Santo Bay, about 140 miles south of Cancun, are bonefish, snook, tarpon and permit. Bonefish are plentiful and always a lot of fun with their explosive runs. Fishing for snook can challenge your casting ability as you try to hit that deep pocket in the mangroves. The 5 – 30 lb. resident tarpon are a blast with their aerial displays.



Permit on the fly are in a class by themselves. They're harder to find than the first three. They're notoriously picky eaters. They are pursued by a dedicated group of anglers who will spend all day on the flats for those few shots, ignoring any other fish in the sea. These anglers would rather catch nothing than waste time on lesser species.

Espiritu Santo Bay, in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, is just south of the better known Ascension Bay. To fish Espiritu Santo Bay, you'll stay at Playa Blanca, the only lodge on the remote private island of Punta Pájaros which fishes Espiritu Santo Bay. Usually less than a dozen anglers.



Getting there by pudle jumper is part of the fun. A small military installation (no photos allowed) protects the airstrip from illicit usage.

Accommodations are more than comfortable. And the food's outstanding. Playa Blanca also boasts its own Mayan ruins.

I enjoyed a first three days of generally good fishing with guide Eladio. We chased snook catching a few; cast at many un-hungry tarpon eventually catching just one; caught an abundance of bonefish; spent an hour a day, more or less, looking for and not seeing the elusive permit. I'm not a permit-or-nothing die-hard.

The fourth day was going very much like the first three days – caught a couple of snook, some bonefish, no tarpon shot. Mid-afternoon we began the obligatory hour looking for permit. Eladio spotted a school just breaking the surface. I'd caught these schoolies before. The little guys are as challenging a 3 lb. fish as you'll find.

One Cast cont.

I waited to get within range for my first cast of the trip to permit. I made a mediocre cast to the right of my target. Blame it on wind. Blame it on nerves. I started to strip in some line for a recast.

Then, the line wouldn't budge. Definitely not one of those schoolies. The bottom? Or something lurking, unseen. Whatever I had hooked, started moving away. No dramatic charge. No aerals. Just taking out my line. Then into the backing. Then deeper into the backing against a stiff drag. Then a back-and-forth with a big fish. I recovered the backing four times only to have the fish make another unstoppable run. I finally got the butt of the line back on the reel a last time. Eladio could now see the fish well enough – a permit. A good size permit. After that one cast and a twenty minute fight...



Eladio is a better guide than he is a photographer. Hence, no shot of me with the permit.

I had a great week with old friends and new, fishing stories from places near and far. Also caught – not by me – barracuda, shark, jack crevalle, and an African pompano which must have been lost. But I'll best remember that one cast.

Closing note: Going forward, I'll try harder to "keep 'em wet." Minimal fish-handling to release. Ideally the fish never leaves the water.

Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



Organza Hornburg

Hook– Mustad 33 #8
Tail-Golden Pheasant Tippet tail
Olive Organza Hackle

Mallard Wing

Hot Orange Head

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A very typical monthly meeting. Not sure if everyone comes out for Phil's Cookies & Coffee or the speaker, guess you just have to show up!



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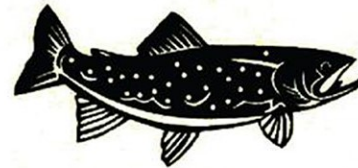


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UPCOMING EVENT

By the time you read this our best hatches have started and dry fly fishing should be very good. I hope everyone has a great season and please take pictures for me for our newsletter and if you have time do a story or two. Thanks, John



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