

# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

November 2019

[WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG](http://WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG)





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 <h2>WILLINGTON PIZZA HOUSE</h2> <p>Route 32 • 25 River Road  Willington Trading Center  Willington, Connecticut  <b>(860) 429-7433</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.willingtonpizza.com">www.willingtonpizza.com</a></p>	<h2>HIGH HOOK OREGON</h2>  <p>T. MARK SEYMOUR  PRESIDENT</p> <p><a href="http://WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM">WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</a>  22 LEADMINE ROAD  LEVERETT, MA 01054  413-218-0638  MARK@FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p> <p><i>Wines</i></p> <p>Love life. Go fishing. Care for the planet. Drink wine.</p>
 <h2>FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL</h2> <p>CONSERVATION - EDUCATION - PASSION</p> <p>RAUL (RAY) 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>  <b><a href="http://www.FarmingtonRiver.com">www.FarmingtonRiver.com</a></b></p>

Our Speaker for November will be Seth Boynick

Seth Boynick grew up fishing the Farmington River, Connecticut's most viable trout river and one of the finest tailwaters in New England. He has witnessed the river's improvement since he began to fish it extensively in the 1960s. Seth guides using his drift boats on the Farmington throughout the season for trout, and during the springtime on the Connecticut River for striped bass. Basic instruction, casting lessons and wade fishing are also offered.

Seth owns one of the only guide services using drift boats on the Farmington, employing either his 15' Clackacraft or 14' inflatable depending on water conditions. He takes pleasure in introducing even veteran fly anglers to fishing from a drift boat which allows access to lesser known waters which are otherwise difficult to fish. Some of these sections have incredible fish densities as well as the largest trout on the Farmington. Seth's clients often encounter trout in the 18 to 20" range and larger. It is not unusual to see deer, eagles, beavers, bear and mink while on a float. For more information Phone: 860-305-

9111

<https://www.facebook.com/farmingtonrivertradingcompany/>

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## From the vest of the President



Our October meeting went well. Ed Mitchell's information on fly fishing for Atlantic Bonito and False Albacore was spot on. Unfortunately this fall season for False Albacore has been a bust. If you did happen to have the good fortune of catching one consider yourself lucky. The Bonito on the other hand were around in numbers that we have not seen in many years. Ed is once again a resident of CT after living in Florida for a few years. We are glad to have him back.

We move into November when the amount of daylight gets less and less every day. It can be a depressing time of year for some fly fishers but for me it is a time of anticipation and excitement. In my opinion it is the best month to fish for steelhead, a short easy ride of about five hours from Hartford to Pulaski N.Y. I have two upcoming trips planned and there is always a chance of a spontaneous trip if conditions are right. The fish are fresh out of the lake and are on the feed eating eggs of spawning salmon and brown trout. I should have a report for you at our next meeting so stop by and chat if you want the details.

Locally if you are a Saltwater fly fishing enthusiast November is the "Last Call". The mouth of the CT. River and the Housatonic are worth a try and can offer some nonstop action for Striped Bass. Pick a nice day a give it a go. Also our DEEP has done a great job of stocking trout and

salmon in our lakes and rivers this fall and worth a trip when the weather cooperates. If you have not done so you should search the DEEP for their interactive trout stocking map. Here you can find out how many days it has been since a body of water has been stocked. The two year old brood stock salmon have all been stocked for the season. These fish average 18-20 inches long and 2 to 4 pounds in weight. There are special regulations in the Naugatuck and the Shetucket Rivers when targeting salmon so be sure to read up on them. The larger salmon will be stocked once they have completed their spawning cycle.

Finally there was a message in our last newsletter that there are many overdue books that need to be returned to our library. I did collect about a dozen of the 30 or so that need to be returned. Our library is a wonderful resource for all of our membership to enjoy and for it to work well we depend on borrowers to honor the system established. So if you happen to have a borrowed book lying around that you forgot to return please make a note to yourself and bring it with you to our next meeting on November 13th.

Gary





## *Al the fish man story*

*Here is a little fishing story. I have not fished since that day in fresh water. We are going to New Hampshire for the week and I won't fish up there as well. I thought you would get a kick out of this...*

Fished South Pond in Mass Thursday August 22, 19. The water was 76. I would have to say I was in the tail end of the low pressure weather we had the night before- tornado and t-storm warnings. The skies were cloudy/ foggy. Air was about 65. The wind puffed here and there. I finally launched at about 8 after finding my way in the fog from Pomfret. There was one other trolling, a few bass boats, and one skier doing the slalom course- she was good.

After parking the truck I started talking to a retiree at the launch sitting in his car. We STS for a quite a while. He and I both bitched about people who keep too many big fish. He has fished South Pond for a long time. He said he used to catch a lot of big fish from the first cove on the right next the slalom water ski course. Off I went.

I let out 200' of wire, a 30'- 6# fluoro carbon leader, and an atomic bugger (#2, 3xl, all uv wooly bugger with a short bushy tail, copper rib, olive hackle and tail, ice dub uv dun body) trolling at 2.1-2.3. Depths were 30-40- so I felt safe not dragging the bottom then I bumped into 25'. I took some zigs and zags to deeper water and decided to reel up and check for weeds. While reeling at about 125', BANG! Something hit the fly and it was not a dink. I got a quick length and released it. It was a 20+" brown. She was swimming away but was upright on top of the surface. After watching the floundering for a while I held and revived her. She finally swam down and away.

I let out the line again. I got a small backlash in the wire at about 145' and was farting around trying to get the kink out, BANG, again, and again not a dink. I never took this one out of the water. This fish was the twin of the first, another 20"er. I revived her and she swam away... so I thought. I slowly motored away getting ready to let my line out when I saw something in the corner of my eye behind me. It was an eagle with my fish in it's talons. The bird could not lift the fish, dropped it, and flew back to it's nest. The fish was now very much floating and not doing well. It had a large gash just behind the head. I knew she was not going to make it. I had to do the right thing and take the fish home. I was not planning to take fish home, I had no cooler or ice I wrapped the fish up in two soaking handkerchiefs and put it out of the sun under the boat seat. I guessed I would have an hour to get the fish home and cleaned before spoilage. Maybe it would cool down a bit from evaporative cooling while was driving.

At this point I was at a position just at the end of the cove. I decide to troll toward the launch then leave the lake. I let out 150' of wire and started to give the rod a few pulls when BANG, again, could this be true? It was not. The 3rd brown was 16" and a good fighter. I unhooked it in the water and it zipped away.

I was on the road at 930 am. I would say I had a short but banner day of trolling letting line out 3 times and landing 3 big fish on 3 hits within about an hour. We cooked the gutted trout and whole in aluminum foil in the outdoor grille. It came out very well. She weighed in at 4 pounds on the nose.

Al Sonski is one of our newer members. Al is a master fly tyer and worked at raising our salmon at the hatchery. This is his first story to share with us.





# Fishing with old friend's watching over you

By John Springer

In September my friend Kevin Fuller AKA: Panther Martin fished the Connecticut River in Pittsfield New Hampshire for 4 days. I knew it was going to be a good trip when to surprise him I stopped in New Hampshire where booze is cheaper and got us a bottle of Vodka and snacks and when we met at Tall Timber, He had the same to surprise me! We could have sat out in the deck chairs and looked at



the lake for 4 days and just drank and saved on a guide and licenses. We had a few hours of daylight so we went to Panther's favorite pool and fished. Years ago one of Connecticut Fly Fishermen's past presidents gave me some flies to copy that he had success with at Grand Lake Stream for Landlocked Salmon. Charlie Place was that kinda guy, shared what he knew just because he

liked you. Those of you that knew him know what I mean. So I had my box of flies for landlocked fishing and took out one of Charlies favorite patterns it's a simple tie really and to be honest I did not have much faith in it. Everyone uses streamers and perhaps the Maple Syrup this was a nymph. Who knew but the next day with our guide Chuck when I requested I wanted to learn nymph fishing for these fish he showed us even more of them. I put Charlies fly on wham, fish on! I got salmon! Now one fish does not make a proven pattern as we all know, so when I caught another fish I knew Charlie was



watching behind me and I called Panther over and gave him one. And once again, Charlies fly worked. When we packed it in after that as it was getting late I told Panther about Charlie. Next day we met our guide at 6 AM, it's still dark and you must get up at 5 to do this but it's worth



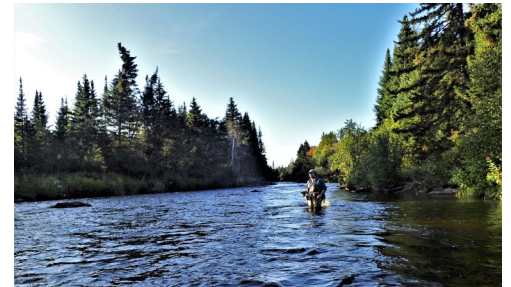
it.

Chuck was right on time and worked on our rods and we explained what

we wanted to do again so as to not have any misunderstandings. You see Panther has been fishing many years with another guide Angus Bozeman who is great and much fun, but we wanted to learn new spots as well as new techniques. Before we headed into the woods and when you fish up there you are always



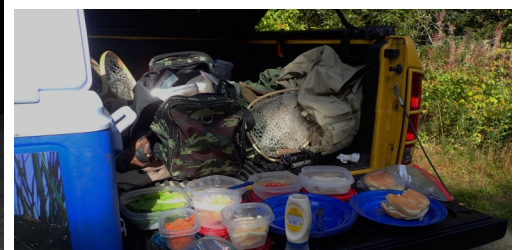
heading into the woods I asked him if we would be bothered by mosquitos and he said no. I was in the water 5 minutes



and I got bit on my hand, I let him know he was wrong, you always want to get off on the right foot with you guide at 6:20 AM I caught my first fish about 10 minutes later and the day went into high gear. Lots of laughing and ball busting nonstop is how I would describe it. Chuck took us to several places then

it was time to eat. He put out a big spread on the tailgate, I whined a bit when I had to make my own sandwich just to let him know I noticed everything. But then he pulled out the home made brownies to shut me up. We then drove to another spot hiked in and he told me

to fish my streamer much different than I am use to. And on the first cast I got and landed the fish of the





There are currently more than 11,000 books for sale telling anglers how to outsmart trout. See the size of a wild brook trout brain compared to the size of your brain. Trout can find their way back to the spot where they hatched without the maps we'd need. They can detect all kinds of things about what they might or might not eat without calling

poison control. There is an amazing amount of information in this pea-sized brain. Trout can do what they do because they are hardwired to do it. We need to learn most of our behaviors, including learning how to buy books about catching fish. Think about how much information must exist in that trout brain for trout to have done so well on Earth for so long.

CFFA 2020 Annual Expo and  
Banquet Feb 1, 2020 9:00am-3:pm  
Maneeleys Banquet and Catering  
61 Rye St  
South Windsor CT

The vendors are lined up. You will find everything from beautiful art to hooks and hackle you've been looking for. The row of fly Tyers will be there showing and teaching everything from Salmon flies to Woolly Buggers and Clouser minnows. We'll have 3 shows for you to enjoy. Rods, fly fishing books and vendors who can give you just about any information your looking for. For the \$3 admission fee it's a deal. C'mon out and shake off the cabin fever and get ready for Spring.

CFFA Banquet Speaker

This years speaker for the Annual Banquet will be Guide and instructor Sean Callinan. Sean is also the fly-fishing and fly-tying instructor for Yale University's fishing Club.

Both with his Yale students and through his day job, Sean is part of local conservation efforts to clean up natural areas in New Haven and Branford, Connecticut.

His partnership includes international activist company Patagonia, Denali Outdoor and the [Branford Land Trust](#).

Sean also co-hosts a film festival **FilmFest4Veterans**. The Festival gathers supporters with the net proceeds going to four different Connecticut non-profits.

Each organization works with military veterans using their own model of fishing for healing and recovery:

[Take a Vet Fishing Veteran Angler Charters](#)

[Fishing Outreach Program](#) [Rivers of Recovery](#)

## Dick Wemmell's Fly Box



**Hook— 18 Dry fly**  
**Tail—Dun Hackle Fibers**  
**Body—Reddish Brown**  
**Wing—Polly Yarn**





trip. He said it was the biggest one he has seen caught this season! Then I said yeah

this is the kinda fish I got with Angus, I thought he would hit me. But seriously it was a great moment I



never got one this size. As an aside 2 days later on a nymph I caught

one just like it and while Panther was taking pictures of me and I stuck out the net, I lost it. But I still give credit to my guide as we were using his flies as well as places he showed us. As I said the day was 9 hours of kidding around, good fishing, and learning new things from a wonderful guide. The day before when we met Chuck in the Parking lot I mentioned we had vodka and cranberry could he bring some ice as we had no way to carry it. When we were all done for the day out came 2 glasses and ice for our drinks, Chuck did not have any vodka with us but he made sure we could have a cold drink when we were done. We fished 2 more days caught fish but not as many as with Chuck but then I have learned that in my case that happens. But we did learn and will carry this with us on future trips. On my last day we got up early fished a few hours I caught a Brown something I have not caught up there. Panther noticed hoppers on his legs when we were suiting up and jokingly said we should fish hoppers. To be honest I have never caught a fish on a hopper here in the east only in Montana. While fishing I remembered Chuck saying he had Panther use a dry dropper he even gave me one that I lost before I used it. So I tied on a hopper with a nymph dropper and caught 3 fish 2 were on the hopper,



one on the nymph. Panther was swinging wets below me caught some fish and we walked back to the cars said good byes and went our separate ways.

When you give some thought to your fishing if you're as lucky as me several big factors come into play as to why you might be enjoying yourself. In this case it was a good friend Terp who passed away many years ago, Charlie Place who I met in CFFA, a good fishing guide and my friend Kevin who I enjoy fishing with. My old friend Terp use to tell me when I was all excited and ready to fish 4 minutes after we shut the car off at the river and he saw me all antsy because he being much older use to take his time. Johnny he would say I've already caught all the fish when I go fishing it's to meet some people have a few laughs perhaps a nice meal and a drink and catch a few fish you go and fish I'll get there. I did not want him to think I was trying to get to the river first but he assured me it was fine. You see most of the time he knew the best spot to fish and I was just learning so it made no difference anyway. I learned a great deal from him. He would be proud and smiling at me about now. If you want to get hold of Chuck DeGray 603-331-1459





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