

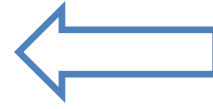
The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

May 2020



Social distancing the new normal



There will be no May Meeting hopefully we will be all together again in September until then practice social distancing while fishing. There are plenty of fish out there to be caught the state has been putting them in for us as you can see inside.



Our club had this box made for Neal for all he has done to make our fishing experience better for many years. So many state DEEP workers over many years out of love for their jobs do this for us. We have honored many over the years for their years of service.

 <p>JOHN BILOTTA</p> <p>Cell: 301.351.0121 jbilotta@georgetownflyfishing.com georgetownflyfishing.blogspot.com</p>	<p>Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses</p> <h1>JT'S FLY SHOP</h1>  <p>664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076 860-684-1575 jtsflyshop@yahoo.com</p>
 <h2>WILLINGTON PIZZA HOUSE</h2> <p>Route 32 • 25 River Road Willington Trading Center Willington, Connecticut (860) 429-7433</p> <p>www.willingtonpizza.com</p>	<h2>HIGH HOOK OREGON</h2>  <p>T. MARK SEYMOUR PRESIDENT</p> <p>WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p> <p>22 LEADLINE 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>
  <p>CONSERVATION - EDUCATION - PASSION</p> <p>RAUL (RAY) RAMOS - FFI CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR</p> <p>Individual / group fly-fishing lessons ramosray007@comcast.net 1.860.559.0369</p>	<h2>UpCountry Sportfishing</h2>  <p>352 Main Street, P.O. Box 44 • Pine Meadow, CT 06061 Phone: (860) 379-1952 www.FarmingtonRiver.com</p>

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came in for counseling.

When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in all the years they had been married. On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays.....but I fish on Fridays.



HEHEHE

From the vest of the President



This May issue of Lines & Leaders is your last edition until it will be sent out again in September. As I write this I hope all of you are well and if indeed you did lose a loved one to this virus I send my heartfelt condolences. It will take some time but we will eventually come from behind and get in front of this.

In the meantime fly tying and fly fishing can occupy your minds and help you escape the reality of it for part of your days. A high level of anxiety is out there and many of the doctors recommend some form of meditation to ease the height of it. Fly tying has always put me in a calm frame of mind so I try to sit down at my desk and give it a go at least once a day. A trip to a flowing river enjoying the sound of the rushing water, the wind passing through the pines, along with the pleasing visual stimulation has always had a soothing influence on me, a little more now than ever. I cherish each and every trip taking in every aspect of the experience.

I recently ran into Nick Masi on a scouting mission on the Farmington River. He is a vender at our annual Expo every year. Many of you visit his table when attending to buy his fly tying materials. He told me he can't keep up with the mail orders requesting his items. So I guess a bunch of people around our country and beyond are doing as I do, occupying some of their time tying flies. Put on your favorite music, grab a favorite beverage and give it a try.

The following is just a suggestion and you can take it or leave it without judgement. Our monthly newsletter is primarily delivered to our membership electronically. We do however print 48 hard copies that are delivered via the USPS. The cost to us for postage is \$23/month plus the printing expense. A total of 8 issues go out each year. In

the old days(yes I remember) everyone got a hard copy and this annual cost consumed a larger portion of our budget. We can certainly afford the current expense but if you have the ability to receive our issues electronically and would rather we spend our money on our monthly programs, education, conservation, facility rental, ect. please consider making a change to receive our electronic version by sending your current e-mail address along with a note to our Newsletter Editor John Springer amtrkanglr@comcast.net Like I stated in my opening sentence this is only a suggestion and you can take it or leave it, but this simple change would make a difference.

Many of our members past and present know Neil Hagstrom. He was employed by our state DEEP for as long as I can remember until he retired this past January. He was a welcome guest at many of our annual Expos and monthly membership meetings and answered all of the questions thrown his way with integrity. His dedication to our Connecticut Fisheries was unparalleled. Our CFFA benefitted from our relationship and interactions with Neil throughout his entire career. And to show our appreciation we had an engraved Wheatley Fly Box made for Neil by REC Components. We had intended to present it to Neil at this years banquet but he could not be there. We had a second plan to present it to him at the FVTU banquet and that fell apart when the Corona Virus hit our state and the event was cancelled. It will now be sent to his new home in Maine where he will enjoy his retirement. If any of you would like to send him your well wishes contact me and I will provide you his contact information.

Our State has done a great job this spring stocking trout despite the crisis we are in. This link will keep you informed on their progress.

<https://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=70d13bc033854b89a87c04b1d11b1a43>

We did have every intention on Float Stocking the Cole W Wilde TMA on the Willimantic River but once again this year Mother Nature did not cooperate with our scheduled date. The extreme Wind/Rain storm we had on April 13 raised the water to an unsafe level and the Snow/Rain on April 18 added more run-off making it impossible. This section has been stocked with nets by the state at least 3 times so it does have plenty of fish. Go get them.

I'd like to say with certainty that we will see all of you at our next meeting in September but really nobody knows how this situation is going to evolve. Until then do whatever it takes to keep yourself and the loved ones around you healthy both physically & mentally.

Be Well

Gary

DEEP testimony 4/20/20

Club Member Phil Apruzzese represented our club for this.

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association (CFFA) has been responding to the construction of Love's Travel Stop and Country Store Project, located at 3 Polster Road, Willington Connecticut since its inception. We have sent testimony to IWWC 2012, to DEEP 2018, to IWWC in 2019 and now April 2020. Each of those letters were in opposition as is this one. We do understand that each time the applicant has changed aspects of their plan to accommodate changes recommended by the presiding agency. This application is no exception, it to in applying for construction activity in accordance with the CTDEEP General Permit is making significant change to minimize pollution caused by use of the site after construction is completed.

There are no guarantees at any major construction site that implemented safeguards put in place will work as expected and as I read the application I came across statements like:

Erosion and sedimentation controls will be implemented and adjusted as needed throughout construction to minimize soil erosion.

Love's or a Love's agent shall immediately inform ... of any problems involving wetlands or watercourse which have developed during, or which are caused by, the locally permitted work.

To comply with Willington's IWWC Conditions of approval, dated June 24, 2019, a critical habitats map shall be prepared by Love's and provided to the Town and CTDEEP's NDDb. In addition, spotted turtle and eastern ribbon snake sightings shall be reported to CTDEEP's NDDb should the animals be encountered. (Only a reporting – not avoidance of the species)

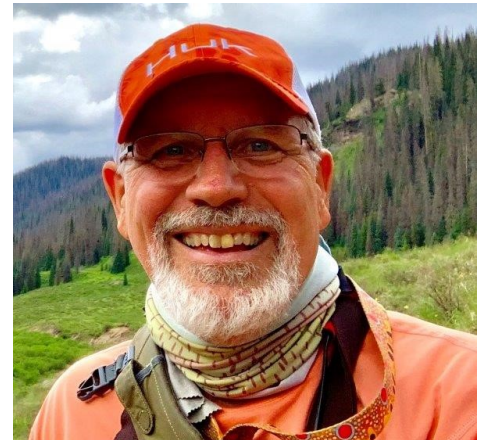
But the most striking is the omission of any reference of preserving the native brook trout spawning area, and the preservation of the cold headwater of Roaring Brook.

Both items have been mentioned in DEEP fisheries biologist Brian Murphy's reports time and time again. Murphy discusses thermal changes in the area for spawning that would threaten the survival of the wild brook trout. There has to be some sense by the applicant of the important resources in the area of construction possesses. This area is a Class 3 Wild Trout Management area will it be lost because of approval of this application? What effect will the clearing of vegetation have along wetland areas, near Roaring Brook and vernal pools? Perhaps the DEEP staff might do a closer review of these issues?

The applicant must understand that the Willimantic River which includes the Roaring Brook Watershed is the CFFA home waters for our Association and this construction is of major concern to our membership. The CFFA remains opposed to this construction site because of the uncertainty it presents to the wellbeing of the watershed.

Carpe Diem...

By Carl Ochnio



Every trip to the river can be a unique experience and provide its own adventure. An angler can be confronted with any number of challenges and obstacles. There are times you can be tripped up by the mood of Mother Nature. At other times, hurdles can be manmade such as traffic, construction, or a crushing unannounced dam water release by the Army Corp of Engineers.

On the flip side, it could be your lucky day. An angler can hit the hatch just right, have an entire section of river to themselves, or meet a fellow fly fisher resulting in a helpful exchange of ideas or simply a great conversation.

Continued on Page 7

Fishing during the pandemic

By John Springer

While the pandemic is going on our Governor did away with opening day to avoid crowds of people showing up to fish. I like many others took advantage of this and went fishing. As everyone knows fly fishing is a sport where you are much more than 6 feet from the people around you and so many are fishing, more spin than fly also I noticed. What my friends and I did was travel in separate cars, did not eat sitting with each other, no hugs or handshakes either. Even when I shared some flies with my friends I yelled don't get close! And I held my breath when I gave them the flies. The sad part of fishing this year was no fish got live carted and as far as I know the DEEP did not want any helpers while stocking so we know the fish were dumped in and did not spread out very much as we had low water in most places when they went in, perhaps with the storm we had some fish moved away from the stocking points before they were taken out.

My friend Kevin looked up air fares to Montana during the time frame we go, they were what we paid many years ago! But I am sure not many are going till they know for sure this is over and or a shot is created to protect us. Vermont sends out an email prior to opening day about what is going on, as I read it getting excited about a trip coming up with my friends to fish I got to the part about "Out Of Stater's". You would have to self-quarantine for 2 weeks before fishing. So much for that

trip. To those of us in our twilight years losing these trips is sad, but knowing how many have died because of this it's a small price to pay.

Perhaps when you go fishing with friends you eat lunch together or go out to dinner to socialize, none of that now either. Of course our monthly meetings where many of us gather to see each other and catch up about our fishing or make plans, or enjoy the wonderful Goldman library and of course let's not forget about Phil McCormack's coffee and cookies. Or Denice's candy dish while she sits and sells our clothing. None of that either till hopefully September.

When life goes back to normal and it will not sure about you but I know everything I mentioned about the social aspect of our fishing will mean a great deal more to me, just the simple act of taking one of the cookies or shaking someone's hand will have more meaning to me.

All of you have been experiencing this and I am sure you could share a story as to what you're doing during this; I know I have been tying more flies than normal. I am sure everyone has a story and I would like to hear from you for future newsletters, I know they would be interesting.

Stay safe

John





Paul's Fly box

Tying instructions & a video on how to tie this pattern can be found at <http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com/>



Hook: Size # 6 & #8 Tiemco 3761 or preferred hook.

Colors: Tan, Black or Olive.

Thread: Tan, Black or Olive.

Tail: Tan, Black or Olive Marabou Blood Feather, over which is overlaid 6 strands of Krystal Flash.

Body: Dyed Grizzly Hen body feathers palmered forward.

Legs: Two rubber Sili-legs, root beer, black or olive.

Eyes: Lead eyes painted Yellow and Black, XSmall on Size #8, Small on Size #6.

Head: Spiked dubbing figure-eighted around the eyes. Or, use dubbing brush.

(I like to use a dubbing loop of matching Ice Dub)

On the flip side, it could be your lucky day. An angler can hit the hatch just right, have an entire section of river to themselves, or meet a fellow fly fisher resulting in a helpful exchange of ideas or simply a great conversation.

One constant is that each trip can provide its own memories.

So here we are, during the Covid-19 pandemic. It's enough to be cooped up due to social distancing, then add an early spring weather pattern that has provided one sunny day followed by three or four days of rain, wind, cold temperatures, swollen rivers and streams. When we get that "one good day" to be outside, you find that it's a good day for everyone. When you arrive at your favorite spot, you quickly learn that it seems to be everybody's honey hole. Sure it's great to see everyone out recreating, but geez, you were looking for a little solitude.

Yep, these are challenging times, so it's nice to be blindsided by something totally unexpected. Last week we had one of those rare nice days and I certainly wanted to get my feet into the river. I packed the fish mobile and made tracks to the river. Prior to leaving, I checked the river gage and the water levels were great. It was going to warm up and I was hoping to hit the afternoon glamor hatch. Everything was aces.

I arrived at the river and things just did not look right. Something was definitely wrong. I pulled out my phone and checked the river levels. It seems that about the same time I left my driveway, the gates at the dam were opened for a water release. My thought was I could not safely wade in the place I wanted to fish and my plans for the day had to be adjusted. I made my way back to the parking lot, grabbed my lunch and headed over to a picnic table for a strategy session.

On my way over to the picnic table, I just happened to stop in front of a sign board that provided information on the history and wildlife of the area. In the corner of the board was a little foam patch and it read, "Thanks For Visiting Your Local Flybary." It had several flies attached to it and instructed anglers to take a fly if you needed

one or leave a fly if you would like to.



Up until now, the day had not gone as I had planned. For a number of reasons this is one trip that I will not soon forget. I looked over the Flybary fly selections and spotted one that I would like to duplicate. In exchange, I left two of my own creations. I look forward to visiting the Flybary in the future and seeing what creative patterns have been posted.

There is another reason I will not forget this particular trip. After lunch, I broke down my rods, took off my waders, packed up the car and decided to head downstream. Either I was going to call the day a bust or find a place I could drop a line. As I made my way downriver, the places I wanted to fish were either blown out or occupied by other anglers. I decided to check one last spot. I drove over the

bridge and there were no anglers in sight. I parked the fish mobile and walked over the bridge and looked downstream. The April glamor hatch was on and the pool was boiling with fish. For next three hours I was in the river, casting for risers. I had fun hooking up with fish on emergers, dries, and then they eventually turned onto spinners. The sun started to set, the temperature cooled and just like that, the day was done.

It was quite a day. I was lifted by my introduction to the Flybary and the luck of just being in the right place at the right time.

Yes, every trip to the river can be unique and its own adventure. May you have the best of luck on your next sojourn and be sure to seize the day.

Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

Board of Directors

President • Gary Steinmiller

(c) 860-563-0040 (e) steinmillergary@yahoo.com

Activities VP • Bob Winot rwinot25@cox.net 860-292-1685

Environment VP • Phil Apruzzese (e) pjapruz@aol.com

Promotions VP • Richard Gaudreau (c) 860-745-2695

Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 860-871-8703

Legal Secretary • Mark Barbieri (h) 860-623-8187

Treasurer • Chuck Koteen

Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 860-858-5633

Advisory Board • Ray Riley (h) 860-721-0547

Banquet Chairman • Kurt Jagielow

Conservation Chairman • Ted Rzepski

Educational Director • Peter Naples 860-620-2317

Indoor Facilities Chair • Denise Dauray

Legislative Chairman • Vin Ringrose (h) 860-828-4642

Publicity Chairman • Dan Price (c) 860-301-9696

Membership Chairman • Phil McCormick

(h) 860-871-870

Newsletter Chairman • John Springer

(h) 860-510-2383 (e) cffa@comcast.net

Program Chairman • Roger Plourde

(c) 860-919-3513

No Monthly
Meetings
until September.



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHERS



East Hartford, CT 06108

P.O. Box 380268

Fly Fisherman's Association

Connecticut

