

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

December 2020 was a year so many never made any trips because of Covid a few places and people that many missed.





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We hope you can attend our December Club Meeting: Bill Keister will present: What you believe about trout determines what you will do when they get hard to catch. Do you think trout get smarter as they get older? Are there PhD trout? Do they learn about fly patterns and the tactics that anglers use to catch them? How do they make decisions about what they are going to eat? Using personnel experience and a body of literature this program examines how trout perceive their world. How they make decisions about what they are going to eat. What part prey image plays in the process? How past ideas have affected the way we fish today. The program seeks to answer the question of why if they are such simple animals they can appear to be such intelligent, discriminating animals. And why they can thwart good anglers on a pretty consistent basis with a brain the size of pea.

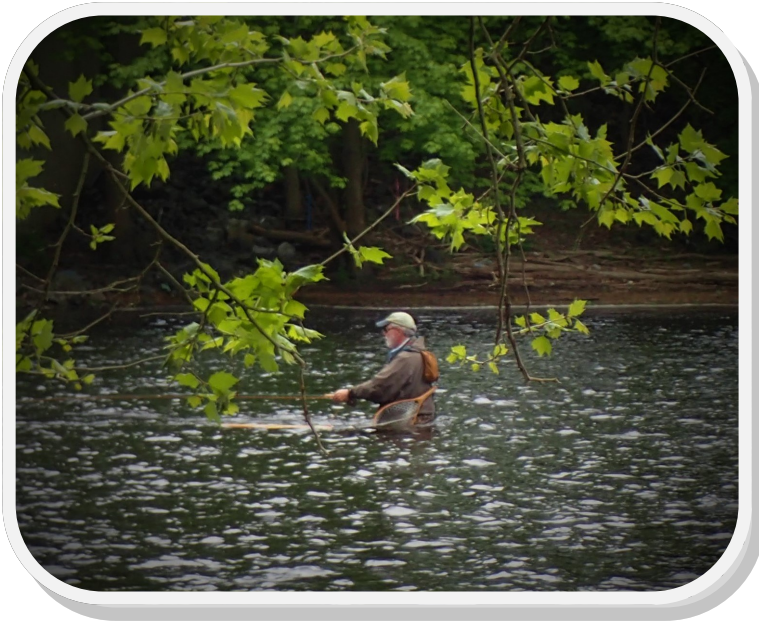
Time: Dec 9, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89649268022?pwd=N2JQSmVvVXp5V3RFbIFY3N6L3RMdz09>

**Cut and paste that blue line in your browser for Bill Keister
December Presentation**

From the vest of the President



I am happy to tell you that our November Zoom meeting featuring Tim Flagler was well received. We had over 40 participants tune in to listen to his presentation. As soon as it ended the positive feedback began to roll in and this continued for the next few days. We love receiving any kind of feedback from you and encourage you to continue to let us know how we can serve you better. For those of you that joined the meeting early you are aware of the “Zoom Bombing” episode that happened as we were getting started. We do apologize for these disruptions and we will work our hardest to prevent them at our future meetings. Our consensus is that they happened because we posted the invite to this meeting on our CFFA Facebook Page where the world could see it and Zoom Bombers could plan their actions to disrupt our meeting. For that reason our future virtual meetings will not be posted to any social media outlet unless we can come up with a foolproof way to prevent what happened in November from happening again. Instead we will send the invitation to you in the monthly newsletter with a reminder sent to you through “Mail Chimp”. If you have trusted friends that you think would enjoy our Zoom Meeting feel free to copy and paste the invitation from your newsletter into an email message and send it to them or just forward the Mail Chimp reminder to them when you receive it.

I received a phone call a few days after our last meeting from a member of Hammonasset T.U. about our Zoom Meetings. The caller requested that we continue with the meetings and not let the interruptions of the November meeting stop us. His chapter is not currently holding zoom meetings so he has been a participant in all three of ours and thoroughly enjoyed them. We talked things over for a while and he told me most T.U. groups in CT do use Mail Chimp to get messages out to their membership. He suggested we could reach many possible participants if we set up a system where we send our Mail Chimp reminder to their person in charge of their mailing list and they could forward it to their memberships. This would help us reach our targeted audience without using social media. I believe he said his chapter has a membership of about 400 and I know FVTU has around 600 members. Suggestions like this are what we like to receive and they will be discussed and considered by our CFFA BOD. Also if you have any suggestions for speakers we would love to hear from you. As long as we are holding virtual meetings we can venture outside our state for a Wednesday meeting as travel does not need to be taken into consideration. As I write this there is new hope and some light at the end of the tunnel concerning this pandemic we are in. Let’s all hope the promising news about effective vaccines come to fruition. In the meantime I hope you remain well and enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Gary



The future of our oceans is in the hands of the next generation of anglers and conservationists. The Bonefish & Tarpon Trust Youth Ambassadors Program recognizes



outstanding young leaders in flats fishing and ocean conservation.

Shelby joined BTT as the second Youth Ambassador.

When did you start fishing?

I started fishing when I was around two years old on a river next to our old mountain house in West Virginia. My dad has been my fishing partner since day one. He's taught me almost everything I know and continues to encourage me to practice fly casting, especially my double haul.

How has fishing impacted your life?

My dad always likes to say "fish live in beautiful places," and it's true. Fishing has brought me to some of the most gorgeous places on the planet, including Honduras, New Zealand, Alaska and Belize. Not only has fishing brought me to beautiful places, but it has brought me to some of the most amazing and inspirational people. This past summer I went to Guanaja, Honduras, where I met some of the most incredible lady anglers. Fishing has also

taught me valuable life lessons. It has taught me to never give up and to continue fighting, as well as how to be calm and patient, and how to live in the moment.

Where is your favorite place to fish?

My favorite place to fish is definitely Alaska. Flying into the middle of nowhere Alaska, I caught hundreds of trout and salmon as well as an almost world record breaking king salmon. The gorgeous scenery and bears only added to the amazing experience. A close second would be the Florida Keys.

What other marine activities do you participate in?

I am an avid scuba diver! I have my advanced open water certification and am hoping to get my masters when I turn eighteen. I love seeing fish in their natural habitats as well as on the end of my line.

You're in high school now. What do you think you may study in college?

I am very interested in studying engineering in college because I love science, math and problem solving. I believe I want to do environmental or civil engineering (or both!) because that way I can help make everyday buildings, roads, etc. more environmentally friendly, sustainable and reliable.

When did you become interested in the health of the oceans?

I had been hearing about the effects of climate change and global warming on our oceans, but didn't care about it too much until I saw the dying coral for myself. As I did more and more research I found that it affects much more than just coral, and that we as humans need to change our ways quickly if we want our oceans to survive another hundred years.

I will continue this next month Editor

The first fish I ever caught as a kid was a minnow. And the tenth. And probably the hundredth. And I couldn't have been happier.



The muddy, slow moving creek running through the cow pasture behind my grandpa's barn was loaded with creek chub. My brothers and I bugged him and our dad incessantly every weekend to let us go down to the "crick". After chores were over, we'd dig red wigglers from the manure pile and go sprinting across the field. Well, as best we could in our oversized black rubber boots.

We'd toss our worms to the willow tree roots floating in the water on the edge of a pool. No sinker. No bobber. We didn't even use fishing poles. Literally just a willow switch, a piece of string from my grandmother's junk drawer, and a small hook my grandfather tied on. We terrorized that local population of chub for years. Thinking back to those days, it makes me smile at how excited my brothers and I would get, catching those little minnows for hours on end. Compared to the fish I catch now – it's almost embarrassing.

But it shouldn't be. Approaching my 51st birthday next month, it seems like I'm on the backside of the full circle most anglers move through, often known as The 5 Stages of Fishing.

Stage 1: Learning Stage. Wanting to catch a fish – any fish.

Stage 2: Limiting Out Stage. Wanting to catch a lot of fish.

Stage 3: Trophy Stage. Wanting to catch big fish.

Stage 4: Method Stage. Mastering challenging techniques or species.

Stage 5: Sportsman/Woman Stage. Being happy just to be out on the water, fishing.

I think I've been at Stage 5 for a while, although I occasionally slip into other stages now and then. Mostly in a fit of frustration, when I'd just like to catch a fish – any fish – but they won't cooperate!

Mostly though, I find enjoyment in all the other things that come with fishing. Satisfaction in the total experience. Being on the water, enjoying the company of friends and family, and observing nature.

Some people say there's a Stage 6 – Joy in the Success of

Others. I believe that's 100% true. Whenever I take someone fishing, having them catch something is my #1 goal. It's more important to me than catching anything myself. Seeing them get excited, be successful, and have fun is just as good. Maybe better.

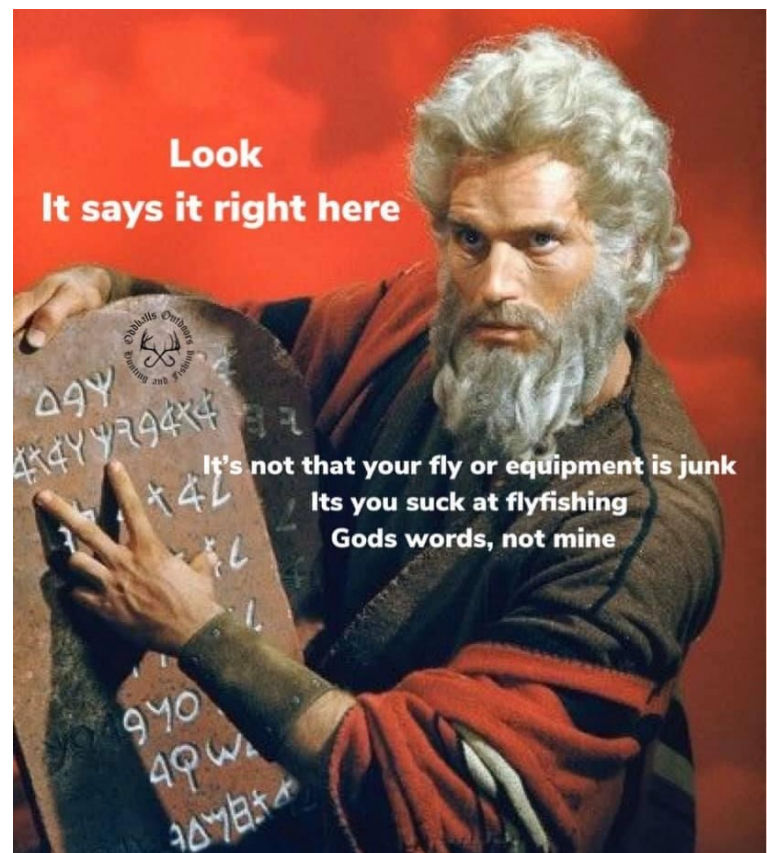
This is why I've enjoyed writing these Fishing Reports for the last year and a half. I like helping others be successful, and enjoy fishing as much as I do.

Ask yourself what stage you think you're in right now. And no matter what the answer is, I think on your next trip, you should go out and try to catch a minnow! And appreciate the experience.

—Shawn Good, Fisheries Biologist.

shawn.good@vermont.gov

I get fishing reports from Shawn every 2 weeks. His writing is always good to read, he talks about all types of fishing and tackle so if your looking for fly fishing only you might not enjoy his reports. When I read this one and he talks about the 6th stage I think he hit the nail on the head. As I wrote about last month there is much enjoyment going out with newbie's and other people.



I thank Dave Goulet for sending me something funny at such a tough time



One of the people I met this year is the boy friend of my wife's little sister from years ago. They own Jake's State Street Dinner in New London. Jake is a great cook and I love to eat, he loves hunting and fishing but never tried Fly Fishing. With the air temp at 40 and water 36 we fished the Salmon river, Jake's hooked on fly fishing now even catching a Tiger trout and 4 rainbows. Life is good!



Paul's Fly Box

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

Conover Fly (A traditional Catskill Fly.)



Hook: Fine Wire Dry Fly Hook, Size #10 to #20.

Tying thread: White.

Tail: Barbs of stiff, cream colored hackle. (or use Golden Badger Hackle Fibers.)

Body: Blend of Muskrat fur and red wool. Seal and red wool will work too.

Hackle: Golden Badger

CFFA Election of Officers

The Board of Directors is presenting the following slate for 2021. As you can see our Legal Secretary position is open. Mark Barbieri has retired and has informed me he is stepping down after many years of loyal service to our CFFA. We wish him well and thank him sincerely for his years of dedication and service. If anyone reading this has the qualifications and the desire to fill this position please let us know.

President - Gary Steinmiller (current)
 VP Activities - Bob Winot (current)
 VP Promotions - Richard Gaudreau (current)
 VP Environment - Phil Apruzzese (current)
 Recording Secretary - Phil McCormick (current)
 Legal Secretary - Open
 Treasurer - Chuck Koteen (current)

We will be taking any other nominations until January 1, 2021

Email Phil McCormick philipmcc268@yahoo.com with your nominations to be added to the ballot.

Voting will take place by verbal response during the January Membership Zoom Meeting at 7:00 pm.

In past years, many of you have paid your dues at our club meetings. This year our in-person meetings are cancelled. We do hope that you will continue to support us by paying your membership dues. Visit our website www.ctflyfish.org.

- You can write out a check made out to CFFA and Send TO: CFFA P.O. Box 380268 East Hartford, CT 06138-0268. Include a membership form from website or write your information on blank piece of paper. Make sure it is readable.

- Click on the Membership tab.

- Click on "mail-in-form here".

- Click on Membership Form New or Renewal Download.

- Download and print the form. Please, when mailing in payment for renewal, if no information has changed write in your name and be sure your e-mail is current.

- **-OR- Click on the Membership Tab and follow the instructions to make a safe and secure electronic payment using PayPal.**

Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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Program Chairman • Roger Plourde

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Monthly Meetings

7 p.m. on the second Wednesday
of the month AS USUAL!!

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
MEETINGS WILL BE HELD
ON ZOOM. WATCH YOUR EMAIL
INBOX FOR AN INVITATION!!**



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHERS



East Hartford, CT 06108

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Fly Fisherman's Association

Connecticut

