

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

January 2021



Shadcreek Flies Programs and Presentations

By Rick Little

Rick Little is a self taught fly fisherman who has had the opportunity to learn from some very knowledgeable outdoorsmen and fishermen. Much of what he has learned came from observing nature and skillful fishermen on the water, and conversations about fish, flies, fishing and life, around Coleman lanterns and campfires on many rivers. Rick has been active in conservation organizations for years – including serving as president of Trout Unlimited Chapters in Manchester, NH and Bangor, ME.

Rick grew up in Marblehead, Mass. and spent a great deal of time on the ocean- drop line fishing for flounder and cod, setting lobster traps and exploring the coastal beaches. When he went to college at the University of Maine, he became hooked on freshwater fishing and fly fishing. It was during the winter of 1968 that he took a fly tying class and embarked on a life long hobby that has sparked his imagination and desire to learn more about flies, and trout and salmon rivers. Rick lives in southern New Hampshire, with his wife, Ellen, and started Shadcreek Flies as a way to share his interest in fishing with a wider audience.

While the majority of Rick's fishing has been in New England, he has also fished in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Up State New York and out West. His programs focus on a practical approach to fishing, an appreciation for the entire fishing experience and the beautiful environments in which trout and salmon live.

Program Description – “Fly Fishing in Maine is Wicked Fun”

The West Branch of the Penobscot, Rapid River, Roach River, East Outlet (headwaters of the Kennebec River), and Grand Lake Stream are all waters that Rick discusses in this program highlighting some of the wonderful rivers that Maine has to offer. Rick has spent hundreds of days and un-counted hours fishing these waters and will talk about the rivers, his style of fishing, and the flies and techniques that have been successful. The program is filled with photos of these great rivers and the flies that he uses. For those people who have fished these waters, the program will spark many great memories. For those who have not fished these rivers yet, but want to give them a try, this program will provide information that will give them a head start when they venture out onto the water.

Join Rick for a discussion about some beautiful country and fascinating fishing opportunities.

Shadcreek Flies – Rick Little

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27" striper caught Oct 3 while fishing on "Mad Dog Charter" with Irv Stanley

From the vest of the President



2021, Happy New Year to each of you reading this Newsletter. I am very optimistic that things are going to be better this coming year and our CFFA activities will slowly but surely return to normal. I have had many inquiries about our fly-tying and fly-fishing schools by perspective students. I have replied and thanked them and asked them to be patient. We want to conduct the classes as much as they want to take them.

Our December meeting via “Zoom” featuring Bill Keister went off without any problems and we had 51 participants tune in. Once again we had CFFA members that reside in other states participate in the meeting. One of the benefits of having virtual meetings.

We also had participants from multiple T.U. Chapters and other associations with an interest in fly fishing. If any of you shared the information about the meeting with friends I thank you for doing so and encourage you to do it again, just keep it off of social media where the Zoom Interrupters lurk.

Our upcoming meeting will take you to the rivers in Maine. I am looking forward to this as I have fished a few of the rivers that will be in the speaker’s presentation. Prior to the presentation we will hold our annual election of officers for the upcoming year. The slate of officers was listed in your December newsletter.

If you have sent in your annual membership payment to our P.O. Box I thank you for doing so and ask you to be patient as far as your check being cleared. We do not visit the Post Office every day, it is usually once a week. If you used our website to pay electronically we do appreciate your payment and sincerely thank you for staying with us during this trying time.

Be safe and stay well, let’s put 2020 behind us and look forward to better times to come in 2021.

Gary

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Behind the Cast

Ten

Never count your fish, my friend,
If they number more than ten.
For you will never gaze upon,
The places you have been.

You’ll never see majestic trees,
Reflections of the shore.
You’ll never smell the fragrant breeze,
You’ll only want “one more.”

And more and more does have its cost,
For it sends the truth afloat.
You’ll want to count some fish you’ve lost,
Before they reached the boat.

Never track the daily sum,
So you can strut and crow.
For others may have fared much worse,
(Or landed more, you know.)
And your happiness tomorrow,
Means today must be the low.

Never count your fish, my friend,
Or you will miss your prize.
Your guide will see what gladdens thee,
And not seek the bigger size.

Never count your fish, my friend,
For it isn’t quite the same.
You’ll horse each little fish aboard.
And not appreciate his game.

Continued on Page 4, I saw this and thought it had so much truth to it.

We all kept track those years ago,
But that was way back when.
We really could not help ourselves,
When we were under ten.

So never count your fish my friend,
And miss the neatest things—
The flowers lush, the hermit thrush,
And the beauty that he sings.

DW
2017

Some more winter pictures



Continued from December

Have you seen evidence of the human impact on the oceans?



Photos:
Shelby
Berger

Yes, I have, and what I have seen is quite sad. I've seen coral reefs go from healthy to completely bleached in only a few years. I have found so many different kinds of trash on the beach and in the ocean, and not to mention the buckets and buckets of microplastics and glass I have collected. Here are some pictures of different items I found while picking up trash on the beach on Pigeon Key after only about thirty minutes:

If you had unlimited funds to start an ocean-related project, what would you do?

I would do anything it takes to get rid of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is now almost three times the size of Texas. I personally do not yet know what the best way to get rid of all the trash is, but what I do know is that it needs to be taken care of as soon as possible.

How do you try to #kickplastic in your everyday life?

I use reusable water bottles and I always recycle when possible. I also help educate others on the effects plastics have on our oceans, and how they can help decrease their plastic consumption too.

This article courtesy of the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust.

<https://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/>

For more information on the Youth Ambassador Program:

<https://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/ambassadors/>



Thanks to the CT DEEP for restocking our rivers and lakes this fall. It makes it viable for an angler to get out to one of their favorite spots on a mild day during the winter months and netting a few trout. There is something very special about laying out your fly line on a nice day in January. In many cases you might have a stretch of river to yourself. If you are lucky, get to share it with a wintering bald eagle.

The warmth of the sun on your face, even for a short time, can be very peaceful and relaxing. It may help you recognize that springtime, is only a few months away.

So, keep an eye on the long term weather forecasts and river flows. When the opportunity arrives, consider slipping into your waders and beating back those winter blues.

--

CJ in CT

Thanks Carl for sharing this for everyone to see. I know others are out there fishing, that's a hint to send me something :-)



Paul's Fly Box

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



Hook: Mustad 34007 #1/0 hook.
Thread: Danville's White Flat Waxed Thread.
Eyes: 'Real Eyes' Dumbbells (or dumbbell eyes of choice).
Tail: Four White Saddle Hackles tied in deceiver style, curve to curve facing 'in'.
Body: Pearl Bill's Body Braid.
Under Wing/Belly: White Bucktail.
Gill (optional): Red Thread.
Flash/Lateral line: 4 Strands of Pearl Krystal Flash & 4 Strands of Pearl Flash-a-bou.
Wing: Olive or Chartreuse Bucktail tied in to match the White Bucktail Belly

So this month several of our members have been out in some tough weather sometimes high water. But they persevered and had a great time some days only one fish, some days no fish but they were out together having a good time. If you have been out anytime and can share some pictures and or a short blurb to go with it please email it to me.

Editor

Kurt and Pete took Rich Gilligan fishing; some may know Rich as Gilli. They went to Mantis Grove in People's State Forest. Fishing took place on a beach, which was very easy wading. The Farmington was 40; temperature was 42, with wind-chill estimate 32. No fish caught for the day, but all had a great time. Gilli especially. This trio will be venturing out again, in and off throughout the winter. Watch for the following episodes of Gilli on the Farmington



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The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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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!!**



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Fly Fisherman's Association

Connecticut

