

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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Hot link for our meeting this month

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Our program for May's Zoom meeting will be Brian Eltz, Senior Fisheries Biologist, CT DEEP Fisheries Division

Brian has been working with the CT DEEP since 2000 when he started as an intern with both the Fisheries and Wildlife divisions; he then went on to work seasonally for the Diadromous Program and the Fish Management Program afterwards. Brian received degrees from the University of Connecticut in 2001 where he graduated with a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he graduated with a M.S. in Fisheries Management in 2006. Brian has been working fulltime for the CT DEEP Fisheries Division since 2010. Currently, his main focus with the Fisheries Division's coldwater program is salmonid stocking, stream monitoring, Farmington River management, and wild trout management.

This presentation will largely focus on the status of wild Brook Trout in Connecticut after a recent resurvey of streams first sampled nearly 30 years ago. In addition he will discuss future efforts to make improvements to the salmonid stocking program.

From the vest of the President



Unless we send out a special edition summer newsletter this will be our final newsletter until our September issue is published and sent out. We are hoping that we can return to East Hartford for our monthly membership meetings at that time. Overall our Zoom meetings have gone very well. Our April meeting took us to New Hampshire and our upcoming May 12th meeting will feature Brian Eltz from our state DEEP.

This spring Mother Nature cooperated for two of our annual events on the Willimantic River. On 4/7 our CFFA was able to Float Stock trout in the Cole W Wilde TMA on the Willimantic River from Roaring Brook down to and ending at the westbound rest area on Rt. 84. The river stocking was done by Gary Steinmiller, Ron Dunleavy, Mark Lucas, Bob Heitman, Dan Price, John Ferrantino, Russ Angers, and Bill Prasil. The DEEP net stocked behind the rest area, the abutment pool, the 84 bridge pool and in the Nye-Holman state forest.

The members of the stocking crew were shuttled from the rest area to our starting point on the other side of the river by CFFA members Walter Malkauskas, Charles McCaughtry and Gary Bogli. Walter also took many photographs of the day's event. When our stocking was completed our CFFA provided a pizza luncheon in Nye-Holman Forest from one of our longtime advertisers in our newsletter Willington Pizza Too.

A few weeks prior to our river stocking our Trail Clean-up of the Cole W Wilde TMA on the Willimantic River was conducted under the direction of Bob Winot, (Activities VP), we arrived at the Rt 74 Park and Ride at 9:00 am to get our assignments and

make sure everyone knew where they were going and had a working partner. Gear and masks were checked to make sure of safety and enough equipment was provided to clear winter's storm debris which included some large fallen trees. We also removed a good deal of human leavings such as old bottles, cans and a wide assortment of junk. At about 12 pm, members finished up and moseyed down to the Fly Fishing Area in the Nye-Holman Forest. After some discussion of culinary matters, we settled on 4 large pizzas with everything from Heart Healthy Veggie to less than healthy but tasty, and who cares anyway, as we just spent 3 hours traipsing around the Willimantic River which ate up any of the bad calories.

As often happens when you get a bunch of people together, plans sometimes change. The day offered trail clearing, pizza and a chance to go fly fishing. However, the group seemed more intent on sharing stories of fishing trips, and days gone by. Much like the great stories of John Gierach, in his book "All Fisherman Are Liars," the stories were greatly enhanced by the camaraderie of the day, particularly as the time went on.

Needless to say, no one went fishing, but we had a great day clearing the trails, getting together and planning our next outing.

Members attending included: Bob Winot, Program Chair, Russ Angers, Bud Russell, Gary Steinmiller, John Ferrantino, Bud Russell, Mark Lucas, Dan Price, Roger Martin, Robert Heitman, William Prasil, Walter Malkauskas, Ron Dunleavy, Charles McCaughtry.

Without members willing to donate their time and effort CFFA activities like those mentioned above would not happen. I sincerely thank every member that does lend a helping hand throughout the year and I wish all of you a great season of fly-fishing and don't hesitate to take notes on your experiences and share them in a future newsletter. Gary

[Fly Tying Tribute to Gary Lafontaine.](#)

[May 15, 2021 - 9:00am to 3:00pm](#)

[Salmon River, Gulf Road, Picnic Area](#)

[This event is in honor of Connecticut's most prolific fly tier. Fly tiers are welcome to bring a chair, folding table, vice and materials to tie flies. The theme of the day is Caddis patterns but any and all flies can be tied.](#)

[Everyone is responsible for their own equipment, fly tying table and materials. Bring your own food to cook on the grills if interested. Everyone is responsible for following Covid Safety protocols, masks and distancing. We are starting this event small and hope to grow it year by year. If raining we will not tie flies, but will gather and then fish. Any questions contact Rick Liegl, 860-818-2966.](#)

Noll Fly Tying Kit memories

By Edward Ostapczuk

A previous version of this was run/published in the Nov. 2020 issue of the *Gazette*, newsletter of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

With winter holidays only weeks away, it's time for my second season, that time of year I while away cold days tying flies close to our woodstove. This all started with a humble enough beginning. The Good Lord willing, in a few short weeks I'll hit the seventy-third mile-marker on this life's highway. Thus, it was sixty years ago this coming Christmas I asked my parents for a Noll Fly Tying Kit, No. 20 Special. If memory serves me correctly, it sold for \$4.95 back then, which has since led to thousands of dollars being "invested" on this feathery pas-time bolstering that initial meager outlay.

That kit contained everything a wet-behind-the-ears thirteen-year-old wannabe fly tyer could ever want: one cheap stamped vise, heavy oversized wet-fly and bass hooks, various cellophane packets of pronounced bright chenille, floss, and yarn, not to forget vividly colored feathers with thick stems and soft barbs. I was in my glory, but was also a student of the school of hard knocks. Back then there was no Internet nor DVD's or YouTube videos to learn from. J. Edson Leonard's *Flies* was one of the first books I purchased. However, this fine reference was mostly comprised of words with few visual references. In some way it was akin to reading a math text, complicated and hard to understand at times. For color visuals I treasured *Family Circle's Guide to Trout Flies*. I thought that slim reference contained the recipe for every trout pattern I would ever need to tie. Imagine that!

I remember a few of my first creations, wet flies tied with thick chenille bodies and fat heads. The finished flies could rotate about the hook shank, as I had no concept of anchoring the tying thread creating a foundation to build upon. Seeking additional help on this matter, I went to the Union Public Library and its limited stack of fishing books, containing the works of Blades, DuBois, and Wetzel. There I sought to expand my knowledge base as their wasn't anyone I could learn from firsthand. Sadly, sometimes these visits also affected the development of my moral fiber as not far from those fishing books was a stack of black-and-white photography books, a few containing nudes. While slightly off the subject, this caused me to spend a number of Saturday afternoons going to confession. Confession lines were much longer than, perhaps there were more sinners roaming about, but I recall one parish priest who would yell at penitents in his booth and I avoided him like the plague.

With time my flies looked better, good enough that even fish might like them. Thus, I began fishing them in-

stead of purchasing the flies I used. And I started the ongoing process of acquiring tools and better materials. Initially I borrowed a sharp pair of scissors from my mother that I still use to this day. Additionally, I quickly purchased a Chase bobbin and pair of hackle pliers that didn't have heavy rubber tips. I guess my biggest purchases included a Thompson Model B vise, and before too many years went by I upgraded to a Thompson A.

In those early days I supplemented materials at Huff's Sporting Goods on Stuyvesant Avenue. For a quarter one could purchase a cellophane pack of a dozen decent dry-fly feathers. And, for five dollars each a thick-stemmed Indian or Chinese neck was had, as I knew of no other hackle sources back then. I still have piles of these feathers, which were last utilized when I instructed fly tying classes at the middle school I taught at. Plus, while still living in New Jersey and just old enough to drive, my buddies and I would venture forth to Reed Tackle on U.S. 46 in Caldwell for major tying purchases. Those were really the days.

I wonder how many Guild members started their own tying journey with Noll? We all had our fly-tying beginnings; mine started humbly with a Noll Fly Tying Kit. However, one common thread shared by most tyers I know, we never seem to get rid of anything. I still have all this stuff, and many more items purchased that were never used, like a large magnifying lens and bobbin cradle for my vise, assorted modern miracle materials, an expensive dubbing spinner, and whip finisher I never mastered. These days I tie on a HMH Standard vise, have a good supply of Charlie Collins necks, proud to be a member of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, prefer using natural materials/furs over synthetics, and still tie most of my flies on Mustad hooks. Somethings just never change for us Noll Kit kids.



My Florida fishing story starts with my annual pilgrimage down Highway 95 with my wife on or around January 10 every year to our condo in Jupiter FL. I throw in my golf clubs and assorted salt water fly rods and flies ready to ply my wiles for the sea fish around my area. Now you have to take into account it is the winter in this area and with it brings colder water temps and lots of real windy days. Needless to say it does not leave you a lot of opportunities to get that perfect day we all look for to fly fish the ocean. I have had some varying degrees of success both walking the beach early in the morning and boat fishing, but nothing consistent. One day a good fishing friend called me from his house in Key Largo and asked if I was in FL. And if I wanted to go fishing. All I could think about was going for bones and tarpon. I was a little surprised when he said lets go to Alligator Alley to fish for Peacocks. He knew a good guide, Rick Barnhart, that he and his father used all the time. Well, I was very excited, I have never fished for Peacocks before and couldn't wait to try it. Needless to say the day that we planned got canceled due to a cold front, which really puts these fish down. The following week we luck out and a warm front comes in for a few days and we are ready to go.. Remember all those saltwater 9 weights and flies, they don't apply here. Luckily Jack had a couple of 5 weights with him and we were in business. An easy ride down the turnpike to 75{Alligator Alley} to mile marker 41 boat launch and meet up with Rick. Well what happened for the next 4 or 5 hours was what fish stories are made of. Jack and I caught and released 143 fish, 47 of them were Peacocks of all sizes and the rest were various species including large mouth bass, Alligator Gar, Bowfins, Oscars, Mayan cichlids, and even blue gills. The fishing was spectacular to say the least and I have to commend Rick, he new where the structure was that these fish hang out in, considering that every bank in the Everglades looks the same, that is quite a feat. Not only was the fishing fun and productive, but the surroundings are spectacularly beautiful. Between the hundreds of alligators we saw and the birds of all colors and species, it was a wonderful day, that I would recommend to anyone. For those that are interested I would recommend Capt. Rick, he has a great knowledge and love of the area. His contact is: Rick Barnhart 954-562-7108.

I want to thank Jim Stack for writing this for us to enjoy. This is your last newsletter till September after going through Covid I am sure when you go out fishing with your friends and our perhaps flying off someplace to fish you can write a story about it.
Editor



I received this from an old friend who's husband and uncle were avid fishermen, she is on my fishing email list and thought I would appreciate this for a laugh.

The next generation?

By Chuck Koteen

Six-year-old Ansley Koteen and eight-year-old Aubrie Koteen spent a day with the grandparents. First Grandma took them to do a little shopping, have lunch, and to get their nails done. Then the trio came to Granddad's lair. The two girls got busy at the tying vise while Grandma took a much-needed nap.



My granddaughters have been tying for about six months, for fashion, not yet for fishing. But they are developing their skills.

Chuck Koteen



Paul's Fly Box

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



Hook: Tiemco TMC Size #8 413J Jig Hook.

Bead: Gold Tungsten Slotted bead 5/32".

Tying thread: Red Danville's Flat Waxed Nylon.

Weight: Lead Wire .025.

Tail: Woolly Bugger Tan Marabou.

Body: Gold Estaz standard size.

Some more pictures from stocking and spring fishing with friends as well as a picture of one of the club newsletters oldest supporters John owner of Willington Pizza



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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
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INTERNATIONAL
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Fly Fisherman's Association

