

**The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association**

**February on the Salmon River  
Photo by Carl Ochnio**

**April 2021**

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Don LaChance  
Program Lead  
Newington Program

860-930-0184  
[don.lachance@projectthealingwaters.org](mailto:don.lachance@projectthealingwaters.org)

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### 'Fly Fishing New Hampshire's Secret Waters'

New Hampshire's hard and rugged exterior protects one of America's richest native brook trout fisheries. These abundant waters are as varied as the landscape, from Mount Washington to peaceful meadows. The anticipation of the largest mayfly hatch contrasts with the quiet, deep waters of holding pools, and anglers are rewarded when they learn how to read the rivers and streams. Remote areas such as the Perry Ponds may require an entire day, while more accessible waters such as Mink Brook still provide excitement. With more than fifty years of experience, Steve Angers reveals some of his favorite spots and details what it takes to be successful when fishing in the Granite State.

Here is your link for the zoom meeting at 6:45 PM April 14th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87614677628?pwd=cGZJNXF5Yzl2NS8yUU93QjYyU2FHZz09>

## From the vest of the President



When you read this issue of Lines & Leaders spring fishing will have begun. Our Connecticut Rivers, streams, lakes and ponds will be teeming with trout ready to inspect and possibly even taste your flies. The trails of Cole W. Wilde Trout Management Area will have been cleaned of trash and trimmed of obstructions. The rays of the sun will warm your body and the water you are swimming your flies in. The insects that live there will respond to this and their circle of life will happen once again as it has from the beginning of creation. The trout will respond to the emergence of insects and you will be in the situation you thought of many times during those cold days and nights of winter now a thing of the past. Enjoy it every chance you get.

I have contacted the DEEP and have received a green light for our CFFA to float stock the Cole W Wilde TMA with trout this spring as the restrictions due to Covid 19 have been scaled back. As usual this always depends on the water flows on the day of the scheduled stocking. If it does come to fruition the TMA will have trout spread out throughout its entire length.

In our March issue you were made aware of Proposed H.B. 5031 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE, TRADE OR DISTRIBUTION OF NEW ANIMAL FUR.

I want to thank all of you that wrote to your representatives expressing your concerns about this bill. At this time we can tell you the bill is not going to be moving forward out of committee and is off the table for this legislative session.

A few weeks ago I received an email from our newsletter editor John Springer that contained an attachment and a note saying he thought I might enjoy it. It was from a friend of John's who was cleaning out his desk. When I opened the attachment what I saw was an old issue of our Lines and Leaders newsletter. The year was 1987 and it contained information about the implementation of the brand new Catch & Release Area on the Farmington River along with many other articles written by CFFA members.

This got me motivated to do something with all the older issues we have received over the years. Most of these older editions were saved by past president Ken Parkany and life member Paul Beaudreau. They were neatly stored in 3 ring binders arranged by years and months that went back to 1969. They give a clear picture of our CFFA history and I felt like they should be available for all to read so I started to scan each and every issue that we had into a PDF format and then uploaded them to our CFFA website. They can be found here. <http://www.ctflyfish.org/news/cffa-downloads/category/2-line-leaders-newsletter.html> They contain so many excellent articles by members that were willing to share their passion with the entire membership. In a 1972 issue you will find a wonderful article written by Gary LaFontaine who served on our CFFA BOD many years ago. This project was very enjoyable. I am so glad John sent me that newsletter that got me started and that Ken Parkany and Paul Beaudreau thought enough of CFFA to save our history. We are missing some years but we have the majority. If you happen to be one of our long time members or a recent new member I encourage each of you to take a look back into our history. I think you will enjoy it.

Gary





## FARMINGTON RIVER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL EARTH DAY COOPERATIVE

# FARMINGTON RIVER CLEANUP

**Saturday April 24th • 9am to 3pm**

**All  
Teams  
win a  
prize!**



### It's a Team Competition!!!

*Most Trash • Strangest • Biggest Pile  
Most Tires • Shopping Cart • Most Fishing Line*

**Form a Team or Come Join One**

*Team oriented river clean up to earn bragging rights as who grabbed the most trash. All participating teams will walk away with prizes. A great mix of additional prizes will also be awarded at the after-party conducted at **Brewery Legitimus**. Beers & Food! Cleanup is from Collinsville to Hogback. Garbage bags and gloves provided.*

**Please click or copy the link here to sign up. Join up today!**

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/927003155185270066/true#/invitation>

**Raffle held at Brewery Legitimus, 283 Main Street, New Hartford.  
Beers, food & a good time.**



*This event is cooperatively  
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Here is the link from Farmington River Anglers to sign up for this since most of us fish this river a good turn out would be great. Cut and Paste this to your browser and it takes you to the sign up sheet.

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/927003155185270066/false#/invitation>

## The 2020 Fishing in Review by Mark Philippe

Thankfully 2020 is about to end. Despite all the bad, fishing was a welcome escape and the catching was often quite good.

Like every season, I began with trout. Streamers and dries are how I roll, with some occasional forays into euro nymphing.

One day I found myself on the Farmington waiting for a Hendrickson hatch that never really materialized. A spin guy, positioned just above me was whacking them good. He was catching 14-16 inch survivor browns that had been recently reintroduced to the river. I wasn't catching. I tried a few ideas from my fly boxes, but when I tied on a Wood Duck Heron streamer, the bite was on! It was one after another. Recently stocked, but what chunky and energetic trout! I quickly gained the respect of the guy above me.

The Hendrickson hatch is my favorite and I had many memorable days fishing it. The fish wise up quickly, and to be successful you better have numerous different patterns and sizes. Sometimes, in some pools, the female fly patterns rule. Knock-down duns, Compara-duns, parachutes, emergers, floating nymphs, and spinners, all have their place and time. It seems that in this time of year, the trout fight the best, and I love the sweet sound of my reel's drag.

The Farmington, after all my years of fishing it, still remains a mystery. One day, I had staked out a pool and waited patiently for the hatch. By 3 pm nothing much was happening. So I drove upstream and tried to stay in my lane as I scanned the river with hope. There was a crowd fishing in one of the pools. I pulled into a turnout, and was shocked by the numbers of rising fish. I saw an open spot where the riffle slowed down and made haste to take that position. I caught quite a few, but in looking downstream I saw an occasional sipper in some slack water. When the action slowed, I began to concentrate on the sipper. This is the kind of trout fishing I live for. My

tippet was already long, so important for drag-free drifts. The fish was rising in the vicinity of a downed tree branch. Sometimes above it but most often below. Patience waned and I decided to make the downstream cast over the branch. The cast and the float were good, and the trout tipped up and sipped it in. I immediately used side pressure to move it into the current and away from the obstruction. A nice 16-17 inch brown slid into my net.



On another trip I found a popular pool with nobody around. I hadn't planned on fishing there but couldn't resist. I hadn't fished there in years. After a few false starts I was able to find a watery path near the tail of the pool that would get me to the opposite bank, the only side that would allow access to the rising trout upstream. Half way across truck doors slammed. I hurried to reach the risers. These trout were not pushovers. They moved up and down. Trout that cruise are almost always a challenge. But by casting down and across I was able to catch just about every trout that rose. In this case, the tricky wading is more memorable than what and how many I caught.

The spring is so ephemeral. I had the usual fishing interference that home ownership brings, and the season began sliding toward summer. I found myself grabbing a few hours in the evenings to fish. It's not easy to find river space without a crowd, but I usually can. March Browns, Vitreous, and Sulfurs were hatching. Being a large insect, March Browns attract the larger fish. These



flies will hatch right up until dark, maybe later. I love fishing both duns and spinners during these times. My luck with big fish held, including some that measured 20 inches in length. 2020 was one of my best years for sizable trout.

I caught a few fish euro nymphing, but I'm not ready for prime time as they say. It's so hard to break away from dry flies.

This ends part one of my fishing year in review. More to follow if I can motivate myself.

I want to thank Mark for sending this in for us to enjoy and we hope he gets motivated for another story soon. He is a very long time member of this organization

Chuck Koteen last fish of 2020 what a way to end the year.

Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> was warm and beautiful, maybe my last warm-weather visit this season to Cranberry Pond, a 74 acre lake in south central Massachusetts. Fishing hadn't been very good. I planned to make a few casts, take a walk, sit on the dock, laze around. I tossed a favorite popper - nothing. A streamer - nothing. Took out a spinning rod and cast a rubber worm - nothing. I had low expectations when I tied on an egg sucking leech. With this normally productive fly, I had caught nothing all year. It was the perfect fly for a day I was catching nothing anyway. But then, something! Something big grabbed that egg sucking leech and I had my one fish of the day and my fish of the year! Sorry for mishandling the fish, but I couldn't let this one go without a picture



## Paul's Fly Box

Tying instructions & a video on how to tie the Evil Olive pattern can be found at

<http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com/>



**Hook:** Dai-Riki #125 Size #18 Emerger Hook.  
**Bead:** Black 5/64" Tungsten Bead.  
**Tying thread:** Light Olive, UTC 70 Denier Ultra Thread.  
**Rib:** Ultra Wire Gold Small Size.  
**Tail:** Dyed Mallard flank fibers dyed wood duck.  
**Body:** Light Olive touching thread wraps.  
**Wing Case:** Butts of the Dyed Mallard flank fibers dyed wood duck.  
**Thorax:** Olive SLF Prism Dubbing.  
**Legs:** Pearl Krystal Flash.  
**Finish:** UV Resin on the Wing Case.



Al Sonski sent me this story along with pictures by the time you read it I am thinking Al is making plans to go again.

My friend Doug from our Pomfret F&G club asked me if I wanted to troll at ice out West Grand Lake, Maine. It is a 400 mile drive. Of course I went. The area and lake are quiet, fishy, and full of ice out trolling lore. We left on May first and got home on the 12th. I decided not to bring fly fishing stuff to fish the Grand Lake Stream (GLS), because the river was in flood. We stayed in a private residence on the river. Doug has been fishing the area for 25 years and made several great contacts, one of them being a fantastic place to stay that included the use of a boat house.

The ice went out of the lake on Tuesday, April 31. We were fishing the lake by May 2. Water temps were 38-39 F, the first few days, and 43-45 F by the end of the trip. We trolled every day rain or shine except for one. That day the wind was blowing like hell. On a lake that is 8 miles long and 4 miles wide (14,400 acres) you don't go out when there are whitecaps, period.

We trolled 3 rods all the time. We fished two fly rods with level sinking fly lines and flies and a lead core rod with one color of line with a lure. All fish were taken on tandem streamer fly patterns or on lures, all of which Doug developed and customized for the lake. I tied and trolled his patterns. Doug knows that lake and how to fish it. He put me on fish every day. If it weren't for him, I would not have been into as many fish on such big water. The owner of the house we stayed at grew up on the lake. He said "Doug's knowledge of the lake is amazing. Stick with him".

We did well. We averaged about 9 boated fish a day for a total 64 landlocks and 6 Lakers. On the high day we landed 14 fish. Our lowest day we landed 3 fish. Eighty percent of the landlocks were in the harvestable slot size of 14"-25". Our catch of salmon was 12"-18". All the Lakers were greater than the minimum length of 18". The lake trout were all very similar in size at about 22". We weighed 2 of them at 4 lbs. As temps increased the landlocks got increasingly acrobatic. The Lakers did not jump. They just zip off line! The tug of a 4 pound lacer while holding a fly rod is a good one.

The lake is stocked annually with 10,000 salmon 6-8". The hatchery on GLS rears the fish from wild spawned lake grown salmon adults. Laker reproduction is 100% wild!

Over the years I read about fishing at ice out on Maine lakes. I am glad that I finally had the real experience





# Lines & Leaders

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  
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East Hartford, CT 06108

P.O. Box 380268

Fly Fisherman's Association

