

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG



February 2021



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

[Inside you can see why Carl wrote this. Read Ricks article on winter fishing. The weather has been very mild this winter there are some wonderful days to be had. Editor](#)



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Our speaker for Feb. will be Bill Holleran

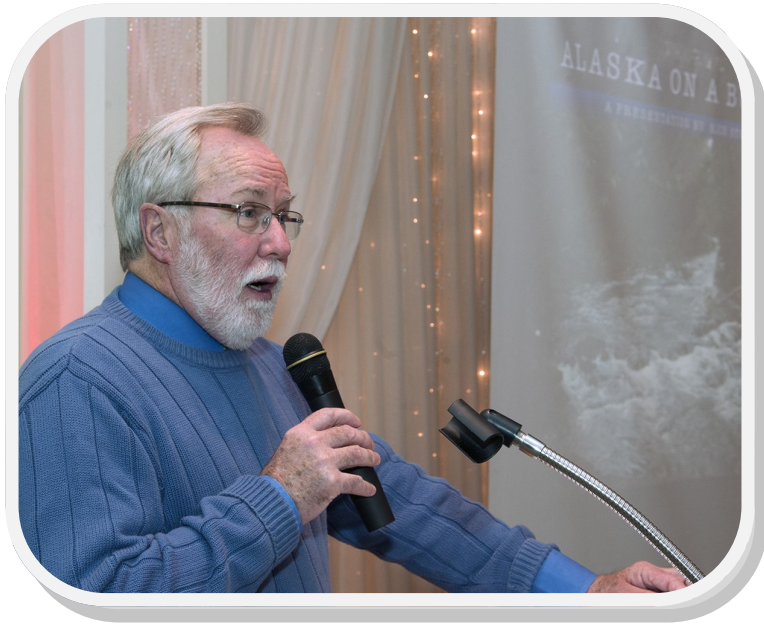
Program will be "Tenkara fishing in the White Mountains"

I learned to fly fish in Pittsburg, NH when my wife surprised me with a guided trip on our vacation. I bought some gear after that trip and tried to teach myself. While looking online for fly fishing instruction I came across a video of some guys using tenkara. It looked like so much fun so I bought a tenkara rod. After a few months of moderate success, I went to a couple of fly shops looking for more info. None of them knew anything about tenkara so I went back to the internet. I read every blog and watched every video I could find to improve my skill.

Then on a camping trip in the White Mountains, I taught some friends tenkara. I had so much fun teaching them that I decided to start a tenkara business to share the coolest method to fish mountain streams. Nowadays, I alternate between western fly gear and tenkara based on where I'm fishing.

My presentation is called Tenkara in The White Mountains. In it, I will go through all the basics of the tenkara method and how to have a great experience in places like the White Mountains.

From the vest of the President



In a normal CFFA year we are flat out busy during the winter months. Our Expo and Banquet would be happening the 1st Saturday in February. Unfortunately we are not experiencing a normal year.

We are in the same boat as every other social organization in our state for now as we go through the long days of winter. If this pandemic did not exist our CFFA would be conducting our annual Beginning Fly Tying Classes where we provide a vice and all the tools and materials to get students started in the right direction. If any of you reading this are true beginners and happen to have a vice and want to give fly tying a try on your own here is a link that will help. The videos have a nice progression to them where you will learn a new technique with each viewing. When you finish the series you will be able to follow most fly recipes and create a well tied fly. Gary

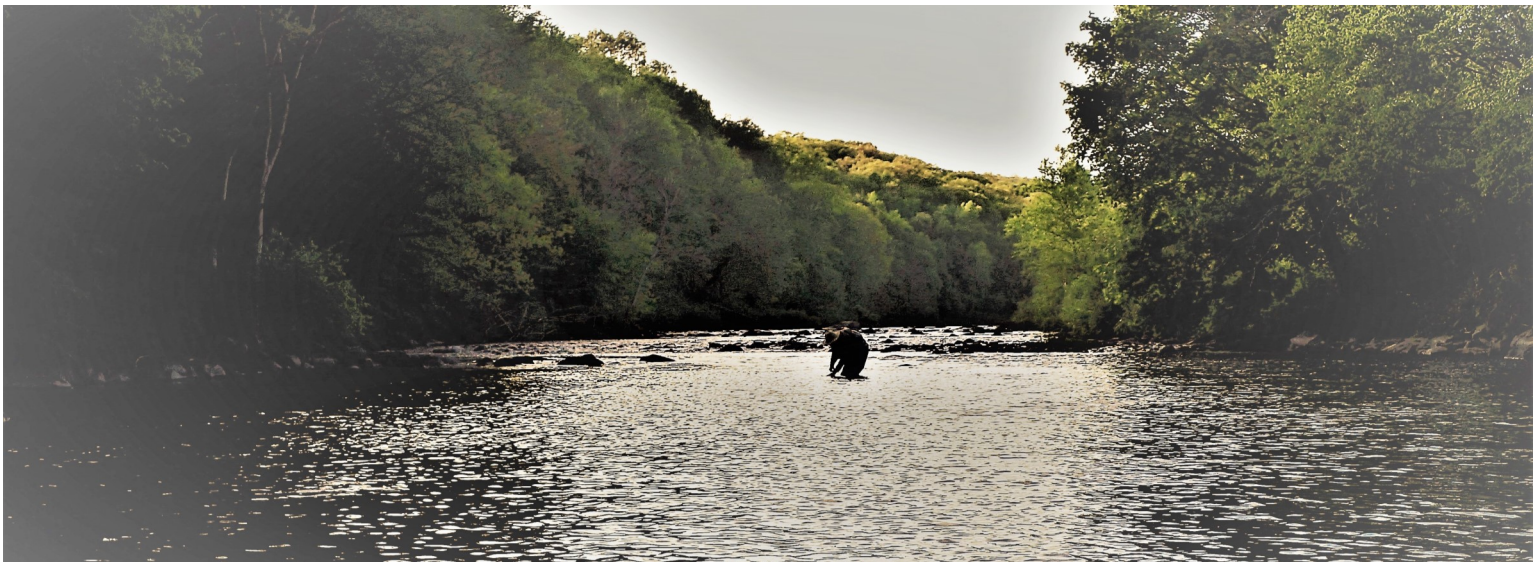
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DB6tss3hGZc>



Despite a lack of activity and events I can gladly inform you that payments of our annual dues continue to be received. Some of you are mailing in your dues and some of you are going through our website and making electronic payments. I thank all of you for your continued support and commitment to our CFFA and what we do. It is very much appreciated.

Our virtual meetings via Zoom have caught on and we have had an increase in participants at each meeting. Our January meeting featuring fly fishing in Maine presented by Rick Little had 74 participants. This is the most we have had so far and we hope this trend continues. We thank every member that comes to these virtual meetings and we suggest you continue to share these meeting invitations by word of mouth or private email with your friends. Please do not post our invitations on social media.

Gary



Winter Season Fishing Map - The Salmon River of Connecticut, by Rick Liegl

Do you ever get bored fly fishing the same pools over and over again? Is standing in the same spot for several hours at a time, casting to the same location, exciting? If it is, then by all means keep at it, but if you are looking to get more out of fly fishing you need to cover more water. I enjoy fishing productive pools but I also appreciate the element of adventure in fly fishing. I enjoy exploring new water and testing my skills and flies by fishing different areas of the rivers I fish. The winter is an excellent season to explore new water on your favorite rivers. The walking paths that were overgrown in the summer are wide open. You can travel much further distances and there are far fewer people on the rivers.

In the autumn/winter of 2020 I made a fishing map of the Salmon River in Connecticut. I divided a large portion of the river into several smaller sections and fished the river from the confluence of the Black Ledge and Jeremy Rivers all the way down through the gorge, the entire Fly Fishing Zone, down to the Comstock Bridge, past Fireman's field, all the way down river to where the brook enters the east side of the river below the large ox bow turn.

Although I have fished the river in all seasons and all types of weather for several years and have found that my favorite season to fish the river is winter. Winter fish has its own unique challenges. There are far fewer hatches so I use more attractor patterns of fly's. Safety is also important in cold weather so it's best to go with someone



else. I've spent many weekend days fishing and cooking on the river with my good fishing buddies Darold and Vol. This a collection of photos and a brief retelling of creating my fish map, of my favorite river.

Winter Weather clothing-

Having the correct clothing, especially in winter is critical to having a fun day on

the water. Maybe this will be helpful to some newer anglers that are getting into fly fishing or those who want to explore fly fishing in winter. Keeping warm on the river is the number one goal. I was walking a lot on these trips so it was much easier to stay warm as opposed to standing still in one pool for hours on end.

I adjust this set up depending on the starting temp of the day 10's, 20's, 30's or 40's then wind, rain, snow and sunshine. Layers make it easier to stay comfortable, but when hiking and fishing the last thing you want to do is to have to carry anything other than your fly rod. I start with a normal pair of socks and a loose fitting second layer that is made of wool. You typically should buy wading boots that are one size bigger than your normal shoe size so that you have room for socks and room to move. Two pairs of socks works fine for the 30 and 40s but when be-

low freezing I add a foot warmer pack to each foot. It has an adhesive and I stick it on top of my toes, in between my layers of socks. I have Dark Horse Korkers and I use the felt sole. They are excellent on the water but felt soles collect chunks of snow when walking on snow. Felt can also be slippery when hiking up or down steep hills entering or exiting the river gorge and trying to gain traction on the dead leaves lining the hillside. I wear Drift Primo Waders. These are the warmest waders I have owned. This type of fly fishing includes some rough hiking and I have never doubted the materials or seams on these waders. The Under Armor base layer pants and a pair of jeans or heavy sweat pants work fine for keeping the legs warm. The upper body is a nylon type of long sleeve fishing shirt, a fleece base layer and then a wool sweater. If it is windy or cold in the 30s I add a hooded sweatshirt. If it's raining and snowing then I add a winter coat. Neck buff, brimmed hat with a knitted hat and sunglasses. Even on cloudy days I wear shades because it helps me to see fish, sometimes holding in a slower current or when they flash while checking out my fly. Lastly and most importantly I wear black Nitrile gloves with wool fingerless gloves. The Nitrile keeps my hands dry and the thin material allows me to change flies and tie knots with ease. If I need to take them off I do. A hand warmer in your pocket

is also excellent on really cold days.

Fishing Gear-

I have a very affordable rod, reel and line set up. It really could not be simpler. I use an Echo 10' 4 weight Euro Nymph Fly rod. It is light and has a faster action than several other Euro rods I have tried. I find that this rod is easy to cast and very



accurate. I have a $\frac{3}{4}$ Pascifun reel that is super light. I use a parallel fly line, which means there is no taper. It is very similar to straight 4lb Hi-Vis Mono. It is Hanak Bicolor Indicator line. That's it. It is the simplest line set up that I have used. Just backing to the 30 feet of the Bicolor line to a 1 mm tippet ring and then I tie on 6x tippet. I typically run two perdigone flies on my Euro Nymph rig.

Euro Nymphing history can be found on many pages and websites so I am not going to go into very much detail here, but, basically, several countries in Europe developed a style of fly fishing in the 80's and 90's Continued on page 5 that is extremely

Continue on page 5

effective at catching Trout, especially in faster water. Each country has variations that add nuance to the sport but they all fit in a category called Euro Nymphing.



Drift is the most important aspect of fishing a nymph. The goal is to drift the fly in a natural presentation to a hungry fish. A longer rod gives a longer drift. Heavy flies sink faster than lighter ones and that gets the flies into the strike zone quicker. There is no indicator to add drag to your presentation. The line is thin and doesn't lie on the water. The line has no taper so there is no heavier section of the line to provide sag/drag. What I get is contact with my flies from the back cast or water cast, through the air to my target; they hit the water and sink. I raise my rod and I suspend the nymphs at a certain height in the water column and I lead the nymphs through the drift. I lift them out of the water and repeat.

Trout often hold in a lie and depending on how hungry the trout is and how safe he is feeling he will move right, left, up or down from that holding position to eat. I will often cast several times at the seams of small pools or runs and after I feel I have covered that piece of water I move up river a few steps and scan for the next area that I think will be holding fish. If I see a fish flash but doesn't take my fly, I change flies to see what the fish may want.

After drawing the map of the river that I wanted to fish I chose a landmark and that was where I began my section on a day of fishing. I would walk up river and fish each section thoroughly. Conditions changed from super low water levels in the beginning of November to high water levels at the end of the month. Temps were predictable and steadily got colder as the season progressed.

Upon returning from fishing I would log the details of my fishing journey and this is an example of a few brief entries.

11/15/2020 9:00 AM 34° First section of the river. Sunny and calm day. Wooden deck on the water near the grills, Gulf Rd. parking lot, headed to The Comstock Bridge. Water gin clear and very low. Caught 1 brown 5 rainbows. I walked the middle or the shallow eastern side of the river. I casted to holes and boulder piles with small pools. I reached one spot where there were several larger, underwater boulders and I could not see behind them. I approached in a crouched position, casted to the head of the small pool and I caught one on the first cast, an-

other on my second cast. I casted a few more times to that one spot but two was all I was pulling out of there. I continued on and reached the creek that enters the river on the western side, below the RT. 16 Bridge. I was able to wade toward the middle of the river and cast to the confluence. No fish were caught but it seemed like a fishy spot. Fishing the large slow pool below the route 16 Bridge was a challenge with my nymphs. After that trip I tied up several streamers that were heavy enough for me to cast with my mono rig and I keep a few on me during every trip since. I walked up the eastern side of the river under the evergreens, continuously moving up river. I picked up one fish there and moved under the bridge. I have caught fish there before, but I didn't today. I was able to walk up the fast running water between the bridges. No fish. When I got to the covered bridge I figured I would stop because there were several people fishing the covered bridge run. I walked back to my car and headed to another spot.

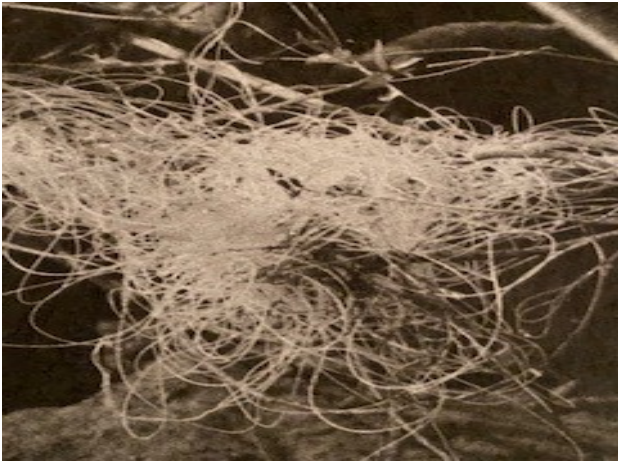
I drove up to the waterfall pool and started fishing above the pool. This section is marked by very old stone bridge abutments; this is the demarcation of the southern boundary of the fly fish only zone. The waterfall was a trickle and the large bedrock above it was exposed or just under the clear water's surface. I casted toward the far side of the river and moved up river quickly. I came to Dickinson's Creek and continued walking the middle of the river. This section is a large slow moving pool. The head of the pool is a rocky run that creates many oxygen bubbles in the water. I fished through that run and ended up at the handicapped access ramps. There were a few people in that pool so I decided to call it a day.



11/22/2020 8:30AM 34° Overcast Handicapped area headed north. I started my day where I last left off. The river was so low that I was able to walk in the middle of the river and cast right and left picking pocket water as I walked. This mighty river was reduced to ankle, shin deep water and it felt like I was fishing a wild trout stream. There were some sections that got deeper and I walked the bank on the east and western side. One spot I noticed seemed to have a rush of fast water that led to a small pool of calmer, deeper water. I approached slowly and crouched near a large rock in the middle of the river. I casted toward the head of the small pool and I didn't get a bite. I recast and noticed a small fish swim out from the dark rocky area nearest me,

Continued on page 7

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER



The Problem – Have you seen this?

Monofilament Tangles

Stop littering monofilament on your fishing trips, always carry it out with you and dispose of it properly when you get home. When you are on the Farmington River please help by picking up any stray mono and deposit in the collection posts. Mono tangles can be dangerous to wildlife and can be a tripping hazard for fishermen.

MONO COLLECTION RECYCLING BINS



Monofilament Tubes Coming in the Spring on the Farmington River

To help with the problem of mono tangles the Farmington River Anglers Association and Wild and Scenic will fund, install and maintain new collection posts at Church, Boneyard, Greenwoods, and Beaver Pools.



Paul's Fly Box

Tying instructions & a video on how to tie this pattern can be found at

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

Paul's Caddis Larva Emerger



Hook: Tiemco 2487 Curved Scud Hook. Size #16

Thread: Olive, Black, or Brown 6/0 Thread.

Bead: Black Tungsten Bead 2.5 mm - 3/32.

Body: Olive, Chartreuse, Black, & Brown Micro-Chenille.

Thorax: Ice Dub to match body color.

Hackle: Starling or small Black Hen Hackle.

across light colored sand to another dark, rocky area. On my next cast I got a fish. A small rainbow. I released the fish and went right back to my spot casting and drifting my nymphs through the pool. I got another one and in the commotion of bringing the small fish in I saw a nice 14 - 15 inch rainbow swim from one rocky area across the light brown sand to the other rocky area. I knew I had to catch that fish. I released the small one and kept on casting and soon enough I caught the good sized rainbow, and released it. I continued walking up river and made it to my walk out point, the old bridge abutments that are the northern marker of the start of the fly fishing zone. When the river is very low I was able to cover much longer distances than when it was



high. Another important tip that I learned that day was that in low water if there is a fish in a nice deep hole, he's probably not alone.

11/28/2020 River was completely different. The river that was running below average, roughly 50cfs on the 21st and 22nd had now shot up to over 500 cfs. By the end of the month it was even higher! The river that was only shin deep was now raging. I was relegated to the outermost edges of the river and the center of the river was off limits for wading. My travel was slowed to a snail's pace. I fished the seams between fast and slow water but this was such a difference for the fish that the bite was off. No fish that day.

1/10/2021 26° 8:00 AM Wooden deck at the Gulf Road lot headed south around the Ox Bow turn in the river. This was truly adventure hiking/fishing. It was a cold but sunny day and the wind was calm. Myself and three friends headed out and crossed the river several times, we then connected with the dirt road and ATV tracks and made it all the way to a brook entering the river on the east side south of the big bend in the river. We all began fishing and exploring this section of the river that we had never fished before. As we covered water we walked up river to the next spot. We came to a bend in the river where we had a shallow side with much deeper current on the far bank. I waded in and casted my rig drifted it down river and after a few casts, I had a fish. Caught one more in that same section and we continued on. I hope this encourages more anglers to get out there

and fish new water during the winter months. Making your own map of your favorite river and fishing each section completely is a great way to test your gear, skills and fly's. It forces you to learn more about the rivers you fish. I wish you all luck and hope to see you on the water.



This wild brown was caught on a Perdigone I tied. First cast on a Sunday on the Tankerhousen

I want to also thank him for sending in these great pictures as well as writing such an informative story for us to enjoy and learn from.



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
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Fly Fisherman's Association

