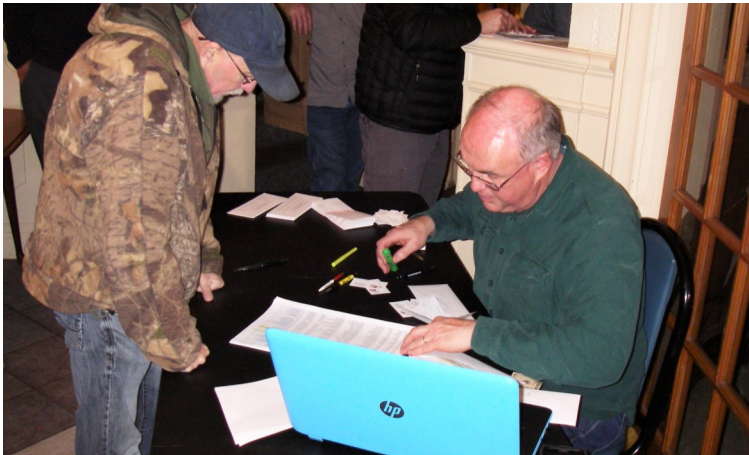


The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

Because of Covid we lost a year of getting together but the volunteers who take care of the club will be back here doing what they enjoy doing for everyone from past meetings. Sorry if I missed a few but I had no pictures. Thanks to Chuck Koteen for helping me with some pictures. Editor

March 2021



 <p>WILLINGTON PIZZA HOUSE</p> <p>Route 32 • 25 River Road Willington Trading Center Willington, Connecticut (860) 429-7433</p> <p>www.willingtonpizza.com</p>	<p>EAST COAST HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC</p> <p>Providing Professional Home Inspection Services in CT & MA</p>  <p>Mark Roy Home Inspector</p> <p>Cell: (860) 614-0728 Business: (860) 763-4030 mark@eastcoastinspect.com</p> <p>eastcoastinspect.com</p> <p>P.O. Box 558 Enfield, CT 06083</p>
<p>Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses</p> <p>JT'S FLY SHOP</p>  <p>664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076 860-684-1575 jtsflyshop@yahoo.com</p>	<p>HIGH HOOK OREGON</p>  <p>T. MARK SEYMOUR PRESIDENT</p> <p>WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p> <p>22 LEADMINE ROAD LEVERETT, MA 01054 413-218-0638 MARK@FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p> <p><i>Wines</i></p> <p>Love life. Go fishing. Care for the planet. Drink wine</p> 
<p>Paul McConnell Managing Partner Professional Guide paul@reeladventureoutfitters.com 1-203-764-2007</p> 	<p>PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING</p>  <p>Don LaChance Program Lead Newington Program</p> <p>860-930-0184 don.lachance@projectthealingwaters.org www.projectthealingwaters.org</p>
 <p>FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL</p>  <p>CONSERVATION - EDUCATION - PASSION</p> <p>RAUL (RAY) RAMOS - FFI CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR</p> <p>Individual / group fly-fishing lessons</p> <p>ramosray007@comcast.net 1.860.559.0369</p>	<p>Our advertisers exist to provide you with excellent products and services and they do need your support. Mention that you are with CFFA, they do appreciate feedback and patronage from club members. Plus they are an excellent source for information on gear, tackle, fishing tips and current conditions.</p> 

Fly Fishing for Bass: From Top to Bottom

In this presentation Bob explains how to fly fish for smallmouth & largemouth bass in a variety of water conditions. He also covers topics such as watercraft choice, fly rod selection, fly line selection for the different water types, leader selection & knots to know. He also covers techniques such as line mending, dead drifting & casting weighted flies and the Susquehanna Strip. This presentation will cover fly selection from top-water & subsurface flies to bottom swimming flies and the presentation of the flies. Here is the link I understand people were worried last time as it was not here. So this is how you will get it don't save old meeting links that does not work. If clicking on it does not work cut and paste to your browser

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84912379597?pwd=dkF5WnNuaXdCdG9TQW9vU0xsYlRlZz09>

From the vest of the President



Spring arrives this month and with it comes a blossoming optimism that the worst of this pandemic is behind us. The vaccine distribution will only increase from week to week and month to month and so far it is having a dramatic effect on protecting our senior citizens from a hospital stay or worse. As a senior over 65 I have received my 1st dose as I write this and have my second dose scheduled for early March. As the spring fishing season arrives I hope all of you that are eligible and desire the vaccine get one. I for one, look forward to the car rides to fishing excursions with my fishing buddies that were missing last year.

Our February meeting went smooth and was eye opening for many of us that tuned in via zoom. Bill Holleran presented a wonderful program on Tenkara in the White Mountains. He took us through the basic Tenkara method and showed us how to have a good experience in places like the White Mountains. Our March meeting on the 10th via zoom will feature Bob Clouser. We hope you can login as Bob is always entertaining.

On the legislative front there is proposed H.B. 5031, An Act Prohibiting the Sale, Trade or Distribution of New Animal Fur. It has been brought to our attention that this may have a direct impact on many aspects of the fly fishing community. Rich Strolis, who is a registered guide, has written a piece on his website with a form letter that you can personalize and send to the appropriate people expressing your feelings if you so choose. This link will bring you to the site where both can be found.

<https://www.catchingshadows.com>

It has also been brought to our attention that there has been a recent formation of the CT Chapter of the Native Fish Coalition. Here are two links that will provide you with more information about the organization and their dedication to protect, preserve and restore wild native fish populations. <https://nativefishcoalition.org> or <https://nativefishcoalition.org/connecticut>

I continue to get questions about our annual FlyFishing School and my response has been that we will begin conducting it as soon as it is safe to do so. We love introducing new students to the sport of Fly Fishing and the art of Fly Tying and look anxiously forward to the time when we can do this again.

Gary

About our speaker for March

Bob's love of the outdoors, especially fishing, led him into the fishing business. He continues to teach and share his enjoyment with others.

Bob is also a prolific and highly regarded author of fly fishing and fly tying articles. His articles have been published in national magazines. Bob Clouser is the innovator of many fine fly patterns, all of which gained worldwide popularity. His flies include The Clouser Minnow, The Half and Half, Clouser Crayfish, Swimming Nymph, Crippled Minnow, Mad tom, The Darter, Hellgrammite, E-Z popper, Floating Minnow, Precision Frog and many others. Bob's Clouser Minnow is claimed to be the most effective underwater fly ever developed; rated as #1 by Field and Stream Magazine. He is on the advisory staff for Temple Fork Outfitters and has designed a line of Clouser Fly Rods. He is also on the staff of Rainy's Flies Inc. Chota Outdoor Gear, Renzetti Inc., Scientific Anglers Line Co, Ahrex Hooks and an affiliate with Hareline Dubbing.

Through his life, Bob has been presented numerous awards for his strong conservation work, especially work done to enhance smallmouth bass fishing in Pennsylvania. Most notable among his awards are his induction into the national Fresh Water Fishing Hall of fame as Legendary Angler. In 2009 he was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, the Warm Water Committee Achievement Award, a national award presented by The Federation of Fly Fishers, the Dr. Henshall Award presented by The federation of Fly Fishers, and National Angler of the Year 2000 by Fly Rod and Reel Magazine. He is a strong supporter of recreational fishing as well as conservation. He was awarded the 1995 Conservation Award of The Year presented by the Susquehanna Smallmouth Alliance, and in 1997 the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Conservation Award presented by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He was also inducted into the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum.



November 30 2020

As we all know the past year has been very challenging in many ways, fishing also. Those that travel out west might not have made their trips, but do check out the air fares for next year! Operation Warp Speed is moving along and it looks like everyone that wants a shot will have it by spring. A lot for all of us to think about. With the season coming into the "slow season" some of us have been getting out as much as we can. We were in a drought for many months and now we are getting that much needed rain, with another big storm coming the last day of November looked like my last shot for a while. So I called up a fishing buddy and asked him to join me he was watching the weather himself and said he would let me know.

Tracking the impending storm I knew I would be blown off the river by early afternoon so my plan was to get up early and go to my new favorite place, Jake's State Street dinner in New London. Those that know me know I love to eat and Jake's is the definition of homemade. After filling up on his baked ham and eggs my second favorite to his Pot Roast skillet I headed to the Shetuck-



et. As the rain had not started yet there was a group of anglers in downtown Baltic but fishing was slow from what I saw. (Slow is a fly fisher's term for catching nothing) about 10 AM the rain started and people were leaving then the wind picked up and the river was empty. This year I bought neoprene waders my buddy Al the fish man has been telling me for years. He was right no more of those heat packs for my feet and toes! So far not even wearing fleece pants! Life is good! A good rain coat with tight cuffs really finishes off how to dress. I was bullet proof now.

I walked up to the slower water and started to cast but first what fly to pick? I remember asking my friend Ben years ago what fly I should use one day, he said "I don't care what you use, tie on a Mickey Finn" so I did and

fished it with that downstream swing, making a cast taking a step nobody was around had the entire river to myself. After you do this awhile you start to pick up on



certain areas that look fishier than others after about an hour I saw the bulge and knew what it meant! And then I felt the fish that feeling lasted about 10 seconds. It was gone. These fish are hard to come by for me so I cursed a few times and kept fishing till I hit the bottom of the pool where I got a tug! It was a nice rainbow I let it go and walked up river and found a nice rock to sit on to have lunch. By now the rain was coming down pretty good I was glad I had a Cliff Bar as a sandwich would have gotten soggy.

While taking a break I called my wife to check in, she asked if it was raining hard I said it was on and off but now it was on. She knows how I am and knew I would stay out I said about

another 45 mins and I will call it a day. after hanging up I went back to "work" as I like to say I changed flies now with something a bit heavier and started casting from the head of the pool with my eye on where that

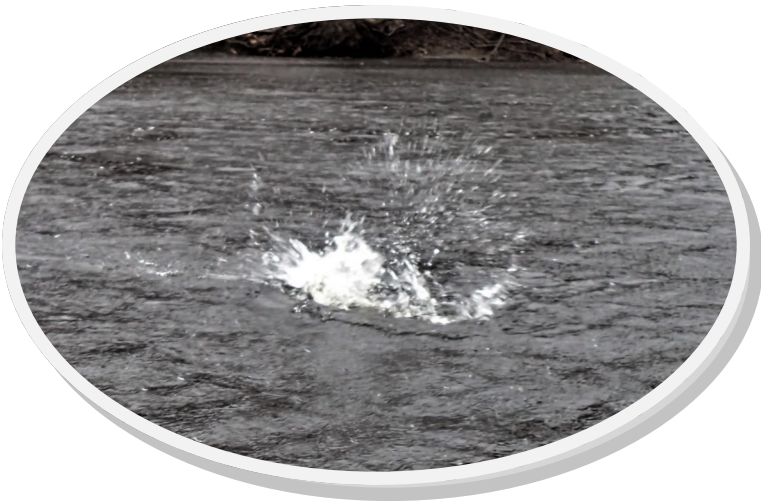


other salmon had hit. This type of fishing gives you much time to think and let your mind wander for sure. We think about old friends no longer with us and the great times we shared with them. I taught my dad how to fish and we had man good times on rivers, he would



never have been out on a day like November 30 for sure. And then it happened.

The salmon hit hard all thoughts go out of your head at that moment and you give another hook set or two. It was a good fish! it pulled and jumped about 3 times. Taking a picture during this time can be a very foolish move but I always wanted a shot of one of my jumping salmon. Today was the day for me as you can see. Oh the feeling of that fish! It reminded me some of the fish I had caught in Russia. You have to remember that for that type of fishing you use a 9 weight now I am using a



6 weight so the fight and pulsing of the rod is the same. I never play any fish to exhaustion as I want them to live for another day and another angler. Because I was alone and did not want to risk killing the fish I did not get the shot of it lying next to my rod or me holding it out but the fish jumping was perfect. After holding it a few minutes it swam away,

I reeled in and called it a day.

When I got back to the car I called my wife to say I was on my way home and told her the story, she asked why I did not continue fishing as that fish might have had a



friend close by, I said no to end such a great day on that fish was a fine way to end.

On the way home the wind was so bad a truck was overturned on the bridge in Old Saybrook the weather was bad but it was a perfect day for me, the kinda days we remember for a long time.

John Springer



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.



6

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

Paul's Fly Box

Tying instructions & a video on how to tie Comissa's Sneak Attac pattern can be found at <http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com/>



Hook: Hanak H 450 BL Size #16 (or jig hook of choice).

Bead: Matte Black Tungsten slotted 3.0 mm.

Tying thread: Black, Semperfli 12/0 waxed.

Tail: Coq de Leon, medium pardo.

Body: Black Krystal Flash.

UV Resin: To coat body. Solarez Bone Dry (or resin of choice).

Thorax/Collar: Red Sybai Fine Diamond Dubbing. (This is a metallic 'Ice Dubbing' like material.)

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 sizeable 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.



Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

Board of Directors

President • Gary Steinmiller

(c) 860-563-0040 (e) steinmillergary@yahoo.com

Activities VP • Bob Winot rwinot25@cox.net 860-292-1685

Environment VP • Phil Apruzzese (e) pjapruz@aol.com

Promotions VP • Richard Gaudreau (c) 860-745-2695

Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick (h) 860-871-8703

Treasurer • Chuck Koteen

Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 860-858-5633

Advisory Board • Ray Riley (h) 860-721-0547

Banquet Chairman • Kurt Jagielow

Conservation Chairman • Ted Rzepski

Educational Director • Peter Naples 860-620-2317

Indoor Facilities Chair • Denise Dauray

Legislative Chairman • Vin Ringrose (h) 860-828-4642

Publicity Chairman • Dan Price (c) 860-301-9696

Membership Chairman • Phil McCormick

(h) 860-871-870

Newsletter Chairman • John Springer

(h) 860-510-2383 (e) cffa@comcast.net

Program Chairman • Roger Plourde

(c) 860-919-3513

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

P.O. Box 380268

Fly Fisherman's Association

