

Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.

FLY FISHING EXPO
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



New location for 2022:
Nomads Adventure Quest
100 Bidwell Avenue
South Windsor, CT 06074



EXPO

- Local Clubs
- Vendor tables
- Fly Tyers Row
- Kids' Fly Tying Table

\$3 admission

Children under 16 FREE

BUCKET RAFFLE

- Ticket sales throughout the day
- Drawing at 2 p.m.
- Winners may take prizes immediately upon drawing

Make it a day!

Enjoy lunch at adjacent Red's Tavern



 <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 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.HIGHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p> <p>22 LEADLINE ROAD LEVERETT, MA 01054 413-218-0638 MARK@HIGHHOOKVINEYARDS.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@reeladventuroutfitters.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>Nick Masi Enterprises Plainville CT</p> <p>Tungsten & Brass Beads, Hooks Fly tying materials, Tools & Accessories HOME OF THE S&M BOBBIN</p>  <p>www.smbobbin.com</p> <p>Email- flym123@sbcglobal.net Cell-(860) 830-2363</p>

Our meeting will be held in the same location as December, address is on the back of newsletter this is a very large auditorium and everyone can sit spread out with their masks on. Cookies and Coffee will be there for you to enjoy during the movie. Chuck Koteen took pictures from our last meeting you can see how much space we have for this.

Wed January 12, 2022 is the meeting night

From the vest of the President



Our first public meeting since March 2020 came off without a hitch. Denise displayed our CFFA merchandise, Phil had the cookies and coffee ready, Ron set up the raffle and John presented a program on Atlantic Salmon Fishing in Canada. Despite the new location, forecasted snow and the ongoing pandemic we had a very good turnout. The new temporary location worked well and we will try to conduct all of our meetings here until the renovations at Veterans Memorial Clubhouse are completed.

The day after the meeting the town of East Hartford made mask wearing a mandate in all of their public buildings whether you are vaccinated or not. So for our January 12th meeting please bring a mask with you and wear it when inside their building. Judging by our December meeting I don't see this as a big problem as the vast majority of you chose to wear a mask and I thank you for doing so.

Our normal January meeting has always been a Pizza & Movie night but with the new location making it more difficult to set up and serve pizza we have decided to postpone the pizza portion of the meeting until we get back to the renovated Veterans Memorial Clubhouse. The auditorium is perfect for showing a movie so we will be providing a movie along with the usual cookies and coffee. Perhaps we can provide the pizza as part of

our future fly tying round table meeting like others do and have a "Pies, Ties & Lies evening.

The planning for our annual CFFA Fly Fishing Expo to be held from 9am to 3pm on February 5 at Nomads in South Windsor is ongoing. Roger has contacted both vendors and fly tiers that have attended previously. If you are one of the volunteers that showed up early at our past expos to assist the vendors with setting up we would love to have you assist once again. Just show up like you have previously. If you are new to this and interested in helping for the 1st time call Roger 860-919-3513. We will also be needing volunteers to help with various aspects of our annual fundraiser raffle. The raffle will be conducted during the upcoming Expo this year instead of our banquet that has been cancelled. Please call Kurt 203-314-5871 for details to fill a possible job and time slot.

Gary



CFFA Election of Officers

The Board of Directors is presenting the following slate for 2022. As you can see our Legal Secretary position is open. If anyone reading this has the qualifications and the desire to fill this position or any other position on our BOD please let us know. A complete list of BOD positions is included in this and every newsletter we publish. We can answer any questions you may have. Our election is held annually at our January meeting.

President - Gary Steinmiller (current)
VP Activities - Bob Winot (current)
VP Promotions - Richard Gaudreau (current)
VP Environment - Phil Apruzzese (current)
Recording Secretary - Phil McCormick (current)
Legal Secretary - Open
Treasurer - Chuck Koteen (current)

YOLO, It's About Time

By Carl Ochnio, CFFA Member

Welcome to 2022! The last few years have been jam-packed with challenges. Our lives changed dramatically with the initial spread of Covid-19. This was followed by the discovery, distribution and promise of vaccines. There was a brief period of relief as the number of virus cases slowed and it appeared that the worst may have passed. Then the delta variant arrived and a new wave began. As 2021 came to a close, omicron popped up.

During this time, we experienced the cancellation of family gatherings, holiday events, vacations and graduations. Some lost family members, friends and colleagues. We coped with the anxiety of paper towel and computer chip shortages. It seemed each and every day, the breakdown in the supply chain impacted our lives in a new way. Anyone contacting a customer service center was routinely greeted with, "Due to the ongoing health crisis and staffing shortages, wait times may be longer than anticipated."

The presumption was these changes were short term and we would soon return to the good old days of 2019. Life would continue to slowly improve while we waited for an official declaration indicating that the pandemic was over.

Might this persistent pandemic impact our outlook for the long term or influence the way we view and value time? Will we still have as much confidence in tomorrow as we may have had in the past? Are you as comfortable with putting things off until later and does procrastination still make good sense when considering the future?

Carpe diem, (Latin: "pluck the day" or "seize the day") is a popular phrase attributed to Roman poet Horace nearly 2,000 years ago.

An annual tradition of mine has been to celebrate the summer solstice. In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs in June when the sun has reached its northernmost path in the sky. It marks the astronomical start of summer, resulting in the longest period of daylight hours.

If you're going to attempt to "pluck" the most out of any day of the year, this is the one I have sought to take full advantage of. My goal has simply been to be on the water at first light and to end the day with a fly rod still in my hand at sunset.

In an interview during his rookie season, MLB All Star Mookie Betts revealed that he never uses the snooze button on his alarm clock. His choice is to immediately rise from bed and "start burning up the sunshine of a new day." Mookie seems to have embraced the "seize the day" attitude. This mindset has served him well. He recently signed a twelve year, guaranteed \$365 million dollar contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The anticipation of a fishing trip has had a somewhat similar effect on me. When younger, getting up in the morning to go to school was a rather dull routine. It was quite different on a planned fishing day. On those mornings, I sprang out of bed much like a pop tart bursting out of a toaster. Envision an excited ten year old, hopping onto a bike, pedaling to the local pond with a can of worms, and a bait casting rod and reel. These days when heading to the river, I often feel like a ten year old filled with that same enthusiasm. Despite the fact that on so many fishing trips I have landed on the wrong side of that famous and mythical rainbow.

When I first began thinking about this article, it focused narrowly on the summer solstice and how I celebrated the day. As I gathered my thoughts (during these Covid-19 times) it led me to the broader topics of time, how we use it, and getting older. It gradually evolved from simply taking advantage of one particular day, to making the most of one's days.

Recently, I had a streamside chat with our state's retired Chief of Natural Resources, and he shared this story. It seemed that for the past umpteen years he regularly crossed paths with an elderly fly fisher who waded the river. Last spring, he ran into this gentleman and he was casting his line into the water from all places, the river bank. When he asked the seasoned fly fisher, "How come you are not in your waders?" The simple response was, "My family took them away from me." That man is my idol. Even without waders he is still getting out on the river. I recently came across the acronym W.O.O. or "Window of Opportunity." We all have W.O.O. and that elderly gent has chosen to keep his window

jammed wide open.

Time, it simply moves along and age creeps up slowly. Then one day, just like that, you are not as young as you may think.

*You are young and life is long, and there is time to kill today...And then one day you find ten years have got behind you...*Time, Roger Waters, Pink Floyd 1973

Should you try to ignore or be oblivious to the passage of time and aging, the world will happily provide frequent and often less than subtle reminders.

A number of years ago, I went to the Town Clerk's office to get my annual fishing license. The young woman behind the counter began to pepper me with the standard questions; name, address, height, weight, color of eyes and then, color of hair. My response to the hair question was "light brown." She quickly glanced up and in a rather sardonic tone said, "Whatever."

During this year's Summer Solstice marathon, I took a break from casting and stopped into a streamside deli to get lunch. The way too eager young man at the register proudly asked if I qualified for "today's discount." When I inquired what the discount was, he sheepishly said, "That's the senior discount, sir." I wasn't sure if I should curse him or say thanks. I took the discount.

This year, I spent the summer solstice fishing alone. It seems that as you age, your circle of fishing companions begins to get smaller and smaller. A couple guys are occupied with grandkids, another had a hernia and others were experiencing mobility or medical issues. These days I am spending more and more time fishing solo. Of course, my bride doesn't care for it. She likes me being with someone, "just in case." I understand the concern. Having to choose between fishing and not fishing, I am going to take my chances and go it alone. It's rather sobering to realize that there are more fishing days behind you than those that lie ahead. This kind of thinking does encourage one to take advantage of as many fishing trips as possible.

As we optimistically move forward to a post pandemic world, I wonder if Nike will reboot their popular and very successful 1988 slogan promoting our some-

times impulsive consumer culture to once again, "Just Do It!"

The acronym "YOLO" or "You Only Live Once" might become our next popular anthem or battle cry.

Could the following examples be hints that the YO-LO philosophy has already gained some traction? This year, a record number of people have flocked to our national parks. Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park have just set monthly visitation records. July was Yellowstone's busiest month in park history. Nearby Grand Teton National Park had its busiest-ever June, with a 20% increase in visitors. Rocky Mountain National Park has already instituted a timed-entry reservation system. Those planning to visit the park are encouraged to make reservations well in advance and must enter the park within their chosen two-hour time window.

Are the recent increased sales of RV's just coincidental? During the first quarter of 2021 RV shipments totaled a record-breaking 148,507 units. That represents the most RVs ever shipped in a single quarter and nearly a 10% increase over the previous record set in the first quarter of 2018.

Have you found your favorite local rivers and streams a bit more crowded? Interesting to note that during the pandemic, fishing license sales increased in many states. Due to restrictions limiting large public gatherings, people were requested or in some cases mandated to "stay at home." After a while cabin fever may have set in. I am pretty sure many people just had to get outside and in response, some chose to pick up their fishing rods.

Comparing 2019 to 2020:

Colorado had a 27.02% increase in fishing license sales

Connecticut had an 18.7% rise

New York jumped up 13.3%

Pennsylvania experienced a 20% upturn

Oregon sold 18% more angling licenses despite a period of "stay at home orders" and the fact that they did cut back non-resident license sales.

To quote rock and roll Hall of Famer Stephen Stills, "Something is happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear."

Getting back to Roman poet Horace and Carpe Deim. It seems there was much more to the popular, but abbreviated phrase. The full quote actually reads "carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero," which has been translated to "seize the day and put little trust in tomorrow." The advice appears to suggest making an effort to enjoy life now.

I wonder if the YOLO mindset will encourage some people to readjust or push up the timeline on some of their "bucket list" plans. Could it encourage others to simply make better "life choices" such as eating healthier and exercising more to help make the most of one's time?

This article started off with my heralding the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. Well, it obviously morphed! I admit of being guilty of a WUI. That is "Writing Under Influence" of the first worldwide pandemic in over 100 years. This musing might reflect where I am "at right now" and is just temporary. I do believe that being able to view these pandemic years in my rear view mirror would be a positive step forward.

Looking back on my summer solstice tradition, I do question the wisdom of trying to take full advantage of one particular day of the year. Why not find ways to seize each and every day? Attempt to make "today" so good it makes yesterday envious. YOLO!

If you have continued to read this far, thanks. If you are hoping for pearls of wisdom, advice or recommendations on how to navigate and plan time living in a post pandemic world, I'm sorry to disappoint you. There will be none of that. This type of advice as they say, is way above my pay grade. Hopefully, it has provided some things to ponder or possibly even to take action on.

I feel somewhat compelled to wrap up this piece and begin the New Year with some uplifting quotes and thoughts collected from bumper stickers or signage in coffee, fly and liquor shops while traveling:

Worry Less, Fly Fish More!

Drink Responsibly & Fish Recklessly.

Fly Fishers Welcomed! Others Tolerated.

Our Beer Is Colder Than Your Ex-Wife's Heart

In life there are so many paths you can take,
make sure some of them are dirt.

Throw your rod and waders in the back of your
ride and start spinning your tires.

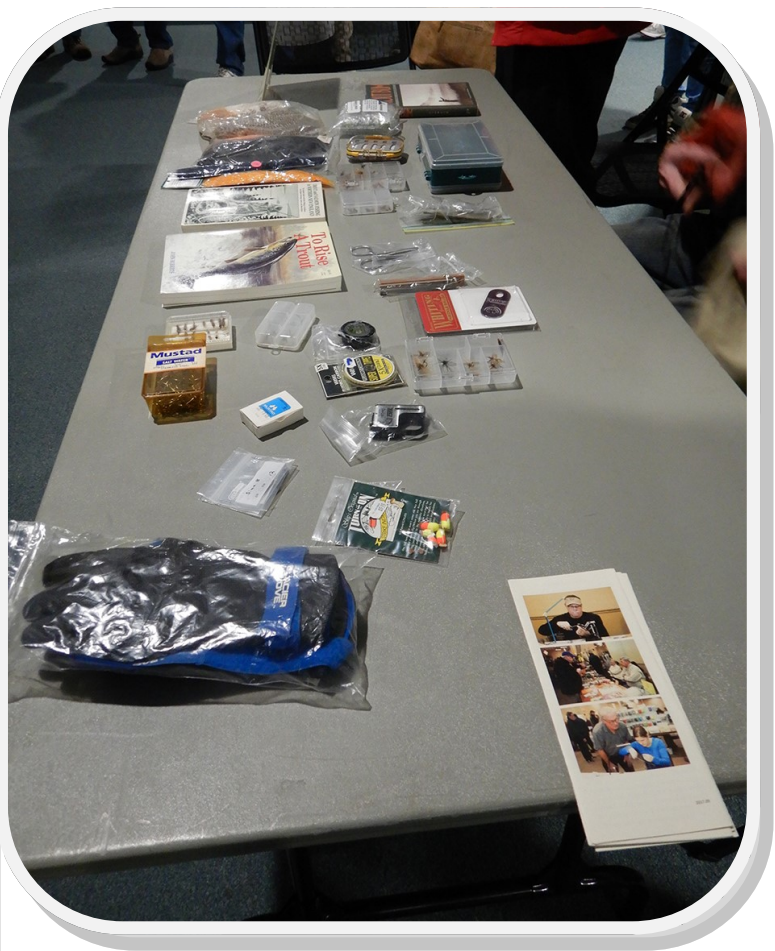
"Although we try to control it in a million different ways, the only things you can ever really do to time are enjoy it, or waste it. That's it." – A.J. Compton

I will continue to enjoy some of my time fly fishing. To paraphrase Tibuk3, hoping that "the future will be so bright, you gotta wear shades".

Best of luck in 2022! Have fun and stay well!

I want to thank Carl Ochino for writing this very inspiring story for us all the read and think about. Carl and I have shared some great days fishing and I look forward to many more, he is a much better listener that I am :-)) perhaps his story here will encourage you to come out to the expo that Roger and Kurt have put a great deal of time into for us all to enjoy. Roger's list of vendors and fly tiers continues to grow and Kurt will have a very good raffile for us as always he and Debbie work countless hours on this for us so come out and support your club and tell your friends about it as many of you always did before.





As you can see we had plenty of room to spread out during the slide show, everyone enjoying coffee and cookies that Phil took care of and of course our raffle team was there. So bring and wear your mask and come out see your friends, even make new ones!
 Photo's by Chuck Koteen



The Following Fly Tiers and Vendors will be coming to our expo, perhaps you know of someone that would be interested in our venue if so contact Roger. We will have a very large space this year at our new location we are anticipating room to cast! This is something we never had indoors before.

JT's Fly Shop

Trela Rods

Dave Goulet - tying materials

Andy Manchester - rods and tackle

Red Brook Tenkara

Spey Casting NE

Charlie McCaughtry – Artist

Bruce Marino – custom flies

Capt. Ray Stalachek – Guiding service

Mark Dysinger

Ben Bilello

Paul Dinice

Leslie Wrixon

Bob Winot

Ed Mitchell

Michael Day



Paul's Fly Box

Tying instructions & a video on how to tie the **Poacher Wet Fly** can be found at

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



Hook: Preferred Hook Hanak H230BL
Size #12 & #14, or Mustad 3366, or wet
fly hook of choice.

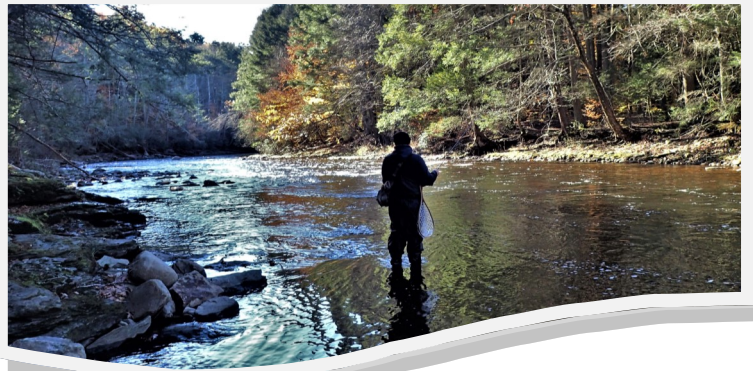
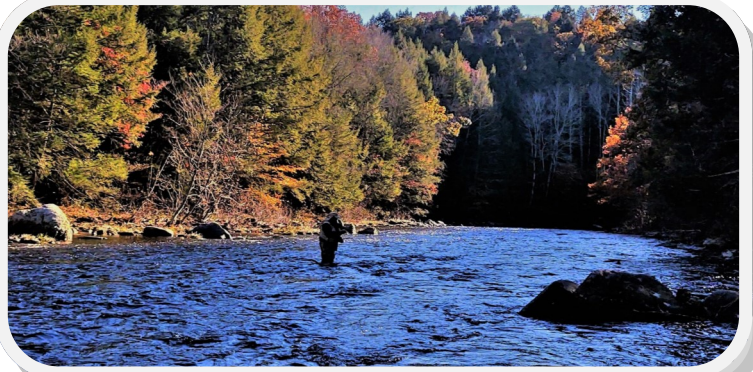
Thread: Red 6/0 Thread.

Tail: Natural or Dyed Orange Golden
Pheasant Breast Fibers.

Rib: Small Copper Wire.

Body: Orange Floss and Peacock Herl.

Hackle: Brown Hen Hackle Fibers.



On Nov. 6 Rick Legal invited me again to join him and his friend to fish the Salmon River, my job was to bring rolls, chips and Chocolate Cookies with BIG chips. I did and we ate like kings and we even caught fish!



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

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Newsletter Chairman • John Springer

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

Program Chairman • Roger Plourde

(c) 860-919-3513

Monthly Meetings

See you at 50 Chapman Place,
East Hartford, CT 06108

Enter by the main door - up the steps.

-OR-

Take the steps/ramp to the right of the
main door for handicap access.



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHERS



East Hartford, CT 06108

P.O. Box 380268

Fly Fisherman's Association

