

Because of not having our expo we will have a Zoom Meeting for you in February as well as an extra newsletter. As always I am looking for stories and pictures from our members. Editor

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

February 2022

November 6th was a cold day, but that did not change Rick Legals plans for us fishing the Salmon river and having a stream-side cookout



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Our meeting on Wednesday February 9 is going to feature Jeff Yates who will present a program on the Shepaug River in Western CT. Jeff works with Trout Unlimited's volunteers in the 36 state councils and more than 420 local chapters and state councils across the country delivering support, trainings and resources aimed at helping volunteers more easily and effectively accomplish TU's mission in their local communities. Prior to joining TU in 2014, Jeff worked as a communications manager for the Fairfield County Community Foundation and as editor of the Wilton Bulletin newspaper. He is also an author and guide, who's first book, Fly Fishing Fairfield County: Secrets of Suburban Streams, was published in 2011. Jeff is a fourth generation resident of Wilton, CT and earned his Bachelor's degree in English from Kenyon College in Ohio.

Time: Feb 9, 2022 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86383400515?pwd=cDh1bXh2TTRmRTF0TDBtZlJzTGFWQT09>

From the vest of the President



Our January zoom program The Six Stages of Fly Fishing - A Life's Experience presented by Paul Dinice was excellent and received many positive comments from those that tuned in. Paul took us through his journey in life as a fisherman from the very beginning to the fly fisherman he is today. He suggested many of us have taken a similar path especially if we are in our 60's. He was correct at least for me. It was spooky how similar our paths began and evolved over the years. From the beginning of his program when he mentioned his mentor, riding his bike with a rod to a local pond, his beginning equipment, to joining organizations and sharing the passion I could relate. I have included a photo I took after his program of my equipment that shows some of our similarities. It may bring back some pleasant memories to you. The Zebco 202 push button reel was my 1st reel. It is now used by my grandkids with a casting bubble and flies. I think it is close to 60 years old. The Mitchell 300 was next followed by the ultralight Mitchell 308. The Fenwick Fly Rod and 1492 Pflueger Fly Reel followed and are 50 years old and still in use today.

I thank Paul for his monthly contributions to this newsletter with his fly of the month sec-

tion and for presenting this program on such short notice and I thank all of you that tuned in.

As you should know by now we decided to cancel our annual February Expo. We took all factors into account before making this decision. We weren't alone. The big Expo in Marlborough also was cancelled as this pandemic surged to dangerous levels here in the Northeast. We do have every intention to resume both our Expo and our Banquet when things get safe to do so. The money raised at both of these events along with your membership dues is what we rely on annually to provide our monthly programs, our educational classes, our newsletter and other odds and ends. We thank all of you that have stayed with us and continued to pay your annual dues despite our lack of in person events. I am told that many of our members usually pay their annual dues at our Expo and since our Expo is not happening this year your dues can be paid with PayPal through our website [http://www.ctflyfish.org/](http://www.ctflyfish.org/membership.html)

[membership.html](http://www.ctflyfish.org/membership.html) or a check payable to "CFFA" and SEND TO: CFFA P.O. Box 380268 East Hartford, CT 06138-0268

Please, when mailing in payment for renewal, if any contact information has changed, send us your changes and be sure your e-mail is current.

We are going to present a February 9 meeting via Zoom. Our meeting is going to feature Jeff Yates who will present a program on the Shepaug River in Western CT. I am looking forward to this as I have never seen or fly fished this river. I do know that it is in a very pretty area of our state and it will be a goal of mine in 2022 to get there. Look for your Zoom Link in this newsletter or in a separate email from us using Mail Chimp.

Gary

Bonefish Bonnies Head for Cuba

The Bonefish Bonnies are named for Bonefish Bonnie Smith, first female bonefish guide in the 1940's. The all-female angler club hails from Key Largo, Florida. Their members range from ages thirty to eighty-five.

In May 2019, twelve Bonefish Bonnies packed rods & reels and headed for a Cuban fly-fishing adventure. Their angling abilities ranged from flat-out beginner through expert. With nearly half the group brand-new to angling.

The trip proved a trip of milestones, including several anglers' first bonefish on fly and another's 500th. Despite Cuba's political challenges, crumbling infrastructure and limited resources, their destination, the 125-mile-long Jardines de la Reina archipelago off Cuba's southeastern coast, with its rugged shorelines and beautiful sandy beaches, comes close to what the Bonnies' home waters were like before water management and development took over.

The *Avalon II* would be their home for a week. A five-hour cruise took them to the catch-and-release national park. The Bonnies woke each morning to gorgeous sunrises and hearty breakfasts. From the top deck, one could listen to the birds on the nearby cays and assess the weather. At 8am, they were off in skiffs for the day's ad-

venture.

For the new anglers, the first day began with guides offering casting lessons plus a lesson in "Caribbean guide fishing English": "Cast; 10 o'clock," "Cast again; more right," "Strip... strip... strip...," "Set the hook!" "You got him."

Curiosity, enthusiasm and humor blossomed on both sides of the cultural divide. The guides had never hosted an all-female group. In the evenings, guides and crew gave the Bonnies Salsa lessons. Out on the water, there were other lessons: spotting fish, presentation, and what to do after setting the hook. Then there were those rolling tarpon, the Silver King running deep into the backing. Over the course of the week, the Bonnies caught many bonefish plus permit, tarpon, barracuda and jacks.

The Bonnies enjoyed a memorable adventure in an incredibly pristine (including trash-free), environment, but the fish were not as abundant as anticipated. Cuba's coral reef, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are notable in the Caribbean because they remain remarkably healthy in the wake of the lack of development since the 1960 revolution. But at the same time, fisheries management and education regarding (and enforcement of) fishing regulations has been lacking. The Bonefish & Tarpon Trust has been collaborating with Cuban scientists for over 10 years to advance the country's sportfish conservation strategies to ensure healthy flats fisheries and

habitats.

The Bonnies returned home newly convinced that habitat loss in Cuba (and Belize and Mexico and the Bahamas) has direct implications for fish populations in the Florida Keys and elsewhere, and that bringing science to the fight is critical.

With thanks to the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust.

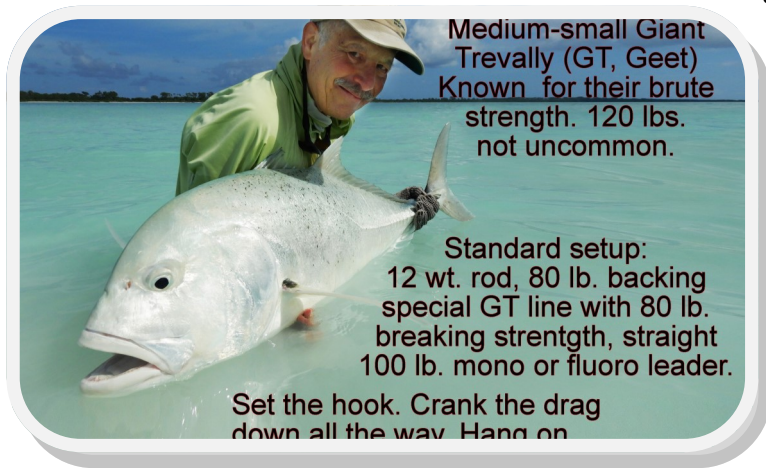
<https://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/>. Edited from an article by Sarah A. Cart. For the full article: <https://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/blog/2019-09-24-off-the-grid-in-cuba-the-bonefish-bonnies-visit-jardines-de-la-reina-by-sarah-a-cart/>

Bonefish Bonnies history edited from Coastal Angler Magazine.

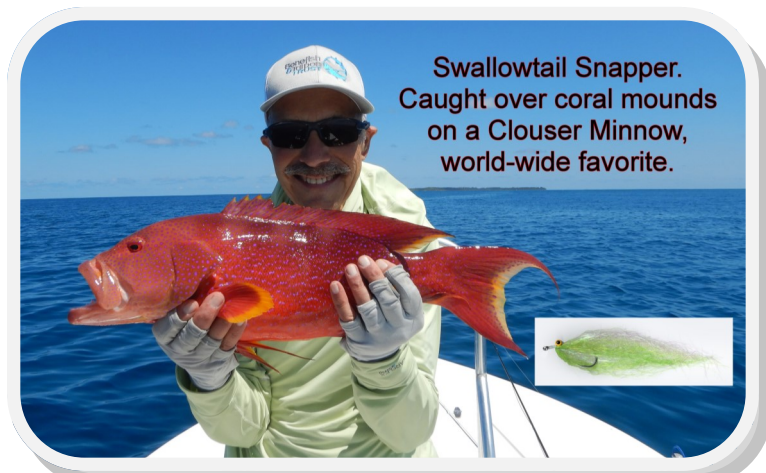
I want to thank Chuck Koteen for submitting this

Getting to some of our rivers was tough this year as Carl Ochnio pointed out last month with water flows on the Farmington river, we had many high water days on the Shetucket River also but at the end of November I gave it a try Editor





I want to thank Chuck for sending us these pictures from his fishing trip, outstanding photography !

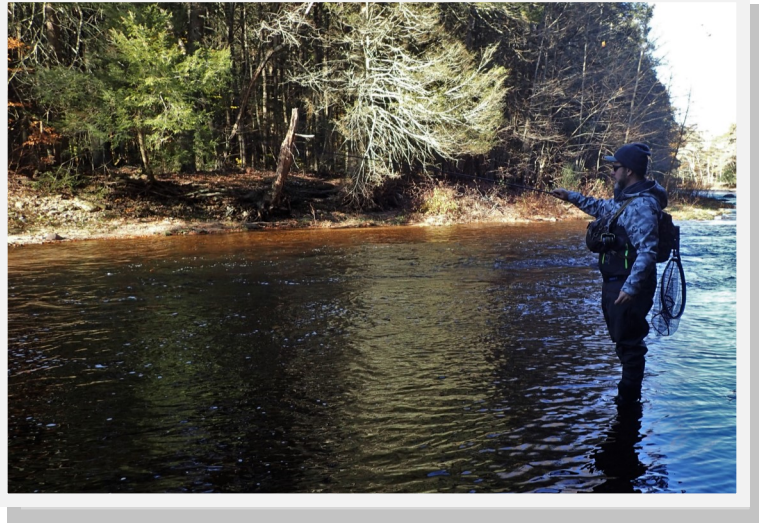


Paul's Fly Box

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

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





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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
INBOX FOR AN INVITATION!!



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Connecticut

