

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

April 2022



Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association - Tribute to Gary Lafontaine.

Saturday May 14, 2022 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Salmon River, Gulf Road, Picnic Area

Join us for the 2nd Annual Tribute to Gary Lafontaine

This event is in honor of Connecticut's most famous fly tier, past CFFA member, Gary Lafontaine. Born in 1945, Gary started fly fishing at age 8, and published his first article at age 15. Winner of the Arnold Gingrich Memorial Award for Lifetime Writing Achievement, he published several books, with his "Caddisflies", gaining national attention. As a dedicated member of CFFA he inspired many members to try innovative approaches to tying and fishing for Trout and other species. In 1996, he was awarded Angler of the Year by Fly Rod and Reel Magazine. Gary left this world at the age of 56 due to Lou Gehrig's Disease. We celebrate his legacy.

Schedule for Day

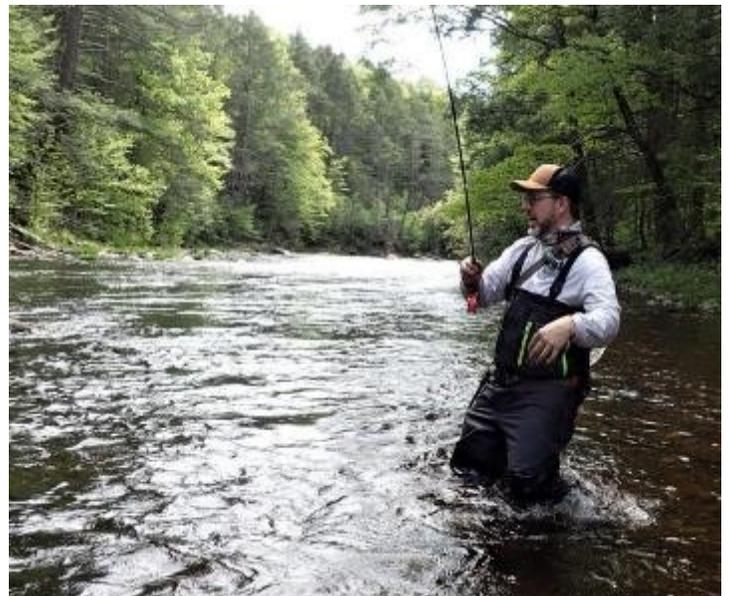
9:00am Fly Tying - This is an informal gathering of fly tyers. Everyone is responsible for their own table and materials. Fly tiers are welcome to bring a chair, folding table, vice and materials to tie flies. The theme of the day is Caddis patterns but any and all flies can be tied.

11:00am Tribute to Gary Lafontaine – Come and share a few words of your memories of Gary and his influence on fly fishing.

Fishing and conversation available all day. Bring your own food and beverages (no alcohol allowed in state parks). Grills are available. All trash must be taken home. Participants responsible for their own food and beverages.

***If raining we will not tie flies, but will still gather and fish.

Contact: Rick Liegl -djemberepair247@gmail.com



 <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><i>Wines</i></p> <p>Love life. Go fishing. Care for the planet. Drink wine.</p> <p>T. MARK SEYMOUR PRESIDENT</p> <p>WWW.FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p> <p>22 LEADLINE ROAD LEVERETT, MA 01054 413-218-0658 MARK@FISHHOOKVINEYARDS.COM</p>
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<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>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86377392983?pwd=ZUFJMmQxa1BaYnBYQUVmS1NMNIJaQT09>

Brian Eltz, Senior Fisheries Biologist, CT DEEP Fisheries Division

Brian has been working with the CT DEEP since 2000 when he started as an intern with both the Fisheries and Wildlife divisions; he then went on to work seasonally for the Diadromous Program and the Fish Management Program afterwards. Brian received degrees from the University of Connecticut in 2001 where he graduated with a B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he graduated with a M.S. in Fisheries Management in 2006. Brian has been working fulltime for the CT DEEP Fisheries Division since 2010. Currently, his main focus with the Fisheries Division's coldwater program is salmonid stocking, stream monitoring, Farmington River management, and wild trout management.

This presentation will largely focus on trout stocking in Connecticut, trout fishing under Public Act 21-12, and proposed regulations moving forward. In addition he will discuss future efforts to make improvements to the salmonid stocking program.

From the vest of the President

Fly Tying Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10
 9 am – 4 pm
 Torrey Life Sciences Building, Rm. 181
 75 N. Eagleville Rd.
 Storrs, CT 06269

Registration Cost: \$50/person*
 Register at:
<https://s.uconn.edu/flytying>



- Learn how to tie & unique flies of your very own
- Interact with experts in the fields of fly tying & entomology
- Discover what the heck a woolly bugger is...
- See specimens of insects that are eaten by popular Connecticut game fish
- Registration fee includes box lunches for both days & material to create your 6 flies

Presented by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History,
 The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association &
 UConn's Biodiversity Research Collections




* Registration is limited to 20 individuals & you must be over 15 to participate

Our Zoom meeting last month provided participants with plenty of useful information along with exceptional photography. Especially for anyone considering Fly Fishing S.W. Montana and Yellowstone National Park from mid April through mid November. Patrick Daigle out of Blue Ribbon Flies explained the pros and cons of spring, summer and fall on a number of rivers in the area. He also stayed around until 9 pm to answer all of your questions about this wonderful fishery. We are trying our best and have every intention of resuming our in person meetings as soon as we can. We had every intention on meeting in person in April but with the Clubhouse still closed for renovation and the Auditorium in the Community Center unavailable we have a Zoom meeting scheduled for April 13th. Brian Eltz from the DEEP will do the presentation.

A few years ago I was contacted by Dr. Katrina Menard Collection Manager, Invertebrates Ecology & Evolutionary Biology University of Connecticut. She asked if our CFFA would assist her in a weekend workshop by tying flies that complimented her material. I forwarded her request to our Education Chairman Pete Naples and he was enthusiastically all in. Behind the scenes Pete and I have continued zoom meetings with Dr. Menard to formulate a plan. Well after two years of Covid I am happy to tell you that a Fly Tying Workshop will be

held in the Torrey Life Sciences Building on the weekend of April 9 & 10. This Workshop is being presented by Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association and UConn's Biodiversity Research Collections. Dr. Menard will be providing a program each morning that includes invertebrate specimens and we will be complimenting her itinerary by teaching fly patterns that support her lecture each afternoon. We have no idea on where this might go in the future but Dr. Menard has researched the Fly Fishing program at Penn State University and is cautiously thinking why not UCONN. We hope it leads to the next generation of Fly Fishers to our CFFA where they can become active and continue "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Gamefish Waters".

As we move into the upcoming fishing season we encourage you to take some photos of your fly fishing experiences and share them with our membership in our newsletter. You should find the following article useful if you chose to do so Gary

It is from <https://www.hatchmag.com> Quick Takes: 12 Trout Fishing Tips. [A dozen digestible tips on everything from flies and reading water to rods, reels, and taking fish photos.](#)

Taking Photos

There's an open secret in the fly-fishing industry that's worth sharing with the general angling public. Serious fly fishers don't want to see you thrusting your latest conquest towards the camera with a manic grin on your face. To put it politely, it's not a good look. So don't do it. If you need yet another fish pic, then keep the fish in the water and have a friend take the shot. Do not place your trout up on the bank, or on stream-side rocks, or try to hold him with one hand while you take a photo with the other. Be respectful. And keep in mind that the best angling shots are focused on showing the magic of the moment; the scenery, or the sunset, or the wildflowers, or the otter who came so close you could count its whiskers. You don't need photos to keep score, or to promote your angling skills on social media. Todd Tanner - Thursday, Feb 17th, 2022



As I sit in the hot humid summer waiting for the imminent arrival of Henri, my thought wander back over the past years cold weather fishing to...

A snowy, windy, and 34 degrees December day. Dump, yard, fence, lunch and not much into Buffalo game it's time to get out of the house and play. Here, on the Cape, there are plenty of beautiful kettle ponds that I have been exploring over the past COVID months since the striper fishing wound down.



Wooly buggers and small soft hackles had been producing well but now the trout seemed to want some-



thing else. The guys next to me with powerbait were still reeling them in so like most of us too smart fly fishing guys, I came up with a plan



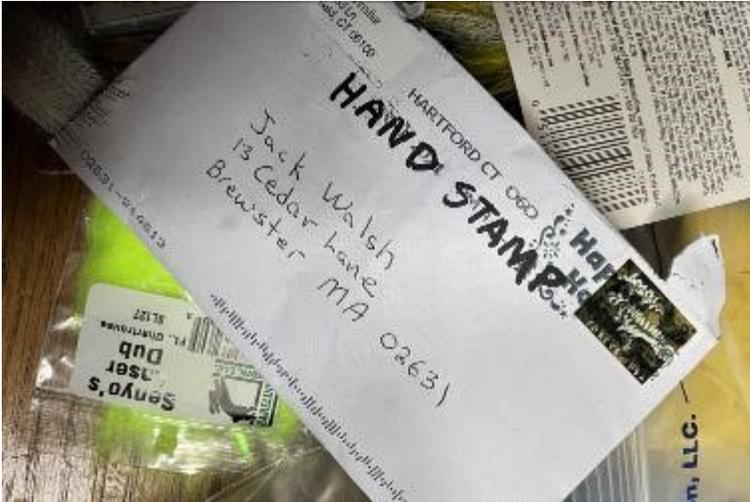
Those competitive tournament guides always seem to be devising innovative crazy flies. Who would ever think the MOP fly, Green weenie. or perdigons could be so deadly. On the "Lochs" of Europe they came up with Fabs, FOBS, and Boobies (kind of like when my son was allowed to say "shih tzu"). Online was full of info on patterns, video, and how to- Phil Rowleys videos on fishing Ontario and out west are exceptional. The Tequila sunrise Booby was attractive.



Digging deep into a back drawer I came up with some blue Rainey foam for tying damsel flies, yellow marabou for tail, and assortment of red/orange chenille's from steelhead and buggers, and the blue foam trimmed for eyes I tied up two demos on a #8 streamer hook.

Using an old 5wt sinking line and a 10' 4x leader I cast out and counted down. Slow finger twisting retrieve. A strong hit and 14' rainbow brought to shore.

The fly was stuck solidly in the middle of its upper jaw. A few more fish were landed with countdowns of 10 to 20, then a slow retrieve. One take was subtle, like the line getting heavy (like fishing soft plastics for bass). Another hit was jolting with the fly engulfed in the roof of the trout's mouth. They seemed to take it on both the retrieve (as the fly goes down) and the float (as the fly flutters upward).



I mentioned this in an email to my good friend Gary (our CFF President) and received a package earlier in the week after email saying boobs on the way. ?? Dreaming of....

Yes they arrived. Psyched. Thank you Gary.

But received only some of Gary's handiwork- remember 30 plus years ago when we made our own Farnsworth sliders from lobster pots with sharpened copper tubing in a drill??-

Used it to tie up another booby- naming this the crystal tequila orangutan (orange eyed) booby. Next trip out was cold-the water turning to skim ice around my neoprene waders. Reminds me- ok pretend I'm practicing for Pulaski.

Yes, it's snowing. Had on a balanced leech. Tried a buzzer. Leader messed up bad. Go to car and get some tippet and zippet(??)

Tied a six foot section of 4 lb maxima onto the 10 ft sink tip with my old Cortland Crown on a magnificent 10ft 4 wt LIBean Silver Ghost (thanks Mark) (X)! Ready to try the orangutan.

Time to play Gary ☐

One cast, count to ten, strip, strip, wait... strip, strip...wham.



Two jumps, nice tussle, c'mon baby, feels good.

Thank god for boobies!

Getting ready for Pulaski- will keep practicing. Be well guys, stay safe, and have Gary share his boobs!

Thanks, JackRiver

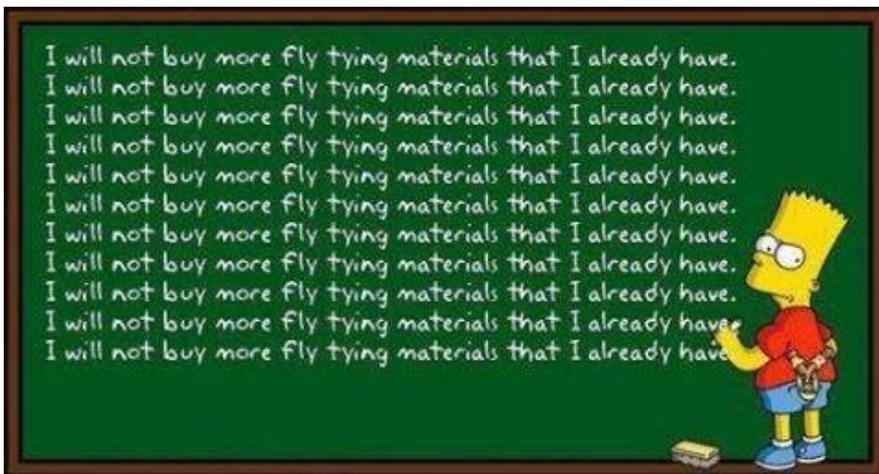
River Clean up

The club will once again be having our Willimantic River trail cleanup day. Meet Wednesday April 27 at 9:00am in the commuter parking lot, Route 32, exit 70 I-84, Willington CT Bring looping shears, hand saws, pruners, chain saws and your own personal protective equipment for a fun day in the wood with your fellow club members.

Pizza to follow at Willington Pizza II. Contact Bob Winot

tabermana@cox.net

860-571-1914



Paul's Fly Box

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

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



Modified Hornberg

Hook: Diachi 2220 Size #10 4X long streamer hook or similar.

Thread: Black.

Under Body: Lead wire.

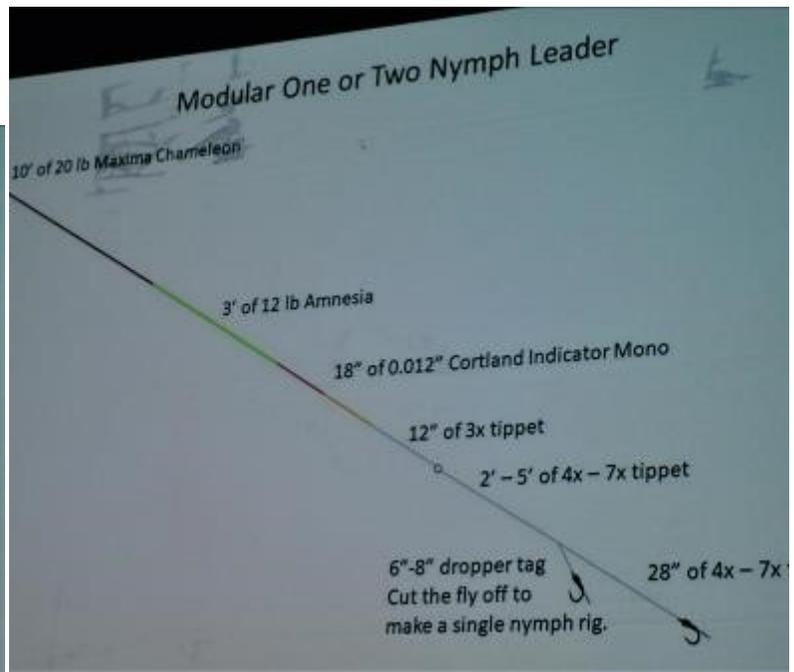
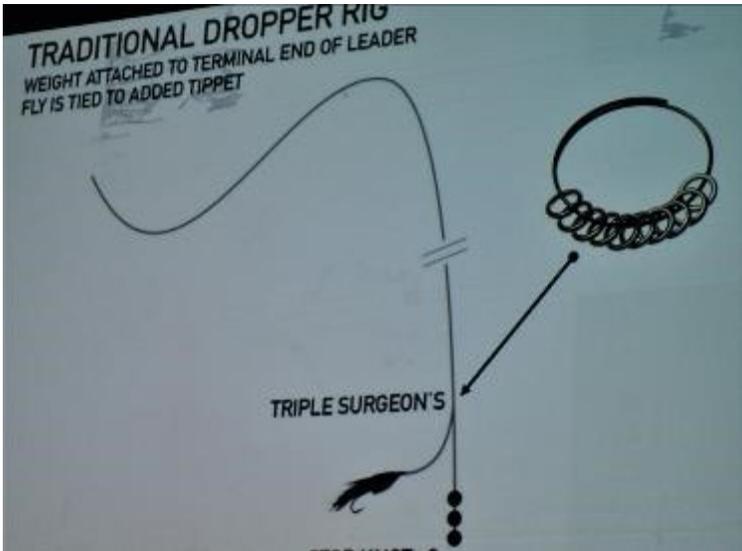
Body: Gold mylar braided tubing.

Wing: Yellow dyed mallard.

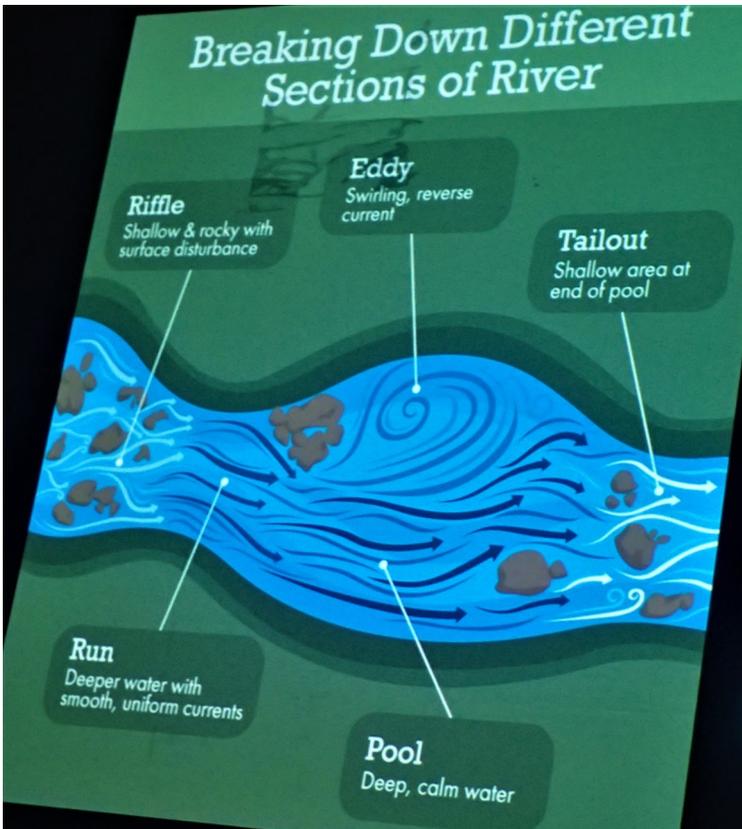
Hackle: Grizzly hen.

Head: Black thread.

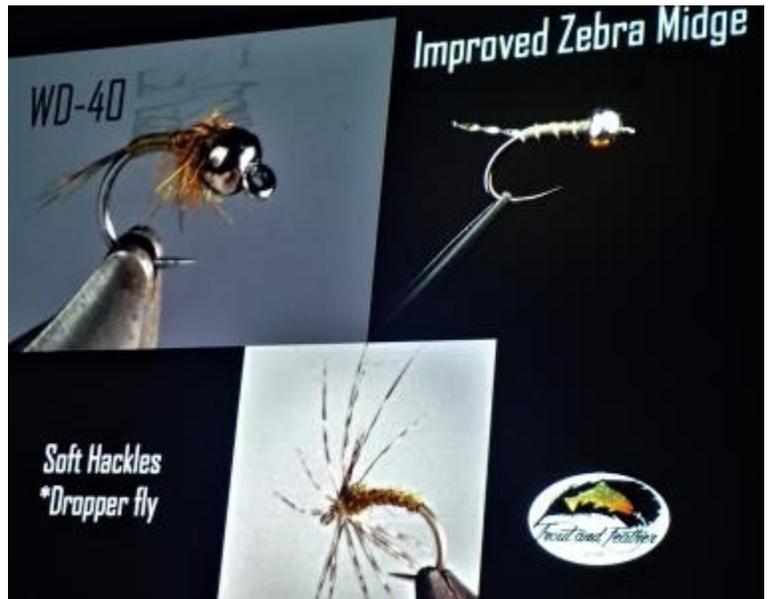
Here are some more pictures from the Jersey show continuing from last month. Editor



The above pictures show how to Euro nymph leaders can be set up and also what is called the drop shot method with sinkers on the bottom that should break off when your hung up instead of losing flies and your rig. All this information is from expert guides not me :-)
Editor



When looking at a river remember these hints. The picture above shows water flows in and out of a pool



Water Niches Constantly Change

- A, B, C, D water types
- Food, Shelter, & Prime Locations
- Water Gauge is measured in CFS
- Water Temps
- Turbidity
- What are the needs of trout?

Implement a Dichotomous Chart for a Process

Simple Yes / No Questions Such As:

- Is light angle low or high?
- Water Clarity Clear Or Dirty?
- Cloudy / Muddy?
- Do You see Activity or None?

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
INBOX FOR AN INVITATION!!



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHERS



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Fly Fisherman's Association

onnecticut

