

# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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SEPTEMBER 2022



## From the vest of the President

I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer season and have had some memorable fishing excursions along the way. Don't hesitate to put those memories to words and share them with our membership in future newsletters. We have been busy behind the scenes as you will learn while reading this issue of Lines & Leaders.

On Saturday May 14 CFFA held our 2nd annual tribute to former CFFA Member Gary Lafontaine at Salmon River. CFFA member Rick Liegl has led the coordination for this enjoyable day from the beginning. Some Fly Tying, Some Lying, Some Fly Casting instruction, Some Fishing. A good time was had by all that attended. Mr. Lafontaine would have enjoyed all of it. This day has become our new CFFA May meeting. We hope to see you at the 2023 event.

On Saturday June 25 CFFA joined together with Erin K. Kuprewicz, Ph.D. and Dr. Katrina Menard at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History (CSMNH) on the UConn campus to teach students some of the history about bugs and how they relate to fly fishing. This was followed by a Fly Tying Workshop. Erin is the Natural History Engagement Specialist / Collections Manager and Dr. Menard is the Collection Manager, Invertebrates Ecology & Evolutionary Biology.

Dr. Menard began the day by providing the history, characteristics and needed requirements of the main group of bugs that live in rivers and streams that we fly fisher's try to imitate when fly fishing. This was followed by a tour of the specimen room led by Erin Kuprewicz. This room contained preserved specimens displayed in various glass tubes and shadow boxes where the students could observe every detail of every bug. All the students along with the 5 CFFA instructors enjoyed this part of the day very much.

The rest of the day was spent with the students learning how to imitate some of these bugs through the art of fly tying. We had 5 CFFA members volunteer for this portion of the day. A demonstration of the required tools and how to use each of them was performed first. This was followed by tying instructions for 2 Mayfly patterns a Caddis pattern and a Stonefly pattern.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and rewarding day passing along the traditions of fly fishing to some very enthusiastic students.

As we move into our Fall season we will be holding in person meetings beginning in September. **We will not be meeting in East Hartford** until the town completes their renovations on the clubhouse and other facilities throughout the town. All of our upcoming in person meetings will be held at the Pitkin Community Center at 30 Greenfield Street Wethersfield, CT 06109. We tried our best to schedule our meetings for the traditional 2nd Wednesday of the month but that was not possible. The following are the dates we have scheduled for the upcoming year. Please put them on your calendar. The time and format of our meetings remains the same with fly tying demonstration from 6:30 until 7pm followed by our announcements, followed by our raffle, coffee and cookies and our program presented by our featured speaker. You will be informed of the meetings through this newsletter, our CFFA website, our CFFA Facebook Page and Mail Chimp emails. Gary

## CFFA Meeting Schedule:

September 19. Monday 6:30 - 9pm,  
(October 17 Monday), (November 22  
Tuesday), (December 19 Monday),  
(January 17 Tuesday) (March 20 Mon-  
day), (April 17 Monday).

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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.

This months meeting will be a program on fishing the Black and Walloomsac rivers in Vermont I will be showing you some of the places to fish as well as where I stay and eat. Kevin Fuller and my friend Mickey have been fishing up there for several years and look forward to it each spring. You have seen pictures in this newsletter of these areas over the years several times. As you can see from Gary's message we have a new meeting place for the time being as well as a different day. This month we will meet on

**Monday September 19**

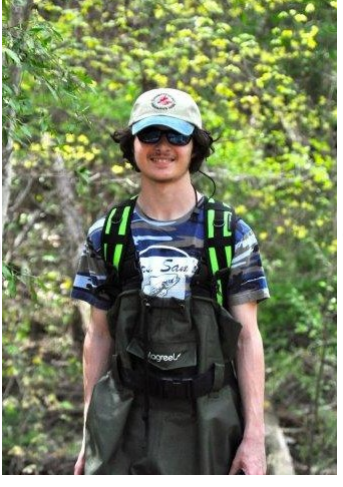




Pictures from our May Meeting on the Salmon River. Special Thanks to Vicki Rosenkrantz for taking pictures for us to enjoy and to Rick Ligel for taking on our May meeting and making sure everyone had a great time.











And after our lunch we had a lesson in Tenkara fishing from club member Kevin Fuller AKA the Thin man who told and showed us how its done, several times!



Kevin Fuller gave a demonstration on how to use his Tenkara rod, he was very impressed by the Orange Man we met at the Jersey show this past winter. Next month I will have more on this. But everyone lined up to see him fishing as you can see.





## A Fly Fisher's Retort

Someone recently asked me, "Now that you are retired, it seems all you do is fly fish." I am pretty sure I detected a bit of a critical "tone" in that inquiry. Frankly, I felt somewhat challenged and was completely unprepared with a solid comeback. It was a fair question and I felt it deserved a thoughtful response.

So in addition to fishing, I regularly make an effort to:

- Read books and subscribe to magazines (primarily focused on fly fishing)
- Shop and purchase stuff (mainly fly fishing equipment)
- Spend time tying my own flies
- Get out and socialize with active member-

ships in organizations such as Trout Unlimited, the Connecticut Fly Fishing Association and the Farmington River Anglers Association to meet and exchange ideas with folks who enjoy fly fishing

Travel to at least two major trade shows per year focusing chiefly on... fly fishing

Make regular visits to a fitness center to help stay in shape so I can continue to hike into the high altitude backcountry of southwestern Colorado to experience remote fly fishing sites

Download and listen to podcasts from renowned authors and speakers on improving fly fishing strategies and techniques to help improve my experience while on the water



## FLY OF THE MONTH

### SBS Salt Water Bait Fish

**Hook:** FTD Big Game MS 100 hook Size 3/0 (or Short Shank Stinger Salt Water Hook of Choice).

**Thread:** UTC 70D White.

**Tail:** White Bucktail topped with strands of pearlescent flash, topped with a single white saddle hackle.

**Wing:** ½ Chartreuse bucktail tied over a 'bump' of White Senyo Lazer Dub and extending halfway down the tail.

**Belly:** White Bucktail tied in 'reverse style' then swept back under the hook shank.

**Body:** White Senyo Lazer Dub with Red Senyo Lazer Dub before the head of the fly.

**Wing:** Chartreuse Bucktail tied in 'reverse' style then swept back on top of the hook. Topped with a grizzly saddle hackle.

**Eyes:** 3 D molded eyes.

**Finish:** Epoxy, or UV Resin.

Tying instructions and video on how to tie this fly can also be found at <http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com/>. If you have any questions about this fly or would like to submit a Fly of The Month I can be reached at [pdinice@frontier.com](mailto:pdinice@frontier.com).

Write and submit articles a couple of times a year regarding my fly fishing experiences and misadventures

Maintain a YouTube channel where I post videos on my fly fishing adventures

Continue to diligently maintain an old, but very reliable 2003 sport utility “Fish-Mobile” (with the license plate 5-WT). It happily travels on less than ideal dirt roads to get me to some “off the grid” fly fishing locations.

I am happily married and share life with a wonderful bride. I regularly bring her up to date on my fly fishing adventures. We recently moved to our downsized retirement home and it just happens to be minutes away from one of the finest trout streams in our state. How fortunate is that?

Interesting to note, our new home is equidistant from a great trout fishery and two of the region’s largest casinos. I much prefer to take my chances and gambling with the trout versus the gaming tables and slot machines. I like my odds and feel I hit the jackpot every time a trout is fooled by one of my hand tied flies.

I trust this adequately answers the question and clears up any possible confusion on how I choose to allocate my time during fishing season.

“I fish...knowing every day on the river is a gift” – Anonymous

I’d like to thank Carl Ochnio again for his contribution to our newsletter Editor





# Lines & Leaders

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