

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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October 2022

From the vest of the President



On September 19 we resumed our CFFA monthly meetings. In person meetings are scheduled throughout this year and into next year. Due to the clubhouse in East Hartford being unavailable we met in Wethersfield at the Pitkin Community Center. This location will be used for all of our upcoming meetings until the East Hartford clubhouse becomes available. This interim facility is a perfect fit and your GPS will easily get you to the location. Wethersfield is about as centrally located in Connecticut as you can get so everyone should be able to get there. The meeting room itself holds about 130 people with tables so it is very easy to socially distance yourself if you so choose.


John Springer led us through a program featuring fly fishing opportunities in the state of Vermont. We learned where to stay, where to eat, and what rivers to fish and when to fish them. John answered all questions that were asked prior to saying good night and thanked everyone for coming. Our raffle table was back in action manned by Ron and Rich and our CFFA merchandise was on display courtesy of Denise. Coffee and cookies were provided by Phil as usual. It was great to see and talk to so many CFFA friends again. Our Zoom meetings filled a important void during the worst of the pandemic but they can't beat or compare to human interaction. We would love to see you at our October 17th meeting, details are in this newsletter.

As we move forward we have scheduled most all of our educational classes. In January and February our Beginning Freshwater Fly Tying School classes have been scheduled, these will be followed by our Beginning Fresh Water Fly Fishing Classes in March and April. If you are interested as a student or a instructor please call or text Pete Naples at 860-620-2317 or email him at flyon054@outlook.com We have nothing scheduled for teaching fly tying at The American School for the Deaf as I write this but Kevin Fuller 860-819-5120 will be leading us when and if it happens. If you would like to participate in these classes please contact Kevin for the details and to be added to the list of volunteers. The earlier the better.

Many of our CFFA members have volunteered with Farmington Valley T.U. members throughout the summer. They continue to do so as we enter the fall in the nationally acclaimed Project Healing Waters Program. Don LaChance has led the Newington Chapter for many years doing excellent work. The veterans in the program have attended many outings throughout the fishing season. One of our recent outings was a field trip to a warm water pond in Litchfield. The veterans provided indisputable proof that Largemouth Bass, Calico Bass, Yellow Perch and Pickerel swam in its waters. I brought two of my float tubes along with fins to teach some basics to anyone that was interested. Veterans Marcos, Roger, and Doug took me up on my offer, it was Dougs maiden voyage, each of us had a blast. If you know of any veteran that might qualify for this program or if you know anyone that might want to volunteer as an instructor please contact me and I will put you in contact with Don. You will not regret it.

Gary



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Bill Keister will be doing a program for us on Alaska's Kanektok River in Alaska

There are Silver Salmon and Silver Salmon and Silver Salmon. The river also has runs of Dolly Vardon, Sockeye, Chum, Pink, Chinook, Rainbow trout and Grayling. But at the time we generally go Silvers and Dolly's are what we are there for. At the right time during the run it ceases to be fishing and truly just becomes catching. You can catch silvers until you get too tired, plain board or the sun goes down. Paul Jacobs runs the operation. He is the most fish savvy person I have ever fished with. The accommodations are adequate but spars. It is a tent camp. The guides are good or excellent. If you want to catch Silver Salmon one after another this is probably your best bet. And in June of 2019 I got into Kings.

Montana Fishing Trip, 2022

My son Dan and I flew out of Hartford in the early morning May 23rd. a Monday, arrived at Billings airport and drove by rental car to Cottonwood Camp, a camp just north of Fort Smith in Crow territory. You can't but liquor in Indian territory, but we had stopped earlier in Hardin to take care of that matter. We were housed in a small cabin called the Midget 1, which



though small accommodated us well. We looked at the Bighorn River at the three-Mile takeout but didn't fish. Since there was no functional restaurant in Fort Smith, in the morning we ven-

tered into town to see if we could get breakfast at Bighorn Anglers. We succeeded, for \$10, but we were then told by the cook that they couldn't serve us again, since they were not licensed as a restaurant; they could only serve those fishermen who had purchased the three-day fishing package and who were guests at their camp. That pissed off Dan in no small way. Here was a place so inhospitable that we couldn't get a breakfast! So, for the next breakfasts we bought Jimmy Dean's sausage, egg and cheese sandwiches and heated them in a microwave.

The next morning, we met our guide, Jim Wilcox, who I knew by reputation to be really good. He rigged up our rods, providing new leader and tying on a two-nymph system, the latter tied with 6-0 fluorocarbon tippet, using double surgeon's knots, one split shot, and applied a thing-a-ma-bob strike indicator near the top of the 12-foot leader. We then traveled to the boat launch just below Yellowtail Dam. We pushed off into the Bighorn, moved across the current and drifted slowly down stream, Dan in the front, Herb in the stern keeping our

bobbers out in the current 14 to 18 feet on either side. We caught several browns, drifting the two-nymph system, the guide rowing to slow our drift or to move us back upstream if he wanted us to try a stretch again. Slowly we worked our way down river, over several long pools. Then about 11 o'clock we pulled in to the left bank for a pee break at the Aquarium pool. There we stayed, anchored, for what he called a "long pee break," in order to hold the spot and wait for the BWO hatches to begin. After an hour of waiting, and having our lunch we finally began seeing BWOs, emerging and floating down stream. First 2 or 3, then 6 or 8, finally by the handful. Then the fish heads started showing, one or two here and there, and then many heads at the surface taking the flies. We got out of the boat and wade-fished, with Jim's previously rigged 4 wt. rods, employing two dry flies each, a "smoke-jumper" and a "student", black or olive green, each with one or two vertical wings which looked remarkably like the real flies. Herb caught the first, an 18 and 1/2 inch brown. After a good fight, the fish was netted by the guide (see image 1821) Dan



caught the second, a 19 in. fish (image 1826). These native fish fought like hell and jumped as well. We then caught another 3 or 4 each, before we moved down stream, fishing again with nymphs. After a few more fish we left the river at 3-mile take-

out. Back at the camp we paid the guide, praising him of course for a good day of fishing. While undoing our lines, he took off the bobbers, and then CUT OFF THE FLYS and put them in his fly box in the boat. We hardly noticed at the time, but later Dan was pissed again, that the guy getting \$500 plus tip for the day was so cheap as to cut off the flies! Later he said he'd never go back: no



breakfasts;
no flies.

The next day we wade-fished from shore but had no luck, and the following morning drove off to West Yel-

lowstone. After checking in to our new quarters we fished the south fork of the Madison, but couldn't catch a fish in spite of seeing three different rainbows jump. They weren't taking streamers.

The following day we had a guide take us shore fishing the Firehole River in Yellowstone Park. We needed to use their boots, because felt bottoms are not allowed in the park. It was cold, raining and miserable, so we only fished for half a day, (buffalo grazed across the river from us) went back to town, checked out and after the rain had cleared went back to the south fork. There Dan caught a nice 18-inch rainbow that jumped numerous times. The fish were there but picky. Dan got that fish on a small black streamer. We drove to Melrose where we found



the Big Hole River at flood stage. So, instead of fishing there, the following day we drove 45-minute south to fish the Beaverhead River which has a controlled flow. There are always plenty of visible fish above the High Bridge, but they are finicky; require size 26 nymphs and fine tip-pets. Using very small San Juan worms we each had a fish break off. Then it got bad, sleeting and windy, so we

stopped. That night we had dinner with the Kalstas, Erik and Jamie, ranchers with whom we've had great friendships and great dinners in the past.

On our last day, Memorial Day, May 30th, we floated the Beaverhead with guide Andy Babcock. Herb in the stern had the hot hand that morning, catching 3 (images 2582, 2584, 2591) and losing two, all good browns, while Dan, in the front, got skunked. It rained severely, so that each of us was soaked through. When we reached where Can-



yon Creek comes in from the east, the water turned a milky color from the runoff. So, we elected

to get off the river early. Dan and Herb waited under a bridge while the guide hitch-hiked to where his trailer was and returned to retrieve us and the boat. Once we were inside his pick-up Andy asked us if we wanted to quit for the day or go back and run the upper river again.

The decision was left to me, and I elected to fish the stretch again, even



though we were all soaked, after all Dan hadn't had a fish all morning. That turned out to be a good decision: Dan, fishing from the bow, hooked a nice brown, lost another and then caught a 3 lb. rainbow (image 2596) that gave a great jumping fight. That made our day. Dan also caught a white fish. Herb had no action for the afternoon, but delighted in his decision making. The fish were taken, mostly, on a very small 20 or 22 size sowbug. We also

used green or brown split-back nymphs, very small. The two nymph systems used 3X fluorocarbon tippets, one split shot and a bobber.

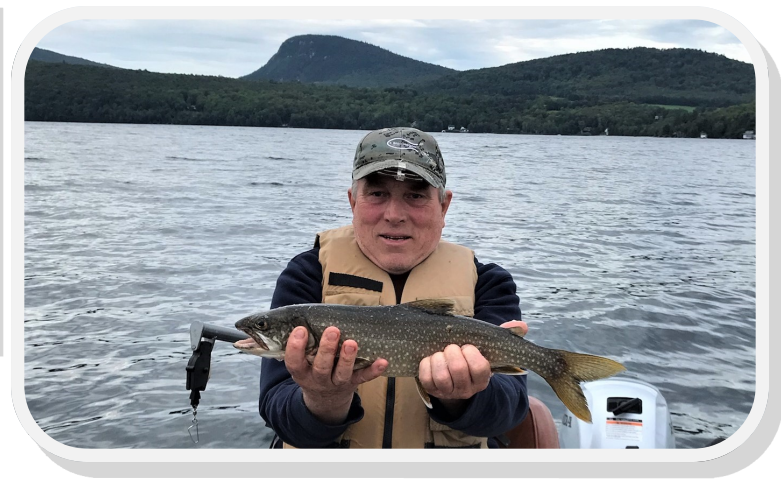
We flew home from Bozeman Tuesday, May 31st.
Herb Van Kruiningen



Some pictures from our first meeting and some of our members out fishing, always looking for more folks



We have proof that SOME of our members do go fishing, Several have sent me some pictures. Here we have Al the fish man Sonski up in Maine lake fishing AND he shared a food picture. A man after my own heart.



Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

Backflop Jig Streamer

Hook: Hanak 400 Black Jig Hook Size #8.

Bead: Tungsten 3.8 Silver mm Bead.

Lead Wire: .025 Lead Wire.

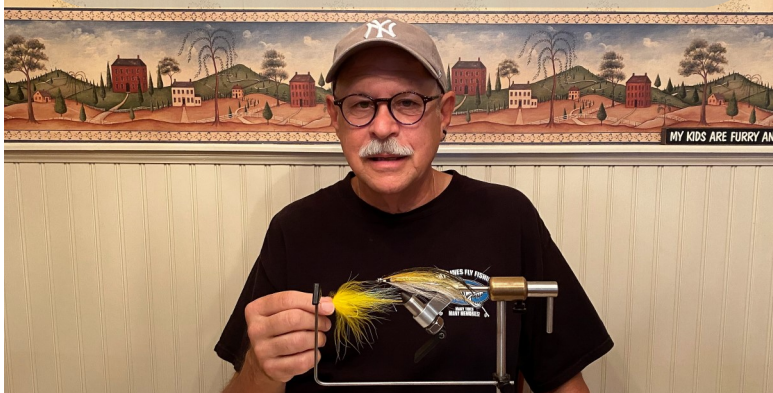
Tail: Black Pine Squirrel Zonker Strip.

Body: Black Pine Squirrel Zonker Strip & Hareline Medium UV Polar Chenille.

Hackle: Hen Saddle.

Collar: Hareline Ice Dubbing UV Black.

Tying instructions & video on how to tie this pattern can 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 .



Backflop Jig Streamer

Tied by Paul Dinice Tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com

Chuck Koten has shared one of his fishing trips with us

I met Belgian couple Bart & Pascal at a fishing lodge in the Seychelles late fall of 2021. We had dinner a few times. We talked mostly about fishing and a little about family. Pascal suggested my wife Lois and I come visit them in Belgium. Bart and I could go pike fishing for a few days while Pascal and Lois did some sightseeing. Then I could join the sightseers for a few more days while Bart went off to work. The trip was a bit of a risk since I didn't know them all that well and they and Lois had never met. Also, fishing with Bart is a little intimidating. His laser cast consistently hits a hula hoop size indentation in the shoreline shrubbery under a tree eighty feet away. He was easily top rod for the week in the Seychelles. But they were gracious hosts and we all enjoyed. In addition to being a world-class fisherman, Bart is a great chef and aficionado of both beer and Scotch.



Bart with a Zander.



Chuck with a Pike.

Lines & Leaders

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