

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

From the vest of the President



If you are looking to keep busy during the upcoming winter months we can provide you some opportunities. In January our Fly Tying classes are set to resume after a 2 year hiatus due to Covid. The January and February classes will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning at 6pm in Cabela's 2nd floor conference room. During these classes you can help us guide the students through the process of tying their first flies. In February we have a new confirmed location for our annual Expo & Banquet. Many of you have assisted with these events in prior years and opportunities to assist this year will also be available. You can also help CFFA and FVTU throughout the winter with our involvement in the Project Healing Waters program held in Newington or in March and April when we conduct our Beginning Freshwater Fly Fishing School along with Fly Tying classes at the American School for the Deaf. If any of these events inspire you please contact me and I will put you in touch with the coordinator in charge.

Gary

"Patagonia on the Fly"

So far the new location for our CFFA meetings has worked out well with lots of positive feedback from members that have attended a meeting there. Our November meeting featuring Mark Dysinger was very well attended and included at least 6 people attending their 1st CFFA meeting. Mark presented an excellent program on the correct techniques required to sight fish for various salt water species. All questions asked by anyone were answered in full detail by Mark. If you missed the meeting you missed a good one. Mark does guide in our local waters and he has been a Fly Tier at out Expo for many years. If you have an interest about hiring Mark his website for contact is <https://www.flyosophycharters.com/contact>

At our next meeting on December 19 (Monday) Rob Nicholas, another local talent will be our featured speaker. If you have ever wondered about casting flies to large trout in Patagonia you might want to make plans to attend. Should you choose to attend and you are planning on renewing your CFFA membership for 2023, you can bring your payment to the meeting and receive your membership card at the same time.

On December 19th our speaker will be Rob Nicholas he will be talking about why Patagonia just might be the best place on planet earth to cast a fly for large trout in unparalleled scenery. Both Argentina and Chile are rich in culture, the hospitality fantastic and the cuisine delicious. After traveling there for over 20 yrs. Rob knows this bucket list destination well. He will also be talking about the Farmington and Housatonic rivers as he guides there also.

Connecticut River Salmon Association

45TH ANNUAL DINNER

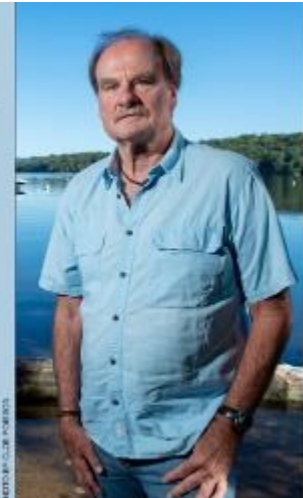

Join us to honor **Steve Gephard**,
our 2022 Presidents Award recipient.

Special Guest Speaker:
Dick Shriver, Publisher of Estuary Magazine

Saturday, January 14, 2023
USS Chowder Pot IV
165 Brainard Road, Hartford, CT

Social hour, auction preview from 5 to 6 pm.
Live auction at 6 pm.
Dinner to follow auction.

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Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Ass. 2023 Fly Fishing Expo and Banquet -

February 4, 2023 Expo 9-3 - Banquet starts at 6 PM

NEW LOCATION Nomads Entertainment

100 Bidwell Rd. (off Rt.5) So. Windsor, Ct. 06074

Featured Speaker - Rick Little

Expo Features: Multiple Vendors, Fishing Seminars, Casting Demos, Fly Tyers Row, Fly Tying with kids, and local clubs

\$3.00 admission and free parking



A group of us chased November N.Y. Steelhead on the Salmon River once again this fall. November has been our choice of month for many years. We choose November for our annual planned trip mainly because the Steelhead are at their very best physically when they 1st leave Lake Ontario and begin to enter the river. The battles are always tough and memorable from these fish. The leaves are off the trees and the water temperature is favorable for actively feeding fish making our odds for success more favorable.

kind of temperatures cause the Steelhead to seek the fastest oxygenated water and required us to adjust our tactics in order to be successful. The big slow pools were devoid of fish so we targeted the fast bubbly water that was at least knee deep. It was here that we had all of our success this year.

Various flies were successful this year as is usually the case. Egg patterns, stonefly nymphs, caddis larvae, wooly buggers, sucker spawn and egg sucking leeches all fooled fish.



Ron and I arrived 11/6 meeting Steve who arrived from South Carolina a day earlier and we left for home on the 13th. Jim and Jack joined us from the 14th to the 17th and Phil and his son arrived when Jim and Jack went home.

We stayed at a cabin at Fox Hollow Lodge once again this year. The cabins all have stoves and a small dormitory size refrigerator and freezer. This allows us to bring along some food from home. It saves us some money and guarantees the quality of a well earned meal after a hard day of fishing. How does fresh baked Brewster, Cape Cod oysters for an appetizer followed by a Prime Cut of Ribeye, Potatoes and Carrots washed down with your favorite beverage sound?



During this trip we had unusually warm temperatures through the 1st 4 days. I cannot ever remember a night, prior to this Pulaski trip, when the furnace did not come on overnight. The river water temperature was in the lower to mid 50's. These

There will be opportunities throughout the upcoming winter for a spontaneous trip, we have made these many times. We look for a 3 day window of above 32 degree temperatures. More than that is unusual for the area. Our tactics will change but our passion and excitement will remain the same, helping us manage our way through another cold New England winter here in Connecticut.

Gary

The Catalog Hatch Is Underway!

By Carl Ochnio

Caveat Emptor...



It's late fall and here are two things I have noticed. First, the latest fly-fishing catalogs are starting to fill up my mailbox and I only have myself to blame for the onslaught. When I started to "get into" fly fishing, I strived to attend every fly-fishing and outdoor show in the region. I wandered through the exhibitor booths and enthusiastically signed onto as many mailing lists as possible. It was as if receiving a bounty of catalogs served as a validation that I was a serious fly fisher. At the very least, my mail delivery person might have been impressed, or even more likely to have cursed my new found pastime.

As a beginner, I looked forward to thumbing through the catalogs and learning about the very latest innovations in fly fishing. Many of those "hottest" items were immediately placed onto my holiday and birthday wish lists. There never seemed to be a shortage of "improved" rods, reels, waders, lines, tippets, indicators and of course flies. There were always new offerings. Anglers are quite susceptible and are easy prey as they try to find any edge to aid in their quest to deceive as many fish as possible.

I have come to realize that the real experts in hooking prey might be the folks who design and produce catalogs. The publications are certainly well crafted and the goal is to simply entice anglers to make purchases.

It's no accident that the catalogs begin to appear just at the onset of the winter, when most anglers are cooped up inside and counting down the days till the return of spring. They are extremely vulnerable and it becomes difficult to resist the temptation of acquiring new gear.

After thumbing through catalogs for a number of decades, I just don't seem to have the same level of excite-

ment I once had. My current sentiment towards them could be described as somewhat skeptical, particularly when I read statements such as "game changing" or "revolutionary." Here is an actual quote, "These are a must-have for your fly box. The fish will never stand a chance."

I tend to shrug off these claims and testimonials towards many of these new innovations in angling. In some cases, they are probably as credible as some political campaign promises and nobody likes to be bamboozled. To quote the late George Carlin, "America's leading industry is still the manufacturing, distribution, packing and marketing of B.S."

Second, it simply seems to be getting much more difficult to make a decision when it comes to actually purchasing a product. As consumers, do we have just too many choices? There was a time when if you wanted to buy hooks, the options were most likely Mustad or Eagle Claw. One of the catalogs I recently received has four full pages of hook choices offered by a variety of companies and available in mind-boggling number of sizes and styles. According to the literature, I'm led to believe that angling has become much more technical and tactical. It leads me to question whether it is even possible to catch a fish on a standard Mustad hook anymore.

Life seemed much simpler in the good old days. As an ex-

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ample, when one needed a new pair of sneakers, the choice was straightforward, Converse All-Stars and your options were black or white. Henry Ford made it complicated when he said you can get a Model T in any color you want "as long as it's black."

In his 1970 book, Future Shock Alvin Toffler coined the phrases "over choice" or "choice overload." He describes a condition in which people have a difficult time making a decision when faced with too many options. Retreating to a life of intentional simplicity is certainly an option. Entrepreneur Mark Zuckerberg has chosen to streamline

his everyday clothing down to one or two outfits. This limits the number of decisions he needs to make every day. Isaac Newton simply had an ample supply of the identical suit and chose not to waste time making wardrobe decisions.

Today, the decisions we make - big and small – can be complicated by the extraordinary number of choices that are available. So, you don't feel there are just too many options? Try this simple experiment. Next time you are in the supermarket, saunter down the potato chip aisle. My local grocer has potato chips displayed down the full length of the aisle on both the left and right racks. How about toothpaste? Prefer one that is flavored, whitens, offers cavity-busting protection, removes surface stains, decreases sensitivity, deep cleans or is organic. How about orange juice? Prefer organic or regular, with or without calcium, with minimal or maximum pulp? It can make your head spin.

Can having so many choices be helpful? In 2004, American psychologist, Barry Schwartz wrote The Paradox of Choice – Why More Is Less. In the book he states that having too many choices can lead to what is referred to as decision fatigue. Having a variety of options might seem to be a good thing, up to the exact moment one actually makes a purchase. That is when paralysis by analysis can set in. The buyer, having some doubt on whether it is a good move or not may actually hold back on making the purchase.

Another conundrum in today's world revolves around the issue of, if I purchase an item now, will it be outdated by next year? The fly-fishing world is not isolated from the rapid pace of change in technology and sophisticated production techniques. This has led to its own set of issues. Companies in the fishing industry constantly face the challenge of staying on, or even ahead of the "cutting edge" as to not fall behind the competition. They need to keep up and there must be tremendous pressure to bring new products to the market. With that in mind, consider that not all "advertised" claims turn out to be actual improvements. A company could just ever so slightly alter a product, tweak the name, version or model and market it with a new tag line and then increase the price point. Please note that fishing industry "claims" do not have to undergo the scrutiny of a rigorous FDA approval process.

If your latest catalogs haven't arrived yet, it won't be long and be very wary when looking through them. There will be updates and probably new iterations of most of the tackle you own. The rods will be lighter, the fly lines

will shoot further, the boots will offer better grip and indicators will be bound to float or cast better. It is somewhat comforting to note that some iconic products exist and never seem to change much. They are steady and reliable as the cast iron pan, pipe wrench and a Weber Kettle Grill.

Ultimately, if you plan to buy a "new" and "improved" rod, reel, or waders this winter, one can choose to sort through all the available marketing material. Another option is to completely avoid the whole-time consuming process and simply ask your good friend what they are using. Feel you need professional advice? Don't forget that we are fortunate to have two great fly shops located in Connecticut. One is located in New Hartford and the other in Ashford, which is in the eastern part of the state.

Are you lucky enough to have enough stuff and don't feel you need any additional gear this year? Well, to help restrain any additional purchases, remember that needs are small...wants are unlimited.

Good Luck and Happy Holidays!

I want to thank Carl for writing this tongue in cheek story! Also for supplying the old advertisements you see. Not sure on how old you must be to remember these but close to 70 sounds about right :-)





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9 am – 1 pm
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ANGLING GEAR TAG SALE



Questions? – Call Bill Case at 850-678-7245 In the event of dangerous weather conditions, visit www.fvtu.org for updates on this event.

HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE BY FISHING.....



START OUT AS A BILLIONAIRE

There are currently more than 11,000 books for sale telling anglers how to outsmart trout. See the size of a wild brook trout brain compared to the size of your brain. Trout can find their way back to the spot where they hatched without the maps we'd need. They can detect all kinds of things about what they might or might not eat without calling

poison control. There is an amazing amount of information in this pea-sized brain. Trout can do what they do because they are hardwired to do it. We need to learn most of our behaviors, including learning how to buy books about catching fish. Think about how much information must exist in that trout brain for trout to have done so well on Earth for so long.



Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

Chewy's Minnr

Hook: Mustad 34007 Size #1/0 hook.

Thread: UTC Ultra Thread 1400 Chartreuse.

Eyes: Chrome or Nickel Dumbbell eyes.

Tail: Medium Pearl Mylar Tubing.

Body: Bill's Body Braid Pearl.

Wing 1: Arctic Fox Fur White, Off White, or Tan.

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash

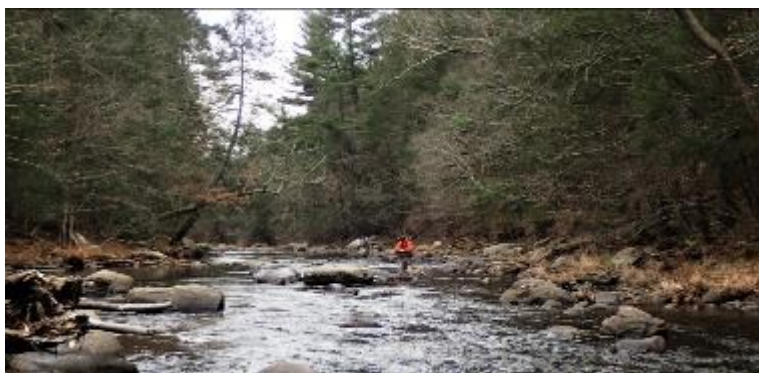
Wing 2: Extra Select Craft Fur Chartreuse.

Head: Deer Hair in Chartreus.

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 .



Some pictures from a trips to the Salmon River in Nov. The fish are there 6 X small flies I used my tenkara rod. Club member Kevin Fuller and Rick Legal went with me also. As you can see the fish are there, fishing slow and in deeper water is the way to go.



Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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Environment VP • Phil Apruzzese

(e) pjapruz@aol.com

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INTERNATIONAL
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East Hartford, CT 06108

P.O. Box 380268

Fly Fisherman's Association

Connecticut

