

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG



Next meeting is April 17

From the vest of the President



Wonder about this picture? More information in inside. Leave May 13th open!



Dr. Andrew Bade from the DEEP was our speaker at our March membership meeting. Dr. Bade explained the new trout regulations that went into effect this year along with the important challenges our DEEP faces regarding these new regulations. He also showed us slides that supported their concern with the statewide decline of Smallmouth Bass in our lakes. Currently they do not have a proven reason that supports why this is happening. The meeting was well attended with many new faces in the audience. I met and talked with Bob who came to our February Expo and joined CFFA that day. I encourage all of you to make an effort to make these new members feel welcome at our meetings. Inform them about what we do to promote the pleasures of fly fishing throughout the year along with our effort to conserve gamefish waters.

Our beginning fresh water fly fishing class led by Pete Naples has about 20 or so new fly fishing students. Our classroom sessions have concluded and now Pete is asking for your assistance with these new students. Your help on April 22 during our casting instruction at the P&F pond in East Hartford and with our stream instruction May 6th on the Willimantic River TMA will be much appreciated. Pete can be reached at 860-620-2317 or flyon054@outlook.com. Please contact him if you have any questions about either of these classes or if you want to be counted on as assistant. These students may be the future of our CFFA so try your best to be there.

Our fly tying instruction at the American School for the Deaf has successfully concluded and all that remains is the annual picnic/fishing outing. The tentative date for

this is May 16th. Please contact Kevin Fuller 860-819-5120 if you would like to help with this event.

Our next meeting on April 17th is our annual Fly Tying Roundtable. We have 16 experienced fly tiers signed up for this meeting. If you want to learn some tricks from them or you have children or grandkids that have expressed an interest in fly tying try your best to attend this meeting. This will be our final indoor meeting until September. Our May 13 meeting is outside on the banks of Salmon River.

Gary

Willimantic Trail Cleanup will be held on Saturday April 15th. Meet at 9:00am in the commuter parking lot Route 32 Willington Ct, I-84 exit # 70. Please bring your lopping shears, machetes, handsaws, chainsaws, safety equipment and your sense of adventure to join other members to help clear the trails along the Willimantic River. Lunch provided afterwards from Willimantic Pizza II.

Contact Bob Winot with any questions. 860-571-1914(c), tabermana@cox.net

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Kevin Fuller and I are looking to see how many people would be interested in starting up a Tenkara club. We would meet only on zoom and swap ideas and other information we have learned from this type of fishing. No newsletter or anything like that just get together on zoom for this. We can pick an evening for doing this later on. If you are interested or know anyone that is contact me sasjes@comcast.net if we have an interest we will start this up.
John



Last summer I met Mike Lee while staying at the Driftwood Camp on the Madison River he shared something he figured out for floating CDC flies. As well all know they start to sink after a fish or two and we dry them and put something like Frogs Fanny on them. This is much better. You take a drop of this oil that you can order on Amazon rub it into the feather dry it with a tissue and put them in



your box. AFTER you catch a fish or two you false cast 5 times. And your back in business. I found you must do it 5 times! Yes after a bit the fly will become matted down and must be washed dried and rubbed with the oil but I used 2 of his caddis flies the day he showed me this and I assure you it worked very well. Thanks for sharing this Mike.



Stress-Management Seminar, Montana

Remember when you first started? Well Peter Naples wants everyone to know the casting class is on 22 April at the East Hartford Police and Fireman's Benevolent Pond, in East Hartford just past Cabela's

On The Water is 06 May. On the Willi. Meeting on the I-84 West Bound Commuter lot.

Helpers needed for both



Contact Peter if you can give a hand to help him and these people out on either day.

pnaples0865@yahoo.com



Myself and 2 friends went to the fly fishing show in Jersey again this year. Each year there are less fly shops that bring materials for us to see and buy. In speaking to several over the years this seems to be because of stealing and people buying on the internet. An observation on my part was how much was for sale at our annual day! We are very lucky to have Roger and our other vendors come and support us.

One thing about the Jersey show is the programs going on all day it takes us 2 days to see the ones we want to see. Here are some pictures of flies I saw you might be interested in. Should you decide to go and want a great place to eat that you will never forget go to Harolds its very close by, Google it.

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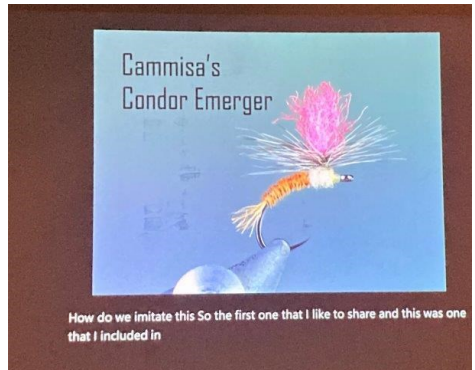
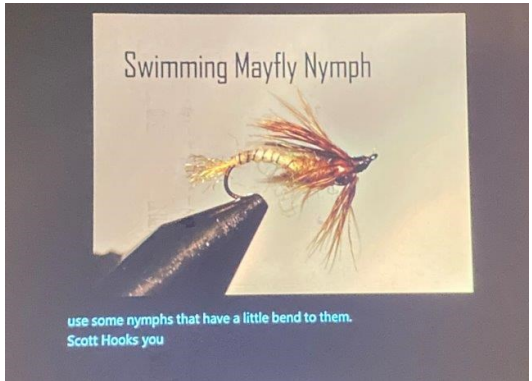
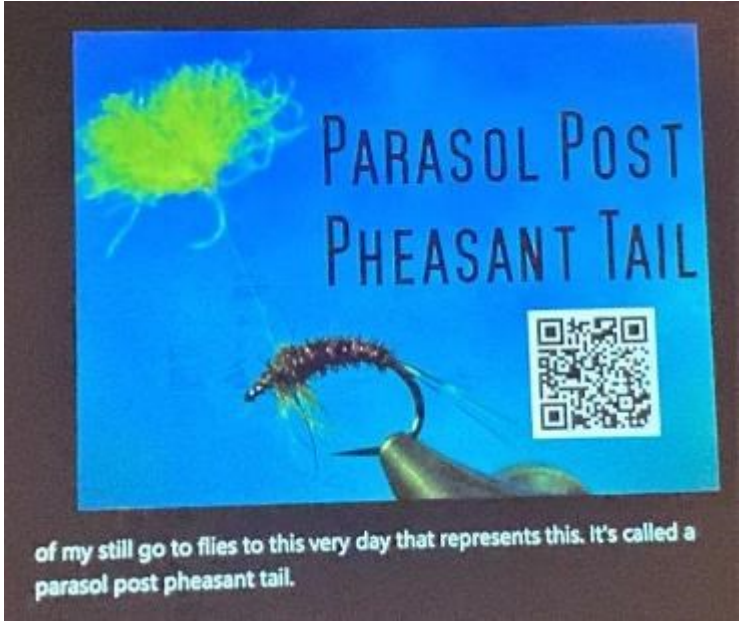
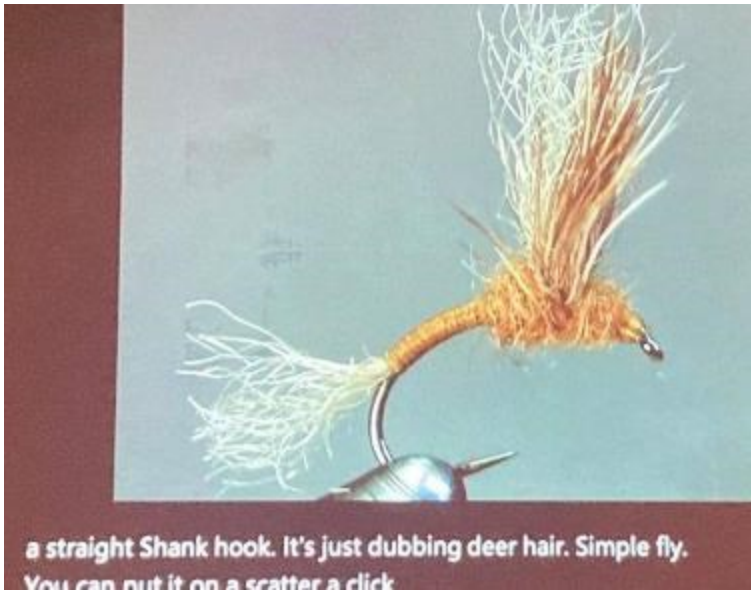
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Harold, former operator of the legendary Clammy's Diner, as well as the world-famous N.Y. Carnegie Deli, has combined the very best of these two menus in order to present his latest restaurant.

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C.F.F.A Tribute to Gary Lafontaine. Saturday May 13, 2023 - 9:00am to 3:00pm

Salmon River, Colchester Connecticut, Gulf Road, Picnic Area Join us for the 3rd Annual Tribute to Gary Lafontaine

This event is in honor of Connecticut's most influential fly tier, long time CFFA member, Gary Lafontaine. Gary's books revolutionized sub surface Fly fishing. Sadly Gary's life was cut short due to A.L.S. 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.

9:00am Fly Tying - This is an informal gathering of fly tiers. Everyone is responsible for their own table and materials.

11:00am We will give Gary's friends time to say a few words about Gary's influence on fly fishing.

-Fishing is available on the river all day.

Everyone is responsible for their own food and beverages. Grills are available. ***If raining we will not tie flies, but will still gather and fish.



Kevin Fuller will need some help with the students from the American School for the Deaf on May 16th it's a great day and very rewarding as you can see from the smiles. Contact him if you can give a hand. kevin-fuller27@comcast.net



Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH



Purple Haze
Tied by Paul Dinice
tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com

Hook: Dai Riki #300 Size 14 or Dry Fly Hook of choice.

Thread: Purple Uni 6/0.

Tail: Moose Hair or Grizzly & Brown Hackle Fibers.

Body: Purple Flexi Floss, or Purple Dubbing, or Purple Thread.

Post: Calf Tail Fibers or Poly-yarn.

Hackle: Brown & Grizzly.

Finish: Bottom of the fly is coated with 'Tough as Nails'.

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 .



Sailfish on a fly appealed as exotic, but was it really flyfishing? It looked like the crew did most of the work, teasing in the fish, then pulling a well-choreographed bait-and-switch to the angler's fly. But my wife would be away for a week at the end of January so why should I stay home? I thought I'd try something new.

The Pacific coast of Guatemala is not alone in calling itself the "Sailfish Capital of the World." But, among sailfish capitals of the world, it's probably the closest - a little under three hours from Miami. My long-time booking agent Doug Schlink of *Angler Adventures*, Old Lyme, recommended *Sailfish Oasis*. I booked my flights, but Doug did the rest, providing his first-hand knowledge of sailfishing and answering my slew of questions. <https://www.angleradventures.com/>, <https://sailfishoasis.com/>. My first day out, I relaxed on my 31ft Bertram as Captain Manolo cruised around looking for fish. But you don't want to relax too much. When the crew yells "Sail, Sail," you have about 10 seconds to make your "cast." For me that meant flopping 20 feet of line out behind the boat and letting it drift back a little.

The first and second day, the "Sail, Sail" came a couple of times for fish which showed no real interest in engaging. I had to be satisfied with bonito and dorado (mahi-mahi). Lunch cooked on the boat that first day was dorado, filleted within five minutes of catching. Note on fish-handling: The crew is careful about handling sailfish which they regard as their livelihood. The dorado they see as food to be handled a little more aggressively.

Not memorable fishing those two days, but the aerial displays by huge schools of spinner dolphins was impressive. Look for videos online.

My third day, "Sail, Sail" turned serious. I blew my first chance by trying to set the hook on an incoming fish. You're supposed to wait for the fish to turn. I'm not sure I ever mastered that "wait for the fish to turn." The four sailfish I caught struck violently moving left-to-right, then accelerated away to a sailfish top speed of 60mph reached in two seconds. The action all starts on or near the surface 20 feet from where you're standing!

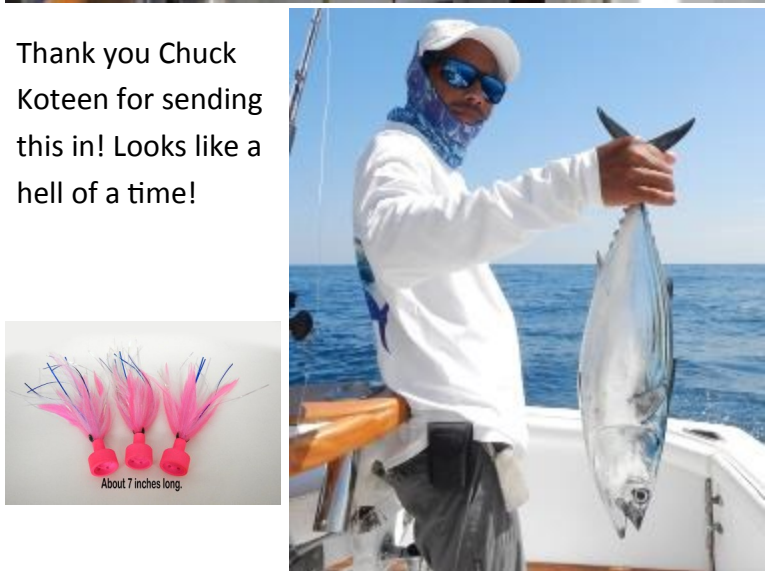
Good sailfish/bad sailfish: A good sailfish puts on a spectacular tail-walking display for ten minutes or so, by which time it has tired itself out. A bad sailfish puts on a much shorter tail-walking display, then sits unmoving on the bottom. Mine were all bad sailfish. My fourth took 1hr 20min.

Knowledgeable anglers tell me the fishing's usually much better where I was when I was. But I caught sailfish on a fly. I'm happy.

Gear: Sailfish Oasis recommends 13wt. I had 12wt, so that's what I brought. I bought a specialized billfish line, but I could have saved the money. You're not going for distance or finesse. You're trying to get an unwieldy fly on the water as quickly as you can.

Fly: Billfish tube fly. Any color as long as it's pink & white. Atlantic sailfish supposedly prefer blue & white.

Anyone planning to give sailfish a try can contact me for more info: ckot46@comcast.net



Thank you Chuck Koteen for sending this in! Looks like a hell of a time!



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