

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

November 2023

From the vest of the President



On Saturday October 14th CFFA participated in the celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Burlington Fish Hatchery. We were happy to be part of wonderful event. Dan, Phil, Bob and I did what we could to promote the pleasures and traditions of Fly Fishing. Dan and I demonstrated fly tying and had many attendees take part in tying their 1st fly. Phil and Bob promoted the educational opportunities we offer annually along with any other activities we do throughout the year. I was very impressed with the amount of parents that stopped by with their children who had an interest in fishing. Two young boys age 12 & 13 were happy to show me photos of flies they had tied and fish they had caught on their handmade flies. One of them had a photo of a "20incher Stonefly" pattern tied perfectly. He said it was his favorite fly. I recognized it immediately as it always has a place in my fly box and is responsible for some fine catches including Steelhead. Staying on the subject of young fly anglers we have had two that have attended our recent membership meetings. When I say young I mean not old enough to drive yet young. They both had parents with them that support their new hobby despite not participating themselves. These parents are to be commended for their support. Both of these young fly fishermen have a thirst for knowledge and are happy to share their experiences. At our last meeting one of them proudly showed me a beautiful Rainbow Trout that he hooked and landed on a caddis dry fly



recently. He said he caught it prior to the fall stocking meaning it survived the summer in the water he caught it in. After we talked about all the details of the Rainbow he then proceeded to show me a photo of a wild native Brook Trout that he caught not far from his home. He said he hiked in pretty far to get to the spot but the beauty of his catch made it all worth it. My friend and longtime fishing buddy Jack had met this young fly fisherman on the Brewster Flats this past summer and when Jack learned that he lived in CT. Jack advised him to check out CFFA. And so, with his devoted mom, he has attended our last two meetings. Jack also gave him a Sand Eel fly to try during their 1st encounter and very soon after it was tied it onto his leader of his 5 weight fly rod he proceeded to catch his 1st ever Striped Bass on a fly rod. The fish measured 32 inches long, to say he is hooked is an understatement. We members should all do our best to make these youngsters and any new attendees at our meetings feel welcome. Any one of them could be the future leaders of CFFA. Please do what you can to show them they belong.

Gary

Just a reminder that on Saturday Feb 3 we will have our annual day long event same as last year same place.

Roger and Kurt are working on this event for you we have some new day time speakers and Captain Ray Stachelek will be our speaker that evening as well as putting on a program during the day. Here is a bio on him you can find out more at <http://www.castaflycharters.com/captain.html>

Ray Stachelek has been fishing the waters from Watch Hill, RI to Cape Cod MA for sixty years. He is a presenter at the National Fishing Shows along the East Coast. He contributes articles to various national magazines. Writes fish reports for online and newspaper publications.

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<p>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.</p>	 <p>Original Paintings, Drawing, and Prints</p> <p>44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278 860-429-1016 www.mccaughtryart.com charlesmccaughtry@yahoo.com</p>

Michael Day will be our speaker at our November meeting on Nov.20th his program will be on Bamboo Fly Rods: Connecticut History & Current Construction. This talk will consist of two parts. First, Michael will provide an historical overview of bamboo fly rod building in CT. This will include a discussion of known and less well known makers. He will discuss bamboo rod making innovation in CT and how CT makers contrib-

uted to the future and perpetuation of the bamboo rod making craft. Second, Michael will provide an overview of how to make a bamboo rod. He makes bamboo rods for traditional trout fishing. He tests his rods year round in Connecticut's four seasons. Michael has a particular interest in designing tapers and updating vintage tapers through modern innovative techniques.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



HOLIDAY FAIR

**Handmade Gifts, Delicious Treats,
a Visit with Santa . . . and more!**

Saturday, November 18th

10 am to 3 pm – Porter Memorial Hall

The First Church of Christ, Congregational, 1652
75 Main Street • Farmington, CT 06032 • www.firstchurch1652.org

Last month several of our members went to the Burlington Hatchery where they were shown how things have improved with saving water. It was well attended by mostly fisher people.



The One That Got Away

By John Springer

In July I spent time on the Beaverhead River near Dillion Montana. It's a small river with some very big fish. My friend Bruce recommended an area to fish as I have not visited the area in 10 years with my friend Kevin Fuller. Each day I fished I noticed a spot guides would stop their boats and have their sports fish. I never saw anyone hook up and eventually the boats would move on. Its well known Small flies are the ticket to success on this tailwater fishery. These flies need to be tied on the quality hooks this is something I discovered the hard way.

On the first day, I met some nice people from South Carolina. while stringing up my rod they called me over and said these are the two flies you need but the hooks are shit and won't hold the fish, and he was correct. The mayfly nymph caught many fish. The problem was if they were any size it opened up. I made a note to myself to tie this on a heavier wire hook for future trips here it was a size 20 and some of these fish are 4 pounds.

After a few days of watching the guides, I went over to "the spot" and spotted some very large brown trout just below some watercress finning. You know I spent a great deal of time trying to catch one but would give up after an hour or so. Big fish will do that to you. I was using my Tenkara rod which worked well on these big fish as long as they did not get below you. Tenhkara it's a much different way of fishing. On about my third or fourth day of fishing completely by mistake my fly settled below the watercress at just the right time and one very large brown ate my fly! That fish raced up river and turned and raced back. Not much line to play with and when it got over the lip of a deep spot, the fly unbuttoned. We all know the loss of a big fish stings, one that you have spent days trying to get. I soon was able to get over my loss. That area I was fishing held more big fish.

My friend Kevin (aka the Thin Man) joined me about 10 days into the trip. I brought him over on our last day prior to moving on to the Madison River. I showed him the fish, and advised him where to stand as the guides would try too weasel into that very spot. The Thin Man saw those big fish and immediately started casting to them. Soon after I spotted him with a bent rod and doing the Tenkara big fish dance. Once again, after doing battle with something with a brain the size of a pea, the fish won again!

I told Kevin I would return in the fall with our friend Mike and I would do my very best to net that very fish! Sad to say many rivers in the southwest Montana are in tough shape now with low water flows in summer, a type of fungus and global warming and the fish are in tough shape. Mike and I found this out in October while there. The Beaverhead only had on short section open to fishing. Much of the best water on the Ruby River was shut down and the Big Hole was completely closed to fishing. Time will only tell if this gets resolved.

We went to the local fly shop, Anderson & Platt where we met Josh. He turned out to be very helpful as well a funny guy. He said there were other places to fish and gave us a map he drew so we checked some of them out. One river he recorded had a big flow and was hard to get around despite

this we still picked up some smaller fish. Another river turned out to be very small. when we got there two other local anglers were walking down the field to get to it, along with there dog. We passed on this spot. We went back to the Beaverhead to fish a spot that had a stream coming into it. While checking it out a ranch hand was out with his new dog and it managed to get directly in front of our car. I immediately stopped and allowed the ranch hand retrieve his dog. He came over to say thank you and



saw my hat. He asked if we were looking for a spot to fish and I said we were. He immediately said "park right here, walk up my field and have a good time" there are pools with beaver dams on his stream and they held fish. Then he smiled and said "I like your hat". I laughed, said thank you. I was wearing my red hat that says Make America Great Again. It's amazing to me how many doors that hat opened for me in the west. Mike fished on his land and I walked down to the main river to fish a spot he recommended. I caught six browns all about 11 inches and had one big brown that I lost right at my net. Before leaving, we made sure to go to his house to thank him. He said we were welcome any time and would be looking for us next summer.

If plan to visit Dillion and fish a good bar is the Moose. We met some very nice local people that treated us very well and the owner and her daughter were funny and entertained us with stories about the old building and what went on many years ago in it.

Right next door is the Golden Trout that served food. Montana bars serve burgers that are almost always guaranteed to be very good and big this place did not live up to that reputation. When the bartender asked how are the burgers? I showed him mine and said I asked for medium rare, this is



well done and his reply was "sorry about that". This was only the second time in my life I chose to not leave a tip. As I paid my bill I smiled and



said when laid out \$28 sorry about that. There is an Asian restaurant on the same

street their food was plentiful and it at the Sundowner is a bus that served town, we made it a point to stop in to for Wolf Creek and the Missouri River.



was excellent. Right next to the motel we stayed Mexican food it was very good. Before leaving see Josh and thank him for his help and left town

We found the water level was very pop and the weather warmed up.

good for wading the olives were just starting to Fishing was very good. Several years ago I met a

local angler, Kevin and he bought a drift boat and took us down river for a day's float. He wanted to start later as to give other boats a chance to get out of the way. Unfortunately eight other boats had the same idea. We had great time talking and learning more about the river as Kevin has been fishing year-round for some time. Believe it or not he uses a switch rod very effectively from the boat something I have not seen before. Mike and I had picked up lunches from the Trout Shop in Craig we wanted Kevin fed well. Their food is always good and they have a great fly selection as well as fly tying materials. They also offer good advice that helped us tremendously. We spent a week there and had some incredible fishing and we did not feel crowded.

We have access to some private ranches where we are allowed to fish and using streamers resulted in some great brown trout that were moving around to their spawning areas. Over the years we have been fortunate that we have gotten to know local people that we visit and get to spend time with each year. This year at a friend's house I made sauce for pasta and it was a huge hit. A woman in Florida showed me how to do this and





everyone I make it for enjoys it. Next year I plan make meatballs for them. I guess this wouldn't be a fishing story without some fish pictures so I have included them. The friends you make and things

you see

make our trip very special even when your just a tourist fishermen like us. I want to thank my friend Carl Ochino for his help editing this story for me hope you enjoyed it.



I am always looking for stories about your fishing trips they need not be an exotic trip, everyone enjoys hearing about local fishing and you need not give up secret spots either.





Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly Formerly Known as Prince

Hook: Tiemco 3769 Size #10-#18 or preferred Nymph Hook.

Bead: Gold Bead to match hook size.

Thread: Orange or Red UTC 70 Denier.

Tail: Brown Goose or Turkey Biot. Also a 'tag' of Orange or Red Thread.

Rib: Silver Oval Tinsel.

Body: Peacock Hurl.

Collar: Natural Partridge or Brown Indian Hen.

Wings: Large Silver Holographic Tinsel or 2 Strands of Pearl Krystal Flash (It's what I use and prefer).



Fly Formerly Known as Prince
Tied by Paul Dinice
[Tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com](http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com)

Tying instructions and a 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.

Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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