

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

December 2023

From the vest of the President



At our November membership meeting Michael Day presented us a historical overview of bamboo fly rod building in Connecticut. His discussion included well known and other rod makers. He also provided an overview of how to build a bamboo rod. Michael makes bamboo rods for traditional trout fishing. All parts of his rods are made from raw stock. He informed us he has a particular interest in designing tapers and updating vintage rods through the use of modern innovative techniques. This was an excellent meeting that was well attended and generated plenty of interest based on the question and answer session that followed. You can reach Michael for more information about bamboo rod building at: www.fly-by-day.com

Our Fly-Tying school classes begin in January. I announced at our November meeting that 14 of the 20 spots available for students have been filled. If you know anyone that might be interested in these classes don't hesitate to let Pete Naples know. The details can be found here for both students and volunteers. <https://www.ctflyfish.org/?view=article&id=152:2024-beginner-freshwater-fly-tying&catid=2>

We have also scheduled our Beginner Fresh Water Fly Fishing School classes that begin in March. The dates and curriculum can be found here <https://www.ctflyfish.org/?view=article&id=153:2024-freshwater-beginner-fly-fishing-school&catid=2> Both of these events need member volunteers to make them a success. Please consider volunteering if the dates of the classes work for you. CFFA member Chris Matarazzo contacted me recently. He is a member C.F.F.A and also a member of the Rockville Fish &

Game Club. He is one of the chairmen of a new committee formed at their club last year – Fly Fishing & Tying. They are having Fly Tying Round Table events that are geared for fun and learning. They have a small group of members and some non-members that meet once a month to tie flies in a relaxed setting to have fun and share knowledge. They meet at the Rockville Fish & Game Club main clubhouse on Fish and Game Road in Vernon/Tolland. It is about 2 minutes from Route 84 Exit 67, off of Route 31. Phil McCormick, from our CFFA is a regular tier at the events. They are presently a small group, and have plenty of room for others to join. They are thinking that some of the members from the CFFA might want to join in on the fun. It is a fun and relaxed evening for anyone interested in Fly Fishing & Tying. There are experienced fishermen sharing stories and advice on tying, casting, equipment, and more. The events are on the last Monday of the month from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm. The next event was rescheduled due to Christmas. That Round Table will take place on Wednesday 12/20. For questions and more information please contact one of the Co-Chairmen Paul Rafala 860-977-6064 or Chris Matarazzo 860-712-6269.

Gary

Just a reminder that on Saturday Feb 3 we will have our annual day long event same as last year same place and our Banquet is the same night. Much work is being done for this again so a good turnout again is much ap-



Bait • Tackle • Fly Tying Accessories • Licenses

JT'S FLY SHOP



664 Buckley Highway, Union, CT 06076
860-684-1575
jtsflyshop@yahoo.com



WILLINGTON PIZZA HOUSE

Route 32 • 25 River Road
Willington Trading Center
Willington, Connecticut
(860) 429-7433
www.willingtonpizza.com



Don LaChance
Program Lead
Newington Program

860-930-0184
don.lachance@projecthealingwaters.org
www.projecthealingwaters.org

Home of the World's Best Fly Fishing



ALPHONSE FISHING COMPANY
SEYCHELLES

- www.alphonsefishingco.com
- reservations@alphonsefishingco.com
- +248 422 9705
- @alphonsefishingco



EAST COAST HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC

Providing Professional Home Inspection Services In CT & MA

Mark Roy
Home Inspector

Cell: (860) 614-0728
Business: (860) 763-4030
mark@eastcoastinspect.com
eastcoastinspect.com

P.O. Box 558 Enfield, CT 06083



BFS | Bradley, Foster & Sargent, Inc.
Investment Management

BFS – Looking for new fish to fry.

185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
www.bfsinvest.com
860-527-8050

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.

Charles McCaughtry

Original Paintings, Drawing, and Prints

44 Portland Drive Ashford, CT 06278
860-429-1016
www.mccaughtryart.com
charlesmccaughtry@yahoo.com

Our Program for December 18th will be our President showing his trip to Montana with his friends to Fly Fishing Montana's Kootenai River.

The Kootenai river flows in Northwestern Montana as is home to Wild Rainbow, Cutthroat, Cut-Bows, Brown, Brook and Bull Trout. This presentation will take you to this beautiful river and include scenery, lodging options and the equipment needed to fish it effectively.



When I was eleven years old I observed my 1st Fly Fisherman casting a Fly Rod at Salmon River in Connecticut. I knew right then that one day I would try that technique of fishing for trout. I received my 1st Fly Fishing outfit for Christmas in 1970 when I was 16 years old, it was a Fenwick Fiberglass FF706 rod paired with a Pflueger 1494 Medalist reel. I was using this rod and reel on the same Salmon River where I saw my 1st Fly Fisherman when I landed my 1st fly rod caught trout using a black Wooly Worm with a red tail. I still have and use this outfit today. This was the beginning of my fly fishing adventure and it continues today.

As time marched on I continued my new adventure and at the age of 30 I added Fly Tying to it when I signed up for lessons conducted by the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association in 1984. Later that year I became a member of CFFA and in 1990 I accepted the Board position of Education Chairman. I loved this work and remained on the BOD in this position until 2010. After a short hiatus I was asked to become the president of CFFA beginning in 2016. I thought about it for only a moment and gladly accepted the position. It is now 2023 and I am still enjoying each day I serve as president of the CFFA along with the Fly Fishing adventure that began a long time ago.

Gary Steinmiller



These are pictures Gary sent me from his trip looks like a great time was had by all not sure about his friend washing dishes. Food looks great also.



This month I have some pictures sent to me by Matt Devine who works at DEEP and was at our annual event in February to meet many of us. This shows a bit of what the state's fisheries does for us.

Below is a school group that helped out on the Housatonic



Stocking the Housatonic

Bob Winot went to the Quinebaug Hatchery to see the big improvements that have been done there for raising our fish, very it looks very impressive!

Quinebaug Valley State Hatchery Infrastructure Improvements
Bob Winot

I recently represented the CFFA at the unveiling of the updated Quinebaug Valley State Fish Hatchery. CT dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner Katie Dykes and CT Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner Michelle Gilman along



On the left and below are salmon going into the Shetucket River

Brook Trout Below



with Peter Aarrestad Director Inland Fisheries Division were on hand to announce the completion of the \$6.7 million upgrade to the hatchery's filtration and pump infrastructure. The improvements include new filters, pumps and a



tion, recycle water and ments are the results of state agencies more sus- lion gallons of ground



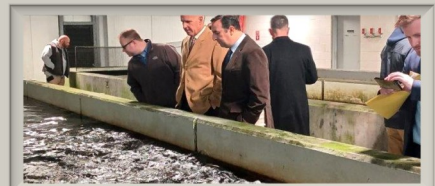
complete rehabilitation of the water treatment facility. The goal of the project was to reduce energy consump- to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These improve- Governor Lamonts "GeenerGov" initiative to make all tainable. The hatchery will now conserve over 600 mil-

water annually helping to conserve the life of the wells at the facility. The filtration system will reduce the use of chemical treatments for disease and fungus control. Energy consumption will be reduced close to 8% annually.

After the dedication the hatchery staff conducted an extensive tour of the facility and all of the completed updates. Included in the tour were the new aeration pumps, the new filtration system which included mechanical debris separators, Infrared blue light exposure, a new biological filtration system to further clean the wastewater in preparation for reuse and new high-volume pumps that help with the recirculation of the water.

Commissioners Dykes and Gilman both stressed that these upgrades will result in savings for the taxpayers of the state, improve quality of life for our own citizens and will also have a positive environmental impact. The improvements will allow the hatchery to continue to produce high quality trout (over 1 million annually) while reducing water usage, energy consumption and controlling waste. The DEEP's goal is to produce more

and bigger trout in the future while controlling expenses.



Kennebago Smelt
tied by Paul Dinice
[Tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com](http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com)



Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

Kennebago Smelt

Hook: Mustad 3655A or preferred Size #2-#8 Streamer hook 4X Long.

Thread: UTC 70 Denier Black.

Body: French Oval Tinsel in Silver; palmered over Silver Mylar Tinsel.

Belly: Sparse White Bucktail.

Throat: Yellow Saddle Hackle Fibers.

Wing: Sparse Red Bucktail; over which is Sparse Blue Bucktail; over which is a Black Blood Quill Marabou Feather; over which are 5-6 Fibers of Peacock Hurl.

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 .

The Purple Egg Sucking Leech

Last month Ron and I took our annual November Steelhead trip to Pulaski New York. We fished Salmon River from the 5th to the 12th. A few of us drove further than others with Jack driving from Cape Cod and Steve from South Carolina. Considering our results everyone's ride was worth it. The word is that this year's fall run is the best the river has seen since 2014. Our success and witnessed catches supports this statement. Not only was the run plentiful, it also contained some very large fish that had been few and far between the last few years. These fish were tackle busters and skill testers in every way. Landing a big fresh Steelhead does require some bit of luck but it requires a lot more skill. Most every fish I lost was a result of the hook being tossed rather than my 8 pound tippet being broken. This usually happens very early after the hookset when a Steelhead acts like a wild stallion or a bull being ridden at a rodeo. If you are lucky enough to get a good hook set and stay connected for the initial fury the rest comes down to skill. They head for every hazard possible and it's your job to keep them away from those hazards. Fallen trees, underwater boulders and drift boat anchor ropes all fall into the category of a hazard. Each and every one of these gets your heart racing. My 1st fish of the trip ate a purple egg sucking leech, a pattern I have very little faith in. I was casting in knee deep fast water because that's where all the current reports said the fish were holding. This fish struck and immediately jumped a few times before taking off down the river real fast with no hint of stopping. My first thought was that I foul hooked this fish due to my inability to perform anything I wanted to do while it was doing whatever it chose to do. It eventually turned a corner in the river where it finally stopped running but now began jumping. A fellow angler came around the corner and asked if I had the jumping Steelhead on my line. I replied yes and asked him if he could tell me if it was foul hooked. He told me it appeared to be a good hookset right in the mouth. I continued to work the fish back up toward me as I walked slowly toward it and I finally landed it with the other angler looking on. What a way to begin the trip. When we looked for the fly we found that the fresh Steelhead had swallowed my egg sucking leech.

I used my forceps to remove the fly and cut it off my line and put it safely in a special spot in my fly box. It is now retired on my fly tying bench and brings a smile to my face every time I look at it. I will never look at a purple egg sucking leech with little faith again.

Gary



Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

Board of Directors

President • Gary Steinmiller

(c) 860-563-0040 (e) steinmillergary@yahoo.com

Activities VP • Bob Winot (e) rwinot25@cox.net

860-292-1685

Environment VP • Phil Apruzzese

(e) pjapruz@aol.com

Promotions VP • Richard Gaudreau (c) 860-745-2695

Recording Secretary • Phil McCormick

(h) 860-871-8703

Treasurer • Chuck Koteen

Advisory Board • Gary Bogli (h) 860-858-5633

Banquet Chairman • Kurt Jagielow

Conservation Chairman • Ted Rzepski

Educational Director • Peter Naples

860-620-2317

Indoor Facilities Chair • Denise Dauray

Legislative Chairman • Vin Ringrose

(h) 860-828-4642

Publicity Chairman • Dan Price (c) 860-301-9696

Membership Chairman • Phil McCormick

(h) 860-871-8703

Newsletter Chairman • John Springer

(h) 860-510-2383 (e) cffa@comcast.net

Program Chairman • Roger Plourde

(c) 860-919-3513



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHERS



East Hartford, CT 06108

P.O. Box 380268

Fly Fisherman's Association

Connecticut

