

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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March 2024

From the vest of the President



On February 3rd we held our annual Fly Fishing Expo and Banquet at Nomads in South Windsor. The weather this year could not have been better for these events. For many of us the day begins much earlier than the 9 am starting time. Many CFFA members show up as early as 7 am to assist the vendors with setting up their tables. This assistance is truly appreciated and ensures the vendors are all set up for the 9 am start. This year we even had a new student in our Fly Tying class show up early to volunteer his time and effort. These acts of contribution might seem small to those that perform them but they are very important.

This is our second year at Nomads and we made some adjustments to the layout to allow for an increase in the number of vendors that paid to be there. The casting area was made a little narrower while remaining functional and a headset microphone was supplied to the casting instructors so they could be heard better than last year. Both of the casting sessions were well attended. We also offered two slide show presentations during the day. The first one was provided by our featured guest of the day Captain Ray Stachelek of Cast-a-Fly Charters. The theme of Ray's talk concentrated on making sense of colors, images and motion. The second slide presentation was performed by Paul Dinise and it focused on Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass in the Housatonic River right here in Connecticut.

We were very happy to see many of our beginner fly tying students attend our Expo. These students were assisted by many of our members with their 1st ever purchases of fly tying tools and materials. In between the sessions mentioned above we had a total of 31 vendors occupying tables throughout the facility offering a variety of items and expertise to the 300 plus patrons that came through the door.

All in all it was a great way to spend a winter day. I sincerely thank each and every member for any assistance they contributed throughout the day, especially with setting up and breaking down the event. If you enjoyed the day please be sure to thank Roger Plourde who is the coordinator of this annual event. We are always open to suggestions on how we can make our Expo better so please send us any suggestions you may have.

Our annual banquet followed the Expo later that evening where 105 dinners were served. Kurt Jagielow coordinated our banquet once again this year. He was busy all day setting up the raffle prizes that would be available to all who attended. So far the feedback we have received has been positive. The management at Nomads listened to our concerns from last year and made the necessary improvements for a better experience for all of us this year. Captain Ray, our featured guest, provided a presentation that concentrated on fly fishing opportunities in Rhode Island along with many CFFA members that have fished with him over the years. Ray considers our CFFA as family as he has chartered many of us on his boat over the years. The presentation was well received.

As you know this is our only fundraising event that we hold each year and your continued support helps us attain our objective of promoting the pleasures of Fly Fishing and conserving gamefish waters. Thank you to all of you for your continued support.

Upcoming activities include our Beginner Freshwater Fly Fishing School, Fly Tying lessons at the American School for the Deaf, trail maintenance on the Willimantic River TMA, our monthly meetings, and Fly Tying lessons on the UConn campus this summer. Please consider lending a helping hand at these important events.

Gary

The Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden. Tickets are \$55 per person. There will be a buffet dinner and a cash bar. **Jeff Yates** will be this year's speaker. He is the Trout Unlimited Director of Volunteer Operations, a very accomplished angler, guide and author. Jeff's presentation is entitled "Fly Fishing Fairfield County: From Streams to the Shoreline". He will discuss when, where and how to fish both fresh and saltwater in this part of the state. His presentation will also include information on where to fish for native brook trout and areas where stripers can be caught from shore. Tickets and additional information can be obtained by contacting Allison Brown at 203-257-6556 or ambrown113@gmail.com.

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Trout Fishing in CT- an overview and updates from CT DEEP Fisheries Division **March 18**

Connecticut offers an abundance of trout fishing opportunities for all skill levels and interests, and trout fisheries across the state continue to thrive. However, fisheries management goals and approaches are adaptive as angler demographics and desires shift, fishing access is gained and lost, and environmental conditions change. This evening's presentation will cover a range of topics relevant to Connecticut trout anglers and will highlight several Fisheries Division coldwater management programs.

Here are pictures from our annual day as well as our banquet several people took the pictures you see and I thank them for taking the time to do it. Vicki Rosenkrantz who does not fish does this for me at several of our events, thank you! And Ted you're a lucky man :-)





I'm not sure how many years Roger and Kurt have been putting together the annual show and dinner but it has been many. Much work goes into this all year so if you get a chance say thank you. Many others are involved also but they lead this for us. And Capt. Ray did a great job that evening entertaining us.



Ted Barbieri Award:

This annual award named after our first CFFA president (1967) is presented by CFFA 's current board of directors to a non Board member that has donated their time and effort, throughout this past year, to help our CFFA attain our goals.

This years recipient was a unanimous choice by our board of directors. Over the years this individual has volunteered his time and effort with many CFFA activities including our annual maintenance of trails along the Willimantic River TMA, assisting students in our Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Schools and at the American School for the Deaf where he uses his ability of signing with the hearing impaired individuals. He is also frequently a CFFA volunteer with the Newington Project Healing Water chapter where we partner with our friends at FVTU.

These efforts did not go unnoticed and our CFFA BOD presented this years Ted Barbieri award to Walter Malkauskas.

CFFA Board of Directors



Golden Woolly Bugger
Tied by Paul Dinice
tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com

Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

Golden Woolly Bugger

Hook: 6X or 4X Long Streamer hook Size #6 & #8.

Thread: Wood Duck or Gold 6/0 or 140 denier.

Bead: 5/32" 4.0mm Gold Bead.

Weight: Lead-free round wire .020.

Tail: Ginger Marabou.

Flash: Gold Holographic Flashabou.

Body: Gold tinsel Chenille, Large.

Hackle: Ginger Hackle.

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 .



As you all know CFFA has a fly tying program going on during winter introducing new Fly Fishers to fly tying and fishing. I want to thank Roger Martin for sending me these pictures of this year at Pitkin Community Center where Peter Naples and his help volunteer their time for this great program.



Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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