

# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

April 2024



## From the vest of the President



Our April meeting is on Monday the 15th at the **Pitkin Community Center at 30 Greenfield Street Wethersfield, CT** this is our permanent meeting place. On this night we will have our Fly Tyers round tables. Come see our best fly tyers show and tell their favorite flies and you can ask all the questions you like.

We hope to see you at our Fly Tiers Roundtable on April 15.  
Gary

Our March membership meeting featured Peter Aarrestad the Director of the Fisheries Division, Bureau of Natural Resources Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. His presentation summarized topics that are relevant to Connecticut trout anglers including the continuing flow management issue on the Farmington River. He made it clear that this is a very complicated issue that involves the MDC and the Army Corps of Engineers. We learned that bill HB5355 regarding this issue has made it out of committee and hopefully it will be supported enough to get this situation resolved. I encourage you to get educated on this problem and make a choice to assist to help obtain a favorable solution. We were formed many years ago with a mission to "Preserve and promote the pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Gamefish Waters. Now is the time to support that mission.

Our Beginning Freshwater Fly Fishing School will have completed the classroom sessions on April 11th and our students will participate in the outdoor classes on 4/27 and 5/4. Pete can always use volunteers to assist with these classes. Please consider paying your passion of fly fishing forward by attending these outings if you can. We have a dozen or so students enrolled in this years class. At least half of them took our Fly Tying School recently. Also coming to a conclusion is our Fly Tying lessons at the American School for the Deaf. It was a successful event led by Kevin Fuller once again this year. We were thrilled to have some recent new members of CFFA assist with these classes. Our partnership with FVTU assisting the Newington Chapter of Project Healing Waters continues to grow and thrive. We recently supported a casting clinic at the Middletown Community Center and a Fly Tying event at the American Legion Hall in Newington. Both event were very well attended and went smoothly.



Gary and friends went up state NY to Steelhead fish, something extra was caught :-)



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Dave Goulet's last trip to the Miramichi River that he loved



## Brother of the Angle has passed

My friend David Goulet passed on if your fairly new to fly fishing you did not know him, I was lucky and met him in the mid 80's. when you walked into his shop located on the Farmington River first thing you noticed he was not a warm and fuzzy guy. If he was tying flies sometimes, he did not even look up to you, not a good way to run a shop you might say? But after a bit he would talk to you and answer your questions, honestly. Some shops lie like hell about fishing conditions so you come up to fish even when it sucks



for one reason or another, not



Dave. He was the most generous shops to the clubs when they asked for donations. He is the reason I got into salt-water fishing when I won reel he donated for bigger lines, that

reel and some information he shared with me worked well on Atlantic Salmon in Russia as well. He put me on to Jerry Jahn for a casting lesson he helped me a great deal and we became friends. I was in Dave's shop one day brought up lunch for us a guy comes in with a cane rod he got a tag sale with a broken tip top. Dave stops eating takes a box of them out and a lighter. He starts to heat the tip to take it off the guy goes crazy yelling at him he will ruin his rod! Takes it from Dave and leaves we laugh I look out the window at his license plate and say a NYer! We laugh Dave says he will tell everyone what a asshole I am and when someone tells him it's the only way to replace a tip top he will never come back and apologize. We went back to eating, Dave would have made 50 cents on that tip top. another time a guy comes in says I never knew this shop was here! Dave says that's funny your president comes every year for a donation for your banquet, he knows how to find it. When a big box

outdoor store opened up and wanted some fly tyers to come and entertain people guys ran up there, I THINK they got a free soda from the store for doing that. Nobody offered to come to Dave's shop on a Saturday to tie and as I said Dave gave away over the years many thousands of dollars' worth on equipment to clubs. When I use to shop for HFFA for the monthly raffle would go to all our advertisers and ask for stuff for 40% off they all did that except Dave, he gave me 50% off. When the internet killed off shops like his closed and retired, in retirement he sold feathers to the Indians! He would dye leagle feathers to look like what they needed for clothing and head dress's I'm thinking he is the only white man to do that When he closed, I asked him for his phone number he asked me why I said so I could call him and bust his balls, he smiled and gave it to me. I was very very lucky to have him invite me to fish the Miramichi River and stay at his old camp house 3 times. I never landed a salmon but to say I did not have the time of my life with him and his friends would be an understatement, and we ate very well! Dave did all the cooking, shopping for food and driving.



Most people don't have a clue how much work he put into the Farmington River TMA from getting it, expanding it even down to stocking schedule's so the fish were not put in when fishing season was still closed except TMA's and so many fishermen who fished with bait would go up there and pound the hell out of the fresh

stocked fish, we lost a great many. He battled a cancer that had a very low success rate I THINK it was only 25% survival rate,



he was one of the ones that made it. At his home I saw many of the awards and recognition awards from many organizations he received over the years for all his work dedication to conservation. I'm sure his wife Betty will look at them to remind her of the great man that left us. Dave touched many lives, I saw this while in Canada fishing with him and at his house during one of his get togethers he and Betty hosted. Ben Bilello and I got to sit and talk with him at our show in February along with others who knew that would be our last time. Tight Lines Dave thanks for all you did and for your friendship for many years that some of us were lucky to have.



Kenya, a world apart, and a unique fly fishing experience.

Jonathan Goldman



Oct . 2023. I embarked on a trip that I never thought I would take. My wife and I have been active collecting books and educational materials to send to Kenya with a Connecti-

cut based group, the American Friends of Kenya, (AFK.) Since 2004, AFK's mission is to work with the people of Kenya, to primarily help community-based libraries, and facilitate educational networking. This was my first trip to Kenya, my wife's fourth. My job on this trip was not part of the common mission. I was there to teach oral hygiene to what turned out to be several hundred poor rural kids that attend our partner libraries. Whenever I travel, I look for local fly fishing opportunities. Who would think.... Kenya, a fly fishing destination?

Trout are not native to Kenya, and were introduced by the British in 1905. The British government promoted fly fishing as a means to lure new settlers to Kenya. In 1919, the Kenya Angling Association was founded, and in 1921, the Association was granted exclusive access to the waters of the North and South Mathioya Rivers. Trout fishing in Kenya became well known through-out the British empire. Noted American fishing writer, adventurer, and foreign correspondent Negley Farson wrote about Kenya in the 1950's. He was unabashedly positive about his fishing experience there.

He wrote: **"Kenya has some trout streams that make you thankful just to be alive.... No visitor to that majestic part of the world should fail to take his rods with him. If he does, he will miss one of the most exhilarating experiences that the colony can offer."** The British colonial period lasted from 1920 until 1963. Independence was won following the Mau Mau revolt (1952-1960.) The Kenyans have only a few good things to say about the Europeans during this period. They brought health care, education and yes, trout fishing.

I set my alarm for an early departure from our hotel in Nyeri. We hit the road at day break in our modified

Toyota Land Cruiser. The area around Mt. Kenya is lush and green. Mt. Kenya is the second tallest peak in Africa. It stands at over 17,000 feet, and Nyeri is over 5,700 feet above sea level. We kept climbing for the first hour or so. The roads are challenging under the best of circumstances. Trucks often slow travel to a crawl, and passing can be impossible. We eventually found our way up into foothills that were covered with tea plantations as far as the eye could see. The overnight rains had stopped, but skies can open up at any time during the fall rainy season. I never did see the peak of Mt. Kenya, it was always surrounded by clouds.

Maybe it was the traffic or the anticipation, but it seemed to take forever to get out of the city. Once you get off of the main roads, the red clay road surfaces are often rugged and deeply gouged by runoff. We missed the sign for the Aberdare Cottages the first time, and had to backtrack. The final narrow mile of road was blocked by a truck going



the opposite direction, but we managed to squeeze by without falling off into the roadside ditch.

The narrow two-way road to the Aberdare Cottages.

You never know what you'll find

with accommodations. We had some hotels that had nicely manicured gardens and multiple swimming pools, but lacked shower curtains and had leaky pipes. The Aberdare Cottages however, exceeded my expectations. (The Aberdare Cottages and Fishing Lodge on the Mathioya River. <https://www.aberdarecottages.co.ke/>) The buildings were rustic, but clean and well maintained. They were balanced on a step hillside overlooking the river. A small waterfall cascaded downward next to the outdoor dining area.

My companions for the day of fishing were Jimmy Ndiritu (our AFK Kenyan contact,) and Joann Todd who also traveled from CT with AFK. Jimmy had never fished before, and it had been years since Joann had flyfished. I couldn't have asked for more enjoyable companions. Joann always has a smile on her face, and Jimmy exudes a contagious youthful enthusiasm. I knew that I was in for a good day, even if we got skunked. We didn't.

The Mathioya River is one of many rivers that originate from Mt. Kenya's snow covered peak. It is small, fast moving, clear and cold. The banks are surrounded by

communally operated tea plantations and cow pastures. We met our guide, John, at the cottages, and proceeded down a narrow road to cross a bridge over the river where a fishing camp had stood during the colonial period. The camp (image is of the rebuilt camp) had been burnt to the



ground by the Mau Mau. John's mother had been imprisoned in a detention camp during the rebellion. He was born into captivity in that camp.

John and the rebuilt private flyfishing camp.



John knew every rock and back eddy where the fish were feeding. It didn't take long to hook-up. The trout were small but plentiful. (In lakes closer to Mt.

Kenya, 4 lb. rainbows are not uncommon.) All the fish we caught were native rainbows with brilliant coloration. We fished nymphs, sometimes supplemented with live grass-hoppers.

I used a fly rod that was a mashup of three different rods. The tip had been repaired and shortened. None of that mattered. It only added to the unique experience of the day. John got me situated first, and I hooked up in just a few casts. I was catching a fish on every third or fourth cast, and eventually moved upstream closer to join the rest of our group. That is where I tried to fish the opposite bank and fell into the swirling current. Jimmy saw me go in, and helped me back to my feet.

Success came easily to our group, with everyone catching upwards of six fish a piece within a few hours. We brought enough back to the lodge to have the chef prepare a fish lunch.

## Soaring High with Eagles

I'm fortunate enough to be Fly Fisherman Man of the Year, Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Lesson in Life that I have learned from this.

Passion drives a person to go beyond doing ordinary.

You get out of life what you give to it.

Be an active participant rather than an observer.

You don't get to the top easy.

It's a multi-level of steps.

Each step requires mastery before moving to the next level.

That gives it a solid support under you. It can take some time.

There are no short cuts to excellence or the top.

No one can get to the top by themselves.

Friends, family, workers must accept your concepts and be onboard.

It's their firm support under you that enables you to build the next step in your staircase.

Critics and naysayers will impede your journey.

Their thoughts and actions will muddy the waters.

But a passionate, focused person learns to swim in any kind of water.

Enjoy the ride. It doesn't last long.



Holy Grail Caddis Pupa

Tied by Paul Dinice

[tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com](http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com)



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There is always room for improvement and new vision, even at the top.

Don't rest on your laurels. Teach them to others to shorten their learning curve.

People have to accept you and buy into your philosophy; it can't be pragmatic.

It has to be sound knowledge and information based on good experiences and success.

You toot your horn too much; nobody will listen anymore to the signal.

Be humble and except constructive criticism, evaluate the source, and make needed changes.

Be true to yourselves and others.

If you can look in the mirror at the end of the day and be satisfied of your tasks, it's time to go to bed. Lights out!

Thank you CFFA for such a humbling honor bestowed to me. Capt. Ray

Capt. Ray Stachelek

## Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

### Holy Grail Caddis Pupa

**Hook:** Curved Emerger or Nymph Hook Size #12 - #16.

**Thread:** Red Thread.

**Bead:** 3/32" 2.4 mm Gold Bead.

**Rib:** Opal or Pearlescent tinsel or Flash-a-bou.

**Body:** Hare's Mask Dubbing.

**Wingcase:** Pheasant Tail Fibers.

**Body:** Gold tinsel Chenille, Large.

**Hackle:** Partridge.

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](mailto:pdinice@frontier.com) .



Guide fees were very reasonable, and a modest tip was enormously appreciated. Lodging with a

full meal plan is also available at the Aberdare Cottages. If I were to go back, I would make sure to bring water shoes, a 5wt. travel rod, and a wading stick to negotiate the strong currents.

When fishing the national parks, in addition to your guide, you will often be accompanied by a park ranger. This is for your protection. The concern is not from humans, but from the wild life (cape buffalo, leopards, elephants, and hyenas.) Some rangers even carry assault rifles. They are forbidden to shoot any of the protected species. Poachers, on the other hand, may be considered fair game.

Another remnant of the British flyfishing history is the Trout Tree Restaurant in the town of Nanyuki. ([trout-tree.com](http://trout-tree.com)) It's a beautiful tree house setting overlooking trout pools that were originally built by the British as



a hatchery in the 1920's. All the fish on the menu come from the trout pools. The food was excellent,



and you can't beat the ambiance. The dining room is constructed around a huge fig tree. These large fig trees are said to be magical. Legend has it that if a man walks around one of these sacred trees seven times in the same direction, he will change into a woman.

Time to enjoy a Tusker with my friend Kelvin at the Trout Tree Restaurant.

There is also a long-standing tradition of fly tying that is mostly done as a cottage industry. Sales of locally tied flies help to supplement family incomes. Up to 35 percent of commercially sold flies in Europe are tied in Kenya.

Now, I wouldn't go to Kenya just for the flyfishing. There are so many other reasons to make this trip. You can go on safari and experience wild life in their natural setting (lions, elephants, rhinos, water buffalo, leopards, zebras, hippos, and many more.) You will meet some of the nicest people, and the most beautiful and best-behaved children found on earth.

For additional information see:

"Africa: The real skinny on trout fishing in Kenya." <https://www.anglingreport.com/article/3308/#:~:text=Fly%20fishing%20was%20something%20the,through%20overhanging%20bushes%20and%20trees.>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RE9IirYS1Kc>

Africa trout fishing attracts less attention than it's wildlife, but is more hands on

[https://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill\\_monroe/2014/06/post\\_115.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill_monroe/2014/06/post_115.html)



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