

# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

From the vest of the President

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG



September 2024



school in 1984 when I 1st met him and he taught me how to tie my first fly. Gary's character was of the highest quality and I really miss our frequent conversations about fishing and life in general. Gary joined CFFA in 1972 and continued to volunteer his time in one way or another until the very end. I hope many of you had a chance to get to know this man as I did over the years. Here is a link to his obituary in case you have not read it. [https://www.carmonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Gary-L-Bogli?obId=32201138&fbclid=IwY2xjawEhtixleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHfsAmdaWpGz3sBCAB5j9Qcfcg0QPpPetnrLYJbCLydPA0KNWc\\_oigDi5k6g\\_aem\\_sJZ60gbSvlwL-s9OsL-ffa](https://www.carmonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Gary-L-Bogli?obId=32201138&fbclid=IwY2xjawEhtixleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHfsAmdaWpGz3sBCAB5j9Qcfcg0QPpPetnrLYJbCLydPA0KNWc_oigDi5k6g_aem_sJZ60gbSvlwL-s9OsL-ffa)

I hope to see many of you at our September 16 meeting when John Field presents a program "Fly Fishing for Trophy Striped Bass".

Fall is fast approaching and let's hope it's much cooler than the continuous summer heat waves we have recently experienced. I hope all of you have had the chance to get out and target your favorite gamefish. I got out enough to keep me happy and was very encouraged with the management of the flows on the Farmington River this summer compared to the last few. Many of you wrote your legislators in support of HB 5355 regarding the flows. As a result, this bill was passed and signed by our governor. I hope this had something to do with improved flows this summer and I thank all of you once again that contributed.

Since we last met CFFA members have continued to assist in promoting the pleasures and traditions of fly fishing throughout the summer. Many of you have continued to lend a hand with the Newington Chapter of Project Healing Waters during their outings, zoom calls and fly-tying sessions. We also had a group of members led by Pete Naples perform fly tying instructions at the 3rd annual Aquatic Insects of Connecticut Fly Tying Workshop on the UConn Campus. Your contributions are much appreciated. As we move forward, we have another opportunity to share your fly-fishing passion. This summer I was contacted by Mark Alpert mark.alpert@snet.net who is looking for Fly Fishing Mentors for the 2025 season of "The Mayfly Project" a national nonprofit that mentor's children in foster care with the sport of fly fishing. Mark is planning to speak about the project prior to one of our upcoming membership meetings but feel free to contact him before that happens if you have an interest in participating. I did put a Mayfly Project flyer on our CFFA Facebook Page.

Most of you know that we lost a valuable longtime member and past president of CFFA this summer. Gary Bogli passed away on June 29, 2024. Gary was a best friend of mine for many years and I consider myself lucky to have known this man. He was an instructor in our fly-tying

Gary



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John Field will be our speaker on September 16th

“John will give a presentation on the subjects in his latest book, *Fly Fishing for Trophy Striped Bass*. These include a current look at striper habits, timing, location, techniques, flies and tackle to get the job done, wherever there are big stripers. He'll share info on top guides, innovative flies, and answers from marine biologists on striper behavior, the effects of climate change, and much more. His 270 page, 8 1/2" by 11" hardcover contains

300 illustrations, including 50 fly photos with recipes. John will have books on hand and will be happy to sign them for you.



## \*PROTECTING SOLITUDE & PRESERVING SECRETS IN FLY FISHING

By Carl Ochnio

December 26, 2023



One day while scouting for new water, you stumbled on an amazing honey hole located well off the beaten path. A special place you have since called your own. Just thinking about it brings a smile to your face. This may have occurred last week or fifteen years ago. The exact time of the discovery is not as important as to what happened next.

It seems a treasure has been uncovered. In a world where finding solitude has become increasingly difficult, should the lucky pathfinder feel compelled to share this information with their inner fishing circle? Will there be just a tinge of guilt if one chooses not to? What are the guidelines for this particular situation?

Before you start shouting “eureka,” consider this.

On January 24, 1848, a carpenter named James W. Marshall was working at a sawmill on the American River near Placerville, California when he discovered gold in the mill’s tailrace. He immediately informed his employer John Sutter, who then requested his workers to keep a tight lid on the discovery. The problem? The find was just too momentous to be kept quiet. Once the news started to spread proclaiming there was “gold in them thar hills,” 49ers soon flocked to California and the gold rush was underway.

Those nuggets in the raceway lured prospectors, miners and other hopefuls that dreamed of cashing in on the bonanza and striking it rich. It wasn’t long before the state’s population expanded from an estimated 8,000 residents in 1840 to around 100,000 in 1850. As a result, California simply skipped being a territory and quickly achieved statehood.

In retrospect, James Marshall and John Sutter probably lamented being unable to have kept their discovery secret. Things snowballed so dramatically that between 1848 and 1855 it is estimated that 750,000 pounds of gold was mined in California. Sadly, neither Sutter nor Marshall ever profited from the discovery that should have brought them great wealth.

On a much more modest scale, I struck the motherload a few years ago when the opportunity to retire came along. My goal these days is to devote as much time as possible wading in moving water which has resulted in a steady

rise in my share of newly discovered sweet spots.

During the spring and summer, I make an effort to be on the water early. Love those morning drives as I am bursting with optimism, caffeine and probably listening to my favorite tunes. Just chugging down the road at a very unhurried pace. I’ll glance in the rear-view mirror and often notice a line of five or six vehicles right on my tail. My standard maneuver is to pull over, allow them pass and let them get to wherever they need to be. The drivers speed by. Their hands clenched to their steering wheel while they seem to be leaning slightly forward, trying to coax their vehicle to go even faster. Commuters. I’ll smile and mutter “I’m retired, you’re not, have a nice day.”

These days I spend most of my time fishing alone and often this is not by choice. As I have aged my circle of angling sidekicks has dwindled. Some are helping to take care of grandchildren and others are caretakers to aging parents. Some couple have experienced their own short term health issues and are rehabbing one joint or another. A few have sadly passed on.

Without question, fishing solo does play a role in keeping these new discoveries from being in the limelight, but it does have drawbacks. One of the major shortcomings is the lack of camaraderie. It also erases any opportunity to reminisce about shared memories with someone at a future date. On the favorable side, it’s nice to have someone along, particularly if they have more experience. Should one be unable to figure out what’s going on, a knowledgeable partner could offer insight that could salvage an otherwise poor outing. Of course, it’s wise to have someone along in the event you take a spill or ever need assistance. Although most excursions start and end without incident, situations can come up on a fishing trip and having a friend along could prove to be indispensable.

Sure, fishing alone is risky, but so is bringing someone along to a place you consider to be gold. It wasn’t long ago that I was more than willing to share locations with fellow anglers. Today, I’m a bit more reluctant to do so. Should one divulge a find to just a single angler and it turns out to be an unprincipled person, things can start spiraling downhill rapidly. Yeah, they swore not to share the news with anyone. Often this oath might last until they are with another friend and utter, “I know a place, but you have to promise to keep it hush-hush.” Then the word could spread like wildfire. A trust has been broken, your cherished spot might be burned and a friendship

maybe irreversibly singed.

Ben Franklin offered great insight on how to keep things on the down low, "Three can keep a secret, only if two of them are dead."

As many of you know, it takes time and a bit of luck to find honey holes. If you choose to share a tip on a hot spot and someone broadcasts it, it does kind of force you step back and reassess your choices. Today, I'll tend to reveal them judiciously and often to people who have shared some of their prime locations with me. Recently, I met a very knowledgeable angler who revealed a few of his favorite spots and was kind enough to guide me into landing my first Atlantic Salmon. In return, I have shared some with him. To this point, it has worked out well and as far as I know, our swaps have remained as they say, "in the vault."

Now don't get the wrong idea, it's not that I choose to be alone and dislike being around others. I would never consider going to a movie, concert or a baseball game by myself. Yet somehow, fishing solo doesn't seem that unusual. I will disclose that I tend to have better focus when fishing alone and the days can be less complicated as I can come and go as I please. There are also instances when it is much more pleasant to go solo, so it is wise to cherry-pick your angling partners. It could be a long day when you're fishing with someone who consistently jumps ahead on pools. Then they proceed to blow them up by stumbling and fumbling around and then proceed to whip the water into a lather.

Recently, I was completely caught off guard by one of my new angling partners. We were fishing a rather secluded spot on a river which necessitated a bit of a hike to get to. He was dredging the bottom of a run with nymphs just upriver from me. Suddenly, I heard something other than the sound of rushing water. I couldn't make it out at first, but it sounded like someone singing. Behold, it was. Seems that particular evening was karaoke night and he was practicing. Not a dealbreaker, but it was amusing to hear someone belting out Taxi by Harry Chapin while on the river. It is hard to predict what a day might be like with a new river companion.

Last spring, I bumped into an angler who was committed to spending time on the river alone. He was fishing with his dog in a fairly out-of-the-way area. I stopped to say hi and see how he was doing. He seemed like a nice guy; I mean he did have a dog. We yakked for a while and I asked him if he happened to be a member of our statewide fly-fishing association. He replied that he wasn't and so I

encouraged him to consider joining. He looked at me and quite frankly said he preferred not to be around other people. He went on to explain he was a logger and chose the profession because he could often work alone. He also golfed as it allowed him to compete against himself and had just recently purchased a kayak so he could fish for striped bass. He said he specifically chose a kayak because he did not have to take anyone along except his dog. I have to admit his plan was really well thought out. I began to feel I was intruding and did not want to take up any more of his time, so I wished him well and simply moved on.

The reality is the more you fish, the greater your chances of uncovering some outstanding new locations. What one chooses to do with this acquired information is a personal decision. The quandary often revolves around a simple question, is it appropriate to keep to some of your waterway discoveries to yourself?

Of course, the easiest way to sidestep this predicament is to fish alone. By simply going solo, you can lay "claim" to your discoveries and become a charter member of the Federation of Tight-Lipped Anglers. For many, fishing solo just isn't very appealing. So, what are some strategies that can be used to help balance the dilemma of safeguarding prized locations and sharing river time with others?

Initially, take the time to carefully vet fishing partners. Allow relationships to develop at their own pace and don't go blabbing away all you know on your first outing with someone new. Do consider yourself an extremely lucky person if you already have one or a number of trusted angling compadres. Be sure to nurture those relationships, and do not take them for granted. If you plan to travel with someone, here are some traits to look for. Try to vacation with someone who is flexible, adaptive, and doesn't have a limited palate when it comes to food. Ideally, they enjoy listening to music from a variety of genres and are not stingy tippers.

Not long ago, I was sliding into my waders on a river in southwestern Colorado when a SUV pulled up. The windows were decked out with an assortment of fly-fishing stickers and it had a very nice rod vault mounted on its roof. An angler eagerly jumped out and had the look of a fellow who knew what he was doing. I heard the passenger door shut and around the vehicle came his girlfriend or wife, also looking very accomplished and ready for whatever the day would bring her way. My immediate thought was how nice it must be to have a significant

other to share your passion with. I thought of Joan and Lee Wulff and how they travelled the world together, laying out fly line in some of the world's most famous destinations. Then my mind quickly turned to a Seinfeld episode where there was concern about "worlds colliding" when independent George encounters relationship George. I cannot offer any further insight on this matter and simply offer congratulations to the couples who make fishing together work.

If you're extremely fortunate, one of the greatest river pairings is having the opportunity to fish with your eager children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces. In that case, it seems the appropriate thing to do is to share everything you know and treasure every possible moment.

What are some of the covert and clandestine tactics anglers can use to help conceal and keep some of their favorite places off the radar screen?

Consider parking your vehicle in a pull out that is nowhere near where you plan to fish. If your car is regularly parked right next to your desired run, people get curious.

Try not to leave boot prints along the bank. The old mantra for being in the woods was take pictures and only leave foot prints. I encourage you to avoid leaving foot prints because foot prints tell stories. Make an effort to vaporize every trace of your presence. Some folks will judge the popularity and quality of a pool just by the number of people who seem to be fishing it.

If you are fishing one of your favorite spots and another angler comes along, consider slowing you're roll. A number of years ago I was fishing a small run on a stream and there wasn't a soul around. I was fortunate to net a few fish within a very short span. While I was unhooking one of the fish, I happened to look up and spotted another angler on the bank. Next thing I knew, he was standing right next to me tossing a streamer. He was so close I probably could have read the numerals on his fishing license. Ugh. Since that experience, I try to limit my catches in front of an audience. If someone comes along and I know they are watching, I'll pull in my line and work on my leader or adjust my split shot for a few minutes. Most onlookers get bored pretty quickly and move on. This dodge generally works pretty well.

One of the most popular methods of sharing a river

is "fishing alone, together." You can share a drainage with a partner by having one angler working upstream and the other down. Another option is to choose to hopscotch a stream by alternating pools throughout the day.

Ultimately, the way you choose to spend time on the water is up to you. Continue to have fun wandering the waterways. Keep in mind the more one explores, the greater the chance of uncovering new locations. The joy of finding something pristine is special and what many anglers are seeking. How you choose to reveal them to others is a decision you will have to make on your own.

**P.S. Some anonymous angler comments regarding fishing alone versus with others:**

I fish alone 90% of the time and the other 10% of the time I wish I was alone.

I prefer to go with a friend. It helps to motivate me to wake up at 3 a.m. and drive 2 hours.

Fishing alone is completely normal. That's why so many grumpy old bastard's fish.

It's fun to share good catches with your friends... but you can always share your catch at the dinner table too.

I like fishing with people sometimes, it lets you talk and all that, but fishing is probably the number one activity that's acceptable to do alone.

Fishing alone is great you can basically do what you want with no pushback from others on any matter. As far as sharing your catch everyone has a smartphone nowadays just take a pic you don't have to share the food.

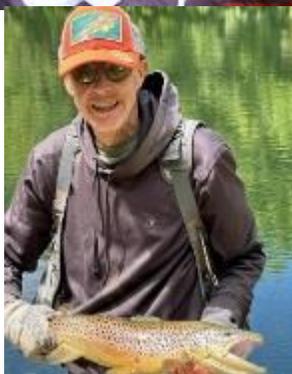
Have fun and continue to stay well!



May was a very busy month. Once again Rick Liegl ran our annual Gary La Fontaine day on the Salmon river, Kevin Fuller and his volunteers took the kids from the American School for the deaf fishing at a private club while those members fed everyone and took the kids in their boats out in the lake to fish. Of course many of us went fishing with friends I thank everyone for submitting the pictures you see. Always looking for more pictures from members



June 7,8 &9 several of us went to a Tenkara Campout in NH. What a great group! Kevin Fuller won the casting contest his buddy Luong Tanuki presented him with beautiful rod. It rained all weekend but you can see nothing stopped the smiles



Jack and Liam got some nice bass. Ron with a nice brown.



Reese's Fusion Nymph  
Tied by Paul Dinice  
[Tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com](http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com)

### Paul's FLY OF THE MONTH

#### Reese's Fusion Nymph

**Hook:** Tactical Czech Nymph Hook, Size #14 & #16.

**Thread:** Brown 8/0 or 70 denier.

**Bead:** 7/64" 2.8 mm Gold or Mottled Brown-Bead.

**Tail:** Amber or Root Beer Krystal Flash.

**Body:** Amber or Brown Ultra Wire.

**Under Body:** Tan or Brown Ostrich Herl.

**Thorax:** Peacock Ice Dub.

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) .





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