

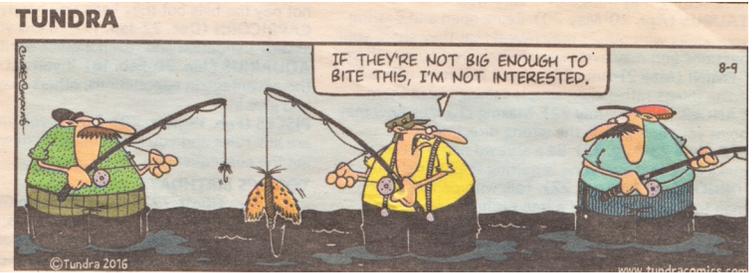
# The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

From the vest of the President



January 21 is our meeting



*I hope all of you enjoyed your holiday season and I wish each of you happiness and good health throughout this coming year. Our December meeting went well and was supported with a good number of CFFA members. Jeff Yates took us through a number of freshwater and saltwater fly fishing locations in Fairfield county. His dedication to Fly Fishing and conservation came through loud and clear.*

*Our preparations are currently in progress for our annual February Expo and Banquet. As you know this is our biggest and only fundraising event of the year. Supporting your CFFA by attending one or both of these events is very much appreciated. A list of vendors and programs will be continually updated and posted on our CFFA website and our Facebook Page.*

*The upcoming January 21 membership meeting will once again be Pizza & Movie night. This meeting also features our annual election of officers. I can tell you that each of our current elected officers have agreed to retain their positions for another year and most all of the appointed positions remain filled also. As always we welcome any interest and all questions about these positions so feel free to inquire and we will be glad to answer them.*

*Some other local events that will help shake your winter doldrums are happening this winter. These may interest you. Marlborough Fly Fishing Show January 17, 18, 19, Connecticut River Salmon Association Banquet on January 11th and the Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited Banquet on March 15th. These links will give you the details about each event.*

*<https://www.ctriversalmon.org/>  
<https://www.fvtu.org/> <https://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/>  
Gary*



The state has done a great job this year with our Salmon program. The fish are a bit bigger and there are a few more of them. They also have a tagging program going on to see what these fish do in their time in our rivers, should be exciting to see the results.

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Our January Meeting is on Tuesday the 21st we will have Piz-  
za and a movie on that night. You will notice the membership  
form as well as banquet form on the next page you can print  
and send one form now.

Please circle one: Change of address, New Member, Membership renewal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Structure:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior ( 21 yrs ) \$5.00

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \$25.00

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting \$30.00

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing \$75.00

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Life Member \$300.00

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Anyone interested in serving on any committee, please speak with a Board member.

Make check payable to “CFFA” and SEND TO: CFFA P.O. Box 380268 East Hartford, CT 06138-0268

Please, when mailing in payment for renewal, if no information has changed write in your name and be sure your e-mail is current. After the mail is sorted I only see the renewal form, not the check

## **CFFA 2025 Banquet Dinner Reservation Saturday February 1, 2025**

### **Nomads Adventure Quest 100 Bidwell Ave, S.Windsor, CT**

You are invited to attend this year’s annual fundraiser and banquet celebration. Come out and enjoy a night of camaraderie, a great speaker’s presentation and some “tall fish tales”.

Cocktails, cash bar and preview of prizes from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Seating is on a “first come first served basis” If you wish to reserve an entire table (8 seats) you must contact Phil Apruzzese @ 860-489-4319 or pjapruz@aol.com. This year the dinner is a **BUFFET style dinner for \$55.00 per guest. Just fill out the form below and mail with your check.**

**Mail this Reservation Form and your Check by 1/27/2025  
TO: Mr. Phil Apruzzese 1369 Mountain Rd. Torrington Ct. 06790**

**Please Make Your Check out to CFFA**

**If you need a Gluten Free option please circle your preference below  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Number of Reservations@ \$55.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association Inc.

## FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

*featuring* Author Bob Romano

Bob Romano and his wife, Trish, have owned a camp in the Rangeley Lakes Region of western Maine for nearly forty years. Using the rivers and streams of western Maine as his literary canvas, Bob captures the unique experience of fishing in a part of northern New England where it's not unusual to encounter a moose or black bear, perhaps an otter or mink, while working a streamer through thigh-thumping rapids of pristine rivers or a soft-hackled wet fly across the fog-covered surface of a backwoods pond.



His latest book, RETURN TO RANGELEY, is a novel set in this region of the country where the native brook trout are as large as you'll find south of Labrador and the landlocked salmon, originally introduced in the late 1800s, have long since gone wild as they continue to leap through the surface at the prick of a hook.

Bob will be providing a program for the Expo that will highlight the Rangeley Region's favorite fly patterns. As entertaining as he is informative, Bob will take you on a tour of Upper Dam, as well as the Magalloway, Kennebago, Cupsuptic, and Rapid Rivers while describing the fly patterns favored by the region's local guides and its prominent fly tyers.

Whether expert or novice, young or old, if you've fished, or ever wished to fish, in country where the brook trout are as wild as the moose that trod the river banks, you'll enjoy Bob's program.

**For online reservations & more info: [CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org)**

**Nomads Adventure Quest, 100 Bidwell Ave, S. Windsor, CT**

### EXPO

**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**\$5 admission**

**Children under 16 FREE**

- Presentations
- Fly Tyers Row
- Vendor tables

### BANQUET

**Bucket Raffle & Presentation**

**\$55 per person**

5:30 p.m. Cocktails & Raffle viewing

6:30 p.m. Dinner, Presentation, & Drawings

**Reservations: [CTFlyFish.org](http://CTFlyFish.org) OR**

Phil Apruzzese: (860) 489-4319 - [pjapruz@aol.com](mailto:pjapruz@aol.com)

**RSVP by January 27, 2025**

*Open seating or reserved tables of 8*

## Reeling In The Years

By Carl Ochnio

[carl.ochnio@gmail.com](mailto:carl.ochnio@gmail.com)



It was one of the first beautiful days of spring, and my wife and I were eager to make the most of it. The increased sunshine that followed the spring solstice awakened the forest and energized us after a long, cold winter. We couldn't resist the call of the outdoors, so we decided to hike a trail that meanders along our local river—the sound of flowing water and the possibility of spotting bald eagles and ospreys added to our excitement.

As we started our walk, I spotted an angler in the water that I immediately recognized. I called out his name, and he turned to wave and eagerly waded back to shore. This unexpected encounter allowed me to reminisce with an old friend, making the day even more enjoyable.

It's hard to believe that over half a century has passed since we graduated from high school. The years have certainly flown by. We first met when I started seventh grade, living just a stone's throw away from each other's homes. We walked to school together, played football and baseball, rode sleds and skated in the winter, and embarked on countless summer adventures on our bikes.

Reflecting on those wonderful days, our tight circle of friends (Ed, Chet, and Steve) developed a passion for the great outdoors and fishing, sometimes prioritizing those experiences over our academics. During spring trout season, we spent as much time as possible wading in rivers and streams. While students today dream of escaping to southern Florida or Cancun beaches during spring break, we spent our break camping in the state forest and honing our angling skills. Those simple adventures helped shape our appreciation for nature and created lasting memories. Our shared pursuit of the outdoor life and the experience of skipping class to go fishing bonded us in a way that few other things could.

Not long ago, I discovered some high school attendance

reports documenting our group skipping class together to go fishing. These spontaneous trips were filled with adventure and camaraderie. We had so much fun on those non-sanctioned school outings.

At the time, many observers might have thought we were carelessly allowing opportunities to slip through our fingers. As teenagers, we tended to focus on the moment and were not giving much thought to the future. Thankfully, we moved through those teenage years with minimal chaos. In this instance, the adage "experience is the best teacher" fits and is accurate. As we matured and embraced new adventures, such as attending college, pursuing advanced degrees, and entering the workforce, we ultimately led lives we may have never foreseen. We became husbands and homeowners and started families, demonstrating that our motley group could flourish and make meaningful societal contributions. It's uplifting to look back on how far we've come. Who would have imagined that our journeys would be so amazing? We may have surprised ourselves, and if our high school guidance counselors had kept a list, we probably would have been prominently featured on the track of least likely to succeed. The contrast between our carefree, adventurous youth and responsible, successful adulthood is pretty dramatic. Still, this very contrast makes our past much more treasured and helps make our present so fulfilling.

After catching up on what had happened since we last spoke, I asked how the fishing was and if he had any luck. He replied that he was having a good day, and earlier that morning, he had hooked a huge rainbow trout in one of his favorite pools. While wading downriver, he encountered two anglers sitting on the bank. He asked them how they were doing, and they informed him that they had spotted a giant fish in the pool.

Despite spending considerable time trying to catch it, their efforts ultimately fell short, leading them to give up.

My friend asked if they minded him taking a crack at it. The anglers welcomed him to do so since they were utterly baffled. After just a few casts, that rainbow took his offering, and the battle ensued. He fought with the fish for a while before it managed to head downstream into the strong current and shook off the hook.

Let's not view the loss as a reflection of his fishing skills. With years of experience and having landed more than a few impressive trophies, he and other seasoned anglers understand that some fish have extraordinarily long lifespans for a reason. These clever river veterans had probably encountered hooks before and developed effective escape tactics. When they sense the tension of the line, they instinctively dart toward brush piles, sharp rocks, ledges, and strong currents, significantly boosting their chances of breaking free and often breaking the heart of the person on the other end of the line. Frequently referred to as a long-distance release or LDR, which can happen when one tangles with an exceptional fish.

After a while, it was time to continue with our day. I congratulated him on the success of his outing and expressed how nice it was to see him. My wife and I resumed our hike upstream while he waded back into the river. The comfort of the conversation, the shared memories that felt as fresh as yesterday, and the warm feeling of reconnecting with an old friend made it hard to believe how much time had passed.

Laurie and I had only traveled about a mile upriver when we spotted two anglers sitting on the riverbank. We greeted them, and I suspected they might be the same fishermen my friend had met earlier. As it turned out, they were. The pair, a father and son from the West Coast, were visiting with relatives on their annual spring trip to New England. As part of their tradition, they dedicated a whole day to fishing, hoping to catch brook trout, a special treat for San Diego residents.

I asked if they had been successful in their quest, and they replied that they had yet to catch any brookies. They had spent most of the morning trying to catch a large trout they had spotted in a pool right below where they were sitting. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful and were taking a short break before returning to the water. They did mention that an "old timer" had come by not long before and managed to hook the fish after just a few casts. They watched him battle with it before the fish slipped off the hook.

I quickly realized that the "old timer" they mentioned was my good high school friend. I found this incredibly

amusing and was tempted to sprint downstream to share how these anglers had described him. It made me laugh, but it also sparked a realization—how did I reach a point where the term "old timer" applies to someone I graduated with?

This day served as a reminder that time continuously moves forward, even if we don't always take notice. Although I didn't cast a line that day, unexpectedly running into an old friend allowed me to "hook up" with my past. Life can get so busy that we often leave some memories behind. Spending time with a friend helps us revisit those moments that may have slipped away, enabling us to appreciate what we might have forgotten. It's incredible how a simple conversation can revive those memories and allow us to celebrate the past.

*"Get it while you can.*

*After that, it's too late," Janis Joplin.*



Took a new friend Salmon fishing. He never caught one I was hoping he would get one, he got 2 it was a great day. I didn't get any :-)



Isonychia Soft Hackle  
Tied by Paul Dinice  
[Tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com](http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com)



## FLY OF THE MONTH

### Isonychia Soft Hackle

**Hook:** Fulling Mill 5085 Nymph Hook, Size #12.

**Thread:** UTC Brown or Wood Duck 70 denier.

**Rib:** Small Gold Ultra Wire.

**Tail:** 6-8 Pheasant Tail Fibers.

**Dorsal Stripe:** White UTC 140 Denier Thread or White Floss.

**Abdomen:** Isonychia-colored Dubbing.

**Thorax:** Peacock herl 3-4 strands.

**Collar:** Hen Feather, mottled brown.

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) .

# Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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