

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG March 17 2025

Kurt and Roger want to thank all the great people that come forward each year to help them set up take down work during the show maning the tables and help them run this event. Without all of you it would never be able to happen.



From the vest of the President



Well we managed to pull off a full day of Fly Fishing related activities in the middle of winter once again. The day began early for many of us and continued throughout the evening and half-way through the night. Once again Roger coordinated our Expo and Kurt coordinated our banquet and both deserve our thanks for taking on these events and doing such a wonderful job. Since we moved to Nomads it has been a nice venue for the day and by the size of the crowd I think most of our vendors agree. Having the added space to learn to cast a fly line has been a great addition to our Expo the last few years. The Expo, as always, had something for everyone. We were thrilled to have so many great fly tiers demonstrating their skills to anyone that wanted to learn and a nice variety of vendors displaying their goods to our patrons. In a room away from the main event fly fishing seminars were conducted by our featured guest Bob Romano and local guide and author Steve Culton. Both seminars went well and were well attended. I have enjoyed this day from the beginning when the event was held at the Colony in Vernon many years ago. As an avid Fly Tier I always find items that I need for the upcoming season and I always run into someone that I have not seen in years and I enjoy catching up.

Our banquet began with cocktails and appetizers at 5:30 pm. Phil and Aaron did a great job checking everyone in to their assigned table seating and Kurt's children along with a friend were in control of distributing tickets for our annual fundraising raffle. A buffet style dinner followed the cocktail hour along with a yearly review of our accomplishments and the presentation of the Ted Barbieri and Scarlett Ibis awards. Our featured guest Bob Romano followed and presented a wonderful program and last but not least our annual fundraising raffle was conducted. I hope many of you reading this were lucky enough to win a prize.

Well we managed to pull off a full day of Fly Fishing related activities in the middle of winter once again. The day began early for many of us and continued throughout the evening and half-

way through the night. Once again Roger coordinated our Expo and Kurt coordinated our banquet and both deserve our thanks for taking on these events and doing such a wonderful job. Since we moved to Nomads it has been a nice venue for the day and by the size of the crowd I think most of our vendors agree. Having the added space to learn to cast a fly line has been a great addition to our Expo the last few years. The Expo, as always, had something for everyone. We were thrilled to have so many great fly tiers demonstrating their skills to anyone that wanted to learn and a nice variety of vendors displaying their goods to our patrons. In a room away from the main event fly fishing seminars were conducted by our featured guest Bob Romano and local guide and author Steve Culton. Both seminars went well and were well attended. I have enjoyed this day from the beginning when the event was held at the Colony in Vernon many years ago. As an avid Fly Tier I always find items that I need for the upcoming season and I always run into someone that I have not seen in years and I enjoy catching up.

This day would not happen if it were not for Roger and Kurt along with their recruits and volunteers. Please let them know you appreciate their effort when you get the chance to do so. I personally want to thank Chris, Phil and Denise for their warm greetings while accepting admission money from the patrons that attended our Expo. All three also managed to sell a bunch of CFFA merchandise, memberships, and tickets for our door prize. I also want to thank everyone who assisted at our CFFA Tag Sale tables and those of you that helped our vendors set up and break down their tables. Each of you helped make this a successful day for CFFA. Gary

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. Throughout the past year this individual has volunteered his time and effort with many CFFA activities including our annual expo where he has assisted vendors with setting up for the day and helping at our tag sale table. He has assisted with the maintenance of trails along the Willimantic River TMA and assisted students in our Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Schools and last summer he assisted Pete Naples with the Fly Tying Workshop held on the UConn campus. He has also frequently demonstrated fly tying prior to our monthly membership meetings. These efforts have not gone unnoticed and our CFFA BOD is honored to present this years Ted Barbieri award to Roger Martin.

Scarlet Ibis Award:

The recipient of the Scarlet Ibis award is chosen solely by the current president of our CFFA. It is given to a current board member that assisted both the association and the president throughout the last calendar year. Last year at this time, this years recipient stepped up and volunteered to serve as

Our program for March 17th will be:

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

Pitkin Community Center 6:30-9pm

30 Greenfield Street

Wethersfield, CT 06109

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.

Pete Aarrestad



Presidents message continues:

CFFA Treasurer when past treasurer Chuck Koteen informed me he had a medical condition that was severe and would not be able to perform his duties moving forward.

During our phone conversation our new treasurer who I have known for 25 years put me at ease right away when he said he was qualified and would be happy to do the job. We 1st met when he took a CFFA beginner fly tying course when he was 13 and I was our Education Chairman. Today he is 38 and throughout the years we have stayed in touch and remained very good friends. In no time at all he had the paperwork required by the Secretary of State completed, a business Zoom account set up and a business PayPal account up and running and his monthly activity reports are impeccable. He also shared his fly tying skills when he tied some saltwater patterns at our fly tiers roundtable meeting last April.

I am honored to present this years Scarlet Ibis award to our CFFA treasurer Mark Casali.



CFFA will to start up the fly tying classes at the American School for the deaf again in March.

The classes are on the following days

March 11, March 18, March 25 and April 1

We will begin tying classes Tuesdays at ASD from 6:00 sharp until 7:00 pm at the American School for the Deaf on North Main Street in West Hartford.

Please contact Kevin Fuller to let him know if you can participate on the nights listed above.

Thanks for your help. Kevin Fuller (860) 819-5120



Project Healing Waters Freedom Ranch
Trip August 6-10, 2024, Submitted by Don
LaChance, Trip Lead



Eight vets and I arrived at Bozeman to begin their trip of a lifetime of 4 nights with 3 full days of fishing at the famed Freedom Ranch for Heros in Wise Montana.

These vets from the Heartland states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Nebraska came with high expectations and I am happy to report they were all exceeded. The weather was perfect, the fish cooperated, the food and accommodation were exceptional, and there are no words that can do justice to the views.

After a huge BQ lunch at a local establishment, we headed to the ranch, an hour and a half away. In the van, the bonding began. It turns out that Wes, a marine, and John, navy, both served on the same ship at the same time in the late 80's. Although they do not recall meeting each other, they did recall stories of ship side events and ports of call. They did have one thing in common, they hated the food. We arrived at beautiful downtown Wise River, MT, population 38 but for the next few days it was up to 47.

After getting settled in, and before dinner, the vets took a walk to the casting pond to show us what they had. 10 minutes later a dark cloud came over the mountain and started dropping ½" hail on the crew. Now although we were only 150 yards from the shelter of the fly shop, no

one bolted ahead, they all kept the same pace as the slowest member of the team.

Wednesday AM, the Big Hole was low and warm, so we headed up to Dillon, a scant 71 miles away for casting practice in the AM followed by wading the Red Rock. All vets were able to get fish to the net.



Thursday was a combination, a few waded the Beaverhead River, and 3 boats brought the Big Hole to its knees. Once again, all vets were on fish, but the numbers varied from a few to 2 boats pulling in some 40ish fish. In the evening, more talk and sharing of stories, most were on the upper deck or lower patio with a view of the mountains and sunsets. Discussions centered around shared and similar experiences from their time in the military and shared challenges that many faced. All who took part in these discussions took something away knowing they were not alone in their military experiences. Post military interests came up and there were a lot of commonalities there as well with multiple beekeepers and the raising of chickens and quail. Our own Santa John found himself sharing his experiences around his craft.

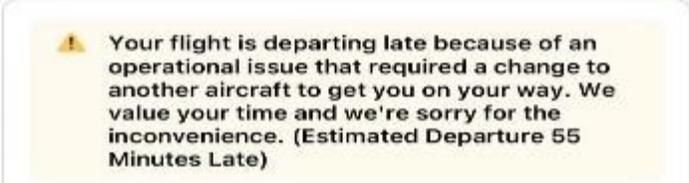




Friday was more of the same except we had four boats on the water and all overproduced with Chuck and his twenty-one" brown being the largest fish brought to the net. Once again, we had some 30 count boats on the water. Guides in all cases were outstanding and connected well with the vets. At the end of the day, we went back to the lodge for a farewell dinner of prime rib. The evening was capped off with a visit to the Wise River Club in the center of town where the group was well received and listed to Tom and his guitar playing favorites called out by the audience including Jimmy Buffet, the Eagles, Billy Joel, Elvis, and even Frank Sinatra. A few of the vets were asked by some of the local ladies to grace the dance floor and all had a great time.



Saturday morning started off great until the flight delay texts started to come in relating to broken aircraft and weather in Denver. 3 made it home on Saturday and the remaining 5 spent an extra night in Denver but all arrived safely home although in some cases it took 36 hours. I can say the time at the lodge was worth even this final challenge and all it did was to spice up the stories of that outstanding journey.



I want to thank everyone that sent me the pictures you see here from our fly tying class as well as the show and Banquet, Editor



CDC Hendrickson Emerger
Tied by Paul Dinice
tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com



FLY OF THE MONTH CDC Hendrickson Emerger

Hook: Partridge SLP Size #12 or preferred curved emerger/nymph hook.
Thread: Uni 8/0 Tan, Brown, or Wood Duck.
Shuck: Dark Brown or Dark Dun Zylon, Antron, or Shuck Yarn.
Rib: Copper wire.
Body: Turkey Tail Herl.
Post/Wing: Dark Dun CDC.
Thorax: Super Fine Hendrickson Pink Dubbing.

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



Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

Board of Directors

President | Gary Steinmiller (c) 860-563-0040 (e) steinmiller-gary@yahoo.com

Activities VP | Bob Winot (c) 860-292-1685 (e) rwinot25@cox.net

Environment VP | Phil Apruzzese (e) pjapruz@aol.com

Promotions VP | Rick Leigl

Recording Secretary | Phil McCormick (h) 860-871-8703

Treasurer | Mark Casali

Banquet Chairman | Kurt Jagielow

Conservation Chairman | Ted Rzepiski

Educational Director | Peter Naples (c) 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) sasjes@comcast.net

Program Chairman | Roger Plourde (c) 860-919-3513



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHERS



East Hartford, CT 06108
P.O. Box 380268

Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association 