



MARCH 2018

SINCE  
1963

# Rhody FLY RODDERS

*America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**W**ell, the Herring have started their runs into the small streams and tribs – can the bass be far behind? It could be an early start to the saltwater fishing season, based on how warm the February weather was this year. I don't know about you but I'm ready to do some fishing!

The fishing shows are now over until next year, some were good, some not so good. I hope you found yourself a new rod or reel you couldn't live without, or went to a seminar about a trip you might go on. It's amazing how many talented and knowledgeable experts and guides out there that know so much about fly fishing. I've been fly fishing for 60 years and I think I know a lot about fly fishing but I seem to learn something new every year at these shows.

Speaking of shows, I told the members at our February meeting, that we will NOT have a booth at the RISAA Show this year, due to a change of policy at RISAA. Gone are the 'comp' booths given to non-profit clubs like ours this year. RISAA states that it takes a lot of money to put on a show like this, and they have to maximize the revenues to meet these costs. It's sad to see that groups like us are the victims, because I do believe that non-profits like 'Rhody' offer so much more information on fishing, fish, tackle & techniques, than any exhibitor that just wants to sell merchandise and make a profit. So, we will find other ways to generate sales of our flies for charity, and to tell the people about our club.

I do hope to see you at our meeting this month. We will have as our guest speaker, Ryan Sansoucy, a local guide from the area, and he's got a great presentation on sight fishing techniques for stripers along our coastline. Should be a good evening!

Please come early and tie some flies.

Bring a friend and introduce them to some great people here at Rhody Fly Rodders!

See you there!

*P. Nilsen*  
Peter Nilsen



## MARCH MEETING

# SIGHT FISHING TECHNIQUES & SKILLS FOR STRIPED BASS



**Featuring Capt. Ryan Sansoucy  
of 'Hush' Fishing Company**

**Come join us on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 pm  
for an inside look at sight fishing in the fisheries  
around South County, RI and Stonington, CT.  
with Capt. Ryan Sansoucy.**

Capt. Ryan is owner/guide of 'Hush Fishing Company'. His presentation will be focused on sight fishing for Striped Bass and other species the swim our coast.

Along this vast Southern RI & CT coastline there are hundreds of shallow coves, flats and estuaries that push into the contour of these states. These are tidal waters that make their way through channels, breachways, and sandy creeks and hold a myriad of bait fish, shrimp and crustaceans that attract Striped Bass, Bluefish, Shad, and sometimes Albies.

Locating these areas is not easy. How do you get there? How do you fish these areas? Each is so different – shallow drop offs, long sandbars with current edges, and rockpiles scattered here and there. Well, Capt Ryan will give us some tips and techniques on how to fish these great fishing places.

So come join us on **March 20th** on what should be a great presentation.

The coffee pot will be on, nice bucket raffles, good company and a **very special raffle** with proceeds going to **'Reel Recovery,'** our chosen charity this year.

**All are welcome. Bring a friend.**



## CASTING ABOUT

### January Meeting

Thank you to Peter Jenkins from the 'Saltwater Edge' for a great presentation on 'Reading the Water' at our February meeting. Peter gave us a thorough look at how 'one' should dissect this vast saltwater we have at our doorstep, break it down section by section, from beach to rock pile, from troughs and sandbars to outlets and estuaries, and back again. Great job, Jenks!



### 2018 SUMMER FISHING / COOKOUT MEETINGS

This year we're trying something new. Seeing how we all love the Narrow River, and sort have adopted it as our 'homewaters', we are going to have all our summer fishing/cookout meetings there! As per usual we will fish in the afternoon (for us retired folks), break out the 'dogs' for our cookout around 5pm, and then fish until dark.

**May** – Tuesday 22th – High tide in river – 5:00pm

**June** – Thursday 21th – High tide in river – 5:30pm

**July** – Monday 9th – High tide in river – 7:15pm

**Aug** – Tuesday 7th – High tide in river – 7:00pm

**Sept** – Thursday 13th – High tide in river – 2:00pm

**Sept** – Thursday 27th – High tide in river – 12:30pm

### Articles for the Newsletter

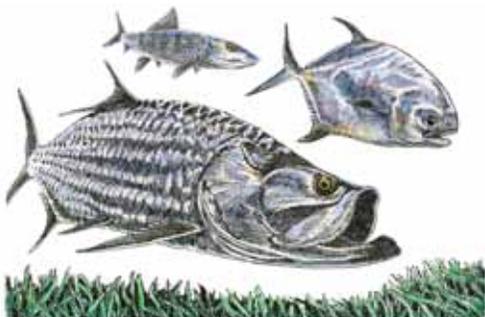
Well, my plea for articles for the newsletter didn't go on deaf ears, but to my surprise, the reply didn't come from our membership, but from a friend of mine on Cape Cod who I regularly send the newsletter. He heard my 'call' and came to the rescue!

He is Tom Keer, a wonderful writer of books, articles, stories and columns on hunting and fishing. He is a very talented writer and a friend for the past few years.

To the right is a pretty cool article he wrote on making your own creative 'Dubbing Bodkins,' and how you can make your own artsy and fashionable ones that will set you apart from the boring ones you find in every fly shop – and truly 'impress your tying friends.'

Tom is also the author of a great book that you should all read if you are at all interested in fly fishing the coastline of Northeast New England. It's called a '**Flyfisher's Guide to the New England Coast**' – by Tom Keer.

Believe me, it tells you everything you need to find every fishing spot from Maine to the Connecticut border. This should be your bible, read it, carry it with you. Thanks, Tom.



My new Southern Waters Fish Prints are now available for purchase!

– Peter

## Make Your Own Dubbing Needles

By Tom Keer

Fly tying tools have emerged into small works of art. Some have exotic wood handles, others are made of polished metals, while mine are made from a bunch of left-over scraps. They don't require much time or money to make and they add a little flare to my otherwise boring tool bin. I mean, really; how handsome are bobbins and scissors after all?

I got the idea to make dubbing needles from a friend of mine, Sgt. Major Tim Didas (USMC). Tim was stationed in Yuma, Arizona, at a joint Marine/Air Force base. While returning from a training op in the desert, Didas found a small piece of a blown down Saguaro Cactus. You know, the cacti that look like scarecrows in a field? He pulled off a section of the dried cactus rib, and, after cleaning off the dirt and grime, Didas drilled a pin hole in the end of the rib, inserted and epoxied a needle, and applied a few coats of varnish to it. The texture and the color of the short dubbing needle is an exquisite light brown, and it made for a wonderful Christmas present.

My exploits are far less dramatic than those conducted by the Marines. Nonetheless, I've made several different bodkins from other types of materials. My favorite one is made from a cane rod section that I bought for a dollar at an antique shop. I noticed the tip section in the corner of a room. It was a tired old piece without the butt, and it had alligatored varnish and a set that would have added new meaning to a Curve Cast. While the section was unusable for fishing it was perfect for a few dubbing needles.

Nowadays I ask my pals to save their broken graphite tip tops. A model drill bit is the only tool that is required to make your own bodkins. Then, find solid needles in a variety of sizes at craft or sewing stores. A tube of Gorilla Glue for wood or five-minute epoxy for graphite and you're ready to build.

First, stabilize your handle in a vise. Even the smallest amount of hand movement while drilling will send the tip of the bit through the side wall of the handle. Not to worry if that happens on a piece of wood; you can fill the hole with putty or cut out the damaged section and begin again. Move the drill deliberately and at a high speed so that you get a clean hole. The hole should be deep enough for security, but let's face it; you'll be teasing some dubbing or finishing a head, not towing a boat. A dab of Gorilla Glue or five-minute epoxy will do. I prefer epoxy as it doesn't expand like the Gorilla Glue does but I've used both and they both work fine. Be sure to wipe off all excess before it sets.

If you're going to anchor a needle in a graphite tip you've got some pros and cons. The pro is that you don't need to drill a hole, you just need to take some sandpaper and polish up the broken end. Lay down a piece of 100 or 150 grit sandpaper on a table and rub the hollow section of the tip against the sandpaper until the ends are even and smooth. The con is that the needle will slide all the way inside of the graphite if you let it. To stop that from happening, fill the gap with a pinch of cotton and tamp it down as far as you want it to go. Lay in a bead of epoxy, and insert the needle. In a few minutes you're good to go.

The sky is the limit when it comes to making bodkins. Chances are you'll have almost as much fun as you do tying flies.



## CONSERVATION REPORT

### From Strippers Forever –

#### BUDGET CUTS TO ELIMINATE STRIPED BASS ENFORCEMENT



The 2018 Federal budget prohibits the enforcement of the prohibition of targeting striped bass in Federal waters around Block Island, RI by NOAA Fisheries and the Coast Guard.

*By Toby Lapinski | February 26, 2018*

In 2017 Rep. Lee M. Zeldin (R. New York), sponsored H.R. 1195 - Local Fishing Access Act which, if passed, would authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to permit and regulate Atlantic striped bass fishing in the Block Island Sound Transit Zone that is in the EEZ. The transit zone is the area of federal waters (EEZ) within Block Island Sound, located between areas south of Montauk Point, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island. Well, Rep. Zeldin is at it again, and for now it appears as if he may have succeeded in his end goal of allowing anglers to target and harvest striped bass in Federal waters.

Things can still change. There is still plenty of time to fix this error on the part of the Federal government and right their wrong. Now is the time to act and voice your opposition. Call and write your state and federal representatives. Get word to your state's fisheries management division. Tell anyone willing to listen that you oppose this green light to break the law. If we can make enough noise on the subject then maybe, just maybe we can right this wrong before too much damage is done. Congratulations to all the folks that were successful in both catching and releasing a quality Striped Bass in 2017. Your efforts to conserve this fishery define you as true sportsmen. **Thank you.**

## TIPS FROM THE PROS

*By Ed Jaworowski*

### Fly Tackle for Trophy Stripers

When it comes to fly tackle for large striped bass, I recall Lou Tabory's sage advice: "Most fly anglers lose the largest fish because they gear up to catch smaller, school-sized fish." Their rods, reels, and leaders too often aren't up to the task. So if you specifically seek trophy stripers, think big, think strong. Not that fish aren't sometimes caught on lighter tackle, but consider 10, 11, even 12-weight rods when you target the largest fish. Your reel needn't cost the price of a home mortgage, but it should definitely start up and give up line smoothly, and hold 150 yards of stout dacron or gel spun backing.

### Fly Lines for Trophy Stripers

Also carry several fly lines to meet the various conditions. For tossing large poppers and shallow swimming flies, or to fish shallow bays and flats, a floating line with a steeper saltwater front taper fits the bill. For me, however, that's my least favorite line when I expect to encounter above average fish. Most big bass are taken deeper, so I generally rely on fast-sinking, integrated heads of 400 or 500 grains. Wave action affects such subsurface lines less, they also help me keep more direct contact with my flies, and afford positive hook setting. For the surf, I like an intermediate line, as its slow sink rate keeps my flies from planing on the surface in the turbulent water.

### Recommended Striper Leaders

Since fewer knots offer less chance for failure, I like simple two- or three-piece leaders of about 7-8', usually tipped out at about 20 pounds. A lot of taper isn't required. A heavy shocker on the front end can be vital around rocks and jetties. I once lost a huge fish over a rocky reef near Watch Hill, Rhode Island while fishing with Capt. Steve Bellefleur. When he reported my failure to another guide, the question came back, "Was he using a shock tippet?" Steve simply said, "He is now." I still haven't lived that one down.

## FLY OF THE MONTH



### CAPT. RAY'S ANGEL HAIR SILVERSIDE

**HOOK:** Tiemco 600SP -1/0 or equivalent short shank

**THREAD:** 6/0 white UNI-Thread

**TAIL:** White Ultra Hair

**UPPER WING:** Silver, Chartreuse and Baitfish Angel Hair

**LOWER WING:** Pearl Green Angel Hair

**EYES:** Silver 3'D - size 3/16 inch

**GLUE:** Five minute epoxy

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### PRESIDENT/ NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Peter Nilsen  
401-245-7172  
pdfish@fullchannel.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

Howie DeBeck

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

John Pope  
6 Canonchet Drive  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
jpope@johnspopecpa.com

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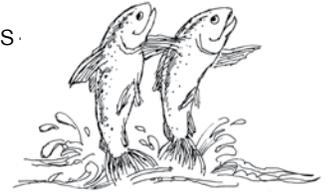
Riverside Sportsmen's Association  
1 Mohawk Dr., East Providence, RI 02915  
3rd Tuesday of the month, Oct. – April

### DIRECTIONS:

From Providence take Rt.195 to Exit 7.  
Bear right on the ramp & follow Rt. 114 South  
(Wamanoag Trail) for 2 miles. Look for WPRO Studios  
on left, then take first U-turn back to Rt.114 North.  
Continue North and look for the Riverside  
Sportsmen's Club sign on right side.



GOT  
FLIES?



*"Pass on to all, who ask what you learn here".*

### NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH - 6:30 PM

Come join us on **March 20th** for an informative presentation about 'Sight Fishing Techniques & Skills for Striped Bass' with owner/guide, **Ryan Sansoucy** of 'Hush' Fishing Company.

Come early and tie some flies. We'll have **bucket raffles** and a **Special Raffle to benefit 'Reel Recovery.'**

**The coffee pot will be on! All are welcome. Bring a friend.**



*America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club*

Peter Nilsen  
75 Massasoit Ave.  
Barrington, RI 02806

Please help support your  
local fly fishing shops. Their livelihood  
depends on you. They supply knowledge,  
information and technical support,  
besides quality products.

