



APRIL 2018

SINCE
1963

Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club



APRIL MEETING

It's Our Annual...

COOKOUT GET-TOGETHER!

Tuesday, April 17th at 6:00 pm. (come early)

Join us for our Annual 'Cookout / Kickoff' to the Summer Fishing Season, followed by an evening with 'Striper Fisherman,' Gene Matteson – the man, the legend!

Come join us for our 'Annual Cookout' to close the winter meetings and get us ready for the fishing season!

We will start with the cooking at 6:00pm, but do come early and do some **fly casting on the front lawn**. This is the time to ask our veteran members to share their tips and advice on casting or places to fish this summer.



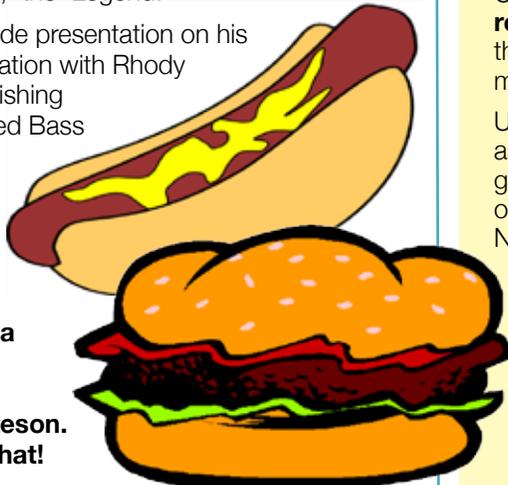
Then we will be privileged to take a glimpse into the life of long time member, **Gene Matteson** and his experiences in catching over **20,000 striped bass from 1996 to 2015** – all on a fly rod!

Come meet the 'Man,' the 'Legend.'

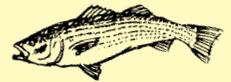
Gene will give us a slide presentation on his nearly 50 year association with Rhody Fly Rodders and his fishing experiences for Striped Bass in Narragansett Bay.

Inside this newsletter there's more about Gene, Gene, the fishing machine!

***Also there will be a Special Door Prize made by the multi-talented Gene Matteson. Don't miss out on that!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I can't believe this month's meeting will be the last one of our indoor schedule until October. Well, that means only one thing...it's fishing season! Yes!

After a few misteps, we ended up with a great meeting last month. **Thanks to Capt. Ryan Sansoucy** and his informative presentation on 'sight fishing for stripers.'

This month's meeting is our **Annual Cookout /Kickoff** to the fishing season, plus a great **presentation on 'Striper Fishing,'** by member **Gene Matteson**.

I want to thank everyone for their contribution in making this a special indoor meeting season. We had lots of snow lately, but luckily we didn't have to cancel any of our meetings.

Our fly tying meeting was sort of a bust, but we made up for it by your generous donations of flies for our charity this year. I think next year we will change our tying date to November, that way we won't have any conflict with the Christmas season and low attendance.

We did have pretty good attendance this year and hope that this will continue through our summer fishing meetings at the Narrow River. Looking forward to it!

If you attend this coming meeting, be sure to take some of our **new club business cards** and pass them out to fly fishermen you meet during the summer.

Come early to this coming meeting and **bring your fly rod and do some casting on the front lawn** while the burgers are cooking. Time to shake out the rust and maybe share a few pointers to others.

Unfortunately I won't be able to attend this meeting, as my wife and I will be visiting our two daughters and grandkids in California, but I will see you all at our first fishing meeting on the Narrow River in May.

Best to you all.

P. Nilsen

Peter Nilsen
President



Gene Matteson – Fly Fisherman by Mark Clancy

Over the years I have come to know Gene more and more. As I watched and observed his interactions with others I have come to realize, like many other club members, there is a wealth of history and experience behind such a great angler. He is a fine craftsman working with wood, a veteran, husband, family man, avid hunter and outdoorsman – a jack of many trades.



As a fly fisherman, Gene has been fly fishing full bore for over 50 years. Unbelievably, Gene has fished as long as I have been alive. The majority of his fly fishing has been for trout. Whether these trout were held up in local waters or that of habitat found in other areas of the United States, Gene has logged many hours fishing. He keeps a journal that includes the numbers and quality of fish caught, as well as what flies were working and possibly how he solved assorted challenges of the day. His journal entries go far beyond who caught how many fish. In listening to these experiences he seems to have been able to capture the pure essence of each individual experience.

His journal entries bring an audience beyond the hair wings, featherwings, streamers and dry flies. Yes, the location of big fish is clear, and 'how to' is very evident. He even discloses how big the fish really were without a 'tale.' The true value in the journal extends into his genuine love for the sport. Gene loves to fish! He has had over 22 trips to the Miramichi River in New Brunswick, Canada, fishing for Atlantic Salmon. Most of these salmon have fallen victim to hand-tied flies fabricated by the master himself. Many of his fish were caught and released ranging from 5 to 15 pounds, the largest being a 40 inch salmon of 28 pounds. He was also fortunate to fish with Ted Williams at Ted's camp on the Miramichi river.

As we all know, Gene's experience extends into the brine, too. He has rubbed elbows with Lou Tabory, Bob Popovics, and the legendary Lefty Krey. He has had great success catching blues, stripers, albacore, Bonito and giant Tarpon. Gene holds the Rhode Island state record for the largest smallmouth bass, with a 6 pounder, 20 inches long, caught on Indian Lake.

Frequenting the outdoors, he has also logged many hours pushing aside briars and burrs with 45 years of hunting ruffed grouse with his three memorable companions and superb English pointers. His experiences are many and he is more than willing to share a memory or two.

Tonight he will share his experiences as a fly fisherman while fishing for Striped Bass, catching over 20,000 of them since he retired in 1996.

CASTING ABOUT

March Meeting

A big thank you to Capt. Ryan Sansoucy who gave a interesting and informative presentation last month on sight fishing, in shallow water for Striped Bass. For flyfishermen our age, shallow water is our friend! And, it's very productive and exciting hooking up on a big fish in shallow water. So, keep fishing guide, Capt. Ryan in your thoughts if you want to hire a great guide to do this kind of fishing. Thanks, again, Ryan

Cinder Worm Program

Ray Stachelek and Dave Pollack are again facilitating the Cinder Worm program at USF&W's Kettle Pond Nature Center. There will be fly tying instruction on Tues., May 1 and Tues., May 8, and fishing of those flies at Ninigret on Sat., May 19. There is no charge for the program, and all tying materials are provided. Registration is open now. For information or to register, contact Scott Travers at scott.travers@dem.ri.gov.

Rhody Hats

We have plenty of club fishing hats available for sale. Many different colors left. I will bring them to the cookout fishing meeting during the summer if you want one. People from out of town, email me and I'll send one out to you. \$20. Short-billed, \$25. Longbilled. – Peter

Winner, Winner

Dr. Nick Catitano was the winner of our special raffle for 'Reel Recovery' at last month's meeting, which was my new Striped Bass print with a streamer fly enclosed in a shadow box mat. Congrats, Nick, take good care of it! I will miss it! Do I have visiting rights? Enjoy!

Support Your Local Guides

When wondering where to fish this year, and where to go if you want to catch some big fish, consider hiring some of RI's local guides and guiding services. Here is a list of some of the Captains that are experts in guiding fly fishing trips for Stripers, Blues, Albies & Bonito in local waters. **Some are Rhody members, all are friends!**

Cast-a-Fly Charters – with Capt. Ray Stachelek
401-884-3794 – www.castaflycharters.com

Fly-Fish RI – with Capt. Bob Hines
401-949-5021 – www.flyfishri.com

Little Rhody Charters – with Capt. Bill Murphy
401-368-7830 – www.littlerhodycharters.com

On-The-Rocks Charters – with Capt. Rene Letourneau
401-359-3625 – www.ontherockcharters.com

Skinny Water Charters – with Capt Jim Barr
401-465-8751 – www.skinnywaterchartersri.com

Teezer77 Guide Service – with Capt. Eric Thomas
401-524-7239 – www.eezer77.com

Turn in a Poacher

When fishing this summer, keep an eye out for Poachers and Regulation Violators. Every infraction effects the reduction of stocks, quality of our catches, and protection of the habitat.

DEM HOTLINE – 222-3070
LAW ENFORCEMENT – 222-2284



TACKLE REVIEWS

TOP FLY FISHING LINES IN 2018

Now that you know some things about what you should be looking for when buying fishing line, it's time to read about the most popular lines available in 2018. Read our reviews so you can get just the right one for your fishing requirements.

RIO GOLD FLY LINE

The line has a unique taper design that gives you incredible loop stability, thanks to the unusual weight distribution from the rod when cast from close range. The front taper gives you an excellent turnover and presentation of flies that range between #22 and #2. This makes it an awesome general-purpose fly line that is available. The back taper is ideal for mending and for roll and one-handed spey casting. You'll find that the color change from the head to the line makes it simple to spot the best loading point for each cast.

SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS SUPRA FLOATING FLY LINE

This particular line has been created from the popular Ultra 4 Freshwater fly line. The high quality line is suitable for any application and the versatile tapers are designed for a wide variety of flies and can be used in many different weather conditions. The core of the line is a braided multifilament nylon, but the coating is formulated 3M PVC integrated. It's specially designed with advanced shooting technology, which gives you incredible performance over other lines in the same range. The double taper style features a longer front taper that gives you accuracy from a short range.

SCIENTIFIC ANGLER AIR CEL FLY LINE

This is considered to be the original, modern floating fly line because it gives you top notch durability and buoyancy that you can depend on. The 3M PVC coating has been created with special internal lubricants that will enhance the slickness and increase the shoot-ability. This, combined with UV inhibitors, makes the line incredibly long lasting and durable. The weight forward taper is a mid-length head that is suitable for general fishing in typical conditions.

CRYSTAL RIVER FLY LINE WEIGHT FORWARD #5

This line is great for when you are trying for far casts. It flies out of the reel smoothly when double pulled and rests on the water. The high performance line features a specially braided core that ensures a long life and incredible flexibility. The weight forward taper lets you make casts up to 80 feet with normal sized flies.

CRYSTAL RIVER FLY LINE WEIGHT FORWARD #6

This line is great for when you are trying for far casts, it can add up to twenty feet onto your distance when casting, and when paired with a high quality rod, you can expect at least fifty feet added onto your casting distance. The high performance line features a specially braided nylon core that ensures a long life and incredible flexibility. The weight forward taper lets you make casts up to 80 feet with normal sized flies.



Hi, my name is Armand Corchaine, and I'm an Addict! I can't stop tying! I have 200 pounds of tying material in my cellar, I belong to every fly tying group from Massachusetts to the Mississippi River, and I've tied every known pattern at least 800 times! Please help me!

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

FLY OF THE MONTH



GENE MATTESON'S BUCKTAIL DECEIVER

HOOK: Size 2/0

THREAD: White

TAIL: 3 to 4 inches of white bucktail tied in at hook bend

WING: Chartreuse bucktail over 5 or 6 strands of Mylar over white bucktail tied hi-tie style in small clumps top & bottom of hook shank to form a tapered body.

THROAT: Small bunch of red Krystal Flash.

HEAD: Epoxied white thread w/small silver/black eyes.

OFFICERS & BOARD

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

DIRECTORS

Mike Kelley
Bob Teeden
Dave Loren

ADVISORS

Armand Courchaine
Gene Matteson

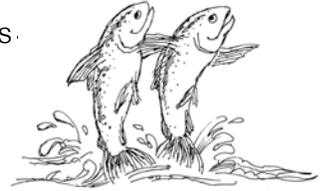
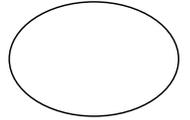
MEETINGS:

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.

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



NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 17TH - 6:00 PM

Please join us for some food and fun at our **'Annual Cookout / Get Together'**. Come early and do a little fly casting. Following our cookout we will have an **'Evening with Gene Matteson,'** and his experiences of catching over 20,000 Striped Bass in Naragansett Bay the last 20 years.

Come have a burger or hot dog and enjoy a good time with great friends. Open to the public. Hope to see you there...bring a friend!



Peter Nilsen
75 Massasoit Ave.
Barrington, RI 02806

Don't forget our first Summer Fishing/
Cookout meeting on Tuesday,
May 22nd at the Narrow River.

All our Summer fishing meetings
are listed inside this newsletter.
Hope to see you there.

Have a great summer of fishing!
This newsletter will return in October
along with our regular indoor meetings.

