



MARCH 2019

SINCE
1963

Rhody FLY RODDERS

America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club

MARCH MEETING

TROUT FISHING THE BLACKFOOT INDIAN RESERVATION

with Dan Spedding – where the fish are as big as Volkswagens!

Tuesday, March, 19th at 6:30pm.

Yes, Dan Spedding is back with another wild and crazy adventure as he rambles the back roads of America, searching for great trout fishing –with big trout, really huge trout and lots of them – in places you never heard about!

This time Dan has infiltrated the American Blackfoot Indian Reservation in search of big fish, in Northwest Montana!

Dan has been with us before, giving hilarious presentations on 'fishing on your own in Alaska,' and another on 'The 10 places to fish for trout in Montana that you never heard of!' The length this man goes to find quality fishing is truly amazing.

Dan says this about his presentation...*"To put it mildly, the Blackfeet Reservation in northwest Montana presents its share of challenges ... but if you're willing, you will likely catch the largest trout of your life....if not the largest dozen, as the fish are the size of Volkswagens. One thing for certain... it'll be an adventure...The combination of the cultural differences and the weather can ruin every single day of a 10 day fishing trip to comedic levels that you never thought possible..... Is it worth the risk? Come find out and see.*

We'll have Bucket Raffles, Club Hats are available, and flies for sale for our charity, 'Reel Recovery.'

All are welcome.
Bring a friend.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Who knows if winter is through or not – it may be the start of Spring next week, but as I sit here writing this newsletter, I'm looking out the window at 7 plus inches of snow. The bird bath is frozen with snow piled on top, and that same crazy squirrel keeps coming back every day looking for a drink! Not today, buddy!

Has anyone heard any reports of Herring entering the streams? I doubt it with all the cold, snow melt flowing from these streams. With no Herring, I guess that means no stripers yet either. Hang on, it won't be long.

Just one fishing show left – the RISAA New England Saltwater fishing Show on March 23, 24, & 25. Do come and see us as 'Rhody' will have a booth this year. We will be tying flies, and selling them for our charity, also promoting Rhody Fly Rodders and spreading the word on this wonderful club.

I urge you utilize our local guides this year. Most all are good friends of RFR and some are even members. All bring you expert fishing knowledge and years of experience on how and where to fish the coast of RI, MA & Ct. Team up a 'buddy' split the cost, and take a trip with one of these great guides. Go catch a big one, life is too short to catch small fish. I've got a list of our guide friends on the inside pages, Give one a try – believe me, it's worth it!

I guarantee that this month's meeting will be a fun time, worth the trip. If it's anything like his last presentations, our speaker, Dan Spedding will have you rolling in the aisles! He has blessed us before with his zany presentations of traveling the country in his 'camper and fishing in places you never heard of before – this time the Blackfoot Indian Reservation,' in Northwest Montana. He says, "the trout are as big as Volkswagens – This I want to see!

So join us for what should be a great evening. Please come early and tie some flies. Bring a friend! Bring two!

Tight Lines.

P. Nilsen

Peter Nilsen



This is a repeat article from over a year ago but the problem is still ongoing and still of great concern.

CONSERVATION REPORT



The Fish at the Heart of the Food System

Millions of pounds of menhaden are fished from the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico by a single company based in Houston, Texas, with a benign-sounding name: Omega Protein.

It works like this: from April to December, the tiny coastal town of Reedville, Virginia, sends dozens of fishermen into the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on Omega Protein's nine ships. Spotter pilots in small aircraft fly overhead, looking for menhaden from above.

When menhaden are identified, the spotter pilots radio to the nearest ship and direct it to the school. Omega Protein's fishermen dispatch two smaller boats, which trap the school with a giant net. A hydraulic vacuum pump then sucks the menhaden from the net into the hold of the ship.

More menhaden are caught than any other fish in the continental United States by volume. The menhaden population has declined nearly 90 percent from the time when humans first began harvesting menhaden from Atlantic coastal and estuarine waters. In the past 60 years, 47 billion pounds of menhaden have been harvested from the Atlantic.

By 2006, only one company was left standing. Omega Protein, headquartered in Texas, catches between a quarter and a half-billion pounds of menhaden each year from the Atlantic, and nearly double that amount from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2009, fisheries scientists reported that the Atlantic menhaden population had shrunk to less than 10 percent of its original size. Industry scientists argue that little prey fish like menhaden, sardines, and herring reproduce fast enough to replace those that are removed from the ocean food chain by commercial fishing. But many environmentalists, government and academic scientists, and coastal residents argue that menhaden fishing destabilizes ecosystems, leaving too few menhaden in the water to account for predator demand.

Striped bass have long been one of the most voracious predators of menhaden on the East Coast. Today, many striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay are afflicted with mycobacteriosis, a previously rare lesion-causing disease linked to malnutrition.

After decades of advocacy by environmental organizations, in December 2012, a regulatory agency called the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission implemented the first ever coast-wide regulation of the menhaden fishery. The Commission cut the menhaden harvest by 20 percent from previous levels in an attempt to safeguard the population from further decline. The regulation was implemented during the 2013 fishing season; whether it has affected the menhaden population is a question government scientists are scrambling to answer.

CASTING ABOUT



February Meeting

Thanks so much to our guest speaker for February, Dean Clark, for his enlightening talk about the 'state of the state' on our striped bass. Again we had a great turnout for Dean's presentation, maybe because we see that in our 'catches' and worried about future of this species that we all love to fish for – and rightly so, because the latest stock assessment doesn't look too good unless we do something different to stop the harvesting of these magnificent gamefish. You can follow Dean and Strippers Forever at stripersforever.org for all the latest info on what you can do to help. Dean say, 'Keep'em wet!' Thanks Dean.

Ron Montecalvo Celebration of Life

I'd like to start talking about the celebration of life we want to have for our dearly departed friend, Ron Montecalvo. At the December meeting, Ron's son gave me a box of 20 small jars containing Ron's ashes, and he wanted us to do something with these with 20 of Ron's close friends, maybe at with some sort of ceremony.

After some thought we decided that this Spring we would gather at the Sprague Bridge on the Narrow River and these 20 friends would say a few words and spread his ashes upon the waters where Ron so much loved to fish. We will be planning some day when the weather warms, probably the first part of May before the boat traffic and increased activity at the river.



So, I'm asking any of his good friends if you would be willing to take part in this ceremony. We need about 20 members, or others that might want to do this. **If interested, please email me at pdfish@fullchannel.net** as I want to gather the names before we set a date. Other of Ron's friends are welcome to attend, as Ron's family will be there, too.

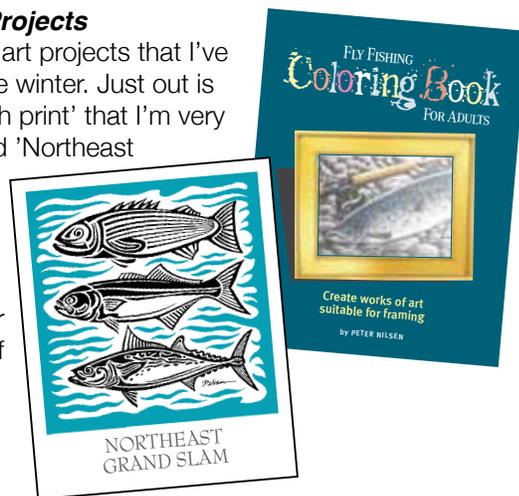
April Meeting

Next month, at our April meeting, will be having our 'Annual Cook-Out', and it will be our last formal meeting, as we take our break for some Spring and Summer fishing. Don't forget to bring your fly rod and shake out the rust on your casting.

Two New Art Projects

I have two new art projects that I've created over the winter. Just out is a brand new fish print' that I'm very proud of...called 'Northeast Grand Slam.'

The other is my fly fishing 'Adult Coloring Book,' where you color and frame 12 of my fish prints. Both for sale at our meeting.



Summer Fishing Meetings

We haven't quite got our summer fishing meeting schedule nailed down as of yet, but a complete list for all will be at our last winter meeting, our 'Cookout Kickoff,' in April. Any suggestions as to new places to fish this summer are welcomed. We would like to spread it around this year, giving everyone a chance to maybe fish in a new location. There's plenty of great fishing places in Rhode Island – what's your favorite! Email me with yours!

RISAA Show

Rhody Fly Rodders will be having a booth at the RISAA Saltwater Fishing Show at the Convention Center on **March 22, 23, & 24**. We have members signed up to help man our booth for Friday and Saturday, but we could use one or two members to help out on Sunday, especially late afternoon from 2:00 to the end of the show at 5:00pm. I could really use some help in breaking down the booth. This would be greatly appreciated.

We will be tying flies and helping promoting our club and the selling of flies for our chosen charity, 'Reel recovery,' helping men recovering from cancer by teaching fly tying and fly fishing. Stop by and say hello!

Member of the Month

A new feature in our newsletter will be the recognizing of one of our members who goes beyond the call of duty, meaning they maybe gave that extra advice to a new member, or donated to help our charity, or to our club treasury, or other ways of contributing to making our club special.



This month we will celebrate the very hard work of long time member and club Secretary/Treasurer, **John Pope**. John is always at every meeting, attending to our members needs, writing checks for expenses, collecting club dues and doing all the accounting work as to keep track of all our 125 members...all hard, time consuming work! And, he's been doing this for over 30 years!

So – **John Pope is our first, 'Member of the month.'** We have no 'plaque' or reserved parking place, but we thank him for being – *the Man!* Thanks a lot, John.

Support Your Local Guides

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.

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.teezer77.com

TIPS FROM THE PROS

by Ian Collin James

TAKE A TRIP.

This advice is a bit odd, but it works. Take a fishing day trip, or a two day trip, or a get-a-way fishing trip for a week somewhere special.

Then hire a guide for one day and learn the local waters. Find out where to fish, when to fish and what flies to use. Or if you can afford it, hire two local guides to fish the same stretch of water for half a day each with you. Chances are you will be amazed at the differences in how the guides look at the river, how they fish it, what flies they use and how they select which flies they use.

If you want to expand your fly fishing horizons, this is a great tip. It works. I have done this several times, and each time I do it, I always take away a few good fishing tips or I learn to look at fly fishing a wee bit differently than I did before.

Travel in the US is so inexpensive, that if you live in the US, you should be taking two short fly fishing junkets each year.

I kid you not, it will pay off in spades for you.

But, do go away on a fishing trip, get away from your local waters that you fish constantly and get a fresh, new perspective on different waters, different insects & baitfish. It will give you a new outlook on fishing, and life for that matter.

FLY OF THE MONTH



RAY'S FLY

HOOK: Eagle Claw #254, Size 2 - 4/0, 1X short,

THREAD: Light green or pale yellow monocord

BODY: Silver Bill's Body Braid or tinsel yarn

WING: A small bunch of white bucktail over which is tied two strands of pearl Flashabou, a smaller bunch of light yellow bucktail, two strands of pearl Flashabou, topped by a still smaller bunch of olive bucktail

TOPPING: Four or five strands of peacock herl

FLY LENGTH: 2-6 inches long

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MEETINGS:

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

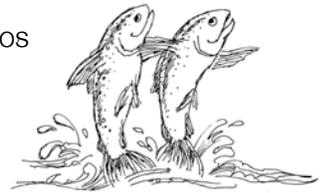
DIRECTIONS:

From Providence take Rt.195 to Exit 7.
Bear right on the ramp & follow Rt. 114 South
(Wampanoag 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".



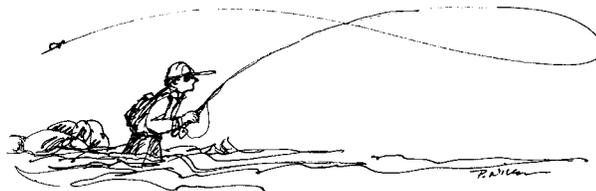
Where the
Elite Meet!



NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH - 6:30 PM

Come join us for a wild and zany presentation called **'Trout Fishing the Blackfoot Indian Reservation for Trout as Big as Volkswagens'** by **Dan Spedding**. Yes, Dan Spedding is back with another wild and crazy adventure as he rambles the back roads of America, searching for great trout fishing, this time in Northwest Montana. Should be a hoot!

We'll have our flies for sale with money going to **'Reel Recovery'**, a few **Bucket raffles, club hats** – and maybe some used fly fishing tackle and tying material for sale. **Open to the public. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend...bring two!**



Please join us for what should be a great evening,
with many laughs, plus good conversation with good friends.

All are Welcome!



Peter Nilsen, *President*
75 Massasoit Ave., Barrington, RI 02806