



# From the Bank of the Stream January 2012

## *Featured Speaker-*

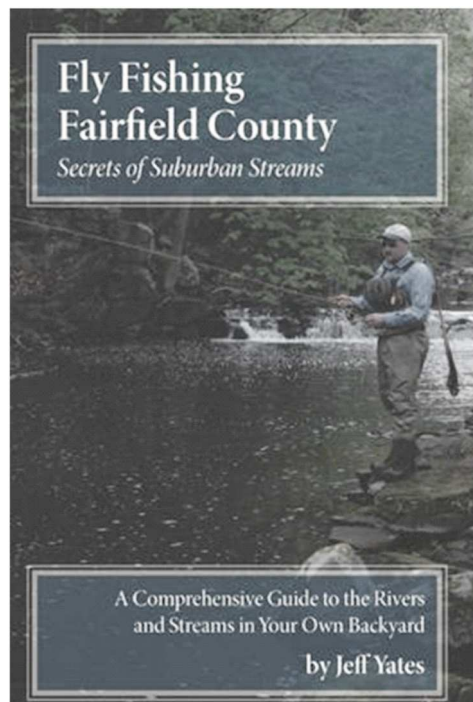
### Peter Aarrestad will speak at the January 2012 HCTU meeting

Peter is the Director of Inland Fisheries at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in Hartford, Connecticut. Peter is also the supervising fisheries biologist for the Habitat Conservation and Enhancement Program within the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Inland Fisheries Division. Since 1989 he has been involved primarily with studies of fisheries habitat issues and has conducted environmental assessments of various proposed activities that may affect inland, diadromous, and estuarine fisheries resources, including diversion of groundwater and surface water.

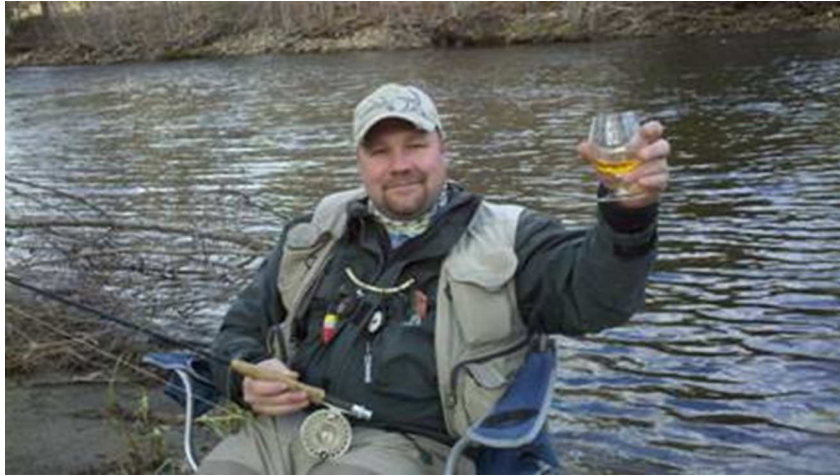


### **March Guest speaker**

**Jeff Yates:** Author, guide, Mianus TU board member and fishing associate for the Darien Orvis shop and Communications Manager at Fairfield Community Foundation. His interests are varied and his insights clear. He has come to speak about his recent book publication covering the many rivers and small waters around Fairfield County. His work as a fishing guide covers Long Island Sound, Major western rivers in Connecticut and trips farther afield into Vermont.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

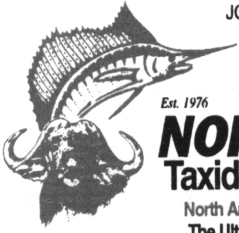


Hello fellow HCTU members and Happy New Year! 2012 is in full swing and this winter seems to be treating us right so far this year (knock on wood). In contrast, this time last year we were shoveling our driveways and trying to figure out where to put the more than eight feet of snow which fell on Connecticut in 2011. In fact, January 2011 was the snowiest month for Connecticut in more than 75 years, breaking an old record set in 1945. On January 12, 2011, more than 24 inches fell in Guilford and Durham over a 24 hour period. This year has seen January temperatures in the 50's, and very little snow accumulation. Although I have mixed feelings about the lack of snow this winter, my back feels better just thinking about the nice weather.

Taking advantage of all 54 degrees Fahrenheit, I spent the first day of 2012 on the Farmington River with my good friend and neighbor, Tom Brennan. We had a few laughs, tied on a few flies, and we even made a few drag-free casts in between the laughing and re-rigging. We each had one hook-up but no trout were landed. It didn't matter much though, because we were doing what we love to do on the first day of the New Year, and it doesn't get much better than that. My New Year's wish for each of you is that you will have health and happiness in abundance in 2012, and that we may find time in the coming year to cast our dry flies together. May all of you make the very most of this year and make every day count! On behalf of the HCTU Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Darby W. Hittle  
President, HCTU

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>** Thursday 7:00 pm. **Chapter Meeting-**  
Wallingford Rod and Gun Club. **Peter Aarrestad**  
Director of inland fisheries DEEP

**January 20-23<sup>rd</sup>** **Fly fishing show.** Marlborough  
Mass., Royal plaza.

**January 27-29<sup>th</sup>** **Fly fishing show.** Somerset New  
Jersey, Garden state convention center.

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** Thursday 7:00 pm **Chapter Meeting**  
Wallingford rod and gun club. **To be determined.**

**February 17-20<sup>th</sup>** **Fishing and Hunting Show.**  
Hartford convention center

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** Thursday 7:00 pm. **Chapter Meeting**  
Wallingford Rod and Gun Club. **Jeff Yates** topic:  
fishing around Greenwich Ct. and the **Mianus Chapter**  
of TU

**April 28<sup>th</sup>** Saturday (time), the fourth Saturday. **Spring  
Fling** Fishing and Meeting at the **Chatfield Hollow  
Park.**

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## Fishing with Friends



### Steven Pogodzienski



Sometimes when the steelhead bug gets the best of you, Jack Frost makes it ache. Adam Franceschini and I decided to do a last minute venture up to the Salmon River on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The forecast called for low 30's during the day and low 20's at night. Mother Nature had something else in mind, Saturday was a high of 23 when we arrived in the afternoon and Sunday was only 12 degrees up until 1pm. Frozen rod guides, stiff line, ice on our waders, and fishing one handed to keep frost bite from setting on our finger, or at least it felt like that, we adapted to the fish. We fished the slower water, lighter tippet, changed flies frequently, and landed a handful of fish each in 8 hours of fishing. We even hooked into some fresh chrome that had the energy of a freight train, even though the water temp was 34 degrees. Sadly they spit the hook before their photo op.

On the way home we talked about fishing in these conditions, making 30 degree weather feel like a heat wave and how it makes you better, tougher minded fishermen.

Just as the weather changed so did our opinion of fishing in cold weather conditions: adapt, be patient, and appreciate all that the experience has to offer.

Stephen Pogodzienski

### Naugatuck trip



November 26 Ed introduced 11 members to 4 locations along the Naugatuck fishing for brood stock salmon. After meeting at cross street in Naugatuck and spent the day fishing the Naugatuck. No fish were landed but the weather was great and the fish were seen swimming the river.

### Chapter Fishing Invitation



Aidan Morgan has volunteered to organize some group fishing trips for our chapter and he is also looking for your feedback. Group fishing trips will take place on Saturday mornings from 8am until noon (on the second Saturday each month) and that way we can give a report at the monthly chapter meetings. We will also organize lunch at a nearby venue after the fishing.

If you have a favorite spot or a favorite river that you would like included, please let us know. A meeting place and carpool will be arranged, announced and relayed to interested members. We will try to do this in March, April, May and again next fall. Please send any suggestions that would help make this work to Aidan Morgan. [sadmorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:sadmorgan@yahoo.com)



## Trout in the classroom and fish News



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**Trout in the Classroom** was looking to include a special program with wild native brook trout eggs to be released in Andover but the females of the stream spawned out between checking times. This project will have to be delayed for next year. Hammonasset's TIC includes 8 or 9 tanks. Statewide there are 68 schools in the program and 86 tanks with 17,800 eggs (from Kensington hatchery) delivered across 59 towns. **We are looking for young retired people (70 and younger) interested in helping to become the next guard in helping teachers connect with their students through TIC. Come to a meeting or contact any officer for details.**

### **New Stream Flow Regulations Approved by Regulations Review Committee – Rules Balance Human and Ecological Needs for Water** <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=4013&Q=491632>

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) November 29 2011 announced that the General Assembly's Legislative Regulations Review Committee has approved updated Stream Flow Standards and Regulations submitted by the agency.

"Connecticut is blessed with an ample supply of freshwater but a wise and effective approach to its use is required to strike the right balance between human and ecological needs," said DEEP Commissioner Daniel C. Esty. "Proper management of our water resources is critical to ensuring the state's future economic development while maintaining the health and welfare of our citizens and the environment."

"We thank the broad spectrum of stakeholders and others who worked with us to craft these regulations as well as members of the Regulations Review Committee who took the time to work them through with us," Commissioner Esty said. "These new regulations are based on sound science and environmental needs, but offer a realistic, flexible and cost effective means of accomplishing our water-related goals."

This is a first for the state, any sort of regulations where extraction for personal/commercial needs is up to review to protect other users downstream as well as for aquatic life, fish and wildlife.



# Fish News Farmington River



## New Trout Regulations

### Set to Take Effect Jan 1<sup>st</sup> on the West Branch Farmington & Farmington Rivers

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is reminding anglers that there will be new trout fishing regulations on much of the West Branch Farmington River and the upper Farmington River beginning on January 1, 2012.

The Farmington River (upper portions of which are officially named the “West Branch Farmington”) is the state’s premier trout fishing stream. With classic trout habitat fed by cool water released from the Metropolitan District Commission’s Goodwin Dam in Hartland, the river offers year-round fishing opportunities and holdover trout are abundant. When the new regulations take effect in January, nearly 21 miles will be open to fishing year-round.

“The new regulations will provide additional trout fishing opportunities, especially during times when most trout areas are closed to fishing,” said Bill Hyatt, chief of DEEP’s Bureau of Natural Resources. “They also simplify what had become a complicated set of regulations on the West Branch Farmington and upper Farmington rivers. Instead of five river sections with three sets of regulations, there will be one designated Trout Management Area with two sets of regulations.”

Since 1988, two sections (totaling 8 miles) of the upper 20 miles of the Farmington River have been managed as designated “Trout Management Areas” (TMA) that are open to fishing year-round. One TMA is catch-and-release fishing only all year round and the other is catch-and-release only fishing during the fall and winter. Beginning in 2002, the remaining 12 miles (in three sections) of the upper river from the Goodwin Dam in Hartland to the Route 177 bridge in Unionville have been managed under “Trophy Trout Stream” regulations with a reduced creel limit of two trout per day and a minimum length for trout (currently 12 inches).

Under the new regulations, the area that is currently year-round “catch-and-release only” (the existing West Branch Farmington River TMA) is expanded approximately 1.5 miles upstream to the foot bridge abutments just below “Whittemore pool” and remains “catch-and-release only.” The rest of the West Branch Farmington River and the Farmington River down to the Route 177 bridge in Unionville will be managed as a “seasonal” TMA, open year-round with a 2 trout/day, 12 inch minimum length from 6 a.m. on Opening Day (third Saturday in April) through August 31<sup>st</sup> and “catch-and-release only” from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 6 a.m. on Opening Day.

The new regulations are a product of both public input and scientific assessment over a number of years. Following requests from several anglers’ organizations, a series of three informational meetings were held in early 2008. “Based on data collected on the trout populations and fishing activity over multiple years, we proposed several options to increase fishing opportunities on the river,” said Bill Hyatt. “Input from anglers during the public meetings enabled us to develop a preferred option to move through the formal regulations process. This included a public hearing and public comment period earlier this year where we received overwhelming support for this proposal.”

# New Farmington River Regs

Anglers can find information on the designated Trout Management Areas, fishing regulations and all the many other fishing opportunities available in Connecticut in the 2012 Connecticut Angler's Guide. An electronic version of the 2012 Guide will be available on the DEP website ([www.ct.gov/dep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/fishing)) in early January. Printed versions of the 2012 Angler's Guide will become available in late March at more than 350 locations statewide, including town halls, bait & tackle shops and other vendors selling outdoor equipment, DEP facilities, and commercial marinas and campgrounds.

**Existing and new trout regulations for the nearly 21 mile stretch of the West Branch of the Farmington River and Farmington River running from Goodwin Dam downstream to the Route 177 Bridge in Unionville. New regulations become effective January 1, 2012.**

Vertical scale approximately represents the relative stream length of each section.

<b>GOODWIN DAM</b>				
<i>River Section</i>	<i>Current Regulations</i>	<i>Approx. River Miles (current)</i>	<i>New regulations (1/1/2012)</i>	<i>Approx. River Miles (1/1/2012)</i>
<b>Goodwin Dam downstream to the West Branch TMA</b>	<b><u>Trophy Trout Stream</u></b>  12"MLL, 2/day	5 miles	<b>Seasonal TMA</b> <b>OD - 8/31:</b> 12"MLL, 2/day  <b>9/1 - OD:C&amp;R</b>	3.5 miles
<b>West Branch TMA</b> (Power line in park to Route 219 Bridge)	<b>TMA</b> C & R only Barbless hooks only	3 miles	<b>TMA</b> C & R only (Abutments below Whittemore pool to Route 219 Bridge)  Barbless hooks only	4.5 miles
Route 219 - Route 44 (Satan's Kingdom)	<b><u>Trophy Trout Stream</u></b> 12"MLL, 2/day	2.75 miles	<b>Seasonal TMA</b>  <b>OD - 8/31:</b> 12"MLL, 2/day  <b>9/1 - OD:C&amp;R</b>	12.75 miles
<b>Route 44 (Satin's Kingdom) downstream to Lower Collinsville Dam</b>	<b><u>Trophy Trout Stream</u></b>  12"MLL, 2/day	5 miles		
Lower Collinsville Dam downstream to Route 4 Bridge in Unionville	<b>Seasonal TMA</b> <b>OD - 8/31:</b> 12"MLL, 2/day <b>9/1 - OD:C&amp;R</b>	4 miles		
Route 4 to Route 177 Bridge	12"MLL, 2/day	1 Mile		
<b>ROUTE 177 BRIDGE IN UNIONVILLE</b>				

## Key

**OD** – Opening Day of trout fishing season (third Saturday in April). **C & R** – Catch-and-release fishing (no trout can be kept). **MLL** – Minimum length limit for trout that can be kept. **2/day** – The daily creel limit (number of trout that can be kept by an angler per day).

**TMA** – Trout Management Area. **Seasonal TMA** – A TMA with regulations that vary depending on time of year.



By John Springer

Most of us but not all could use some help in our casting or even learn something new like Spey casting. If you're not in either of those groups then read no further. Several years ago Dave Goulet offered through Classic & Custom fly shop Spey casting lessons at a very reasonable cost. Since I was going to Russia and wanted to learn how my wife treated me to a lesson with Jerry Jahn. Jerry is a great teacher and covered everything you might want to know about lines and rods before we went out to start casting our rods. We did the actual casting in the Farmington River. I tried hard to absorb all he taught me but to be honest I came up short Jerry told me to come back and spend more time with him till I got it down. When I asked him how much the private lesson would be he told me it was free he just wants people to learn from him and he was not worried about money. After the second lesson I went to Russia and was able to use my Spey rod to catch Salmon when I came home I put my rod away for 2 years.

In that time Jerry teamed up with his buddy Fred and now they run their own school, Spey Casting – North East, LLC, with instruction on the Farmington River. Our local TU chapter got a group together for a Saturday class, the cost was \$50 per person. Compare this to any other lessons offered through any shops and I think you will find it a very affordable price. When I showed up I was very surprised when Jerry said I did not have to pay, he told me you only pay one time after that when you come back its free. Let me know if you get that type of guarantee any place else. Fred does most of the class room lesson now and Jerry does the casting to show you what Fred is telling you, and then they take you on the river and work with each student for the entire afternoon. Because they work with small groups of 3 or 4 students, you get plenty of individual attention and tips. Everyone was casting by the end of the day and when we left Jerry told us they are on the river almost every Saturday & Sunday and to come by if you need any help. They have all the Rio and Airflo lines and demo rods/reels for Spey casting, they can't be beat. So you'll learn with the correct equipment right from the start. They teach all types of casting and unless you have a good friend who will spend all day with you for free, these guys are the next best thing.

If you are interested e-mail [fkrow@yahoo.com](mailto:fkrow@yahoo.com) to schedule a class date.

Hugh's recent striped bass on a warm winter day

