

# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

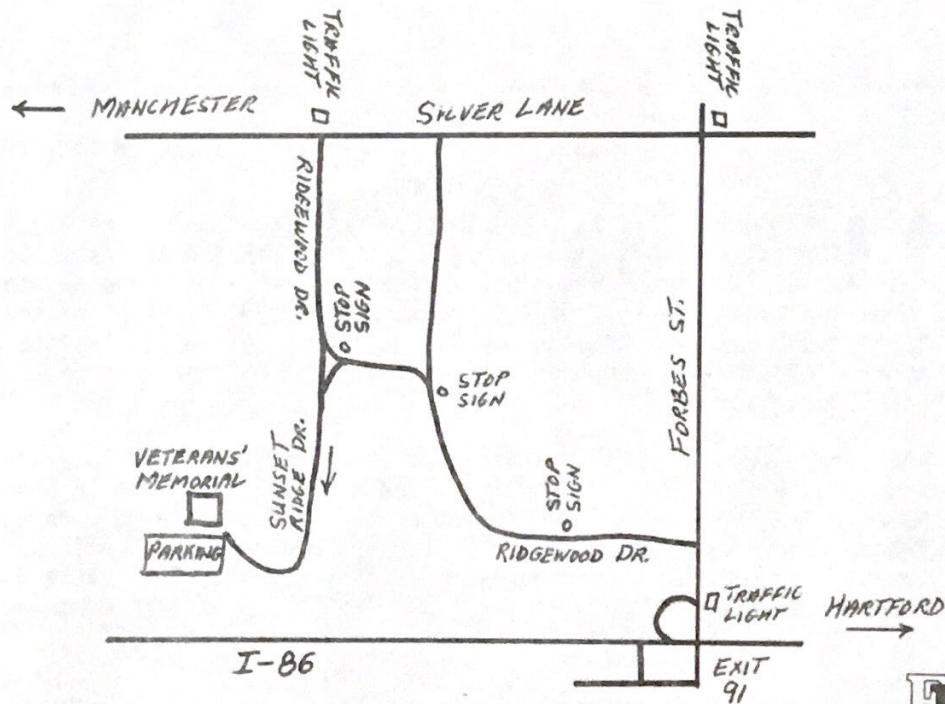
OCTOBER 1980

Vol. 7 No. 7

## Meeting Notice

CFFA's October meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, October 8 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse on Sunset Ridge Dr. in East Hartford. The program will consist of two fishing films, "Florida Bass" and "Lee Wulff on Salmon." Several flytyers will be present before the meeting to demonstrate fly tying techniques and discuss local patterns.

To reach our new meeting place, take Exit 91 (East Hartford, Forbes St., Burnside Ave.) off of I-86, turn left onto Ridgewood Drive, go left again onto Sunset Ridge Drive, and proceed to the top of the hill. Exit 91 is one exit after Roberts Street if you are coming from Hartford and one exit before Roberts Street if you are driving toward Hartford.



Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

'An active member club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen'





# THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

This Fall appears to be a season of change for CFFA. Along with a change in our meeting location we have also made a change in the printing of "Lines and Leaders." Thanks to the efforts of CFFA member Gary Bogli, our newsletter will be printed by Mr. Robert Valli and his students at South Windsor High School. This change will reduce our printing costs and allow us to print the full number of pages allowed by our postage weight limit when material is available. Later on, it may also be possible for us to include black and white photographs in the newsletter.

The one problem resulting from this change is the need to be much stricter with deadlines for submitting newsletter material. Because the work will be done by students on class time, they must have at least one full week to print, assemble and staple the newsletter. We therefore request that any material which must be typed by us be submitted by the first Wednesday of the prior month (Board of Director's Meeting) and that any material which is cleanly typed or otherwise ready to print be submitted by the second Wednesday of the prior month (CFFA monthly meeting). We are pleased with this new development, and are looking forward to a bigger and better "Lines and Leaders."

## CFFA Member Classified

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\* PRESIDENT: Elmer Latham EDITORS: Larry Johnson, Ed Fidrych \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* "Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut \*  
\* Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc., and is distributed to its member- \*  
\* ship and allies of conservation. Address editorial correspondence \*  
\* to either Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105 or to \*  
\* Ed Fidrych, Box 145, Glastonbury Rd., Portland, CT 06480. Notice of \*  
\* address change and other correspondence should be sent to CFFA, P.O. \*  
\* Box 18365, East Hartford, CT 06118. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is "Organized to Preserve \*  
\* and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve \*  
\* Game-Fish Waters." CFFA regular membership meetings are held on the \*  
\* second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are \*  
\* held at the Holiday Inn, Roberts St., East Hartford, CT. Eastern \*  
\* Council meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at \*  
\* the Mansfield Middle School, Spring Hill Rd., Mansfield, CT. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
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## CHALLENGE AT THE WILLI "NO-KILL"

I would guess that most every fly fisherman in Connecticut knows of the Willimantic River or has at least heard of it. Let's assume that you do. So, I guess I can begin my story. The area that we are most concerned about is the "fly fishing only," beginning up stream where the Roaring Brook feeds the Willi and down to the bridge at the Nye-Holman State Forest. I basically fish the upper reaches of the no-kill, and also the bridge abutment off of Buff Cap Road in Tolland.

When I first started fishing the Willi a couple of years ago I had no luck at all. I cast every fly I thought would work, even a few phrases, which I think most of you do at one time or another, but nothing seemed to work. How could I do so well at any other river when I couldn't even get a trout to strike at the Willi? The patterns I tied worked well for me at any other time. What made these trout so selective? What was I doing wrong? I had a good drag free drift and very little slack in my fly line. The size of my flies seemed to be close to the natural flies here. Once in a while a trout would make a dash at my fly, but then it turned and ignored it. When I had a chance I would ask other fishermen what they were using. I didn't like doing that because I didn't want anyone thinking I couldn't figure out what the trout were taking. I shouldn't have thought that way because how else can you learn if you don't ask questions?

I've spent plenty of time observing trout as they would sometimes sip insects from the surface or at other times jump wildly to a hatch of flies, but on the Willi it was time to go back to the drawing board. I spent the remainder of the fishing season on other streams in my area, and with good results, too, and also hit the books to see if I could pick up a few pointers.

There were all sorts of ideas on how to, where to and when to catch trout. What it all boiled down to was that I was fishing a river where the fish were educated. Anywhere else I fished had little or no pressure compared to the Willi. So it was time to switch to a lighter and longer leader, amore careful presentation and a closer match in type, size and color of fly. In a book which I read this spring I was able to get a better perspective on selective trout. The book, Trout Flies, by Lee Wulff, was lent to me by his son Barry, a good friend of mine. Lee Wulff seems to have the right idea about his Wulff patterns representing a large mouthful for a fish and that they would make an extra effort to go out of their way to catch such a large fly.

With all of this information I decided to make up a few White Wulffs' and try them the next monring. Well, Sunday morning came along and I was at the Willi and ready for action. Before I tied on a fly I wanted to see if and what kind of a hatch was on. As I walked along the stream I noticed a very sparse hatch coming off the water. Before I could decide how to get a sample, one landed on my fishing vest. It was a Blue Winged Olive, perhaps a #16. So, I decided to tie one on and give it a try. I worked my way down stream fishing the pockets and riffles. After a half hour and many casts I had no luck at all. A few hits but no takers. I was working the riffles above the head of a pool when I finally saw a rise form, and then another. I cast out to



the rising trout and let the fly drift over the fish. The fish took, but not with much concern, because it let go almost as fast as it had taken the fly. I was now becoming a little confused. What should I do next?

I stopped fishing just to watch two other fishermen in the pool below me. From what I could see, the older fellow had one on. He was nymphing close to shore and under an overhanging limb. He seemed to know what he was doing, for when I looked from time to time he usually had a fish on. What I could see from where I was helped me decide to stay where I was and fish over that area a little more carefully and change flies.

Before I did anything I watched to see if the younger fisherman had any luck. He was casting to the opposite shore and without any success. The old timer knew what he was doing, but I thought he was actually spending too much time in that one area. Little did I know then that in the no-kill area you didn't have to move much to have success. In such an area as this, where there are so many stocked fish, all one had to do was be patient and take careful observation. And I mean careful, because when a fish has been hooked as many times as these have you know that the next time the fish will take more caution.

It was now time to try my #10 White Wulff. As most of you fishermen know it is so important to read the water you intend to fish. I cast to the pockets below whatever extending rock I could find, and on my first cast I took a 12" Brown. He was hefty and put up a good fight. After I released him unharmed I was ready for my next cast. Now I was feeling a little bit better and started paying more attention to what I was doing. I drifted my next cast over another rise. Once again I connected with another trout. After playing this one for a while I released it unharmed also. In the next hour I picked up eight more fish. The size of the fish ran from 11 to 13" and they all seemed to give a good fight. Of course it helps to have light tackle in playing these fish. There's also less chance of tearing the hook out of the fish's mouth because there is more give to the whole system. I figured that ten trout was a good way to break the ice.

The following weekend I repeated the same procedure and caught eight more trout. From then on I had all the confidence I needed when it came to facing those selective trout on the Willi. So much could be said about each different experience you encounter on your favorite streams. There is no end to the fun you can have while you take the time to observe and try to find out what is hatching on the water. Another lesson I learned when I changed over to fly fishing only is that I am now releasing nearly all the fish I catch. This means that there will be some fish for the next fisherman to catch and enjoy as I have.

One last thing I would like to say is that I have sent a letter to Lee Wulff and told him of my good fortune with his tried and true Wulff patterns. In return I received a letter from him.


by L.J. "Pete" Vertefeuille  
CFFA member, Eastern Council





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OCTOBER 1980 Calendar

October 1 Board of Director's Meeting  
8 October CFFA Meeting  
22 Eastern Council Meeting

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

COMING EVENTS

November 5 Board of Director's Meeting  
12 November CFFA Meeting  
26 Eastern Council Meeting

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29