

# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

MAY 1981

Vol. 8 No. 5

## Annual CFFA Outing

**Program:** Sixth Annual Fly Fishing Outing on the Willimantic River.

**Where:** Nye Holman State Forest on Route 44 in Willington. (Take exit 100 off I-86; follow Rt. 44 east to the bottom of the hill; turn left into the park.)

A map of the no-kill fishing area is on page 11.

**When:** Sunday, May 17, 1981

**Time:** Outing - 9 a.m. to Late Afternoon  
Fishing - All Day

All fishermen and CFFA members are invited to the Sixth Annual Willimantic Fly Fishing Outing. CFFA will set up headquarters in the Nye Holman State Park. The day's activities will begin at 9 a.m. with demonstrations of Fly Casting, Fly Tying, etc.

Free maps of the no-kill stretch will be provided. Guides will be available to point out the "hot spots" and give advice on techniques and successful flies for the area.

There is plenty of room in the park for picnics, so bring the family. Bring your own lunch. Coffee, donuts and soda will be available.

The usual Conservation Drawing, containing some great prizes, will be held during the outing. Pack a lunch and come out for a great day of fishing and fellowship!



An active member club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen'

# THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

Here we are again-last newsletter until September! We hope to see you all at the Annual Outing on Sunday, May 17, and on the New York Battenkill trip, June 5-7. In order to make your summer fishing even more enjoyable, your editors hereby announce-----

## The CFFA Photo Contest.

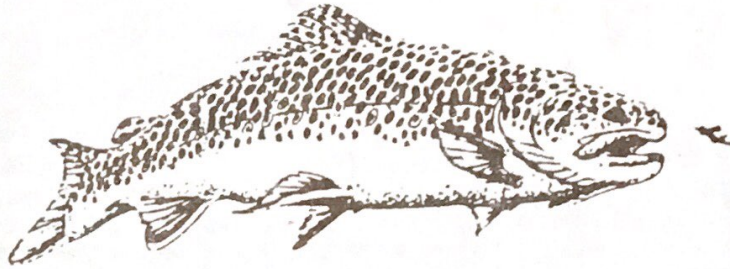
We will accept entries in three categories (1) 8 by 10 black and white prints; (2) 35mm color slides and (3) regular size color prints from Instamatic, Polaroid or similar cameras. Only CFFA members may participate, and only 2 entries may be submitted in each category. All photos must have been taken between the coming Annual Outing and October 1, 1981. All entries must show some aspect of fly fishing. There'll be lots of things happening this summer, especially on the Willi and Housatonic, so go to it. All entries will be displayed at a monthly meeting or the Annual Banquet, and suitable prizes will be given to the finalists in each category.

Your Legislative Chairman, Vin Ringrose, asked us to publish the letter from Robert Jones, Chief of Fisheries at DEP. The letter discusses important pending federal legislation which can give Connecticut more federal dollars for fisheries. We urge you to read the letter and contact your Senator and Congressman and ask them to support these two important bills.

We have the unfortunate duty of informing you that trout are not the only things being poached on the Willi. Sometime during the last week in April, two rods and reels were stolen from a car parked at the Roaring Brook section of the river. One item of value, which the owner would like to recover, was a Heddon Bill Slantz Favorite bamboo rod. It's a 9 foot, 3 piece with an extra tip, serial no. 20. Anyone with information may contact Andy Gale, Room 306, Wright "B", University of Connecticut, Storrs (487-5092) or Bob Lester, 156 Brookside Lane, Mansfield Center (429-5910). Please remember to keep your gear covered up and your car doors locked!

Finally, we want to remind you to write articles, fly patterns, etc. for next year's newsletters. These may be given to any of the club Directors or sent to either Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105 or Ed Fidrych, Box 145, Glastonbury Rd., Portland, CT 06480.

Until next Fall, tight lines!



### BATTENKILL FLY FISHING TRIP

The plans for the CFFA fishing trip are completed, and we are ready to go! We will be camping at the Battenkill Angler's Nook Campground in Shushan, New York. This trip will be June 5,6,7. Some of us will be leaving Friday morning, June 5. For those of you who will be coming up Friday evening the best and fastest route to follow is I-91 North to the Mass Pike, West on the Mass Pike to Route 22 North, to Route 313. Take Route 313 East towards Vermont and watch for campground entrance.

Each person will have to provide his or her own fishing and camping gear and their own food, and have their own means of getting to and from the campground. The only thing you will be required to purchase will be a New York State Fishing License, which will cost \$5.50 for a three day license.

We plan on having a great time and there will be a few added surprises, which you will find out about when you arrive at the campground.

One final thing I would like to remind everyone, is that this trip is for CFFA Club Members Only. No Guests! Let me know as soon as possible if you plan to go. Reservations must be made before May 15.

Contract: Elmer Latham, 742-6584.



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A NOTE FROM THE ANONYMOUS SHADDER

Spring is here. Fly rods and gear are given the final inspection before opening day. The last batches of Adams, Hendricksons, Hare's Ear nymphs and Matukas are tied. Anglers are thinking trout: Brooks, Rainbows and Browns. At least some of us are. However, some of us are cursed with an affliction, a sickness, a perverse desire. The mere utterance of a single four letter word sends my angling buddies for cover. That word is "Shad."

It so happens that I'm afflicted with that perverse desire to employ a fly rod for shad fishing. Annually my fishing compadres become extremely apprehensive at an early diagnosis of shad sickness. It's always the same. "He's at it again," mumbles number one. Number two despairingly cries, "Not more neon shad flies!" Before the stunning news wears off, I quickly usher them to the tying table, proudly showing off the the third generation of new improved flies. Trying to humor a person playing with half a deck, they don sunglasses to examine the ingredients of an annual fiasco. The coercion on my part begins!

"Well, this year we'll put in up stream and drift down." (Bringing out a topo map for effect.) "Two cars are needed. One at the put in point and one at the take out." "What about trout," whines number one. "Trout! Trout will be there all season," I retort. "But Shad again!" mutters number two. "Look, you guys must broaden your horizons. Think of battling a seven pound Roe on your fly rod," I say, hoping for a quick victory.

Number two viciously retaliates, "We haven't caught anything in three years!" Not to be dampened, I parry quickly. "The odds are with us this year. We'll hit a strong run. There'll be shad all over." "Oh sure," says number two, "You're gonna listen to Bob Steele's shad report and waste good graph paper plotting the run." "Look," I shout, a small fleck of foam drools from my mouth, "Shad fishing is good practise for Salmon, both are anadromous fish. Shad is the poor man's Salmon. This will be great practise for Nova Scotia."

"I'd rather go to Nova Scotia," answers number one, who gazes out the window for a possible escape route. Ignoring the last comment, I continue, "We could really luck out and land a Salmon. You'd get your names in the DEP bulletin. You might even catch that lunger and win the Shad Derby. You'd get to ride in that corvette with the Scale and Gut queen." "I thought you were cured when you rolled out of the canoe last year?" says number one.

Quickly the two turn to trout talk trying to bury the topic. It's too bad. It's like this every year. There's many ways of impressing a canoe crew for shad sickness. Maybe the sedative in their beer might work this year.

Anonymous Shadder

(The following letter is reprinted with permission)



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115

April 13, 1981



Open Letter to Connecticut Sport Fishermen

Dear Sport Fisherman:

If you are concerned about the future of sport fishing in Connecticut, you now have an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the effort to protect and improve Connecticut's fisheries resources. The personal effort required is small, but necessary and effective. All that is required is for you to read this letter carefully and then let your convictions be known to Connecticut's Congressional delegation in Washington.

Legislation has recently been introduced into Congress which is commonly known as the D-J (Dingle Johnson) Expansion Bill but more properly called the "Fish Restoration Act of 1981". In the U. S. Senate, it is referred to as S. 546 and in the House of Representatives as H. R. 2250. Originally passed in 1950, "The Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act", (D-J Act), provides for federal aid for sport fish restoration by apportioning to the states the proceeds of the 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels and artificial baits, lures, and files. The annual fund was approximately \$30 million in 1980; some \$280 million has been made available to the states since the program started. Increased demands on the resource and the erosive effects of inflation have placed the states under great financial stress with the result that necessary management, development and research programs cannot be accomplished. The D-J Expansion Bill will extend the 10 percent excise tax to other kinds of sport fishing tackle and place a three percent tax on boats, motors and trailers used primarily for sport fishing. This expansion will add approximately \$70 million to the existing fund.

Monies from this fund are apportioned to the states based on area and license sales. The minimum apportionment is one percent of the total fund with the maximum being five percent. As a minimum state Connecticut now receives slightly more than \$300,000 each year and could expect to receive nearly one million dollars with the passage of this bill. With the states matching share (75% federal-25% state funds) the D-J program in Connecticut could reach \$1,250,000.

A review of our past and present D-J projects will indicate the benefits gained from this program by Connecticut sport fishermen. Nearly all boat launching sites in Connecticut have been purchased and developed under this program. Creel census projects have provided data which is the basis for our trout stocking policy. The Sea-run Brown Trout Study not only developed a trophy trout fishery in certain coastal streams but also provided our staff with technical information on the management of anadromous salmonids which has become invaluable in our Atlantic salmon program. Our knowledge and management capabilities in the marine area have been significantly increased by striped bass and bluefish projects. The creation of a northern pike fishery in Bantam Lake and the enhancement of the Connecticut River pike fishery were made possible by this program. Stream bank acquisition on the Willimantic River, Farmington River, Blackledge River and others was accomplished

with D-J funds. The Fisheries Survey of Lakes and Ponds in Connecticut, a detailed physical, chemical and biological survey of Connecticut lakes and ponds, continues to provide necessary and useful information to biologists and sportmen alike.

Recent and ongoing projects include the construction of the Rainbow Fishway on the Farmington River and the Leesville Fishway on the Salmon River, and the operation and maintenance of those facilities. Virtually our entire Atlantic salmon restoration program is being funded under this program, including the construction and operation of the Adult Salmon Holding Facility at Peoples Forest, the conversion of Kensington Hatchery to a salmon facility and the evaluation of salmon fry stocking in Sandy Brook. Of importance to bass fishermen in Connecticut is our five year, \$500,000 Statewide Largemouth Bass Research and Management Project which is designed to develop a management program to enhance the trophy bass fishery. A recently approved, long range, comprehensive, marine recreational fishery project will provide data on the value and importance of marine recreational fishing in Long Island Sound and will provide management information for a range of marine species important to recreational fishermen.

At the present time ongoing projects will utilize nearly all of our annual D-J apportionment and yet there are a host of problems that are in desperate need of attention. Existing access and launching areas require continuing maintenance and potential sites await acquisition and development. Fishing piers and stream access points are priority programs without funds. The trout stocking program of the state must be rationalized with detailed physical, chemical and biological information on our rivers and streams. The population dynamics of important warm water fish such as smallmouth bass, pickerel and panfish must be investigated and integrated into management programs. With the termination of the anadromous fisheries grant program by the Administration in Washington, other funding sources must be developed to continue our shad monitoring program and to further develop and expand our salmon restoration effort.

The answer to these problems is money. The D-J Expansion Bill will provide the necessary funds. However, passage of this act will not be easy. The boating industry will not accept the fact that good fishing sells boats. Well financed boating industry organizations are lobbying strongly against the passage of this bill even though the potential increase in the price of boats used for fishing will surely be lost in the ongoing inflation spiral. (The cost of a canoe would increase about \$7.00.) The number of sportsman organizations, professional groups and fishing tackle manufacturers supporting D-J expansion include: Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Izaak Walton League, Federation of Fly Fishermen, American League of Anglers, Trout Unlimited, American Fisheries Society, National Wildlife Federation, Sport Fishing Institute and many others. This organizational support, however, must be complemented by an individual grass roots effort. In order to assure funds for necessary programs in Connecticut every concerned sportsman must act.

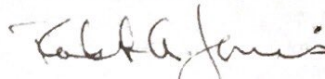
If you believe that the D-J program has enhanced and preserved your sport and that there is need to continue to expand these programs, please write a personal letter---and urge your friends to write. Supporting petitions and resolutions are important, but nothing impresses elected representatives more than sincere constituent mail. Just address your letter: Honorable (your Representative) House of Representative, Washington D.C. 20515, and Honorable (your Senator)

United State Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510. Not only urge support of S. 546 and H. R. 2250 for the reasons I have described but also suggest that your Congressman co-sponsor these bills.

Act now! Five minutes of your time could mean a lot to all Connecticut anglers.

Thanks and good fishing!

Sincerely,



Robert A. Jones  
Chief of Fisheries

RAJ:amc

**UNITED STATES SENATORS  
1981**

Office Address: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. R 445 Round Hill Rd. Greenwich 06830  
Christopher J. Dodd D 18 Huntington Place, Norwich 06360

**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES  
IN CONGRESS  
1981**

Office Address: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Dist			
1	William R. Cotter	D	247 Fairfield Ave. Hartford 06114
2	Samuel Gejdenson	D	Bashon Hill Road, Bozrah 06334
3	Lawrence J. DeNardis	R	790 Still Hill Road, Hamden 06518
4	Stewart B. McKinney	R	4480 Congress St., Fairfield 06430
5	William Ratchford	D	2 Johnson Drive, Danbury 06810
6	Anthony Toby Moffett	D	Wheeler Road, Litchfield 06759

Constituent contacts are extremely important to your legislator. It is a political fact that your identification as a voter in his/her district and your feelings on a particular bill(s) are taken as "instructions" representative of the total district. It is especially important on *controversial legislation* that legislators know they have sufficient voter support for the position they are asked to take. Often the sheer number of the "instructions" will decide the vote.

In order of effectiveness these are the standard methods of contacting legislators:

1. face to face
2. personal telephone conversation
3. thoughtful letter
4. telegram
5. telephone message
6. postcard

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## MY FIRST TROUT

by Jon Friedman age 13

The day started out a warm summer morning like any other except that I had a plan to go fishing with a friend of mine. We were going to a small brook in Durham which I had never heard of but was well known by him. A few days earlier he attended a derby at this brook. He told me how he caught his limit in five minutes on worms and how his father did the same on flies.

I was very anxious to start fishing when we arrived so I ran to the side of the brook and looked around. My friend pointed to a nice rainbow cruising a small pool a few feet downstream. I saw a few rises and a few flashes as trout went after nymphs.

I decided to try a nymph. I casted for about ten minutes and not even a strike, so I changed to a dry (my favorite kind of fly). I casted for about four or five minutes, but I was determined to get a rise. I kept casting and finally got a rise but as soon as I saw the splash I pulled, and the line went limp.

This brought up my spirits some so I kept casting until finally another rise, this time I was ready and I pulled at the right time. The battle was on. I turned my head to call to my friend who was a few pools down and when I looked back the fish was at least two feet out of the water, jumping desperately to get free. I brought him close to shore to net him and he made his final run but that completely tired him out, enough so that I brought him to the net and walked ashore. I stared at the fish in disbelief. I thought to myself "I finally did it, I caught a trout." After that moment I considered myself an experienced fly-fisherman.

The next day I went back and caught another trout, both were nice rainbows.



## WILLIMANTIC RIVER TROUT MANAGEMENT AREA

The following material was taken from handouts from last month's meeting, and is presented here for the benefit of members who did not attend. We urge all members who fish the Willi regularly to participate in the diary program. We also hope that everyone who fishes the river will watch for and turn in the poachers. Conservation Officer names and phone numbers are listed in the Fishing Regulation pamphlet.

### History

The Willimantic River has a history of trout stocking dating back to 1930. The river has been stocked from the vicinity of Roaring Brook downstream intermittently to route 44A in Mansfield. Stream quality was judged sufficient in the late 1950's and early 1960's to institute a program of fishing easement aquisition and a significant portion of the stream bank is available to the public due to direct ownership or easement. Due to a series of pollution caused fish kills, the stocking of the Willimantic River was suspended in 1964. By 1974 pollution abatement programs allowed stocking to be resumed. In 1974 an area from the mouth of Roaring Brook to the bridge at route 44 in Willington was restricted to fly fishing only and in 1976 that section was designated as a "No-Kill" area. Only a limited effort has been made to assess the recreational values of this designation, but the perception is that angling in the "No-Kill" area has been excellent.

### The Plan

The basic aspects of the management program on the Willimantic are:

- (1) to designate a four mile section of the Willimantic River as a Trout Management Area;
- (2) to continue special regulations to require all trout that are caught to be immediately released unharmed;
- (3) to institute an assessment program by which to judge the social, economic and biological factors associated with the management regime; and
- (4) to develop and institute management policies designed to respond to assessment analysis and to meet the goal of the program. It is anticipated that this plan will be instituted early in 1981 and will be updated annually.

### The Area

It is proposed that the area of the Willimantic River from the mouth of Roaring Brook downstream to the bridge at route 44 in Tolland and Willington be designated as the "Willimantic River Trout Management Area".

### Special Regulations

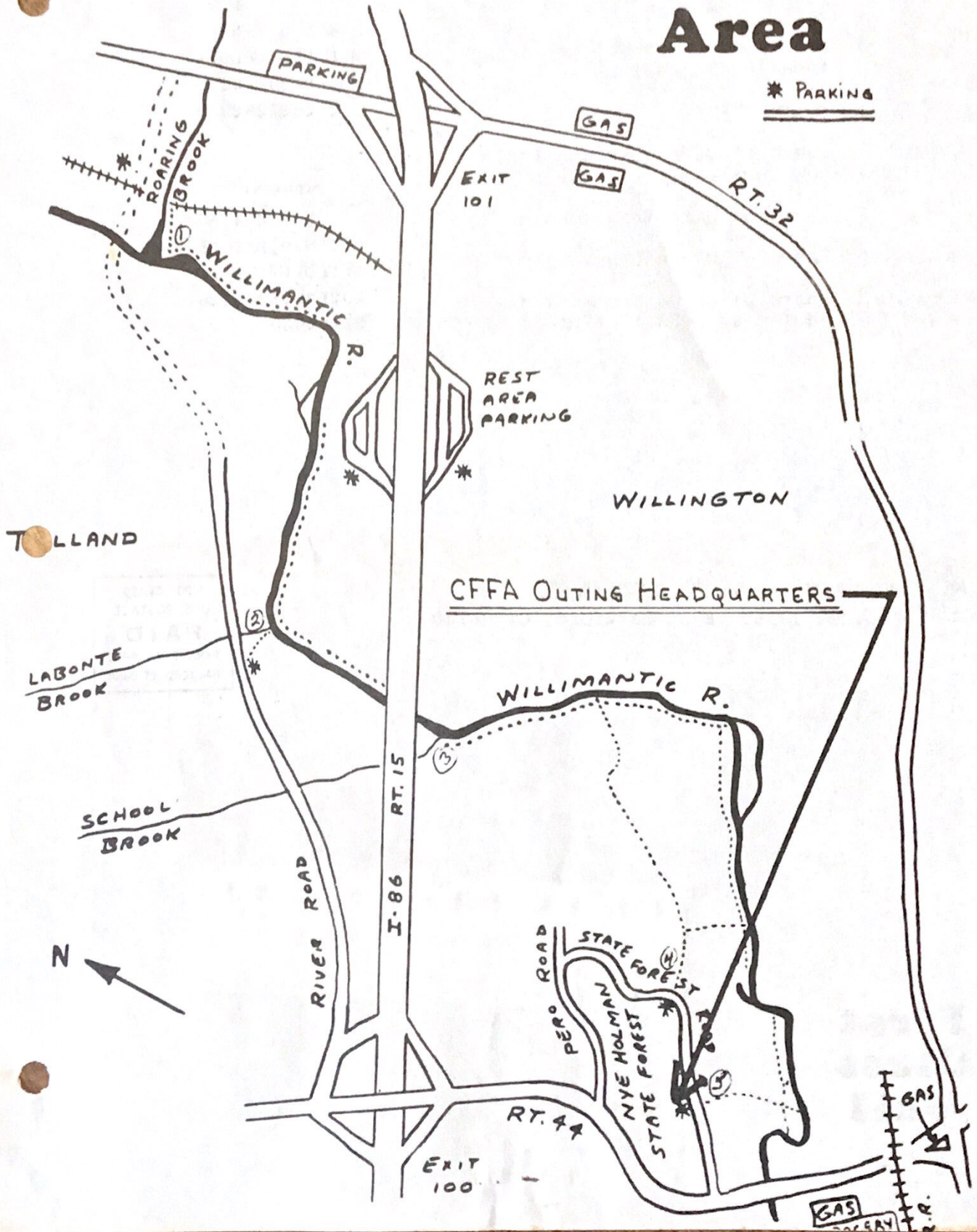
It is recommended that the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies be amended to provide a zero catch limit of trout in the management area, that the area remain a "fly fishing only" area, and that the possession of trout in the waters or on the shores of the management areas be prohibited. A program of posting relevant aspects of the regulations conspicuously on the entire management area should be instituted. A vigorous enforcement program should be implemented.

### Assessment

A detailed assessment program is being developed to provide data on the success of the various aspects of this plan. It is proposed that this program be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for funding assistance under the Federal Aid to Fish Restoration Program (D-J). The basic aspects of the program will include: 1) a statistically valid survey of anglers utilizing the management area throughout the season to determine fishing pressure, trout catchability, and the perception of quality; 2) a volunteer log book/diary program to obtain detailed information from selected anglers on the fishery, 3) a biological sampling program to determine growth rates, mortality rates and survivability of those stocks selected for introduction and to compare these aspects with those in a similar "open" area. Details of this assessment program will be contained in the application for Federal assistance.

It is apparent that the management system described above cannot be a static, unchanging program. It is intended that results of the assessment program will be utilized to: 1) vary stocking rates; 2) vary the strain, age and size of trout stocked and 3) to form the basis for recommended changes in the special regulations to respond to the needs of angler and to meet the goals of the plan.

# Willi 'Fly Only-No Kill' Area



MAY 1981 CALENDAR

May 6 Board of Directors Meeting  
17 Annual CFFA outing

COMING EVENTS

June 3 Board of Directors Meeting  
5-7 New York Battenkill Trip  
July 1 Board of Directors Meeting  
August 5 Board of Directors Meeting  
Sept. 2 Board of Directors Meeting  
9 September CFFA Meeting

May

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

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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					3	4
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