



# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

SEPTEMBER 1982

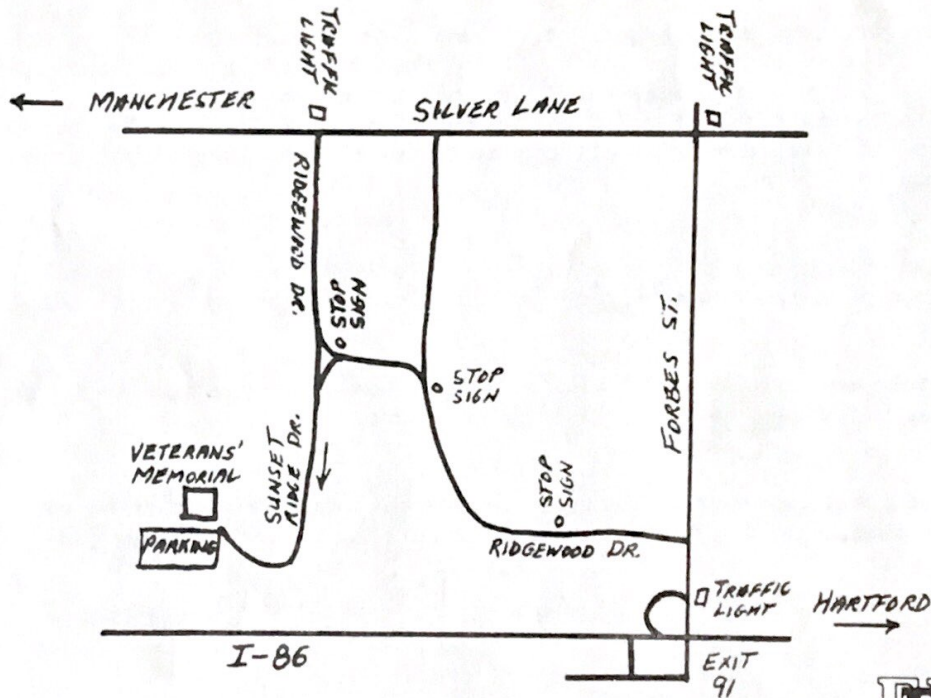
Vol. 9

No. 6

## Meeting Notice

CFFA's September meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, September 8 at the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse on Sunset Ridge Dr. in East Hartford. Our program will be "Fishing in Massachusetts" by Richard Cronin, Director of Fisheries and Wildlife for that state. Slides and/or films will be shown.

Several fly tyers will be present before the meeting. Please note that this meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room due to a scheduling conflict.



Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

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



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During one of my trips to the Willi fly fishing areas this summer, I was sitting there on a rock in the middle of the river watching a few trout lazily coming to the surface. One trout in particular seemed to be acting a little different from the others. The longer I observed this magnificent trout, I couldn't help but recall the memories of all the time and effort that was spent by so many people to make this section of the river available for me.

Reflecting upon these cherished memories, I could think of no other way to show my appreciation but to set aside one day a year to come here and do my part, to maintain this area so that future generations may be able to come here and enjoy the beauty of this river, and perhaps sit upon my rock.

I have set aside Saturday, September 11, 1982 as my appreciation date. My thoughts were to go to the west bound rest area on I-86 at about 7:00 a.m. I plan to have a leisurely cup of coffee (or two) while climbing into my waders. From here, depending on how I feel, I will start working my way either up or down stream, trimming some nuisance branches, perhaps repair a sign or two, and if I am not loaded down with too much equipment, I may even pick up a discarded can or bottle along the way.

Sitting here writing this message, reflecting back to that day upon my rock, I can't help but to think that somehow I had been put into a trance and taken back in time. It was as though this trout had put me to sleep, but had awakened my senses to the fact that I would not be here, and most importantly, he would not be here, if it were not for all the hard work that so many forgotten people had put into this river.

For those of you who may care to join me on this day, whether you choose to just walk along and chat awhile, or share the load, you are more than welcome.

There are only two things that I will ask you to bring if you plan to come, your thermos of coffee, and your fishing equipment.

For who knows where my particular trout may be that day, or whether he was ever really there, the only thing I know for sure is that my rock is gone, I know not where.

Elmer Latham

## CASTING GAMES HIGHLIGHT CFFA OUTING

You don't often find flyfishers competing against one another, but offer them some fishing tackle prizes mixed with good food and fellowship and, odds are, you'll kindle their spirit of competition.

At least that's what happened at the CFFA Annual Outing, held this year at the Blast & Cast's Club grounds in South Windsor, this past May 23. The casting games highlighted the days festivities which included fly tying and fly casting demonstrations, a barbeque and fishing for freshly stocked trout in the Blast & Cast's private pond. (The trout, we understand, were not too cooperative for the "older, more experienced anglers", but the catfish and golden shiners kept some of the youngsters happy. In fact, one young lass - after landing an undersized catfish on a fly - was overheard yelling to her mentor: "Daddy, Daddy. I caught a kitty-fish!")

Meanwhile, back at the games, several hopeful anglers tested their casting skills in the Dry Fly and Roll Casting Accuracy Competition. They cast to "targets" - five 3 foot diameter colored metal hoops - anchored in the pond at various distances from the shore.

The CFFA congratulates all those who entered the games (the scores were close) and offers a special congratulations to the following winners:

### (score out of 100)      DRY FLY CASTING ACCURACY

BOY'S (16 & Under) 1st: Jon Friedman, Middletown (81)

2nd: Mark LaRosa, Hartford (71)

Men's 1st: Gary Bogli, Manchester (92)

2nd: Ken Parkany, Manchester (91)

### ROLL CASTING ACCURACY

BOY'S (16 & Under) 1st: Mark LaRosa, Hartford (73)

2nd: Chris D'Aiello (67)

Men's 1st: Gary Bogli, Manchester (89)

2nd: Ken Parkany, Manchester (86)

(Note of thanks: The CFFA wishes to thank Mr. Ted Barbieri, Somers, for the loan of the targets used in the games.)

Reported by Ken Parkany,  
Casting Games Chairman

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## UNTANGLING ANGLING

At the club's Board of Directors meeting on June 2, 1982, we had as our guest that evening Mr. John Decesare from the Connecticut Sportsman's Alliance. As a result of the meeting, we here on the Board voted unanimously to join and become an active and supporting club in the Connecticut Sportsman's Alliance.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the following people that gave up their time to make the necessary repairs to the rearing pool where the club raise its trout.

Gary Stebins  
Steve Becker  
Howard Huff  
Lou Patria

Dr. Vin Ringrose  
Wayne Antonini  
Mike Vernisoni  
Steve Tripp

From time to time on my fishing trips, I often find various fishing items along the way. For those of you who may have lost some of these items, feel free to give me a call or see me during our monthly meeting. With the proper description, I will be glad to return these items.

1. One wading staff found floating down the Willi fly fishing area.
2. Nail clippers - lost by either angler or tourist.
3. Flip tail - Uses for bass fishing or whatever.
4. Approximately two dozen kernels of corn.
5. Approximately 300 yards of various monofilment fishing line  
2 lb. - 30 lb. test.
6. One kast master lure (Willi fly fishing area)
7. One jitterbug (Willi fly fishing area)
8. Various cans and bottles (these have been returned for the deposit and cannot be reclaimed "sorry").

*By Burlap*


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"A weekend on the Deerfield River"

On Friday, June 4th, twelve hardy C.F.F.A. fishermen headed out for a fishing and camping weekend at one of Massachusetts' famous trout streams, the Deerfield River. Nestled in the scenic Berkshire Hills on the historic Mohawk Trail, the river offers fishermen many fine hold-over trout according to local fishermen.

Upon arriving at Pike's Camping Area, many members were busy setting up their tents and talking about "hot" areas to fish. Friday was a beautiful Spring day, sunny and mild with the water at a nice level. That morning proved to be a scouting mission for many as they did not know the river and the most productive areas to fish.

Finding the "Catch & Release Area" about 2PM that day, I found the water very high and swift due to the Power Company's control of minimum water flows on the river. Stopping at a local fly tying shop on the river's edge, I found out that fishing for the rest of the day would be difficult due to the adverse water condition, but the store owner encouraged us to tie on a weighted Ted's Stone fly. Locals, including the store owner, were very hospitable and willing to help in suggesting patterns and areas to try. A private stocking of the "Catch & Release area was done the day before with many fish in the 2 to 4 pound class reported being stocked. Arriving at the river's edge, many C.F.F.A. members found wading difficult, but reported good fishing by the dam with trout in the 15 to 16 inch class being caught.

(cont.)

(2)

I was fortunate to land a 15 inch Rainbow on Ted's Stone fly. Saturday the rains came, fishing came to a standstill with many members sitting around camp telling stories and exchanging fly patterns. Without a favorable weather forecast for the rest of the week, many left Pike's camping area early, but agreed to challenge the Deerfield River in the Fall.



Robert J. Martinchek  
VP-Activities

## THE CORNER POOL

Welcome back to our yearly series of meetings and newsletters! Hope you all got in a lot of fishing, and are ready to write some articles for our coming issues. Five years ago, Susan and I planned a trip to Montana which would include at least some fishing--instead of going we bought a house. A house which needed a lot of renovation. This year we finally made it, and with any luck I'll get an article of my own in "Lines and Leaders."

There will be a sign up sheet for our Rod Building Class taught by Ed Roberts at the September meeting. The first 10 members to sign up will be accepted, and will receive further information and instructions in the mail.

CFFA member Tony Lolli has offered to provide salmon and steelhead information to anyone headed for the Salmon River or eastern Lake Ontario. You can call Tony at (607) 844-9028 or write him at 3 Hilton Rd., Dryden, NY 13053.

Don't forget our photo contest for pictures taken between the May outing and October 1st. Any type of print or slide will be accepted in two categories, (1) Active fishing activities and (2) still-life, non-fishing shots. Winners will receive gift certificates, and special awards will be made for humorous shots. Instructions for mailing in your entries will be in the October newsletter.

Larry Johnson

The following pattern was taken from the June, 1982 newsletter of The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers. It should be good for some of the fall fishing on the Willi described in the next article.

## GREEN COUNTRY FLYFISHERS

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Mickey Hall - President



### FLY OF THE MONTH

1979 - No. 5

"Beetle"

Tied By

Walter Beckham

This is a take off on the Fly of the Month from January, 1979, in Field and Stream by Eric Pepper. Instead of using the deer hair for feelers I have used the extension of two peacock hurls.

Different patterns of the Beetle have been around for a long time. I like this one because it is simple and very easy to tie and it does catch fish.

The Beetle is best in summer and early fall when terrestrials are the most common insects on the water. A free float will generally bring a rise, but if that doesn't work twitch the fly slightly. Another trick is to pull the fly completely under, the deer hair will cause the fly to rise to the surface.

The Beetle is not too durable after being chewed by four or five fish the deer hair will break up. But they are so simple and easy to make - have your box full.

Try the Beetle when no insects are on the water. The Beetle is very visible to you even in the small sizes.

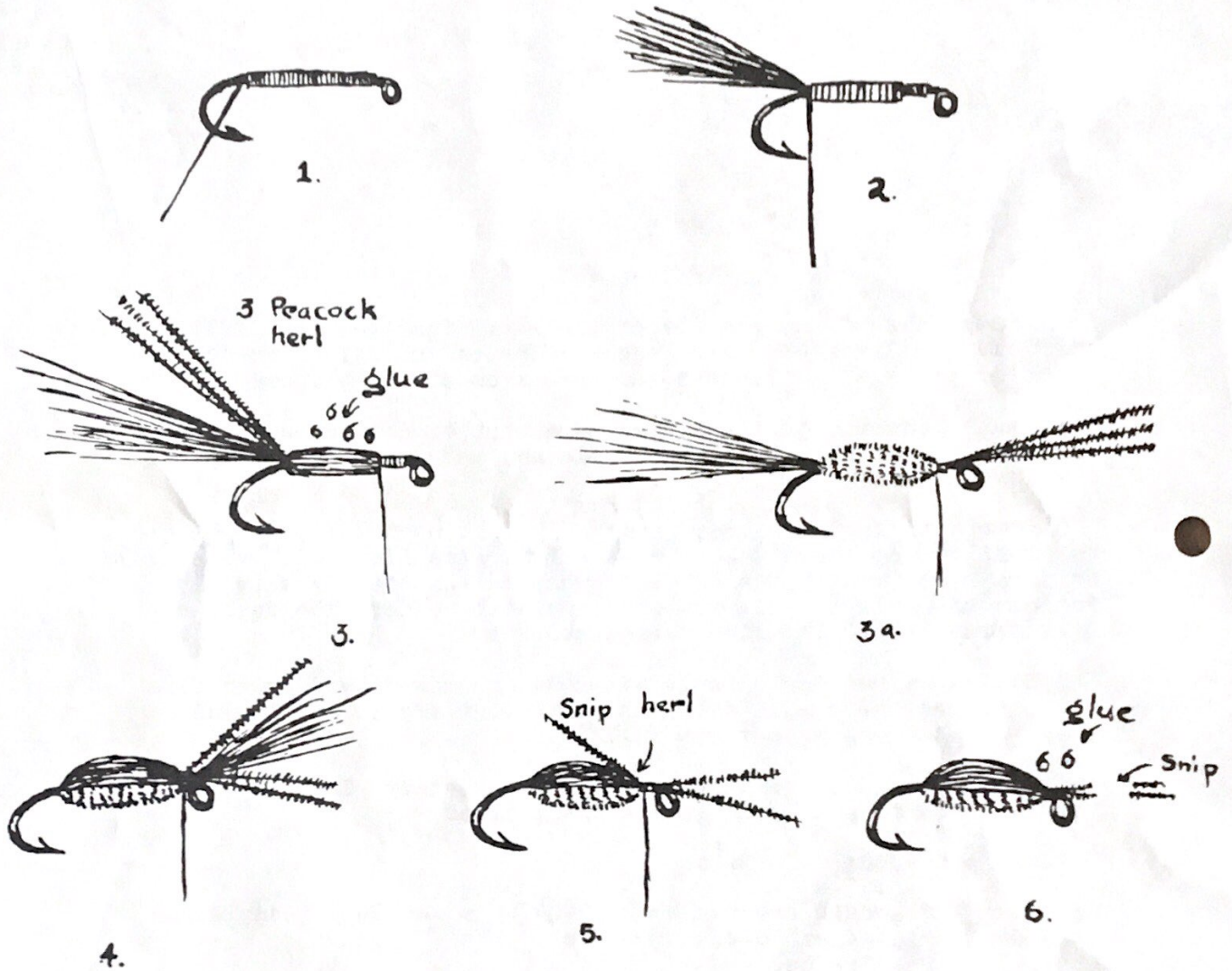
#### Materials needed:

Hook - Standard dry fly hook. 94840 - size 12-20 (sample #12)  
Thread - Pre-waxes black or olive  
Body - Peacock herl  
Shell - Deer hair

#### Tying Procedure:

- (1) Cover shank of hook with thread.
- (2) Tie on a bunch of deer hair butts forward to cover the rear three-fourths of the hook shank (do not trim the tips) Wrap the body quite tightly, fastening the deer hair from the top of the bend to where you tied down the butts. Finish with the thread at the rear.
- (3) Tie in three strands of peacock hurls and end up with the thread near the head - apply glue to body.

- (3A) Then wrap peacock herl strands forward and tie off leaving three strands extended beyond the eye.
- (4) Take deer hair forward and tie off, and trim excess deer hair.
- (5) Pull center peacock herl back and tie down and trim.
- (6) Apply head cement and trim extended peacock herl for feelers.



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## FALL FISHING ON THE WILLIMANTIC

by Vin Ringrose

Once upon a time, when the world was young, trout fishing was a Spring and early Summer affair. Come July, one put aside trout tackle and went bass fishing, or perhaps turned to the salt, or even gave up fishing altogether until next April. Fortunately most of us are no longer restrained by such traditions, and fishing regulations now permit a marvelous "second season" right through the Fall. In the six previous seasons that the "Willi" no-kill section has been open I have discovered it to be a superb autumn fishery, and I share my experiences with you in this article in the hope that many of you will be inspired to give it a try--and more than once!

The Fall season begins sometime after Labor Day, varying from year to year with its onset depending on how rapidly the water cools. There is always a period of time when the water is cooling but the fish remain lethargic, preferring to feed early and late, ignoring the mid-day hours as if they were still in the dog days of mid-Summer. However, by mid-September, there is no longer any doubt--the Fall season is on and the trout feed vigorously all day long--just as they do in April and early May.

I would anticipate that this season (1982) will have a fairly early onset for two reasons. First, we have had above average rainfall through the Spring and early Summer, and the water tables are up. Stream flow is up from the same time the past two seasons. Second, our average temperatures have been below normal for the month of August with clear and cool nights, some a bit on the chilly side. This augurs for stream temperatures in the low 60's by September 15.

The stretch of water that I will talk about is the "upper" water with which I am most familiar--that water from Roaring Brook junction down to just below the I-86 bridge. While the meadow water of the Nye-Holman Forest contains good fish, there is no doubt in my mind that the upper water contains more holdover trout and much more prolific fly hatches.

"Fly hatches?," you say, "There are no real hatches after mid-Summer." Wrong! From mid-September to Thanksgiving there is a marvelous, leisurely hatching Baetis mayfly, size #18 - #20, which begins to show at about noon and comes off until sundown, peaking at about 2 P.M. I like to call this the "little Hendrickson" hatch because like the Hendrickson it is a "gentleman flyfisher's" hatch in its timing, starting late enough to allow a leisurely breakfast and forenoon and tailing off just in time for supper. It seems to be more profuse on overcast days, but I have had wonderful fishing on golden days in mid-October.

The fly is imitated nicely by several dry flies in sizes #18, #20 and #22. The Henryville Special, Adams, Blue Quill and Blue-Winged Olive all work nicely, and sometimes one feeding fish takes a Henryville but his nearest neighbor takes one of the other patterns just as greedily, after refusing the Henryville! This Baetis seems to flutter and flop a lot which is why I believe a caddis pattern like the Henryville works so well.


Speaking of caddis flies, there are always occasional caddis emerging throughout the season, so caddis patterns in all sizes are good attractor patterns if one is finding the mayfly fishing slow. Terrestrials such as beetles, ants and hoppers work all through the Fall, and I have found Dave's Hopper in sizes #8 and #10 and Gartside's Pheasant Hopper in the same sizes both to be highly attractive patterns, especially on warm, windy days.

All right, you say, these are the flies--but where do you prefer to fish them? At this time of year I check the large pools first, looking for rise forms, and if I see them I wade in and start fishing. My favorite large pools are the following, not in any special order. The Roaring Brook Pool (the large, deep pool which begins about 50 feet below Roaring Brook, NOT the pool where Roaring Brook joins the Willimantic), the Elbow Pool, the Tarzan Pool, Myron's Run and the Bridge Abutment Pool. If the fish are not

rising for some reason, I explore faster water between pools, especially close to the banks, with terrestrials. One final tip about exploring for non-rising fish. The Roaring Brook Pool previously mentioned is a congregating spot for large browns in the Fall, apparently so as to be ready to run up Roaring Brook in late October to spawn. These browns, the largest fish in this section of the river, rarely rise but can be induced to slash at a streamer, especially on an overcast day.

Dry fly fishing is actually easier in the Fall than wet fly fishing because of the ubiquitous sunken leaves that constantly get caught on sunken flies. Dry flies rarely get hung up with leaves. In November the leaves have pretty well gone, and if the water has not cooled too severely (below 45 degrees), fishing can still be delightful. I took five nice browns this past season on Nov. 5th in the Bridge Abutment Pool--all on dries.

Fishing has been spectacularly good this season on the Willi--the hatch at Hendrickson time was the best since 1976, and the Willi made more new friends than ever before. However, some DEP officials continue to voice concern that the Willi no-kill area is being "under-utilized", to use the jargon of the professional fisheries people. We of CFFA have put too much energy into getting this wonderful area established. Let's not let anything happen to jeopardize its continuation as a no-kill stretch. Make a concerted effort to fish there in September and October--you'll be glad you did-- in more ways than one!




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SEPTEMBER 1982 CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 Board of Director's Meeting
- 8 September CFFA Meeting

COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 1 Deadline for Taking Contest Photos
- 6 Board of Director's Meeting
- 13 October CFFA Meeting

**September**

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		

**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
<sup>24</sup> / <sub>31</sub>	25	26	27	28	29	30