



LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

DECEMBER 1984

Vol. 11

No. 9

Meeting Notice

Program: Connecticut River Salmon Restoration.
Place: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Road, East Hartford, CT.
When: Wednesday, December 12, 1984.
Time: Fly Tying -7:00 P.M.
Program -7:30 P.M.

CFFA's December meeting will feature Peter Minta from the Bureau of Fisheries of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Pete will give us a status report on the restoration of Salmon in the Connecticut River system.

Several fly tyers will be present before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques, and we will hold our usual conservation drawing before the program.

Random Casts

Willi Diaries for 1984 will be collected by Chuck Phillips at the December CFFA meeting. Remember to put your name and address on the cover if you want them returned to you.

The deadline for material for the January issue of Lines and Leaders will be Sunday, December 9th. This is for typed, ready to print material only. This is one week sooner than usual due to the school's closing for Christmas vacation.

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THE CORNER POOL
 Larry Johnson

This month's issue contains the first announcement and reservation form for our Annual Banquet on February 9, 1985. The banquet will be held at the Sphinx Temple in Newington, and our guest speaker this year will be Gary Borger. Remember that you must mail in your reservation!!! Anyone wishing to donate prizes for our conservation drawing should call either Elmer Latham (742-6584) or Dick Smoragiewicz (569-0364). All donations will be acknowledged at the banquet and in Lines and Leaders.

The January newsletter will contain the nominating committee's recommendations for club officers for 1985, and the annual election of officers will take place at the January meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but remember that anyone nominated must have agreed to serve, if elected.


Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to wish all of you and your families the best of Holiday Seasons!

 *
 * The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. is organized "To
 * Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to
 * Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the
 * second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are
 * held at the Veterans' Memorial, Sunset Ridge Dr., East Hartford, CT.
 *

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UNTANGLING ANGLING

Now that the Christmas season is fast approaching us (and I am still trying to figure out where this past year has gone), my wife has again asked me for my Christmas wish list. Being a person who you could say, has a substantial amount of equipment for 10 life times, I couldn't exactly tell her that I needed another fly rod or that sweet little 410 side-by-side shotgun that I saw. Since she brought up the subject, I thought it would be a good idea to see what would be available in fly fishing equipment for 1985.

Fly Fisherman's magazine has what they call a buyer's guide which is available at any tackle shop that sells Fly Fisherman's magazine.

Before getting on with the equipment that will be available, I would like to mention that the articles that are written in the magazine are also worth the time that it takes to read them.

I am not going to take up the whole issue of Lines and Leaders, writing about all that's new for 1985, but I will give you some idea as to what's available in the way of fly rods. There are 21 pages devoted just to fly rods alone; from kits to the finished product. There are cane rods to fiberglass and graphite to boron. Your choice is unlimited, and believe me, one really has a lot to choose from. In fact, if one could get access to all of them, you would have 1,338 rods to choose from, and that's not including the custom rod builders.

By Burlap


Merry XMAS & Happy New Year

The TIP (Turn in Poachers) Program offers rewards for information leading to arrests on certain fish and wildlife violations. All callers remain anonymous. Reports may be called to 1-800-842-HELP. This number is toll-free. For further information on the program, call 566-5599.

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QUIMBY POND WEEKEND

by Lionel Mac Donald

Thursday evening of the fourth weekend in September found me hustling to get home. Tuesday and Wednesday nights, I'd busied myself packing clothes and fishing gear. For three weeks prior to this I'd been tying bucktails and streamers in preparation for this week-end trip to Maine. I had never heard of or seen a Kennebago Smelt or Kennebago Streamer. That's the river we'd be fishing, so why not tie some up? Oddly enough, the smelt pattern was taken from a western magazine. The streamer pattern was taken from Joe Bates Jr.'s book on streamers and bucktails. Another pattern I was reminded of for two or three weeks prior to our trip was the Hornberg, so I tied up some of them also. Ironically, the smelt pattern which was recommended by our host (Ed Stasonis of Northwoods Experiences) was totally different from either pattern previously mentioned, but I tied some of them anyway.

All I needed to do was to change to my travel clothes, put suitcase and gear into the truck and leave for Hartford where I'd meet the other seven guys I'd be traveling with to Quimby Pond, Rangeley, Maine. I was excited, to say the least. We left Hartford at 6:45 P.M. for the start of an eight hour ride. Traffic was medium to heavy from Hartford through Springfield due to the I-91 bridge repair work at Windsor Locks and Big E in West Springfield. Traffic north from there was proportionate to the population density and the time of night. By the time we arrived in Northern Vermont and New Hampshire, we were alone on the road. We arrived at camp trip-weary. Within a short time after unpacking, we were all sound asleep. sawing pine? sawing wood?

Friday and Saturday's fishing were productive for most of us, including the writer. I hooked and released three landlock salmon, two of which could have been keepers. One individual in our group hooked and lost an estimated 4-4 1/2 pounder at Upper Dam. Sunday's fishing was slower than the two previous days. We did not all get to fish all the spots, although some of us may have. I believe we all at least got to be at most of the spots, so that in a group talk we could relate to steep bank pool, the bridge pool, of John's Pond pool or Upper Dam. We all agreed that those of us who caught fish caught them on no consistent pattern. Most of the push was gray ghost or blackghost, but they also fell to hornbergs, black nosed dace and picket pins. Though most of the fishing was done on the Kennebago River, some of us did catch some brook trout in Quimby Pond. I also understand that a 16-17 inch brookie came out of the Kennebago.

A new wet fly pattern developed during the course of the weekend. It was dubbed the "Purple Pointer," an appropriate name. Although no fish were caught with it on the trip, it has great potential as an "attractor" pattern. CFFA members should see the writer for tying details. As was the case last year, the food prepared in the kitchen and served to us was hot and tasty. (Although not always quantitative.) Lunches astream were put up by the camp and they were a welcome break. Because we were such a large group, the new camp owners agreed to have a drawing for a free weekend for next year. The free weekend was won by Don Ferguson, of Tolland Ct. It was a very memorable weekend...one most of us won't forget for a long time.

TURN IN POACHERS---CALL 1-800-842-HELP

First Bonefish

by Chip Bates

My first bonefish brought tears to my eyes. It had taken me three years, two trips to the Florida Keys and one to the Carribean, to catch one. I'd spent considerable money. Many times I thought of giving up. But, several months, a year, would go by, and the desire to be back on the flats, peering into the pale green water, would creep back into my mind.

It wasn't when I saw the fish pick up my lure that emotion struck--I had seen a bonefish mouth my lure before. It was only after I had set the hook, and the fish began that searing, initial run, that the urge became uncontrollable for me to holler.

No one could hear me whooping, except my Bahamian guide, Berlin, whose toothy smile encompassed half his face. Still, I didn't want him to see a grown man cry, so I looked away.

Everything I had dreamed about my first bonefish was coming true. I had been told many times by effusive anglers of the bonefish's powerful first run. I wanted never to hear it described again, unless it was in my own words. My first bonefish didn't let me down.

When I landed it, I was shocked to see its size, 3 pounds. I'd never seen a 12 pound fish run so far so fast.

I have already intimated to having caught this fish on a spinning rod. During my three year bonefish quest, I was just learning how to fly-fish, not proficient enough to risk money and pride on a bonefish. Several months, a year, went by and I found myself beckoned back to the flats to pursue bonefish with a fly.

I knew what it was to be disappointed. I felt I should be smarter about this next challenge. I researched many destinations until I found one that sounded right--Boca Paila Lodge on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. What impressed me about Boca Paila were reports about the numbers of fish and the area's location several degrees in latitude south of Florida, where winter cold and wind would be less severe. The fish were said to run 3-6 pounds there, not as big as they might get in the Bahamas or the Keys, but there were more of them. From my experience, I knew that if I spotted ten bonefish in a day, I had a shot at landing one. I wanted to spot one hundred fish and greatly improve my percentage.

My selection was on target. At Boca Paila I saw more bonefish in a day than I'd seen in Florida or the Bahamas in three years. In a week's fishing I caught about twenty fish on a fly, every one a challenge.

Sometimes you identify fish by the sediment they stir up when feeding on the bottom. In the evening you'll sometimes spot the tails of bonefish feeding in the shallows. Most often you'll notice bonefish cruising around mangrove roots or coming onto the flats from deeper water. They appear as a shadow or a trace of motion.

If it is a bonefish, you judge the fish's direction and lead him with a cast. As he approaches, jig your fly as if it's a live shrimp. The water is clear enough to watch the fish descend upon your fly. Second to the fight of the fish, I find the visual involvement of bonefishing most exciting.

The Mexican guides took some getting used to. They speak as little English as I speak Spanish, so communication was terse.

"Bonefish," my guide would say, after an hour of poling the flats. "Where," I would ask. "Two o'clock, twenty yards," was his reply, followed by "mucho pesca" or "grande, grande," depending on what materialized. That was enough to get my fly line in the air.

Though you may not see a bonefish for an hour or more, you must concentrate the entire time--searching, anticipating, readying the line. For when a fish appears, you have only seconds to execute an accurate cast. There are many possibilities for failure, but success is the sweeter for it. And, every success is rewarded with the incomparable bonefish run.

Boca Paila is located 100 miles south of Cancun in a tiny, friendly Mexican village. This is a remote, unspoiled part of Mexico. No merchants to hustle you. The lodge consists of 5 or 6 thatched roof cottages, only steps from a white sand beach. Meals are excellent and home cooked. Guides are ready to serve you immediately after breakfast. Wonderous coral reefs are available to snorklers just a short boat ride from shore. Several of Mexico's famous Mayan ruins are within an hour's ride.

Besides bonefish, there are permit, snook, tarpon barracuda, shark, jack crevalle and cubera snapper on the flats. It's a great place to escape to during a New England winter.

(Editor's note: In addition to being a published photographer and author, CFFA member Chip Bates is now operating a fishing travel service. Look for the "Angler Adventures" ad in this issue.)



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IN PRAISE OF LIGHT TIPPETS

I remember years ago when fishing with 4X tippets was about standard procedure and I also remember catching my share of fish with such a tippet. Ten years ago I started to fish the spring creeks in Montana and the situation demanded 6X and 7X tippets to entice the wary fish. It occurred to me then that I did not lose many fish and, indeed, I was able to land some fish of respectable size on such gossamer tackle. I started to use the 5X and 6X tippets on the Beaverkill and other Eastern streams pretty regularly, restricting the use of 4X to those times of fishing large flies in fast waters.

Now if I fish Midges I will go to 7X and I find that it will hold pretty well in most cases. Early on it became obvious that the number of fish hooked rose dramatically in inverse proportion to the size of the tippet. I am fairly sure that the finer tippet catches more trout not because it's less visible, but because it allows the fly to drift more naturally. The smaller the fly the more significant will be the action of the tippet in preventing a dragless drift.

Now if you use a very large fly with a very fine tippet you will have a lot of twisting problems, and a little common sense should be used in matching your terminal tackle. Generally speaking, try to use the finest tippet that you can, consistent with the size of your fly, the wind conditions and your ability to cast. Which brings me to discuss this last mentioned item. Many of the people that I have converted to the use of light tippets are absolutely delighted with their increased success, and even catch fish now in situations that for them were once hopeless. But they are often complaining of all the wind knots and terrific tangles in their leaders. Now you all know that wind knots have nothing to do with the wind but are the result of our casting motion, and we all get them at one time or another. There is also no question that the finer the tippet the more difficult it is to roll the leader, so the


obvious answer for less trouble with finer tippets is to improve your casting. It always amazes me that people will go on complaining of not being able to cast as well as they would like and do nothing about it. Of all the phases of fly fishing, casting is the one that takes the least time to master and yet it seems to elude quite a few anglers.

Learning to tie flies takes years of practice, learning to read a stream takes years of practice, learning entomology and all the hatches takes a lifetime. Learning to cast properly takes only a few days, sometimes only a few hours. It would seem worthwhile for some people to stop fishing for a few days and just cast five or six hours a day with the proper instruction. In every sport you must have control of your gear before you can become proficient. A golfer must control the club, a tennis player the racquet, a hitter the bat. Spend some time with your casting and you will be able to use much finer tippets, put the fly where you want it and, above all, catch a lot of trout where you never thought you could.

Lou Rossi

Although we reprint articles from other club newsletters as well as from our own past issues, we rely on YOU to provide fresh material of interest to our members, especially about Connecticut or New England waters. Don't worry about style or presentation. Get it down on paper the way you would tell a friend at one of our meetings and there will be no problems. Submit your articles to Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105.

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CLASSES: There will be six lessons. Classes will meet on the following Friday evenings at 7:00 P.M. in the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse (lower level), Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT (Directions to the Clubhouse were published in the September, 1984, issue of Lines and Leaders):

<u>No.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1	1-4-85	<u>Matuka and Muddler Minnow</u>
2	1-11-85	<u>Parachute and Poly Spinner</u>
3	1-18-85	<u>Henryville Special and Elk Hair Caddis</u>
4	1-25-85	<u>Conover and Blue-Winged Olive</u>
5	2-1-85	<u>Terrestrials</u>
6	2-8-85	<u>Bass and Bluegill Attractors</u>

EQUIPMENT: All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, thread, scissors, etc. It is suggested that each tyer bring a portable lamp and a notebook.

INSTRUCTORS: In addition to the main instructors, several CFFA tyers will be on hand to assist students.

CLASS SIZE: Limited to the first 25 people submitting applications.

TUITION: CFFA Members.....\$ 20.00 Non-Members.....\$ 25.00

CFFA FTS ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

Date: _____

Please print required information. Forward application form and tuition (checks payable to C.F.F.A.) to: Dan Record, Education Chairman, 9 Sequoia Drive, Cromwell, Connecticut 06416. (If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.)

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ZIP _____ CFFA MEMBER _____ NON-MEMBER _____

For additional information contact Gary Bogli, 82 Elizabeth Drive,
Manchester, Connecticut 06040 Phone 649-4227

CFFA 15th ANNUAL BANQUET

On Saturday, February 9, 1985, CFFA will hold its 15th Annual Banquet. Our guest speaker this year will be Gary Borger, noted fly-tyer and author. Details of his program will be announced in the next newsletter.

The banquet will be held at the Sphinx Temple (next to the Grant Moor) on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington. Directions and a map will be printed in the January and February newsletters. Your choice of dinners this year will be baked stuffed shrimp or roast prime rib of beef. Included with the meal will be fruit cup, salad, baked potato, vegetable, rolls and butter, coffee or tea and dessert.

Your Banquet Committee has worked hard to provide you with an enjoyable evening, and we have been able to do this for \$15.00 per person. We will also be holding our conservation drawing that evening.

Fill out the reservation form and mail it as soon as possible. Your Banquet Committee and Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes for our drawing may contact Elmer Latham at 742-6584 or Dick Smoragiewicz at 569-0364. All prizes will be greatly appreciated, and all donations will be acknowledged in "Lines and Leaders."

DINNER RESERVATION

Date _____

I will require reservations for _____ persons at \$15.00 per person.
Check or Money Order in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed.
(Please make payable to "CFFA.")

Mail reservation form to:

Mr. Elmer Latham
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DECEMBER 1984 CALENDAR

- Dec. 5 Board of Director's Meeting
- 12 December Meeting-Salmon Restoration

COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 2 Board of Director's Meeting
- 4 Fly Tying School-First Class
- 9 January Meeting-Ocean Fly Fishing
- 11 Fly Tying School-Second Class
- 18 Fly Tying School-Third Class
- 25 Fly Tying School-Fourth Class

- Feb. 9 CFFA Banquet-Gary Borger

Note:All BOD meetings will be at the
Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse.

---1985 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE THIS MONTH---

PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY---KEEP YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LIST!