



# LINES AND LEADERS

**CFFA**

SEPTEMBER 1985

Vol. 12

No. 6

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Program: Fishing The Connecticut Shore  
Place: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Rd., East Hartford, Connecticut.  
(See page 4 for directions.)  
When: Wednesday, September 11, 1985  
Time: Fly Tying--7:00 P.M.  
Program --7:30 P.M.

Our speaker this month will be Bob Sampson, outdoor columnist for the Norwich Bulletin. Bob will present a program on fishing the Connecticut shore and the Thames River to the Greenville Dam. Several fly tyers will be present before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques.

### Rod Building School

Anyone interested in this Fall's rod building class should sign up at the September meeting. Ed Roberts will be at the meeting to answer questions. See page 11 for full details.

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Directors has called a special meeting of the membership, in accordance with Article V, Section 1 and Article II, Section 4 of the CFFA Bylaws, to be held at the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, East Hartford, CT on September 11, 1985 (our usual meeting place and date) at 7:30 P.M. The purpose of this meeting will be a vote to remove our elected Vice President of Activities so that the position can be filled until the next annual election of officers. The incumbent Vice President, Errol Groff, Sr., has announced his intention to resign, but has not delivered a written resignation to the Board. This action is needed, according to our bylaws, to vacate the position, and this matter will be the first order of business at our September meeting.



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



# THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

## CFFA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We received 36 responses to our membership survey last May. This represents 13.5% of our 266 members. This is about average for a mail survey, but low, I think, for an organization such as CFFA. I had expected 50 to 100 responses, and I hope that more of you will respond if we do this again.

The good part of the survey is that the respondents seem to represent a good cross section of the membership, in terms of years in the club, and most had something to say where comments were asked for on trips, schools, programs, etc. Most gave their names and addresses, and most of the comments were positive, even where the numerical rating for a particular area was low.

The following two pages summarize the numerical results—years in the club; trips or schools attended, and ratings of different club functions. Not presented at this time are the lengthy written comments that accompanied most ratings. We will talk about these in later newsletters, and full reports of the survey, ratings and comments (without anyone's name, of course) will be given out at the October meeting.

The majority of our respondents have been with the club less than 10 years. About 44% belonged less than 5 years, and another 31% belonged 5 to 9 years. Given our turn-over of 30 to 50 members a year, these percentages could be close to our real membership distribution. Almost 60% of the respondents had taken one or more CFFA schools. Four persons took all three schools, and 4 took both fishing and fly tying. Fewer had been on club trips (11 or about 33%), but 4 had been on 2 of the 3, and 2 had been on all 3 trips. This suggests a bias toward members who took classes or went on trips in our survey.

Our survey allowed ratings between 1 (low) and 5 (high). All of the rated functions scored between 3.7 and 4.4. Some of the respondents were too new to have been to most club functions, and this is seen in the numbers not responding. The non-responders for Conservation are higher than they should be. This perhaps reflects our lack of major projects in recent years. As this month's "Conservation Corner" indicates, our conservation activities are picking up this year. All in all, things looked pretty good to those who responded, and your Officers and program chairmen have already begun reviewing the comments.

HFFA PICNIC—The Housatonic Fly Fishermens' Association will hold their Annual Picnic at the Housatonic Meadows Picnic Ground on Sunday, September 8th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Food is provided, and there is a charge. Anyone wanting to share the picnic should call Ed Kluck at 248-5079. If you bring your own, you could probably just show up on the 8th.

## 1985 FLY FISHING SCHOOL

We want to mention here those members who helped out with classroom instruction, casting practice and the "on-stream" lesson on the Willi.

INSTRUCTION-Mark Philippe, Gary Bogli, Dan Record, Mike Baio and Mryon Schulman.

CASTING -Ed Roberts, Norm Holcomb, Elmer Latham, Larry Johnson, Ken Malinowski, Mike Baio and Steve Donaldson.

ON-STREAM -Norm Holcomb, Larry Johnson, Gary Bogli, Paul Greenfield, Steve Donaldson, Leo Leggitt, George Degen, Ed Fidrych, Ernie Boutiette and Bernie Marcis.

Rod Building School-Ed Roberts will teach another rod building class this Fall, starting in late September. See the details at the end of the newsletter for dates, costs and rods available. The sign-up will be at the September meeting.

Missing Issues-Every year one or two members will come up to a Board member and mention that he or she has not been getting a newsletter. Often this does not happen until several months have been missed. Sometimes we have missed adding your name to our mailing list, more often you moved, didn't tell us, and your mail forwarding has expired. Occasionally, newsletters simply vanish into the system. Let us know right away. We'll correct any errors, and we can usually send you copies of missed issues.

IN MEMORIAM-Fellow fly fisherman and CFFA member Earl Schofield passed away in early August. A card has been sent to his family.

### CONSERVATION CORNER

On Saturday, August 24th, 13 CFFA members and their friends constructed three low-water structures on the beautiful Jeremys River under the supervision of Chuck Phillips, D.E.P. Eastern District Manager. The structures, hopefully, will improve fish habitat during the Summer months for future State stockings. Many thanks go out to the following:

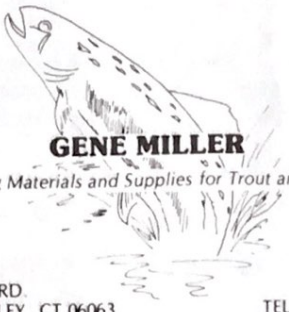
Michael Rehmer	Ray Comarotti	Terry Stout
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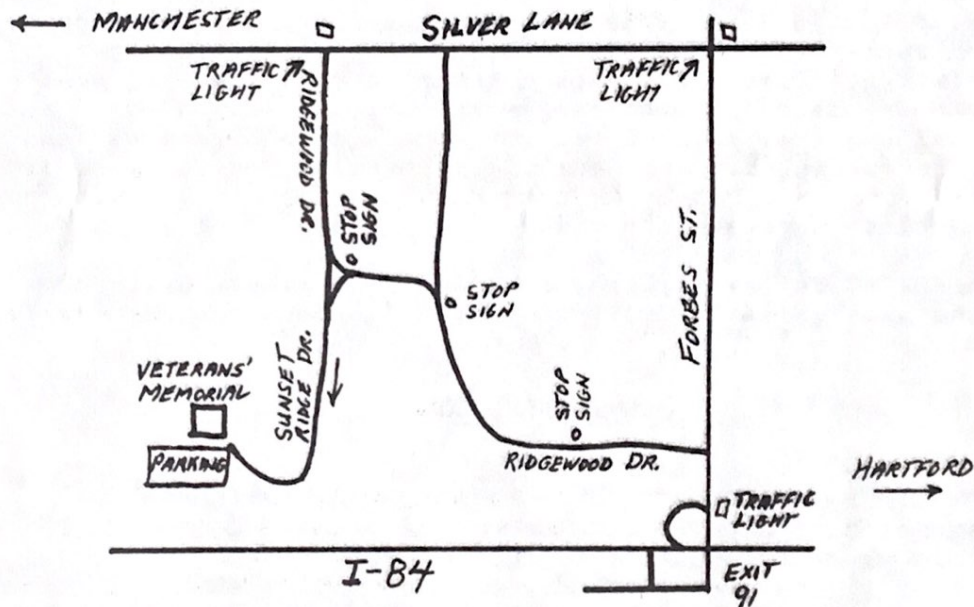
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## CFFA MEETING DIRECTIONS



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CFFA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

(Results based on 36 responses--13.5% of 266 members)

1. How long have you been a member of CFFA?

	0-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15+ yrs.	N.R.
Number	16	11	3	4	2
% Total	44.4%	30.6%	8.3%	11.1%	5.6%

2. Have you attended any CFFA fly tying, fly fishing or rod building schools?

Yes-- 23      No-- 12      N.R.-- 1

Which schools?

Fly Tying	--	11	Tying 2X--	3
Fly Fishing	--	18	Tying and Fishing--	4
Rod Building	--	9	All three--	4

How satisfied were you with the schools attended?

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number	-	1	3	7	12		(Av. 4.3)
							(No Response--13)

5. Have you attended any member-only trips?

Yes-- 11      No-- 24      N.R.-- 1

Which trips?

Battenkill--	4	Attended 2 trips--	4
Deerfield --	6		
Maine --	8		
Not Given --	1	Attended 3 trips--	2

6. How satisfied were you with the trips attended?

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number	-	-	1	4	5		(Av. 4.4)
							(No Response--26)

OFFA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

8. How satisfied were you with the Annual Banquets attended?

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number		1	1	5	11	11	(Av. 4.0)
							(No Response-- 7)

10. How satisfied are you with the club's conservation programs?

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number		-	1	7	7	11	(Av. 3.8)
							(No Response--10)

12. How satisfied are you with the monthly programs you have attended?

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number		2	1	7	14	6	(Av. 3.7)
							(No Response-- 6)

15. How satisfied are you with the our club newsletter "Lines and Leaders?"

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number		-	3	7	8	16	(Av. 4.1)
							(No Response-- 2)

18. How satisfied are you with the over-all operation of the club?

	Low	1	2	3	4	5	High
Number		-	1	4	12	17	(Av. 4.3)
							(No Response-- 2)

## TIPS ON FLY TYING

by Ernest Boutiette


I strongly recommend that every fly fisherman learn to tie his own flies, for two reasons. The first reason is cost. With good flies selling for \$1.25 or more, once you learn to tie your own flies you can tie flies for about five cents each. The initial outlay of a couple hundred dollars will keep you in flies for many years. Our club has an excellent fly tying class each winter, taught by expert fly tyers. If interested, contact any club officer or board member for details. If you want private lessons, they may also be able to give you the names of expert tyers that would be glad to teach you.

The second reason is the most important. We go fishing for only one reason, and that is to catch fish. Most fish in a stream will lay along the banks or on the bottom. If you fish the bottom, you will lose flies on stones, sticks, etc. Most banks that produce fish have overhanging trees that protrude a few feet from shore. You will find that unless you cast your fly right up to the shore you will not catch many fish, and if you do this you will hang up in the brush often and lose many flies. If you are buying flies, you get too cautious because you do not want to lose your \$1.25 fly and therefore catch fewer fish. Any fly fisherman who is bank fishing can lose as many as six or more flies in one day's fishing. We who bank fish figure that it is better to snap off a fly than to try to save it and spoil a long stretch of water by stomping across the river and scaring the trout for a long distance.

One more very important reason for me is that I never have fewer than six flies of a size and pattern with me. Some of these I give to my companions if I have the hot pattern and some I use to replace flies that I may lose. Also, because flies cost me only five cents each, I cut off and leave in the fish any fly that might kill the fish if removed. Just an added note. I hate the taste of fish, and have not kept a trout in years. One day this year while fishing the Willi I cut off the fly in three fish. The total cost to release three ten inch trout to be caught again was fifteen cents. What a bargain!!!

I am a throwback to the old school. I love streamer fishing. To me, nothing compares to the jolt when a trout hits my fly. I also will fish dries when the fish are rising. Nymphs have my number. I use them and catch fish with them, but I am not a good nymph fisherman. Fly tying is a disease with me. I can tie any pattern for five cents and a few minutes of my time. Some are discarded, but many are fish-getters. You can do the same when you tie your own flies.

(Continued)



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You will find that any time that you watch an expert tie, you will learn something new. Keep in mind, while learning from experts, that no two tie alike, but the end product is the same. One more thing for the beginner. If you have any question on fly tying, ask any fly tyer in our club and I assure you that he will be more than willing to solve your problem.

Now that I have given you some good reasons to tie your own flies, I will give you a few tips to make fly tying a little easier for you.

1. Use braided tinsel as a fly body. Remove the cotton core and wind on as any tinsel. Makes a beautiful body.
2. If your matuka is sparse at the head and you want to make it full, take a bunch of the same color hackle and tie it in as a streamer hackle (throat) on top.
3. When tying maribou, wet the tips with your fingers and you will find it easier to tie on the wing.
4. Add a small bunch of maribou (1/2 wing length) to a wing. It will give it a fuller look.
5. Cut maribou wings to exact length and lacquer the base before tying in the wing. This makes it much easier to tie in wings plus the head will be small as maribou has no bulk.
6. Tie in a small bunch of impala that is hook length only (same color as wing) under maribou or feather wings. This will keep the wing from winding around the hook.
7. When putting on feather wings, such as on the Black Ghost, Grey Ghost, etc., pair the wings and wet the tips to keep them together.
8. Never tie on bare quills when putting on feathered wings. They will rotate or pull out. (See below for proper method)
9. When you have feather wings paired and mated, do not strip off the un-needed or soft barbules. Cut off the last barbules 1/8 in. to 1/16 in. long, so they look like ostrich herl, and tie in over them.
10. Do not hold feather wings down solid on the hook when tying them in because if you are holding them cocked off at an angle they will go on cocked. Hold them slightly above the hook and bring them down with the thread. With a little practise, this will give you a perfectly straight wing.

(Further hints and tips will appear in future issues of Lines and Leaders.)



The following article is reprinted from a recent newsletter of the Farmington River Anglers' Association (FRAA).

### TYING THE Elk HAIR CADDIS by Blue Dun

I was introduced to the elk hair caddis a few years ago by Mike Poskus when I saw him take several nice fish on the very low Battenkill River in New York. We were fishing the river in July when the river was very low and the trout extremely spooky. Yet Mike was able to take trout when I saw nothing rising at all. Mike was kind enough to give me a few pieces of grey and cream elk hair and show me how to tie the Elk Hair Caddis. It proved to be one of the easiest flies I ever tied and also one of the most durable. Since then I have used the elk hair on the Farmington, the Willimantic, the Housatonic rivers and rivers in New York, Vermont and New Hampshire and have taken fish from all of them with it.

I fish the Elk Hair in several ways but my favorite is to cast up stream and allow it to drift down stream until the line straightens below me. I then pull it under water and retrieve it in short fast jerks. Trout will hit the elk hair with a deadly rush when fished this way, and I have had trout break the fly on the take when I least expected them to hit.

To tie the Elk Hair Caddis choose a hook from Size 10 to 20, body color can be anything from white, green, brown, yellow, or any color that is on the river at the time. The Elk Hair wing is either cream or grey or a mixture of the two, (although cream is easier to see on the water. And I have found that the color of the wing makes very little difference.) Lay a foundation of tying thread on the shank of the hook, tie in a grizzly hackle at the tail of the hook to use as a rib tied palmer fashion along the body. Dub the body about 2/3 the length of the hook shank leaving enough room to tie on the wing. Bring the hackle up the body in even turns and tie off where the body ends. The hackle may be clipped flat on top to have the wing lie flat or left full to have the wing stand at a slight angle.

With body and  
and hackle  
tied on.



Finished fly.



Select a small amount of elk hair and even the tips in a hair stacker. Tie on the wing just ahead of the body and whip finish to secure. Clip the elk hair just behind the eye of the hook leaving a small bunch of hair for a head. Apply head cement over the knot and the fly is finished.



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Sept. 4 Board of Director's Meeting  
 11 September CFFA Meeting  
 19 Rod Building Class 1

Oct. 2 Board of Director's Meeting  
 9 October CFFA Meeting  
 10 Rod Building Class 2  
 24 Rod Building Class 3

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

## HOOK, LINE & SINKER

(A bit of this and that - from here and there)

(Golden Spread Flyfishers' ---Amarillo, TX)

The smallest cuts can be the ones that smart the most. Here's a simple way to ease the pain.

THE MOST common and annoying injuries most people endure in the outdoors are the little ones; blisters gotten while hiking, hook punctures or line cuts while fishing, bone cuts suffered when you slip while field dressing an animal, and burns gotten when you touch the hot handle of a coffee pot or a grill you thought was cold.

Worse than the initial injury, these minor hurts commonly develop a painful low-grade infection. In the course of handling bait, touching hair or entrails, or washing camp dishes, cuts, abrasions, and burns become infected. They inflame, fester, and ache with an abiding vengeance for days, producing a sharp jolt of pain whenever they are subject to the gentlest pressure.

In the past, my only remedy was an adhesive bandage to protect the wound from further injury and a Spartan attitude until the matter took care of itself. Then several years ago, a friend introduced me to a soothing first-aid cream that goes by the generic name of "topical antibacterial ointment." I haven't suffered the painful aftermath of these "unkind cuts" since.

This salve goes by a number of brand

names, and each brand has slightly different properties. Bacitracin and Neosporin are two products that can be purchased over-the-counter at drugstores. Terramycin and Garamycin are more powerful drugs that must be prescribed by a physician. Although they vary in strength, all of these products serve to soothe minor injuries in several ways.

Of immediate importance, they take the sting out. I recently jabbed my index finger against a tackle box and got a deep cuticle cut. Within an hour it was throbbing. I put a dab of this ointment on my finger, and in 5 minutes the pain had stopped.

Of greater importance, the salve accelerates healing. By the next morning, there was no sign of injury around the cut—no soreness or redness, even deep within the wound. I could touch, squeeze, and knead the fingertip without feeling a thing. It was as if nothing had happened.

Of special note is that topical antibacterial ointment is an oily salve. Squeezed from the tube, it is roughly the consistency of toothpaste, but when warmed by body heat, it melts into an oil. This oil

doesn't dry up like iodine or Mercuriochrome, but rather leaks down into cuts and punctures, reaching all recesses of a wound. The oily nature of the salve forms an air barrier around burns. Contact with air is one of the things that makes a burn so painful.

Topical antibacterial ointment is usually sold in tubes. I keep a small tube in my tackle box, my first-aid kit, the glove compartment of my car, and of course, in my bathroom cabinet. At least one brand, Neosporin, is sold in a flat foil packet that easily tucks into a wallet, a remarkable piece of packaging because people don't always carry a tackle box or first-aid kit around, yet most people usually carry a wallet everywhere.

Antibacterial ointment is marvelous stuff, but it should not be considered a panacea for every potential accident. A well-stocked first-aid kit should always be standard equipment around camp. But when you want to soothe the pain and guard against the potentially dangerous infections of these annoying, unkind cuts, topical antibacterial ointment can be a very very good medicine indeed.—NORMAN STRUNG

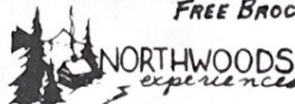
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CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

presents

"1985 ROD BUILDING SCHOOL"

CLASSES: There will be five classes. Classes will meet on the following Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M. in the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse (lower level), Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT. Directions to the clubhouse are published in this issue of Lines and Leaders.

Class No. 1 -- September 19, 1985  
Class No. 2 -- October 10, 1985  
Class No. 3 -- October 24, 1985  
Class No. 4 -- November 7, 1985  
Class No. 5 -- November 14, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: E.F. Roberts (Custom Rodmaker)

ROD SELECTION Your choice of the following rods:

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7 1/2 foot (4/5 line) Graphite  
8 foot (5/6 line) Graphite

CLASS SIZE: Limited to 12 students

REGISTRATION: Because of the small class size, registration will be by mail only - on a first-come basis. Ed Roberts will be at the September, 1985 general membership meeting to answer any questions relative to rod selection and material costs. Ed can also be reached at home by calling 651-8402 between 5:00 and 8:00 P.M.

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CFFA RBS ENROLLMENT APPLICATION Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen'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 Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Dr., East Hartford, CT.

"Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. and is distributed to its membership and allies of conservation. Business card ads may be placed at a cost of \$5 per month or \$40 for 9 months. CFFA members may place for-sale or wanted ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105 or Ed Fidrych, Box 145, Glastonbury Rd., Portland, CT 06480. Change of address notices and other correspondence should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 18365, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118.

