



LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

APRIL 1986

Vol. 13

No. 4

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

- Program: Fly Casting Instruction.
Fly Fishing Films.
- Place: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Rd.,
East Hartford, Connecticut.
- When: Wednesday, April 9, 1986.
- Time: Casting --6:00 P.M., 6:45 P.M.
Fly Tying--7:00 P.M.
Program --7:30 P.M.

Weather permitting, Dan Record and Gary Bogli will provide casting instruction on the lawn behind the clubhouse before the meeting. There will be two sessions, one starting at 6 P.M. and one starting at 6:45 P.M. Each will include a demonstration and time to practise. Bring the rod you plan to fish with and get ready for opening day.

The first part of our program will be a demonstration of a method of casting practise that you can use in your own home. This will be followed by two fishing films- "Fly Fishing in America" and "The Greatest Fishing Story Ever Told."

Several fly tiers will be present before the meeting to demonstrate fly tying patterns and techniques.

Material Needed For Newsletter

Most of the survey respondents wanted more new material on Connecticut and New England fishing locations, experiences, patterns and techniques. This cannot happen unless YOU, the members, write articles about what you have been doing this past fishing season. Many of you have had interesting fresh and salt water experiences this season, and some have been fortunate to go out west, to England and other places. The members really want to know what you have been doing and what worked or didn't work at a specific time and location. Your articles will help to maintain the quality of our newsletter, and you may win some spending money to buy equipment for next year.



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



Board of Directors

CFPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT by JUNE

FINANCIALS REPORT: The year balance as of February 1988 is \$10,127. The budget was accepted as presented.

LEGISLATION: The casting club and salt feeder are working well. The Potomac River trout management area legislation has been passed yet. The Act must be watched in regards to water diversions. A trailhead may be in Peoples Park to aid fishermen fishing the Potomac River from April-October.

CONSERVATION: The willis will be stocked on April 5th in the fly fishing area. The section will be stocked in the special area on April 15th. Also talk to the new conservation program. An effort is being made to stop the illegal sale of Atlantic salmon in New York. Bob will send a letter supporting this effort from our side.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made and passed to send John Harkin a letter stating that we would be interested in organizing a fund raise in the fall.

APRIL CALENDAR

- APR: 2 Board of Directors
- 5 Stocking-Willis Mgmt. Area
- 8 April CFPA Meeting
- 12 Casting Instruction
- Stocking-Jeremy's
- 18 Opening Day!!!

COMING EVENTS

- May 7 Board of Directors
- 7 CFPA Annual Outing

Patronize

Our

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SHAD ON THE FLY

by Larry Johnson

About this time last year Lionel MacDonald invited me Connecticut River in Holyoke to fly fish for Shad. I didn't say yes, and started to assemble the recommended gear and of the recommended flies. The outfit would be a 9 ft. for a line, sinking line 1X leader (about 7 ft., I think), weighted 1 and a dropper for attaching one or more split shot. I also intended to bring my 6 wt. outfit.

The recommended fly was a simple tapered body wound on a lead-wrapped gold hook (Mustad 92608, #4, 6, 8). Gold tinsel ribbing and a short white wing are optional. It makes a prettier fly, but the Shad probably don't care. I personally used # 4 and 6 hooks and still have most of the #8 hooks I bought. This fly could be tied in any suitable color, but the color of choice last year was Chartreuse-a very visible yellow-green. There are many yarns and threads that look like they may be chartreuse, but only one color is right. I'll put a sample on the bulletin board for the April meeting. The material I finally used was chartreuse Glo-Bug yarn. I wasn't able to dub it, so I made thin strands and wound it on like yarn. It makes a nice fly, and seemed to work with or without tinsel and wing.

On Monday, May 20th, we left early enough to arrive at the South Hadley side of the Rt. 116 bridge at about 8 AM. We parked in a lot at the end of the bridge, rigged our gear, and went down the bank and under the bridge to the river. (Helpful hint-do not leave expensive fishing gear exposed to view in your parked car. We didn't have trouble, but cars have been broken into.)

As we approached the river I thought for a moment that we might be alone. Foolish thought. At the bank it was obvious that most trees had someone standing in the water on the other side of them. It wasn't overcrowded though, and the people were friendly. Several traded places with us so that we could have better spots to roll cast from. Even though everyone else was spin fishing, several of them fly fished for trout. Everyone was also catching Shad. As you stood knee deep on the steep bank you could see silver shad moving by all the time. Occasionally they were on the end of the line of someone upstream, most often they went by under their own power.

I started fishing with my 6 wt. outfit, with two split shot on a dropper to take the fly down in the fast current. After 15 minutes I had my first Shad on, and got it close enough to see that it was a big Roe Shad of 20+ inches. And then everything that could go wrong did! The combination of large, flat sided fish and heavy current bent my rod tip down so much that I had visions of \$200 graphite paint stirrers, the only use I can think of for a fractured rod. I also intended to beach rather than net the fish, and I wasn't in a good spot for that. And I had tied my split shot onto the extended end of my 1X leader tippet left long at the barrel knot for that purpose. As you can guess, just as I stepped onto firm ground and started to maneuver the fish in, the leader gave at the last knot and the fish was gone. An then so was I, back to the car to get the 9 wt. outfit I should have used to begin with.



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Lionel and I caught 6 to 8 fish each that morning, most of them landed and released. I still kept breaking off fish, though, and lost most of my flies before I realized that it was the extension on the last knot that was the problem. As soon as I started using a separate dropper clinch-knotted above the leader knot I stopped breaking leaders. Except, of course, for a few times when I was hung up on the bottom. I had brought a small tying kit with me, though, and was able to tie some more flies during our lunch break.


The 9 wt. outfit with sinking line worked fine, as did chartreuse flies. The Shad seemed to hit only at the bottom of the swing, and you had to set the hook immediately, if not sooner. My fish didn't run, but seemed to use the current. It also paid off to move around. Although the fish were everywhere, people fishing from one or two spots seemed to do better.

Unfortunately, the morning provided all of our action. We only caught one more shad after lunch, while the spin fishermen kept on taking fish. The current looked faster, and most likely we simply weren't getting down deep enough. We finished our day with a trip to the Classic & Custom Fly Shop in Holyoke.

I'm looking forward to fly fishing for Shad again this year. The fish are fun to catch and the run is predictable. They're even good to eat and so far not endangered or polluted. Anyone know what the hot color will be this year?


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1986 BANQUET DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following stores, companies and individuals who donated items for the Conservation Drawing at our 1986 Annual Banquet. Their support of CFFA and its activities is greatly appreciated.

Fisher Rods	Scott Powr-Ply Rods
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Cable Car Sunglasses	N.E. Woods and Waters
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Ed Smith	Dan Record
Vin Ringrose	Frank Wankerl
Bob Martinchek	Dick Lerche
Lionel MacDonald	Pete Trani
Elmer & Dale Latham	Gary Bogli
Mike Stewart	

1986 JUNIOR CONSERVATION CAMP

This year the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association will sponsor the attendance of one youth at a one-week Junior Conservation Camp held at Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford, Connecticut, during the month of August.

The Junior Conservation Camp gives boys twelve through fourteen years of age an opportunity to gain education in the proper use of our natural resources, the safe use of firearms, woodsmanship, fly fishing, fly tying, camping, boat safety, archery, skeet shooting and more. All the training comes from experienced and well-trained instructors.

The Connecticut Wildlife Federation developed the conservation camp program. The camp staff is composed of well-qualified adults from throughout the state who donate their time and talents to this worthwhile project. There is one counselor for every ten boys.

This year the tuition is projected to be approximately \$ 125.00. CFFA will provide full tuition for the one boy that it sponsors. The tuition includes health and accident insurance, buses for various field trips and all instructional materials needed for the week.

Any boy between the ages of twelve and fourteen, in the immediate family of a CFFA member, is eligible to be sponsored by CFFA. The full tuition will be awarded as a result of a random drawing conducted at the May Annual Outing. To qualify for the drawing, please submit the following information by May 1, 1986: (1) Name of adult CFFA member; (2) Name and age of youth; (3) Address and telephone number. Forward information to: CFFA Conservation Camp Sponsor Program, P.O. Box 18365, East Hartford, Connecticut 06118.

Dan Record, Education Chairman

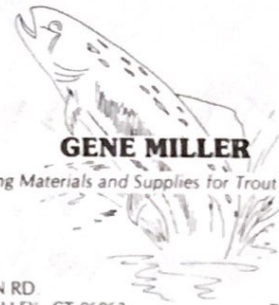


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- 4 ROARING BROOK POOL
- 5 LAUREL FLATS
- 6 CORNER POOL
- 7 TARZAN POOL
- 8 THE ISLAND
- 9 THE FLATS
- 10 ABUTMENT POOL
- 11 BOULDER POOL
- 12 UPPER BRIDGE POOL
- 13 LOWER BRIDGE POOL
- 14 TALL PINES POOL
- 15 FOREST RUN
- 16 DEER RUN
- 17 SECOND ISLAND
- 18 SAND PIT RUN
- 19 GRAPE VINE POOL
- 20 ELBOW POOL
- 21 DOVE HOLLOW POOL & THIRD ISLAND
- 22 BANK POOL
- 23 HORSESHOE POOL
- 24 END FLY FISHING ONLY & NO-KILL
- 25 SECOND ABUTMENT
- 26 LABONTE BROOK
- 27 THE CULVERT
- 28 SCHOOLHOUSE BROOK
- 29 COMMUTER PARKING LOT DRAIN SEDIMENT OVERFLOW
- 30 COMMUTER PARKING LOT
- 31 GATE OPENING
- 32 ROUTE 74
- 33 ROUTE 32
- 34 NYE HOLMAN STATE FOREST
- 35 ROUTE 66 EXIT 100
- 36 ROUTE 66 EXIT 101
- 37 EASTBOUND REST-STOP
- 38 WESTBOUND REST-STOP
- 39 PARKING
- 40 RIVER ROAD
- 41 PRIVATE SAND & GRAVEL PIT
- 42 VERMONT CENTRAL RR

MAP BY L.O. MACDONALD

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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.

