

LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

OCTOBER 1986

Vol. 13

No. 7

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Program: Robert Aborn, DEP Bureau of Law Enforcement.
Place: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Rd., East Hartford, Connecticut.
When: Wednesday, October 8, 1986.
Time: 7:30 P.M.

Our October program will feature DEP Conservation Officer Bob Aborn, who will discuss DEP's "TIP" program to stop poaching. This successful program began with an emphasis on deer and other game, and has now focused on trout and other gamefish. Preservation of our fish and wildlife resources is important to all of us, and this program will tell us what the State has done and will do in the future.

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Your Board of Directors voted at its August meeting to present a proposed dues increase to the membership for approval. Consideration of the dues increase proposal by the membership will be the first order of business at this month's membership meeting.

Bring your CFFA membership card to the meeting!!! Only members will be allowed to vote.

LOST ON THE WILLI

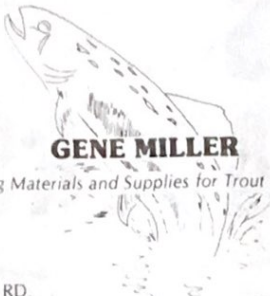
Two fly boxes, one grey and one black, were lost on the Willimantic River on Friday, August 8, in the area of the Island Pool. The boxes contained mostly terrestrials and dries. Anyone finding them should contact Peter Wilk at 446-3808 days or 647-8838 evenings. Thanks.



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



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Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 3, 1986

TREASURER'S REPORT: The club balance as of August 31, 1986 is \$5533.70.

MEMBERSHIP: We now have 276 members, 31 are new.

CONSERVATION: The stocking in the Hogback area went well.

The 75 bitterroots in our pool are doing well.

The browns in the Willie are reproducing.

Peter Trani, Secretary

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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CLIFF

THE FLY IN THE TREE

by George E. Degen

It was the early part of May when I received an evening call from my friend Lynn Smith. He had been out on the "Willi" and allowed he had a story to tell me. Seems he had met up with Bernie Marois and a friend. Bernie related how his friend had hung his fly in a tree and, in trying to retrieve it, ended up breaking it off out of reach. While recovering his leader, he saw another fly in the tree that was within reach and plucked it out. Noting that it was a small streamer, unlike any he had seen before, he tied it on and proceeded to catch 15 trout.

Upon hearing this, Lynn asked to see the fly. He took one look at it and said, "That's Degen's fly!" My response to him was, "Are you sure?" "Sure I am," he replied. "I remember you tying it when we were tying together this past Winter." I had tied the pattern early in the season, and lost the first of four in a nice Brown just as I got him in close. (Had trouble with my knots early on.) I left the one fly in the tree, gave one to my son, and managed to catch three trout with the last one. At that point I switched to dries and didn't think of that streamer again until Lynn's call.

With just one left, and a request from Lynn for a couple more, I tied some more for use later on. Later on came the second week of August while on vacation in Maine. I took a friend up to Evans Notch to fish the gin clear water of Wild River, and on the way I told him the above story. Upon arrival I gave him one of the flies and we both fished the little streamer with amazing success. Between us we caught and released 12 trout, 1 Brookie and 11 Rainbows, along with a number of others that were hooked and lost.

Lynn Smith, Gary Bogli and Pete Trani insisted that this pattern have a name, and it was finally dubbed "Degen's Darter." Now I'll share it with you.

Degen's Darter

- Hook- Mustad 9671, size 10.
- Thread- Black.
- Tail- Red Wool (2 strands from 4 strand wool).
- Body- Fine round silver tinsel.
- Wing- Sparse yellow Bucktail, over which is laid sparse green Bucktail, over which 2 Pin Tail feathers are tied tent-style. (Like you would on a Hornberg.)

The following article is taken from a recent newsletter of the Ozark Flyfishers of Kirkwood, Missouri.

TIPS AND TAILS

One of the worst overlooked aspects of tying flies for the novices is proportions; both of the proportions of the individual materials used and of the overall pattern. While tying is a art form and not a science, an effort to achieve to exact proportions will do three things. First, the fly will look good, second it will act right in the water and third it will appear more imitative.

Typical errors of proportion include tails too long or short, bodies not tapered correctly, too large a head or materials jammed against the eye, wings on both wet and dries too long or short, bodies tied too far down the hook bend or too short on the shank, etc., etc.

The subject of proportions also includes the consistency of proportion. If you tie two, twelve or two dozen of a given pattern they should be exactly identical. Look at several of a pattern you have tied - is each fly a tad different or are they mirrors of each other. The design of a given fly has a specific purpose in how it looks and acts. If you tie a dozen Timberline Emergers and the wings varies on each they might not act the same to say nothing of the fact they don't look great either.

Obviously, material variations will change a patterns appearance. For example a simple Teleco may be tied with floss or wool or chenille and the appearance will change as will as the sink rate but the proportions should not.

Follow patterns religiously, they are typically in existence because they work and their design has purpose. Newly invented patterns follow the same logic and therefore should be copied exactly. Try to get an actual fly to use as a model, hopefully the best tied model possible. Duplicate the fly exactly!

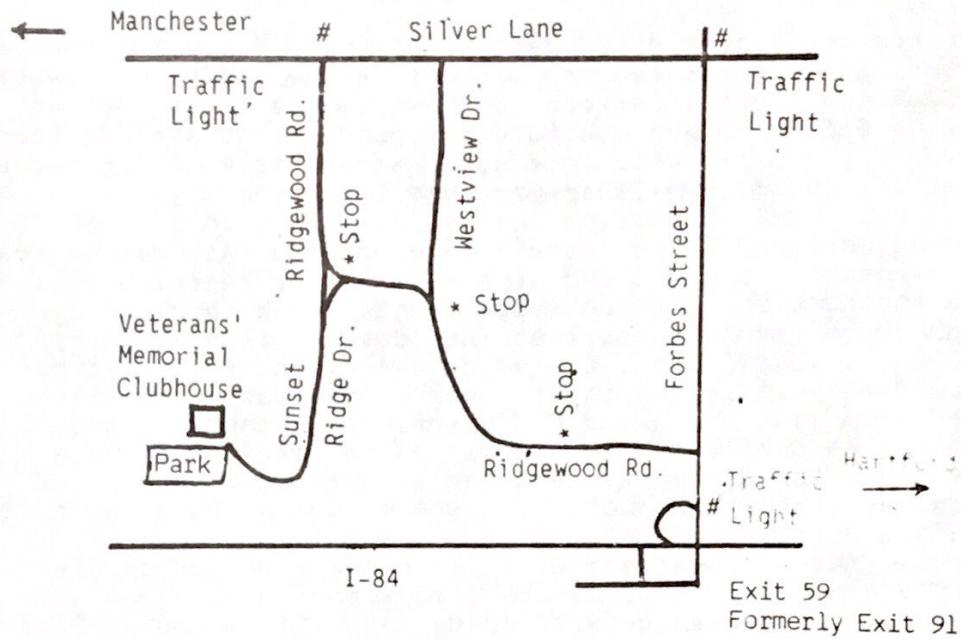
There are aids available such as hackle gauges (several types are sold) and tail and wing gauges (the Dubois gauge is a good one) that will help you achieve exact proportions. Study photos of the pattern. How to tie books, pattern books such as the Orvis Index are a good source. These photos are a fringe benefit found in catalogs such as Kauffman's, Hunters or Don Bailey.

A single trick to achieve correct proportions is to make a pattern guide on a 3 x 5 card, with not only the recipe but a proportion guide. Mark on the edges of the card the correct length of the tail, body, wingcase, collar, space for the head, etc. Then hold the card against the hook as it is held in the vise. Make a set of similar marks for different size hooks on different edges of the card. Following the marks on this guide will result in exact duplication of length of tails or size of head, for example.

As you become practiced at a given pattern you will become able to "eyeball" proportions just as the "pros" you watch tie so easily with fly after fly looking so good. Acquiring the skills of proportion are just as critical as being able to just get material on hook and will certainly add to your satisfaction the next time someone ask to see what you just caught that last lunger on.

Mel Trotier

Directions to Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse



OCTOBER 1986 CALENDAR

- Oct. 1 Board of Directors
- 8 CFFA October Meeting
- 9 Rod Building-Class 2
- 23 Rod Building-Class 3
- 29 Museum Fund Raiser

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 5 Board of Directors
- 6 Rod Building-Class 4
- 12 November CFFA Meeting
- 13 Rod Building-Class 5

Note: All BOD meetings will be at the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse. Members are welcome to attend.



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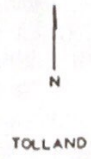
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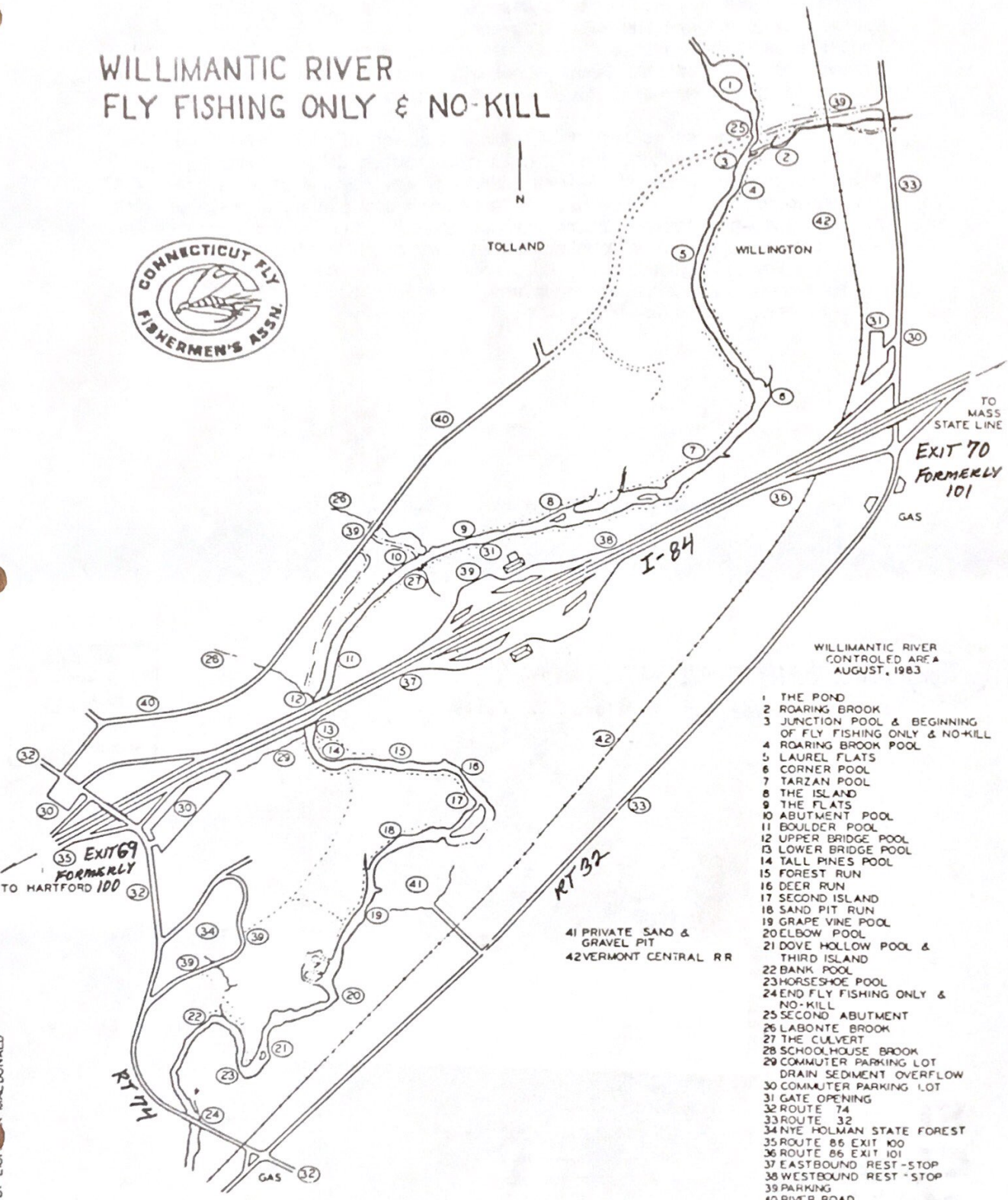
WILLIMANTIC RIVER
CONTROLLED AREA
AUGUST, 1983

- 1 THE POND
- 2 ROARING BROOK
- 3 JUNCTION POOL & BEGINNING OF FLY FISHING ONLY & NO-KILL
- 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 86 EXIT 100
- 36 ROUTE 86 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 LIONEL 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 111, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118.

