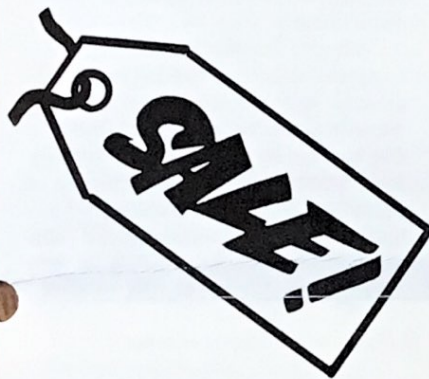




LINES & LEADERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION



April Meeting

Subject: Tag Sale
 Place: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Dr., East Hartford, CT.
 When: Wednesday, April 13, 1988
 Time: Fly Tying - 7:00 P.M.
 Program - 7:30 P.M.

At the December board meeting a suggestion submitted by Ernie Boutiette was unanimously approved. His suggestion was to have a tag table where members could bring fishing related items including art work to be sold from 6:30 to 7:30 before the meeting, possibly twice a year, with the club taking 10% of the sale price. The board decided to give it a try at the April meeting and, if members responded to it, then the second night would be in September or October.

Rules to be followed: 1) Members must bring item to meeting. 2) Item must be tagged with owner's name and amount wanted. 3) Item, if not sold, must be taken home that night by person who brought it. 4) Club will not be responsible for items left behind. 5) Tables will be attended by a club member who will settle with owner of item deducting 10% for club. 6) Person attending table will record amount collected for club and turn into treasurer that night. Club members will man the tables.

1987 Junior Conservation Camp

This year the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association will sponsor the attendance of two boys or girls 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 and girls eleven through fifteen 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 of 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 campers.

This year the tuition is approximately \$175.00. CFFA will provide *full tuition* for the two youngsters 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 or girl between the ages of eleven and fifteen, in the immediate

family of a CFFA member, is eligible to be sponsored by CFFA. The full tuition will be awarded through a random drawing conducted at the May meeting or Annual Outing. To qualify for the drawing, please submit the following information by April 30, 1988: (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 18268, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118.

Dan Record
 Education Chairman

"From the Vest of the President"



I apologize for the absence of my missive in March. I had started writing on a plane from Boston to Salt Lake City but never finished. My daughter and I skied

two days at Park City Alta and Snow Bird. It was great!

Boy, if you have time and work it right you could get to fly cheap. On Continental they started at one hundred and went as high as two to three hundred dollars to compensate for overbooking. Would that be a round trip to West Yellowstone?

As we flew over Quincy Bay I began to think about the many hours I spend flounder fishing. We would arrive at Hurley's Boat Livery by 4 AM only to find a line of vehicles waiting to launch boats and a bus full of slightly inebriated fishermen from New Jersey. It wasn't fly fishing but it was fun.

This led me to thinking about all the different fish being caught using flies. I predict that salt and warm water fly fishermen will soon outnumber trout fly fishermen. When Mark Philippe and I went to the National Conclave at Penn State in '86 most of the fly tiers were tying bass or salt water flies. The most interesting and entertaining clinic was given by Harry Murray of Edinburg, Va.

He spoke and showed slides of bass fishing on rivers in Virginia. There are publications written by FFF warm water chapters—*The Saltwater Fly Fisher*, *The Bugline*, and *Long Casts*.

Some of my most memorable fishing moments have been casting for blue gills with a popper and a weighted nymph trailer. It's not unusual to catch two at a time. This is a sure-fire way to hook young people on fly fishing. I would recommend some dry land casting practice before you hit the water. From my experience trying to teach young people, poor casting is the greatest deterrent to success. You can give them the "right" fly and show them where the fish are but they have to make the delivery. Twenty to thirty foot casts are the maximum distance you need. In fact casting is something we all could sharpen up on by aiming at targets set at different distances and casting under obstacles like bushes. Mark Philippe will be available with others before the April meeting to help anyone who feels they have a problem or would just like to cast for fun. This will be prior to the tackle tag sales. Bring your own equipment or maybe you would like to try a rod before you buy.

Have you checked your waders lately? Better now than on your first trip to the Willi. Actually you should check all your equipment: lines, leaders, reels, etc.

I would like to thank the following members whose efforts made our 1988 Fly Tying School a big success. We had one of the largest enrollments in recent years. Thanks to:

Mike Baio	Dan Record
John Cannata	Larry Johnson
Larry Lavesque	Ken Parkany
Leo Leggitt	Gary Steinmiller
Ernie Boutiette	Lou Patria

Congratulations to George Degen on his well deserved Scarlet Ibis Award and to Frank Wankerl and Paul Beaudreau for winning the Ted Barbieri Award. Speaking of the banquet, have you ever seen so many multi winners in a raffle? This year's banquet was not only fun and entertaining but also a financial success. Thanks to all those who participated by donating prizes and to those who purchased tickets.

Our Fly Fishing School has just completed four of its five sessions with close to forty students. This is our fifteenth year and we have launched over five hundred fly fishermen. We do need some help with the stream instruction on the Willi April 30th. If you can lend a hand at this fun and rewarding class contact Larry Johnson at 246-0728. See you at the tag sale.

Happy Hatches,
Gary Bogli

Thank you

Our thanks to the following prize donors for making our Annual Banquet so successful.

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Please support these that support your club.

“We did well today”

By Lionel R. MacDonald

We were having a wedding in the family this year, so many of my fishing trips after “ice-out” were put off. No trips to the Quinnebaug hatchery even. There usually were two or three. I did get out on the Willie once before opening day and hooked two small trout. Opening day came and went. I made note of it but I did not get out.

Rooms needed painting. This and that needed looking into and repaired or replacing. The weekly fishing reports on Fridays in the Hartford Courant were mentioning that the blues were appearing in the Sound. It seemed early this year. All projects came to completion and the wedding finally was in the past.

Fourth of July week-end was upon us and that meant a three day holiday. I decided to try for some of those bluefish. I made ready my salt water fly fishing tackle, and the boat. I called my friend Larry to see if he'd care to go. He agreed. We will leave early Friday morning.

Three a.m. comes too soon. After a quick cup of coffee the boat and trailer are loaded to the truck, tackle in the back. I picked up Larry about forty-five minutes later and we are off for the launch site at Pleasure Beach, Waterford. We stopped at the bait and gas station in the center of Niantic.

We are the first ones at the boat launch. As we're crossing the Bay to Millstone II outflow, I can see three Boats at anchor. We make our approach and anchor on the easterly side of the east side outlet. (There are two outlets.) Larry has brought light salt water spinning gear and a bait casing outfit. I will be using my nine foot glass rod and large white or chatruse buck tails. As we make ready to start casting we notice two of the fishermen in other boats have fish on. As the fish are reeled in we can hear the fishermen's comments of joy such as. . . “nice fish”. . . “boy what a scrapper”. . . etc. The fish were being released. We begin casting.

Only a few casts and I have a fish on. It is boated and released. I cast out again and bingo I'm on to another fish. I am hooking a fish on the average of every other or third cast. Many of these fish take the bucktail deep enough that they are able to cut the leader with their teeth. Larry is simply amazed at how many fish I'm hooking on my fly rod. He's still having difficulty believing I'm fly fishing in salt water!

Larry has hooked a few fish on his spinning gear, but he is amazed at how successful the fly-rod and buck tail is. At one point I hooked, boated and released six or seven fish in a row. Larry began to make sporting threats like. . . “Lionel, if you don't stop that, I'm just going to have to cut your line!”. . . which brought on a good laugh.

All too soon the mid morning boaters began arriving and it got crowded. We held our spot and kept catching and releasing blues. I asked Larry if he'd care to try my rod and he agreed. On the second cast he was into a blue and I heard him say “yesssssssss”. After he had hooked and released several fish one came along and chopped off the fly. He quickly retied on another fly and began catching more fish. Using his bait casting rod I'd rigged up a buck tail fly on a dropper with a sinker at the end of the line. At least this way I could cast the thing out. I had a few strikes but the hooking were far and few compared to the fly rod, sinking line and white buck tail.

At around 10:30 one of the boats which had arrived about the same time we did, decided they'd had enough. They pulled up anchor and turned toward us in the current to leave between the boats. I noticed the partner on the passenger side raise his hand slightly as a parting gesture. And I heard him say in a low voice as he passed by. . . “WE DID WELL TODAY”. . .

At the time it was as significant to me as those famous last words. . . “But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, Mer. . .” Saturday was a day to recoup and regroup. I tied more bucktails and a few more Sunday, after church. I'd called Larry Saturday night to see if he'd care to go again Sunday afternoon. He said yes. Then I asked if he'd care to use one of my nine weight fly rods. He said yes.

We arrived at the launch site just after five p.m. We rigged up, launched and crossed the bay. There were at least two dozen boats at anchor or trolling. Lucky for us, our spot was available. We pulled in, anchored up and began casting. Sunday afternoon was a repeat of Friday morning. Many many times Larry and I had fish on at the same time. We lost a lot more bucktails, but we boated and released more. I estimate we lost 31 bucktails on the weekend. Nine of those

were part of those I'd tied Saturday and Sunday.

On several occasions we heard comments from other boats like. . . “what are those guys using over there?”. . . or. . . “boy that sure looks like fun on a fly rod!”. . . and we agreed, as well as with the other fishermen Friday who'd said. . . “We did well today”. . .

The Future of Lines and Leaders

After only one year as Editor I regret having to rerun this article from a year ago. Changes happen in certain facets of our lives that necessitate making changes in others. Such is the case with me. I have enjoyed the experience as Editor and enthusiastically recommend it to my successor.

The work is not as complicated as you might think. There is a set process and schedule, and someone else does the printing, collating and mailing. The editor selects material, does some editing and typing, and spends one evening per issue cutting and pasting. There is a complete set of past issues, including much original copy you can reuse; we receive a good selection of newsletters from all over the country; and members submit new material each year. It can be as simple or as complex as one person or a committee wants it to be, and I will still be around to explain how I did things and help out with your first few issues.

Getting the newsletter out is an important club function. It is our only contact with the entire membership, and with other clubs as well. The deadlines are known in advance, and a lot of the work can be done in spare moments. If you're interested, talk to Gary Bogli or Larry Johnson at the April meeting.

Give Your Season A "Black Eye"

by Ken Parkany

"Fishing, someone has said, is a little like sex. There is no bad fishing."

Datus C. Proper

What The Trout Said

"There is no bad fishing", is both the Proper and proper answer to a novice flyfisher's question: "What's the best time to fish?"

At least to seasoned anglers, I believe it is. For it seems that as our experience and skill increase, we tend to measure our success in hours astream rather than inches/pounds of fish; in the number of strikes rather than kills; and the fish actually caught and released are anti-climatic to our purpose—which is to fool fish rather than be fooled!

Of course, there's absolutely nothing wrong, in my opinion, with being excitedly caught-up in the catch-and-the-kill, if done legally. Some of us need "notches" on the pistol handle, so to speak, to prove something to ourselves—and others—don't we? Human nature, I guess. I know I was once very proud

of the angling diaries I kept. The "numbers" always impressed others and, more importantly, boosted my confidence level. Then suddenly, or gradually, I don't recall, the numbers didn't matter any more.

So, for novices; those who are still confidence-building; and those who, for one reason or another, still get high on numbers, let me try to put the "best time" in perspective. Let me emphasize PERSPECTIVE. For the figure below doesn't contain any revolutionary wisdom. It simply represents—graphically—a flyfisher's season of opportunity. Not all "black eyes" are bad, now, are they?

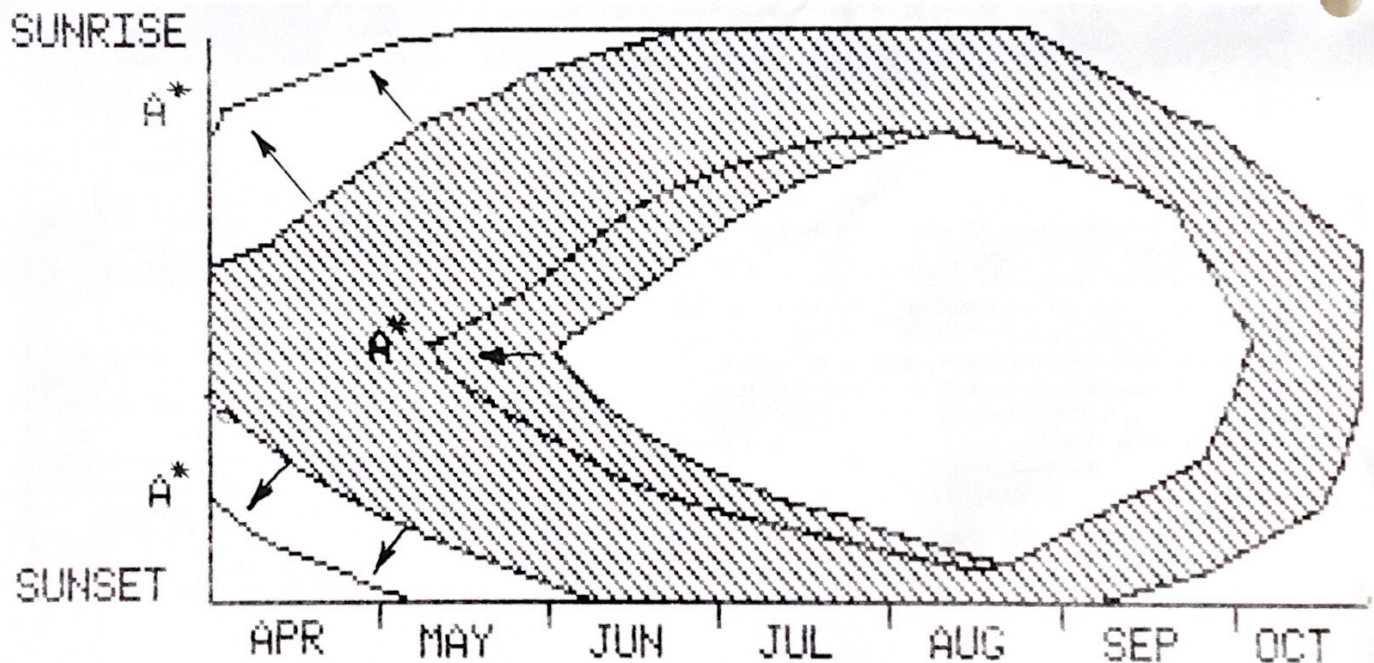
The "SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY GUIDE" is based on years of observation, but, more scientifically, on the effect of water temperature on the trout's metabolism (feeding frequency). An angler's "prime time", or best chances of success occur at water temperatures ranging from 55-65 degrees F. This normally

happens around mid-way from sunrise to sunset during the early season. Then the "prime time" hours increase as the season progresses until mid-summer, when the "prime time" splits into morning and evening hours. And, as Fall approaches, the "prime time" returns to Spring-like mid-day hours.

As any seasoned angler knows, flyfishing is somewhat more complex than the "Guide" would suggest. Other variables such as 1) hatchery versus wild fish, 2) small streams versus large, 3) freestone versus limestone, 4) the biological condition of the watershed, and 5) stream habitat are just a few of the additional key variables influencing the trout's period of activity, and, hence, angling fulfillment.

Yet weather, which is the basis for the "SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY GUIDE", is a prime determinant in angling success.

SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY GUIDE



LIGHT AREA: NORMAL PERIOD OF LOW ACTIVITY
DARK AREA: NORMAL PERIOD OF HIGH ACTIVITY (Angler's "Prime Time")

* EFFECT OF WEATHER: "EYE" shifts left (to dotted lines and points "A") when there is 1) unseasonably warm/hot pre-season weather, or 2) below normal pre-season precipitation. One or both of these conditions will

unseasonably affect the insect activity and trout metabolism; hatches could occur earlier, and be shorter in duration. (Conversely, unseasonably cold, wet pre- and early season weather, shifts the "EYE" to the right.)

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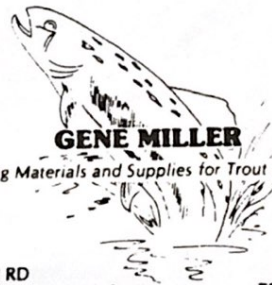


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Mark Your Calendar

Dates for 1988 CFFA Schools

NOTE: All classes meet at the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, except those noted by an asterisk (*).

FLY TYING SCHOOL:

January, 1988

8

15

22

29

February, 1988

5

26

FLY FISHING SCHOOL:

March, 1988

4

11

18

April, 1988

*9 (Casting Instructions)

May, 1988

*Date to be Determined (Fishing A Stream)

CFFA BANQUET—Feb. 4th, 1989

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 ad or \$40 for 9 months. CFFA members may place for-sale or want ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to Malcolm MacKenzie, P.O. Box 7330, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Change of address notices and other correspondence should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 18268, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118.

Copy deadline: second Wednesday of month previous to publication.



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