



LINES & LEADERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

February Meeting

Last Call for CFFA Banquet

February 6, 1988

Sphinx Temple, Newington Cocktails – 6:30-7:30 P.M. Dinner – 7:30 P.M.

Lawrence's Jack Fallon to address Club Banquet



Don't let this one get away.

Call Elmer Latham 742-6584

Board Says Yea To Tag Sale Suggestion.

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.

"From the Vest of the President"

WINTER DOLDRUMS



This is the time that tries a fly fisherman's soul. The cold dark winter, the doldrums. Skiing helps me escape this period. I am looking forward to a weekend at Stowe and a week in Utah. But what about the rest of you.

Reading can help. There are hundreds of books about fly fishing. Some are instructional, others, pure pleasure reading. The following are some of my favorites: Dick Talleur's *Fly Fishing For Trout*, *Mastering The Art of Fly-tying*, and *The Fly Tyer's Primer*; *Hatches* by Caucci & Nastasi; *Nymphing* by Gary Borger and *Matching the Hatch* by Ernest Schwiebert. I have learned a great deal from these books. The next list has afforded me many hours of reading pleasure and vicarious fishing experiences. My list includes: a wonderful book with a poignant introduction by the author's wife, John Atherton's *The Fly and the Fish*; *Remembrances of Rivers Past* by Ernest Schwiebert; *Fishless Days*, *Angling Nights* by Sparse Grey Hackle; *Trout Magic* by Robert Traver; and Howard Walden's *The Last Pool Up and Down the Big Stony*. Try one instead of watching television.

But if you want to watch TV and you own a VCR try one of the fly fishing

videos that can be rented at many of the area tackle shops or video stores. Most of them are excellent.

Another activity is to attend our banquet February 6th, it should be one of the most entertaining in years. The Farmington River Anglers and the Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association also have banquets scheduled.

There are also sportsmen shows in Worcester, Springfield, Hartford and Suffern, NY. These shows are great fun but get very crowded so get there early.

If you're a fly tyer, now is the time to replenish your supply for the coming season. Better than tying alone (although maybe not as productive) is tying with friends. Eight of us get together each Tuesday evening from January through April and BS, tie flies, drink a beer, and finish the evening with dessert and coffee. I really look forward to those evenings.

Let's not forget if the weather warms up we can go fishing. The Willimantic, the Housatonic and the new stretch of the Farmington are open all year and can hold some surprises for those who dare. Look for hatches of stoneflies or fish nymphs on the bottom. See you at the banquet!

Happy Hatches,
Gary Bogli



Lower Abuttment Pool, Willimantic River.

The Battenkill Needs Your Help

Reprinted from The Orvis News

The Battenkill is New England's most famous trout stream. With good reason. Its cold, pure, spring-fed waters support a tremendous wild brook and brown trout population, and it has not been stocked for over 20 years. Brook trout are especially sensitive fish, and seldom will you find a river of the Battenkill's size that offers water clean enough to support them.

Right now, a plan to dump 51,000 tons of toxic ash per year into a plastic-lined pit, 300 feet from the Battenkill, hangs by a tenuous thread. The ash, from a municipal trash burning plant, is high in heavy metals like cadmium, arsenic, zinc, mercury, and lead. The only thing that stands between this environmental time bomb and the waters of the Battenkill is the brave little town of Sunderland, Vermont.

The idea seemed irresistible to the 57 towns in Southern Vermont whose ash is supposed to go into this pit. Reduce the volume of garbage, get a little energy in the process, and eliminate the need for many landfills—how could this program be wrong?

It is wrong. It's ludicrous. Why concentrate all the toxic metals from 57 towns in one spot so close to this jewel of a trout stream? The metals in the ash are toxic to trout and other aquatic life at concentrations of *less than one-half part per million*.

In 1985, Vicon Recovery Systems, Inc., the owner of the incinerator plant in Rutland, Vermont, 30 miles from the Battenkill, purchased an existing municipal landfill in Sunderland, just downstream of Manchester and on the banks of the Battenkill. A permit from the state of Vermont to dump the ash followed shortly.

Over the past six months, as the plant in Rutland initiated plans to burn, local opposition to the dump site stiffened. A change in state law required that Vicon install a dual synthetic liner system in the 2½-acre pit with a leachate collection system and monitoring wells. The state and Vicon insisted that the ash was not technically "hazardous," even though this liner system is the type used for hazardous waste. The containment system was touted as "state-of-the-art."

More opposition followed, headed by the Coalition to Save the Battenkill, comprised of Trout Unlimited, The Battenkill Conservancy, and Vermonters Organized for Cleanup (VOC). Vicon's engineers made changes to the design almost daily, so fast that experts hired by the coalition to critique the liner were unable to keep up. "It's like trying to hit a moving target," was the comment of one expert.

Even the EPA admits that these liners will leak eventually: "There is good theoretical and empirical evidence that the hazardous constituents that are placed in land disposal facilities very likely will migrate from the facility into the broader environment." Here, the broader environment is the Battenkill and its tremendous groundwater reserve.

Enter the little town of Sunderland, population less than 800. Unlike nearby Manchester, it has no outlet stores, no \$200,000 plus vacation homes. No general store. Not even a post office. It's just a small rural town whose people love the Battenkill—spin fishermen, bait fishermen, fly fishermen, canoeists, nature lovers. All along, the town has insisted that Vicon needed an amendment to its original zoning permit to build the ash liner and to dump ash. Vicon disagreed, insisting the state permit was sufficient.

Sunderland, already burdened by a high tax rate, and facing tremendous legal fees in a protracted battle, went to court on December 7, asking for an injunction order on construction of the liner until Vicon received the amended permit from the town. On December 12, the Bennington Superior Court ordered all work stopped on the liner. Now the town zoning board has two months to issue or deny the zoning permit. Sunderland officials are also asking the state to reopen land-use environmental hearings.

This tiny town needs your help. The Sunderland selectmen have voted unanimously to do everything possible to "remove this bitter cup from the lips of the Battenkill River," in the words of John Randolph, editor and publisher of *Fly Fisherman* magazine. Vicon is sure to take the town to court, and the cost of legal fees, expert witnesses, and land searches for an alternate site could be staggering.

A legal fund for the town has been established, and contributions will be used only for the purpose of fighting the dumping of ash on the banks of the Battenkill. **The Orvis Company will match the first \$10,000 raised by this fund.** If you want to help save a river, please send a tax-deductible donation to:

Town of Sunderland Legal Fund
C/O The Orvis Company,
Manchester, Vermont 05254

This is not a question of "not in our backyard." It is a question of "not in this particular backyard." Alternate sites are available.

What is the state's position? The governor has been courting Japanese investment in Vermont since she took office in 1984, and, coincidentally, the Vicon project is financed by State of Vermont bonds which used a letter of credit from the Industrial Bank of Japan to secure a AAA credit rating. According to one Vermont official, "It's goodbye Japan if this thing ever goes down the drain." But, according to Robert F. Jones of *Sports Illustrated*, "It's goodbye Battenkill if the poisons from the Vicon site ever go down the drain of the river's aquifer. You can always get another investment partner. You can't get another Battenkill."

After you send your check to the Town of Sunderland Legal Fund, you might consider a letter to Governor Kunin:

The Honorable Madeleine Kunin, Governor
State House
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Just prior to our press deadline, the State of Vermont announced it will not permit construction of the ash dump's liner and collection system to resume until May 1, 1988. With the support of the coalition, the town of Sunderland's legal action has bought the time to find an alternative site. We need your financial help to fund the ongoing legal and engineering costs to stop the ash from being dumped next to the Battenkill, and to help the town work with the state to obtain an alternate site.

On Wading

By *Lionel R. MacDonald*

How many times have I said to myself while fishing the Housatonic or the Farmington rivers, "Is this a wading exercise or am I here to fish?" I have often associated fly-fishing with wading for at least twenty-five years. In order to situate oneself to fish with flies, one has to place oneself in an area free from as many visible snags as possible. I'm talking about tree branches, bushes, tall grass and even other fishermen. There will be enough under the water debris hook-ups to be concerned with later, so, for now, let's concentrate on placing ourselves away from area snags. One way to do this is to wade the area.

What prompted me to do this piece and share my thoughts on wading was my experience yesterday on the Shetucket River. Fall fly fishing for trout in rivers is very different than that in the spring. Because you've fished your rivers in spring and summer for years, you feel you know your river. My river has mysteriously a look like a flow of black ink! On closer observation, I realize the effect is the result of the rocks on the bottom which have turned black. I believe the black is algae & stream life which has been baked on by the sun as a result of low water conditions through the dog-days of summer. Until this hard coating is scoured off by the gravel grit flow of heavy rains of fall & ice flow through winter, your river will also appear as an ink flow. This condition is cause for concern for wading fishermen.

One simply feels confident that as he wades in from shore and the water gets deeper, that if he returns to that same shore the water will get shallower. In springtime and summertime his confidence is affirmed by sight. He can see bottom. In the late fall many conditions are different. I have found the use of a wading staff an essential part of my tackle especially when wading unfamiliar waters. Yesterday, I entered the river at one point and began to fish. As each likely spot was penetrated and no fish hooked, I moved down stream. At the end of my fishing time I began to edge my way closer to shore to get out of the water. I am now in water not completely familiar but not completely strange. I was about forty feet from the bank when I started to work my way toward shore. Rocks underfoot ranged in size from baseball to twice the size of a watermelon. Twenty feet from shore the water was six inches deeper than my knees. I'm probing the bottom with my wading staff. Closer to shore the water seems to be

getting deeper. The current is pushing me downstream. I've made a commitment to get to the shore on a diagonal path. The water is black and with each step, it's getting deeper & deeper. This blew my mind. (It's supposed to be getting shallower!) From what I know of wading a piece of water, the principal is the closer to shore the shallower the water. My waders are chest high. At the point I made a leap for a tree root my push-off foot was on solid rock. My lift-off foot would be groping for a landing surface. I was very close to a point of shipping water when I grabbed onto a tree root to pull myself up and out of the water. My foot did feel a small but strong root underwater. My recovery period from that experience was extended because I was wet, cold and trying to decide if I'd get back into that water again that day. I decided against it.

A big part of wading is being able to read the water. This means knowing what causes a roll: what is 'backwash'; what is an 'eddie'; what is a 'run'; what is 'gravel' and what is 'ledge'. How big are the rocks? How large are the boulders? What is 'silt'? What is clay?

I once experienced an area where last Fall's leaves had bunched up. The gases released by the decaying leaves caused the surface disturbances I would have sworn was trout dimpling for nymphs in the film. It turns out there were trout there, feeding but only a fraction relative to the surface disturbance. Wading through this stuff is dangerous because it's similar to quicksand. Avoid it at all costs. Reading the stream bank is helpful too. Generally a gradual bank incline means shallow water. A steep bank means deeper water & that's exactly what I experienced today. When wading unfamiliar water, the word to keep in mind is "awareness."

Wading in salt water can be interesting. Mostly it'll be in the surf or from a beach to an offshore island. Rocks are scarce. In Connecticut our tide differential is less than four feet. Add a little wind to that and you have an eight to ten inch chop. Even a breeze will cause a swell which is less severe but which still causes an additional rise and fall of the surface.

Always carry your wading staff. My best advice for wading *any* water is similar to advice given to swimmers. Always go with somebody. Avoid going alone because if you go down and you're gone, nobody knows it 'till you don't return. Until you take water in your waders for the first time, you gain confidence with each time you're wading. If you don't wear a waist belt around the outside of

your waders, you'll simply be amazed how fast cold water is drawn into those waders. You'll also discover the real weight water has, once it's in your waders. I've gone down once in the Housatonic and once in the Farmington. Both times I was in water only waist deep. The experience is frightening. I panicked both times but the good Lord was with me both times and that alone is why I'm here to talk about it today.

I have not let those experiences keep me from wading waters, but it has caused me to be ever more cautious. Another point to discuss is the soles of the waders. Whether your choice is a boot foot wader or a stocking foot, get something on the soles and heels other than rubber. If your going to be wading rocky waters, those rocks are going to be as slippery as a surface covered with oiled ball bearings. Soles and heels covered with felt or aluminum or brass chain will eliminate 99 percent of the slipperiness. The aid of your wading staff will take care of the last percent.

Leaky waders will cause you to get wet inside your waders. Wetness is different from perspiration or condensation. Regardless of the style of your waders, the inside will exhibit moisture when you take them off. This moisture is the result of your body heat on the inside and the colder water temperature on the outside. For me nothing dampens a fishing outing like wading with a leaky pair of waders.

My very first pair of waders were neoprene coated chest high boot foot waders. I stayed with that style wader until last year when I bought my first pair of stocking foot waders with velcro closure wading shoes. The style shoes I have need improving, but the wader style is what I've wanted all along. Why did I wait so long? Only in one particular pair of wader did I feel more comfortable in running water, than all the rest. These were plastic Hampshire waders. When I was waist deep in moving water, it felt like the water slipped around the waders so much easier than any of the fabric covered waders.

One last comment on waders which leak. If you can find the spot water is coming in from, patch it. That patched spot may last a season then another hole will appear close by etc. etc. until you buy yourself a new pair. One way to get another season from them, is to put your feet in large plastic trash bags before you put the waders on. Principally, you'll pull a dry foot out of your leaky waders at the end of your fishing day. Try it. It has saved a few of my fishing trips.

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

presents

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CLASSES:

No.	Date	Subject
1	3-04-88	Rods, Reels, Lines, Leaders, Knots
2	3-11-88	Flies and Fish
3	3-18-88	Water Types and How to Fish Them
4	4-09-88	Casting Instruction and Fishing (pond)
5	May	Fishing a Stream (3-5 students per instructor)

LOCATION:

(Classes, 1, 2, 3) 7:00 P.M. in the Veterans Memorial Clubhouse (lower level),
Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT.
(Class 4) A private pond stocked with trout.
(Class 5) During this final session, students will fish the Willimantic
River with a CFFA instructor and practice course techniques
(approach, wading, stream reading, etc.). *Note:* Students must
supply their own transportation and equipment, and have a
valid Connecticut fishing license.

EQUIPMENT: For *Class 4 only*, CFFA will furnish equipment for students that do not own their
own. We recommend that students do not purchase their own equipment until *after*
Class 1. It is also suggested that students bring appropriate materials to take notes.

CLASS SIZE: Average class size is 35 students.

TUITION: CFFA members \$25.00 Non-Members \$30.00

CFFA FFS ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

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, CT 06416.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ CFFA MEMBER _____ NON-MEMBER _____

For additional information contact Larry Johnson, V.P. Promotion, 60 Willard Street, Hartford, CT
06105. Phone (203) 246-0728.

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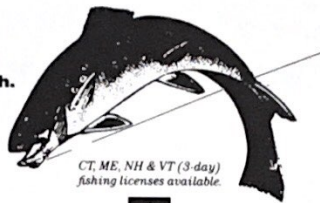
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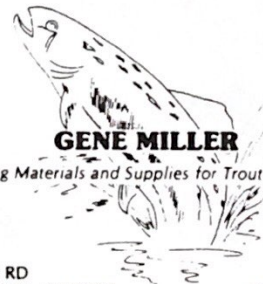
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Coming soon, Fishing Season.

Elections held at January meeting

Election of officers was held on January 6th at the general meeting. The following were elected: Gary Bogli—president, Larry Johnson—vice president of promotion, Bruce Cole—vice president of activities, Mike Baio—vice president of environment, Pete Trani—recording secretary, and Lionel MacDonald—treasurer. Bruce Cole is a new member of the Board, taking Mike Stewart's place. Mike has found a growing family and increasing job responsibilities enough to handle. I thank Mike for all his efforts on behalf of the Club. Bob Martinchek stepped down from his position as vice president of environment and will become banquet chairman. Bob has done outstanding work with environment and will be ably replaced by Mike Baio, who has been the chairman of the environment committee. As of this writing we have no chairman for environment. The remaining positions are filled by incumbants: Dick Smoragiewicz—legal secretary, Dan Record—education, Vin Ringrose—legislation, Malcolm MacKenzie—Newsletter, Ed Fidrych—publicity, Dick Lerche—membership, George Degen—program, Jim May—indoor facilities, and former presidents, Ken Parkany, Joe D'Addario, and Elmer Latham—advisory board.

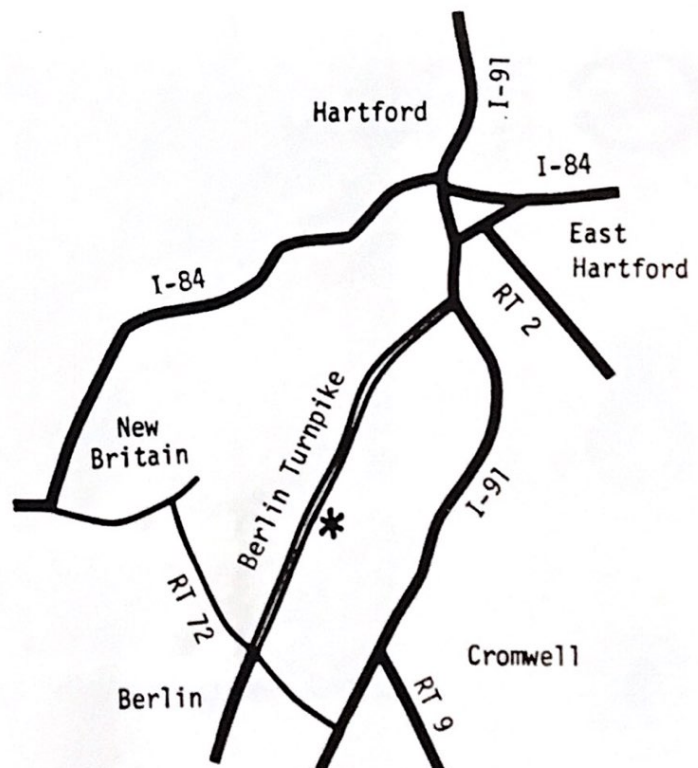
We all look forward to serving with you this year. Please help by volunteering when you can and making suggestions.

Banquet Directions

The CFFA Annual Banquet will be held at the Sphinx Temple located between the Grantmoor and Bradlees on the north-bound lane of the Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

From Hartford: Take I-91 south to the Rt. 15-Berlin Turnpike exit. Travel south on the Turnpike approximately 5.8 miles. Bradlees and a Grantmoor sign will be seen on the other side of the road. Make a U-turn at the next light and drive into the Grantmoor entrance.

From Berlin: Traveling north on the Berlin Turnpike from Berlin, the Grantmoor will be on your right, just past Bradlees, approximately 2.8 miles north of the Rt. 72 junction.



1988 Board of Directors

	<i>President</i>	
	Gary Bogli	
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Larry Johnson	Vin Ringrose	Dick Lerche
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Mike Baio	Dan Record	Elmer Latham
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Richard Smoragiewicz	Malcolm MacKenzie	Jim May
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Pete Trani	<i>Publicity</i>	Richard Smoragiewicz
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ed Fidrych	<i>Program</i>
Lionel MacDonald		George Degen

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. 6th, 1988

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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