

LINES & LEADERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

November Meeting

Subject: The Shetucket River

Jay Crowley, Vice President

Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Place: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset
Ridge Dr., East Hartford, CT.

When: Wednesday, November 9, 1988

Time: Fly Tying-7:00 P.M.

Program-7:30 P.M.

Bus Trip to Manchester Vermont Saturday November 19

-Luncheon at the Equinox

-Guided Tour of the American Museum of Fly Fishing

-Shopping at Orvis

Bus will leave 8:30AM, Returns approximately 8 PM

Cost \$25 per person CALL BRUCE COLE TEL: 693-2251 IF INTERESTED

Shetucket River Program

Our guest for the November meeting will be Mr. Jay Crowley, Vice President and Program Chairman of the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Jay will present a slide program on the Shetucket River located in eastern Connecticut. He will discuss the major hatches, problems along the River and concerns about minimum flow. Come out on and hear what is available on the Eastern side of the state.

George Degan
Program Chairman

"From the Vest of the President"

We've Missed You!

I am not sure of the reason but our first two meetings have been poorly attended, only 50 of our 300 members. Is it the subject of the programs or just a busy time of year? I know George Degen has tried to infuse interesting and varied subjects into our programs. The talk on restoring the Acushnet (pronounced Quashnet) was inspiring. The determination and hundreds of volunteer hours given to bring back this historic little stream deserves the world acclaim this project received. It is on my hit list. Last month Walt Koda shared his experiences salmon fishing on the Caines River in New Brunswick and fishing for brook trout in Labrador. Walt convinced me that I should consider both trips in my future. You also might have missed Walt's splendid wood carving of trout. If the subjects of our meetings don't appeal to you let us know what does.

Speaking of programs, George Degen is stepping down this year. George has done a truly outstanding job and will be hard to replace. However, because he has done such a thorough job whoever takes over will have an easier time. At least one or two helpers plus member volunteering to man the door and tie flies before each meeting would surely help. Many hands make light work.

We missed you at the Club picnic at Stratton Brook. Fifteen of us had a very pleasant day. Plenty of hotdogs and hamburgs with good conversation. Bruce Cole is trying his damndest to come up with activities to get members together. His latest, if enough interest is shown, is to run a bus trip to the American Museum of Fly Fishing and Orvis in Manchester, Vermont in November,

The subject of the Club's vitality has been tossed about by the members of the Board. Maybe its time for some new blood to lead and or a club project to unify membership. Many questions exist. Now we need answers. I would like to devote some time before the December meeting to see if some answers can be found.

Mike Baio and Larry Levesque have been working like beavers to keep the Willi up to snuff. I hope you were able to join them on the 22nd.

The membership voted to increase the life membership from \$100 to \$200. This will take effect November 9, 1988

Fall is a very busy time for me with school and my girls soccer team. This has meant very little fishing. Hopefully I can make it a couple times before the snow flies and I turn to skiing. See you at the Museum dinner and our next meeting.

Happy Hatches,

Gary Bogli

In the October issue of L&L my printer made an anagram of Gary's amusing tale. Here it is in plain English!

From the Vest of the President


Well I'm still stuck on the the Farmington. Maybe it's because the water is an excellent temperature (60 degrees, and its sparkling clear, and a constant flow with scenic beauty and plenty of fish. Maybe it's because I caught 64 trout during August. Take your choice! There is another tale to tell however. The saga of the car keys. It all began on Sunday August 14th while I was chatting with a couple of fellow fishermen after a morning on the river. One of them spied a lonely key lying in the sand and asked if it were mine. Indeed it was, it was my ignition key. It had come loose from my leather key case. The clip needed pinching. Did I fix it? No, it won't happen again. August 17th my son trip Stephen and I went back to the same spot. and just before we started for the river I had to get back into the car. While I was returning the keys to a pocket inside my waders, I discovered the ignition key was missing again. "It's probably in my waders so lets look after we fish." Three hours of a fishing later the key was not inside my waders. Stephen and I searched for half an hour with no luck. I hunted once more through the tufts of grass around the car before went for help. Miraculously I found it. Did I fix the key holder? Yes! Friday August 19th I was drawn back by the sirens of the river. While I was gearing up a car pulled in next to me and the gentleman and I began conversing on the pleasures of fly fishing. Suddenly a crow came down and alighted on my car and squawked for something to eat. Where this crow came from I don't know but I unlocked the front door and broke off a piece of banana. He took it eagerly from my hand but then wiped it from his beak all over the hood of my car. Not a tropical crow I guess.

Later while I walked back to my car after a fine morning releasing seven browns, I began to think about getting out of my gear quickly to make an appointment to have a stereo cassette installed in my car. That cold sinking feeling set in as I realized I had no keys and had left them on the front seat of my car when I fed the crow. Sure enough there they were and no extra key hidden in my wallet or on the car. I walked toward Route 44 passing through dense growth rivalling the jungle. I could have used a machete instead of a fly rod. I reached the New Hartford maintenance garage and luckily found a policeman. He said they no longer carry tools to unlock cars because people complained that their cars were scratched. He did find a coat hanger, brought me back to my car and within a couple minutes had opened the door. Scratches be damned!

Now for an odd twist. While installing the speakers in my door the man found an ignition key in the driver's door panel. On August 24th I got a letter from J. Thomas of Waterbury. Inside was my fishing license. I never missed it. My friends say it's age.

Happy Hatches

Gary Bogli



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A Trip to Pittsburgh

Fishing trips, as we all know; can be exciting, glamorous, exotic, or just plain fun. Let me tell you about an area within a six and a half hour drive and you can decide for yourself.

The area I am referring to is Pittsburgh, New Hampshire. The Connecticut Lakes, Back Lake, the Connecticut River and numerous feeder streams provide a variety of excellent fishing.

Two years ago my fishing partner and I decided to give the area a try. A call to Tony Caron, owner of the Tall Timbers Lodge on Back Lake, put the plans into motion. With our reservations made, the only thing left was to wait for September to roll around.

As you all know, trips like this can be a gamble but this one turned out to be great. The lodge at Tall Timbers proved to be fantastic. The food and accomodations were excellent and for \$36.00 a day it was a real bargain.

We spent most of this particular trip trolling at Back Lake with various streamers which produced numerous rainbows, some close to 2 pounds. The most effective streamers were the Hornbergs (yellow in color).

We made a second trip this September but expanded our fishing area to include an area called the Trophy Stretch in the Connecticut River. The fish we caught in the Trophy Stretch were not exactly trophies but the local folk assured us that the trophy ones do exist. I shouldn't be too critical however, because we fished a feeder stream called Perry Stream that empties into the Trophy Stretch and had excellent results. Brookies around a pound, even one salmon made our day. Most of these fish were taken by Hornbergs and Dark Montreals.

On our earlier trip the Hornbergs appeared to be most effective, however, this trip the Dark Montreal appeared the winning fly. At Back Lake we averaged 20 fish a day, predominately Rainbows. The fish seemed smaller this year but a few one pound or one and a half pounders perked things up.

To sum it up, I would recommend this area. The Tall Timbers is a great place to stay and the Carons are super hosts. The only bad news is that they went up \$2.00 per day.

Don Ferguson

American Museum of Fly Fishing

AUCTION DINNER

Wednesday, November 3, 1988

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5:30 PM - Cocktails

6:30 PM - Dinner

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Gary LaFontaine's Fishing the Housatonic River

By Joe Garman

We've all seen video tapes on all kinds of subjects, depending on one's interests. In fact, I've written about some in this column. Skeet and trap shooting, fishing for steelhead in British Columbia, tying trout flies, etc. Now a friend Gary LaFontaine of Montana, (a transplanted Nutmegger) and associates have come up with something new and I think very exciting.

Gary who has made a name for himself as an author (Challenge of the Trout, Caddisflies, and numerous articles on fishing) Montana guide and publisher, sent along a couple of audio tapes for me to critique.

Greycliff Publishing Co. of Helena, Montana with whom Gary is associated, publish these tapes along with various books on trout and salmon fishing.

What is so unique about the tapes is the subject matter. The two are entitled "Fly Fishing the Housatonic" and "Fly Fishing the Beaverkill". They are not the only tapes that LaFontaine has put together. He has also published three others, all western tapes. "Fly Fishing the Yellowstone", "Fly Fishing the Henry's Fork," and "Fly Fishing the Madison."

All of the tapes come with maps of the rivers with the pools marked and named, a hatch chart showing the species of flies that hatch on the rivers, and time of year, and of course fly pattern lists to imitate the naturals. This is broken down to nymph's, dry flies, wet flies and of course spinners.

A lot of work has gone into the latter sections. Not only are the natural flies identified extremely well, but there are specifics mentioned in tying up the imitations for certain species, i.e: Dark Hair Caddis-14 (Tie with apple green body for matching the dark Shad Fly).

But enough of what comes with the tapes. It is the tape itself that makes for an exciting adventure. LaFontaine has managed to get together with fisherman who are knowledgeable about each river, who fish the river well, and know it inside out. With Gary throwing questions at the "expert", the answers come forth with a spontaneity that cannot be faked. On the tape about the Housatonic, Dale Spartas, a Connecticut Yankee and a "Hoosie": fisherman, gives out with the answers.

And everything is coordinated so that the questions and answers have a great format to follow. On the Housatonic tape, side one starts with an introduction to the river, followed by sections of the river, which describes the pools from the Upper reaches to the Transition Zone. Side two is concerned with the seasons of the river, and then flies used, dries, nymphs, streamers, and one section on smallmouth bass.

I have to tell you that driving on a long trip as I have done recently, and listening to one of these tapes, sure made the miles, and the time pass very quickly. Or sitting at home, listening to them over and over helps you discover things you missed the first time around. I thought I knew the "Hoosie" pretty well. I really didn't. I'm grateful for the info Gary and Spartas passed on to me via the tape.

Joe Garman is the proprietor of Joe's Back Room on Main Street (Located in J. Garman Clothiers) in Manchester. He is a recognized authority on cane rods.

Gary LaFontaine, despite his transplant, still maintains his CFFA membership. He has two books due for release during 1989, "The Dry Fly", and "Fly Fishing Mysteries". "Fishing the Housatonic" is available at many local tackle shops or it can be ordered directly from Greycliff Publishing, P.O. Box 1273, Helena, Montana 59624 for \$12.95 a piece.

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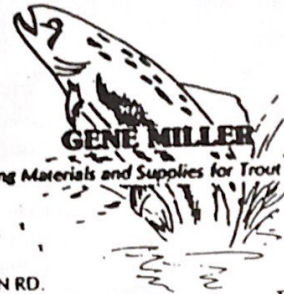
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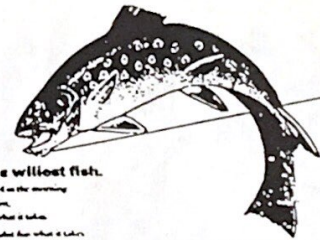
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3	6
13	10
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27	

CFFA Annual Banquet

February 4, 1989

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. is organized to "Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Gamefish Waters" CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at The Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Dr. East Hartford, CT. "Lines & Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. and is distributed to its membership and allies of conservation. Business card ads may be placed at the cost of \$5 per ad or \$40 for 9 months. CFFA member may place for-sale or want ads of a noncommercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to: Pam Murray, 34 Northwoods Lane, Middletown, CT 06457. 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