

# LINES & LEADERS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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CFFA 19th ANNUAL BANQUET  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 1989  
SPINX TEMPLE, RT. 15, NEWINGTON

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
ERIC LEISER

"A Humorous Look at Gathering Fly Tying Materials"

Cocktails at 6:30 PM Dinner at 7:30PM

Reservation Form In This Issue

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COME JOIN US AT THE 2CD ANNUAL TRUCK & SPORTSMAN'S SHOW

THE HARTFORD CIVIC CENTER :    Friday Feb 10,    Noon - 10PM  
   Saturday Feb 11,    10AM - 10PM  
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If You Can Volunteer to Help Man Our Booth Call Bruce Cole TEL: 693-2250

## "From the Vest of the President"

Have you noticed the days getting longer? Some members are taking advantage of this and fishing the Farmington River. John Cannata and John Pierllo have both had good success fishing small dries. This is one of the advantages of Connecticut Trout Management Areas.

Thank you for your confidence by electing me to another term as your president. I will try to live up to your trust. Congratulations to other electees: Larry Johnson vice president of promotions, Bruce Cole vice president of activities, Mike Baio vice president of environment, Mike Stewart treasurer, and Dick Lerche as secretary. I look forward to working with you and the other members of the Board and the Club. Dick Lerche has moved from membership chairman to secretary and Neil Bantly has taken membership. Larry Levesque, conservation chairman has two assistants: Kurt Jagielow and Dale Matthews. We welcome these new members. However we still need help with program, banquet and a legal advisor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank three members who have stepped down from the Board. Pete Trani has served six years as secretary. Besides these official duties Pete had helped in many unseen ways. He served as school registrar, helped collate and mail Lines & Leaders for many years, helped make the display case on the Willi, the display board used at the Civic Center and the frames for the fly display boxes raffled at the banquet and is presently in charge of collecting raffle prizes for the banquet. He has been an outspoken advocate for members while serving on the Board.

Lionel MacDonald performed the duties of treasurer since 1984 and has also functioned as program chairman. Again Lionel is a devoted member who has not been satisfied just doing "his" job. He is a frequent volunteer on such tasks as stocking streams, cutting brush, helping at our schools and is now a volunteer for the state's program to teach fishing to young people.

George Degen has set new standards in programing. His ceaseless efforts and efficiency have brought us many hours of pleasure. George is constantly thinking of ways to improve the CFFA. He too has served in other capacities. He taught our fly tying school, stocked streams and has been a guide for the fly fishing school.

We will truly miss these three gentlemen on the Board and again thank them for their exertion on behalf of the CFFA.

The fly raffle has been launched with Mike Stewart's dozen flies. Only 99 dozen to go, so start tying. Put one of each of your favorite patterns aside as you tie for the coming season. Only with your help can we reach our goal and keep the cost of dues down and pay for the necessary and expensive insurance. I have set the March meeting as the target date for collecting your donations. If you prefer you can mail them to me at 82 Elizabeth Drive, Manchester, CT 06040.

Our biggest fund raiser and fun time is upon us, The Annual Banquet. Eric Leiser is sure to be entertaining and the selection of prizes may be the best yet. We have some great rods, a float tube, neoprene waders, framed flies tied by Myron Schulman, books, fly tying materials and tools etc., etc. If you haven't made your reservations do so immediately, February 4 is almost here. I'll see you there.

Happy Hatches,

Gary Bogli

## The Fifty Years of the Mickey Finn

by Wally Murray

I recently had the opportunity to demonstrate to fellow members of the CFFA how I tie the "Mickey Finn": binding the bunches of red and yellow bucktail prior to attaching them to the hook. I chose that particular fly for my tying debut because I think that the technique is not universally in use and because the streamer is. I was attracted to the "Finn" early in my fly-flinging career simply due to its appearance, but, like people, flies become richer bathed in the light of their histories.

The Mickey Finn was actually one bucktail in a series of six ground out by William Mills & Son that enjoyed limited popularity when John Alden Knight was introduced to it on the Mianus River early in the 1932 trout season. Four years later, Knight was invited to the Mad River Club near Toronto. These sports fished the "square tail" with small salmon flies, greased line method.

I suppose all of us, at one stream or another, pressed some killer fly on our companions and so it was with Mr. Knight at Mad River. And the response was not atypical, a half-hearted acceptance. Bang! A two pounder. That day, Knight landed and released 75 fish. In the Fall of '37 "Hunting and Fishing" magazine ran Knight's story of the Mickey Finn coincident with a Webber Tackle

Ad featuring the same streamer during the New York Sportsman's Show. Within two days, not a copy was available and within a week the deed to the Fountain of Youth could not buy a patch of yellow or red bucktail. It is estimated that up to 500,000 were tied at the Sportsman's Show.

The Orvis Company has indicated that the survival rate of new flies is low in the extreme. Following a flurry of interest in the first couple of years, the fly is discontinued with a dozen patterns persisting year after year. During the years I was in the tackle business, I can't recall one shop I visited that did not carry a good supply of Mickey Finns, and since have encountered few streamer wallets without at least two of them. Whether fished or not, the record of this fly is remarkable.

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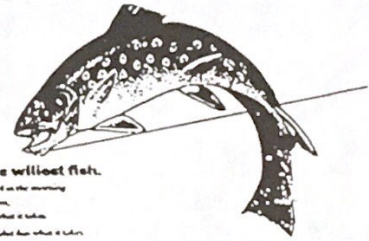
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## CROSING THE HOUSATONIC

Neil Bantly

The Falls River Dam phone recording predicted generators down at 6:00 p.m. The promise of a good evening on the Housi. I left the office at 4:30, made a quick stop at MacDonalDs, and waded into the river by 6:00 at my favorite spot, the Two Car Hole. I moved toward the boulder that I always used to keep track of the water level.

Soon a car with two fishermen pulled up and within a few minutes I had one on each side of me.

Around 6:45 the man on my right announced that the March Browns were hatching. By 7:30 I heard him say "Here come the Gray Foxes". Soon, he and I had moved across the Housi near the trees, enjoying a fantastic spinner fall.

In the darkness we were talking back and forth about how great an evening it had been with many trout taken and released. As I was making the last few casts of the evening, I heard the same voice that announced the hatches, "I can't find my way back. The water is deep here. Can I follow you?"

Sudden realization struck a cold chill. The Falls Village Dam turbines had been started despite the phone recording. I tightened the drawstring on my waders and with my new friend within arms reach, we moved across following the best route I knew. Thank goodness for the wading staff! It kept me on my feet, and we kept moving. It's amazing how the bond of friendship grows under these conditions. Then, water over the top! We stayed on our feet, but barely. Once we grabbed each other to stay up. Finally, we were out of deep water and out of trouble. Shivering from the wet and cold, I headed for my car and dry clothes. As I stowed equipment in the trunk I heard the evening's familiar voice coming toward me in the darkness, "How about a beer?" Over a can of Bud, we properly introduced ourselves, and vowed "Never again!"

-- Famous last words.

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

presents

1989 FLY FISHING SCHOOL

A course for beginners and neophytes...

CLASSES:

No.	Date	Subject
1	3-9-89	Rods, Reels, Lines, Leaders, Knots
2	3-16-89	Flies and Fish
3	3-23-89	Water Types and How to Fish Them
4	4-8-89	Casting Instruction and Fishing (pond)
5	MAY	Fishing a Stream (3-5 students per instructor)

LOCATION:

Classes 1,2,3	7:00 PM at the Whiton Memorial Library, 100 North Main Street in Manchester
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 the required information. Forward application form and tuition (checks made payable to CFFA) to: Dan Record, Education Chairman, 9 Sequoia Drive, Cromwell, CT 06516

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CFFA MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ NON-MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

For additional information contact Larry Johnson, V.P. Promotion, 60 Willard Street, Hartford, CT 06516 Phone (203) 246-0728



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**CFFA 19th  
ANNUAL BANQUET**

FEB. 4TH, 1989

The banquet will be held at the Sphinx Temple (next to the Grant Moor) on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington. Directions and a map will be printed in the January and February newsletters. Your choice of dinners this year will be baked stuffed shrimp or roast prime rib of beef. Included with the meal will be fruit cup, salad, baked potato, vegetable, rolls and butter, coffee or tea and dessert.

Your Banquet Committee has worked hard to provide you with an enjoyable evening, and we have been able to do this for \$20.00 per person. We will also be holding our conservation drawing that evening.

Fill out the reservation form and mail it as soon as possible. Your Banquet Committee and Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes for our drawing may contact Elmer Latham at 742-6584 or Dick Smoragiewicz at 569-0364. All prizes will be greatly appreciated, and all donations will be acknowledged in "Lines and Leaders."

**Dinner Reservation**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I will require reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ persons at \$20.00 per person.

Check or Money Order in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

(Please make payable to "CFFA.")

Mail reservation form to:

Mr. Elmer Latham  
79 Northfield Rd.  
Coventry, CT 06238

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Baked Stuffed Shrimp  
\_\_\_\_ Prime Ribs of Beef

Mail your reservation now-Phone reservations will not be accepted.- We must have your reservations by January 31, 1989  
Tickets will not be available at the door.

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George Degen

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fly Tying School

January, 1989	February, 1989
3	6
13	10
20	
27	

CFFA Annual Banquet

February 4, 1989

Conservation Wednesday