



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association
Volume 19, No. 4
November 1991

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November 13 CFFA meeting features Paul Kukonen, who needs little in the way of introduction. Paul has appeared many times at past meetings and has drawn some of our largest crowds ever. His show will be a potpourri of film on the excellent fishing available in the northeast, including saltwater fly fishing, Pulaski, landlocked salmon, Atlantics, and more. This is a show not to be missed!

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Hall, Sunset Ridge, E. Hartford

DATE: Wednesday, November 13

TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 pm
Program - 7:30 pm

From the Vest of the President



The 6th annual Hartford auction-dinner for the American Museum of Fly Fishing will be held on Wednesday, November 13, at the Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford. Unfortunately, it was not possible to avoid a conflict with our normal meeting night this year. The Museum does an important job of preserving our fly fishing heritage and making it available to the public through their publications and exhibits, and CFFA and many members support the museum's work. We would like to have had at least one table of members and guests at the auction-dinner. The cost is \$35 per person, and includes a one-year membership in the museum if you are not already a member. Museum Director Don Johnson provides a wide variety of items for the silent and main auctions, so you don't have to be a high roller to enjoy yourself and support the museum. It will be very close to the dinner date when you read this, but if you would like to join us please call Don Johnson at (800) 362-3300 and make arrangements to pay at the door.

For those of you who follow the fishing shows, a new fall Antique Angler's Show was held on September 27-29 at the Bromley Ski Area in Vermont. It was less formal than the Worcester show, and well worth seeing if you were in the area. CFFA member Dave Foley was among the exhibitors there with a good selection of fishing books. The show did not get a lot of advance publicity, but it looks as if it will be held again next year. We'll try to give you advance notice next time.

VP Promotions Dale Matthews and I were fortunate to be able to represent CFFA at the North Eastern Council Conclave of the Federation of Fly Fishers at Hershey, PA on September 13-15th. The event was held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. I think we would both describe the conclave as intimate and friendly (despite the fact that it took three days for us to feel confident about the route from our room to the convention center).

The accommodations and meals were excellent. The displays, raffles, fly tyers, etc. were all in one room, and the full schedule of programs was held in rooms right next door. We began Friday afternoon watching Lefty Kreh, Ed Koch, Bob Clouser, and a few others trading flies and telling jokes, and it just kept getting better. We and a lot of others spent hours watching Bob Popovics tying salt water patterns, including a new mullet pattern he was still in the process of creating. *Continued on page 2*

COMING SOON ...

American Museum of Fly Fishing

ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

Wednesday, 13 November 1991

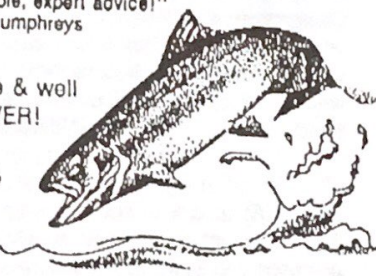
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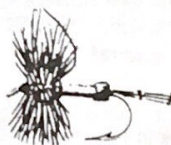
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It's a timeless struggle: Man, vs. the elusive fish

Reprint of At wit's end by Erma Bombeck

Forget George Bush's domestic crisis...his hostage vigil...his summit meetings. For whatever the president did or did not do this summer - he caught a fish.

It's tough living with a man who isn't catching fish. I have lived through enough "fish watches" in my time to know that it's like existing with a batter who is 0-43. In fact, I don't know of anyone who has more excuses for failure - unless it's a dieter on a Tuesday morning.

People trust a president who can catch fish. A lot of sports you can cheat on, but fishing is a judgement call, a contest between something dumb enough to eat feathers and worms with a hook in them and the leader of the free world. There was a rumor that when Eisenhower fished, this aides used to release trout upstream, but no one knows that for sure.

Through years of listening to excessive whining, I have learned a lot about fish. I know they don't bite when the water is too hot or too cold, when the stream is churned up or when it is smooth. They don't bite when there is noise, or it is late in the day or when it has just rained. They never bite after someone had dumped all of his bait in the stream and they aren't hungry.

They don't bite when construction or natural disasters unsettle them or when there are too many fishermen at the lake. They don't nibble when they're too young to

take the bait or when they're too old and smart. Some say fish haven't been biting since the Republicans came to power.

Whatever the reason, you will never hear a fisherman admit he doesn't have the skill or the talent to catch them. He never loses a fish either. It simply "got away," as if the animal had outside help in planning an escape.

I live with a fisherman. For years, I have waited in the wings with a bag of cornmeal and a camera loaded with film only to hear him say, "That lake is fished out."

When we bought a farm back in Ohio, it came with a pond. There was only one fish in the pond - a 12-pound bass that was dumber than a cork. Catching him gave my husband an accelerated heart rate. He caught him 34 times. Every time he reeled him in, he would put a notch in his tail and throw him back. When we sold the house, that fish had a tail that would have sawed through a 500-year old redwood.

It isn't important that President Bush hung tough at the summit or that he stood toe to toe with Saddam Hussein on concealed arms. All of that will be forgotten. The summer of '91 will go down in history as the year he caught a fish.

WALLOP-BREAUX FUNDING HIT

From October 1991, Hook N' Bullet

Wallop-Breaux (WB) is probably the most important funding available for long-term fisheries development and protection. Unfortunately, few fishermen know about the fund. Many of the DEP fisheries biologists, sportfishing projects, boating access, and fisheries education programs are funded by WB. All fishermen pay into WB through a 10% surcharge on fishing equipment paid into the fund by the manufacturers.

Now Congress wants to "cap" the fund spending at \$190 million which would siphon-off \$18 million of the total anticipated receipts of \$208 million. The \$18 million would be used to help the general funded federal budget.

Fishermen should be irate over this proposal and immediately contact their Senators and Congressmen! This rip-off is a clear violation of promises made when the bill was first passed as Dingell-Johnson in 1950. Congress needs to be strongly reminded that this funding has never been violated; the user pays the fees and derives the benefit; and fishermen pay the taxes, because we do see benefit unlike most other bureaucratic resource improvement programs.

Nor is this [the] first time an attempt to raid WB has surfaced. In 1987, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) attempted a \$25 million rip-off. Congress soundly defeated that move. Again in 1989, OMB attempted to cap the fund at \$100 million. President Bush, a staunch supporter of Wallop-Breaux defeated that move. "As a supporter of Wallop-Breaux my position is clear; these funds should be used for the purpose intended, to develop and restore our sport fisheries and fishing environments."

The proposal has already been approved by the House and now goes to the Senate. The Administration has stated they strongly oppose the bill. At this point, fishermen should be contacting their Senators in opposition to the rip-off. Should the Senate reject the cap, the hope is that the Conference Committee of both houses will reject the proposal. Should it pass, there is some confidence President Bush will veto the measure.

If fishermen through apathy or inaction lose this battle, there will be similar battles in the future. It is not unique for legislators to dip into dedicated funds (note the CT Boating Fund) and once done there seems to be a compulsion to do more. Hunters should relate this possibility to the similarly structured Pittman-Robertson Fund.

Don't take this proposal lightly! Call/write your U.S. Congressmen and Senators to let them know you consider the WB Fund inviolate; that you want your user-fee money applied to fisheries, not defence, social welfare or other projects; and generally to - keep their hands OFF OUR VOLUNTEERED MONEY!

The Coalition's position is: this rip-off proposal is pure larceny form a well run program, beneficial not only to fishermen but to all citizens who benefit from a proven resource program. It is an insult to fishermen who are achieving what Congress and the federal bureaucratic structure cannot. And, there is no justification for underwriting the general fund with our money when we also pay federal taxes like all other citizens. It is unfair, unethical, and further undermines any belief in the integrity of Congress. We urge immediate communications by clubs and individuals to your U.S. Senators.

ATTENTION ALL CFFA MEMBERS!!

It is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Please fill out the enclosed form, include a check for the proper dues, and either send it in or give it to Dave Harduby at the next club meeting. A pre-addressed envelope is provided for you. If your mailing label has been marked in red, Dave has not received your membership at this time. We appreciate your membership over the past year and look forward to seeing you for many years to come. If anyone has a question about their membership status, you can call Dave at home. His number is on the last page of the newsletter.

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The following article was recently found in a local newspaper. We are not sure if it is true or not. Let's hope not! Ed.

"My husband and I live in Stafford Springs and we are taxpayers there. We recently attended a get-together at Staffordville Lake. It's a beautiful place and my husband and son fish there often. We launch our boat from my in-law's cottage because there is no boat launch for town people although our taxes maintain the lake. At the party, the talk turned to ways to keep people like my husband and son out of "their" lake. Several property owners voiced a particularly nasty scheme to keep trespassers out. Since most of the trespassers are fishermen, they said, all we have to do is get rid of the fish. So, all year long they have been killing all the fish they catch, instead of throwing some back as good fishermen do. In addition, some people said they went out, in snorkeling gear, and destroyed all the fish nests they could locate. This is the last straw. Some of the lake residents are not content with acts against town taxpayers whose taxes support the lake. Now they must destroy God's creatures to advance their own selfish ends. There must be a special place reserved for them; a place that is very hot."



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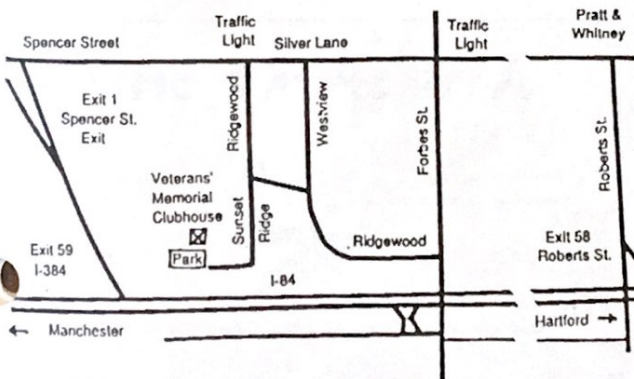
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A Letter to the Hartford Courant
Regarding:
THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS

by J. Michael O'Neil, Vernon, October 18, 1991

A May Fly - an *Isonychia bicolor* in fact - fluttered up from the little brook that runs through the woods in my backyard and landed on my sleeve a few days ago. I was on my deck enjoying the autumn sun and reading in some dismay the Courant story about the approaching death of the state trout stocking program (Oct. 11 Casting a Pall not a Line). I didn't realize that the little brown creature was there until I heard odd wee tittering and rustling sounds coming from the neighborhood of my right elbow.

He had started reading the article too and was so overcome by Tommy Hines' lead sentence, "Connecticut's trout season could be nearly troutless next year," that he had broken into a spasm of laughter and feathery applause. The applause he managed by whipping his gossamer thin wings together at great speed (his feet being much too small to effect even the lowest decibel of sound). As any trout fisherman or entomologist can tell you, this is highly unusual behavior for the decorous and gentle May Fly, who is mainly noted for fragile beauty and grace. On the otherhand, trout and salmon admire his for his delicious flesh and would eat him and all of his family to the exclusion of all other fishy viand if that were possible. So it was no surprise that the little fellow found the newspaper article so pleasurable.

He quickly collected himself - apologizing profusely to me for his uncommon outburst.

"Forgive me, sir," he said. "Normally, I would never have presumed to laugh out loud and applaud on your sleeve. QUITE rude of me to be sure. But the great good news about TROUTLESS WATERS her in Connecticut next year, and for years to follow after that! Well - one is only insect, after all. And to think that we have a group of humans to thank for this. Life is just too wonderful! Well, you will excuse me sir, I am sure. I smut fly off to share the news with mosquito, and horsefly, and termite."

The realization hit me that while the politicos in Hartford had failed their human constituency utterly - muddling the appropriations to fund our century-old trout stocking as they did - they had at least given the bug and insect lobby cause to rejoice. But my fisherman's heart could find no warmth in that. One is only human, after all!

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Tuition: CFFA Members - \$10; Non-Members - \$15

CFFA Enrollment Application

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 12 Horizon Hill Road, Newington, CT 06111

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Check one 1. _____ Beginning Fly Tying 2. _____ Advanced Fly Tying 3. _____ Rod Building

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For additional information contact Dale Matthews, V.P. Promotion, 155 Conklin Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076, Phone (203) 875-2033

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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 Drive, 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 Lynn & Mike Stewart, 10 Bradley Brook, North Granby, CT 06060. Change of address notices should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380260, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268.



NOVEMBER MEETING: Paul Kukonen - November 13 *Northeast Fishing Potpourri*

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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