

FIRST NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1969

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWS LETTER



President's Message

Ted Barbieri

Hi Gang!

Well, here we are again with a little news for you. Yes, we missed a few rises and haven't had as much contact with all of you as we would have liked. However, our organization has not been sleeping.

You will read in other parts of this newsletter what has been going on since last we reported to you. I am sure it will please you.

Our committees have been busy as beavers and have made great strides especially in the field of conservation re Yantic River road bed going thru fly fishing area - Highway Department most cooperative - Jeremy River project - you should see this if you haven't already!! Salmon Brook also was quite a big deal as you may have read in the papers. - We have two small farm ponds at our disposal, one for trout rearing and the larger one we anticipate using for "experimentation". We will explain this term at a later date.

We anticipate a really block-busting program for the coming year and our program chairman will probably give you a run down on what he has planned.

We have had some darn good publicity recently in the news media and anticipate these people will cooperate as well in the future. Walt Burr has been named an F.F.F. director which gives us a much closer contact with the national organization.

Well, I guess I have given you as much GOOD NEWS as I can think of without taking the thunder away from the other people who will be reporting to you.

I must not forget our dear old treasurer, however - BAD NEWS!! We need members and dollars to pursue these projects that will mean so much to all of you and the young clan of fishermen who are coming along. We welcome any and all suggestions on fund raising and need your help in obtaining new members. All fishermen should be encouraged to join and we will teach them anything they like!! So don't take a "no" just because a guy tells you he is not a fly fisherman.

Keep your feet dry and a tight line,

Ted Barbieri

Conservation Committee Report

by Vin Ringrose

Our last report came to you in the Spring. Much water has been fished since that time and much sweat has been shed by hard working CPFA conservation workers. We can be proud of what has been accomplished even tho it is only a start. Much more can and will be achieved if members continue to show the same selfless dedication and if more and more continue to give time to work projects.

Our Salmon Brook project had some startling ups and downs. After two hard week ends of cutting dead trees, trimming them, and then building them into log and gravel deflectors, we left ten structures standing as finished on July 20th. In the next two weeks torrential floods washed out all our work and drastically changed the entire stream bed. On August 24th we returned, this time with a backhoe, and built five heavy deflectors and deposited several large pocket-making boulders in the stream. These have held up well. This work so impressed the Town fathers in Granby that their Conservation Committee voted us a small appropriation to hire a bulldozer to finish our projected improvements for this year. Unfortunately, rain in early November brought water too high to permit the 'dozer to operate. We hope to get it done before Spring, but weather creates some problems. Nonetheless, much has been done by CPFA for public fishing on this newly opened piece of State-leased water.

Our most exciting project of 1970 will undoubtedly be the Jeremys River. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find more details. Remember, we are going to ask you all to "work" on this project during the 1970 season at least once - that time being a fishing day with carefully recorded results. We will, of course, continue to improve pools, build some new ones, and create overhead cover, but we intend to have fun along with our work.

Plan now to visit the river before the season opens (perhaps on stocking day when we will float our live cars down thru the two miles of stream) so that you will know something about the likely spots before you fish the water.

We had hoped to have our own fish to add to the 600 State-owned browns for the 1970 Jeremys stocking, but our fish-raising activities have been held back by difficulty in getting a suitable rearing pond early enough in the Fall. On November 28th, we finally rotenone-treated a small farm pond in Somers under State supervision, and this pond will be stocked with State fingerlings in the Spring. We will harvest these trout for stocking 12 months later in Spring '71 and half will be ours for any private waters we choose, or, if we desire, all fish will be placed in open State waters of our choosing.

The fish raising business can be a lot of fun. We are looking for suitable locations to build our own hatchery-style circular ponds, which will be much more efficient, and also for people interested in working on a fish-raising committee.

On the legislative front, we have a newly-formed sub-committee to work on such matters, headed by Roger Hanlon, with help from Al Dixon, Mark Levy, and yours truly, and we hope, nearly everyone in CPFA sooner or later. Our first project will be to begin organizing for legislation to protect relocated waters. See Al Dixon's fine report elsewhere in this letter, going into detail on how you can help. But more than this, keep your eyes and ears open, and if you hear of anything, or just have an idea about a law you think ought to be passed, let the legislative committee know. Your idea might just be something that's been overlooked all these years.

1970 promises to be another banner year for CPFA. Be part of it - and bring your friends along!

Jeremys River Project by Larry Weidemier

Since the founding of our association over a year ago our directors have sought worthwhile projects in pursuance of the association's stated objectives. Following the formation of the Conservation Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Vincent Ringrose the directors began a search in the State for a piece of water that the Association could develop into a "showcase" of our purpose and achievement. Thru the efforts of the Conservation Committee in particular and the membership in general the Association found such a piece of water - the Jeremys River - which has already become a showcase of sorts after only one summer of work.

Last Spring, Walt Stachura, an association member from Colchester (and now the leader of the project) recommended a stretch of water flowing thru the Salmon River State Forest almost within walking distance of his home. The water, of course, was a two mile stretch of the Jeremys River located in the Town of Hebron. At Walt's suggestion Ted Barbieri, Association president, Dr. Ellis, a member of the State Fish and Game Commission, and Dr. Ringrose all inspected the water and pronounced it to be exactly what the Association had been seeking. This stretch of the Jeremys was relatively isolated, lightly fished, and distinguished by much good "pocket water". Most important, however, the stream had tremendous potential which could be effectively developed thru the type of work project the Association had wanted to undertake.

Work parties consisting of Association members and their sons visited the stream several times during the Summer and Fall. Actual work included construction of deflectors and "v" dams, installation of cover along the banks, and removal of overhead brush. The final major work day took place on October 12th, when a crew of some eighteen members under the direction of Dr. Ringrose constructed nearly a dozen deflectors and "v" dams and improved existing structures damaged by high water in late August. The sum effect was the creation of fast water, cover, and pockets where previously there had been none.

In addition to the construction work done on the stream the conservation committee is also conducting biological and entomological studies of the stream with the assistance of the University of Connecticut and the State Fish and Game Commission. On August 30th State Biologist Peter Minth conducted an electrical stream census, which turned up many different species of fish, but only one trout - a 10.5" brown - which, albeit, did appear healthy and well fed. Analysis of the trout's scales indicated an excellent rate of growth and added confirmation to members' observations that the insect life and

food in the stream were plentiful. At present, members of the Conservation Committee have collected some twenty different specimens of aquatic insects and are evaluating the quantity and quality of early winter insect life in the stream.

As opening day approaches, the Jerneys stands ready for its initial major stocking, controlled fishing, and continuation of the work already begun by your Conservation Committee.

"The Yantic River Relocation" by Al Dixon

A quiet tree shaded stream, a trophy Brown Trout lurking beneath an undercut bank carefully examining an artificial fly presented to him by a skillful fly fisherman.

Contrast this with a cement ditch rushing water from one point to another with no cover for fish -- no structures to slow the rush of high Spring waters -- a stream where no fish can possibly survive.

Is this an abstract observation? Not on your life! This is what stream relocation is all about. This is what is happening to streams all over Connecticut and most of the United States.

A stream that is to be relocated in this manner is the Yantic River in Colchester. A section of this stream is going to be moved to allow construction of new Rte. 2. The portion of stream to be relocated was formerly a section of fly fishing water under control of the State Fish and Game Commission. It is to be moved into a meadow over which Fish and Game has no control whatsoever. This stream is to be turned into a vertical ditch, engineered to carry water only. There have been no provisions made for waterlife.

We propose to change this!

CFFA plans to introduce legislation into the next session of the Connecticut General Assembly a bill that would provide for the replacement of rivers, streams, natural resources and recreational facilities in a way that would closely follow the original river or stream bed, or closely resemble the recreation facilities to be removed.

The process by which this is to be done was outlined by The Hon. Roger Eddy, Republican State Senator of Newington, at the October 27 meeting of the Conservation Committee. Senator Eddy is a respected conservation figure and one who is highly important to such causes.

Senator Eddy believes we have a good bill, one that should be a law in Connecticut. But many things must be done before this bill becomes a law. Some of the things suggested by Senator Eddy:

1. Form a Legislation Committee to co-ordinate all activities undertaken on behalf of CFPA sponsored legislation.
2. Contact other Fish and Game Clubs, Conservation Clubs, Labor Unions, and any other organizations interested in conservation to enlist their aid.

3. Meet with a prominent member of the Majority Party, such as Senator Buckley of Seymour. Enlist his support and endeavor to have him sponsor our bill.
4. Contact as many Assemblymen and Senators as possible, either in person, by letter, or by telephone. Gain their views, endeavor to enlist their aid and support, ask to have them co-sponsor the bill.
5. Work closely with the Highway and Fish and Game Commissions.
6. Work for and support candidates in the next general elections who support CFPA legislation. Keep in touch with these candidates after elections, remind them of our support and of our legislation.
7. Have bill written and introduced into General Assembly.
8. Have delegation appear at committee hearings on proposed legislation. Delegation spokesman should read short statement in support of legislation.
9. Set up publicity campaign in newspapers, radio, and television all over the State. Bring public into fight to have bill passed.
10. Bring telephone and letter campaign to conclusion shortly before bill is due for vote on House and Senate floors.
11. Don't give up. If bill is not passed this time, work even harder next time.

Many of these proposals have already been put into effect. Most CFPA members present at the last general meeting of November 24 heard the announcement that a legislation committee was to be formed as a sub-committee of the Conservation Committee. But much work lies ahead, and we need your help.

If you would like to be a member of the legislation committee, please contact Roger Hanlan, Legislation Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 42, Windsor Locks, Conn. 06096.

Most important, contact your Senator and Assemblyman. Write him a letter, call him if you know him well enough, meet with him in person. Let him know your views. After all, this is why you elected him in the first place.

You can find out who your Senator and Assemblyman are by writing to the Legislation Committee, care of CFPA's P.O. Box.

Remember these are your fishing waters we're talking about. Think for a moment. What would feel if your favorite fishing hole were suddenly turned into a ditch?

WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP?

Federation Of Fly Fishermen

The Federation of Fly Fishermen is our national organization with aims and purposes similar to those of CFFA. As an affiliated club we support FFF by contributing \$1 of each member's dues per year.

The New England District is represented by four directors: Al Brewster of Rhode Island, Walt Burr of Connecticut, Austin Hogan and Bob Bouchard of Massachusetts.

One of the projects of FFF will be a national stream survey - classifying fishing waters in the United States into three categories:

- a) Unredeemable
- b) Redeemable
- c) Pristine or unpolluted

You can lend support to FFF by joining the organization as an associate member with annual dues set at \$5 per year. As a member you will receive "The Fly Fisher" and information bulletin. These dues, of course, lend further support directly to our national organization.

1970 Membership Drive

As members of CFFA, it is essential that we all give more than just lip service and financial support to our organization.

Each member should make the effort to bring at least one new member into our club. Please use the attached application form for this purpose.

Doubling our membership will give us added financial stability and provide more funds for club operation. It will enable us to expand our various projects.

Walt Burr
Membership Chairman

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!

Attend the first meeting of the year.
Connecticut's top fly tiers will be on hand
to help you 'get ready' for the first cast of spring.

SEE YOU THERE:

Windsor Savings and Loan Assoc. Building
Main and Broad Sts, Windsor
7:00 P.M.

BRING A NEW MEMBER!

SPECIAL SPEAKER:

State Fisheries Biologist, John Orintus, will give a slide presentation on
'Survey of Connecticut Trout Fishing'.