



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 19, No. 9

April 1992

Organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters."

April Meeting Featuring Bob Gregorski

The Restoration of the Naugatuck River
as a Recreational Facility

This program will be a narrated slide show and a question and answer session. Bob is a member of Outdoor Writers of America and is the Connecticut Editor of Northeast Woods and Waters. He is also a charter member of the Naugatuck Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the group that spearheaded the four year restoration effort of the Naugatuck River.

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 8

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

CLUB TRIP

Cape Cod Fishing & the Conclave
5 - 6 June 1992

Come and join fellow club members for fishing at the Cape. Here's your chance to fish the Cape's famous kettle ponds or go fishing in the surf. In addition to the fishing, the North Eastern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be holding their Annual Conclave that same weekend in North Falmouth.

Lodging will be at The Moorings Lodge in Falmouth Heights. There is room for 16 people. Since there is limited room, the first 16 to sign up will get reservations. Your cost of \$75.00 per person includes two nights, two breakfasts, and one buffet dinner.

Make your checks payable to CFFA in the amount of \$75.00 for each person.

Send to: Gary Steinmiller, 12 Horizon Rd,
Newington, CT 06111

From the Vest of the President



It's time to think about going fishing. Spring is definitely in the air, and those of us who are not part of the year-round hard core are starting to break out our gear and thinking about Hendricksons on the Willi. I certainly plan to be out fishing by the time you read this. CFFA members stocked 1100 Browns, Brookies, and Rainbows in the Willi in early March. The water was a chilly 38 degrees then, but it has certainly warmed up by now.

We also plan to stock our rearing pool fish early this year so that we can have the summer to repair and paint the rearing pool. Repairs to the drain, etc. have been long delayed and now the epoxy paint needs three months to cure before new fish can be put in. We haven't forgotten the possibility of a late fall stocking. Maybe next year, when we don't have to worry about the pool leaking any more. If you would like to help out with the stocking or repairs, call Kurt Jagielow or Dale Matthews at the numbers listed in the newsletter.

Don't forget our club hotline when you do go fishing. John Springer is depending on you to provide information for his notices. Give him a call and let him know how things are going. Your fellow members will appreciate it, and good info on the hotline could get us some new members.

We have a good enrollment in this year's fly fishing school - 31 students. Education Chairman Gary Steinmiller will need help with the on-stream instruction at the Willi on Saturday May 2. Remember you're helping people learn the basics. You don't have to be the club expert to help, and it's fun too. If you can help, give Gary a call at 667-2989.

When you read this the Civic Center Fishing Show will be over. I want to thank all of you who helped out at our booth, and I hope all of you had a chance to see the show. One of the big attractions this year was the return of CFFA member Gary LaFontaine with another set of interesting and informative presentations. Gary also pitched in and tied at our booth.

Time is running out for the June FFF Conclave on Cape Cod. We have reserved rooms at The Moorings Lodge near the Conclave, and will be actively participating in the Conclave activities and salt water fly fishing. Call Gary Steinmiller now for information on the club trip, and Mike Stewart for Conclave activities and registration.

Tight lines,

Larry Johnson



New Fly Shop - A new fly shop has opened recently in East Granby, CT. The shop is named the Hatchet Hill Flyshop located at 44 Hatchet Hill Road. Mr. Clarence A. Casabella is the proprietor. The shop is small and quite rustic. Mr. Casabella makes nets and builds rods. He has fly tying materials, reels, books, rods, and other fly fishing paraphernalia. There is even a fly tying bench ready for anyone to sit down and tie a few while having some pleasant conversation. His shop is open from 10am to 4pm. Currently a shop special is being run on full sinking and sink tip lines. The shop's phone number is 658-2019.

Banquet Donors - We knew we would overlook someone. Bruce Cole and Mill River Fly Shop were among the many generous contributors in making the '92 Annual Banquet a success. Many Thanks!

Trout Stocking - Kurt Jagielow, VP Environment reports on Monday March 2nd the Willimantic Trout Management Area was stocked. Due to the cold water temperatures the fishing afterwards wasn't productive. We stocked approximately 1100 fish - 50% browns, 30% rainbows and 20% brookies. All trout were very healthy with a size that ranged from 9" to 12". These

fish were larger than last years. We would like to thank the following people for their help. Dale Matthews; Bob Delage - Film Crew; Jack Marchessault; DEP Driver - Mike McKenna; Dave Kusma; Paul Duberek; Mark Lewchik; Dave Harduby; Al Robinson; CT Conservation Officer - Jerry Leighton.

Ed.

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Fly Fishing School	11 Apr, 2 May
CFFA Board of Directors Meeting	1 Apr 92
CFFA Membership Meeting, Bob Gregorski	8 Apr 92
National Fly Fishing Show	24-26 Apr 92
Boston Plaza Castle, Call (207)594-9544 for info	
CFFA Board of Directors Meeting	6 May 92
CFFA Membership Meeting Steve Gephardt	13 May 92
Northeast Council FFF Conclave, Falmouth (Cape Cod), MA	5-7 Jun 92
"Salty" Flyrodders of NY	12-14 Jun 92
Will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the club with an "Annual Saltwater Flyfishing Conclave" at Long Island's North Fork "Sound View Inn", located in Greenport, near LI Sound waters. For more information contact Bob Sarka (516)623-5159 or Vince Posillico (212)892-7187 before May 1.	
EARTH CAMP '92	28 Jun-3 July
Atlantic Salmon Federation Conclave Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia	8-12 July

E.A.R.T.H. CAMP '92 SCHOLARSHIP



The CFFA will sponsor a student to this camp. The camp is put on by the DEP and UCONN's Cooperative Extension System.

WHAT: The E.A.R.T.H. Camp is a one week residential experience where students will have an opportunity to learn about Connecticut's environment directly through field work, specialized activities and direct contact with practicing professionals.

In addition, there will be a choice of activities to participate in such as horseback riding, archery, fly tying, and swimming.

WHERE: The camp will be held at the Middlesex County 4-H Camp in East Haddam

WHO: Students ages 12 to 15, or students entering 7th grade in the fall or completing the 9th grade this June, are eligible to attend the camp.

WHEN: Two identical sessions will be offered this summer:
SESSION 1: June 28 - July 3
SESSION 2: July 5 - July 10

COST: CFFA will sponsor one student. This sponsorship includes accommodations, all meals and instructional supplies.

CONTACT: Call Larry Johnson, 246-0728 and give him the name of your candidate. At the May membership meeting, a drawing will be held to choose the scholarship recipient.

CAPE COD'S TROUT PONDS

Mike Tougias

Decision, decisions. Cape Cod has 26 stocked trout ponds, and every spring I agonize over which one to try first. The ponds range from tiny Grews Pond in Falmouth (13 acres - no motors allowed) to larger ponds such as sprawling Mashpee-Wakeby Pond in Mashpee. All of the ponds are productive and it's fun to try a variety. My favorites are Johns, Peters, Ashumet and Hamblin ponds. These are representative of most of the ponds on the Cape; they are deep-water, spring-fed, kettle ponds with excellent trout-holding capacity. The term "kettle" signifies that these bodies of water were carved out by glacier activity, and they are generally of a round, kettle shape, with very sharp dropoffs.

The four ponds listed above happened to be my favorites because they are just a few minutes beyond the Cape Cod Canal, and as an added bonus they all have excellent populations of smallmouth bass, in addition to trout. I love both species and the fight they give. Unfortunately, acid rain has not allowed the trout's main forage food, the shiner, to prosper, and the trout themselves do not do well in acidic waters. Thus, the trout need to be stocked annually. Smallmouths, on the other hand, have a more diversified diet and tolerate the water's acidity so well they sustain their population.

Steven Hurley is the fisheries manager of the Southeastern District for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Steve told me that the stocking usually begins during the first two weeks of March, with the larger ponds receiving multiple stocking throughout the spring. The larger ponds (which include my four favorites) also receive a fall stocking in October. All three species are stocked, although more rainbows than browns and brookies are released.

Let's take a look at Johns Pond in Mashpee first. It is a fairly large body of water at 317 acres, but even shorebound anglers can do well there in the spring. I've caught some nice rainbows by simply casting spinners such as Mepps and Panther Martins from shore next to the public boat launch next to Hooppole Road. At the north end of the pond there is an even better place for shore fishermen, the town beach. I recall watching some very dedicated fly fishermen brave the chilly March temperatures and wade out and cast their sinking-tip line as far out as they could. Then, in a series of jerky retrieves, they brought the streamers back quickly. In no time at all they were into some good-sized rainbows. If memory serves, they were using Mickey Finns and Muddler Minnows.

In the springtime, when the trout are hungry and on the move, spinners seem to work as effectively as baits. I've even had some luck using nymphs later in the spring, aided by a strike indicator to help me detect the subtle pickup when a trout sucks in the nymph.

There are some very large bass in Johns Pond, both largemouths and smallmouths. Trout fishermen often catch the bass, and bassers often bring in trout. Each species is likely to hit the same bait; I've caught trout on large rubber worms. My No. 1 choice for the best multispecies lure is the Rapala Minnow in gold colorings. Another tactic usually associated with bass fishing but also effective for trout is to use a small Berkley Power Grub, drifted or hopped along the bottom. I usually attach a sliding bullet sinker about 3 feet above the bait, where a swivel keeps it from sliding down.

As the season progresses the trout range the shoreline less and less; shore anglers must wait for evening, when the trout leave the coolness of the depths. The trout cruise the shallow areas all through the night and generally until two hours after sundown. Big browns become almost exclusively nocturnal. When July rolls around, you really need a boat to improve your odds. Daytime fishing means concentrating on the deep holes using a variety of baits, with large shiners being the best choice. At Johns Pond the deepest hole is across the lake from the boat ramp, on the west side. The dropoffs along this shore are quite steep and working the 30- to 40-foot range is most productive. The pond has 45-hp limit, which still allows for plenty of speed to hop from place to place.

Hamblins Pond is about half the size of Johns, and I feel more comfortable bringing my canoe there. All the Cape ponds, however, are subject to strong breezes, which usually occur during the day time. Early morning and evenings are usually calmer, and since that's also when the trout are on the prowl, I try to do my fishing then.

Hamblin's Pond is located off Route 149 in Barnstable. There is a boat launch directly off Route 149, but there is also a smaller access at the south end of the pond near a cemetery. As with most of the deepwater ponds on the Cape, Hamblins has a healthy population of bronzebacks; in fact sometimes the smaller bronzebacks will grab your bait before it even reaches the trout! But there are enough trout in the 2-pound range (mostly rainbows) and big smallmouths to challenge your skills. Trolling spinners and spoons at slow speeds works well, as does simply drifting a night crawler or grass shrimp. (Hamblins has a 10-hp limit.)

Peters Pond in Sandwich has always run hot and cold with me; some days are good and on others I've been skunked. Yet the trout I have caught here are of a good size, which keeps me coming back. Peters gets heavy angling pressure due to a large campground situated on the northern end of the lake. Come summertime if I can't fish Peters in the early-morning hours, I don't fish it at all due to the recreational boat traffic.

Continued on page 5



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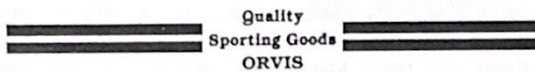


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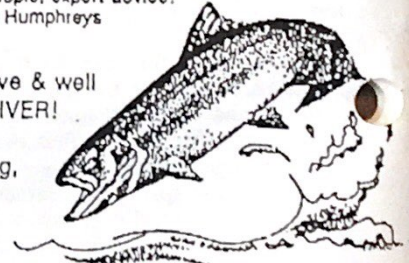
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The water quality of Peters Pond is exceptional; you can often see to depths in excess of 15 feet. In the spring if you troll the shore you will probably see some smallmouth spawning beds in the pond's north section. There are some big bronzebacks as well as a few largemouths near the southern end. But the bass don't seem to bother the trout. I once watched an angler pull up four brook trout in 10 minutes in front of the campground - every one was over 15 inches.

Ashumet Pond has some very big trout and smallmouths. But it also has some potential pollution problems. The pollution has not affected the fish populations, but I would not recommend eating any fish from here. The pond is near Otis Air Force Base, which has a long history of hazardous waste problems. While Otis may be the culprit, pollution could also be leaching from nearby abandoned cranberry bogs. Whatever the cause, I simply treat Ashumet as a catch-and-release fishery. Maybe that's why the fishing is so good. Ashumet has a boat ramp on Currier Road on the Falmouth-Mashpee line. In early spring anglers can do well near the ramp, and boaters can find deeper water along the western shore.

For belly-boaters or float-tubers, check out some of the Cape's small ponds such as Deep Pond, Mares Pond and Grews Pond, all of which are located in Falmouth. Deep Pond is really not at all deep (28-foot maximum depth) yet a 6-pound rainbow was taken here a few years back. The pond is only 27 acres and has been wisely restricted to electric motors only, making it perfect for canoes and belly boats. The pond can be reached from Sam Turner Rd, which is off of Route 151. Mares Pond is about the same size as Deep Pond, but it has a bigger brown trout population. Brown trout, no matter if they are river, lake or pond dwellers, are always tough to catch. Large Rapalas have taken their share of brownies for me, as have night crawlers drifted near the bottom at dawn. The pond is off Locustfield Rd, and only electric motors are allowed.

Grews Pond on Goodwill Park Road off Route 28 is only 13 acres, but it has one hole as deep as 42 feet - plenty cold for trout. As with most ponds on the Cape, Grews was reclaimed about 20 years ago and is stocked with trout annually. An angler has a chance of catching one of the typical 12-inch freshly stocked trout or perhaps something much larger that has spent a couple of seasons feeding in the depths of this little pond. No motors of any kind are allowed.

I've only covered seven ponds; that leaves 19 others I'd like to get to know better. Decisions, decisions.

This article was reprinted with permission from Mike Tougias and New England Game & Fish Magazine. Mike will be having a book released in the late spring titled The Hidden Charles: An Explorer's Guide to the Charles River published by Yankee Books. This book also describes the River's history and includes a number of fishing stories. If you are interested in the book, you can order it from the publisher by calling 1-800-228-2131.

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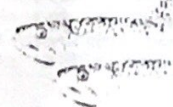
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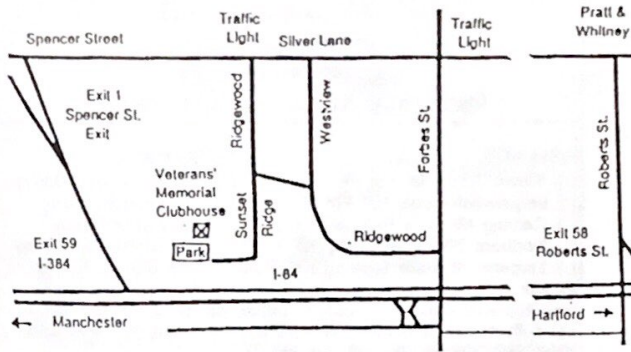
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FFF NEC CONCLAVE RESERVATIONS SPONSORED BY THE CFFA

Conclave Dates: 5-7 June 1992

CFFA will pay for the reservations of the first 25 members to sign up.

These reservations will allow entrance into the Conclave for all activities except the banquets, fly casting clinics, and saltwater fly tying workshop. The early-registration form for these Conclave activities is below.

Please contact Mike Stewart, 653-4203 (H) or 654-4288 (W) for more information. *This registration offer is only good until 20 May, 1992 - So Hurry!*

CFFA

NON - PACKAGE EARLY REGISTRATION FORM
THE 1992 FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL CONCLAVE ON CAPE COD

NAME (S) _____
 ADDRESS _____

 CITY _____
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	EACH	NUMBER	PAYMENT
CONCLAVE REGISTRATION - Single _____	\$15	_____	_____
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FRIDAY NIGHT SEA FOOD BUFFET AND PROGRAM _____	\$32	_____	_____
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	Total Amount	_____	_____

Please make check payable to F.F.F. N.E.C.
 Registration will also be available at the door, but save money and register early. **DEADLINE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION SAVINGS MAY 23, 1992**

* Dinner selection will be Prime Rib. If you prefer Seafood check here

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DOORS OPEN 12:00 NOON FRIDAY JUNE 5, 1992

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Mail this completed form to the Sea Crest with your deposit check for one night's room rate made payable to the Sea Crest. Please note rooms are subject to availability upon receipt of your reservation, and special requests are not guaranteed. Please process required room deposit on my credit card:

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Prices quoted include programs and meals as listed on reverse side of this form, taxes, gratuities, and the use of all Sea Crest recreation facilities.

I understand that if I cancel eight days or more prior to arrival, my deposit will be refunded to me, less \$10.00 Processing Fee. If I cancel seven days or less prior to arrival, or if I do not arrive on the specified date, my deposit is forfeited and my reservation is canceled for the remaining nights. INITIAL _____

THANK YOU. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

GETTING THERE

This letter from CFFA member Lyn Smith was published recently in the Mar/Apr '92 issue of American Anglers. Ed.

Finding a good place to fish is one of the biggest problems facing the average stream-trout angler. In most regions of the country, prime trout water is at a premium, and local anglers are not too generous when it comes to volunteering information on their favorite streams.

If you try contacting state or provincial natural-resource agencies to find a productive fishing spot, you may be disappointed with the information they provide. These agencies often avoid advertizing their prime trout streams for fear of attracting too many anglers and causing trout populations to be overfished.

You can find some information in trout magazines, but chances are you won't find anything on the region you are interested in fishing. Most writers have no material to write about so they give you a lousy story about his friend Joe and he went fishing. In a no name stream and used X flies and caught nothing, but saw plenty of big fish. The sky was blue and the flowers smelled great. They'll be back again. Blah!

Then there are the never ending articles about equipment. And all the big stories about fishing in strange and foreign countries. Probably only two percent of the fishermen can and will go to these places. There is no need to go on telling you about the junk published by writers who write just to get money to go fishing for themselves.

To the point. In your Nov./Dec. '91 magazine, the article about the Ausable River in New York written by Will Ryan, is my kind of story. He gives you all the information you need to get there and fish. And the best part - a map naming pools and spots to fish. We need many more of these articles. It will take some of the fishermen off of the heavily-fished rivers, and scatter them all over the United States. I have fished many years and I like to fish new places all the time. I have an RV camper and go to many places. I return all the fish I catch.

I like your magazine very much. My renewal is in the mail. Keep up the good work.

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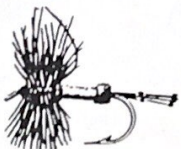
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CFFA Hotline	John Springer	664-3688	

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.



APRIL MEETING: BOB GREGORSKI -
NAUGATUCK RIVER RESTORATION APRIL 8, 1992

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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