



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 20, No. 8

April 1993

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

## APRIL MEETING

### CT DEP Conservation Officers Visit

This month's meeting features DEP Conservation Officers, John Puzles, who is one of the Willi's "enforcers" and Bill Hyatt from Fisheries. Both have been frequent visitors to our monthly meetings, but nevertheless, our members never seem to run out of questions about fish and fishing in our state. They will give a short presentation before answering your questions.

**PLACE:** Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse  
Sunset Ridge  
East Hartford, CT

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 14

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

## CLUB TRIP

### Cape Cod Fishing 11-13 June 1993

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. The stripers were lots of fun last year. In the ponds you can find smallmouth bass and rainbow trout.

Lodging will be at The Moorings Lodge in Falmouth Heights for the nights of 6/11 & 12. 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. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be \$25.00 extra.

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

Send to: Keith Mailloux, 22 Sandra Drive, Manchester, CT 06040. You may call Keith at home at 647-8230.

## From the Vest of the President



We had a good turnout at our March meeting in spite of the bad weather. We all enjoyed Ernie and Charley's slide show on Alaska, especially after someone figured out why the slides wouldn't focus sharply. Phil Brunquell spoke again on the success of our fly tying at Newington Children's Hospital and invited everyone who has participated to a special recognition day event at which the shadow box donated by Roger Plourde for displaying the childrens' flies will be unveiled. More on that elsewhere in this issue.

People are still talking about the great time they had at our fishing expo and banquet. While it's still on our minds, I want to specifically thank some of those who worked so hard to make it happen. Keith Mailloux was responsible for the arrangements at The Colony, Dale Matthews coordinated arrangements for the exhibitors, and Dale and Mark Philippe organized the seminars. Putting together an expo was a new job for everyone, and they did their work well.

For the banquet, George Degan and Ernie Boutiette did a great job soliciting raffle donations from our advertisers and area businesses, Gary Bogli and Dick Lerche ran another successful insurance raffle, Ed Fidrych sent out 100 or so letters requesting donations and will prepare thank you letters as well, and Elmer and Dale Latham handled the banquet reservations. Dick Vanasse printed our posters and special raffle tickets, Ken Parkany put together some historical information and contacted original members of CFFA, and Kurt Jagielow and Dave Kusma built the beautiful fly tying cabinet for our special raffle. This year we were fortunate to have photo coverage by Steve Sirois and video coverage by Ken Parkany, and we are pleased that Steve has offered to be our official CFFA photographer. Finally, I want to thank everyone else who helped out setting up, manning the admission table, selling tickets for our raffles, and running the bucket raffle.

We've been invited to set up a booth at the Riversplash event in Simsbury on Saturday, June 5. This is a special day of river-related activities and displays put on by the Farmington River Watershed Association. We were there two years ago, but dropped out last year due to the conflict with the Conclave. If we can get six or eight members to help out we can set up again this year. It's a good family event and helps support the Farmington River and CFFA. If you can help out, call Keith Mailloux at 647-8320.

Finally, don't forget our regional FFF conclave in Roscoe, NY on June 4-6 and our return trip to the Cape on June 11-13. The conclave is a good chance to visit or revisit our classic fly fishing waters and attend a conclave in its traditional location. The tides will be right for morning and evening fishing at the Cape and there's lots of places we didn't get to check out last year.

Tight Lines,  
Larry Johnson





Willimantic Brush Clearing - Join the club at 9:30 am 4/10 at Nye Holman to help with the brush clearing. Call Kurt Jagielow, 649-3681 if you have any questions.

Trout Stocking - Kurt Jagielow reports the club trout, about 13" long now, and yearlings will be stocked either 4/23 or 24. The Willi was stocked by the state on 3/11. Call Kurt if you would like to help.

Rearing Pool - New fish will come into the pool in May. About 100-125 large browns will be raised for fall stocking. It is hoped that the large trout will lower the dace population a bit.

Club Hats & Patches - Our new hats are really in as well as the patches. They will be available to the membership at the next club meeting. The hats are \$8.00 and the patches are \$2.50.

Insurance Raffle Winners - The following winners were drawn at the Banquet:

- 1st Prize, \$300 L.L. Bean Gift Certificate: Ron Webber, W. Hartford
- 2nd Prize, 20" TV: Rich Gorski, W. Suffield
- 3rd Prize, Cape Cod Weekend: Janie Kulas, Rocky Hill
- 4th Prize, Cavey's Dinner: Carol Amenta, Southington

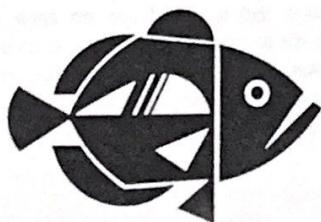
CFFA Fly Fishing School - Our school is underway with 30 students. If you would like to help at the pond casting instruction on 4/10 or during the on-stream class on 4/24, please call Gary Steinmiller. His number is on the last page of this issue. Take it from me, helping out at these classes is really great fun.

Newington Children's Hospital Fly Tying - Dr. Phil Brunquell reports that over 150 hours has been donated by his CFFA Team since October 1992 to the children's fly tying experiences. The shadow box, built by Roger Plourde and stuffed with fly creations of the children, will be presented to the hospital during a Volunteer Recognition Day on 4/20. What a terrific idea!

The Volunteers will be contacted by the hospital. Activities will be from 2-6pm and will include a buffet. There may be a fly tying session afterwards.

Fly tying materials have been recently donated to the hospital by S&M Fly Tying, Orvis, Mark Lewchik and George Degen. Thanks alot.

Ed.



## COMING EVENTS

Fly Fishing School	10, 24 April
CFFA Membership Meeting	14 April 93
CFFA Board Meeting	5 May 93
CFFA Membership Meeting	12 May 93
North Eastern Council FFF Conclave, Roscoe, NY	4-6 Jun 93
Farmington River Splash	5 June 93
CFFA Trip, Falmouth, Cape Cod	11-12 June 93
FFF National Conclave, Livingston, MT	8-14 Aug 93



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## Connecticut Anglers Offered Maps and Guides for Fishing Season Opening Day

Anglers anticipating the April 17 opening of Connecticut's fishing season may seek ways to increase their catches by obtaining help from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DEP is offering maps and guides which may help anglers decide which stream or lake they wish to fish on opening day and the rest of the season. The publications include "Connecticut's Bass Fishing," "Connecticut's Trout Fishing," "A Guide to Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut" and single-sheet lake maps, and are available for a nominal fee by mail from the DEP's Natural Resources Center.

"Connecticut's Bass Fishing" includes directions to the state's 24 best bass lakes along with current conditions of boat launches, availability of services, bait and tackle shops and other information. Depth maps and descriptions of each lake and articles of interest to anglers are part of the publication. Cost is \$3.95.

"Connecticut's Trout Fishing" is published in the same format as the bass fishing guide and describes the 24 best trout fishing areas in the state. Cost is \$3.95.

"A Guide to Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut" features information on 73 lakes and ponds. The guide contains a full-page depth map for each lake, gives weed conditions, bottom contours, stream locations and species information. Additional features include water surface area size, directions from main thoroughfares, parking lot capacity, launch ramp conditions, water speed limits and motor regulations. Cost is \$4.65.

"Single Sheet Lake Maps" come in two packages for \$5.00 per package and contain a 14-inch by 18-inch color coded depiction of water depths, stream inflows and outflows and a cross section showing the bottom profile. The double-sided map outlines heavy aquatic vegetation areas and describes bottom conditions and water quality. Graphs show temperature and dissolved oxygen levels.

The map sets are sold in groups of five. One set includes (East Group) Bashan and Cedar Lakes, Mashapaug and Pachaug Ponds and Mansfield Hollow. Another set (West Group) includes Lake Beseck, Squantz and Mudge Ponds and Lakes Waramaug and Winchester.

Two additional map sheets, Breakneck Pond and West Thompson Dam, may be added to either set for an additional one dollar per map.

To order publications, send a check made payable to: DEP Publications, DEP-NRC, Publications Sales, Room 555, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Include appropriate state sales tax and \$2.25 for shipping and handling.

### THANK YOU!

The Board of Directors and the Banquet Committee would like to thank the following contributors for their donations to the CFFA Annual Banquet. These people and organizations helped to make this year's banquet a resounding success. The funds raised will help the CFFA pursue those goals for which it was organized. Thanks again.

#### FISHING CONDITIONS HOTLINE NUMBERS



Willimantic River, Farmington River and Connecticut in General	664-3688 (CFFA)
Farmington River	738-7327 (FRAA)
Housatonic River	248-8616 (HFFA)
Housatonic River Flow	824-7861 (NU)

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## Save Our Salmon

by John Merwin - Reprinted from Atlantic Salmon Federation's "News For Members"

*Anglers turned activists, members of the Atlantic Salmon Federation lead the fight to save their valorous but vanishing prey.*

Victory is NOT something conservationists of any stripe get to savor very often. But last March, at the plain and purposeful offices of the Atlantic Salmon Federation in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, an unprecedented popping of champagne corks took place. Staff members hugged and toasted each other, phones rang off the hook as members from the U.S. and Eastern Canada - and as far away as Iceland - called in their congratulations. After decades of intensive effort, the ASF, the largest international group devoted to preserving the Atlantic Salmon, had just received word that the commercial fisheries of Newfoundland, one of the salmon's greatest nemeses, were taking up their nets from the sea. According to some estimates, more than half of the salmon returning to rivers of eastern North America had fallen victim to nets off either Newfoundland, Labrador, or Greenland.

In this settlement, even the fishermen had something to celebrate. Along with declaring a five-year moratorium on netting salmon off Newfoundland, the Canadian government had offered to buy out the fishermen's licenses forever, as well as those held in Labrador. The fishermen stood to receive from \$8,000 to \$50,000 apiece - depending on their best catches since 1989 - and recent catches had been unprofitably puny. Even the independent-mined fisherfolk of the Maritime Provinces suspected that what impassioned anglers had been claiming for years was true; unless vigorously protected and fostered, the Atlantic Salmon would soon go the way of the passenger pigeon.


That possibility is unacceptable to the activist members of ASF - who range from gentlemen sportsmen who fly in annually to their private fishing camps in eastern Canada, to local defenders of rivers from Connecticut to Labrador. "Good anglers are good conservationists because they want to perpetuate the sport for their children and grandchildren," says Daniel O'C. Doheny, Montreal attorney and ASF director for Canada, who, in 1948, incorporated the Canadian precursor of the ASF. With some 7,400 members, the ASF works not only to eliminate all commercial fishing of the Atlantic Salmon (the Newfoundland victory was 42 years in the making) but to protect the great fish's habitat wherever it may be threatened. And increasingly, that is everywhere the Atlantic Salmon roam. Or, alas, once roamed.

Ever since Izaak Walton in 1653, described the Atlantic Salmon as "king amongst gamefish" these silvery, powerful fish have been celebrated by anglers and epicures alike. Each spring, millions of salmon returned from the sea to spawn in North American rivers from Connecticut to Quebec's Ungava Peninsula. Millions more ran the rivers of northern Europe from Norway to Portugal. Salmon were so abundant in 18th-century New England that they were used as fertilizer or fed, day after day, to indentured servants and loggers - a

*Continued on page 5*


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Save Our Salmon - continued from Page 4

practice deemed so cruel that it was eventually curtailed. The Connecticut River supported massive salmon runs through four northeastern states as late as 1790. By 1814, these runs had been virtually eliminated by dams that blocked access to upstream spawning areas.

The Penobscot River in Maine, once one of the world's greatest salmon rivers, was reduced to a catch of 10,000 fish by 1887 and to a mere 1,200 by 1928. Only 40 salmon were taken here in 1947. Adding to the insult of dams and hydroelectric projects, tons of rotting bark and sawmill dust - dumped in the river by logging operations - removed oxygen from the water, suffocating any stray salmon that might have entered the river. Along some free-flowing Canadian rivers, massive flows of silt and mud caused by logging smothered millions of eggs. Toxic runoff from mining wastes poisoned other rivers. During the 1950s and 1960s, the lethal pesticide DDT, used widely in aerial spraying of vegetation, had a ravaging effect on young salmon. Inevitably, as the salmon runs decreased, the market price of salmon increased precipitously - encouraging commercial netters to take an ever-increasing catch at the mouths of many Canadian rivers.

Today, along with persisting problems, there are newer ones: acid rain has started to take its toll on salmon runs in several once-productive Nova Scotia rivers. And questions about the effect of deep-sea pollution on the salmon's food sources haunt anglers and scientist alike. Indeed, this June, ASF hosted an international conference on the problem at its St. Andrews headquarters.

Any angler who's cast for hours over the cold shallows of a salmon stream will attest that *Salmo salar* is an elusive fish. But to hook him is to be connected, if briefly, to some of nature's great mysteries. How is it that a salmon that's been at sea for one to four years can find its way back to spawn in the very freshet of the very river in which it was hatched? (Modern theories hold that it knows its home waters by their subtle smell.) Salmon are anadromous fish (meaning they migrate from salt water to spawn in fresh water); and Atlantic salmon may return to their spawning grounds many times in a lifetime, unlike the Pacific Salmon, which return once to spawn and then die. And where do Atlantic Salmon go when, sliding down their natal rivers to the sea, they vanish at the river's mouth? For centuries, fishermen and ichthyologist could only conjecture.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN MAY LINES & LEADERS**

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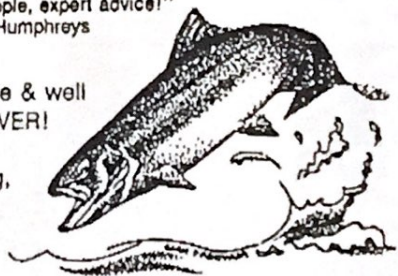
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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September 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.



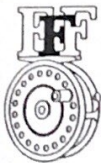
## APRIL MEETING: CT DEP CONSERVATION OFFICERS APRIL 14, 1993

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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