



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 20, No. 9

May 1993

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

MAY MEETING

Shad and Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing

This month's meeting celebrates two overlooked Connecticut gamefish that are great sport on a fly rod. John Marona of S&M will present a two-part slide show on fly fishing for shad in the Farmington River, and smallmouth bass fly rodding in the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers.

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

DATE: Wednesday, May 12

TIME: Casting Clinic - 6:30pm
Fly Tying - 7:00pm
Program - 7:30pm

CLUB TRIP Cape Cod Fishing 11-13 June 1993

All reservations have been filled. BUT...all deposits have not been received. Please send your deposits quickly. Even though all places have been filled, if you would like to go, send your name to Keith and he will put you on a waiting list in case someone doesn't send in their deposit or decides not to go.

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. 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



Here we are again, finishing another successful year of programs and activities, including our 25th Anniversary Banquet, and our first Fly Fishing Expo. Not a bad year at all, and we're still working on our special publication, CFFA history and Willi guide. If you weren't there for the April meeting you missed a "Siskel and Ebert" exchange between Bill Hyatt and John Puzles on the positive and negative value of opening day that was so good they plan to use it with other groups. They swore that it wasn't planned in advance, but who can be sure...

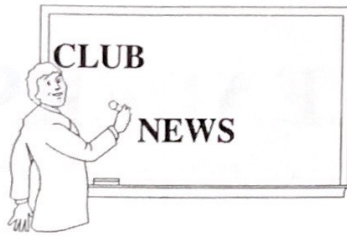
We do have our new hats with a short brim and green underside that so many of you asked for, and sales are moving briskly. They're only \$8, so you can afford to pick up a spare. You can let Keith Mailloux know if you can help out with our booth at Riversplash on Saturday, June 5. Kurt Jagielow and I will be going to the North Eastern FFF Conclave in Roscoe, NY that same weekend. This is where the Conclave has traditionally been held. I have to admit that I have never been to Roscoe or the Beaverkill and I'm looking forward to finally going there. There's no formal trip like last year, but it is close by and sure to be a good time. See me at the May meeting if you want more details.

Unfortunately, we can't finish the year on a totally positive note. Most of you have probably heard about the fish kill on the Willi by now. Jack Marchessault reported seeing dying fish just after the heavy rain and noted a strong sewage smell. After that Jack and many others who fish the river reported no fish seen or taken, except near the I-84 overpass. We don't know what happened, but it doesn't look good. Our club rainbow trout were stocked late April. Bill Hyatt said that DEP will electroshock the first week of May. We will get more fish if the shocking confirms the loss, but it points out how vulnerable our rivers and fisheries are. It also points out the need for both ourselves and DEP to be prepared so we can capture evidence before it washes away. (See related article on page 7. Ed.)

We also received Dale Matthew's resignation from his position as Vice President for Promotion at the April meeting. Dale has been a strong board member and hard worker, and will be missed. The good part of this is that Dale has found work after being laid off from Pratt & Whitney and will not be leaving the state. His work hours conflict with our meeting times, but might not be so bad for saltwater fishing. There will be a vacancy on the board, though it may not be Dale's slot. Think about it, and give me a ring or see me at the meeting if you are interested.

Have a great summer, do a lot of fishing, and keep in touch with our hotline. We want to know how you've been doing on stream and we will be scheduling work outings on the Willi over the summer. See you all in September if not on the stream.

Tight Lines,
Larry Johnson



CFFA Fly Fishing School - Once again the school was a success. Activities on the pond and stream went well. To show how it is done, our Education Chairman, Gary Steinmiller, caught a holdover brook trout at the pond. This trout was a real beauty, 17 inches long and about 3 pounds. Earlier in the day one of the students landed a 15 inch holdover brookie. A good day was experienced by all. On the Willi we had beautiful weather for the on-stream class. Unfortunately the fish were not too cooperative. We would like to thank the following for their help this year with the classes:

Gary Steinmiller	Gary Bogli	Charlie Place
Ernie Boutiette	Mike Stewart	Mark Philippe
George Wark	Dale Matthews	Larry Johnson
Dick Whitehead	Myron Schulman	
Jack Marchessault		

Special thanks go to Dr. Vin and Carol Ringrose for stocking the pond. These guys got up at 3:45am, met the stocking truck at 4:30, got to the pond at 4:50, and returned to the warm bed by 5:30. All that in order to provide a bit of excitement for the pond casting class. They have been doing this for quite a few years. Many thanks, I know the students appreciated it.

Northeastern Council, FFF - Our own Mark Phillippe is now the Council's new Saltwater Chairman. We all know how enthusiastic Mark is about saltwater fly fishing. I'm sure he will bring this same character to the Council and its membership. Good luck, Mark!

Newington Children's Hospital Fly Tying - On 4/20 as part of Volunteer's Day activities the club presented a shadow box to the hospital loaded with flies tied by the children. Tom Rosenbauer was at the presentation. Tom, Orvis and the CFFA were presented with plaques acknowledging their efforts in support of the fly tying classes at the hospital. These classes would not have happened if it were not for the enthusiasm and organization of Dr. Phil Brunquell. We are looking forward to doing this again, Phil.

Club Stocking - The club fish went into the Willi last Saturday, 4/24. 173 nice fat Rainbows about 12-15". Thanks to Kurt Jagielow and the following helpers:
 Dave Kusma Charlie Utz Charlie Kelly
 Jerry Karaska Bill Prasil John Connata
 Dale Matthews Amie Jagielow Ryan Kusma
 Jack Marchessault
 DEP Fisheries Pathologist - Rick Van Ostrand
 DEP Fisheries Biologist - Eric Schluntz

continued - next column

Club News - Continued

Conservation Activities - If you are interested in helping out brush clearing trails, streamside plantings or stocking, call Kurt Jagielow, 649-3681.

Ed.

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Membership Meeting	12 May 93
CFFA Board Meeting	2 June 93
North Eastern Council FFF Conclave, Roscoe, NY	
(Contact John Bellows, 203-526-4037)	4-6 Jun 93
Farmington River Splash	5 June 93
CFFA Trip, Falmouth, Cape Cod	11-13 June 93
Salty Fly Rodders Conclave Greenport, NY	
(Contact Tom Cousins, 516-922-0394)	11-13 June 93
CFFA Board Meeting	4 Aug 93
FFF International Fly Fishing Show Livingston, MT	
(Contact Jim Dixon, 403-273-3664)	11-14 Aug 93
FFF National Conclave, Livingston, MT	8-14 Aug 93
CFFA Board Meeting	1 Sep 93
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Sep 93
International Fly Tyers Symposium, Mahwah, NJ	
(Cont. Chuck Furminsky, 814-926-2676)	6-7 Nov 93

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Kids and Fly Fishing - Giving Something Back

by John Springer

This is a story about taking a kid fishing and giving something back to a sport that has made my life much richer. In August of '92, I took a kid fishing on the Housatonic. His name is David. He was 12 years old and told me he knew how to fish and that no help would be needed from me. As all of you can imagine, this struck me as very funny because I can remember when I too knew everything and did not need help from adults. We were in the water for about 30 minutes and the fishing for me was going very well (for a change), but I noticed that David wasn't doing very well, so I inquired as to how his fishing was, he told me there were no fish in the river. This made me laugh, because when I started fishing the Housy, I didn't think there were any fish either. With a smile on my face (and a little sarcasm in my voice), I assured him the river was loaded with fish and perhaps he was fishing wrong; I then asked if I could try out his rod, and with a rather disgusted expression on his face, he handed it to me. It really was a good day for me, because on the first cast, I got a fish on and handed him back his rod to let him reel in my fish. That was a real "Kodak Moment" as they say, because for the first time I saw the kid smile. Now when I tell him something, he listens very well.

Since then he has gone on more fishing trips with me alone and with my other fishing partners. He fits right in and adds greatly to the enjoyment of a day spent fishing. His mother or sister always send him with extra dessert for me; so it works out well for both of us.

He caught his first fish on a fly rod in March and is a member of the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association, has learned how to tie flies and get his own wind knots out. He goes with me to the Norwich Fish and Game Club where I have had the good fortune to be able to teach about 15 other kids a little bit about fly tying and fishing. If you have never seen a bunch of kids keep quiet to listen to you and even do what you tell them to do, it's a real treat.



The reason for this story was to entertain you, but also to move a few of you to get out there and give a little something back to the pastime you love so much. You can talk conservation, catch and release, and have all the river clean ups you want, but I have talked to many adults at the Hartford Show or Durham Fair while manning a booth for one of the clubs I am in, and you will not change the fish hog or poacher, the slob that leaves the worm box on the bank or the beer can in the rock pile. These people are unchangeable, but kids can be taught and shown by good examples and a little of your time. Kids are better than adults in some ways, when you think about it. They make your fishing a lot more fun. They don't have fish counters in their vest or speak latin. When you tie flies with them, as long as they have a vise that holds the hook, they're not fussy if it doesn't rotate, go sideways or help tie a bug in less time than it takes to change your tippet. As far as a rod and reel go, the names Orvis, Sage, Winston, Hardy, or Ross mean nothing to them.

If you don't think you can tie well enough to teach, remember they know nothing about size 20, no hackles, a burnt wing or extended bodies, so a Wooly Bugger looks great to them. If you want to have a lot of fun and feel good about yourself at the same time, give something back in your life - take a kid fishing. You will see why you started fly fishing in the first place. And that was to have fun.

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 - Part II

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

The mystery was solved - and the salmon nearly doomed - in the early 1960s, when the salmon's two main ocean feeding grounds were discovered. Fish hatched in the rivers of northern Europe, it was learned, generally migrate to waters near the Danish-controlled Faeroe Islands, between Norway and Iceland; those from eastern North America travel some 3,000 miles to cluster in the cold, clear waters of the Davis Strait off Greenland, where they wax fat on capelin and shrimp. The discovery led to a pelagic free-for-all for commercial fishermen from many nations; catches off western Greenland, for example, jumped from 60 metric tons per year in 1960 to more than 2,000 tons by 1970. Suddenly there was no refuge for the salmon, already on the verge of extinction.

Galvanized by the growing offshore-fishing threat in the 1960's, a number of prominent sportsmen in the U.S. - among them the late Seward Johnson, the Johnson & Johnson heir, and Joseph E. Cullman III, chairman emeritus of Philip Morris Companies, Inc. in New York - formed a group to lobby for the protection and enhancement of the rapidly dwindling salmon stock. Equally incensed was the earlier-formed Canadian group, which included such well-known figures as F. Stewart Molson, of the brewing family. But the Atlantic salmon is an international creature. And so it was - thanks to considerable urging and arm-twisting by the late Lee Wulff, unquestionably the world's best-known salmon angler - that the major Canadian and American salmon-saving groups merged in 1982 to form the Atlantic Salmon Federation, headed jointly today by Joseph Cullman III and Lucien Rolland of Montreal, Chairman of Rolland, Inc.

Wulff, not only a sportsman but an author, filmmaker, and foresighted conservationist, knew them all - the gentlemen anglers who thought nothing of spending thousands of dollars for a week of casting on private stretches of New Brunswick's Restigouche or Quebec's Moisie River, who flew to Norway to sample the legendary Alta River or ventured into Iceland's streams. Many such influential sportsmen - including William Brewster (of Plymouth, Massachusetts), Ogden Phipps and former General Motors Chairman Roger Smith - are on ASF's board today because they, like Perry Bass of Fort Worth, believe that "the Atlantic Salmon is in dire trouble, and the ASF is the one organization working hardest to turn the tide." Another director, Donal O'Brien, a longtime conservationist who is chief counsel in New York for the Rockefeller family, claims that, of all the organizations with which he's been involved, ASF "is one of the most effective."

Powerful and wealthy advocates are essential, but what gives ASF its broad and effective base - its local eyes, ears and political clout - is its affiliation with 106 smaller salmon clubs and conservation groups, many based on a single river far from the rhetoric of urban boardrooms. Again, it was Lee Wulff who helped ASF link up with grass-roots groups. Taking along his wonderful salmon-fishing films, he went on the road, speaking to salmon clubs throughout eastern Canada and urging them to affiliate with ASF. He was also a tireless

Continued on Page 6

DEP Land Acquisition

Reprinted from Dec '92, Hook n' Bullet. Ed

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) acquired four tracts of former Mansfield Training School land on September 15, 1992. This acquisition, totalling 293 acres in the towns of Mansfield and Coventry, will provide a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing and canoeing access to the Willimantic River and wetland forest hiking as well as preserving scenic beauty and wildlife habitat.

"The transfer," DEP Commissioner Keeny said, "is particularly appropriate in terms of what the DEP is trying to accomplish in its land acquisition programs. Current objectives include providing increased public access to water; protecting river corridors; and linking existing publicly owned open spaces to form greenways. The DEP has been adding river frontage to its holdings, including recent acquisitions in Tolland and Willington which protected thousands of feet of riverbank in those towns."

Among the parcels is a 62-acre tract along both sides of the Willimantic River, which provides over 9,000 linear feet of river frontage for fishing and other water-related activities. With no dangerous rapids, the Willimantic River is one of the most heavily used recreational streams in Connecticut.

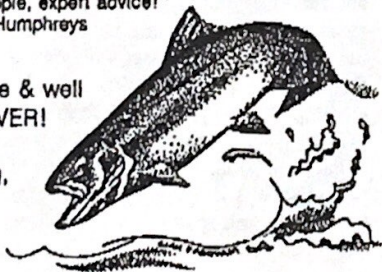
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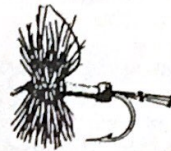
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Save Our Salmon - Continued from Page 4

advocate of catch-and-release sportfishing, now a widely accepted concept that might seem strange to a non-angler.

"A good game fish is too valuable to be caught only once," Wulff wrote as far back as 1938. He reacted particularly sharply against the killing of larger salmon - the best spawning stock - either by anglers or commercial fishermen. "Certainly in the breeding of cattle, for example, no one would suggest slaughtering the good animals and breeding the scrubs!" Ever passionate in his defense of the salmon, Wulff died in April of 1991 when his plane crashed in Delaware County, New York. In his obituary, the New York Times called him "the conscience of the Atlantic Salmon-restoration effort in North America."

But in truth some 7,400 ASF members worldwide form the larger conscience of the effort. Along with its St. Andrews headquarters, the group maintains an office in Montreal and five regional posts, has 37 employees, 110 affiliate groups and, in 1991, had an annual budget of \$2.6 million, derived almost entirely from private contributions. It also publishes a colorful quarterly magazine, the Atlantic Salmon Journal, for members only.

Both on the grass-roots and international levels, the organization's activities have grown to include every conceivable aspect of salmon welfare - from turning government opinion against renewing the license of an aging dam on Maine's Kennebec River to confronting the mineral-development plan in New Brunswick that threatens to dump lethal wastes into salmon spawning areas, to working with such international organizations as the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), which sets quotas (harvest limits) for its signatories' national fisheries. The group lobbies from the local to the federal level for environmental regulations and provides grants for salmon conservation projects.

"We're effective partly because we're a very focused group - we've got our eye on one fish, and deal with one issue at a time," says David Clark, ASF's president and administrative head. "With some problems, we can go it alone; others are just too big and we have to network with other conservation groups."

Looking back at the decade since its founding, the ASF can tick off some real victories. Commercial gill netting off Canada has been virtually brought to a halt - except in Labrador, where quotas are in effect and a buy out of licenses is in progress. And that's how it's gone with the prodigal and alarming harvesting off the Faeroe Islands and Greenland: first, quotas - rather liberal ones - were established by NASCO; then, recently, the licenses of the Faeroe fishermen were bought out, for three years starting in 1991, by an international coalition of public and private interests. The cost: about \$688,500 a year. And if one ASF member, the wealthy Icelandic sportsman Orri Vigfusson, maker of Icy Vodka, has his way, enough money will soon be raised internationally to buyout the Greenlanders' fishing licenses as well - all of which should substantially increase the number of salmon returning to spawn in the rivers of Canada, Iceland

and northern Europe.

In some places, the rivers they enter may be healthier too. For example, while only 13 salmon entered the Penobscot in 1968, 3,356 salmon were counted there in 1990. But the battles go on; currently ASF is lobbying to put a stop to a proposed hydropower dam on that very river. "The Atlantic Salmon's most damaging predator," sighs David Clark, "is still man."

All this effort to preserve a noble game fish strictly for the pleasure of anglers might seem a pretty elitist endeavor to some - especially those whose traditional way of life had involved the right to catch and sell fish. But ASF has a convincing economic argument on its side: recreational fishing pays. For example, the organization helped the Kingsclear Indian Band on New Brunswick's St. John River to convert its commercial net fishing into a recreational salmon-fishing camp. Today the money spent by visiting sportsmen far exceeds the income the reservation had made through fishing. The point was not lost. Just this May, the ASF received a whopping \$5.7 million federal grant to educate communities in eastern Canada about the development and maintenance of recreational fishing.

A reduction in commercial catches doesn't mean that you'll see salmon disappear as table fare, however. Atlantic Salmon aquaculture is a growing industry in the Canadian Maritimes and in Scandinavia, and, according to The New York Times, "of the 235,000 metric tons of Atlantic Salmon sold throughout the world in 1990, only 10,000 metric tons were wild fish. The rest came from salmon farms." The ASF is all for this trend, and is supporting genetic research to help prevent pen-raised escapees from interbreeding with wild salmon.

The days when a handful of concerned gentlemen in Canada and the U.S. would get together to defend the source of their sport are long gone. But as supporters increasingly rally to the ASF, it seems clearer than ever that the health of Atlantic Salmon and their rivers is inseparable from the health of the air, the land, the oceans. According to former ASF head Dr. Wilfred Carter, who's devoted his life to the cause of the Atlantic Salmon, "While it's great fun to fish for salmon, the real reward is in knowing that, by protecting them where we have them, and restoring them where they have been destroyed, we are maintaining a part of the fabric of life."

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Willi Water Quality

by Ken Parkany

In March of last year, CFFA member Dr. Phil Brunquist witnessed large amounts of foam on the water surface in the Cole Wilde TMA. This past March, a canoeist reported (coincidentally to Phil) seeing dead trout along with smelling a strong stench of raw sewage while canoeing the Willi below Stafford Springs through the TMA. What's going on? Have there been other such events?

Unfortunately we don't know all the answers. But it would be helpful if anglers or other users of the Willi would **contact both of the State agencies below immediately after witnessing such an event. Timeliness is key to investigating reported violations.** Callers should be prepared to provide as much information as possible; use the list of helpful information below as a guide. After reporting the event to the State, it might also be helpful as a means of tracking the frequency and conditions of such events to report it to CFFA's HOTLINE 644-3688.

For a bit of history, I can share what I knew back in the early 1970's, before the CFFA began working with the State to develop what has since become the Cole Wilde Trout Management Area. I did some research for an article on the Willi (which appeared in FLYFISHER MAGAZINE in 1975, entitled "Return of the Willi"). The Willi today is a high quality fishery thanks primarily to the Clean Water Act of 1967. The sewage treatment facilities statewide were required to upgrade to tertiary (3-step process) systems. And when the new Stafford Springs facility was completed, the DEP renewed stocking trout in 1972. Throughout the 50's and 60's fish kills were common due to the types of industries in Stafford Springs. And anglers could even dye their waders various hues depending on the river color of the day, compliments of the fabric mills upstream!!

Following the current fish kill report, I notified the DEP and learned the following. According to Fred Wiwie at the DEP's Department of Water Quality which monitors municipal facilities, today's effluent from the Stafford Springs Sewage Treatment Facility is very clean and clear and has been consistently since the early 70's. This effluent exceeds water quality requirements necessary for making the river a recreational resource. The pH is routinely "neutral" at 6.8 - 7.1, well within the acceptable range of 6.0-9.0. Other effluent requirements are also routinely well below their limits and have been since the new facility was installed.

Now for the hooker! While the facility is modern, the town's sewers are not. The Stafford Springs' sewage system, Wiwie says, is only now going through an upgrade. Consequently, when the new treatment facility was built in the late '60's, the town was granted a bypass waiver, which means that in times of heavy rainfall or quick snow melt thaw, raw sewage and other solids may bypass the facility. Remember that this condition has been in effect since the early '70's. Under such highwater conditions, the smell of raw sewage would be normal just below the facility, but not as far down as the TMA. What may be causing the odor in the TMA is run-off from local septic systems along the river caused by heavy rain or quick snow melt. And another fact to

consider is that the Willi watershed has an extremely organic makeup - swampy areas with decaying vegetation. I've encountered that "sewage-like stench" during normal and low water levels.

As far as foam sightings are concerned, Wiwie says that previous investigations have not been able to identify a point source (i.e., industry or location), but they believe it's from a detergent of some sort. The foam, however, is not toxic to stream organisms. It's more of a visual nuisance. But the theory is that whatever the source, the extremely clean water (lacking solid particles) exiting the treatment facility may exacerbate the creation of the foam, as does bubbling action (i.e., rapids) of the river. The high water bypass around the treatment system may be the primary culprit to the quantity of foaming.

In summary, the fish kill is being investigated as I write this, but it's probably too late to determine a cause. It's likely that some normal hatchery stocking mortality took place since the high water followed a Willi stocking. But, again, **only timely reporting can enhance identifying the cause of a fish kill!!** The foaming, while visually a nuisance is nontoxic. It seems that the reported foam sightings and odors occurred in very high water conditions. The improvements to the sewage system in Stafford Springs is expected to eliminate the current high water "bypass" problem and may solve the foaming. One thing is sure: the high volume of water means that the foam or any solids pass through the TMA quickly. And lastly, the extremely organic watershed creates a natural distinctive odor that varies in intensity. Help our State officials investigate water abnormalities on the Willi. Be a **Willi Water Watchdog**. (These guidelines apply to all state waters. Ed.)

TO REPORT FISH KILLS OR WATER QUALITY CONCERNS CONTACT:

Fred Wiwie - 566-7168 Brian Murphy - 395-9523/9524
Dept of Water Quality DEP - Fisheries
Municipal Facilities Eastern District HQ

Don Mysling - 567-8998
DEP - Fisheries
Western District HQ

Helpful Information to Report:

- Exact location or description of area
- Time of day
- Relative water height
- Relative quantity of dead fish
- One location or several
- Any odors
- Any sheen on water surface (similar to oil)
- Any water discoloration or appearance of solids
- Any foam on water
- Color of foam
- Sporadic, constant, or heavier after rapids

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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.



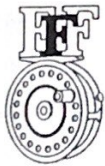
MAY MEETING: SHAD & SMALLMOUTH BASS FLY FISHING - MAY 12, 1993

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