



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 21, No. 1

September 1993

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING The Fly Fishers' Season

The program for the September 8th CFFA meeting will take a look at the fly fishers' season. The presenter is John Springer, who along with running CFFA's Hotline, must be one of the most active fly fishers in the state of Connecticut. John's slide show will cover the year from beginning to end, with virtually all of the activities of people who love fly fishing, including fishing, tying, meetings, and shows. This promises to be a very entertaining show, so we hope to see you there. As usual there will be fly tyers prior to the program.

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

DATE: Wednesday, September 8

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

First International Fly Tyer's Symposium

The Symposium will take place November 13 and 14, 1993 at the Radisson Hotel in Somerset, NJ.

Plan to attend what will be the premier fly tying event in the country. Everything you ever wanted to see and learn about fly tying will be represented.

There will be exhibits by the major manufacturers of vises, tools, materials, and accessories. You'll see more fine hackle than ever before and be able to meet the world's largest producers for direct questions about their product.

Mini workshops conducted by experts about making dubbing, dying materials, hook bending, hackle selecting and more, will be taking place all weekend.

The slide programs and seminars will be outstanding. With names like Lefty Kreh, Gary Borger, Dick Talleur, Gary LaFontaine, Jack

Continued on page

From the Vest of the President



Welcome back to another year of CFFA programs and activities. I hope everyone had good fishing in spite of the fish kills on the Willi and the Housy. I'm looking forward to hearing from CFFA members who went to Labrador, Manitoba and Alaska, among other places, over the summer. From what I hear, Ernie Boutiette may have set a new CFFA travel record with all of the fishing he did this summer.

I was fortunate to get in some varied fishing myself. One of our Montana nephews got married in late July, and it didn't take any arm twisting to get us out there for the wedding and a vacation. We were fortunate to have had a string of perfect Montana days, and I did get to do some fishing. Montana is a beautiful state, and it's definitely worth thinking about for a personal or club trip.

Kurt Jagielow and I had a great time at the FFF Conclave in Roscoe in early June, in spite of the rain and an incredible string of missed turns and forgotten items. Mark Philippe and Phil Brunquell were there as well. Our motel was right in the center of things, close enough to walk to the conclave site, Roscoe Diner or the fly shops in better weather. Jack Gartside was staying just a few doors down from us. Roscoe is "Trout Town USA" and they really mean it. The Beaverkill runs right through town, and people in waders don't attract any special attention on the street. We didn't get to fish, but we did see a good part of the public water - and it is beautiful! This is definitely on my list of places to fish next spring.

The next weekend was our Falmouth trip for stripers. I think 16 members went. The fish were in, splashing on the surface like trout, and fly fishing was definitely the way to catch them. People stopped to watch us, and you could hear the crowd's reaction when a good fish was landed or lost. We found some new places to fish, and I think next year's trip will fill up quickly. This was Phil Brunquell's first salt water fly fishing trip, and he got off to a great start. You've got to ask him about it, and about how his son did on the Beaverkill.

We also begin our year with some opportunities for members to join the board of directors. Charlie Place was appointed to fill Dale Matthew's place on the board, so we have a vacancy for indoor facilities chairman. We will also need a new membership chairman. Neal Bantly found that with new demands on his time, including grandchildren, he had more things to do than time allowed, and asked to be replaced. See me or any BOD member at the meeting if you are interested in a board position or helping to plan a trip out west or to the Beaverkill.

Tight Lines,

Larry Johnson

GE To Pay Fishermen

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. - General Electric Co. has agreed to pay up to \$7 million to hundreds of fishermen in New York who claim they lost money because spawning beds were contaminated by toxic PCBs from company plants.

Fishermen from eastern Long Island, New York and the Hudson River Valley filed a class-action lawsuit in Suffolk County against GE in 1986. Up to 400 fishermen contended they lost \$10 million in income because PCB contamination ruined Hudson River spawning grounds for striped bass.

The contamination ultimately led to a statewide ban on commercial fishing of the popular fish.

The out-of-court settlement was reached Wednesday. A state court trial had been scheduled for next month.

8/14/93 *Journal Enquirer*



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COMING EVENTS

CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Sept 93
CFFA Board Meeting	6 Oct 93
CFFA Membership Meeting	13 Oct 93
International Fly Tyers Symposium	13-14 Nov 93
Somerset, NJ. Contact Chuck Furminsky - 814-926-2676	
National Fly Fishing Show	22-23 Jan 94
Boston, MA	
The Fly Fishing Show	28-30 Jan 94
Somerset, NJ	
FFF - Northeast Council Conclave	10-12 June 94
Hilton, Lake Placid.	

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I Went Back to School by Mike Stewart

Last May I received a flyer in the mail from the Watch Hill Fly Fishing Company. This was no piece of junk mail! A school was being offered in salt water fly fishing. Fishing techniques, casting instruction, fly tying tips and guided instruction was being touted. It sounded like just what I needed so I immediately called to reserve my position as an eager student, ready for molding into a salt water addict. I've been fishing the brine for a few years but still had a lot to learn.

The class began promptly at 9:00 am Saturday. Rigged rods and stripping baskets were lined up in front of the shop's porch ready for those students who needed equipment. As you can see this class accommodated beginners to not only salt water fly fishing, but also fly fishing in general.

We broke up into 3 groups of 5-6 people. One went with Jack Felber to discuss equipment and knots, the second group went with Page Rogers upstairs to the fly tying den to discuss fly selection, actions of the bait fish and tying techniques, the third group went with Larry Maderia on the edge of the bay for some casting instruction. No matter your experience level in fly fishing you definitely learned a thing or two from each of these groups. Each of the 3 sessions was about 2 hours. That evening we went to a local salt pond to hone our skills with our guides. We definitely gained experience in night fishing and casting into the wind, but the stripers weren't in except for one who must of had a bad day and wanted to commit suicide.

The next day, at dawn, we were back at the pond for more action. Still no fish but lots of experience casting in the wind. I'm not trying to be flip here. The wind is frequently experienced by all of us but its intensity and continuity in the salt water environment is more challenging. If you can't handle the wind, you will get very frustrated and tired. Larry's casting tips sure helped.

We returned to the shop for a much needed breakfast and a few hours break. After breakfast I sat down on the shop's porch and tied a few flies, eager to try the recently learned techniques. That was a very enjoyable experience tying outside, in the sun and talking with the patrons as they came into and out of the shop. After lunch we all got back together for a couple of additional hours to work on casting or fly tying. Before leaving for the day we received Lefty Kreh's Fly Casting Video as part of the class. Nice touch.

I extend my appreciation to the Watch Hill staff for organizing and conducting such an enjoyable school and providing a sorely needed bit of education. High school sure wasn't like that!

The Watch Hill Fly Fishing Company is at 2 Mastuxet Terrace, Watch Hill, RI 02891, (401)596-1914. Call Jack Felber if you are interested in this school. It may be offered again. - Ed.

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)

A Fisherman's Wife's Lament

By Ernest Boutiette

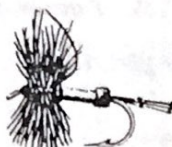
(This story was written over thirty years ago!)

My husband is a fly purist. This much I know about him as he has often brought it up in conversation; but it means nothing to me. It may explain to the initiated what I am about to write. I gather that he is one of the elite, as anyone not a purist, to him, is a dunker which must be very bad as even to say this word causes him to shudder, turn white and assume a sneering tone to his voice. I have tried to catch the exact moment when he changes from a loving father of five daughters and husband to an aloof, forgetful, and no longer a loving husband. I know that I could combat it if I could spot it; but it is not a sudden change. It creeps into the household as unaware as a summer storm. One moment he is my loving husband and next it is as if a different man is in the house. For, feathers and steel are his loves. The life of this man can be divided into two distinct seasons - Fishing Season from January to September, and Non-Fishing Season for the rest of the year. Most people believe that fishing season is from April to September. But, oh how wrong they are. More time is spent preparing for and plotting the downfall of the poor fish than in spent trying to catch them.

What is there to catching a fish that so dominates a man? What causes him to be as stealthy as a thief in the night when getting up to go fishing, yet who bangs around like a bull in the china closet on work days and succeeds in waking the household by six o'clock? What causes him to ignore cold, rain, sun etc. in his quest for trout? "Trout" is another word said with much more reverence than the word "wife". Why does he never seem to get sick of early hours, rain, cold etc? Why does he ignore all his friends that do not fish during fishing season? Why does he let me run the lawnmower all summer? Why do ordinary household tasks for men go begging? Why do the children's care and problems become mine? Why can't I go fishing with him? I once asked him, in my ignorance, if fishing meant more to him than our marriage? Also, why he liked fishing so much? The glance that he gave silenced me forever on this subject.

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Catch and Release: Good Techniques Help Reduce Fish Mortality

Merely releasing a fish which you have caught and landed does not ensure that it will survive. To reduced fish mortality, anglers must handle fish carefully and quickly with approved techniques. Since 1984 the Federation of Fly Fishers has produced a catch and release handbook which outlines proper C&R techniques which help fish survive. Following are precautions which anglers should take when releasing fish:

- **Land the fish** as quickly and efficiently as possible; the longer the playing-time, the greater the stress on the fish.
- **Avoid removing** the fish from the water.
- **In salt water and deep lakes**, fish brought up from depths may suffer from a distended fish bladder, which prevents the fish from swimming naturally and returning to depths after release. Puncturing the sac can help the fish, but the ultimate effect of doing so is uncertain.
- **When holding** a fish, cradle it gently and horizontally in two hands (size of fish permitting).
- **Keep hands** and fingers away from the gills; do not put fingers over the eyes.
- **Do not squeeze** the fish in the throat or stomach regions; vital organs can be easily injured.
- **Bass may be held** by grasping the lower jaw to remove hooks.
- **To photograph** the fish; have someone ready with the camera and do it quickly, but **KEEP THE FISH IN THE WATER!**
- **Never throw** a fish back. Grasp it gently and return it carefully into quiet waters deep enough to support it. Revive the fish by pointing its head into the current until it recovers enough to swim out of your hands. (Seeing the fish swim out of your hands might be the moment of C&R's maximum enjoyment!) Be patient, this may take more than a few minutes. If fishing from a boat in salt water, a slow and gentle towing of large fish will increase water flowage through the gills.
- **Hooks:** use single barbless hooks on all flies and lures. Small long-nose pliers or hemostats can help hook removals. Use bronzed steel hooks, which, if the leader must be cut to prevent additional trauma and the hook is left in the fish, will corrode more quickly than nickel or stainless steel hooks.

The FFF booklet "Catch and Release Guidelines" is available free from the Federation of Fly Fishers by writing to FFF, Attention: C&R Guidelines, P.O. Box 1595, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Reprinted from The Flyfisher, Summer 1993. Ed.

1st International Fly Tyer's Symposium - from Page 1

Gartside, and Page Rogers, just to name a small part of the planned gathering of tying experts. Your learning experiences will be unsurpassed.

Watch Bob Clouser tie his famous patterns: ask Bob Popovics his epoxy secrets; see Phil Camera's synthetic creations; see realistic flies, western patterns, trout, bass and salt water experts fashion and teach their favorite techniques.

Of course, there will be an overwhelming amount of tying equipment and materials available for purchase by the many fine shops represented.

But the stars of the show are the tyers coming from all over the country and overseas. This is an international event and an opportunity to see what the world's famous tyers can show you "face to vise". There will also be special limited private morning classes by registration.

Everything is taking place Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5. For a complete brochure of events, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The International Fly Tyer's Symposium, Seven Springs Resort, Champion, PA 15622. The daily ticket cost is \$10.00, no parking fee, and all show sponsored seminars and programs are included in the price.

The hotel is adjacent to the Garden State Exhibit Center where the mid-winter Fly Fishing Show is held, and only 1/2 hour from the Newark airport. Shuttle service is available to the hotel and thousands of free parking spaces surround the hotel.

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A Fisherman's Wife Lament - from Page 3

I will now try to explain to newly wed women what to look for and to fight it in its first stages. The first two years of my marriage were perfect. He went fishing occasionally, but not enough to alarm me. His fishing pals dropped in to see him and he showed only mild interest in their fishing stories. His den, with his huge rolled top desk, stayed closed and collected dust. An occasional feather floated from this room; but I figured that this was natural as he had an old bunch of feathers in boxes that he moved in when we bought our new home. Little did I know what rage, anxiety, frustration that this room would cause me. If I knew then what I know now, I would have cleaned it out while I still had a say in the matter. I often caught his two fishing pals pass knowing glances at each other and smile an odd kind of smile. I did not know then that this waiting for a fishing pal to get over his exuberance at being married was an old game to them, and is played like a game of poker. I have seen it played often since those early days. They are like dogs who have treed a cat. It is only a matter of time until someone rescues the cat. In this case, it took two years for the cat, my husband, to come down. I was still involved in the furnishing and care of the house when the transition from husband to fisherman took place - remember ladies, that Opening Day is not the danger; but the preparation for it.

AS well as I can remember, it all started after New Years. While it was cold out and snow covered the ground. He struck when I least expected it. It was a party two weeks after New Years that I missed my husband and his two pals. I finally chased my husband down in the den gazing at a newly arrived package of furs and feathers as at a gold mine. I looked in the door. Each of the three handled and commented on the package's contents as if discussing ermines. Ladies, this is the biggest danger sign in a fisherman's wife's life. Nip it here, and you may save your ideal way of married life. Let it bloom, and you will join the ever increasing list of fisherman's widows. During the weeks after this, the three were often together. My husband's desk was opened and now feathers and fur were everywhere. Rods, reels, waders, etc. that I had not known existed, were exhibited for the hundredth time to friends who had seen them all before. This polite commenting on each other's equipment is part of the protocol among the brethren. Suddenly I was told that if I wanted to see my mother to take the car along with the children and go. No kind offer - as in Non Fishing Season, a new fly just displayed in Outdoor Life called a Muddler Minnow had all his attention. He had materials strewn all around him and he was slightly baffled about its construction. His two pals came in as I was leaving, to assist in this momentous task. I could not see why one more fly could cause such a commotion as he had boxes full, and as far as I am concerned they all looked alike. Little did I know I had committed a sacrilege to that little piece of fur, feather and hair "The Muddler." I will not mention this fly again, as some day I intend to write a complete story on this one fly that so endangered my married life. My closing comment is: Ladies Beware.

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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.



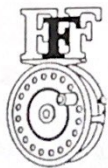
SEPTEMBER MEETING: FLY FISHERS' SEASON - PRESENTATION BY JOHN SPRINGER - SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

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