



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 22, No. 4

December 1994

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

## DECEMBER MEETING

### The Best Places to Fish in Montana

John Springer

This promises to be one of our top notch programs. John, a CFFA member, will enlighten and, if I know John, entertain us.

I know we can't go to Montana that frequently, but when that opportunity comes it sure would be nice to be armed with the knowledge that John can provide.

So come and enjoy. Bring your questions and John will do his best to answer them. See you there!

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

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 14, 1994

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

## From the Vest of the President



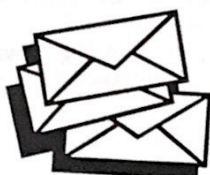
We have just finished our third DEP Fisheries Task Force meeting, and are probably half-way to being done. We were getting ready to work on setting priorities among problems identified last time when a not-unexpected move was made to give immediate priority to fiscal problems and let other issues wait until later. A lengthy discussion ensued, with comments ranging from, "Why are we working on our priorities when you have priorities of your own?" to "If we don't get the things we want (adequate staffing, more enforcement) along with fee increases, we won't have the clout to get them later on." Finally, we did vote on priorities by each allocating colored stick-on dots among the problems listed in each functional area. (This is really good way of getting a group of people to make choices. In spite of obviously looking for support for funding increases, Fisheries staff are doing an excellent job of facilitating our meetings.) High priority items include funding problems, lack of public and legislative awareness of fisheries problems and economic benefits, and the need for more enforcement. We will work on finalizing our priorities and developing an action plan at our next meeting in early December.

Next January, we start a long legislative session which will take up fiscal issues for the next two years under a new administration looking for ways to cut taxes and reduce expenses. Since the Fisheries Division is already in fiscal trouble, this session is going to demand our full attention. We need to know what we want and what we are willing to pay to get it, and work hard to make it happen. This task force will be part of the solution, but having our lobbyist will be another. Our ConnTac group began working on this last Spring, and the Farmington River Anglers have already put up some money as a retainer. We will be asked for a contribution as well. We will be dealing with serious problems in the months ahead, as well as with opportunities. We need to be ready for both.

We were pleased to welcome Ray Riley as our new conservation chairman last month. He will be working closely with Environmental VP Kurt Jagielow on our conservation activities. Hopefully, this will allow us to develop a more active conservation committee. George Degen has also agreed to coordinate our monthly conservation drawings and fly tying. We have other needs as well, especially for a program chairman, and we can be flexible in how things get done. Let us know if you want to help out. We were also pleased to hear that John Springer

*Continued on page 4*

## Attention All CFFA Members

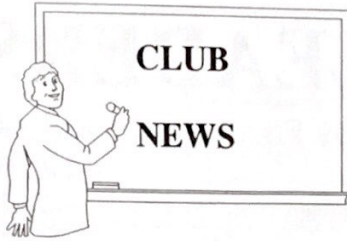


*It's time to send in those RENEWALS!*

It is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Please fill out the enclosed form (on page 4), include a check for the dues, and either mail it to the club or give it to

Steve Murphy at the next club meeting. We appreciate your membership over the past year and look forward to seeing you for many years to come. If anyone has a question about their membership status, you can call Steve. His number is on the last page of the newsletter. If you have already paid your dues or are a lifetime member, thank you for your support and please disregard this notice.





**Auditor Needed** - CFFA would like to have our financial records reviewed and audited by someone who is not on the board. If you have, or know anyone who has, the appropriate financial background such as a CPA, please let any board member know. Since we are a non-profit organization, we would like to have the audit conducted on a "donation of services" basis. Thanks.

**Membership** - Our rolls now list 297 members. Only three more to go to reach 300. Spread the word!

Ed.

## Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome all new members.

Kirk Hlavaty Paul Fraleigh  
John Zenie Curt Robinson

Correction: We misspelled new member, Charlie Nye, last month. Sorry Charlie!

You guys are encouraged to participate in all the activities CFFA has to offer. That way CFFA grows and becomes more vibrant. If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to approach any of the board members listed on the last page. Your suggestions regarding the **Lines & Leaders** are most welcomed.

Ed.



**Need an Xmas present idea! How about CFFA's "The Flyfisher's Companion." Call Ken Parkany, 643-9819.**

  
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## COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	7 Dec 94
CFFA Membership Meeting: "The Best Places To Fish in Montana"	14 Dec 94
CFFA Rod Building School	14 Dec, 94, 5, 12, 19, 26 Jan 95
CFFA Fly Tying School	5, 12, 19, 26 Jan 95
CFFA Board Meeting	2, 9 Feb 95
CFFA Membership Meeting: Fly Tying Round Table	4 Jan 95
FRAA Banquet, Gary LaFontaine	11 Jan 95
CFFA Fly Fishing Show and Banquet	18 Feb 95
Gary Berger, The Colony, Manchester CT	25 Feb 95
CFFA Fly Fishing School	2, 9, 16, 23 Mar, 8, 22 Apr 95

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### Minimum Flow By the Highest Court!

U.S. Supreme Court ruled on May 31 that states can require hydro-electric plants to maintain minimum river flow necessary to protect fish. Judge Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the 7-2 majority in saying that the federal government (i.e., FERC) does not have the sole authority to set water flows and that under the Clean Water Act, states can impose a minimum flow standards. Utility lawyers argued that the Clean Water Act governs water quality not water quantity. O'Connor noted that, "a sufficient lowering of water quantity in a body of water could destroy all of its designated uses, be it for drinking water, recreation, navigation or, as here, as a fishery."

**Jim Schramm**, Legal Counsel for FFF tells us that this very recent ruling is already having an impact on FERC negotiations.

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## 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)

## The Eternal Spinner Fall

by Ken Parkany

A flyfisher's season is more than a year long. It can be a lifetime - or longer. When death ended one season of Gerald R. McNamar's life, this past October at age 81, another season began - a season of opportunity.

Gerry was a lifelong resident of East Hartford. He was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and more. He played all those family roles admirably. Gerry was also admired by those with whom he fished. Men in their 80's, regularly wading streams and catching trout are to be admired. I'm sure the Lord even allots a measure of admiration by the trout, to a flyfisher pursuing his quarry midstream while in the twilight season of his life.

1994 was Gerry's last season. October 19th, was his "last day." A lifetime of memory-making events of an individual ended. A future of seasoned memories for family and friends began.

My close friend, Lee, will miss his father. Miss fishing with him on his Dad's favorite river, the Salmon. Miss their traditional opening days together. And miss the unique bond, known only by a father and son - a generation of camaraderie, innocent teasing, laughter, and streamside chatter. The tight lines of that bond have snapped. The line between them is limp. Now only a gulf of memories remain. Memories of the mind and of the celluloid kind. But the memories of fishing are only part of it.

To help bridge the gulf caused by his father's death, Lee and his immediate family reached out to others - for others. At the funeral service, Lee asked the presiding minister to read from Robert Traver's "Anatomy of a Fisherman" (reprinted on page 5). A piece describing the end of the flyfisher's season, aptly titled: "The Last Day." It was emotional, appropriate, and an accurate

portrayal. And to Lee's surprise, much appreciated by friends and family who were not even fly fishermen, yet asked Lee for copies of the testimonial. A touching remembrance.

Lee, his sister Cindy, and their Mom also wanted Gerry to be remembered in a special way, through fly fishing, if possible. A way Gerry certainly would appreciate. So, Lee suggested to Cindy, that she contact the Newington Children's Hospital to inquire about them accepting memorial donations to the Therapeutic Fly Tying Program. Lee was familiar with the program through my association with it. The request was granted - the first such request for the program. CFFA member, and Hospital staff member, Dr. Phil Brunquell, created the program in the Fall of 1992, with the help of fly tying volunteers. As many CFFA members know, the Program recently received national attention, when the National Hospital Association awarded the Newington Children's Hospital and the CFFA with their "Volunteer Program of the Year Award". The Award cited the hospital's unique source of volunteers - fly fishermen - for a hospital therapy program. Such recognition will hopefully create a domino effect.

What's significant about the McNamar family's memorial decision, is that Lee is not a CFFA member. Neither was his Dad. Naturally, I was pleasantly surprised when Lee informed me at the funeral home of their decision. But, I wonder if there is another significance.

Experienced flyfishers are keenly aware of the lifecycle aspects of their sport, especially that of the mayfly. What starts out as an immature nymph, emerges into an adult, mates, changes form again to a "spinner", and lastly dies. The final curtain is described as a "spinner

*Continued on page 4*



**The Eternal Spinner Fall** - continued

fall." Trout feed on spinners. Not in a frenzy, though. No dashing and darting. No splashy rises. Instead, the rise appears rhythmic and methodical; always deliberate and delicate; and, perhaps, even reverent.

Is there an eternal message here? In life, Gerry bonded with his son through their love of fly fishing. In Gerry's death, a fly fisherman somewhere, unknown to him, will *deliberately* volunteer to bond with a youngster in need of therapy. In life, Gerry shared his love of the sport with his son. In his death, his love of fly fishing will be *delicately* shared with someone else's son or daughter. Thanks to his family, Gerry will continue to live in the fur, feathers, tinsel, and steel of therapy; in the curiosity, enthusiasm, and excitement of a child patient in need; and in the truth that what we do in life can *reverently* touch others after we're gone. And a touch of wonder remains.

[Ed. Note: For those who want to make a Memorial Donation in Gerald R. McNamar's name, they should make their check payable to the "Newington Children's Hospital," and include a notation on the check that the "donation is for the Therapeutic Fly Tying Program, in memory of Gerald R. McNamar"; and send it to the Newington Children's Hospital, 181 East Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111-1500. Donations are tax deductible.]

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Check if address changed

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renew

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.(h) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK A COMMITTEE YOU ARE NOW ON OR WISH TO BE ON:**

- |   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation       | <input type="checkbox"/> Program   | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Facil. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising       | <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet   | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretarial duties |                                    |  |

**DUES STRUCTURE:**

- |  |          |           |
|--|----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Under 16) | \$ 5.00  |           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular           | \$ 15.00 | TOTAL     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting        | \$ 25.00 | ENCLOSED: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing      | \$ 50.00 | \$ _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life              | \$200.00 |           |

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**From the Vest - Continued from page 1**

and Steve Murphy will be teaching fly tying at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. This is an important step in bringing our love of fly fishing to a group of people who may well feel excluded from activities we all take for granted.

Things are picking up with school registrations, and we already have three exhibitors booked for our February Expo. Be sure to consider a membership, school enrollment, a ticket for our banquet drawing for that fly tying cabinet, or our book "The Flyfishermen's Companion", as a holiday present for yourself or someone else.

Tight Lines and Happy Holidays, Larry Johnson

**Alaska**

I am looking for a fishing companion to go salmon fishing in Alaska for about 10 days around August 15, 1995. I have 4 years experience in Alaskan fishing.

Must have answer by January 15, 1995 so I can make reservations. Call 289-3605, Ernie Boutiette.

**CFFA Fly Fishing Show & Annual Banquet**



Plans are proceeding quite rapidly in preparation for all the festivities. **Gary Borger** will be coming to the show as well as J. Kenney Abrames, Charlie Place, and Ernie Boutiette. Gary will also be our featured speaker at the Banquet that evening. A number of exhibitors will be on hand at the show. During the evening's banquet following the program, we will have our raffles/auction. These raffles/auctions will include a Silent Auction, Table Raffle, Insurance Raffle, and a Special Raffle where the winner will receive a Fly Tyer's Dream - a fly tying hutch made by CFFA member, Roger Plourde.



## The Last Day

by Robert Traver

[Ed. Note: "The Last Day" was read during the funeral service of Gerald R. McNamar, East Hartford, who died at the age of 81, on October 19, 1994. An appropriate testimony to the life of a flyfisher known to fellow "senior" CFFA members who fished with him in recent years on the Farmington or Salmon Rivers. Gerry is the father of Lee McNamar, a close friend of Ken Parkany. It is excerpted from Robert Traver's Anatomy of a Fisherman, published by McGraw-Hill, 1964.]

"Each year it is the same: this time, we tell ourselves, the season will never end, the doze and stitch and murmur of summer will go on and on. Yet the lazy golden days glide by on gilded wings - and the spellbound fisherman fishes. By and by his heart is wrenched as he beholds premonitions of the doomed beauty of autumn. Then, lo, one day it is the last day of fishing, the very end has come. This is the saddest day of the year.

"But our annual melancholy is tinged with relief. For the last day of fishing is both a sentence and a reprieve: a sentence to a long fishless winter's nap; a reprieve from the mad compulsive chase of summer. By and by we blink and peer about, like men emerging from hypnosis. A gleam of lunacy gradually leaves our eyes. We even tell ourselves it's all for the best. Our soothing litany goes something like this:

"Don't you see, fella, precious rods can now be gone over and put away - and all the rest of the sad ritual marking the end of fishing. Ah, yes, lad, it's all for the best. After all, fishing is no longer sporting, our nerves and domestic relations are equally in tatters, the fly hatches and decent rises are mostly done, the spawn-laden trout are far too easy to catch, to take them now is to bite of one's nose...

"*But we lie.* On the last day all fishermen are akin to pallbearers, worse yet, pallbearers who must macabrely attend their own funerals. For going out on the last day is melancholy ritual that must be observed, a sad job that must be done, like decently burying the dead. But our hearts are leaden and each cast is like waving farewell forever to our adored trout. For what we enchanted fishermen really want is to go on fishing, *fishing*, FISHING - fishing forever into the very vaults and corridors of heaven. With fishermen it's always tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow... And what sustains us through the long ordeal of winter is the wry knowledge that after all it's only eight more months till the magic *First Day!*"



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# Moby Dick

by Charlie Place

We have all heard about the prodigious white whale with an attitude and a dramatic flair for turning wooden sailing ships into kindling. His unrelenting feud with a certain Captain Ahab, ultimately led the mean spirited seaman to his watery grave. This article is not about that Moby Dick. It's about Moby Dick "The Fly."

I was first introduced to this unusually-named fly by Paul Beaudreau, a long time CFFA member, and, at the risk of embarrassing Paul, one of the best fly-tiers in the country. We were fishing for smallmouth on the Housatonic River. There must have been a disturbance in the force that day, because we were not doing well. Paul brought out his fly box. There was a neat row of Moby Dicks. "What are those?" I asked, pointing at the unfamiliar flies.

"Moby Dicks," Paul said. "Here try one. I'll try a Hornberg." I snipped off my yellow marabou and tied on the feathery gift. I moved down stream away from Paul and made a cast, letting the sinking line take the Moby Dick on its fishy mission. A fat smallmouth took the fly as soon as I gave it a twitch. I landed the sassy fish and made another cast. Wham! I was on again. I made three more casts and hooked another chunky Housy bass. I looked upstream towards Paul. He was already changing his fly.



The Moby Dick is not a miracle fly by any means, but it has saved the day for me more than once. I was fishing the Willimantic River just below the island and hadn't gotten a hit. I got out of the river and went back to the start of the run, only this time I had on a Moby Dick. I hooked two fat Willi brown trout. The Moby Dick had made a difference. Also, I know for a fact, as late as October 1994, the Willi trout still occasionally fall for the white whale's namesake.

Besides its fish-tempting ability, the Moby Dick is easy to tie. Use a 4x hook. My favorite is size 8.

Brown thread makes a nice-looking head. The tail is Golden Pheasant tippet about half the length of the hook shank. Tie in a brown hackle just ahead of the tail. Leave it there. You'll use it later. Select 6 to 8 peacock herls. Tie them in just ahead of the brown hackle. Twist the herl together; then wrap to the front of the hook, leaving enough room to tie in a wing. Palmer the brown hackle through the peacock and secure. The wing is lemon wood duck tied flat. It should end at the tip of the tail. Don't be afraid to vary the pattern. A red tail works well. Try grizzly dyed brown for the hackle. Another friend of mine ties the Moby with bead chain eyes. Jan catches a lot of fish. Ah! What the heck. Make some room in your fly box, and slip in a few Moby Dicks. You won't be sorry.

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**Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association  
Presents  
Beginning Fly Tying, Saltwater Fly Tying, Rod Building Schools**

**Classes:** Classes will meet downstairs at Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, at 7:00pm on the following evenings: Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26, and February 2 and 9, 1995

**Beginning Fly Tying**

**Saltwater Fly Tying**

- Class:**
1. Marabou Leech, Wooly Bugger
  2. Dark Cahill, Soft Hackle
  3. Tellico, Dark Stenonema
  4. Blue Wing Olive, Light Cahill
  5. Poly Spinner, Hen Wing Spinner
  6. Black Ant, Deer Hair Bug

- Whistler, Slider,
- Surf Candy, Squid,
- Clower's Minnow,
- Lefty's Deceiver,
- Sand Eel
- Bob's Banger

**Equipment:** All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, thread, scissors, etc.

**Class Size:** Fly Tying classes limited to the first 25 people submitting applications for each class.

**Tuition:** Fly Tying class: CFFA Members - \$30; Non-Members - \$40; 16 & Under - \$20

**ROD BUILDING CLASS**

**Instructor:** E.F. Roberts Custom Rodmaker

**Rod Selection:** 7 foot (3/4 line) Graphite • 8 foot (5/6/ line) Graphite • 9 foot (7/8/ line) Graphite

You may build a rod of your choice if you make an early decision to enter the class. Ed Roberts can be reached at 651-8402 between 5:00 and 8:00 pm to answer any questions relative to rod selection and material cost.

**Class Size:** Limited to the first 10 people submitting applications. Must make rod selection by December 14, 1994. First meeting will be after the membership meeting on 14 December.

**Tuition:** CFFA Members - \$10; Non-Members - \$15

**CFFA Enrollment Application**

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 26 Penwood Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CFFA Member \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / \_\_\_\_\_ No 16 or under \_\_\_\_\_

Check one 1. \_\_\_ Beginning Fly Tying 2. \_\_\_ Saltwater Fly Tying 3. \_\_\_ Rod Building

Rod Selection, circle one: 7 foot      8 foot      9 foot

For additional information contact Charlie Place, V.P. Promotion, 99 Bel Aire Circle, Windsor Locks, CT 06096.  
Phone, (203) 623-9912



## Board of Directors

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Program Chairman	Vacant		
Publicity Chairman	Ed Fidrych	342-1173	566-8241
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.



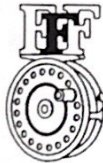
## DECEMBER MEETING: PLACES TO FISH IN MONTANA - JOHN SPRINGER - DECEMBER 14, 1994

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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