



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 21, No. 9

May 1994

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

## MAY MEETING

### Saltwater Fly Fishing on Foot Mark Lewchik

The last monthly meeting until September will feature CFFA member Mark Lewchik who will present his program, 'Saltwater Fly Fishing on Foot'. Mark will discuss tackle, flies and locations for catching stripers and bluefish in the CT and RI area.

Mark is a staff member of River End Tackle of Old Saybrook. He has lots of experience mixing the fly rod with the salt.

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

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 11, 1994

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

## CATCH & RELEASE TIPS & TECHNIQUES

The main things to keep in mind are:

- ✓ Fish with barbless hooks
- ✓ Don't play the fish excessively
- ✓ Wet your hands before handling the fish
- ✓ Minimize contact and handling time of the fish
- ✓ Keep the fish in the water if at all possible
- ✓ If the hook cannot be easily removed, cut the leader close to the hook
- ✓ Release the fish in quiet, clear water
- ✓ Move the fish gently back and forth in the water until it regains enough strength to strongly swim away.

## From the Vest of the President



It's that time again - the last monthly meeting until September. Sort of like summer vacation, except that school isn't completely out. We all have assignments for ourselves on streams, lakes, and the salt, and things to do for CFFA as well. The Board will meet monthly except for July, we have two weekend trips to the Cape, and we will have a booth at Riversplash on June 4 if we can get the manpower to run it, and we will be repairing the rearing pool, clearing trails, and doing other conservation activities over the summer. Talk to one of the board members, or check with the hotline to see what is going on. We can handle video rentals and returns, and sales of our book at board meetings if you make arrangements in advance.

I had a chance to visit the Belding Wild Trout Management Area in Vernon on opening day weekend, and it's really a nice place. I can understand why the former members of the Tankerhoosen Club are so fond of it. It can be reached from Exit 66 (the Tunnel Road exit) on I-84, and the best parking is probably along the road near the stone bridge on Bolton Rd. near Bamforth Rd. It needs some trail clearing and some porta-johns and trash cans, but it would be a great spot for a CFFA outing. The young boys and teenagers we found there claimed not to know that bait wasn't allowed, but vanished quickly into the woods when crowds showed up. I don't like being the fishing meany, but bobbers and worms seem to be the rule rather than the exception. Probably a good spot for some fly fishing education as well.

If you belong to FFF, you noticed the extensive coverage given to Phil Brunquell's new book, *Fly Fishing With Children* in their national quarterly journal, "The FFF Quill". He made the front page and a full inside page as well. We were sent a review copy, and it looks really good. Congratulations Phil, on a job well done. Our own *Fly Fishers Companion* was reviewed in the North Eastern Council's "Backcasts", and I understand from Ken Parkany that there will be a review in the next "Quill" as well.

Fly fishing has gone high tech along with many other things. If you have a computer and a modem, you might want to check out the fishing and fly fishing areas of the Compuserve Outdoor Forum. The Federation and TU are there, along with a wide range of national and international fly fishers. There is someone on line who knows about, or lives, anywhere you would like to go, and responses to questions can come with amazing speed. The computer bulletin board is definitely the hotline of the future.

Enjoy your summer, and keep in touch with the hotline. John Springer fishes a lot, but he can't be everywhere, and he appreciates callers who leave information. Keep in mind that an article for Lines and Leaders or a slide program for next year would be much appreciated by all of us. See you in September, if not on the stream.

Tight Lines,  
Larry Johnson



**The Flyfisher's Companion** - Our book is starting to get a lot of press. Elsewhere in this issue is a brief article regarding it's promotion. The spring issue of FFF North Eastern Council's Newsletter "Backcasts" mentions the book in very positive tones on the front page. FFF has received the book for review as has other organizations. Soon word will be out regarding our splendid publication.

**Remember**, the book is a limited edition run of 1,000 copies. Get yours now before word gets out completely. Mother's Day, Father's Day is coming soon. And, I hate to say it, but Christmas will be here sooner than you think. But by then it might be too late! Order your copy now!

**Protect Our Striped Bass** - Hearings are underway in Washington regarding HR 393. HR 393 is a bill which will protect the striped bass by declaring it a gamefish, thus illegal to obtain by commercial fishing. There have been a number of petitions around this past winter. Ed Mitchell of the New England Coast Conservation Association has been working to get representatives to co-sponsor the bill. The bill needs our help and support. There are only 13 co-sponsors to date. Many more are needed. Not all of the U.S. Representatives who represent CFFA's members have agreed to sponsor this bill. It's not too late to write or call your Representative to let him/her know that you want them to represent you on this bill and to support HR 393. This is an election year to the US House of Representatives.

**Fishing Show Thank You** - Many thanks to the following folks who helped out this year at the Civic Center:

Don Rose  
John Walker  
Jack Smola  
Chris Brunquell  
George Degen  
Mark Philippe  
Phil Brunquell  
Page Rogers  
Ed Fidrych  
Steve Murphy

Charles Kelly  
Myron Schulman  
Mike Stewart  
Roger Plourde  
Larry Johnson  
Gary Steinmiller  
Charles Place  
Ernie Boutiette  
Richard Whitehead  
Amy Brunquell

Ed.

## COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	4 May 94
CFFA Membership Meeting	11 May 94
CFFA Board Meeting	1 June 94
Farmington Riversplash	4 June 94
CFFA Trip, Falmouth, Cape Cod MA	4-5 & 11-12 Jun
FFF - Northeast Council Conclave Hilton, Lake Placid. Contact Bob Ethier, 914-778-2259	9-12 June 94
FFF International Fly Fishing Show & Conclave, Kalispell, MT. Contact FFF, 800-618-0808	1-6 Aug 94
CFFA Board Meeting	3 Aug 94
CFFA Board Meeting	7 Sept 94
CFFA Membership Meeting	14 Sept 94
International Fly Tyer's Symposium Sheraton Inn, Cherry Hill, NJ Contact Chuck Furminsky 814-926-2676	11-12 Nov 94

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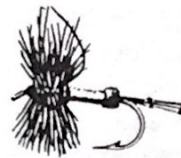
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**FISHING CONDITIONS  
HOTLINE NUMBERS**



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)

**"From A Catskill Diary" by Mike O'Neil**  
**The series continues!**

**June 15--(bright summer day in 70's)--beautiful**

Stream fishing department-- A grand night. Blakey need not worry (as he did around Memorial Day) that all the native trout in Woodland Brook were washed down into the Esopus by the spring snow melt, and the stream was therefore in desperate need of a fingerling infusion (stocking). Good God Blake, do ye not ken that sometimes the fish just don't bite when you want them to? It doesn't mean they've been flushed away. At any rate, from the old Swimming-Pool Pool on up to Red Rock I proceeded to catch and release trout of all sizes--mostly native. At Red Rock I latched into two of the biggest stockers which I landed and kept for breakfast.

My evening companions at the Red Rock Pool were a momma merganser and five small ducklings. The babies were in the peep peep stage of their young lives (as opposed to the adolescent quack quack stage). "Peep, peep, peep, peep," they kept piping. They didn't seem over-concerned by my presence. I'm always afraid that one of these ducks might take a notion to go after my fly and get hooked.

[One recalls one's youthful saltwater fishing and that fall day at Playland Cove bobber-fishing shiners with Jeffy O'Conner for snapper blues. Boy, the exuberant TERROR of trying to reel in the huge old seagull that'd taken my minnow and started flying in the general direction of Port Jefferson, Long Island hooked firmly in the beak! What a mess that was. God grant that such a hooking my never happen again.]

**June 19 (Hazy, Hot, Humid--a real scorcher in the high 80's)**

To boil or not to boil department--Charlie Denhard gave

me a xerox of a page from his copy of Izaak Walton's old Complete Angler (copy also for D.W. Shearer). Piscator is telling someone how to cook trout. When all's said and done, the ancient recipe is much like the modern French preparation of trout they call Truite au Bleu. Charlie was bemused that back in the 1600's Piscator would do something as disgusting as boil a trout in vinegar, and then eat it (Yuch). Charlie would be even more surprised if he were to dine in Paris and discover what a fine French restaurant would charge him for just such a blue boiled bit of vinegary viand. Viola!

**July 5 (high 80's--the little breeze helps a little)**

*A surprise encounter--*

After 42 summers in this valley, I met my first bear today.

I was testing a newly tied mini-Light Cahill on Woodland Brook around 7 this evening in total concentration when a small boulder came crashing down from the far bank. Scared the HELL out of me. I thought it must be some of the colony kids playing an elaborate joke until I saw the large black hairy haunch. I was in midstream and decided to move a few feet closer--which allowed me to discover that the hairy haunch was firmly attached to a big hairy black bear! *Ursus Americanus* was snuffling around up on the bank--paying no attention to me whatsoever. He was surely looking for grubs or beetles on the ground from whence he had flung the boulder. I decided to get closer still, so slowly reeled in and waded a few more feet toward it, till we were about ten feet apart. I made sure there weren't any cubs around, and then did a fairly stupid

*Continued on page 4*

*A Catskill Diary - continued from page 3*  
thing--I engaged him in conversation, yelling to him:

*Hi Bear-- What's Happenin'!!!*

The bear snorted, looked at me in utter surprise, and galloped off at high speed downstream towards Browns'. Bears with an incentive to travel, travel very fast indeed. That was my nature lesson for the evening. It occurs to me now that the bear could just as easily have galloped towards ME at breakneck speed. How would I have defended myself? Hook him on the nose with my Light Cahill? Sometimes we're luckier than we have any right to be.

**August 31 (70's, occasional sprinkles--could use more)**

No luck.

Fishing the Esopus between 6:30 and 8:30--quiet, very little action. Nothing of significance happening. Perhaps the supposed approach of Hurricane Emily has already had some meteorological effect that the trout sense. Or maybe they were just feeding on something entirely different than my Leadwing Coachman #14. That's what I had luck with back the Wednesday before the Pig Roast Weekend, when son Tim and I fished during the rainy midday (a time of day that would normally produce nothing at all). We had a ball, bringing a total of eight rainbows back--so that all houseguests could have fresh native trout.

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## VIDEO TAPE LIBRARY RULES

- 2 tapes per person.
- \$2 per tape per month.
- Return at fly tying classes, board meetings, monthly meetings, etc. - to any Board member.
- \$2 late fee per tape per week.
- Will only be rented at monthly meetings.
- First come first served.
- Rented after meetings at coffee table.

# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome all new members.

Don Albert Roy Garcia M. W. Slayton  
Craig Holland Alvin Levy William PJ Keever  
Paul Brodeur Will Ellzey Hank Levaur  
Richard Woodward

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.



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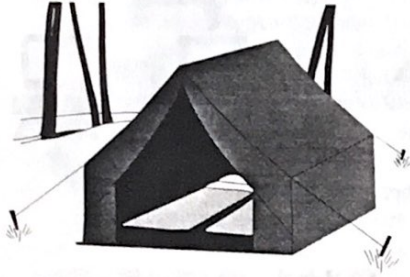
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## NOTICE!

Fish Tech Northeast: Kids Fishing Camp is unlike any children's camp we know of. Owned and operated by Wesleyan University, its goals are to teach kids how to catch fish, of course, and also how to camp and how to enjoy the outdoors without harming the environment. Emphasis will be placed on the ethics of fishing which will help youngsters learn about themselves, their responsibilities to others, and to the earth and its resources. Campers will enjoy:

1. **ON-THE-WATER FISHING** - Campers will fish four to six hours each day with an expert guide/instructor catching bass, panfish, trout, northern pike, salmon,...just whatever the many lakes hold. One of the advanced sessions (the one on Cape Cod) will have a salt-water concentration.
2. **CAMP-OUT** - Campers will live in the great outdoors all day every day, sleep in tents, and take dips in the creek. No TV. No telephones. No video games. Just living in the great outdoors and learning how to enjoy it without harming it.
3. **SEMINARS** - Campers get at least a dozen seminars helping them to understand more about fishing and the great outdoors they'll be living in.
4. **SKILL COURSES** - Campers will learn spin-casting, level-wind rod and reel technique, fly tying, fly fishing, plus knot tying, fish filleting and much more.
5. **VISITS AND DEMONSTRATIONS** by professional fishing guides.

Call Jennifer A. Buckley at Wesleyan University, (203) 347-9411, ext. 2516 to register or if you have any questions. The parent/child programs seem to be very popular. If you're thinking of one of these sessions (July 10-13 or July 13-16) you will want to contact Wesleyan soon.

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## Fly Fishing's Technology Highway



Fly Fishing's Technology Highway - The "From The Vest" mentions that fly fishing items of interest can be accessed via CompuServe on a modem equipped PC. There are additional on-line services available to those of you who may not subscribe to CompuServe. They are mentioned below with a few words on each. I understand most are fairly straightforward to use. I personally use AOL. Be advised, Internet can be a bit convoluted to use, even for a techie. (I can be reached on AOL. I'm TELLICOFLY. Ed.)



**CompuServe, 800-848-8199:** Go to the Outdoors Forum by typing GO OUTDOORS. Look for the Fly Fishing Topic.



**Prodigy, 800-284-5933:** Go to the Sports Play Bulletin Board by typing Sports Play BB. Look for the Fishing Topic.



**NVN (National Videotex Network), 800-336-9096:** Go to the fishing forum by typing GO FISH at the main menu. Look for Fly Fishing Topic.



**AOL (America On Line), 800-827-9492:** Go to the Lifestyles & Interests Department by typing The Exchange. Look for Fly Fishing Topic under Outdoor Activities.



**Internet, (you must subscribe to a service with full Internet connections such as AOL, NVN, and some local BBS's):** Go to Fly Fishing Digest under Listserv to [LISTSERV@UMAB.BITNET](mailto:LISTSERV@UMAB.BITNET). You must send the command to the listserver from your Email prompt to subscribe to the Fly Fishing Digest.

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## Seduction Thy Name Is Accessories

by Linda Navroth

Flyfishing is seductive. It has all of the peculiar elements that help to give it an air of the provocative: exotic tackle, beautiful flies, and impressive, esoteric accoutrements. It will, if you are not careful, put you under its mesmerizing spell and turn you into slobbering zombie. Trust me. I've got first-hand experience and an empty wallet to prove it.

It all started innocently enough. I worked with a fellow at an outdoor shop who was our resident fly fisherman. No one else in the shop fished, let alone flyfished, so he just naturally took on the air of an eccentric. Whenever someone came in with a fishing question we pointed them toward Rich.

His penchant for practical jokes and his acid-tongued sarcasm (all in good fun, mind you) was off-putting at first, but I gradually warmed to the guy. And before too much longer, I found myself asking him questions about flyfishing. The next thing I knew, he was leaving me fly fishing periodicals in my mailbox at work.

I was awed and fascinated by the pictures of fishermen

wearing brightly colored shirts, bulging vests, slouch hats cocked at a natty angle, all of them caressing large, brightly colored fish. And before too much longer, I asked Rich to accompany me to "look at fly rods." I was sure I was going to like this sport.

Of course, nobody just goes out and "looks at fly rods." To even get near a fly shop is asking for trouble. Oh, you can swear up and down and take a blood oath that you are just merely curious. But one must keep in mind that it was mere curiosity that killed the proverbial cat. You don't believe me? Go ahead - fondle that fly rod. I dare you. You'll soon be perusing the selection of reels. Had enough? No, I can tell by your trembling hands that you have only just started.

And so I found myself sinking into the quick sand of fly fishing accessories. I couldn't help but do it. They make everything so attractive and downright useful. The novice angler can easily be seduced by the dazzling array of gadgets, gizmos, and whatzits available for the flyfisher.

*Continued on Page 7*

### *Seduction... Continued from Page 6*

Everything on the racks appears necessary for angling success and the many pockets on the fishing vest seem to bear this out. (The fellows that make the fly vests are accessory salesmen, I'm sure of it.)

We females of the species have always known that "accessories make the woman;" two or three outfits and the right accessories (necklaces, earrings, belts) and we can look snappy and professional seven days a week. Not only do they make us look excellent, but accessories can give the illusion that we have more than we actually do or are, perhaps, more than we appear to be. And you can bet that any woman that's worth her stuff has got a boatload of accessories lurking about in her dresser drawers.

So it goes with the flyfisher. There are accessories for everything from tying a better blood knot to magnifying and lighting your fly at dusk on the stream. There are beautiful, jewel-like tools for clipping tippets and removing hooks from fish. And then there are the flies: hundreds of beautiful, vibrant-looking artificial insects that are meant to tempt a fish to the hook that lies concealed amongst the bright feathers and hair. The real things never looked so good. Not to mention that there are as many varieties of rods, reels, waders, and boots.

I looked at all of it and I swear I intended to keep it simple. Only the basics for me, yes sir. I only bought the rod that day. Well actually it was an "outfit": An Orvis 8' for 6 wt, Madison III reel, WF6F line, backing, and instruction book. My hands were trembling as I left the store.

My first casting lesson with the rod was done in Rich's backyard and I promptly hooked a hefty, half-ton dumpster that was on the other side of the block wall, on the back cast. But I was undaunted. I couldn't wait to get on a real stream and get the line wet.

It was then that I realized it was going to take a bit more than a rod and reel to do the job of catching fish. So a few weeks later, I found myself back in the fly shop buying some more stuff: waders, vest, flies, fly boxes, leaders, split shot, hemostats, nippers, zingers, floatant, sunglasses, and a fishing license. Whew. Those fish weren't going to come easy. Or cheaply. I finally understood, as in an epiphany, what women (and other fishermen) have known all along: that life is cheap, but the accessories will kill you. But I was happy and it felt like I was carrying magic in those shopping bags. I was hooked, no doubt about it.

Yes, I finally went fishing. And yes, I caught fish. Six my first day out. Rich was impressed. We've been fishing buddies ever since. I knew I was going to like this sport.

*Linda Navroth is a member of The Wilderness Fly Fishers of Santa Monica, CA. This treatise was reprinted from their club Newsletter, and FFF, The Quill, and suggests why women flyfishers have insights into the sport that many may miss. Ed.*

## Knowing The Right Moment

Ken Parkany

Knowing the right moment to act is the difference between winning and losing, success and failure, and satisfaction and disappointment.

I believe every CFFA member wants to be a part of something special, such as owning a copy of the deluxe soft bound edition of The Flyfisher's Companion. This edition was published to commemorate the CFFA's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary (July 1992). Once the copies of this limited printing are gone, that's it.

For your information, I'd like to share some of the promotional information I've been sending out. First, The Flyfisher's Companion is unique. It's the first book published on fly fishing in Connecticut. One of the chapters includes articles on many of our streams statewide. Yet it is not exclusively for Connecticut anglers. Eighty percent of the book applies to flyfishers anywhere and to all levels of experience. Fly tiers will go bonkers over the 103 patterns in the "Recipe" Appendix, that included all the patterns that appeared in Lines and Leaders in the past 25 years. Twenty-five of the patterns are featured in Chapter Two of the book, and approximately thirty of the patterns are original to Connecticut.

The comments I've received from everyone have been extremely positive. Sales have been surprisingly high considering the only publicity has been in Lines and Leaders. But soon the Federation of Flyfishers, the national organization with whom the CFFA is affiliated, will be promoting the book both nationally and regionally. Also, Gary LaFontaine will be promoting the book nationally, through his book publishing business. Such publicity will reach thousands.

Locally, I've talked with Tom Hine of the Courant and sent him a copy of the book. Once he sees the "Companion", I'm optimistic that he's going to react much like the FFF and others have: "WOW!" (I highlighted to Tom that the Prologue piece, "Fatal Attraction", is a rewrite of one of my Hartford Courant Afield & Astream columns, and the annotational lead-in states so.)

With the Courant's distribution and the distribution of the Federation combined, a lot of flyfishers, wannabe's, and people who know both (i.e., gift-givers), I believe there is going to be a huge mail order demand.

Will we have enough copies for our members? Perhaps only enough for those members who practice "**knowing the right moment**".

Please don't miss out on this opportunity. Order your copy now - or more - if you've got a special person in mind for Mother's Day, Father's Day, a birthday or even Christmas. You may be disappointed.

The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association is pleased to announce the publication of  
The Flyfisher's Companion, Compiled and Edited by Ken Parkany

100 pages of "Successful Patterns and Techniques from a Generation of Experience"  
specifically created for the beginner, apprentice, and the experienced flyfisher

"This book represents the highlights of 25 years of newsletter publication by CFFA members, more than a generation of effort and activity, featuring Connecticut-developed fly patterns and information on Connecticut rivers and streams."

Larry Johnson, CFFA President

"This book will help you catch fish. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced flyfisher, this book will also help you improve your skills."

from the Introduction by Ken Parkany

#### What others say:

"The Flyfisher's Companion is a treasury of fishing writing that will keep your hooks sharp, your cast true, and your eye on the rise. It befits the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the CFFA like nothing else could."

J. Edson Leonard, Author of Flies, The Feather in the Breeze and The Essential Fly Tyer

"Connecticut fly fishermen will feast on this cornucopia of intimate information about their home waters. There is instruction for the beginner, proven patterns and tips for everyone, and stories and articles that capture the mood and texture of fly fishing. The book also provides the best kind of information on rivers, lakes, and coastal fishing: the hard-won lore that never gets into the big national magazines, the stuff only the serious local fisherman knows. The Flyfisher's Companion is both a passport to some terrific fishing near home and a testament to what the best kind of flyfishing club can share."

Nick Lyons, Author and Publisher  
Lyons & Burford, Publishers, NY

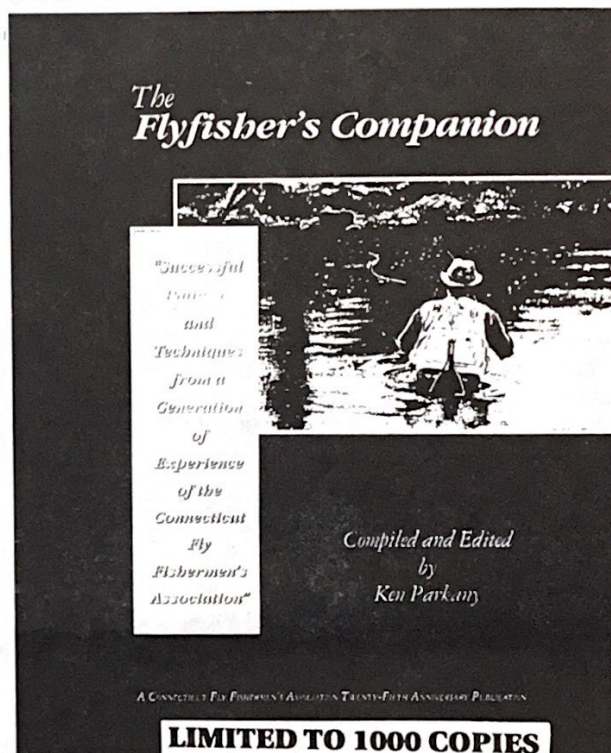
"Connecticut is my home state. The CFFA is my home club. Both of them are as important to me now as they were during my formative years. The place, and the organization that represents flyfishing in the state, still serve as connections to my angling roots."

Gary J. LaFontaine, Author of Challenge of the Trout, Caddisflies, Dry Fly, and Proven Patterns, and Publisher, Greycliff Publishing, MT

"The Flyfisher's Companion is testimony to this circle of Connecticut anglers and the sport they share and love."

~~Ernest~~ Ernest Schwiebert, Author of the classic Matching the Hatch, Nymphs, and numerous other flyfishing books

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## Board of Directors

		Home	Office
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Promotion - VP	Charles Place	683-0411	
Recording Secretary	Tony Simmons	646-6839	565-9412
Legal Secretary	Mark Levy	232-1666	
Treasurer	Don Rose	688-4414	
Advisory Board	Joe D'Addario	568-5035	289-6427
Advisory Board	Gary Bogli	649-4227	648-5030
Advisory Board	Elmer Latham	742-6584	565-7841
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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: SALTWATER FLY FISHING ON FOOT - MARK LEWCHIK - MAY 11, 1994

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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