



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 22, No. 3

November 1994

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

NOVEMBER MEETING

Landlocks, West Branch of the Penobscott
Steve Murphy

Steve's program should be quite interesting and informative. Steve has been going to the West Branch for a few years. In spite of the "Mainiac" black flies, he enjoys the experience and has some interesting catches. See you there!

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

DATE: Wednesday, November 9, 1994

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

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. A pre-addressed envelope is provided for you. 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.

From the Vest of the President



I mentioned at the October membership meeting that DEP's Fisheries Division was convening a short-term advisory group, and that Vin Ringrose and I would be representing CFFA.

Fisheries Director Ernie Beckwith convened the group to look at some broad issues facing the division, such as lack of communication between the public, DEP, and legislators; limited access to inland and marine resources; threats to aquatic resources, including overfishing, habitat degradation, and inadequate law enforcement; and a serious shortfall in federal and state funding expected in 1996.

We had our first meeting on October 14, and will meet three or four times more over the next few months. The group's 53 members included CFFA, HFFA, FRAA, Trout Unlimited, our ConnTac group, commercial fishermen, shop owners, The Marine Trades Association, a private hatchery operator, conservation groups, government and academic groups, several lobbyists, and some members of the press. Quite a broad group of people and interests, and some not always in agreement. DEP staff will facilitate the meetings, and the group was divided into five diversified working groups which will consider the same issues separately and then meet as a whole to merge our comments and opinions.

Our first meeting was devoted to introductions, revision and approval of ground rules, a brief overview of Fisheries programs, and workgroup discussions of what we want from DEP and this process. We'll be sent summaries of everyone's comments before the next meeting, but my group mentioned direct involvement in Fisheries budget and policy making, separation of Fisheries and Wildlife from the other activities of DEP, and increased law enforcement, among others.

The outcome of this process is still uncertain, but simply convening such a group should produce some positive outcomes. DEP is looking for support for their programs and increased funding; we are looking for more input into what DEP does and how our license fees and federal dollars are used. We all have something to gain if we reach a consensus, and something to lose if we don't. We should have more details next month.

The date for our 1995 Annual Banquet and Fly Fishing Expo will be Saturday, February 25, at the Colony in Vernon. This is later than we had planned, but necessary to

Continued on page 4



Help Wanted - As you may know, CFFA has been teaching state anglers fly tying and fly fishing for years. Now, some of our members want to teach young anglers who can't hear. "We want to teach kids who might want to fish but don't because of their handicap," CFFA member John Springer said. "The problem is none of us know how to sign."

Volunteers interested in teaching sign language to the instructors should call John at 203-669-5617. CFFA hopes to start the program this fall.

Many Thanks - Phil Brunquell reports that George Degen and Frank Nott assisted children with fishing at the Newington Children's Hospital Teen Weekend at the Hemlocks on October 22. 12 children caught over 120 fish. One young expert caught 22 fish! The fish caught were mostly yellow perch, but two largemouth bass, some horned pout and breem were successfully landed. Hey George and Frank, can I get some of your expert instruction?

Ed.

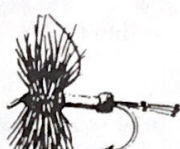
Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome all new members.

Iain Sorrell Stephen Sawczwk
Peter James Charlie Hye

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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COMING EVENTS

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| CFFA Board Meeting | 2 Nov 94 |
| International Fly Tyer's Symposium | 5-6 Nov 94 |
| South Jersey Expo Center Pennsauken, NJ | |
| Contact Chuck Furminsky, 814-926-2676 | |
| CFFA Membership Meeting: "Landlocks, | 9 Nov 94 |
| West Branch of the Penobscott | 7 Dec 94 |
| CFFA Board Meeting | |
| CFFA Membership Meeting: "The Best Places | 14 Dec 94 |
| To Fish in Montana" | 14 Dec, 94, 5, |
| CFFA Rod Building School | 12, 19, 26 Jan 95 |
| CFFA Fly Tying School | 5, 12, 19, 26 Jan |
| | 2 Feb 95 |
| FRAA Banquet, Gary LaFontaine | 18 Feb 95 |
| CFFA Fly Fishing Show and Banquet | 25 Feb 95 |
| Gary Borger, The Colony, Manchester CT | |
| CFFA Fly Fishing School | 2, 9, 16, 23 Mar, |
| | 8, 22 Apr 95 |

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FFF - CompuServe Free Offer Continues

FFF members can get a free CompuServe membership kit with \$15 connect time (costing \$23.95 value) by calling (800) 848-8199 and asking for representative #156. CompuServe can be accessed with any modem communications program, and in most medium to large cities, via a local phone number. However, to keep connect costs down, you may wish to purchase an Offline reader like TAPCIS or WinNAVCIS. Join soon and FFF will publish your name in an inventory of fly fishers on CompuServe.

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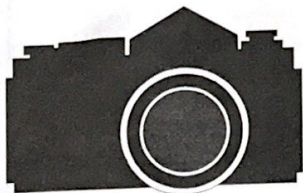
| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Willimantic River, Farmington River and Connecticut in General | 664-3688 (CFFA) |
| Farmington River | 738-7327 (FRAA) |
| Housatonic River | 248-8616 (HFFA) |
| Housatonic River Flow | 824-7861 (NU) |

Tips From a Master for Fly-Fishing Photobugs

Reprinted from *Atlantic Salmon Journal*, Casting Around, Autumn 1993

The action photography of R. Valentine Atkinson, San Francisco, "makes you rise out of your chair," said Silvio Calabi, editor of *Fly, Rod and Reel*, "but he can also put you right in the middle of a peaceful evening landscape. With Val, you can be pretty sure that he's studied the scene, the model, the setting and the need before pulling a camera out of his bag." In a cover story about Atkinson, a self-taught master of fly-fishing photography, *Photo District News*, a glossy international journal for professional photographers, says he has "more knowledge and experience than other photographers in his specialty" and "entree into the most exclusive fishing preserves."

Can skilled fly-fishermen who happen to be fumlbers at photography learn anything from an ace like Atkinson? The people who make Scott rods think so. In their house periodical, *Short Lines*, Atkinson recently offered tips for anglers about to record their fly-fishing adventures on film. Here's a condensed version of his advice:



1. When you buy film for a trip, don't forget fresh batteries. Install them before you leave. Carry spares.
2. Pack a clean, dry hanky for cleaning your lens. Use a UV or haze filter to protect lens from scratches.
3. Avoid fast color films, which tend to be grainy. Use Fujichrome or Kodachrome of 50 to 100 ASA for slides, and Fujicolor or Kodacolor 200 for prints.
4. For shooting during late evening or at night, when long exposure times demand a steady camera, use

5. a light-weight backpacker's tripod.
6. When you buy a camera, get just the body and the lenses you know you'll need. Don't buy the 50mm "normal" lens that may come with the body. It's like a fly rod for all fish and conditions, a compromise that does little extremely well.
7. When the sun is high, use a polarizing filter to eliminate glare and brighten colors. "It really pops out the clouds, and makes for a dark blue sky."
8. For black and white film on a dull day, a yellow filter increases contrast.
9. Graduated neutral density filters, which come in different colors, are "great for mood shots." They darken the top half of your picture, such as a bright sky, while leaving the bottom foreground neutral.
10. On bright, sunny days - at a beach, say, or bonefish flats - rate your black and white Tri-X or T-Max film not at 400 ASA, as the manufacturers suggest, but at 200. Have it processed accordingly. This technique overexposes and underdevelops the film, reducing contrast.
11. Old saying in photography: "If you can't make it good, make it red." Get the friends you plan to photograph in color to wear brightly colored clothing. (*Photo District News* says Atkinson, while learning to persuade anglers to pose, carried "a supply of red shirts and bandannas to highlight them against the green-brown background of nature.")
12. Other old saying: "If your pictures aren't very good, you're probably not close enough." When you shoot move in close.

**Happy
Thanksgiving**



Fall Stocking on the Willi

Kurt Jagielow

This year was the first time for Fall stockings on the Willimantic TMA. The first stocking was 192 Rainbows from the club rearing pool. The fish ranged from 13½ to 16 inches. Some were so deep they almost resembled Sockeyes. They were stocked September 16th.

The second stocking was on September 23rd, 500 Browns from the DEP ranging from 9-15 inches went in. I hope this program is successful with hold over and survival rates. I would like to thank club member Dave Kusma for all of his help. I would like to thank the DEP for giving us the opportunity for the Fall stocking. In particular, I would like to thank Eric Schluntz, Fisheries biologist; Rick Van Ostrand, fish pathologist; Doug and Roger, the drivers; and club member Dave Kusma for all of their help. Good luck fishing, they are tough but fun.

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From the Vest - Continued from page 1

accommodate an unexpected conflict in Gary Borger's schedule. We will have a full set of programs for the expo, a fly tying workshop, and a wide selection of exhibitors and dealers. Mark your calendars right now, and start tying some flies for the conservation drawing.

It's also getting to be election time for us as well as for everyone else. Ed Fidrych, Don Rose, and Ted Rzepski have agreed to serve as this year's nominating committee. They will meet with the present officers and anyone interested in filling a vacancy on the board, and will make a report at the December meeting. We have openings for elected and appointed positions, and can be very flexible in how we set up committees and workgroups. A strong CFFA requires a strong and active board. If you would like to contribute to the running of the organization, talk to any board member, or join us at our November 2nd board meeting.

Tight Lines, Larry Johnson



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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check if address changed

Date _____ New Renew

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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 | |

June 14, 1994

The New Yorker

Dear "In the Mail" Editor:

I was on the porch of my Catskill fly-fishing camp, located on the Esopus Creek, near Phoenicia, New York, when I read Christopher Buckley's piece in your June 13 edition critiquing **THE NEW FLY-FISHING BOOKS**. I'd just finished setting up my 8 foot 2 pc, 4 1/4oz, Battenkill rod (tonkin bamboo, of course), and was thinking about what the big lunger might take - a nymphal variant of Harry Darbee's hirsute old Ratfaced MacDougal, weighted and tied on a number 10 long shank, perhaps. Enormously serious business, this fly-fishing, so I was not prepared for what happened to me as the result of my New Yorker perusal.

I laughed. In fact, I laughed so hard I fell into the famous "Greedy Deep" pool located just at the foot of my cabin and was completely immersed in the pure icy cold waters of that classic eastern fly-fishing stretch. Disaster was narrowly averted, or this letter to you would not be so friendly. Lucky for you and me both that my signature first editions of Art Flick's Streamside Guide and Ernie Schwiebert's Matching the Hatch, which I carry in my fishing vest at all times for easy reference, were wrapped in their double layers of supple moosehide, and therefore stayed as dry as a newly tied Hendrickson. The secret to water-resistance, by the way, is to work a small palmful of fresh bear grease into the moosehide every few months, but I digress.

My other fishing accoutrements and equipment were similarly protected. And though I did sustain a nasty sprained thumb which will keep me from tying perfect patterns for the immediate future, the drenching turned out to be a blessing in disguise, and let's you and Mr. Buckley "off the hook", if you take my meaning.

It turned out that the crafty old lunger, the 36 inch 26 pound rainbow that has outwitted me and my fly-fishing colleagues for years, somehow got caught in the folds of my left wader as I took my dunking. Of course after my wife Lady Esopus (the cagiest woman fly-fisher I know) took a photo or two, I gently returned the old lunger to his watery kingdom, with one final pat to his huge dorsal.

The upshot is that I've started writing a book, to be entitled **FISH IN BOOTS - THE ULTIMATE NO-KILL STRATEGY**. Dave Petzal over at Field & Stream has been promised First Serial rights, and Nick Lyons is bidding for the hardcover. Can I hope that Mr. Buckley will consider reviewing it?

J. Michael O'Neil



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Salmon Need Continued Encouragement to Migrate to Connecticut

Carolyn R. Flint

Reprinted from Hartford Courant, 12/7/93

From my house last July, I watched the west branch of the Salmon Brook lose its clarity and become the color of coffee with lots of cream as a storm washed through. Silt streamed into the brook from a building project nearby.

I thought about the thousands of young salmon fry I had seen poured into the brook three miles upstream a few months earlier. These fry could not hide or find much food in the silted area.

Restoring salmon to the Connecticut Valley is a complex process. Making it successful will require human zeal similar to the drive shown by a leaping salmon returning to its breeding ground.

Salmon need a particular type of habitat for spawning. If they can't make it back to oxygenated waters with pebbly beds found only in upstream waters, they don't breed.

That's why dams way upstream, made to grind grain, make cider or manufacture small items in the early 1700s, first reduced the number of salmon. Later, taller, sturdier dams on the tributaries, such as the Farmington River, and on the Connecticut River itself, ruined the salmon runs.

At first, biologists believed restoration would not be difficult, once fish ladders were in place on certain dams, because they could take fry from rivers in Canada and let them grow in Connecticut brooks. But when these stocks failed to migrate properly, scientists discovered salmon stocks adapted to specific regions of origin and were not easily transferable.

More recently, eggs from the partially restored Penobscot River in Maine have been coddled in Connecticut hatcheries, and these fish seem better able to thrive here.

This discovery is one in a long list of ways salmon demonstrate their complicated physiology. Many Atlantic salmon start their lives in freshets of a particular brook. They grow from fry into parr, dark-barred on their sides, which make them practically invisible against the pebbly streambed.

The parr change to silvery smolts about a year later in a series of steps both environmental and physiological that scientists continue to unravel.

The temperature of the water, the proportion of daylight to the total day in the area, the manufacture of a new internal enzyme, the formation of silvery scales and growth in body size must all interconnect in a favorable way before the salmon migrate toward the ocean and become seaworthy fish.

In the Atlantic Ocean, salmon continue their remarkable life journey. Most salmon from Connecticut migrate to waters off Greenland to obtain a rich supply of food. After a surge in growth over a period of one to three years, scientists believe salmon drive themselves back to the original river system, using the ocean's currents and the Earth's magnetic field to guide them. Then an acute sense of smell helps them find

their way back to the brook.

Of course, each step of the journey is fraught with predators: kingfishers, mergansers, larger fish, eels in the brook and river; sharks and big cod in the ocean. Commercial fishermen also catch huge numbers of salmon.

Knowing these hazards, it seemed amazing when I saw a female salmon trapped this spring at the fish ladder at Rainbow Dam in Windsor. She had completed that cycle and was now being sent to a hatchery so a great percentage of her eggs would survive to become fry for the brooks next spring.

The fish ladder at Rainbow is one way companies contribute toward restoration. Now a downstream by-pass around the turbines for the smolt migration is under construction. If salmon are to continue to live in Connecticut, improvements must continue as new problems occur. Local and state officials with power to oversee development projects will need even more vigilance.

But rules without vision are sterile. The vision of the day when Connecticut anglers can stay here to catch the fish that fights makes them willing to pay the tax on sporting equipment supporting most of the restoration project.

And the vision of 15-pound salmon bodies coursing through the shallows behind my house helps me continue my research.

Maybe children's seeing the hatchery fry hiding by the stream cobble and then watching the waters at the dam for an adult salmon could spark the long-term vision needed by non-anglers to encourage the restoration project.

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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, 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

Patterns being identified

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, 18 Somerset Drive, Windsor, CT 06095, Phone, (203) 632-9912

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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.



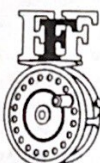
NOVEMBER MEETING: LANDLOCKS, WEST BRANCH OF THE PENOBSCOTT - NOVEMBER 9, 1994

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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