# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association September 1994 Volume 22, No. 1

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

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING Saltwater Fly Fishing - Stripers and Blues Mark Sedotti

We have a timely program to start the 94-95 CFFA program year. Mark is best known for his big fish patterns that imitate bunker, as well as other innovative flies. Besides presenting a slide show on fishing for big stripers and blues with bunker flies, Mark will be conducting a class on long distance fly casting. The class will cost ten dollars and is open to the first fifteen club members and will be held prior to the meeting, starting at 6:00pm.

This will be a great opportunity to fine tune your long distance casting!

PLACE:

Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse

Sunset Ridge

East Hartford, CT

DATE:

Wednesday, Sept 14, 1994

TIME:

Fly Casting - 6:00pm Fly Tying - 7:00pm

Program - 7:30pm

# **CFFA GETS** THE HEADLINES

Did you see the Federation of Fly Fishers Quarterly Journal, "The FFF Quill," Summer 1994 issue? If you didn't, not only did you miss the normally excellent publication but that issue seemed to be either CFFA or Connecticut dedicated. Well, a bit of overstatement but you will have to excuse me for the pride. You see, CFFA member Phil Brunquell's article "Newington Vignettes" from the L&L was republished on Page 4. Page 5 ran an article by CFFA member John Springer, "Kids and Fly Fishing - Giving Something Back." On Page 9, our book "The Flyfisher's Companion" was reviewed favorably. On Page 10, John Bellows, CT's own and FFF NEC President, reported on CFFA, HFFA and FRAA and several TU Chapters participation in CONNTAC - CT Trout Anglers Coalition. On Page 14, Don Phillips a past longtime CFFA member, had an article on "Fishing for Information". Talk about visibility for CFFA and Connecticut!!

## From the Vest of the President



It's September again, and we're off to another year of programs and activities. I'm looking forward to the "fish stories", and to some cooler and dryer weather, as well. Our speaker this

month will be Mark Sedotti, who participated in our Expo last year. Mark ties and casts some unbelievably large flies, and will give a casting seminar for up to 15 persons before the meeting. Details elsewhere in this issue. Remember that coffee and donuts after the program will be free this year. We will try to have decaf for those of us who don't do well on high test late in the evening.

Our June weekends at The Moorings continue to be popular and successful. We scheduled and filled two weekends this year! Reports are that lots of fish were caught, and some new areas tried out. Interest is so high that we have booked a weekend in late September, as well. This may be filled at The Moorings, but room should be available up the street at the motel. (You won't be with the main group, but you can walk right out the door and fish.) I didn't make the trip this year, but had the consolation of being on the Vineyard and fishing the worm hatch on the outgoing tide at Little Bridge. I pretty much had the place to myself the first few days, and the fishing was very good. I got broken off in weeds by the biggest striper I've hooked so far, and I'm looking forward to the Fall fishing on the Rhode Island Shore.

I was very pleased to hear from Phil Brunquell that the fly tying program at Newington Children's Hospital won the volunteer program award for Region 1 (New England) from the American Hospital Association. Phil went to the AHA Convention in Dallas in August to receive awards for the Hospital and CFFA. He will present our award at the September meeting. Well deserved congratulations to all of you who participated. It shows what can happen when someone has a good idea and people pitch in to help.

George Degen coordinated the very successful fly tying demonstration at the South Windsor Library in late July. Phil Brunquell gave a short talk about his book and flyfishing and outfitted a young volunteer in the appropriate gear. George, Phil, his children Amy and Christopher, Gary Bogli and Ernie Boutiette then demonstrated a few patterns and invited the children to tie. More than 20 persons attended, and we had a very nice article in the Courant.

CFFA will have a booth at the Rockville Fish and Game Club's show on Sunday September 25 to celebrate National Continued on page 4



**NOTICE** - What tapes (fly fishing related) would you like to see? Let us know your desire and CFFA will do what it can to accommodate you. Contact Charlie Place. His number is on the last page of this issue.

PHOTO CONTEST - This year CFFA plans to provide an award to a member who takes the best photo. Your photo must be related to fly fishing, fly tying, etc. Send in your photo to any Board member for judging. Your photo will be returned. Winner will be announced at the February Banquet.

FISHING CAMP - This coming summer (we do plan ahead don't we?) CFFA plans to sponsor a child to Wesleyan University's Fish Tech Northeast. The May 94 issue of *Lines & Leaders* described this year's camp. In the February 95 L&L, you will hear more on when and how to submit your nominee for the camp.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES - Through Kurt Jagielow's leadership the following has been accomplished since your last newsletter.

- River Planting 600 Shad Bushes, Silky Dogwoods and Norwegian Spruces have been planted along the banks of the Willimantic TMA.
- Stocking over 200 brown trout fingerlings were put into the Willi TMA.
- Rearing Pool The feeder has been rebuilt, and the inlet has been repaired. 175 rainbows all about 11 inches long were put into the pool last May for a Fall stocking. We will keep you posted.

FARMINGTON RIVER SPLASH - This year's event was lots of fun. While lots of members were at the Cape for a little striper fishing, Steve Murphy and yours truly staffed the CFFA booth next to the FRAA. It was a pleasant day sharing the sport with the public with lots of people inquiring about fly fishing, where to go and what CFFA has to offer. We tied lots of flies. Learned about new fishing venues and techniques (and you thought we were there to inform the public). Thanks Steve for the company.

FFF NEC CONCLAVE - This year Dick Vanasse and I were fortunate to represent CFFA at the North East Council's Conclave in Lake Placid, NY. What an event! Gary LaFontaine was the banquet speaker. He talked about Montana and Montana's Fly Fishing. I've heard this program before but I always enjoy it. The Green Mountain Fly Tyers were represented. Awards

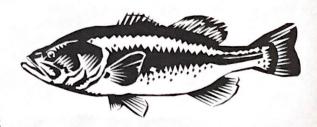
were presented, including one to the FRAA for their activities associated with the TMA and the Wild & Scenic River designation for the Farmington River. Congrats! I met Tom Dewey, one of the creators of FLYbase, a database computer program to enable the fishermen to manage and collect information on insect hatches. (I am reviewing the program and will provide the results of that review in the next issue of Lines & Leaders.) Tom Farmer, the warm water proponent. conducted a float tube flotilla on Lake Placid one early morning for some bass, rainbows and lake trout. They fished with success. A real learning experience was the BLACKFLIES! The scenery was terrific, the people great and the fishing??? Well...talk to Dick. Thanks CFFA for the opportunity. Ed.

### COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	7 Sept 94	
CFFA Membership Meeting	14 Sept 94	
Rockville Fish & Game Club Show	25 Sept 94	
National Hunting & Fishing Day	25 Sept 94	
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Oct 94	
CFFA Membership Meeting	12 Oct 94	
International Fly Tyer's Symposium		
South Jersey Expo Center	5-6 Nov 94	
Pennsauken, NJ		
Contact Chuck Furminsky		
814-926-2676		
CFFA Rod Building School	14 Dec, 94, 5,	
	12,19,26 Jan 95	
CFFA Fly Tying School	5, 12, 19, 26 Jan	
	2 Feb 95	
CFFA Annual Banquet	11 Feb 95	
CFFA Fly Fishing School	2,9,16,23 Mar,	
	8, 22 Apr 95	

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CUSTOM HUNTING ARROWS

# FISHING CONDITIONS **HOTLINE NUMBERS**







Willimantic River, Farmington River and Connecticut in

664-3688 (CFFA)

738-7327 (FRAA)

Farmington River

248-8616 (HFFA)

Housatonic River

Housatonic River Flow

824-7861 (NU)

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

### September 17 (cloudy and damp, 58 degrees) The Best Time of Year

This is, for many reasons, one of the best times of the year to be up here - the very beginning of autumn. The absence of humans in the colony this afternoon meant, as it usually does, that the woodland critters had taken over. I sighted 8 wild turkeys strutting across the road in front of O'Grady's (I drove the car to within 3 feet of them), a total of six deer, and two bunny rabbits - all just on the drive up the hill to the cabin.

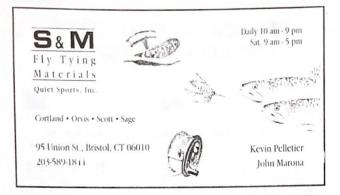
Mice From Hell Department - One of the traps I left in the kitchen two weeks ago held the almost skeletal remains of a mouse. Uncle Peter, upon my request, taught me the proper way to bait a mouse trap (I'd simply been placing the bait on top of the little dohickey - WRONG). Take your bait, a snipsle (snipsle? Ed.) of bacon in this case, and shove it firmly under the little do-hickey, so that mousey has to tug and pull at it. Then - SNAP! In the past month we've zapped a bunch of the little buggers. They were particularly pesky early in the season.

They'd actually managed to topple some surprisingly heavy kitchen containers to get at the contents containers that had never before been felled. I began to think of the current mouse generation in our cabin as "The Mice From Hell." On arrival this afternoon, besides the corpse, there was little of the previously overwhelming signs of mouse activity in the kitchen. Only moderate accumulations of mouse---- around the little bar of soap next to the kitchen sink. As of now three traps are newly baited with fresh bacon rind trimmed with a tantalizing border of soft delicious fat. Each trap is secured by an eight inch length of sturdy twine, tied to a solid immovable kitchen object. Without this precaution the victim (being a strong country mouse - not a sickly city slicker) is often able to stagger off with the trap about its neck, to disappear behind or under something or other. There it dies, to be discovered days or weeks later as a result of its ripening smell and the dedicated caravans of ants arriving to pay homage.

In other parts of the cabin this time of year one finds signs of the mice's preparation for winter - nest building, food storage and such. I put on my fishing boot this afternoon, which had been on the floor in the unattended cabin for the last few weeks, yanked it off, and began shaking it like a mad man. Mousey had methodically stuffed the following items into it during my absence:

- An old plastic cap from a can of shaving cream (old because it was dusty and faded in hue, and the price tag on it said 98 cents).
- 3 feet of monofilament fishing leader with one incredibly mangled splitshot attached (through some grace of providence there was no hook tied
- 376 half-inch long brown cigar-shaped seeds from one of our many woodland trees (to be inspected more closely and identified at a later date).
- A good ounce of raw brown rice, three dried chili peppers, and five small cloves of garlic.

I shudder to think what else would have been added to this cache, if I hadn't decided to go fishing when I did. The boots are now hanging up in the closet, where they should have been in the first place.



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- 2 tapes per person.
- \$2 per tape per month.
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- \$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.

Alan Cox Mark Romero Paul Dinice Keith Strubbe George Gianopoulos

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.

From the Vest - Continued from page 1

Hunting and Fishing Day. This will be free to the public, and a good opportunity to recruit some new members. At the September meeting, we will be looking for volunteers to man the booth.

We did have some bad news this summer, though. We were shocked to hear from Ken Parkany that Gary LaFontaine's wife, Ardys, had died in June. We sent a card and made a donation to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut in her memory, but those of you who know Gary may wish to send a card or a note as well. His address is P.O. Box 166, Deer Lodge, MT 59722.



# **Educational Booklets Available from FFF**



Reprinted from "The FFF Ouill"

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) has produced a series of eight booklets for the use of its members and member clubs. This series is designed to make some of the vast body of fly fishing information available inexpensively. The prices reflect cost of printing and handling; this is not a fund raising venture.

Introduction to Fly Fishing, by Judy Lehmberg. 30 pages, \$2.00. Contains an exceptionally well-written and concise introduction to the sport, covering information on choices of rods, lines, reels, flies, insects, with just enough information to overcome the initial inertia and to start fly fishing. Written with charm and humor. Very useful for club fly fishing clinics.

The Essentials of Fly Casting, by Bill and Jay Gammel. 26 pages, \$2.00. This little book provides the vocabulary and illustration of the main features of effective fly casting. Photographs are very helpful in understanding the positions and movements necessary to fly casting.

An Introduction to Aquatic Insects, by Marvin Nolte with drawings by Rod Walinchus. 24 pages, \$2.00. This is a good introduction that not only covers the eight main orders of insects, but also provides the necessary background for understanding their classification. A very good first book on insects.

Introduction to Fly Tying, by Al Beatty and Bob Lay, with drawings by Gretchen and Al Beatty. 30 pages, \$2.00. This helpful little book covers tools, materials, books, basic techniques and then illustrates the tying of enough flies to put you on the water. An excellent book for teaching a beginning fly tying class, or starting to tie on your own.

Montana Fly Fishing Opportunities, by Tom Travis, with drawings by Rod Walinchus. 45 pages, \$2.00. An excellent introduction to fly fishing on legendary Rivers of South Central Montana, including the Yellowstone (in and out of The Park), Paradise Valley spring creeks, Slough Creek, The Gallatin, Boulder, Jefferson and Madison Rivers. Information is also included on south central Montana stillwaters. Maps are included along with information on hatches and conditions for all seasons. Don't leave home without it!

Observations on Teaching Fly Casting, by Mel Krieger. 10 pages, \$1.00. A thoughtful set of principles for successful teaching of flycasting and other sports skills. Everyone who teaches fly fishing, fly tying or other outdoor skills could benefit from Mel's well stated theories and guidelines. This booklet has the potential to make a good instructor an outstanding one.

Catch and Release Guidelines, compiled by Terry Lyons and Jim Abbs with drawings by Richard Bunse. 8 pages, free. This little pamphlet provides the rationale for the practice of catch and release as well as some clear guidelines for doing it successfully so as to minimize fish stress and mortality.

All of the above titles can be obtained from the **Federation of Fly Fishers**, P.O. Box 1595, Bozeman, MT 59711 (406) 585-7592. All booklets are printed on recycled paper.

In addition to these, the Warm Water Committee of FFF has a pamphlet on float tubing, entitled the *Float Tube Safety Pocket Guide*, by **Tom Farmer** and the **Warm Water Committee** with illustrations by **Don Mills**. Free. This pamphlet offers a little history on float tubing, with a major emphasis on float tube safety. Information also is provided that will help fly fishers enjoy float tubes more, along with proper catch and release practices. To obtain a copy, contact **Fred Stevenson**, Chairman, Warm Water Committee, 6813 Jones Valley Drive, S.E., Huntsville, AL 35802

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# Record Lake Trout

by Charlie Place Action provided by Ernie Boutiette

David and I were watching nervously over the side of the 18ft Lund hoping for a glimpse of the weighty fish Ernie was battling. Suddenly, there it was just for an instant. Then it vanished, swimming for the bottom. Dave shouted over the sound of Ernie's singing reel, "Ernie! What's the biggest lake trout you've ever caught?"

"Fifteen pounds - thirty years ago. Why?" was the reply.



We just had to go back to Scott Lake. As you may remember from last year's article, Scott Lake is on the border of Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, Canada. It's a forty square mile lake with over five hundred islands. It takes a day and a half to get there. We traveled by commercial jet to

Winnipeg, Manitoba and spent the night. At 5 am, we were up and headed back to the airport to board a charter jet. About four hours later, we landed in Stoney Rapids, Saskatchewan. At Stoney Rapids you "de-plane boss" and scurry to the terminal before the black flies get out of their landing pattern. Then it's a short van ride to the dock. You pile in a float plane for a thirty five minute flight to the lodge. You almost can't get there from here!

Although Scott Lake is known for its huge pike, Ernie and I decided to dedicate one day to lake trout fishing. We wanted a "big one." That day came in the middle of our trip. Our guide Dave stopped by our cabin late Wednesday. "I was out scouting and found a place loaded with lake trout," he explained excitedly. "We'll go there first thing in the morning."



Morning couldn't come fast enough. Sleeping was impossible. (Here's a special tip from me and Ernie: If you're excited and can't sleep, don't count lake trout. You won't get a wink.)

At breakfast I was full of questions. I knew we would do some casting from the boat. I also knew we would do some trolling – I know zip about trolling. On the other hand, I know Ernie has trolled every lake in this hemisphere and probably some dry land that he thought should be a lake.

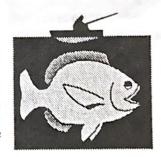
We anchored not far from a small island. "Make a long cast towards the island," Dave advised. "Cast as long as you can. Let the flies sink to the bottom, and then strip in fast."

"There's one!" Ernie shouted.

"There's another one!" I exclaimed. We started the day with a double. And so the day went. We'd cast from an anchored position. When we were tired from throwing the heavy sink tip lines, we would troll. We spent the day fishing this small area by the island. I would guess about a hundred square yards. We didn't count how many fish we caught. A conservative estimate would be fifty lake trout between 2 and 8 pounds – the majority being 5 or 6 pounds. Gray Ghosts, chartreuse Deceivers, red and white Whistlers and Clouser Minnows tied on 9 foot leaders were the flies that were most productive – sizes 1/0 to 3/0. I'm sure there are other flies that would work as well. We just didn't have time to try them.

"It's starting to come up an inch at a time," Ernie said, his voice ringing with determination.

"There's no doubt who's going to win this fight," I thought. The huge lake trout was just a couple of feet under the surface now, nose down, fighting for the bottom. Ernie applied more pressure, not giving an inch, his fly rod arched like a graphite rainbow. The great trout yielded, turned on its side, and began to



circle just under the surface. "She's ready," Ernie whispered, afraid a normal speaking voice would send the magnificent trout diving for the bottom again. Dave eased the Release Cradle over the side. Ernie expertly led the huge lake trout into the cradle. Dave quickly closed it. I hurriedly looped each end of the cradle with the weight rope. Dave hooked the scale in the center loop of the rope and lifted the laker. Ernie and I anxiously waited while Dave mentally subtracted the weight of the cradle. "Twenty three pounds!" Dave cheered. "That's the record for a lake trout on a fly rod."

Note: Dave Blair was our guide on Scott Lake in 1993 and again in 1994. Ernie and I now hold records for the largest lake trout (23lbs) and the largest pike (26lbs) caught on a fly rod at Scott Lake, with much thanks to Dave.

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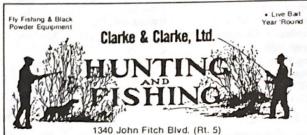
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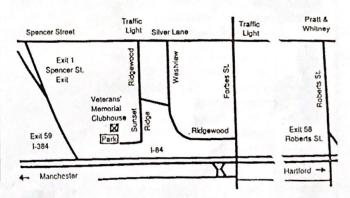


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#### Directions to Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse



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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.



# SEPTEMBER MEETING: STRIPERS AND BLUES - FLY FISHING - MARK SEDOTTI - SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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