



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 22, No. 5

January 1995

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

JANUARY MEETING Fly Tying Round Table

CFFA's annual fly tying meeting will be held this month. As usual, many club fly tyers will be on hand to demonstrate their craft, covering various types of fresh and saltwater flies. The latest in fly tying innovation will be emphasized. We hope to both educate and motivate you to crank out those flies for the coming season and banquet.

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

DATE: Wednesday, January 11, 1995

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

From the Vest of the President



We begin the new year with our fly tying round table. This is always a popular program, and an inspiration for those of us who don't spend enough time at the vise, and don't want to be caught with empty fly boxes next spring. It is also a reminder to tie some flies for the conservation drawing.

January is also the time for our annual election of officers. As usual, the election will be the first order of business, and will take place regardless of the weather. The slate of nominees is included in this issue, and we will take nominations from the floor. I want to thank our nominating committee of Ed Fidrych, Don Rose, and Ted Rzepski for a job well done.

For those who don't already know, this will be my last year as President of CFFA. It doesn't seem like it, but it has been five years since I took over from Gary Bogli. They have been good years for CFFA and for me, but the job of president is something you take on a limited-time basis, and that time has come. I'll have more to say next month, but for now I don't want the nominating committee's report to come as a surprise for those who weren't at the last meeting.

I'm pleased that we have nominated a full slate of officers, but we still have some other important vacancies that need filling. This includes a program chairman, a publicity chairman, and unfortunately, a conservation chairman, as well. We welcomed Ray Riley aboard last month, and this month we said good-bye. The good news is that Ray has a job. The bad news is that it's not near Hartford, he's moving to Sherman.

We learned from the HFFA newsletter and some of our members that John "Moose" Bellows, past president of HFFA and current president of our FFF council, has recently undergone a quadruple bypass operation. We were shocked at the news, but pleased to hear that he was home and on the mend. He will be taking it easy for a while, though, and would probably appreciate a call or note from this friends. His number is (203) 526-4037 and his address is 35 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, CT 06412.

The work of the Fisheries Task Force continues, with a major focus on fiscal problems, and the intention to complete an action plan for this by early March. We will continue with the remaining issues after that, and Fisheries Director Ernie Beckwith intends to set up two permanent advisory groups to work on inland and marine matters. Our next

Continued on page 4

Attention!

All CFFA Members

FINAL REMINDER



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.



Gary Borger Fly Tying Lessons - Here's an opportunity to tie flies with Gary and get unique tying tips. This class is open to the first 12 to sign up. The class is \$25.00. The class will be at The Colony on 25 February from 9:00am to 11:00am. It starts an hour before the doors open for the Fly Fishing Show. Bring your vise and tying gear. If you are interested, please contact Larry Johnson. His number is on the back of the L & L.

Request for Flies - One of the most popular prizes sought are flies tied by fellow members of CFFA. Please tie a dozen of your favorite flies and donate them to the banquet. Give them to Ed Fidrych, or any other board member. Thanks a lot!

CFFA Fly Tying Classes - In case of bad weather call Hotline, 664-3688 after 5:00pm for cancellation notice. A recap of the saltwater fly patterns being taught this year: Clouser's Minnow, Lefty's Deceiver, Seducer, Whistler, Surf Candy (epoxy), Slider, Bob's Banger, Sand Eel, Squid, Shrimp (epoxy), Hy-Tie, and Blonde. The freshwater patterns include, Marabou Leech, Woolly Bugger, Dark Cahill Wet, Soft Hackle, Tellico, Dark Stenonema Nymph, Blue Wing Olive Dry, Light Cahill Dry, Poly Spinner, Hen Wing Spinner, Black Ant and Deer Hair Bug.

Annual Banquet/Insurance Raffle - Raffle tickets for the raffle have been mailed. You should be receiving them soon. The prizes are listed below:

- 1st: \$300 Gift Certificate to L.L. Bean
- 2nd: Zenith 20" Sentry Color TV, cable ready with remote
- 3rd: Weekend for two at The Moorings Lodge, Falmouth Heights, MA. Two nights, two breakfasts and one dinner are included.
- 4th: \$100 Gift Certificate redeemable at Cavey's, Manchester, CT (alcohol not included) - top rated CT restaurant.

Conservation News - Rearing Pool: Fish were put in on December 12. About 200 strong rainbows. Plants have been ordered for streamside planting this spring. Ed.

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	4 Jan 95
CFFA Rod Building School	5, 12, 19, 26 Jan
CFFA Fly Tying School	5, 12, 19, 26 Jan 2, 9 Feb, 95
CFFA Membership Meeting: "Fly Tying Round Table"	11 Jan 95
National Fly Fishing Show, Boston, MA	21 & 22 Jan 95
Hammonasett TU Fly Fishing Show, Old Saybrook, West Brook Elks, Contact John Springer, 664-3688	21 Jan 95
The Fly Fishing Show, Somerset NJ	27-29 Jan 95
CFFA Board Meeting	1 Feb 95
Eastern Fly Fishing & Outdoor Show, Worcester, MA	2-5 Feb 95
FRAA Banquet, Gary LaFontaine	18 Feb 95
Springfield Sportsman Show, Big E	23-26 Feb 95
CFFA Fly Fishing Show and Banquet <i>Gary Borger, The Colony, Manchester CT</i>	25 Feb 95
CFFA Fly Fishing School	2,9,16,23 Mar, 8, 22 Apr 95
Theodore Gordon Show	11 Mar 95
CMTA Fishing Show, Hartford Civic Center	16-19 Mar 95
FFF - Northeast Council Conclave Cape Cod	21-24 Sept 95
<i>CFFA will have a booth at the Hammonasett, Theodore Gordon and Hartford Shows.</i>	

Welcome

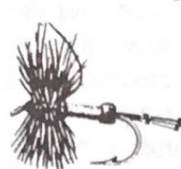
NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome all new members.

Dorci Tremblay	Edd Tremblay
Kyle Davidson	Lee McNamar

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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Kevin Pelletier
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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)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following people are nominated for the named positions for 1995. Elections for these positions will be held at the membership meeting on 11 January 1995. **THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE CANCELED due to inclement weather.**

President: Charlie Place
Vice President, Environment: Kurt Jagielow
Vice President, Promotion: Ed Fidrych
Vice President, Activities: Larry Johnson

Treasurer: Don Rose
Recording Secretary: Ted Rzepski
Legal Secretary: Mark Levy

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Fidrych, Don Rose, Ted Rzepski

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From the Vest - Continued from page 1
 meeting is set for January 12, and is to be a one-night effort at program evaluation. You can't do program evaluation this way, but there has been much feeling that fisheries has not been using its funds in the best way, and Ernie Beckwith offered this as a way to keep things moving. The main topic will no doubt be the proposal made by some saltwater and marine trade folks to abolish the salmon restoration program. I don't know where they are really headed with this, but it will not be a boring meeting. Something has to happen with Fisheries funding, though, so expect proposed legislation for some combination of resident or out-of-state fee increases, a conservation or trout stamp, or a saltwater license. More next month.

Gary Bogli is again handling the insurance raffle, and plans to send all of us some tickets before the January meeting. The prizes will be the same as last year, and you should have no trouble selling your tickets. Remember to get your receipts, stubs, and unsold tickets to Gary before the banquet. Also, remember to tie some flies for the conservation drawing. Ed Fidrych will take these and other prize donations at the January meeting or at the banquet. Finally, please get your banquet reservations to me as soon as possible. If you want to reserve a table for 8 or 10 persons, please have one person make the reservation and include all names and dinner choices.

Tight Lines, Larry Johnson

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 | |

Alaska

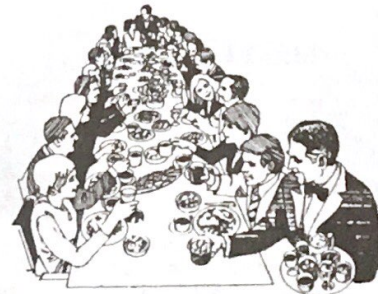
I am looking for a fishing companion to go salmon fishing in Alaska for about 10 days around August 15, 1995. I have 4 years experience in Alaskan fishing.

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

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CFFA Fly Fishing Show & Annual Banquet



The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association invites the public to a Fly Fishing Show. This will take place on 25 February 1995 at The Colony in Vernon. A map is located inside this issue. The Show will be open at 10:00am and last until 4:00pm. Featured guests will include **Gary Borger, J. Kenney Abrams**, author of *Striper Moon*, and CFFA's own **Charlie Place and Ernie Boutiette**. There will be exhibitors, fly tying demonstrations and fly fishing seminars on Trout, Salmon and Saltwater. Admission is \$5.00.

Pass the word to your friends, family and colleagues. You won't want to miss this event!

The Immigrant's Tale...

by Iain Howard-Sorrell



At last my fishing tackle had arrived, it only took 8 weeks by sea (I'll buy a travel rod next time) and as it turned out was a little on the heavy side anyway or Heaven forbid designed to present other than a sacred fly. In the UK I've more often followed in the footsteps of Walton than Skues, largely as a result of the costs involved in chasing fish adorned with "adipose" in Saxon waters.

So as a CT newcomer where do I start? A visit to the local library almost drew a blank until one of the librarians overheard my conversation with her colleague and offered me a contact name - a local rector in West Hartford. His advice started the ball rolling and I deposited 50¢ in the news stand for the Friday edition of the Hartford Courant. A whole page devoted to fishing, complete with contact numbers, reports, locations, etc., now we're getting somewhere!

Well there's no point in my experience of struggling on your own to learn the local secrets - I want to catch fish (doesn't everyone?). So how to go about enticing someone to take me fishing? OK, so most of the numbers listed are answer services, but this CFFA Hotline sounds real promising...



As everyone knows presentation is important (Hey this is just like the real thing!) as is size (better stick to small talk), (but what are they taking around here?). Let's try: "Hi, I've just arrived from the UK and would welcome some (mustn't be too greedy) information on the local fishing." Over the next couple of days I had a

few near "misses" from other sources (blah, blah, speak to so and so, blah, blah, try this place, blah, blah, I'll get back to you...).

As always the rise came when I was least prepared (I was back in the UK for a few days) and boy was it a big sucker! My wife answered the phone, I'd got a take on the **Hot Line**; "I'm sorry he's in the UK until next week"... "Seal fur? I'm sure the can get some for you." Mustn't lose this one, play it carefully, who knows when you might get another chance? Gently does it - pick up the phone - dial the number (Now strike hard and keep him coming before he reaches cover). "Hey is that John? I've managed to get that seal fur in ten different colors, two packets of each for only eleven bucks...(well hooked and not much of a fight either) Fishing? Hey why not (into the net), I'll meet you there..." Done it! What a beauty! My first Loud Mouthed Yank!

Post Script: What a difference it makes to go fishing with someone who knows what's going on (at least that's what he keeps telling me). Even if the fishing hasn't always lived up to its potential the good humor and comradeship has more than made up any shortfall. As a newcomer to Connecticut, I've been very pleasantly surprised at the range of fishing opportunities, especially the free access to waters (this last part is in stark contrast to the UK). Another surprise has been the introduction to the CFFA and local fishing chapters. These have really proven to be one of the most important learning grounds and I can't imagine anyone who seriously wants to catch fish not taking the time to join and attend meetings.

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.

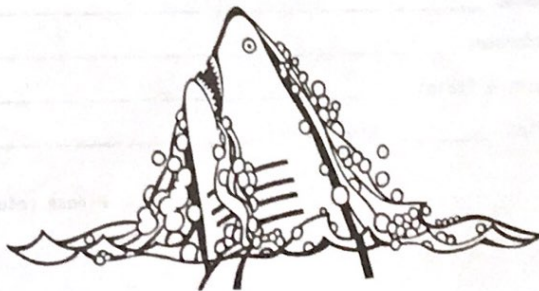
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CFFA 24th Annual Banquet

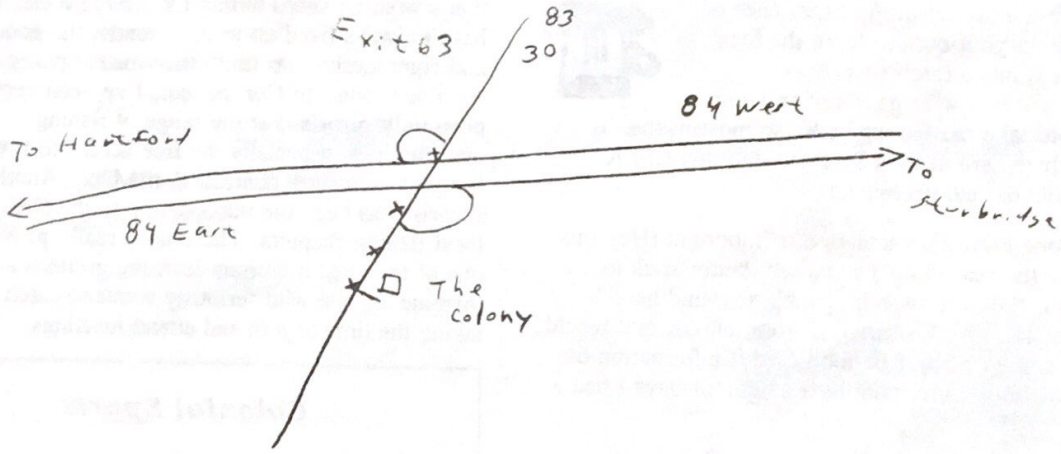
25 February 1995

The banquet will be held at The Colony of Vernon (a map is provided below). Your choice of dinners this year will be Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Roast Stuffed Breast of Capon or Prime Ribs of Beef, Au Jus. Included with the meal will be salad, baked potato, ziti, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee or tea, and dessert.

Your Banquet Committee has worked hard to provide you with an enjoyable evening. We have been able to do this for \$27.00 per person. We will also be holding our raffle drawings that evening. The raffles this year include the Insurance Raffle, Silent Auction, Special Raffle for a Fly Tying Hutch and the General Raffle.

Please fill out the Reservation Form below and mail it as soon as possible. If you want to reserve a table for your party, please send one check for all eight place settings. Your Banquet Committee and Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing you there.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes for the banquet may contact Ed Fidrych at 342-1173 or Larry Johnson at 246-0728. All prizes will be greatly appreciated and all donations will be acknowledged in the "Lines & Leaders."



DINNER RESERVATION

DATE: _____

I will require a reservation for _____ persons at \$27.00 per person. Please find a check or money order (payable to CFFA) in the amount of \$_____ enclosed.

Mail reservation form to:
 Mr. Lawrence Johnson
 60 Willard Street
 Hartford, CT 06105

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

- _____ Baked Stuffed Shrimp
- _____ Prime Rib
- _____ Stuffed Breast of Capon

Please return before 18 February 1995

Spent Spinners

by Charlie Place

A soft breeze rolled off the river, swirling the aroma of sizzling burgers. Roy, "The Stream-side Gourmet," manned the spatula. "Charlie, you ready?" he asked.

"You kidding? Does a teddy bear have a cotton butt?" I replied, famished. Roy eased the juicy burger onto a fresh hard roll already stacked with the works. I bit into the tall sandwich. A river of onion, tomato and ketchup streamed down my fingers and over my wrist, to be soaked up quickly by green and black-checked flannel.

I enjoy spinner fishing almost as much as Roy's famous stream-side burgers. Spinner falls can be prolific, and when the trout are feeding, fishing is fantastic. Don't make the mistake of thinking it's easy pickings. You still must use the right color and size. A proper presentation will increase your catch immeasurably, or get you the trout of a lifetime.

When you're talking spinners, you're talking mayflies. There are many excellent books on the subject of mayflies, so I'm not going to attempt to explain their lifecycle in detail. At the end of their lives they fly out over the stream or river, copulate, lay their eggs and die. They start at about tree top level and slowly descend until they drop on the river, "spent." A tell-tale sign that this is about to happen would be birds flying erratically over the river. They enjoy feeding on spinners as much as the trout do.

Over the years I've noticed that many fly fishermen leave the river about an hour or so before dark. This is not the time to leave! The good fishing is just about to start. This is the ideal time to ready yourself for the evening's spinner fall. Change your tippet while there's still some sunlight. Select a spinner and tie it on. I often start with a small spinner, number twenty, and then change to larger ones as daylight begins to fade. I rarely tie a spinner larger than size fourteen. If I need a larger size, I imitate it on a number fourteen hook. You can always trim it. The predominant body colors are brown and yellow. Chocolate brown, medium brown, creamy yellow and yellow with a slight orange cast are good choices. I also tie some in tan, olive, and black. These I use as general patterns to imitate whatever may be on the water at any given time of the day: flying ants, midges, etc.

I once was fishing with a friend on the Farmington River. He was using a tan spinner, size twenty, and caught eleven trout between one and four in the afternoon. There were some tan midges on the water. My friend's spinner pattern was a perfect imitation.

As for presentation, instead of the traditional cross-stream cast and drift, try this: Assume the river is flowing from left to right. You need to make a thirty foot cast to a spinner sipping trout. Pick a target five or six feet above the rising fish and a couple of feet beyond the trout's feeding lane. Make your normal cast, but before your forward cast lands on the water, swing your rod across your body so that the rod tip points at approximately ten o'clock. Let the spinner fall on the water. As your spinner starts its downstream drift, follow it with your rod tip and begin taking up slack with your left hand. Slide the fly across the water into the trout's feeding lane with your rod tip. Continue following with your rod and picking up slack as needed. Some of your fly line and all of your leader should now be on the upstream side of your drifting spinner, drag free. From my own experience and from many conversations with other anglers, I've realized this is the most productive presentation you can make to surface feeding trout. You need to make sure that you slide the spinner into the trout's feeding lane as precisely as possible. Two or three inches either way can make a difference.

I remember an evening fishing my favorite pool on the Farmington River. I had made several casts to a rising trout without any takes. I finally got it right and slid the rusty spinner exactly into the sipping trout's feeding lane. He took it without hesitation. I set the hook. The trout bolted downstream quickly taking me into my backing. I started to follow but the huge fish broke my 7x tippet before I could move very far. Oh well! That's why it's called fishing, not catching. It's also why I keep going back to that pool.

If you're fishing the Farmington River some evening, and a light breeze sweeps through the treetops and swirls down over the Greenwoods pool, bringing the sweet scent of roasting burgers, you'll know that Roy and I are there to fish another spinner fall.

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Advisory Board	Elmer Latham	742-6584	565-7841
Advisory Board	Ken Parkany	643-9819	280-1844
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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.



JANUARY MEETING: FLY TYERS ROUND TABLE JANUARY 11, 1995

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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