# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 22, No. 9

May 1995

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

# MAY MEETING

Fly Fishing the Deerfield Jack Smola

Come to hear about a fishing opportunity which is nearby. The Deerfield is a fine trout water which can be challenging at times.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse

Sunset Ridge

East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, May 10

TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 pm

Program - 7:30 pm



**CLUB TRIPS** 

Cape Cod Fishing

10-11 June 1995

and

23-24 September 1995

For full details see page 7

# From the Vest of the President



A reminder. There are no general club meetings in June, July or August. There will be a board meeting August 16th. Please note that this is not our normal meeting date. Any member that would like to attend a board meeting is more than

welcome. We won't elect you to anything. Its when you're not there that you're at risk.

I'm sure that everybody enjoyed Page Rogers's program as much as I did. Page's program was very informative and well presented. Sometimes I thought I could feel a sea breeze and hear the heart stopping pop of surface busting stripers. I'm looking forward to getting out to Martha's Vineyard!

Dave Goulet's presentation on "Why Bait Should Be Eliminated From the Farmington River TMA" was enlightening. Thanks Dave, for taking the time to make this presentation. We appreciate it. It's important for the members of the C.F.F.A. to have up-to-date information straight from the F.R.A.A.. As you well know there is a lot of mis-information on this issue floating around out there. I would urge our members to keep a cool head as this issue heats up. Lets not turn it into D.E.P. bashing or bait fishermen bashing. The point is what's best for the Farmington River TMA.

The Willi is loaded with trout. The rainbows that held over from last year are big! I managed to land one of the hook jawed monsters the day before Good Friday, it made my day and probably my year. That fish will be hard to match. I went to the Willi again the next day and caught some browns and another rainbow, all on Hendricksons.

We are already making plans for next year's Expo and Banquet. If anybody has any ideas or suggestions please give a board member a call or see me at a meeting. It would help if the suggestion or idea was written down.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you that helped out this year. We had many projects and they were all successful mostly due to the kind generosity of our club members. We as the board of directors could get very little accomplished if it wasn't for the active support we receive from you. It truly makes our organization special.

There are only a few eight dollar C.F.F.A. hats left. Approximately fifteen. The next batch of hats that we have are more expensive and will probably sell for between twelve and fifteen dollars. We have a gross, so they will be around for a while. We're still looking into T-shirts and purchasing more videos but I wouldn't look for anything to happen on these two items until September or October.

See you out there!

Charles Place



WILLIMANTIC STOCKING - On May 19, CFFA will be helping the state to stock the Willimantic TMA. 400 to 500 yearling (6 - 9 inches) trout are expected to be released. Meet at Commuter parking lot, I-84/Rt 32 intersection North of Rest Area at 9:30 10:00. Call Kurt Jagielow, 649-3681, for info.

400 brown trout and 400 rainbow trout were stocked on 6 Mar. On 31 Mar 200 large and 200 average sized brown trout were also stocked. The club's 11 - 13 inch trout were stocked on 21 Apr. In addition, I happen to know the club's rainbow trout that were stocked last fall appear to have survived the winter in fine fashion. These fish are now in the 15 to 17 inch range. Some are being caught, but they are quite wary.

FLY FISHING SCHOOL - This year's school was another success. 34 students participated this year. Everyone had a good time, in spite of the sudden snowfall during the casting pond instruction. It brought back memories of steelheading on the Salmon River. Thanks go out to the following for their help this year. I apologize if I missed anyone.

Gary Steinmiller	Mike Stewart
George Degen	Charlie Place
Larry Johnson	Steve Murphy
Ernie Boutiette	Mark Philippe
Myron Schulman	Gary Bogli
Al Duran	Ted Rzepski
Phil Brunquell	Roger Plourde
John Cannata	Jack Marchesseault

**MEMBERSHIP** - We are currently at 309 members which is a good number for this time of year.

Ed.

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# COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	3 May 95			
CFFA Membership Meeting, Jack Smola "Flyfishing the Deerfield"	10 May 95			
Fly Fair, Turners Falls, MA	13-14 May 95			
Stocking, Willimantic TMA, Contact Kurt Jagielow, 649-3681	19 May 95			
Farmington Riversplash, Simsbury CT	3 June 95			
CFFA Fishing Trip, Cape Cod Contact Larry Johnson	3-4, 10-11 Jun			
CFFA Board Meeting	7 June 95			
Fly Fishing Trade Show, Somerset NJ Contact Barry Serviente 800-420-7582	7-9 Aug 95			
FFF Annual Conclave & Show, Livingston MT				
Contact Larry Watson 406-585-7592	7-12 Aug 95			
FFF-NE Council Conclave, Cape Cod Contact John Bellows 203-526-4037	21-24 Sept 95			
CFFA Fishing Trip, Cape Cod Contact Larry Johnson	23-24 Sept 95			

CFFA will have a booth at the Farmington Riversplash

# Welcome

# **NEW MEMBERS!**

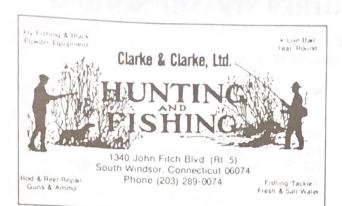
The CFFA would like to welcome all new members.

Ronald F. Angelo, Jr. Sandy Withers Les Krieke

You folks 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.

# 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.



# FISHING CONDITIONS HOTLINE NUMBERS







Willimantic River, Farmington River and Connecticut in General 664-3688 (CFFA)

General 738-7327 (FRAA)

Housatonic River 248-8616 (HFFA)

Housatonic River Flow 824-7861 (NU)

# Cream of the Crop by John Springer

During this past winter Steve Murphy and I started a fly fishing program at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. Because of some of the wonderful people in this organization who I describe as the cream of the crop, it was a great success.



About 3 years ago my wife and I went on vacation and met some wonderful people from California and Arizona. They were deaf and because of a shirt that my wife gave me with a fish on it we started to "talk". One of the things that I figured out was that deaf people

are limited to being only in clubs that cater to the deaf community. After giving this some thought, I decided to see if any of the kids at A.S.D. would be interested in learning about our sport.

It took quite a bit of doing at first to get into the school because I could not sign. But after some persistence I was finally put in contact with the assistant dean at the school, Barbara French. If all people had the enthusiasm that she has, the world would be a better place. She welcomed us with open arms telling me that she had kids that were into fishing and there was nothing the school had for them and this would work out greatly. She was there on the first night to interpret for us.

My slide show and casting demo, as well as 3 of us showing about 15 kids how to tie a woolly bugger, was a big hit. That was in November and we set up about 8 more sessions with the kids through out the winter. Steve Murphy and Bob Quinn came the first night. Iain Sorrell and Lee Moore started coming after that. Then I got George Degen, Don Rose and Ted Rzepski to come also. On our last night with the kids, Dale Mathews, Bob Delage and Mark Lewchik came and we did salt water flies. The kids were wonderful and very well behaved. Ed Peltier is the Assistant Executive Director

and he came several times to see what we were doing. He liked what he saw and agreed to get the kids to Venwood Lake, in Killingworth Ct., for a day of fishing. This will take place on May 15. They run a tight ship up there as far as making sure the kids stay in line and it is a shame that all schools are not run in such a fashion.



Through the Internet I was able to get hooks, materials to use for tying, fly tying books, magazines, and several rods. Through the generosity of total strangers much of what we are using was donated. My Hammonasset Chapter Trout Unlimited in Madison

bought the tools that we use and Orvis donated more. About the only thing that I still need are some more rods. If you have an old rod and/or a reel that you don't use anymore, please think about donating it to me for this program. I also have been teaching kids at a Rod and Gun club in Norwich for 3 years now and all this equipment gets used there too. I need about 10 more outfits. This program went over because all the above people came when I asked them to. They gave up something that is very valuable to all of us and that is free time. I am in 6 clubs and have been now for about 9 years. Out of all of them, the club that consistently

...I still need more rods. If you have an old rod/reel, please think about donating it for this program.

does more for the benefit of the fishermen and the kids is this one. It also has many friendly members who, when called upon, give of themselves. Thanks guys for the help. I look forward to doing it again with you all next fall.

# PALMERS, HACKLES AND OTHER STRANGE NOTIONS

# PICKET PIN

(Reference Dick Stewart, Universal Fly Tying Guide)

This fly is one of those types that has been around for a while but you don't hear much about. A good thing, too! This fly is quite successful and always seems to work for me to some degree or other. Some say the Picket Pin is good fished either as a dry, wet, streamer or nymph (read dead drift). Well, I'm sure this is true. I don't use it as a dry because there is nothing in the fly's materials that lends itself to floatability. Maybe a Picket Pin with a PFD would work better for me. My success has been mostly as a wet/streamer fly fished quartering downstream.



Recently I had some success fishing this pattern on the East Branch of the Ausable in NY. That's right, the East Branch! All the local pro's said "there ain't no trout there. Besides you should use the Ausable Wulff, Haystacks, blah - blah -blah." Well, I tried them. No dice that day. After about 30 minutes of beating the water I

started to look around to see what ol' Mother Nature could tell me. I noticed that all the rocks in the water were covered with stick-like objects. After some patient observation (it really took only a few seconds), I saw the sticks move! I carefully slipped my hand into the water and picked up one of those sticks. Those sticks were actually cased caddis about 3/4 to one inch long. The case was made up of small bits of gravel, some shiny, and pieces of caddis sized logs and branches. A review of my fly box revealed the Picket Pin as a possible match. The colors seemed right - a bit of brown, iridescence, and black, grey and white of squirrel hair. I selected an appropriate size, placed it in the water. Lo and behold, I had an acceptable looking cased caddis. At least this human thought it was acceptable. Within a few casts cross-stream and fishing the fly dead drift, allowing the fly to swing downstream and slightly stripping the fly in the pocket water, I was into a nice rainbow. For the next 90 minutes I fished about 100 feet of stream and caught about 12 trout evenly mixed between rainbows and browns. I hooked fish during the dead drift, swing and on the retrieve. Action stopped as soon as the sun peaked over the mountain and hit the water.

Recently, I have been informed this pattern was quite successful on a popular CT stream on opening day when fished dead drift as a nymph.

HOOK: 3X long, Sizes 8 to 14, e.g., Mustad 9672

Eagle Claw 58, Kamasan B-830, Partridge

D4A, Tiemco 5263, VMC 9283

THREAD: 8/0 Black

TAIL: Brown hackle barbules

RIB: Brown hackle palmered over body

BODY: Peacock herl WING: Grey squirrel tail HEAD: Peacock herl

First mash down the barb. The fisherman you release may be you. If you are really ambitious you can also file away the barb. Just be careful not to nick the hook, especially in the bend. This will weaken the hook in that area resulting in the inevitable break when you have the fish of a lifetime on.

I will tie a Size 8 fly. Start your thread one eye width behind the eye and wind the thread over the hook shank to just before the start of the bend.

For the tail strip off a few barbs from the webby portion of a brown hackle feather. Tie in the tail such that it extends about the gap's distance beyond the hook's bend.

Take a nice dry fly quality brown hackle from a rooster neck for the legs. Size the feather such that the barbs are about 1 -1/2 times the gap. Remove the fuzzy, webby barbs from the feather and tie it in by the butt on the hook shank just before the bend. Wrap the thread over the feather's stem. Tuck the feather away into a material clip/spring so the feather will not be in your way for the next step. I bet you always wondered what that do-jiggy was near the jaws of your vice.

Now the body. Select about 4 or 5 peacock herls. Your herls should be a nice full fibered quality. Tie them in by their tips on the hook shank. Wrap over the herls to the start of the bend. Bring your thread about two-thirds of the way to the eye. Take the peacock herls and wrap them around the shank up to where you left the thread and tie off. Cut the herls and set aside for your next fly.

Now take the brown hackle that you place in the material spring and do a palmer wrap over the peacock body to the thread and tie off. Nice evenly spaced wraps. Clip off the hackle.

Take the squirrel tail and stroke a group of hair straight up from the tail. This will even up the hair. Cut off about a match stick clump of hair. Place the bunch of hair on the top of the shank for the wing. The tips

Continued on page 5

# Palmers, Hackles... continued from page 4

should be even with the end of the tail. Tie in where the body ended. Cut off the hair. Wrap the thread over the butt of the hair clump. Since squirrel hair is quite slippery and can easily slip out of the thread wraps, place a few drops of head cement on the hair and thread wraps.

For the head, take the peacock herl and tie in at the end of the body. Bring the thread forward to about one eye width behind the eye. Wrap the herls forward to the thread, tie off and clip the herls. Finish with a nice tapered head, whip finish and cement the head.

If you have any questions on this pattern, or any other, or if you have any requests for a specific pattern, tying technique or tying questions in general, I will do my best to answer them in the Lines & Leaders. You may get in touch with me by sending your questions or requests to the me, The Royal Footman, c/o Editor - Lines & Leaders.

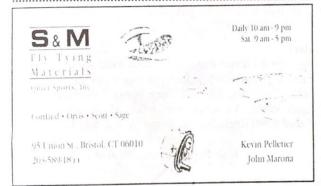
The Royal Footman

# FOR SALE

One 9'6" - 10 weight fly rod from a Scott blank with the best of materials. Cost \$440.00 if factory made. Asking \$200.00, the price of blanks.

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# NOTICE

3rd Annual Light Tackle and Fly Rod Catch and Release Tournament N.E. Coast Conservation Association -CT - Chapter

Sunday, June 11, 1995, Midnight - noon.

Barbecue - 2 pm, Old Saybrook

Entry fee, \$15.00, includes

barbecue & raffle.

Includes all CT waters.

For more info: Rivers End, Old Saybrook, 203-388-2283.

S&M, Bristol, 203-589-1844.

Ed Mitchell, Wethersfield, 203-529-0685.

# For Sale

### Clothing:

<u>Columbia</u>: Goretex Wading Jacket/Size: XL/Color: Tan Retail \$100,Sale \$50

<u>Columbia</u>: PVC Coated Nylon Wading Jacket/Size XL Color: Forest Green/Retail \$45, Sale \$20

<u>Patagonia:</u> Baby Retro Pile Jacket/Size L/Color: Natural Retail \$165, Sale \$80

# Rod:

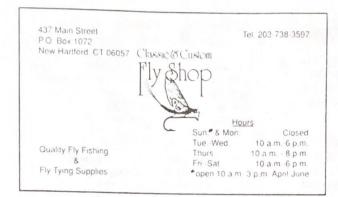
Orvis Rocky Mtn Series "Far & Fine" 7'9" 5wt with aluminum tube. 25-yr guarantee. Good condition. Retail \$215, Sell at \$100

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# Club Trip - Cape Cod Fishing



# 10-11 June and 23-24 Sept 1995

Come and join fellow club members for fishing at the Cape. Here's your chance to fish the Cape's famous kettle ponds or go fishing in the surf. The stripers were lots of fun last year. In the ponds you can find smallmouth bass and rainbow trout. And this year we have again booked two weekends in June plus one weekend in September to coincide with the NEC-FFF Conclave!

### June 1995

The first weekend is now booked. A few openings are available for lodging at The Moorings Lodge in Falmouth Heights for the nights of 6/9 & 10. There is room for 16 people. Since there is limited room, the first 16 to sign up will get reservations. Your cost of \$88.00 per person includes tax, two nights, two breakfasts and one buffet dinner on Saturday. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be \$25.00 extra, plus tax.

Make your check payable to CFFA in the amount of \$88.00 for each person. Call Larry for total costs before you send check.

# September 1995

Lodging will also be at The Moorings Lodge for the nights of 9/22 & 23. But we have additional room for this weekend. It is first come first served. Your cost of \$93.50 per person includes tax, two nights, two breakfasts and one buffet dinner on Saturday. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be \$25.00 extra, plus tax.

Make your check payable to CFFA in the amount of \$93.50 for each person. Call Larry for total costs before you send check.

Send to: Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105; tel: 246-0728 (H), 725-3873 (W).

# **Board of Directors**

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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: FLY FISHING THE DEERFIELD, JACK SMOLA - MAY 10, 1995



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