



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 23, No. 9

May 1996

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

MAY MEETING

Fly Fishing New York Rivers *Jack Smola*

Come hear about fishing opportunities which are not far away. New York is a state with a long fly fishing heritage.

AND

Vinnie DiCioccio *Season on Connecticut River*

Vinnie is a full time guide on the Connecticut River, also a touring bass pro. His television show, "Yankee Fishing" will air on the SportsChannel starting July 28, 1996 at 8:00am and run until October 27, 1996. Vinnie's program for us will be on fly fishing the Connecticut River.

For information about "Yankee Fishing" or Vinnie's fishing guide service, call Yankee Fishing, Ltd at (860) 231-7306

PLACE: Veterans Memorial Clubhouse
Sunset Ridge
East Hartford, CT
DATE: Wednesday, May 8
TIME: 7:05 pm

Note Earlier Starting Time!

MAY MEETING STARTS EARLIER

Program Starts at
7:05 - there will be no fly tying
this month!

From the Vest of the President



Remember. There are no general club meetings in June, July, or August.

Sorry about last month's meeting. There was nothing that could be done. The Veterans Memorial wasn't even scheduled to get its power back until sometime Thursday. Much to my chagrin I found out that we don't have anything in place to notify our members if a meeting is cancelled. I'm at work on the situation as I write, and I'll let you know the who, what, when and where in September's newsletter.

May's meeting is going to be a little different. I know everybody was disappointed about missing Vinnie DiCioccio's program on the Connecticut River, and we certainly want to see Jack Smola's program on New York Rivers. So, were going to have them both this month. Jack's program will start promptly at 7:05. After Jack's program, we will have a short business meeting and our conservation raffle, then Vinnie's program. There won't be any fly tying demonstrations before the meeting.

I mentioned in one of the Vest articles about planning a fresh water fishing trip. How do you guys feel about a trip to the Deerfield River in Massachusetts? We can talk about it briefly at the meeting.

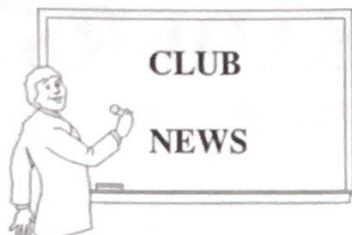
A special thanks to Bob Quinn, our membership chairman. I know it wasn't easy to get used to a new computer system and do all our membership renewals at the same time. Bob is doing one hell of a good job. I hope he's with us for a few years.

The first Sunday of every month there's a meeting at Jack Smola's fly shop in Enfield. Jack has a guest in to do slide shows, a raffle and an informational discussion about fly fishing. Last month's discussion was about the super hatches. The slide show was on the Deerfield River. I even won some flies in the raffle. It's a good time and there will be meetings in June, July and August. It's open to the public and there's no charge. Jack's address and phone number are in his ad in Lines and Leaders. Meetings start at 6pm.

It's April 15th. I've been fishing twice and got skunked both times. I hate it when that happens.

See you next meeting,

Charlie Place



Fly Fishing School - This year's school was another success. 27 students participated this year. Five were juniors. Everyone had a good time. Thanks go out to the following for their help this year.

Gary Steinmiller
 Charlie Place
 Ernie Boutiette
 Mark Philippe
 Gary Bogli
 Ted Rzepski
 Roger Plourde
 Jim Stack
 Tom Spiller

Dale Matthews
 Jim Conaty
 Dick Whitehead
 Myron Schulman
 Steve Hutnak
 Phil Brunquell
 Jerry Wade
 Don Rose
 Sean Hogan (club friend)

Membership - We are currently at 335 members which is a good number for this time of year.

Ed.

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Dave Engerbretson, 1994

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COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	1 May 96
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 May 96
Jack Smola & Vinnie DiCioccio	
Club Trip, Falmouth Heights, Cape Cod	1-2 Jun 96
CFFA Board Meeting	5 June 96
Riversplash, Simsbury, 10am-6pm	8 June 96
Hearing, Inland Regulation Changes	12 June 96
DEP HQ, Hartford	
Club Trip, Falmouth Heights, Cape Cod	15-16 June 96
CFFA Board Meeting	7 Aug 96
CFFA Board Meeting	4 Sept 96
CFFA Membership Meeting	11 Sep 96

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome our new members.

David Vargas	Rudolph W. Kindl	Jim Quigley
Doug Perham	Neil E. Salowitz	Gordon Snyder
Michael Paradis		

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.

Ed.



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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)

Fly-fishing Barnstable Restores the Soul by David C. Churbuck

Reprinted from "The Barnstable Patriot"

Fly-fishing is to Barnstable what baseball is to Fenway Park. The two go classically well together and are good institutions that restore one's soul in the great outdoors.

From the backwaters of Sandy Neck's great salt marsh to the flats of Oregon Beach in Cotuit, Barnstable is one of the world's greatest destinations for serious fly-fishers. Kettle ponds from Santuit to Hyannis offer up freshwater sport throughout the year; and some of the most unique stream fishing in the world for sea run brown trout is only a short drive away in Mashpee and Sandwich.

Saltwater fly-fishing has caught on as one of the most challenging angling methods available to a dedicated angler. It combines the quiet grace of traditional stream fishing with the vast wildness of the ocean. The fish - bluefish and striped bass are the local staples - are astonishing fighters on a light fly rod, providing an experience found nowhere else in the sport.

The action begins in late April and early May when the first small striped bass, or schoolies, begin to forage in the harbors and salt rivers along the south side of the Cape. Good places to meet these first spring arrivals is Cotuit, Dowses Beach in Osterville and the Centerville River. Any pleasant spring evening when the tide is ebbing will find a few fly-fishers catching and releasing schoolies by the score. To make the sport mean even more, some anglers tag their fish for the American Littoral Society, tracking the progress of the once-threatened gamefish as it recovers from the insults of overfishing and pollution.

A week or so into May, the real swimming sign of summer - the battling bluefish - makes its debut, again on the south side. These fish are chasing squid, their preferred springtime meal, and feed furiously along the south side, particularly on the flats south of Cotuit. Catching a bluefish on a fly rod has been compared by one fishing writer as an experience comparable to sticking one's arms into pure electricity.

Spring fishing peaks in June and begins to slow down a bit in July and August as water temperatures rise and the fish move offshore to the rips of Nantucket Sound or the Great Outer Beach. Late in the summer, when those temperatures are at their peak, flyfishing from a boat can yield an Atlantic bonito or false albacore, astonishingly fast-swimming mini-tunas that are perhaps the best fighting fish of all in our waters.

Continued on page 4

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 month.
- Will only be rented at monthly meetings.
- First come first served.
- Rented after meetings at coffee table.

Fly-Fishing Barnstable - continued from page 3

The north side of town, in Barnstable Harbor, begins to attract striped bass by the middle of May. Bluefish arrive a bit later, as both species are sensitive to water temperatures, and the north side is generally colder than the south.

Fall months are the peak fishing time for Cape Cod, as the stripers and blues fatten up on baitfish before migrating south for the winter. From Cotuit - where immense 20 pound bluefish can be heard attacking schools of menhaden - to the marshes of Barnstable Harbor - where bass chase eels among the floats of Millway Marina - the fall is, for many anglers, the high point of the fishing year. Most of the fun ends by Thanksgiving.

One attraction of fly-fishing our local waters: a boat isn't necessary. Fishing is one of the few activities permitted below the mean low water line of the Massachusetts coast; respect and courtesy for private property rights and the habit of bringing along a trash bag to collect other people's trash goes a long way toward building good relations between intrepid anglers and property owners.

Exercise caution while wading at night and only do so in familiar waters. Saltwater fishing can turn from a tranquil to a terrifying experience with one misstep.

For more information, visit one of the local shops that cater to fly-fishers. The Fly Shop in West Barnstable, Sports Port in Hyannis, and the Goose Hummock Shop on the Hyannis/West Yarmouth line are good places to get equipped and gather the latest intelligence on where the fish are.

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Mark Twain, 1875

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**"Assessing Water Quality" -
Winning Science Fair Project**

Amy Brunquell, CFFA member, from the Gideon Wells Middle School recently conducted a science project called "Assessing Water Quality." The project investigated the cleanliness of the Willimantic and Hockanum Rivers. [I wonder which one was cleaner? Ed.] Amy was a Finalist at the CT State Fair. She placed first in the Audubon Division receiving the Audubon high environment merit and placed fourth in Biological Sciences. Amy attributed her inspiration for the project to her fly fishing experiences. Amy is another CFFA member contributing to the rich heritage of fly fishing.

Amy, we are quite proud of you.

Ed.



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From the Bench of Paul Beaudreau

Olive Foam Dragon

Hook: Dry#8
Thread: Olive 6/0
Tail: Olive Marabou
Underbody: Olive Yarn (Aunt Lydia's)
Overbody: Olive foam

The olive dragons are found mainly in ponds and lakes and are quite large. Trout love them as do a lot of other types of fish. The nymphs are predators and swim quite well. Over the years, I have tied and tried several patterns to imitate these large insects. They all produced some action but they all had a common problem that made them quite frustrating to fish with for any amount of time. They all ended up on the bottom dragging weeds etc.

The Foam Dragon likes to float and only goes under water when pulled down with a sinking line. Use at least 4' of 4lb test tippet. The Fly will keep it suspended in the water. I cast out 40' to 60' and let the line sink for 2 minutes with no action applied to the line. Keep the rod tip around 2" from the surface of the water. About 20% of the strikes will be while sinking. The higher your rod is from the water the harder it is to detect a take on the fly. If your rod is 2' above the water and the line twitches 1" you will have trouble seeing it, plus the higher off the water your line is the more the wind will confuse you with false takes. Start your retrieve with one 6" strip every 10 seconds. A lot of strikes are just visual but some are fierce so hang on to that rod. My first afternoon was great, I landed and released 34 trout and

missed a bunch. Don't expect to do this good all the time, some days you may only get 20. Seriously though, this is a good fish getter and easy to tie.

My friend Jan Broga tied this fly in brown and did quite well in streams with it. Both are tied the same way with different colors.

- You can buy the foam in white sheets at fly shops.
- Cut 1/4" wide strips and color both sides and edges with an olive permanent marker.
- Secure the thread to the hook and tie in a 2" tail of marabou, should be quite full (40 to 50 fibers). This forms the abdomen of the fly.
- Now tie in a piece of foam 1/4" wide and colored olive.
- Apply the foam by squeezing it around the hook shank and wrapping it securely with thread from 1/8" from the eye, down to the tie down area of the marabou tail.
- The foam should be tied in so that it lays flat over the tail.
- Tie in a piece of olive yarn and wrap forward to 1/8" from the eye.
- Trim off yarn and secure with thread.
- Add legs if you wish, fold the foam forward and tie down with 6 or 8 turns of thread.
- Lift the foam back towards the tail and wrap a nice thread head on the fly and tie off.
- Bring the foam back forward and cut it off squarely 1/8" past the eye of the hook.
- Trim the foam head by removing the pointed edge and tapering some.
- Touch up with an olive marker
- Eyes can be put on with a fine tip black marker by sticking the tip in the side of the head and turning.



What Is An Aftershaft?

by Paul Beaudreau

On the Scrap Fly pattern, (March 96, Lines & Leaders) an aftershaft is used. I used to call them scrap feathers. Some call them gimp quills and some call them filoplumes. To find these, all you need to do is pluck some body feathers from any partridge, quail, grouse or pheasant. When you do you will notice a small fluffy feather 1½ to 3" long stuck to the base of the stem on the rear part of the body feather. That is an aftershaft and they should all be saved. They have many uses. Sometimes I find some nice ones of different colors tied in with strung saddle hackle.

Charlie Place's Cape Cod Fly

Thread: Brown
 Hook: #1 or #1/0 - #34007 or Eagle Claw #254 or #25455
 Body: None
 Wing: 4 Dark Brown dyed Grizzly Hackles tied in from eye of hook and not as a tail - 3 each Side Copper Krystal Flash.
 Head: Dark Brown Deer Tail or Substitute tied in as on a Deceiver
 Eyes: White with black center

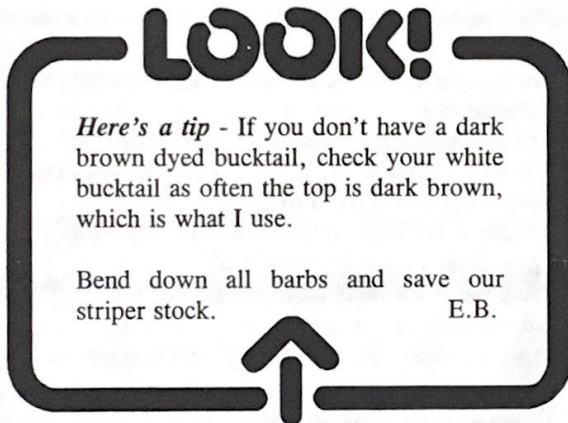
Charlie Page, Gary Steinmiller, and Jerry Wade had terrific luck on this fly!

Ernie Boutiette

LOOK!

Here's a tip - If you don't have a dark brown dyed bucktail, check your white bucktail as often the top is dark brown, which is what I use.

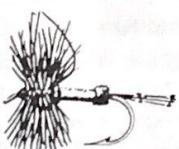
Bend down all barbs and save our striper stock. E.B.



Special Thanks...

Special thanks to Tom Spiller from the East Hartford Fire Department. Tom made the necessary arrangements to make the pond available for the CFFA Fly Casting class.

Ed.




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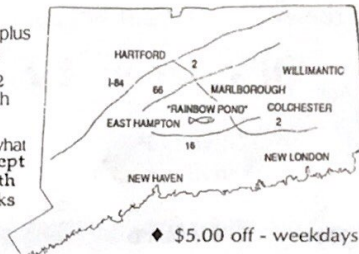
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Jerry Wade Albacore Fly

Hook: 1/0 or smaller #34007, or Eagle Claw #254
Thread: White
Tail: 3/4" of 1/8" wide white rabbit strip
Body: Silver or pearl tinsel - try both
Wing: A very small bunch of polar bear fish hair.
About a dozen pearl flashabou - small size.
A very small bunch of polar bear fish hair.
About 10 copper or gold krystal flash - copper is better, but try both.
Eyes: Paste on eyes. Silver with black center or white with black center.

This fly imitates a Bay Anchovy which is about 1 1/2 to 2" long and very slim. Also caught bass and blues on this fly. This fly should be tried with an epoxy body as an alternative to the above pattern.

Ernie Boutiette

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<hr/>			
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: Vinnie DiCioccio, CT River Fishing AND Jack Smola, Fly Fishing New York Rivers - MAY 8, 1996

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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