



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 24, No. 5

January 1997

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

JANUARY MEETING

Montana Fly Fishing *Gary Evans*

Back by popular demand, our speaker for January will be Gary Evans. Many of you will recall that Gary was our speaker at this time last year.

Gary has been a guide in Montana for over 10 years. Gary specializes in fishing and guiding on the Madison River, about 200 days per year. Gary also provides trips to Yellowstone's sites such as the Yellowstone River, Slough Creek, the Firehole and the Madison. Gary also conducts fly fishing schools on the Madison near Yellowstone Park.

Come hear what Gary has to say about the waters he is obviously familiar with.

PLACE: Veterans Memorial Clubhouse
Sunset Ridge
East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, January 8

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

IMPORTANT!

**FINAL REMINDER
ATTENTION
ALL CFFA MEMBERS**



It is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Please fill out the enclosed form (on page 6), include a check for the dues, and either mail it to the club or give it to Bob Quinn 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 Bob. 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



Thanks, everybody, for participating in CFFA's annual insurance raffle. The winners are listed in this month's newsletter.

Lou Tabory's program was great...wasn't it? I couldn't believe how many people raised their hands when Lou asked, "How many people here are saltwater fly fishermen?" It looked like about eighty percent of the crowd. I can see that we are going to have to book some more saltwater shows.

Things are starting to move fast now. Larry Johnson is already taking reservations for the Cape Cod trip. This trip always fills up quickly. Better call him if you want to go. His telephone number is on the back of Lines and Leaders.

Our banquet will be here before you know it. We would really like to set an attendance record this year. There is plenty of room at The Colony for everyone to come and be comfortable. Ed Fidrych puts on a huge raffle with hundreds of items. Where else could you win a custom made rod for a buck? Casual wear is fine. Long speeches are forbidden. The food is good. We haven't had one complaint since we have been at The Colony. We have a unique and interesting program for you this year. Good company, good food, an inexpensive raffle, an excellent program and fish stories. What could be more fun? February 8, 1997 mark it on your calendar.

Fly tying schools and the rod building school are filling up. Better call if your planning on going. Gary Steinmiller's phone number is on the back of Lines and Leaders.

Mike needs some articles for our newsletter. Winter is a perfect time to relive some of your fishing experiences. What could be better than to see them in print? Writers guidelines: Stories don't have to be long. We will edit, correct spelling and punctuation and won't tell a soul. You can submit anything that is of interest to fly fishermen: humor, human interest, destination, how to, tips, one liners, and cartoons. Give it a try. Info on deadlines and where to mail are on the back of Lines and Leaders. Tip: Fly patterns are a good way to start.

Charlie Place



Trout Talk Comes to Radio - Phil Brunquell sends the following report: Strayhorn Spadewater hosts a radio show, "Trout Talk," on Saturday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on WELI, 940 AM out of New Haven. Phil reports the show as "wonderful, funny." New Haven is the first East Coast town to air the show. The show is live. If you are interested you can call in & talk between 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The number is toll free 1-888-CHUMBAG.

Insurance Raffle Winners - The people below were the winners of the raffle drawing held at the membership meeting on 11 Dec 1996.

1st Prize - Juan Garcia, Hartford: \$300 Gift Certificate, L.L. Bean, Freeport, ME

2nd Prize - Wayne Ringquist, New Britain: \$250 Gift Certificate, Lechmere Stores

3rd Prize - Tony Troy, Amsten: \$175 Gift Certificate, Foxwoods Casino, Ledyard, CT

4th Prize - R. Dahlgren, Southington: \$110 Gift Certificate, Cavey's Restaurant, Manchester, CT Ed.



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COMING EVENTS

Rod Building School	2, 19, 16, 23 Jan
Fly Tying School	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Jan, & 6 Feb 97
CFFA Board Meeting	7 Jan 97
CFFA Membership Meeting, Gary Evans	8 Jan 97
Hammonasset TU, Flyfishermen's Show	11 Jan 97
Elks Club, Westbrook	
The National Fly Fishing Show	17-19 Jan 97
Royal Plaza Trade Center Marlborough, MA	
Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, NJ	24-26 Jan 97
Contact Chuck Furimsky or Barry Serviente, 800-420-7582	
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Feb 97
Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Expo	6-9 Feb 97
Worcester, MA	
CFFA Annual Banquet, Ken Reinard	8 Feb 97
<i>"Ye Olde Colonial Angler of 1770"</i>	
The Colony, Vernon, CT	
Fly Fishing School	6, 13, 20, 27 Mar, 12 & 26 Apr 97
FRAA Annual Banquet, Walt Landgraf	1 Mar 97
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Mar 97
CFFA Membership Meeting Iain Sorrell	12 Mar 97
CMTA Fishing Show, Aero Center	13-16 Mar 97
East Hartford	
CFFA Trip, Falmouth Heights Cape Cod	7-8 & 14-15 Jun
International Fly Fishing Conclave	5-10 Aug 97
Grand Rapids, MI. Contact National FFF Office 406-585-7592, or Show Chairman Bill Halls, 1289 N. Seymour Rd Flushing, MI 48433	

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome our new members.

Kevin M. Deneen
Bruce G. Cox
Robert J. Redman

Walter A. Bork, Jr.
Fred Jazek

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)

The Forty Dollar Ant by Charlie Place



The black ant hurried along the branch, getting closer and closer to the edge of the stream. Above him, two playful squirrels chased one and other through the same tree, enjoying the warm spring day. Almost caught, one gray leaped through the air landing on the tiny critter's branch, shaking him loose, and sending the surprised ant tumbling onto the current below.

Not far downstream, lurking beneath a dark undercut bank, lay a fat brown trout. The struggling ant floated into the hungry fish's view. The scaled predator tensed his body, then shot upward, eating the unlucky insect. Then he settled back into his hiding place to wait for another licorice colored treat.

That's as good a reason as any for how ants get into a trout's diet. Some ants may be just plain clumsy and trip over an aphid. Or maybe the wind gusts, sending the tiny creature plummeting into the cold river below. Maybe they get in a stupor after drinking some leftover "Tantalizing Tangerine" and topple dizzily into the flow. However they get there, they are an important part of a trout's diet, and a fly fisherman should have a few imitations in his fly box.

I've tried most of the ant patterns and I keep coming back to the ordinary, easy to tie, "Fur Ant." I like the versatility of it. You can gunk it up with floatant and fish it on the surface, or you can fish it just as it comes out of your fly box. After a few casts, it sits low, stuck in the surface film. Sometimes just below the surface works well, too. I've caught fish using all three of these methods. How do you know which one to use? You don't! A trout may let a high floating ant pass by several

times, then take one that's just a hair under the surface on the first cast. Why? It beats me. All I need to know is that it works, and where's the next fish.

Where and when do you fish the little black crawlies?

I've got a forty dollar book that tells me to fish along the banks, under tree limbs, around picnics, under playing squirrels, etc. Experience tells me that they work well mid-stream too. As soon as the ground thaws, the little guys seem to be out and about. Even on a warm December day ants can be seen scurrying up and down the river banks.

Ants come in a variety of sizes and colors. For the beginning fly fisherman, black and brown (cinnamon) are a good start, sizes 16 to 20. Tie a couple of black ants with brown legs too. As you get more time on the stream, you can expand your selection by observing what sizes and colors predominate the streams that you fish.

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.

The Forty Dollar Ant - continued

We have all seen swarms of flying ants. These swarms also happen along rivers and streams. It's easy to get fooled into thinking that rising fish are eating mayflies or caddis when in fact there really gorging themselves on flying ants. It has happened to me. After wasting a half hour casting a variety of mayflies with no success. I decided to scoop up one of the floating insects. To my surprise it wasn't a mayfly at all but a flying ant! A good lesson to apply to all of your dry fly fishing.

Nominating Committee Report

The following people are nominated to the named positions for 1997. Elections for these positions will be held at the membership meeting on 8 January 1997. Floor nominations will also be accepted at that time. This meeting will not be canceled due to inclement weather.

President	Charlie Place
Vice President, Environment	Jack Smola
Vice President, Promotion	Ed Fidrych
Vice President, Activities	Larry Johnson
Treasurer	Don Rose
Recording Secretary	Ted Rzepski
Legal Secretary	Mark Levy

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Quinn, Chair, Gary Steinmiller, Mike Stewart
1997 Nominating Committee

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CLUB TRIP Cape Cod Fishing 7-8 & 14-15 June 1996

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!

Lodging will be at The Moorings Lodge in Falmouth Heights for the nights of 6/6 & 7 or 6/13 & 14. There is room for 16 people each weekend. Since there is limited room, the first 16 to sign up per weekend will get reservations. The first weekend is filling quickly. Your cost of \$90.00 plus tax per person, provides 2 nights, 2 breakfasts and 1 buffet dinner on Saturday. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be extra. Call Larry, number below, for the total cost.

Make your check payable to CFFA in the amount of \$90.00 plus tax for each person. Send to: Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105; tel: 246-0728 (H), 725-3873 (W).



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CFFA ANNUAL BANQUET 26th ANNIVERSARY



"Step Back to the Angling in the 18th Century"

The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association invites you and your friends to attend this year's banquet.

For the 18th Century angler, fishing was a test of sportsmanship and skill. It was the pursuit of the gentry who painstakingly tied his flies and mastered the talent needed to catch and release a trout on a line made of horsetail. 18th Century angling was a time consuming affair and its secrets were closely guarded. Information was shared only to those companions deemed trustworthy.

This year we are fortunate to offer a unique show by Ken Reinard, "Ye Olde Colonial Angler of 1770," from Pennsylvania. If any of you have been to the Somerset Show in NJ you may have seen him. He was the one walking around in the angling garb from the 1770's. Ken specializes in the tackle and techniques of the fly fisherman of Colonial times. Unlike the gentlemen of that era, Ken willingly shares his knowledge through a variety of ways. He has thoroughly researched the history and tools of fly fishing as far back as the 1400's. This knowledge is evident throughout Ken's vivid and life-like presentations in which he makes use of authentic equipment of the 18th Century.

Ken has recently published a new book, "The Colonial Angler's Manual of Flyfishing and Flytying." In this book Ken explains the history, equipment, and techniques of fly fishing in Colonial times. This book will be available for purchase at the banquet (\$19.95, pb, \$29.95, hb). Ken will donate 15% of the book sales to the CFFA.

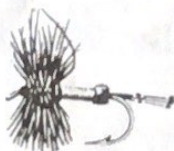


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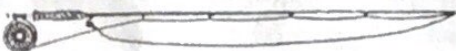
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Connecticut Salmon Report

Reprinted from "New England Salmon Association Bulletin,"
Fall 1996

Over 1.4 million fry were stocked into the tributary drainages of the Eightmile, Salmon and Farmington Rivers but the schedule was frequently interrupted by flooding on the target streams. Eventually all streams were stocked, and despite fears of high stocking mortality associated with the stream conditions, preliminary data from the fall electrofishing surveys indicate good survival of the fry. Thirty-one of the 32 adult salmon captured in Connecticut fishways in the spring will have been spawned by the time this newsletter goes to press. The other fish died of furunculosis but the mortality seems to have been an isolated case and no other fish appear to be in jeopardy. Despite low numbers of sea returns, Connecticut expects a sizable egg take in the fall due to large populations of "domestic" and reconditioned kelt broodstocks. The downstream fish bypass facility at the Rainbow Dam has successfully passed salmon smelts during the past two years but developed mechanical problems during the late spring. Fisheries Division staff are attempting to work with the owner, the Stanley Works, to resolve all problems prior to next year's smelt run. The Fisheries Division is also engaged in Phase I of a comprehensive rehabilitation of the state-owned Rainbow Dam Fishway, which includes the provision of catwalks, ladders, etc. to bring the facility into full compliance with OSHA regulations. Efforts continue to construct a new fishway across Moulson Pond Dam on the Eightmile River in Lyme, CT.

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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 25.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$200.00 | |

TOTAL

ENCLOSED:

\$ _____