



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 24, No. 6

February 1997

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

## FEBRUARY MEETING

*Ken Reinard*  
*"Ye Olde Colonial Angler  
of 1770"*

CFFA's Banquet Committee and Board of Director's present the 26th Annual Banquet. Ken Reinard will be our feature program speaker.

Early flyfishing was a gentleman's sport. Every aspect of fishing using old-fashioned rods and horsetail lines was a test of sportsmanship, skill and patience.

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. Everything you wanted to know about Colonial flyfishing is in this book as *The Colonial Angler of 1770* explores old superstitions, traditions, and methods of the Colonial fly fisherman. 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.

Come and meet this fascinating individual.

In addition to this program, prizes will be offered through door prizes, and the General Conservation Raffle.

Come out and support your club and have a great time!

**PLACE:** The Colony of Vernon  
51 Hartford Turnpike  
Vernon, Connecticut

**DATE:** Saturday, February 8

**TIME:** Cocktails - 5:30pm  
Program - 7:00pm

## From the Vest of the President



I hope everybody enjoyed Gary Evans again this year. Larry Johnson and I spent some time at Gary's West Fork Cabin Camps late last August. Normally I'm not real interested in sight-seeing when I'm on a fishing trip, but you just can't help it when you're out West. Our plane landed in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Gary's is about a two and a half hour drive through Yellowstone Park. It took Larry and I twelve and a half. We stopped and looked at the buffalo, and they looked at us. I don't think they were impressed. We saw some elk and some moose. The fascinating thing about elk and moose is how big they are. You just don't get a good perspective from television as to how big an elk actually is until you meet one in person. I don't mean socially or anything, but just viewing one out in a field munching grass. For the first time I realized that Bullwinkle was just an actor and does not accurately represent his majestic relatives.

Larry had been to Yellowstone before, not on a fishing trip, but he did store away a couple of good places to fish. So Larry became the guide. See, fishermen are logical. The first place we stopped, Larry caught a trout right away. An hour passed and I still hadn't caught anything. So I had to fire him. Later on I hired him back because I suddenly realized that he knew the way to Gary's cabins and you know who didn't.

There are a lots of places out West that I would like to fish. For that matter, there are lots of places in the world that I would like to fish. I calculated if I went on five fishing trips a year until I was a hundred years old I would still come up a few hundred trips short. So I have to chose my fishing trips carefully. Going on a fishing trip out West with Larry was a good choice.

Charlie Place



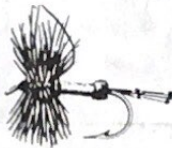


**FOR SALE:** *Fly Tyer* magazines: Send self-addressed, stamped envelope for complete list and price to:

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**Membership Advantage:** Smola's Blue Ribbon Flyshop & Guide Services offers a 10% discount with CFFA membership card.

Ed.



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## COMING EVENTS

Fly Tying School	6 Feb 97
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Feb 97
Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Expo Worcester, MA	6-9 Feb 97
<b>CFFA Annual Banquet, Ken Reinard</b> <i>"Ye Olde Colonial Angler of 1770"</i> The Colony, Vernon, CT	8 Feb 97
FRAA Annual Banquet, Walt Landgraf	1 Mar 97
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Mar 97
Fly Fishing School	6, 13, 20, 27 Mar, 12 & 26 Apr 97
Theodore Gordon Fly Fishing Show	8 Mar 97
CFFA Membership Meeting <b>Iain Sorrell</b>	12 Mar 97
CMTA Fishing Show, Aero Center East Hartford	13-16 Mar 97
CFFA Board Meeting	2 Apr 97
CFFA Membership Meeting <b>Fly Fishing</b> <b>Round Table</b>	9 Apr 97
CFFA Trip, Falmouth Heights Cape Cod	7-8 & 14-15 Jun
International Fly Fishing Conclave Grand Rapids, MI. Contact National FFF Office 406-585-7592, or Show Chairman Bill Halls, 1289 N. Seymour Rd Flushing, MI 48433	5-10 Aug 97


## Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome our new members.

Bob Zumalt    Jim Goggin

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)

### From a Year's Frustrated Trout Journal (subtitled: *The folly and joy of stocking with too few people*) by Mike O'Neil

Monday Night - July 8

Weather - Hot, clammy, the showers will commence presently.

Trout Stocking Day II - what a genuine bummer. Only four active stockers showed up. With me, makes five.

Somehow or other, through the steaming afternoon, we managed to deposit about 300 fine trout into our stream, and lived to tell about it.

We were too few and for the most part too old, but we wanted to do it - so to Hell with statistics. Our premier stocker, Howard, was age 82, then came Charlie at 73, next a steadfast Jim at sixty, then I at 54, then John the younger with his wife Lee and their six year old daughter Julie (God bless John the Younger). I hardly understand why certain prime blood vessels didn't burst, nor why wholesale collapse was not the order of the day.

Twin Pines was perhaps the worst. I'd sent John on ahead with a bucket of 10 for the short haul, and I followed him with my own bucket of 10, to make a longer haul. I saw him and Lee on hands and knees in the sand, trying to scoop one of the big ones back into the bucket. I chuckled a little to myself, being an old hand at this stocking routine, and went around them. Fifteen feet later I was on my hands and knees scooping up the two grit covered fish that had jumped out of my bucket! Then, with the sparkling stream no less than six feet away, I tripped again and collapsed forward, with a depressed bucket, skinned knees, eyeglasses hanging on the edge of a sweaty nose, and four more of the poor dears popping and gasping in the gravel just in front of

me. I finally slid them into The Grandparents Pool--a rough circle of pristine water that the trout liked.

God determines and sets these exercises in a tumbling joke upon us. At the start of each year's stocking, with old hands and nubile new stockers listening, I stand and pontificate and give forth the implacable instructions once again (just as my Daddy did before me): "If for some reason you feel you must actually touch the trout while you are putting them into the stream, please, always, wet your hands first!!!!"

HAH!

When this day's stocking was mercifully completed, we followed Howard up the hill to his place for refreshments. His wife Elinor was there to welcome us. Blessed shade of the porch, freezing cold soda and beer, pretzels, chips, and coolers full of ice. Coolth and relaxation finally reigned, and good talk followed.

Julie, stationed on the porch hammock with a fistful of pretzels and a coke nearby, engaged me in conversation. "Know what we're having for dinner tonight?" "Pizza?" asked I. "Uh uh," said she, "lobster!!" All of us on

*Continued on page 4*



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**From A Years... - continued**

Howard and Elinor's porch said YUM YUM, and meant it. Julie was our relief during the hot stocking regimen - a wonderful child who collected handful after handful of wildflowers and presented them to us sweetly as we clomped along doing our fishy duty.



As the day finally cooled, one of the big bullfrogs in Howard and Elinor's pond went GALLUMP, gallump, GALLUMP. Jim said it sounded more like a moose than a frog. And you know, in that protected nook, it did. Not to put a fine hat on it, but I agree with whoever first said, "God is good."

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**Nominating Committee Report**

The following people were elected by the membership at the January 1997 meeting:

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 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



**CLUB TRIP**  
*Cape Cod Fishing*  
**7-8 & 14-15 June**  
**1997**

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 \$99.00 including 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 \$99.00 for each person. Send to: Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105; tel: 246-0728 (H), 725-3873 (W).

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## NOTICE

There are a few members who have not yet sent dues for 1996. Please send your renewal to:

CFFA  
Box 380268, Silver Lane  
East Hartford, CT 06138-0268

For membership renewals not received, this will be your last reminder and the last issue of Lines & Leaders.

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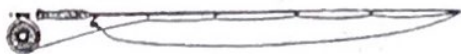
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**KEY:** 1. Hillyer's Tackle Shop; 2. Mijoy Charter Boat Parking; 3. Sand parking area with "Keep Out Nuclear Fallout" rocks; 4. Parking: access to west side.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn left just past Hillyer's under the overpass, continue into the Mijoy parking area. Bear right at the end of lot, note dirt railroad underpass. If gate is closed (rarely), I've never been bothered parking right there. If open, drive through (the water is not usually too deep) and bear right.

Stay off sand! Stay to right and park near RR tracks.

You now have access to considerable water that flyfishes well. Sometimes the aquatic vegetation near shore is a pain, but you can get beyond it. This is not a great fishing area, but its *open all the time* and yields a few schoolies with fish to 24" (on their way to the Thames for the winter?).

The channel swings away from the shore leaving an eddy that can be good. Past the eddy is a large flat out past

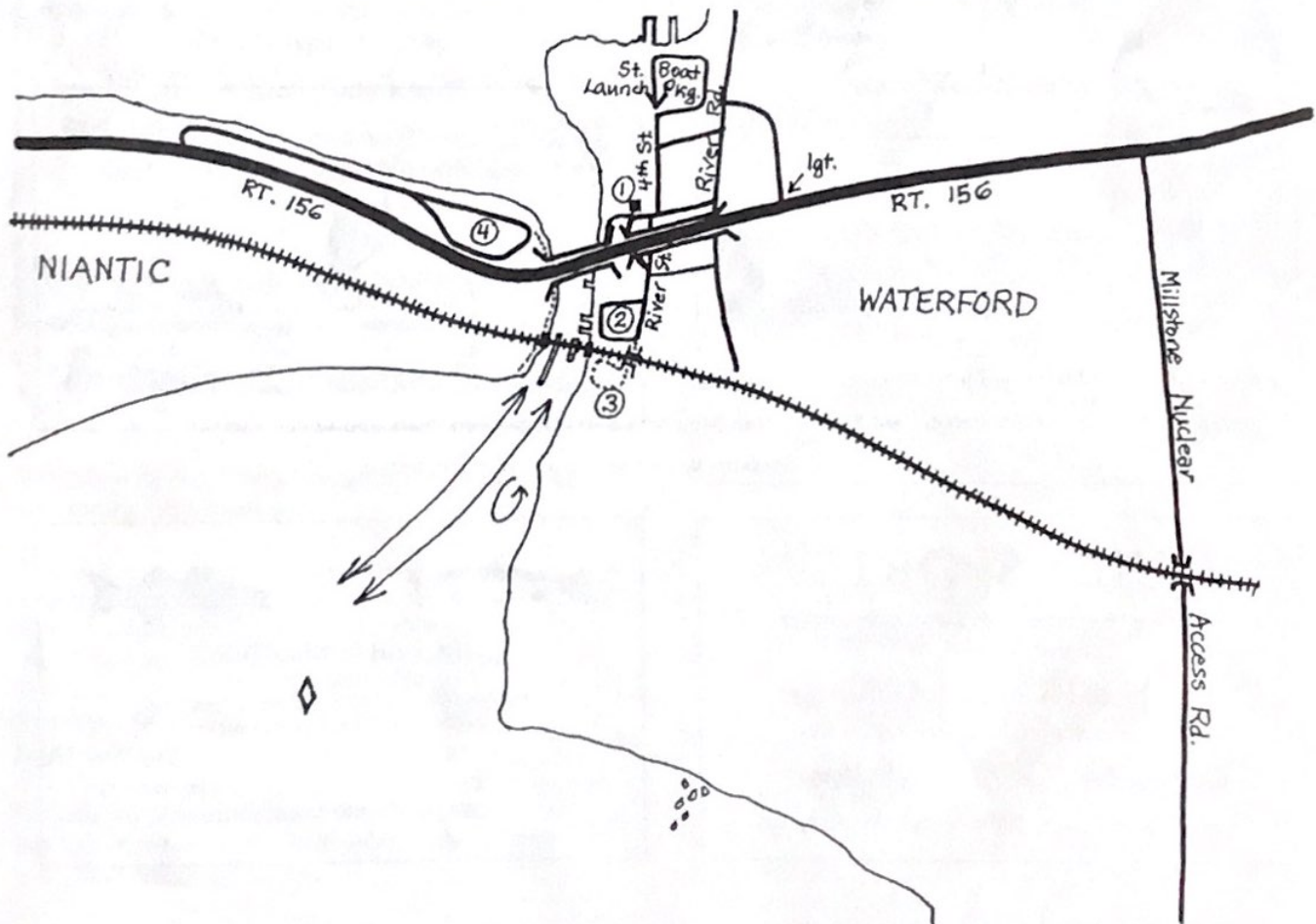
the point that fishes well. It is sometimes but not always critical to reach the moving water beyond it. Sometimes you can see splashing out by the can and watch the fish moving in to you.

Large stripers frequent the railroad abutment edge but are impossible to effectively fly fish, although smaller fish can be found up to and under the bridge as well.

This area has blue fish and hickory shad as well in season, all of which are active on a moving tide. Around the corner toward Millstone is an enormous flat, too deep to wade at high tides, but at a moon low tide you can walk almost to Waterford Island to a sand bar. Occasional good fish are out here as well as the cruising school bass.

This area usually turns off completely during the day light hours - be there before the Mijoy sails for best results.

**NOTE:** The boat launch is first rate and enables one to reach a considerable amount of very good water.



## CFFA Fly Fishing School Enrollment Application

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 26 Pennwood Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CFFA Member \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

For additional information contact:

Ed Fidrych, V.P. Promotion, 951 Glastonbury Tnpk, Portland, CT 06480, Phone (860) 342-1173

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### CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 1997 FLY FISHING SCHOOL - A SCHOOL FOR BEGINNERS

CLASSES:	No.	Date	Subject
	1	3-06-97	Rods, Reels and Lines
	2	3-13-97	Flies and Fish
	3	3-20-97	Water Types and How to Fish Them
	4	3-27-97	Leaders and Knots
	5	4-12-97	Casting Instruction and Fishing (Pond)
	6	4-26-97	Fishing a Stream with a CFFA guide

#### LOCATION:

Classes 1,2,3,4 7:00pm, Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, East Hartford, See Map below.  
Class 5 A private pond stocked with trout.  
Class 6 During this final session, students will fish the Willimantic River with a CFFA instructor and practice course techniques (approach, wading, stream reading, etc.) Note: Students must supply their own transportation and equipment, and have a valid Connecticut fishing license.

#### EQUIPMENT:

For class 5 only, CFFA will furnish equipment for students that do not own their own. We recommend that students do not purchase their own equipment until after Class 1. It is also suggested that students bring materials to take notes.

#### CLASS SIZE:

Average class size is 35 students.

#### TUITION:

CFFA members \$30.00, Non Members \$40.00. Sixteen years and under \$20.00