



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 25, No.7

March 1998

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

MARCH MEETING Fly Fishing New Zealand Kevin Beaumont

Wow! New Zealand. Talk about a far off, fly fishing fantasy.

Well, this month we have someone who can talk about New Zealand fly fishing. Kevin Beaumont of Kiwi Reel & Rifle, Ltd will be presenting New Zealand Fly Fishing.

New Zealand is the Southern Alps which is certainly one of the world's most fantastic outdoor playgrounds in existence. Whether your tendencies run towards water recreation like sailing, boating, kayaking, water skiing, fishing (fly, deep sea or angling) or wind surfing this are will delight your nautical senses!

Come hear what Kevin has to say and, who knows, you too may embark on your own fly fishing fantasy.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Club House
Sunset Ridge, East Hartford
DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 1998
TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 pm
Program - 7:30 pm

From the Vest of the President



I know that I told everybody that the fly tiers round table was going to be in March. Here's what happened. After Lines and Leaders came out, I had an opportunity to book a guide from Montana for our March meeting. He was only going to be in the area for our meeting week in March, so I thought I would take advantage of the opportunity. I asked George Degan, who organizes the Round Table, if it was possible to move it to April. He said he could, and started making arrangements with the Round Table fly tiers for the month of April. A few days later I was told that the guide couldn't make it after all. The good news is that a couple of the tiers who had possible conflicts in March can now tie for us at our April meeting. The bad news is that, as I write, I have no idea who our speaker will be for March. It's February 13th, so I have a few days to find a speaker. (As you can see, Charlie came through. Ed.)

By the time you read this, fishing time will be here, and if I were you, I would take a handful of Woolly Buggers to the Willi.

Remember when Jim Carrol, the secretary of The Connecticut River Salmon Association, was at our meeting? He asked us to write letters to the D.E.P., concerning the opening of Atlantic salmon fishing on the Shetucket and the Naugatuck rivers to spin fishing. I've heard from our Legislative Chairman, Dr. Ringrose, that the D.E.P. is asking, "Please! No more letters." Dr. Ringrose and I discussed their request, and thought that it must be a warm feeling to have a mail box full of letters every day, and that it wouldn't be kind to deprive somebody of that. So would you guys please keep writing. Read further in this issue for names and addresses and a complete explanation. The salmon will thank you.

Here are some letter writing tips that we have received from a professional lobbyist. Keep your letter to one page. Stick to the issue at hand. Don't "burn bridges." You want to be viewed as a rational, constructive member of the community. Be specific, and ask for support on your position. Request a reply.

See you in March.

Charlie Place

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Special Raffle at Roundtable Meeting: There will be a raffle held during the April meeting. A 4 weight Loomis, graphite rod with Sth Reel, line & backing will be raffled off.

Fly Tying School: Many thanks to the people who helped out in this year's schools. We had 12 beginning tyers and 12 saltwater fly tyers this year. Those who helped out were:

Gary Steinmiller, Chair, Tyer, & Helper

Tying Instructors

Mike Stewart	Mark Lewchik	Page Rogers
Ernie Boutiette	Gene Monty	Charlie Place

Tying Helpers

John Cannata	Jerry Wade	Kurt Jagielow
Roger Plourde	Ted Rzepski	Ed Fidrych
Steve Sawka	Phil Brunquell	Charlie Kelly

Our apologies if we missed anyone.

Ed.

New Members

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

Chris Deskus	Peter Glyman
Tom Cox	David P. Thomas
Mark Rogers	Pat Clearey
Jeffrey Marchese	Ron Whiteley

Welcome back:

David K. Kido	Stephen T. Chirdon
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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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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| CFFA Board Meeting | 4 Mar 98 |
| Fly Fishing School | 5, 12, 19, 26 Mar, 11 & 25 April, 98 |
| National Fly Fishing & Wingshooting Show, Providence | 6-8 Mar 98 |
| FRAA Banquet , Cornucopia Banqueting Hall, Torrington | 7 Mar 98 |
| CFFA Membership Meeting - Kevin Beaumont | 11 Mar 98 |
| NE Fishing & Outdoor Expo - New CT Center North Meadows Hartford | 12-15 Mar 98 |
| Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Annual Day, Sheraton Crossroads Hotel, Mahway, NJ | 14 Mar 98 |
| World Fly Fishing Expo, Wilmington MA | 14-15 Mar 98 |
| HFFA Banquet & Expo , Hawthorn Inn Berlin | 21 Mar 98 |
| CMTA Fishing Show, Hartford, Civic Center | 26-29 Mar 98 |
| Northeast Fly Fishing & Wingshooting Show, Raritan Center, Edison NJ | 27-29 Mar 98 |
| CFFA Fishing Trips, Falmouth Heights, Cape Cod | 6-7, 13-14 June 19-20 Sept 98 |
| FFF International Fly Show & Conclave Idaho Falls, ID | 3-8 Aug 98 |



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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)

Fishing the Deerfield

by John Springer

After several years of hearing Jack Smola talk about the Deerfield River I decided to go and try it. Jack has been talking about how much bigger and more plentiful the fish were so I felt it was time to go and see if these were "fish tails" or not! About five or six years ago I went and the water was 80 degrees and the fishing was awful. However, since then "Yankee" the nuclear power plant has been shut down and the water stays cold and the fishing has become much better. When I called to talk to Jack about what to expect for hatches, he told me the river has gone from a Caddis river to a Mayfly river.

I guess cold water does more than make trout fishing good it helps the aquatic life as well. October 14th was a cool misty day and only a few bugs came off.

Nevertheless, the fishing was still great. When you drive along the road to the fly-fishing Catch and Release area you are in a beautiful valley and the foliage on this day was perfect. This is also a river that is found in a quiet area and those places are getting harder to come by. Going fishing with Jack is a real experience because he not only knows his river and its fish but he tells funny stories all day. When you consider it was the end of his season for guiding and he was still telling jokes that's a sign the man likes his job and has patience. Had my fishing that day not been good I could see I still would have had a great time.

October is a time of year to use nymphs and streamers. After fishing dry for a time and seeing the fish come up and give the fly a look but not eat it, I took the hint from the fish. Fish will talk to you most of the time but you

must pay close attention to hear them. What they told me was that early in the morning they were still looking up because Caddis were on the water the night before. This meant to me now the chow line was underwater and caddis worms and small nymphs were on the menu. Since Jack spends almost 150 days on the Deerfield a year I asked him what nymph I should use and his advice to me was on the money. It was not long, and I was into a good size Rainbow. When that famous person whoever he was said "You get what you pay for in life" he was right. During the day I changed flies several times, this is what fly fishers do. It justifies the big vest we wear with all the fly boxes and all the hours we spend at the vice. Still, the only time I caught fish was when I put on the fly Jack recommended earlier in the day.

We fished till 11:00 A.M. then went for lunch in town and stopped to chat with Earl, one of Jack's friends. Earl kidded me about Jack and told me how Jack was not much of a guide. This of course was all good natured fun and we both had a good laugh at Jack's expense.

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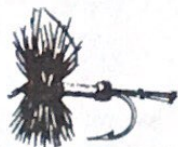
- 2 tapes per person.
- \$2 per tape per month.
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- \$2 late fee per tape per month.
- Will only be rented at monthly meetings.
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With some candy bars to get us through the rest of the day, we headed back to the river to fish. The generating had stopped at 1:00 P.M. This meant the river would be down in the Fly Fishing Only area by the time we got there. Fishing was slower in the afternoon and a few more people started to show. There was talk of a caddis hatch coming late afternoon but we had to leave by 4:00 P.M. So I only got to see the start of it. Fishing a Woolly Bugger seemed to me to be the best way to end my day. Streamer fishing gives me a chance to look around and take in the sights while fishing. My very good friend Terp taught me how to fish this fly and after using it for eight years, I do pretty well with it. Early Spring and late fall are good times to use Woolly Buggers so I use plenty of them.

My box is getting a little low now. You lose a lot in the rocks, and I use about 100 of them a year. However, winter's coming and that's my time for tying flies and restocking my boxes. Terp's gone now so every time I catch a fish on a Woolly Bugger I thank him for what he taught me. My last fish of the day was an average Deerfield River size rainbow, about 13 inches caught in the fast water at the head of a pool.

There is plenty of water to fish and two fly-fishing Catch and Release areas.

Jack knows the water very well. You can find campgrounds, Bed and Breakfasts and good Restaurants close by. If you are interested in fishing this river and want to have a successful first trip, give Jack a call. Nobody can guarantee fish but having Jack as a guide is as close as you will come to a guarantee. Besides with the great scenery and Jack's personality you know you will have a great day. If you want to talk to him you can reach him at 860-763-1856.



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Club News from the Banquet and Expo



Awards

Scarlet Ibis Award: This award is given by the CFFA President to a board member who has excellence service to CFFA and has been especially helpful to the president. This year's recipient

was our Membership Chairman, Bob Quinn. Bob received an Orvis 2 wgt fly rod with a Battenkill Reel loaded with backing and fly line. Congratulations, Bob.

Newsletter Award: This year a long overdue acknowledgment was given to Lynn Stewart. Lynn was presented with a dozen long stemmed red roses for her many years of behind the scenes effort in ensuring the Lines & Leaders was properly put together, doing lots of errands, and reminding the other co-editor that it is time to get off his butt and do the newsletter. Thanks, Lynn.

Fishing Expo & Banquet: Our 28th Annual Banquet and 6th Annual Expo was an outstanding success. About 170 people were present for the evening. Many thanks go to the following people who volunteered their time and worked very hard over the past few months to make this banquet and Expo a success. Thank you very much folks, your help was sincerely appreciated.

Bob Quinn	Scott Carey	Holly Carey
Larry Johnson	Don Rose	Steve Chirdon
Charlie Place	Steve Fasulo	Mike Stewart
John Springer	Sandy Springer	Ed Fidrych
Kurt N. Jagielow	Kurt S. Jagielow	Ted Rzepski

A particular thanks goes to Jack Smola. It is primarily due to his ideas, drive and effort that this year's Expo was well populated with vendors and patrons. Further, the day's seminars and the Expo presentation was directly attributed to Jack. Thanks, Jack.

A very special acknowledgment go to the following folks who were the driving force behind obtaining the many items for the raffle tables:

Jack Smola	Roger Plourde
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Fishing Expo Vendors

For those of you who didn't make it, here is a list of fine vendors and exhibitors who supported our Expo.

- ▶ CT DEP
- ▶ New England Outfitters & Range Center, Wallingford, 203-284-9999
- ▶ North by East Fly Shop, Boylston, MA 508-869-0310
- ▶ Connecticut Outfitters, Avon, 860-678-8050
- ▶ Charles McCaughtry Studio, Ashford, CT 860-429-1016
- ▶ Natchaug Chapter TU
- ▶ Brookside Rod Co., Naugatuck, 203-729-1503
- ▶ Swift River FlyFishing, New Salem, MA, 978-544-2582
- ▶ The James Rod Co., Westerly, RI, 401-348-9338
- ▶ Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association
- ▶ Smola's Fly Fishing Guide Service, Enfield, 860-763-1856
- ▶ George Degen Woodcarvings
- ▶ North Cove Outfitters, Old Saybrook, 860-388-6585
- ▶ Hop River Fly Shop, Bolton, 860-643-4642
- ▶ Round Hill Fly Fishing Preserve, Salem, CT, 860-739-2347
- ▶ The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Fly Fishing on Cedar Pond, Mashantucket, 860-572-6780
- ▶ Al's Grizzly Farm, Belchertown, MA, 413-323-7748
- ▶ Trela Custom Rods, Ware, MA, 413-967-3430
- ▶ Quiet Sports, Collinsville, 860-693-2214
- ▶ The Fish Connection, Preston, 203-885-1739

THANK YOU!

The Board of Directors and the Banquet Committee would like to thank the following contributors for their donations to the CFFA Annual Banquet. These people and organizations helped to make this year's banquet a resounding success. The funds raised will help the CFFA pursue those goals for which it was organized. Thanks again!

CFFA LINES & LEADERS ADVERTISERS

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| Page Rogers | Gary SteinMiller |
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Striper Heaven

by Ernest Boutiette

I wrote in an article earlier how you occasionally run into a blitz of False Albacore. Believe it or not, it happened again this year while fishing stripers. Jerry Wade and I headed to the ocean on a cold November day. We left the dock at about 10:00 a.m. with all our heavy clothes on and headed for Watch Hill Rip. The miracle was that the ocean was calm. Rare at this time of the year.

We never got to Watch Hill. As we rounded Napatree Point, we saw birds diving every where off Napatree Beach and fish breaking under them. They were rising from the beach to about 300 feet out. There were so many that Jerry remarked that the birds did not know which school to work, as they were flying from school to school in a frenzy. Stripers were blitzing the shore for more than half a mile, and this kept on for hours. As this was the middle of the week, no boats and only one fly fisherman on shore could be seen.

As for us, it was like fishing in a hatchery. We caught schoolies; but big fish were in the area as Jerry twice brought in stripers that had the rear half bitten off. We were getting fish on just about every cast and we figured that we had at least 20 doubles. At one time, I made the comment that fishing must be over as I had made three casts without a hit. It was a striper fisherman's paradise.

There were so many fish, at any one time we had the option of casting to 3 or 4 schools that surrounded the boat.

We were lucky in our first choice of flies as we never changed flies for the rest of the day. It was Gary Steinmiller's White Rabbit fly. One day a couple of years back, I saw Gary land a half dozen Albies on it. Since then, we found it excellent for Blues and Bass. I will now describe one of our secret flies. 1/0 hook, Med lead eyes (silver), 4 thin white saddles as tail, 3 gold crystal flash on each side of tail, white rabbit body. Each of the three of us has a fly that we swear by. Gary's as above, Jerry's Squid Fly that has landed many big stripers and blues, and my Modified Deceiver.

For you new salt water anglers, the right fly is as important as the right fly for trout. Don't make the mistake of thinking you need big flies in the ocean. Page Rogers fished with Jerry and myself for Albies and she boated 19 on a fly not much more than one inch long.

I almost forgot. Jerry and I boated over 80 stripers this day. It was a day to remember. A good way to end the season.

A Message from the Connecticut River Salmon Association

from Edward C. Meyer, President

A petition has been received by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Fisheries Division Director Ernest E. Beckwith, Jr. asking that the Department review and revise the fishing regulations for Atlantic salmon broodstock in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers so that the salmon may be caught and retained by the use of spinning tackle. Presently, salmon may only be retained by fly fishing. These salmon are surplus broodstock from the Connecticut River Salmon Restoration Program. The Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers were selected by the CT DEP for salmon broodstock fisheries because they are outside the Connecticut River Basin.

The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) which manages the restoration program was

created by the legislatures of the four Connecticut River Basin states, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The legislation passed by these four states and ratified by the US Congress requires the usual individual state angling license and, in addition, a special CRASC salmon license when fishing for sea-run Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River watershed. All four states are stocking their broodstock salmon outside the watershed so that the special CRASC salmon license is not presently required for these fisheries. The regulations governing the salmon broodstock fishery are made in Connecticut by The DEP.

Fishing on both the Naugatuck and Shetucket rivers is permitted by "angling" only but with no other gear restrictions. This means that a licensed angler may fish

these rivers with any angling gear and may retain any permitted fish except Atlantic salmon. However, any Atlantic salmon caught must be returned to the river, unharmed, unless taken by the use of artificial flies. Thus, one can enjoy catching a salmon by the use of spinning or casting gear but must release the fish unharmed.

The 1998 CT DEP Angler's Guide reads in part:

"How to catch Atlantic salmon: The fishery is flyfishing only and a one fish per day limit...Anglers who have not previously flyfished should not be intimidated; fancy equipment and great casting skills are not necessary to catch these fish. Many novice flyfishers have been happily introduced to the sport of flyfishing through this salmon fishery."

Historically, Atlantic salmon have been caught by every means imaginable: fly fishing with artificial flies; hook and line with bait or lures and by snagging and netting to name a few. The methods have varied based on technology, cost, convenience or ease of catching, salmon abundance and angling tradition. But flyfishing is now considered the traditional and only acceptable method in most countries which have rivers containing sea-run, wild Atlantic salmon. Fly fishing only is the rule in virtually all North American rivers which contain sea-run Atlantic salmon.

We urge the members of CFFA and any other interested parties to write and support the current regulations: fly fishing as the only method allowed if one is to retain broodstock salmon in the Naugatuck and Shetucket rivers. Other types of angling should continue to be allowed for all permitted species of fish. Allowing spin fishing or the use of other gear types defies tradition; provides for easy, albeit illegal, snagging; will likely cause confrontations between spin fishermen and fly fishermen; and will create difficulties in enforcing the fly fishing only rule within the Connecticut River Basin when sufficient sea-run salmon are available to allow a fishery.

Please write letters supporting **no change in the present salmon broodstock fishing regulations** to:

Arthur J. Rocque, Jr. Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford CT 06106

Copies may be sent to Ernest J. Beckwith, Jr.; Director, Fisheries Division and Edward C. Parker, Chief, Bureau of Natural Resources, both at the same address.

**HFFA Annual
Expo and Banquet
Saturday, March 21, 1998
Hawthorne Inn, Berlin CT**

**Exposition: 10 am - 4pm
Banquet: 6pm - 7pm Raffle Ticket Sales
7pm Dinner**

Exposition News:

HFFA has a great line up of great speakers for their Expo, including Sylvester Nemes and Page Rogers. In addition to great speakers, there will be fly tying demonstrations, including saltwater, traditional salmon flies, and trout flies for the beginner to expert fly tiers. Vendors will be on hand in the banquet room from 10am to 4pm for all your fishing and fly tying needs. There will be great deals for all who attend - members **and** general public. Bring a friend for a great time.

Banquet News:

The annual banquet is HFFA's annual fund raiser. The evening will include a wonderful meal and a superlative speaker. The raffles include great rods and much more. This year's speaker is Sylvester Nemes and promises to be interesting for all attending.

To make table reservations, there must be a minimum of six names. All reservations must be made in writing. They may either be mailed in or handed in writing to Paul Duberek at the March HFFA meeting. For more information, call Paul Duberek 203-634-1974. Paul's address is HFFA Banquet Reservations, c/o Paul Duberek, 116 Jeffrey Lane, Meriden, CT 06451.

Directions to Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse

