



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 25, No.8

April 1998

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

## APRIL MEETING Fly Tyers Roundtable

Thanks to George Degan's special efforts this year's Roundtable features the following tyers:

- ⊗ **Mark Lewchik** - The Mystic Angler - *Saltwater Flies*
- ⊗ **Gene Monty** - Hop River Fly Shop - *Dry Flies*
- ⊗ **Brian Owens** - North Cove Outfitters - *Bass Bugs*
- ⊗ **John Marona** - Quiet Sports - *Freshwater Flies*
- ⊗ **Joe Garman** - Joe Garman's Back Room - *Salmon Flies*
- ⊗ **Dick Wemmell** - Classic & Custom Fly Shop - *Midges*
- ⊗ **Mike Motyl** - Connecticut Outfitters - *Freshwater Flies*
- ⊗ **Page Rogers** - Tying For All Who Enjoy Being On The Water - *Saltwater Patterns*
- ⊗ **Myron Schulman** - CFFA - *Saltwater Patterns*
- ⊗ **John Walker** - CFFA - *Freshwater Flies*

**PLACE:** Veteran's Memorial Club House  
Sunset Ridge, East Hartford  
**DATE:** Wednesday, April 8, 1998  
**TIME:** Fly Tying - 7:00 pm

## From the Vest of the President



Over one hundred and seventy people attended our banquet. It was about the same number for the expo, maybe a few more. We are already talking about next year's event; what improvements we could make, what things we might eliminate, or things that we may add. If you have any suggestions please let me know. We want to make our banquet and expo the very best that we can.

I can't tell you how many people came to me and told me how much they enjoyed A. K. Best. Lots of people also went to A. K. and told him how much they liked having him here, and he passed that along to me. A. K. really liked being here, and said, "It was the most friendly club he had ever been to." I'm not surprised that he said that because I hear it all the time, mostly from new members. They tell me that it's the reason they joined CFFA. Hell, it's the reason that I joined the club. Anyway, it's you guys that make the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association the outstanding organization that it is. Don't let anybody tell you different.

If you made the March meeting you already know about the good deal Kevin Beaumont, owner of Kiwi Reel and Rifle, is offering for a trip to New Zealand. If anybody is thinking about a fishing trip to that far off land I think it would be worth your while to give Kevin a call, 203-371-9987. That's a Fairfield, Ct. phone number. It could save you some serious bucks.

Jack Smola and a dozen members stocked about seven hundred and fifty trout in the Willi on March 6th. The fish were live carted and spread throughout the TMA. I hear that a couple of bruisers smashed their way out of the live carts and are lurking somewhere in the TMA. I wouldn't bring any small pets to the Willi until the big boys are well fed. Thanks guys.

I went fishing on March 7th. The first time this year and I didn't forget anything. Amazing! Usually I leave something at home. I fished for about three hours and only hooked one fish that didn't stay on long. Then the weather started to deteriorate and I drove home. Sean landed three. He walked home.

Charlie

Charlie Place





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

**Ted Barbieri Award** - This year's award was given to Dick Whitehead for his multiple efforts on behalf of CFFA. Dick's award was presented at the March meeting. Congrats Dick!

**Smola Does Good** - Jack Smola is really hot these days. Jack is now an L.L. Bean endorsed guide. He also had an article published in "Fly Fishing" magazine. The article was about the Deerfield River.

**Club Trip to Cape Cod:** There are still a few more openings for the June trip. Room is also available for the September trip. Call Larry Johnson at 860-246-0728. Ed.


## New Members

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

Gordon Stratton  
Bil Ganoe

Robert Kelly, Jr.  
Douglas L. Boyd

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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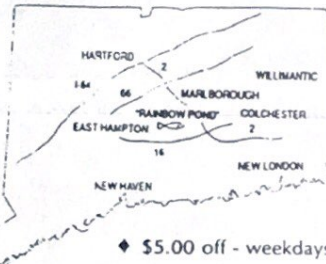
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## COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	1 Apr 98
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Apr 98
Fly Tyers Roundtable	
Fly Fishing School	11 & 25 Apr 98
CFFA Board Meeting	6 May 98
CFFA Membership Meeting	13 May 98
Summer Arts Festival, <i>The Art of Fishing</i> , West Kingston RI, Info: 401-782-1018	6-7, 13-14 June
CFFA Fishing Trips, Falmouth Heights, Cape Cod	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)

## Take the Kids Fishing

by Gary Steinmiller

My last article explained what a bargain I think fishing is. It's even a better deal when you take the kids fishing. This past Fall in the month of October, I decided that it was time to take the children fishing for Hickory Shad, as I have done the last three Fall seasons. I left my fly rod home so I could work with my son, his cousin, and another friend. Three boys ages 9 and 10. I did bring along two surf rods with the thought that we may try for some Bluefish this year.

One of the best parts of a fishing trip is the ride in the car on the way to your destination. I remember rides with my father, which we still take, and my uncle who has since passed on like they happened yesterday. These were not short rides to a local pond, they lasted anywhere from 1/2 to 1 1/2 hours and I loved every minute of them.

My ride to the Niantic River with the boys departed right after school on a Friday. They were allowed to pick the radio station that we would listen to, and they could sing as loud as they wanted. Total fun the whole ride. We arrived at the Niantic River around 5:00 P.M. about one hour before dark.

My son can handle a spinning rod fine but it was a first time for his cousin and his friend. I gave them a quick lesson and their concentration was something I wish they would use more of in school. They mastered the open face spinning reel in a short time. We were using 5 and 6 foot trout rods with 4 pound

test line. The equipment was put through a true test as the Hickory Shad were in and the kids kept me hopping for the full hour helping them release their fish. I took some nice pictures of some real smiles on happy faces. The next lesson will be on how to unhook the fish so I can sit back and enjoy the session even more.

Our trip continued with a short drive to Millstone Point hoping to catch a bluefish or two. We had kept a few shad that were injured and used these for bait. This was a true adventure for each of the kids. They were given the chore of starting a campfire with just a little guidance. Their faces glowed almost as bright as the fire with pride as their effort was successful. I set up the rods with bait and we all sat back to enjoy the surroundings. It wasn't long before the drag on a reel began to sing as something had picked up the bait and began to run. I set the hook and handed over the pole

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to my son. He fought the fish hard and was winning the battle until the bluefish wrapped itself around a lobster pot and parted company. The action continued and each boy fought and landed a blue. These were real choppers weighing between 12-15 pounds. Time flew by and before we knew it my watch said 10:00. We packed up and headed for the car intending to leave. We would have left had I not mentioned that I very often caught stripers under a light that hung over the water where our car was parked. I gave in to their pleading and we soon had the trout rods out of the car again. First cast striper, second cast striper, third cast striper, the action continued, I looked at my watch, 10:45 P.M. "time to call it a night" they disagreed but gave in.

The ride home was better than the ride there as the fish stories began. There was no request for a certain radio station as they were content listening and laughing about their new experience. I didn't have to ask if they had a good time because as we were unpacking the car my nephew Kevin said, "Uncle Gary, I don't have basketball practice next Friday night either."

Take the kids fishing, its how most of us started and we should continue the trend. Besides, Nintendo Fever can be terminal.

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- ⇒ CT Government:  
[www.ctdol.state.ct.us/dol/ctlinks.htm](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/dol/ctlinks.htm)
- ⇒ Ron Whiteley Onfishing:  
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[www.fly-fishing-women.com](http://www.fly-fishing-women.com)



### Children's Fly Tying Help

*John Springer, tel: 860-664-3688, is looking for some help.*

John has been in contact with the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Hartford. She has asked John to do some work with kids in Hartford in a school for kids studying water, fish, and the Sound. Help is needed for this year & next. If you are interested please give John a call. (From my person experience, teaching kids to tie flies is a pure joy. Ed.)

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## A Morning With the Master

by Phil Brunquell

Maybe our obsession with angling can be best understood as a series of fixations. The particular fixation that overcame me this winter was the need to catch a pike on a fly. Having avoided ice fishing like the plague, I knew that my line would not touch water until spring. In the meantime, however, I could gather knowledge. And what better way to do so than by going to the source.

Now fixations have a way of dissolving timidity and emboldening the spirit. So I picked up the phone and unceremoniously asked Ernie if I could pay him a visit-quickly. I should have never doubted his response. "Tomorrow morning would be fine", he answered, sensing the desperation in my voice.

The next day was textbook New England: the weather gods were performing cryosurgery on the unwilling masses. It was quite a contrast to Ernie's home, warm and inviting. We sat down at the kitchen table where he had carefully arranged a series of his pike flies on one of the placemats. Then he described them to me: their order of construction, the necessary proportions, useful variations on the theme - in short, the stuff that is manna for fly tiers.

Our conversation then turned to fishing locations and techniques. I was trying to remember it all; the man was giving me good, solid information. But intermittently I was distracted - by the flies. What can I say? They were beautiful: long, sinuous creations formed from silky, breathable materials and anointed with the proper amounts of flash. These had, and would drive pike wild, as wild as my desire to be the one casting them to the Jurassic jaws. My spirits dropped a note when I realized that I could try to imitate the flies at my own vise, but I would never match the consummate skill of their maker.

It was, however, no time for self-reproach, because there was so much more to discuss. We entered Ernie's fly tying den where he showed me how to build pike leaders that are stronger and vastly less expensive than anything store bought ("Good for bluefish too", he explained). Then it was back to the kitchen where the topics broadened to include stripers, albacore, and other fish of our esteem. The flies, of course, were still on the table, calling, beckoning. I forced myself not to look at them.

Eventually reality intruded. I was needed at home to perform an errand. As I was leaving, Ernie picked up a sheaf of papers. "Read this when you get a chance", he said. He inserted the papers into an envelope and then - my breath was held - he scooped up the flies and tossed them in. I felt my words of thanks fail and hoped that my handshake conveyed my gratitude.

When I got home I opened the envelope. The flies tumbled out onto my kitchen table. My children, both fly tiers, examined them thoughtfully, with admiration. They know Ernie and his work. I unfolded the letter. There in his neat, precise script, was everything that I - or anyone - would need to know to catch a pike.

We never, I thought, outgrow our need for mentors. And how lucky to know one who can break the chill of winter with his kindness.

*(Ernie Boutiette, CFFA Member, has published numerous articles in the Lines and Leaders, many of them on pike fishing, Ed.)*



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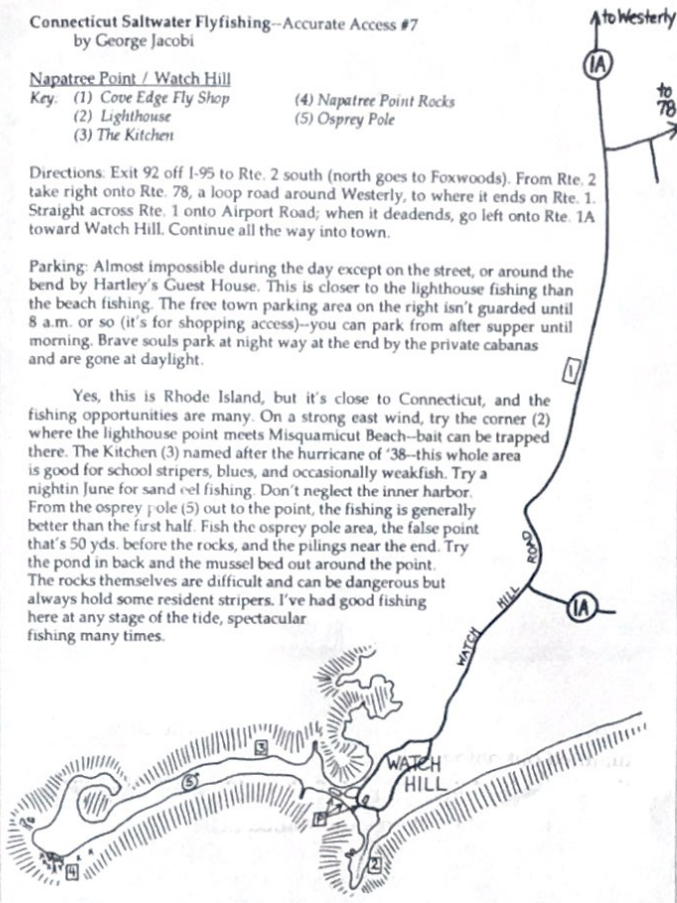
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Parking: Almost impossible during the day except on the street, or around the bend by Hartley's Guest House. This is closer to the lighthouse fishing than the beach fishing. The free town parking area on the right isn't guarded until 8 a.m. or so (it's for shopping access)--you can park from after supper until morning. Brave souls park at night way at the end by the private cabanas and are gone at daylight.

Yes, this is Rhode Island, but it's close to Connecticut, and the fishing opportunities are many. On a strong east wind, try the corner (2) where the lighthouse point meets Misquamicut Beach--bait can be trapped there. The Kitchen (3) named after the hurricane of '38--this whole area is good for school strippers, blues, and occasionally weakfish. Try a nightin June for sand reel fishing. Don't neglect the inner harbor. From the osprey pole (5) out to the point, the fishing is generally better than the first half. Fish the osprey pole area, the false point that's 50 yds. before the rocks, and the pilings near the end. Try the pond in back and the mussel bed out around the point. The rocks themselves are difficult and can be dangerous but always hold some resident strippers. I've had good fishing here at any stage of the tide, spectacular fishing many times.



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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, 215 Loomis Street, North Granby, CT 06060. Change of address notices should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380260, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268.

**COPY DEADLINE:** Second Wednesday of month previous to publication.

**CFFA Hotline: John Springer - ☎ 664-3688 email: AMTRKANGLR@aol.com**