



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association  
Volume 26, No. 1  
September 1998

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

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Grand Lake Stream, Maine - Landlocked Salmon

Our guest speaker for this month's meeting will be Charles McCaughtry. Charles is an accomplished artist with his work represented by galleries in the US and Canada. His other love is fly fishing and fly tying which he has been doing for many years. Come see this new program on Grand Lake Stream and hear about some great fishing in the state of Maine.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse  
Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT  
DATE: Wednesday, 9 September  
TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 p.m.  
Program - 7:30 p.m.

## CLUB TRIP

*Cape Cod Fishing*  
19 & 20 September 1998

There may still be room!  
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.

Lodging will be at The Moorings Lodge in Fal-mouth Heights for the nights of 9/18 & 19. There is room for 16 people. Since there is limited room, the first 16 to sign up will get reservations. Your expected cost of about \$105.00 per person includes tax, and provides two nights, two breakfasts and one buffet dinner on Saturday. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be extra.

Please call Shirley at the Moorings, 508-540-2370 for availability & confirmation of costs.

## From the Vest of the President



First, let me welcome two new board members. Roger Plourde is taking over as Program Chairman. He has already been working hard booking programs for the coming year. Roger and Ted Rezepski have teamed up to bring us a special guest with an exciting program that will be coming soon. Please give Roger a hand whenever you can.

Steve Sawczuk will be handling our monthly conservation raffles and he will also be responsible for recruiting volunteers to do fly tying demonstrations at our monthly meetings. So please sign up and get Steve off to a good start. Thanks. I know you will.

Larry Johnson and Dr. Ringrose attended a meeting at the Rockville Fish and Game Club, June 17th. The issues discussed were the motor boat fuel tax and possible fee increases (licenses) and what we intend to do about it. I've asked Mike to print the "goin's on" as they appeared in the June issue of Hook 'n Bullet. Please check it out.

Remember the last time we agreed to a license increase? The state legislature reduced the D.E.P. funding by the total amount of the fee increase. In short, our net gain was zero. I don't think it will happen again. Not on our watch. Please pay special attention to the last paragraph in the Hook 'n Bullet article and get those telephones and pens warmed up.

Fishing was really good on the Willi this year. I took out several new fly fishermen and they all caught fish. One guy, P.J., caught a five pounder. Another guy, John, caught eight trout his first time out. John was using a fly rod and flies that I had lent him. A week later he had his own. A friend of mine from work, Rich, caught five the day I was with him. Then went on his own a couple of times and caught more. I always kidded Rich because he's from Pennsylvania and he's learning to fly fish in Connecticut. "How is it that you're from PA and you don't fly fish?" I asked, "I thought everybody in Pennsylvania fly fished." Then I shook my head a little. Rich said, "I don't know," and laughed. He's a good sport and a fine young man. The last time I fished with him we were at Mansfield Hollow in his canoe. Rich landed a 34 inch northern pike on his fly rod. I got one about 15 inches. I guess it's time to stop kidding Rich.

Charlie



## CLUB NEWS

**Clubhouse Caretaker Leaves** - Gary Stein, the caretaker at the clubhouse, has terminated his employment with the town of West Hartford. Larry Johnson is following up on this unwelcome development to make sure that everything will be okay for us. Gary always treated us well, making many last minute adjustments with a "No problem." We'll miss him.

**Willi Stocking** - The last time we chatted with Kurt, there will be a fall stocking on the Willi. Come hear the latest at the September membership meeting.

**For Sale** - An outstanding opportunity!!! 5 Barrels (30 Gal size) of fur and hair, moth-free tying materials. Will sell as one lot for reasonable offer. Call Walt Telke, 860-628-6055 for Inventory List.



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## COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	2 Sep 98
CFFA Membership Meeting, C. McCaughy	9 Sep 98
CFFA Club Trip	19-20 Sep 98
CFFA Board Meeting	7 Oct 98
CFFA Membership Meeting	14 Oct 98
American Museum of Fly Fishing, Dinner Auction, Farmington Marriott, Info: 802-362-3300	5 Nov 98
Fly Tying Show, NJ	Nov 98
The Fly Fishing Show, Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ	29-31 Jan 99
The Fly Fishing Show, Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, MA	13-14 Feb 99
CFFA Fly Fishing Expo/Banquet	20 Feb 99
Fishing Show, Civic Center	25-28 Feb 99
World Fly Fishing Expo, Wilmington, MA	13-14 Mar 99



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### Safety in Landing the Small Fish with Rod

by Bernie Gonerka

(Reprinted from "The Current," August 1, 1998 - Vol. 1, Issue 15,  
the official newsletter of the FBN & FFBN)

This past season I have probably fished with over 30 different partners and 28 of them are very lucky in not getting a hook or lure in their hand or face or his partner's face or head. The problem is that they all bring the fish right up to the rod tip and bring it into the boat or land it on shore.

Now the fish is at the end of say a 5 foot rod and the fisherman wants to take the fish off the hook and bends the rod to be able to reach the small fish and tries to remove the hook. Just picture this scenario, hook, in mouth of fish, rod bent to be able to reach the fish and if the hook should become lose because of the stress of the bent rod, then the rod and hook become a deadly weapon.

Okay so the hook does not pull out and you remove the hook from the mouth and let go of the hook, and again it becomes a missile because of the bend and stress of the rod. You can see that many serious things can happen if you do not allow any room for this type of situation to occur.

Now let us take a minute and explain the correct and safe way to land this fish. Remember that the size of the fish is not relevant to the problem be-

cause the bend of the rod depends on how long the rod is and how short your arms are to reach the end of the rod or fish. Let us assume that you are using a five foot long rod and you catch a small six inch bluegill, you retrieve the fish to within 5 feet of the end of the rod, when you lift the fish out of the water it will come to the bottom of the rod and you can remove the hook from the fish without any bend or stress on the line or hook. As soon as you get a grip on the fish release the line on the reel to eliminate any resistance on the line or rod. This will prevent any boomerang action of a flying hook. As soon as you have control of the fish regardless of size always try to release your line from the reel. This problem also arises when you want to change flies. **DO NOT REEL UP TO THE END OF THE ROD** and then bend the rod to reach the fly and try to change the fly with pressure on the line.

This is probably the most common cause of flying hooks and flies. Just practice raising your line with the same amount of length on the line as the length of the rod. It will really make life simpler and safer. Happy fishing!

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**Book Review**  
(From the FFF Clubwire)

***The Golden Age of Fly-Fishing***  
By Ralf Coykendall, editor  
Countryman Press, New York, NY 1997  
173 pages, hardbound, illustrated B&W. suggested price \$32.50

reviewed by Bruce E. Harang, Editor of the Smoky Mountain Fly Fishers of North Carolina

The author grew up with *The Sportsman* magazine as his father was its advertising director for most of its existence. Here are twenty seven of the best this magazine had to offer between 1927 and 1937. This being the best of the sporting journals of its day, and possibly any day, these stories are in fact the best of the best.

Learn of the discovery of the solunar tables by the man who made the discovery, John Alden Knight Jr. Read about anglers entomology from one of the first Americans to understand and appreciate its importance, Preston J. Jennings. Learn how to catch big trout by the trout guru of the Neversink, Edward R. Hewitt.

While A. W. Dimock wrote the first material about taking tarpon on a fly it was the article on fly fishing for tarpon by George D. B. Bonbright

in *The Sportsman* that catalyzed the sport to what it has become today.

Possibly the most interesting observation you will make is that these stories from over a half a century ago are still applicable. Interestingly, this same information still appears in the fly fishing magazines on a regular basis. The authors names are new, and credit to these pioneers is not given, but ideas are the same. In addition, these words are beautifully complemented by illustrations by some of the greatest outdoor illustrators ever to hold a pencil.

Overall, this is one of the finest collections of fly fishing prose.

## Sportsmen Discuss Possible Fee Increases - Alternatives

Reprinted from *Hook 'n Bullet*, June, 1998

A meeting of Sportsmen activists was held on June 17th at the Rockville F&G Club to discuss an anticipated DEP fee increase proposal for next year's legislation.

Participants recognized the probability that the possible fee increase would be across-the-board, and recognized that to continue present and new fishing and hunting programs D.E.P.'s Wildlife and Fishery Bureaus needs more money.

All agreed more appropriations needs to come from the General Fund to support the programs, and that again going to the sportsmen's well was inappropriate. Many felt strongly that if there were moneys in the General Fund that appropriately belong to sportsmen's operations as user fees, these should be transferred before any license fees were contemplated. There was also considerable concern that an increase in fees is counter-productive in that an increase would further diminish the number of participants and fishing and hunting licenses sold.

Three sources of sportsmen's revenue, currently deposited in the General Fund and not returned to DEP as are license fees, were discussed.

The least complex and successfully ongoing are moneys from the Motor Boat Fuel Tax. These funds (approx. \$5,000,000) have been minimally acquired for the past four years and \$500,000 will be transferred during Fiscal Year 99 to D.E.P. for fisheries and boating. The concept here is simple, motorboat fuel users use the water, not roads and bridges. Transfer from the Transportation Fund to DEP for fisheries and boat-

ing makes perfect sense. Sportsmen present want all of it. This will probably happen incrementally, but we should and will push for increases each year.

The second possibility discussed was interest on the Boating Fund. This amounts to approximately a quarter million dollars and would be used specifically for boating. The Boating Fund is the only special fund we're aware of that does not collect it's own interest.

The major issue was the Federal excise taxes on guns, ammo and archery equipment (Pittman-Robertson) and other funds. All agreed these funds must be used for what they were originally intended - restoration projects, range development, studies - not to employ biologists due to a lack of General Funding.

Associated with federal money concerns was almost one million dollars of essentially license fees, but called tags-permits-stamps which is deposited in the General Fund. All of this money is paid by hunters. It surprised some that Archery Permit fees were included. The gist of the matter is when the current statutes were

written we had no tags-permits-stamps, so the key word in the statutes is LICENSE.

The following statute is explicit as to what must be done with license fees, but does not reference tags-permits-stamps, so the General Fund collects these user fee dollars. Our argument is and must be that tags-permits-stamps ARE license fees and should be returned to appropriate DEP use.

**Sec. 26-14. Federal aid for fish restoration projects.** The state hereby assents to the provisions of Public Law 681, 81st Congress, entitled "An Act to Provide that the United States Shall Aid the States in Fish Restoration and Management Projects, and for Other Purposes", approved August 9, 1950, and the commissioner of environmental protection is directed to perform such acts as may be necessary to the conduct and establishment of cooperative fish restoration projects, as defined in said act, in compliance with said act and rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior thereunder; and **no funds accruing to the state from license fees paid by fishermen shall be diverted for any other purpose than the protection, propagation, preservation and investigation of fish and game and administration of the functions of the department relating thereto.** (emphasis ours)

The portion emphasized is a federal requirement in order to collect the federal Wallop-Breaux, Dingell-Johnson moneys collected as an excise tax on fishing equipment. This section, dealing with hunting dollars is shorter and note the license fee provision is not included. The requirement that license fees cannot be diverted is the same; it is probably not included since it is a part of the federal statute and a requirement to collect federal moneys.



Lines & Leaders

Sec. 26-15. Federal aid for wildlife restoration projects. The state of Connecticut assents to the provisions of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to Provide that the United States Shall Aid the States in Wildlife Restoration Projects, and for Other Purposes", approved September 2, 1937, and the commissioner of environmental protection is authorized and directed to perform such acts as may be necessary to the establishment and operation of cooperative wildlife restoration projects, as defined in said act of congress, in compliance with said act and with rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior thereunder.

The following is an implementation statute and directs the commissioner to perform certain duties.

Sec. 26-15a. Appropriations to the department. Annual report. (a) The provisions of sections 26-14 and 26-15 shall remain in full force and effect, and there shall be appropriated to the department of environmental protection for each fiscal year a sum not less than the total estimated receipts from fishing and hunting and trapping licenses for such year issued under the provisions of this chapter.

(b) To the extent authorized by federal law or regulation, the department of environmental protection shall supplement the funds appropriated to the department for fish and wildlife programs by taking full advantage of the annual apportionment made pursuant to the provisions of (1) Public Law 681, 81st Congress, entitled "An Act to Provide that the United States Shall Aid the States in Fish Restoration and Management Projects, and for Other Purposes", approved August 9, 1950, and (2) the act of Congress entitled "An Act to Provide that the United States Shall Aid the States in Wildlife Restoration Projects, and for Other Purposes", approved September 2, 1937. On or before February first, annually, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the general assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, which sets forth, for the twelve-month period ending the preceding September thirtieth, the amount of such federal funds received by the department, the amount of such funds expended and the purposes for which such funds were expended.

Reading the last portion of this section one might think that legislators are aware of what we believe is a

funding diversion and rip-off. There may be a few, but without sportsmen concern and input the issue will never have any priority.

Sportsmen in attendance at Rockville agreed changing the statute to recoup our money should be a priority bill in 1999.


Our change is simple: In the fishing section (Sec. 26-14) we change the key sentence (Capitol letters indicate new language; brackets mean deletion) to read: "...and no funds accruing to the state from license, PERMIT, TAG OR STAMP fees paid [by fishermen] TO TAKE OR UTILIZE FISH shall be diverted ..."

In the hunting section the changes would be to make that section correspond to the fishing section including the PERMIT, TAG OR STAMP new language applicable to wildlife.

We urge you to talk to your legislator concerning all these fee options. All at the meeting concluded that if we are successful in transferring an increase in motorboat fuel funds and rewriting the federal funding statutes to recoup permit-tag-stamp fees, no license fee is necessary. In any event, DEP will have a license fee increase proposal. The last question is why doesn't DEP fight for General Fund appropriations and for us.

Hook 'n Bullet is the official publication of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen. Ed.

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**SEPT. MEETING: Grand Lake Stream, Maine - Charles McCaughtry - Wed., 9 Sept.**

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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.

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