



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 27, No. 4

December 1999

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

DECEMBER MEETING

Don Leyden

Headwaters Expedition

Our speaker for December is Mr. Don Leyden from Brookfield, CT. His program will take us on a fishing float trip down the Aniak River in Alaska. Mr. Leyden has been flyfishing for over 50 yrs. fishing from Alaska to Iceland. He is also a fly tyer, photographer and probably best known for his beautiful custom framed flies and prints that are in many museums and private collections. If you ever thought of bringing your wife or girlfriend to a meeting, this is the one, because Mr. & Mrs. Leyden celebrated their 50th. wedding anniversary on this float trip.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse
Sunset Ridge
East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, 8 Dec

TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

Annual angler expenditures on striped bass trips when stocks were depleted in 1981 -- \$85 million. Annual angler expenditures on striped bass trips when stock were healthy in 1996 -- \$560 million!

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT



For those of you that saw the slide show on the Willimantic River TMA. I hope it helps you with your catching. As you saw there's a lot more to the Willi than the most popular pools. Although most of the slides were taken in the early spring, the information applies to anytime of the year.

One of the secrets to catching fish is to learn the river. Every rock or log has the potential to hold a fish. What we have to figure out is whether it does or doesn't. Staying in the river rather than walking from pool to pool is the only way to find out. All that's required is that you relax and enjoy the day, notice the things that are going on around you and some patience. You'll be surprised at how rewarding it is to discover a previously unknown trout hideout.

So, what happened to the saltwater fishing this year? We were all predicting a banner year because there was so much bait around. I guess we forgot to tell the fish. Oh well, predictions are just those, predictions. You would think that a bunch of guys that have been fishing for as long as we have would stop making them. I guess it's the slim possibility that we might be right once in a while that influences us.

It's almost Thanksgiving Day as I write this. Kathleen and I are going to have a house full of relatives again. Last year at this time I mentioned that we had three cats. Two spade females, and one male that was still staying out all night. Well, he tangled with something in the woods behind my house, so while he was at the vets . . . let's just say that he sleeps on the couch nights, instead of going out. He's a typical male, according to my daughters. You know, come in from a hard day, have some dinner, turn on the kitty news and fall asleep.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving,

Charlie



Club News

Thank You for the Fly Tying Material - It's not often that one can get fly tyers/fishermen to drool, but Jim Brian was able to last month. Jim donated a large box of fly tying material to CFFA. This box was loaded with feathers, tinsel, chenille, etc. We were all quite impressed as will be countless number of future fly tyers. On behalf of those future fly tyers, thanks a lot, Jim!

Nominating Committee - Our annual elections are coming up in January. Gary Steinmiller, Charlie Place, and Mike Stewart have volunteered to be the nominating committee. If you have a desire to take a more active role in guiding the direction of the membership, let any of these folks know. Of course, you can also talk to any Board member.

Legal Secretary - We have a need for a legal secretary. If there is anyone interested, please let Charlie Place know.

Fly Tyers - Anyone interested in tying flies at the membership meetings please call Steve Sawczuk, 747-5852. Don't worry about your fly tying skills. Anyone can pick up a tip or two just watching you. Give it a try! It is lots of fun.

Beginning Fly Fishing Seminar - This year at the Civic Center Fishing Show the CFFA would like to sponsor a beginning fly fishing seminar. We are looking for a Chair. If anyone is interested please let Charlie Place, 623-9912, or any other Board member know.

Willy & General CT Fly Fishing Guide - Ray Riley has agreed to Chair an effort to produce a guide for the Willy and other waters in CT. Anyone who is interested in helping out, please contact Ray at 571-8756.

End of Season Sale - Clousers, Deceivers, Whistlers, Bunny Flies, Squid and many other patterns. Proven Albacore and Bonito flies! \$2.00 each. Many more at \$1.00 each. Bead Head Caddis Pupae - many tied with tungsten beads. \$.75 each. Retail at \$1.70 each. Some nymphs. \$1.00 each. Call Ernie Boutiette, 860-289-3605.

Winter Fishing in Mexico/Central America - Al Schwenhe, Jr, is considering a winter fishing vacation to a warmer climate this year. Maybe Mexico or Central America. He would appreciate any recommendations for fishing location, accommodations, etc. Al would also like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking such a trip. You can contact Al at 860-688-6144.

For Sale - Bamboo Rods

- Bamboo Rod, Orvis Battenkill #14572. 8 foot for 6 weight. 3 piece/1 tip. Walnut reel seat. Built by Cal Skinner and George Reed. Completed 7/1/53. Comes with rod tube and bag. \$500.
- Bamboo Rod, Maker Unknown, 8 foot for 6 weight. 3 piece/2 tips, one marked "Dry Fly," the other marked "Streamer." Sliding band reel seat. Rod bag. No tube. \$300.
- Bamboo Rod, Canada Creek. 8 foot for 6 weight. 3 piece/2 tips. Never fished. Clear plastic wrap, still covers cork. Comes with rod bag and tube. \$500.

Contact: Phil Brunquell, 860-545-9473.

Ed.



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FLIES FOR CHARLIE PLACE

Charlie will be stepping down shortly as President of CFFA after serving five years. We thought it would be a great idea if we could give Charlie something unique from the membership of the club. What could be more unique from a fly fishing organization than flies tied by the members?

Please send a fly (or flies) that have been tied by you to Mike Stewart. You may give the flies personally to Mike at membership meetings or give the flies to any Board member. They will forward them to Mike. If you would like to mail the flies, please send them to:

Mike Stewart
215 Loomis Street
North Granby, CT 06060

We would like to have all the flies no later than the membership meeting in January. That meeting is 12 January.

We will select some flies to be permanently mounted in a framed box. This will be given to Charlie at the Banquet in February. The remaining flies will be given to Charlie for his personal use.

This notice is not being sent to Charlie. We are trying to make this a surprise.

So please help us out. Send flies! Mum's the word!

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	1 Dec 99
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Dec 99
Rod Building School	6, 13, 20, 27 Jan 00
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Jan 00
Fly Tying School	6, 13, 20, 27 Jan, 3, 10 Feb 00
Hammonasset TU, Fly Fishing Show	8 Jan 00
CFFA Membership Meeting	12 Jan 00
The Fly Fishing Show, Marlboro, MA	21-23 Jan 00
The Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, N J	28-30 Jan 00
Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Expo, Worcester	3-6 Feb 00
CFFA Fly Fishing Expo & Banquet Tam DiGristine, Fishing around Indian River and Mesquito Lagoon, The Colony, Vernon	12 Feb 00
CMTA Fishing Show, Civic Center, Hartford	18-0 Feb 00
FRAA Banquet	4 Mar 00
World Fly Fishing Expo, Wilmington DE	11-12 Mar 00

Membership Form

Check if address changed

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Tel. (H) _____ (W) _____

Email _____

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	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$ 50.00	ENCLOSED:

Attention



ATTENTION ALL CFFA MEMBERS

It is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Please fill out the enclosed form on this page, include a check or give it to Bob Quinn at the next club meeting. It is very important that this form be returned to ensure that we have your correct address and telephone number. A pre-addressed envelope is provided for you. 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 your 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.

NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

Jay Silver Monty Rackow Harry Dobelle

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.

A FLYFISHERMAN'S WIFE

My husband is a fly purist. This much I know about him as he has often brought it up in conversation. But it means nothing to me. It may explain to the initiated what I am about to write. I assume that he is one of the elite as anyone not a purist to him is a dunker, which must be something very bad as even to say this word causes him to shudder, turn white and assume a sneering tone to his voice. I have for 19 years tried to catch the exact moment when he changes from loving husband and father of four daughters (later five) to an aloof, forgetful, no longer loving husband. I know that I could combat it if I could spot it; but it is not a sudden change. It creeps into the home as unaware as a summer storm. One moment he is my loving husband and the next it is as if a different man is in the house. Fur, feather and steel are his loves.

The life of this man can be divided into two distinct seasons. Fishing season from April to September and non-fishing season for the next six months. But how foolish I was to believe this! More time is spent preparing for and plotting the downfall of the poor trout than is spent trying to catch them. What is there to catching fish that can so dominate a man? What causes him to be as stealthy as a thief in the night when getting up to go fishing, yet who bangs around like a bull in the china closet on weekdays and succeeds in waking the household by six o'clock? What causes him to ignore cold, rain, heat, etc. in his quest for trout? This is another magic word said with more reverence than the worried wife is. Why does he ignore all his friends that do not fish during the season? Why must I run the lawnmower all summer? Why do ordinary household tasks go begging? Why does he put off painting the house? Why do the children's care and problems become mine? Why can't I go fishing with him? I once asked him, in my ignorance, if fishing meant more to him than our marriage; also, why he liked fishing so much. The glance that he gave me has silenced me forever on this

subject, so I will try to explain to newlywed women what to look for and to fight in its first stages.

The first two years of our marriage were perfect. He went fishing occasionally, but not enough to alarm me. His fishing pals dropped in to see him and he showed only mild interest in their stories. His den with its huge rolled top desk stayed closed and collected dust. An occasional feather floated from this room; but I figured that this was natural as he had an old bunch of feathers in boxes that he moved in when we bought our new house. Little did I know that what rage, anxiety and frustration that this room would cause me. If I knew then what I know now, I would



have cleaned it out while I still had a say in the matter.

I often caught his two fishing pals' knowing glances at each other and smile an odd kind of smile. I did not know then that this waiting for a fishing pal to get over his first exuberance of being married was an old game to them and is played like a game of poker. I have seen it played often since those early days. They are like dogs who have treed a cat. It is only a matter of time until someone rescues the cat.

In this case, it took two years for the cat to come down. I was still involved in the furnishing and caring of the house when

the transition from husband to fisherman took place. Remember ladies, that opening day is not the danger; but the preparation for it. As well as I can remember, it all started shortly after New Years while it was very cold out and there was snow on the ground. He struck when I least expected it. It was at a party two weeks after New Years that I missed my husband and his two pals. It was going well when three women too many was noticed. I finally chased them down in the den gazing at a newly arrived package of furs and feathers. As I looked in the door, each of the three handled and commented on the contents of the package as though handling gold. Ladies, this is the biggest danger sign in a fisherman's wife's life. Nip it here and you may save your ideal married life. Let it bloom and you will join the ever-increasing list of "a Fisherman's Widow." During the weeks after this, the three were often together in the den. The desk was now open and feathers were everywhere. Rods, reels, waders, etc. were now in view. I never knew that they existed. They were shown and commented on by his friends, even though they had seen them all before. This commenting on each other's equipment is part of the protocol among the brethren. A new fly just displayed in "Outdoor Life" called a muddler now had all his attention. He had fur and feathers strewn all around them and he was slightly baffled as to its construction. His two pals came in to help in this momentous task. I could not see why one more fly could cause such a commotion as he had hundreds of flies and as far as I am concerned they all looked alike. Little did I know that I had committed a sacrilege to that little piece of fur and feathers, "the muddler." I will not mention this fly again as some day I intend to write a complete story on this one fly that so endangered my married life

By Ernie Boutiette

**Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Presents
Beginning Fly Tying, Saltwater Fly Tying, Rod Building Schools**

Classes: Classes will meet downstairs at Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, at 7:00pm on the following evenings: Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 3 and 10.

Class:	Beginning Fly Tying	Saltwater Fly Tying
	1. Marabou Leech, Wooly Bugger	Honey Blond, Hy Tye
	2. Dark Cahill, Soft Hackle	Surf Candy, Squid,
	3. Tellico, Hare's Ear Nymph	Clouser's Minnow, Cross Cut Deceiver
	4. Blue Wing Olive, Light Cahill	Lefty's Deceiver, Whistler
	5. Poly Spinner, Hen Wing Spinner	Epoxy Shrimp, Slider
	6. Black Ant, Deer Hair Bug	Bob's Banger, Sand Eel

Equipment: All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, thread, scissors, etc. It is also suggested you bring a portable lamp with you.

Class Size: Fly Tying classes limited to the first 25 people submitting applications for each class.

Tuition: Fly Tying class: CFFA Members - \$35; Non-Members - \$45; 16 & Under - \$25

SCHOOL FOR BUILDING FLY RODS

Classes Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, in Enfield, taught by the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association. Deadline for blank ordering Dec. 15th. Cost: \$15 (members), \$20 (non-members) plus materials. Class size limited to 12 students. Call 860-563-0040 for information and reservations.

CFFA Enrollment Application

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 27 Penwood Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Name _____ Phone # _____

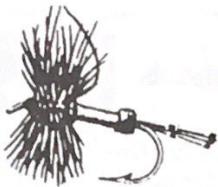
Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

CFFA Member _____ Yes / _____ No 16 or under _____

Check one: 1. _____ Beginning Fly Tying 2. _____ Saltwater Fly Tying

For additional information contact Ed Fidrych, V.P. Promotion, 951 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland, CT 06480
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**Southern Connecticut Fly Fishing
Show, January 8, 2000**

The Hammonasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited will present the ninth annual Fly Fishing Show featuring that exciting blend of fresh and salt water fishing available on the Connecticut shoreline.

Speakers will include: On the Fresh water side: JOHN SPRINGER, who will present some of his experiences as "A Western Sampler", and JACK SMOLA, CT/Mass. Guide, who will talk about The Rivers of Western Massachusetts.

On the Salt water side, sharing their knowledge of this fast growing area of fly fishing, will be: Author and Guide ED MITCHELL; and Rhode Island Guide Capt. JIM WHITE, describing fishing areas and techniques.

The program will also include dealer displays, fly tying and raffle items.

The Show, open to the public, will be held at the Westbrook Elks Club, 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook, CT, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Saturday, January 8, 2000. Admission is \$5, children under 16 free when accompanied by an adult.

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CFFA Annual Banquet - 32st Anniversary

Plans are proceeding quite rapidly in preparation for all festivities. Tam DiGristine will be coming for the banquet as the prime speaker. Her program is titled, "Fishing around Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon." During this evening's banquet we will have our conservation raffle.

In addition, we will have our publication, *The Fly Fisher's Companion* on hand for anyone wishing to obtain a copy.

Please keep in mind that the banquet is the prime means of fund raising for the CFFA. Bring friends and family. Your support is greatly needed. In addition, the banquet is a tremendous opportunity to enjoy an excellent meal, renew acquaintances and talk fishing (the latest inside tips are available just for the asking).

Keep an eye out for the next month's Lines & Leaders for the Banquet Reservation Form. See you there!

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DECEMBER MEETING: Don Leyden Wed., Dec. 8
Headwaters Expedition

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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