



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 26, No. 6

February 1999

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

FEBRUARY MEETING *Connecticut Fishing* *CT DEP Fisheries Biologist*

The speakers for this month's meeting are Eric Schluntz and Neil Hagstrom. Eric and Neil are fisheries biologists for the DEP. The program will be in 3 parts; a slide presentation on an eastern Connecticut mystery stream, a presentation on the stream survey and data, and a question and answer session.

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

DATE: Wednesday, February 10
TIME: Fly Tying 7:00 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.

NOTICE

There are a few members who have not yet sent dues for 1999.

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 and Leaders.

If there is a blue dot on your mailing label, your dues for 1999 have not been received. Call Bob immediately.

Membership cards will be sent out in early February.



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

Don't forget! CFFA Banquet and Expo February 20, 1999.

Second Gartside fly tying class! Read below.

Just when I thought we had everything under control at the clubhouse, we were surprised again. The clubhouse was closed when we all showed up for the January board of director's meeting. Luckily, Ernie volunteered his home for the board meeting, so, we went to his house. Thanks again Ernie. Of course, the next day, Larry called the town of East Hartford to find out what the problem was. That's when we got the second surprise. It was going to be closed for our membership meeting, too (bathroom renovations). They simply forgot to tell us. Larry did some quick thinking and was able to book the auditorium at the East Hartford Cultural Center as a replacement site for our meeting.

Anyway, Larry called me at work as soon as he found out, and I called Mike at work, but it was too late to get the information in Lines and Leaders. So we passed the word around as best we could. Then on meeting night, Larry and I drove up to the clubhouse and passed out written directions to the Cultural Center. You know, I don't think we missed anybody. We had about fifty people at the meeting, which was not bad considering the weather was lousy, and there was a Uconn game on television. It was cold standing up there on the hill passing out directions, but after seeing about the first three slides in Gary Evans's Montana show, I forgot about the whole ordeal.

The Jack Gartside fly tying class was filled in about five days, so I gave him a call and he's agreed to do another one. I have four people already signed up. I have room for six more. Be sure and phone me as soon as you read this. Between the time I announced the first class in January's Lines and Leaders, and the January membership meeting, nine people had signed up. That only left one spot by the time the meeting came around. The four people that are already signed up for the second class were on the "hope somebody cancels" list for the first class. The second class will be at the Colony from noon until 2pm, February 20, 1999, and costs thirty dollars. It finishes just in time to catch the Gartside afternoon slide show.

Charlie

**7th Annual Fly Fishing Expo
Schedule of Events**

20 February, 1999

The Colony

9:00 a.m. Doors Open

Clinics and Programs

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Getting Started in Freshwater

Getting Started in Saltwater

Knots

What Fly to Use

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Jack Gartside's Show

3:00 p.m. Doors Close

Our vendors will be on hand to help you in selecting the finest of fly fishing equipment available.

Don't miss this unique fly fishing only opportunity!!

Club News

CFFA Expo – We expect this year to surpass last year's successful expo. We have 18 vendors scheduled to be at the expo. Admission will be \$5.00. The admission will include all seminars/clinics. The Expo hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Gartside's slide show will be 2 – 3. The expo's schedule of events can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Fly Donations for Banquet – Please donate a selection of tied flies for the banquet. So tie up a few during these long winter nights.

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	3 Feb 99
Fly Tying School	4, 11 Feb 99
CFFA Membership Meeting, Fisheries Biologists	10 Feb 99
The Fly Fishing Show, Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, MA	13-14 Feb 99
CFFA Expo, The Colony, Vernon	20 Feb 99
CFFA Banquet, The Colony, Vernon	20 Feb 99
<i>Special CFFA Meeting, Gary LaFontaine</i>	25 Feb 99
CMTA Fishing Show, Civic Center	25-28 Feb 99
CFFA Board Meeting	3 Mar 99
CFFA Fly Fishing School	4,11,18,25 Mar 99 10 & 24 Apr 99
CFFA Membership Meeting	10 Mar 99
World Fly Fishing Expo, Wilmington, MA	13-14 Mar 99
FRAA Annual Banquet, Cornucopia Banquet Hall, Torrington	6 Mar 99
HFFA Expo and Banquet	21 Mar 99
CFFA Fishing Trips	22-23 May 99 12-13 Jun 99



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Masa's Fish

By J. Michael O'Neil

I believe that the landing of the biggest brown trout ever enticed by an artificial fly in the Esopus Creek will go unrecorded, but for this obscure report. It's a shame, too, because the behemoth was caught through serendipitous chance and celebrated in the old way—elements for a fine story. It was in November near the end of the season, in that long, deep, graceful pool just above the bridge that leads into Woodland Valley. I've known that water since I was a child—for those who don't know me, that's about fifty years. More accurately, I've shunned it for nearly that long, damned fool that I am, because my family and I tend to be elitist when it comes to picking our fishing spots.

For eons we have gone to less crowded pools and riffles on the stream, believing that the fishing near the bridge would be terrible. It's not such a bad notion, really, since the bridge, like all bridges, seems to attract legions of the unworthy. Every chump from Queensboro Boulevard to Grand Concourse who's fallen for those macho trout fishing stories in Field & Stream or Sports Afield eventually arrives at our bridge to fish for trout. They are drawn to that spot like steel filings to a magnet, largely because New York State heaves a lot of hatchery-bred trout into the waters just above and below the bridge when they stock. Word of mouth has made this common knowledge. Never underestimate the power of the word of the mouth.

They set up their beach chairs,

pull out picnic baskets and coolers (nothing like a cold one to help the fishing), and churn the pools from dawn to dusk, with an amazing assortment of lures, ocean gear, garden hackle (worms), corn and liver dangling on big pickerel hooks, rubber bass worms, and the like. Long ago we nicknamed the spot "Broadway and 42nd - Times Square," and went elsewhere on the stream for our fishing. There was another thing about Times Square that turned us off. There are summer cottages on the townside of the creek, peeking through the scrub pine and willows, with all their attendant summer distractions. Dogs yap, cats ingratiate and spray, kids ride bikes and big wheels, and parents yell--JUST the kind of things that Thoreau was intent on escaping. Me too.

What I have given you up to this point is a summer litany. In an instant--to be precise, the instant after Labor Day--things begin to change. The battered waters heal, the hoards disappear, and soon the brown trout, the BIG brown trout down in the reservoir, start their fall spawning run, slowly making their way up into our Catskill creeks and rivers--seeking their natal places to regenerate.

It was about this time of year that Jimmy Boyd finally sold the cottage right next to the bridge--the one he'd been trying to unload for the longest time. It was the one he'd placed that oddly enticing sign in front of: FOR SALE/ WATER-

FRONT PROPERTY. A fellow from Manhattan bought it. I know four things about him--his name is Masa, he's Japanese, he is an artist, and he does a little fishing.

Soon after they moved in, Masa and his family were invited to a campfire potluck dinner.

The foodmakers in the family ordered him out of the kitchen in that late afternoon, because he was underfoot. To pass the time he took a big battered streamer fly that he'd found washed up on his backyard, and tied it to the monofilament line, housed in the bail of his K-Mart spinning rod's reel.

For company, he had a young boy--his nephew, also banished from the kitchen.

Masa flung his secondhand streamer into the pool and hooked a submerged log. The log began to move.



It moved slowly at first, and then faster and faster. His nephew screamed, "Uncle, uncle! You've hooked an Octopus!!!"

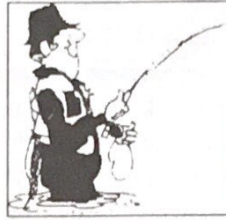
In fact, on his tired four pound test line, Masa had hooked a bulky 30 inch long brown trout. Without benefit of waders, with no net, he forged into the slippery pool with his heart in his throat. With the help of his nephew, he corralled the huge fish, nudging it into the shallows between two boulders. There, trembling, with adrenaline running high, he sub-

dued the beast by knocking it on the head with a handy rock.

Let us segue into the kitchen fifteen minutes later, where the fish has been lugged and eviscerated. A kitchen table autopsy shows a bellyful of plump roe. The stomach itself is nearly empty. To record this miracle, the artist in Masa asserts itself. In the absence of his artist's paraphernalia which has not yet arrived, he takes a linen cloth, laves the sides of this monster trout in soy sauce (the only staining element in the house) and records the fish's image, much as Gutenberg imprinted the frontispiece of his bible.

It is in the nature of things that a man who has caught a great fish must show it to his public. Masa brought it along to the potluck campfire dinner, and after the well-deserved oohs and aahs, the noble trout was placed above the night's fire, grilled gently -- ever so slowly -- and then consumed in the moonlight, piece by piece, down to its very head, spine, and tail. The lightly smoked flesh was pink, moist and delicious. Nothing was wasted. The roe was lightly salted, rinsed, and marinated in a mix of saki and soy sauce. Then, like caviar (which it was, after all) the delicate eggs were scooped up and eaten reverently, placed on slices of cucumber, on ribs of endive, on deep fried chips of potato.

One wonders--how many other hungry people have gathered around an autumn fire down through the ages in these hills, and filled themselves with such a fine gift from the gods?



CLUB TRIP

Cape Cod Fishing
22-23 May & 12-13 June 1999

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 5/21 & 22 or 6/11 & 12. 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 expected to fill quickly. Your cost of \$110.00 plus tax per person, provides two nights, two breakfasts and one buffet dinner on Saturday. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be an extra \$35 per night breakfast included. Call Larry, number below, for the total cost.

Make your deposit check payable to CFFA in the amount of \$50.00 for each person.

Send to: Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105; tel: 246-0728 (H), 725-3873 (W).

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Important CFFA Dates

Stick this sheet to your refrigerator.

February 20, 1999

CFFA Expo and Banquet

Featuring

Jack Gartside

What some of the experts say about Jack Gartside.

- **Gary Borger:** "One of the only few that have ventured outside the ordinary."
- **Gary La Fontaine:** "Few can match him for creativity in pattern innovation."
- **Lefty Kreh:** "His paint don't dry."
- **Dick Talleur:** "As creative an angler as he is a tier, with a great instinct for coming up with things that work when nothing else seems to."
- The Expo is at "The Colony/ George's" route 83 Vernon. It starts at 9 a m and ends at 3 p m. Featuring many exhibitors, seminars, and a slide show by Jack Gartside. Open to the public so bring a friend. Costs five bucks to get in. Under 16 free.
- The Banquet is at "The Colony/ George's" route 83 Vernon. Cocktails at 6:30 p m, dinner at 7 p m, featured speaker Jack Gartside. Other features: Ed's prodigious fly fishing raffle and more stuff as we think of it. Call Larry Johnson for reservations. 806-246-0728

NEW Wednesday, February 10, 1999 there is a regular meeting at the clubhouse.

Check it out!!! Thursday February 25, 1999

CFFA presents

Gary La Fontaine

At the

Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse--7 p m

This is a special meeting or a special non-meeting or something. Anyway, we're just going to introduce Gary and let him take it from there. Oops! We will have some neat stuff to raffle. Books, tape, video, and special fly tying materials from Graycliff, Gary's company.

CFFA 29th Annual Banquet 20 February 1999

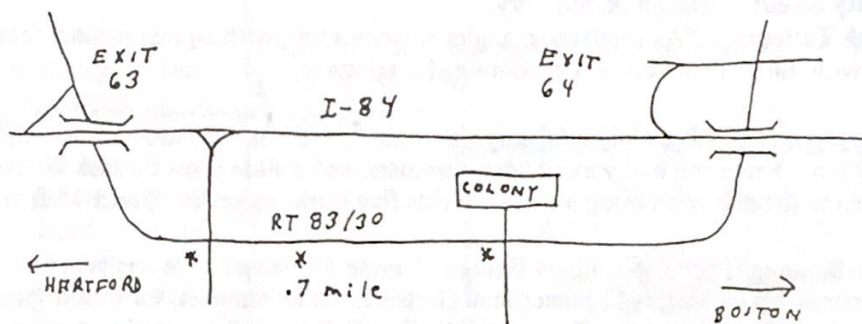
The banquet will be held at The Colony of Vernon (a map is provided below). Your choice of dinners this year will be Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Roast Stuffed Breast of Capon or Prime Ribs of Beef, Au Jus. Included with the meal will be salad, baked potato, ziti, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee or tea, and dessert.

Your Banquet Committee has worked hard to provide you with an enjoyable evening. We have been able to do this for \$27.00 per person. The same price as last year. We will also be holding our General Raffle drawing that evening.

Please fill out the Reservation Form below and mail it as soon as possible. If you want to reserve a table for your party, please send one check for all eight place settings.

Your Banquet Committee and Board of Directors are looking forward to seeing you there.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes for the banquet may contact Ed Fidrych at 342-1173 or Larry Johnson at 246-0728. All prizes will be greatly appreciated and all donations will be acknowledged in the "Lines & Leaders."



DINNER RESERVATION

DATE: _____

I will require a reservation for _____ persons at \$27.00 per person. Please find a check or money order (payable to CFFA) in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed.

Mail reservation form to:
Mr. Larry Johnson
60 Willard Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Name: _____

_____ Baked Stuffed Shrimp

Address: _____

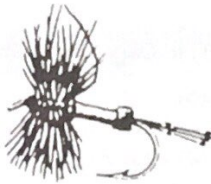
_____ Prime Rib

City & State: _____

_____ Stuffed Breast of Capon

ZIP: _____ Home Phone: _____

Please return before 13 February 1999



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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

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 1998 FLY FISHING SCHOOL - A SCHOOL FOR BEGINNERS

CLASSES:	No.	Date	Subject
	1.	3-05-99	Rods, Reels and Lines
	2.	3-11-99	Flies and Fish
	3.	3-18-99	Water Types and How to Fish Them
	4.	3-25-99	Leaders and Knots
	5.	4-10-99	Casting Instruction and Fishing (Pond)
	6.	4-24-99	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.

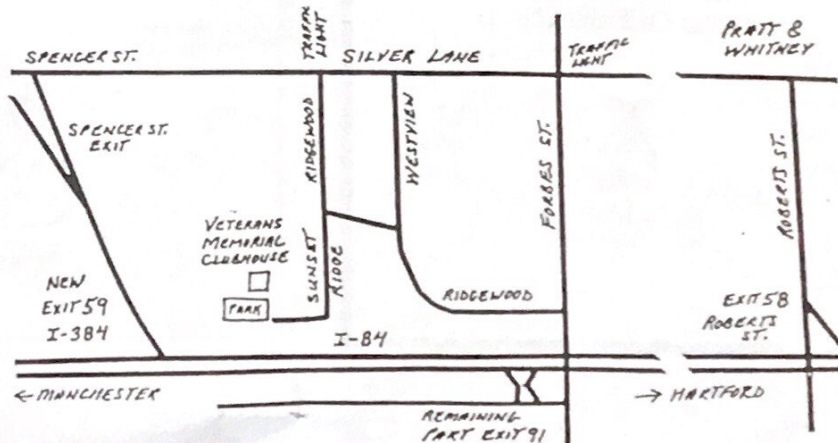
Class 6 During this final session, students will fish the Willimantic River with a CFFA instructor and practice course techniques (approach, wading, stream reading, etc.) Note: Students must supply their own transportation and equipment, and have a valid Connecticut fishing license.

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 \$35.00, Non Members \$45.00, Sixteen years and under \$25.00

HOW TO GET THERE:



NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

- Stephen Higgins
- Fred Laberge
- Lynwood Smith (Welcome back Mr. Stenonema)

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.

Nominating Committee Report

The following people are nominated to the named positions for 1999. Elections for these positions will be held at the membership meeting on 13 January 1999. Floor nominations will also be accepted at that time. This meeting will not be canceled due to inclement weather.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 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,

Mike Stewart, Chair, Charlie Place, Gary Steinmiller, Bob Quinn, 1999 Nominating Committee

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ANNOUNCEMENT

**Classic & Custom Fly Shop's
2ND ANNUAL APPRECIATION DAY SALE**

For all the work you have done to preserve, protect, and enhance the cold water fisheries, Classic & Custom Fly Shop would like to show its appreciation. On Saturday, Feb. 13, Saturday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 27 Classic & Custom Fly shop will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM to all club members. As a club member, you are invited to attend one or all three days of our sale. You will receive 20% off every item you purchase. MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover are accepted.

Again, Thanks for all your work and please continue supporting your club in any way you can. The future of our fisheries depends on all of us.

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 |

DUES STRUCTURE

- | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 16) | \$ 5.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | \$ 15.00 | TOTAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 25.00 | ENCLOSED: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$200.00 | \$ _____ |



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FEB. MEETING: CT DEP Fisheries Biologists - Wed., February 10

		Home	Office
Board of Directors			
President	Charles Place	623-9912	
Activities - VP	Larry Johnson	246-0728	418-6149
Environment - VP	Jack Smola		763-1856
Promotion - VP	Ed Fidrych	342-1173	566-8241
Recording Secretary	Ted Rzepski	561-3475	243-9761
	email:	TarponTed@aol.com	
Legal Secretary	Mark Levy	232-1666	
Treasurer	Don Rose	688-4414	
	email:	DRose91867@aol.com	
Advisory Board	Joe D'Addario	568-5035	289-6427
Advisory Board	Gary Bogli	649-4227	648-5030
Advisory Board	Elmer Latham	742-6584	565-7841
Advisory Board	Ken Parkany	643-9819	280-1844
Banquet Chairman	Vacant		
Conservation Chairman	Kurt Jagielow	649-3681	649-3681
Education Chairman	Gary Steinmiller	563-0040	280-2396
Indoor Facilities Chm	Steve Sawczuk		
Legislative Chairman	Vin Ringrose	828-4642	225-6064
Membership Chairman	Bob Quinn	633-2470	843-2014
Newsletter Editors	Lynn/Mike Stewart	653-4203	654-4288
	email:	TellicoFly@aol.com	
Program Chairman	Roger Plourde	747-4297	747-3324
Publicity Chairman	Ed Fidrych	342-1173	566-8241

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