



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 26, No. 7
March 1999

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

MARCH MEETING

Fly Fishing the Willimantic & Shetucket
Jack Smola

Jack will be providing the entertainment for March. In addition, he will also talk to us about fishing a couple of the local waters - the Willimantic and Shetucket Rivers.

In case you folks didn't know - Jack is a rather busy guy. We know him as CFFA's Environmental VP and as a full time licensed guide. He is also a L. L. Bean endorsed guide. In addition to his works within the CFFA, Jack provides assistance to the Pioneer Valley TU Chapter as their program chairman. He has been featured in the April issue of Fly Fishing magazine. To fill out his days further, Jack is doing a video on Fly Fishing the Deerfield Rivers. And somehow, Jack finds time to fish.

Come and hear some tips on some local fishing.

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 10
TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 pm
Program - 7:30 pm

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FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT



It was suggested a few months ago that the CFFA create its own web page. Larry Johnson and I volunteered to look into it and make a recommendation to the board of directors. After looking at what seemed to be hundreds of fly fishing related web sites, Larry and I reported that we did not recommend that the CFFA spend the time or money to create its own web site, for several reasons. If the site is not maintained on an almost daily basis, it could create a negative image of our organization. We found that many sites, including club sites were not kept up, and that some information, such as who the speaker was going to be for a particular meeting, was a few months old. Also, there are virtually hundreds of fly-fishing sites carrying the same information: fly patterns, fishing reports, tips, etc. Why spend the time and money to duplicate what has already been done? It was suggested that our newsletter be put online. Our contention there was that Lines & Leaders is a monthly newsletter (for only nine months of the year). So at the very least, the site would be stagnant for a month at a time. We also felt that our newsletter was a benefit for dues paying members exclusively. There's more, but I'm sure that you get the drift. The issue is not dead. We will revisit it from time to time, but unless we come up with a site that we think is special, and have somebody to keep it fresh, why get in there with hundreds of others that are all basically the same.

We did come up with one other idea. Maybe individual club web sites are not the way to go. Maybe the Connecticut Associations should have a combined site (Fly-Fishing in Connecticut) sell some advertising (banner ads) to defray the costs, and promote fly-fishing in Connecticut in general. Maybe even, have a hosted chat line or a message board. Everybody wins, the clubs, the shops, the fly fishers and Connecticut. The question remains, though. How do you keep it fresh?

A friend sent me some winter jokes: How do you tell when you live in snow country? *Your snow blower gets stuck on the roof. A Zamboni picks up your kids for school. You owe more money on your snowmobile than your car.* If you're holding your stomach laughing at these corny jokes, you have a bad case of cabin fever. Get outta the house. Thank me later.

Charlie

Club News**FOR SALE:** Saltwater Flies - Sold only as sets - Big Savings

25 assorted color Clouser Minnows:	\$50.00
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Ideal for a group of fishing friends.
Call Ernie Boutiette, 860-289-3605.

Fly Tying & Rod Building Schools: Many thanks to the people who helped out in this year's schools. We had 4 beginning tyers, 8 rod builders and 4 saltwater fly tyers this year. Those who helped out were:

Gary Steinmiller, Chair & Tyer
Alan Gnann, Rod Builders and Ed Rowan

Tying Instructors

Mike Stewart	Mark Lewchik	Page Rogers
Ernie Boutiette	Charlie Place	

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	3 Mar 99
CFFA Fly Fishing School	4,11,18,25 Mar 99 10 & 24 Apr 99
FRAA Annual Banquet, Cornucopia Banquet Hall, Torrington	6 Mar 99
CFFA Membership Meeting	10 Mar 99
Northeast Fishing & Hunting Expo, CT Expo Center, Hartford	11-14 Mar 99
World Fly Fishing Expo, Wilmington, MA	13-14 Mar 99
HFFA Expo and Banquet	21 Mar 99
CFFA Board Meeting	7 Apr 99
CFFA Membership Meeting	14 Apr 99
CFFA Fishing Trips	22-23 May 99 12-13 Jun 99
FFF International Fly Fishing Show Gatlinburg, Tenn.	3-7 Aug 99

CLUB NEWS FROM THE BANQUET AND EXPO**Awards**

Ted Barbieri Award: This award is given by the Board of Directors to a non-board member for outstanding service to CFFA. The award was an engraved Wheatley Fly Box. This year's recipient was John Walker. Congratulations, John.

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 Environmental Vice-President, Jack Smola. Jack was presented a L. L. Bean 7 weight Bonefish fly rod. Congratulations, Jack.

Fishing Banquet

Our 29th Annual Banquet was an outstanding success. Over 127 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 a success. Thank you very much folks, your help was sincerely appreciated.

Gary Bogli	Roger Plourde
Larry Johnson	Kurt Jagielow
Don Rose	Ted Rzepski
Charlie Place	Wayne Ringquist
Steve Fasulo	Mike Kelly
Gary Steinmiller	Steve Chirdon
Walt Grudzien	Ed Fidrych
Art Howe	Ernie Boutiette
Steve Sawczuk	Jack Smola

ALBACORE By Ernie Boutiette



Every year I fish for one week for false albacore out of Stonington in Jerry Wade's boat. This year two days with Charlie Place, two with Roger Plourde, and two with Page Rogers and of course Jerry Wade, the best guide on the Sound. First, I want to dispel the fallacy that the experts write about. They claim that an eight or ten pound leader is a must as albies have such good eyesight. I guess that we must have missed their articles as we all use 35# test Orvis super strong and boated about 100 albies in six days and at times had wire on when blues were in the area and still caught albies. We all used intermediate lines, about a 7' leader. The first two days, all were caught on Jerry Wade's Copper Top, a fly he designed about three years ago. The next four days, all were caught on variations of white deceivers that I tie, plus Roger Plourde tied one with slightly different materials on which he caught over 20 albies one afternoon and I caught 9 or 10 the next morning on the same fly. The best thing was we never had to go more than to Watch Hill or Napatree, a 10 or 15 minute boat ride. We

also came in at change of tide for a few hours for lunch and a nap. We would fish for only about seven hours a day. One day we saw a blitz on the rocks at Napatree. We ran in and I put a cast into them and caught a blue; but albie fever was on us and we left them. When albie fever strikes, we ignore blues and bass. We had landed quite a few doubles with no problem; but suddenly a school swam by and we had a triple on. The three fish were out at least 200 feet and swimming in every direction. Jerry's fish swam away from mine and Roger's; but Roger's and mine crisscrossed each other and the Chinese fire drill was on. First I would race to the front of the boat and Roger to the back, and then we would reverse. Eventually we got our lines untangled and Roger's fish came to net. Jerry, with an albie on, netted it with one hand. Next Jerry's came to the net. Mine next; but when the fly line came in, it had a knot in it. Roger finally got the knot out and mine was netted. Our first triple! The man who was watching this from a boat near us was in stitches with laughter. Outside of my 310 Sage rod exploding into four pieces, all became normal except for a couple of hookups on lobster buoys. Fishing albies can try both fisherman and equipment. Roger Plourde was top rod this day. The most and biggest — 13# 7 oz. on our digital scale. The biggest albie that I ever saw.

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.


- ⇒ Gene Monty
- ⇒ CT DEP
- ⇒ Charles McCaughtry Studio, Ashford, CT, 860-429-1016
- ⇒ Brookside Rod Co, Naugatuck, 203-729-1503
- ⇒ Swift River FlyFishing, New Salem, MA, 978-544-2582
- ⇒ Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association
- ⇒ Smola's Fly Fishing Guide Service, Enfield, 860-763-1856
- ⇒ North Cove Outfitters, Old Saybrook, 860-388-6585
- ⇒ Al's Grizzly Farm, Belchertown, MA, 413-323-7748
- ⇒ Trela Custom Rods, Ware, MA, 413-967-3430
- ⇒ Quiet Sports, Collinsville, 860-693-2214
- ⇒ Hartford Club Sports Center, Ron Angelo, 860-296-0110
- ⇒ Above and Below H₂O, Phil Sousa

Hints and Tips from Jack Smola

- ✓ To repair the leaks in your waders, take them out of your trunk, fill them with water, and mark the leaks. Then turn them inside out, to air them and get the stench of road kill out.
- ✓ Remove the contents of your vest and lay them out on the table so you'll remember what's in there. Discard mummified McNuggets.
- ✓ Open up all of your fly boxes and do an inventory. Replace or retie those flies that are missing.
- ✓ In the spring, hang fly paper from a tree near your favorite pool to check what's hatching.
- ✓ Replace the laces in your wading boots and your net bag.
- ✓ Oil your reels and back off all the drags. Install new batteries in your flash light and silicone the joints of your wading staff.
- ✓ Inspect your fly lines for cracks and examine the leader loops. Wash your fly lines in Ivory soap or Woolite and add backing to your reel if necessary.
- ✓ Make a wish list of all the things that you need for the coming season.
- ✓ Put a few zip lock bags in your vest for your wallet, camera, etc.
- ✓ Vest "must haves" — extra retractor, waterproof disposable camera, mosquito repellent stick (so you don't get it on your flylines) sun block, and folding wading staff.
- ✓ If you're over forty, get a flip magnifier and midge fly threader. Don't forget the Polaroid sunglasses, and a hook sharpener.



(These are a few things to do during the 'off' season. Jack guides, builds custom rods and lectures about fly fishing. Ed.)



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Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association

1999 Expo and Banquet

The annual HFFA Exposition and Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 20, 1999 at the Hawthorne Inn located on the Berlin Turnpike in Berlin, CT. The Expo will be held from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Cost is \$3.00 per person, children under 12 are admitted free. Vendors of flyfishing equipment, materials, and supplies will be in attendance. Saltwater and freshwater fly tying demonstrations and instruction will be offered throughout the day at no additional cost. Programs will include slide shows and presentations by world renown guest lecturers including: Mr. Charles Meck, author of *Super Hatches*, Mr. Jeff Passante, author of the *Housatonic River Fly Fishing Guide*, and Mr. Steve Grover speaking on "Wild Trout in Connecticut." Additional information on the Expo and/or those interested in fly tying instructions can be obtained by calling (203) 264-0227.

The HFFA Banquet will follow the Exposition at 6:00 PM. The banquet is famous for its bucket raffles and prizes. Additional information on the HFFA and club events may be obtained by calling the HFFA hot line at (203) 248-8616. Banquet info and reservations may be obtained by calling (203) 634-1974.



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), 418-6149 (W).

NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

Reginald K. Preble
Brett Tetro
Henry A. Drude
Carver Glezen
Benjamin Papier-Meister
Craig Maneeley
Ulkir Shou
Jennifer & Sean Hogan
John G. Powell
Edward H. Pikaart

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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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!

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Lyn Smith	Roger Plourde
Ed Fidrych	Dr. Phil Brunquell
Larry Johnson	George Degen
Gary Steinmiller	Linda & Alan Gnann
Jack Smola	Paul Rossman

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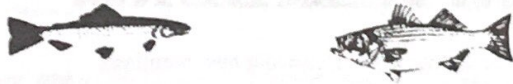
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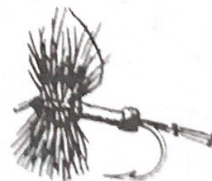
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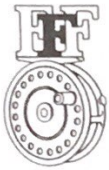
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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September 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