



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 27, No. 6

February 2000

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

## FEBRUARY MEETING & BANQUET

**Tammy DiGristine**  
**"Fishing around Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon"**

CFFA's Banquet Committee and Board of Director's present the 30th Annual Banquet. This year's banquet and Expo speaker will be Tammy DiGristine.

Tammy has been an avid fly fisher all her life. She likes stalking tarpon, redfish, and sea trout. She's spent most of her time fishing in Florida, in places like Mosquito Lagoon and Indian River. A recent move to Vancouver Island, Canada has turned her attention to salmon and steelhead, That's not all; sometime in early 2000 she's moving to Costa Rica to work as a fly fishing guide. As you can see Tammy has a busy life so this may be our one and only chance to have her as a speaker.

One of Tammy's articles are in this newsletter. We will be publishing others throughout the year.

In addition to this program, prizes will be offered through door prizes, and the General Conservation Raffle.

Come out and support your club and have a great time!

PLACE: The Colony of Vernon  
51 Hartford Turnpike  
Vernon, CT

DATE: Saturday, February 12  
TIME: Cocktails - 5:30 p.m.  
Program - 7:00 p.m.



## FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

I am honored to have been elected your new president. When I moved to Connecticut in 1986, I did not know anyone, let alone anyone who fished. I went to meetings at other clubs in the area and for whatever reason, never really connected with anyone. A while later, Frank Nott, a member of my church and a member of CFFA, suggested I "cross the river" and go to a CFFA meeting. I did and, since then, have found the members of this organization to be among the most knowledgeable, friendly, and generous group of fly fishers anywhere. I found it easy to make friends and get involved with this club, which in my opinion, is the best of its kind and the best at what we do, anywhere. We aim to keep it this way.

In the last newsletter Charlie Place mentioned a brainstorming session for the January board meeting. That did not occur as the business of making sure we're ready for the Expo and Banquet was the top priority. However, we'll be doing this at the March board meeting. Ideas Charlie mentioned were programs other than slide shows for the monthly meetings and the possibility of a web site. As he mentioned, we'll be going slowly at first because we want to make it right. There'll be no changes just for the sake of change.

This is the cruelest time of year for me. Having received just what I wanted for Christmas, the new catalogs and products come out and I find myself drooling over things I didn't know existed just weeks before. It never fails; I always get a craving for a new reel around this time of year. I need another reel like I need another rod but, I just can't help it. These cravings aren't always fulfilled. I can't afford to indulge in almost any one of them. However, occasionally I find a way...

One of the best ways to satisfy these cravings is to go to our Expo and Banquet. Both are on Saturday February 12 this year at the usual place; **The Colony Restaurant** in Vernon. All your favorite shops will be there along with other vendors who will easily make you crave for something if you weren't craving to begin with.

(Continued on page 3)





## Club News

**CFFA Expo** - We expect this year to surpass last year's successful expo. We have the same vendors as last year plus a few more at the expo. A slide show by Tammy DiGristine will also be presented. Tammy will also be giving a fly tying demonstration. Admission will be \$5.00; women and children free. The admission will include all seminars/clinics. The Expo hours will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m.

**CMTA Fishing Show** - We are looking for volunteers to help out at the CFFA booth. Ray Riley is trolling for some helpers. Give Ray a call and let him know you can help out. He can be reached at 571-8756.

**New Stocking Carts** - Thanks to the efforts of Rgoer Plourde, we have three new lightweight, high floating live stocking carts. Thanks Roger.

**Willi Stocking** - The first week in March there will be a stocking of the Willimantic. Call Jack Smola (763-1856) if you would like to help. Stocking is one of the most satisfying club activities. Come help out. We will use Roger's new live carts. Put the fish where you want them!

**New Officers** - At the last membership we voted in two new officers, Ray Riley as President and Keith Petry as Treasurer. Welcome aboard guys! You have a great group of folks from the membership who will help make your efforts a real joy.

**Fly Tying & Rod Building Schools** - The schools are once again a success. Gary Steinmiller has 20 students in the beginner fly tying group, 4 saltwater tyers, and 12 folks who are building rods.

**Want to Tie Flies?** - John Springer and Don Rose are once again honchoing fly tying at the American School for the Deaf. Fly tying this year is scheduled for Feb 2, 10, Mar 23 and 29. Typically the session goes from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. These sessions are always a great success

for all. Give John (664-3688) or Don (688-4414) if you can help out any evening.

**Fly Donations for Banquet** - Please donate a selection of tied flies for the banquet. Each year these donations are very popular with those attending the banquet. So tie up a few during these long winter nites.

Ed.



## COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	2 Feb 00
Fly Tying School	3, 10 17 and 24 Feb 00
Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Expo, Worcester	3-6 Feb 00
<b>CFFA Fly Fishing Expo &amp; Banquet Tam DiGristine, Fishing around Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon, The Colony, Vernon</b>	<b>12 Feb 00</b>
CMTA Fishing Show, Civic Center, Hartford	18-20 Feb 00
CFFA Board Meeting	1 Mar 00
Fly Fishing School	2, 9, 16, 23 Mar; 8 & 22 Apr. 00
FRAA Banquet	4 Mar 00
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Mar 00
TGF Annual Day	11 Mar 00
World Fly Fishing Expo, Wilmington DE	11-12 Mar 00
CFFA Fishing Trips, Cape Cod	20-21 May, 3-4 Jun 00



(Continued from page 1)

The raffles at the banquet will relieve the hunger of the lucky winners (careful, they could produce more, too). The banquet speaker is Tam DiGristine. Tam is a prolific writer on the Internet and has some interesting, entertaining articles out there.

Check her out on the Internet, come meet her and take her guided tour around the Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon in Florida. She will also be tying flies off and on during the Expo. If you haven't already, reserve your seats for the banquet NOW.

Also coming up is the CMTA Fishing Show at the Civic Center in Hartford. We have been a presence there ever since I can remember. Our booth is staffed by volunteers from the general membership. This year it is a three day show, Friday, Feb. 18 to Sunday, the 20th. If you want to help out, see or call Larry Johnson for time slots available. Larry's phone number is on the back page of this newsletter.

REMINDER: There will be no general membership meeting in February. Please do come to the Expo and Banquet on Feb. 12, 2000.

Ray

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### 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: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life              | \$ 200.00 | \$ _____  |

### NOTICE

There are a few members who have not yet sent dues for 2000.

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 & Leaders.*

If there is a blue dot on your mailing label, your dues for 2000 have not been received. Call Bob immediately.

Membership Cards will be sent out in early February.



**NEW MEMBERS!**

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

Jim Stack (welcome back)	Carl Junghan
Vern Newell	Angela Mawson
Bridget Daley	Michael Laliberte
James Way	Todd Henrickson
David Morton	Martin Kamm
Suzanne Grenier	

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.

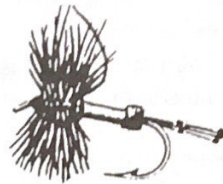
*Nominating Committee Report*

The following people were elected by the membership at the January 2000 meeting:

President	Ray Riley
Vice President, Environment	Jack Smola
Vice President, Promotion	Ed Fidrych
Vice President, Activities	Larry Johnson
Treasurer	Keith Petry
Recording Secretary	Ted Rzepski

Respectfully submitted,

Chair, Charlie Place, Gary Steinmiller, Mike Stewart, Roger Plourde;  
2000 Nominating Committee



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## CFFA 30th Annual Banquet 12 February 2000

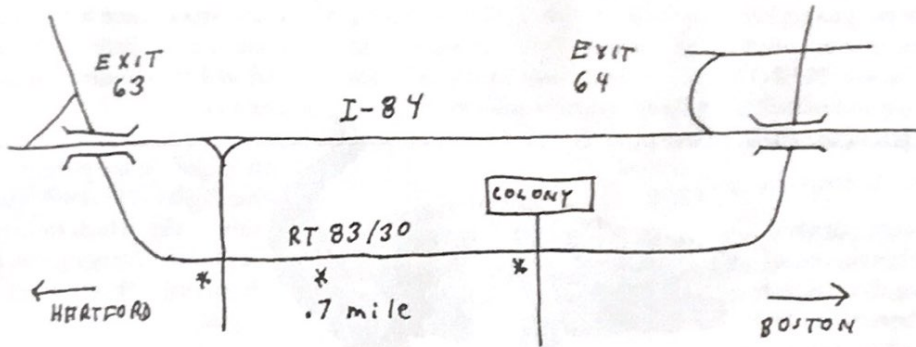
The banquet will be held at The Colony of Vernon (a map is provided below). Your choice of dinners this year will be Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Roast Stuffed Breast of Capon or Prime Ribs of Beef, Au Jus. Included with the meal will be salad, baked potato, ziti, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee or tea, 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 5 February 2000



## The Long Distance Release (LDR) by Tammy DiGristine

And so another Tam adventure begins....

The good thing about flyfishing in the saltwater, or any method of fishing for that matter, is that you just never know what you are going to catch. Take for instance the catch I made with my friend from CA last weekend.....

Picked up a friend from CA at the airport first thing Thursday morning and we got to the hotel room (2 beds!!) and slept for a while. Then we ate and headed to the water. Took him out to my tarpon hole where all of my pet tarpon live, hoping to get him hooked up. It was his first time ever seeing a tarpon, and he saw PLENTY of them. I jumped one and missed a bunch more, and he got nada. Zilch. Zero.

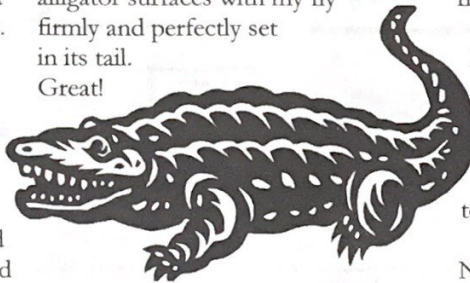
Friday morning we went out with my favorite fishin pal (well, one of them anyway) and we showed Josh what tailing redfish were... Eric got a bunch of follows, a few strikes and cussed a lot, Josh got one follow, and I got about a dozen follows, a dozen strikes, snagged one by it's tail (yes, there were THAT many right there), lined about 100 of them, got one on good, jumped another and just about stepped on one. We all caught a bunch of trout that morning.

Friday night it was time to show him what kind of trouble Tam can get into without trying. He had heard all of the Tam stories, and didn't know yet whether to believe them or not but after Friday night, he is a believer.. a firm believer!

Back to the tarpon hole we went, standing on the bank of the canal and

fishing it for poons. I made a cast.. strip, let the fly sink, strip, let the fly sink, strip... all the way back across.. nothing.

Second cast same thing. Finally I made a cast across the entire canal and my fly landed perfectly one inch from the far bank. Strip once, let it sink, strip twice, let it sink, strip 3 times, let it sink... bump... bump bump... perfect strip strike, followed immediately by another. I have gotten SO GOOD at hooksets in tarpon, which is the hardest thing about tarpon fishin'. So I have my hook set firmly and I am wondering why my tarpon hasn't jumped yet. They ALWAYS jump at the hookset. Pulled up on my rod to raise it and lo and behold, a 7 foot alligator surfaces with my fly firmly and perfectly set in its tail.  
Great!



So I sit there and rationalize the situation. The gator is 50 ft. away, 7 ft long and probably not too happy that there is a #2 Copper Liz implanted in its ass. I'm on the bank, a nice tasty morsel holding the rod to which it is attached. What to do? Break the tippet of course! It's only 8 lb.. no problem! So I yank and jerk and straightline and try everything short of breaking my rod to break the tippet and nothing. This has got to be the strongest 8 lb tippet in the world! No lie. All I succeeded in doing the whole time was to pull the gator closer. He made a few good runs, rolled a few times and basically just went along for the ride.

So here I am with 8 lb tippet, dragging a 125+ pound gator backwards towards me. NOT GOOD! When he got within 5 ft of me, I knew I had to do something. I did the only thing I could have done.... I picked up Josh's jaw off the ground, (this was the first time he had ever SEEN a gator) handed him my keys and told him to go get my truck. He went, got it, came back and started to park it. Meanwhile me and the gator are playing give and take with the line. I told Josh not to park the truck, but to pull up next to me on the road and stop. I climbed into the bed of the truck, stood there with my rod pointed at the gator, palmed the reel and told Josh to drive slowly away from there.

He looked at me puzzled and I told him again. He slowly started to drive away, which caused me to really start dragging this reptile from hell. That is when he started to fight.

Now mind you this is a bumpety scrumpety dirt road, an old pick up truck, and a big assed alligator, and I'm STANDING in the back of the truck, fighting the alligator and trying to keep my balance all in the name of breaking 8 lb tippet. It should be a whole lot easier than this. Finally he drove far enough and I fought hard enough that we managed to get the sucker to the land and up on the bank, then halfway up the bank. Still my tippet would not break. He was really going off by now.. Josh and the gator. Once the gator was halfway on the road, he finally thrashed enough and my tippet FINALLY snapped. HOORAY!

*(Continued on page 8)*



**CFFA Flyfishing School Enrollment Application**

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 26 Penwood Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CFFA Member \_\_\_\_\_ Yes / \_\_\_\_\_ No

For additional information contact  
Ed Fidrych, V.P. Promotion, 951 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland, CT 06480 Phone: (860) 342-1173.

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	1	3-2-00	Rods, Reel and Lines
	2	3-9-00	Flies and Fish
	3	3-16-00	Water Types and How to Fish Them
	4	3-23-00	Leaders and Knots
	5	4-8-00	Casting Instruction and Fishing (Pond)
	6	4-22-00	Fishing a Stream with a CFFA Guide

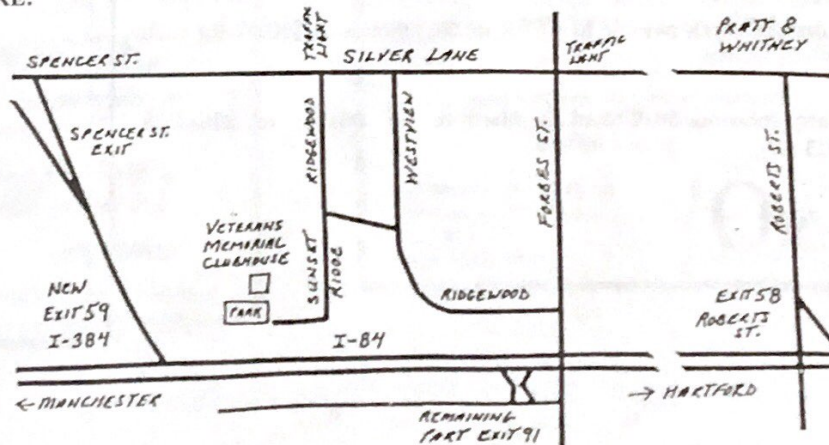
**LOCATION:** Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 7:00 PM, Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, East Hartford, See map below  
 Class 5 A private pond stocked with trout.  
 Class 6 During this final session, students will fish the Willimatic river with a CFFA instructor and practice course techniques (approach, wading, stream reading, etc.) NOTE: Students must supply their own transportation and equipment, and have a valid CT 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 equipment until after Class 1. All Classes: 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:**





**LDR** (Continued from page 6)

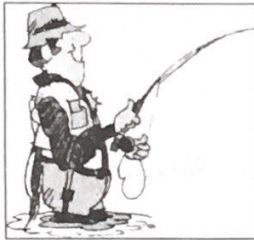
I was hooting and hollering and stuff by then, not because I was extremely happy, but because my flyline had just come shooting back at me and slapped me right in the face at about the same time Josh slammed on the breaks throwing me down in the back of the truck. Of course, I saved the rod. I got up, Josh got out and we looked back and there is the alligator, truly defining the meaning of ticked off... he started after us.

Josh jumps back into my truck, floors it and naturally, I fall out of it. I was NOT expecting that!! So twice in the last minute I have fallen on my arse, rod in hand, saved the rod at the expense of quite a few bruises in precarious places and I'm laying on the dirt road stunned. Then I remembered the alligator. I look up and yep, he's still coming, even faster now. Josh was gone. I don't even think he realized that he lost me!! It's ok though, I passed him about a quarter mile up the road....

**CLUB TRIP**

**Cape Cod Fishing**

**May 20 & 21, June 3 & 4, 2000**



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!

The second weekend dates have not been firmed up yet, due to availability. We may go the following weekend.

Lodging will be at The Moorings Lodge in Falmouth Heights for the nights of 5/19 and 20 or 6/2 and 3. 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 about \$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 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).

**SORTING YOUR HACKLES**

Get a hackle sizing gage and presort your hackles. If you divide them into envelopes as to size, quality and type, wet or dry, you will improve all three aspects of your tying. Small gages that clamp in your vise sell for about \$4.00. After many years of plucking my hackles directly from the neck for use I decided to presort the hackles from several necks. After the sorting, not only did I achieve my objective of more uniform flies; I got a crash course in judging the quality of hackles, necks, and a real appreciation of value received for dollars spent. Not all necks and not all feathers are created equal! Other rewards were reduced tying time and reduced storage space, especially important to those who travel with a tying kit. If you don't gage and sort your hackles, I urge you to try it once. Even if you decide that you would rather leave the feathers on the skin, sorting a few necks will teach you a lot about judging their quality.

By the way, I don't presort saddle hackles because the feathers are generally much more uniform in size and I can often get several flies from a single feather.

by Jim Cramer, Russian River Flycasters of Santa Rosa, CA

(Reprinted from September 99 FFF ClubWire)



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Ken Abrames  
(Reprinted from November 99 FFF ClubWire)

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**FEBRUARY MEETING & BANQUET:**  
*Tammy DiGristine* **Saturday, Feb. 12**

		Home	Office
Board of Directors			
President	Ray Riley		
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	Keith Petry		
Advisory Board	Joe D'Addario	568-5035	289-6427
Advisory Board	Gary Bogli	649-4227	648-5030
Advisory Board	Charles Place	623-9912	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	747-5852	
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**