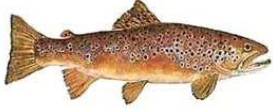




LINES & LEADERS



The Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



Volume 34 No. 1

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

Sept 2006

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Paul Koopman

"Salt Water Fly Fishing the Long Island Sound"



Come join us at the September meeting where we will listen to one of the Sound's most competent and respected fisherman. **Captain Paul Koopmann** has fished the Long Island Sound for his entire life, and only the last ten years with a fly rod in hand.

As an Orvis Endorsed Guide his knowledge of the western Long Island Sound coupled with the best tackle in the industry make his guiding trips a safe and successful fishing experience.

Working closely with Trout Unlimited, Save the Sound, and Coastal Conservation Association he knows how fragile the Long Island Sound is. Keeping a close eye on the ever changing water conditions and shorelines is what separates him from the others.

A longtime resident of Fairfield County and father to 3 boys he has the patience and knowledge to safely guide you and your family to the Long Island Sound's best fly fishing. From CT's shoreline to the North Shore of Long Island, Salty Flies has the permits and access to the Long Island Sound's best fishing locations.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, September 13th, 2006

TIME: Fly Tying, Tackle Swap, Raffle:
7:00 - 7:30 PM

Program: 8:00 - 9:00 PM



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this a little bit early because I am leaving for a school in Ohio that my company is sending me to. It is the beginning of the third week in August. I hope all of you had a safe and healthy spring and summer. I haven't heard from too many of you, but I did hear from some of you and I'm pleased to say so far everyone that I talked to has caught fish.

Stanley and Mary did very well on the Wilimantic and Farmington Rivers this year, and they even hit the Housy for smallmouth and did okay. Stanley, Mary, Phil McCormick, Rob and Brian Edwards, Todd, and I took a little trip on a Sunday morning to fish the Housy for smallmouth. Stan did manage to land a nice largemouth but the fishing wasn't very good because it had rained the night before and the water was very murky which made the smallmouth fishing impossible. I do, however, plan to try again in the future. Hopefully the fishing will be better.

Lou, Mike (Lou's friend from Tennessee), and I headed over to the P&F pond in East Hartford for an evening of float tube fishing. We were fishing mostly with poppers and the bass were hitting them pretty hard. They weren't very big but they sure were fun on my 2 weight rod. All of us caught fish and surprisingly the mosquitoes left us alone for the most part.

The Quality Inn is already booked for our expo and banquet. Our expo and banquet will be Saturday, February 3rd. All that we need to do now is meet with them and determine the price of tickets. Kurt is working hard on the raffle and Walt, as always, is working hard on our monthly raffles.

(Continued on page 3)

CFFA CLUB NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

CFFA would like to welcome the following new member to our organization:

★ RICK PFOHL – Tolland ★

Congratulations and welcome to CFFA!!

2006 CLASS OFFERINGS:

One of the strengths of CFFA... Classes are now forming.

- **RODBUILDING** – New Instructors this year.
- **FRESHWATER FLY FISHING** – Gary Steinmiller and staff - Instructor
- **SALTWATER FLY FISHING** – Gary Steinmiller, Ted Rzepski, and staff – Instructors
- **FRESHWATER FLY TYING** – Gary Steinmiller and staff – Instructors
- **SALTWATER FLY TYING** - Ted Rzepski, Ernie Boutiette, and staff - Instructors



Fly tying before a CFFA member's meeting. Pictured here is Kurt Jagielow, our Conservation Chairman.

COMING EVENTS

Next Board Meeting SEPT 6
Next Membership Meeting SEPT 13

SHOWS AND EXPOS

2006 Fly-Fishing University "Arts of the Angler" The Sheraton Hotel & Conf Center, Danbury, CT
www.flyfishingu.net
 NO SHOW THIS YEAR

2007 Northeast Hunting and Fishing Expo, CT Expo Center Hartford, CT
www.fishinghuntingexpo.com
 FEB 16-18, 2007

2007 Fly Fishing Shows JAN 19, 20, 21 2007
 -Royal Plaza Trade Center
 Marlborough, MA

-Garden State Expo Center JAN 26, 27, 28, 2007
 Somerset, NJ

2007 "The Springfield Sportsmans Show" at the "Big E," West Springfield, MA
 FEB 22-25, 2007

2007 Fly-Fishing Exposition, Shriners Auditorium Wilmington, MA
 DATES TBD

CFFA CLASSES/EVENTS

2007 Freshwater Fly Tying Classes *Jan/Feb 2007

2007 Saltwater Fly Tying Classes *Jan/Feb 2007

2007 Rod Building Classes *Jan/Feb 2007

2007 CFFA Annual Banquet And Exposition Feb 3, 2007

2007 Freshwater Fly-Fishing School * March/April 2007

2007 Saltwater Fly-Fishing School * March/April 2007

2007 Cape Cod Fishing Trips:
First trip: * Dates TBD
Second trip: * Dates TBD

OTHER EVENTS

HFFA Annual Expo And Banquet, Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT
 Dates TBD

VEST OF THE PRESIDENT (Continued from page 1)

We are going to need lots of help this year with our expo and banquet. We need everyone that can, to step up and help out. It's everyone's club so everyone is needed to pitch in. Please don't be bashful, you don't need to tie flies to help us at our booth at the shows. Just volunteer and show up.

Cubeta's in Middlefield is having a club appreciation weekend in September. Cubeta's has been one of our sponsors for some time now. We would like to send some members there to greet customers and some of us will be tying flies. We may even sign up a few new members while we are at it. Jerry is back in the fly shop at Cubeta's and Jerry has for many years been a good friend to CFFA.

Send your fish stories and pictures to Dave Casali so that he can print them in the newsletter. I plan to get out a few more times in my tube and do some more fishing before winter rears it's ugly head.

Charlie Place headed back to France again, but he is back and picking on the stripers and trout. I'm sure Jerry Wade is helping him strike fear in the hearts of fish everywhere.

Don't forget to look for Bob Winot at the meetings. Bob has plenty of DVD's and videos for rent. I understand that everyone who attended the Cape and Roscoe trips had a great time. It's nice to get away with other club members for a weekend and fish.

The Northeast Hunting and Fishing Expo will be February 16-18th this year. We need to plan on having a booth at the show. We also have a new banner for our table thanks to Mary Edwards. It came out nice and I am sure we will get plenty of use out of it. We are also planning on getting involved with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts this year.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again in September. The summer is a nice break from club business but it's nice to come back and chat with all of you. If I haven't met you yet, come up and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you. See you at the meeting, bring a friend.

Tight Lines,

John

**CT Fly Fisherman's Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

- Change of address
- New member
- Membership renewal

DATE: _____
NAME: _____
STREET: _____
CITY: _____
STATE/ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____
WORK PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

Please check a committee you are now on or wish to be on:

- Conservation
- Education
- Fund Raising
- Secretarial
- Program
- Publicity
- Banquet
- Newsletter
- Indoor Facil.
- Membership
- Legislative
- Other

DUES STRUCTURE:

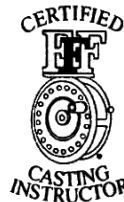
- Junior (under 16) \$ 5.00
- Regular \$ 20.00
- Supporting \$ 30.00
- Contributing \$ 75.00
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TOTAL

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Bear Encounter

By Charlie Place



The following has been printed in Lines & Leaders some years back and also in Heading Out magazine. Many people have approached Charlie and have asked him if this was a true story or just plain fiction. Well...he has informed us that every detail written here is absolutely true even the part where he kissed the bear!...if only we had a video of this event.... You will enjoy this one!

The bear's large angry eyes were no more than a foot from my face. Its lips were curled back, saliva dripped from its long pointed teeth. I could barely look at the magazine cover. Even after two fishing trips to Alaska without so much as seeing a bear, I was still nervous. I was going to Maine in a week. For most on my mind was the possibility of encountering a bear. Little did I know that my fear would become a reality.

My good friend Ernie and I arrived in the town of Bruinn about noon. Even though it was a nine-hour drive, our modus operandi was to rush to our reserved cabin, grab an adult beverage, unload, and head for the stream, without actually unpacking. The point was to catch at least one landlocked salmon apiece before the other half of our foursome arrived. If we were successful, they would be stuck with the supper dishes.

I dropped Ernie off at his favorite pool and drove about a mile downstream. We figured splitting up would give us the best chance of avoiding the dreaded dish detail. I picked a small isolated pool that I had fished before with good results. I parked at the edge of the paved road and walked the last fifty yards through the woods. Fishing was slow. Two hours had passed without even so much as a hit. Having driven a long way and skipped lunch. I was getting the munchies. I searched my vest for some crackers or a candy bar left over from my last outing. I found a Snickers. The chocolate was melted and the paper was stuck to the gooey mess, but with some careful unwrapping I deemed the bar edible. Just as I took a bite, a salmon hit my fly. I had left the Black Ghost swimming about thirty feet downstream while I salvaged the sun-baked sweet. The salmon bolted across the stream, taking up the slack fly line and getting himself on the reel. The half bitten chocolate bar hung from my mouth, as the hooked speedster left the water for the first time. Twisting and turning the startled fish came down on its side, slapping the water, soaking the top of a near by rock. After two more jumps and a long run the bushy fighter was ready to be landed. I reached around to the back of my vest and grabbed my net. Extending the bungee, I slipped the net under the silver twenty incher. Suddenly there was an enormous splash! The net was ripped from my hand. Confused, I quickly wiped the cold water from my eyes. A crazed raccoon had leaped from the riverbank on to my fish and started downstream, almost pulling me over. As fast as I could, I grabbed the stretched cord and pulled. The net came loose from the masked thief and shot back hitting me in the head. Dazed, I took a step toward dry land, spun around, and fell back, half in the water, half out. I must have passed out. Still groggy I became slowly aware that something was licking my face. Eating the mashed chocolate bar! I squinted my eyes open. It was a bear! My nightmare! My heart was pounding! I didn't know what to do! The bear kept on licking. Panic-stricken, I reached up, grabbed the hungry bruin around the neck, and put the biggest sloppiest kiss on her that I could. Startled, the bear dug in its feet and tried to pull away. I let go. The surprised chocolate lover stumbled back a few steps and fell on her butt. I jumped up and rushed out into the stream. I stood there, mid-river, slightly over my waders with coldwater running down my legs. The dumbfounded bear and I looked at each other for a long moment. Finally, she snorted, turned, and ran back into the woods.

Completely shaken, I walked upstream a few hundred yards, cut across somebody's lawn and circled back to my car, all the time wondering how I still had my fly rod. On that long walk I decided not to tell my buddies about the bear encounter. It was a cinch they wouldn't believe me, and all I had to show for it was chapped lips. I touched my sore lips. How long was she licking them anyway? Back at camp I took a hazing for falling in the river. After I did the dishes, we played cards for a while tied flies and told fish stories. Ernie asked me what happened to my mouth. "It's all red," he said.

The next morning Ernie wanted to go a place called The Falls. It wasn't too far from where I had met the bear. "Ah, What the heck," I thought. "It couldn't happen again." Besides, I didn't have any more candy bars. We no more than stopped at the end of the short dirt road leading to the falls, when my car began to bounce up and down violently. I looked in my rear view-mirror. There was a bear, much larger than the first, with its two front paws on my trunk, pushing on my car. Ernie and I exchanged frightened looks. The huge bear stopped, walked around to the driver's side, and took a swipe, knocking my antenna off. Then he walked to the front of the car, lifted his leg and relieved himself all over my hood. The king size fur ball then walked a few feet away and with his hind legs sprayed dirt all over the present he had just left. Then he strutted off and disappeared into the thick undergrowth.

We sat there trying to compose ourselves. After shaking several minutes, Ernie broke the fear-soaked silence. "Geez, I've never seen a bear that mad before." he quipped. "He acted like you were messing with his girl or something."

Bristol Bay Alaska Mining Threat

By Leah Elwell, FFF Conservation Coordinator



During the 2006 Conclave, FFF members from across the country learned about the threats facing some of the world's most famed salmon and trout waterways. The Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska hosted an information booth at the Conclave and the Renewable Resources Coalition gave several presentations to spread the word regarding the proposed Pebble Mine, to be located in Southwest Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed.

A Canadian company called Northern Dynasty is proposing to build North America's largest open-pit gold and copper mine between Lake Iliamna and the Mulchatna River. The permitting process began in early July, as Northern Dynasty applied for water rights from Upper Talarik Creek and the North and South Forks of the Koktuli River.

In its water right applications the mining company laid claim to more than 73 million gallons per day, nearly three times the amount of water used by the Anchorage, Alaska (population 270,000). These waterways are critical Bristol Bay salmon and trout producers that could be gravely threatened by these proposed actions.

At the Conclave's auction dinner, FFF President & CEO R.P. Van Gytenbeek spoke to the audience in no uncertain terms of the threat and the opportunity for engagement. Van Gytenbeek stated that the FFF must work to stop this mine, which is only the beginning of what the mining industry believes could turn the entire Bristol Bay region into a massive mining district.

"Our organization must be engaged" says FFF President"

In response to the application for water rights, Van Gytenbeek stated: "Upper Talarik Creek is a national treasure for us and for trout fishermen from all over the world. Each year fishermen from Europe, South America and Asia make the trip to Alaska just for an opportunity to fish Upper Talarik and the rest of the famous Bristol Bay watershed. Any person or company that takes an action which would diminish the fishery commits a crime against each of us and against the people and natural resources of Alaska. This is yet another piece of a totally un-needed and unacceptable project which must be defeated."

FFF members and clubs can learn more about this issue by visiting www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org and www.renewableresourcescoalition.org. A free 4-minute DVD on the subject is available for viewing at club meetings.

Scott Hed Outreach Director Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska Scott@alaskacoalition.org

Scott Brennan Executive VP & Chief Operating Officer Renewable Resources Coalition Scott@renewableresourcescoalition.org

ABOUT CFFA: The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions 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 Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT.

"Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman'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 add or \$40 for nine months. CFFA members may place for-sale or want ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to David Casali, 259 Longhill Drive, Glastonbury, CT, 06033. Change of address notice should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380268, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268

COPY DEADLINE: The second Friday of the month.

New England Field & Stream – Special Offer

(Formerly Cubeta's Field & Stream, See add on page 7)

As a member of a Fishing Club, we want to show you our appreciation for the work you do on behalf of all of us who fish. You are invited to participate in our Club Appreciation Week, September 17-24, 2006

- 10% discount for all 8 sale days on all Orvis merchandise in store and ordered. **TO CURRENT CLUB MEMBERS.**
- Featured items at discount prices for entire week.

(Continued on page 6)



When I go Over the Thames River Bridge by John Springer

Each Sunday I run a train to Boston and when I am over the Thames River Bridge I always look up river and it always reminds me of all the fishing people I have gotten to know through Conn/RI's email list. My friend George Kelly is a year round fisherman and I spend many wonderful hours on this river with him. As I look at the left side going up river I remember the blues chasing bait along the Coast Guard school and watching George hook up while I ran the boat.

Up a way's I can see Mamakoke Island and remember the time I took George's boat out by myself for the first time. We got into some fish, but without him there to show where the fish were, it was not the same. On another day at the same spot Charlie Muscarella and I did well while tied up to an old pole that someone put there many years ago. We tied up to it to eat lunch... one of the best parts of our day while fishing. During a flood tide George and I did well in the cove that is there also. Those big fish we see on the finder as we troll along the rock out cropping always seem to elude us but its fun to see them on the screen just the same. As we round the bend, Smith Cove comes up which is always worth checking out and a good place to get out of the wind on one of those fall days when it just does not quit. Up a bit from the sub base but on the same side is uuuuu cove. George always goes in there to make a circle and as a rule when the water is cool will pick up a fish or two. Back on the west side of the river is the power plant that does not operate these days, but on a January day several years ago when the warm water was pumping through I caught a huge Atlantic salmon. That fish made the entire winter for me. Up a bit more is the paper plant and Kelly Cove. We always get some fish there. It is also one of the better places in spring and late fall that that we fish. Between there and Steff Cramers house, aka the River Rat house, I can see Captain Al Anderson and the River Rat herself on one of their many trips this past fall. They catch about 90 fish and tag them for ALS. He does this so ALS can see where those Stripers go during the year and how big they get. Further up by the 2A Bridge I think of the bass we caught that stay so close to the rock weirs that will destroy your lower unit but still we fish close to them. When I look over at the casino I think of all the people losing all their money but at the same time helping to support the state of Connecticut. I say thank you to them for helping to keep my taxes down a bit. As I look up river I remember a day while fishing with Leo Coombs. On drifts from the old Thermos factory down towards the oil tanks we would get several hook ups and either land them or count them as half fish all during a snow storm that no one else fished. Last stop on the river is Norwich Harbor. It was a very busy place over 100 years ago with cargo boats arriving and departing. On a warm winter day there can be over 20 boats with people fishing for Mr. Striper who has settled in for the winter. There are anglers with bait, lures, flies and mini rigs trying for them. Most fish are about eighteen inches but to George and I any fish on the end of the line is a good one. I can remember a day when Brian De Carlo took me fishing. When we launched his boat I asked where his fish finder was, he told me he could smell the fish and did not need one. We did great that day as the stripers were chomping on herring or something and it did smell and he followed it around and we caught fish. Brian and I had many laughs that day about many things. One night after a Conn/RI meeting Steve Bernier invited Dick "Mr. Sluggo" Trembly and I out on a cold winter night. He took us to one of his many secret spots and with numb fingers we caught some stripers and had some laughs. Another day Capt. Kelly took Ernie Beckwith and I out so he could show Ernie all his secret spots. We boated fish, had some laughs and Ernie and I enjoyed George's stories about growing up on the river and rowing his grandfather up and down the river so he could catch fish for the table. That rowing and eating cookies all the time I think is what keeps George fishing year round. The Thames holds many memories for me and they are all good. On those cold winter Sundays when I look up river I think of all of them.

New England Field & Stream – Special Offer – (Continued from page 5)

- *FREE Tie-Fast Nail Knot Tool, (\$7.95 value) for the first 50 current club members who attend our Club Appreciation Days.*
- *FREE enrollment, to all current club members, for a drawing for 2 Orvis rods. 1-Superfine Far & Fine, 7'9" 5 weight with Battenkill Bar Stock Reel & line, 1-TLS Power Matrix 909-4 piece with Battenkill Mid-Arbor V and line, to those who attend during Sale Days.*
- *Sunday, September 17th from 10-4, Kevin Devine, Orvis Northeast Regional Manager, will be here to answer any questions about Orvis, and he will have some of Orvis's latest model rods for you to cast on our pond.*
- *Mike Motyl, full time commercial fly tier for over 20 years, will present a program, "A look a fly Rodding the Northeast's premier frest water fishery: Lake Ontario and its tributaries. On Sunday, 9/17 @ 1PM, Thursday, 9/21 @ 6:30PM, and Saturday, 9/23 @ 2PM.*
- *Jerry Bannock, An Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing School Instructor, will give casting clinics on Saturday, 9/23 @ 9AM, 10AM, 2PM, and 3PM, and will present a program, "My Favorite Fishing Spots on the Farmington River" on Wednesday, 9/20 @6PM also Saturday, 9/23 12 Noon.*


To qualify, you must register in person with us with some proof of your current membership in your club , current membership card or a current newsletter with your name on the mailing label.



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