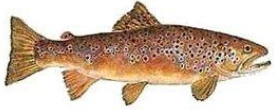




LINES & LEADERS



The Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



Volume 36 No. 5

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

January 08

JANUARY MEETING

"Pizza, Soda, Fly-Tying, and a Movie"



PIZZA, SODA, A MOVIE, AND FLY TYING...

Can it get any better than this? Bring the family and come join all the club members as we partake in all of the above. The latest "Trout Bum" movie will be showed. We will also vote on this year's club officers.

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

DATE: Wednesday, January 9th, 2008

TIME: Fly Tying, Tackle Swap, Raffle:
Food & Refreshments: 7:00 – 9:00
PM

2008 BANQUET & EXPO

Don't forget to attend our annual Banquet and Expo this year! There will be a ton of prizes and raffles! It will be held on Saturday, February, 9th, 2008. See page 4 for details and Dinner Reservation Form.



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and I wish you the best of health and a Happy New Year.

Another full house at the December meeting, you are all awesome! Thanks for supporting our club by purchasing raffle. Thanks to Walt for all of his hard work.

Ryan Sansoucy's program was very informative and entertaining, nice job Ryan and nice job Roger for finding him.

Dave and Mark Casali have been the Lines & Leaders editors for the past 5 years. I would like to express my gratitude to Dave and Mark for their hard work and dedication as they turn the job over to Todd Gorman. Dave and Mark have become my close friends and I know they will stay active and enjoy the camaraderie of the CFFA. I look forward to seeing both of them at our meetings and functions in the future. Best of luck to the both of them.

January is election of officers; I want to thank Charlie Place and the nominating committee for overseeing the election.

Thank you to Steve Sawczuk and Sam Dupuis for your years of service to the CFFA. Steve is stepping down as the indoor facilities chairman and Sam is leaving her post as promotions VP. I hope to continue to see you both at the meetings and I appreciate all of your time and hard work.

Don't forget our expo and banquet will be Saturday February 9th. Our special guests will be Bob Clouser and Brian Shumaker. Bob needs no introduction I'm sure, Brian is a Susquahanna River guide and has offered to help at our expo. Please fill out the banquet reservation form and mail it to Mike Stewart before January 26th (Page 4). If you mail it after the cutoff date we will not be able to guarantee you a place.

Although we always try to accommodate late reservations we are not always successful, so to avoid any problems please make your reservations before the cutoff date.

We still need people to tie flies at Cabela's, we would like 2 people and it will be on Saturday from 11 to 3 in the flyshop. If you are interested please contact Mary Edwards and she will give you your choice of dates. It's a great opportunity to boost the membership and meet and greet people so, don't pass it up.

The Ct. Marine Trades show is coming up January 24th – 27th, we have been offered a booth so if you are interested in working that show please keep an eye on our message board or contact Mary Edwards. (*Vest Continued on Page 6*)

CFFA CLUB NEWS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Reminder! December is the time to renew your membership. Please send your payment to CFFA or to Phil McCormick. You can mail your payment to Phil at 268 Buff Cap Road, Tolland, CT, 06084, Email: phil.mccormick@alliedprinting.com (Form on Page 3)

JANUARY MEETING ROD RAFFLE

CFFA life member William Franko has donated a beautiful rod for our January membership meeting raffle. It is a 7 1/2' (two pieces, two tips) Orvis Impregnated Bamboo Rod in excellent condition, with original bag and tube. Tickets are \$10 each available at the meeting (only to current CFFA members).

HELP OUT AT THE CFFA BOOTH AT THE NORTHEAST HUNTING & FISHING EXPO

The Northeast Hunting and Fishing Show will be held in downtown Hartford February 15th through the 17th. If you are interested in helping out at this show contact Bob Winot or John Baracchi.

DONATIONS FOR BANQUET RAFFLE

If you would like to donate any fly fishing related items for our banquet please contact Kurt Jagielow (Kurt's phone numbers are on page 8). Tied flies are always popular. We'll mention your name at the banquet and acknowledge your donation in a future issue of Lines & Leaders. If you would like to donate your photographer's skills at our banquet, please contact John Baracchi.

EXPO GUESTS

This year's expo guests will feature Bob and Brian Shumaker of the Susquahanna River Guides. (Expo Feb 9, 9am-3pm, no charge)

CFFA OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Please note that we will be holding CFFA officer elections at our January meeting.

CFFA CLASSES TO BEGIN:

Our fly tying and fly fishing classes will begin soon and its not too late to sign up. Contact Gary Steinmiller if you would like to take a class. See the schedule to the right for more information and refer to the class syllabus on our website.

COMING EVENTS

Next Board Meeting Jan 2
Next Membership Meeting Jan 9

SHOWS AND EXPOS

2008 Northeast Hunting and Fishing Expo, CT Expo Center Hartford, CT FEB 15-17, 2008
www.fishinghuntingexpo.com

2008 Fly Fishing Shows JAN 18, 19, 20 2008
-Royal Plaza Trade Center Marlborough, MA

-Garden State Expo Center Somerset, NJ JAN 25, 26, 27, 2008

2008 "The Springfield Sportsmans Show" at the "Big E," West Springfield, MA FEB 21-24, 2008

CFFA CLASSES/EVENTS

2008 Fresh and Salt Water Fly Tying Classes
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and February

2008 CFFA Annual Banquet And Exposition Feb 9, 2008

2008 Freshwater Fly-Fishing School
March 6, 13, 20, 27 with the casting instruction on stream classes to be announced.

2008 Saltwater Fly-Fishing School
* Mar/April 2008

2008 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

CT River Salmon Association 32nd Dinner & Raffle (see page 3) Jan 26, 2008

* For actual dates please visit our website at www.ctflyfish.org

CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION



32ST ANNUAL DINNER AND RAFFLE/AUCTION

Saturday, January 26, 2008

The Hawthorne Inn 2421 Wilbur Cross Highway, Berlin, CT

Tickets \$ 39.00 per person

Guest speaker
Renowned Salmon Authority
FRED WHORISKEY
Vice President for Research and Environment
Atlantic Salmon Federation

Raffle and Auction items include fresh and saltwater tackle and equipment, limited edition and original art work, guided trips and other items which provide excitement and enjoyment throughout an evening of good fellowship.

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or Jim Carroll at (860) 231-5181

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Roger Plourde

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE BANQUET AND EXPO...

At our banquet Bob Clouser will be presenting a slide show called, "Fly Fishing Smorgasboard." The presentation will be about catching numerous species on flies in and outside the U.S. Bob will also be performing a demonstration at our expo on how to better cast weighted flies. This demonstration will surely be a "can't miss" because our club has never had an instructional session like this before. Bob is the author of numerous fly fishing books including "Fly Fishing For Smallmouth" and "Clouser's Flies." All you fans out there will be glad to know that Bob will be doing a book signing during the expo. Bob will also be tying flies during the expo. Brian Shumaker, of the Susquahanna River Guides, will be doing a presentation called "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth" during the day at the expo too. Everyone should check these great events out. Remember the expo is no charge so don't hesitate to bring the whole family!



**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:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DUES STRUCTURE:

- Junior (under 16) \$ 5.00
- Regular \$ 20.00
- Supporting \$ 30.00
- Contributing \$ 75.00
- Life \$ 300.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ _____



The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

38th ANNUAL BANQUET

Saturday, February 9th, 2008

*Featuring Guest
Speaker:
Bob Clouser*



*Held at:
Maneeleys
65 Rye Street
South Windsor, CT
06074
Cocktails: 6:30
Dinner: 7:00*

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

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

- Your Banquet committee has worked hard to provide you with an enjoyable evening.
- 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 John Baracchi at (860) 895-1181. **All prizes will be greatly appreciated and all donations will be acknowledged in "Lines & Leaders."**

Banquet Hard Copy Reservation form:

Dinner Reservation Form

MAIL CHECK TO:
Mr. Michael Stewart
215 Loomis St.
N. Granby, CT 06060

Date _____

No. of Reservations
at \$39.00 per person: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Dinner Choice: Prime Rib Baked Stuffed Shrimp Chicken Breast with vegetable herb stuffing



The One That Got Away

By Daryl Crowley



"Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught." - Anonymous

Gone! That instant of truth, that terrible revelation, that cruel heart stopping moment when you and the fish of your dreams suddenly and forever part; will haunt you the remainder of your days. I speak not of the willing and giving act of releasing a hard won trophy. The intentional release of a great fish, over which you hold the power of life and death, is a satisfying act. Such an act is an obvious display of your great generosity. Your sensitive and unselfish nature allows you in your undisputed victory, to simply tip your net and allow your opponent to live and fight another day. You are gregarious and civilized, thoughtful and restrained. But like a jilted lover the same goodbye is not seen through such rose colored sunglasses when it is you who has been released.

Why is it that the fish I remember most are the ones that got away? Is it possible that all the very best fish I have ever hooked have gotten away? I seem to remember some really nice fish, in fact some dandies that came to hand. I have pictures to prove it and witnesses. But somehow they don't seem as large or awe-inspiring as those merely felt, or glimpsed, or slipped just short of grasp. I suspect that those fish were the *crème de la crème* of fishes. True leviathans: record trout of legendary proportions. Opportunity lost. And with the passage of time my memory seems to become clearer and I can more certainly state that these were indeed monster fish and at the time of their loss I sorely underestimated their size. With each passing year and telling of the tale, my mind farther removed from the shock of loosing such trophies, I can now objectively see that these fish were far larger than I had previously thought. Now, from my vantage point in future I can, with detachment from the traumatic event, unmistakably see that what I thought was a 5 pound trout 10 years past, was unquestionably at least 12 pounds. I can remember it so clearly now.

And you wonder; why? Why did this happen? What could I have done differently? Did I offend the gods? Sometimes the answer is cruelly obvious. A crinkled tippet, or a half a blood knot, is like a sinister finger pointing directly at you. You - the inept knot tier, the lackadaisical, too lazy to check your line for weakness, or too slow to take up the slack, you must wear your guilt for all time, chastised and burdened with the fault of losing a world record trout. Someday far in the future you will come to realize just how great a loss this was.

You might try to convince yourself that you're not to blame, that fate intervened. While this may be the case, in all probability you will eventually come to realize that you should have put a little more pressure on here, or a little less drag there and things would have worked out in your favor. You should have sharpened your hook! In all likelihood, it will eventually become apparent that had you exercised proper judgment and execution of your sport, you would have broken the state brook trout record by at least 4 pounds. You may be able to delude yourself convincingly that all was beyond your control and that fate was just giving you a taste of glory, perhaps conditioning you for something better far in the future. Consider yourself lucky if you can live with that thought when you eventually realize that no fish will ever again be as big as the one that you screwed up on.

They say it is better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all. Maybe. But to feel that unbelievable power, to hear the reel screaming at an impossible pitch, to see that incredible girth, or unimaginable length, is to entertain the thought that this fish is your destiny. Like being in love your heart races, your senses are filled, and you start to imagine holding this prize for a photograph that will document forever your legend. Then in an instant; faster than light travels from here to the moon, the line goes slack. For another instant your mind rejects what your heart knows to be true. But the truth is still there. He's gone. He will not be back: ever. Your part in this fish is no more. Even if another angler lands him, no one will associate you with this fish. Like a lover lost, it is too late for you. No second chance: too late to turn back the clock. Forever more, each time you revisit that pool or riffle you will remember the great fish; you will suffer again the pangs of guilt and tragic loss. You can never fish that place again and not feel the regret and yes, remorse. In time you will come to realize just how great your loss was; how tragic your folly or carelessness. When you pass on from this world and your deeds are judged, you will be hard pressed to defend such a transgression. "But I was so close!" You will probably babble this mantra for all eternity in one of the outermost circles of Hell reserved for folks who are not evil or bad of heart, but yet not quite worthy of fishing in paradise.

Many years ago I asked my dad: "Why are the big ones the ones that always get away." In the same way that time makes you realize how big were the fish you lost, you also realize that your father was far wiser than you ever knew. "Because" he said, "they're the ones with the power to do so."



Fall Overhaul

By Lee Weil



As November approaches, most of the fresh water fly fishing aficionados are putting away their rods and reels, with the saltwater casters not far behind. We stow our equipment in cases and tubes, to await the start of next year's season, so far away, with plenty of time to clean lines and check leaders during the winter months ahead. So why then is it that we end up scurrying around like rats in a pickle barrel the night before opening day? If we're lucky we will remember to replace worn leaders before we arrive at the stream, and not have to attempt nail knots with frostbitten fingers. That's providing we have remembered to purchase new leaders and tippet material.

I have come to a realization that all this aggravation can be easily avoided with just a little time spent at the end of the season. Instead of putting my reels away (out of sight, out of mind), I leave them out on my fly tying table. I tie every morning, so it is impossible for me to not see them and after about 3 days they annoy me so much I am forced to address the situation. It only takes a matter of minutes to clean and dress a fly line, and replace the leader if needed. Wipe out the housing and put a dab of lube on the spindle and you're set to go next spring.

Rods are even easier to put into hibernation. Just as long as they're clean and dry, you only need to check the guides and the grips. If there is a hole in the cork that needs attention you can easily patch it with a mixture of Elmer's glue and cork dust, made by filing a wine cork (we always seem to have plenty of those around.) Allow it to dry thoroughly before storing the rod in its sock and tube.

Waders can be turned inside out to air, and at the same time check the places that wear out first; the back of the heel and seams on stocking foot models, and knees, if you do a lot of stealth fishing. You don't want to find out about a leak on your first day out in February. This is also a good time to replace your laces and do any felt repair that's needed.

If you rinse your net with soapy water (Dawn is excellent) and let it dry it won't have that wonderful aroma when you pull it out of the closet next spring, unless you like that smell, in which case you can seal it in a plastic bag while it's damp. (Which reminds me, if you store gear for a friend, check his wader bag before you put it away; nuff said!)

Finally, don't forget your flies! Rust is contagious, and the foam bed of the average fly box can harbor enough moisture to ruin hooks on the whole batch. I let my boxes air out and while I'm in front of the idiot box I sort through them, remove the chewed up flies and if the hooks are not rusty they go to the "fly hospital". It's rarely necessary to add more flies, since I have far too many in each box to begin with.

After you've accomplished all of the above, you can rest assured knowing that on Opening Day your gear will be in good shape and ready to fish. Then, when you get home from the stream you can start putting away your skis and hunting gear.

VEST OF THE PRESIDENT – Continued from page 1

The Connecticut River Salmon Association is looking for people to act as a liaison for their salmon in the classroom program. Anyone interested can contact me and I will put you in touch with Gary Bogli or Jim Carroll. The Dodge Northeast Hunting and Fishing Expo is February 15th -17th I don't know if all of the time slots are filled yet, contact Bob Winot to find out.

Don't forget about the Robert Goldman Memorial Library, you can see Jon or Scott Goldman at the meetings to borrow one of their dad's favorite publications. It's a welcome addition so take advantage of it. Bob Winot has DVDs you can borrow them at the meetings we ask for a \$5.00 donation per dvd to benefit conservation. Fly tiers that have flies to donate for our bucket raffle can give them to Kurt Jagielow or me.

When I became president of CFFA one of my goals was to boost the membership numbers to 300 members. I have seen the attendance at our meetings and it has been outstanding to say the least. Well, folks, we did it! We now have 304 members and growing! It's not anything that I did it's all your doing, by bringing your neighbors and friends to our meetings and talking about what a great organization the CFFA is prompted people to want to join. I congratulate you, the member and our membership director Phil McCormick for a job well done, let's all strive to bring our membership numbers even higher. Don't forget to pay your dues on time, everyone that renews their dues before the cutoff date of January 26th will have their names placed into our membership raffle at the banquet to win a nice prize. So, get your dues paid on time if you would like in on the membership raffle.

We need volunteers to help set up our expo and bucket raffle, anyone interested please let Roger or Kurt know. Our sponsors are good to us so let's all be good to them and support them also.

We will be raffling a bamboo rod at our January meeting tickets are \$10.00 each, at the rod donor's request only club members will be able to participate. Don't forget, there will be no members meeting in February. January is pizza and a movie night, see you all there bring a friend.

Tight Lines:

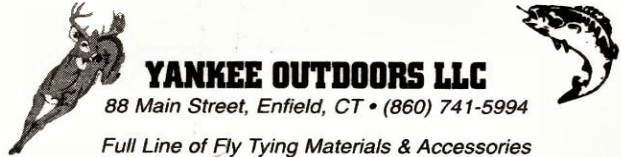
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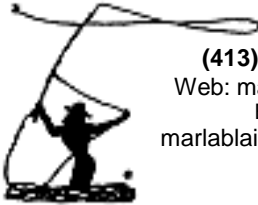
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**Connecticut
Fly Fishermen's Association Inc.**

**P.O. Box 380268
East Hartford, CT 06138-**

**FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS**

