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CFFA

1974

Vol. 1 No. 8 November

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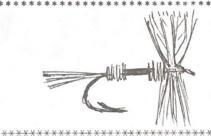
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CONTENTS

Page	
Cover	November General Membership Meeting Notice
1	CFFA Announcements
	Montana Missives
	The Forgotten Fly
	The Feathered HookRon Zawoysky
	Caudal FinisKen Parkany
	Baked Blue FishMrs. Ed Poriss
100	



"Lines and Leaders" is Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc., periodic publication, distributed to its membership and allies of conservation. Mailing address: CFFA, P.O. Box 42, Windsor Locks, Ct. 06096. Forward all manuscripts and material for publication to this address, attention of the editor. CFFA regular membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at either the Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium - Windsor, or Raymond Public Library - East Hartford. Notification of meeting place is announced in the monthly 'Newsletter', and local news media. Directors meet on the first Wednesday of every month. CFFA should be notified of any change in your address as this publication is delivered via bulk rate mail and therefore cannot be forwarded. CFFA's objective: Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game Fish Waters.

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Treasury balance as of 9-30-74 is \$2793.17. Dam built on Yantic River on September 22, 1974. A work outing will be held on the Yantic River on November 3, 1974.....A fall shocking is planned on the Jeremys River..... An agreement has been worked out with the new owners of the rearing pool for them to care for the trout on a one year basis.....The total CFFA membership for 1974 was 235. CFFA will owe approximately \$150.00 for prizes for the membership contest.....Fly tying school will be held again..... Plans are in the works for the 1975 CFFA Annual Banquet.....Meeting was held with the Farmington River Watershed Association. Parallel ideas with CFFA. Suggested idea of CFFA joining FRWA. Litter is a problem on the Farmington River and it was suggested as a joint project to clean it up.

EASTERN COUNCIL OF CFFA

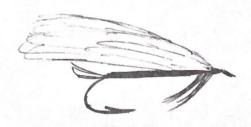
The Eastern Council of CFFA will hold November meeting on Wednesday evening, the 20th of the month. We'll start off the activities with a swap session starting at 6:45 pm, so bring something - materials, books, tackle, fly patterns, a selection of flies, or any other thing you can think of that you've got plenty of but someone else might find really valuable - and swap it for something you need.

Following the swap session, about 7:30 or so, we'll show the movie "Beauty Bonefish". Coffee and donuts will be available, we'll have a door prize to give away, so come along and bring some friends. As usual, the meeting will be held in the cafeteria of the Mansfield Middle School, on Spring Hill Rd., off of Route 195 in Storrs. For any further information call Ed Ertel at 429-9582 in Storrs.

Anyone who would like to contribute stories, tales, cartoons, ideas, jokes, or anything that may be of interest to the general membership, please forward it to:

Ron Zawoysky

Hunter Rd., RFD #2 Vernon, Ct., 06066





Gary J. La Fontaine

[Montana Missives is a stream of letters containing tales of Trout. They are reprinted here with the author's permission...... Ken Parkany]

(Excerpt from a letter received 12 Sept 73):

"... After you and Steve left Montana on Sunday morning, I drove to Moran Junction - near Jackson (Wyoming). Besides my wife, child, and friends, there were about twelve local fly fishermen (employed as summer help in the national park) at Stan's trailer. The anglers shared the duel responsibility of being friends of Stan and of being the fans of the column in Fly Fisherman (which there are apparently a few). We sat and had a massive bull session, coming to the conclusion that there are no conclusions in fly fishing for trout, but only refuge spots of seeming clarity amidst the wonderful chaos of experience.

Monday morning we fished the New Fork - Monday evening the upper Snake - Tuesday morning the Green- Tuesday evening the upper Snake again. At all the spots, fishing was very decent. The rivers were in good shape. We waded the New Fork and I fished the Green Damsel weighted nymph, casting up and across, retreiving on a swing. In about 22 hours I caught 12 Rainbows and Cutthroats, up to 14 inches. Then at 1:00 P.M., everything died. I finagled for about an hour, seeking an answer, and then we had to leave.

This is the reason for fishing - not really to catch fish, but to learn how to catch fish. The fish themselves are a by-product.

The upper Snake is a Cutthroat stream, with more slick water than the Yellowstone. In the evening it was beautiful casting to rising fish. Each evening we fished the pre-dusk flurry of the hatch, and I managed 5 fish one night and 7 the next. Stan took a beautiful 21 in. fish the second night on #16 Blue Fox.

The Green is a classic. The water screams trout. Riffles, pools, and slicks - plus the most beautiful overhung banks I have ever seen - just flow for miles. We floated a four mile stretch and I doubt if I fished as well as I could, because I was like a kid in a candy store. With great spots passing all around me, I didn't know where to cast next. When I did manage to keep adecent line in the water, the fish hit steadily. I caught 9 (not great) - the best was a nice 172 in. Brown on a #14 Dun Variant.

So that's it for now - I'm fishing hard and enjoying every

minute of it.

"Bump Cast": "In fishing pockets, the fly is better cast using much more line than would be necessary to make the distance, checking the rod at 45 degrees, and pulling the rod backwards just as the fly alights on the water. This causes the fly to make 2 or 3 little jumps as it reaches the water, making light flashes below and attract the trout's attention ... " from Hewitt's Handbook of Fly Fishing.

INTRODUCTION

Originally published in PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER in November, 1970, "The Forgotten Fly" was the first of the recent avalanche of articles and books dealing with caddis dry-fly fishing. It's interesting to note the evolution of the increasingly popular Henryville caddis pattern. At the time of the writing of this article, the change from red silk floss to the green body color was still in progress. Today, Henryvilles with other than green bodies are seldom seen.

Bill Fink, the author, is a life-long fly-fisherman for trout and salmon, hunter of ducks and an enthusiastic labrador retriever fancier. He is also an amateur bamboo rod builder and has been promoting the traditional craft of splitting bamboo as a means of reducing the incidence of acute alcoholism among bored fly tyers. Between fishing trips, Bill, a New Jersey resident, works as an electronic engineer.

THE FORGOTTEN FLY

by Bill Fink

photos/Ronnie Lord

CFFA thanks the author and the Pennsylvania Angler for permission to reprint "The Forgotten Fly", and regrets that for technical reasons all the photos coulā not be reproduced.

The Broken Dam Pool on the Brodheads in Pennsylvania's Poconos remains a grim reminder of the hurricane of August 1955. The shattered abutments loom above the anglers horizon and tortured timbers still provide submerged shelter for broadbacked brown trout. However, time has treated the Broken Dam Pool kindly and it is evolving into a lovely dry fly location, well favored by the slanting rays of the setting sun. On its riffles the course of a floating fly can be easily followed in the fading light by eyes that are no longer young.

As this lovely spring day ended, rising trout were pleasingly abundant. Their splashy rise-forms suggested a dry-fly bonanza. All signs pointed to a successful evenings fishing but my optimism was tempered by experience. I had been disappointed by these canny brownies before, and after repeatedly dropping my Pale Evening Dun over the nearest feeding fish with no effect, my suspicions were justified. Choosing another target, I cast again and again, periodically changing flies, trying standard mayfly patterns, using progressively smaller flies and lighter tippets to no avail. Meanwhile the trout activity increased in tempo.

As I paused to observe and reflect on the scene before me, a lovely sulfur dun emerged at the head of the run entering the pool. The mayfly floated saucily down its length amid a score of rising trout, finally dried its wings and flew off, only to be neatly snatched in mid-air by an aerobatic swallow. As I watched several other sulfurs and olives repeated the perilous journey and flew safely away to nearby alders. With renewed vigor my imitations were presented but with the same lack of success. Finally in

the last fading light an eager yearling brown came to my floater and was summarily subdued. Thankful for this small favor, a balm to my shaken ego, the little fellow was released to grow and fight again.

Even in this favored place the light now had faded below the threshold of visibility so I retired to the hospitality of the Henryville Lodge to enjoy a late cup in the company of fellow anglers.

At the lodge that evening, as the conversation mellowed, my lack of success was discussed with Henryville's well-remembered proprietor, Al Ziegler. Al is gone from the scene but his recommendation was one that, for me, is never to be forgotten. Al advised me to try his favorite pattern, appropriately named the Henryville. He explained that it imitates the common caddis hatch which he believed to be preferred by his Brodheads trout to all mayfly types. Al had made this suggestion to me on similar occasions. Each time his advice was stubbornly shrugged off.

This curiously structured Henryville pattern conflicted with all I had learned about fly-fishing. It certainly was a far cry from the sparsely tied Gordons and the Cahills, accepted by everyone as the mainstays of proper fly fishers. And besides I rationalized that Al, being a skilled angler with superior knowledge of his home stream could catch his trout on virtually any pattern he chose. However, on this par tcular evening, having achieved the optimum combination of frustration and fine sherry, I was willing to accept his help. Retiring to my room in the Hewitt/La-Branche wing of the century-old hostelry, I tied up a half dozen dry flies following the sample Henryville pattern supplied by Al and retired to dream of tomorrow's successes.

The following morning found me again thigh deep in the chilled waters below the broken dam. A Henryville Caddis was secured to my tippet and was delivered to the holding water entering the pool. The course of the fly was promptly interrupted by a dark snout and I was fast to a good brown at last. The fish was rudely steered clear of the submerged snags, netted, released, and my success was repeated with satisfying regularity as the sun rose. The trout were taking my new fly with the pleasing confidence that indicates a well matched hatch. As the sun warmed the scene I observed at last the natural caddis insect hovering over the pool, dropping to the surface briefly, then aloft again. Then it dawned on me that this greyish brown fly had been there before my eyes all the while but was disregarded as I searched for the classic may-fly hatch. And the Henryville pattern was indeed a beautiful caddis duplicate. The grizzly hackle tied palmer style down the body gave the overall hairy effect and provided the "buzz" impression which is mentioned so often by British angling authors. The sloping roof-like wings closely duplicated the natural insect and the overall coloration matched the caddis hatch in a life-like manner. Both the trout and I were convinced that morning and a convert was made to the forgotten fly.

The caddis is the forgotten fly in the sense that it was

well known and one of the first flies successfully imitated by the fly fishers of antiquity but the thread of continuity was somehow lost in the current generation of American anglers. Of the first dozen fly patterns described by Dame Juliana in the 15th century, several have been identified as caddis. And to this day our British cohorts employ many famous caddis imitations such as Halford's Welshman's Button and the Caperer as well as a multitude of Grannoms, Silverhorns, Sedges, Dun Cuts, and Buzz patterns.

Curiously enough, with so much going for it, a floating imitation that would consistently fool Brodheads caddiseater is almost impossible to find in American tackle shops. A knowledgeable tackle salesman might well recommend the Adams which does indeed have the general caddis coloration but is generally tied spent-wing or upright wing style, a far cry from the true caddis silhouette. Another highly successful fly which is probably taken by countless trout in the mistaken belief that it is a caddis is the Bivisible, which has roughly the correct silhouette. And the Skater designed by Hewitt as a butterfly imitation is probably taken for a caddis more often than not. But really excellent American caddis imitations are easily tied and prove to be far more effective than these partial imitations when the caddis is on the menu.

Wet-fly fishermen today often imitate the caddis preemergent state with pupa and cased larva imitations but the real cream of the caddis hatch, the splendid opportunity offered for dry fly action, is generally overlooked.

Today a small but rapidly growing group of knowledgeable anglers practice the techniques of dry-fly caddis fishing on many Northeastern freestone streams. This consistent success strongly suggests that the caddis may represent the wave of the future of American fly fishing.

While traditional mayfly hatches appear to be decreasing in many watersheds, this "forgotten" fly is generally on the increase, and is on the water throughout the entire season from earliest April to November and beyond. Even nicer, the "forgotten" fly is generally present all through the day and is not restricted to the brief half-hour emergence periods typical of the classic hatches.

The caddis group is known to the entomologist as the order Tricoptera. Caddis differ from mayflies in several ways. Almost every caddis species builds some kind of a characteristic larval case using various stream bottom debris. These cases are familiar to most trout fishermen. Also caddis have what entomologists describe as a complete life cycle which includes a pupal stage. But to the dry fly man the important difference is that the caddis does not expose himself to the trout as the mayfly does when taking his long ride on the surface emerging from his nymphal case as a dun or sub-imago. It is this mayfly dun state which is imitated by most popular dry flies. The caddis pupa typically emerges by crawling out of the water on a plant stem or rock, much less exposed to the trout, and then flies off in the adult state. The caddis fly commonly taken on the surface is the ovipositing female hovering in

THE FORGOTTEN FLY



the air and only briefly contacting the water as she deposits her eggs. This accounts for the quick, splashy rise forms shown by the trout when they feed on the elusive caddis, as compared to the slow dimple for the dun. Spent caddis, both males and females are also prime trout morsels. It is significant that the adult life of the caddis is very much longer than the may fly. Caddis adult life may be measured in weeks or even months as compared to a brief few hours for the mayfly.

Since my initial success at the Broken Dam ten years ago, the floating caddis imitation has proven to be a consistent producer on many trout waters. The way shy trout take even the relatively large sizes in clear, slow pools is a constant source of amazement. It is the ideal pattern for fishing fast and broken water because of its excellent floatability, durability and visibility. Hence the caddis gives the angler a powerful lure for use in the lightly fished sections of his stream where broken pocket water limits the usefulness of conventional floaters.

The caddis is particularly effective when fished under the shaded sides of boulders for this is a favorite haunt of the natural fly. A pet trick of mine is to cast a size 12 Henryville hard against the surface of a boulder so that it drops naturally to the surface, even on turbulent water. Often this results in an instantaneous response. Some of my largest trout have been found in such locations.

Another popular caddis habitat is the shaded area under low-lying branches. This makes for tricky casting problems but a bit of study often indicates an avenue of approach to such holding water and the results are well worth the effort. In this situation the possibilities of the downstream float should not be overlooked.

An interesting aspect of caddis pocket water fishing is the large number of instances when trout take the drowned fly. Whether the fly is taken for a spent adult or a diving ovipositing female is not easy to determine and not really important. Experience shows that floating caddis styles are attractive when fished wet. For this reason each cast should be carefully fished out, even when the fly is drowned.

After the consistent success with the Henryville caddis pattern, a bit of research into the caddis life history revealed some of the reasons for their presence in substantial numbers on most trout waters and their absolute dominance on many streams. First there are nearly a thousand different caddis species in American waters, with varying characteristics tolerant of a wide range of habitat. This results in at least some species adaptable to virtually all waters. Second and perhaps most important the caddis is a tough hombre. A moderate dose of pollution or insecticide, or the warm, low water drouth conditions, or floods

which will severely reduce or temporarily eliminate the fragile mayfly population have little effect on friend Tricoptera. Like the crow, the skunk, and the white-tailed deer, he seems to adapt well to civilization.

Some caddis species are carnivorous which further tends to reduce the mayfly numbers. In this regard, English authorities refer to the caddis as "public enemy #1!" It appears that the streams which are suffering from much reduced mayfly hatches compared to past years are the very streams where the caddis population is now the highest and the floating caddis imitations are most effective. There are many such fast flowing freestone streams in the Northeast and indications are that the mayfly drought is spreading westward with the expanding populace. The caddis has always been an important insect in the west and is likely to increase in importance in the future.

Our "forgotten" fly is a real swinger who doesn't limit his adult activities to a few short weeks in May and June. He is present all through the summer months and some of the choicest caddis dry fly opportunity occurs in the Autumn when Mother Nature puts on her finest show. As an added attraction, the streams are nearly devoid of angling competition in the Fall! My wife and I regularly enjoy October outings which frequently result in the finest trouting of the season. The brownies in the Fall are strong and full of fight with an occasional brookie in full courtship colors thrown in as a bonus.

Another phenomena is worthy of note. On caddis dominated streams the trout seem to become mayfly shy except perhaps during the heaviest dun emergences or during the occurance of the tiniest midges. Perhaps this is because so many anglers fish with fairly large size mayfly imitations almost exclusively regardless of what insects are present so that trout become conditioned against all such food. This could explain the safe passage of the sulfurs and olives that June evening on the Broken Dam Pool and many similar incidents which come to mind. It would also explain the strong confident rises to the caddis imitations.

Despite the fact that caddis species number in the hundreds, here is fortunately sufficient similarity between types in color and particularly their characteristic shape with wings folded rooflike sloping over their backs so that a relatively few fly patterns serve to imitate most of the group. The Henryville pattern, mentioned earlier is a fine basic caddis. We evolved successful caddis imitations to meet local requirements by making minor modifications to the Henryville such as changing to a green body or a black head hackle to match the caddis of the day. Undoubtedly there is much opportunity here for development of new caddis imitations, limited only by the fly tyers ingenuity.

The Henryville pattern and his cousins are great floaters, particularly suited to pocket fishing in fast broken water. But the fancier of the ultra-sparse dry fly will be pleasantly surprised at how well the caddis performs in quiet water and long slow pools for the most shy and sophisticated browns.

So for your future trout adventures, when the exquisite mayfly hatches let you down, forsake your Cahills and Gordons. Remember the "forgotten" fly.

THE FEATHERED HOOK

"HENRYVILLE"

by RON ZAWOYSKY

A tackle dealer named Hiram Brobst first encountered the "Henryville" pattern in an unknown eighteen-century English angling book. The fly was not identified, so Hiram called it the "No Name." The "No Name" became popular throughout Pennsylvania in the twenties and thirties, especially the Ponocos. Because of its extreme popularity in the Poconos, particularly in the Henryville area, the fly was rechristened the "Henryville", and is used to imitate the ever present caddis found in this locale.

There has been a controversy regarding the original body color. Present day "Henryvilles" are nearly always tied with an insect-green body. The original "No Name Henryvilles" were tied with a red floss body. When the red silk body was treated with dry fly oil, the body color changed to a very buglike amber brown. Besides red and green, other popular body colors are the grays and tans to match local and seasonal variations of the caddis hatches.

CADDIS PATTERNS

	Henryville(No Name)	Black Caddis	Buttonwood
Hook	Woodduck Fibers/	94840; 16-22	94840; 18-22
Body		Black Floss	White Floss
Body Hackle		Grizzly	Grizzly
Wing		Slate Duck	Slate Duck
Head Hackle		Black	Light Ginger
Thread		Black	White

Tying Instructions:

- Tie in body hackle and floss at rear of hook and wind floss body.
- Palmer body hackle on the hook and trim top of hackle.
- For the Henryville pattern tie the woodduck fibers flat on top of the hook. The slate duck quill sections are tied on flat and in a tent-like fashion.
- 4 Tie on the head hackle and wind and finish off the head.











CAUDAL FINIS

by Ken Parkany

The Lighter Side

After serving as a director for five years, I sometimes think that one prerequisite is being "non compos mentis", or, not of sound mind: Apparently in a world of their own, the directors superenthusiastically discuss 5" wild browns, rock dams, and club expansion, while the rest of the world is seemingly falling to pieces. However, when you consider the magnitude of world problems - wars and rumors of wars, shortages of everything except shortages, and a potentially catastrophic inflationary trend, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe the rest of the world is insane!

Once a month, for twelve months, your Board of Directors meet to "manage the funds, property, and affairs of the corporation". The directors, in case you're wondering, is merely 10% of the membership who perform 90% of the work. I say this honestly, not boastfully, because this ratio applies to all similar organizations not only CFFA. But "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", and the directors too. The board may not be the sharpest of characters, but here's how they keep from getting "dull".

The meeting place is the Blast & Cast Club in South Windsor, graciously made available for CFFA's use in exchange for a nominal fee and a little labor. To say that this private facility is adequate, would be a gross understatement. Though not the most conducive atmosphere for a business meeting (with its stocked pond,

lavish kitchen, and cozy fireplace), the directors aren't complaining. The business gets done; it just takes a little longer.

Dinner is served before the meeting to provide the necessary nourishment for what may ensue. Three different directors are responsible for providing the meal each month, and the cost, when split among the directors present, amounts to two to three dollars. Not bad when you consider that the price includes dinner wine and dessert. The "Main Dish" varies. Recently we were treated to Baked Bluefish Ala Um-m Good, compliments of Mrs.Ed Poriss. The recipe definitely deserves wider exposure and can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

The meetings usually get underway about 8 - 8:30 P.M.. With only minor interruptions and occasionally too many sidetracks, it lasts 2 to 3 hours. One of the minor interruptions is in the form of a personality. For those who don't know him, Dr. Ed Poriss is noted for his extraordinary sense of humor. Harmless Dr. Ed pricks the mind with his witty injections. His spontaneous witticisms can turn peacefulness into pandemonium. I recall a serious discussion one nite concerning a particular stretch of the Farmington River. Ron Zawoysky concluded presenting some evidence by saying,

"I know where you mean. This friend of mine goes there relig-

iously, and keeps me informed."

"You mean the church-yard pool", interrupted Dr. Ed?
On another occasion we were discussing club affiliation (with
FFF,TU, or both), each giving our own viewpoints. This yearly debate
(continued on page 8)

CAUDAL FINIS Cont'd - is great for flaring a few tempers, without fail. Of course Dr. Ed floored everyone with,

"This reminds me of a department store advertisement - 'Ladies, come down to Birnbaum's and get your brassieres for a rediculous

figure! ""

Not always timed perfectly, not always funny to the same degree, but always in good taste, Dr. Ed's spontaneous wit serves one very

good purpose - it cools the atmosphere that often develops.

Of course, others have their own idiosyncrasies. Take Mark Levy, for instance. When the agenda is proceeding without much fanfare, which happens occasionally in spite of the odds, Mark's snoring actually creates a disturbance. And a meeting doesn't go by without Jim May wanting to have the minutes of the previous meeting read aloud, (even though we've received copies in advance of the meeting). We dispense with reading them when you're on vacation, Jim! Another notable, who prefers to remain anonymous, has earned a reputation of having graduated "Magna Cum Laude", from Consumption Academy!

The Board has many faces, many moods. This has been a few of them. I only hope that I'm not forced into exile for exposing the lighter side of the meeting that's not recorded in the minutes.

BAKED BLUE FISH (compliments of Mrs. Ed Poriss)

3 Tbsp. vegetable oil 2 cups thinly sliced onion green peppers (if desired) 3 lbs. fresh blue fish fillets 2 tsp. salt

tsp. pepper to cup white wine sliced or canned tomatoes(drained) cup flavored bread crumbs to cup butter

Heat oil in large skillet and saute onions and green pepper. Season fish with salt and pepper and arrange in a baking dish over the onions and green pepper.

Add wine.

Cover the fish with the tomatoes.

Mix breadcrumbs with melted butter and put over the fish.

Bake in 375 OF. oven - covered for thirty (30) minutes.

Uncover and continue baking ten (10) minutes.







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DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PROGRAM: Fly Tying Seminar with a short slide show on fly tying featuring Dave Whitlock.

<u>WHERE</u>: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 11, 1974.

TIME: Bull Session-6:45 P.M. Program-7:30 P.M.

Because of the great response that this program brought last year, it is being held again. Six of our own expert CFFA members will be today and be open for any advice or help that you ray need with your fly tying problems. A slide show featuring Dave Whitlock tying a nymph will also be shown. Waldo Jones will also be available to answer any individual questions that you may have on rod building. The meeting is open to the public so bring a friend. As usual, the program will also include a gripe session, doorprizes, and refreshments.

Merry Xmas Happy New Year