

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

NOVEMBER 1976

Vol. 3 No. 8

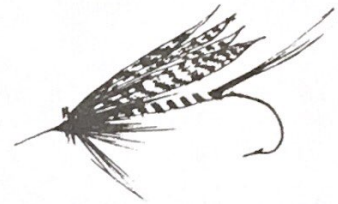
CFFA Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: A Seminar on Fishing in Print, featuring Colonel Henry Siegel, Nick Lyons and Leonard Wright.

WHERE: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 10, 1976.

TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.



Colonel Henry Siegel, owner of the Angler's and Shooters Bookshelf in Goshen, Conn., will direct this seminar. With Henry will be Nick Lyons, author of "Fishing Widows", and Leonard Wright, author of "Fishing The Dry Fly as a Living Insect" and "Fly Fishing Heresies". Prior to the main program, Elaine and Bill Tabalinski will be on hand tying flies.

CFFA Meetings...

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is pleased to announce their schedule of meetings for the remainder of the 1976-1977 year. All meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Knight's of Columbus Hall, 500 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, Connecticut, (adjacent to the Dunfey's Tavern, Bloomfield Ave Exit on I-91). Refreshments are served and all meetings are open to the public. This schedule may be subject to change; for up to date information read the fishing columns in the Courant, listen to Bill Clede's program on WTIC radio, or check bulletin boards in area tackle shops. Better yet, become a CFFA member, and read your copy of **LINES AND LEADERS**.

~~DECEMBER~~
October 13 - Fly Tying Program with Eric Leiser, author of "Fly Tying Materials" and Ted Neimeyer, one of the most talented fly tiers in the East.

January 12 - "How to Fish the Wet Fly and Nymph", presented by CFFA member Mark Philippe.

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Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

A Quill and a Flyrod



by Don Johnston

In the September issue of LINES AND LEADERS, I stated that CFFA has a big year in store for the 1976-1977 season. The items on page 1 concerning this month's meeting and meetings to come pretty well bear this out. Many Thanks to Program Chairman Ed Poriss.

You are probably aware from the mailing cover of LINES AND LEADERS that CFFA is an Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen. The FFF is currently in the midst of their membership campaign and is looking for support from CFFA. Read Lou Rossi's letter on page 9 and support FFF with your associate membership.

For you Bass-Bugging Fly Rodders, an upcoming issue of LINES AND LEADERS will feature an article on tying bugs and Bass-Bugging techniques by Ron Zawoysky. In his regular column "The Feathered Hook", Ron covers the technique and equipment needed, and instructions for tying what he calls "The Bug."

I offer an invitation to other Bass-Bugging Fly Rodders to submit articles and share this segment of Fly-Fishing with other CFFA members.

*
* **President:** Ken Parkany **Editor:** Don Johnston *
* *
* "Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut *
* Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc., and is distributed to its member- *
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* editor. Notice of address change should be sent to CFFA as this *
* publication is delivered via bulk rate and cannot be forwarded. *
* *
* The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is "Organized to Pre- *
* serve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and *
* to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA regular membership meetings *
* are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through *
* May. Meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 500 *
* Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor, Connecticut. Eastern Council meetings *
* are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Mansfield *
* Middle School, Spring Hill Road, Mansfield, Connecticut. *
* *

Tips on Technique

CADDIS LARVAE, SIMPLICITY STYLE

by Gregory Rummo

The brook begins its flow as a series of gentle bubbling riffles, smooth moss carpeted glides and bright sunlit pools. The forest foliage grows densely overhead in some places forming a shady canopy from the hot summer sun. Occasionally one may glimpse a mallard wingbeating through the air or surprise a mink into scurrying for cover in a nearby outcropping of rocks. The brook's moods are molded by the weather. A long drought will reduce the water volume considerable; on the other hand, one good downpour has raised the water level six feet. Through all of this, the water temperature is maintained relatively constant by cold tailings from the reservoir which supplies the river's source.

The native brown trout which inhabit the pristine waters are elegantly marked with deep crimson spots and despite their small size, show an uncanny shrewdness when it comes to selectivity.

The fauna of subaquatic insect life is marked by an enormous preponderance of campodeiform or "free swimming" caddis larvae, offering the frisky natives a year round supply of food, and the angler, a season-long opportunity to capitalize with an acceptable imitation.

I had endured many frustrating days in past years on this little brook, and had it not been for these slow afternoons, I might not have learned about the free swimming caddis and their importance in the diet of the trout. After rolling many rocks, I quickly became convinced of the abundance of these larvae in the stream bed. Armed with this information, I was determined to construct an effective yet simple imitation for these larval imitations. It was on one June afternoon that my efforts paid off in this little brook.

It was an extremely hot and humid afternoon when I found myself wading up one of the many shallow riffles in the stream. The water was cool enough to condense a cool layer of fog over the brook. I carefully knotted on one of the weighted green caddis larvae and silently worked the silk through the rod guides. The imitation landed quietly and immediately sunk into the swirling currents. As I contended with my slack line, I saw a flash from the stream bottom and simultaneously set the hook into one of the larger browns of the stream. The fish jumped, reacting to the annoying sting of the hook, and made a bolt towards me in the rushing current. I could not get a tight line in time and I lost the first fish of the afternoon. I dejectedly reeled in the slack line, and checked the barb for a possible fault.

Finding none, I directed my cast a little upstream and to the right of the first cast. As the imitation swung around a protruding rock, the line jerked quickly through the guides. As I set the hook I vowed to myself that I would not lose this fish. Making every effort to keep a tight line, I coaxed the fish into the shallows where the fight turned in my favor. I gently knelt

(continued on next page)

Tips on Technique (continued from page 3)

down, keeping the exhausted fish well below the water's surface and released him, a beautifully plump specimen, brilliantly marked. I quietly waded out and made way for a downstream pool, one that in the past has confounded me to no end.

I took up a position in the head of the pool below the one I was to fish. I directed the first cast into the tail of the pool. The fly settled into the depths and floated untouched. I dropped my next cast in the same spot but this time, the fly only floated three feet before a trout inhaled it. I struck the fly home and a small scrappy fish jumped, hooked solidly. It was a very short ordeal and I released this small gem also. I managed to work out three more trout from this pool before deciding to quit for some lunch. The experiences of the day had impressed me. Many times in the past I had gone fishless on subsequent trips to this small brook. Now, armed with such a simple imitation, I felt my confidence as an angler slowly returning.

The success or failure of a particular fly can never be based on one instance on one day astream. I knew this and was determined to consistently use this imitation for most of the rest of the season. Two months later, during that same summer, I was in for another "good convincing" as to the effectiveness of this new imitation.

The steady drone of heavy rain woke me that bleak August morning. The previous night I had planned in my mind to fish the next day. Now, when I looked out the window, I had second thoughts and the weatherman only enforced my doubt as to the feasibility of the day's journey. Determined to press on, I left the house in the car, and proceeded to meet downpour after downpour. Twice I was all set to turn around and go back to the nice warm house I had left, but something made me press on. Upon arriving at the stream, the rain had decreased to a steady light drizzle. I suited up and gave thanks for slipping my rain poncho into the back pocket of my vest.

The wide expanse of water which lay before me was dotted with rings from the falling droplets, and a cold dense fog shrouded the entire scene creating an unusual feeling of solitude. I waded into the tail of a riffle, disappearing into the dense soup of fog, unhooked my fly and began to work the line out. I dropped my first cast about twenty feet upstream and to the right of my position. I could just make out the junction knot of the line and leader, enough so as to notice that it had suddenly stopped dead. I came back on the rod and felt a strong surge as a plump fish bolted clear of the water. I firmly kept the rod pressure on the frail tippet as I did not want the fish to scare his upstream companions. After ten minutes, he gently yielded and I unhooked and released a fat fourteen inch brown trout.

I waited a few minutes puffing on my pipe, and cautiously waded upstream ten feet from my original position. I again directed my cast down the right side, keeping track of the junction knot all of the time. I picked up the line gently off of the water and as the larvae began to clear the depths, I felt a solid resistance. I struck instinctively, tightened up the slack and was sure at that moment I had snagged a log.

The "log" suddenly began to throb, and an intense deep bronze flash gave the trout's presence away as he rolled on the bottom trying to dislodge the imbedded hook. He began to move, a slow, deliberate procession in an upstream direction. I knew from the enormous weight that this trout was going to have to get his way if I was to have a chance of netting him. He slowly turned and bored down

Tips on Technique (continued from page 4)

upon me, pulling line off of the reel, heading for the deep water in the middle of the stream. The deep heavy throbbing was mingled with the shaking of my own bited hands as I turned in pursuit of the wary fish. After much head thrashing, I was finally able to coax him into the shallows where he again fled for the deepest part of the stream. The fish now grew rapidly tired and finally yielded to the pressure of the rod.

I unhooked him in the shallows and quickly measured and weighed him. He was seventeen inches and three pounds. His belly was splashed with a deep coppery bronze, his back speckled with dime sized spots. I released him, and have never felt such a thrill since then. The same riffle later yielded two one-pounders, and I thanked God that I had indeed pressed on that morning through the continual downpour.

These experiences were just two of the most memorable in my field notes concerning the use of caddis larvae imitations. Never before have I witnessed such a successful, consistent imitation as these. On most of our eastern "freestone" streams, the caddis far outweighs the mayfly population. It is this super abundance that makes the trout so fond of this type of food. Of the two types of larval form of caddis, the case builders and the free swimming or campodeiform larvae, the latter seems to be more available to the trout. A rise in the water level of the stream will dislodge many of them, whereas the case builders are more or less permanently attached to the undersides of rocks and trees below the water's surface. The free swimming variety are in general, easier for the fish to get at, since the normal water currents are usually sufficient to set many adrift.

I mentioned before, I wanted to keep this imitation as simple as possible. The fly is merely a weighted hook with a simple rib, abdomen, thorax, and wet fly hackle for leg simulation. It can be tied in a variety of colors and sizes, my suggestions are only a few. It has many advantages over the "johnny come lately" latex design larvae as the fur is easier to dye and to work with, and it effectively simulates the small gill system on the ventral side of the larvae.

The method of fishing the larval imitation is just as simple as its method of construction: a simple dead drift has proven the most useful presentation, although a precisely timed slow, deliberate lift will also bring results. I think it is time that the angler recalls some aspects of simplicity into the art of fly fishing. There is nothing that pleases me more than beauty in simplicity!

DIRECTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FREE SWIMMING CADDIS LARVAE

Place the hook in the vise jaws MAKING SURE THAT THE SHARP POINT IS COMPLETELY IMBEDDED IN THE JAWS. This is a precautionary measure as the next step entails bending the hook shank. One can never guess the temper of the particular hook and a nasty puncture can result if the shank suddenly snaps. Grasp the eye of the hook and pull up, the hook will bend at the end of the shank approximately half-way around the bend. Next, bend the hook down in the middle of the shank, thereby accomplishing a rounded curvature in the hook. If the bend is too sharp, and a kink occurs in the hook it is all right as the lead and fur will smooth out the abrupt bend.

Work the tying silk all the way around the bend of the hook and secure a piece of cotton thread of the appropriate color for use as a ribbing. Dub a fur body and work the fur around the bend and down the shank to a point about one-fourth the distance from the hook eye.

Tips on Technique (continued from page 5)

Wrap the ribbing opposite to the direction in which the fur was wound and tie off. Apply about three or four turns of the thorax fur, tie off and take three or four turns of wet fly hackle in front of the thorax. Whip and lacquer the head and the fly is completed.

It is important that the hook be bent before the actual construction of the fly begins because if the hook breaks as does happen sometimes, it is easier in my mind to throw away a broken hook than a completed fly. If the thread is well waxed, little to no difficulty will be experienced in working up the steep incline of the bent hook. The fly may be tied in a series of color patterns, keep in mind that the ones I have mentioned are only a few suggestions. Happy Fishing!

(Don't forget that this is a weighted fly, so use your favorite weighting technique before dubbing the fur body -- Ed.)

* * * * *

CFFA 1976-1977 Program (continued from page 1)

- February 5 - Annual CFFA Banquet featuring guest speaker Ernie Schwiebert.
- March 9 - "How to Read a Stream" with Larry Solomon of the Theodore Gordon Fly-fishers from New York.
- April - Annual CFFA Outing held at the Blast and Cast Club in South Windsor, Connecticut. Fly tying and casting, refreshments, games and revelry! An outing for the entire family. (Date in April not set at this time)
- May 11 - Seminar on Fly Fishing in Connecticut. CFFA experts will discuss early to late season angling.
- June 8 - An open forum. A most important meeting for all members in which a critique of the past programs and suggestions for new programs will be made. A very valuable "Bull Session" in which everyone can get into the act. Don't just let next year's programs happen. Come in June and put in a plug for what you would like to see for a program.

* * * * *

The pleasant'st angling is to see the fish cut with her golden oars the silver stream and greedily devour the treacherous bait

-- Shakespeare

Classified Ads

Classified Ads will be printed in LINES AND LEADERS free of charge, but are strictly limited to non-commercial ads. Members who wish to advertise should send their request to Don Johnston, 9 Michael Drive, Vernon, CT 06066.

FOR SALE: Orvis Flea, #4 line, 6.5 feet, excellent condition, 2 tips, \$150; Orvis Battenkill, #7 or #8 line, 8 feet, excellent condition, 1 tip, \$65; Orvis Mitey Mite, #5 line, 5 feet, excellent condition, 1 tip, \$55; call Mickey Michniewicz, 379-0387.

WANTED: Desperate; Need articles, artwork, suggestions or comments for publication in Lines and Leaders. Send contributions to Don Johnston, 9 Michael Drive, Vernon, CT 06066.



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Random Casts

Contributed by Rich Colo

When you're in the market for a bucktail, and you happen to be in your favorite dealer's store, do you know what to look for in a good quality bucktail? As much as you read about fly tying and associated subjects, it is rare when you come across any literature on selecting materials. Sure, there's plenty said about materials, but it's usually to do with materials and their uses in fly tying.

When selecting bucktails there are four intrinsic qualities which should be measured prior to final selection: size, color, proper tanning, and the hair.

What purpose you have in mind for it decides the size you should select. If using it for large salt water flies and streamers, then a large tail should be selected; but if it's to be used for Wulff type dry flies and small streamers then a small one can be used. You can save money on this aspect.

Always try to inspect materials, especially for color, in daylight. Of course this is sometimes impossible, so the next best thing is fluorescent lighting. Make certain the tail is color-fast. You don't want the color to wash out during the first wetting. Good old saliva comes in handy in this instance. A little on the fingers rubbed through the hair should show if the color will wash out. You'll find the evidence on the hair, not your fingers, because some color will always rub off; but if too much color does rub off it usually means the excess dye wasn't washed out. If they were that careless, the dye job could also have been haphazard.

Carefully examine the tail to see if it was properly tanned. Hold the tail in one hand, and pull it through the other. Repeated brushings will pull out an excessive amount of hair if the tanning process was incorrect. Of course some hair will always pull loose; what you're looking for it to see if it comes out in bunches. Look at the underside, or skin. There should be no fat or bone adhering to it.

Last, and most important, is the hair itself. First of all the tail should be abundantly supplied with it. It shouldn't be overly brittle; and if it's curly, kinky, crinkled, or frizzy, stay away from it. You want the hair to be as straight as you can possibly get. Straight hair is much easier to work with.

These factors should be taken into consideration when selecting hair from other animals such as impala and polar bear.

(The above article is reprinted from the 69th issue of the United Fly Tyers publication, ROUNDTABLE. My thanks to UFT -- ed.)



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

Attention retailers, wholesalers, and other businessmen involved in merchandising fishing or sporting equipment.

You can now reach 500* hard-core fishermen at one time with our low ad rates. You would have to advertise in a newspaper with at least a 5,000 circulation to do this, and at increased expense.

Advertise now in the CFFA newsletter,

Lines and Leaders

LINES AND LEADERS is distributed monthly (9 per year -- September thru May) to all members and allies of conservation. Your ad can be inside! At \$5.00 per issue (\$40.00 for all 9 issues) for a business card size ad, how can you go wrong?

Fill out the ad form below and mail together with your check and business card. Your ad can be in the next issue. (Deadline is the 15th of the month).

* All members are encouraged to patronize all advertisers.

I want my ad in your next ____ (number of issues). *****

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ ,	* Single issue	\$ 5.00	*
payable to : 'CFFA'	* Nine (9) issues	\$40.00	*

Mail ad form, check, and business card to: *****

Donald Johnston
9 Michael Drive
Vernon, CT 06066

FEDERATION of

FLY FISHERMEN

September 14, 1976

Dear Fly Fisherman:

Let me explain how your club can be a member of the Federation of Fly Fishermen at no cost at all and in many cases at a substantial profit.

Now you say "There is no such thing as a free lunch" and nobody gives you something for nothing - well listen very carefully -

All the dues money paid by member clubs to the F.F.F. is reassigned to the respective councils for the distribution among the paid up clubs to be used for conservation work.

So if your club pays \$25 to \$50 a year (\$1 per member to a maximum of \$200) you can actually request the same amount for any conservation work and if the project is really worthwhile you may receive hundreds of dollars.

The lifeline of the F.F.F. is the associate member -

This is the fellow who pays his \$10.00 a year and lets his money work for him. He doesn't have the time or the inclination to do the actual work but he knows that his annual dues are used to preserve and improve his sport.

Since all the money the F.F.F. receives from clubs is returned to them, its only support comes from associate and life membership.

The more individual members we get the more we can protect their interest by feeding money through the clubs for conservation work at the grass root level.

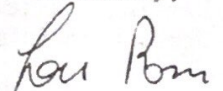
So let us make a concentrated effort to enroll as many associate members as possible from your club membership, their friends and companions. It will come back multifold to improve and promote our sport.

Under separate cover I will send you promotional material such as bumper stickers, applications, etc. Use them well among the members and display them in local tackle shops. You can get more when those are used up.

The Federation of Fly Fishermen has been recognized as a great force in the national front for the achievement of cleaner water - brighter streams.

There is a lot of pride that goes with being part of this organization and in helping to preserve our environment - but we must all do our part either in funds or personal participation, for in the conservation battle every victory is temporary and every defeat is permanent.

Sincerely,

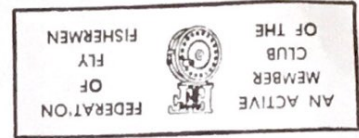


LOU ROSSI, Vice President
Federation of Fly Fishermen
Eastern Council Chairman

LR:hj

Please Note: For associate membership, send your name and address with \$10.00 to the F.F.F., 519 Main St., El Segundo, California 90245. Membership gives you use of a full library of films and slide shows; a bulletin; the quarterly magazine, "The Flyfisher"; etc.; etc.

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NOVEMBER 1976 CALENDAR

- November 3 Board of Director's Meeting
- November 10 CFFA Meeting Featuring Henry Siegel, Nick Lyons, and Leonard Wright, see page 1
- November 15 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS Material.
- November 24 Eastern Council CFFA Meeting
- November 29 Conservation Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

COMING EVENTS

- December 8 CFFA Meeting Featuring Eric Leiser and Ted Neimeyer.
- February 5 CFFA Banquet Featuring Ernie Schwiebert.



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION