

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

APRIL 1977

Vol. 4 No. 4

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

CFFA Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: Seminar on Fly Fishing in Connecticut.
 WHERE: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.
 WHEN: Wednesday, April 13, 1977.
 TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.
 Program - 7:30 p.m.

A panel of CFFA experts will be on hand to discuss aspects of early to late season angling in Connecticut. Included will be hints on flies, technique, and places to go.

Eastern Council of CFFA Meeting

PROGRAM: Fly Tyer's Symposium.
 WHERE: Mansfield Middle School, Mansfield, Connecticut.
 WHEN: Wednesday, April 20, 1977.
 TIME: 7 p.m.

Eastern Council Connecticut Fly Fisherman Association's April meeting will feature three gentlemen who are among the most experienced tyers in the area. Ray Gorski, Art Geary, and Ted Barbieri will be tying their favorite patterns and will be available to answer questions about tying. This will be a great opportunity to see some excellent tying and to pick up a few tips. As usual, the meeting will be open to the public, and will include door prizes and refreshments. Don't pass this by; it could make the coming season unforgettable.

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A Quill and a Flyrod



by Don Johnston

This issue of LINES AND LEADERS marks the beginning of a great new series, "Under the Tyer's Lamp", written and illustrated by Leo and Mark Leggitt. This month's lead-off article presents two different ties, "The Leggitt Pizzer", and the "Leggitt Crawling Caddis".

Ken Parkany presented his "Ode To CFFA" as his farewell address as outgoing president at the Annual Banquet in February, and it is printed here for those who were unable to attend.

I also herald the return of "Montana Missives", letters or excerpts of letters written by Gary LaFontaine, and sent to Ken Parkany. This month's excerpt features tying instructions for the "Skating Spider".

In closing, please don't forget the Bottle Bill. If you haven't written to your State Senator or Representative, do it now before its too late. We need this Bill. (Names of your State Legislators appears in the March issue of LINES AND LEADERS.)



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*
* 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. *
*

Ode To CFFA

by Ken Parkany

The following farewell address was presented by the CFFA outgoing President at the Annual Banquet in February.

This moment tonight, so fleeting,
Dawned on 1/10/68.
At CFFA's first meeting
On that historic date.

I came when there was nothin',
But a commitment worthwhile,
To improve the lot of fishermen,
The entire rank and file.

There were barren streams requiring
Improvement for the trout,
And others needed guarding
As highways moved about.

There were fishermen more wise,
Yet willing to share with others;
They taught us to tie flies,
And treated us like brothers.

There were programs, schools, shows,
The media of our resort,
For use as interest grows,
To perpetuate our sport.

As we performed our mission,
I tried my very best,
No matter what position,
To serve the club with zest.

And though I leave this office,
For yet another role,
Someone else will take my place,
And lead us to our goal.

Though fishers come and fishers go,
Let me declare with glee:
CFFA will always grow,
The best is yet to be.



Montana Missives

by Gary J. LaFontaine

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

Excerpt from letter dated 7/17/74:

Tying Instructions For The Skating Spider

(Note on fishing the spider - a great exciter, with the drawback that it isn't a great hooker. Still, often it is the best fly for the occasion. Oddly, it is often effective with a dead drift as it lays sprawled flat on the surface.)

Materials: 5x short shank offset hook (Mustad 94825)
Best grade hackle (long and thin saddle hackle; no web)
fine gold tinsel
unwaxed thread



1. Wrap bend of hook with tinsel. This will keep the hackles from slipping.
2. Select 3 hackles of desired length (personal preference - #10 hackles for a #14 hook - not as long as some prefer).
3. Tie in one hackle (always keep wraps of thread to reasonable minimum) - shiny side of feather visible from rear, bottom half of feather stripped of fibers. (The bottom half of a feather, when wound, spreads up at an angle. This is not desirable in a spider, where the object is to have the fiber tins together.)
4. Start to wrap, and there will be maverick fibers at the start of the turn. These should be stripped off. Wrap feather neatly and tightly, without overlapping on turns. Tie down.
5. With nails of thumbs and first finger, jam the hackles back.
6. Tie in second hackle, shiny side at the rear. With the bottom fibers stripped, wind feather neatly and tightly. Tie down. Jam the hackles back.
7. Tie in the third hackle, but with the shiny side at the front. With bottom fibers stripped, wrap neatly and tightly. Tie down. Jam hackles back.
8. Whip finish.

The two rear hackles (which sustain the most abuse in the twitched retrieve) cant naturally forward and the front hackle cants naturally back - meeting ideally in an edge of fibers sharply together.

Under the Tyer's Lamp

Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

"The Leggitt Pizzer"

First of all, we would like to welcome all Lines & Leaders subscribers to our column, "Under the Tyer's Lamp" and to thank those members who have offered their support and best wishes. It is our desire to present the reader with a concise, no nonsense approach to tying patterns for their kind of fishing. We are going to put our emphasis on advanced trout, bass, panfish and original tools, material cabinet construction, streamside pocket fly tying kit, a series on mixed and built-wing classic salmon flies and whatever subjects that the readers would like to see. The more simple patterns will be described in detail so that the beginning tyer will be able to understand every phase of tying; whereas the advanced patterns will omit those instructions which would be common knowledge to a person at that level.

We ask that any comments or suggestions for future articles be sent to either Leo R. Leggitt, 72 Walker St., Manchester, Conn. 06040 or Mark S. Leggitt, 86 Glenn Eagle Drive, Bristol, Conn. 06010.

But now, back to the tying bench

Our lead article features an original pattern, the "Leggitt Pizzer" which was developed last winter and tested throughout the spring and summer season. The idea for this fly was a composition of ideas, drawn from our experience with panfish, sections from Swisher/Richards "Fly Fishing Strategies", and the Witlock Serpent fly. Our idea was to put together a fly which has fantastic action in the water, was easy to tie and would be both durable and versatile. The success of this fly's first season has been more than gratifying and we are hoping to test its effectiveness over a broader range of situations in the upcoming season.

In a moving water situation, the action given to the fly is its key to success. It must be violently twitched and darted on the surface if the water is not more than three feet deep. If fishing deeper water, the same violent action should be imparted when possible. Because of the design, the fly will constantly be in motion even when left alone. In these deeper water circumstances, we've found that a series of extremely fast, short strips of line followed by a brief pause brings action from the trout.

For pond and lake fishing, weed guards would be an addition worth considering, especially if fishing in or around pads and grasses. The same techniques mentioned above should be employed.

(continued on page 6)

Under the Tyer's Lamb (continued from page 5)

Construction

1. For this fly, we like a Mustad standard salmon hook #36890 size 8. Place the hook in the vise and wrap on 16-20 turns of .015 lead fuse wire. Trim the ends and tighten up the lead by squeezing it from the front and rear towards the center.
2. Tie in your thread and wind back and forth over the lead to lash it to the hook. Build a small taper of thread at both the rear and forward portions of the lead finishing the wrapping at the bend of the hook. Cement the entire assembly.
3. Select a clump of maribou with fibers of equal lengths and tie on to the hook shank above the barb. The maribou should extend past the bend of the hook for a distance of roughly 1 1/2 times the length of the hook. Lash down the remaining butt ends of the maribou to the hook shank and lead assembly and trim the butts off just forward of the lead. Bring the thread back to the bend of the hook and cement this assembly.
4. At the bend, tie in a 5 inch piece of medium oval tinsel. Next, tie in, by the tip, a large webby hackle whose fiber lengths (barbules) should be roughly 3/4 inch long. The shiny side of the hackle should face towards the eye of the hook. Lash down the waste ends of both the hackle and tinsel to the hook shank finishing with the thread forwards of the lead assembly.
5. Tie in the body wool and wind it back to the bend and forwards again. Tie it off near the hook eye. We've found that taking one turn of wool behind the hackle and tinsel (behind the hackle and tinsel tie in spot and in front of the maribou tail) keeps the fly looking neat and from being destroyed by sharp teeth.
6. Wind the hackle forward to the eye and tie off with at least 5 wraps of thread. The hackle can be held with either hackle pliers or by hand and the spacing between turns should be roughly 1/8 inch. We suggest winding in a clockwise direction although it makes little difference at this point.
7. Wind the tinsel, in the opposite direction that the hackle was wound, to the eye and tie off. This will adequately lash the hackle down to the body and prevent slippage. Trim the waste ends off.
8. Build the head of the fly up with tying thread, half hitch or whip finish off and give the fly several coats of cement.

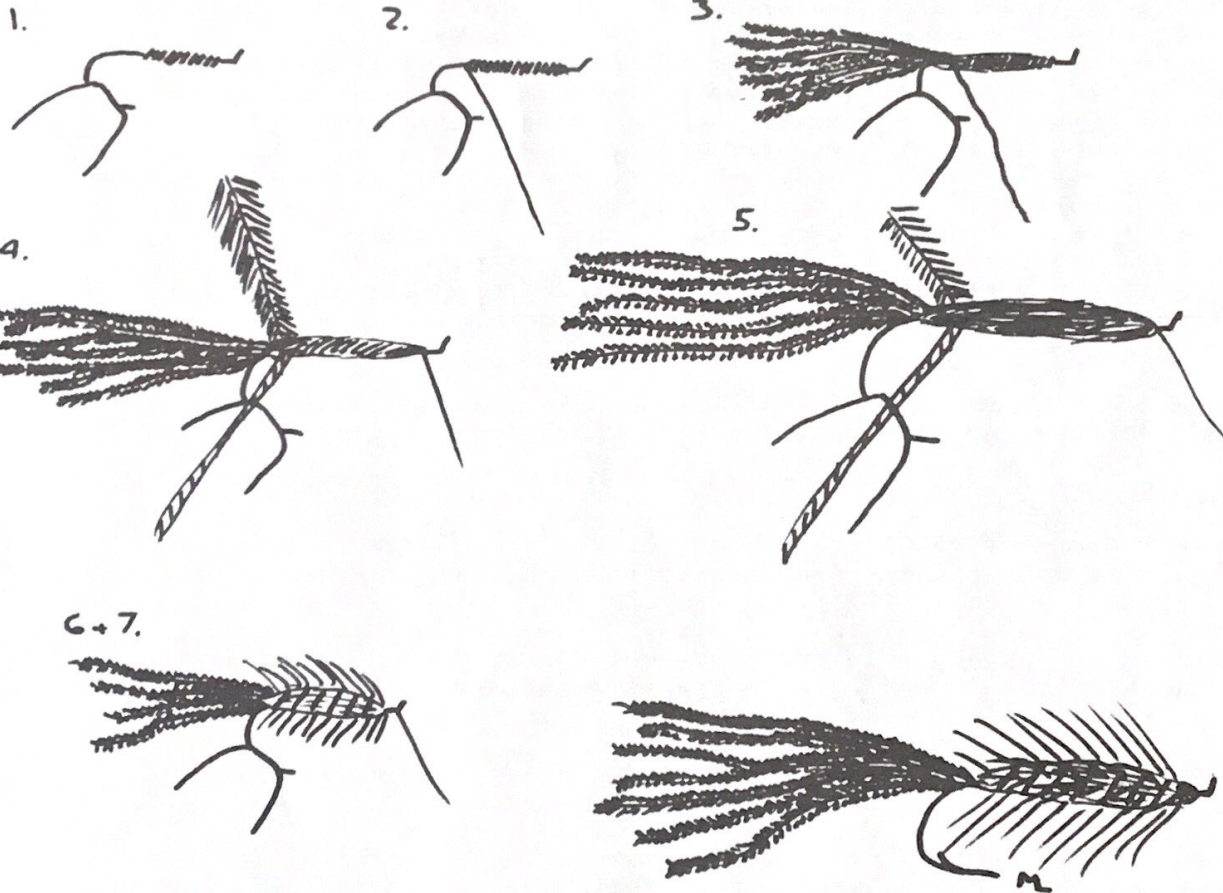
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Under the Tver's Lamb (continued from page 6)

Best of luck with this fly. It has been very successful for us. Below is a chart, indicating the various color coordinates we use.

<u>Pizzer</u>	<u>Maribou Tail</u>	<u>Hackle</u>	<u>Tinsel Ribbing</u>	<u>Body wool</u>
grey	grey	grizzly	silver	Flourescent white
brown	brown	brown	gold	brown
black	black	black	gold	black

Thread: Black Monocord



(continued on page 8)

"Leggitt Crawling Caddis"

It is no new news that in recent years the caddis fly (Tricoptera) has become tremendously popular with trout fishers. Imitations of the caddis run the course from larva to spent adults and can be bought commercially from suitable houses. However, until very recently, few have offered suitable imitations of the cased caddis larva. Probably the best is a local fly, the Scraggly which resembles a clipped down wooly worm and is enormously effective.

Larva of certain caddis species live and transform themselves into the pupa stage secured inside tiny shelters built of either pebbles, sticks, leaves or combinations of these items. Several years ago, we worked out an effective imitation for the pebble-case building caddis flies of the late season Beaverkill River in New York and found them very effective. However, in the past season we began work on an imitation for the various species which utilize tiny fragments of sticks and splinters for their cases insomuch as we have noticed fantastic numbers of these cases in the Beaverkill, Battenkill, Housatonic and Farmington Rivers. Stomach Samples of fish taken from these rivers reveal large amounts of splinters and pebbles and although we can only guess this to be true, we believe a fair percentage of these to be injected caddis cases. Our imitation features a realistic stick case with the larve partially emerged. We feel this may be an important addition to the pattern, offering great visibility to the trout and acting much as a dinner bell would to excite them.

So, tie up some of these imitations this year and give them a try. Let us know how you made out, we'll be interested.

Construction

1. Use a Mustad #79580 4xlong hook for this fly. Tie in black monocord at the eye. Wind to the bend and back 3/4 of the way to the eye.
2. Tie in a 5" piece of dark brown wool for the case. Wind to the bend of the hook and back to tie-in point. Tie off with several turns of thread.
3. Cut 20-30 fibers from the hide of a peccary. These will represent the sticks of which the case is made.
4. Tie in a 10 inch piece of heavy brown ribbing thread at the forward point of the wool body. Begin to rib the thread rearwards over the wool body. After a turn or two, lay several (5-7) peccary fibers lengthwise onto the wool and bind them down with two bunches of peccary fibers laying them on the wool so that the separate bunches occupy most of the diameter of the wool. Once

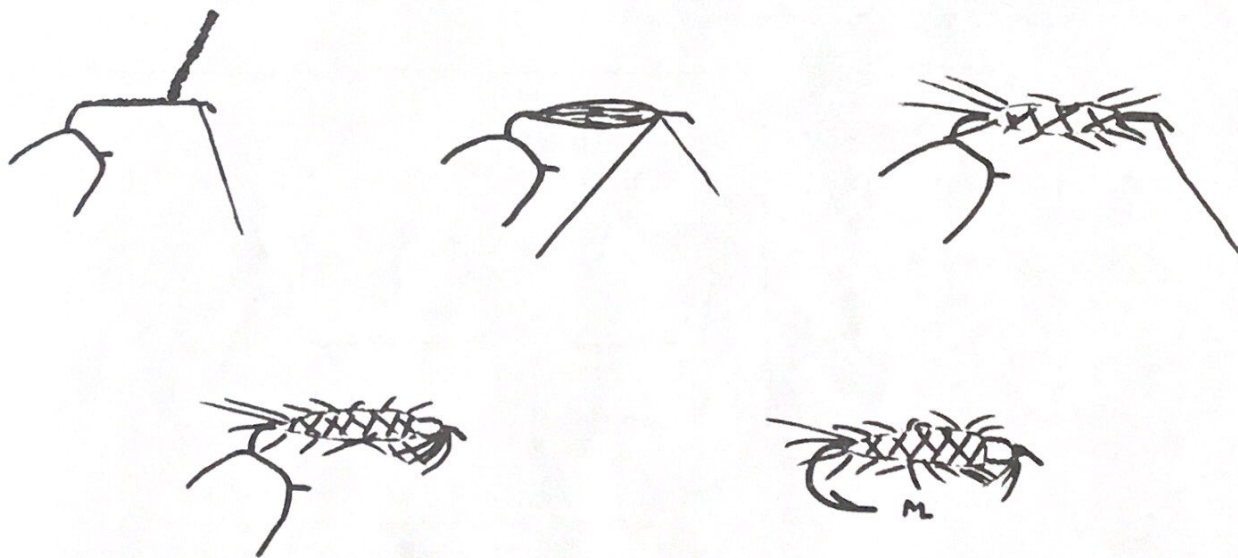
(continued on page 9)

Under the Tyer's Lamp (continued from page 8)

4. cont.

the bend of the hook is reached with the ribbing thread, reverse direction ribbing back to the tie-in point. Lift the extended fibers out of the way and tie off the ribbing thread. (This process sounds much more complicated than it really is. We find that 3 or 4 bunches of fibers does a nice job if positioned right. Be sure that the ribbing thread is constantly kept under tension.)

5. Trim the ends of the fibers so that 1/8 inch extend beyond the bend of the hook and roughly 1/4 inch extends beyond the forward end of the wool body.
6. With a bodkin, pick out the bound down fibers in several places. Be careful to only pick out one or two fibers per individual ribbing space, else the rib will be worked loose. Vary the picked out fiber length. Make some fibers long (1/4 inch) and some short (1/16 inch). Create the case to your own design. As you pick out the fibers, you will note that many fibers do not break but rather form loops. Cut these loops with scissors.
7. Dub some white rabbit fur onto the thread and form the larva body on the forward quarter of the hook. Make this body thinner in diameter than the stick body. You will have to hold the protruding peccary fibers out of the way in order to dub the white body down to meet the brown wool case body. Finish the dubbing up near the eye of the hook.
8. Under the hook, tie in a small bunch of short grouse fibers. These represent the larvas' legs.
9. Build up a small head of tying thread, whip finish and cement.



Conservation Notebook

by Don Johnston

The Conservation Committee was prepared to begin the 1977 season with a work outing on the Willimantic River, March 27th. The outing was to begin at 9 a.m. at the Nye Holman State Park in Willington, and was to consist of brush cutting.

A second Brush Cutting Outing is set for Sunday, April 3rd from 9 a.m. until noon. This work outing will be held at the roadside rest area in Willington on the westbound lane of I-86. This will be an excellent chance to become familiar with the No-Kill area of the Willi. Last year's work outings were very successful, and beer was provided after the work session. Everyone is welcome, and NEEDED!

The Conservation Committee will meet at the home of Vern Nyquist, 22 Dennis Drive, New Britain on Monday, April 18th at 8:15 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. As last month, beer will be available during and after the meeting, with coffee and donuts served before adjourning.

Al Dixon reports that the CFFA purchased trout will be stocked in the Willi No-Kill stretch before opening day. In addition, trout will be stocked in the Jeremies River, also before opening day.

Deflectors and dams will be constructed this year on the Willimantic River, and are intended to improve the late summer and early fall fishing.

Other Work projects planned by the committee this year include work on the Farmington River, Jeremies River, Bigelow Brook, Salmon River, Blackledge River, and the Natchaug River.

CFFA will also monitor and advise on the relocation of Roaring Brook along the section of I-86 which is being widened.

The effects on the fishing in Roaring Brook and the Willi will be minimal, as the new bed for Roaring Brook will be constructed before any water is allowed to enter.

With all these projects, it can be seen that the support of the entire membership is needed to see them through.



I'm sorry you won't be planted in the NO-KILL SECTION OF THE WILLIMANTIC RIVER AS YOU HOPED... YOU WILL BE STOCKED IN THE BEAUTIFUL FARMINGTON RIVER NEAR THE RIVERTON CHAIR FACTORY!



Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Please check all appropriate boxes, print required information, and forward with check made out to "C. F. F. A."

Name _____ Home Phone _____
Address _____ Business Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip # _____
Occupation _____

Important: Learned of C.F.F.A. thru: (Check one) [] C.F.F.A. Member (name)
[] Newspaper [] Other (specify)
[] Check if you will usually attend Eastern Council - C.F.F.A. meetings

ANNUAL DUES: (Check one)

- [] Junior (under 16) \$ 3.00 [] Supporting \$20.00
[] Regular \$10.00 [] Contributing \$50.00
[] Family \$12.50 [] Life \$100.00 or more

If Family Membership, please list names of family members who desire membership cards

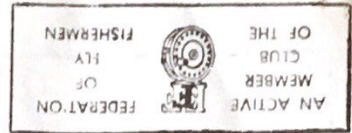
Also, please select one or more of the Committees listed below to which you could appropriate some time and apply your talent:

- [] Conservation - Stream improvement, conservation education, special projects.
[] Jeremy's - Maintain fishing census records and insect collection
[] Outdoor Facilities - Maintain rearing pool and secure private waters
[] Legislative - Represent CFFA interests to state and local governments
[] Program - Provide entertaining and educational programs for regular and special meetings
[] Indoor Facilities - Maintain and arrange for meeting places
[] Membership - Solicit members, maintain lists and other related tasks
[] Publicity - Plan and execute public relations and advertising
[] Fund Raising - Plan and execute programs to enhance club treasury

Mail application and check to:

John Blake, Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 3191
Hartford, Ct. 06103

**Fish
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Mr. Ken Parkany
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Manchester, Conn. 06040

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APRIL 1977 CALENDAR

- April 1 Fly Fishing School, 3rd Class
- April 2 Fly Fishing School, 4th Class
- April 3 Work Outing on the Willi, see page 10
- April 6 Board of Directors' Meeting
- April 13 CFFA Membership Meeting, see page 1
- April 15 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS material
- April 16 Opening Day, 1977 Fishing Season
- April 18 Conservation Committee Meeting, see page 10
- April 20 Eastern Council CFFA Meeting, see page 1

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	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

- May ? Annual CFFA Spring Outing, date to be announced
- May ? Fly Fishing School, Final Class, date to be announced