

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

DECEMBER 1977

Vol. 4 No. 9

Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: "Fly Tying Materials" featuring Eric Leiser.

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

WHEN: Wednesday, December 14, 1977

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

Eric Leiser, author of Fly Tying Materials, will present his informative program on the procurement, use, and protection of fly tying materials, among other topics. The meeting will be preceded by a few CFFA fly tyers demonstrating some favorite patterns.

Committee Report

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
by John Blake

The main functions of the Membership Committee are easily divided into two subjects; recruitment of new members, and record keeping and dues collection.

Recruitment at this time is somewhat informal without a specific program. Most new members are signed up at the general membership meetings which they have heard of through a friend or from meeting announcements put out by the Publicity Committee. One of the membership committee members is usually present at the meetings supplied with application forms and ready to sign up a new member, and collect his dues.

We also secure new members by our participation in sportsman's shows on occasion and at various Hunting and Fishing Day celebrations. For these occasions we usually work with the publicity committee to set up an informational display booth and

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A Quill and a Flyrod



by Don Johnston

The cold winter wind has been nipping at my ears as I split and stacked enough wood to see me through the winter. It's time to stoke up the fire and settle down with a good book, tie some flies, or build that new graphite rod I've been planning on.

CFFA's wintertime activities are now getting into full swing, with Eric Leiser scheduled for the December membership meeting. Mr Leiser, author of Fly Tying Materials, will be on hand to discuss fly tying materials and tying techniques.

Of course, we must not forget the super bash of the year, the Annual CFFA Banquet, coming up in February. No one should miss this super event with a great program and giant raffle.

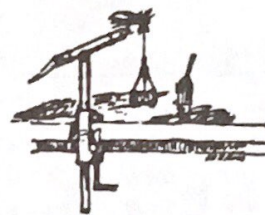
Currently, CFFA is in the midst of a new program, the CFFA Scholarship Fund. Each year, CFFA will award a scholarship to a student in the field of conservation, wildlife management, or a related discipline.



Funds for this program will be generated entirely by the Scholarship Fund Drawing which is set for December 14. Each of you has been asked to distribute the drawing tickets with a \$1.00 donation to the fund. With your help, CFFA can take another step toward its' objective -- "Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasure and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters."

* "Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut *
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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. *
* *

Under the Tyer's Lamp



Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

Master Tyer

Russ Ryders' Scraggly and the Ryder Caddis

This month marks the beginning of a new feature. Master Tyer. Our aim is to periodically spotlight a local tyer whose reputation has earned them the title of Master Tyer. We will be presenting a little background information on the individual to add insight as to why his or her flies are what they are. We hope to include a few of their "secrets" so that all can gain a bit of their expertise. And of course, we'll include complete instructions for the procedures used in tying one or two of their favorite flies.

It is appropriate that we begin this series by spotlighting a tyer whose innovations have touched dear to so many of us. Although he is unknown to most, the fly he invented is in most everyone's fly books.

Russ Ryder began tying flies 40 years ago under the tutorage of Wes Sanford Sr. He credits Ray Bergman's Trout for his style, which he says is old fashion. He prides himself on his slow, meticulous, innovative work, which is evident by the exact image that each of his flies has to another. Russ ties roughly 100 dozen classic flies per winter, yet feels that the new breed of tyers out distance him for style and design.

Although Russ does not admit to having any earth-shattering secrets, there is one aspect of his flies which sets them apart. The heads. Russ produces a neatly tapered, highly polished head which is exactly the same on every fly he has tied in the past 30 years. The secret to this head is: leaving plenty of room for the head, finishing off with one or two half-hitches and a thorough covering of his special head cement. (General Electric Glyptal 1276 Lacquer Cement thinned with 1511-S thinner).

And here we have it. The perfect combination for success. The fly--Scraggly; the man-- Russ Ryder, Master Tyer.

Construction

1. Place a Mustad #38941 size 10 Sproat hook in the vise. Russ uses a sproat because it is stronger through the bend than a comparative sized Model Peñfest.
2. Tie in black Danville's thread 1/8 inch back from the eye and wind to the bend.
3. Tie in a 3 inch length of fine gold wire at the bend. This will protect the herl body and add a bit of flash.
4. Tie in 2 strands of heavily flued peacock herl at the bend.
5. By its butt, tie in a webby grizzly feather just ahead of the peacock. Spiral the thread to the tie-in point.

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Under the Tyer's Lamp (Continued from page 3)

6. Wind the peacock herl strands once behind the grizzly hackle and then up the body to the tie-in point. Tie off. Russ doesn't ~~twist~~ ^{twist} the herl either before or during winding.
7. Take one full turn with the wire behind the body, then one turn behind the grizzly feather, then spiral the wire up the body to the tie-in point. Use 6-8 turns. Tie off and break wire off.
8. Palmer the grizzly forward making 5-7 turns. Tie off.
9. Grasp 1/2 of the grizzly fibers, pull them upwards and trim straight across them so that the remaining stubs are 1/16 - 1/8 inch long. Repeat on the bottom portion of the fly.
10. Prepare a hen furnace hackle as follows: Select a feather whose barbule length will extend to the end of the hook when finished; strip the fuzz from its base; and trim one side of the hackle barbules down to a length of 3/16 inch.
11. Tie this feather in by its tip, wind it two turns while stroking the fibers to the rear, and tie-off. The short fibers will give a scraggly look to the head.
12. Finish off to a tapered head, half-hitch and lacquer.

There is another of Russ' flies which we'd like to present. This fly is rapidly gaining popularity and we believe that it will soon rival the scraggly. It is a dry fly caddis imitation. The Ryder Caddis.

Construction

1. To begin with, prepare the wings. These consist of two hen pheasant wing shoulder feathers. Strip the fuzz from the bases and measure the feathers for length. The tips of the feathers should extend just a bit beyond the end of the hook when tied in. Next, using a bodkin, apply head cement to both feathers separately. These are easily worked with if held in 2 hackle pliers. After the cement has begun to dry (1 minute) gently stroke the feather from the base to the tip to create an oval shape. Having done this, set the wings aside to dry.
2. Place a Mustad #94840 hook in the vise, tie in black Danvilles thread and wind back to the bend.
3. Tie in one strand of sparse peacock herl and one small grizzly feather by the butt. The grizzly barbules should be slightly longer than the gap of the hook, and of course be good dry fly quality.
4. Wind the peacock in back of the grizzly, then forward to a point 1/4 the hook shank length back from the eye. Tie off.
5. Wind the grizzly forward using 3 turns and tie off. Press down on top of the wound hackle so that it flares out the sides and forms a bed for the wings.
6. Lay the dry wings on top of each other (shiny sides up) and tie in on top of the hook so that they are flat when viewed from the side. Try to catch some of the wing fibers with the tying thread so that the wings are secured by more than the quill only.
7. Gently pull the wings apart so that they form a "V" when viewed from above.
8. Tie in a brown dry fly hackle at the base of the wings, wind 3 turns and tie off.

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Under the Tyer's Lamp (Continued from page 4)

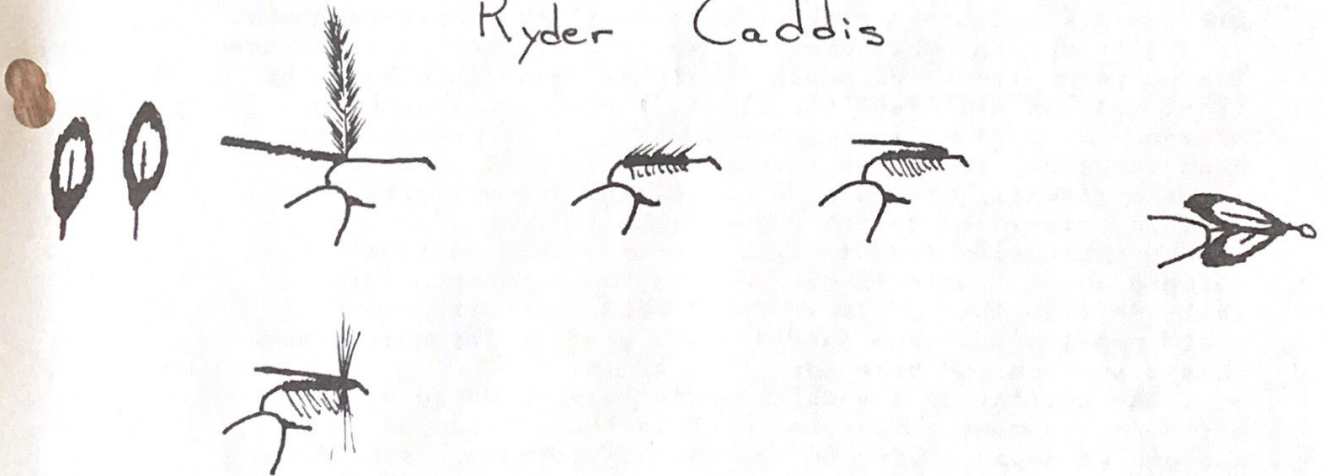
9. Form the head and half-hitch snugly. Lacquer.
10. Place a drop of cement on the wings and work it into both bases and lengths with a bodkin. This will cement the finished wings together and make them indestructable.

As we had said. Slow, meticulous, innovative. We hope these patterns work well for you, they should.

Scraggly




Ryder Caddis



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Complexities of Minutae

Part II

Mark Leggitt

(Authors' Note: Last month we covered the entomological aspects of the tiny mayflies; this month we shall cover the remaining families of insects including Diptera, the ants, leafhoppers, beetles and miniature caddis flies.)

The order Diptera consists of a plethora of true flies, all having but one pair of wings. All families have a complete life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Generally, only the pupal and adult stages are of any major importance to the fly fisher, as these are the times when the greatest numbers of insects are available to the trout.

The first genre of importance are the Chironomids, known to most as the midges. These non-biting flies inhabit virtually all trout waters in the East and can be found hatching year round on ice-free waters. They vary in size from almost microscopic sizes up to a generous 8 or 9 millimeters. The colors most common to my home waters are grey, black and brown with grey toned flies in predominance.

Although the Chironomids live most of their life in the larval form, it is the pupal stage that most interests the trout. Trout will feed heavily during the emergence when millions of pupa will progress to the waters' surface to hang suspended for times ranging from several seconds to several minutes. The gentle porpoising and slurping, the smutting rise, are to the pupa in the film.

Occasionally, feeding will focus on the partially emerged adult. This is due in part to the unescapable attitude that these "almost duns" hold; they are stuck in their pupal shucks and doomed. The trout fully understand this situation and take advantage of it.

The habitat of the Chironomids vary, running water is not a requirement. They may live in the riffles or pools and can be found moving amidst the bottom rubble and silts. Although they may emerge at any time of the day, the largest emergences come during the summer months when thousands will emerge in just an hour or so, either early in the morning or at dusk.

The largest of Diptera are the Tipulidae, the Crane Flies. These "midges" vary in size from 5 millimeters to over 14 millimeters in body lengths. Their colors vary greatly also, ranging from dark olives and browns to the dirty yellows and oranges common to most trout waters.

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Complexities of Minutae (Continued from page 6)

While the larval forms exist in most eastern trout streams, pupation and hatching occur in the banks bordering the streams. The adults can be seen hovering and dancing over the riffles on damp, drizzly days.

Although I have never witnessed a hatch of craneflies from the water, my studies and findings lead me to believe that certain genre do hatch from the heads of pools and provide a rise of trout. On several occasions in varied river systems I have observed rises of trout while craneflies were present over the water. Yet the rises were slow and deliberate, untypical of fish feeding to the skimming adults. I have yet to raise a trout to a dry cranefly imitation, nor have several other midgers confronted with similar situations. One avid and knowledgeable fisherman has reported success using a grey fur-bodied pupal imitation during this activity. He may well have begun to answer some of the enigmas associated with the cranefly. Time will tell.

The ants, leafhoppers and beetles comprise a group of hapless land borne insects that regularly find their way into the waters of our eastern streams during the summer months. All are easily recognized by the trout and taken unhesitantly.

The ants (Formicidae) belong to the order Hymenoptera, as do the bees and wasps. There are a vast number of genre, each exhibiting the same structural characteristics. They vary in size from a large 10 millimeters to the minute 1 millimeter species. Their colors range from ebony black through the chocolate browns to the firey reds and yellows. The body is comprised of two large rounded segments and a flattened middle segment which seems nearly unconnected to the naked eye. Six legs radiate from the flattened mid segment. While ants spend most of their life as non-winged terrestrials, during certain times of the year (generally the fall) the sexual males and females will develop a pair of wings for the purpose of mating. Large swarms of these meeting ants can be blown to the water causing a fantastic feed by the trout. The wings are held upright at rest and are very similar in shape to those of a mayfly's. This has caused countless problems for the trout who sees only the upright wings on the water and not what they are connected to. My experience shows that when trout are feeding to a flying ant fall, nothing but a correct imitation will take the good fish. Standard ant patterns will fell only a poor fish at best.

In general, ant fishing is best along wooded banks where the ants are liable to accidentally fall in. However, I have found that ant imitations will be accepted in mid-stream or in large pools even when no other ants are present. It would seem that the trout are extremely fond of ants and it behooves the midge angler to carry a varied assortment with him. At times, trout will be selective to the size and color of the imitation however I have found black to work well over 90 percent of the time in sizes 18 to 22.

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Complexities of Minutae (Continued from page 7)

The beetles belong to the order Coleoptera. Most members of this order have four wings, the first pair are thick and shiny and form the back protection. They have a complete life cycle as do most insects. There are hundreds of families with thousands of species under the order Coleoptera. Most are terrestrial in nature, but some are partially aquatic. They vary greatly in size from a minute 3 millimeters to the huge 35 millimeter varieties. Their colors are principally brown, black or metallic blue. Their bodies are nearly as thick as they are long, however, past experiments have led to the conclusions that three dimensional imitations are unnecessary. Marinaro and Fox argued that the trout sees only the outline of the beetles' abdomen and thorax and is unable to judge the depth of its body, making coffee-bean shaped flies unneeded. Their ideas proved to be genius.

While the beetle is able to fly and land in any position of the stream, the best fishing will be had along the shores where the naturals fall off the grasses and logs to the waiting trout. Most troutiers greatly underestimate the effectiveness of beetle imitations. Those doubters need only to visit the Henryville waters of Brodheads Creek to be convinced.

The leafhoppers belong to the order Homoptera. They are of the family Cicadellidae which has been recently called the family Jassidae. They are familiar to most anglers, having been celebrated by past writers often referring to them as the Jassids. While they are equipped with wings and capable of flight, they much prefer to hop from leaves to grasses and back, hence their name. They range in size from 3 to 6 millimeters and are typically leaf-green although other colors can be found. Their wings are folded back over the abdomen tent-like when at rest and my experience indicates that trout relish this insect when it is available.

My discussion of the micro caddis will be limited to those whose overall length, head to wing tip, does not exceed 6 millimeters. Because of the enormous size of the caddis family only general color schemes can be discussed in pertinence to my home waters.

The caddis belongs to the order Tricoptera. It is a true fly whose life cycle includes eggs, larva, pupa and adult. The adult has four wings which are carried tent-like over the abdomen when at rest. All but the adult stage are sub aquatic. The wing length is usually 1/3 to 1/2 body length longer than the abdomen. Typical body/wing colors in the East are green/tan, tan/grey, grey/grey and black/black.

(Continued on page 9)

Patronize Our Advertisers

Complexities of Minutae (Continued from page 8)

The adult is equipped to survive in our atmosphere for periods of one to two weeks during which time it mates, often several times. It is this longevity coupled with its fantastic numbers that make the caddis a viable trout food.

Fishing the micro caddis is a two-part offer. One is to the rising (emerging) pupa as it ascends to the water surface, secondly to the adult stages be it egg laying or simply buzzing the water.

Fishing the fast rising pupal imitation can be the most rewarding but is usually the most frustrating. The natural caddis pupa leaves the stream bottom and shoots to and through the stream surface, buoyed by gases in its pupal shuck. Once at the surface the adult emerges immediately and flies away. It does not dry its wings, which are waterproof. Trout usually are vigorous during this activity and splashes and jumps will be noted. Rarely are the fish concentrating on the adult. To fish this rise, small (4-5 millimeters), weighted imitations must be quickly twitched to the surface right in front of the trout's nose in order to entice a strike. Heavy strikes are common and the light tippets used often result in more lost fish than caught.

Perhaps a more subtle, yet just as rewarding method of fishing the caddis is to bounce tiny dry fly imitations to the trout who is feeding on the surface to resting or bouncing adults. I've found this method to be remarkably effective although some say that it shouldn't work. Ah well.

It must be re-emphasized that most feeding is to the emerging pupa, not the adults. I've spent hours fishing adults patterns during caddis hatches, many to rising trout, without raising a fish.

The Membership Committee (Continued from page 1)

fly tying exhibition. Then it is a matter of talking with interested parties, explaining the functions and activities of the club.

Incidentally, obtaining new members for CFFA is really a job for every member. Have you brought a fishing friend or neighbor to a meeting to get acquainted with your club?

The record keeping and dues collecting is a matter of detail work. We maintain a master membership list, keep the mailing service address cards up to date, and see that all committee chairmen are advised of members expressing interest in his committee. These are all items on which we try for absolute accuracy, but unfortunately, never quite attain.

Invoicing annually for membership renewal and dues collection is the most time consuming work over a fairly short period of time which the committee handles. Lists of paid and unpaid members have to be kept up to date and renewals processed promptly, and new membership cards sent out. All parts of this operation are done by hand as our procedures are not large enough for machine billing at low cost.

You can all help this year as we have changed dues collection slightly. In another part of this LINES AND LEADERS is a renewal invoice form for 1978 dues. If you would complete this and send it in with your check soon, it would be appreciated as well as reduce our billing costs.

On both of our functions we need help. Anyone interested please see me at the next membership meeting.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVOICE

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

DATE: _____

NAME _____	CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP # _____
ADDRESS _____			

Names of other family members for cards for Family, Supporting, Contributing, or Life membership: _____

<p>"ORGANIZED TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE PLEASURES AND TRADITIONS OF FLY FISHING AND TO CONSERVE GAMEFISH WATERS."</p>	<p>Due for the year 1978 are now payable. Make check payable to "CFFA" and mail to:</p> <p>Membership Chairman John B. Blake P.O. Box 3191 Hartford, Ct. 06103</p>	AMOUNT
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Will you usually attend the Eastern Council general meetings? Yes No

Please check any committee you are now on or wish to be on.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM | <input type="checkbox"/> INDOOR FACILITIES |
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DUES STRUCTURE:

JUNIOR (UNDER 16)	\$ 3.00	SUPPORTING.....	\$ 20.00
REGULAR.....	10.00	CONTRIBUTING.....	50.00
FAMILY.....	12.50	LIFE.....	100.00

Your CFFA dues for 1978 are now payable. Now that LINES AND LEADERS is mailed first class, we will use the newsletter to notify everyone that their dues for next year are now being accepted. This is being done to save the club the first class postage expenses of mailing separate invoices.

Please complete the form below, make out your check payable to CFFA, and mail both to the address indicated on the form.

DO IT TODAY, BEFORE YOU FORGET!



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Committee Report

THE FUND RAISING COMMITTEE
by Norm Holcomb

I'm sure that the first question that enters any good CFFA member's mind is "What does fund raising have to do with a fantastic Hendrickson hatch (*Ephemerella subvaria* for people that only read Latin).

The answer relates to the basic objectives of CFFA -- "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game Fish Waters." Although most of us could promote the pleasures of fly fishing on our own (by indulging our pleasure on the stream), preserving and conserving generally costs money.

As I'm sure you're aware, most of the income from membership dues is used to put on the monthly meetings, publish LINES AND LEADERS, and support the various conservation efforts that the club is involved in on a local and nationwide basis (through our affiliation with the Federation of Fly Fishermen). It is therefore impossible for the club to support many other worthwhile projects which require cash. The Fund Raising Committee therefore has the responsibility of developing ideas and methods to raise funds.

The monthly conservation drawing and the sale of patches, decals, etc., are examples of continuing programs to raise funds. The fund raising committee is responsible for this part of our monthly program.

Another example involving raising more substantial funds is the Scholarship Fund Drawing announced last month. Again the Fund Raising Committee is involved in organizing and coordinating the large-scale drawing for the program.

In the near future, as additional needs are recognized, the Fund Raising Committee will be involved in a variety of projects, possibly including a used equipment auction or swap. Of course, we are in need of any support you can give and would particularly like new fund raising ideas.

Anyone willing to participate in developing and carrying out such programs is welcome! With your support, I'm sure we can keep the Hendrickson hatch (and their predators!) healthy.

A Quote Worth Sharing

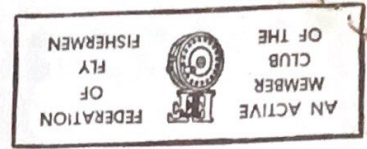
"One can play the piano while thinking of the morning's mail, or one can watch a baseball game while planning a bank robbery, but in order to fish successfully, at any rate for the nobler species, one must give one's whole attention to the sport in hand. And this is the reason why a trout-rod is the best magician's wand for exorcising the ghosts of care."

From: "Thy Rod And Thy Creel"

By: Odell Shepard

Published: 1931; Dodd, Mead, & Company

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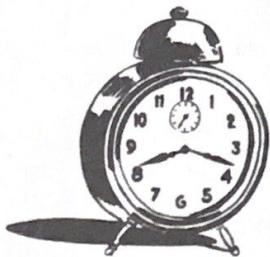
DECEMBER 1977 CALENDAR

- December 7 Board of Director's Meeting
- December 14 CFFA Membership Meeting & Scholarship
Fund Drawing, see page 1
- December 14 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS

DECEMBER						
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	31

COMING EVENTS

- January Election of Officers
- February Annual CFFA Banquet



*IT'S TIME
TO RENEW*

See page 10