

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

MAY 1977

Vol. 4 No. 5

Annual CFFA Outing

PROGRAM: Second Annual Fly Fishing Outing on the Willimantic River.

WHERE: Nye Holman State Forest on Route 44 in Willington
(Exit 100 on I-86, Rt. 15; follow Rt. 44 east to the bottom of the hill, turn left into the park.)

WHEN: Sunday, May 22, 1977

TIME: Outing - 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Demonstrations - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All fishermen and CFFA members are invited to the Second Annual CFFA Willimantic Fly Fishing Outing on Sunday, May 22nd from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CFFA will set up headquarters in the park with plenty of room for picnics, so bring the family. Hot dogs, hamburgs and soft drinks will be available.

Rod building, Fly Tying, Net Craft and Fly Casting Demonstrations will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Don't forget the tagged fish that will be worth valuable prizes for all, and a special big prize for a CFFA member.

Guides will be on hand to point out the "hot spots" on the No-Kill, Fly Fishing Only section of the Willi, so come out and have a great day.

Willi Fly Fishing

The State has clipped the pectoral fin on all the fish it has stocked. Collection boxes in the area have a diagram showing which fin has been clipped. Please report your catches, using the collection boxes.

CFFA Tags should be removed gently and returned to Al Dixon, 5 Country Lane, Collinsville, Conn., 06022 for prizes.

A Quill and a Flyrod



by Don Johnston

Once again, it is that time of year when I lay my quill to rest, wipe the cob webs from my rod case, and hang out the shingle on the editor's door. It reads, "Gone Fishin' - Back in September."

I haven't put a padlock on my mailbox, however, and would appreciate receiving articles for publication anytime. Two of our new contributors, Mark and Leo Leggitt have promised a bountiful supply of good reading. Their articles appeared last month, and in this issue. Jeff Carlson also had an article on bugging for bluegills that will lead off the September Lines and Leaders.

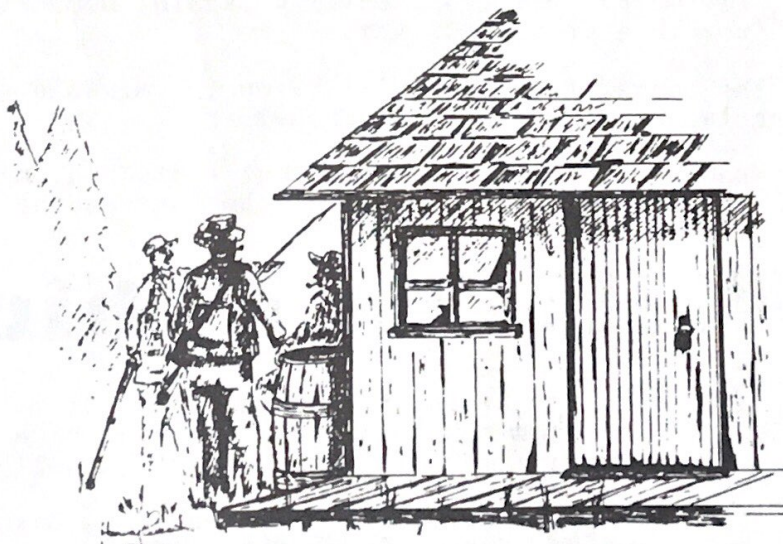
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many advertisers who have subscribed and helped ease the pain of rising postal rates (and decreasing service). I hope you will all patronize their shops throughout the season.

Another thanks to Bill Semplice and the students at Windsor High School, who are doing the printing and collating of Lines and Leaders.

And I can't close without thanking the merchant's, manufacturers, and friends of CFFA who contributed to the Fly Tying School, Fly Fishing School, and the Annual Raffle in February.

Until September,

Tight Lines



Under the Flyer's Lamp

Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

"The Leggitt Would Hen Thorax Dun"

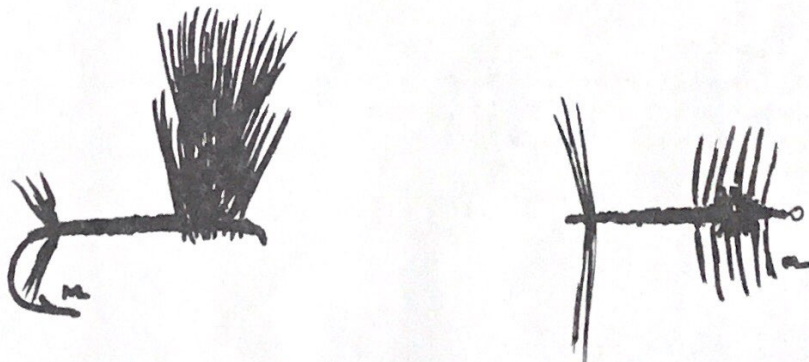
We are presenting this tie as an alternate to the standard hackled mayfly which so many anglers have found inefficient for hard fished, holdover trout. In dealing with newly stocked fish, most any style of tying will work as long as the presentation is correct. However, we have found that this is not the case with ultra selective fish that we have encountered in the local and distant waters that we fish. We have developed several theories about hard fished trout and will present them in future articles.

Working designs began and were completed for this tie three years ago and we have fished it almost exclusively for the past two years. For imitating adult mayflies, this tie has won hands down over conventional ties for us. For sure, the cut wing and turkey breast feather wing thorax duns which are available commercially present a more defined wing outline, we have found irritating problems with each style. The overriding problem is leader twist caused by the rigidity of the wings. We have found that this is almost impossible to correct by balancing the wings. (There is a way, which will be dealt with in an article about cut wing flies.) The way most anglers do deal with the problem is by using heavier tippet which, in this day of longer and finer tippets, is not too popular.

We think that you will find this fly interesting. It all but eliminates leader twist problems, lands upright virtually all the time, has tremendous floating characteristics and presents a life-like image to the fish ... all this and yet is easy to tie. Try some, we think that you'll be delighted.

Construction

Construction of this fly is in two phases. The first is the building of the wing; the second, that of the complete fly. Attention must be paid to each aspect of construction; we have explained why with each step.



Hen Wing

The difference between the wound wing and the more common clump hen fiber wings is that, when being fished, the clump wing mats together destroying the fullness and outline that it is supposed to create. The wound wing, because of its construction, tends to spring apart even when wet thereby maintaining an accurate silhouette. Also, because of its softness, the wound wing lies back when casting thus creating less wind resistance and leader twist.

1. Place a common pin in the vise, point out, and tie in your thread.
2. Select an appropriately colored hen hackle from the largest and webbiest available. Strip off the ~~fur~~ at the base and tie onto the pin so that the shiny side (convex) faces towards the point of the pin. Wind the thread towards the point.
3. Wind the hackle towards the point in close turns. It's alright if you wind over the thread. Tie the hackle tip off and trim.
4. Using your right hand, hold all the wound hackle over the pin so that the tips of each hackle barbule are towards the point. While holding the hackle in this manner use your left hand to wind several turns of thread around the hackle near its base, thus bunching them together.
5. Throw a couple of half hitches onto the wing near the base to secure everything. Cut the thread, grasp the wing assembly tightly and slide it off the pin. You will note that if you tied in with too many turns of thread sliding the assembly off will not be easy, but can be done.

The finished assembly looks very much like the old fashion straw brooms. The tips should be even and flared. You will find it advantageous to knock out several of the wings in a row if you are planning to tie a number of any given pattern.

The fly itself:

We will start off with a slate wing, tan body fly size 14.

1. Place a Mustad #94833 (3x fine) hook in the vise. Tie in light brown prewaxed thread (Danvilles or Herb Howards) at the eye and wind back to a point roughly 1/3 of the distance between the eye and the bend.

2. Take the wound hen wing, lay it along the top of the hook to measure the correct length. The wing should be slightly longer than the total hook length. This compensates for the length loss due to the body's floating position in the water. Place the wing in the tie-in position (just forward of the mid shank point) and lash it to the hook with three turns of thread. Try to make each turn successively towards the hook bend to reduce bulk. These turns must be quite tight and the fine wire hook will have to be held when applying pressure, else it will break.
3. Having done this, take three or more turns of thread immediately in front of the wing while holding the wing upright. Then, while holding the wing upright, completely encircle the wing twice, keeping the thread at the base of the wing. The thread should finish at the rear of the wing and on the far side of the hook. This procedure will set the wing tilted a little forward, keep the base together and the tips flared. You do not want the wing completely upright, as wind resistance during casting will force the wing backwards and during the slower airspeed of your delivery, the wing will come forward and end standing in a nearly perfect upright position. If the wing started upright, it would not return to this position during delivery.
4. Trim off the waste butt ends of the wing being careful not to cut the tying thread. Continue the thread back to the bend of the hook.
5. Dub a pinch of Fly-Rite poly dubbing onto the thread. Use either light or dark tan. Although other poly blends are softer and finer, we prefer Fly-Rite because many of its base colors are actually blends of several other colors. For example, the light tan is composed of olive, dark brown, grey and tan fibers. We feel that with a combination of colors like this, the fly body can take on many of the subtle color differences that the natural mayfly exhibits under various lighting conditions.

Wind the dubbed thread onto the hook, down the bend a little and back to the point at which the bend starts.
6. Select three to five stiff hackle barbules or mink tail hairs roughly one to one and a half times the hook length and tie these onto the near side of the hook, just ahead of the dubbing. Repeat this procedure on the far side of the hook. You should use no more than 2 wraps of thread per side assembly. Note that the tails are not wide spread yet.

7. Wind the thread forward to the base of the wing. Trim the tail butts off. Dub on a very thin amount of Fly-Rite and wrap back to a point just forward of the tails. Then, carefully holding the tail fibers forward, wrap the dubbing behind the tail fibers but in front of the dubbing ball created earlier. Take as many turns behind the tails as needed to force them out perpendicular to the hook (when viewed from above). Try not to create an artificial egg sack when doing this.
8. Dub on more poly and wrap forward to the base of the wing butts. Select a stiff cock's hackle with barbs roughly the length of the hook shank, strip off the web and tie the butt in so that the dull side (concave) faces forward towards the eye.
9. Dub on more poly and wrap over the butts of the wing and then the thorax area in front of the wing. Build up several turns at the forward portion of the wing base attempting to work some turns under the hook where the wing is located. This will give continuity to the body. Finish up at a point just back of the hook eye.
10. Grasp the hackle tip with hackle pliers and wind forward in wide spaced turns to the eye. You should have 2 wraps behind the wing and 2 in front. Tie off with 4 turns of thread and trim the remaining hackle tip.
11. Whip or mini-whip off the head of the fly. Trim the thread and cement. Finally, trim the hackle under the hook so that it finishes flat or flush to the waters surface.

All this sounds complicated but is actually easy. We've gone into great detail about the madness behind our methods so that our readers will know the ideas behind our concepts and be able to apply them to their own ties.

We applaud experimentation. If you have developed an inventive tie that you would like to share, send it along to us. We'll evaluate it and put it into print giving full credit to you.

If anyone has tying problems or some area of tackle or whatever that needs innovative work, drop us a note. We will make time to find the answers.



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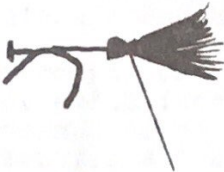
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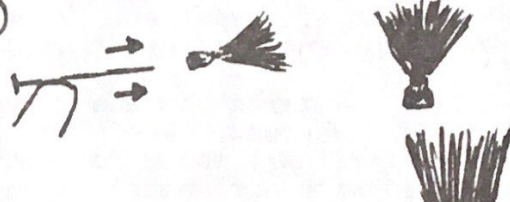
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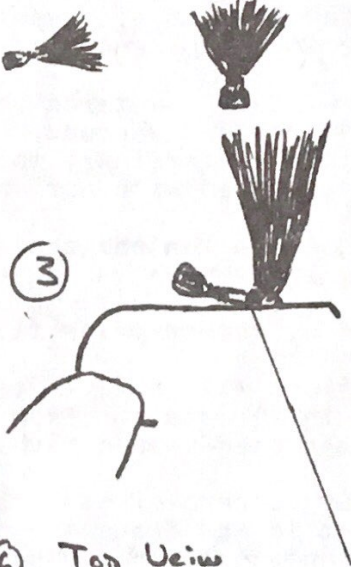
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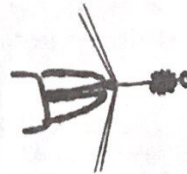
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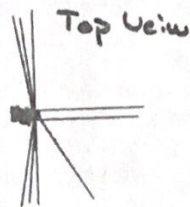
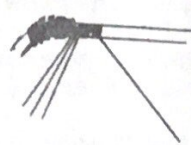
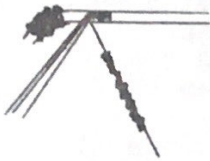
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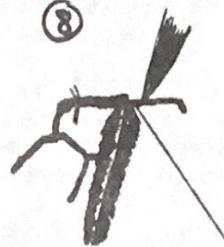
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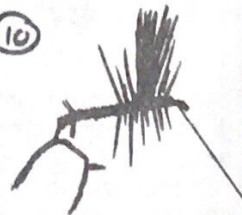
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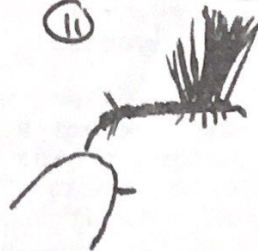
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Where Has Winter Gone...

(and what will happen if it doesn't come back)

By Gary LaFontaine

Just after Thanksgiving of last year a large high-pressure air-system settled over the western mountains, but this one, unlike most, didn't pass on after a few days of nice weather. No winds came to push it out, and it perched here in an obscene display of mild temperatures and cloudless skies.

Where's out winter? Centered somewhere over New York, causing predictable grief and confusion. Whereas down-filled jackets, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and snowmobiles are ordinary tools for coping with winter in Montana, the East wasn't prepared with our common survival devices and attitudes.

The differences in Montana between this year and last are extreme: on February 14, 1976 there was a record low of - 52 degrees / on February 14, 1977 there was a record high of +52 degrees. Snowpack in the mountains (which provides 65% of summer river flow) is 25% to 30% of normal.

These conditions will have -- and are already having -- a big effect on fly fishing in the state. Even now, with balmy February days, the nymph fishing in the open-season rivers is comfortable and productive.

But the major concern of eastern anglers planning a trip to Montana is the future effect if the drought continues and no appreciable snowpack builds up in the mountains. Then, the prime seasons for a fly fishing visit will change. The run-off that usually starts in May and lasts until July will be brief and light. Without the heavy flow of brown water, fishing over the giant Salmon Fly (*Pteronarcys californica*) will be a spectacular dry fly event.

Later, though, by July and August, these same rivers will be heavily depleted by the demands of agricultural irrigation. The low and warm water will hurt both the fish and fishing. Natural rivers like the Yellowstone, Clark Fork, Bitterroot, Big Hole, Jefferson, Boulder, and Blackfoot will be poor choices for a vacation.

There will still be good mid-summer fly fishing in flows regulated by dams. These controlled-release streams will stay full for economic reasons, but the fishermen will also benefit. The Beaverhead, Missouri, and Big Horn will remain the steady trophy waters they usually are all summer.

The Yellowstone Park area is another "protected" spot, where no one will suck the rivers dry for flood farming, and these spring-rich streams will stay productive all summer.

By September all the rivers will cool off and become good fly fishing again, unless they are actually damaged by a severe drought, and after Labor Day the tourist crowds will disappear. The "golden" season of autumn, the most dependable moment of the Montana fishing year, will offer both solitude and trophy-trout possibilities through mid-October.

Mont. **Montana Missives** Ct.

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 8/10/74:

Dear Ken,

First of all - Thanks for the kind comments on "Salvation On The Yellowstone" (Fly Fisherman Magazine article, Vol. 5, No. 6, Mid-season Angling, 1974). As a result of an unforgettable week of fly fishing, the Parkany pair will be prominently high-lighted in future articles and/or books - incidents on Odell and the Gallatin still to be featured. "Salvation" was only fair from a writing standpoint, but it did accurately portray the skill and enthusiasm of you and Steve - any notoriety is deserved.

A primary reason I write the articles for FFM - within the context of a hobby - is to pay tribute to my friends. An accurate account lends permanence to those good times shared. It is not possible to write a minute by minute account of any experience (and my memory is not that good anyway), but I try to capture the tangible mood of the past-time. Any truth is filtered by necessity through the bias of my perception, but within an approximate reality I attempt to make the experience reliable to fact.....

.....PS. I always write to you about the days of great angling, but it's only fair that I balance the accounts to present a realistic picture:

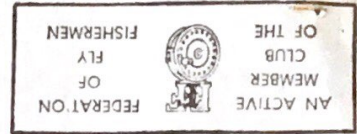
Along with Art Aylesworth and his son Ray, I floated a stretch of 5 miles of the Bitterroot River on Aug. 8. It was a grey day with a moderate wind, and we confidently expected good fishing - but the fish did not hit a Muddler cast to the bank-edge. After a mile or so of floating we were hit with a heavy and very cold rain (snow in the mountains). With no fish during the rain and only small fish (Editor's note: in Montana, small is less than 14 inches) after the rain, we shivered and froze.

Rav caught a decent rainbow (14 in.) and Art caught a decent rainbow (16 in.) before the rain, but that was all of anything over 10 in. that was caught. I was blue and chattering (fickle damn weather) and caught only six rainbows up to 10 in.

Was it a fun day? It was a great day of laughing and fishing, because with great friends like Art and Ray, the fish poundage was not essential to a good time.



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Mr. Ken Parkany
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MAY 1977 CALENDAR

May 4 Board of Director's Meeting
May 22 Second Annual Willi Fly Fishing Outing
May ? Fly Fishing School, Final class,
date to be announced.

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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Annual CFFA Outing