





# A Quill and a Flyrod



By DON JOHNSTON

Another summer is quickly coming to an end and with it are some great memories of some excellent fishing on the Willi. Last spring, CFFA again stocked the No-Kill section with some fine tagged trophy sized trout, and Al Dixon reports the following names of winners and their prizes:

- Vern Nyquist, one dozen flies tied and donated by Al Dixon.
- Myron Schulman, Orvis Lens Lite.
- John Baggs, East Hampton, one dozen Orvis Trout Leaders.
- William E Hall, Coventry, "Nymphs" by Ernie Schwiebert.
- Cary Repoli, East Hartford, one dozen flies tied and donated by Norm Holcomb.
- Thomas D. Farrell, New Britain, The Poul Jorgensen Trout Fly Charts, donated by Al Dixon.
- Ron Ayers, Willimantic, Orvis Lens Lite.
- Lee Deskus, Enfield, fly reel case.

Al reports that one other tag was turned in at the outing and a prize awarded, but the winners name has been misplaced. All prizes not specially noted were donated by CFFA.

In general, the tags returned this year number about the same as last year. One of the tagged fish was caught in Roaring Brook.

Not all the tags have been accounted for, however. Either they are still in the Willi, or they are in someone's fishing vest waiting to be claimed. The tags can still be redeemed with Al Dixon for a prize.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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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. \*  
\* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



# Notes from Eastern Council of CFFA

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks for allowing Lou to come down.

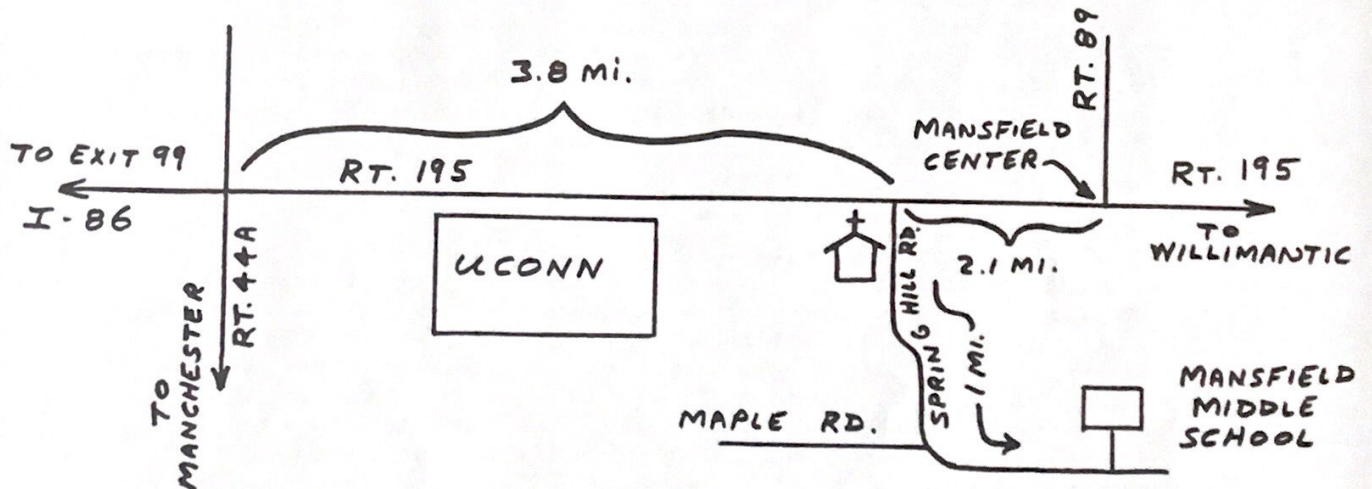
The way the "Blues" have been running lately, it might not be until September for the action to be good. So we invite all you striper and "chopper" lovers to come down and see a truly sporting way to catch saltwater species.

Eastern Council is finalizing negotiations with the Mansfield Middle School to hold all our programs as usual in either the cafeteria or auditorium of the school. The September 28th meeting is expected to be held at the school, but should there be a change in the meeting place, announcements will appear in local papers.

As always, admission to our meetings is free and the public is welcome. There will be doorprizes and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS --- for October we plan to have a local taxidermist show us how to properly care for and preserve skins, fur pelts, trophy fish, etc.

Eastern Council will hold a spaghetti dinner in November. Watch the upcoming issues of the newsletter for more details on both of these programs.





# UNDER the TYERS LAMP

LEO R. LEGGITT

MARK S. LEGGITT

## THE LEGGITT PANFISH POPPER

Surface lures by their very nature seem to be more exciting to fish with than sub-surface types. They are visible at all times, the action can be observed and controlled more accurately, and the strike when it comes is much more thrilling when you can see it as well as feel it. This month we are going to describe a method for making your own panfish flyrod popper.

This lure was designed during the past winter and was tested out early this spring in late March and after opening season in April and May. It has been very effective so far. On March 31, we fished it in Bolton Lake around the islands and weed beds, and accounted for 32 bluegill and sunfish as well as 9 small largemouth bass, 2 large pond shiners and 2 calico bass. Needless to say the lure was in shambles but it was an exciting and never-to-be-forgotten morning. Just cast it out to the edge of the weed beds, let it lie still for a few seconds and wait; if nothing happens give it a quick jerk and make it pop. Some fish make a few false passes or rolls at it before deciding its for real. The take may be very slow and deliberate or fast and violent, but always visible nevertheless, and exciting.

Our idea in designing this popper was to create a very lightweight lure with high floatability that wouldn't get water-logged after a few minutes use and especially after a few fish were caught. One that would never require an application of floatant, be not too difficult and time consuming to make and would have great built-in-look-alive fish appeal.

### CONSTRUCTION

This lure is designed for the use of hooks normally used for tying flies and not the special hump-shanked ones usually associated with hard-bodied poppers. The Mustad 94840 and Mustad 3366 sproat hooks are excellent in the size 10 we are going to use. To prepare the hook shank for gluing to the lure body, size A thread is used to build up the shank diameter to obtain a greater area for the glue to adhere to. This wrapped thread must really be firmly attached to the shank or the hook will break away in use and turn inside the wrapping. This step is the most critical in the making of this lure.

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Place the hook in the vise and attach the thread at the point on the shank where the rear of the lure body will be. Coat the shank to the eye liberally with glue such as ambroid, model cement, head cement or epoxy and before the glue dries wrap the first thread layer along the hook shank so adjacent turns of thread are in contact with each other. Stop wrapping at the eye and coat this first wrapping of thread with a coating of glue and start back with the second wrapping over the first one, only this time space out the turns of thread so there is a gap between turns of about one thread width. Continue wrapping back to where the first wrapping began, and coat this second winding this glue and then start back toward the eye over the second wrapping but this time space the windings 3 or 4 thread widths apart. Tie the thread off at the eye and put the final coating of glue over this third and last wrapping, working it well into the spaces between the threads. This procedure will provide a built-up area on the hook for adequate attachment of the lure body.

The body of this lure is to be made of synthetic rigid foam material such as that used for insulation blocks, swimming floats, moulded packaging cushions in shipping containers and the like. It is easily cut with a sharp knife or razor blade. The body size for the # 10 hook should be approximately  $7/16$  inch long by  $7/32$  wide and  $7/32$  high. We cut strips  $7/32$  square and slice off lengths as needed, leaving the ends square. On one of the long sides cut a groove in the exact center for the attachment of the prepared hook. This groove should be quite narrow as the foam is flexible enough to accept the built-up shank diameter. It should not be made too large as we want the contact between hook and body to be self-gripping so they won't fall apart when we are putting them together. It will make the job easier if this procedure is used and the body doesn't have to be manually held to the hook during the construction.

Now we are ready to assemble the foam body to the prepared hook. The glue that we will use will be the epoxy type because most of the fast drying cements and synthetic lacquer normally used with the standard cork and balsa wood bodies will partially dissolve these foam materials. If in doubt you can easily make a test of this on the parts you have. Naturally the glue used must be waterproof. We use the quick 5 minute epoxy for small "hurry-up" jobs and the longer curing type for production work. At our speed, 5 minutes doesn't give enough time to accomplish much.

Place the prepared hook into the vise upside down; we need to see what we are doing. Take the lure body and place the groove up against the shank wrappings to check the fit. If the groove seems to be too small, it can be enlarged by rubbing the groove back and forth on the wrappings. The coarseness of the spaced-out threads will act abrasively and you can

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obtain just the right fit between the two. Coat the wrappings on the hook with the epoxy glue and use a toothpick or similar tool to put the glue in the groove of the body. Assemble the body on the hook and remove the excess glue that may get into the eye of the hook, after this glue dries it is extremely difficult to remove.

While the hook and body are still in the vice and before the glue dries we now add the tantalizing legs to the popper. This is in the form of a simple section of a very webby, grizzly feather that has been cut so the center quill length is the same length as the lure body. Place it with the barbules pointing away from the hook eye and the quill directly in-line with the hook shank. Press the convex side down into the glue that will still be on the bottom of the lure. It doesn't matter if the complete surface of the bottom is covered with glue, just make sure to keep the barbules that protrude from the sides from getting into the glue. Additional glue may be applied with the toothpick applicator over the quill to hold it in place. The whole assembly may now be removed from the vice and should be maintained in this upsidedown position while the glue dries.

After this assembly has dried, the body may be shaped if desired. All we do is round the corners slightly. For extra durability, at the expense of greater weight, the body may be coated with epoxy glue and may also be painted. We have not found coloring to be necessary as the fish sees the "legs" moving and that seems to be incentive enough; however, a light coating of epoxy glue for durability's sake is recommended as the foam cannot withstand the onslaught of voracious feeding fish without getting somewhat haggard. We have some lure remains that have only the wrappings and quill section left on them but they were catching fish right up to the bitter end--so good luck to you with this lure. Some summer evening when the bluegills are working over the pads, ease up to within casting distance and give them a treat; and if you get a chance let us know how you made out and if you have any suggestions or questions, don't hesitate to let us know about them.

**Fish  
the  
'Willi'**

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# Conservation Notebook

by Al Dixon

1977 has been a year of transition for the conservation committee, Myron Schulman, after several years as Conservation Committee Chairman, and Vice President Environment, turned over leadership of the committee to me in Jan. of this year. I'M sure we would all like to thank Myron, for the fine job he did. and I would like to add my special thanks for his help in getting me started on this job.

With the help of all members of the Conservation Committee CFFA has continued to be a leader in stream conservation in 1977. Work was continued, to improve access to the "No Kill" section of the Willimantic River. On three Sundays in late March and early April, CFFA members turned out to cut brush, and clear paths along the banks of the Willi. Conservation Committee members, also built a foot bridge across a bog area, at the lower end of the Willi. Another foot bridge is planned to span a larger bog in the same area, for next spring. The Conservation Committee again this year purchased and stocked 25 large brown trout, as an added incentive to people to fish this special regulated stream. Each fish was tagged, and these tags could be easily removed, and then could be redeemed for prizes. Work will continue to improve stream conditions this fall on the Willi. Under the supervision of Chuck Phillips, State Biologist for the Willi, two work outings are planned for Sept. to erect v deflectors to improve low water flow in the upper end of the Willi. CFFA members assisted the state this year in printing and posting no kill signs along the banks of the Willimantic River, along with the CFFA stream improvement signs.

Our interest has not flagged in the Jeremeys River. Conservation Committee Members along with youngsters from The Future Farmers of America Storrs Chapter, assisted the state with the pre-season stocking of the Jeremeys. Also, May saw CFFA fish stocked in several streams around the state. CFFA fish were stocked, with the help of the Glastonbury Sportsmans Assc. in Roaring Brook in Glastonbury. Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter, you will find a map marked with access points for this fine stream. That same Sat. CFFA delivered it's 500 trout to the stocking party on Roaring Brook, State stocking crews were stocking 500 fingerling brook trout, and 500 catchable trout. By all means fish this stream if you can. That same Saturday CFFA members, live car stocked 600 trout in the Jeremeys River, and 500 trout in Sandy Brook in Colebrook.

In June CFFA Conservation Committee members, again with the help of THE Future Farmers of America, Storrs Chapter, and under the supervision of state DEP conservation officer Joe Pikul, constructed a Vee Deflector in Bigelow Brook, in Windam.

CFFA's water watching program has expanded to include 5 streams, in the state. Help is still needed to assist our teams in collecting water samples. Any one who would like to help should contact one of the Conservation Committee Chairmen whose names are listed below. We are hoping to obtain 2 dissolved oxygen testers for use in this program.

Fall activities will include, besides the stream improvement work on the Willi., a clean up along the Farmington River. This year's

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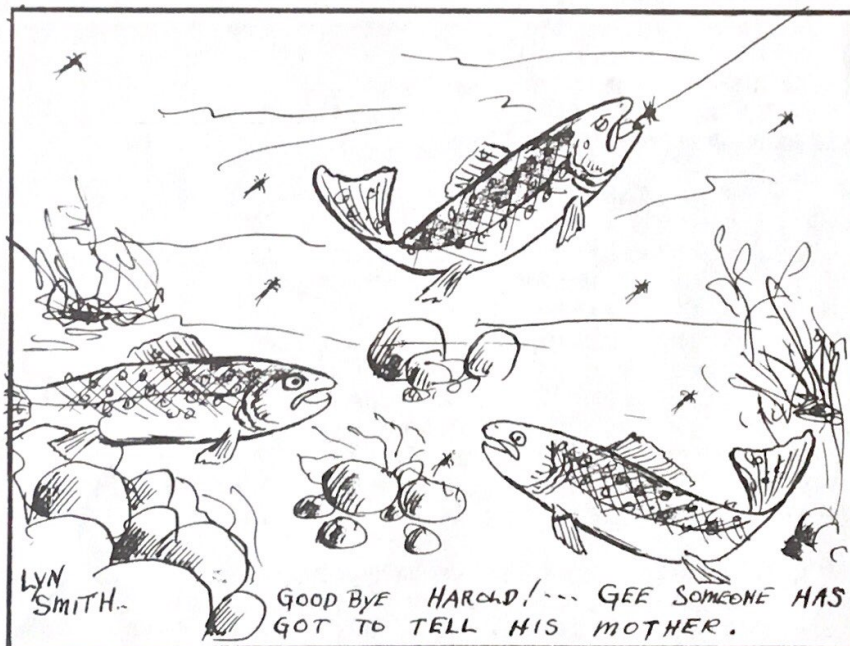


Conservation Committee Report (continued from page 7)

cleanup is planned to be a large project, to include several clubs and towns along the Farmington River. Much help will be needed to make this project a success, and all are asked to join in. Watch the newsletter for time and place for this year's cleanup. Vern Nyquist has set Oct. 9th. as the date.

CFFA Conservation Committee meets the last Monday of each month usually at the home of one of it's members at 8:15. Everyone one is welcome and anyone wishing to receive our communications or participate in any activities should contact one of the folling.

Bob Anderson	429-7021
Elmer Latham	742-6584
Vern Nyquist	229-2937
Al Dixon	693-2756



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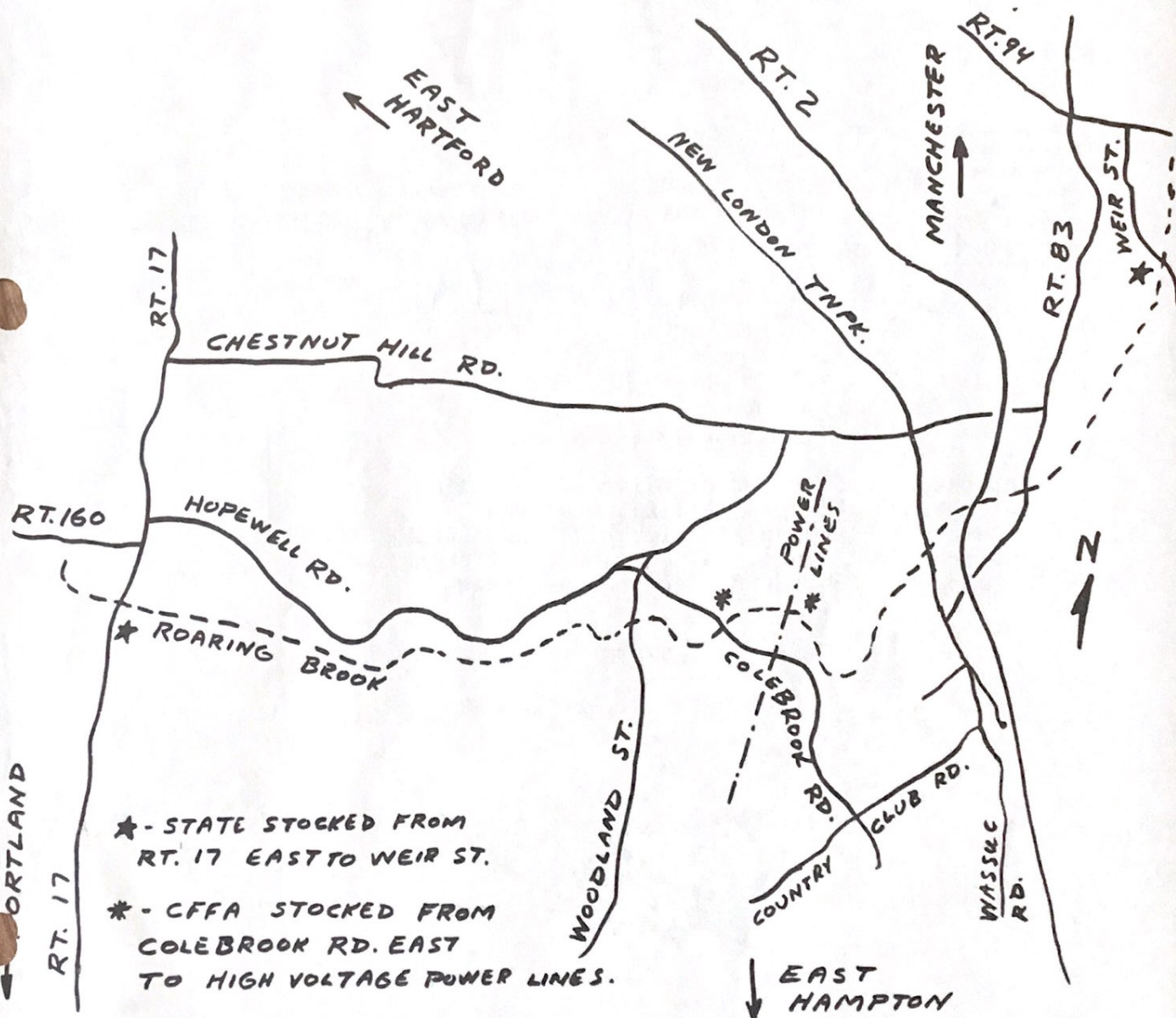


# Fly Fishing Trips

On May 21, 1977, CFFA members delivered 500 CFFA raised trout to the Glastonbury Sportsmans Association to be stocked in Roaring Brook in Glastonbury. These fish were stocked in a section of Roaring Brook recently opened to the public fishing. This stream is a special project of the Glastonbury Sportsmans Association, and they are working hard to improve access and fishing in this newly open stretch.

Ron Molina, Secretary of the Association, has sent Al Dixon a letter, thanking CFFA for its contribution of trout and urging CFFA members to use this fine stream.

The map below will help you locate the stream and some access points.





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### SEPTEMBER 1977 CALENDAR

September	7	Board of Director's Meeting
September	14	CFFA Meeting, see page 1
September	15	Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS
September	24-25	National Hunting and Fishing Day
September	28	ECCFFA Meeting, see page 1

SEPTEMBER						
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

October	9	Farmington River Clean-Up
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