Lines and Leaders

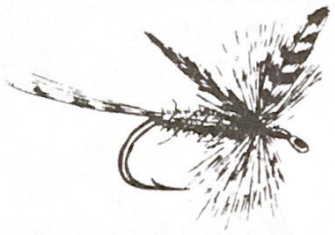
CFFA FEBRUARY 1978 Vol. 5 No. 2

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Annual CFFA Banquet

PROGRAM: Guest speaker Vincent C. Marinaro

WHERE: Tobacco Valley Inn - Dunfey's Tavern (Bloomfield Avenue exit off I-91 in Windsor).



WHEN: Saturday, February 4, 1978

TIME: Cocktail mixer - 6 p.m.
Dinner - 7 p.m.

Vincent C. Marinaro, author of the revolutionary and now classic "A Modern Dry-Fly Code", and the recently published "In the Ring of the Rise", will be the featured guest speaker and has promised a great program. And don't forget the big CFFA Annual Raffle with lots of prizes.

Eastern Council of CFFA Meeting

PROGRAM: To be announced

WHERE: Mansfield Middle School

WHEN: Wednesday, February 15, 1978

TIME: 7 p.m.

The monthly meeting for Eastern Council will be one week earlier in February due to the school being closed. We hope to see you there on the 15th of February. We have not as yet had a confirmation for our program, so watch for a program announcement in the local newspapers.

Eastern Council will be conducting a Fly Tying Class beginning on Tuesday, February 14th from 7 to 9 p.m. The class will prove to be interesting from the fact that we will be covering more than just fly tying. There will also be an added attraction for the students later on in the spring. Material and equipment will be supplied for those who do not have their own. Class size will be limited to fifteen (15) students on a first come basis. Those interested can register by contacting Elmer Latham (742-6584) no later than February 10th.

A Quill and a Flyrod

by Don Johnston

The following items on this page, "Bottled-Up Assembly" and "The Real Bill" appeared in The Hartford Courant on Tuesday, May 31, 1977. The outcome of the bill is history. Because of the manipulations explained in "Bottled-Up Assembly", the bill died in the legislature.

Even though this year is supposedly a budget year in the state legislature, proponents of the Bottle Bill will introduce a new bill into the General Assembly.

Now is the time to pull out all the stops and push for a bill which we need!

Bottled-Up Assembly

The Bottle Bill is not dead.

It exists in bill form—House Bill 5022—at the General Assembly.

The bill has passed both the House and the Senate this year, at one time or another, in something like its basic form.

Tested in the Senate, it passed 20-16. And in the House the vote was 77-65.

However, because of a complicated series of obstructions thrown in front of it by its opponents, it has not been approved by both houses in the same form so that it can go to the governor to be signed into law.

So the General Assembly is basically for the bill.

The governor has supported the bill.

Polls have shown the public is for the bill. For example a statewide poll by the Connecticut League of Women voters shows the public approving the bill—73 per cent for, 15 per cent against, the balance undecided.

So, then, what is the problem?

The problem is that the General Assembly has allowed itself to be disenfranchised by the tricks played by the opponents of the bill.

The General Assembly, in other words, has been prevented from casting a clear, true unobstructed vote on the bill. Those obstructions have been devised by a few legislators who—if the basic vote holds—represent a minority of both houses of the Assembly.

And, if the League poll, and many other polls are any indication, the obstructionists represent a minority of citizens who are against the bill.

But the General Assembly makes the laws and its own rules of procedure. Then, through emergency certification, or by amending another bill, it should be able to put the Bottle Bill to a vote in this session, which ends June 8.

The Assembly considers itself hard-working and effective—and believes its members should get a hefty pay raise.

But if the Assembly cannot vote on a bill the majority of its members, and the Governor, and the public, have already endorsed, then how effective is the Connecticut General Assembly?

The Real Bill

What is the Bottle Bill — the one that has caused so much controversy?

Much of the controversy is because it has been often misrepresented.

It is House Bill 5022. In spite of what some have said about it, it "bans" only one kind of container — cans with "flip tops" that detach from the cans. (Cans have been perfected with push-in tops that stay with the cans.)

The bill is really very simple. It requires all beer and soda containers — bottles and cans — to carry a deposit.

Standardized bottles that can be refilled by any company would have a three-cent deposit. All other cans and bottles would have a five-cent deposit.

It's really very simple when you understand it. Polls indicate that a majority of Connecticut residents who do understand the bill, like it.

The General Assembly should think seriously about it, and bring it up for a vote. Chances are, a majority of the members of the General Assembly will like it, too, if they give themselves a chance.

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Complexities of Minutae

Part IV

Mark S. Leggitt

(Author's note: Last month we covered the rods, reels, and lines used in midging; this month we'll look at the vital links: the leader and tippet and how these alone can make the difference in your midging.)

The leaders that I use for midging are of two designs: compound, knotted leaders and the Berkley flat butt type. Their lengths vary between six and nine feet for the two and three weight lines and nine to twelve feet for the heavier lines. These are leader lengths only and do not include the tippets, which will be discussed below.

The leaders' functions are: to turn over the fly so that it lies out away from the line; to control the flight characteristics and presentations of the fly; and to provide distance bet ween the fly and the line slapping down on the water. Because of the extremely light weights of number two and three weight lines, the long leaders used with heavier lines are unnecessary. These light lines land with hardly any noise or splash. The shorter leaders aid in control with these, both in casting and in hooking.

The compound leaders that I build are designed to be simple with as few knots as possible. A typical design for a three weight line would be: five feet of .017 medium stiff round mono, four inches each of .013, .009, .005 and finally the tippet. I like Maxima for all but the tippets. Barrel knots are used throughout for strenth.

This design puts as much mass as possible into the majority of the leader promoting good turnover and control. The butt end can be either epoxied or needle knotted to the fly line. If needle knotted, I press out the last two inches of mono in a vise to make it oval. Then, when this oval section is used to tie the knot, the connection comes out smoothly and with a low profile.

The flat butt leader is a dandy. It is knot-less, turns over well and forms a tight loop when being cast. The tippet section of this leader should be replaced by your own material as the manufactured one is too short. Whitlock advocates the use of a short piece of bright fly line slipped onto the leader to act as a strike indicator when using the unseeable flies common to midging. I use this indicator and have found it to help but one must be careful in the selection of line used for the indicator- use a small diameter line and no more than one inch. Thread it on with a bobbin threader as described earlier. I place it either on or just above the knot connecting the leader and tippet. A bonus of this indicator is that it will help turn over the super long leaders that some folks use.

The tippet is the vital link between yourself and the fly. It must meet several requirements to insure sucess.

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The tippet should be very flexible and yet return a high strenth/diameter ratio with the stetchibility to absorb shocks. It should have consistant diameter throughout the spool and have a high knot strenth. Most commercial tippet materials meet these requirements excellently. My favorites are Nylorfi and Pezon et Micheal, with an edge towards the Pezon et Micheal. I have purchased several spools of this in the finest diameters and have found it to mike out true to the labeled diameters, or even slightly smaller. The 7X and 8X are especially good, at least in my testings.

Several years ago I began experimenting with 9X tippets for use with very small flies, size twenty six and smaller. The material which I use is a special tying thread, Engerbrestons' Ultra-midge. This nylon mikes out at a mere .002 and is both flexable and delicate. It goes without saying that extreme care must be used with a tippet that is as fragile as this, however, I have found that the reduced mass of such a fine thread gives an excellent drift to the fly and is much less hampering to those imitations that I use it with.

The knots that I use with tippets are three: the blood (barrel) knot and the improved surgeons knot for attaching tippets to the leader and the clinch knot for attaching the fly to the tippet. These are the fastest knots that I presently can tie, all have very good strenth and present low profiles. These are the factors that I consider important and why I use them. I must suggest that those readers who have not yet learned the improved surgeons knot do so. It is an extremely fast and easy method of reducing tippet sizes on the stream.

The length of tippet used is critical. It must be over three feet long. Four to five feet are ideal, longer than five causes loss of control problems. Why so long? There are several reasons, all related to drag.

Drag comes from several sources: the fly moving faster than the tippet; the tippet moving faster than the fly; the tippet pressing the fly into the surface film; and tiny, unnoticable wind and water currents acting on the fly and tippet. All of these problems must be overcome to insure consistant success.

When the fly and tippet are moving downstream at different rates, drag occurs. To overcome this, one must use very fine diameter tippets whose mass will offer little resistance for the current to act on. Also, some form of slack must be coordinated into the presentation of the fly via the tippet. This is best done by slightly under powering the delivery cast and nudging back as the leader turns over. In most cases, tippets of this length and diameter will not turn over even though the leader will. This is exactly what you want. When the leader falls to the water "en masse" several small coils, loops, and such are formed which act as a "play" or shock cord against drag. The fly then has some give and free drift will occur.

Another advantage of the reduced mass of superfine tippets is that they help reduce the forcing effect of the fly into the surface film caused by heavier monos. Although it is desirable to force some imitations into the film (pupa, emergers)

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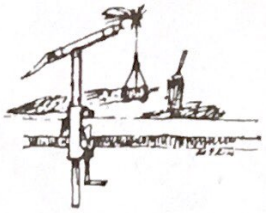
Under the Tyer's Lamp



Leo Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

Odds & Ends

This month we are going to sit back, take it easy, and toss the reader a few tricks and handy items that we use when tying. While some of these items are original, many are borrowed from others, but are important enough to know. Let's begin.

This is one that Mark wrote about several years ago in Lines and Leaders that has proven itself out. It deals with wide-split "V" tails. On very small (size 20 and below) dry fly patterns, it is often necessary to split the tail fibers widely to float the fly, and especially to make it land upright. The trick to this is: before tying in the tail fibers, attach a looped piece of tying thread, by its tips, to the hook bend so that the loop extends out away from the hook. Then tie your tail fibers on top of this thread. Pull the thread forward towards the eye of the hook, through the fibers, and secure. The tails will now be locked into a wide split, exactly as you want them. Practice this a bit, and we think that you'll be happy.

This one is simple enough: if you are tying a bunch of patterns at one setting, wait until all are finished then go through and cement the heads. This prevents your cement from evaporating by constantly opening and closing the bottle after each fly.

Another easy one: less than 1/3 of the flies we tie ever end up in our fly vests--most are experimental or practice models. What we do is to keep a good sized can on the bench and dump the discards into it. Then, on a ho-hum night, we'll sit at the vise and reclaim all the hooks. Trim offthe old materials and you're ready to go again. If you don't remember what hook size it is, throw it in a box. Then use these for practice later. Or, give the discards to a friend for a gift. (We found that our discards worked better for a friend than the keepers did for us. Imagine that.)

Russ Ryder (see November 1977 Lines & Leaders) gave us a batch of tips which we couldn't list in that article but will now: As best we know, Russ developed the use of pheasant tail quills for use in fly bodies. Here's how he does it. Select a tail feather from the ring-necked pheasant. Don't use the center tails. Strip off the fibers and you'll have a quill with very distinct brown and white markings. Boil the quill in water for a couple of minutes, then store it in a glass of water. This will soften the quill. Then simply tie the quill into whatever quill bodied pattern you want. Russ claims that these are indestructible. We believe him.

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(Continued from page 5)

Here's a nifty little caddis pupa from Russ's bench: get an inner piece of telephone wire. They come in bright green, red, yellow, orange, black and such. Pull the wire out of the plastic core. Insert a piece of soft copper wire into the core. Tie in and wind the body of this material. The reason for pulling out the original wire and replacing it with copper wire is to keep the body from either being too round and bulky (with original wire) or too flat and stretchy (with no wire in). Russ then winds a collar of black wet hackle, trims the hackle on top and finishes with one of his famous heads.

Something else from Russ: Ever pull out a size 16 hackle from your neck when tying a size 18 fly? We all do. What did you do with it? Russ keeps a bunch of small boxes in his tying desk labeled size 10, 12, 14, ect. and puts these wrong sized hackles, ect. into them. In this manner, nothing is wasted and if you're going to tie up one quick fly, usually the parts can be found right in the box. Saves time.

Here's one we'll bet you already know: ever spend half the night looking for the small nick in a spool of thread to put the loose end into? If you had marked the spot with a swatch from a Majic Marker, you would have found it in 3 seconds.

One way of preventing hook loss, if you are going to keep hooks in theboxes they come in, is to place a small magnet in the box, then dump all the hooks in. They'll stick to the magnet and your problems will be solved.

Organization. WE used to have a devil of a time until we started catagorizing things. Like duck quills. WE now buy complete duck wings, cut off the quills, match them up and file them away in pairs in common envelopes. We label these as to size, type of quill, colors ect. Now if we want a matched pair of crow quills--bingo. We've got 'em.

Well, that's about it for this month. We wanted to keep it short so as to leave room in this issue for some other articles. We'll keep you posted with more odds & ends as we run into them. Until next month...

(Continued from page 4)

on others it is not, most notably the subimago mayflies (Baetis, Pseudocloeon and Tricorythodes). These flies have barely a hint of contact with the water's surface and as such are subject to the slightest air or water movements. The only way to combat this is with long, fine diametered tippets and specially modified flies, which I'll get to.

One last point about tippets. Measure yours. Constantly. And replace it if it is less than three feet. Most trouters thinck that their tippet is three feet long but after changing a fly or two and removing a wind knot, it rarely is. More often six to twelve inches is what you have and this is totally unacceptable in midging. If the baffling barrel knot is not at your command, learn the improved surgeons knot. You'll be glad that you did.

End Part IV

(Next month: Tools of Tying)

Committee Report

by Bob Anderson

How would you like to guide a live-cart down a stream and release fish? Would you like to lug rocks to a stream and help build a deflector designed to provide greater depth and protection for trout? If you were shown how to do it, would you like to collect water samples and test them for dissolved oxygen, acidity, and coliform bacteria? Do you feel that its important to remove trash from streamsides so that just being there is better for everybody? Could you imagine yourself as part of a delegation sent to offer a landowner help with some property improvement in exchange for his allowance of public fishing on presently posted land? How about planting trout eggs in Vibert boxes in appropriate areas in streams? Would you be willing to attend a monthly meeting to share your thoughts and ideas? If even one of the preceeding questions elicited a "yes" in your mind then you should check into the Conservation Committee.

The Conservation Committee is among the most active committees of CFFA. Itsconcern is with anything of a conservation nature; from the mundane streamside trash collecting to rearing near-wild trout in our own rearing pool; from repairing dams and deflectors buit in previous years to census taking by electroshocking; from clearing streamside access paths to posting signs; from installing gabions to acting as consultants when a highway project mandates the relocation of a stream.

Being so active means that the committee needs lots of help. There is much that we could do that we aren't doing. And yet previous work demands time, for once you work on a stream it is difficult to abandon it. Being active on the Conservation Committee means work.

But it also has its rewards: the association with others who have a genuine and deep appreciation of nature; the enjoyable banter during a work outing; knowing that you're doing somthing worthwhile -- all produce good feelings. Most work outings last about three hours; generally 9 a.m. to noon on Sundays, but occasionly 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Conversing and/or fishing with other members before or after a work outing is also pure pleasure. With so much to be done, won't you consider helping the conservation committee?

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE...

by Norm Holcomb

The fund raising committee would like to extend its thanks for the support of the many members who contributed their time and money to the success of the scholarship fund program. A fund in excess of $500 (after expenses) has been developed, thanks to this tremendous effort.

Certainly this will provide a very substantial scholarship fund to enable a worthy individual to pursue higher education in the conservation area. This, of course, has been accomplished without drawing upon general membership funds.

At the recent Board of Director's meeting, a Scholarship Fund Committee was established to organize a search for scholarship recipients, establish eligibility requirements, interview and select candidates, and ultimately award the scholarship. We would like to invite interested members to participate in this committee. Individuals with experience in scholarship funds, college level teaching, or college applicant selection would be particularly helpful but any individuals interested in participating in this phase of our program are welcomed and needed.

We would also like to start preliminary solicitation of possible candidates for the scholarship.

Anyone wishing to participate or submit names of potential candidates, please contact myself at:

574 Bush Hill Road
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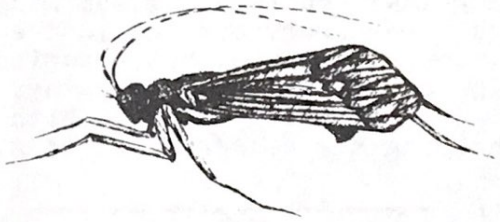
Tele. 649-6498



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FEBRUARY 1978 CALENDAR

February 1	Board of Director's Meeting
February 3	Fly Tying School, 5th class
February 4	Annual CFFA Banquet, see page 1
February 10	Fly Tying School, Final class
February 14	ECCFFA Fly Tying School, 1st class, see page 1
February 15	ECCFFA Meeting, see page 1
February 21	ECCFFA Fly Tying School, 2nd class
February 28	ECCFFA Fly Tying School, 3rd class

February 1978

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

COMING EVENTS

March	Fly Fishing School
April	Annual CFFA Outing