

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

OCTOBER 1978

Vol. 5 No. 7

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association



PROGRAM: "Getting Started in Fly Tying."
WHERE: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.
WHEN: October 11, 1978
TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.

CFFA continues its theme of "Learn Fly Fishing" with this month's program, "Getting Started in Fly Tying." The program will feature demonstrations of fly tying tools and materials, and how to purchase them. Fly tying techniques will be presented at a future meeting.

NOTICE: The November regular membership meeting will held in conjunction with Eastern Council's monthly meeting on November 8, 1978 at the Mansfield Middle School in Mansfield, Connecticut. Watch next month's newsletter for details.

Eastern Council of CFFA

PROGRAM: "Mixed Bag Put Together"
WHERE: Mansfield Middle School
WHEN: Wednesday, October 25, 1978
TIME: 6:45 p.m.

Refer to page 3 for details and map to Mansfield Middle School.

Conservation Notebook

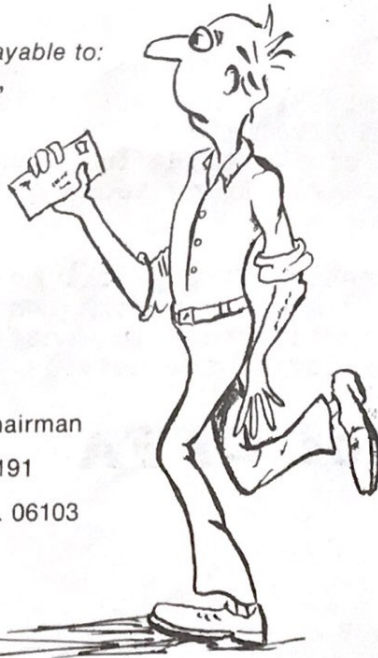
by Al Dixon

CFFA's annual Farmington River clean-up will be held this year on Sunday, October 15th. We will meet at the first large parking area on the East River Road in People's Forest. Watch for the signs to direct you there. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. and work until 1:00 p.m. Once again this year, the Farmington River Angler's Association will participate in the clean-up. So let's have a large turn out for this CFFA sponsored event. In case of rain on the 15th the clean-up will be moved up one week to the 22nd of October.

The October Conservation Committee Meeting will be held at the East Hartford Library, Monday October 30, 1978 at 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Come along and bring a friend.

You may pay your 1979 dues as of Oct. 1st.
ALL DUES MUST BE PAID BY JAN. 1, 1979!

Make checks payable to:
"CFFA"



and mail to:

CFFA
Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 3191
Hartford, Conn. 06103

Or to:

Lynwood Smith
365 Middle Rd.
Farmington Ct. 06032

NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Smith, Membership Chairman, has reported the following names who are new members for 1978, or who have rejoined CFFA after a short absence. Part I of this list was published last month, with the remainder here. CFFA offers a warmhearted welcome!

Charles Utz
John Tencza
Anthony Fappiano
William Brebeck
Dr. Daniel Burnes
Dave Conrad
John Angelo
Joseph Grigoraitis
Robert Granel
Franklin Nott III
Robert Ryan
Donald Wolfe
Richard Scott
Richard Smoragiewicz

FLY-TYING MATERIALS

ROD-BUILDING SUPPLIES

THE FLY BOX

COMPLETE FLY TYING SERVICE

WRITE FOR OUR CATALOG

RON COSGRO
Proprietor

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(203) 627-0637

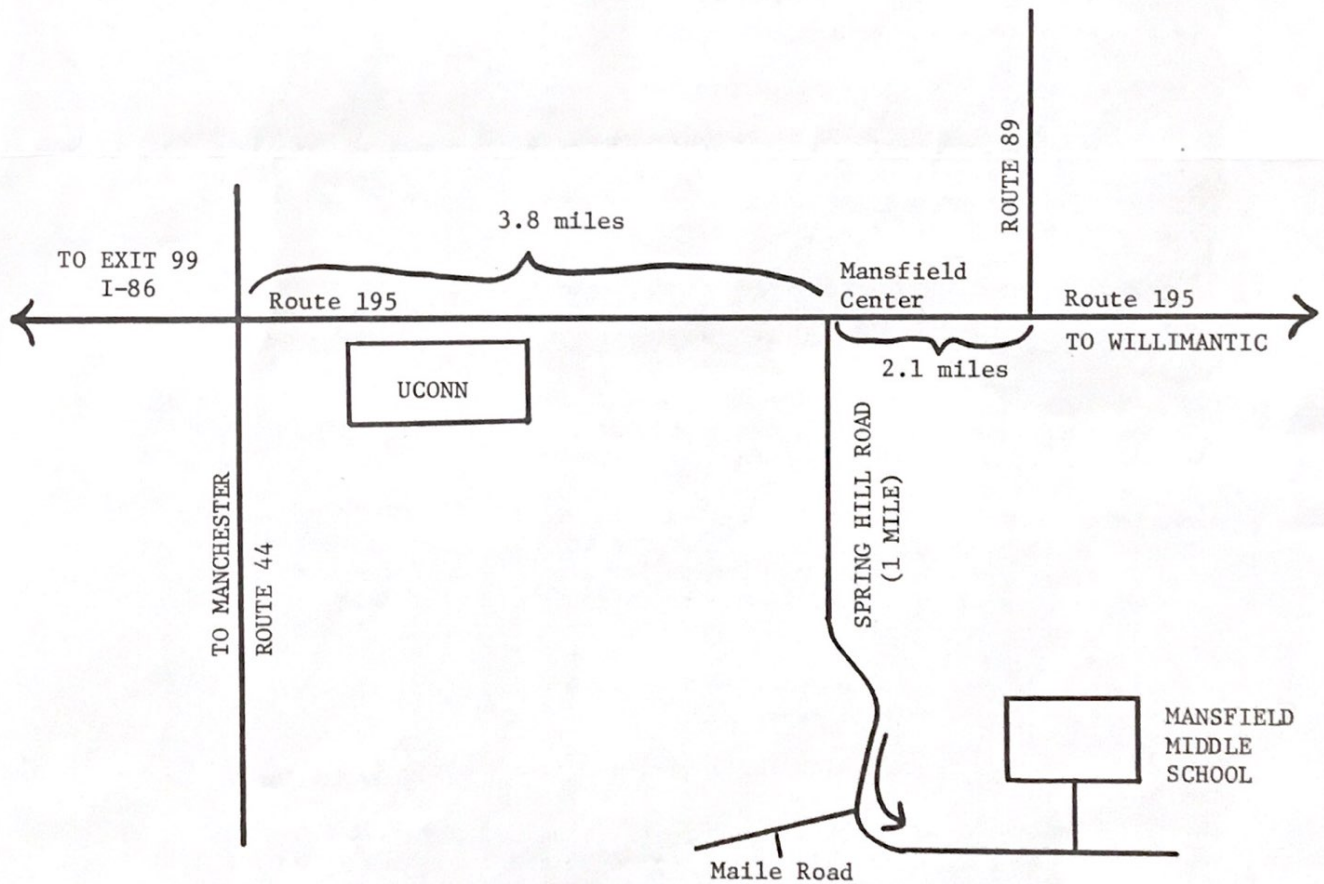
Notes from Eastern Council of CFFA

On October 25th Eastern Council will hold its monthly meeting at the Mansfield Middle School. The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. with fly tying demonstrations by a few of the local tiers. They will be tying some of the patterns used for Fall fishing for those of us that will be out fishing on those cool, brisk mornings instead of staying under the warm blankets!

The main program for the evening will be a slide show entitled "Mixed Bag Put Together" by Elmer Latham from Eastern Council. He will show slides from his early Spring fishing trips to Matagamon Lake and the East branch of the Penopscot River in Maine for brook trout, salmon, and lake trout. Along with slides there will be equipment on display and he will explain some of his techniques for lake trolling.

Other highlights of the program will feature some of the work outings the club has been working on including the stocking of the "Big Trout" in the Willi.

As always, the meetings are open to the general public. There will be refreshments and door prizes.





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]

Letter Dated 12/16/74:

Here is an angling tip from the files of Gary J. (no file, really, only the disorganized catacombs of my mind).

In testing to discover a deadly method of imitating a wounded minnow, a bucktail was cast dead-drift downstream. The line - slack was tightened very slightly to flutter the fly an inch or so from the bottom - more slack then payed out to continue the drift. Most strikes were forthcoming as the fly resumed the dead-float.

Delicasy - allowing the bucktail to tumble - was the key to success. The strike was indicated by the downward fold of the line/leader junction. (This is a subtle variation of the Leisenring "Lift", an abortive version.) This method resulted in amazing days with a bucktail. (Favorites? Dark Edson Tiger, Little Brown Trout), especially for browns on the upper Clark Fork....

... Note on Salmon Brook (Connecticut, Ed.): This was my step-father's honey stream. I fished it often as a boy, even forsaking my bass gear to catch an 11 inch brookie on a light hendrickson wet fly. Those high grass banks on the stretch we fished encouraged light steps and deep crouches....

... Enjoyed your very interesting comments on catching star - fish during your recent trip to the Cape. But I must chide you for omitting an important detail. The critical factor of artificial imitation was not mentioned!!!

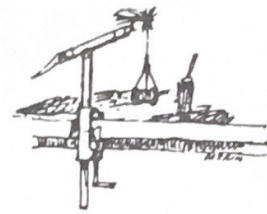
... The schools that you write about - fly tying and fly fishing - are the CFFA endeavors that I would love to become involved with. They must be a great deal of personal reward for the instructors....

... Concerning the Fly Exchange: You know me well enough to understand my viewpoint on tying flies - I fish because it's a hell of a good reason to tie flies. I cherish the art form in the creation of fur and feather. I use the exchange as a method of historical research for a future book - Selected Flies, History and Theory. This compendium will contain 6000 patterns of all types. (Maybe ten years or more away, but I've been researching and writing on it for three years already.) The purpose of the book? To study the thread of theory that links all flies.

* ***** *

"I think of all the sportsmen's clubs and what a tremendous job they could do for conservation and for trout if even half the members were not in the clubs simply for what they can take out of them rather than what they can put in." Fred Everett, Fun With Trout, 1952.

Under the Tyer's Lamp



Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

BASS AND PICKEREL POPPER

About a year ago in this column, plans for the "Panfish Popper" lure was presented which utilized a lightweight rigid foam material for the body. We have experienced great success with these little lures with all sorts of panfish and have been more than pleased with their ease of construction and floatability characteristics. No loss of buoyancy is experienced, even after catching dozens of fish, and no wasted fishing time changing waterlogged lures or to apply floatant is necessary. So it was only natural to think of projecting the merits of this material into the design of other floating types of flyrod lures and the one we are presenting this month is a larger popper for pickerel and bass which incorporates a weedless feature so it can be fished in and around heavy cover. The size of the lure described herein is about right for a #6 weight flyline, either a weight-forward or level (WF-6-F or L-6-F).

CONSTRUCTION

Long-shanked hooks are required for these kinds of poppers so there will be enough length extending behind the body to provide sufficient hooking space. The Mustad 36620 and Herters 7029R6X are both excellent hooks in the size 6 that we are going to use. Both are ring-eyed and 6X long, the Mustad 36620 being the hook normally used in the Thunder Creek flies. To prepare the hook shank for gluing to the body, size A Nymo thread is used to build up the shank diameter to obtain a greater bonding area. Place the hook in the vise with the bend up and attach the thread at the point on the shank where the rear of the body will be. Coat the hook from here to the eye liberally with glue such as Ambroid, model cement, head cement or epoxy and before the glue dries, wrap the thread forward and back, and forward again to form three layers of thread on the hook. The weedguard must now be prepared and attached to the hook.

The weedguard used is made of .012 inch diameter spring steel (music wire). Take a straight piece about 1.5 inches long and form a "U" shaped bend in one end as shown in FIG III. Place this bend just back of the hook eye and take a few turns of tying thread to hold. Coat this area of wrapped hook and "U" bend of guard with cement and then lash firmly together with close wrapped turns of thread and tie-off. Bend up the weedguard as shown in FIG IV temporarily to facilitate body attachment and subsequent dressing with hackle. The hook assembly is now ready to attach to body.

The body for this lure is to be made of synthetic rigid foam material such as that used for insulation blocks, swimming floats, moulded packing cushions in shipping containers and the like. The one we especially like is a firm, close-celled insulation block material which happens to be light blue in color. All these materials are easily cut with a sharp knife or razor blade. The body size for the #6 hook should be 5/8 inch long by 3/8 wide and 3/8 high. We cut strips 3/8 inch square and slice off lengths as needed, leaving the ends square. In the center of the bottom of the body cut a shallow slit full length for the attachment of the prepared hook. The foam material is flexible enough to allow the built-up hook shank

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(Continued from page 5)

to be inserted into it. Use only epoxy cement when gluing the hook and body together. Fast drying cements and lacquers normally used in making cork and balsa wood bodies will partially dissolve these foam materials. We use the quick 5-minute epoxy for one-of-a-kind projects and the longer curing type for production work.

With the hook assembly still upside-down in the vise, place the body under the hook with the slit contacting the wrapped shank. Work the body back and forth to engage the parts together. When this has been done correctly the body will adhere to the hook by friction in the groove. Disassemble, coat the hook wrappings and fill the body groove with epoxy (use a toothpick) and re-assemble, align hook squarely to body and set aside to dry. At this stage we usually use excess glue to coat the body bottom, face and top to provide a more durable lure. This isn't necessary and in fact will add weight, but does add life to the lure. Be careful to remove any epoxy that may have gotten into the eye of the hook as it is extremely hard to remove after it has dried.

After the body and hook assembly has dried, the lure is completed by putting back into the vise and dressing the hook and adding rubber legs to the body. Attach the tying thread just forward of the hook bend and tie on four small hackles about 1.5 inches long. Use matched pairs that will flare out from each other as shown in FIG I. Tie in a very large and webby hackle by the tip, bring the thread forward and palmer-wind the hackle to the rear of the body and tie off. Use any hackle, colored or natural, to suit your fancy. We think the fish are attracted more by the action than the color of these lures. Body need not be colored either.

For greater fish appeal, two sets of tantalizing rubber legs are added to the body as shown in FIG II. Use medium size rubber hackle for this purpose, the one we use is about .018 inch square and white in color. To attach to the foam body, first knot a 6 inch length of size A thread to form a 3 inch loop, thread the unknotted end of this loop into the eye of a 2 inch sewing needle and push the needle thru the body about 1/8 inch up from the bottom and 1/3 back from the face, disengage the needle from the thread loop which stays in the body. Take a 5 inch strand of rubber hackle and insert it halfway thru the thread loop. Grasp the knotted end of the thread loop in one hand and the two ends of the lopped rubber in the other hand, stretch the rubber and pull halfway thru the body. Cut the rubber loop in the center to disengage the thread loop and Presto, you have two rubber legs extending from each side of the body. Repeat this operation at 2/3 back from the face to complete the four sets of legs which should now be trimmed to extend about 1 inch or so from body sides.

All that is necessary now to complete the lure is to bend the weedguard into final position and trim it off as shown in FIG II. The tip of the guard should be adjacent to the hook point, just barely extending into the bend as shown. This bent up end of the guard does three things: keeps the flyline leader from fouling under the guard, eliminates the fish from impaling guard before getting hooked and protects you from accidents when reaching into a box of these projecting guards if left unbent.

If the weedless feature is not necessary or desired it may be omitted from your lure. There are those who would rather not fish with a weedguard, saying that too many fish are lost due to the apparently hook-obstructing feature. This has not been our experience at with these lures, and we believe that actually more fish are taken by using the guard due to the ability to fish with confidence around and in heavy cover where predatory like to lurk. Many, many fish have been caught with weedguarded lures and very few "misses" can really be accredited to guard interfering with the hooking, an uncaught fish tells no tales. We have experienced such few mis-strikes that even if they were all due to weedguard interference, we would be far ahead in fish caught due to the ability to fish in and around fishy habitat.

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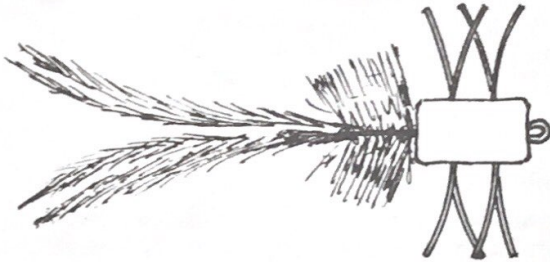


FIG I TOP VIEW

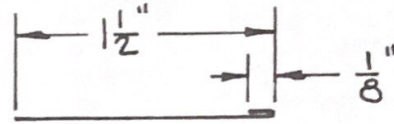


FIG III WEEDGUARD



FIG II SIDE VIEW

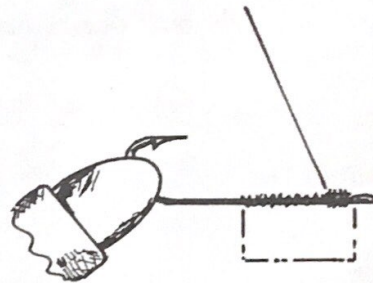


FIG IV HOOK ASSEMBLY

A Note from TU

"SPEAK OUT"
FOR CLEAN WATER

If you have ever said, "I sure would like to tell the government a thing or two about how they spend money", here is your chance to speak out. Connecticut's 208 Water Quality Planning Agency in your home area is asking for your advise on problems and their solution in your own town.

Are the lakes you swim and boat and fish, carpeted with a green scum that kills fish and causes overpowering odors? Are your streets ridged with spine-jarring heaps of storm carried sand and gravel? Have you or someone you know had their well made unuseable by run-off or seepage from a landfill or road department salt storage area? Does it seem that your winter bird feeder attracts fewer customers than it used to? Perhaps because your feathered friends cannot survive chemical coated grit they peck from the roadside. Does the noxious odor from defective septic systems creep through your neighborhood after a heavy rain?

This type of pollution, which is difficult to trace to a point source, is what 208 Agency in your home area wants to hear about from you. If you, your family or your friends have experienced discomfort, annoyance or expense by problems of pollution, now is the time to speak out. The planners want you to tell them what is wrong and where the troubles lie before the money is spent.

(Continued from page 7)

A state conservation group, the Connecticut Council of Trout Unlimited, is now engaged in compiling your input on non-point pollution problems and alternate methods to achieve the best solution. Public participation is a most important element for the statewide success of this program. We need your help. Your Regional Planning Agency, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, will conduct one of fifteen regional "SPEAK OUT" meetings. The meeting will provide information on the scope of "208" and how it relates to the Clean Water Act. Examples of typical trouble areas will be shown. Your participation, by citing problems in your area, will be appreciated and recorded for corrective action.

"SPEAK OUT" will include an outstanding audio-visual presentation. Your Regional Planning Agency tell you about what they are doing this year and what they plan to do next year - with your help and participation. Please don't pass this opportunity to help make your neighborhood a better place in which to live.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW, FOR TIME AND DATE OF THE MEETING IN YOUR AREA

Meetings at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

- | | |
|---|---|
| October 3
CNVRPA
Post College,
Waterbury, Ct. | October 24
VRPA
VRPA Derby Train Station,
Derby, Ct. |
| October 4
WRPA
Hurley Hall, Eastern Conn. State
Willimantic, Ct. | October 26
HVCEO
To be announced! |
| October 10
SERPA
New London County Agricultural
Extension Service Building
Norwich, Ct. | November 1
NERPA
Meeting Room - NERPA
Junction routes 169 & 205
Brooklyn, Ct. |
| October 11
CRCOG
Windsor Public Library
Windsor, Ct. (7:00 p.m.) | November 2
LHRPA
UConn, Torrington Branch
Torrington, Ct. |
| October 17
GBRPA
City Hall,
Bridgeport, Ct. | November 8
SWRPA
SWRPA, Rowayton Avenue
Rowayton, Ct. |
| October 19
SCRPA
Jones Auditorum
Conn. Agricultural Experiment Station,
New Haven, Ct. | November 9
NWRPA
Town Hall
Warren, Ct. |
| October 23
MRPA
DeKoven House Conn. Center
Middletown, Ct. | |



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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LINES AND LEADERS is distributed monthly (9 per year -- September thru May) to all members and allies of conservation. Your ad can be inside! At \$5.00 per issue (\$40.00 for all 9 issues) for a business card size ad, how can you go wrong?

Fill out the ad form below and mail together with your check and business card. Your ad can be in the next issue. (Deadline is the 15th of the month).

* All members are encouraged to patronize all advertisers.

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'CFFA'

Mail ad form, check, and business card to:

Donald Johnston
9 Michael Drive
Vernon, CT 06066

*
* Single issue \$ 5.00 *
*
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*

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P. O. BOX 42 - WINDSOR LOCKS, CONN. 06096



OCTOBER 1978 CALENDAR

- October 4 Board of Director's Meeting
- October 10 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS
- October 11 CFFA Membership Meeting, see page 1
- October 15 Farmington River Clean-up, see page 2
- October 25 ECCFFA Meeting, see page 1
- October 30 Conservation Committee Meeting, see page 2

October							1978						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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

- November 8 CFFA Membership Meeting will be held at Eastern Council. Watch next month's LINES AND LEADERS for details.