

# Lines and Leaders

CFFA

SEPTEMBER 1978

Vol. 5 No. 6

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

## Monthly Meeting

PROGRAM: "A Trout, A Fly Rod, and You."  
WHERE: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.  
WHEN: Wednesday, September 13, 1978  
TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.  
Program - 7:30 p.m.

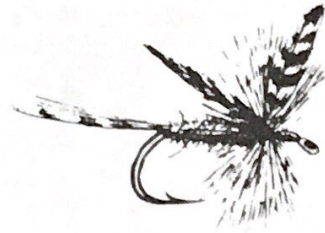


CFFA will resume its monthly meetings with a great September meeting featuring a great Federation of Fly Fishermen film, "A Trout, A Fly Rod, and You." The meeting will be preceded by a few CFFA fly tyers demonstrating some techniques and tips.

For the past few months, CFFA embarked on a general theme for all of its membership meetings, "Learn Fly Fishing." Myron Schulman, Membership Chairman, has announced some tentative plans for upcoming meetings in continuance of this theme. Currently in the planning stages are programs on fly tying techniques, rod building, entomology, and fly fishing techniques for other types of fish, i.e. pan fish and shad. It promises to be another great year.

## Eastern Council of CFFA Meeting

PROGRAM: Fishing Films  
WHERE: Mansfield Middle School  
WHEN: Wednesday, September 27, 1978  
TIME: 7 p.m.



Eastern Council of CFFA will begin its monthly meetings on September 27, 1978 with some fine fishing films. Watch your local newspapers for confirmation of the titles.



# A Quill and a Flyrod



by Don Johnston

WHY DON' CHA!! At membership meetings, board meetings, outings, or wherever, the conversation usually gets around to "Hey Don, why don' cha do an article on this or that?"

To this I say, "I'll edit and publish anything of interest to the club as long as it's not libelous or obscene. That includes -- for sales, trades, freebies, tall tales, true accounts, or whatever.

Remember, CFFA is not a club for members, but is a club with members. Hence, LINES AND LEADERS is your publication. Support it and let your voice be heard. Send your gems of wisdom, dumb thoughts, or whatever to Don Johnston, 9 Michael Drive, Vernon, Connecticut 06066, and I'll put your name in lights. Well, maybe not lights, but at least in print with a byline.



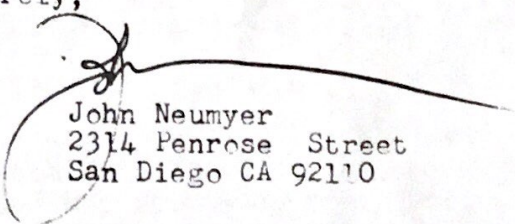
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Donald:

Please continue to send your excellent monthly newsletter, Lines and Leaders to Federation of Fly Fishermen, 519 Main Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. It will be forwarded to me so that I may extract portions for the FFF Bulletin.

I find that Mark Leggitt's articles are extremely interesting and informative, and I hope we can find a place for them. I suggest they be submitted to the FFF's Fly Fisher Magazine to be presented as a series. If that doesn't work, send me a complete set and I will somehow get them into the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

  
John Neumyer  
2314 Penrose Street  
San Diego CA 92110



# Conservation Notebook

by Al Dixon

The Conservation Committee will meet at the East Hartford Library, Monday, September 25, 1978 at 8 p.m. This is an important meeting to plan the Fall and Spring activities for the Conservation Committee. Refreshments will be served.

There will be a work outing of the Conservation Committee Sunday, September 24, 1978 to repair the deflector built last Fall, but badly damaged by the Spring run off on the Willi this year. We will meet at the Roaring Brook access to the fly fishing area at 9 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be available. All Conservation Committee members are asked to attend. We will be glad to see you even if you are not a Conservation Committee member.

A note about the September Conservation Committee meeting. We will have a slide presentation on stocking Vibert Boxes in streams. A discussion on the slide show will follow. I think most members will find this interesting and informative.

## 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. In any case, CFFA offers a warmhearted welcome.

Steven Becker  
John Franco  
George Dunn  
George Jacobi  
Frank Polgroszek  
Reinhold Peplau  
Barclay Thomas  
Frank Gorman  
Alan Bagley  
Allan Donaldson  
Allan Krul

Dennis Charney  
Mario D'Onofrio  
Ray Gorsky  
Stanley Opalach  
Alan Robinson  
Gary Smith  
Gary Stebbins  
Lesleigh Scripa  
Alan Billington  
Dick Dreux  
Dale Pelletier

William Diefenderfer  
Frank Dobeck  
Donald Langlois  
Joseph Mankauskas  
Jon Ridolfo  
Rick Shea  
Leonel Syriac  
Anthony Lolli  
John Cardarella  
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Bruce Currier

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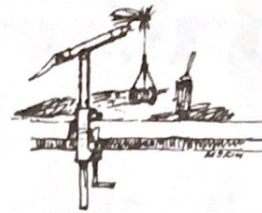
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# Under the Tyer's Lamp



Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

## MINIATURE FLY-TYING TOOLS

For the tying of small flies such as those under consideration in the series of articles entitled "Complexities of Minutiae", miniature tools would certainly be an asset if not an absolute must for the serious tyer. The recognition for such requirements has led to this month's presentation of some small tools which are not too difficult for an amateur craftsman to undertake. Every endeavor will be made in the descriptions to give alternate methods of fabrication to attain the same end product. The tools that are going to be described are: thread bobbin, bobbin threader, bodkin and half-hitcher. Materials to make these items can be obtained at hobby supply stores, model airplane shops, and some at hardware stores. You may have to do a little searching to find exactly what you need.

### Thread Bobbin

This tool is one of the most desired to have and unfortunately is the most difficult to make of those presented here. You are going to need a 6 inch piece of 1/16 inch diameter music wire, a 2 inch piece of 1/16 inch diameter brass tubing and two plastic beads of 3/8 inch diameter. The wire and tubing can usually be found in model airplane shops as standard items used in that hobby. The wire normally comes in 3 foot lengths and the tubing in 12 inch lengths. Plastic beads are to be found in many hobby supply stores, and if size is specified in millimeters, get size 9 or 10.

Cut a 6 inch length of music wire from the 3 foot stock. As music wire is tempered and extremely hard, it takes a good pair of cutters to cut thru this size wire. It can be severed by grinding or filing thru or part way thru all-around and breaking in two. In the center, bend the wire back on itself as shown in FIG I. Good quality wire will do this without cracking. If not, the bend area of the wire can be annealed (softened) by heating red hot and allowing to cool in air, slowly. Be careful not to heat more than 1/2 inch or so, or the temper will be taken from a vital section of the wire and it will lose its springiness and be ruined. The doubled end of the bent wire now needs to be bent up slightly at the end as shown in FIG II so the tubing will clear the bend when installed. Now bend the rest of the wire into the shape as shown in FIG III, keeping all the bends in a common plane. It would be helpful to practice bending on some softer iron wire beforehand.

Cut a 2 inch long piece of tubing from the 12 inch stock. To do this without collapsing the tubing wall, notch thru one-half the tubing with a file and bend to break off. Now use a flat file and square-up the ends of the tubing. The most critical part of the finished bobbin is getting the thread exit end of this tubing so smooth it won't nick the tying thread, and to do this requires that the end not only be without burrs, but must be rounded and polished smoothly. The method we use is to chuck the tubing into a high-speed hand grinder with about 1/4 inch of tubing projecting. By using long tapered shapes of 400-grit emery paper inside and around the end of the rotating tube, a satisfactory surface finish can be obtained.

(continued on page 5)



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

Be sure you check the smoothness of the tube end with the tying thread you are going to be using and re-polish if the thread is cut or frayed when rotated around the inside of the end several times. An electric drill could also be used to spin the tubing, it would just take longer that's all.

All the bobbins we have made before starting to prepare this article, were assembled by wrapping the tubing to the wire frame with copper wire and soldering or brazing them together, but in making the bobbin for this article, we decided to try using only fly-tying techniques for assembly and this method turned out to be simpler and just as effective. Start the bobbin assembly by liberally coating the frame in area A of FIG IV with head cement. Place the tube on the frame as shown, projecting 1 inch in front and on the opposite side from the bent down portion as shown in FIG II. Use size A NYMO thread and take a few turns to hold tube in place. Coat the tube with cement, getting plenty of it between the tube and frame. Continue wrapping back and forth, lashing the two together, taking a lot of turns around the frame and under the tube at the junction where the frame flares out as a lot of stress occurs here when the frame is sprung open to install the spool of tying thread. Repeat the wrapping in conjunction with liberal cement coatings until you have securely attached the two parts. Epoxy cement could even be used for an even stronger bond.

The final step in completing the bobbin is to add the spool holders. Drill out the plastic beads to 1/16 inch diameter and slip over the ends of the frame. Another type of end that we prefer can be made from a 1/4 inch long section of a 3/8 inch diameter wooden dowel, one end of which is tapered to 1/4 inch diameter and drilled thru with a 1/16 inch diameter hole. Slight frictional adjustments can be made by rebending the frame open or closed as necessary to obtain the desired thread tension.

#### Bobbin Threader

The use of 1/16 inch tubing in the above described bobbin makes it necessary to have a companion threader that will easily go thru the small hole in the tubing. We have found that the best threaders are made of doubled music wire in the .008 to .012 diameter sizes; however, we know that this size wire is not readily available and have therefore experimented and found that satisfactory threading tools can be made of .014 diameter copper or iron wire if used carefully. It is even possible to use stiff monofilament leader material for this purpose. To make a threader from any of the aforementioned wires, double it and squeeze the bend so it will enter the tubing without binding against the walls. About 3 inches from the end attach a pulling handle, which can be made of a round wooden toothpick or kitchen matchstick. Use tying thread and head cement to make the attachment. A typical example is shown in FIG V. In music wire, an "eye" can be formed in the loop end to facilitate threading.

#### Bodkin

Small bodkins can be made quite easily by using small sizes of music wire. We have made them ranging in size from .008 inch on up. The point on the small wire sizes, due to its flexibility, can best be made by holding a long piece of wire stock against a grinding wheel at a small angle and constantly rotating the wire while the grinding is taking place. The rotation of the grinding wheel being away from the point. A fine pointing job can be done if one hand holds a 2 inch long section of 1/16 inch tubing thru which the wire is rotated. The tubing acts as a guide, positioning  
(continued on page 6)



Under the Tyer's Lamp (continued from page 5)

the wire exactly where it needs to be. Never allow the wire to over-heat as the temper will be removed. After pointing, the wire is cut to length and attached to a handle. For small diameter wire, up to about .018, the attachment to a wooden handle is best accomplished by bending the end of the wire back on itself for about 3/8 inch or so and then glueing and clamping this doubled end between two small wooden blocks which can later be countoured into the desired handle shape. Another method of making bodkins is to purchase a package of very fine sewing needles of mixed sizes. By breaking off the eye part and sharpening this broken end, one may be forced into an undersized hole in a wooden handle. If care is taken, a satisfactory tool can be made in this manner; however, needles are very hard and quite brittle and great care must be used or they might snap and an injury might occur. The eye of the needle could also be left on and glued and clamped between handle halves and the bodkin made in that manner also.

#### Half-hitcher

A half-hitching tool can be made from a suitable length of 1/16 inch tubing. All that is necessary is to attach it to a handle for ease of grasping. A "handle" of built-up coarse thread at one end is another possibility. The outside end of the tubing must be smooth so the tying thread won't get nicked as it slides over it.

(continued on page 7)



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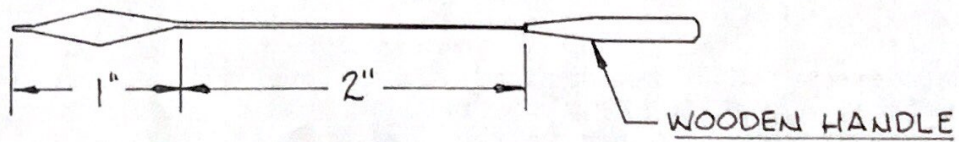
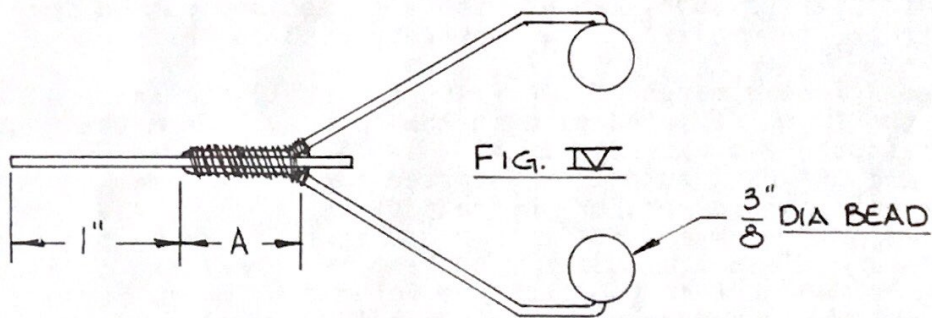
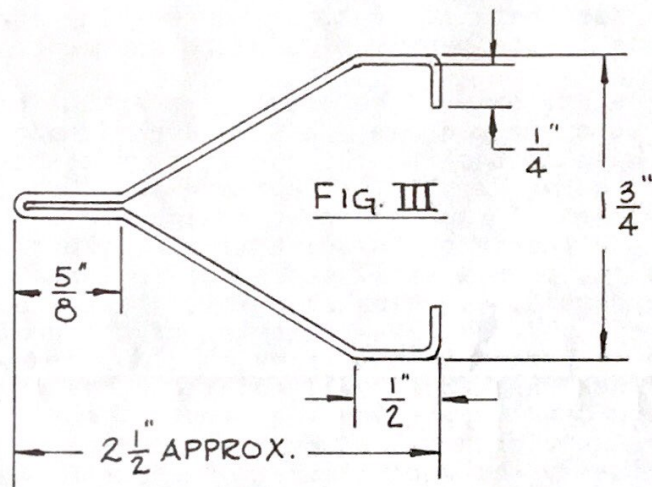
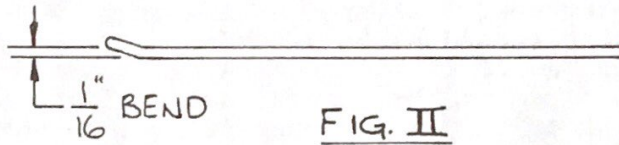
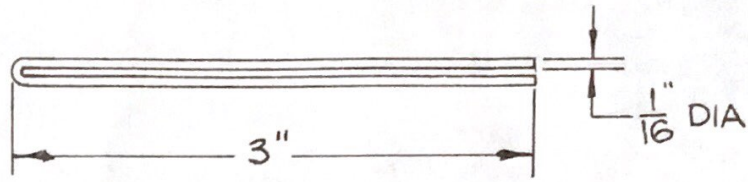


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Under the Tyer's Lamp (continued from page 6)







CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Lunch Trout  
by Al Dixon

It was a bright hot summer day as I drove along the twisting road that follows Sandy Brook in Colebrook. I stopped at one of its pools to enjoy the cool shade its high wooded banks afforded, and to eat lunch. Although I always carry rod and waders in the truck I had not thought of fishing but had merely stopped to enjoy the stream. But as I ate my lunch my pulse suddenly quickened, for at the tail of the pool there showed the rise form and the dorsal fin of a large trout. Quickly laying aside my lunch, I crept behind the large boulder on which I had been sitting, to observe the fish. He was there alright! He was working steadily, his back breaking the surface in the manner of a nymphing trout.

Abandoning all thoughts except the trout, I crept up the bank and rushed across the road to my parked car. There I donned waders and quickly strung my rod. Rushing back to the stream I crept into the water below the working trout, surveying the current and the fish, to determine the best way to make my cast. I knew the cast would have to be a good one for I had at best one chance of taking this fish. Knotting on a long length of very fine leader, then a small green caddis larva, I kept an eye on the trout at the same time. Finally ready, I crept a little closer and pulled line off the reel. The clicking of the reel sounding deafening to my ears. The back cast went over my shoulder, straightened and shot forward in a slack cast, the small caddis larva dimpling the water first, and floating down to the feeding trout. The fly floated to the fish perfectly, the trout opened his mouth and sucked it in, and I tightened up on him. Suddenly the smooth quiet of the pool was shattered in a spray of foam, as the trout feeling the bite of the hook came out of the water in a head shaking jump, landed with a splash and rushed for the deeper water and rocks to my left, in a desperate rush to be free.

I was amazed at the strength of the fish, and still did not realize the true size of the trout. I tried to turn the fish away from the rocks, the slender seven foot rod bowing deeply as I applied pressure. The pressure worked, and the fish turned and started back toward me. But then the trout jumped again, and bored for the head of the pool. I abandoned my spot behind the large rock and followed in pursuit. Suddenly the fish stopped and I had to reel in line quickly to keep the pressure on. Although I kept steady pressure on the fish, he refused to move. Holding his place in the current, stubbornly moving his head from side to side.

I decided to move closer, thinking I might dislodge the trout and more quickly tire him. Suddenly the fish bolted past me in a blazing run for the rocks, and I had to reel in line again and then release it to keep from losing him.

The fight lasted about ten minutes, before the trout tired and came to my net. I retrieved the fish from the net and cradled him gently in my hands for a moment before releasing the tiny hook from his lower jaw. I admired the beautiful seventeen inch brook trout for a moment, and then lowered him to the water rocking him back and forth in the current until he regained some of his vitality, and swam back to its lair under the rocks. I was satisfied, and I knew the brook trout would be there to fight another day.



# 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] (From a letter dated 10/21/74)

(Note: The author and I carried on a monthly fly exchange for two years, 1974 and 1975. The exchange consisted of two flies, tying instructions, and tips and experiences using the pattern. As Gary wrote to me, "the value of the Exchange is that it provides an opportunity to try new patterns." The following pattern is one which I had particularly good luck with here in the east during the early season.....Ken Parkany)

Here included is the November Fly Exchange: Light Spruce Streamer

Hook: #8 - Mustad 9672 (3X long)  
Body: Red floss  
Forebutt: Peacock herl  
Wing: Silver badger hackles (splayed out)  
Hacklecollar: Silver badger  
Thread: Black

Tying Tip: So that the floss doesn't slip down the bend of the hook, the first few wraps of floss at the rear are wound on the tying thread base and then wound on the shank.

A fine fly for rainbows in the west, often fished with a sinking line to carry it deep. The splay wing pulses with the twitch of the rod. Only drawback of the tie is that the wings will sometimes catch under the hook, so check it periodically while fishing (but the damn fly is so effective at moments that it's worth the trouble).

Specifically, I like it for the deep holes in rivers, where it is cast up and across to swing around (steelhead style). I caught the best Cutthroat of the year with this fly in the Middle Fork of the Flathead.

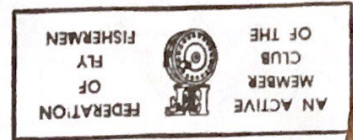
## LIGHT SPRUCE STREAMER

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SEPTEMBER 1978 CALENDAR

- September 6 Board of Director's Meeting
- September 10 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS
- September 13 CFFA Membership Meeting, see page 1
- September 24 Work Outing, see page 3
- September 25 Conservation Committee Meeting, see page 3
- September 27 ECCFFA Meeting, see page 1

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COMING EVENTS

- October 11 CFFA Membership Meeting



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION