



# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

April, 1979

Vol. 6 No. 4

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

## Monthly Meeting

- PROGRAM: "Famous Eastern Trout Streams" slide presentation.
- WHERE: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.
- WHEN: Wednesday, April 11, 1979
- TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.  
Program - 7:30 p.m.

### Eastern Council of CFFA Meeting

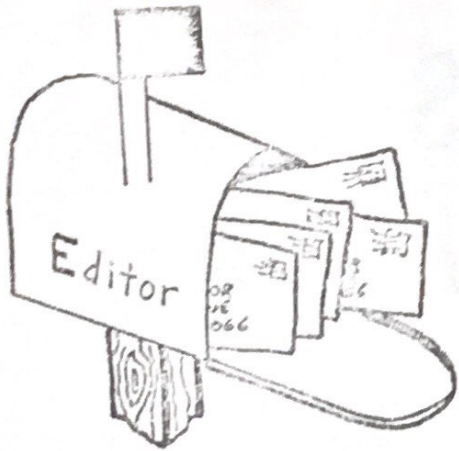
The monthly Eastern Council Program will be held on Wednesday, April 18th at the Mansfield Middle School. The program will commence with a fly tying demonstration at 7:00. Ken Parkany will be tying Gary LaFontaine's caddis fly imitation for those who are interested in learning how to tie this relatively new pattern.

The main program will begin at 7:45. The central theme will focus on fly casting techniques and fly rods in general.

Bob Lester, Chairman of the Eastern Council has expressed a need for volunteers to help out. A person need only share our common goal -- "To improve and to promote fishing in the State of Connecticut." One does not have to be an experienced fly fisherman or fly tyer. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please contact Bob evenings at 429-5910.

'An active member club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen'





# JENNY'S GISTS



Since this is my 1st issue of Lines & Leaders, I would like to introduce myself to those readers and club members who I have not yet had the opportunity to meet.

I've been a fly fisherman for 1 year. In the course of that year I've spent 10 days salmon fishing at Grand Lake Stream, Maine. I also tied my 1st fly last year and used that fly to land my first salmon.

Last June I volunteered to work with the Editor in the preparation of putting together the club's newsletter. Little did I suspect that Joe D'Addario would offer me the position of Editor.

The main duty of the Editor is to choose and lay out articles to be printed in the newsletter which are interesting & informative to the readers. The bulk of these articles are written by you - the C.F.F.A. membership. The only way we can continue to maintain the quality of our newsletter, is through the support of our members. This means that we need as many articles as possible from the members, and/or suggestions on the topics and subjects that they would be interested in reading in the newsletter.

There are many experienced, successful, and knowledgeable members in our organization whom we are sure have a wealth of information that would be interesting to our readers. The only way we can share our experiences, our knowledge, our ideas, and/or find answers to questions we may have, is by communicating with as many club members as possible. The best way to accomplish this is through our newsletter. Therefore, what we need is for you to put pen to paper and submit your thoughts, suggestions, questions, etc. to the newsletter for publication.

Your Editor is available to lend a hand in organizing any information that you would like to share with the club. If you need assistance in writing these articles, please contact the Editor.

I would like to propose, to be a regular part of Lines and Leaders, the following:

1. A column on Rod Building

Ed Roberts, who gave the slide presentation on Rod Building at the January meeting has volunteered to write a column that would include answering member's questions regarding repairs, rod building, and the fabrication of custom components and rod building equipment.

2. A Buy, Sell, Swap, & Trade Column

As a club member, we will run your ad at no cost.

3. Letters to the Editor Column

This will enable the readers to make suggestions, seek information, make comments on articles, etc.

4. Meeting Minutes Page

Each month a meeting is held to discuss the club's business. The meeting minutes are written by the Secretary who sends a copy to the Editor. In order to keep those members who are unable to attend the meeting to be kept informed, the meeting minutes will be published each month in the newsletter.

I am hereby soliciting your comments regarding my above proposals for these new features in your newsletter, Lines & Leaders.

I'd like to wish you all success in the forthcoming season and remind you that "trout are too valuable to only be caught once".

Jenny St. Jacques  
21C Seymour Road  
East Granby, CT 06026

Tel. 651-8402

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

A new mailing list for Lines & Leaders will be made up shortly. If you are delinquent in renewing your dues at the time the list is made, you will no longer receive Lines & Leaders. Dues are payable to Membership Chairman, CFFA, P. O. Box 3191, Hartford, CT, 06103



## ANTRON YARN

After a lengthy search, Ken Parkany has managed to locate 3 sources of Antron yarn. This yarn is used to tie La Fontaine's Caddis Fly (Miracle Fly). For those of you who are interested in obtaining this yarn, you may find it at:

Ray's Tackle Shop - Manchester

Gene Monty's Shop - East Hartford ...

... or by contacting Ken Parkany, who would be willing to part with his at no cost other than a self-addressed-stamped-envelope sent to him. He'll enclose a piece of each color (a dozen flies worth of each color), until he runs out. At least you'll be able to tie and try the pattern. His address is:

503 Bush Hill Road  
Manchester, CT 06040

### IT'S GOING TO BREAK MY HEART

but I've got to part with my cherished "Lettle Feller", a 7 foot 2½ ounce bamboo rod for a #3 weight line. This piece of art was built for Denis Narowocki, one of Vince Marinaro's fishing buddies and is inscribed as such. The rod has one tip, tan wraps tipped with wine, and comes with a bag and case. The price is \$185.00. If this sounds like the midge rod of your dreams, contact me. Mark Leggitt 3 Woewassa Lane Farmington, Ct. 06032 673-6833

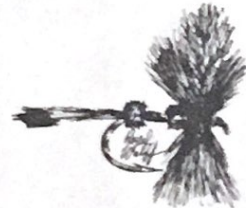
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# OPENING DAY

To a fisherman, the last few days before Opening Day are characterized by periods of lassitude associated with a vacant stare and simultaneous twitching of the right arm. There are also periods of hyperactivity related to various objects such as fishing rods, reels, and sundry odds and ends, followed by mad dashes to nearby shops for essential and secret items known only to the particular individual. These trips often become rather prolonged as other members affected by the same peculiar compulsion congregate to discuss the prospects for the coming season as well as the pros and cons of the various items on display.

It was after such a hectic week that the Great Day finally arrived. The dawn was breaking with a fresh snap to the air and a golden glow in the east as I hurried to the car and drove down Route 44A to meet my brother at our usual fishing hole below the dam on the Still River in Phoenixville. A high rocky bluff on the west and a sandy bank on the east surrounds a sparkling pool below the dam, providing shelter from the cool spring winds yet allowing the warm sun to filter down and warm one's innards as the sun gradually swings through its arc in the heavens.

With trembling, eager hands I donned my boots to slide down the rocky, narrow path to join the usual regulars at pool side. We talked briefly. There were nine of us. A father and his son who had grown two inches since last seen on the same occasion a year ago. A grey-bearded oldster carefully hid his secret weapon from all. Two other regulars separated from the group as the witching hour neared, one to the top of the dam and the other to the sandy beach below the embankment. The magic hour of six o'clock soon arrived and all cast simultaneously into the water.

A few fish were landed in short order, but there was no let up in activity as all were intent, trying for a giant trout which the state always stocked. There were occasional tangled lines. Remarks bantered back and forth as the day began to warm.

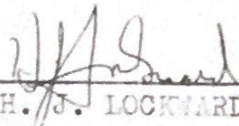
Suddenly there was a whoop from the beach. The fishermen's rod bent double as it strained under the load of an obvious monster. With considerable care and skill he played the fish and finally slid it up the beach.

What a beauty! Its spots seemed the size of dimes. Its tail hung below his elbow as he raised it in exultation and started up the bank toward his friend. Pride goeth before a fall. Halfway up the bank the fish gave a tremendous heave, forcing the proud possessor's arm back over his head so that he lost control of the fish and it fell free. The trout came tumbling down the bank with the fishermen in hot pursuit.

The fish landed on the concrete ledge of the dam and bounced up in the air. The excited fishman arrived just in time to seize it between his outstretched hands and then watch it slide slowly out, down into the swirling water. His momentum carried him forward. For a moment he balanced precariously on the ledge and then suddenly pitched into the icy water below.

As he came puffing and blowing to the surface, shouts of derision greeted him from all sides. "Look at the big one I have." Slowly he worked his way up the beach with his boots bulging with water. It took him several minutes to take them off and drain the water out. A strange stillness pervaded the pool.

Donning his boots once again, he slowly climbed the bank where his friend awaited him at the top of the dam. They began to walk sadly off through the thicket toward their car. I could hear them talking as they walked. The last words came floating back faintly through the trees. "The Big Ones always get away."

  
H. J. LOCKWARD

# BAIT!

## Smell

The sense of smell in fish is very highly developed and occupies the largest part of the brain.

The use of smell changes with each fish specie, but it is commonly used in three manners. Some fish use smell largely as a navigational device. The champions in this area are the anadromous species such as the Atlantic Salmon and some eels. These fish use the sense of smell to find their specific breeding grounds from thousands of miles away. This sense is so highly developed that they can detect concentrations as little as one part in 100 million. On a somewhat smaller scale is the common pond shiner who uses his sense of smell to find the vegetation in his local area of the pond when he is lost.

A second, and equally as important use of smell is for locating food. Most of our favorite gamefish, such as the trouts and basses, use this sense in this manner. Because odors tend to linger in an area for a long period of time underwater, gamefish can tell of the presence of food without the need to see it. A clear example of this is the brown trout who, especially when older, becomes essentially a nocturnal feeder. He relies heavily on his sense of smell to locate food in his darkened environment. Without the sense of smell, few trout would get to be the size that they sometimes reach.

Finally, smell is used as a fear-inciting or alarm mechanism to warn others of danger. Most baitfish are capable of producing an odor when they are either frightened or wounded. This odor is familiar to other baitfish and, once permeated into the surrounding area, will act as a warning to all species to stay away.

It is interesting to study the effect of human odors on fish behavior. It is accepted that the scent emitted by human skin is extremely repulsive to fish. What is unusual is that the odor of human saliva is attractive to others. This is particularly true in those fishes who feed by smell alone. The implications here for the artificial baitfisher are interesting. Smell could well be the reason why streamers and wet flies seem to do better if they've been soaked in one's mouth before using. Or why one of the most successful panfishermen that I've encountered always smears his flies in the slime of the first fish he's caught and every fourth fish thereafter.

The anatomy of the smell sensing devices in the fish is unlike that of the human. The fish's nostrils, of which there are either two or four, lead to a chamber in the head where there are clustered groups of special smell detecting cells. Water is brought into this chamber and the molecules of odor are detected. In many of the gamefishes, there is one canal leading into and one out of the head. This is important in that these fish are able to smell constantly, indicating the importance of this mechanism.

### Sight

A fish can survive without sight if it is in a relatively docile environment, but life would be most difficult. To many, sight is their main feeding indicator and short range food locating device. To the artificial fly tier, the fish's sight is the primary object of their attention. But, how important is sight in the luring of fish?

The eye of the fish is similar in most aspects to the human eye. It differs in that there is no iris (the diaphragm which varies the amount of light entering the eye) and that there is no eyelid. Unlike the human, the fish has little need for either of these devices.

Inside the eye, there are two types of sight cells located on the retina (back) of it. They are called Cone cells and Rod cells. Their duties are very specific and specialized. The cone cells are the fish's color receptor cells and are used in the daytime and during bright conditions. The rod cells are the black and white only receptors and function in the nighttime or under dark and severely overcast conditions. The changeover from cone cell to rod cell reception is gradual and takes about two hours to complete. For the most part, this change is done automatically by the time of day rather than by lighting conditions. And it is interesting to note that many gamefish are very well adjusted to light changes and that they prefer feeding under low light conditions such as dawn and dusk and on heavily overcast days.

The eyes work independently of each other. Each eye can see an area of roughly 190 degrees and there is a crossover area in front of the fish where both eyes see the same object at the same time. This area occupies a 30 degree arc. There is also a blind area



To best understand the fishing and imitation of baitfish, it is necessary to enter further the world of ichthyology and study both the habits and sensory mechanisms of gamefish. By understanding how the fish adapts to the world around him, what attracts or repels him, or how he will react to certain stimuli, we can create more effective baitfish imitations and learn of better ways to fish them.

Ichthyology itself is much too large to attack in its entirety so I will concentrate on those areas directly associated with the job at hand: the senses of taste, sight, hearing and smell. I shall also include a section on gamefish feeding habits, as I consider knowledge of this an important key to successful angling.

### Taste

Taste is considered an extremely short ranged sense since it is limited, as with humans, to physical contact with an item. It is used as the final sensing and testing device before ingesting a food item.

The fish has both internal and external taste receptors. As with the human, there are taste buds on both the fish's tongue and inside the cavity of its mouth. Therefore, any food item, be it real or artificial, may be tasted in the mouth and accepted or rejected at this point. The fish is also equipped with external taste sensing receptors. These are located over the lips and snout areas of most fish and on the tips of "feelers" or barbules on others. This enables the gamefish to test and taste an offering well before he ever opens his mouth. This is a common occurrence to the panfisherman, whose poppers and flies are almost constantly being moved and bumped about by schools of sunfish and perch without being taken. And no doubt, many a trout has had a likely candidate rise to his dragless fly only to see the fish turn and refuse after almost engulfing the fly in its jaws. I think that we've all been the recipient of the short strike and have blamed it on the wrong pattern, drag or color. But, the wrong taste may well have been the culprit. Artificial flies may look real, but they rarely taste it.

behind the fish where neither eye can see.

Unlike the human, the fish's eye is essentially nearsighted, although a few species can see both near and far. The fish cannot have both sharp focus and depth perception in the same plane. His best vision in terms of sharpness and clarity is at a right angle to his eye. In other words, he sees an object best if it is at his side. Depth perception however, is available only in the small arc where both eyes view the object at the same time. But vision is blurred and not entirely clear in this arc. It is for this reason that the fish often turns his head when approaching an object. It is to get a better look.

Contrary to some beliefs, fish do see colors. Whether they see them as humans do is unknown. It is known that water absorbs colors and this can have an effect on the fishing of artificials.

Color is absorbed into the water, or taken from an object as the depth of the water is increased. The order is specific: red is absorbed first, followed by orange, yellow, blue and finally green. When the color is absorbed, the object that was that color does not disappear, but rather, it appears black. In clear water, the absorption begins at about the twenty-five foot depth. In muddy water it begins much sooner. The same is true in low light conditions--the reds are absorbed first.

Sight is important to the angler in these aspects: if fishing is to be done at dawn, dusk, or during heavily overcast periods, the wise angler will use a dark colored fly. This will stand out much better against the light background of the sky. A dark fly is an advantage in very deep trolling or muddy waters because of the color absorption. Also, since most objects in the aquatic world blend in with each other and that the fish's eyesight is limited, the fly should be given movement if it is to attract attention. In this manner, it will stand out from its surroundings and be noticed. The modern angler must give himself every advantage, and fishing with these points in mind, he can look forward to success.



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Jenny St. Jacques  
21-C Seymour Road  
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APRIL CALENDAR

- April 4 Board of Director's Meeting  
10 Deadline for LINES & LEADERS  
11 General Membership Meeting  
18 Eastern Council Meeting  
21 Opening Day of Fishing Season!  
28 Fishing Derby - West Hartford

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** April 1979 **  
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