

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

JANUARY 1979

Vol. 6 No. 1

Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: "Rod Building" by Ed Roberts
WHERE: Knights of Columbus Hall on
Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor
WHEN: Wednesday, January 10, 1979
TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.
SPECIAL: Election of Officers

CFFA member Ed Roberts will be on hand with a slide presentation and talk on rod building techniques. Also on the agenda is the election of officers for 1979. Be sure to attend.

Banquet Notice

by Myron Schulman

With the holiday season upon us, preparation for CFFA's event of the year, the annual banquet, are well under way. I have assumed the responsibility for organizing this year's raffle and ask for your assistance.

Each year, the raffle committee has witnessed a decline in the items donated by tackle manufacturers and merchants and recognizes that this trend will most likely continue. The state of the economy requires that belts be tightened and the ever-increasing demand for "freebies" from organizations like ours which are springing-up by leaps and bounds throughout the nation necessitate "giving policy" changes in even the largest and most affluent of businesses. Though we expect positive results from our solicitation campaign of manufacturers and merchants, responding generously in the past, it would be naive to assume that gifts can continue to be as bountiful as they have in the past.

Individual CFFA members have unselfishly contributed to past banquet raffles, offering a wide assortment of items and often displaying gifted creativity and talent. We belong to an organization of

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A Quill and a Flyrod



by Don Johnston

At the January membership meeting, you are going to elect the officers for 1979. But what do they do?

These officers make up the Board of Directors, which serves as the governing body and conducts the business of running the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association.

For this reason, it is important to realize that the members you elect, over the course of the year will be making many of the decisions which affect the club and its activities.

In a club the size of CFFA, it would be impossible to transact all the business of the club at the regular meeting. Any attempt to do so would surely lose most of the attendance.

The Board of Directors meets one evening a month on a published date to conduct club business. The meeting is in no way secretive.

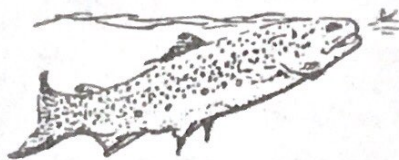
All business is conducted within the framework established by the club bylaws. These bylaws cannot be altered, added or removed without ratification by the general membership.

The purpose of all this is not to attempt to wrest control of club activities or direction from the membership, but rather to keep the meetings on as non-business a level as possible.

With this goal, the regular membership meetings are designed to further promote the pleasures of fly fishing and fly tying. They are designed to be entertaining and instructive.

So remember, the Board of Directors conducts the business of the club. Choose it carefully.

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.



Eastern Council Notes...

With the holidays behind us, and the New Year to look forward to, the Officers from Eastern Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in 1978. Along with the New Year also comes the work that will provide Eastern Council members and the public with entertaining and educational programs. Most of this work has already been completed by the Officers. The one area that we have been a little laxed in is publicity. At this time we are trying to improve this area, and hope to have this taken care of for the New Year. If anyone would be interested in trying to improve the publicity area, please feel free to contact the Officers from Eastern Council.

During the next few winter months we would like to remind the membership that if weather conditions do not permit the Mansfield Middle School to open for the day, all activities scheduled for the evening will also be cancelled. If time permits, we will notify the radio stations of any cancellations. A good station to listen to first would be WILI in Willimantic.

January tends to be a month where everyone gets cabin fever and it would be a good time for those needed repairs and the cleaning of our equipment. One of my local hangouts is a tackle shop in the Vernon area. Every year I see people waiting until the last minute to make repairs on their equipment. Our program for January 24th will try to eliminate some of these problems. We are planning to have several people on hand to demonstrate and answer any of your questions on repairing and cleaning your equipment. So come and join us for the evening and find out how to have your equipment ready for the upcoming season.

The month of March will feature Eastern Council's 2nd annual Tag Sale. The tentative date will be Saturday, March 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Rockville Fish and Game Club. The tag sale last year was a big success. Further details will be available in the next issue of Lines and Leader.

Eastern Council Chairman
Elmer Latham

Annual Banquet (Continued from page 1)

incredible capabilities and diversity among its membership. I am hopeful that out of this storehouse of skills and interests, the people of CFFA will come forward, as they have always done, to make this year's raffle one to please everyone.

I see this raffle as an opportunity for the men and women of this club to share their abundance of angling paraphernalia, their fly fishing sideline, or special ability. Fly tiers, rod builders, artists, photographers, woodworkers, craft people of all sorts; how about something for the raffle? Prizes need not be directly related to fly fishing for our source of devotion to this great sport is complex and as varied as those individuals who engage in it.

I am certain that with your support this banquet evening will be a rousing success and a display of togetherness and friendship which is what I cherish most about CFFA.

All prizes and suggestions concerning the banquet raffle may be addressed to: Myron Schulman
7 Grande Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095

Tel. No. 688-1034

BAIT!

A Study of the Baitfish and its Imitation

Mark S. Leggitt

The leaves are turning now. Woodsmoke drifts through the valley and the apples are ripe in the hillside orchards. The covered bridge upstream sighs and creaks under the weight of passing cars.

The river is more quiet now. Whitetail deer forage in the meadows nearby while the mink and muskrat play in its shallows. The hatches are gone for another season, as are the crowds of Aprils' opening weeks. The water moves slowly.

The village beyond Bread Loaf Mountain is alive with the preparations of winter and visitors from the city are coldly reminded of passages from Harvest Home, Tryons' classic thriller written about a similar area.

"Hello."

I looked up from my work, startled and a little annoyed.

"Been fishin' these waters most all of m'life," the old man volunteered, "an' I aint had a better day yet!"

I was concentrating at my streamside tying vise and hadn't noticed him fishing down the bend to where I sat.

"What have you been getting them on?" I asked, staring at the brace of fat, three pound fish he had strung by his side.

"Fat'ead minnies. Only bait I ever use."

It was obvious that the old man had spent a great deal of time on the river. His features were prominent. The unshaven face and tobacco stained hands spelled a life of bachelorhood and his heavy, stooped posture told of the years spent as a freight loader. His waders were a patchwork of contrasting repairs and the flyrod was old and limber. He smelled of tobacco.

"How do you fish them? Alive? Down and across?"

"Mostly 'live. Like to keep 'em kickin' in the runs an' at the 'eads of pools. Usually draws up a good one, but never like today. You see, I used to fish with all the fancy flies and lures and such. Did pretty good for myself too. But I'm gettin' too old for all that now. I don't fish so much for fun now as for food. Fixed income, you know. Never worked any one yard long 'nough to get a pension. All's I got is social security. So I've got to fish

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Bait (CONT. FROM PG. 4)

for food. An' when your fishin' gets serious like mine, you've got to use somethin' that'll bring success. That's why I've gone with minnies. Oh, I might not get twenty or thirty fish a day like some of the fellows do upriver with their fancy outfits, but I'll tell you. I get the larger ones. And to me, poundage is what fills the belly!"

"How about streamers or bucktails?" I urged him on.

"Yep. Used t' fish those all the time. Like'd 'em better than the small stuff. Worked damn near as good as live bait if a feller could fish 'em right. I could, for a while. Only ones I ever needed on this river were the Brown and White Bucktail and the Picket Pin. I'd pinch on a bit of weight 'bout a foot or so up the leader an' then let the line out slow at the 'ead of pools and in the pockets. Just leave it lay sometimes. The natur'l minnie don't move 'bout zip-zip like you see some of these fellers fish it. No. Just once an' a while. Give it a little zip. Works well. You try it sometime, you'll see."

He looked tired as he bade me well and lumbered off down the trail. I wondered how many times had he fished this river. Or how many more would he. I was happy that he had stopped with me.

It has been several years since I met the old man. And while I continue to fish the Housatonic River, I haven't seen him since. The lessons that he taught were tempered by years of on-stream experinence and I have learned them well. I have also come to learn many new lessons of baitfish behavior and fishing and have begun to answer many of the questions associated with the little known world of bait.

The importance of the baitfish in the gamefish's diet cannot be overlooked. While the small and fresh hatchery stocked fish of our streams and the young fish in our ponds do consume primarily insect life, the older and larger fish of all waters rely almost solely on baitfish as their source of food. This and the fact that baitfish share the same habitat and environment, make them a primary food source to be imitated by the angler. Most lures used for bass and pike are designed to imitate the minnow. And a good portion of the largest trout, in both reservoirs and streams, are taken either on minnows or imitations of them.

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Bait (CONT. FROM PG. 5)

The art of baitfish imitation and fishing must begin in a logical and orderly fashion. Knowing little of the natural, its habits and habitat or of the gamefish and its behavior is to go at the sport half-armed. One must be able to recognize what type of baitfish will be in the riffled sections of a stream. Or in its pools. Or which foodfish are found over gravel bottoms in a pond. Which over vegetation. And what color changes take place during the spawning season. What sizes to use. What style of imitation.

I will begin to answer these questions with a brief look at Connecticut's baitfish and their locations in the state. Also included will be fish of lesser importance to Connecticut anglers but of primary concern to those anglers traveling out of state.

Cutlips Minnow *Exoglossum maxillingua*

The cutlips minnow is a unique, medium sized minnow whose range is primarily east of the Appalachians, north to the St. Lawrence river and south to Virginia. It is a native fish to Connecticut and is found, interestingly, only in the western portion of the state. The Housatonic River and its tributaries provide the main habitat. It prefers clear streams and is found in areas around but not in rapids and waterfalls.

This minnow reaches a length to six inches and displays a brownish grey coloration dorsally, blending to a lighter tone laterally and is white on its ventral surfaces. The young generally display a dark lateral banding.

The cutlips derives its name from the unique anatomy of its mouthparts. The somewhat fat upper lip protrudes generously beyond the lower lip, which is tri-lobed. The clefted appearance is easily recognized and distinguishes this minnow.

This minnow spawns in the late spring. The male constructs a nest of stones and herds the females over it to spawn. There are no color changes during the breeding season.

The cutlips minnow should be considered an important bait source and imitations should be carried by those fishing the fly-only waters below Cornwall Bridge.

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Bait (CONT. FROM PG. 6)

Golden Shiner *Notemigonus crysoleucas*

The golden shiner, or pond shiner as it is also known, is a medium to large sized native of Connecticut whose range is broad, including most all still waters east of the Rockies. It is a schooling fish whose form is atypical to the shiner family: a smallish, tapered head with a fat, almost elongated body. It is a favorite of those gamefish inhabiting the states' many weed choked ponds and lakes. The golden is fond of vegetation.

This shiner is colored dark brassy to dark brown on its back, blending to brassy gold on its sides, and is generally a light gold or silver on its belly. Some adults display a dark lateral banding, while all have a thin, soft keel which is located between the pelvic fins and the anus. The average size is between three and seven inches.

The golden shiner spawns for an extended period over the summer months making the fry available to gamefish for long periods. No color changes are noted during the spawning season.

Imitations of the golden shiner must be considered by all anglers who fish for bass, pickerel and pike in this state. It is a primary food source for these still water fishes.

Longnose Dace *Rhinichthys cataractae*

This medium sized member of the dace family, a native to Connecticut, displays most of the characteristics of the most popular streamer and bucktail patterns: a dark back and light belly with a bit of flash. Specifically, the longnose dace is colored olive to olive brown dorsally, is lighter laterally and is white ventrally. Its sides are typically dark mottled and a dark lateral band may be present. The fins are light olive or transparent.

The longnose derives its name from the projecting snout which gives the overall appearance of a shark. The mouth is located ventrally and is set back. Lengths of four inches are attained and as such, imitation is made easy.

Spawning takes place in the early spring in the riffled areas of large stream tributaries. The longnose is found in the faster

(CONT. ON PG. 8)

Bait (CONT. FROM PG. 7)

reaches of this states major trout waters, notably the Housatonic, the Farmington, and the Natchaug River systems. Its presence is not common in the other minor systems. Anglers fishing these waters should carry representative imitations.

Fallfish *Semotilus corporalis*

The fallfish, or chub as it is known, is a large native of this state whose range includes those waters east of the Appalachians. While considered more of a trash fish than a baitfish, it cannot be ignored as a primary food source. Its abundance is overwhelming in stretches of the Farmington River, especially the waters of Unionville and in the town of Farmington. The Natchaug, Mount Hope, Fenton and Housatonic Rivers also have fishable populations.

The fallfish looks very similar to the creek chub (which see), lacking only the dark spot at the base of the dorsal fin. It is colored olive brown to black dorsally, silver laterally and white ventrally. A dark lateral band may be present. During spawning season, the males develop tubercles and are generally rosy colored.

Spawning takes place in the spring. The male builds a large nest of pebbles, often several feet in diameter and two or three feet high. They are usually cone shaped.

The fallfish inhabits mostly river systems and is fond of the eddies at the base of waterfalls and rapids (hence the name). It may also be found in some ponds and lakes. It is this states largest baitfish, reaching lengths to eighteen inches, although its average size is five to seven inches.

Blacknose Dace *Rhinichthys atratulus*

The blacknose dace is one of the most celebrated baitfish in trouting. This is due partly to its ubiquitous nature, its densities, and its fondness for the same habitat as trout.

This dace is primarily oliveous dorsally although dark brown specimens are recorded. The sides are lighter colored with a dark, wide band extending around the snout to the mid caudal position.

(CONT. ON PG. 9)

Bait (CONT. FROM PG. 8)

The ventral surfaces are whitish and the pelvic and pectoral fins are yellowish. Dark scales are scattered on both the sides and the back. It can reach sizes of three or four inches.

Because of the density and popularity of this baitfish, imitation of the breeding male is often necessary. Color changes noted are an orangish hue through the lateral band and the pelvic and pectoral fins turning bright reddish-orange.

Spawning occurs in the spring. The habitat is the riffled areas of higher gradient streams and as such is found throughout Connecticut. The overall range is west to the Great Plains and south to the Gulf.

Creek Chub *Semotilus atromaculatus*

The creek chub, a medium to large sized fish, is indigenous to our waters and inhabits primarily the riffles and pools of our larger western streams. Moderate populations can be found in the Farmington River system while heavy counts occur in the Housatonic and its tributaries.

The creek chub displays a dark bluish color dorsally, is lighter blue laterally and is usually white ventrally. There is an overall lavender cast and identification is completed by the dark spot or band at the base of the dorsal fin. There is also a faint, dark lateral band which extends from the eye to the base of the tail and a small, single barbule at the tip of each jaw.

Spawning is in the spring. The male builds the nest in the smaller tributary streams, locating it in the riffles or at the base of larger pools. During this period, the male coloration becomes rosy, especially in the pelvic and anal fins. Lengths of three to six inches are common while lengths to ten inches may be attained.

FLY-TYING MATERIALS

ROD-BUILDING SUPPLIES

THE FLY BOX

COMPLETE FLY TYING SERVICE

WRITE FOR OUR CATALOG

RON COSGRO
Proprietor

P.O. BOX 582
WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06096
(203) 627-0637

Classified Ads

TAG SALE: from the Estate of Dr. Edward I. Poriss; numerous fly tying and fly fishing accessories; Leonard vest; Hardy, Orvis, Pflueger reels, lines and spare spools; fly boxes including Wheatley; fine fishing library; custom landing nets; January 28, 1979 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 17 E. Maxwell Drive, West Hartford, Ct.

CONNECTICUT FLYFISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

presents

"NEW TECHNIQUES IN FLYTYING"

A school for advanced beginners...

CLASSES: There will be six lessons. In each, we will cover new and unique innovative patterns or techniques to flytying. Classes will meet on the following friday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Raymond Hall Library (E.H. Public) study lounge, next to the Post Office, Main St. East Hartford, Conn.

<u>No.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1	1-12-79	#12 <u>Comparadun</u> ; #14 <u>Polywing Spinner</u> These are two flies you should not be without! Easy to tie too!
2	1-19-79	#10 <u>Swannundaze Stonefly Nymph</u> ; #10 <u>Emerging Stick Caddis</u> "Swannundaze" is a plastic with many applications to flytying, and the caddis an effective "twist" from the vice of Myron Schulman.
3	1-26-79	#4 <u>Deer Hair Bass Bug</u> ; #18 <u>Jassid Beatle</u> Introduces spun deer hair, and an important late-season terrestrial
4	2-2-79	#6 <u>Matuka Streamer</u> ; #8 <u>Grey and White Marabou Streamer</u> Two "killer" patterns, a must in every flybox!!
5	2-9-79	#14 <u>Henryville Special</u> ; #14 <u>Hendrickson Thorax Dun</u> One of the best all-around dry flies, followed by an effective life-like mayfly tie.
6	2-16-79	<u>To Be Determined</u> ; We are leaving this class "open" in order that class members may decide which pattern(s) or technique(s) they would like to see tied.

EQUIPMENT: All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, thread, scissors, etc. It is suggested that each tier bring a portable lamp.

INSTRUCTORS: In addition to the main instructors, several experienced tiers will be on hand to assist students.

CLASS SIZE: Limited to 25 students.

TUITION: \$18.00. Just \$3.00 per class! The flies alone are almost worth that much!

CFFA FTS Enrollment Application

Date _____

Please print required information, forward the tuition, (checks payable to C.F.F.A.), and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: John Cannata, Registrar, 19 Grand Rd., East Hartford, Conn. 06118.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

A note of acknowledgment will be sent to all applicants. For further information, contact Ken Thompson, Director, RR1 Box 90, Ashford, Conn. 06278 Phone 429-7765.

Annual CFFA Banquet

WHAT: CFFA Annual Banquet

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

WHEN: Saturday, February 10, 1979

AGENDA: 6 p.m. - Cocktail Hour
7 p.m. - Dinner

ENTRÉE: London Broil
or
Filet of Sole

Menu: Fresh Fruit Collage, Dunfey's Tavern Salad, Peas with Pearl Onions, Baked Potato, Rolls, Peach Melba, Coffee.

FEATURED SPEAKER: Gary LaFontaine, a CFFA member now residing in Montana, and author of "Challenge of the Trout. Gary has served as Rocky Mountain Editor for Fly Fisherman Magazine.

RAFFLE: Lots of prizes as always.

DINNER RESERVATIONS: \$12.00 per person (complete including tax & tip)

The banquet will be on a reservation only basis and reservations will be on a first come, first serve basis. Reservation forms are below and should be returned before January 31, 1979 to:

Joe D'Addario
3 Roxbury Road
East Hartford, Conn. 06118

DINNER RESERVATION

Date _____

I will require reservations for _____ persons at \$12.00 per person. Check or Money Order in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed. (Make payable to "CFFA")

Mail reservation form to:

Joe D'Addario
3 Roxbury Road
East Hartford, Ct.
06118

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

HOME PHONE _____ ZIP _____

_____ London Broil

_____ Filet of Sole

JANUARY 1979 CALENDAR

January 3 Board of Director's Meeting
January 10 CFFA Membership meeting, see page 1
January 10 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS
January 12 Fly Tying School, see page 10
January 19 Fly Tying School, 2nd class
January 24 Eastern Council Meeting, see page 3
January 26 Fly Tying School, 3rd class
January 31 Deadline for Banquet Reservations

January 1979						
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

February 2 Fly Tying School, 4th class
February 9 Fly Tying School, 5th class
February 10 Annual CFFA Banquet, see page 11
February 16 Fly Tying School, final class

Banquet Notice