



LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

DECEMBER 1980

Vol. 7 No. 9

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Meeting Notice

CFFA's December meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, December 10 at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse on Sunset Ridge Dr. in East Hartford. This month's program will be a Fly Fishing Roundtable featuring many club members who will be talking on topics of special interest to them. Further details are presented below. Members with fly rods needing repairs or cork grips cleaned are urged to bring them. Advice will be given on the repairs, and as many grips as possible will be cleaned at the meeting. Before the meeting several CFFA members will demonstrate their fly tying techniques and patterns. Directions to the meeting location can be found on page 10.

Waders and Vests--Norm Holcomb

Insects and Tying--Ken Thompson

Care of Equipment--Ted Barbieri

Books on Fishing--Ken Parkeny

Fly Fishing Rods--~~Ken Cannon~~

Rod Cleaning and
Repair--Ed Roberts

'An active member club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen



THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

Several items of interest to CFFA members this month. Most of you should have received your membership renewal notices from Membership Chairman Bob Martincheck by the time you get this newsletter. Please send in your 1981 dues as soon as possible, and consider a gift membership for someone you know who is not a CFFA member.

Notices appear in this newsletter for two important club activities, the annual fly tying school and the annual CFFA banquet. Our fly tying school will begin the first week of January, and is an excellent introduction for someone who wants to learn fly tying or brush up on their technique. Our banquet speaker, again, is Dave Whitlock, and we're all keeping our fingers crossed for good weather everywhere in February.

President Elmer Latham mentioned at the November meeting that our monthly Board of Directors meetings are open to all CFFA members. Meetings are held monthly at the Blast & Cast, and food is provided at a nominal cost. We urge you to attend these meetings and volunteer for openings on the Board. Please contact Elmer at 742-6584 to be counted for the meal and to get directions.

This month we again have a large issue with three articles from club members, and two more articles are on hand for future issues! We are very pleased with the response we have gotten from our requests for newsletter material, and we hope that more of you will send in cartoons, stories, articles etc.

Finally, on behalf of the CFFA Board of Directors, we would like to wish each and every one of you the very best of Holiday Seasons!

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PRESIDENT:Elmer Latham EDITORS:Larry Johnson, Ed Fidrych

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"Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc., and is distributed to its membership and allies of conservation. Address editorial correspondence to either Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford, CT 06105 or to Ed Fidrych, Box 145, Glastonbury Rd., Portland, CT 06480. Notice of address change and other correspondence should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 18365, East Hartford, CT 06118.

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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association is " Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA regular membership meetings are held*on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse on Sunset Ridge Drive in East Hartford, Ct. Eastern Council meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Mansfield Middle School, Spring Hill Rd., Mansfield, Ct.

* * * * *

THE STREAM SCENE

by Ken Thompson

As I walked up the path to the Willi's famed Bridge Abutment Pool, it was evident that Fall was in full swing. I was going to fish over some of the toughest fish this state has to offer. Anyone who has been there knows. They lie at the surface at the head of the pool and methodically sip no-see-ums all day.

The wind had loaded the river with floating leaves--the fish were there, just as predicted, feeding between the debris. Over by the styrofoam worm containers and snelled hook packages looked as good a spot as any to start. Casting a very small poly wing spinner in the current, my excitement level rose while a fish drifted up to the fly. Never even opening its mouth, the trout slowly lifted the fly out of the water with its nose then bobbed back into the depths. I thought I was on the Beaverkill. Another cast, this time the trout didn't even budge. I tried a number of flies, most received looks on the first cast, then nothing.

Now I wasn't ready to break out the white Wulffs quite yet, despite my frustration. Instead, I tied on a tiny #22 black foam beetle. Its the best pattern I know that consistently takes very sophisticated sippers, especially in flat water. On the first cast, a trout rose and confidently but gently sucked in the fly. My ace in the hole had done its job again.

This is just the latest of a long series of success stories attached to this pattern since I put it together on the Beaverkill River five years ago. I was camping there for a week. The fishing was fabulous, but the sippers in the flat water of Wagon Tracks Pool had avoided me all week. It was hard to believe that trout could become so sophisticated. Most flies never even elicited a response from these fish. There were times when the fish would drift with the fly for 10 feet or more, then refuse. I've seen them do the same for naturals. They seemed to like to look at the smaller stuff, especially if the patterns were compact.

I decided to try an experiment, and cast a dry brown body mayfly at a nice trout. It didn't move. Clipping the hackle off the bottom produced a quick look from the fish. With all hackle removed, the trout followed the fly in the current. I proceeded to remove everything except the dubbed body, which was then dried and re-ginked. As the fly drifted, the trout sipped it in very deliberately and was on.

Rather than strip down any more flies, I ran to my tent to tie up some of these new "wonderflies." Before dubbing the body, I decided to tie a small bunch of caribou on the entire shank with the tips pointing backward. After dubbing the body, the caribou tail was pulled forward over the top of the fly and tied down at the eye. This was done to enhance floatability, but turned out

also to make the fly much easier to see on the water. The result was a very neat, compact, legless beetle-like pattern that floated like a cork in the film and was easy to tie.

After a dozen or so were tied, I returned to the river very anxious to try them out. The fish responded favorably to the new offering, I was exstastic. If I only tried this at the beginning of the week! The fish were taking these flies as emergent insects, I figured. Many types of aquatic insects float in the surface film for quite some time before emerging. When viewed from underneath (the way the fish see ti), the caribou back of the beetle even resembled unsheathed wings lying alongside the body.

The fly became an instant standard for me, especially when fishing in catch and release areas. Because the fish are returned, they become very stream-wise and difficult to catch. Many of these fish resort to sipping very small insects in the flats of pools. These are the fish that drive people crazy. It's so frustrating to watch these fish feed consistently right in front of you, yet they won't even acknowledge any offering you give them.

I believe the fish "learn" to feed on the smaller fare because they get stung less often when keying on little stuff, say #20 and smaller. The fish does not like to get caught and since most rarely use tiny flies, the chance of getting caught decreases with the food size. I have seen this behavior in all three catch and release areas I've ever fished. This type of trout keys in on small compact food, very often drifting emergent midge or caddis pupae. Any large fly, even a real one, is scarcely looked at. But even when looking at the larger food, their behavior is different from the slow, deliberate rise to the no-see-ums. I needed a fly that would elicit the same deliberate response, and that eventful day on the Beaverkill, I had found it.

Two years ago Phyllis and Joe D'Addario invited me for a weekend of fishing on the storied Henryville water of the Broadhead River in Pennsylvania. They didn't have to ask twice. I brought some plastic foam packing material along to experiment with. That night I tied a bunch of black and brown beetles, replacing the caribou back with a strip of colored foam. I could hardly wait to try them, they looked so good.

The next day, after a very quick breakfast, Joe and I slipped into Upper Bridge Pool. Fish were casually plucking invisible food out of the film, an ideal situation for us to try the new concoction. After calming down (seeing large sipping trout always brings me close to death), I cast my fly out. Joe was just releasing his second fish. The fly was just what the trout wanted. Without hesitation, and with total confidence, they rose to the tiny pellet of food.

There were times that weekend when matching the hatch was necessary, but during those times when not much other insect activity was on, the foam beetle produced consistently. Since that memorable weekend I have used the pattern in many different situations. It works equally well in fast water, still maintaining its excellent

floating capabilities. At times it will go under water, but fished like a nymph or a wet fly, the fly works well. Blends of black and brown still out-produce all other colors. The best sizes are between #18 and #22, but because the fly is so compact, a #22 beetle is effectively much smaller when compared to a full dressed fly of the same size. When used during a Caddis or Mayfly hatch, I simply match the size and underbody color to the natural. Many times it will outfish standard dun and emerger patterns during the hatch.

The foam material has since been incorporated into floating nymphs, inchworms, hair wing caddis and ants, with many more applications in the works. Unfortunately, this material is not available in fly shops. Although a common packing plastic, many people might have difficulty in obtaining it. I am presently trying to find a source. When found the information will be passed along via this column.

There is a lesson for all of us in the preceeding story. Don't be afraid to experiment either when astream or at the vise. Many of us get stuck in our fly fishing approach and tend to use the same flies that have worked for us in the past. There is nothing wrong with this most of the time, confidence in your fly is a great asset. But we should take advantage of the situations where knowledge can be gained through experimentation. For instance when visible fish are actually feeding, alter or change flies often and observe how the trout responds to the new imitation. Do not simply move on in search of a less intelligent fish. Sometimes all that is needed is to clip some hackle off the bottom or clip wings off to make a floating nymph. Try different casts, twitch the fly, do anything, just do something different and the trout will tell you how close you are getting, if you observe closely. The best place to sharpen your skills is on no-kill waters. The fish are there, you can see them feeding, so use them to your advantage and develop new patterns and techniques. And you don't have to go to New York or Pennsylvania to do it. Drive up to our own Willi and be surprised.

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The Practical Flyfisher

By Mark Philippe

How many times have you wanted to tie a new fly pattern but were frustrated because it was impossible to procure the right colored materials? The matuka is a prime example. Olive grizzly rooster hackle is usually most effective for the wing of this well known streamer, however, have you noticed that it is not easy to come across this color of grizzly even though we are fortunate to have many fine fly tying material shops in our area? You may find plenty of olive hen hackle, but it is the the long-tailed matuka tied with rooster neck hackles or saddles that makes the most effective fly. You may be fortunate to find a shop that will do some custom dyeing, but they are not always successful in achieving the exact shade that you had in mind.

There is a solution to this dilemma and its an easier one than you might think. Why not dye your own? Often the novelty of an activity holds us back from attempting something new, which is the case in my procrastination with experimentation in dyeing. Although I've been dyeing materials only in the past six months and hardly qualify as an expert on the subject--as my friend, Gene Monty, playfully pointed out when told this article was being written-- my success rate has been 100%.

The materials needed for dyeing are easier to obtain than a \$35 super grizzly. You will need the following: a dish or jar for pre-soaking materials, a heating source, such as a stove or hot plate, a pair of stainless steel tongs, measuring spoons, stainless steel or enameled pans (aluminum cake pans will do a satisfactory job but might distort pale dye colors), some white vinegar or Cream of Tartar for setting the dye, table salt, a metal collander for loose feathers, possibly a hair dryer, and, of course, the dye.

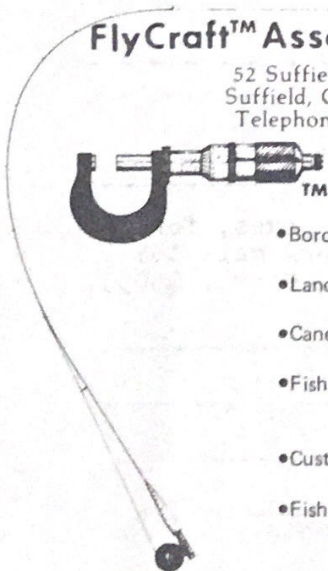
There are commercial fly tying dyes available, such as Veniard, which will have to be obtained from mail order houses, or you may do as I have and use fabric dyes, such as Rit or Tintex. Except in special cases, fabric dyes work very well. Dyes may be used as a single color, or they may be mixed to

to give the fly tyer a varied assortment of shades and colors. These dyes will allow you to color feathers, furs, hairs, and yarns.

You will want to stock up on bulk materials, such as deer hides, whole or partial, rabbit skins, white marabou, white and grizzly saddle hackles, as well as other types of materials. Bulk purchases save dollars and sources for them are local shops, mail order houses such as E. Hille, or friends who are hunters.

Home dyeing of materials gives the fly tyer a more varied and useful collection of supplies that will allow him more flexibility in exercising his creativity and ultimately will enhance his success in fly fishing. In the next article dyeing steps from initial preparation to finished product will be discussed, which should allow you to dye on your own with confidence.


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Fly Tying School

Classes: There will be six lessons. Classes will meet on the following Friday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Raymond Hall Library basement next to the Post Office, Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut.

NO.	DATE	SUBJECT
1	1/02/81	Bucktails #8 Dark Edson Tiger, #8 Black-nose Dace
2	1/09/81	Streamers #8 Black Ghost, #8 Black Marabou
3	1/16/81	Wet Flies #10 Picket Pin, #10 Black Gnat, #12 Dark Cahill
4	1/23/81	Nymphs #10 Scraggley, #12 Dark Stenonema
5	1/30/81	Dry Flies #14 Dun Variant, #14 Blue Dun
6	2/06/81	Dry Flies #14 Adams, #16 Light Cahill
	2/13/81	SNOW DAY
	2/20/81	SNOW DAY

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

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

CLASS SIZE: Limited to the first 25 people submitting applications.

TUITION: \$20.00

CFFA FTS Enrollment Application

DATE _____

Please print required information, check appropriate boxes, forward the tuition and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and mail to: Pete Trani, Registrar, 369 Addison Road, Glastonbury, Conn., 06033.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

CFFA MEMBER _____ NON-MEMBER _____

Have you had prior tying experience? Yes _____ No _____
A note of acknowledgement will be sent to all applicants.

For additional information contact: Gary Bogli, Director, Elizabeth Drive, Manchester, Connecticut, 06040. Phone: 649-4227.

A Successful Day of Fishing

by Art Runnels

Melvin and I agreed to a morning of fishing on the Willimantic River in Willington. We decided to make an early start before the heat of an August morning could convince us to quit before we had had our fill.

However, as it turned out, there was a real ripper of a thunderstorm the night before the trip. The rain was heavy, followed by a nice change in the air. What a delightful morning to be out!

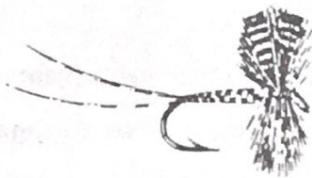
We met at 6:20 a.m. and began fishing. Small dace pestered us continuously. The trout were not surface feeding, so we fished with some caddis fly variations of our own. Since we cannot brag of heavy catches like most good trout fishermen, we profess to fish, instead, for relaxation, the enjoyment of getting outdoors, camaraderie and to appreciate nature. This trip was no exception. The air was great, the trees were still dripping from last evening's showers, and the sky was the bluest of the summer.

After an hour and a half of fishing, we had had no luck with trout and decided to fish our way back toward the cars. Catching a glimpse of movement in the corner of my eye, I observed something entering the stream from bushes along the riverbank. Was it another fisherman or possibly another bather? I had to watch this for a moment. Remaining very still (Melvin fishing hard downstream) I waited until this large object was exposed in the middle of the river. To my surprise, more clearly now, I saw a large deer. Then, following the doe, I saw its small fawn, perky

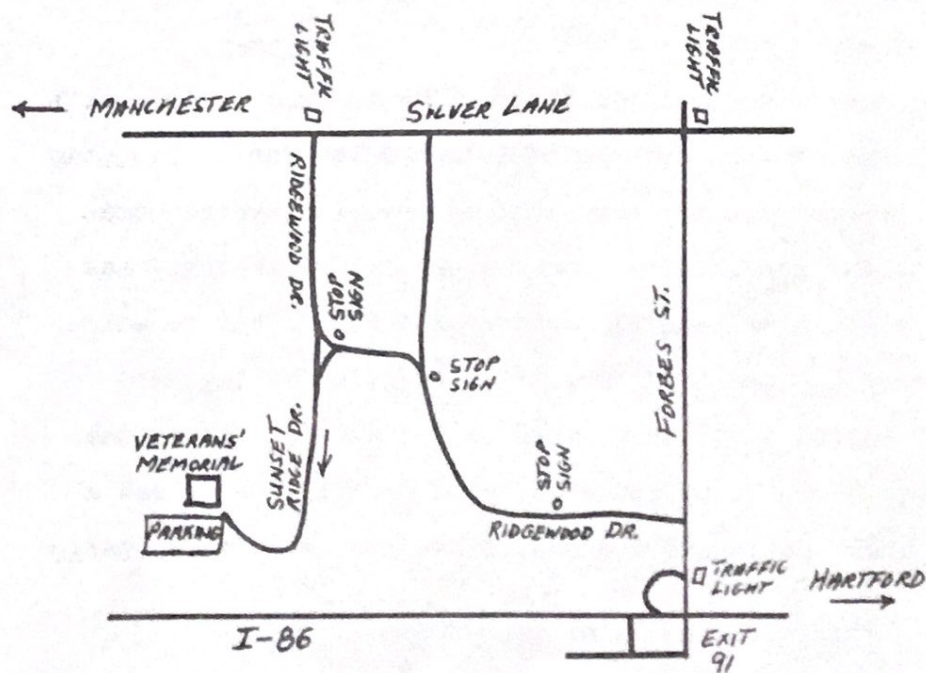
and alert. They stood for a few seconds, took a drink, and then jumped into the woodland and disappeared. That was truly a beautiful sight!

Only one trout was caught this morning which hardly makes this a fish story, but we both agreed that it was a highly successful outing. We had enjoyed the beauty of the day!

We continue to fish, but we know that fishing is only part of the reason we are out there.



CFFA MEETING DIRECTIONS



CFFA 11th ANNUAL BANQUET

On February 14, 1981, CFFA will be holding their 11th annual banquet. Our guest speaker this year will be Mr. Dave Whitlock. While Mr. Whitlock is entertaining the men with his program, Mrs. Whitlock will present a special program for the ladies. Watch for further details in our next newsletter.

The banquet will be held at the Grant Moor Hotel on the Berlin Turnpike. Your choice of dinners this year will be baked stuffed shrimp or roast prime rib of beef. Included with the meal will be fruit cup, shells and meat sauce, tossed salad, baked potato, green beans, rolls and butter, coffee or tea and nut roll cake.

As you can see, your banquet committee has been hard at work to provide you with an evening of entertainment and would you believe we're doing all of this for \$12.50 per person? Last but not least we will also be having our conservation drawing that evening.

So come on gang, fill out the reservation form and mail it as soon as possible. Your banquet committee is looking forward to seeing each and every one of you there.

Anyone wishing to donate prizes for our drawing may contact Elmer Latham at 742-6584. All prizes will be greatly appreciated.

DINNER RESERVATION

Date _____

I will require reservations for _____ persons at \$12.50 per person. Check or Money Order in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed. (Make payable to "CFFA")

Mail Reservation form to:

NAME _____

Mr. Elmer Latham
79 Northfield Rd.
Coventry, CT ~~06040~~ 06238

ADDRESS _____

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___ Baked Stuffed Shrimp

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DECEMBER 1980 CALENDAR

December 3 Board of Director's Meeting
10 December CFFA Meeting

December 1980						
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

January 2 Fly Tying School-First Class
7 Board of Director's Meeting
9 Fly Tying School-Second Class
14 January CFFA Meeting
16 Fly Tying School-Third Class
23 Fly Tying School-Fourth Class
30 Fly Tying School-Fifth Class

January 1981						
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

February 14 Annual CFFA Banquet



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