

LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

MARCH 1980

Vol. 7 No. 3

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Meeting Notice

The March meeting of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association will be held at the Holiday Inn, Roberts Street, East Hartford, Conn., on Wednesday, March 12, 1980 at 7:00 P.M. Take the Silver Lane-Roberts Street exit off I-84.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Richard Talleur, noted angler and author of Fly Fishing for Trout and Mastering the Art of Fly Tying. Mr. Talleur will present a slide program on fly tying techniques.

Prior to the meeting several CFFA members will be on hand tying their favorite fly patterns.

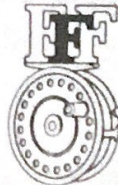
CFFA FLY FISHING SCHOOL

CFFA'S "Fundamentals of Fly Fishing" course will begin on Friday, March 7, and continue for three weeks. These meetings will be followed by a casting practise session and an on-stream fishing session with an instructor. This is an introductory course for the beginner and neophyte which discusses basic fly fishing tackle and its use on the stream. See page 7 for complete details.

EASTERN COUNCIL FLY TYING SCHOOL

The ECCFFA Fly Tying School began on Tuesday, February 26, and will meet at the Mansfield Middle School in Mansfield, Connecticut on Tuesday evenings until April 1. This is an introductory course for those wishing to learn fundamental fly tying techniques. Please contact Elmer Latham, 79 Northfield Rd., Coventry, CT 06238 for further details.

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having taken on the responsibility as President of CFFA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the nominating committee and the members of CFFA for their support. Many of you may already be aware, and some of you may not, as with any organization, it will only be as good as the officers and members want it to be. I know that the people on the Board of Directors are among the best, and will continue to work for the best interest of CFFA.

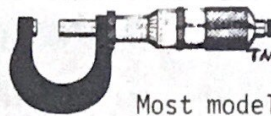
From time-to-time your Directors and I will be calling on our general membership for your support and help on various projects. I am sure that with your continued support, as always, the coming decade will see CFFA continue to grow into one of the finest organizations in the State of Connecticut.

Elmer Latham

.....

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Conservation Notebook

Robert G. Anderson

The eggs are here! Our 18,670 Bitterroot strain brown trout eggs from Montana have arrived a bit ahead of schedule. In fact, the necessary change in plans threw quite a few of us into a tizzy for several days. The drama began on January 8th, when Dave Harriman called to tell me that there would be no late eggs available. He said he was sorry to do it, but we had a choice of taking the eggs the next weekend or not at all. They had had a feed problem (that was a long involved story) and there were no late eggs.

After making some phone calls to check out whether or not it was possible to place vibert boxes in the streams, and after checking out the sites where we had planted the eggs last year, it was decided that we probably could get a crew together, that the weather was warm enough that the streams wouldn't be iced over, and that we could get permission from the State. However, as sanity began to prevail, it became apparent that even if our plans were carried out the fry would be hatching at the time when there would be the least food available for them. That would mean that the survival rate would be very low.

With the assistance of Vin Ringrose and the State of Conn., an arrangement was worked out where the eggs would be hatched at the Kensington Hatchery, fed until May, and released as fry in the same areas we would have placed the vibert boxes. (3-4,000 fry would be reserved for our own rearing pool). Now that all of these decisions were made life should have returned to normal. It really should have.

Harriman's hatchery was called to report that we would accept the eggs. Plans were made to have them mailed (yes, mailed U.S. Priority Mail-not air freight like last year. But that's another story that I won't rehash here). Great! Now sit back and wait for the eggs to arrive. And arrive they did! A phone call at 3:30 A.M. on the 17th of January jolted my entire family out of bed. My wife reached the phone first and tried to make sense out of a concerned Hartford postal worker's story of a carton of trout eggs leaking all over the place and that maybe they could be saved if I rushed right into Hartford to get them. I retrieved the phone, calmed the postal worker, and explained that they were packed in ice and would be safe until delivered later that day.

After work I rushed home, gathered up the carton of eggs and rushed them to the Kensington Hatchery where they were placed in trays. A few had hatched in the mail, but otherwise they were in good condition. I wish to thank Chuck Phillips for his advice, Ken Thompson and Joe D'Addario for helping me make some decisions, and especially Vin Ringrose for helping with the arrangements with the State hatchery. And of course I'll be glad to see all of you when we're ready to put the fry into the streams this May.

THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

CFFA receives newsletters from many other flyfishing clubs throughout the country, and we will, from time to time, reprint items of interest from their publications. The following items appeared in a recent newsletter of the Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds, Washington.

ABOUT THOSE GRAPHITE RODS: TAKEN FROM INGLEWOOD FLY CLUB, "FLYLINE"
AS LONGER AND LONGER GRAPHITE RODS GAIN INCREASING ACCEPTANCE AMONG FLY FISHERMEN, A HAZARD ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR USE HAS COME TO LIGHT. GRAPHITE, BEING IN ESSENCE A PARTICULAR MANIFESTATION OF THE ELEMENT CARBON, IS AN EXCELLENT CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY. RODS FABRICATED OF THIS MATERIAL MUST BE USED WITH GREAT CARE WHERE ANY LIKELIHOOD OF ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE IS PRESENT. ONE CASE OF DEATH HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED ON SCOTLAND WHEN A SALMON FISHERMAN, APPARENTLY PUTTING UP HIS "CARBON FIBRE" ROD, ALLOWED IT TO CONTACT A POWER LINE. ALSO SCOTT RODS, AND PERHAPS OTHERS, COME WITH A WARNING AGAINST HAVING THE ROD IN A VERTICAL ATTITUDE DURING CONDITIONS WHERE A DISCHARGE OF LIGHTNING MIGHT OCCUR. THE PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN ARE PRETTY OBVIOUS.

TREATMENT OF SKINS - SQUIRREL, FOWL, ETC. - TAKEN FROM: GREEN COUNTRY FLYFISHERS: THE EASIEST AND BEST WAY I KNOW TO HANDLE SUCH FRESH SKINS IS TO PLACE THEM SKIN SIDE DOWN ON A PIECE OF CORRUGATED PAPER BOARD. THE SKIN WILL ADHERE TO THE PAPER AND CAN BE STRETCHED SMOOTHLY WITHOUT THE USE OF NAILS OR PINS. BE CERTAIN THAT THE EDGES OF THE SKIN DO NOT ROLL UNDER. THE SKIN WILL SELF-RELEASE WHEN IT IS CURED. THE PAPER BOARD ABSORBS OIL AND MOISTURE FROM THE SKIN, SO I DO NOT TREAT THEM WITH ANYTHING, BUT YOU MAY WISH TO APPLY BORAXO AFTER THE SKIN IS REMOVED FROM THE PAPERBOARD.



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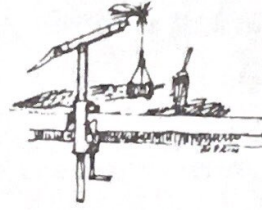
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Under the Tyer's Lamp



Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

RED-RUMPED RASCAL

Some early season fishing that can be enjoyed before the pond weeds get too dense is that of casting a suitable fly to some ever-hungry eastern chain pickerel. The subject fly this month is one in a family of similar ties that we have used not only for early season, but also all through the summer when equipped with a suitable weedguard. Our experience in catching pickerel indicates that bright colors are readily accepted and especially those lures with yellow as the predominate color.

The method we use to fish for pond pickerel is from a small boat or canoe, casting to the shoreline or to any emerging vegetation or natural obstruction in the water such as flooded bushes or downed tree branches. Let the fly lie for a few seconds and then give the flyline a short strip, surging the fly in the water. With the floating deer hair head, the fly will be only partially submerged and especially so after it gets water-logged. Keep stripping in the fly in one or two foot surges up to the boat as many times the strike will explode within a few feet from it. Also the strike may be triggered by the acceleration of the fly during the pickup for the recast.

Pickerel do not seem to be nearly so accurate as bass or trout when they strike at a fly or lure and consequently will quite often miss the target on the first pass. This has happened to us far too often to be accidental; but if you just stay calm and let the fly remain stationary for a few seconds to allow the confused fish to regain composure, and then against start your retrieve, the pickerel will almost always re-strike, sometimes missing and re-striking two and three times. If on the first mis-strike you yank the lure away in an attempt to set the hook, immediately recast to the same area and in all probability get another chance at your quarry, providing it has not been pricked by the hook. This is one of the many rewarding features of fly-casting, you can recast to the exact same spot within a second or two with very little surface disturbance. Shallow water pickerel fishing is really enjoyable and thrilling as you can usually see the wake of the attacking predator and great restraint has to be exercised to avoid striking too quickly before the fly has been taken.

Lets get on with the Red-Rumped Rascal now, which is a typical early season pickerel fly. We are going to take you step by step along the construction sequence, explaining materials and methods used in the process. The hook is a #2, long-shanked and ring-eyed; either the Mustad 36620 or Herters 7029R6X will do nicely. Secure the hook in the vise and tie in yellow Nymo size A thread about 1/4 inch ahead of the hook point and wind back to the plane inline with the hook point where the tail will be attached. We are going to leave the complete bend of the hook bare because we need this area to grasp with long-nosed pliers when removing the hook from the pickerel's hazardous mouth. This will help us from damaging the fly--the pickerel's sharp teeth will do enough of that.

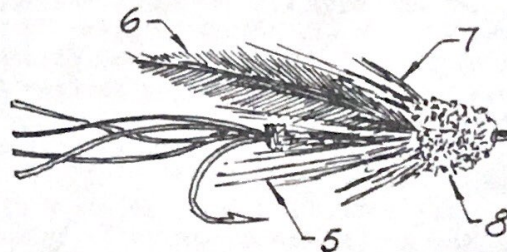
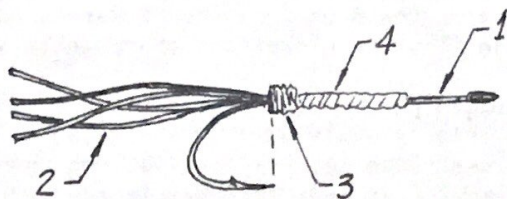
For the tail use four strands of white medium size rubber hackle. The ones we use measures approximately .015 inch square. This is quite durable and gives a lot of action in the water. Take two strands at least four inches long and loop them both in the center around the tying thread, holding all four ends together in the left hand. Hold tying thread tightly and take two turns around hook shank while keeping rubber loops on top of shank. Pull rearward and wind thread on the stretched rubber several times, binding it down tightly. Take a half-hitch to secure thread and tie in a short length of fluorescent red varn or floss and wind forward several times to form a heavy butt or ruff about 1/8 inch long, tie-off and half-hitch thread.

The body is to be gold and may be made of tinsel or mylar but the material we have been using for the past few years is one we ran across in a knitting supply store and

is named "Cloisonne". It is available in gold or silver and is a multi-stranded chain-braided polyester non-tarnishing thread which is made in Belgium and is used in needle-point work. Whatever you use, tie it in about 1/2 inch behind hook eye, wind back to butt and then forward to about 3/8 inch behind hook eye. Tie-off and leave this space open for spinning on the deer hair head later on. For the underwing use a clump of yellow impala hair, extending to the end of the hook or a little beyond; take two snug turns around the butts with thread and with your thumbnail, push the hair all around the hook shank, tie-off, trim excess and coat tied ends with head cement to secure.

Select two matching cree or badger hackles for the wing and tie in on the sides of the body so they flare out. They should be a little longer than the hook. For the collar and head of the fly use yellow dyed deer body hair. In making the collar, tie in a clump of the hair by the butts and flare around the hook, leaving the long ends extending back and around the body. To keep the long hairs and the underwing and wing from interfering with the spinning and trimming of the head, we use a 3/4 inch long section of a plastic drinking tube (soda straw), split and slipped over these parts and around the hook so they are all contained in the tube out of the way. If forethought is used, an unsplit section of tube can be inserted over the end of the tying bobbin before starting to tie, then at this point can be slid along the thread and over the hook eye and body to obtain an even better containment, but will have to be cut off later to remove from the fly.

The deer hair can now be spun on to make the fly head. As mentioned before, the hook shank should be bare, not covered by any thread wrappings. Grasp about a 3/16 inch diameter clump of hair in the left hand, cut from the hide and remove the fuzz from the butt area. We do this by holding the hair tightly and stroking the fuzz out with a toothbrush. Place this clump of hair, still contained in the left hand, above and on the hook at about a 45° angle to the shank; take two turns of thread around the hair and hook about 3/8 inch from the cut hair butts with just enough tension to cause the hollow hair to start flaring upwards. This will allow the hair to be held by the weight of the thread bobbin as the right hand uses the scissors to cut off the tips of the unwanted hair which is still held in the left hand. Cut so that approximately equal lengths of hair are on both sides of the thread. This procedure allows for a more controlled buildup of head, by reducing unwanted excess hair during the head construction rather than trimming so much off later. Take the thread bobbin now and pull tightly while again wrapping through the clump of hair. It should flare out now and spin around the hook, take a couple more turns through the hair, zig-zagging the thread through the hair while bringing it forward. Use a hair tamping tool made from the plastic casing of a ballpoint pen and slip it over the hook eye and push the spun hair compactly rearward, take a couple of thread half-hitches to secure in position. Repeat with successive clumps of hair until a full head has been made. Finish off with several half-hitches and cement before removing from the vise for the final shaping of the head. This is done with scissors, making the head fairly flat on the bottom and tapering the rest smoothly from front to back into a bullet-like shape. If the rubber tail is longer than 1 1/2 inches, trim to this length. Treat the head with floatant and the fly is ready to use.



- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Hook- #2 Mustad 36620 or Herters 7029R6X | 5. Underwing- yellow impala tail |
| 2. Tail- 4 strands of white rubber hackle | 6. Wing- cree or badger hackle |
| 3. Butt- fluorescent red wool or floss | 7. Collar- yellow deer hair |
| 4. Body- gold tinsel, mylar or "cloisonne" | 8. Head- yellow deer hair |

"FUNDAMENTALS" OF FLY FISHING

For: Beginners and Neophytes

<u>Classes:</u>	No.	Date	Time	Subject
	1.	3/ 7/80	7-9:30 PM	- rods, reels, lines, leaders-recommended.
	2.	3/14/80	7-9:30 PM	- flies and the fish.
	3.	3/21/80	7-9:30 PM	- water types and how to fish them.
	4.	4/12/80	9-12 AM 1-4 PM	- casting instruction and fishing; two sessions, one half class per session.
	5.	May	TBD	- fishing a stream; 3-5 students per instructor on stream of your choice.

Location: Class 1.,2.,&3., Raymond (East Hartford Public) Library lounge (up-stairs), on Main St. East Hartford, next to Post Office.
 Class 4., private pond stocked with trout.
 Class 5., this final session is the frosting on the cake. Students select stream in their area; instruction; application of classroom theory, approach, wading, stream reading, etc..
 Students must contact instructor by 4/30/80 to make arrangements; supply own equipment, and have valid state license for this class.

Equipment: Furnished for those that do not own for class 4. only. We recommend that students do not purchase own equipment until after class 1.

Literature: Free! - "Fly Fishing for Trout- A Guide for Adult Beginners" by Richard Talleur. (\$5.95 ret.)
 - Recommended Fly Patterns By CFFA.

Class Size: Limited to 60 students, however in the past, enrollment has been between 40-45.

Tuition: \$20.00. (Take away the book cost and it's less than \$3.00 per class !!)

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 CFFA FFS Enrollment Application Date _____

Please PRINT required information, checks payable to CFFA, and mail to:
 John Cannata, Registrar, 19 Grande Rd. East Hartford Conn.06118

NAME.....PHONE.....

ADDRESS.....CITY.....ZIP.....

For additional information contact Ken Thompson, Director, RR1 Box 90, Ashford, Conn. or phone 429-7765.

If you wish to have your enrollment confirmed, send along a self-addressed stamped envelope with the application.

March 1980 Calendar

- March 4 Eastern Council Fly Tying-Second Class
- 5 Board of Director's Meeting
- 7 Fly Fishing School-First Class
- 11 Eastern Council Fly Tying-Third Class
- 12 CFFA March Meeting-Dick Talleur
- 14 Fly Fishing School-Second Class
- 18 Eastern Council Fly Tying-Fourth Class
- 21 Fly Fishing School-Third Class
- 22 Eastern Council Tag Sale
- 25 Eastern Council Fly Tying-Fifth Class

MARCH						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Coming Events

- April 1 Eastern Council Fly Tying-Last Class
- 2 Board of Director's Meeting
- 9 CFFA April Meeting
- 12 Fly Fishing School-Casting Instruction
- 16 Eastern Council Meeting-Lou Tabory
- 19 Fishing Season Opens

APRIL						
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