



LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

APRIL 1982

Vol. 9

No. 4

Meeting Notice

- PROGRAM:** Fly Fishing in the Yellowstone Park area of Montana and Idaho.
- WHERE:** Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 14, 1982.
- TIME:** 7:30 P.M.

CFFA member Mark Philippe will present a slide show on his fly fishing trips to the Yellowstone Park area of Montana and Idaho. This will include the Yellowstone and Madison Rivers in the Park, float fishing for "gulpers" in the Park's remote Hedgen Lake, and fishing Henry's Fork in Idaho. Mark will discuss patterns and techniques as well as Eastern misconceptions about Western fishing. Several CFFA fly-tyers will be on hand before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques.

Willimantic Stream Diaries

Fisheries Biologist Chuck Phillips is again looking for volunteers to keep fishing diaries for the no-kill section of the Willimantic River. If you think you'll fish the Willi, ask for a diary. If you take one, be sure to send it back. The results of even one or two trips during the season could affect the outcome of the survey.

Interested members should contact: Charles Phillips, St. Moritz Circle, Stafford Springs, CT 06076. His telephone number is 684-2462.



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

THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

The February issue of "Fly Tyer" magazine contained an excerpt from former CFFA member Gary La Fontaine's newest book Caddis Flies. This excerpt contained a caddis pattern developed by, and named after, CFFA member Ken Parkany. The pattern for the Parkany Deer Hair Caddis is printed on page 9.

We also have another selection of Montana Missives, an exchange of letters between Ken and Gary written after Gary went to Montana, but before he started writing his books. Ken is also bringing us Backcasts, a look into the origins and past history of CFFA. Even though the club is just more than 10 years old, changes in membership and activities have swept much of the club's origins and early activities into the fog of history. Ken will give us periodic glimpses into the origins of CFFA, its earliest members, and its first activities.

We also have another article by CFFA member Jeff Passante on the Value of a Streamside Diary, and listing several patterns he has found productive on Connecticut streams. Keeping some sort of notes on each fishing trip is the only way to learn the cycle of a stream and see how things have changed from year to year. This can be anything from an informal pocket notebook to a purchased diary form. Several years ago, your editors came into a supply of white, 6 by 9, three-hole punched paper. Aha! Fishing diary. And so it was, with a little help from the local printer. We used one whole side for each trip to one stream. This was then divided roughly into thirds. The top third contained location, date, time, weather, water condition, air temperature and water temperature spaced out in two columns. The middle third contained a short section for insect activity and two parallel columns, one for fish taken, the other for the imitation used (pattern, size). The last third was left for observations.

Many forms of a diary are possible, the important thing is to keep notes on successful patterns and techniques, and the conditions in which they worked. If enough members do this, we can have some interesting articles for next year.

* PRESIDENT: Elmer Latham EDITORS: Larry Johnson, Ed Fidrych *

* "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. Business card ads may be placed at a cost of \$5 per month or \$40 for 9 months. Address newsletter 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. *

* The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association is "Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition 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 Veterans Memorial, Sunset Ridge Dr., 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. *

UNTANGLING ANGLING

In the past few years, I have had inquiries concerning scholarships. CFFA does have a scholarship. In the past we have awarded two scholarships, one to a member and one to a non-member.

The most important requirements needed are for an undergraduate Senior or Graduate student to pursue a career in Sport Fisheries and to be enrolled in a college or University in Connecticut.

If anyone would like any further details, you can contact Elmer Latham at anytime.

Plans are now in the works for our week-end fishing trip. We are again planning for an out-of-state trip to Vermont for June 4th, 5th and 6th. Also, this year we will have two, one day trips, one in July and one in August. These two trips will be on rivers in the State of Connecticut. Sometime during the next few months I will be checking out some rivers to determine which ones would be of interest to our members. In the meantime, if any of our members have some suggestions as to a river they would like to fish, please let us know. These trips will continue to be run "for the members of CFFA ONLY". Watch your lines and Leaders for further details.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS


To Dr. Vince Ringrose, our recipient of the Scedrlet Ibis Award this year and for his contributions to CFFA.

Our first winner of the ORVIS ROD AND REEL OUTFIT - Sean Sweeny. Sean has been a member of CFFA for two years, and I believe he was introduced to the club through our Fly Tying Class.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH MEMBERS.

By Burlop


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Montana Missives

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 Parkary]

Montana Missives, like some of my favorite flies, spawned out of a blessing in my life: the friendship of Gary J. LaFontaine. I first met Gary at a CFFA function in the summer of 1972. That fall he moved back to Montana after a temporary respite that must've seemed like an angler's "hell" compared to his "Rocky Mountain High". Gary is a Connecticut native who, having tamed the fish of the east, decided to get college educated in Montana. He must've learned something, cause he stayed. The stream of letters that flow between us is like the ocean tides - continuous, predictable and full of "nature's bounty". In my direction, the stream cried out for more anglers. Though fishing alone has its rewards, there's always room for one more angler in Gary's pool. So Montana Missives, with Gary's permission, seemed an ideal way of sharing the gems and pearls of a knowledgeable angler, gifted writer and persistent researcher. And so began a new column in Lines & Leaders in January, 1974. Though Montana Missives never ceased, its appearance in Lines & Leaders did. It last appeared in November, 1978, so this introduction seemed appropriate.... Ken Parkary]

Feb. 1, 1975 -- "You know, at moments I really miss things about Connecticut. At random dream times (especially during the interminable Montana winter) I think about moving back. It would be great to work for the CFFA - like you've been doing for so long...if there's any way in which I can help from this distant outpost, just let me know...."

"There is no new news on the angling scene here. By now I expected to be packing suitcases and studying an English/Spanish dictionary. Neither Edmonds nor I can swing the trip to South America this year, but maybe next winter. Wouldn't it be great to spend a season in a small shack in Tierra del Fuego - or Argentina - or Chile. My gypsy soul is chaffing...."

"I am working (an uphill battle) at getting Rock Creek [Gary says this was the late Joe Brooks' favorite stream] designated as a trophy, fly-only stream. Especially the 10-mile stretch up from the mouth which is pounded very hard. Big trout are needed to prey on the suckers and whitefish that dominate the stream in this part - We've been trying to get quality management here for a long time, but our Fish & Game is very backwards...."

Apr. 25, 1975 -- "I'm still not planning any immediate fly fishing days here in the west, but last week on the spur of the moment I went to Ennis for a day of fishing the Madison (you remember the type of water) [Do I ever. Gary, my Uncle Steve Parkary and I unanimously agree that the only swifter current to be found is at Niagra Falls]...."

"Nothing was visibly feeding in the rapid chop 4 miles above town, so I rigged a lead-draped 15 ft leader with a weighted nymph and dredged bottom. (if there was an alternative method, you know I would have used it.)...."

"A no. 10 Casual Dress Nymph was successful to an extreme; every few moments it was a whitefish or a trout being played. I put in a good word to the Gods of Angling for Wilkens (his training), and caught some beautiful fish (2 of about 3lbs.)"

Montana Missives Cont'd:

"The local group was effusive - I was embarrassed. How do you accept acclaim for a method you disdain? This glorified bait fishing is different, but with a few lessons the men learned the technique. There are masters in any area at the weighted nymph/leader method sometimes referred to as the Colorado nymphing method ; I envy them for their skill, but it is not my favorite past-time on the stream...."

Fly Pattern of the Month: the Horny Muddler

by Matthew Vaverchak



Hook Size: Streamer 8-12
Body: Gold Tinsel
Wing: Yellow saddle hackle with a
lemon woodcock overlay
Head: Deer hair formed to a tapered
head with some longer strands
left to cover back.

I use this pattern especially in the Spring, but have gotten results throughout the year. It has given me a 16 in. Brookie and a 3 lb. Brown measuring 18 in. I receive the best results using it weighted in both slow and fast running water. The pattern is basically using a Hornberg back and a Muddler head. It also worked very well in the Willimantic and Farmington, and I had a couple of hits on the Battenkill.

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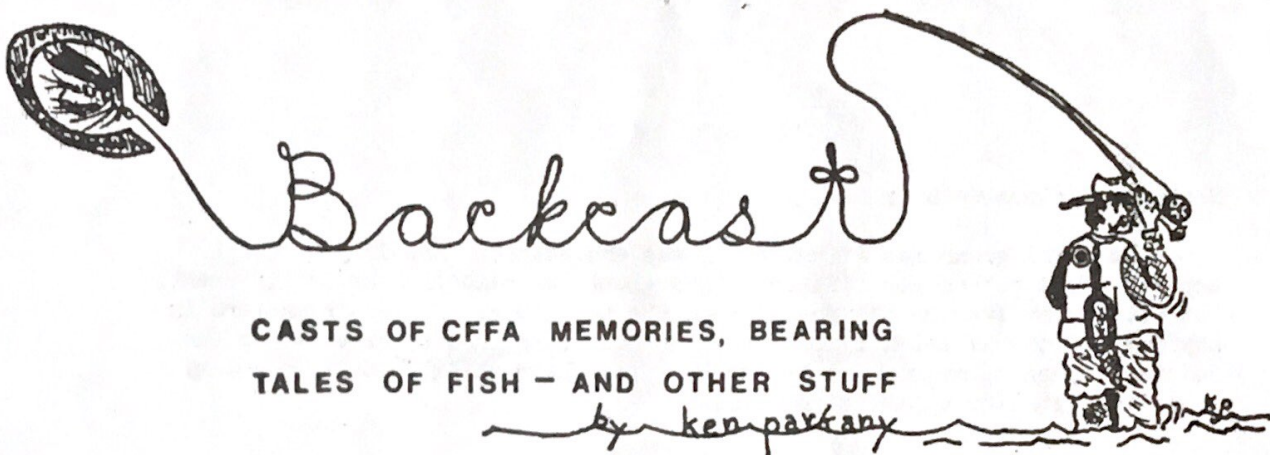
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**CASTS OF CFFA MEMORIES, BEARING
TALES OF FISH - AND OTHER STUFF**

by ken parkany

"New casting hands tend to minimize the importance of the backcast, putting all the emphasis into the forward stroke. This is dead wrong! If the backcast is formed correctly the forward stroke virtually takes care of itself."

from Fly Casting by Bill Cairns

In fly casting, the key to a good forward cast is a good backcast. You will likely find words to this effect in any instructional text on fly casting. Similarly, the task of this column is undertaken with the future of the CFFA in mind.

Though only one person has volunteered to be "composer", Backcast is not a solitary task. Many have provided information, and still others will. You'll read about them in Backcast.

Any resemblance between a history of the CFFA and Backcast will be purely coincidental. For there's no book of CFFA "Genesis". The Association wasn't created; it evolved. And there'll be no chronology of Backcast subject matter. The time required to assemble a "blow-by-blow, this-follows-that" description would postpone Backcast indefinitely. Instead, we'll wander.

For the CFFA is a stream of events. In this column we'll walk her banks together, sometimes going upstream, other times down, occasionally stopping here and there to investigate her riffles and study her pools - hoping to see what lessons she can teach. At times we'll be informed or instructed; other times entertained.

Did you ever wonder, for instance, how and why the CFFA was formed, the Scarlet Ibis chosen as the Association's logo or who were the charter members that started it all?

Would you like to know how the newsletter (Lines & Leaders) got its name, how the CFFA dabbled in obtaining private waters or what role the CFFA had in the State's establishing a 2-mile section of the Willimantic River as "catch-and-release, fly-fishing-only" special regulated area?

These are just a few of the pools and riffles we'll stop at along the CFFA's stream of events. For old-timers, the trip will hopefully be pleasantly nostalgic; for newcomers, encouraging enlightenment.

Care to join me ?

Notes from the B.O.D. Meeting

The fly-tying school has ended; the fly-fishing school starts on the twelfth of March.

Our President will make the decision to cancel meetings in case of inclement weather.

The May outing will be at the Quinebaug hatchery. The programs will be similar to those in previous years.

A motion was made that we donate \$400.00 per year for the next three years to the building fund for the International Fly Fishing Center. The motion passed with eleven voting for and two voting against the motion.

A representative from the Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance will speak at our April B.O.D. meeting.

Peter Trani
Corresponding Secretary



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The Value of a
Streamside Diary
by
Jeff Passante

Three seasons ago I started a streamside diary to record dates, number of fish caught, the pattern, and the stream. The diary has evolved to the point where I now record weather, water temperatures, and hatches and time of day fished. This diary has helped my fishing immensely.

I got the idea of using a diary after reading Selective Trout by Swisher & Richards. The format that I use is basically the same as they recommend in their excellent book. Ernest Schwiebert also highly recommends stream diaries in his classic book, Matching the Hatch.

The first year I compiled a list of my ten most effective patterns based upon my log. This list then becomes top priority over the winter during my time at the vise. Each year that I make up this list I am surprised at some patterns that make the list and others that don't and the changes from year to year. Your mind can play tricks on you if you depend on your memory for this information. This past season my "top ten" were:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Henryville Special | 6. Cork Beetle |
| 2. Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear | 7. Woodchuck Caddis |
| 3. Light Cahill | 8. White Fly |
| 4. King River Caddis | 9. Rabbit Fur Nymph |
| 5. No Hachle - Olive | 10. Thorax Iron Blue Den |

The type of information that is the most useful, however, is that pertaining to hatches. I am no expert on entomology, but by taking notes on the hatches as to size, color, time of day hatching, date, etc., I have made tentative identifications of many of the hatches. Most of these identifications were not made streamside but by using the books I have at home such as Hatches along with my streamside diary notes.

One of the advantages of hatch identification is that of providing a fishing strategy. For instance, if you know that you are definitely dealing with a Ephemerella hatch, you can "call on the experts" in the volumes of books written on hatch matching. A recent book on the subject is Mayflies, the Angler and the Trout by Arbona. From such a book you can learn that trout usually feed more on emergers than the duns during an Ephemerella hatch. Therefore the most effective approach to take is to fish emergers during this hatch. Other mayfly families may be more vulnerable during another stage (e.g. spinner). The key to unlocking this information from the fishing books is positive mayfly identification.

Once certain hatches have been identified the diary comes into use again as to what streams you saw the hatch on and also what time of year. Most national writers speaking of time frames of certain hatches will give times in relation to the Catskills or Poconos which generally have later hatches than Connecticut. The most reliable data for time schedules of hatches in your area is your diary. Also certain streams in Connecticut may have, say good Hendrickson hatches and others no Hendricksons, but perhaps a good Gray Fox (Stenonema Fuscum) hatch in May. Your diary will paint this picture more clearly for you especially as the years go by and your data accumulates.

If the diary is kept conscientiously over a period of time one should be able to "meet the hatches". Meeting the hatch means being at the right stream at the right time of day, at the right time of year with the right fly. If I made that sound finite and precise let me hasten to say it is not, due to the vagarities of Mother Nature. Weather, floods, droughts, pollution can all effect and change a schedule from year to year. However, usually the hatch date does not change more than a few days from one year to the next. As you keep your diary over the years you will be able to fine tune your hatch charts and correct any possible misidentifications. Also, as more data is accumulated you can chart each stream you normally fish. The ultimate goal is to maximize your fishing time on the stream. Just as importantly, keeping a streamside diary will open up the fascinating world of entomology and provide a pleasurable adjunct to your fishing pleasure.

Parkany Deer Hair Caddis
(originated by Ken Parkany)

Ken Parkany and I have traded favorite or experimental patterns frequently, creating an East-West exchange of the latest ideas. He sent along a deer-hair imitation that quickly

proved itself, not only in Montana but wherever it was used.

The Parkany Deer Hair Caddis is not just unique in appearance, it is one of the most durable, bouyant, and visible dry-flies available to imitate the adult caddisfly. Many patterns have these qualities and are praised as "rough-water" floaters, but they are unrealistically bulky in the intermediate sizes. The Parkany Deer Hair Caddis is not too bulky in these sizes. The body rides flush on the surface, but the wing, canted at a slightly higher angle than other caddisfly imitations, sticks up off the water.

Dressing: Parkany Deer Hair Caddis

Hook . . . Mustad 94843 4 XS (this type of hook has an extra-wide gap), sizes 8 through 16
 Body Light brown deer body hair (spun and clipped to shape)
 Wing . . Mottled brown tips of deer body hair
 Head . . . Deer body hair (the stubs of the wing hair are clipped flat on the top and the bottom and left flared out at the sides to act as outriggers)

This fly can be tied in any color combination. Rather than using it as an imitation of a specific caddisfly species, I use it generally on riffle sections of trout streams because it does not require a lot of fussing to keep floating. One day on the Madison River, Graham Marsh fished the Parkany Deer Hair Caddis and caught and released over thirty trout without once changing or redressing the fly.

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PVC ROD TUBES

x This article was printed in the March, 1980 issue of the Salinas Valley (California) Fly Fishermen's newsletter. It shows how durable rod cases can be made for less than \$6.00 (1980 prices) using readily available PVC electrical and plumbing components.

Materials List

1. Pipe choice:

- A. Plumbers PVC (white or black)
- B. Electrical PVC conduit (grey)

Choose the length, diameter and wall thickness to suit your needs. (Note: the grey pipe makes an attractive tube.)

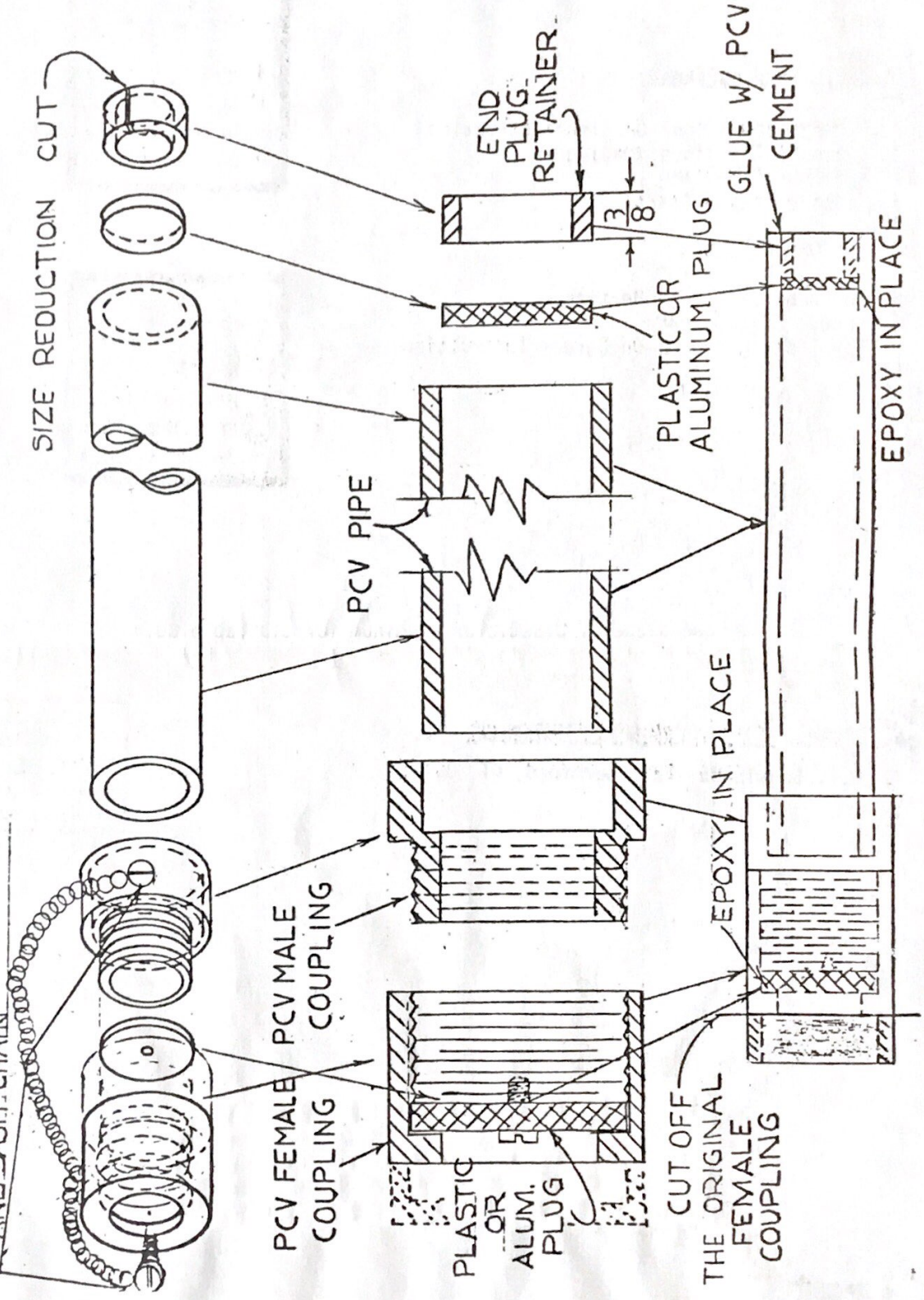
- 2. One each: PVC male and female coupling. The pipe and couplings should be the same color.
- 3. PVC cement.
- 4. PVC end cap. (optional)
- 5. Epoxy glue.
- 6. One piece of plastic or aluminum for tip cap plug. Optional second plug if not using end cap.
- 7. Small sash chain 8 in. long.
- 8. Two 3/8 in. pan head screws.

Helpful Hints

- 1. The grey PVC looks better than the white or black.
- 2. Thin wall PVC is strong enough for most tubes.
- 3. Cut all but three (3) threads from the male PVC coupler. (Otherwise it will take you all day to unscrew the top.)
- 4. End caps are not available for the grey electrical conduit, so the end plug retainer option must be used, or use a black or white end plug. (The end plug is less expensive, looks better, and is not difficult.)
- 5. When the tube is completed, clean with paint or lacquer thinner. Polish the pipe with any car wax to bring out the shine.

(See diagrams on following page.)

TWO SHEET METAL SCREWS ROD TUBE AND SASH CHAIN



APRIL 1982 CALENDAR

- April 3 Fly Fishing School-Casting Instruction
- 7 Board of Directors Meeting
- 14 April CFFA Meeting
- 17 Fishing Season Starts

COMING EVENTS

- May 5 Board of Directors Meeting
- 16 Annual CFFA Outing
- Fly Fishing School-On Stream Instruction
- June 4-6 CFFA Fishing Trip

April						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				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	

May						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						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