



LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

APRIL 1983

Vol. 10

No. 4

Meeting Notice

The April meeting of CFFA will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 1983, at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse on Sunset Ridge Drive in East Hartford. Several fly tyers will be on hand before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques. This month's program will be provided by Paul De Angelo of Guilford, who is one of Connecticut's finest taxidermists. Paul will exhibit skin mounts of a variety of sport fish prepared with his special technique. He will also explain his preserving method and how to care for a fish before you get to the taxidermist. The following fish will be shown:

Brown Trout (10-12 lbs.)	
Rainbow Trout (8-16 lbs.)	Atlantic Salmon
Brook Trout (5 lbs.)	Landlocked Salmon
Coho Salmon (20 lbs.)	Bluefish
Chinook Salmon (20 lbs.)	Striper
King Salmon (45 lbs.)	Weakfish
Large Mouth Bass (5-8 lbs.)	Pollack
Small Mouth Bass (5-8 lbs.)	Sharks

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association



'An active member club of the Federation of Fly Fishermen



THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

Opening day is just a few short weeks away. For the CFFA membership it can't get here quick enough. The impatience which we all have at this time has been written about by many authors but few describe it better than Odell Shepard did in The Harvest of a Quiet Eye. Larry and I would like to share his thoughts on the subject with you.

There is a well-known disease which has not been listed by the pathologists, an annual fever that sets in with special virulence in most States of the Union about the first of April. The symptoms of this disease, Febris Salmonalis, are widely familiar. The patient - if that name may be given one whose whole complaint consists of impatience - dreams by night and day of shining reels and of bamboo rods bent double, of shadowy pools where rhododendrons toss in the breeze, and of bright stretches of dancing water, of gaudy feathers suddenly sucked out of the sunlight under dripping ledges. He hears the guttural song of the streams; he feels along his arm and down his spine the tug of a sudden circling weight; he suffers with illusions of grandeur; red spots on a brown and silvery ground dance before his eyes. These and other pictures get between him and his newspaper. Or he may be sitting in his office and thinking only of business when all at once, as though his brain were a movie screen, the desk, the papers on it, even the stenographer before him, fade slowly out, and he sees himself standing knee deep in a rapid river, his straining rod held high in one hand while his net is pushed far forward by the other toward a gleaming shape that flounders and sidles toward him through the riffle.

Shepard doesn't offer a cure for Febris Salmonalis but he doesn't have to. Tight lines on opening day will cure us all. Good luck and good fishing.

P.S. Don't forget your cameras and the CFFA photo contest.

* PRESIDENT: Elmer Latham EDITORS: Larry Johnson, Ed Fidrych *
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* ship and allies of conservation. Business card ads may be placed at *
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* 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. *

UNTANGLING ANGLING

With the opening day of the 1983 fishing season fast approaching us, many of you will be trying to decide what pattern's of flies you should use on opening day. I talked with some people on this subject and will share this information with you. Now, before I do, I want to make it perfectly clear that I will not accept the responsibility of anyones fishless days! All these people assured me that these patterns were all deady and should be outlawed for the use of fishing for trout, "honest". To assure their protection though, I am only going to use first names.

Walt, Pete and Dick all seem to favor the gold ribbed hare's ear. Dick and Pete also agreed on the March brown nymph (for those of you who may not know it by that name, Pete said to tell them "stenonema".) Walt did not agree with them on this second pattern. Walt prefers the lead wing coachman. Wayne and Paul think the hornberg best. There was some debate at this point on their second choice, so to make them both happy, Wayne said to use the scragg y, and Paul says to use the yellow maribou. Now, Lionel, he didn't agree with any of them; his first choice is the "iron nymph. His second choice though, that kinda perked my ears a litte, whenever someone adds the word "special" to the name of a pattern, I kinda try to work my way around to find out what it is. Lionel's second choice is the "housatonic special"; now don't ask me how its tied (I was sworn to secrecy). But, maybe some evening after a few bourbons and water (not a fly pattern), I can convince him to share this "special" pattern with all of you in our Lines & Leader.

Best of luck to all of you on opening day, April 16, 1983.

Good Fishing.






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Backcast

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

by *ken parkany*



"Karl" is what they called him most of the time. Occasionally, in the middle of a conversation, it was "Van". He spoke little. Listened a lot. And when he was called upon to express an opinion, he did it concisely and consequently clearly - and with authority. And as I recall, his solutions to issues that came up at a director's meeting were the most compromising. He could see and understand both "black" and "white" arguments, and to please the most people, he'd come up with a "gray" solution.

At least that's the way I remember Karl Van Valkenburgh, one of CFFA's first Vice Presidents, Charter Member and co-organizer of the association. And he had one hellava sense of humor.

Two years ago, he wrote Gary Bogli:

"In response to your appeal for CFFA's history in the latest LINES & LEADERS:

CFFA was originally organized by three men - Joe Brooks, Ray Bergman, and myself. I am the only founding member alive.

Brooks and Bergman were reluctant to use their true names in connection with CFFA, as you who are familiar with the organization can well understand. Therefore, they decided to adopt aliases, choosing the most unlikely names they could think of. Joe Brooks chose the alias "Ted Barbieri"; Bergman selected "Vin Ringrose"; and I, being a relative unknown at the time, selected to use my own name.

By incredible coincidence, there are presently two members of CFFA who use the names Ted Barbieri and Vin Ringrose. No matter what they tell you, they are not Joe Brooks or Ray Bergman. They are imposters, and not to be trusted.

I am the only living person who knows the strange tale of CFFA's beginnings - and my lips are sealed. I have, however, a file of forged documents and spurious memos, excerpts from which are enclosed. I hope you find them helpful -- "

Sincerely
Karl Van Valkenburgh
(signature)

(Note: In the next BACKCAST - A chronology of events that led to the formation of CFFA, from the records of Karl Van Valkenburgh)

BIG HORN RIVER

by Jeff Passante

The Big Horn River was opened to fishing in the fall of 1981. Prior to that, the river, which runs through the Crow Indian Reservation, was off limits to fishermen. The Big Horn is a tail water fishery that is located in the south central section of Montana and is blessed with an abundance of aquatic foods especially shrimp. As a result, the trout grow quickly and reach a large size even by Montana standards. The river seems to have an equal proportion of rainbows and browns in the 2 - 5 lb. class. In the fall, trout caught weighing up to 10 lbs. are not uncommon. Most of the fall fishing is done with large streamers such as the Zonker and the Matuka. Shooting heads are used to get these flies down. Summer fishing usually requires dry flies and nymphs and occasionally streamers fished in close to the bank. Most of the fishing is done from a McKenzie style river boat since fishermen are allowed up to the high water mark and not beyond. Most guides will encourage wading to their clients to cover some of the best runs adequately. By the way, a guide is highly recommended for this stream at least for the first couple of days.

This past summer, my brother Alan and friend Ron and I were fishing in the Yellowstone area. We had scheduled a couple of days on the Big Horn (as a grand finale to our trip) with an excellent local guide, Randy Berry. We set up camp just outside of Fort Smith, Montana and on the morning of the appointed day, met Randy at the local cafe. Over breakfast we planned the days activities. Randy explained that the dry fly fishing had been poor due to the unusual cold water conditions and suggested a shrimp imitation fished deep would produce. We left the cafe and proceeded to the put in area just beyond the Yellowtail Dam.

As we drifted downstream, we cast into the long slick behind the dam and mended our lines. Even though most of the fish were large, the takes were normally very subtle and to be truly successful, a drag free float was needed. Casting with four people in the boat using weighted shrimp imitations and split shot on the leader can be frustrating and dangerous until you adjust your timing. Only two people fished at a time and the third person usually spent a lot of time taking flies out of his shirt.

Our first stop was about 30 minutes downstream. The pattern would remain the same for the next two days. We would fish an area, usually the head of a pool for an hour or so and then float for 15 minutes and fish the head of another pool. Most of the fish caught seem to accept the nymphs in the riffles leading into the pool or along the edges of the fast water and slower water of the pool. On our second day, we finally saw some surface activity as some large fish had dropped back to the tail of a pool to feed on Pale Morning Dun (*Ephemerella inermis*) emergers. The water was very shallow in this area and the fish spooked quickly when we approached. It turned out to be our only opportunity to catch a large trout on a dry as the hatch ended quickly and no others materialized. Randy explained that the river usually has excellent hatches in the summer, especially Caddis and Pale Morning Duns.

One interesting experience occurred during the second day. I was resting against the McKenzie boat talking to Randy while my brother and Ron worked the pool. Along came a rather large snake, maybe 6 feet, swimming along right behind Ron and drifting down towards my brother about 75 yards downstream. I assumed it was some kind of water snake but Randy said, "No, that was your basic Rattlesnake." It seems that when it gets hot they like to go for a swim. Since it was on a collision course for my brother, I signaled him to

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Big Horn River, continued

get out of the water. At first he didn't understand my signals but he finally saw the snake. I wouldn't have thought it possible to run a 100 yard dash in four feet of water with waders and a fly rod, but he managed it. That night when we got back to the tent each sleeping bag was checked to make sure there was no unwelcomed visitors.

How was the fishing? Super. We didn't catch a lot of fish, maybe 10 - 15 per day, but they ranged usually between 18" - 22". The biggest fish was a 5 lb. rainbow over 23". The brown trout by the way are like most Western browns, as acrobatic as the rainbows. Our only regret is that we didn't experience good dry fly fishing conditions.


Many magazine articles have been written lately about the Big Horn proclaiming it fly fishing's best. I don't know whether it is or not, but if you are in the Yellowstone area you are a day's ride away. It would definitely be worth your while to make the trip.

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FLY TYING TIPS

by Ken Parkany

Fly tying, for some of us, is just a necessary economic evil. I'm not particularly fond of tying. Perhaps the sore back and sore eyes that result from doing it, have something to do with my feelings about tying. But there's a lot of other things I'd rather do than sit at my fly tying vise.

Yet, I'm fascinated by the endless tips and tricks that make fly tying easier. Just watching another tyer - no matter what his or her experience - can be very rewarding. I'm not sure where the following tips came from. I'd be the last to take credit for them. Just hope you find them as useful as I have.

EARLY SEASON

My favorite streamers and bucktails have bodies of flat tinsel. These include the MUDDLER, BLACK NOSED DACE, MICKEY FINN, the BUCK TAIL and SQUIRREL TAIL series and the SUPERVISOR. Tying these in weighted versions can be time consuming, frustrating and the results not very aesthetic. Instead of the flat tinsel, try using TINSEL YARN or TINSEL CHENILLE, with a ribbing of narrow flat/oval tinsel. The latter is added more for durability than looks. I happen to favor the weighted versions of streamers and bucktails because they are more effective when I use them in the high water of early season, or after a heavy rainfall has raised the stream level or where the stream is very swift (i.e. Battenkill). I also prefer the weighted fly to adding split shot to the leader.

LATE SEASON

The most seductive type of fly fishing - few fly fishers would argue - is dry fly fishing, or more specifically, fishing to rising fish. Though exciting in the early and mid season during the hatches of hendricksons, quill gordons and sulfurs, it quickly becomes frustrating as flies that emerge later become smaller (i.e. tricos, midges ants and jassids). The smaller hooks - size 20 thru 28 - compound the frustration. Even if you're lucky enough to find out what pattern is successful, you're apt to miss a lot of strikes or lose fish because of the small "bite" of these hooks that must be handled with tweezers. To increase the "bite", others have suggested using the turned up eye hook (Mustad 94842). Well, go one further. Use a lx short hook (Mustad 94838) - a size 18 has the "bite", or gape, of a standard size 18, but the shank length of size 20 (or one size smaller). A 94838 size 20, has the length of a size 22. I use the lx short hook for all my flies, size 20 and 18. Unfortunately, its not available in a turned up eye, but the added "bite", or larger gape more than makes up for this - or so I've found. Also, it's not available smaller than size 20. For sizes 24, 26 and 28, the ringed eye hooks have a better hooking capability (Mustad 94859).

1983 CFFA Banquet Donations

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous support of this year's conservation drawing.

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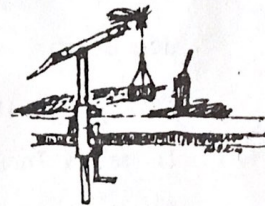
APRIL 1983 CALENDAR

Apr. 6 Board of Director's Meeting
9 Fly Fishing School-Casting Instruction
13 April CFFA Meeting
16 OPENING DAY!

COMING EVENTS

May 4 Board of Director's Meeting
22 CFFA Annual Outing
No Date: Fly Fishing School-On
Stream Instruction

June CFFA Housatonic Trip



MEMBER CLASSIFIED

Britt Chance (767-2161) has several rods for sale:

T&T graphite trout 8' for 6 N/M - \$160
Browning Boron 8' for 6-9 N/M - \$145
Cortland Starter Outfit Complete;
8' for 6 with reel & line - \$30
Daiwa Graphite 7½' for 6 (Needs tip repair) - \$30