



# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

MARCH 1983

Vol. 10 No. 3

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

## Meeting Notice

The March meeting of CFFA will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 1983, at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse on Sunset Ridge Dr. in East Hartford. This month's program will feature a number of CFFA members who will provide information and demonstrations on topics of interest. In addition, we will have a brief presentation on the progress of the Willimantic River by DEP Fisheries Biologist Chuck Phillips, and CFFA member, author and guide Gary LaFontaine will be on hand to answer questions on western trout fishing and autograph books. Several fly tyers will be on hand before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Dan Record & Ken Parkany   | --Angling books and book collecting.   |
| Gary Bogli                 | --Wader types, care and repair.  |
| Ed Roberts                 | --Cork handle care, guide rewinding and other rod repair and maintenance techniques. |
| Elmer Latham               | --Leader knots and line splicing.  |
| Leo Leggitt                | --Miniature fly tying tools and bobbin making.                                       |
| Myron Schulman             | --Vests and their utilization.   |
| Mark Philippe & Gene Monti | --Dying fly tying materials.   |
| Art LeClair                | --Net building and repair.   |
| Ray Gorsky                 | --Wide body flies and tying materials.   |



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



# THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

We were very pleased with the response to our photo contest this year, and will definitely have another one for the coming fishing season. We announced the winners at the Banquet but were not able to show the slide entries as we had intended. This will be done at the March meeting. The following CFFA members were the winners in this year's contest. In addition to an award certificate, first and second prize winners will receive \$15 and \$10 gift certificates, respectively, to their choice of our advertisers.

## Category I--"On the Stream"

First prize - Jeff Passante  
Second prize - Chip Bates  
Honorable Mention- Diane Bates

## Category II-"Fish, Flies and Equipment"

First prize - Dan Record  
Second prize - Bill Lockert

We would like to call your attention to several dates of interest to members. The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers will hold their Annual Day and Banquet on Saturday, March 12, at the Rye, N.Y. Hilton. Ernie Schwiebert will be the banquet speaker. Gary Borger, Paul Kukonen and others will present afternoon programs.

The Suffern N.Y. International Fishing Show will be held from Wednesday, March 2 through Sunday, March 6. Hours vary, but average 11 a.m./1 p.m. to 10 p.m. most days. Gary LaFontaine will be there March 2-4.

Gary will also be the speaker at the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association banquet on Saturday, March 12.

Finally, we would like to renew our request for material for the newsletter. Stories, patterns etc. for the Willi and Housatonic are especially needed. Does anyone have notes on hatches on the Willi, Housatonic or Farmington? We will write an article if you will give us some data to work with.

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.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Year after year at our annual banquet I am awed by the donation of gifts for our raffle. Many of these gifts come from you, the Club members. It is through your generous donation along with the donations from tackle shops, and tackle manufacturers, that help to raise the funds for our projects throughout the year. We here, on the Board of Directors, want to thank all of you for your contributions to our banquet, and your continuing support of your Club to furthering the goals of CFFA.

Fly of The Month

This pattern appeared in a recent issue of the HFFA newsletter.

**MARCH BROWN NYMPH**  
(Stenonema Vicarcium)

**Thread:** 7/0 Brown  
**Hook:** Mustad No. 9671 — Size 10  
**Tail:** Three cock pheasant fibers, ½ the length of hook  
Spread tails apart with tying thread.  
**Abdomen:** One strip of medium size lead wire on each side of hook. Otter fur, and amber seal fur. Mixed half and half. After spinning fur on abdomen, trim top and bottom to make it flat, trim sides to taper.

**Rib:** Copper wire.  
**Wing Case:** Dark Brown Turkey.  
**Thorax:** Same as body without rib. leave the guard hairs on thorax. Trim bottom of thorax flat.  
**Hackle:** Two turns of woodcock hackle, ½ length of hook.  
**Head:** Brown tying thread.  
Bend down barb of hook, and sharpen hook before starting to tie nymph.

This is a very effective pattern during the month of May, and the early part of June.

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UNTANGLING ANGLING

Our congratulations to the following club members:

Jim May - Jim is our Indoor Facilities Chairman and was awarded the scarlet ibis award at our February banquet for his contribution to the club, as a Board of Director at CFFA.

Gary LaFontaine - Gary received the fly tying book of the year award for his book "Caddisflies" from United Fly Tyers.

Elaine Tabacinski - Elaine recently landed a large mouth bass from Bashan Lake weighing just over 6 lbs. and was 22" long. She qualifies for a trophy fish award from the State.

Congratulations from all of us here at CFFA.

Club member John Blake was this year's winner of our Club rod, reel and line outfit. We hope that it gives you many happy hours of fishing pleasure John.

We would also like to thank Ed Roberts for putting on the rod building class, and to the following people for helping out in the fly tying school:

Dan Record  
John Connato  
George Degan  
Pete Traini  
Paul Boudreau  
Gene Monte  
Dick Wemmell  
Gary Bogli  
Ray Gorski  
Leo Leggett

*By  
Burlap*



Instructional: TROUT TACTICS, by Joseph Humphreys

In the last three decades (roughly) the publication of fly fishing strategy and its accompaniment, aquatic entomology, has grown in leaps and bounds. I say "publication" of such because the knowledge has always been there with someone, perhaps some sage or maverick who didn't have the incentive or capacity to broadcast his, or her, findings. At this stage one would be hard-pressed to envision a revolutionary work coming out with the singular effect "MODERN DRY FLY CODE" or "SELECTIVE TROUT" had, for example, on fly fishers the world over. Instead the recent notable works have been extensive and worthwhile refinements of techniques we've already learned and probably employ. "TROUT TACTICS" is a case in point. You might say, "How much different can Joe Humphreys' TROUT TACTICS be from Lee Wulff's, A.J. McClane's or your own?" The differences, on paper, may seem subtle, but TROUT TACTICS could be as pragmatic a book on fly fishing for trout that ever came along, especially for Connecticut fly fishermen. Connecticut is the second most populated state, on a capita per square mile basis, in the Union. Most, if not all, of Connecticut's streams are subject to heavy angling pressure. In turn the trout are exceptionally wary and the fisherman needs every trick he can get his hands on to fool these fish. For the docile angler TROUT TACTICS can be a godsend. If you take the Penn State angling professor's recommendations to heart, like using a thermometer regularly (and properly interpreting your readings), getting and keeping your nymph on the bottom, tying and fishing streamers so they truly imitate baitfish and a multitude of other "higher basics" your take has to improve significantly on any hard-hit stream.

Joe Humphrey's approach is sophisticated yet logical to the point of embarrassment. For instance, we all know nymphs belong on the bottom, but do we consistently fish them there? Why not? The theory is logical, the practical application is sophisticated. His advice on equipment selection, fly tying, rigging and technique is fresh, and effective. This book is as no-nonsense as its author. In 1978 Joe Humphreys claimed the Pennsylvania State record for the brown trout shown on the cover. He caught it at night (his specialty) and it was no lucky coincidence, or a case of the millionaire sportsman pulling a lunker from privileged or exotic water. The monster was taken from a public stream hardly wider than the Willimantic. The man deserved every ounce of the brown. The feat couldn't have been more befitting; a wise ole brown was deceived by a wiser, older angler. The patterns and strategies he used are described in the book. Every time I read a chapter I'm grateful one of the great, complete masters of fly fishing decided to spill his heart out to me through this concise, excellently illustrated paperback.

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"Ode to a Stream"  
by  
Joe Hanlon

This article appeared in a recent issue  
of the HFFA newsletter.

Sunday, Oct. 10, 1981, dawned clear and cold, with heavy frost covering everything. Maybe Stu Duffield was right when he chickened-out of our proposed trip because he doesn't like fishing with frozen hands. If any of you TU members have solved this problem, please let Stu and the rest of us know.

In deference to the frost and 30 degree temperature, my departure from Danbury was postponed till 8:30 a.m. As I drove north on Route 7 there wasn't a cloud in the sky, and the scenic Housatonic Valley was a blaze of autumn color. Cornwall Bridge is a 40 mile drive for me, and less than 60 miles from Mt. Kisco. The best way for New Yorkers to go is north on 22 to Wingdale, then bear right on Rte 55 to Hunt Country Furniture, meanwhile checking the Ten Mile River for possible action. Cross the river at Hunts, take the first right and continue to the first real crossroads, where you again bear right. You will soon cross famous Bulls Bridge, (one of the two covered bridges you will see on this trip) and turn left at the light on Route 7.

Shortly after you cross the river at Cornwall Bridge, there is Phil's Orvis Fly Shop and a Diner on the left, directly across from the State Park. While you have your coffee, Pete (the Diner Proprietor) can tell you what they were taking yesterday.

The fly fishing area extends several northwards and is clearly marked. The entire river is "fish for fun", by accident rather than design. It was contaminated with PCB's from Massachusetts, and this promptly chased away all the meat fisherman. As I drove along the river four miles to West Cornwall, there were four cars parked -- that's one party per mile! Last time I passed Ferdon's Pool on the Beaverkill, there were fourteen fisherfolk in a 40 yard stretch, and no-one was catching anything.

As you bear right at West Cornwall, you will cross the 2nd covered bridge (two in one day, not bad). Turn left at "The Dock" restaurant, and proceed north till you come back to the river. I parked here by the old bridge abutment and found the water about a foot higher than the usual morning level. A solitary fisherman told me that they were not making power upstream today, and the flow would probably be constant. He had taken two trout on bucktails, and had caught over a dozen the day before.

Housatonic trout are not as fussy or temperamental as those on the Beaverkill. They can usually be taken anytime until the river rises and chases the fishermen out (generally between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.).

My favorite "old faithfuls" were tied on - two #10 maskrat nymphs, real fuzzy and weighted. The next two hours produced ten browns from 11" to 14", including one double. Earlier in the year several nicer fish up to 18" had fallen for this rig, but not today.

By now it was lunch time so a quick stop at the Covered Bridge Deli and then on downstream to the Sand Hole, where Stu and I had some good luck during a "TRICO" hatch the week before. A few were coming off but nothing was rising. So who cared? The nymphs quickly produced eight more fish.

At 2:00 p.m. the "TRICOS" got serious, but not the trout. I did spot three risers, and took them all. To sum it up, 21 NICE trout in four hours with hardly another fisherman in sight, and there have been better days.

To add icing to the cake, an Osprey and a Blue Heron were fishing with me, some deer drinking along the far bank and a flock Canada Geese upstream - and the season goes from April to February!

Roscoe may be the capital of the world for fishermen; but, Cornwall Bridge is the capital for catching trout. If you don't believe me, ask Stu Duffield and recent TU member Mike Grant..... See you there next year.



This article appeared in the "Nifty Newsletter" of the Northern Illinois Fly Tyers.

#### NORTHERN ON A FLY

Taking Northern Pike on a fly may lack some of the glamour and ritual of trout fishing, but it is an exciting, challenging pursuit.

Pike are aggressive, active feeders. They are often scorned by Canadian bound anglers more intent on lake trout and grayling, though in the end, it may well be northern who provides the better fight, and faster action.

Taking a 20 lb plus northern on a fly is no small challenge. Tackle preparation is essential, and should be done prior to the start of the trip, not at the last minute while running the boat to that first hot spot.

For big pike, a # 8 to # 9 wt outfit is fine. Heavier gear is practical at times, when wind conditions or excessive weedgrowth dictate. Reels should be spooled with floating lines, though both a hi-D sink tip and full sinking line can be extremely useful on some occasions. Pike don't run far when hooked, but some backing, no more than 100 yds, is a good safeguard.

Leaders are critical to fishing success, not so much as for presentation as for protection against the sharp teeth a northern typically exhibits. 3' or so of stiff mono is fine for the butt. About .025 is typical. A midsection of .020 mono should then be attached, again of the stiff type. Tippetts of 12" to 18" are appropriate. Because of the heavy flies, stiff leaders help turn over bulky flies. Most commercial leaders are not up to the task, and the homemade variety are probably a better choice.

There is quite a latitude of materials for the shock leader, normally no longer than 12." 60 to 80 lb mono is fine for some, knotted to the tippet with either an Albright knot or Stu Apte Improved Blood knot. If you prefer, single strand wire or multistrand, nylon coated wire can be used. With wire, a # 10 to # 12 barrel swivel is attached at the back end via a loop knot (use a Haywire twist with single strand wire). Tie the tippet to the top of the swivel and you're all set.

On the front end, loop knots are again advised, for maximum movement of the fly. With cable, a Homer Rhodes knot is fine. Haywire twists are again the only way with single strand wire.

If you select cable, try melting the plastic coating surrounding the knot after all swivels and flies are tied on. This will help snug up the knot and add additional strength to the connection.

Flies are important, though pike seldom show the selectivity of a trout. Streamers of 4 to 6" are standard. Color schemes such as red/white, all white and red/yellow are old favorites. A dash of mylar can help at times. Bodies and heads should be coated with 5 minute epoxy for maximum durability. Hooks should be sturdy, even of the plated/stainless steel saltwater type. Sizes 1/0 to 5/0 are the most common. Some feel the smaller 1/0 and 3/0 afford the best hooking. Of course, a file or stone worked over the point until it grabs your nail is putting the odds far in your favor. Straight from the factory hooks are seldom really sharp enough to do an adequate job of penetrating tough tissue.



Pike can be found in the weeds, though deeper cuts can often produce as well, difficult as they are to fish with a fly. Northern will lay facing outward, bodies buried in the thick cover, awaiting the chance to flash out and grab an unsuspecting, smaller fish, even another northern. Casts should be made parallel to weed lines, and streamers drawn past likely slots in 6" to foot long strips.

Watch the currents in moving water, and the wind. Often they will cause the weeds to slant. Aim casts so the fly covers these "undercuts."

Pike will hit topwater also, and sometimes in very choppy water where one might assume visibility is low. Large, saltwater type poppers, sliders and the like can be very effective. But fish them slow. Cast, let the ripples disappear, then gently twitch. The fly should not move more than 6." Rest, and twitch again. Try this 3 or 4 times, then bring the bug back at a steady pace, with a small wake for 3 or 4 feet. If no strike, recast and try again. Strikes are explosive, and if the pike misses the first time, he may swirl again, or even again.

Northern are followers. Sometimes the most arm wrenching strikes come almost at boatside. Watch that streamer or bug, and wait a bit before recasting; a fish might just cruise right in behind it and smack it good.

Pike have a bad reputation. They are slimy, and overfishing has turned some waters into havens for only small fish (lots of fun on a very light rod). Careful release is important, for in some northern waters, 20 pound pike can be over 25 years old. Larger fish are usually females, so killing of large pike can mean a fast end to trophy possibilities in the future.

Releases are best made with a mouth spreader and disgorger or pliers. Spreader cost only about \$2 and make fly-removal easy. Handling a pike by grabbing its eye sockets does the same damage as it would to you or I, or worse. Their protective slime fights infection, so the less they are actually handled, the far greater are chances for survival. Many find, in addition to spreaders, that a leather or cotton glove is a great help in releasing northern.

The domain of the pike is extensive, though heavy pressure is surely taking its toll. Taking a big pike on a fly is an enjoyable challenge. Give it a try.

Paul Melchior




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	2	3-18-83	Flies and Fish
	3	3-25-83	Water Types and How to Fish Them
	4	4-9-83	Casting Instruction and Fishing (pond)
	5	May	Fishing a Stream - (3-5 students per instructor on a stream of your choice)

LOCATION: (Class 1, 2, 3)..7:00 P.M. in the East Hartford Public Library (lounge), 840 Main Street, East Hartford, CT (next to the Post Office)

(Class 4).....A private pond stocked with trout

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EQUIPMENT: For Class 4 only, CFPA will furnish equipment for students that do not own their own. We recommend that students do not purchase their own equipment until after Class 1. It is also suggested that students bring appropriate materials to take notes.

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For additional information contact Gary Bogli, 82 Elizabeth Drive, Manchester, Connecticut 06040 Phone: 649-4227



MARCH 1983 CALENDAR

- Mar. 2 Board of Director's Meeting
- 4 Fly Fishing School-First Session
- 9 March CFFA Meeting
- 18 Fly Fishing School-Second Session
- 25 Fly Fishing School-Third Session

COMING EVENTS

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

Note: The March Board of Director's Meeting will be held at the Blast & Cast. The April and May meetings will be at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse in East Hartford.