



# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

OCTOBER 1983

Vol. 10

No. 7

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

## Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: Salt Water Fly Fishing Workshop  
PLACE: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT  
WHEN: Wednesday, October 12, 1983  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.

Four CFFA members, Jim Bouchok, Paul Boudreau, Ed Roberts and Mark Philippe, will present a special program on salt water fly fishing, and display and discuss equipment, techniques, flies and locations. In addition, Paul Boudreau will tie salt water flies, and Ed Roberts and Mark Philippe will show slides taken on a recent fishing trip on Joe D'Addario's charter boat, "Flycaster II." Salt water fly fishing is gaining in popularity, and provides a lot of action during the summer and fall months when other fishing has slacked off. This program should be of interest to all members and guests. Several fly tyers will be present before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques.

### Random Casts

We are again in need of material for the newsletter. All articles, stories, equipment reviews, fishing and tying tips, cartoons, fly patterns etc. related to fish and fishing are welcome. The deadline for ready-to-print material is the BOD meeting of the month prior to the month of issue. Anything which must be retyped or edited should be submitted two weeks earlier. Please send your material to either Larry Johnson or Ed Fidrych at the addresses given in this month's "Corner Pool."

We have finally identified the "Mystery Demonstrator" at our Fly Fishing Workshop last March. We want to thank CFFA member Jim Bouchok for his presentation on salt water fly fishing, and note that he will be part of our October program.



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





# THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

## CFFA Photo Contest III

October 1 is the deadline for taking pictures for this year's Photo Contest, and November 15 is the deadline for sending in your entries. Any CFFA member may participate, and any type of print or slide may be entered. Members may submit up to two entries in each category. Our categories are:(1) "On the Stream"-for action shots of a fishing activity and (2) "Fish, Flies and Equipment"-for fishing related still-life shots. Special prizes for "Fishing in Connecticut" shots will be awarded at the discretion of the judges, and entries in both categories will be eligible.

Entries should be submitted to either Larry Johnson or Ed Fidrych by mail or at a regular or BOD meeting. We must have them on or before November 15. Place your entries in a sturdy manila envelope, and protect them with one or more pieces of cardboard. Mark the envelope "Photographs-Do Not Bend." Please do not tape slides directly to cardboard or anything else. Form a pocket or tape them between two pieces of cardboard. The bottom part of a writing pad should be stiff enough. Enclose any information you want about the photo, where it was taken, camera, film,exposure, etc. All entries will be returned.

The mailing addresses are:Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St.,Hartford, CT 06105 and Ed Fidrych, Box 145, Glastonbury Rd., Portland, CT 06480. Winners will be announced at the Annual Banquet in February, and all entries will be placed on display. First and second prize winners in each category will receive gift certificates to stores supporting CFFA.

I want to correct an error on my part in the September newsletter. I added location directions for the new bulletin board to the President's column, and I got it wrong. The bulletin board is at the West Bound Rest Area on I-86, not the east bound one. Sorry about that.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* 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. CFFA members may place for sale or wanted ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. 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 change of address and other correspondence should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 18365, East Hartford, CT 06118. \*

\* The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. is "Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA 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. \*

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Untangling Angling

Just a brief mention at this time, to let you know about one item that was brought up this past June. At the public hearing with the D.E.P. on the New Regulation for hunting and fishing for 1984, there was a proposal brought up, to open up trout fishing year round on both The Willimantic and Housatonic Rivers, on the rout management areas "ONLY". This proposal has been given the Stamp of Approval by the D.E.P.

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Starting Saturday October 1, 1983 and going through til March 3, 1984, Nymphs, and other things at 182 Main Street, East Windsor Conn. will be starting their winter Fly Tying Classes. For further information on what will be available, contact either Paul or Jeanne at the above adress or call 623-9525.

X X X X X X X X X X

Your board of directors has some good news. Most of the long time members of CFFA remember the Sterling Silver Scarlet IBIS Pins that were around during the early 70's, well they are back. We are expecting delivery around the first of November. We ordered 100 of these pins and they will sell for around \$10.00, so if you want one, please let us know, they are well wroth the investment.

*Burlap*

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things

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FLY OF THE MONTH

LITTLE GRAY MOUSE

(A bass bug for Smallmouth - John Hammond)

- Thread: Black nylon
- Hook: #2 and #4 3X long. Mustad #9672 or equiv.
- Tail: Piece of dark gray wool yarn, length of body.
- Body: Gray deer body hair (from flank).

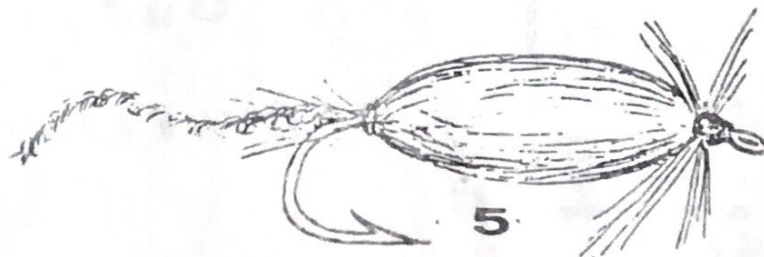
Attach thread behind eye of hook and wrap shank to tail position. Tie in gray yarn tail, cementing over thread wraps, and allow to dry. Cut a clump of deer hair fibers (clump should be about 1/8" to 5/32" diameter) from the hide and tie in at tail position with the points about even with hook bend...hair butts toward eye of hook. When tying in this deer hair make the first turn or two rather loosely as you position the clump parallel with hookshank, then...apply more thread tension for the third and fourth wraps, which will cause the hollow deer hair to flare. Now work the tying thread carefully forward through the upright fibers, and holding the flared fibers back (toward bend), with fingers of left hand, wrap thread to head position. At this stage your mouse fly will look more like an exploded cigar than a lure, but read on..... it gets better. Stroke all the hair butts forward with your left fingertips and grasping all butts of the clump with right fingers, pass the tying thread twice around the bundle of deer hair (be sure to allow room for fly head) using left hand on the bobbin. Now tighten up on thread which will cause fibers to flare at head, and holding flared fibers back with left fingers (as before), carefully work the tying thread through upright fibers to head position. Form small head, whip finish and cement (3 coats) or varnish. Using fine straight blade scissors, trim flared head fibers into 4 smaller bunches, projecting at 45° angles from head. The 2 bunches above the shank should be positioned and trimmed as mouse ears....the 2 bunches below should be left a little longer, as legs. Don't worry if the head of fly looks kind of scraggly.....it's supposed to.

FRONT  
VIEW



When a field mouse falls into a stream, Smallmouth Bass suddenly all become Mako sharks..... or so it seems. They will slash savagely at the mouse, and for good reason...a field mouse provides more nourishing food than any insect or most minnows, and they are not nearly so

hard on the digestive system as crawdads. So the bass relish them (so do adult trout). Early in the morning or late at night Smallmouth will move from their holes into the tails of pools looking for minnows and other food. So after oiling up your Little Gray Mouse, make your cast close to the bank at the tail of a pool, and if you don't get an instant strike, give it a twitch to prove it's alive but injured. Then strip it back in short pauses and twitches (which makes the tail wiggle in the water) and..... brace yourself for an explosion! Incidentally, this fly also murders large trout from dusk to mid-evening. It is true that smaller trout (to 14") eat mostly insects, but if you think that a 4 pound Brown trout has any less appetite than a 4 pound Smallmouth Bass, you are in for a shock one of these days. GOOD FISHING.







Over the years my preference has evolved to fishing the dry fly. I should go a bit further and expand that to be fishing a fly on the surface or in the film. I believe that much, if not most, of what trout rise to is taken "in" the surface rather than "on" the surface. Although the rise often looks the same, having your imitation presenting the proper image often

makes the difference. In recent years I have been fishing almost as many floating nymphs and floating emergers as I have been dry flies—and doing so quite successfully—often being successful under conditions that had been frustrating when fishing with a dry fly.

The instance that stands out most vividly took place on the Delaware River in 1979. My friend Sid Neff had come from Pennsylvania to fish with me for about a week. We had done quite well the first two days, meeting the hatches and hooking some very nice fish. However, the second evening was rather puzzling. There were multiple hatches from #16 olives to #10 Isonichias. We worked them all and hooked a few good trout. But there were many very good fish that were active that we could not get to look

This article was taken from the July-August, 1983 issue of "Gordon's Quill," published by the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc.

at our dries. We felt fairly sure that the better fish were on Isonichia, but the response was poor. That evening, after the fishing was over, we tried to analyze the situation.

I recalled observing the stomach contents of a trout the

year before that had been feeding on Isonichias with a similar rise form. There were several Isonichia nymphs that were just ready to hatch . . . the wing cases were black and just beginning to split. I decided to tie a fly that would look like that, would also give the image of the adult and would float the film with the lower part of the body under the surface.

I tied the tail and abdomen like the nymph imitation but on a light wire 3X long hook. Then I tied a short half-down wing of dark deer hair that suggests an emerging wing and at the same time gave floating capacity to the forward and upper part of the fly. This was followed by some soft nymph hackle as a beard.

The principal idea was to apply

floatant only to the deer hair wing (this is best done with creme rather than liquid) so that the wing would float in the film with the rest of the fly under the surface. This would give the image of the fast moving nymph having just reached the surface with the adult beginning to emerge.

Well, the results the next evening were six fish from 16" to 20" along with at least that many a bit smaller. The fly was exactly what was needed at that time and it has worked many times since. I have used it successfully imitating small #20 caddis and mayflies up to the larger #8 or #10 Ephemera and Isonichia hatches. One of the keys again . . . Observe and Experiment.

Larry Solomon

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## Opinion

### Winners Write Letters, Losers Don't

Several months ago, at the request of some sportsmen, the Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance proposed a legislative bill to establish Sunday Hunting. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of the concept. This response continued both prior to and during the legislative session. Following up on sportsmen's input, the Alliance presented the same question to the legislators in our Fall 1982 Legislative Questionnaire. Their response was favorable, with 94% of the Senate and 70% of the House of Representatives of those responding in agreement. Based upon this input, the bill was submitted in the 1983 legislative session, with a warning by Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance that the bill would pass **only** if sportsmen made their support known to the legislators.

Shortly thereafter, a public hearing was held addressing the basic concept: Sunday Hunting with no compromising restrictions. Sportsmen presence at the hearing was adequate and in support of the bill. Serious objections were from the Ct. Horse Council and minor objections from Ct. Farm Bureau and the Ct. Audobon Society. These objections addressed safety, the day of rest concept and self-interest by eliminating a potential competitive use.

Prior to the committee vote, the Alliance submitted an amendment which allowed the Commissioner of DEP to regulate the law by closing certain areas to Sunday Hunting that posed safety problems or significant user conflicts. Additionally, the effective date would be January 1, 1984 to allow regulation hearings on land areas in conflict. With this amendment, the bill passed the Environment Committee 8-7. A close vote, because letters and phone calls were running 4-1 against. Sportsmen were not telling legislators they wanted this bill!

With such a close vote out of committee, opposing lobby groups did not seriously lobby the Senate. It came as some surprise to these groups when Sunday Hunting passed the Senate 21-15. To get this vote, another amendment was passed to require hunters to obtain written permission from landowners for Sunday only. It was hoped that this amendment would satisfy Farm Bureau's opposition.

In the interim between the Senate and the House vote, opposing lobby groups got into full gear and mounted a letter and phone call campaign. Ct. Farm Bureau was particularly active. Other groups including the Ct. Forest and Park Assoc., Dept. of Agriculture, Friends of Animals, and Humane Society of the US submitted position statements or made press releases. House legislators were soon swamped with mail and phone calls opposing Sunday Hunting. The irony of it all is that these groups combined do not have numbers comparable to sportsmen's club strength in the state.

One legislator made the point that she had received over 500 letters and phone calls from her district in opposition and virtually nothing from sportsmen. That particular district has a 500 member sportsmen's club! The final vote was a lopsided 109-38. The bill was dead.

The reason for defeat? Representative Timothy J. Casey, R. Milford, a staunch supporter of the bill, attributed its overwhelming defeat to the well-organized letter writing campaign against the bill by the Ct. Farm Bureau. "The Sportsmen's Alliance didn't get the support of its troops in terms of letter writing," he said. "When it comes to an emotional issue like this, you need a grass-roots effort." With no grass-roots effort, it was the opinion of most legislators that sportsmen did not want Sunday Hunting.

The defeat of the bill did confirm sportsmen's characteristics that have been observed in the past. Sportsmen will respond and put forth an effort if a bill attempts to take something away or restrict their activity; but are generally apathetic when the same effort is required to gain something.

Most importantly, all sportsmen must become far more politically involved at some level — from writing letters to involvement in campaigns. The old cliché, "when the legislature is in session, your life, liberty, and property is in jeopardy" is not far wrong if you are not involved or provide no input. The bottom line is: if YOU want something, YOU must do something! Think about it when you're doing something other than hunting on Sunday.



This article was taken from the August, 1983 newsletter of the Connecticut Sportsman's Alliance, Inc.

**DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISHING AND BOATING ENHANCEMENT BILL (HR 2163).** The D-J Act was initiated in 1951 and has been hailed by many as the absolute salvation of sport fishing in this country. Raised by excise taxes on some fishing equipment, the program allocates about \$30 million a year to states for fisheries management and research, stream improvement, lake construction and boating access.

The bill would divert motorboat fuel tax monies, \$85-90 million, to D-J and to programs that benefit recreational boaters. It would authorize up to \$15 million annually to the Coast Guard for expenses incurred in providing services to recreational boaters. It would also expand the excise tax to cover **all** sport fishing equipment and include additional import duties on foreign fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. **SUPPORT.**

**Limit  
Your  
Kill**



OCTOBER 1983 CALENDAR

- Oct. 5 Board of Director's Meeting
- 12 October CFFA Meeting
- 13 Rod Building Class
- 27 Rod Building Class

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 2 Board of Director's Meeting
- 3 Rod Building Class
- 9 November CFFA Meeting
- 10 Rod Building Class
- 15 Photo Contest Entry Deadline

Note: All BOD meetings through  
May will be at the 'Veterans'  
Memorial Clubhouse.

