



LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

APRIL 1984

Vol. 11

No. 4

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: Icelandic Atlantic Salmon Fishing
PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Rd.,
East Hartford, CT
WHEN: Wednesday, April 11, 1984
TIME: 7:30 PM

CFFA's April meeting will feature our own Ed Ruestow who will present a slide show on Atlantic Salmon Fishing in Iceland. Ed is also the President of Clapp & Treat, and the author of the article on fishing in Alaska in this issue of "Lines and Leaders."

Several fly tyers will be on hand before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques.

RANDOM CASTS

We would like to thank the following CFFA members who instructed and helped during the CFFA Fly Tying School: Ernie Boutiette, Lynn Smith, Pete Trani, George Degan, Gary Bogli, Leo Leggitt, Gene Monte, Ray Gorski, Lou Patria and Dan Record. Thanks for helping to make our Fly Tying School a success.



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



THE CORNER POOL

Ed Fidrych

Larry Johnson

CFFA member Chip Bates, who took all of the first prizes in our last photo contest, is taking the big leap and getting commercially involved in fishing and sports art. Chip will be associated with Crossroads Travel of Old Lyme booking fresh and salt water fishing trips in the U.S. and 25 other countries. He is also acting as an agent for sporting artist Chet Reneson, whose subjects include ducks, geese, trout, bass and salmon. Chip will be advertising in the newsletter, and can be reached at 434-9624 or 434-8528. His address is Route 2, Lyme, CT 06371. We wish him the best of luck.

We have been making the newsletters we receive from other clubs available at CFFA meetings, but do not think that enough members have been taking advantage of this interesting resource. We receive two from Connecticut, one from New York, several from the mid-west, one from Canada and quite a few from the west coast. There are good articles on trips to places you've been to or would like to fish, fly tying instructions, general tips and info on how other clubs operate. We welcome any suggestions you might have on how this information could best be made available to our members. We'll start things off this month by listing the clubs which send us newsletters on page 4 of this issue. Sorry about that, but I didn't think there would be enough space left here.

We were pleased with the photos submitted for our contest last year, but we think that a lot more of you could be participating. Wouldn't it be nice to have a really big display, maybe 30 to 50 photos of or by members? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to win something without being an expert photographer? We think so too! More on this next month, but we're thing about reducing the number of prizes for good photography, and making anyone who enters eligible for some prizes to be awarded by a drawing.

* * * * *

* 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

Better late than never, as the saying goes. Our congratulations to Joe Garman, owner of Garman's Clothier at Eight Hundred and Eighty-Seven Main St., Manchester, CT, perhaps better known to those in the fly fishing world as "JOE'S BACK ROOM." Joe celebrated his 30th year in business in January of "84."

It's hard for one to tell, walking into "Joe's" back room from the clothing store, which one came first. My theory on this, after a few visits there, is that Joe had to come up with something to satisfy his wife that he could do something other than fish for a living. Besides, who's wife in their right mind would want a bunch of guys that smell fishy all the time sitting around their house all day looking at some old dusty bamboo fishing pole that came out of someone's attic or basement?


So from there we now have the story of what came first. Congratulations Joe, and may you have another 30 years.

Oh, by the way, if you do stop by, and you should, ask Joe to show you "THE SURE FIRE FLY" that can't miss.

X X X X X X X X

The other night I had an unexpected call from an old friend. John Pugzles, one of our conservation officers, called to tell me to inform everyone that he was back in the field, and would be keeping a close watch on the "WILLI" fly fishing area. John would like CFFA's help in keeping a watch on this area and to call him if you see anyone violating any rules in the area or anywhere in his area. John gave me three phone numbers to pass along to report any violators. The first is his home number 872-6010. The other two are state numbers, 566-3333 and a toll-free number, 1-800-842-HELP.

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HOUSATONIC HINTS

The following information is reprinted from the May, 1983 newsletter of the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association (HFFA). We hope to provide more information for summer and fall in future newsletters.

Hatches and Flies

When there is no surface activity, the nymph form of the dominant fly of the period should be used. Caddis larva imitations and stone fly nymphs are always useful; the stone fly is best in the morning. Good streamer patterns include: black and gray ghost, muddler minnow, badger and grizzly matuka. A sinking line (or sink-tip) is needed for high water.

Sequence for the middle of May through early June

May-2nd week	Tan-Brown Caddis	size #14-18
3rd week	Green Caddis	#14-18
4th week	Light Cahill	#14-18
	Blue-Winged Olive	#16-18
	March Brown	#10-12
	dun hatch sporadic, spinner fall very heavy-should be fished.	
	Grey Fox	#10-12
	Green Drake	#10
	late evening best. #10 White Wulff works well.	
June-1st week	Alder Fly (fished wet and dry)	#12-14

The Alder, Blue-Winged Olive, Light Cahill and various Caddis Flies continue for weeks and months after emergence begins.

CORRESPONDING CLUBS

The following clubs and organizations exchange newsletters with us on a monthly basis. Copies of the more recent issues from all Connecticut clubs, Sportsman's Alliance, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers and a selection of other clubs are available at CFFA meetings. Please let us know of other clubs, especially in new england, that send out regular newsletters and might be willing to exchange with us.

Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance
Farmington River Anglers Assoc.
Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Assoc.
Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, New York

Ozark Flyfishers, St. Louis, MO

Orange County Fly Fishers Club, Fullerton, CA
Fly Fishers of Davis, Davis, CA
Boulder Flycasters, Boulder, CO
Inglewood Flyfishermen, Inglewood, CA
Olympic Fly Fishers, Edmonds, WA

Manitoba Fly Fishers Assoc., Winnipeg, Man., Canada

1984 Banquet Donations

The following individuals and firms donated prizes for the conservation drawing held at our 1984 Annual Banquet.

Ed Roberts
Cortland Rod Co.
Fly Fisherman Magazine
New England Woods & Waters
Don Leyden
Thomas and Thomas
Simms, Inc.
Hook and Hackle
Wisconsin University Press
Scott Power Ply Co.
Leo Leggitt
Bob Martinchek
Frank Wankerl
Harvey's Inc.
Elmer and Dale Latham
Pete Trani
Dick Whitehead
Jan Broga
Ed Ruestow

Merrill Finesilver
Fly Tyer Magazine
New England Fisherman
Universal Vise Co.
Anglers Art
Stackpole Books
Nymphs and Other Things
Dan Record
Fin and Feather
R. Rumpf and Co.
Feather and Fur
Ted Barbieri
Jim May
S & M Sport Shop
Ken Parkany
A & B Sport Shop
Ernest Boutiette
Clapp & Treat
Myron Schulman

Member Classified

Ken Parkany is clearing out duplicates in his book collection. Choice titles are available at reasonable prices. Sales preferred, but trades will be considered. If you are interested, send a self-addressed stamped envelope for a list to Ken Parkany, 503 Bush Hill Road, Manchester, CT 06040.

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Major Eastern Hatch Sequence-Mayflies

The following information is reprinted from the April, 1983 issue of Gordon's Quill, the newsletter of the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Approx. Date</u>
1) Baestis Vagans Cingulatus	Blue-Winged Olive	16,18	4/10 to early May
2) Epeorus Pleuralis	Quill Gordon	12,14	4/21 to 5/21
3) Paraleptophlebia Adoptiva	Blue Quill	16,18	4/23 to 5/21
4) Ephemerella Subvaria	Hendrickson	10,12	4/25 to 5/25
5) Ephemerella Invaria	Hendrickson	12	5/15 to 6/14
	Rotunda	14	
6) Stenonema Vicarium	March Brown	10,12	5/15 to 6/14
7) Fuscum	Gray Fox	10,12	5/21 to 6/21
8) Ephemerella Dorothea	Sulphur	16,18	5/30 to 6/20
9) Epeorea Vitera	Sulphur	12,14	6/3 to 7/2
10) Ephemerella Guttulata	Green Drake	6,8	6/3 to 6/4
11) Isonychia Bicolor	Dun Variant	8,10	6/10 to 7/7
12) Ephemerella Cornutta	Blue-Winged Olive	14	6/7 to 6/20
13) Attenuata		16,18	6/14 to 7/7
14) Stenonema Ithaca	Light Cahill	10,12	6/14 to 7/7
	Canadense	12,14	
15) Ephemerella Varia	Cream Variant	8,10	6/21 to 8/7
16) Potomanthus Distinctus	Cream Variant	8,10	6/21 to 8/7
17) Ephemerella Lata	Blue-Winged Olive	16,18	7/5 to 8/1
18) Pseudocloeon Carolina	Tiny B-W Olive	20,22	May, Aug. & Sept.
	Dubium	24,26	July, Aug. & Sept.
19) Tricorythodes Atratus	White-Winged Black	24,26	Late June to Mid-Sept.
	Stygiatus	28	



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RETURN TO ALASKA

BY Ed Ruestow

Most of us who enjoy the outdoors have longed for an opportunity to see the wilderness areas we've read and heard about, and Alaska certainly rates high on the list of those who enjoy hunting and fishing. We've been alarmed at the stories reaching us of the various threats facing this vast area from the advancing tide of civilization; yet Alaska sounds so far away.

Any ideas of my making such a trip long had been tabled, awaiting that one contact which would assure a worthwhile journey. After all, I was interested in finding a reasonable alternative to the Atlantic Salmon, should this great sportfish fall victim to man's constant pressures. To complicate matters, comfort, safety and good companionship also were essential. It was lunch break during a deer hunt in 1979 when Angus Cameron planted the seed, and the third week of September 1980 saw the fulfillment of my long-standing desire to visit Alaska.

That first trip was a tremendous success on all accounts. Our hosts, Ted and Mary Gerken of Iliaska Lodge, run a first class operation in a comfortable building overlooking Lake Iliamna, southwest of Anchorage. We flew out to various rivers each day and enjoyed magnificent scenery, memorable companionship (including Brown Bears, Moose, Caribou and Bald Eagles) and superb fishing for Arctic Char, Grayling and, our prime target, giant Rainbow Trout.

Late September brings the big Rainbows out of Lake Iliamna, a huge body of water which is larger than Rhode Island, and into the various rivers to feed on freshly deposited eggs of the Sockeye Salmon. In 1980, an estimated 22 million Sockeyes ran into Lake Iliamna and its various feeder rivers. As a result, the Char and the Rainbows gained unusual growth and vigor from the abundant food supply. This year the outlook was grim. The Sockeyes were predicted to be at the low point of their cycle and only an estimated 1.1 million returned to Lake Iliamna. The question on my mind was the effect this reduction of available eggs would have on the fishing. Therefore, this year, we booked the last week of September with the hopes of maximizing our chances with the big Rainbows.

The trip started in spectacular fashion when our chartered Twin Otter flew us through Lake Clark Pass on the trip from Anchorage to Iliamna (previously we had flown over this area in a scheduled Wien 737). This was by far the most spectacular flight I've ever enjoyed, a sentiment echoed by one of our party who is a Senior Captain with Delta Airlines.

Our first day's fishing disclosed this trip would be different than that of two years ago. The giant Rainbows were not in some of the rivers in any numbers and the smaller fish were not feeding vigorously. The Arctic Char were plentiful, but unbelievably thin due to the shortage of salmon eggs. On top of this, our favorite river, the Copper, was virtually unfishable due to high, discolored water. However, the key river in our search for Giant Rainbows, Talarik Creek, was producing well even though quite high. This

year, in 2 1/2 days fishing on that river, I was able to hook 38 of these magnificent fish, of which 28 were landed and all but one mortally injured fish (which took the fly too deeply) were released. These fish ran between 4 1/2 and 10 1/2 pounds, and averaged 7 pounds. On the other hand, three of us visited the Copper when it cleared but the high water proved disastrous. Only 4 large rainbows were landed the entire day, but 3 of them were 8, 9 1/2 and 12 1/2 pounds. We did not revisit this river that week due to heavy rains one day later.

Two memorable days also provided good fishing. The Iliamna River and its spectacular scenery (including many Bald Eagles) yielded numerous Arctic Char, and the Brooks River provided fine Rainbows up to 5 pounds and Grayling to 17 inches on dry flies. However, the highlight of the Brooks trip for all of us was the daily sighting of 8 to 12 different Brown Bears, most of which were within 50 yards of us.

My day on the Brooks proved interesting in several ways. Our host, Ted Gerkin, correctly realized we were a bit nervous about facing all those bears for the first time, so he changed his plans and joined us after dropping off another party and their guide. His presence proved very comforting and his knowledge of the river enabled us to enjoy a great day's fishing. In contrast, a party from another lodge (a lodge which enjoys a fine reputation) was dropped off and left without a guide. These three men did not catch a single Rainbow or Grayling and spent most of their time worrying about "Mr. Bear." Needless to say, this experience made all of us feel very comfortable about Iliaska Lodge.

As we wound down a very enjoyable and successful week, we came to realize the large Rainbows were entering the lower Talarik in increasing numbers. The outlook for this river was even better for the next week. This proved to be the case, with six 9 pound, six 10 pound, two 11 pound, three 12 pound and one 14 pound Rainbow landed by a very small group.

As a result of this year's trip, I'm satisfied the excellent fishing for giant Rainbows exists despite the fluctuation in returning Sockeyes. Nevertheless, next year's Sockeye return is expected to increase and I would like to return. Despite the threat of cooler weather, Ted Gerken highly recommends the first week of October for the peak of the fall Rainbow fishing. I plan on being there. (Editor's note: this article was written in 1982, and Ed did return to Alaska last fall with a group which included BOD member Lou Patria.)

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GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR... A hatching mayfly nymph pattern.

Hook: Mustad 3906 B. 8 to 16.
Thread: Brown. Herb Howard's.
Weight: Leadwire. 2/3 of shank.
Rib: Gold oval tinsel or fine gold wire.
Abdomen: Hare's ear & mask fur.
Wing Case: Mallard/turkey section.
Thorax: Hare's ear & mask fur.



The materials above are listed in the same order that they are applied to the hook.

The GRHE calls for a tail of brown hackle fibres. I prefer the fluff from a brown hackle feather. Some GRHE patterns eliminate the tail altogether. The tail if used is generally short. (About one half the length of the hook shank.)

As in the Red Fox Squirrel the wing case covers the thorax area. It consists of a section of brown mottled turkey or mallard primary feather.

Clip the fur from an English hare or cottontail rabbit. Clip the ear close. Skip the lighter fur on the face. Blend all the hair removed from the hare's mask. Use the blend for both the abdomen and the thorax. Pick out the guard hairs for a fuzzy look. The thorax is half the length of the abdomen and bigger in diameter.

Use the same tying procedures that were prescribed for the Red Fox Squirrel.

This fly imitates an emerging mayfly. It is especially good in the spring. Use it in fast water, white water and in the riffles. It is best fished with a dead drift. (Using an upstream cast.) Fished downstream and retrieved with a jerky hand twist is also very effective.

Although I carry many nymph patterns in my vest I have two favorites. When I am searching for the fish I try a Red Fox Squirrel and if nothing comes of it I replace it with a Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear. My reasoning believes that the fish are either interested in light or dark meat. My GRHE suggests the light and the RFS is the dark meat. Although the materials and coloring differ, the shapes and outlines are similar.

Whitlock states that his RFS is super suggestive and will take fish that are working on caddis, damsel, mayfly or stonefly nymphs and shrimp, sowbugs or scuds. I claim the GRHE will do the same. It has for me. Ernest Schwiebert in his book 'Nymphs' says that the Hare's Ear is "the most effective hatching nymph pattern ever dressed."

Tip: Mark your lines with an indelible marking pen. Use a wide line for a #5 line. Use a thin mark for a #1 weight line. Example: A number 7 weight line would have a wide stripe and two thin stripes.

QUOTE: "The average fisherman has 66 pounds of muscle, 40 pounds of bones and 3.25 pounds of brains. That may explain a lot of things!"

"What makes you think that new fly fishing boyfriend of yours is serious?" "He must be. Just the other day he asked me for a lock of my hair."

FAST and / or HIGH WATER. Don't walk away. Fish the pockets. Find the quieter spots along rocks and other obstructions and in eddies. Every stream has areas where the current slows... and the fish dine.

Bounce your nymphs along the bottom where they naturally live. Trout hunt there!

APRIL 1984 CALENDAR

- Apr. 4 Board of Director's Meeting
- 7 Fly Fishing School-Casting Instruction
- 11 April CFFA Meeting
- 21 Opening Day!!!

COMING EVENTS

- May 2 Board of Director's Meeting
- 20 Tentative date for CFFA Outing on the Willi.

Note: The April and May BOD meetings will be at the Veteran's Memorial. BOD meetings for June, July and August will be at the Blast and Cast.

