



# LINES AND LEADERS

CFFA

NOVEMBER 1984

Vol. 11

No. 8

Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

## Meeting Notice

Program: Three Fishing Films.  
Place: Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Road, East Hartford, CT. See Map Below.  
When: Wednesday, November 14, 1984.  
Time: Fly Tying -7:00 P.M.  
Program -7:30 P.M.

CFFA's November meeting will feature three films on fishing. These will include:

1. "A Trout, A Fly Rod and You"--(CFFA)
2. "Bugs Over Bass"--(Cortland)
3. "Arctic Bare Fishing"--(Cortland)

The last title is correct-you'll have to come to the meeting to find out what it's all about. Our film programs are always popular, so come early and bring a friend.

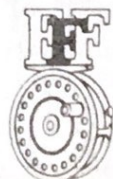
Several fly tyers will be present before the meeting to demonstrate patterns and techniques, and we will hold our usual conservation drawing before the program.

1985 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES WILL BE MAILED THIS MONTH!!!

PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY WHEN YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE ARRIVES.



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### THE CORNER POOL

Larry Johnson

This month's issue is heavy on, appropriately enough, lines and leaders. We have the final part of last month's article on leaders, and an article on Cortland lines from the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers. You may have thought that 333 and 444 differed only in quality. Not so, and you may not always want the "better" line.

CFFA member Chip Bates, who has won a few prizes in our photo contests, has a feature article in the November/December issue of "Rod and Reel" magazine. It's a good article on fishing for large Salmon, Browns and Steelhead in the Salmon River, Pulaski, N.Y. area. Anyone interested should pick up a copy. Also note that Chip has a business ad in this issue.

This issue has the first notice for our fly tying school which will begin in January. The patterns have been changed this year, and older members may want to sign up to brush up their skills and learn some new patterns. Also note that membership renewal notices will go out this month. Renew promptly and save us the cost of a second notice.

On a sadder note, we have been informed of the recent death of Cole W. Wilde, who was the head of DEP's Fisheries Bureau from 1961 to 1980. On behalf of the members, your Board of Directors has made a donation in his memory to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Anyone wishing to make a personal donation should send it to St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, 114 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06105.

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## A TRIBUTE TO COLE W. WILDE

by Vin Ringrose

Cole Wilde died this past September 14. With his untimely and unexpected death, CFFA has lost one of the best friends it has ever had or ever will have.

There are some of you reading this who will not recognize Cole's name, although he was Chief of Fisheries for the DEP from 1961 until he retired to go fishing in 1980. Most of you do remember him, though, and we thought it proper that we recognize what he did for all fishermen, but especially for CFFA and its fly fishermen.

Without Cole Wilde's careful nurturing, it is questionable that there would ever have been a no-kill stretch of the Willimantic River, and possibly not even a fly fishing area. You see, Cole Wilde was himself a fly fisherman. By the time we got to know him in the 60's he had become a passionate Atlantic Salmon fisherman, and fished for them primarily with dry flies. He had great success with a floating pattern he designed himself, and when one remembers that he fished almost exclusively on the public waters of Quebec's Matane River, his catches were downright incredible.

We don't mean to suggest that Cole favored fly fishermen over any other types of anglers. On the contrary, he leaned over backwards to show no favoritism to any group of fishermen. But, because he was one of us flyfishers, he understood our special sort of craziness, and he knew that we were an ever-growing minority, and that a lot of us preferred to release our fish.

Thus, when the Willi was ready to be re-opened in 1973 after being closed for a decade, Cole pushed for, and got, fly fishing only for the present no-kill stretch. Then, when the grumbling locals had quieted down, he requested and received from CFFA members a strong letter-writing campaign asking for no-kill regulations. The no-kill stretch opened on a three year trial basis in 1976, and the rest is history.

Cole was always helpful, always encouraging to CFFA from its inception in 1968 to his retirement twelve years later. He personally fished with us on the Jeremys and was delighted with the structures we had constructed so well. He provided free trout eggs (from surplus brood stock) for several of our Whitlock-Vibert Box plantings, and he was never too busy to spend twenty minutes on the phone when CFFA had a problem or a project.

Cole cut short a Salmon trip to Canada to return to Connecticut in September. We understood that his final illness lasted only a week, and most of his friends were unaware that he was sick at all.

Cole's retirement lasted only four years. He was only 64 when he died, and his somewhat early retirement was probably a wise decision. He apparently had some fabulous fishing during those years. We only wish he could have enjoyed many more.

We can imagine that if there is fishing in the Great Beyond, Cole has already discovered a good pool or two, and has cast his favorite fly on those pools, perhaps alongside Mr. Hewitt or Mr. La Branche. That thought consoles us.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his two favorite fishing companions, his lovely wife Hildy and son Billy.



## FLY LINES AND FRONT TAPERS

(Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, 9/84)

I think that we pretty well agree that a drag free float with your dry fly is the most important requirement for consistent success and if you read the previous articles on dry fly leaders you will know how to achieve that.

One other very important factor in the presentation is fly line delivery. After all, if you get a perfect dead drift with your fly after the line falling on the water has spooked the fish, think of how futile your efforts will be.

Being a fly line tester for Scientific Anglers, and also being able to occasionally field-test Cortland lines, gives me an opportunity to test many different lines. In fishing 100 to 120 days every year you develop a feel for certain lines over others and different lines of the same type are better suited to different situations. Now I don't mean that when you go from one pool to another you should switch to a line better suited to the new pool, but I know that in certain pools of the East Branch the right line can be the difference.

For years I didn't realize that the front taper of a fly line will be different within the same type from number to number and that the progression through the numbers will be totally contrary between one type and another. Since a long front taper helps in delicate presentation and a short front taper helps in delivering bushy

flies, knowing what to use can be the difference between enjoyment and frustration.

I will outline some examples and, if space permits, I will print the tables of specifications.

**CORTLAND 444SL.** WF5F has a front taper of 12 ft., WF7F has 10 ft. and WF10F has 8 ft.

**CORTLAND 333HT.** WF5F has a front taper of 8 ft., WF7F has 10 ft. and WF9F has 12 ft. Exactly the opposite sequence of the 444SL.

Obviously if you fish for spooky bonefish with small flies in skinny water a WF9F 333HT would be a better choice than the 444SL. But if you fish spring creeks with a WF4F or WF5F, the 444SL with its 12 foot taper would be a better choice than the 333HT. The standard 444 and the 333HT have the same front tapers but different surface finishes.

Recently I was fishing Henry's Fork with a WF5F *Ultra*. It was delivering beautiful presentations but it was an old line with a cracked surface and the roughness on the guides was bothering me. I changed over to a brand new WF5F *SUPREME* and although it cast very well the presentation was not as delicate as the *ULTRA*. It seemed to have a clunky feel at the tip and I was upset at the way it landed. I did not have another *ULTRA*, but I remembered having a LEE WULFF TRIANGLE TAPER back at the

motel which I had used only twice. The next day fishing with the TRIANGLE TAPER was an absolute dream. Accurate, delicate casts where the line tip seemed to remain suspended in air. I was able to make upstream tuck casts to bank feeders with a #20 fly. I worked on a bank feeder for 35 minutes changing a dozen flies and never spooked the fish.

Throughout many other situations this line was a revelation. I would say that for *difficult situations at short and medium distances* the TRIANGLE TAPER might be the solution to many problems. At long distances, as I had previously found, the line drops its tail as it shoots. The heavy portion of the taper drops well below the front of the line. It still lands well if you don't mind the kiting effect.

I carry all my different lines in the regular line spools, and with a loop to loop system it takes a few minutes to change from one to the other. The trick is to always have an empty line spool to effect the transfer.

Next winter I want to try the TRIANGLE TAPER on the bonefish flats of Belize. The water there is so skinny that the bonefish backs are suntanned. I bet I'll be able to reduce my leader from 16 feet to 10 feet and still not spook the fish. I'll let you know.

Lou Rossi

### CORTLAND 444SL

	Tip	Front Taper Length	Body Length	Back Taper Length	Running Line Length	Weight 30 Ft.	*Tip Diameter	*Body Diameter	*Running Line Diameter
WF4F	1'	12'	25'	6'	61'	120 gr.	033"	042"	035"
WF5F	1'	12'	25'	6'	61'	140 gr.	033"	047"	035"
WF6F	1'	10'	29'	6'	59'	160 gr.	035"	051"	037"
WF7F	1'	10'	29'	6'	59'	185 gr.	035"	054"	037"
WF8F	1'	10'	32'	6'	56'	210 gr.	038"	058"	040"
WF9F	1'	10'	32'	6'	56'	240 gr.	038"	062"	040"
WF10F	1'	8'	34'	6'	56'	280 gr.	038"	067"	040"

### CORTLAND 333HT

	Tip	Front Taper Length	Body Length	Back Taper Length	Running Line Length	Weight 30 Ft.	*Tip Diameter	*Body Diameter	*Running Line Diameter
WF5F	6"	8"	20"	3"	73' 6"	140 gr.	034	046	036
WF6F	6"	9"	23"	6"	66' 6"	160 gr.	034	049"	036"
WF7F	6"	10"	23"	6"	66' 6"	185 gr.	036	054"	038"
WF8F	6"	12"	24"	6"	62' 6"	210 gr.	038	058"	040"
WF9F	6"	12"	24"	6"	62' 6"	240 gr.	038"	063"	041"

UNTANGLING ANGLING

Todd Wemmell, the son of club member Dick Wemmell, went with his father this past summer, that most of us dream about. The highlight of Todd's trip to Alaska was hooking into and landing an 8 lb. silver salmon from the Anchor River.

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September 6, 1984

Dear Mr. Latham,

I had a great time at the Connecticut Wildlife Federation Camp. It was a great and well organized camp. Everyday they had a number of presentations involving things such as fly fishing, fly tying, the safe use of firearms, first aid, bow hunting and lots of others. I also had a lot of hands-on experience with skeet shooting, muzzle loading and bow hunting. I enjoyed and learned a great deal. I hope others get to share this experience. Thank you very much for selecting me. I really appreciated the opportunity to represent C.F.F.A.

Yours truly

Dave Hoffman

*Burlop*  


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The following article was printed in the newsletter of the  
Orange County Fly Fishers Club, Inc. of Fullerton, CA.

(Part II)

ALL YOU EVER WANTED to know about LEADERS AND TIPPETS...and then sum!

Leaders are classified by their length and tippet sizes. Example: A 9 ft. 4X marking denotes that the overall length of the item including the tippet is nine feet. The tippet is a 4X which means the overall diameter of the end of the leader is 4X or .007 in. (Editor's note-Although the diameter may be constant for all 4X tippets, the breaking strength and stiffness can and will vary from brand to brand.)

Tippets can be any length. The tippet is usually 18 in. long (18-36 in.) and fine. Generally, the finer tippets are the longest. Among the reasons for this is the belief that the extra length will add extra stretch which could possibly prevent losing a fish as he first hits. In heavy, fast or salt water, tippets can be as short as 6 inches. Fine tippets allow your fly to settle to the water "as light as a feather" and very much as a real fly would. After the fly is on or in the water the tippet will let your fly drift and act just as the natural would....lifelike, free drifting and unattached.

Leaders are generally attached to the fly line with a nail knot. Many fishermen attach their leader to the fly line with a "loop to loop" method. They have a loop in the end of their fly line. They also have a loop on the end of the butt section of their leader. I personally prefer this method. I know of many champion casters who use the "loop to loop" system. In addition to the line to leader connection I also connect my tippets to the small end of my leader in the same way. I "pre-tie" my tippets in camp using a tool that allows me to tie a loop in the end of my tippet that does not weaken the line. A perfection knot in the end of my leader forms the second loop. I can change tippets in no time at all amid stream, and the complete system is stronger than the conventional blood knot connection.

When using the "loop-to-loop" method in joining backing to line, line to leader or leader to tippet, begin by inserting the heavier loop into the lighter loop. (Generally one loop is made of heavier material than the other.) Now finish up by feeding the end of the lighter piece through the heavy loop. The connection will now seat itself properly and the knot will be strong.

Low, clear water calls for long leaders. Use a short leader in fast, roily waters or to get down to the bottom in moving water. Use short leaders in small streams. Big and/or bushy flies generally call for heavier tippets and shorter leaders, and vice-versa. Longer leaders and finer tippets are in order with small lures. When you are fishing in waters that won't all long enough casts to create the energy needed to turn over a normal leader, a shorter leader is recommended. A nine foot leader (including the tippet) is a general all-around good fishing length.



When coiling a leader for storage, start with the tippet and finish with five turns of the butt section around the coiled leader. Open the leader with the same count and it will not get all tangled up, which wastes valuable fishing time. Most fly fishermen apply a leader sink solution to their leaders, as they believe that a fish is not as wary of a leader under water.

This article, I'm sure you noticed, is jam packed with elusive "don't pin me down" words like "approximately," "roughly," "usually," "generally," and "possibly." This fly fishing business of ours is just full of special situations that can make a liar out of most of the things we think we know. If we ever get as smart as the fish, there won't be any more fishing, and that's a fact! So bear with the written word and add it to the experiences that you have gleaned from Mother Nature and be happy.

"WHAT SIZE TIPPET TO USE?"

"WHAT SIZE FLY OR HOOK TO USE?"

"USE THE MAGIC NUMBER THREE"

Divide by three:	Multiply by three:	Tippet size:	Diam- eter:	Hook size:
Divide your chosen fly or hook size by three and you will have the approximate matching tippet. Example::	Multiply tippet size by three to determine the approximate proper matching hook or fly size. Example::	0X	.011	2-1/0
#18 ÷ 3 = 6X tippet.	6X x 3 = #18 fly/hook.	1X	.010	2-4-6
		2X	.009	4-6-8
		3X	.008	8-10-12
		4X	.007	10-12-14
		5X	.006	14-16-18
		6X	.005	16-18-20-22
		7X	.004	18-20-22-24
		8X	.003	22-24-26-28

Remember these sizes are approximate and there is a lot of leeway. Two or three sizes each way. If you are fishing for large fish you will need heavier tippets. Wary trout spook at heavy systems. Oversize tippets can cause flies to drag and that's a no-no. Many times just putting on a size smaller tippet will get you into better fishing.

"MAGIC NUMBER ELEVEN"

To determine the tippet size or tippet diameter use #11. Examples::

MAGIC NUMBER: 11  
TIPPET: (4X) 4  
LINE: (.007") 7


MAGIC NUMBER: 11  
LINE: (.007") 7  
TIPPET: (4X) 4

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Diameter does not determine the breaking strength. Notice the variations in the chart. The most popular brands are listed. Some are softer, limper and they vary in color. But quite possibly the strength is the most important in most instances. Use a mike to determine size. Don't trust the manufacturers label. Quite often even the spool varies.

Size	Dia.	<u>TIPPET MATERIAL</u>				
		Minimum test breaking strength. lbs.				
		Aeon	Nylorfi	Orvis	Mason	Maxima
0X	.011	10	10.8	6.5	8	9
1X	.010	9	9.5	5.5	6	8
2X	.009	7	8	4.5	6	6
3X	.008	6	6	3.8	4	5
4X	.007	5	5	3.1	3	4
5X	.006	4	4	2.4	2	3
6X	.005	3	2.4	1.4		2
7X	.004	2	1.7	1.1		1
8X	.003		1.1	.75		

LEADER FORMULAS:

Collier	$\frac{36''}{.021}$	$\frac{24''}{.017}$	$\frac{14''}{.013}$	$\frac{10''}{.011}$	$\frac{6''}{.009}$	$\frac{3''}{.007}$	$\frac{15''}{.005}$	=	$\frac{108 \text{ inch}}{6X}$			
Collier	$\frac{36''}{.025}$	$\frac{30''}{.023}$	$\frac{24''}{.020}$	$\frac{18''}{.017}$	$\frac{18''}{.015}$	$\frac{12''}{.013}$	$\frac{6''}{.011}$	$\frac{6''}{.009}$	$\frac{6''}{.007}$	$\frac{18''}{.006}$	=	$\frac{174 \text{ inch}}{5X}$
Troebner	$\frac{36''}{.021}$	$\frac{29''}{.019}$	$\frac{12''}{.017}$	$\frac{7''}{.015}$	$\frac{6''}{.013}$	$\frac{5''}{.011}$	$\frac{20''}{.008}$	=	$\frac{115 \text{ inch}}{3X}$			
Thomas	$\frac{20''}{.023}$	$\frac{16''}{.019}$	$\frac{14''}{.017}$	$\frac{10''}{.015}$	$\frac{8''}{.012}$	$\frac{6.5''}{.010}$	$\frac{5''}{.008}$	$\frac{7''}{.006}$	=	$\frac{86.5 \text{ inch}}{5X}$		
Thomas		$\frac{48''}{.024}$	$\frac{24''}{.020}$	$\frac{12''}{.016}$	$\frac{6''}{.013}$	$\frac{3''}{.011}$	$\frac{18''}{.009}$	=	$\frac{111 \text{ inch}}{2X}$			
Mueler	$\frac{40''}{.021}$	$\frac{28''}{.019}$	$\frac{15''}{.017}$	$\frac{9''}{.015}$	$\frac{7''}{.013}$	$\frac{7''}{.011}$	$\frac{7''}{.009}$	$\frac{5''}{.008}$	$\frac{26''}{.007}$	=	$\frac{144 \text{ inch}}{4X}$	
Mueler		$\frac{42''}{.021}$	$\frac{29''}{.019}$	$\frac{6''}{.017}$	$\frac{6''}{.015}$	$\frac{6''}{.013}$	$\frac{20''}{.011}$	=	$\frac{109 \text{ inch}}{0X}$			
Hokanson	$\frac{22''}{.023}$	$\frac{18''}{.021}$	$\frac{14''}{.017}$	$\frac{10''}{.015}$	$\frac{7''}{.012}$	$\frac{5''}{.010}$	$\frac{10''}{.008}$	=	$\frac{86 \text{ inch}}{3X}$			
McClane		$\frac{41''}{.018}$	$\frac{35''}{.016}$	$\frac{6''}{.014}$	$\frac{6''}{.012}$	$\frac{20''}{.010}$	=	$\frac{108 \text{ inch}}{1X}$				
S.A.	$\frac{18''}{.019}$	$\frac{18''}{.018}$	$\frac{18''}{.016}$	$\frac{18''}{.015}$	$\frac{7''}{.014}$	$\frac{6''}{.012}$	$\frac{5''}{.010}$	$\frac{18''}{.007}$	=	$\frac{108 \text{ inch}}{4X}$		
S.A.	$\frac{18''}{.021}$	$\frac{18''}{.019}$	$\frac{18''}{.018}$	$\frac{18''}{.016}$	$\frac{7''}{.014}$	$\frac{6''}{.012}$	$\frac{5''}{.010}$	$\frac{18''}{.009}$	=	$\frac{108 \text{ inch}}{2X}$		

KNOTS:

TIE YOUR KNOTS CAREFULLY  
BE SURE AND TIE 'EM RIGHT  
FIRST PULL 'EM UP SLOWLY  
THEN PULL 'EM UP TIGHT!!!

And don't forget to wet them 1st.  
(Use your tongue.) The moisture  
lubricates the material and cools  
it for a stronger tie.



CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

presents

"1985 FLY TYING SCHOOL"

A school for beginners...

CLASSES: There will be six lessons. Classes will meet on the following Friday evenings at 7:00 P.M. in the Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse (lower level), Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT (Directions to the Clubhouse were published in the September, 1984, issue of Lines and Leaders):

<u>No.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1	1-4-85	<u>Matuka and Muddler Minnow</u>
2	1-11-85	<u>Parachute and Poly Spinner</u>
3	1-18-85	<u>Henryville Special and Elk Hair Caddis</u>
4	1-25-85	<u>Conover and Blue-Winged Olive</u>
5	2-1-85	<u>Terrestrials</u>
6	2-8-85	<u>Bass and Bluegill Attractors</u>

EQUIPMENT: All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, thread, scissors, etc. It is suggested that each tyer bring a portable lamp and a notebook.

INSTRUCTORS: In addition to the main instructors, several CFFA tyers will be on hand to assist students.

CLASS SIZE: Limited to the first 25 people submitting applications.

TUITION: CFFA Members.....\$ 20.00 Non-Members.....\$ 25.00

-----  
CFFA FTS ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print required information. Forward application form and tuition (checks payable to C.F.F.A.) to: Dan Record, Education Chairman, 9 Sequoia Drive, Cromwell, Connecticut 06416. (If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.)

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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ CFFA MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ NON-MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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

NOVEMBER 1984 CALENDAR

- Nov. 7 Board of Director's Meeting-Veterans'
- 14 CFFA November Meeting-Fishing Films
- 21 Deadline for Photo Contest

COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 5 Board of Director's Meeting
- 12 December Meeting-Salmon Restoration
- Jan. CFFA Fly Tying School Begins  
January Program-Ocean Fly Fishing

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

1985 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES WILL BE MAILED THIS MONTH!!!

PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY WHEN YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE ARRIVES.