

March 1989

# Lines & Leaders

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NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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## MARCH MEETING

Subject: Fishing the Salmon River

BY: Jim Rusher, Owner Whitaker's

Sport Shop & Motel, Pulaski, NY

Place: Whiton Memorial Library

100 North Main Street

Manchester, CT

When: Wednesday, March 8, 1989

Time: Fly Tying-7:00 P.M.

Program-7:30 P.M.

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## SALMON RIVER PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE INFO ON THE :

History

When & Where

Techniques

Tackle Tips

Fly Patterns

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COMING IN APRIL: Don Leyden on his Alaska Fishing Adventure:

"From Dreams To Realities"

Ladies Welcome!

"From the Vest of the President"

Our annual banquet was a fine success. We raised about \$1300. This compares favorably to last year's total. There were many people who made it all possible. The following people made major contributions: Pete Trani, Dick Lerche, Larry Johnson, Dan Record, George Degen, Bob Martinchek, Kurt Jagielow, Dale Matthews, Elmer and Dale Latham, and Jim May. The following members donated prizes: Elmer & Dale Latham, Jim May, John Blake, Dan Record, Leo Leggitt, Dick & Ken Lerche, Gene Miller, Linda & Gary Steinmiller, Frank Wankarl, Paul Boudreau, Dick Whitehead, Walt Realy, Jack Walsh, Gary Bogli, Kan Parkany, Gary LaFontaine, Lionel MacDonald, Frank Nott, Wally Murray, Lyn Smith, Myron Schulman, Gene Monty, Pete Trani, George Degen, Charles Place, Bruce Cole, Larry Johnson, and Ed Roberts. The following businesses also donated: Hook & Hackle, Columbia Sportwear, Kool Dri, Angler's Calendar & Collection, Dan Bailey's Fly Shop, A & B Sports Shop, S & M, Clark & Clark, Thomas & Thomas, Classic & Custom, Fiskar Scissors, Stackpole Books, Judith Bowman Books, Fly Fisherman, Fly Tyer, Robert Golder, Eric Leiser, Angler's Supply House, Mill River Fly Shop, Clapp & Treat, Northeast Woods & Waters, Fly Fishing News, Gray's Sporting Journal, Fin & Feathers, Cortland Line Co., Berkley, Shakespear, Scientific Angler, McNett Corp, Creek Co., Rocky Mountain Dubbing and Gerber Knives.

We also received many price reduction offers from numerous well known rod companies. If any member is interested, speak to me.

Speaking of offers, Eric Leiser has kept his banquet offer of selling his latest book, Book\_of\_Ely\_Batticos, at \$35 and returning \$5 to the club. This offer is good for his other books at a smaller discount and return to the club. Again contact me if you are interested. Eric provided us with a very entertaining talk on the eccentricities of collecting tying materials.

As the saying goes we are still looking for a few good men. The club still needs help on the program committee, the banquet committee and a legal advisor. A few people working in each of these areas will make the jobs easier. Won't you help?

Speaking of help, the DEP will need people to help stock in March. I would also like some volunteers to man a booth at the Farns Fishing Festival in Manchester April 1 & 2. It would mean sharing some time at a booth inside the store, tying some flies, doing casting demonstrations (if you choose) and spreading the gospel of fly fishing.

I would like to thank Dick Smoragiewicz for his many years on the Board as legal secretary. Dick also did a great deal of work behind the scenes of our annual banquet. For many years he sent out solicitation letters, collected prizes, ran the raffle and sent out thank you letters. Dick for all your efforts the CFFA thanks you.

I am sorry this message is not more creative, but handling the banquet letters and getting ready to ski in Colorado has stifled my creative juices.

Happy Hatches,

Gary Bogli

Letters to the Editor

Dear AMFF Hartford Auction/Dinner Committee:

Greetings from Vermont! On behalf of the Museum's officers, members and friends, we want to thank you for supporting the Museum through your help and attendance at our annual Auction/Dinner in Hartford in November.

The Hartford event, like all our Auction/Dinners in 1988, was a wonderful success. Our net profit rose 93%! Very impressive indeed!

We are looking forward to visiting with you again next November. Gindy, Lyman, Joe and Randy join me in wishing you and yours a happy and adventurous 1989. Again our sincere thanks.

Very truly yours,

Donald S. Johnson

Executive Director

American Museum of Fly Fishing

P.O. Box 42

Manchester, VT 06524

Tel: (802) 362-3300

P.S. Please be sure to stop in at the Museum for a chat should you find yourself in the Manchester area.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Unfortunately the State has cut back on overtime for the DEP. This will impact the Conservation Committee's work this year. The DEP's Conservation Officer's will be unable to accomodate us with weekend fish stockings this year. The stocking dates are as follows:

- Friday March 10, 1989 for the Willimantic River
- Thursday March 23, 1989 for the Jeremy River
- Thursday March 30, 1989 for the Natchaug River

Unfortunately most of us work, but if you can help CALL Larry Levesque at 649-6942 after 6 PM.

We are still planning to work weekends this spring. We have accomplished a lot in the past and we can't give up.

Mike Baio

## BLUE RIDGE TROUT

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By: Jon F. Ridolfo

Fly fishing for trout in a tumbling, free-stone mountain stream is one of the best ways to celebrate a birthday. The weekend of my 35th birthday, I resolved to do just that.

I am in the military and at the time of this story, had been newly stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. In and around the post there is fishing for pan-fish and Large Mouth Bass, A reputedly good sport on a fly rod, but for a birthday present for myself, it was mountain streams and trout I sought.

Scouring the North Carolina, "Fish and Game Book," I selected to fish, "Lost Cove Creek," a designated, "Native Trout Stream." The only legal method to take trout in this stream was by fly rod with a single hooked fly. A look at the road Atlas, showed the stream to be in Avery County, in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountain region. The trout here are "Rainbows," introduced in many of the states western waters to replace the native Brook Trout whose decline is tied in with logging operations at the turn of the century. The Rainbow Trout have done very well. No stocking has supplemented the initial introduction of these salmonoids in most of the streams where they are now found. The Brook Trout have fared less well. They exist only in some headwaters, and select streams in North Carolina today.

Early Saturday morning, April 13th, I placed a hastily packed rucksack and sleeping bag into my van, carefully checked my fly fishing gear, and loaded it into the truck as well. A last minute look of the road map, on with my sunglasses, and contact! I was on my way. This was the first of a number of long drives to the southern Appalachians to sample that delightful trout fishery.

Arriving in Avery County, in a thoroughly round about manner, I drove down dirt roads until I finally found the access to "Lost Cove Creek." It was an improved jeep trail which wound its way steeply down a ridge line to the creek. Dogwoods and Mountain Laurel were in blossom, The leaves of the forest trees had not yet fully bud. It was good to be on a trout stream again after a long winter. I felt anticipation and curiosity at being at a "new" place to fish unknown water.

Creeping the Van down the narrow trail, I at last reached a parking area near the stream. A large wood sign at the parking place proclaimed "Fly Fishing Only." "Alright,"! I felt top-notch. Stepping out of the Van, I stretched, then took in the forest before proceeding to reconnoiter the stream. I moved along a foot path bordering the creek. "Lost Cove Creek," is narrow and fast.

## Blue Ridge Trout(continued)

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There are lots of boulders, small runs, glides, and pools. The water temperature was in the low 50's. Turning over some rocks I identified some Epeorus nymphs and caddis larvae.

Back at the truck I assembled my fly rod, a light graphite stick matched with a 4 weight line, donned my vest and hip boots. In the few trips I've made to this area to fish these mountain streams, hip boots have been adequate for wading purposes. Felt soles are a definite plus. I knotted a size 14, Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear nymph to a 5x tippet and was soon drifting the "GRHE," nymph through a narrow run emptying into a small pool. No rises were observed. I was startled by a very quick rise which I completely missed. A second cast in the vicinity of the missed strike brought another lighting hit. Again I missed the strike. These little mountain trout are extremely quick. After a half dozen or so misses, I managed to adjust my reaction to the speed of the fish. You must be quick but temper the power of setting the hook with a "soft flick," of the the wrist. It was a few more attempts before I caught and landed a feisty "Rainbow." It was small, about 8 inches in length. The coloring of these stream-bred trout is simply gorgeous. I believe it would be difficult for a good artist to capture the irridescant colors of these "Blue Ridge Rainbows," in a painting. A 12 inch trout is a good fish in these mountain creeks, but there are surprises. Once on a nearby creek, that I fished on a later trip, I saw, but was unable to entice some Brown trout whose size would be considered quite good on most of our Eastern rivers.

In the day and a half I fished "Lost Cove Creek," I was able to catch and release about a dozen pretty, brawling trout. The best was about 10 inches, I'd guess. I missed or spooked many more.

Fishing these waters entails careful stalking and accurate casting. Approach and presentation are everything. Pattern selection is secondary. Nymphs, wet flies, and dry flies, in sizes 12 through 20 are all good. One pattern I found to be consistently effective is a size 16 "Darato's Hare's Ear," fished dry or just below the surface. At the end of this story I have included the dressing for those readers who may be interested. Minature "Muddler Minnows," in sizes 10 or 12 can be deadly at times. On occasion the trout do show preference for size and pattern, keeping the angler observant, inovative, and guessing. I recall one such event at another time on a different stream. In this case, the trout preferred tiny "Blue Wing Olives," of sizes 20 to 24 to any other offering I fished to them. I think

Blue Ridge Trout(continued)

this makes the fishing all the more fascinating and keeps me from becoming complacent.

In the evening, at the end of the first fishing day, the air became frosty. I made my way back to the Van. Once there, I prepared a quick meal and precious coffee on my back-packing stove which I have come to call the "F-4 Phantom," after the jet fighter by that name. This is because the stove sounds like a jet once it gets cranked up. I stayed at the parking area, the only one there. The night sky was brilliant with stars. In a little while I was in my sleeping bag warm and comfortable.

Morning was stinging cold. The day warmed gradually with the rising sun. Fishing was quick till noon time. Through the day I observed sporadic activity of "Hendricksons," "tiny Olives," and some tan/olive caddis about size 16 and smaller. One place, where the stream took a sharp bend against a rockledge on the far bank, provided a couple of hours of exciting and interesting angling. Careful casting to a tongue of current which brushed the rockledge from a kneeling position, yielded the best trout of the trip. Toward noon the fishing action tapered off. Perhaps I became a tad careless with my casting. My attention was drawn to the charm and solitude of the forest surroundings. What a delight. Small flowers of soft blue, violet, and yellow. Brown and green mosses, a strange gathering of a quivering mass of large orange and black butterflies. The soothing sound of rushing water, the forest smells. It was late noon when when I reluctantly left the creek and returned to the parking area. At my truck once more, I broke down my tackle and packed away my things for the drive home.

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## Blue Ridge Trout(continued)

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Here is a fly developed by "Bill Darato," of New York State. It has proved effective anywhere I have fished it for trout. It is a good producer on the Willimantic River, particularly in sizes 14-20. It can be fished dry, in the traditional upstream manner, but it is very good when it is drifted down stream with a slight "twitch," as it nears the fly angler's quarry. It is also effective when fished wet just below the surface.

### Two Ties of The "Darato's Hare's Ear"

#### 1.) Thread: Olive or Brown

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Wings: Barred Lemon Wood-duck, tied in a sparse clump

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Hackle: Coachman Brown and Barred Plymouth Rock, tied sparse

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Body: Roughly Dubbed Hare's Ear

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Ribbing: Fine Gold Wire

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Tail: Hare's Ear, Speckled Costal Deer Hair, or Woodchuck  
Keep the tail about a hook gap in length.

#### 2.) Thread: Tan

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Wings: Barred Lemon Wood-duck, tied sparse, in a clump

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Hackle: Light Dun or Light Ginger mixed with Barred Plymouth Rock, sparsely tied

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Body: Austrailian Possum with a hint of olive mixed in

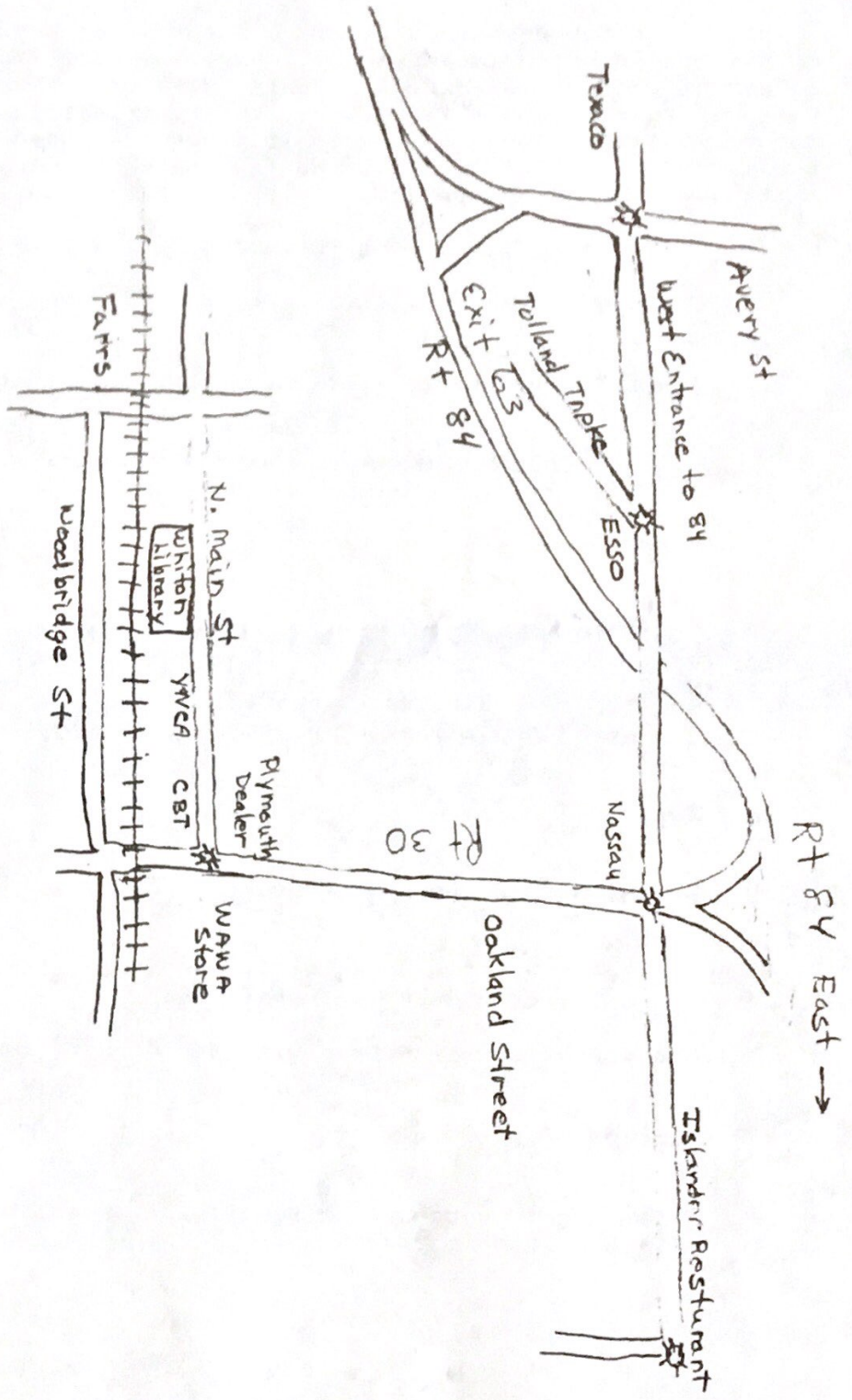
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Ribbing: Fine Gold Wire

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Tail: Light Woodchuck or substitute. Keep the tail about a hook gap in length.

# Directions to Whiton





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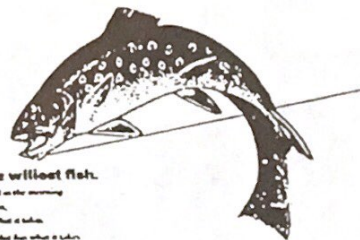
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The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. is organized to "Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Gamefish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at The Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Dr. East Hartford, CT. "Lines & 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 the cost of \$5 per ad or \$40 for 9 months. CFFA member may place for-sale or want ads of a noncommercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to: Pam Murray, 34 Northwoods Lane, Middletown, CT 06457. Change of address notices and other correspondence should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 18268, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06118