

LINES & LEADERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER MEETING

SUBJECT: FISHING BELOW

THE ARTIC CIRCLE

BY DR. RICHARD COLO

PLACE: VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CLUBHOUSE, SUNSET

RIDGE DR., EAST HARTFORD, CT.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1989

TIME: FLY TYING-7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM-7:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November 8th CFFA meeting will feature Dr. Richard Colo, who will present a slide show about fishing two rivers far north, the Flowers and the George. Fishing seven degrees south of the Arctic Circle for Atlantic salmon, brook trout and char is a world of contrasts - a treeless landscape inhabited by Eskimos, caribou herds and packs of howling wolves. Dr. Colo will compare and contrast fishing Quebec's Ungava Bay region (the George) and the most northern river registered in Labrador (the Flowers) with the more southerly rivers, such as the Miramichi. Angling techniques will also be discussed. If you know Rich, you are aware of his infectious enthusiasm and talent for telling a good story.

Fly tyers will be doing their thing prior to the meeting.

FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

Another busy month and not a lot of fishing. I did manage to get out once on the 9th of October. It was a gorgeous day, warm, sunny and the foliage was near its peak. My wife suggested that it was too nice to stay around and work inside and offered the Housatonic as a possible destination. Guess what? It didn't take me long to agree. We brought a meager picnic lunch and started out about 10 AM. As we approached the West Cornwall it was obvious that something strange had happened in the area. It dawned on me that this area had been hit by a tornado back in July. Large stands of trees were lying on the ground or broken and twisted in a grotesque manner. It gave us an eerie feeling and we wanted to move by quickly. Before we got to the river, we made two stops, one at the bake shop and another at the fly shop. Push-em-up was our destination and as we drove along route 7, we could see the river was in great shape, especially for this time of year. There were the usual foliage seekers at the covered bridge but the river seemed to have few fishermen.

When we arrived at the river I could see fish rising in the middle of the pool. This caused me a bit of indigestion as I gulped down a sandwich and dessert. I could see that there were blue winged olives on the water so I started with a PPP fly, pink poly parachute size 22. I was unable to do much with the fish in the middle of the pool so I headed toward the head. Trying to work the edges of each current I was still fishless until I spotted a little rise where the current swirled between two boulders. A few casts later I landed my first trout of the day, a nine inch Brown. It turned out to be the first of many fish that lovely afternoon. Isonychias were also present so I switched to a larger more visible fly. Again I chose a poly parachute but this time with a yellow wing size twelve. It worked very well as I caught one fish after another. Many of my quarry were dace and all were relatively small by Housi standards but it sure did beat raking leaves. As it turned out my wife had someone to talk with while she sat on the bank soaking in the scenery. A young lady had stumbled on a rock while wading and gotten soaked so after wading she joined my wife. The normally long drive home seemed shorter after such a pleasing experience.

The fly count is now up to sixty-one dozen thanks to the generous donations of about twenty-five members. A few of these members have give more than one dozen and Charlie Tyson gave me twenty dozen. An extraordinary effort! I have decided to make the prize ten dozen flies. This means at the moment we have six prizes to raffle.

There is still a need for help on the board of Directors and with elections coming up soon, now is the time to indicate your interest.

Kust Jagielow and a crew of eight have done some great brush cutting and path blazing on the Willi. I hope you get a chance to fish there and thank Kurt and his helpers.

Happy Hatches, Gary Bogli

ROYAL WULFF

(Reference Dick Stewart, Universal Fly Tying Guide)

This fly was created by Lee Wulff.

The Royal Wulff is a dry fly of the attractor type. That is, it is not intended to imitate anything in nature. Due to its heavy hackled, bushy winged construction this fly has good floatability making it excellent on turbulent streams and rough pocket water. It's design also enables this fly to take a lot of abuse. When the Royal Wulff elicits a strike from a salmon or trout, the strike is frequently vicious and exhilarating. If you have a weak heart, I'd suggest you fish with a buddy!

This fly has been found to be quite successful on the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers.

I have modified this pattern slightly from Dick Stewart's tie in that I do not use a Mustad 9672 hook. I feel the hooks below result in a better proportioned fly as well as having improved floatability.

Hook: Mustad 94840, Size 10 - 16 (trout)
Mustad 90240, Size 4 - 10 (salmon)
Thread: Black 6/0
Wing: White Calftail (kip, impala)
Tail: Elk
Body: Rear 1/4 Peacock Herl
Mid 1/2 Red Floss
Front 1/4 Peacock Herl
Hackle: Coachman Brown

Please note that calftail is often referred to as kip or impala.

For the larger salmon sizes make sure your hackle is stiff enough to support the fly.

Start your thread one eye width behind the eye and wind a bed of thread for the wings. Cut a section of calftail about the size of a kitchen matchstick. Some of the hairs will be too long and too short. Remove the long hairs at the tip end. Now remove the few short hairs near the base. Tie in this hair onto the foundation of thread with the tips pointing toward the eye. The wing length should be as long as the hook shank. You should make a few extra turns around the tie-in area for security since this area is bulkier than the typical feather wing. Lift the wing up and wrap the thread in front of the clump to hold the wing up. Now divide the wings and separate with a figure 8 and reverse figure 8. This will keep the wing hairs together and separate them into a Vee. Some tiers place a small drop of cement at the wing division to keep the hairs pointing in the right direction.

Cut a small clump of elk hair for the tail. I prefer the finer hair since it won't flare as much when it is tied in. Before you tie in, align the hair tips. Tie the tail in at the rear of the shank making the tail the same length as the hook shank. Bring the thread forward binding down the elk hair over the shank. Cut the elk hair such that the butts are even with the calftail wing butts. This will result in an even base for the body wraps.

Select two thick fibered peacock herls about 4 - 6 inches long. Place the herls under the hook at the rear of the shank where the bend begins and tie them in. Bring the thread forward. Wrap the herls forward about 1/4 of the way to the wings and secure with the thread. Tie in a strand of floss at this point. Bring the thread forward. Holding the herls along the shank, wrap the floss evenly over the shank and herls forward for 1/2 the shank length, tie in with the thread and cut the floss. Now take the herls and wrap the remaining distance to the wing base. Secure the herls and cut them off.

Pluck two hackles from your neck. Trim the hackle fibers, tie in the hackles and wind around the hook. I use one hackle in back of the wing and one in front. Tie off the head with a series of half-hitches or whip finish. Then cement the head. Your Royal Wulff is now completed.

Other Wulff flies that you can tie are the White, Black, Gray, Grizzly and the Au Sable.

TIPS

A few tips on tying this pattern and others are appropriate here. Wet the calftail before you tie it onto the hook. This will reduce the bulk of the hair making it easier to tie in. Also to minimize fraying of the floss, I suggest you first wet the floss before you wrap this onto the hook.

Now go back to your vise and tie up a couple dozen. That way you can contribute a dozen to the Club for the 100 Dozen Fly Raffle.

The Royal Footman

Let me know what you think about a series of articles talking about fly tying, patterns, or what have you. If you have any questions on this pattern, or any other, or if you have any requests for a specific pattern, tying technique or tying questions in general, I will do my best to answer them in the Lines & Leaders. You may get in touch with me by sending your questions or requests to the Editor of the Lines & Leaders or to me: The Royal Footman, 10 Bradley Brook, North Granby, CT 06060.

R. F.

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OF RODS

The cat's fur has begun to grow thick and across the stream I can plainly see houses that were hidden by leaves all summer. The smell of neatsfoot and gun oil has begun to overtake the aroma of rod varnish in this room. Leonard and Winchester are conferring in the corner. It is that time of year for both Trout and Grouse. I don't release the grouse.

It was, some years past, my professional charge to advise anglers of varying mettle on the tackle and tactics necessary for the taking of fish on a fly. Most set out for trout, but I remember building several 12 wt. rods for Blues off Newport. One sale of eight complete Salmon outfits my first year on the job was particularly gratifying. The knots all held. Sales of glass rods were on the wane, but the graphite was virtually pouring out the door. It was late that first year that I finally bought my first flyrod.

The choice was easy. I had read almost everything available on the subject: Brooks, Bates, Leonard, Kreh, Bergman, even Skues and Halford, and of course Gordon. Lee Wulff's writing had helped me move some 6 ft. one-piece rods that somebody had ordered a couple of seasons ago, but that was not mainstream. Some of you may remember my first rod. It was from Orvis and it was odd in that it was two rods in one. They called it the Midge-Nymph.

It was the perfect rod for an expert. "Well, my own rod blah, blah, blah..." and another Battenkill left the shop. They don't make it anymore, but it was a superb rod. I still miss it.

In order to maintain my expert status, I had to keep reading, mostly the periodicals because very little new was being published in book form. And they all had begun to agree on a new and undeniable Truth. Kane rods had become "clubs", heavy, slow, albeit quaint clubs. How could anyone ever hope to catch a fish on such a thing? Graphite! Light, accurate, and you could feel a trout thinking about taking your nymph.

But the rods were expensive then, about the same as a used Battenkill. That's where the Midge-Nymph went. And length was as important a consideration as material. Anything longer than 7 ft. 9 ins. must be a Salmon rod.

That was a lot of rods ago. And a lot of periodicals ago. I still have all the rods and a good many of the

periodicals. But lately, one rod in particular has become something of a companion. Two rods, actually, as they are so similar. I have yet to fish more than a handful of situations when I wished I had something different in my hand. And several times I have gone back for them after starting out with something else. They are both 9 ft. long, both three piece, both take a 5 line, and both are older than I am.

They share one final characteristic. I have never read an article recommending such a tackle configuration. If anyone else has, I am curious to see it. But I don't think it will change my odd fishing preference. They are what I am fondest of, now that I am no longer an expert.

Wally Murray

REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR FLY TYING SCHOOL

SEE THE DECEMBER LINES & LEADERS FOR DETAILS

NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

Your membership in the Connecticut Flyfishermen's Association has helped to restore and preserve suitable game fish waters in the state of Connecticut.

In addition, monthly meetings feature guest speakers, films and programs of sport fishing, conservation and fly tying. Also there are classes for youngsters and adults in fly tying, fly fishing and rod building. And CFFA members are kept well informed via "Lines and Leaders" a monthly newsletter of fishing articles as well as meeting notices.

Please continue to support CFFA and renew your membership. The 1990 Membership Renewal form will be mailed to you shortly.

Neil Bantly
Membership Chairman

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February, 1990

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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.