



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association
Volume 18, No. 4

December 1990

DECEMBER MEETING

The **DECEMBER 12** meeting features Frank Dalgault, author of the surf fishing book **MY TWENTY YEARS ON THE CAPE** and numerous articles in magazines such as **THE FISHERMAN** and **SALT WATER SPORTSMAN**. Besides surf casting, Frank is an expert with the fly rod, and he will present a slide show on fly fishing for striped bass.

The **JANUARY 9** meeting features several CFFA fly tiers who will demonstrate various fly tying techniques and patterns. Troup flies will be emphasized, but flies for other species will be tied as well. Here is a chance to get some new ideas for your winter fly tying.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Hall,
Sunset Ridge, E. Hartford

DATE: Wed., November 14, 1990

TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00pm
Program - 7:30 pm

DON'T FORGET THE C.F.F.A. BANQUET

*Saturday February 2,
1991*

*At the Manchester
Community Club*

5:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Harry Murray

Watch for more details!

From the Vest of the President



This year's Hartford Dinner-Auction for the American Museum of Fly Fishing was a great success. The turnout (106 people) was the largest so far, and the Museum Director Don Johnson felt that this would be the most financially successful Hartford auction as well. A lot of people worked hard to make this happen, including CFFA members Pam and Wally Murray and Vin Ringrose, among others. Special thanks from CFFA, and I'm sure the Museum as well, go to Ed Reustow. Ed asked to chair the dinner committee, set a high goal for attendance, and beat his goal. Congratulations on a job well done.

Events such as this are enjoyable for several reasons. It was a very pleasant evening with some CFFA members I knew well and some I met for the first time. I also met a former co-worker, now retired, who I didn't know was interested in fishing. Turns out he fishes quite a bit, his family used to own a sporting goods shop in Winsted, and he has a nine year old granddaughter in Vermont who ties flies. Meeting him again like this was a very pleasant surprise.

The other aspect, of course, is the opportunity to bid on, and possibly acquire, a variety of fishing and non-fishing items at the silent and regular auctions. There was a wide variety of items to tempt every interest and wallet, and auctioneer and entertainer Lyman Foss was especially dangerous this year due to a portable microphone that literally let him twist your arm to raise the bid.

Yes, I did weaken and contribute to the cause. We got something for the dogs, something for the house, and I couldn't resist bidding on a certain salt water fly fishing reel. It's a work of art, it will last forever and handle anything in salt water that I'm ever likely to fish for, and it was a bargain, really, honest...

It was a really enjoyable evening, and it sets the stage for another enjoyable evening yet to come, our Annual Banquet in February. We have a new location, a timely and interesting speaker, and some great prizes for the silent auction and conservation drawing. We will also have some items for our special insurance raffle that will interest anyone whether they fish or not. I'm really looking forward to it, and I hope you all are too.

Continued on Page 2

(Fly) Fishing In General

By Dale Matthews

Here we go into the fall fishing season. Almost time to put away the fly pole and sit down at the tying bench to replenish all the flies I lost. I think I lost a lot in the trees, but I cannot be sure. I know there are a couple of flies in some big fish at the hatchery.

Speaking of the hatchery, last season the first weekend of March was the opening day. Dave, who runs the Quinebaug Hatchery, was on hand to talk to the anglers. He said that the ponds almost did not open because of the state budget crunch. I went to speak with him in October, and I asked him if the ponds would open in March like this season, and he said he would not know until a couple of weeks before opening day. I want to make a suggestion to everyone who angles these ponds to send a letter to Leslie Carothers stating how much you enjoy fishing these ponds. Her address is: **Leslie Carothers, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.**

Maybe we can keep the ponds open for another season of excellent fishing. Well, the first weekend was excellent, until the hatchery had an abundance of fry and dumped some into the ponds. The big trout would come in close to shore to eat the fry, therefore refusing the flies. This went on for three frustrating weeks, until the fry were all gone. Then the fishing became excellent.

Fishing the hatchery ponds every weekend until Memorial weekend did not leave a lot of time for fishing rivers and streams, but I did do a little after the regular season opened. I spent some time fishing the "Willie" no-kill section below the Abutment Pool. I did very well using a gray flash-back hare's ear nymph. I fished it with a floating line and a strike indicator. To tie this fly, you tie it just like a regular hare's ear nymph, but instead of using a duck quill wing case, you use pearlescent mylar for the wing case. 5 or 6 strands, one on top of the other will do. This fly works well on blue-gill and calico bass. Also if you tie it bigger, say size 8 or 10, it encourages big mouth and small mouth bass to take it. Use different colors, like olive, gray, black, white, light and dark brown. All these colors will take fish. Another variation of this fly is, instead of using hare's ear dubbing, use ligas dubbing. This dubbing gives the fly a shinier appearance and reflects light. Either way, it's a good pattern.

Some of the best fishing I've done has been from a float tube. Dave Kusma and I have been fishing using a tube for about 2 years. The tube consists of a truck tube with a nylon outer casing which has a seat and back rest. The back rest has a separate air bag which fits

inside the nylon back rest. Once the tube is blown up inside the nylon cover, and the back rest is in place, all you do is put your waders on, then your tubing flippers, step into the seat, back into the water, and kick yourself around the ponds. I would suggest a type of floatation device around your upper body like S.O.S. suspenders, or a life vest because I flipped my tube over fishing Bolton's second lake. It was not that bad because I did not have my waders on, but it's a safety assurance. That day, Dave and I caught 20 to 40 calico bass each, all on the flash-back hare's ear. Like I said, it's a good pattern.

In closing, I'd like to see some different faces on some of our club projects. There always seems to be the same people doing all the work. And to all those people, I'd like to congratulate them for their unselfish attitude and trying to make things better for everyone.

From the Vest of the President, Continued

On behalf of the Board, I want to wish each of you and your families the very best of the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year full of fishing and fellowship. I would also like you to keep our Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Schools and the Annual Banquet in mind when thinking of a gift for yourself or someone else. These are gifts that help you, the recipient, and CFFA.

Tight Lines,

Larry Johnson

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CLASSES: There will be six lessons. Classes will meet downstairs at Veterans Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, on the following evenings:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	1-4-91	Streamers: Black Marabou, Olive Wooly Bugger
2	1-11-91	Wet Flies: Dark Cahill, Soft Hackle
3	1-18-91	Nymphs: Scraggley, Dark Stenomema
4	1-25-91	Drys: Brown Hackle, Light Cahill
5	2-1-91	Spinners: Rusty Poly Spinner, Cream Hen Wing Spinner
6	2-8-91	Panfish, Bass Attractors: Black Ant, Deer Hair Bug

Equipment: All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, tread, scissors, etc

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 \$30.00, Non Members \$25.00

CFFA Enrollment Application

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 12 Horizon Hill Road, Newington, CT 06111

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Date: _____

CFFA Member Yes No

For additional information contact: Dale Matthews, V.P. Promotion, 155 Conklin Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076, Phone (203)875-2033

Flyfishing by Fran Verdoliva

Winter Fly Fishing for Steelhead

Reprinted with permission of the author. Published in Salmon Fever Fishing Journal - Fall Edition, 1990

Note from the editor [of Salmon Fever Fishing Journal]: Due to the increased interest in fly fishing for steelhead during the winter months, we felt compelled to reprint the following article. We hope it answers your questions. For more information on fly fishing, be sure to look in future issues of Salmon Fever.

Winter steelhead fishing is an activity often associated with extremes of weather in the Great Lakes. Visions of frozen steelhead fishermen using spinfishing equipment with an assorted array of lures and natural baits often leaves the fly fisherman in doubt of the success that he will have under these conditions. Even the traditional literature from West Coast winter flyfishing experiences leaves little doubt that this is an activity that is left to only the most enthusiastic and devoted fly fishermen. The time and energy spent for the thought of a single hookup, let alone actually landing a steelhead under the conditions encountered makes one wonder if it is really worth it. Yet it is this difficulty that has always made me return, despite my success or failure.

In the past it was believed by many that the use of flies was an endeavor in futility. The last ten years has provided many breakthroughs in flyfishing equipment and techniques especially in the Great Lakes fishery. These breakthroughs are now bringing much greater success to the fly fisherman. The major change for the fly fisherman came about when they realized that if they were to be successful they were going to have to adapt the techniques of the drift fisherman.

The Great Lakes tributaries with their confined shorelines that do not allow much back casting room, their fast current through short runs and pools, and sometimes snag-filled pools of fallen trees, left little doubt that sinking shooting heads and sinking lines of West Coast tradition were going to play little part in the style of fishing needed here. Another problem encountered here that affects technique is that the density of fishermen using the resource is high, so that the choice of areas suitable for flyfishing is limited. (At this time, the Salmon River has acquired a "flyfishing only" section, which will no doubt enhance the quality of this winter sport).

This doesn't mean that certain times of the year West Coast techniques can't be used or that Atlantic salmon techniques aren't used. Many times in early fall or late spring I incorporate these traditional techniques in my guiding trips. Backtracking to an earlier statement, if

you are going to be successful in flyfishing for winter steelhead then you must adopt the techniques of the drift fisherman.

What this mean is you must learn to dead drift a fly, on bottom or close to bottom with a drift as slow as possible to enable the steelhead which may be in water temperatures of 33 to 35 degrees the chance to take your fly. I think it became very obvious that when spin fishermen started drifting flies and were many times out-fishing egg sacks that it was no longer a case of flies being ineffective, but that it was the technique of fly fishermen that was not working. The sinking lines were causing too much drag, making the fly drift too fast and unnatural and also not allowing the fisherman good contact from fly to line and rod to fly. The solution appeared to be using floating lines with splitshot on long leaders. In areas where long casts aren't involved this isn't bad, but in other cases it is very awkward, especially when large amounts of weight are needed. Many fly fishermen then started using monofilament with flies, such as the techniques advocated by Joe Humphreys and George Harvey when nymph fishing for trout. But this was an unacceptable method for the tradition bound fly fisherman, who finds the act of casting as important in the experience. The solution needed was a technique that allowed the use of floating fly line for casting and mending with the use of weight. The problem was if you used a 9 weight line and added split shot the rod was overloaded and the taper of the line actually worked against casting with weight.

A simple solution was available. Underline your rod and use a level line. The perfect line was available - the shooting, floating, running line from the back of a shooting head. This is usually a level two weight line. It has the advantage of small diameter for shooting long distances, can be cast with fly casting techniques even though the spit shot helps load the rod, and in

Continued on page 6

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
1	1-4-91	Underwater Trout Flies	Muddler Minnow, Nymph Stone Fly
2	1-11-91	Floating Trout Flies	Comparadun, Parachute
3	1-18-91	Underwater Bass Flies	Clouser Crayfish, Hare Water bug
4	1-25-91	Floating Bass Flies	Dalberg Diver, Deer Hair Poppers
5	2-1-91	Underwater Saltwater Flies	Hy-tie, Lefty Deceiver
6	2-8-91	Floating Saltwater Flies	Cork Popper, Slider

Equipment: All necessary hooks and materials will be furnished. Students must supply their own vise, bobbin, tread, scissors, etc

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

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CFFA Member ____ Yes ____ No

For additional information contact: Dale Matthews, V.P. Promotion, 155 Conklin Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076, Phone (203)875-2033

Steelhead Fishing - continued from page 4

extreme cold doesn't ice up to the extent of heavier lines. When used in conjunction with a long leader on an upstream cast the fly fisherman can get the fly to the bottom quickly by taking in slack line and keeping the rod tip high. By keeping a tight line and as much fly line off the water as possible, you can get a drag-free, dead drift float, feeling the weight tick along the bottom as it drifts naturally. The use of long rods from 9½ to 10½ feet also increases the effectiveness of the dead drift technique.

By incorporating a fluorescent butt section in your leader, as using a strike indicator on the leader, you can greatly increase the visual aspect of determining the soft strike of the steelhead. Since this technique is so effective in placing your fly on bottom it become one of the occupational hazards that you are going to lose flies. Therefore, I suggest that you keep flies uncomplicated such as egg patterns, glo-bugs and simple nymphs like the Teeny Nymph. Leave your Atlantic salmon flies and traditional steelhead flies to low water periods for use with floating lines and swinging fly techniques. Colors of flies will vary from bright fluorescent to dull and dark. I do find that most situations call for smaller flies, especially on the Salmon river which is in contrast to winter steelheading on the West Coast where large bright flies are used to entice dormant fish. Also in sharp contrast to the West where heavy tippets are used, the rule of thumb is light tippets on the Salmon River. Two to six pound tippets are the norm. Whenever possible I try to use the heaviest tippet so as to play fish as quickly as possible. I'm not sure that the success of light tippets is really as much because of less visibility to the fish, but because it enhances the natural drift of the fly.

I'm sure that if you incorporate some or all of these techniques to your style of fly fishing you will greatly increase your success for Great Lakes steelhead, especially on the Salmon River.

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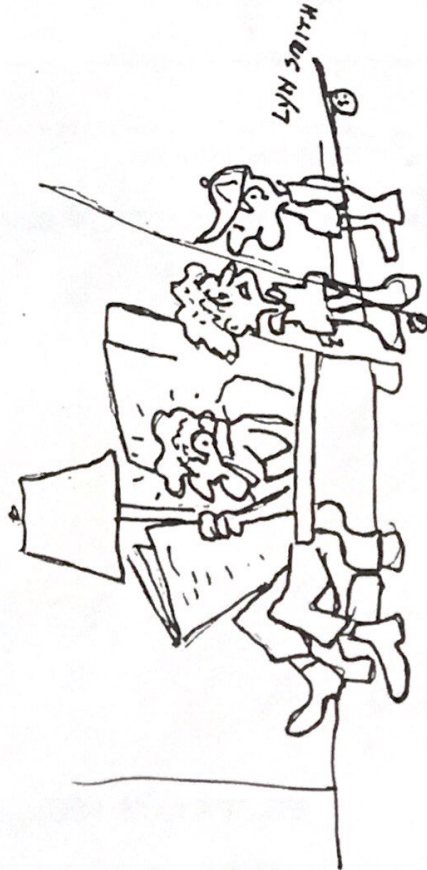
Attention All CFFA Members:

It's that time of year again...time to renew your CFFA membership. Please help make my job easier by sending in your renewal form with check, now. You may use the form enclosed in this issue of **Lines and Leaders**. If you are interested in joining a committee, please check one of the boxes on the form. We can probably put your talent to good use!

As all of you are probably aware of, fly-fishing is becoming more popular now than ever before. As time goes on, I run into more people of all age who are beginning this fine art. If you have a relative, friend or co-worker who is interested in fly-fishing, suggest that they complete a new membership application and become a member of CFFA. Or, as an alternative, you may want to consider giving a membership as a gift...especially since the holidays are approaching.

I hope I can count of you for your support and I look forward to meeting you at the upcoming membership meetings.

Regards, David Harduby



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CFFA comments, suggestions, etc

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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen'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 Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT.

"Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen'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 ad or \$40 for 9 months. CFFA members may place for-sale or want ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to Pam Murray, 160 Rising Trail Dr., Middletown, CT 06457. Change of address notices should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380260, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268.



DECEMBER 12 MEETING - Frank Dalgault - Fly Fishing for Striped Bass

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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