

volume seventeen

may 1990

# TIMES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

May Meeting

**Subject:** FISHING CONNECTICUT TROUT MANAGEMENT AREAS

A SLIDE SHOW & DISCUSSION  
BY CFFA MEMBERS

**Place:**

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HALL  
SUNSET RIDGE, EAST HARTFORD

**Date:**

MAY 9, 1990

**Time:**

7:00 PM - FLY TYING  
7:30 PM - PROGRAM

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CALL THE NEW CFFA HOTLINE !!!!

237-2010

FISHING INFO, RIVER CONDITIONS, CLUB ACTIVITIES AND MORE!

## *"From the Vest of the President"*

A few changes are brewing for CFFA, the first of which is that there will be a May meeting. Our past few annual outings have been pretty sparsely attended even when the weather was exceptionally good. The preference of the membership is pretty obvious, and your Board of Directors has decided to extend our meeting schedule into May to see if this might draw more attendance. No final program selection has been made as I write this, but all of the options will provide an enjoyable evening.

Another change will be the location of our next Annual Banquet. We have been holding our Banquet at the Sphinx Temple for quite a few years, and have gotten a very good deal in terms of space, location, and cost. In spite of this, a number of members have felt for some time that we were in a rut and needed something different. The delays we had with serving the meals at the last Banquet brought things to a head. After checking into some of the options it looks like we will be going to the Manchester Country Club next year. Several Board members have been there for other events and been very satisfied with the atmosphere and the meals. The space and location are good, and the cost is not too different from the Temple. We'll give it a try, and see if this will bring more members out for the Banquet.

Our third change is something that has been discussed for a long time and was done at least once before - holding an intermediate level fly tying class along with, or in place of, the introductory class. Quite a few of our members have taken the basic class, and there ought to be a lot of interest in learning new patterns and working with new materials. We'll be working on this through the Summer and Fall, and we would like to know how many of you would be interested and what patterns you would like to tie. Talk to any Board member at the meeting, send us a note, or give us a call.

Well, that's more than enough new stuff for now. We are still looking for a Banquet Chairman and we will hold regular Board meetings at the Veteran's memorial every month except July. The meetings are open, and you are all welcome to attend. Its time to dust off the tackle, sort everything out, and go fishing. I hope you will all make use of our new hotline, take good notes in your fishing diaries, and write some articles for next year's newsletters.

Tight lines,

*Larry Johnson*

Fly Fishing in CT- A Seminar  
by Mark Philippe  
Thursday May 3, 1990  
6 PM (Downstairs)



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CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

THE 1990 ROD BUILDING SCHOOL

CLASSES: There will be five classes. Classes will meet on the following Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse (lower level), Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT. Directions to the Clubhouse are provided on the reverse of this form.

CLASS No. 1: September 13, 1990

CLASS No. 2: October 11, 1990

CLASS No. 3: October 25, 1990

CLASS No. 4: November 1, 1990

CLASS No. 5: November 8, 1990

INSTRUCTOR: E.F. ROBERTS, Custom Rod Builder  
ROD SELECTION: Your choice of the following rods:

7 1/2 foot 4/5 line Graphite  
8 foot 5/6 line Graphite  
9 foot 7/8 line Graphite

CLASS SIZE: Limited to 10 students

REGISTRATION: Because of the small class size registration is by MAIL ONLY on a first come first serve basis. Ed Roberts will be at the September members meeting to answer any questions relative to rod selection and material costs. Ed can also be reached at home by calling 651-8402 between 5:00 and 8:00PM. Or call Wally Murray at 632-1449.

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CFFA RBS ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT the required information. Forward application and tuition to Wally Murray, 160 Rising Trail Drive, Middletown, CT06457, Phone 632-1449.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ROD SELECTION (Circle One)

TUITION

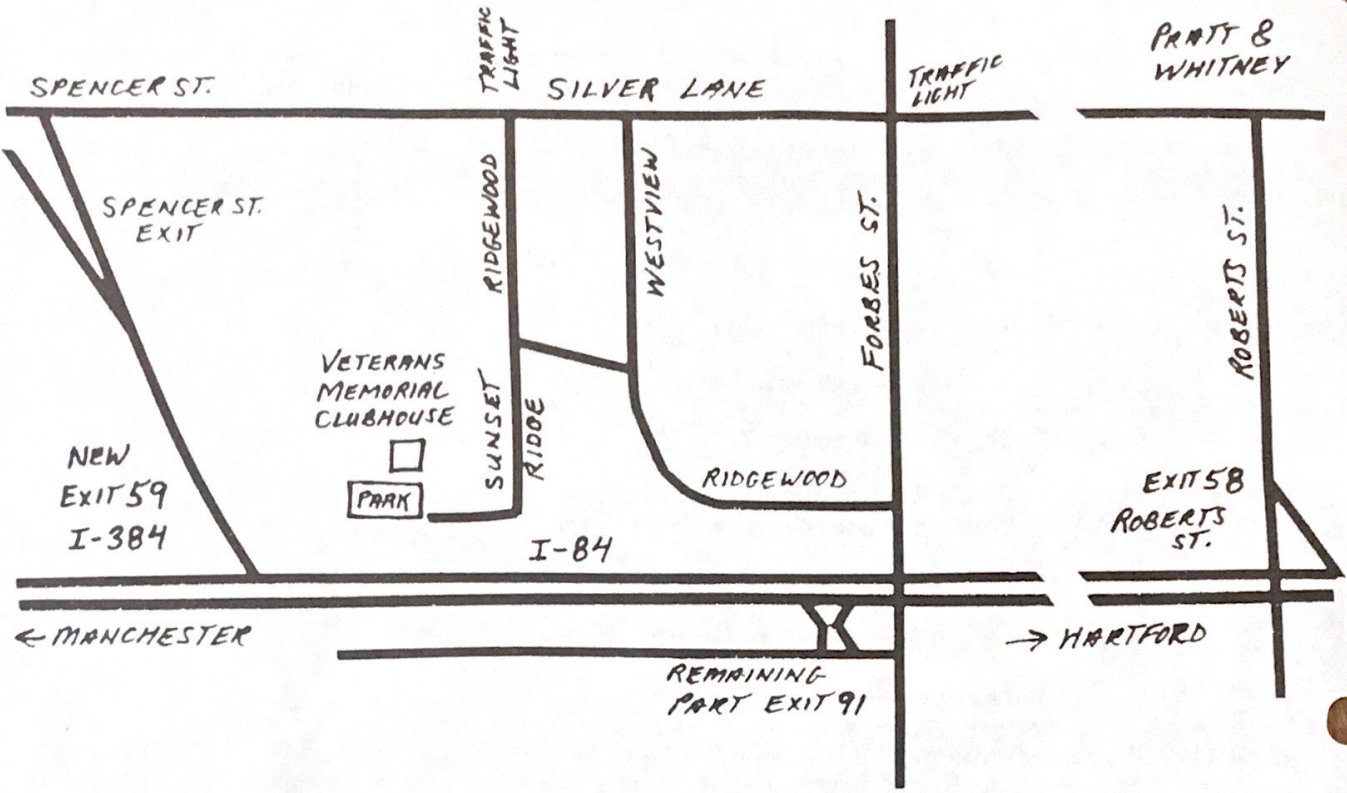
7 1/2 ft.      8 ft.      9 ft.

\_\_\_\_\_ Member \$10

Materials will be sold at 40% Discount

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \$15

Directions to Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse



ATTENTION FLY FISHING SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

FINAL SESSION SATURDAY MAY 5, 1990

MEET AT NYE HOLMAN PARK

9 AM

CALL WALLY MURRAY FOR ADDITIONAL INFO TEL: 632-1449

COME GIVE A HAND

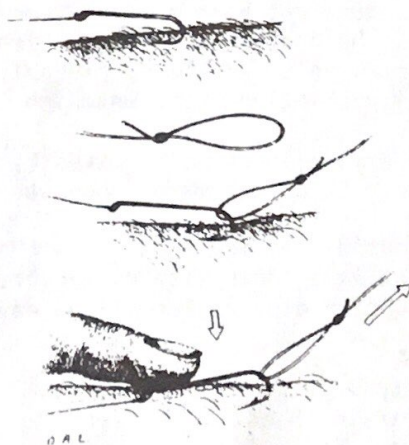
AT THE BOY SCOUTS JAMBOREE

SATURDAY MAY 19, 1990  
HEBRON FAIR GROUNDS

CONTACT BRUCE COLE FOR INFO TEL: 693-2250

## FISHING TIPS

### CATCH AND RELEASE



To quickly and almost painlessly release a fisherman you'd prefer not to keep, place a heavy monofilament loop around the bend of the imbedded hook. Press down on the eye of the hook. With a quick pull on the loop in a parallel line with the hook shank, the fisherman is free.

My Mentor  
By  
John Springer

Most of us have or have had a mentor in fly fishing. Mine is named John, and as the dictionary says, and I quote, "he is a wise and trusted counselor".

I got into fly fishing by chance, through a fellow that I was working with. He gave me a rod, some line, and a few flies, and told me to go try it out. When I said I needed more help, he told me to go see this other fellow that worked for the same company, so I did. The opportunity presented itself one night, when I was working, so I went to him and told him I knew he was a fly fisherman and I was having some trouble and that I needed some help. I told him that I needed a good place to fish and that he could tell me where he went and we could go together. I mentioned to him that I would need some different types of flies and could he tie them for me. It was then I found out that some of the people I would encounter, if I was to pursue this as a hobby, would not be like other people you meet in life. First, John told me that he did not take ANYONE fishing and second, even though I had offered to pay him to tie up some flies, he said he did this for no one. Now, you must understand that I was 33 years old, a New Yorker and married. John was 55 years old, a real Connecticut Yankee and a confirmed bachelor.

By this time you would think that I would move on, but I did not. As he got to know me, I guess he started to like me. First, he gave me a book to read, which told me a lot. Maybe you've read it yourself - the title is "Curtis Creek Manifesto". The story about Curtis Creek is very good and it did enlighten me. He gave me some flies and I remember that his Elk Hair Caddis was the best for me, at the time. When it fell apart I asked if it could be fixed, and he said no, and that I would have to learn how to tie my own. After some heavy thought on his part, he told me to come to his house and he would show me. After 6 lessons, he told me that was enough and to practice on my own, that was the only way to get better. I must say that during this time he never made it easy for me. It took 3 years before he showed me a small stream that has wild fish in it; it took 2 years before he showed me a fly he designed himself, and I must say that it works very well.

As we got to know each other, we have gone out West several times together and more trips are planned for the future. He has also taken the time to show me things in the great outdoors that, if it wasn't for him, I probably would have never had an interest in, such as mushroom picking and bird watching.

We only fish together about 10 times a year, because he likes his privacy on the stream and I respect this now, though it took time to understand.

This story brings back many happy memories for me, and I know that the future still holds many more good times that I will share with my mentor. If it wasn't for you John, I would have missed out on a lot of fun-filled days on the stream.

John Springer  
261 Airline Road  
Clinton, Ct. 06413  
203-669-5917

### HACKLES, PALMERS AND OTHER STRANGE NOTIONS

I'm excited about this fly. It should be quite an effective nymph. It combines the undulating tail action of the Woolly Bugger, the flowing legs of a soft-hackled wet fly and the iridescence of peacock herl.

Variations of this fly can be made by simply changing the colors of the abdomen, thorax, tail and even the thread (head). The color scheme shown below could imitate a brown stonefly nymph or suggest a crawfish. A brownish yellow color scheme may suggest yellow stonefly nymphs. This fly should be good for bass as well as trout.

#### CLOUSER'S SWIMMING NYMPH

(Reference Fly Fisherman, May 1990, "The Swimming Nymph," by Ed Jaworowski)

Hook: Mustad 3906B; Tiemco TMC 3761, size to match the natural.  
Thread: Fire Orange 6/0  
Weight: .020 lead wire  
Tail: Marabou to match abdomen color and four strands of Pearl Krystal Flash  
Abdomen: Ligas Dark Rust Dubbing  
Wing Case: Peacock Herl  
Legs: English Partridge (I find Connecticut Ruffed Grouse breast feathers to be quite adequate).  
Thorax: Ligas Dark Rust Dubbing

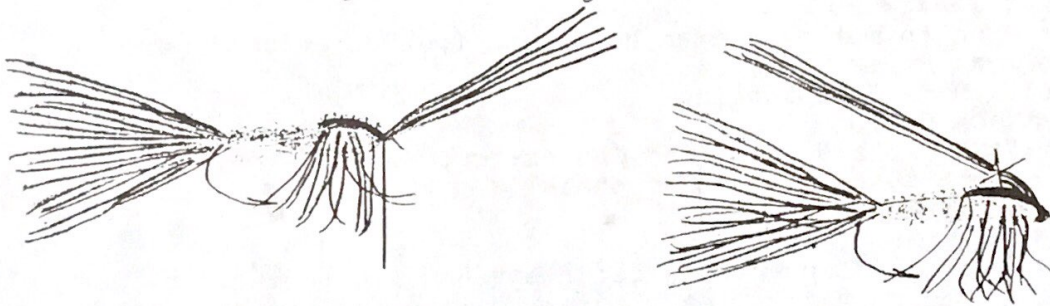
I've modified the original pattern a bit (legs and the tail flash) due to my materials I had on hand. The original called for bronze Flashabou and henback feather legs.

Before you place the hook into the vise, flatten the barb of the hook. This will make it easier to release your fish as well as improve hooking efficiency.

Lay down a bed of thread starting one eye width from the eye to half way down the shank. On this bed wrap lead around the shank. Overwrap the lead using the thread. Use head cement to insure the lead will remain in place. Wrap the thread over the remaining portion of the shank. Bring the thread back to the end of the lead wraps. I take a marabou plume and strip off about 3/4 inch of fibers from the stem. Tie this in on the shank at the end of the lead wraps. Make the tail be about the length of the entire hook. Trim the marabou. Bring the thread forward slightly and tie in another bunch of marabou of about the same quantity. Repeat this until four bunches of marabou have been tied in. You should end up with the tail tied in progressive stages without leaving an unsightly bump. Take a strand of Krystal Flash and cut it in four pieces roughly the same length. Tie in two strands on each side of the tail.



Dub on the Ligas and wrap the abdomen from the last tie in at the tail to about two thirds the shank length. Take about eight to ten strands of full fibered peacock herl and tie them in front of the abdomen. Select a well mottled partridge feather. Stroke back the fibers and tie in the feather by the tip. Dub the thorax from the abdomen to about one eye width from the end of the shank. Wrap the feather forward about two turns, three if the quality will allow, and tie off. Pull the strands of peacock herl forward and tie down in front of the legs using three turns of the thread. Now take the peacock and pull straight to the rear. Tie the peacock down such that it continues pointing towards the rear. Complete the head and trim the peacock ends about half the length of the wing case.



#### TIPS/TECHNIQUES

For a real thrifty approach you can use the lead found on wine bottles for weighting flies. Flatten the lead wrap. With a rigid straight edge and a knife, cut thin strips about 1/16 " to 3/32 " wide. As you are tying flies you can drink the wine.

Instead of using head cement to bind down the lead, you can use clear nail polish. I find "Hard as Nails" to be quite good.

Before you tie the marabou onto the shank a good idea to improve the manageability of the feather is to moisten the fibers first.

Tie in the peacock near the tip which has a finer stem.

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.

*The Royal Footman*



"TIPS" ON WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE POACHING

Ever see someone taking fish from a no-kill area, fishing with improper equipment in "fly fishing only" waters, fishing out of season, and wish you, personally, could do more to stop these poachers? Well, now you can -- by giving your support to TIP (Turn In Poachers).

Reducing poaching is what TIP is all about. The program was developed in Connecticut by the Department of Environmental Protection's Law Enforcement Bureau in cooperation with the Connecticut Wildlife Federation and the Citizen's Advisory Council to the DEP. TIP is actively seeking the help of Connecticut's citizens in reducing the theft of our state's valuable fish and wildlife resources.

The TIP program promotes the reporting of all wildlife and fisheries violations. In addition, TIP encourages the reporting of a number of the most serious wildlife and fishing offenses by offering substantial rewards for information leading to arrests for these crimes.

How to Report a Violation

-Obtain as much information as possible without placing yourself in danger, i.e., descriptions of violator and/or vehicle, etc. (vehicle has broken left tail light, violator has full beard, etc.)

-Call 1-800-842-HELP (a 24 hour toll-free hotline)

-Say you have a tip

-While giving details of the violation, you will be assigned a code number. This enables the operations coordinator to find your file, pay rewards, etc.

Call back if conditions change or additional information is received. (vehicle has left the scene traveling north, etc.)

-You must call back to confirm arrest or the availability of a reward.

TIP Rewards Leading to Arrests for Specified Offenses

	\$
<u>Lobsters</u>	
Taking or possession of shorts or egg bearers	75.00
Molesting/Stealing	100.00
<u>Fisheries</u>	
Taking any fish in a closed area, season, undersized or over daily limit.	50.00
<u>Striped Bass/Atlantic Salmon</u>	
Illegal taking	75.00
<u>Hatcheries</u>	
Theft of fish from a state hatchery, rearing or holding facility	200.00
<u>Marine Mammals (whales and seals)</u>	
Hunting, killing	1000.00
Possession of marine mammal products	500.00
<u>Sea Turtles</u>	
Hunting, killing, or illegal possession of	500.00

TIP is financed by private contributions and needs the help of every conservation-minded citizen. The CFFA, financially and morally, supports the TIP program. If you have any questions on this program you may contact any of the club board members or write to: Connecticut Wildlife Federation, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

*Mike Stewart*

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## You Don't Have to Fall In to Freeze to Death

By Leo Dollar

Most fly-fishermen have sense enough to recognize the dangers of fast, cold water when they wade after trout, respecting the odds of drowning or succumbing to the chilling in water only a dozen or so degrees above freezing if they get dunked. (One of our long-term members has made sub-surface explorations of both the Kings and Yuba River, fly-rod only showing above the wavelets ).

But how many of you have experienced a close bout with the precursor of death by exposure to freezing, either wet or dry? This month's tragedy at Convict Lake, only a few miles from Hot Creek and the Owens River the other side of our Sierra, makes it especially timely to think about this hazard, which can be faced so quickly in this season of steelhead and salmon fishing. The seven who died when the lake ice splintered under them probably will prove, in autopsy, to have perished only from the fast-numbing cold and not even partially from drowning after they went under.

Even in summer time, such bodies as Henry's Fork, the Madison, even out Kings and San Joaquin Rivers can do this number on the unwary or too-eager-to-quit wader, without getting a drop of their "refreshing" waters inside out boots or chest highs. Only a few years ago, one of our club members went through the frightening experience of being nearly overcome by such dry, super-cooling while fishing Lake Miltown, a beautifully clear, mountain lake a few miles into the Nevada mountains not far from Martis

Creek Lake in the Truckee River watershed. This tiny man-aided impoundment (with a dinky dam) grows magnificent insects and gutsy, persnickety trout, which make it easy to become so absorbed in getting a hookup that "one-more cast" becomes many, many more and eventually the eager or disappointed angler only leaves the lake in his tube when his hands are shaking and he is shivering to a conga beat that keeps him from tying even the simplest clinch knot to hold his fly on the tippet.

By then it can be too late to avoid even further subsequent discoordination and true hypothermia that leaves its victim unable to do even the dimple motions of unbuckling his wader suspenders or getting out tube or waders without falling. And this can happen even though the angler felt well insulated with long-johns of wool or downy quilting under his rubber gear when he launched his tube barely two hours earlier.

Impossible in that time? Guess again. My partner and fellow fisherman found himself in his predicament in only an hour and a half in the water...and the early June sun was beaming down us abundantly...but he needed help getting into the cab of our truck by the time he'd shed his waders and wrapped himself in a blanket.

Thanks to a quick-lighting propane pack-stove and a handy jar of soluble tea and several spoonfuls of sugar stirred into two cups of hot drink I brewed, he came around within a couple hours but he was weary and worn for several days after his unpleasant surprise. He was lucky this time, which he says he intends it to be the only time.

Reprinted from FLY DOPE, Newsletter

of Flyfisherman for Conservation,  
Fresno, CA

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# Board of Directors

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### CFEA FLY FISHING SCHOOL

MARCH 2, 1990  
 MARCH 9, 1990  
 MARCH 16, 1990  
 APRIL 7, 1990  
 MAY 1990 (TBA)

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 Hursey, 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.

Copy deadline: second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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