



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 20, No. 7

March 1993

Organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters."

MARCH MEETING

Alaska Fly Fishing
Ernie Boutiette & Charlie Place

Listen to Ernie and Charlie talk about their fishing trips to Alaska. You have read a few of their stories in the Lines & Leaders since their first trip in '91. Now hear first hand about their experiences fishing about 75 miles northwest of Anchorage out of the Wilderness Place Lodge. I understand they caught cohos, chums, humpbacks, sockeyes, and pink salmon as well as rainbow trout.

Come and listen from fellow CFFA members about fishing a place that we all dream about.

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse
Sunset Ridge
East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, March 10

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



From The Vest of the President - continued

A special award, a framed copy of the poster for our expo and banquet, with flies tied by Ed Jaworowski and Gary LaFontaine, was presented to Ken Parkany. Many worked to make it happen, but Ken was the inspiration behind our expo, anniversary banquet, and many other things we will be doing to celebrate our first 25 years. We'll mention those who worked to make it happen, those who gave donations, and those who won some of the prizes in the next issue. For now, it was a wonderful day, thanks to all who made it happen, and I think we'll be doing it again next year.

Tight lines,
Larry Johnson

From the Vest of the President



As the saying goes, "If you weren't there, you missed it." And what you missed was a wonderfully successful CFFA Fly Fishing Expo and 25th Anniversary Banquet. It was like Thanksgiving, in a way, lots of work, and over before you know it. But everything went well, and it was satisfying to see the months of planning and hard work by CFFA members pay off. The success of the day, and the crowd at the banquet that night, old and young, founders and new, show that the energy and commitment that began CFFA 25 years ago are still there with us today.

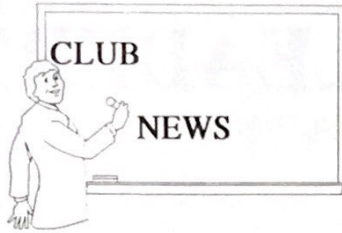
Fourteen persons came to the special tying seminar with Gary LaFontaine early Saturday morning, 15 exhibitors set up in the expo hall, and 214 persons came through the doors to view the vendors' displays, talk fly fishing, attend the seminars, and make a few purchases. The banquet was just as successful. We had plenty of room for a change, and our attendance was 205, including Mark Barbieri, son of CFFA founder and first president, Ted Barbieri, and a number of founding members and early members of CFFA.

We also had as guests Gary LaFontaine, who gave us a great program on the pleasures and wildness of Montana, Ed Jaworowski, who gave a seminar during the expo, and Page Rogers, who tied during the expo and gave a very moving blessing at the banquet. Yes, in real life she is the pastor of Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam, and she is now a member of CFFA.

Our special table raffle this year was a beautiful oak fly tying center (a big wall desk-cabinet) built by CFFA members Kurt Jagielow and Dave Kusma, and equipped with vice, tools, materials, books, etc supplied by Orvis, CFFA and others. All 75 tickets were sold before the meal was over, and the winning ticket was drawn by Gary LaFontaine. The winner was past president Joe D'Addario. You just had to be there to appreciate Joe's reaction. He may not be an actor, but he does "unexpected surprise" very well. The cabinet has a good home, and I expect that Joe will have a lot of visitors to check out his prize.

The winner of the Ted Barbieri Award, an engraved Wheatley fly box given by the board to a member of CFFA, was Dick Vanasse. Anyone who saw our beautiful posters for this event will appreciate his contributions to CFFA. The award was named for our first president, and was made this year by his son, Mark Barbieri. The recipient of the Scarlet Ibis Award, a custom made fly rod given by the president to a member of the board, was Mike Stewart. Mike has many years of service on the board, in many capacities. One of his many contributions is the new format of "Lines and Leaders," which he helped to set up and continues as editor.

Continued in opposite column



Willimantic Brush Clearing - It's that time of the year for clearing the brush away from the Willi TMA access paths. We aren't sure of the dates quite yet, but if you would like to help call Kurt Jagielow, 649-3681.

Willi Stream Improvement - The state is planting Silky Dogwood, a bush, and other items to be used for stream improvement. The roots of these plants will aid in controlling stream bank erosion. Transplanting streamside could be next year. Keep an eye out in the Lines & Leaders next year for a call for volunteers to help transplanting.

Fishing Expo & Banquet - Our first show was an outstanding achievement. A count of admission tickets showed we had about 214 people visit the expo. Over 200 people were present for the banquet that evening. Many thanks go to all of the club volunteers who worked very hard over the past few months to make this expo and banquet a success. A partial list of these volunteers include:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Larry Johnson | Ken Parkany |
| Kurt Jagielow | Elmer Latham |
| Charlie Place | Ed Fidrych |
| Dick Vanasse | Mike Stewart |
| Gary Bogli | George Degen |
| Dale Matthews | Gary LaFontaine |
| Keith Mailloux | Gary Steinmiller |
| Tony Simmons | Dick Lerche |
| Ernie Boutiette | Mark Philippe |
| John Springer | Dave Kusma |

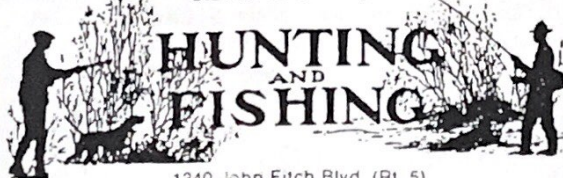
COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Fly Fishing School | 4, 11, 18, 25 Mar
10, 24 April |
| Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Show | 13 Mar 93 |
| Fishing Show, Hartford Civic Center | 18-21 Mar 93 |
| HFFA Banquet, Ed Shenk - Speaker,
Call Fred Gunn, 269-6478 | 20 Mar 93 |
| North Eastern Council FFF Conclave,
Roscoe, NY | 4-6 Jun 93 |
| Trip, Falmouth, Cape Cod | 11-12 June 93 |
| FFF National Conclave,
Livingston, MT | 8-14 Aug 93 |

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The "PITZEN-KNOT" is the Ultimate Hook-eye Knot!

Mr. Edgar Pitzenbauer, the foremost European writer on Flyfishing became know to us in 1990 through his ordering and using our 42" 5X, 6X and 7X Tippet-in-a-Tube following his receiving our standard 32" Tippet-in-a-Tube from American writer Darrell Martin. The respect and reputation Mr. Pitzenbauer has is well reflected in an article in the magazine "Fliegenfischen" (Flyfishing) wherein he is called "Mr. Unec" after the famous Yugoslavian river called the Unec (pronounced oo-netz). His singular success in catching the super-shy Grayling up to 49 cm (19.29 inches) is widely recognized...as are his excellent magazine articles on techniques and accurate pro and con evaluations. He recently shared with us his "Pitzen-knot" for tying tippets to hook-eye and while he reported previous tests of an excellent 95% break-knot with other tippet material he wrote to say our 5X tested, on average, at 100%. He tested our 5X Tippet 10 times and the line test broke (not the knot) 6 times out of 10. We (and he) think our

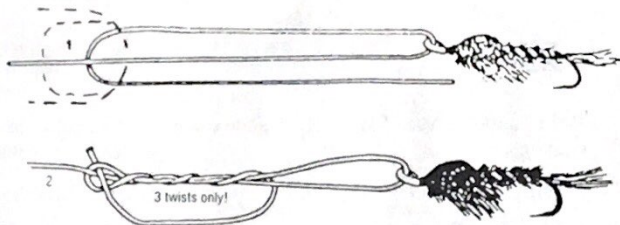
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The "PITZEN-KNOT" is the ultimate hook-eye knot!



- 1 - Position the Fly to the right as shown.
- 1 - Thread 3' to 4' of tippet through the hook-eye and loop as shown. Hold in place between your left thumb and finger. Now let the Fly hang.
- 2 - Make 3 twists (only) as is illustrated leaving a loop through which you thread the tag-end exactly as shown...i.e. 'in' topfront and 'out' back of loop.
- 2 - Pull the tag-end with left hand so twists close up loosely, not firmly! Now pull the tippet line (not tag-end) so that the knot slides to the hook-eye; do this steadily and then firmly until you feel the 'knot set'.

With repeated ties you will feel the knot set; pull it a second time as sometimes you may feel a second smaller 'knot-set'. Retie* if you do not feel at least one 'knot-set'. This knot is as easy to tie as a Clinch-knot but it tests, on average, an incredible 95% to 100% of straight-line strength of our tippets verses as little as 65% for the Clinch-knot. The "Pitzen-knot" is so simple; it's a small knot, not at all bulky and you can snip the tag-end close!

*As more and more bigger fish are released through "Catch & Release" the likelihood of you hooking a trophy fish increases dramatically. Feel that knot-set to assure yourself of 100% knot strength to straight-line strength...and land that trophy! **The challenge is the Tippet & the knot you use versus the fish!**

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softer tippet (coupled with out exclusive and incredible 25% to 32% elongation factor) has much to do with that superiority. Some quotes translated from Mr. Pitzenbauer's write up are:

"There are no knots that one can make good or bad in ten different ways, depending on which end one pulls, how one pulls the turns tight, and if one makes the end knots with a jerk or a steady pull."

"The inventor (of other knots) who had made the (his) knot numerous times, writes always that the knot is simple with some practice, but Rastelli would have said that about juggling seven balls as he mastered it blindfolded."

"Far from each test of strength comes the test of whether the knots are simple, that is only after a short practice."

"There is hardly any knot that can surpass this one in the easiness of tying"...and to this we will add 'with none that will achieve its break-knot strength.'"

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Stanley Works & Salmon

Reprinted from September '92, Hook n' Bullet. Ed

Stanley Works, the world's largest maker of hand tools, will install a fishway on the Rainbow Dam on the Farmington River to reduce the number of Salmon currently killed as they pass through the turbines on their return to the sea. The DEP will, according to Commissioner R.E. Keeney, pay half the \$100,000 tab. Stanley Works, according to a previous Hartford Courant article, balked at providing the fishway.

The issue emerged last spring when Stanley Works applied for a state permit to accomplish about \$1 million in repairs to the dam. The company planned to replace eroded concrete on the dam's face. Under current statute, proposed by DEP and supported by sportsmen, repairs to dams require the owner to include fish passage improvements as part of the work. State officials claimed repairs were substantial enough to trigger the statute, but Stanley said the repairs were not major and attempted to avoid the additional cost.

CCS sources indicate that in negotiations conducted throughout the interim, Stanley resisted the work on the grounds that the state had not adequately demonstrated the fishway need and that the dam and turbines were not a major cause of fish mortality. In addition, there were reported threats of possible manpower cutbacks or relocation of jobs because of the high cost of operating in the state.

The agreement signed in early September calls for the company to alter the dam and install piping to deflect migrating fish from the turbines. Stanley Works and the DEP will split the \$100,000 cost. Commissioner Keeney said a contract with the company nearly 20 years ago put the company in a unique position and warranted the Department paying part of the costs. DEP and the Farmington River Power Co., which operates the dam, will develop the design for the fishway.

While DEP contend the fishway would save substantial numbers of Atlantic salmon stocked above the dam, Stanley apparently still does not agree with DEP data. DEP believes the salmon migrating to the sea are either destroyed while passing through the turbines or are fortunate enough to wash over the dam in periods of high water. Only when the water is high in the Spring can young fish use the spillover, rather than passing through the turbines. DEP says they have strong evidence to prove the point, based upon annual water levels compared to fish returns. Keeney says the mortality from the turbines and other causes might reach 90 percent, but could drop to 20 percent with the improvements. The company refuted this data based upon information they receive from other facilities and said the mortality rate only averages 5 to 20 percent.

Stanley Works public relations said they have for years cooperated with the Salmon restoration program and planned to continue to do so. Their reluctance to ascribe to the statute, according to a spokesman, was that "we wanted to make sure the solution was well thought out."

The CT River Salmon Association had previously presented Commissioner Keeney with a petition for a public hearing on the issue. "Everybody is dumbfounded that Stanley Works is taking the position it's taken," said Dave Egan, the Salmon Association president. Keeney stated that he would call for the hearing and inferred that he believed the work was significant enough to require fish passage improvements in accordance with the statutes.

The agreement has been concluded and the salmon will have a fishway. It would appear a hearing on the issue is no longer needed. The only concern still remaining is whether the Rainbow dam agreement establishes a precedent to allow other dam operators to make improvements without paying the full cost in accordance with the statute. Commissioner Keeney's integrity is not at issue, but one has to wonder how many other "unique" situations exist and how much political pressure was brought to bear on the DEP.

FISHING CONDITIONS HOTLINE NUMBERS



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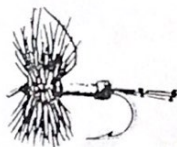
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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September 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 Lynn & Mike Stewart, 10 Bradley Brook, North Granby, CT 06060. Change of address notices should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380260, Silver Lane, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268.



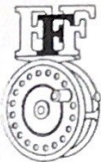
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