



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 23, No. 4

December 1995

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

DECEMBER MEETING

Salt Water Baitfish Imitations

Mark Lewchik

This month's speaker will be Mark Lewchik. Mark has a new program, "Saltwater Bait Fish and Their Imitations." His original fly patterns have appeared in several saltwater books published recently. One of his flies, "Marks Baby Bunker," is featured in the Orvis catalog. This is a special treat for CFFA - Mark is one of the premier saltwater tiers in the country and we have him all to ourselves at this month's meeting.

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

DATE: Wednesday, December 13

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

IMPORTANT!



**ATTENTION
ALL CFFA MEMBERS**

REMINDER!

It is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Please fill out the enclosed form (on page 6), include a check for the dues, and either mail it to the club or give it to Bob Quinn at the next club meeting. We appreciate your membership over the past year and look forward to seeing you for many years to come. If anyone has a question about their membership status, you can call Bob. His number is on the last page of the newsletter. If you have already paid your dues or are a lifetime member, thank you for your support and please disregard this notice.

From the Vest of the President



We had another great program last month. Ed Mitchell's program, "Reading The Beach," should improve everybody's chances when fishing from shore. If you missed the meeting, pick up a copy of Ed's book, "Fly Rodding The Coast."

I can't believe its mid-November already. By the time you read this it will be December, and we will be well on our way to planning our banquet and expo February 10, 1996. Kurt Jagielow and Dale Matthews are handling the expo, so please give one of them a call if you want to help out. Larry Johnson, Ed Fidrych and I are organizing the banquet and need some help, selling tickets and setting up the raffle at the event. Gary Bogli is getting the insurance raffle under way and needs a helping hand stuffing envelopes, addressing, etc. You can find our phone numbers on the back page of Lines and Leaders. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Elections are coming up in January. Any member that wants to run for office or has a nomination can contact Larry Johnson, John Walker or Charlie Kelly, our nominating committee.

Ernie Boutiette, Sean Hogan and I went fishing down around the Saybrook area. We were hoping to run into some stripers but ran into some Hickory Shad instead. Boy are they fussy. We fished for several hours and only caught three apiece. We should have caught a lot more. The Shad were busting the surface everywhere. The smart thing to do is give Mark Lewchik a call at Rivers End or at least stop by before you go. But who said we were smart. Next time!

Some of the most popular raffle items at the banquet are the member tied flies. Last year I won a dozen Picket Pins donated by Mike Stewart. I probably would never have fished these flies if it wasn't for Mike's donation, nor would I have caught the seven fat brown trout the last couple of times I went fishing. So the moral is-donate some flies, make some other fishermen happy, get your name in Lines and Leaders and be famous like Mike. Thanks Mike. I hope I win another dozen.

Tight Lines and Threads,

Charlie Place



Quiet Sports Has Moved! S&M Fly Tying and Quiet Sports moved as of Nov 1 1995. They are now in the center of the Collinsville Historic District just across the street from the old Collinsville Axe Factory and next door to the police station. Stop in and check out their new digs. The new phone number is 860-693-2214.

For Sale: Fenwick FF75 Fly Rod, \$20. Call Gary at 569-0270.

Lost & Found: Bobbin with Black Thread at Aero, Center. Left at CFFA Booth. If the owner doesn't claim the bobbin this month, we will place it in the Conservation Raffle. Call Charlie Place, 623-9912.

Nominating Committee: Our annual elections are coming up in January. Larry Johnson, Charlie Kelly and John Walker have volunteered to be the nominating committee. If you have a desire to take a more active role in guiding the direction of the membership, let any one of these folks know. Of course, you can also talk to any Board member. Ed.

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COMING EVENTS


CFFA Board Meeting	6 Dec 95
CFFA Membership Meeting Mark Lewchik	13 Dec 95
CFFA Rod Building School	13 Dec 95, 4, 11 18, 25 Jan, 1 Feb 96
CFFA Fly Tying School	4, 11, 18, 25 Jan 1 Feb 96
CFFA Board Meeting	3 Jan 96
CFFA Membership Meeting Gary Evans, Montana Guide	10 Jan 96
National Fly Fishing Show, Royal Plaza Trade Ctr, Marlborough MA	19-21 Jan 96
The Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, NJ Contact Barry Serviente, 717-243-6733	26-28 Jan 96
Westchester Sportsman Exposition White Plains, NY	1-4 Feb 96
CFFA Fly Fishing Show & Banquet Dave Whitlock, The Colony Manchester, CT	10 Feb 96
CFFA Fly Fishing School	7, 14, 21, 28 Mar 13 & 27 Apr 96
The International Fly Fishing Show Williamston, MA	9-11 Mar 96
CMTA Fishing Show, Hartford Civic Ctr	14-17 Mar 96

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome our new members.

David Maclean	Dwight A. Johnson
Bob Kelly	James Iannone
John Gaff	George Otten
Sean C. Hurley	

You folks are encouraged to participate in all the activities CFFA has to offer. That way CFFA grows and becomes more vibrant. If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to approach any of the board members listed on the last page. Your suggestions regarding the **Lines & Leaders** are most welcomed. Ed.



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FISHING CONDITIONS HOTLINE NUMBERS



Willimantic River, Farmington River and Connecticut in General	664-3688 (CFFA)
Farmington River	738-7327 (FRAA)
Housatonic River	248-8616 (HFFA)
Housatonic River Flow	824-7861 (NU)

Montana 1995 - Part I by John Springer



My trip to Montana this summer provided me with many ideas for stories. This is part one and several more will follow. As many of you know they had much snow this year out west. Also it came late in April and spring was a long time coming. A good fishing group can have a good time in any situation. During the second part of this summers trip we spent a week up in Wolf Creek Montana fishing the Missouri River, Sun River and some smaller creeks. Wolf Creek is a town of about 65 year round residents. It has two bars and a gas station. People make a difference anywhere you go. Montana is no different. My friends and I stayed at French's Motel. French's is quite old and a bit run down but is clean and has good beds. At the two bars in the "town" you can get all three meals. If you want pancakes that will take you all day on the river, eat them at the Oasis. For \$3.00 you will be full. They make a stream lunch for \$5.00 also. We ate most of our meals over at the Frenchmen and Me. We found the people there very friendly. It is a family run bar and the owner Tom came over to sit with us and tell us some history of the place and talk fishing. They have great burgers and he makes his own french fries. They cook a good turkey also. Tom's place has many pictures and artifacts on Railroads and Cowboys from the area. Should you go make sure you check out the baby rattler next to the front door. After you patronize a place like the Frenchmen and Me a few times you would be surprised what you may find out about local fishing. As well as where the snakes are located Tom's daughter and son-in-law had a good laugh one night when I told them where I had spent the day fishing.



In the town of Craig just before you go over the Missouri River there is a fly shop called Missouri River Trout Shop. Jerry and Chris run a great operation. They did everything to make sure our trip was a memorable one. One of their guides, Ron, was in the shop every morning. Ron told us what flies were working and where we should spend our time fishing. They fixed the place up and have been running it now for five years. Jerry's wife Karen runs the restaurant. She makes the best apple pie I ever had but I did not tell my wife this. Also, they cut you a very big slice. I have had stream side lunches prepared many different ways but out of all of them she makes the best. Plenty of food cooked fresh. She also puts in several types of salads and other healthy things to eat. I would say that for \$7.00 it is very reasonable. You can rent a drift boat from these people for \$75. You drive up to Wolf Creek bridge or the Holter dam and they will have the boat ready for you. They shuttle your car back to Craig.



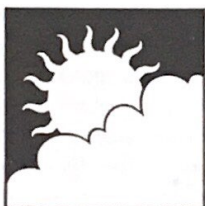
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VIDEO TAPE LIBRARY RULES

- 2 tapes per person.
- \$2 per tape per month.
- Return at fly tying classes, board meetings, monthly meetings, etc. - to any Board member.
- \$2 late fee per tape per week.
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- Rented after meetings at coffee table.

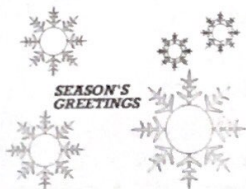
Montana - Part I continued

When you get finished with your float at night, you just pull the boat out of the water at the Craig bridge. Your car is there for you. Their place is 50 ft. away and is the only place around that you can get fed at 10 P.M.. Fishermen are very lucky to have them there. This is something new they are trying and I for one hope they are successful at it. By now I am sure you know how much food means to me. We floated the river twice up stream from their shop. Water was high and only got higher as the week progressed. San Juan worms on the bottom while drifting from the boat worked very well. When we got to the different islands that the river is known for I used a woolly bugger on a sinking line. My fishing was very good using these methods. The PMDs never really got going and we only had dry fly fishing one night and it was spotty. On our third float we floated from the Deerborn Bridge to the Missouri River Inn. This float is not quite as pretty up above.



People built their houses right on the river and it takes away from the beauty of the river. Also, the fishing was not as good. We had very unstable weather the two weeks we were there. It usually is very good fishing in the rain but not this year. One last thing I want

to add about our third float is Jerry and Chris advised us against it. They told us the better fishing was from the dam down to Craig. Something I am slow to learn is to listen when a local person tells you something. Over the years many local people told me places to fish but we went to a place we read about in a magazine. We found out later that we should have done what the local person said. There are some smaller streams around the area that fish well. Most spawning for the Missouri is done in the rivers that drain into it. Check a map when you go. Never be afraid to do some walking; I have caught some very big fish after doing a bit of walking, and also had miles of river to my self. If you are looking for a place to go in Montana that is not as crowded as some of the other well-advertised spots then visit Wolf Creek and Craig. They have plenty of friendly people, many good sized trout and beautiful scenery all around you. Check out Wolf Creek and Craig Montana.



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Tom & Cathy Cosgrove

The Perfect Fly (Albacore) by Ernie Boutiette

Fly fishermen, since the first fly was cast, have looked for a fly that will take trout at any time. It is an impossibility as there are too many flies and sizes. This is not so in the ocean as a half dozen flies, tied in different sizes and colors will take stripers and blues. Not so when fishing False Albacore. They are, without a doubt, the hardest fish to get a cast into. If you do get into them, they most often will not take your fly. I will, in this article, use Jerry Wade, Gary Steinmiller and myself as three fishermen who have Albacore fever. We have tried over years to tie a fly that they will take consistently.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Over the years, we have tied many flies; but with limited success. This year is the year that we succeeded. Not we; but Jerry Wade finally did it. It was a series of events that led to the perfect fly. First Jerry and I spent a week at the ocean. We stayed in a trailer in Mystic. First Charlie Place came down for two days and he had a dozen Albacore on using a different color of crystal flash in his fly. We stored this in the back of our minds.

Next Paul Beaudreau came down for two days and he got four albacore using what I called a flash fly. A fly with much flash. Again, we stored this in our minds. The next time out we shook an Albacore and he spit up Bay Anchovies. Our luck was in as one anchovy had not been swallowed and we got a good look at its natural colors. Not the colors as written in magazines. That night, in the trailer Jerry and I tied what we thought was a perfect imitation. The next day we had only four hours to fish. We motored out to Watch Hill and no sooner got there, when a school broke next to the boat. Both lines hit the water and we both were on. Mine, a bass and Jerry's an Albacore. Next we motored to Misquamicut and there was a Bass blitz on. We did not go in as we did not want to scare the bait and besides, the dozen fly fishermen on shore would have killed us. But we got Bass fishing outside the school. We left them and headed for Napatree and on the beach was the greatest Bass blitz that we ever saw. Fish were boiling from the beach to about forty feet out. There were more than fifteen fly fishermen on shore. We used only our perfect fly and ended up with Albacore, stripers, and Blues. Even though fish were everywhere, we had to leave. Next Gary and a friend were there for two days and landed

Continued on page 6



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The Perfect Fly - continued

about twenty Albacore a day on the perfect fly. Since then, friends of ours were out with guides and the same luck. An incredible fly that I named, "The Jerry Bass Flash Fly". Now, thanks to Charlie, Paul and Jerry, we have a fly that Albacore hit with abandon.

I had brought the latest edition of *Saltwater Fly Fishing*. It had an article in it about fishing for Albacore. I will now debunk some of these writers. The article said that eight or ten pound leaders are a must. This is not so, as we have been using 18½# Orvis Super Strong for years. We lose many flies to Blues while fishing Albacore as we never used wire. When Charlie came down, he used wire and by his count hung 16 Albacore. As Jerry and I were to fish only a few hours we put on about a two foot wire leader and still caught Albacore. I also experimented. I put on 25# Orvis and caught Albacore. As the saying goes, "Believe none of what you read." Here are two more examples. Charlie is a very innovative fisherman. The first year in Alaska, our very

experienced guide told us to use a dry line, a nine foot leader, and bright flies. We saw many Salmon on the bottom. The water we fished ran three to five feet deep and murky. Within ten minutes and no fish we put on very heavy sink tips, four feet of leader and a Purple Egg Sucking Leech. That week we were the talk of the camp as we outfished everyone. Next Charlie and I went for Pike in Canada. Neither of us had ever seen a pike. Again fishing 100% in three to five feet of water. Same story...experienced guide and we were told 9 foot leader and floating line. We bought the recommended leader at \$4.50 with only ten inches of wire on it. Eight or ten pike and wire was used up as Pike twist them. Charlie then came up with the perfect leader. Two feet of heavy leader and two feet of wire (bought at K-Mart for .99¢ per spool).

I have always said that a New England fisherman could be successful anywhere for any fish because he is used to working hard for fish. Gee Whiz!!! I forgot to write the patent for the perfect fly. Next letter to Lines and Leaders.

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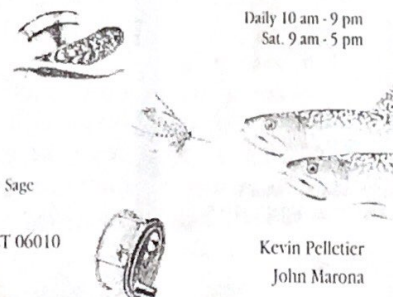
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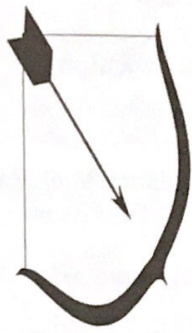
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A Poem on Marriage, Streamside
(otherwise known as
A Few Lines Snagged in a Low-Hanging Tree)

Young *Sherry Spinner* overheard unbeknown
Her mate *Bearded Charlie* as he talked on the phone.

"I'll meet you at twilight out by the bridge.

You bring *Madam X*. I'll bring *Disco Midge*.

The lure's *Irresistible*, with *Damsels* so fine.

Our wives! No problemo. Why should they mind!"

He heard his spouse sputter behind him just then.

"Oops! gotta go!" he told *Hendrickson*.

"I'm no *Black Deceiver*, I can explain --"

But "*Up Bitch Creek sans a paddle*" flashed through his brain.

His *Last Hope* was fading. He dropped to one knee

Like a *Prince* in a romance (or a half-fallen tree.)

"You are my only," he babbled, "My *Demoiselle* fair,

There's no other woman! Who could compare?"

She gave him a glance from *Iron Blue* eyes

That sparkled with anger like twin *Fireflies*.

"Listen, *Rasputin*, turn off the charm.

I know what you're up to. I'm not fresh off the farm.

My rival's no woman, no *Brassie* young chit.

My rival's fly fishing, and I'm sick of it!

Like *Gray Ghosts* in the dawn or when *Pale Evenings Dun*.

You and *Sneaky Pete* *Hendrickson* go looking for fun.

I'd give a *Gold Nugget* to keep you at home,

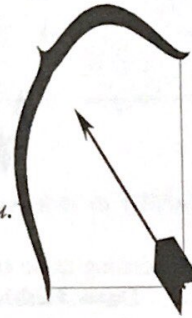
But it's not in the cards - you'll continue to roam.

So here's my *Secret Weapon* - a rod of my own.

I'll be on the river, not home alone.

Our marriage might end on the rocks, it is true.

But they'll be boulders at streamside, and I'll be with you.



(Reprinted with permission of "Perk" Perkins' President of Orvis This poem was written by Penny Mesic. The poem is offered as an Orvis exclusive in their Holiday 1995 catalog. This poem is mounted in a frame about 17" x 24" and is illustrated with 21 authentic Orvis fishing flies at the points where they are mentioned in the text.) Ed.

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CFFA FLY FISHING SHOW & ANNUAL BANQUET



Plans are proceeding quite rapidly in preparation for all the festivities. **Dave Whitlock** will be coming to the show. Dave will also be our featured speaker at the Banquet that evening. A number of exhibitors will be on hand at the show. During the evening's banquet following the program, we will have our raffles/auction. These raffles/auction will include a Silent Auction, Table Raffle, Insurance Raffle and a Special Raffle.

Original Patterns from the Bench of Paul Beaudreau

Furaztec Sculpin

Hook 3X, Size 10

Thread: Brown

Tail/Body/Head: Brown Marten/Mink/Rabbit

Fins: Brown Partridge/Quail or Grouse

Gills: Red Thread

Eyes: Small artificial pearls with painted black pupils

- Mount eyes 3/16" from eye of hook.
- The tail is tied from a 1/8" wide fur strip.
- The overall length should be 1 1/2 times the body length.
- Dub 1/16" at base of tail.
- Pinch off a wooden match amount of fur with guard hairs and tie in front of dubbed section and on top of hook to 1/2 length of tail.
- Dub again 1/16" and repeat wing section four more times making each successive clump approx. 1/16" longer than the one before.
- Put in Partridge fins, dub again, wing again.
- Then dub a bullet shaped head.

This is a very durable and productive fly. The artificial pearls can be bought at most fabric stores for about \$1.50 for five yards.

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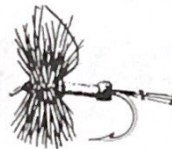
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**Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Presents
Beginning Fly Tying, Saltwater Fly Tying, Rod Building Schools**

Classes: Classes will meet downstairs at Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, at 7:00pm on the following evenings: Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and February 1 and 8, 1995

Beginning Fly Tying

Saltwater Fly Tying

- Class:**
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Marabou Leech, Wooly Bugger | Honey Blond, Hy Tye |
| 2. Dark Cahill, Soft Hackle | Surf Candy, Squid, |
| 3. Tellico, Dark Stenonema | Clouser's Minnow, |
| 4. Blue Wing Olive, Light Cahill | Lefty's Deceiver, Whistler |
| 5. Poly Spinner, Hen Wing Spinner | Epoxy Shrimp, Slider |
| 6. Black Ant, Deer Hair Bug | Bob's Banger, Sand Eel |

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

Class Size: Fly Tying classes limited to the first 25 people submitting applications for each class.

Tuition: Fly Tying class: CFFA Members - \$30; Non-Members - \$40; 16 & Under - \$20

ROD BUILDING CLASS

Instructor: E.F. Roberts, Custom Rodmaker

Rod Selection: 7 foot (3/4 line) Graphite • 8 foot (5/6/ line) Graphite • 9 foot (7/8/ line) Graphite

You may build a rod of your choice if you make an early decision to enter the class. Ed Roberts can be reached at 651-8402 between 5:00 and 8:00 pm to answer any questions relative to rod selection and material cost.

Class Size: Limited to the first 10 people submitting applications. Must make rod selection by December 13, 1995. First meeting will be after the membership meeting on 13 December.

Tuition: CFFA Members - \$10; Non-Members - \$15

CFFA Enrollment Application

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 26 Penwood Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

CFFA Member _____ Yes / _____ No 16 or under _____

Check one 1. ___ Beginning Fly Tying 2. ___ Saltwater Fly Tying 3. ___ Rod Building

Rod Selection, circle one: 7 foot 8 foot 9 foot

For additional information contact Ed Fidrych, V.P. Promotion, 951 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland CT 06480
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Program Chairman	Vacant		
Publicity Chairman	Ed Fidrych	342-1173	566-8241
CFFA Hotline	John Springer	664-3688	

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.



DECEMBER MEETING: BAITFISH IMITATIONS MARK LEWCHIK - DECEMBER 13, 1995

Copy Deadline: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication



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