



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Volume 22, No. 7

March 1995

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

MARCH MEETING

Fly Tyer's Round Table
Local Trout Flies

Our January Round Table was such a success we decided to do another one. However, we will devote this night's activity to local trout flies.

Trout season will be on us before you know it. Now's the time to fill up those de-populated fly boxes from last year. Bring your fly tying equipment if you wish and tie beside some of the club's tyer's. Bring your questions as well.

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 8

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

CLUB TRIP: Cape Cod Fishing 3-4 & 10-11 June 1994

Come and join fellow club members for fishing at the Cape. Here's your chance to fish the Cape's famous kettle ponds or go fishing in the surf. The stripers were lots of fun last year. In the ponds you can find smallmouth bass and rainbow trout. And this year we have again booked two weekends!

Lodging will be at The Moorings Lodge in Falmouth Heights for the nights of 6/2 & 3 or 6/9 & 10. There is room for 16 people each weekend. Since there is limited room, the first 16 to sign up per weekend will get reservations. Your cost of \$85.00 per person includes two nights, two breakfasts and one buffet dinner on Saturday. If you would like to stay additional nights it will be \$25.00 extra.

We are confirming the price, so call Larry before you make your check payable to CFFA in the amount of \$85.00 for each person.

Send to: Larry Johnson, 60 Willard St., Hartford 06105. Tel 246-0728 (H), 725-2873(W)

From the Vest of the President



When Larry first asked me if I would consider running for President, my answer was a very vague no. "I'm thinking about doing more writing, I may get involved with something to do with salt water fishing. I like being the promotion vice-president. How about Mike or Ed or Kurt?"

See, I never expected to have to answer that question, so I was taking the long way around, trying to say I that I might not have time. Actually, it was fear that was making me say those things. I truly hate it when things like that happen. When the knot in your stomach tries to steal away what may be an opportunity of a lifetime. It truly is an opportunity, not only to serve in the highest office of a wonderful club, but to push myself to another level. So, I'll make time.

Opportunities abound in the CFFA. We are in need of a **conservation chairman** to work with our Environmental Vice President Kurt Jagielow. This is an excellent position if you want to learn about stocking trout, raising trout, stream improvement and management. It's an opportunity to learn and make an impact on the environment. It's an opportunity that may not come your way again. Please give it serious consideration.

In my opinion, **program chairman** is one of the most exciting positions in the CFFA. You get to schedule all of our monthly programs and meet the interesting people that put them on. There's a network of program chairmen throughout New England that keeps lists and gives suggestions on available programs. Three of the best are in our club and will have more than enough information to get you started. This is a position that doesn't come up that often because people have so much fun doing it. Another opportunity that deserves serious consideration.

This is where I started - **indoor facilities chairman**. It's a good job and everybody likes you. You get to give away coffee and donuts. You don't have to be on the board, but you can if you want to. It's one of the little things that make our club so special.

One of the things that we have been talking about on the board lately is enhancing our newsletter. Mike is doing a fantastic job but needs more material from us. One suggestion put forth by Gary Steinmiller - "Everybody has special little things they do that make tying easier, or tips for fishing or casting, places to fish etc. If we could get members to send them to Mike, everybody would benefit." Of course, everybody thought Gary's idea was great, especially Mike. So here's my challenge to you. Let's send Mike five tips each. Let's fill his mailbox. Heh! heh! My five are elsewhere in this issue.

Charles Place



THANK YOU CFFA MEMBERS! - Thanks to - Ernie Boutiette, Charlie Place, Steve Murphy and Larry Johnson for helping out with the CFFA booth at the Hammonasset Trout Unlimited's "Fly Fishing Seminar," Saturday, January 21th.

Hats off to the officers and members of HTU for putting on such a wonderful show. Thanks for inviting CFFA. We had a great time.

Fly Tying & Rod Building Schools - Many thanks to the people who helped out in this year's schools. We had 16 beginning tyers, ten rod builders and seven saltwater fly tyers this year. Those who helped out were:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Gary Steinmiller, Chair | Dale Matthews |
| John Cannata | Mike Stewart |
| Page Rogers | Mark Lewchik |
| Ed Roberts | Ernie Boutiette |
| Gene Monty | Charlie Place |
| Don Rose | Jerry Wade |
| Roger Plourde | Ted Rzepski |

We Need PFD's - If you have any PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices) that you are no longer using and are in decent shape, please consider donating them to the CFFA. The State now requires that everyone who helps the State in stocking must wear a PFD. It's certainly not a bad idea considering the high water that may be encountered during those early season stockings. You can give your PFD's to any board member. He will see that Kurt Jagielow will receive the PFD's. Thanks for your help! Ed.

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COMING EVENTS

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| CFFA Board Meeting | 1 Mar 95 |
| CFFA Fly Fishing School | 2,9,16,23 Mar, 8, 22 Apr 95 |
| CFFA Membership Meeting | 8 Mar 95 |
| Theodore Gordon Show White Plains, NY | 11 Mar 95 |
| CMTA Fishing Show, Hartford Civic Center | 16-19 Mar 95 |
| CFFA Fishing Trip, Cape Cod | 3-4, 10-11 Jun |
| FFF - Northeast Council Conclave Cape Cod | 21-24 Sept 95 |

CFFA will have a booth at the Theodore Gordon and Hartford Shows.

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome all new members.
Xan Olechnicki Paul Thibault
Kurt Reichenbach Richard MacNaughton

You folk 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.

WHAT'S NEW?

Some of our first tips were from Charlie Place.

1. When fishing ants, if a trout won't take the ant on the surface, put a little saliva on it so that it sinks just under the surface. It often makes the difference.
2. A quick fix. Clean your fry line with dry fly floatant in a pinch.
3. Often a brown caddis works well during the Hendrikson hatch on the Willi. Size 14.
4. If you make your own wire leaders for bluefish, string the loop on a safety pin and pin it to the outside of your fishing bag for quick changes.
5. Remember the whole point of fishing is to relax and have some fun.



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| Farmington River | 738-7327 (FRAA) |
| Housatonic River | 248-8616 (HFFA) |
| Housatonic River Flow | 824-7861 (NU) |

YEA, The Durable Shad - by J. Michael O'Neil

Finally the Connecticut legislature seems ready to grapple with a bill that will show the rest of the Republic just how we define ourselves in this State. While some think that choosing our Official State Fish will present nothing but a light exercise--something, well, comical, to help ease the tension of an otherwise gut-wrenching session-- electing the wrong piscis can have sad, long ranging consequences.

Let's face it, Connecticut has come up with some real duds in the rush to puff and promote itself. Does anyone remember the contest for a new State Song the Meskill administration held in '72? The winning entry went, "Something, something, something, rolling hills, something, something," as best I can recollect (mercifully, the Legislature replaced it eventually with that dandy American Revolutionary standard "*Yankee Doodle*"). For the national bicentennial it was decided that "Constitution State" would be imprinted on our license plates. As if by labeling old Reverend Hooker's 1639 Fundamental Orders a "constitution" (it ain't the kind you'd care for), we would eventually forget who we really are. We are the Nutmeg State. No mere legislating can change that. We should admit it openly--show some pride in our forebears' astute marketing acumen (those wooden nutmegs are worth a fortune today--Colonial artforms). Then there's that snappy marketing slogan which seems to have been quietly retired--Better Yet, Connecticut. It *almost* seemed to rhyme, if you said it fast.

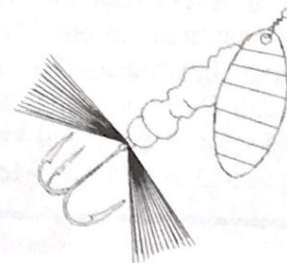
On the other hand Connecticut has some wonderful, enduring symbols. They tend to be the simpler ones, plainer and as such, closer to a natural truth. The state seal with its ancient depiction of wild grape vines comes to mind--our woods still grow them in profusion. Is the gaudy, ephemeral rose our state flower? No, it is the native mountain laurel. Who can resist the sight of it in

spring--acres of it shading a river bank or crowding a forest trail. Our bird is the honest robin, harbinger of spring, not that bluecoated bully the bluejay, or that imperial showboat the eagle.

So, soon Connecticut will have an *official* fish. The three likeliest contenders are the atlantic salmon, the brown trout, and the shad. Each has merit. I spend much of my life either making (tying) flies in order to catch trout or salmon, fishing with those flies, or thinking about tying or fishing with those flies to catch trout or salmon. They are the most beautiful fish in the world. I love *everything* about them. But the shad gets my vote.

I'm for the shad for much the same reason that grand old man of the U.S. Senate, Everett McKinley Dirksen, perennially championed the common marigold to be adopted as our national flower back in the 60's--its unadorned simplicity is its merit and its strength.

Continued on page 4



Yea, The Durable Shad - continued

Consider the durable shad. Consider how it has imprinted itself upon Connecticut through the ages. Uncas, premier Sachem of the Mohegans, feasted upon it, even as it sustained his newly arrived neighbors, the Puritans. George Washington preferred Connecticut River shad to that from the Hudson or from the more southerly rivers--our darlings have always been known for their quality. And though some whine that the shad is too bony, I would counter that its boniness is ultimately a plus for its survival. "Why," said the Shad God, "should I make it easy for you to eat my children?" The next day the God slept, and unbeknownst to Him the lady Shad invented roe, so the story goes.

The roe of the shad is treasured by epicures and working stiffs alike. The hand-drawn sign that appeared in the front window of Hartford's old Marble Pillar Restaurant each year was the signal that spring had arrived--SHAD was all it said, and all it needed to say. Yum Yum. Windsor has had the right idea for more than 40 years now, honoring the steadfast Shad with its annual Derby.

While we managed long ago to pollute and obstruct our Connecticut's water to the point of killing off the native Salmon, the shad has always found a way to return to us, decade after decade, century after century following its undeniable imperative to spawn and replenish itself. Who could not admire its tenacity and faithfulness? It's time for Connecticut to honor it, as the shad, since time immemorial, has honored Connecticut.

A somewhat truncated version of this article appeared in the February 9, 1995 Hartford Courant on the Op-Ed page under the title The perils of choosing a state fish. This is the unabridged version. The author advises that a weighted Mickey Finn, tied on a gold #8 hook is a winner. - Ed

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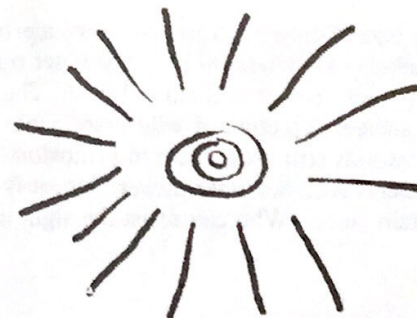
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Winter's a Great Time to Maintain and Inspect Your Valuable Fly Fishing Equipment

Part II: Rods - by Page Rogers

Winter "down time" on your fly fishing equipment provides that perfect recess to maintain, repair, and even improve the performance of your valuable fly fishing equipment.

Rods

Fly rods should be carefully inspected under good light. Examine closely the epoxy over the guide wraps - are there chips or cracks? Is the thread exposed? You'll want to repair, or have the epoxy repaired by a qualified professional. How about the guides? Are some of the silicon rings chipped, or snake guides grooved, or cracked? If so, have those guides replaced! The tiniest groove, crack or chip can provide friction which, over time, can tear the delicate surface of your fly line and ruin it. A crack can cut through and fray backing in no time!

Perhaps you've always wanted bigger guides on your rod. Again now is the perfect time to take your fly rod to a qualified professional rod builder. Have him or her show you the latest in rod guide technology - there's a lot more out there than what you normally see in the mail order catalogues.

If you fly fish in the salt you may notice rust at the guide feet or around the ring where the silicon and metal meet on the stripping guides. Again - have these guides replaced. Get the highest quality stripping guides you can afford. Ask the rod builder to fill that gap between the rod foot and rod with epoxy, minimizing the likelihood of water invisibly settling in there and doing its damage.

Check your ferrules. Carefully remove old ferrule wax. Check the epoxy over the ferrule. If something looks suspicious, or like it might "blow up" later, return the rod to its maker. Ask their opinion. If you have the money and/or want the insurance for a trip, have the maker match your rod but with an extra tip, or have a local rod builder make you one. The best way to insure the best match possible between your rod butt and a new tip is to return the rod to the manufacturer of the blank. Finding the spline of the rod and getting a great match is a job for the pros.

Human hands and fingers come in a variety of sizes, shapes and lengths. A large amount of fatigue and even medical problems, like carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis, are due, in part, to misfitting rod handles. Do you have one rod whose handle just feels great in *your* hand? Do you have a rod that always feels under control, a rod which you can cast for hours and feel no

fatigue, numbness or pain in your hands, wrist or forearm? If so, you have a rod handle that appears to match the physical needs of your hand in order to cast. My suggestion is this: get all of those rod butts out of their tubes and take them, and the "one that feels great," to a professional rod builder with a cork lathe and have him or her custom shape all of your rod butts to the shape of the "one that feels great." My hands are small. Personally, I find most factory rod handle jobs have left the rod handle too wide and the hump in the middle of the cork, (on a full wells grip) not defined enough. Don't shy away from being picky and learning what's right for you. You will be amazed at how much more control and energy you can give your cast. You also may be preventing serious long-term injury. Nothing like tendonitis to put a cramp on your bonito season!

Is the cork on your rod handle scummy, dark and slippery? Want to make it look like new again? Get some *denatured* alcohol from your hardware store. Saturate an old rag and begin to rub. Keep adding alcohol and rubbing - you'll bring the cork practically back to its "like new" condition. Be careful! Don't get any alcohol on your rod or on the guide wraps or you may damage their finish!

Finally, your reel seat may need some attention. If it's a metal reel seat a good cleaning, then a heavy spray of WD-40® or a spray silicone goes a long way to keeping those screws which slide over the reel foot from jamming.

Wood reel seats may need to be cleaned with something like Murphy's Oil Soap®, dried and treated with a light coat of wood oil. You may be surprised to find how "thirsty" your reel seat is - it may want several treatments with wood oil. Put on more than you think you need, the wood may drink it up over the winter, and you can wipe off any excess before your season begins.

Next month: Part III, Reels

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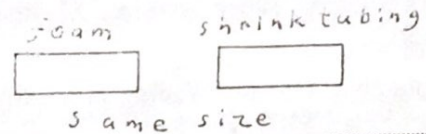
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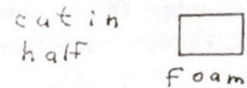
by Gary Steinmiller

Materials Needed: 6" wood dowel or pencil, the same diameter or slightly larger, as live body foam, tapered at one end; 3/8" diameter heat shrink tubing; live body foam 3/8" diameter or less; Mustad Hook # 90825 size 2/0 or 92608 3/0; Bucktail or any tail material; butane lighter.

Step 1: Cut shrink tube to same length as Live Body Foam



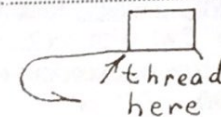
Step 2: Take Live Body Foam and cut in half.



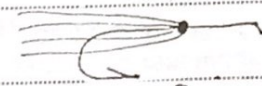
Step 3: Place foam on top of hook shank on end at the eye of hook.



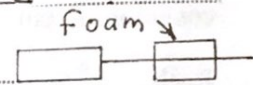
Step 4: Attach tying thread to hook shank where foam stops



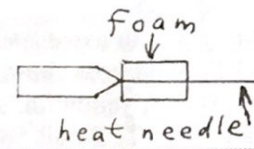
Step 5: Tie in bucktail at this point and build up thread to form a bump, this bump helps prevent foam from sliding back on the hook



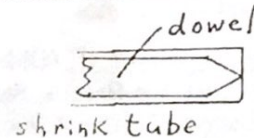
Step 6: Stick a dubbing needle in the center of one end of the foam and work it through and out of the center of the other end



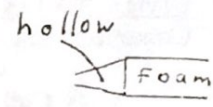
Step 7: Compress foam against the dubbing needle handle and use the lighter to heat the metal of the point until it is hot enough to melt the foam. Withdraw the needle slowly. This will melt open a hole through the center of the foam so it can slide over the eye of the hook. This step may have to be done more than once.



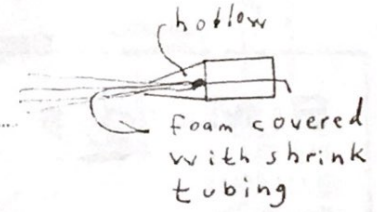
Step 8: Put shrink tube over wood dowel and tap it on a table so the tapered end is covered and even with the end of the shrinking tube. Pinch the shrink tube against the dowel with your thumb and forefinger. Hold it horizontal and use the lighter to heat the tubing until it is tight around the dowel.



Step 9: When cool remove the shrink tube from the wood dowel. Insert foam into your tapered piece of shrink tube. You may have to squeeze the foam slightly, but it should go into the tube until it begins to taper.



Step 10: Take finished product and slide it over the hook shank. Taper to the bend. Push the foam with the tapered end of the wood dowel toward the bend of the hook until the shrink tubing extends beyond the foam 1/8 to 1/4 inch



Step 11: Take the lighter and heat the extended shrink tubing. The shrink tube will close around the foam. Leave it open enough to get the eye of the hook through it.

TIPS: Take foam with you when buying dowel to compare size. Staples sells primary school pencils that matched up perfectly to the diameter of the last Live Body Foam I bought.

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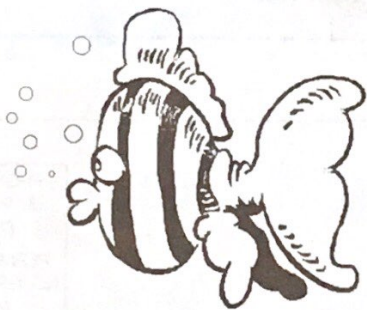


Striper Fishing - Caribbean Style

by Ted Rzepski

Twice I fished a spot in Niantic for Stripers. On a late night falling tide, I caught some small bass. The amount of water flowing on the dropping tide under the railroad bridge suggested a great place for large fish to ambush bait. Hook packages and other trash indicated the spot was used by others. Something was puzzling. Along the high water line there were sticks stuck in the ground. They were a half inch or so in diameter. Someone took the trouble to dig them in.

I decided to try a daytime falling tide. Caught a miniature bass on a chartreuse Clouser minnow. Three fellows came along with paper grocery bags, but no fishing rods. They waved and were pleased to hear I caught a fish. The mystery of the impaled sticks unraveled before me. The bags contained empty glass beer and wine bottles. Heavy monofilament was wrapped around each bottle. These fellows attached weights and hooks baited with mackerel chunks. They twirled these rigs and cast them about seventy feet. The bottle in mouth was slipped over the stick and a one pound coffee can was placed over the bottom of the bottle.

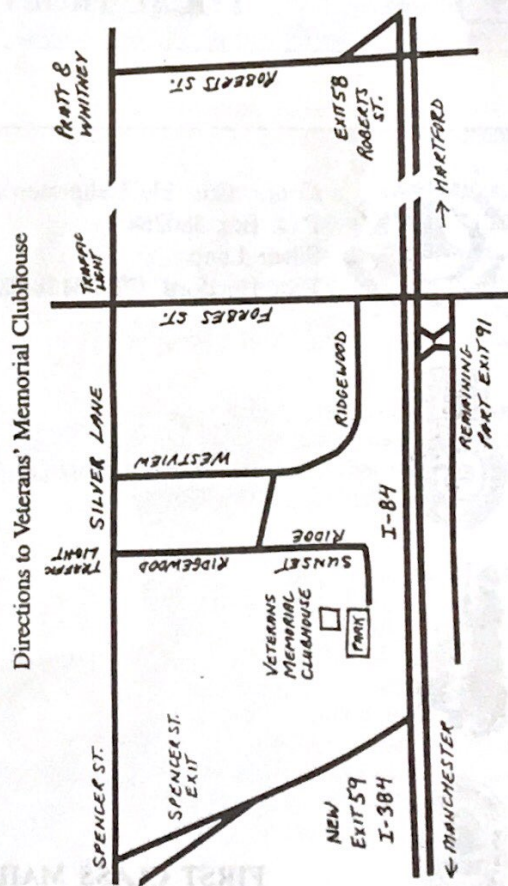


After many casts and changes of flies, I suspected the water was dead. Maybe too much boat traffic. Maybe another spot would be better. I was startled by a whirring sound. One of the bottles was shaking. The line was tearing off the bottle; the can served as a drag. One of the fishermen scooped up the bottle and hand lined in a bluefish. The fish leaped several times. I congratulated the fellow and admired the fish, which seemed to be over five pounds. While talking with these fellows about their rigs they explained they fished this way in Puerto Rico. Another fish was on another bottle. The surface was calm. No bird activity. The fish must be on the bottom. Damn! This second blue was easily over ten pounds. I switched to a Teeny 300 tipped with a three inch wire bite leader and a weighted white Deceiver. I asked permission to crowd in. "Of course".

My new friends caught and released two bass noticeably bigger than mine. Voracious mosquito activity and a stop in, the action caused my friends to quit. I decided to do the fish a favor and go home and watch "X Files".

On the way home I was embarrassed to think of the contrast between me and my acquaintances. I was arrayed with hundreds of dollars of graphite and machined aluminum. My new colleagues probably had only a few dollars invested in their gear. It recalled a video I had seen. Lee Wulff and Kurt Goudy, in the 70's were tarpon fishing in Nicaragua. They hooked, landed and released several large fish. Then, they watched two teenage boys in a dugout canoe catch and keep a huge tarpon on a hand line. The fishing stars were quite humbled by this. I now know how they felt.

Meanwhile I am stockpiling one pound coffee cans suitable sticks and emptying wine bottles. I'll be ready.



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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.



MARCH MEETING: FLY TYER'S ROUND TABLE LOCAL TROUT FLIES - MARCH 8, 1995



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