



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 26, No. 9
May 1999

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

MAY MEETING

Paul Morrissey
Fishing the Beaverkill

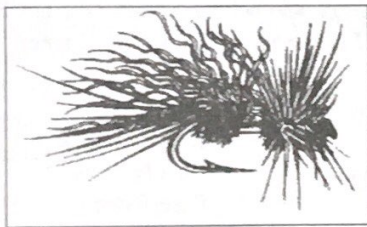
This month's program features Paul Morrissey from Bridgeport, CT. Paul's program will be on fishing the Beaverkill River in Roscoe, NY. Paul is an accomplished fly tyer and fly fisherman who has fished for trout and salmon all over the world.

Come see an interesting program on fishing waters close to home.

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

DATE: Wednesday, 12 May

TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 p.m.
Tip Table - *Cleaning Your Lines* - 7:00 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.



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FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT



This is our last general membership meeting until September. There are no board meetings in June, July or August. Our banquet and expo for next year is set for February 12, 2000. Also as you know, we had added a February general membership meeting this year. It was on the second Wednesday of the month as was our other meetings. We've decided to not schedule a fixed date for the February meeting in the year 2000. In other words we are going to float the meeting date in February. Last February we had a general membership meeting, the expo and banquet, a four day show at the civic center plus a extra meeting with Gary LaFontaine. It was busy. Next year we are hoping to get a big named speaker in February again, so we're going to float the date in order to have only one general membership meeting that month.

Jack Smola and members stocked the Willi on April 12th. About 400 trout were live carted throughout the TMA. Word is that quite a few big guys were stocked. Jack and Roger Plourde also did some brush clearing along the river. I was happy to hear that since I have a new pair of waders. I bought a new pair last year too, but they are beyond repair already. Actually I'm considering sending them back to the retailer --- goop and all. Usually even an inexpensive pair lasts me about three seasons. I was patching these only after a couple of outings. Needless to say I didn't purchase the same brand again.

Thanks to Steve Sawczuk for setting up the Fly Tyer's Roundtable. It's always one of our most popular meetings. Steve has plans to include a tip table along with the fly tyers at our monthly meetings. I think it starts this month. If anybody wants to participate please give Steve a call. We have a lot of new members who would appreciate tips on knots, casting, fly line care, reel maintenance, where to fish, reading streams etc., fly tying tools, etc. So pick a subject and call Steve. Some of us old dogs wouldn't mind learning a new trick or two either.

Have a good spring and summer. I hope to see you on a stream somewhere. If I don't ----I'll see you in September at the clubhouse. Thanks for all the support that you gave CFFA. It's what really makes our organization special.
Good luck fishin',

Charlie



Club News

Fly Fishing School - This year's school was another success. Thirty nine students participated this year. Everyone had a good time. Thanks go out to the following for their help this year. I apologize if I missed anyone.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Gary Steinmiller | Mark Philippe |
| Jerry Wade | Myron Schulman |
| Charlie Place | Gary Bogli |
| Don Rose | Jim Stack |
| Ernie Boutiette | Guy Bagdazarian |
| Reg Prebla | |

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Call Ernie Boutiette, 860-289-3605.

Special Raffle - May Membership Meeting:

We have another unique raffle!! Ray Riley has offered a rustic cabin on a trout pond in Vermont for the weekend of 19 June. Food and cooking will be provided. The raffle will be drawn for 5 winners. This raffle will be open to members only. (Aren't you glad you paid your dues?) You must be present to win the raffle. Tickets will be \$5 each, 3 for \$10.

COMING EVENTS

CFFA Board Meeting	5 May 99
CFFA Membership Meeting	12 May 99
CFFA Fishing Trips	22-23 May 99 12-13 Jun 99
FFF International Fly Fishing Show Gatlinburg, Tenn.	3-7 Aug 99
CFFA Board Meeting	1 Sep 99
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Sep 99

NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new member:

John Manfred

You 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.

Fishing Show Thank You - Many thanks to the following folks who helped out this year at CFFA's booth during the Fishing Show at the Civic Center:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Larry Johnson | Lyn Smith |
| Don Rose | Roger Plourde |
| Peter Glyman | Burt Horrow |
| Art Howe | Page Rogers |
| Charlie Place | George Otten |
| John Walker | Dick Heffernon |
| Ray Riley | Ted Rosenkrantz |
| George Degan | Phil Brunquell |
| Mike Stewart | Steve Chirdon |
| Steve Sawczyk | Earl Schofield |
| Jack Smola | |

IT'S A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

By Bill Pye of the Mid-Willamette Flyfishers of Corvallis, OR
(with apologies to previous authors)

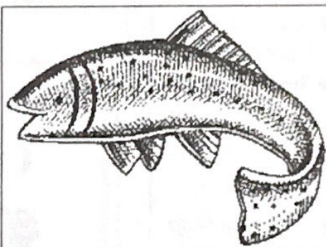
He died in his sleep. The final years of his life had been like that...quiet, contented and uneventful. He'd had several great passions; golf, flying, politics. But in his final years he returned his attention to his first love, fly fishing. He had many fishing stories. His favorite one about the time he beached a Steelhead while fishing for Cutthroat. The fish took a dun colored nymph on a #10 hook. It took thirty minutes to land that fish. It was a beautiful fish: bright, all fins intact, with few signs of wear and tear other than an odd appearing net scar. That scar looked like an "L" just aft of the right pectoral, an unusual mark, and it was imbedded in his memory.

He guessed the weight at 12 to 14 pounds later finding that it was, indeed, 14 pounds. He suffered a moment of guilt as he killed the fish. Still, in the telling and re-telling of his story he never mentioned the fact that it was a "wild" fish. But his "sin" was stored in his memory alongside all the other sins he had committed, big and small, tucked away in his mind where his God had decreed that such transgressions be retained. He never forgot that fish and could describe to any listener all of the details of the catch...where he found the fish, the rock, the fly, the fight, it's weight and length, and, of course, the scar. But now he was dead and his soul started it's final journey to "Fiddlers Green", the Replacement Center for Heaven and Hell. Where it's determined where ones' soul will repose for eternity. Take the trail to the left, Eternal Hell...the trail to the right, Eternal Peace.

At the heavenly gate, fishing gear was scattered about, including a fly rod looking exactly like his old rig...a nine foot 8-9 weight Shakespeare "Honey stik" with a reel, line...ready to use. His attention shifted to the angel at the gate...an angel of obvious importance. Large wings, brilliant white robe, gleaming halo tilted forward. "Saint Peter" he thought. He knew Saint Peter was the guardian of the gate to heaven and he knew, with all that fishing gear laying around, this had to be heaven. The Saint asked him how he spelled his name, then scanned a file folder marked with his name, then asked him "what sort of a place" he was looking for.

Quickly he asked for a place on a river where there were plenty of Steelhead and where he could fish anytime he wanted. The Saint hid a smile (smirk?), said he had "just the place" for him...to "select a rod from the rack" that suited him...and that he would be supplied with a Guardian Angel, a GA, who would lead him to his eternal abode.

His GA showed up, introduced himself and led him down a wooded path to a good sized stream. There was a familiarity about the entire set up that made him slightly uneasy but he dismissed the feeling, reveling in his good fortune. On the far side of the stream was a cabin, tucked back in the woods. Light shining through the window that overlooked the stream and a thin column of smoke from the chimney indicated warmth inside the cabin.



It was late evening and the air was a bit "nippy" but he was comfortable in the waders and the equipment jacket he was wearing. Then, as his GA led him toward the cabin he saw a fish, a large fish, lying just in front of a rock. It was finning quietly and as he watched he saw it move from the shelter of the rock into the main stream, pause momentarily, then move

back. As he watched, the maneuver was repeated several times. His excitement grew as he realized the fish was feeding on something that was being pushed by the current along the stream bed.

He looked expectantly at his GA., and when his GA nodded assent he fumbled in his jacket for flies, found a box, opened it up and was surprised to see it contained a single, dun colored nymph, #10 hook size. With wooden fingers he tied it to the tippet. With the stealth that would make an Indian proud he stalked the fish, finding a place where he could wade into the stream without frightening it, made a couple of false casts and laid the fly gently a few feet above the rock in exactly the position he wanted.

His heart was in his throat hoping the nymph was doing exactly as he wished. When he detected a slight pause in the line he lifted the rod, felt a resistance, lifted the rod higher...and the fight was on.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Thirty minutes later he beached the fish...a beautiful fish: bright, the markings very distinct with few signs of wear other than a strange scar.

The scar looked like an "L" located just aft of the right pectoral. All fins were intact. He guessed the weight at 12 to 14 pounds but was assured by the GA that the accurate weight was in fact 14 pounds. He was about to release it but the GA told him to kill it. He didn't want to...said he didn't feel right about killing such a beautiful fish. "Since when?" was the GA's sarcastic comment.

After killing the fish he turned to go to the cabin but his GA pointed to another fish that had moved into position in front of the same rock. It, too, was a large fish and as he watched it for a moment he could see it moving quietly into the stream, then back to the rock obviously feeding as the first fish had been doing. He felt tired and his arthritic hand ached and when GA told him that "The Boss" wouldn't like it if he quit now, he again began to feel uneasy. But he retied the nymph, moved into the same location as before, made a couple of false casts and laid the fly exactly where he wanted it. His heart was heavy as he watched the nymph do exactly as it had done before and when he detected a slight pause in the line he lifted the rod, felt additional resistance, lifted the rod a bit higher...and the fight was on. Thirty minutes later he beached the fish.

A beautiful fish: bright, the markings very distinct, with few signs of wear other than an odd appearing scar that looked like an "L" just aft of the right pectoral. He started to release the fish but the GA directed him to kill it. He objected, but a menacing look from the GA silenced his objection and with a heavy heart he did so. As he turned to go to the cabin his GA pointed to another fish behind the rock. He shook his head "no", but the GA informed him that it was not his decision to make...he "had" to catch it.

He waded into the stream, stopped, looked back at GA and said, "This isn't heaven, is it?" His GA laughed, and said, "You're not as stupid as I thought! Continue fishing".



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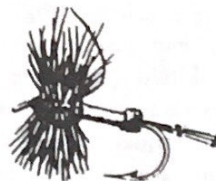
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TIPS & TRICKS

(contributed by the Penticton Fly Fishers of BC Canada)

For the Bench:

Cheap Head Cement: An easy cheap head cement that you can pick up at almost any store and it works just as well, is nail polish. You can get almost any consistency by mixing with polish remover. Colors are available that make excellent heads on streamer patterns as well as for painting eyes.

Strike Indicators:

Get a piece of coaxial cable (the wire cable hooked up to your TV to give you all the channels) remove the outer covering of plastic and foil, and take out the copper wire in the center. You are left with a very buoyant piece of plastic that can be cut to various lengths. Slide your leader through the hole in the plastic, position it on your leader where you need it, and secure it in place by wedging a toothpick in the hole or tie a knot below it (to prevent it from sliding down you leader). You can also color the indicator with bright colored felt (waterproof) markers.

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The size of the fly is important in the early season. A good rule of thumb is: the higher and dirtier the water, the larger and darker the fly. Clear, low water requires a smaller fly.

Extreme Fishing

A January Boston Globe report from Moscow described the Russian passion of ice-fishing. One 54-year-old angler, who said he has fallen many times into the black water of the Moscow River in winter, sat in zero degree F weather with a line in each hand, perched over small holes, all day long, with no fish to show for it, but still exclaimed, "Isn't this great! This is not about what you catch. This is about total relaxation." More than 100 Russians a year die while ice fishing, and last



year, when 75 anglers near St. Petersburg were swept away on a platform of ice and were rescued nine hours later by helicopter, fights broke out over which ones got to be the last ones aboard so that they could remain fishing even longer.



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"HONEY HAVE YOU SEEN THE NAIL POLISH?"

By Lee Murdock,
President of the Blue Ridge Fly Fishing Association
of North Wilkesboro, NC

Just a few years ago I, like most men, hated the thoughts of going shopping with my wife. I really didn't mind the shopping as long as I could find a sporting goods department, computer store or other manly diversion to keep me busy. What I really hated were the trips to the clothing or craft stores where they didn't even have so much as a golf club to keep me occupied. Just "The Bench."

You married men know the bench, don't you? It's just inside the door to most women's clothing stores and is occupied solely by pathetic excuses for manhood who quiver in fear while waiting to give approval to whatever ensemble their wives choose. Wives figured out long ago that if they can place their males on the bench and let them stew there, before long any outfit they might choose will meet rave reviews.

Then I took up fly tying and things changed. One day I was doing my darnedest to avoid "The Bench" as my wife prowled a local dress shop. I happened to notice a bottle of fingernail polish in the perfect color of green for some poppers I had been tying. The thought occurred to me that women paint their nails with this stuff and get a hard glossy finish that is nearly indestructible. It comes in hundreds of colors and some even have glitter in them. A light bulb appeared over my head. This alarmed a nearby sales clerk but not nearly as much as it alarmed my wife when I showed up at the cash register with an armload of nail polish. I overheard her explaining to the cashier with a whisper, "He ties flies." The cashier gave a knowing nod.

This was the beginning of an odyssey of sorts for me. I went on to discover that the craft shops carried all the items that were for sale in the fly shop. The shelves held fur, feathers, beads, and floss. And get this, the owners of the shops had no idea what these items were worth. They were often half the price I'd paid for the same item at my favorite fly shop. I felt as if I was getting away with something. It was great.

My enlightenment has not been without mishap, however. Once at a family get-together I got many

(Continued on page 7)



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(Continued from page 6)

strange looks and whispers when I asked my sister-in-law if she had any false fingernails I could have. It seems I failed to explain that I wanted them to tie a new spoon type fly that I had read about in a magazine. I also got some strange looks at the cosmetics counter at our local WalMart when my wife was heard to say, "Honey, get me some nail polish remover, you've used all mine."

Now don't get me wrong. I am a normal red blooded American man. I like a good cigar and even the occasional shot of tequila as much as the next guy. I played football in school. Really I did. I'm just happy that so far I haven't found a fly I could tie with "feminine hygiene products." Yet

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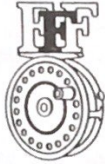
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The Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Tradition of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters." CFFA membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September 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, 215 Loomis Street, North Granby, CT 06060. Change of address notices should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380260, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268.

COPY DEADLINE: Second Wednesday of month previous to publication.

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