



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 28, No. 1

September 2000

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

SAFE WADING

(reprinted with permission from the FFF August 2000 Clubwire)

Unless you really want to spend time studying the trout in its underwater world, practicing careful and safe wading techniques is imperative. For sure, even the best and most careful wader can take a spill. Usually the worst that happens is a bruised backside and a battered ego, but a spill can mean an aborted trip, or worse, serious trouble.

Many anglers give no thought to safe wading practices, but if you wade with caution and stealth you will keep dry and be rewarded. Wading in moving water is not like strolling down the sidewalk.

- Always have one foot firmly on the bottom while moving the other forward. On rocky, freestone streams or on algae slime, the weight should be centered on the ball of the foot, and one foot anchored firmly while the other shuffles forward to find footing for the next step.
- Don't hurry. There is no rush. Aggressive wading can spook fish and cause spills. Always take your time and be sure of each step. Go around obstacles, not over them. Floods and spring run-off can bring many changes. New pools are formed, old ones filled in, runs rerouted and so on. The place you crossed early in the year may have too much volume to safely do so in April. Learn to take your time and observe—evaluate the depth, current speed and other stream hazards before entering the water.
- Learn what water is not for you. Don't be overconfident; realize the limits of your own physical capabilities.
- Always wear a wading belt. Worn properly, it will keep water out of your waders in case of a spill.
- If you do fall in swift water and can't regain your footing, go with the current and work your way toward shore. Do not try to move upstream against the current. *(If you fall in and are floating, always go with your feet facing downstream. You can*

OCTOBER MEETING

Jeff Passante
On the Housy

Jeff Passante is the past president of the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association and has been fishing the Housatonic River for over 20 years. Jeff is the author of Housatonic River Fly Fishing Guide published by Frank Amato and several articles in Fly Fishermen's Magazine and Fly Tyer. Jeff's slide show about the Housatonic will cover hatches, effective flies and successful tactics on the Housy - a river, in many ways, unique in the northeast.

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

DATE: Wednesday, 11 Oct

TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 p.m.
Program - 7:30 p.m.

see where you are going, plus not hit boulders with your head. Ed.)

- When fishing water with soft, muddy bottoms, a carefully planned wading approach will keep you from discoloring the water you wish to cover. In this case, don't shuffle, but move very slowly. Slow going will also prevent you from stepping into a sinkhole or drop-off.

Other things to consider: Always wear your polarized glasses; use a wading staff if it gives you more stability or confidence, "Buddy Wade" whenever one person feels uncomfortable crossing water; and remember, the fish is supposed to be cold and wet, not the angler.

(by Rosemary Weise, Northwest Women Flyfishers for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

CLUB NEWS



Printer for Poster – We are looking for a printer to help out with printing posters for the upcoming Expo. If you know any reliable printers, please let Jack Smola, Ed Fidrych, Roger Plourde, or Mike Stewart know. Their phone numbers are on the last page of this newsletter.

Editor Opening – Interested in helping out CFFA, having fun, being on the inside on the happenings in CFFA? Now there is an opportunity. We are looking for a new editor for the Lines & Leaders. Our current editor has decided that, after 10 years, new blood is needed. The new editor will start with the September 2001 issue. You don't need any great literary skills, only a bit of organizational skills. *(Take it from me, only a little bit is needed. Ed.)* If you, or a group, are interested, contact Mike Stewart or any Board member. As usual, the telephone numbers are on the last page of the Lines & Leaders.

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COMING EVENTS



CFFA Board Meeting	4 Oct 00
Fall Fly Fishing and Outdoor Fair North Cove Outfitters, Old Saybrook	7 Oct 00
CFFA Membership Meeting, Jeff Pessante	11 Oct 00
FFF Casting Instructor Certification Basic with Macauley Lord and Floyd Franke; Cape Cod Must pre-register by 19 Oct; contact Evelyn Taylor, 406-585-7592 or E-mail: educate@fedflyfishers.org	28 Oct 00
CFFA Board Meeting	1 Nov 00
American Museum of Fly Fishing Dinner & Auction, Farmington Marriott; Contact Paula Welch, 802-362-3300	1 Nov 00
CFFA Membership Meeting	8 Nov 00
International Fly Tying Symposium Somerset, NJ; Contact Chuck Furminsky, 800-420-7582	18-19 Nov 00
CFFA Fly Tying School	4, 11, 18, 25 Jan 01 1 Feb 01
CFFA Expo & Banquet, the Colony, Vernon	17 Feb 01
CFFA Fly Fishing School	1, 8, 15, 22 Mar 01 14, 28 Apr 01
CMTA Fishing Show, Civic Center, Hartford	23 – 25 Mar 01

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THE 6TH ANNUAL FALL FLY FISHING AND OUTDOOR FAIR - OCTOBER 7, 2000

This years fair will take place at North Cove Outfitters, 75 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT from 10-5pm. This is a daylong event featuring live demonstrations, hands-on product demos, guest speakers, book signings by authors, slide shows and more.

Scheduled to appear will be: Bob Clouser - fly tyer, Nick Curcione- saltwater knots, rigging and casting, Bob Lindquist, Page Rogers, Don Butler, Bob Kneeland, Captain Jim White, and Ed Mitchell.

For more information contact: Brian Owens or Karen Lipeika at (860) 388-6585.

WHY DO I FLYFISH?

(Reprinted with permission from FFF Clubwire, September 2000)

I flyfish because it takes me into a place filled with cool flowing waters inhabited by beautiful iridescent creatures usually surrounded by a cathedral of green. It removes me from my usual work, which is stressful, and hurried, and performed in darkened air-conditioned rooms with artificial lighting. I can escape, if only for a short time, from emergencies and beepers and the rest of our high tech world. I can return to a more peaceful place, and in my mind to a much simpler time. I am linked by tradition to the greats of flyfishing, Halford and Skues, Gordon and Wulff, and even back to the apostles, who Norman Maclean considered fishers of men. I am part of a tradition, which like a flowing river, joins me to the past, even as it carries me into the future. I have the benefit of their knowledge and I can learn from their writings. And their wisdom often extends beyond flyfishing into how to live a good life, and how to conduct yourself before other men and women.

Flyfishing is, for me, a metaphor for life itself. You

set for yourself a code of conduct - upstream, dry fly only, to rising trout if you are a strict moralist. You resist temptation when the fish are feeding subsurface, or you may "sin" and fish to the nymphing trout, resolving next time do better. The fish carry no prejudice. They care not about the color of your skin, your gender, your handicaps, or your station in life. All are equal before the fish, and all are judged equally. You have total control of your actions, unlike the "real" world where your actions are tempered by the needs or influences of others. You must accept responsibility for what follows, and this is not an insignificant lesson in today's world. The fish is your adversary, and by him, will you be judged. There is instant feedback - a satisfying tug at the end of the line or silence and rejection. This too is unlike the "real" world, where the result of your actions is often separated from the action itself.

(Continued on page 5)

Membership Form

Check if address changed

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PLEASE CHECK A COMMITTEE YOU ARE NOW ON OR WISH TO BE ON:

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FRIENDS AND ENEMIES OF FISH IN CONGRESS

Is your congressional representative a "Friend" or "Enemy" of fish? You can find out what a coalition of 100 environmental organizations, commercial and recreational fishing groups and marine scientists think by checking out this website: www.geocities.com/Eureka/Vault/8020/CongressRating.html

The Marine Fish Conservation Network evaluated the voting records of 535 Members of Congress on 30 key fishery-related issues during the past two years. The coalition says the designation "allows fishermen and other conservationists to understand which Members of Congress are working hard to protect our fish and their essential habitats - rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, bays, and coastal waters - and which ones are helping to eliminate fish and destroy their supporting environments thus affecting our future fishing."

To be a "Friend" of fish, a Member needed to support the conservation of fish more than 50 percent of the time, otherwise they were given the enemy designation. Most "Friends" voted for the interests of fish and their habitats roughly 90% of the time. By a similar percentage, the "Enemies" routinely voted against the interests of fish and the nation's fishermen.

The positions being evaluated include clean water, wetlands, fishery management, endangered species, land and water use, and a variety of related conservation issues.

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 month.
- Will only be rented at monthly meetings.
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Why Do I Flyfish?

(Continued from page 3)

Flyfishing allows me to satisfy a natural predatory instinct, which dates back to the time when our ancestors were hunters and gatherers. It is a challenge, to fish with the fly. There is the thrill of stalking a truly large fish, the anticipation of the cast, the suspense of the drift, and the subsequent elation at a hook up or disappointment at the rejection. There is the adrenaline rush of the fight and the satisfaction of the catch. You can act as God and give the fish back his freedom and life, or you can exercise your ultimate right as a predator and kill him for the table. Life and death, another lesson not easily learned.

Perhaps that is why I release almost all my fish now, I deal with death in my real job every day. There is always the anticipation of a new day, a new adventure. Every trip is different with unexpected challenges to be met. Conditions change. Every day is different, and yet it is also strangely the same. Putting on the waders and vest, stringing the rod, checking the leader. The walk to the stream, scanning the water for rises, checking the bushes for prior hatches. The first step into the water, the approach to the lie, the deep breath before the first cast. Each action, a ritual behavior we follow which comforts us. Flycasting itself is a pleasing sensation. It is relaxing. There is an almost hypnotic cadence to the cast.

The back and forth motion of the rod with the tug of line against rod just before we release the cast. Casting is an art and as Norman Maclean states "art comes by grace, and grace does not come easily." So much of what I do is not art and is not graceful at all. In much of our modern life, pettiness and ugliness surround us. By contrast the flycast, in and of itself, is a thing of beauty. It is pure in its simplicity and yet difficult to master. It remains one of the few artistic things I have learned. It is a right brain exercise, and much of what I do is left brain exercise.

A good and peaceful life is composed of balance, and flyfishing gives my life balance. We search for perfection in all we do. In flyfishing there is the promise of constant improvement but perfection can rarely be attained. Therein lies the challenge of flyfishing; to improve, to attain a state of grace. There is also the comradeship with other flyfishers. There is the sharing, both literally and figuratively, of sustenance. This shared experience makes our own experiences so much richer. Because of this comradeship, we are fishing for our friends as well as with our friends.

So my friends, that is why I flyfish.

(Copyright 1996 by Henry H. Kanemoto) 20

The Coachman: 200 Years of Success

(Reprinted with permission from FFF Clubwire, September 2000)

Perhaps one of the oldest fly patterns still in use is the lowly coachman, claimed by some to be an offering from a real-life coachman (caretaker and driver of horses in the 1800's) for his fly fishing English lord. While it was originally a wet fly (a class of flies not currently in favor), the original coachman appears to be the ancestor of many modern patterns.

If we adopt the perspective of Gary LaFontaine, a successful fly must elicit certain reactions from the fish. For a fly to work, it must first get the fish's attention. Secondly, it obviously is important that there be an illusion of a multi-faceted insect's body and living undulations of living segments to seal the deal and elicit a strike. These illusions are achieved in various ways in successful fly patterns. In the last ten years a number of materials have emerged via the modern miracle of chemistry to assist fly tiers in making their flies attention-getters and life-like. These include Krystal Flash, Flashabou, Sparkle yarn(s), Flash Chenille, Mylar Flash, Holographic Flashabou, Light Bright, etc. However, certain natural materials have been used for over 200 years to do the same thing.

The original Coachman is a rather unspectacular pattern (to human eyes), but it has an essential feature, a body of wrapped peacock herl. Peacock herl seems to possess its own wizardry, seemingly because it has

an iridescent quality that reflects light like many of the modern attention-getting synthetics – only better. Many fly fishing experts consider peacock to be a magic material, with a spectacular display of color and especially lively on bright days and in bright water. From the coachman came the Royal Coachman, perhaps the most famous of all flies – at least to the lay public. And of course there are other coachman variations, like the Leadwing Coachman, the California Coachman, Hairwing Coachman.

The effectiveness of peacock herl as a body material for flies is seen in the number of famous and still very popular patterns that use this material: These include the Royal Wulff, Renegade, Tellico Nymph, Prince Nymph, Carey Special, Half Back, Coch-Y-Bondhu, Griffith's Gnat, Sureshot, Cluster Midge, Royal Trude, Lime Trude, and more.

To read more about the basic (and original) Coachman, what materials are needed and how to tie it, log on to the FFF Website, <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>, and go to the September, 2000 Fly of the Month. ☺


(Copyright Jim Abbs, FFF Webkeeper, for the ClubWire Email NewsWire. Webkeeper@fedflyfishers.org)

QUOTE

Some go to church and think about fishing, others go fishing and think about God.

(Tony Blake)

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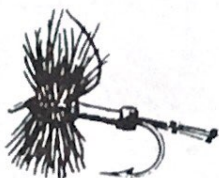
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ECONOMICAL FLY FLOATANT

As an alternative to expensive fly floatant, try RAIN-X. It's much more affordable. Soak your flies ahead of time and let them dry overnight or longer and you will find they stay hi and dry just as well as fly floatant.

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If you cut open a bungee cord you will find a great source for rubber leg material. The bungee usually sells for about 25 cents so this really is an economical source. An added bonus is that sometimes there will be varied colors in the cord.

TYING DESK MAGNETS

An indispensable item to have at your tying desk is a magnet. Here are a few uses - you can easily "fish" a dropped hook out of a trash container or from a thick carpet or use it to hold a few hooks. You can use a bar magnet to hold your flies while the head cement dries. Put one under a hook container to keep from bouncing around when you touch the container. They capture small tools.

You can get the strongest magnets from old speakers or that old CB rooftop antennas. Or you can buy them at your local craft store.

(by Dick Eppinger of the South Jersey Fly Lines for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire.)



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OCTOBER MEETING

**Jeff Passante
 On The Housy**

Wed., Oct. 11

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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.

CFFA Hotline: John Springer - ☎ 664-3688 email: AMTRKANGLR@aol.com