



LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association
Volume 28, No. 3

November 2000

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

NOVEMBER MEETING

Gene Bourque
Elizabeth Islands

Gene's show will profile the Elizabeth Islands. This program may inspire some of our members to make the trip out to Cuttyhunk, or drag a boat up and fish the edges around the islands.

Gene grew up in Mystic and moved to Falmouth in 1973. Coincidentally, he started fly fishing freshwater at that time. Gene says "I started learning the beaches and estuaries on the Upper Cape, although at that time you never saw anyone with a fly rod and I was using spinning tackle. About seven years ago, I saw someone with fly equipment on a beach where I was fishing, and started salt water fly fishing with a borrowed salmon outfit. My very first striper on the fly rod was 6 inches longer than my best trout ever on the famous trout streams of the west, and I was (bad cliché) hooked!"

Gene has worked as the Assistant Manager of Eastman's Sport and Tackle in Falmouth, developed their fly fishing department, and started teaching fly-fishing through the local night school program. Currently, he is Senior Editor of *On the Water* magazine.

Gene may also have his new book, "Fishing New England - A Cape Cod Shore Guide," for sale. It features around 40 locations from the Cape Canal to Provincetown that offer good fishing and good access. Maps, directions, descriptions of each spot are included, along with sidebars on technique, equipment and history.

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

DATE: Wednesday, 8 Nov

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



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

As someone who "occasionally" buys or builds a fly rod, I found Don Phillips' September meeting presentation on the Technology of Fly Rods very interesting. His observations on casting style and rod position when fighting and landing the fish were "givens" to some and eye openers for others. The one relationship I found intriguing was that of rod length and height of caster to accuracy and distance of cast! Many thanks to Don for an interesting and different presentation as a starter for our meeting year.

Many thanks to our October speaker, Jeff Passante, who gave us a knowledgeable and detailed view of how to fish one of Connecticut's most famous trout streams, the Housatonic River. A lot of the information Jeff gave us can be put to good use right now, as fall is a great time to fish that river. I know of one member who headed up there on the weekend after the meeting. If you missed the meeting or want more of Jeff's information his book, *Housatonic River Fly Fishing Guide*, has what you're looking for. The book is available locally or from Frank Amato Publications.

On my first trip to Falmouth seven years ago, I met Gene Bourque in Eastman's Tackle shop in the basement of the hardware store in the center of town. Over the years, Gene has moved on from Eastman's but has remained accessible to us as an agreeable, knowledgeable, appreciative, and generous source of fishing information. Last spring Gene, who is genuinely interested in providing us with good information on productive places to fish, took many of us to new places near Falmouth, which proved to be most productive. Gene is our November speaker. He'll break new ground for us here and tell of the best fishing in the Elizabeth Islands, a place nearby but seldom mentioned. I'm sure he'll have plenty of information for us. Don't miss Gene on November 8th!

Over the last few weeks the CFFA Board has begun the work of putting together the Banquet for 2001. This year's date is Saturday, February 17, 2001, and we will be using "The Colony" in Vernon again to host our biggest event of the year. There is a lot of work that needs doing to put on a really good banquet and anyone interested in helping in any way is encouraged to participate. Please contact Ed Fidrych, Jack Smola, Roger Plourde or myself if you're interested in working on this.

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE VEST (Continued from page 1)

HELP WANTED: Editor, Lines & Leaders. Mike Stewart, our editor for the past 10 years is "retiring" after the May 2000 Edition. We are beginning our search now so that Mike will be able to impart in plenty of time his "tricks of the trade" to the new editor. Mike has prepared a schedule that he has followed over the years and has made this job one that is not very time consuming if one has a computer. Publishing experience not required. Compensation is the gratitude of your fellow CFFA members. Please contact Mike or myself if you are interested.

Lastly - We need fly tyers. Our tradition of having fly tyers demonstrating before the general meetings appears to be waning. Please don't let this happen. We do not require professionals, experts or frequent tyers. Many past tyers have been members who have just learned a new pattern and use the time to practice and also show the pattern to others and some have done it just to tie a few flies that they needed for their fly box. Please consider giving us an hour of your time to entertain yourself and others. If this appeals to you, contact Steve Sawczuk.

Hope to see you all on November 8th.

Ray

CLUB NEWS

"Luck" for Club Prez - It has been recently reported that Ray Riley went Albacore fly fishing for the first time, and promptly caught an 'albie.' At the October membership meeting, Ray also had a bit of 'first' luck. He won the first raffle ticket drawn and had the choice of the prize table. The flyfishing gods are sure looking after Ray.

Fly Tyers - At the October meeting there were some pretty nice flies tied by Ted Rzepski (saltwater flies) and Paul Rossman (salmon flies and floating nymphs). Thanks guys.

Fly-Tying Equipment Donations - If anyone has some extra fly tying equipment, please consider donating them to CFFA. This equipment will be used to help out with our fly tying schools. Gary Steinmiller, or any other board member will be happy to receive your donations. Thanks.

Brood Salmon Stocking - The DEP reported that 310 brood fish were stocked the second week in October. 150 fish went into the Shetucket and 160 fish were stocked in the Naugatuck. This stocking may be followed by 1 or 2 more later. ⚡



COMING EVENTS

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 Board Meeting	6 Dec 00
CFFA Membership Meeting	13 Dec 00
CFFA Fly Tying School	4, 11, 18, 25 Jan 01 1, 8 Feb 01
The Fly Fishing Show, Marlborough, MA	19-21 Jan 01
The Fly Fishing Show, Somerset, NJ	26-28 Jan 01
CFFA Banquet, The Colony, Vernon	17 Feb 01
CFFA Fly Fishing School	1, 8, 15, 22 Mar 01 14, 28 Apr 01
HFFA Annual Banquet & Expo	17 Mar 01
CMTA Fishing Show, Civic Center, Hartford	23 - 25 Mar 01

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**ATTENTION
ALL CFFA
MEMBERS**

It is time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Please fill out the enclosed form on this page, include a check or give it to Bob Quinn at the next club meeting. It is very important that this form be returned to ensure that we have your correct address and telephone number. A pre-addressed envelope is provided for you. 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 your membership status, you can call Bob. His number is on the last page of this newsletter. If you have already paid your dues or are a lifetime member, thank you for your support and please disregard this notice.

Membership Form

Check if address changed

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

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Email _____

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

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|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Facil. |
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DUES STRUCTURE

- | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 16) | \$ 5.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | \$ 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 25.00 | TOTAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 50.00 | ENCLOSED: |
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NEW MEMBERS!

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

*Mark Casali David Casali
Richard Boccaccio, Jr.*

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.

RETARD THE WRIST

By Daniel L. Lagace

Breaking the wrist before completing the casting stroke is probably the single most common source of casting problems; tailing loops and open loops. At times, breaking the wrist too soon causes the caster to quit the casting stroke too soon, causing a tailing loop. If the casting stroke is sufficiently long enough for the amount of line being carried during the cast and the wrist breaks before the casting stroke is completed, the result is an inefficient open loop.

The remedy is simple; don't allow the wrist to break until the casting stroke has been completed. Try it as you read the following: Grasp a pen as though it were the grip of your fly rod. Extend your

arm forward with the pen pointing parallel to the ground. This is the beginning of your back cast. Now bring your hand backward while continuing to point the pen forward and parallel to the ground. Maintain this position as long as possible. Continue to maintain this "wrist-down" position as your forearm rises toward vertical in the back cast. The pen will rise from horizontal to the ground to about 60 degrees from horizontal by the time you reach the end of your back cast stroke.

Finally, allow your wrist to break only at the moment your back cast stroke ends. Now with the pen pointing backwards at about a forty-five degree angle to the ground, apply the same

mechanics in the forward cast forcing your wrist to "lay-back" until you have reached the end of your forward casting stroke. Get the feel of this by allowing your wrist to break by itself without a snap at the end of the casting stroke.

Once you assimilate this passive wrist break only at the end of the casting stroke, snap your wrist all you want, although doing so probably won't add anything to your cast and just make you tired and sore at the end of the day.

(Copyright; Daniel L. Lagace, 2000, of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire - Oct 2000) ⚡



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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.

Class:	Beginning Fly Tying	Saltwater Fly Tying
	1. Marabou Leech, Wooly Bugger	Honey Blond, Hy Tye
	2. Dark Cahill, Soft Hackle	Surf Candy, Squid,
	3. Tellico, Hare's Ear Nymph	Clouser's Minnow, Cross Cut Deceiver
	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 should supply their own vise, bobbin, thread, scissors, etc. It is also suggested you bring a portable lamp with you. (CFFA will provide vises for those who don't have one.)

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

Tuition: Fly Tying class: CFFA Members - \$35; Non-Members - \$45; 16 & Under - \$25

SCHOOL FOR BUILDING FLY RODS

Classes Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, in Enfield, taught by the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association. Deadline for blank ordering Dec. 15th. Cost: \$15 (members), \$20 (non-members) plus materials. Class size limited to 12 students. Call 860-563-0040 for information and reservations.

CFFA Enrollment Application

Please PRINT the requested information. Forward application forms and tuition (Checks payable to CFFA) to Gary Steinmiller, Education Chairman, 27 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

For additional information contact Ed Fidrych, V.P. Promotion, 951 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland, CT 06480
Phone: (860) 342-1173.

EMERGERS

by John Prokorym

The emergence of spring brings the aquatic insects into the final phase of their life cycle, hatching. This will definitely get the fish to feeding, and being the efficient feeders that they are they will be sighting in on the easiest target during the hatch cycle, EMERGERS. It was thought for many years that fish took wet flies as drowned adult insects. Now that we better understand the feeding habits of fish and the hatching habits of the insects we mostly agree that the fish must perceive wet flies as emergers.

There are those of us who want to get into the real meat of the fish's feeding habits and tie patterns that are specific to the actual emerging insects that are hatching. These patterns aren't difficult to tie but the materials are a bit different. I'm not big on synthetics but for a trailing shuck on a fly you can't beat Z-Lon. There are other methods of creating a trailing shuck, the insect leaving the nymphal skin and emerging into the adult, but no feathers or other material can duplicate the Z-Lon effect of sparkle and translucence which is what the empty shuck looks like.


With this material tied in sparsely as a tail and trimmed to a taper you then dub a body of either fur or fine poly about halfway up the hook shank. Then we want to represent the semi-emerging wings. For this you have a choice, deer hair tips tied short (back to where the shuck or tail begins) or CDC feather barbs, tied the same length. The attributes of the Cul de

Cunard (CDC) feathers are such that they help the fly float in the film like the natural. Either wing will work but the CDC will work much better for mayfly imitations while the deer hair is better for caddis fly emergers. Finish the fly by dubbing a small amount in front of the wing and tying off the tying thread in the usual manner.

Fishing a more realistic emerger pattern is just the same as fishing a true dry fly. Usually the fly is fished upstream to a rising fish, allowed to drift into the feeding window like a dry fly without any action imparted by the angler -- dead drift. If the fly is sitting in the film or just below it like the naturals it will be sucked in and a telltale rise form will result. Just remember--don't set the hook but rather wait till you see the leader begin to go down or feel the fish just tighten up on the fly. If you were successful in fooling the fish into taking the fly as an emerger it will hook itself.

The only difference the tier has to make in a basic emerger between a caddis and a mayfly is the presence of a tail or not. The mayfly wet fly will have a tail, and if you wish to tie wets to imitate caddis just leave off the tail. The fish are usually more interested on the action or the emerging caddis than rejecting the fly because it has tails. Caddis are the most active emergers and there are many that actually return to


(Continued on page 7)



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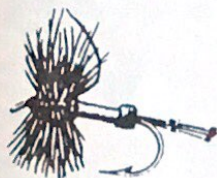
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EMERGERS

(Continued from page 6)

the stream and dive to the stream bottom to deposit their eggs. That makes them very vulnerable to fish.

The beginning fly fisher and fly tier can experience some early season hatch success just by using the basic wet flies. Start with the standard patterns in sizes 12, 14 and 16 and then as the insects get smaller you might want to try a few 18's. The most difficult thing to remember is that the fish has to hook itself when fishing a fly down and across the current. If you feel a fish take the fly and react immediately by raising the rod tip you will be pulling the fly out of the fishes mouth as it is facing you. You must pause or let the fish turn to the side before setting the hook.

The last comment on the subject is the monetary aspect. Hen feathers and some Z-Lon are far cheaper than genetically raised hackle. That is not to say don't bother with dry flies but if money is tight think emergers and wet flies till you can afford the better feathers.

(By John Prokorym of the Capital District Flyfishers of Mechanicville, NY for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire - April 2000) *J*

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NOVEMBER MEETING

*Gene Bourque
 Elizabeth Islands*

Wed., Nov. 8

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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