



# LINES & LEADERS

Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisher's Association

Volume 27, No. 8

April 2000

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

## APRIL MEETING Fly Tyer's Roundtable

Thanks to Roger Plourde's and Steve Sawczuk's special efforts this year's Roundtable features the following tyers:

Ernie Boutiette	John Marona	Mike Motyl
Brian Owens	Ken Parkany	Roger Plourde
Paul Rossman	Jack Smola	John Walker
Dick Wemmel		

Various patterns will be demonstrated from dry flies to muddlers to saltwater patterns.

Come and pick up some fly tying tips.

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 12  
TIME: Fly Tying - 7:00 pm  
Program - 7:30 pm



## FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

Well, folks, its time to go fishing. For those of you who wait for Opening Day, your wait will be short. For the rest of us, the time is now. The Willie was stocked in early March and those who tried caught fish shortly thereafter. The middle of the month brought much needed rain and some colder weather and now is the time to wet a line. Practice the techniques mentioned by Charlie Place during the November meeting Williamantic River slide show... sinking line, streamers fished next to boulders and banks. Or, try some soft hackles a la Sylvester Nemes: I have, and I'm a soft hackle addict now. Easy to tie and fish, these patterns are amazing at bringing trout up from the bottom to hit a fly fished just under the surface.

On the salt, things are quiet but will heat up soon. There should be some early bass entering the Connecticut River, positioning themselves to gorge on shad and alewives as these fish make their spring spawn run. The best place for early season bass is on the Cape. As I write this there are still a few spots left for the Cape Cod trips. Check for availability with Larry Johnson.

This winter I've been tying flies alone and, on a few occasions, with friends. I find my productivity and enjoyment is increased when tying with friends. We try to get together about once a month and crank out about a dozen each or so. We don't always tie the same patterns when together but it seems that at the end of the sessions, we've all tied about the same amount of flies and my flies seem better tied than if I were to tie alone. If you're a tyer and, even more, so if you're not: Don't miss this month's meeting: The Fly Tyers Round Table. All the Tyers are members of CFFA. All are known and knowledgeable tyers. They'll be tying flies ranging from saltwater to salmon, dries to wets. And, they are very responsive to questions about technique and materials. You'll not want to miss it. Also, there will be a special raffle which will feature a Powell rod, and a Mark Lewchik print framed by Roger Plourde.

Over the last 5 years, we have all enjoyed the articles written for this column and in other parts of our newsletter by Charlie Place. Also, we were able to pick up the free monthly publication, **Heading Out**, which featured a fly tying column by Charlie. I have to tell you: We were blessed by a real sleeper of a literary artist. **Heading Out** is now out of business but Charlie's articles have been picked up by no less than the **Yale Angler's Journal** and **On The Water** magazine. In the **Yale Angler's Journal**, his articles appears with angling stories from the likes of Cotton and Yeats. **On The Water**, New England's premier fishing magazine, just published his second article. Thanks Charlie, and keep them coming.

If anyone is interested in tying before the May meeting, please see Steve Sawczuk; Tyers of any experience level are welcome. If you have even just one pattern that you've experienced success with and want to share with others, please consider this opportunity.

Ray





**CLUB NEWS**

**Rod Building School:** Last month we forgot to acknowledge a major helper with our Rod Building School, Al Gnann. Al provided the facilities at REC Components for the school. Thanks Al for your help. We are sorry we omitted you from our thank you list last month.

**HELP WANTED On-Stream Instruction:** I am asking members to call me if you can help with the Stream Instruction on the Willimantic River on Sat. April 8th 8:30-12:00. This year's class has 33 students and I can use all the help I can get. Please call me if you can help, it will be greatly appreciated. Your Education Chairman Gary Steinmiller, 860-563-0040.

**Special Raffle - April Membership Meeting:** In addition to our conservation raffle, we will be having a special. The prizes are:

- 8' 6" 5/6 weight Powell rod.
- Mark Lewchik print framed by Roger Plourde.

**Club Trip to Cape Cod:** There are still a few more openings for the 22-23 May & 12-13 June trip. For reservations please call Larry Johnson at 860-246-0728.

**For Sale:** Pflueger Medalist Rod, FY 90-10, 9 feet, 10 wt., detachable butt, like new. \$50.00. Call Jim Bryan, 860-749-0370

**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  | Don Rose     | Ted Rzepski      |
| Charlie Place  | John Walker  | Ray Riley        |
| Steve Sawczuk  | Dick Vanasse | Gary Steinmiller |
| Roger Plourde  | Jim Stack    | John Marona      |
| Dick Heffernon | Keith Petry  |                  |



**COMING EVENTS**

Fly Fishing School	1 & 8 Apr 00
CFFA Board Meeting	5 Apr 00
CFFA Membership Meeting	12 Apr 00
CFFA Board Meeting	3 May 00
CFFA Membership Meeting	10 May 00
CFFA Fishing Trips, Cape Cod	20-21 May, 3-4 Jun 00

**NEW MEMBERS!**

The CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Al Lesperance      | George Mailloux |
| Stanley W. Osinski | Tom Small       |

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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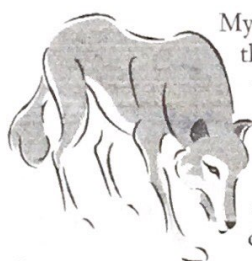
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# COWBOY DOG

By Charlie Place

After fishing all day on the Madison River my friend and I were looking for some place to grab a bite to eat. We stopped at what seemed to be a cowboy saloon. We went in. It was. There was one cowboy standing at the short bar. Three empty round tables filled up the rest of the small canteen.



My friend and I sat at one of the round tables. Before we had a chance to look at a menu a large, nasty looking, three-legged dog walked under the saloon doors. A long scar ran down the left side of its

face starting just below its bloodshot eye then angled to the tip of its wet snout. One broken tooth stuck up on the outside of the ink black canine's thin lips. A long, elastic drip of saliva hung from the corner of its mouth. The ugly dog wore a dirty, red bandanna that hung loosely from its thick neck. Hmmm. "Cowboy dog," I thought. A low guttural growl directed at the wrangler at the bar reverberated from its throat. Ka chink, the cowboy's spur went as he took his foot off the brass rail. Ka chink, ka chink as he took two steps backward. His shaking hand slid down to his side. He looked at the bartender. The bartender gave him a slight nod. Fear swept over the cowboy's face as the fierce dog walked toward him. The cowboy dog circled the tall ranch hand several times. Then slowly backed out of the saloon. The weak-kneed cowpoke sighed heavily and put his head down on the shiny wood bar. My friend and I looked at each other. We had to know. "What was that all about?" I asked.

"Dog comes in here every day," the bartender said. "Looking for the guy that shot his paw."



## HYDE DRIFT BOAT

Win a Hyde Drift Boat or a guided fishing trip on the famous Yellowstone. Get involved in the FFF 2000 raffles. Contact FFF National 406/585-7592 or go online and buy tickets at: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/products.htm>

### Membership Form

Check if address changed

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

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

- |   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Education          | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership    |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretarial Duties |                                    |  |

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# Thank You!

Dear CFFA:

I am writing to all CFFA members, but especially to all who worked so hard to make the Expo and banquet great events. If you didn't attend you missed a lot, and a great time.

Tammy DiGristine set the perfect tone for the day and evening. She was accessible with friendly conversation and that great sense of humor. I was pleased to be part of several informative and fun conversations.

In particular, I want to thank Charlie and Jack, and anyone else that helped me lug my booth in and out. Thanks, guys.

I have a very big thanks to all that worked on a great raffle; the REC Corporation for the Sage rod and leather care donations, and the gods of luck and good fortune for making me the winner of that rod and case.

Sincerely, thank you,  
Charley McCaughtry

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## Dumb and Dumber

By Ernie Boutiette

**M**y wife often told me that a fisherman had a screw loose in his brain. I never admitted it; but she was right. I will give a few of my experiences and let you be the judge.

I trolled New Hampshire for many years for salmon and lake trout. One year a friend talked me into fishing salmon at ice out. All stories said that was the best salmon fishing of the year. We went two days after ice out. We launched and headed up lake. There was a nice salmon chop and in a short time had three salmon in the three pound range. Then the wind came up and we were fishing in two foot waves. We learned the hard way that after ice out the wind blows hard from north to south - icy cold. We got blown off the lake. We sat in the car with the heater on to thaw out. We ate and crawled into our sleeping bags in our tent. During the night I could hear the wind howling through the pines. We decided to fish the lower part of the lake that is on the other side of a causeway and be protected from the wind. To get back we had to go west to east and we were taking waves into the boat. After a scary ride back, I had had enough. I froze in my sleeping bag and the next morning refused to go out. I forgot to mention that on the previous morning we had ice on the windshield until about 10:00. Also, any branches along shore that touched the water were ice coated. About 10:00 I went to town (a short walk) looking for a V.F.W. Post where I could get brandy and hot coffee. I got back to camp in the late afternoon, warm for the first time. I was listening to the weather channel about 3:00 A. M. and they predicted 6 - 8" of snow for the next day. I woke Tom and we headed home. I later found out that they did get the snow. When I got home, my wife wanted to know after seeing my red face how I got sunburned. Not sunburn - but frostbite.

Now to the ocean. It was 150 miles to North Truro Lighthouse. My brother and I left for two days surf fishing for bass. There as a storm blowing six foot and bigger waves into shore, but we figured a way to fish. We would rush down to

the shore when the waves retreated, cast our four ounce plugs out as far as we could and then put the reel on free spool and rush back as the waves rushed in. This was about thirty feet back. We did this all night. It was also raining hard. Anyone who has fished at night knows that the waves are magnified at night, and as we watched them come in they seemed to be 10 or 13 feet high. We would have quit, but we kept seeing bass in the waves. Dummy One and Dummy Two fished into daylight. Not a fish.

Now a humorous story. When I lived in Massachusetts I was about a mile from a small pond that was loaded with bass, but all small. One evening my wife decided to come with me. She like to walk and figured a couple hours on the pond would be relaxing. I rowed up to a spot where the river that formed the pond came in. She then took the oars to keep me in place to fish my bass bug. First let me say that my wife is deadly afraid of bugs. Then I noticed a few large flies and then the area was full of them. This was really something to see. They were Dobson flies. They are when hellgrammites molt. At least 2 1/2" - 3" long, with a thick body, wings 2 1/2" or more, and a real fuzzy face. My wife was screaming and plying the oars to get away from them. I never got to fish that hatch and although I spent many hours on that pond, I never saw it again.

One more wife story. One beautiful day in June my brother and I took a ride to the Miller's River with our wives. It was a nice ride of about 60 miles. My brother and I were to fish for an hour while our wives enjoyed a walk along the river. We parked next to a burned out factory that had made large cardboard boxes and these were strewn all over. We forgot to tell them that those boxes were the home of river rats and not to walk near them. As you know, these rats are the size of cats. As you know, a half dozen of them ran by them. When we returned, the things that we were called cannot be printed here. Some good came of this, as I don't remember my wife ever again asking to go fishing with me.

### QUIET SPORTS<sup>INC.</sup>



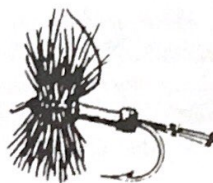
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Book Review (Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang for the FFF  
Mar 2000 ClubWire)

### The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference

by Ted Leeson & Jim Schollmeyer Portland, OR 1999  
459 pages, Hardbound, Illustrated, Color  
Suggested price \$100.00

This is a major work dealing with fly tying techniques and methods. Broken down into fifteen chapters, which are subdivided into thirty-eight sections, the reader can quickly find the type of procedure of interest.

While the book does have chapters on thread handling, materials selection, and hooks, it is not a beginner's teaching manual. Once you the tier have, a basic understanding of fly tying this book comes into its own. Whenever the tier needs to refresh his tying technique or learn a new technique, this book will most likely have a photo sequence showing how to proceed.

Necessarily, due to its broad coverage, tying sequences are short and straight to the point. Not incomplete by any means, but not fleshed out to the extent a beginner can walk through without help either.

The close-up photography of Jim Schollmeyer is incredibly good. The reproduction of the photographs in the book is also of high quality. The use of different colored backgrounds to indicate main procedures and alternative procedures is a nice touch. The writing is clear, concise, and well edited.

Overall, the work is well explained and illustrated. However, everyone can and does make dumb mistakes. The authors have, for example, stated that a "...whip-finish is essentially a series of half hitches..." This is totally incorrect. A whip-finish is no more a series of half hitches than is a nail knot. So like everything else in print you must read with insight and common sense.

This is clearly an important book, which needs to be open on the tying bench of every fly tier. The fact that you can purchase it at around \$70.00 on several online book dealers makes it easier to justify to your significant other. In addition, if your significant other also ties the book only costs \$35.00 a piece!

Buy this book, keep it on the tying bench and use it often. You will become a better tier.



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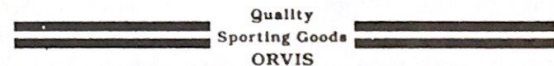
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## Camping Tips

(reprinted from FFF' Clubwire)

- ☺ When using a public campground, a tuba placed on your picnic table will keep the campsites on either side vacant.
- ☺ A hot rock placed in your sleeping bag will keep your feet warm. A hot enchilada works almost as well, but the cheese sticks between your toes.
- ☺ The best backpacks are named for national parks or mountain ranges. Steer clear of those named for landfills.
- ☺ Modern rain suits made of fabrics that "breathe" enable campers to stay dry in a downpour. Rain suits that sneeze, cough, and belch, however, have been proven to add absolutely nothing to the wilderness experience.
- ☺ Lint from your navel makes a handy fire starter. Warning: Remove lint from navel before applying the match.
- ☺ You'll never be lost if you remember that moss always grows on the north side of your compass.
- ☺ You can duplicate the warmth of a down-filled bedroll by climbing into a plastic garbage bag with several geese.
- ☺ The canoe paddle, a simple device used to propel a boat, should never be confused with a gnu paddle, a similar device used by Tibetan veterinarians
- ☺ When camping, always wear a long-sleeved shirt. It gives you something to wipe your nose on.
- ☺ Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping. Shine a flashlight into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear, do not go into the woods alone.
- ☺ A two-man pup tent does not include two men or a pup.
- ☺ A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A potato baked in the coals for three hours makes an excellent hockey puck.
- ☺ In emergency situations, you can survive in the wilderness by shooting small game with a slingshot made from the elastic waistband of your underwear.
- ☺ The guitar of the noisy teenager at the next campsite makes excellent kindling
- ☺ The sight of a bald eagle has thrilled campers for generations. The sight of a bald man, however, does absolutely nothing for the eagle.
- ☺ It's entirely possible to spend your whole vacation on a winding mountain road behind a large motor home.
- ☺ Bear bells provide an element of safety for hikers in grizzly country. The tricky part is getting them on the bears.
- ☺ In an emergency, a drawstring from a parka hood can be used to strangle a snoring tent mate.

(by Johnny Walker of the Fort Worth Texas Fly Fishers)





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Wed., April 12

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The Connecticut Fly Fisher'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 Fisher'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