



LINES & LEADERS



The Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association



Volume 32 No. 9

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

May 2005

MAY MEETING

John Hildenbrand

"The Ultimate Housatonic River Presentation"



This month's meeting will feature John Hilenbrand, a school teacher and guide for the Angler's Den Fly Shop in Pawling, New York. John Will give a power point presentation on fly-fishing the lower Housatonic River from Bull's Bridge to Milford. John will explain how to approach, rig up and fish this beautiful stretch of river in all conditions. Don't miss this great presentation at our last meeting on the year!

PLACE: Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge, East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, May 11th, 2005

TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 PM



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

At long last winter is long gone. I for one don't want to see another snowflake for a long time.

April's meeting was a success. It was nice to see such a great turnout. Congratulations to all of the raffle winners. Ray tells me that we are going to be raffling a bamboo battenkill rod at May's meeting and it has two tip sections, so come to the meeting and take a chance.

Thanks to Roger and Steve for putting on a great flytyer's roundtable meeting, as I said last issue the roundtable meetings are my favorite. I enjoy chatting with and learning from all of the wonderful tiers. Thank you tiers for your time and expertise it was very much appreciated. Barry's rodbuilding display was awesome, and I hope it becomes tradition. Thank you Barry and all of the talented rodbuilders for displaying your craftsmanship.

May's meeting marks the last meeting of our season we won't meet again until September which means it's now time to get out and do some serious fly fishing.

Every year at this time I say the same thing, "I have to get out and do a lot more fishing this year, but, there's the yard to care for and birthday parties to attend and all kinds of other distractions like work that keeps me from accomplishing my mission. I have come to the conclusion that you just won't find the time to get out and do more fishing, you have to make the time, and since I don't golf or lay around on the beach, I will have to just make the time to do more fishing, that is unless my wife reads this and then Im sure she will be able to reinstate her "honeydew" list. I hope that doesn't happen. Maybe I should just teach her to flyfish and then once she is hooked I won't have to worry.

It was also a pleasure to see my friend John Springer at the April meeting. John presented me with a nice gift from New York and also surprised me with his kind words of encouragement, and I thank John for his generosity the gift was delicious. Louis and Mark showed off what John and company taught them at the American School for the Deaf, they are excellent fly tiers and from where I stood it looked like they enjoyed the evening. I hope they can join us again they are fine young men and thanks to the efforts of people like John and Ted they now join the ranks of flyfish-a-holics if that's even a word.

Welcome to all of the new members that I met over the last couple of months and thank you to the ones that showed up at the classes and shows to help out.

Continued on Page 3

CFFA CLUB NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

★★ **PAUL TIRRELL** – Tolland ★★

THANKS TO ALL OUR HELPERS:

I want to thank all that helped me with all of our educational programs this past year. I truly appreciate your effort to help promote the sport of fly-fishing. The programs would not succeed without your contributions. I hope all of you will do it again next year. The following gave their time to our students during the "On Stream Instruction" or "Casting Pond Instruction"

Guy Bagdasarian, John Baracchi, Steve Babbit, Stan Calabrese, Steve Chirdon, Richard Heffernon, Gary Bogli, Charlie Place, Roger Plourde, Ray Riley, Steve Sawczuk, Mike Stewart, Gordon Tedford, Jerry Wade, Al Parrow, Phil McCormick, Gary Gerstung, Jeff Munsie, Michael Constantine, Charlie McCaughtry, Ernie Boutiette, Brian Cooper.

Special thanks go out to *Ted Rzepski* for leading the Saltwater Fly tying and Fly Fishing Schools this past year.

I hope I didn't miss anyone.

Thank You so Much
Gary



Check Out Lou's Whopper Trout!

CFFA CLASSES & EVENTS

Next Board Meeting MAY 4th

Next Membership Meeting MAY 11th

2005 Cape Cod Fishing Trips:

First trip: June 3,4,5

Second trip: June 10,11,12



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A portion of proceeds to conservation/environmental causes as per 1% For The Planet, www.onepercentfortheplanet.org

I have some knowledge of Martha's Vineyard and would be happy to share it with you.

Come enjoy the fishing, learn a bit of natural history, and relax. I'll show you some of the spots: Menemsha Harbor, Dogfish Bar, Lobsterville Beach, Tashmoo Pond, Big Bight, Little Bight, Cape Pogue, Pogue Gut, Wasque Point, or others. Bring your own equipment.

BYOB.

For questions, information, or reservations, contact me: Art Howe, 860-569-2276 home, 860-324-0422 cell, or e-mail: a3flyfish@aol.com 100 Ridgewood Rd., E.Hartford, CT., 06118. E-mail preferred.

Continued Vest From Page 1

Welcome back to all of the members that renewed their membership, it's nice to have all of you back. Arnold is doing a great job with membership, thank you Arnold.

We now have a date locked in for our expo and banquet next year, it will be on Saturday February 25th at the Colony in Vernon, so plan on being there.

I met and chatted with two new members, both of them live in Portland Jon and Mark and both of them have an extensive background in fly-fishing and flytying, I hope they don't mind if we put their knowledge to work.

We took the class to the P&F pond in East Hartford for their first flycasting lesson, it was a beautiful Saturday and Gary and crew did a wonderful job. I thank all of the volunteers that helped out with the on the pond and also on the Willimantic River. The saltwater class will be going out with Ted and company very soon and I plan on being there also.

I am already ahead of my schedule for fly-fishing, Guy (bags) and his son and I float tubed the P&F pond the Sunday after the class. Guy being the fishing machine that he is was **nailing** trout left and right, while I on the other hand was having no luck.

After trolling a couple of flies around the pond, Guy suggested that I stop and cast, so I did and bam! I caught 3 rainbows one after another, and I had a hit just about every cast I just couldn't land them. I think that whenever Guy makes a suggestion from now on I'm going to pay attention. Next time I'll just do what he does and that should work.

As I said, the May meeting is our last for the season we won't be meeting in June, July and August so at our September meeting we should be hearing lots of fish stories, I love fish stories!

I want to wish everyone a great summer. I also want to stress safety, please be careful, use your head, think first. Wear your pfd when possible, and try to fish with someone. Carry a pocket first aid kit and some water with you. Accidents always happen because someone was careless or wasn't thinking, so, do me a favor and be safe out there. You saltwater guys especially take Ted and Brian's advice, watch the tides and sky and keep current on the weather conditions, it's a real big pond you are fishing in so be careful I want to see you all again in September.

All of you new members and also the members that I haven't met yet, come on up at the meeting and say hi, I always enjoy meeting and chatting with you. So don't be bashful come on up and say hey.

Bob Winot is scheduling the Roscoe trip for June 10th and 11th I understand that there are about 4 openings, so if you are interested contact Bob. The lodging for the weekend will be at the Baxter House in Roscoe and the price is \$100 per person. There is one intersection in the town of Roscoe and 5 flyshops. My kind of town!

Larry Johnson is planning the Cape Cod trips and last word was they were full but he is taking names for the waiting list so contact Larry if you would like to be put on the waiting list.

Stanley Calabrese has been working real hard with the DEP stocking the rivers and streams including the "Willi" and he tells me that it is chock full of trout. Thanks Stan for all that you do. I can't say thank you enough to our hard working members, without them we would be just another club.

Check in and post on the message board whenever you can and let us know how the fishing is.

Our sponsors are a vital part of this organization, without them we wouldn't be where we are so check out what they have to offer, I always do and I'm never disappointed. Try whenever possible to patronize our wonderful sponsors.

Once again thanks to everyone that made this season of meetings and shows and classes a success. Hope you can make the May meeting see you there, bring a friend;

REMEMBER- BE SAFE!
TIGHT LINES

John

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JACK SMOLA

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April 10th
Westfield River, MA. "How to Select & Fish Streamers"
May 15th
Farmington River, CT "How to Select & Fish Dry Flies"
June 12th
Farmington River, CT "How to Select & Fish Midges and Terrestrials"

Please call Jack evenings @ 860-763-1856 for Sign-ups as well as Meeting Locations, Equipment Requirements & Pricing – Ability Levels.



Fly Fishing For Carp



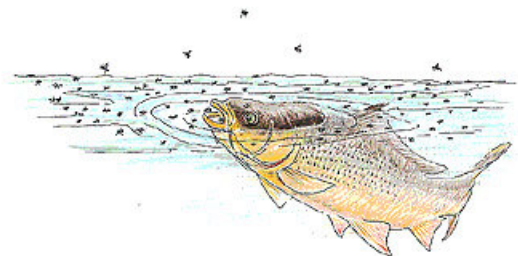
A lot of people who fly fish in warm waters have had the experience of accidentally catching a carp. But few try to accomplish this deliberately. For those few, this brief guide should be helpful.

Basically there are only two ways to fly fish for carp -- sight casting and blind casting. Sight casting involves seeing carp in the water and casting the fly to about 1 or 2 feet in front of them. While this is not always possible, it often is and provides some of the most exciting carp fishing. An analogy is often drawn to fishing for bonefish and the analogy is quite accurate. Like bonefish, carp can often be seen tailing in the shallows. Like bonefish, carp are eating whatever organisms they find on or scare up from the bottom. And like bonefish, when they take your fly expect a long hard run that may take you "into your backing".

Blind casting can take two forms. You can cast to places carp are likely to be and hope you are right. This is usually not a high percentage technique. More reliable is to cast to where you know carp are because you have tossed groundbait in that area. The groundbait not only attracts the carp and concentrates them in a relatively small area but it also gets them into a feeding mood, maybe even a competitive feeding mood. People who bait fish for carp know a great deal about groundbaiting and I suggest you consult some of their published information. In particular I recommend *Modern Bank Fishing* by Michael Keyes.

Gary LaFontaine reports watching trout in the shallows of a mountain lake. They would cruise along and suddenly change direction to begin rooting on the bottom and another leech would become trout fodder. It took him a while to discover how the trout knew where to root. It was a small puff of silt stirred up when the leech moved. He used this information to design the Bristle Leech -- a leech imitation that sits on the bottom but creates a puff of silt when retrieved. The Bristle Leech catches not only trout but also carp and the mechanism that triggers a strike in both fish would seem to be the same.

Bonefish anglers know that bonefish also look for puffs -- shrimp, crabs, and the like moving along the bottom of mud flats and creating a small cloud with each jerky move. A common technique is to cast in front of a bonefish, allow the fly to sink to settle to the bottom, and then give about a short pull on the flyline. The fly rises up off the bottom and creates the puff of silt. A bonefish, even some distance away, can see the puff and rush over for a meal (your fly).



My experience with carp is that they respond just like the trout and bonefish. As they cruise along the bottom vacuuming up what they find, they are also watching for fleeing prey. Perhaps it's a crayfish scurrying out of the way or a leech or a mayfly nymph. But carp will see their puff of silt and charge after them. I saw this graphically demonstrated one day when I was fly fishing for bluegill off the end of my dock. My fly was an olive nymph with bead chain eyes. It resembles both a crayfish and a dragonfly nymph. I looked on the bottom about 6 or 7 yards out from the dock and there was a carp, just sitting there facing me and gently finning

I cast the nymph about 4 or 5 feet in front of him. As it sank he paused, and, I assume, watched the fly drop to the bottom. But he made no move until I gave the fly a twitch, creating that little puff. The carp took the fly in a flash, and, realizing its mistake took off for parts unknown. Unfortunately I was using a light rod and tippet and had no hope of controlling the fish. It broke off in short order. I have since caught lots of carp (and one catfish!) using just the following techniques: choosing a fly that sinks to the bottom hook point up and stirs the mud or silt when twitched; either sight casting to carp in the shallows or blind casting to an area where I have groundbaited; and using very slow, short retrieves with long pauses in between.

Your best chance of catching a carp on a fly comes from choosing a fly that imitates a food that the carp recognizes. These fall into three broad categories. The first is aquatic creatures. These include larval and pupal stages of aquatic insects (mayflies, dragonflies, and damselflies), small aquatic organisms (leeches, worms, scuds, and immature crayfish) and small baitfish (e.g., sculpins). The second is plant material. This includes the fluffy seeds of the cottonwood tree and mulberries. The third is introduced food -- food that humans toss into the water that carp learn to eat. This includes corn, dogfood, and bread. There are flies that imitate all of these items and in the right circumstance you can expect most of them to be successful.

Flies can be impressionistic or realistic in their imitation of carp food. Carp will take impressionistic flies but they are often less likely to do so than other fish. For example, there is a large mayfly that is common in most lakes and streams in Michigan -- the *hexagenia limbata* or "hex". Its nymph is a major food source for many fish, including carp. One of the flies often used to imitate the hex nymph is a Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear (GRHE) in larger sizes. It impressionistically resembles a hex nymph, just as it resembles many other nymphs. Trout seem to find that good enough and you can catch a lot of trout using that nymph. It is almost always on lists of essential flies for trout fishing. But consider the experience of an acquaintance of mine fishing in Michigan's Grand River. He spotted a group of tailing carp and assumed that they were eating nymphs (among other things) that they were rooting up from the bottom. He tied on a GRHE and cast perfectly just in front of one of the group. The carp all ignored the fly and went on about their business. They also ignored successive casts. (Continued Page 5)

Then he tied on a different, more realistic imitation of the hex nymph with feathery gills, black eyes, darker back and lighter bottom and more distinct legs and tail. A carp took the fly before it reached the bottom on the first cast. If you have a choice, choose flies that accurately imitate carp food.

Carp are very sensitive to taste and smell. Before you use a fly for the first time rub it with mud or algae from the bank or bottom of the river or lake. The mud will come off after the first cast but your fly will have a "natural" taste and smell that will help mask your own odor and keep the fly in the carp's mouth a little longer before it tries to spit it out. Or, add a bit of commercial scent to your fly.

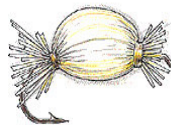
Nymphing for carp is essentially similar to nymphing for trout. There are a number of good books that go into it in great detail. I personally like *Nymph Fishing* by Dave Hughes. The gist of most of these accounts is:

- Be sure the nymph is on or near the bottom. Use weight, if necessary, in the form of small split shots about 6" above the fly. Use several small split shots rather than one large one.
- The nymph should move "naturally." On a stream this means drifting along the bottom at the same speed as the current with no "drag." Drag is unwanted motion imparted to the fly by the fly line. On a lake this may mean moving the nymph hardly at all except in very small twitches.
- Use a strike indicator.

I agree with all of these recommendations except the use of a strike indicator. They are useful for depth control and bite detection but they tend to spook carp, especially if you are sight casting. If possible, find out what kind of nymphs are present in the water you are fishing. Turn over rocks. Collect some mud from the bottom and seine it. Inspect pieces of vegetation or run a net through the vegetation. Use whatever you find as a guide to fly selection.

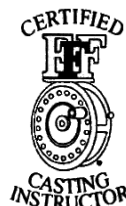
While carp typically find their food on or near the bottom they do surface feed at times. Usually that takes place because they have learned to eat something that falls into the water and floats (like mullberries or cottonwood seeds) or something that floats that people toss into the water like pieces of bread or dog food kibbles. Fairly typical is my brother-in-law who has a house on Lake LBJ in Texas. He goes out on his lighted dock in the evening and tosses handfuls of kibbles into the water. The carp, who apparently spend most of their time under the dock, swim about and snatch the kibbles off the surface with a rolling motion. A dogfood fly can be tied by spinning normal deer hair and trimming to the shape of a kibble. If carp surface feed on poplar seeds, tie a fly using any sparse, fluffy white material such as yarn. Bread flies can be constructed of white and brown egg fly yarn or pom pom balls from the craft store.

The Following are pictures of the "corn fly," the "popcorn bug," and a Damsel Nymph:



ABOUT CFFA: *The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association, Inc. is organized "To Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions 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 Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT. "Lines and Leaders" is the official publication of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman'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 add or \$40 for nine months. CFFA members may place for-sale or want ads of a non-commercial nature without charge. Newsletter correspondence should be sent to David Casali, 259 Longhill Drive, Glastonbury, CT, 06033. Change of address notice should be sent to CFFA, P.O. Box 380268, East Hartford, CT 06138-0268*
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Thank You CFFA

By Mark Casali

Ever since my eighth birthday, when I got my first fly rod from my grandparents, I have been addicted to fly fishing. As a kid, I would spend all day reading books trying to figure out the intricacies of the sport, like how the heck to connect the leader to the fly line and what exactly was a “trico.”

I think it was fate when I walked into Connecticut Outfitters with my father and Gary Bogli suggested we come to a CFFA meeting. We went on the second Wednesday of that month and watched the fly tiers in the back, and talked with members about local fishing. There may not have been other kids there, but I had found the perfect club for me. After that first meeting I remember counting the days down until the next meeting. My dad and I quickly signed up for the fly tying classes and soon with the invaluable coaching of our members I was able to tie my own flies. As we became more and more involved in the club, my dad and I took over CFFA’s newsletter and became editors. We were privileged to meet new people through the position and I was lucky enough to go fishing with many of our members.

CFFA has meant so much to me throughout my adolescence. The club has not only taught me about fly fishing, but it has also taught me about life. As an editor I have been developed a sense of responsibility in dealing with monthly printer deadlines. As a fisherman, I’ve learned how to fish the Hendricksons and how to fool an Albacore.

When I go off to college next year, I will take everything I have learned through CFFA with me. I will be prepared well, whether it be getting a paper done on time or catching a native brookie in a local stream. So, I just wanted to thank everyone in this great club for everything they’ve done for me. I would not be the same person without CFFA. My attendance may be a bit sparse over the next four years, but I will be back so that I can do for others what others have done for me. After all, that’s what this club is all about.

Mark



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- Change of address
- New member
- Membership renewal

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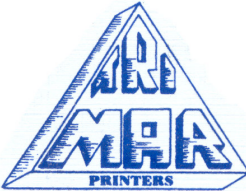
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