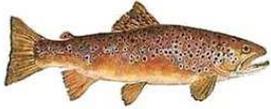




LINES & LEADERS



The Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



Volume 34 No. 2

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

October 2006

OCTOBER MEETING

Rob Nicholas

"Fly-Fishing the Housatonic & Farmington"



Rob Nicholas, of Housatonic Anglers, will be doing a slide presentation on both the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers at our October meeting. Rob has been guiding on both these rivers since 1993 and he does about 50 guided trips on each river every year. Many of us have fished these rivers before but perhaps Rob can teach you about a new area or technique that you have not yet tried or considered. Time permitting, Rob would be happy to show you some slides of Chile and the upcoming trip that 12 members are going on in late Feb. Incidentally, Rob still has a few slots open for anyone who would like to join him to Chile from Feb 3rd to the 10th.

NOTE MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

PLACE: East Hartford Community Cultural Center, East Hartford, CT

DATE: Wednesday, October 11th, 2006

TIME: Fly Tying, Tackle Swap, Raffle:
7:00 - 7:30 PM
Program: 8:00 - 9:00 PM



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

It was good to see all of you at the September member's meeting. I still can't believe the attendance. It's great to see so many people turn out for meetings. I'm glad everyone had a successful and safe summer and now it's time to get back to work because we have a lot to do.

I understand that there isn't going to be any shows in Danbury this year and I have to admit, I'm a little bit disappointed. I may head to Somerset this year for a weekend or tow. I did attend the Fly Tyer's Symposium a few years ago and I enjoyed it very much. I may travel to New Jersey again this year for the symposium or maybe the fly-fishing show.

Captain Paul Koopman's program last month was wonderful! He did a great job explaining all of the saltwater ponds and places to fish in the sound. There is still plenty of time left to get out and fish and I'm sure a lot of you are doing just that. I've been trying to rebuild my arsenal of flies and I'm sure I'll have lots of time this winter to replenish them along with building a few more rods.

The Northeast Fishing and Hunting Expo will be February 16th through the 18th next year and it will be at the new convention center in Hartford by the river. We need people to help with our booth all three days. Please let Bob Winot or myself know if you can help us. Also we will need someone with a pickup truck or van to bring our table to the show probably on Thursday evening and pick it up on Sunday after the Expo. Fly tyers are always needed to tie at our meetings so let me know if you are interested and check out message board for last minute requests.

See VEST - Continued on Page 5

CFFA CLUB NEWS

NEW MEMBERS:

CFFA would like to welcome the following new member to our organization:

- ★ SETH YORK – Willington ★
- ★ DAN O'BYRNE – Meriden ★
- ★ PAUL KOOPMANN – Rowayton ★
- ★ RICK BAKER – Willington ★

Congratulations and welcome to CFFA!!



OCTOBER MEMBER'S MEETING

LOCATION CHANGE

REMEMBER: This month's member's meeting on October 11th, will be held at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center. Check our website for directions. Also, keep checking the message board at www.ctflyfish.org. We may be able to get the East Hartford Middle school at the last minute.

BOARD MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The October board meeting on October 4th, will be held at Roger Plourde shop in Plainville. Board members, please make a note of this.

2006 CLASS OFFERINGS:

One of the strengths of CFFA... Classes are now forming.

- **RODBUILDING** – Stan Calabrese and Bob Clark. *New Instructors!*
- **FRESHWATER FLY FISHING** – Gary Steinmiller and staff - Instructor
- **SALTWATER FLY FISHING** – Gary Steinmiller, Ted Rzepski, and staff – Instructors
- **FRESHWATER FLY TYING** – Gary Steinmiller and staff – Instructors
- **SALTWATER FLY TYING** - Ted Rzepski, Ernie Boutiette, and staff - Instructors

Stan Calabrese has just announced dates for the rod building class. October 25 - November 6 - November 15 - November 29 December 6 is a makeup day. Time of all classes are 6:30 to 8:30. If you have any question feel free to contact Stan.

Dates and syllabus for the other classes can be found on our website.

LEFTY KREH TO BE THE GUEST

SPEAKER AT THE NEXT BANQUET

We will have LEFTY KREH as the guest speaker at the next CFFA Banquet. This year's banquet will be taking place at a new location. It will be held at Maneley's at 65 Rye Street, in South Windsor. It will take place on February 3rd, 2207.

Lefty Kreh started fly fishing in 1947 and since then he has become one of the most respected fly fishers, instructors, photographers, and fishing writers on the planet. He has written more than a dozen books about fishing and contributed to many others. Lefty Kreh is a no nonsense, practical and pragmatic fly fisherman with a fantastic sense of humor. Reserve tickets for the banquet early this year and don't miss out!

FLY TYER'S NEEDED

Fly tyers are always welcome to tie during the social hour at our monthly members meeting. Don't be shy! It is a great way to share your skills, teach others, and you get to show off a bit too! Contact John Baracchi if you are interested. Check the CFFA message board in the week preceding the meeting and you can volunteer online if you prefer.

HELP OUT AT THE CFFA BOOTH AT THE NORTHEAST HUNTING & FISHING EXPO

The Northeast Hunting and Fishing Show will be held in downtown Hartford February 16th through the 18th. If you are interested in helping out at this show contact Bob Winot or John Baracchi.



COMING EVENTS

Next Board Meeting OCT 4
 Next Membership Meeting OCT 11

SHOWS AND EXPOS

2007 Fly Fishing Shows JAN 19, 20, 21 2007
 -Royal Plaza Trade Center
 Marlborough, MA

-Garden State Expo Center JAN 26, 27, 28,
 Somerset, NJ 2007

2007 Northeast Hunting FEB 16-18, 2007
 and Fishing Expo, CT Expo
 Center Hartford, CT
www.fishinghuntingexpo.com

2007 "The Springfield FEB 22-25, 2007
 Sportsmans Show" at the
 "Big E," West Springfield, MA

2007 Fly-Fishing Expo- DATES TBD
 sition, Shriners Auditorium
 Wilmington, MA

CFFA CLASSES/EVENTS

2007 Freshwater *Jan/Feb 2007
 Fly Tying Classes

2007 Saltwater *Jan/Feb 2007
 Fly Tying Classes

2007 Rod Building *Jan/Feb 2007
 Classes

2007 CFFA Annual Banquet Feb 3, 2007
 And Exposition

2007 Freshwater Fly-Fishing * March/April 2007
 School

2007 Saltwater Fly-Fishing * March/April 2007
 School

2007 Cape Cod Fishing Trips:
 First trip: * Dates TBD
 Second trip: * Dates TBD

OTHER EVENTS

HFFA Annual Expo
 And Banquet, Hawthorne Inn,
 Berlin, CT Dates TBD

* Tentatively Planned

CT Fly Fisherman's Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Change of address
- New member
- Membership renewal

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE/ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please check a committee you are now on or wish to be on:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Facil. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DUES STRUCTURE:

- Junior (under 16) \$ 5.00
- Regular \$ 20.00
- Supporting \$ 30.00
- Contributing \$ 75.00
- Life \$ 300.00

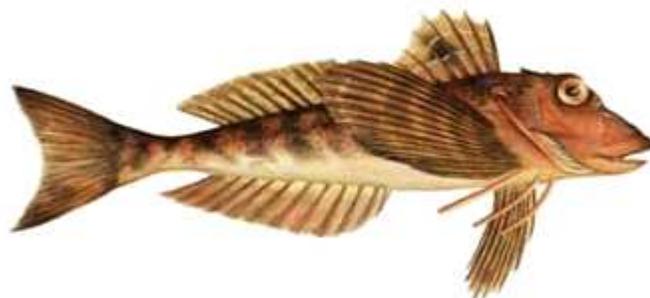
**TOTAL
 ENCLOSED:**

\$ _____

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

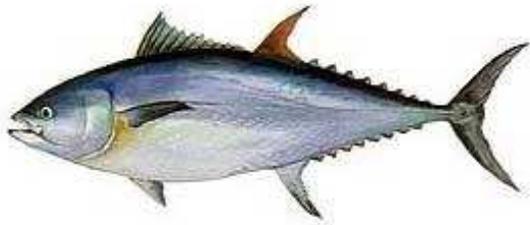
COPY DEADLINE: The second Friday of the month.



Bluefin on the Fly

By Captain Kris Jop

If you have decided to go for bluefin, here are my personal recommendations for success. I have found that following these steps results in landing what you are after. A combined knowledge of ocean elements such as bottom surface configurations, water temperature breaks, water color and current, are essential when trying to locate tuna. Thoroughly studying a navigational and temperature chart before departing are two necessary activities. A few private companies supply ocean temperature charts and you can get these via e-mail. When looking at the chart, look for warm water breaks - zones of warm core eddies and filaments. If you combine these with areas of dramatic bottom contour you can determine potential tuna hotspots. When reaching your targeted areas, the presence of whales on the surface often indicates a supply of forage that bluefin may be working over in the depths below, as do the indications of schools on your depthfinder.



When going after bluefin with a fly rod, fishermen have to bring the fish within fly-casting range and entice bluefin to strike a fly. Three approaches can be applied to achieve this. Chumming and chunking, although the most labor intensive method, is potentially the most effective. The first key to chumming is to anchor or drift on the edges of prominent "structure" as indicated on your depthfinder and chart. The type of bait presented to the fish can mean the difference between raising tuna to the surface or not. While chumming and chunking at Stellwagen, small pogies, mackerel or bluefish can be used to develop the chum slick. Butterfish are my first

choice at locations south from the Vineyard. Adding a small amount of menhaden oil to the ground fish is a good idea so the chum slick is reinforced but without adding additional food, which could diminish the hunger of the tuna, making them less likely to strike your fly. Chumming and chunking, is essentially tossing balls of ground fish over the side of the boat at a regular rate. After fifteen minutes of chumming or when fish begin to show up, small chunks of cut bait are thrown into the chum slick to keep the tuna around the boat.

When using this approach one person can toss the bait and watch the depthfinder while the other person is prepared to cast to the rising fish. Repeatedly cast your fly (selection recommendations appear further on in article) into the slick and strip it back at various speeds, starting with a fast retrieve and ending with the dead-drifted fly. For most of the situations a fairly long casts 50 to 70 feet are necessary.

When fishing is really hot and bluefin are actively feeding on the surface, try to determine the direction the school is traveling, motor about 100 yards ahead of them, turn the engine off and drift. Bluefin are sensitive to engine noise so leave adequate distance driving around them. At these times, the abundance of fish offers an excellent opportunity to cast the fly without having to tease fish. When gearing up for your trip, it is crucial to know the habits of bluefin. Tuna routinely feed below the surface, therefore fast-sinking lines are your best choice.



A sinking shooting head in 500 to 750 grain range is my preferred type of line for bluefin, regardless of the technique used. This line presents the fly to deeper locations and placing the at the fish's feeding level is always important. When tuna are on the surface, use a fast retrieve but they are down, let the fly and line sink for approximately twenty seconds to get the fly down to twenty feet before starting to retrieve.

Also critical is the realization that bluefin of all sizes are extremely powerful, so your equipment has to match the quarry. A 12-weight rod is a good choice. This rod usually has a foregrip which helps tremendously when pumping the bluefin up from the depths. Although stiffer, higher weight class rods could be more beneficial during the long fight, I recommend using a 12 weight rod over the heavier sticks particularly when fishing relatively shallow waters. The weight and action of the heavier sticks makes casting relatively large flies much more difficult. Casting may be less of a factor while chumming and chunking, but it definitely plays a major role during trolling and drifting and, regardless of rod weight, the maximum amount of pressure an angler can exert whole fishing with a 20 pound test tippet can not exceed six pounds anyway. Thus the lighter rod is better as it affords greater finesse while playing the fish.

However, when fishing at locations where the water depths range from 50 to 100 fathoms, fishermen have no choice but to use heavier rods. At these locations, bluefin typically make a long, powerful run and then sound into the depths to their "comfort zone". The fisherman then has a hard time to recover every inch of line and the battle is usually long and will keep your undivided attention for hours.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 – BOTTOM

VEST OF THE PRESIDENT (Continued from page 1)

Phil McCormick reported at the board meeting that we have 277 active members and growing. I think that is excellent news and I hope that our membership continues to grow. The monthly attendance at the meetins has been absolutely great!!

Stan Calabrese, our hard working Environmental Vice President, is going to be teaching the rob building class this year along with Bob Clark. By now it is probably already full because it fills up fast. I believe the class will be held at the East Hartford Middle School on Burnside Avenue. Stan and Bob have both built several quality fly rods and I'm sure they will do an excellent job instructing all of you first time rod builders.

Thanks to Cindy DelGrosso for the wonderful apple pies that she made for the meeting. They were delicious and if any of you missed the meeting you missed a special treat. A lot of hard work went into making those pies and I know that everyone enjoyed them and I cannot say thank you enough.

Our expo and banquet will be at Maneeley's 65 Rye St. South Windsor on February 3rd 2007. Our guest and banquet speaker will be Lefty Kreh. I'm excited about having Lefty attend our event this year and I can't thank Charlie Place enough for recruiting Lefty. Reserve your seats early because I think Lefty reservations will go fast. Everyone is working hard to make this year's expo and banquet one of the best that we possibly can. Kurt tells me that there are some real nice raffle prizes this year and you won't be disappointed. Mike and Lynn Stewart once again will be taking the reservations this year. Keep your eyes on our website for more information as it becomes finalized it will become available.

Recently I was dispatched to the MDC site in Barkhamstead to inspect some of their cranes and hoists. When I arrived at the site I walked into the first office I saw, there was a young lady sitting at her desk that offered to help direct me. I was awe struck by her office. There were all kinds of animals stuffed by a taxidermist. She had a coyote, a fisher, an owl, a beaver and a bunch of others. I asked her why she had an office decorated like a forest ranger's office. The young lady's name is Lisa Smith and she is a forestry technician for the MDC. I never realized that the MDC was so active in our environment. She then explained to me that they buy trout from a hatchery in Pennsylvania and stock the Farmington River and other waterways as well. There was another thing that I never knew about. I talked to her about the CFFA and mostly Stanley and his bio assessments and how he is very active along with our members with helping the state stock our waterways. She was very interested in Stanley's upcoming bio assessment on the Farmington and I promised her that I would keep her posted and tell Stanley about her efforts with the MDC. I also told her that CFFA would be willing to help her, all she has to do is ask. I think that we have formed another alliance. I hope to hear from Lisa very soon who knows, maybe she will show up at one of our meetings. I almost forgot to mention that a couple of the guys that work on the Goodwin Dam in Riverton have had several Smola sightings.

Don't forget folks, the October meeting will not be at the Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse. Check our message board because instead of the cultural center we may be able to use the East Hartford middle school. The only Way you will know is if you check our club's message board. As always, we our looking for people to tie at the meetings. Bring your stuff this month, Jimmy!

Come on up and introduce yourself. I don't remember everyone's name but I am working on it, and besides I would love to meet you. See you all at the meeting, bring a friend.

Tight Lines,

John

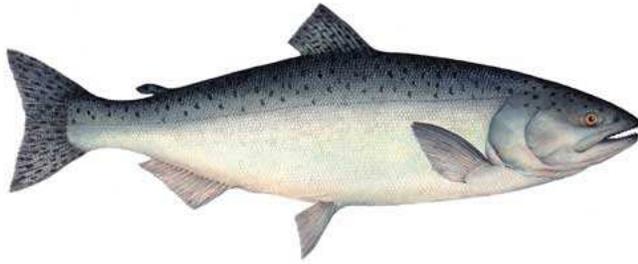
BLUEFIN ON THE FLY – Cont'd from page 4

Reels have to match the rods and the fish, and therefore, should hold a minimum of 600 yards of backing. Large arbor, fast retrieve reels will do the trick. Tuna move through water with great speed, so to minimize water pressure on the line, use only 15 feet of shooting head followed by 50 feet of running line, attached using double Bimini twists to ultra thin backing, such as 30-pound Spectra. If you decide to use thin backing, just watch your fingers when the fish takes off. The leader does need to be longer than 5 feet and can be made from RIO Product IGFA monofilament and a fluorocarbon tippet (10 to 12 inches of 60 or 100 pound). The class tippet is made by tying double Bimini twists, one within the first foot of the butt section and one at the end of the butt section. Then tie a nail knot in front of the Bimini using heavy fluorocarbon line. The connection between the class tippet and heavy fluorocarbon tippet is made by tying 3 to 5 half Huffnagle knots and one full Huffnagle knot.

Depending what the bluefin are feeding on at a particular location, the selection of flies could include sand eel patterns, or small bluefish and mackerel imitations. Keep in mind that the more closely the fly represents what the tuna are feeding on, the more likely it will be to trigger a strike. If you troll lures, observe which are being hit and while selecting the fly, try to mach the size and color of the lure. Light intensity can be a factor so try different colors (darker and then lighter or reverse) of the same imitation. I have had great luck with a Sea Habit tied in green, blue or purple dorsal, 6 inches long with a 6/0 stinger hook.

Prior to landing bluefin, I had guided and landed numerous "big game" species. These experiences have brought me to believe that blue water fly fishing represents one of fishing's greatest challenges. You may be ambivalent about the blue water at first, but eventually it will beckon.

Natural Chinook in the Millions in Salmon River



Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Fisheries managers are excited but cautious about the finding that five to ten million Chinook salmon were naturally reproduced in the Salmon River in 2005. A five million- fish finding comes from a New York Sea Grant-funded project carried out by State University of New York College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry. SUNY ESF Dean of Research Dr. Neil H. Ringler says, "The calculations are actually quite conservative, and the number of juvenile Chinook for 2005 could easily have been close to ten million fish."

"The good news now is that the Salmon River obviously has good habitat for natural spawning, but this number of naturally-produced salmon may create additional pressure on prey fish populations. More research is needed to better understand how many of the wild fish are surviving to 'fishable' size," MacNeill says.

The NYSDEC and USGS began conducting an annual seining (netting) fish index count on the Salmon River in 1999. NYSDEC Regional Fisheries Manager Daniel Bishop says

"We have seen naturally-spawned Chinook in the Salmon River since the late 1990s, when a stable year-round water flow on the River was instituted by the power companies. Before that the flow would be shut off at night and leave the River 'high and dry'," Ringler says, "Because of the stabilized flows in the Salmon River, the magnitude of reproduction is far higher today than during our initial studies (30 years ago). The recognition that wild fish matter will greatly enhance future management decisions in Great Lakes fisheries." Bishop notes that all five million of the naturally spawned fish will not make it out of the River that is the largest cold water tributary to Lake Ontario. Still, he says, "These natural Chinook have the potential to have an extremely significant impact on the numbers of adult stock in Lake Ontario and on the long-term sustainability of the lake and river fishery. Their survival could depend upon an historical low level of the prey fish, alewife."

Salmon River Program Coordinator Fran Verdoliva says Chinook salmon are unique in that they do not require two years of residence in the River before they grow large enough to enter the Lake.

"The Chinook spawn in October and the fry are ready to go to the lake in June or July. With the regulated water flow, the River is now more functional for spawning and for juvenile fish survival. The question is how many of the wild fish will survive in the lake and return here to spawn their own young," Verdoliva says.

Source: Federation of Fly Fishers Twin Tiers-Five Rivers Chapter, Sept 2006.

ON THE RIVER

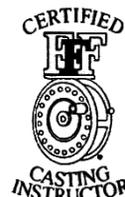
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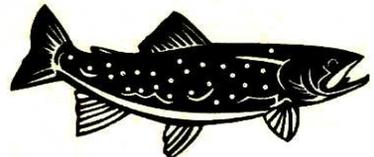
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