



LINES & LEADERS



The Newsletter of the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association



Volume 35 No. 6

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

February 2007

*The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association present
the 37th Annual*

FLY FISHING EXPO & BANQUET

Saturday, February 3rd, 2007 at Maneeleys, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor, CT







EXPO

-  FREE ADMISSION
-  FREE PARKING
-  PROGRAMS BY BANQUET
SPEAKER LEFTY KREH
-  PROGRAMS & CLINICS
-  FLY TYERS ROW
-  FLY TYING WITH KIDS
-  LOCAL CLUBS
-  LOCAL FLY SHOPS
Hours: 9:00 to 3:00



**Featured Banquet Speaker
LEFTY KREH**

BANQUET

-  DOOR PRIZES
-  A SPECIAL RAFFLE
-  GENERAL CONSERV. RAFFLE
-  GREAT FOOD
-  SPECIAL AWARDS
-  FEATURED SPEAKER
LEFTY KREH

Cocktails: 6:30, Dinner: 7:00



FROM THE VEST OF THE PRESIDENT

Another successful pizza and a movie night. Another full house! It's great to see so many people at our meetings. We are also beginning to see more and more young people at our meetings and classes. I think that's awesome. Our members' generosity during our monthly raffle is also nice to see. I love it when a member that has the winning number gives their ticket to some young man or woman that is just getting started. It's a wonderful gesture and I'm sure it's appreciated by the recipients. Thank you to all of you that donate your winning tickets to the kids.

(See VEST – Continued on Page 5)

CFFA CLUB NEWS

CFFA would like to welcome the following new members:

- ★ **KENNETH GEASLIN** – Glastonbury ★
- ★ **WILLIAM SHUSTACK** – Manchester ★
- ★ **RICHARD GAUDREAY** – Enfield ★
- ★ **IRV STANLEY** – Andover ★
- ★ **JAMES IANNONE** – West Hartford ★
- ★ **NICK SANDONE** – Windsor Locks ★

We welcome all of you to CFFA! You are encouraged to participate in all the activities CFFA has to offer.

POSSIBLE RECORD BREAKING

BANQUET ATTENDANCE:

WOW!

Mike Stewart has just announced that attendance at the CFFA Banquet has exceeded 200. WOW! Congrats to all the Banquet organizers. We "think" this is a new club record! It should be one heck of a banquet this year with Lefty as our speaker and looking forward to seeing everyone there. Can't wait!!

REMINDER – NO MEMBER'S MEETING IN FEBRUARY:

Just a reminder to everyone that there is no member's meeting in the month of February. We will have our next member's meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2007. Program to be announced.

(2) CAPE COD TRIPS PLANNED:

Ray Riley is putting together two Cape Cod trips scheduled for June of 2007. The Benards have offered CFFA space at the Moorings Lodge in Falmouth, Cape Cod again this year. The Cost is \$125 per CFFA member for Lodging Friday and Saturday night and breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings. The dates are June 1 & 2, 2007 and June 8 & 9, 2007. Members may sign up for the trips by seeing Ray Riley at upcoming member's meetings. The full payment of \$125 is required in order to reserve a spot.

ALCOHOL AT CFFA BANQUET – PLEASE, NO BYOB!!



Please remember the rules folks, no BYOB alcohol at the banquet this year. Maneeley's has strict rules. Thanks for your understanding!

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Next Board Meeting | Mar 7th |
| Next Membership Meeting | Mar 14th |

SHOWS AND EXPOS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Garden State Expo Center
Somerset, NJ | JAN 26, 27, 28,
2007 |
| 2007 Northeast Hunting
and Fishing Expo, CT Expo
Center Hartford, CT | FEB 16-18, 2007 |
| www.fishinghuntingexpo.com | |
| 2007 "The Springfield
Sportsmans Show" at the
"Big E," West Springfield, MA | FEB 22-25, 2007 |
| 2007 Fly-Fishing Expo-
sition, Shriners Auditorium
Wilmington, MA | DATES TBD |

CFFA CLASSES/EVENTS - Dates

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2007 Advanced Freshwater
Fly Tying Classes | 1/4, 1/11, 1/18
1/25, 2/1, 2/8 |
| 2007 Freshwater
Fly Tying Classes | 1/4, 1/11, 1/18
1/25, 2/1, 2/8 |
| 2007 Saltwater
Fly Tying Classes | 1/4, 1/11, 1/18
1/25, 2/1, 2/8 |
| 2007 Rod Building
Classes | 10/16, 10/25, 11/6
11/15, 11/29, 12/06 |
| 2007 CFFA Annual Banquet
And Exposition | Feb 3, 2007 |
| 2007 Freshwater Fly-Fishing
School | 3/1, 3/8, 3/15,
3/22, 4/7, 4/21 |
| 2007 Saltwater Fly-Fishing
School | 3/1, 3/8, 3/15,
3/22/ April*. May* |
| 2007 Cape Cod Fishing Trips: | |
| First trip: | June 1, 2 |
| Second trip: | June 8, 9 |

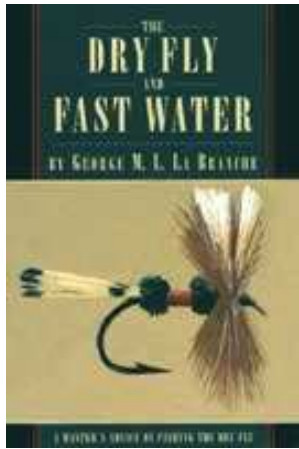
*Weather Permitting

OTHER EVENTS

- | | |
|--|----------|
| HFFA Annual Expo
And Banquet, Hawthorne Inn,
Berlin, CT | |
| To be held at Monticello's | March 31 |

Where To Find 10 Fly Fishing Tips In A Single

Paragraph By Don Berthiaume



When looking for information on how to fly fish, fly fishing tips or fly fishing techniques, many anglers, or anglers to be, who limit their search to books or material written within the last few years or decades are short-changing themselves.

Fact is, many anglers continue to miss out on great fly fishing information by not reaching back into the rich history of the sport and seeking the advice and wisdom of true fly fishing pioneers.

Now when I say pioneers, I'm talking about the guys who didn't have anyone to learn from - the groundbreakers. Remember that when dry-fly fishing first made its appearance here in America from England it came without instructions. That's when anglers such as Emlyn Gill, George La Branche, Theodore Gordon and Samuel Camp, just to name a few, came up with their own set of instructions for dry-fly fishing. Yes, they were the true pioneers - and they wrote the first books about the artistry and craftsmanship of what it took to successfully fly fish in these American waters.

For some strange reason, the last few generations of anglers have not been exposed to this classic fly fishing information that helped shape American dry-fly fishing.

And that is simply - unfortunate!

Now, don't get me wrong.

There are many fine fly fishing books now being published today. But, for some reason, it's the story-telling aspects, only found in the older classics, that can get your blood racing and beckons you to the nearest stream or river.

Fly fishing classics every angler should have as part of their library include a wide array of books written by fly fishers for fly fishers and span anywhere between the early to mid 1900's.

Here is a glimpse of the quality and quantity of fly fishing instructions you can find in any one of these classics. See how smooth and flowing they are when being told as a story, as opposed to some stuffy, boring tutorial or manual.

Within these two excerpts (taken from George LaBranche's, **Dry Fly and Fast Water**) there are no less than 20 fishing tips; at least 10 in each paragraph!

See if you can spot them.

Exercising patience, he may walk slowly and quietly into the water at the tail of the stretch and as closely as possible to the bank the fish are under. Having attained the desired position, he should remain there long enough to allow all commotion made by his entry to cease, during which time no motion of the rod should be made, because the sight of any moving object will send the now alert trout scurrying, while the ripples will make him uneasy for a short time only. The horizontal cast should be used if possible. The fly should be floated down about a foot from the bank, and it should not be retrieved until it has traveled more than half the distance between the angler and the spot where it alighted....

When satisfied that no trout are within the section covered by the fly, the angler should lengthen his line and fish the fly a few feet above-always permitting the fly to travel over the water already fished. He should continue this until the maximum line that can be handled neatly without moving from the original position is being cast. When the line becomes unwieldy (in this method and position it is courting failure to attempt anything over thirty-five to forty feet, even if one is expert) an advance may be made a few yards up-stream as closely to the bank as the depth of the water and free casting space will permit. As it is quite possible-and likely, too-that a trout has been under the fly all the while, but was not interested in it, the angler's advance will drive him ahead, and indications of this should be sharply looked for. The discovery of the fish will save much valuable time, for in that case the immediate stretch may be abandoned, because any fish above the one seen will have certainly taken alarm at the actions of his fellow and will have lost all desire to feed for some time.

How did you do? And, that's just within 2 paragraphs! Imagine the number of tips you'll find throughout an entire book!

Reading the early American fly fishing classics is a must for all anglers who are passionate about learning as much as they can about the world's oldest outdoor sport.

Remember, it is from these now classic books that America learned how to fly fish using the dry-fly. Surely, these books haven't lost the capacity to continue to teach more generations the art and craft of fly fishing.

The Icebreaker

The March Baetis Hatch

by Steve Sywensky



Winter fishing is pretty much a crapshoot. Most December through February visits to the stream consist of repetitive nymphing casts with the occasional strike to relieve the tedium. When the nymphing is slow, fishing a streamer can produce a fish or two as well as alleviate the boredom engendered by unproductive nymphing. If the fishing gods are smiling, the water is not too high or discolored, and both the fish and the bugs are cooperative, cold weather midging can produce some exciting rises of trout.

The real change in the winter pattern occurs when the little mayflies of the genus *Baetis* begin to hatch in early- to mid-March. I have witnessed pioneers of the Blue-winged Olives (BWOs), as flyfishers call them, as early as Valentine's Day, and this year I saw a single *Baetis* dun numbly drifting on Spring Creek on 2 February. The month of March, however, is when the most significant hatches take place. *Baetis* mayflies can be seen as late as mid-April on area waters.

Baetis hatches strongly on most limestoneers. Little BWOs also hatch again in late May, concurrent with Sulphurs and Cahills, and October and November emergences can trigger fast fishing, too. *Baetis* is very nearly a year round mayfly.

How the trout react to the little BWOs depends on the weather and water conditions. Late spring and autumn *Baetis* hatches usually mean excellent angling. March weather, though, is notoriously capricious, and balmy spring conditions one day can be replaced by a blizzard the next. I have, however, witnessed tremendous rises of fish to *Baetis* duns during cold, high water conditions that appeared more suitable for wormdunking than flyfishing. After a winter spent eating #26-28 midges, the trout seem delighted to have a more substantial food form to target.

In an era when many imitative patterns feature CDC wings and quill bodies, as well as assorted eyeballs, shucks, and antennae, I unabashedly admit to being a throwback. I favor solid, durable, easy-to-tie flies that cause no tears when left on a rock or hung high in a streamside branch. Fortunately for me, the trout have agreed with my simple choices for several decades.

Baetis Nymph

Baetis nymphs are slender, and patterns to imitate them should reflect this characteristic. Perhaps that's why a Pheasant Tail, a fairly skinny fly when tied well, is often used to suggest a Blue-winged Olive nymph. I prefer the added durability of a dubbed body, since Pheasant Tails seem to get chewed up quickly, whether ribbed or not. I also find *Baetis* nymphs to be considerably darker than a natural pheasant tail in color.

I usually fish unweighted *Baetis* nymphs. Even .010" lead wire tends to bulk up the fly too much, and the amount of weight that can be built into a #18, 1XL nymph is almost trivial.

Then too, an unweighted nymph can be fished in or just under the surface film to fool tough risers.

Although trout tend to rise well to *Baetis* duns, I sometimes fish a nymph right through the hatch. Often, better fish that are reluctant to rise hug the bottom and intercept the nymphs rising from the substrate. A BWO nymph makes an excellent prospecting pattern during low water conditions. Finally, since the *Baetis* hatch is imminent, the nymphs are more active, and the trout are becoming accustomed to feeding on them. Standard upstream, dead-drift nymphing techniques are the way to present them.

I have also found the pattern will often catch difficult fish in tough lies. Apparently, microdrag on an emerger is not as detrimental to angling success as it is on a dry fly. Finally, an emerger (or a nymph for that matter) can be hung from a dun imitation for tandem fishing.



(Continued on page 5)

VEST OF THE PRESIDENT (Continued from page 1)

Our officers were all re-elected at the January meeting. Once again I am honored to serve as president, and I thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity. I see the club improving every month and it is because of you the members and your participation. Because of you I like to think that we have the best club in the state. Keep up the great work!

If you are not receiving your newsletter via email you need to give your active email address to our membership chairman Phil McCormick. If yours is mailed and you are not receiving it you need to give Phil your mailing address. Anyone with any address, email, or phone number changes needs to contact Phil with the correct information. If you don't receive your copy please email me at flytie@sbcglobal.net and I will be happy to forward a copy to you.

The website has a new look and we have a new web master Nils Christensen. I have to admit at first I wasn't used to the new look but once I learned how to navigate around the page I think it's going to be a welcome improvement. Anyone with any website comments or concerns can contact Nils and he will explain what's going on with the website. Thanks Nils for the great job.

At this writing I am still looking forward to the expo and banquet. It will be great to see Lefty again and spend some time with him.

The hunting and fishing show in Hartford is also on the schedule. I will be there all 3 days and look forward to it. I always enjoy the Hartford show and this year it will be in a new location. I am looking forward to seeing the new convention center.

Just a reminder that dues renewals are now past due, if you forgot to renew your dues you can do so at our meetings or by printing the form from our web page and mailing it in with your check.

There are no members meeting in February because of our expo and banquet. But we will be back to normal in March.

Bob Winot has dvd's for rent. You can look Bob up at the members meetings and look over our selection of dvd's for rent.

I visited Steve Babbitt recently in Enfield. He was tying flies on Main St. the place is owned by Guy and his son Mark. The name of their store is Yankee Outfitters although the windows say Yankee Bait and Tackle. They have a wide variety of fishing equipment and thanks to Steve we are soon to have another sponsor in our newsletter and Yankee Outfitters is building their supply of fly-tying and fishing materials. If you are in the neighborhood stop in and say hello to Mark and his dad, but I must warn you once you meet them you may not want to leave.

Please remember to visit our sponsors, they are good to us so whenever you need anything for that special fishing trip please be good to our sponsors by shopping with them. Also remember a guided fishing trip on the Deerfield or Farmington makes a great gift. We have some of the best guides in the area right here in our club. Take advantage of their services, you won't be disappointed.

Hope you enjoy the expo and banquet, see you all at the March meeting, bring a friend:

Tight Lines: *John*

Baetis Emerger

(Continued from page 4)

My reading of the angling literature indicates that Swisher and Richards introduced the term "emerger" in their seminal work, Selective Trout. Their use of emerger was restricted to a nymph at that stage when its wings were just bursting from the wingcase. By the early 21st Century, in the typical fashion of flyfishing, emerger has come to mean just about any fly that is fished in or near the surface film, and even some fished far below it. Out of deference to Swisher and Richards, and because of my long and very productive fishing of their original ties, I use emerger in the more narrow sense they intended.

The addition of a short, emergent wing to a nymph might appear a small, insignificant thing, but it does seem to impress the fish, the ultimate arbiters for me. Swisher and Richards suggested a variety of materials for emerger wings, including quill sections, hen hackle tips, and fur. After much experimentation, I settled on a short tuft of muskrat fur for its economy, durability, and action. The muskrat wing traps air bubbles and shimmies. Best of all, it catches fish.

Fish a Baetis emerger during the hatch. Although trout typically rise well to BWO duns, there are usually fish that bulge to the nymphs in the film. These are the fish to target with an emerger. A microshot will sink the fly just under the film where the fish want to see it, and a small sleeve-type indicator helps detect subtle takes.

(From *Flyfishersparadise.com*)



Vendors and Attractions at the CFFA EXPO



- Housatonic Valley Fly-Fishing
- John Marona (Quiet Sports)
- The Beveled Edge
- King Cove
- Frank's Live Bait
- The Baxter house - B&B and Guiding
- Charles McCaughtry Studios
- Ct. Outfitters

- Outback Kodiak
- Jack Smola Guiding
- Dan Trela Rods
- Wildlife Expressions
- Marla Blair Guiding
- CFFA Rod Building Table
- CFFA Tag Sale Table

Programs by featured guest, **LEFTY KREH**: 10 AM and 1 PM

Program by **Ken Tutola**: "A System Approach to Fly-fishing the Upper Delaware River" 11AM

Program by **Jeff Epstein**: "Alaskan Bush Adventure" 2PM

CT Fly Fisherman's Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Change of address
- New member
- Membership renewal

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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
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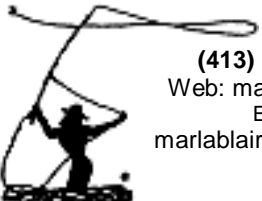
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Use the message board to share your fishing experiences, get the latest reports, write stories and meet a friend!

 **Connecticut
Fly Fishermen's Association Inc.**

**P.O. Box 380268
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**FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS**

