

the

FLYRODDER

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LONG ISLAND
FLYRODDERS



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The Long Island Flyrodders
meet at 8:00 PM
on the First Tuesday
of each month at the
Levittown VFW Hall,
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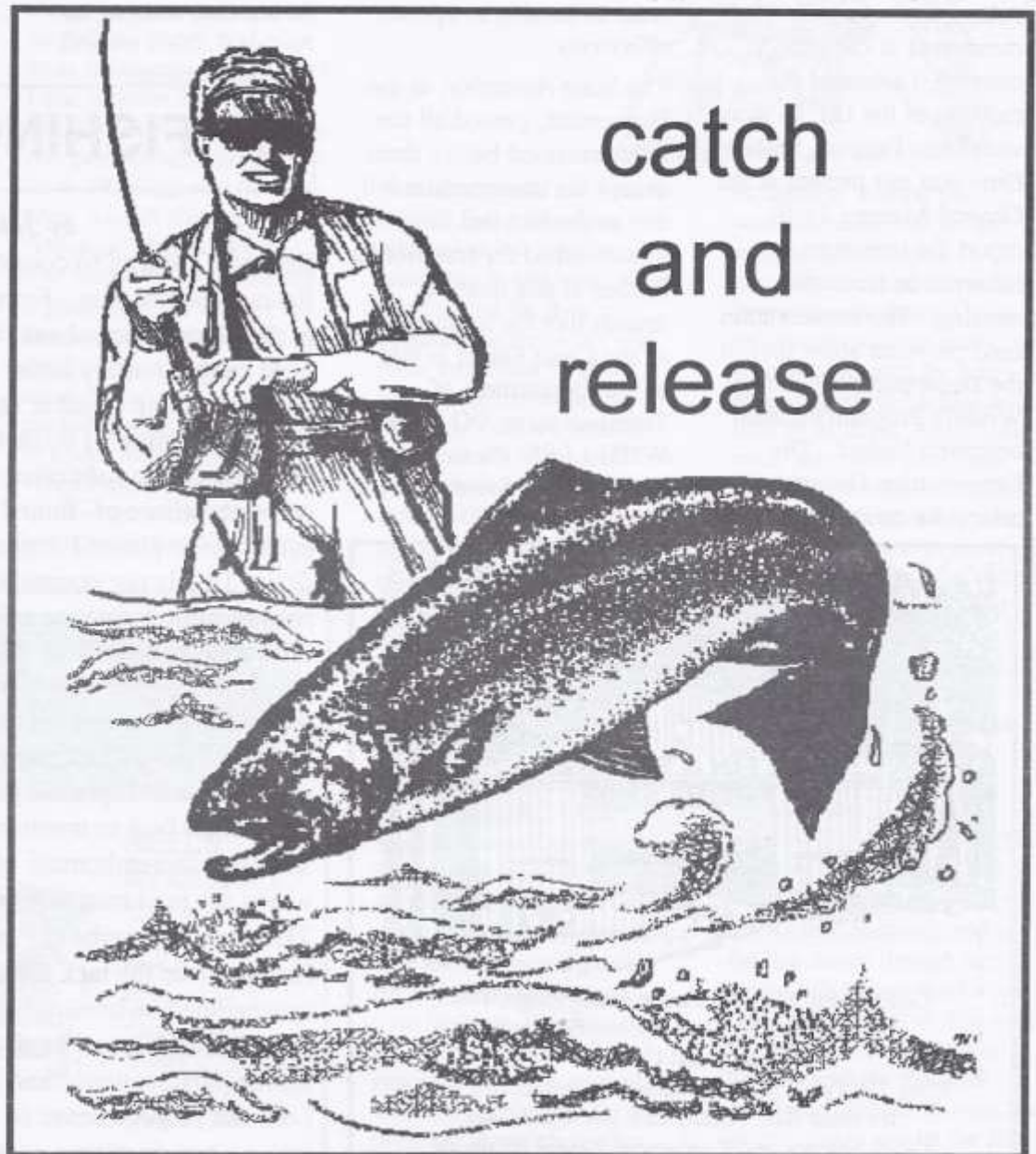
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This Month's meeting:
August 7, 2001

Guest Speakers:
Mike Piquette & Steve Grover
"Wild Trout in Connecticut"



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President's message

I'd like to start by thanking Allan Manz for his outstanding presentation of the Farmington River fishing trip. As I mentioned at our last meeting, I attended the meeting of the D.E.C. along with Dino Pappas. Since Dino was not present at the General Meeting I will report the important information from that meeting. The conservation fund provides about half of the Department's Fish and Wildlife Program's annual operating budget. The Conservation Department is asking for an increase in

hunting, fishing and trapping license fees from the State Assembly in the amount of 5.3 million in order to be able to operate effectively

The State Assembly, at the last session, passed all the bills presented before them except the conservation bill, due to the fact that the money asked for may not be needed at this time. It sounds like the same story as the Coast Guard is told by the Department of Transportation; **DO MORE WITH LESS**. Please contact the following State Officers by phone:

Senator Joseph L. Bruno
518-455-3191
Assemblyman
Sheldon Silver
518-455-3191
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Richard A. Smith
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Please call them and let them know that you are supporting the License Fees increase.

At our next meeting on August 7, 2001 we will have the pleasure

of Mr. Mike Piquette and Steve Grover giving a presentation on wild trout. The Sunken Meadow salt water trip was quite good and educational. We had 6 people in attendance and we all had a great time. Our next salt water trip will be October 6th or 7th of this year. I hope more of our membership can attend since we might have another group joining us.
Good Fishing, Herman

OF FISHING & THINGS

by John Gerbitz

Recently, I began to consider the many facets of my fishing experiences. From the many people I have met; to the places I have been; and to the unwilling quarry I have caught (on my better days, I must add). These things all come together in, what I think, a large part of me has "become". I think this may be a common bond amongst all the fisherman, especially with fly. Brought on by the allure of finned creatures of differing evolution to places I may never have seen but for this desire. This is our common thread. Places of raging rivers, meandering ice cold streams, balmy, warm, blue tidal waters;...ponds as still as a photograph. Meeting people who, in my daily travels, I probably never would have met and becoming friends for time in mind. The anticipation that precedes all fishing trips,..... the speculation and planning that goes into each destination (not to mention the gross over packing!). The fond remembrances of trips past. Never knowing where the next memory will stem from. The fishing? THE fish. Or maybe the travel. How about the lodging;...or the lack there of. Weather? The unscheduled swimming! And, of course, how all the participants respond to all of the above. It's a mixed bag that requires patience and understanding and teamwork. Let's not forget a sense of humor as well. You must know when to release control and let it happen to you. That's to say, "Lady Luck" plays her part... I have concluded that fishing has taught me much in this life and will continue to educate me as long as I may listen to its lessons. So while I sit here in anticipation of the next wet line; think of the one you landed, or the one that got away.. or even the one who never even offered but gave you the chance to try. And remember; of FISHING and THINGS, fishing is most important!



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The essence of fly casting

by Gian Padovani



I know a couple of guys who are excellent fly casters, with the ability to send the line far out with little or no effort, and incredible smoothness. Yet, notwithstanding this skill, I would rate them as poor fishers. On the other hand, I also know a few persons who are mediocre casters but terrific fish getters. The difference is easy to see; being able to catch a fish involves more than the skill to throw the line out somewhere. A good angler is one that knows how to read the water, senses where the fish may be lurking, considers what the fish are feeding on, and presents the fly as enticingly and naturally as possible.

Whenever someone asks me about learning how to fly fish, the question of casting for distance inevitably comes up.

This concern is suggested by comparing fly casting with spinning, a totally different manner of fishing. "It seems so complicated with all that back and forth swinging..." Rather than discourage the person, I always mention that most of the fish are caught no further away than twenty to thirty feet. I also mention that an 8' 1/2" rod, plus an 8' 1/2" line, and a two foot extended human arm totals 19' of distance from the body. And all this requires "chucking" the line over!

The success of a forward cast depends on the back cast, on how we "load" the rod. Many fishers have a tendency to bring the rod too far down on the back swing, and this results in a poor forward delivery. When I use my light trout rods for average stream fishing, I just hold the handle without

considerations of any kind. I cast the line without any efforts and just fish. But on a recent trip in salt water, where I had to cast the fly a considerable distance, I was made aware that I wasn't holding the rod correctly! Meaning, I did not have the thumb on top of the handle to impart more power to the forward cast.

Successful fishers will acknowledge that accuracy is much more important than distance. A few days ago I was fishing with a friend, and I noticed he was doing really well. He was fishing an area that I had gone through only a short while before without noticeable results. When we compared notes later that evening, he admitted that the trout on that particular stretch of the creek would respond only if the fly was deposited not more than six inches away from the bank. Even in salt water, casting accuracy is of utmost importance, particularly when fishing the flats for warty Bonefish. Bonefishing often translates as sight casting, or casting to a visible fish. The fly should be dropped ahead of the feeding fish, but just a bit too close may be the commotion to send the fish to the next flat!

There will be times when we are required to cast a considerable distance. This could be dictated by the width

or depth of a river, the wariness of the fish we are angling for, or other circumstances that do not permit to cast closer. I have met people who can really whip out an entire fly line, plus some of the backing with little or no effort. Since I was never able to do this, I can only pass on what these folks told me. To begin with, you must have a rod with plenty of backbone, usually a fast action nine footer. Then, you must employ a "double haul cast". The "double haul cast" is not easily described, because it involves several motions and needs coordination. These instructions are for a right handed caster, thus do the opposite if you are left handed: Strip out the amount of line you want to back cast, let's say twenty feet. Backcast, and as the line shoots through the guides behind you, feed it two or three more feet of line with the left hand. As you come forward with the rod, haul down the line back through the guides, and as you let the line shoot out, release the extra feet of line you are holding with the left hand. If it is too confusing, I would suggest asking someone at the club who is familiar with this cast to show you how to do it, or failing this, you may be able to learn it from an instructional casting videos from the library.

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ARE ALL FISH EQUAL? by Gian Padovani

Every so often, I meet people who take the time to tell me how much they enjoy my Lures & Lore column. Obviously this pleases me, particularly since I have never considered myself a very talented writer, though I pride myself in the fact that I have always delivered and met the publication deadlines. In retrospect, I also find it hard to believe that I have been writing this column for several years even if I concede that it is easier to write about something one loves.

I have always assumed that the readers were, like I am, fishing fanatics and thus I am always pleased when someone who doesn't wet a line, tells me they enjoy Lures & Lore. This is especially surprising when the reader is a woman who admits she doesn't fish at all. Curious, I decided to ask Joan, a lady friend, why she indeed reads my column. Her answer was simple; she used to go fishing with her daddy when she was a little girl, and reading about it brings back pleasant memories. This confession rekindled the images of my children, when they were little, and I used to take them along in my boat. We were living by the seashore and in the summertime we

used to go to the bay, where the water was calm and relatively shallow, and we could dunk bait for flounder or weakfish. The kids didn't have too much patience and if the fish weren't baiting right away, they would start to fret. This was the time to put the rods and reels aside and jump overboard for a refreshing swim in the balmy water. The dip and frolicking was usually followed by "clamming", or digging out the meaty bivalves, for a delicious clambake later in the day. In fact, if I felt like being creative, I would also prepare a sauce to go along with the linguine. I know, for a fact, that even to this day, my adult boy and girl still reminisce about those good times gone bye. I honestly believe that every kid loves to fish. There is a fascination with catching something "unknown" out of the water. Years ago I saw a few boys and girls at the Davidson, and they were having a ball trying to catch tiny minnows with makeshift tackle - the proverbial string with a bent pin! I just stood there watching them and envying their pleasure from such a simple recreation. It brought back memories, this time of my own childhood, when I

would sneak away to the harbor of my native city, and try to catch the marine counterparts of the homyheads, with a bit of line and a hook. Many years have passed and the difference between me and some other people is that this love for fishing has never waned, and in fact, it has deepened through the time. What exactly is fishing? My Webster II University Dictionary defines it as "The act or practice of catching fish." How shallow a description! Is fishing really THAT?

When I consider the time, the pleasure, and the frustrations that come with just the act of catching a fish, I can only smile. A friend once told me that fishing is not just a matter of life or death; it is much more than that! When I recall that once I actually scaled a dangerous cliff to get into an equally dangerous stretch of water just to get the chance to hook a salmon, I may tend to agree. Anybody can catch a fish. After all, didn't President Teddy Roosevelt once said that in the eyes of a fish all men are equal? This may be so but then, why is it that

Continues on next page

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LIGHTEN UP!

by Lee Weil

When we first start flyfishing, our natural reaction to seeing a #12 fly is, "You catch fish on THAT little thing"? As we progress, we learn in order to successfully imitate the insects the fish are feeding on, we must size down our offerings accordingly. This can be frustrating; for years I refused to fish anything smaller than a #16, with the attitude that if I could catch fish on it, why go smaller? Then I began to fish different waters where the hatches were tiny and the fish all had P.H.D.s. After going for days without having a take and hearing about other anglers catching fish on #20 Blue Wing Olives, I finally realized I would have to break down and surrender to finer tippets and smaller flies. Tying on flies and bloodknots were no problem as I've been blessed with good sight close-up; however I am very nearsighted and even with the aid of my contacts I have trouble discerning my Parachute Adams from a piece of flotsam. This problem was solved when I booked a trip with PA guide Torn Baltz and fished his I.C.S.I (I Can See It) midge which he ties with a post of blaze orange calf hair. Even in size #22, I can pick it out from a distance, which is a necessity when working spooky fish. Now I tie almost all my small patterns this way, including B.W.O., Sulphurs, Beetles and Ants. The fish don't seem to mind, and it's a Godsend at dusk. If you don't tie your own, good news, you can now purchase this pattern from shops and catalogs. Even when you can't see the fly, as often occurs when fishing ants, you can "guesstimate" where the fly is and strike when you see a swirl in that vicinity.

When fishing these smaller flies, you will need to scale down your tippet as well. We learned to use 8X when we fished the Catch n' Release water in North Carolina. While the fish were not spooky, they were so well educated that they would refuse everything but the most authentically presented offering, often inspecting the fly as it drifted along for several feet only to turn away at the last second. This will have you holding your breath and subsequently, making rude remarks about the trout's parentage. A finer tippet, smaller flies and dulling the shine on your leader can make the difference between getting skunked and having a double digit day. True, you may break off a few on the 8x, but if you get more takes it's worth it. On wild trout waters the average fish will run from 7" to 11", so the fine tippets are not so much of a handicap.

Your choice of rod and reel will also increase

your percentage of fish to hand. A smooth drag and an ultra-light rod will forgive a lot of transgressions and make your presentation more delicate. In addition to these changes you will want to dull the tippet material to eliminate shine and sink the tippet below the surface, making it less visible to the fish. This can be accomplished by rubbing the tippet between your finger tips with mud from the stream, but I prefer to use the bottled stuff made by Orvis - it's less likely to abrade and weaken the tippet. A word to the wise, if you use fluorocarbon tippet, be careful to check it often as I have found it to be very susceptible to fraying.

Do yourself a favor and pick up a couple of spools of 7X and 8X, put some #18 and #20's in your fly box, and start carrying the 3 weight on all your fishing trips. Before you know it, fishing the "micros" will become second nature and you will be catching fish while other anglers are scratching their heads in frustration. With a little extra effort you can fool those finicky fish and have a successful day.

LIGHTEN UP!

by Lee Weil



ARE ALL FISH EQUAL?, from pg. 4

some anglers will spend a fortune between the cost of tackle and the traveling expenses to catch a slimy aquatic creature? The fact is, that while all men may be equal, the fish are not. Anyone can catch a "any" fish but few are the ones that can consistently catch a trophy Brown trout. Years ago a famous wrestler made fun at Ted Williams, for spending time and effort to catch "little fishies". Some of you may know that beside being a baseball great, Ted Williams was an accomplished fisher. Ted invited the burly man along in an offshore trip and promptly had him hooked into a small tuna. Suffice is to say that it took several days for the wrestler to get over the aches he contracted while bringing in the "fishie." To conclude, I may add that fishing is by far the most popular sport. This only encompasses the anglers that are registered and doesn't include the countless people who fish along the seashore in areas that do not require a license. And it doesn't include people like Joan who just enjoy the sport by reading a fishing column, even if mine.

CONNETQUOT RIVER TRIPS

In response to the demand for the limited spaces available for our Monday Connetquot River State Park trips, the following guidelines are in effect: Members attending the meetings have first priority, followed by those members, chronologically received, who call in the day after the meeting for the remaining spaces available. Reservations are available for 32 anglers for each session; 64 for both sessions. The cost of each session is \$15.00. No checks will be accepted; CASH ONLY to be paid at the general meeting or at the park for call-in reservations. Anglers fishing the morning sessions must be at the park by 7:30 a.m. Cancellations must be made by 7:00 p.m. the Saturday before the session. **No advance reservations will be accepted.**

HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DATES: Aug. 20,
Sept. 17, Oct. 22

For Details call Ron La Chase at 718-769-6376

FLY FISHING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST

Recently, John Gerbitz presented me with an excellent book about salt water fly fishing in Florida. Appropriately, the book by Jimmy Jacobs is titled "Fly fishing the South Atlantic coast". The book begins by listing the various species one is apt to catch along the coastline from the Carolina's Outer Banks to the Florida Keys, and goes on describing in detail each locality. The book is broken down into 5 sections and a total of 19 chapters. Following an introduction, there are three chapters that

elaborate on the fish, the tackle and the fishing locations. The title of this last chapter is a bit misleading, since by locations it is implied areas such as piers, bridges, docks, flats, tidal creeks, etc. The following sections deal with the actual locations of each of the states that are covered. Each of these chapters begin with an angler's calendar, regulations and the state records for the available species. The book is profusely illustrated by black and white photographs depicting fish and locales.

But of real value are the map reproductions with reference to the popular DeLorme atlases. The book includes 352 pages of clearly legible text within its soft covers and it is a real value for less than twenty dollars. I would rate it as a "must

have" guide to anyone who plans to do salt water fly fishing in our southern waters. It is published by The Countryman Press, Woodstock, Vermont. You can also visit their website at www.countrymanpress.com



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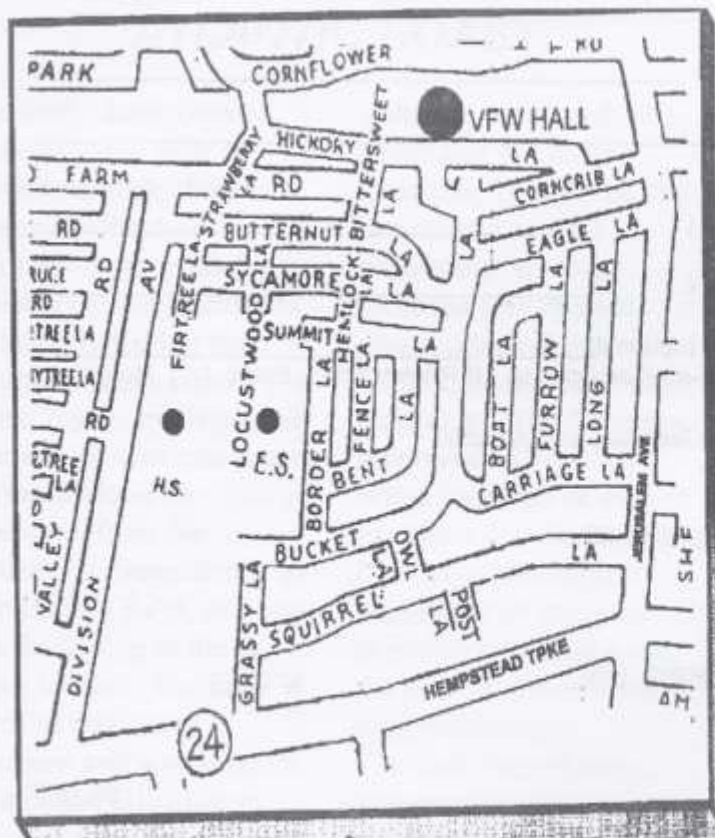
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LIFR COMING EVENTS - AUGUST

Aug. 7 - General Meeting
Guest Speakers: Mike Piquette &
Steve Grover
"Wild Trout in Connecticut"

Aug. 11 & 12 - Housatonic River Trip,
Connecticut
(Camping) Contact Paul McCain -
516-5361418

Aug. 16 - Board Meeting

Aug. 20 - Connetquot River
Contact Ron LaChase - 718-769-6376