the FLY RODDER

Published by the Long Island Fly Rodders, Inc.

NOVEMBER, 1989

PRESIDENT'S LINE...

by
Gian Padovani

Before I begin, let me inform those who missed the dinner that Ed Conte was awarded The Member of the Year Plaque. I cannot think of a person who did not deserve it more. Ed has been a staunch supporter of L.I.F.R. from the beginning. He is a past Treasurer, a Board Member and the active force behind Monday's Connetquot River Club Trips. On behalf of L.I.F.R., thanks a lot Ed, we appreciate it.

Congratulations are in order also to Ronald LaChase; he won the fly rod awarded to a member who brought in the most new members for 1989! O.K. gang - let's get ready for 1990

One month to go before the holidays and I can't believe the time flew so quickly. We have had lots of fishing trips, culminating with Pulaski's Salmon River. We've had our First Annual Dinner (shame some of you missed it). And we have had fun at the meetings; lots of door prizes, lots of raffles, and lots of good presentations. Winter is coming and for many anglers, the month of November is the beginning of the lethargic period. The general fishing season is closed although a few hardy souls will fish the No Kill areas of some rivers. There are many projects for the winter ahead: Rod making, fly tying and reading. There are many excellent books about fishing and I do not mean the How To kind. Books with stories of trips to places which are not accesible to everyone, with experiences of enviable fishing. Hopefully they will inspire you to write something for the FLYRODDER. Far away places and exotic fishing are great, but the readers of this publication enjoy also hearing about your experiences to places they can relate to. Look at Matt Handelman's article "Fishing Close to Home" in this issue; you'll get the point. As I am writing this, a thought came across my mind: If you feel that you cannot write, how about considering giving a talk, a presentation to the club? I am not talking to those that did it already - I AM TALKING TO YOU! I have seen and heard you talk to the guys about that trout that didn't get away. Or that favorite spot. And how you built that 8 weight bass rod. Why not tell it to the club?

See You at the Meeting; Gian

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Fishing close to home

by Matt Handelman

The rainbow hit my Elk Wing Caddis as if it hadn't eaten for a week. Ripping line off my reel, it jumped four times shaking its head like a bass. After a good fight I landed that beautifully colored eighteen inch fish and released it, although in this river you can keep one trout over fourteen inches.

The East Branch of the Croton River has shallow fast ripples, many rocks, pocket water and slow deep runs; all the types of water any fly fisherman might like.

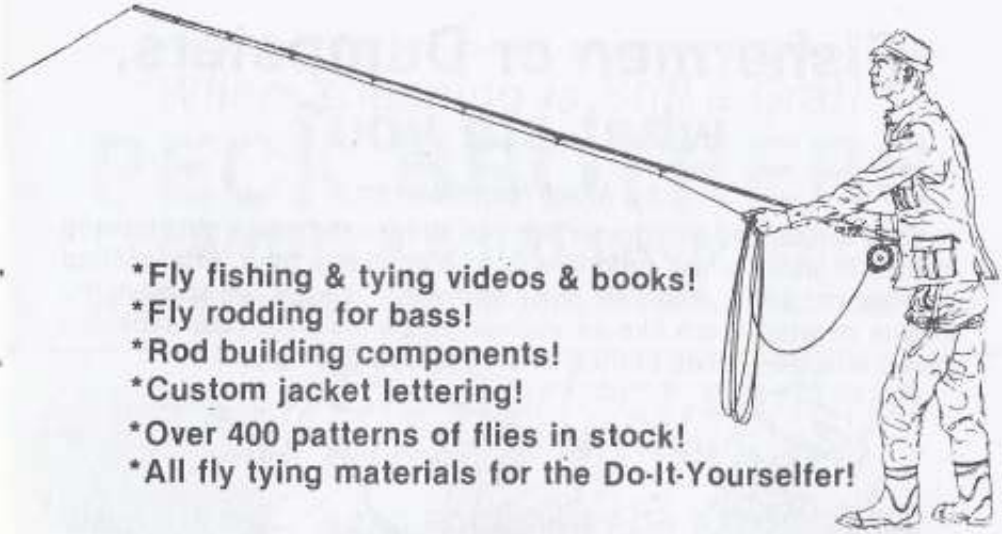
In the springtime most anglers fish with nymphs, but I still prefer drys. During the day in the heat of summer I like to use Elk Wing Caddis and Cinammon Ants, but in the morning and evenings I prefer Tricos in size 20 - 26, with black bodies and white wings. A few years ago I caught many trout on big White Wulffs.

I live in Queens. I could make reservations and drive fifty miles to the Long Island streams, but I rather drive the same distance to fish all day in a pretty stream that contains many trout, some of which are holdover and practically wild. I believe that the Croton is stocked only once a year. Weekend fishing is generally crowded so I fish mostly on weekdays, after work. I occasionally take a day off from the job, during the middle of the week, and find that I am the only fisherman on the river. The East Branch is only one of the many streams in the Croton Watershed, and many big fish have come out of it. My best was a twenty inch Brown two years ago, which I released to fight another day.

Please remember that in order to fish these waters, you must have a Water Shed Permit (available free from the Dept. of Water Resources), in addition to a valid N.Y. State fishing License.

DIRECTIONS TO THE EAST BRANCH OF THE CROTON:

Throggs Neck Bridge to the Hutchinson Parkway North to Route 684 North. Get off at Exit 16 (Brewster), make right turn and end of exit. Stay in right lane and make a sweeping right turn. Make another right to stop sign, then left. Drive 1/5 mile and park. Good Luck!



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Fishermen or Dumpsters, what are you?

by Matt Handelman

You are driving along your favorite stream and pas a nice looking stretch of water, which promises to hold good size trout. After getting your gear together, you walk down to the river's edge and stand in the middle of what looks like an abandoned picnic area; beer cans, ice cream wrappers, soda bottles, and discarded fishing junk.

That's what I encountered recently on the Willowemoc Creek. I usually drive down a little dirt road that takes me to a spot where I've always managed to catch a few trout but what did I encounter this time? The road was littered with about fifty beer cans, enough glass to rip apart the stoutest tire and the remains of a campfire.

Several years ago I went along on a L.I.F.R.' steelhead trip to the Salmon River, but the high, fast water made it unfishable. It was on this trip that we discovered Catfish Creek, a river with knee-high deep water that is as wide as the Connetquot but as fast as the Salmon river. It has more big fish than I ever saw and although I didn't land neither the Brown Trouts or the Coho Salmon, *someone else* caught a 25"Brown, Rainbow trouts, steelhead and salmon!

The following year we tried to fish the same river but we discovered that it had been posted. Why? What brought this unfortunate decision? We soon found out. Inconsiderate fishermen had left behind so much garbage that the owner had to have the litter cleaned at his own expenses. And forced to post the land.

I know I would hate to see it happen to my favorite stream. So, what are you, Fishermen or Dumpsters? Only YOU know for sure.

Mondays' Connetquot River Trips

If you are interested in joining the club's Monday fishing trips at the Connetquot River, see Chairman Ed Conte at the meeting for details.

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The Long Island Fly Rodders meet at 8:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Hicksville Public Library, Jerusalem Ave. & Old Country Road. Visitors are always welcome. Call 499-5630 for info.

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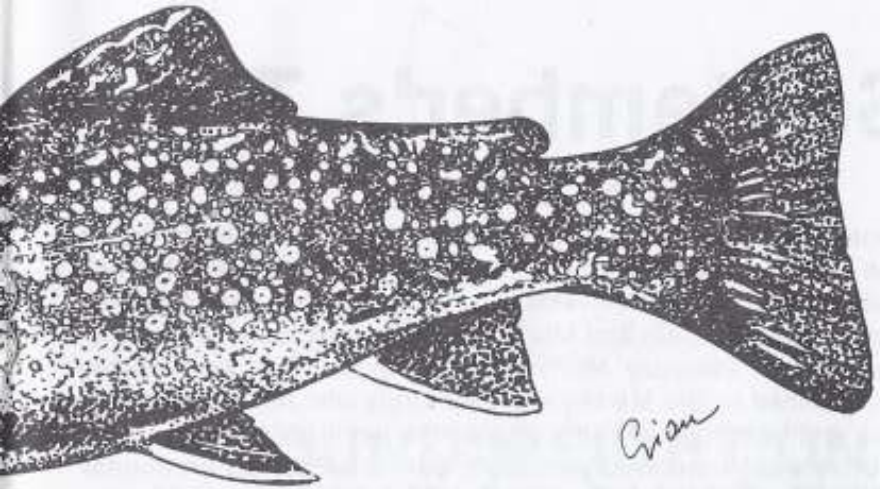
THE MICKEY FINN

by Gian Padovani

I can just imagine the arched eyebrows when my friends who tie flies see the byline to this article. Some of them, such as Mort Schneiderman, can tie such tiny masterpieces that I would have trouble threading a leader through the eye, let alone tie the fly. Past President Roger Mims could tie with such realism that real insects would try to mate with his imitations. By almost everyone's standards I am a poor fly tier but as little as I know and bad as I am, I feel that I still know more than those who think that an artificial fly is a zipper on a man's pants! It is for them that I wrote this article.

I guess when mankind realized that threading a live insect thru a hook was not worth the effort, he decided to construct a counterfit that wouldn't disintegrate during the cast. I am certain that the first attempts were crude (like mine are today) but undoubtely caught fish (like mine do today). The imitations were probably fashioned from bits of local furs and plumage, rudely clumped together. According to snobbish tyers, the trouts of 100 years ago weren't too educated and couldn't tell the difference between a natural green hackle and one that had been dyed the exact same color. Presumably, this is the reason why they are so furios about not being able to get illegal plumage from endangered exotic birds. I have also heard lamentations from those who couldn't obtain esoteric furs for the same reason. They must be kidding; I believe that if a trout can fall for fake, it will not distinguish the hair of an orangutang's harmpits from that of an opossum's belly! Once, while bass bugging, I noticed a lot of dragonflies by the lily pads along the shoreline. Very quickly I twisted some cellophane from my cigarette pack on a hook, casted the darn thing into the water and promtly tied into a largemouth. Later at home I tyed various realistic interpretations of this insect and tried them out on my next trip. Nothing happened. Why? They looked, casted and floated terribly and probably scared every bass out of the area. At any



rate, to the nyophite: There are several types of flies that can be tied, some made to sink, the others to float. Floating flies represent insects but those that work underwater can also imitate baitfish or other aquatic life. The last group which include the streamers, nymphs, wet flies, and bucktails are the easiest to tie because they're seldom microscopic. As you tie, you can experiment and create your own contraptions but it would be difficult to match the proven performers. Deadly patterns such as the Muddler Minnow require some skill at the bench, but the Mickey Finn, another killer, can be tied by anyone. It has enticed practically everything that swims in freshwater and it wouldn't surprise me if salt water fish didn't go for it too. Before I dwell into how it is done, let me tell you what is needed: A vise to hold a hook firmly in position. A thread bobbin holder. A spool of black thread. A small, sharp pair of scissors. A bottle of clear nail polish. Hooks. Red and Yellow bucktail. Gold tinsel. Vises can be purchased from a few to a lot of dollars. Don't go overboard unless you decide to tie for a living. A bobbin holder goes for less than five bucks. Buy a good pair of scissors; the cheap ones aren't worth the steel they're made from. The names, shapes and designation of hooks can fill a book. I just ask for the "standard" nymph/wet fly, or streamer/bucktail hooks. If the hook is too small or too large I ask for the next size(s), up or down. It is a good idea to tie the same fly in different sizes, a fact too many fishermen ignore. Often the size is more important than the pattern. Bucktail comes in a variety of colors, as well as in its natural finish. O.K.; now we are ready to tie:

When you have "mastered" or become bored with the Mickey Finn, you may want to do variations on the theme (just by changing the color scheme), and tie another productive fly. After the hook has been covered with tinsel, just use brown and black bucktail in place of the red and orange and, voila', you have a Black Nose-Dace!

September's Trip

by Dan Van Buskirk

The September's club trip to the Hausatonic combined both stream and lake fishing. In contrast to the previous trip when the weather and rain made it impossible, the river was now wadable and Jerry Berkson, Carl Kropp, Paul Mc Cain and Morty Schneiderman found it also productive. On that Saturday Morty was high hook. That evening the group was joined by Stu Minsky and your struly who felt that by bringing pizza and beer it would help to plan the next day's outing. In actuality there wasn't much to plan; both Carl and Paul left on Sunday morning, Jerry and Morty took the canoe to Candlewood lake, and we spent a few hours on the river, trying to outdo each other in how many bass and trout we could catch and release. Some malignant observer will report that the fish were of aquarium size, but who would you believe? At any rate, we made haste to join the others by the lake, and as a proud flyrodding group, stayed until dusk catching pan fish. Jerry effectively demonstrated his piscatorial techniques, and as the day came to an end, he was aknowledged as THE high hook of the trip. The best catch of this angling escapade however, materialized Sunday night at a local Chinese restaurant, just before we headed for home.

please, don't forget

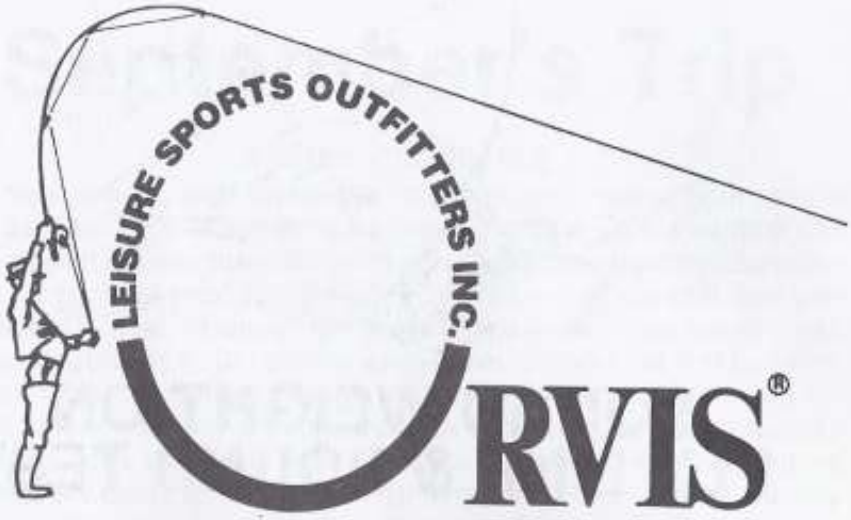
The cost of the club's fishing hats, pins and patches will increase in January 1990. You have been warned. There will NOT be an increase in club's dues for 1990. - All books and video tapes are to be returned at the next month's meeting. - Participate in the 50/50 Fly Club at every meeting. Invite a guest to a L.I.F.R. meeting.

SOUND WEIGHT ON FLY LINE & POUND TEST

by Sal Mofario

Many beginning fly fishers, and some experienced alike believe that the weight of a fly line should be matched against the size of the fish being sought. The general belief is that if you fish salt water you must have at least a 10 wgt. line, bass and steelhead an 8, and anything under these weight for the smaller trout and panfish. In reality very large fish have been landed with light lines.

A salt water fly rod is a heavy stick; it has to be to have the backbone necessary to absorb the punishment of STRONG, long running or sounding fish. Even a fully grown bluefish can inflict severe strain, and in order to cast with such a broomstick you must match it with a 10 or 11 weigth line. There is no law to prevent you from using a 5 wgt. for the same fish; if your reel holds enough backing, the LINE can take the punishment but the rod will be just too flimsy - it just was not made for it. If you fish for bass or the Salmon river's steelheads a 6 wgt. outfit is ideal IF you use CONVENTIONAL flies. The graphite rods of today are sturdy and implacable but why so many people still insist on a 8 wgt. outfit? Even fly fishers forget that the primary purpose of a fly line is to cast (carry would be a better word) the fly. Pound test has nothing to do with the line and should be applied to the leader, just as the X diameter. Period. What happens if you want to cast bass bugs? These imitations of moths, mice and frogs offer a lot wind resistance to make them difficult. In reality casting them is not different than casting flies that are heavy and you must rely on heavier lines, 8 or 9, to carry them out. In conclusion the weight of fly lines have nothing to do with the SIZE of the fish being caught, but on the SHAPE and WEIGHT of the flies one intends to use.



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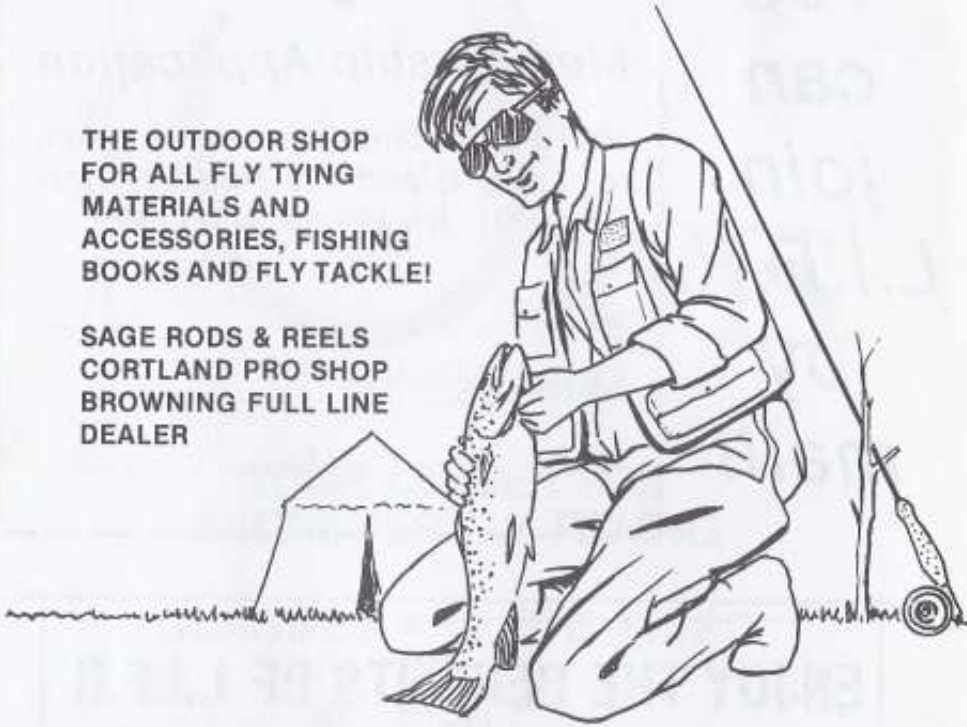

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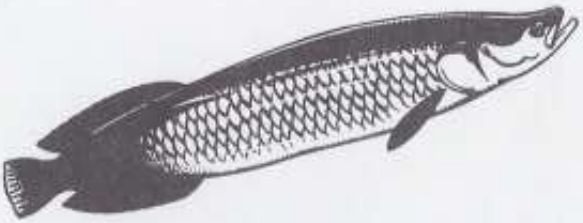
PERU, *One More Time* - 1990

by Gian Padovani

As some of you may know, I have recently returned from my third trip to Peru, experiencing the Amazon region in its different phases of flooding. While each trip has offered tremendous recreational values, the best period is undoubtely when the river is at its lowest. At this time one can visit areas which cannot be seen at other times, unless from a boat. During the last weeks of August the area is gorgeous and even the mosquitoes, so prevalent during the rainy season, aren't so intolerable. Various activities can be enjoyed on the many tributaries that feed the main river: Fishing, photographing, collecting or just plain nature watching. To the person that likes fishing, the diversity of species that will readily take the hook, is unparalleled. To the collector



of tropical fish the sky is the limit and each netful has promises of species never seen before. With its great diversity of fauna and flora, the photographer can capture unique images of birds, insects, mammals, trees and flowers. Not to mention the exotic faces of the natives and their villages. To those who are interested in such activities, I am organizing a trip for 1990, based on my experiences and knowledge of the area and its people. You do not have to be a member of this club. I am currently working out the details for a two weeks' journey with a minimum cost. The trip is not going to be a luxury cruise, but rather a "roughing it" type of adventure, which will give the traveler the feeling of having experienced the primordial desire of living "The Amazon". Only 15 people can be accomodated; several have already shown interest or asked to be counted in. I would advice to contact me A.S.A.P. for details and to avoid disappointment.

Write to: Gian Padovani, 2 Terry Lane, Commack N.Y. 11725

This is not a trip for the person who likes his comforts; it requires health, good physical shape and the person must have the desire to experience nature as it was meant to be done.

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