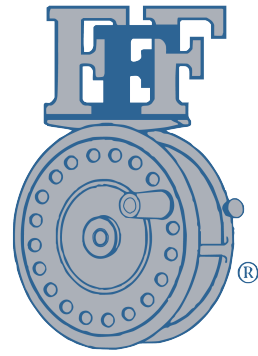




# BACKLASH

## Capital District Fly Fishers

Conserving – Restoring – Educating  
Through Fly Fishing



October 2008

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### President's Message

Fall has arrived, but I am still having fun with the sunnies and bass. I hope everyone has gotten their new license; the old one expired at the end of September. If you have already hung up your equipment you may be missing some good fishing, but you should take the time to properly clean and check everything. This is the time to slowly get things ready for next year. Check your fly boxes and start tying what you need and some for the Meeting Raffles and the shows.

We are working hard at setting up our new web site. I think it is starting to look good. The mail list and calendar are almost ready so we can notify or remind you of the upcoming events. When the web site is somewhat ready you will receive a welcome letter with the web site address. The tying guild is starting up again on Tuesdays and I am looking forward to it. I learned some tricks and tips on using some materials, so come teach us or swap some tips and tricks.

If you want to be part of the nominating committee for officers or throw your hat into the ring talk to John Prokorym. The fly tying class starts in January, we still have a couple positions open for teaching and we are always in need for floor walkers. Start thinking about volunteering for some of our upcoming events or coming to our E-board meeting. Try it; you might like it.

Remember this is your club; your suggestions and help matter. This is what sets the club apart from the others and makes the members proud to belong.

See you at the Meeting  
Paul Sinicki  
President

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### October Meeting

**VFW Post 8692, October 15th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**140 VFW Drive (off New Karner Road)**

**Jack Whittman shares tricks and tips about the Salmon River. Come pick Jack's brain on this great body of water just to our west.**

**Fly Tyer's Corner: Salmon Flies Tyer: Jack Whittman**

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Click here to  
go to the [FFF Web Page](#)  
Click here to [Email FFF](#).

## **Important Dates Coming Up!!**

**New Licenses** - It's October already?!?. That means your current fishing license is up! The new ones were needed on October 1st. Just a friendly reminder from your Editor...

**Dues Are Up Soon!!** - Well, okay, not that soon, but it's not all that far away. Our dues season is just around the corner. Memberships expire at the end of the year. Look for the Membership renewal forms in upcoming issues soon.

**Nominating Committee** - Need I say more? If you have an idea of how the club should be run, maybe you should be doing it. Talk with Paul or Rodney for more info.

## **DRY FLY FISHING...my new best friend**

By Roger Maler

Many fly fishers shy away from dries as an enjoyable and productive way to fish, myself included for many many years. This can be a most enjoyable pastime, maybe the best, if you just don't take it so seriously. It has become my favorite and possibly yours if you just follow a few pointers:

Don't get hung up on fly patterns:

As an example, A past Super Bowl Sunday was quickly becoming a relatively slow day fishing deep, virtually alone (27 degrees outside!!), on my favorite piece of water. I hadn't seen a hatch or any significant surface activity for many weeks. Always interested in understanding the ways of the trout, I re-rigged my rod with a floating line and plucked a beat up hopper pattern from my "wet" fly box. Selecting a well defined holding spot which has produced before, I plopped the bug loudly onto a seam of a short piece of riffle water. Mending a bad downstream belly in the line, the hopper skittered about a foot and settled into a fairly good drift. Day dreaming about the football game I was missing back at the cabin, the splash in the vicinity of my hopper (which I had lost in a long shadow) jerked me back to reality.

Every dry fly fisher has had this experience and has blown the next few casts to the "splash" as I did that afternoon. The third nervous cast to the spot was made with intense concentration and determination befitting the opportunity. Sure enough a fat Bow took the fly, now improperly floating well into the film, and the rest was predictable and without further description. The poor hopper was now soaked beyond any ability to float above the water and I changed to another "used" dry imitation in my wet fly box. I had left the dry box back at the cabin, of course. This unnamed pattern (looked like a fat wasp) also produced a strike and fish within a few minutes. I went on to have a nice few hours taking surface fish without any "hatch" in sight.

I have, on more than a few occasions, been successful with dries when there are absolutely no bugs in the air, on the water or emerging to the surface. The lesson learned here is not to leave your "dry" box back at the cabin or parking lot because of the conditions of the day or time of the year. Trout are always hungry, curious and not very bright as I have proven to myself many times since this Super Bowl experience. Can't remember who won the game but that learning experience is still with me.

Remember also, if only one thing, every hatch begins with one bug and who's to say if the trout are paying attention or keeping count for that matter!

Don't get hung up on presentation:

There is definitely too much emphasis on the "dead drift" as again I have proven many times. Many of us have stood, spitting out flies, in the midst of a west coast hatch so thick so as to obscure the water, without considering the underlying value of this experience. That simply being that the flies we meticulously tie, strain to present ever so lightly and laboriously mend to produce a "dead drift" are, in fact, intended to replicate something that is alive!

Take a minute to watch the activity during a hatch or just one bug on the water and observe their movements and almost imperceptible vibrations emitting from them. This "twitching" is being broadcasted to every living thing who might consider this morsel as its next meal above and below the water. The point being a true dead drift may not be the most optimum presentation in every situation.

The "twitching" technique is quite simple and may be happening to you now and again in the mending process or as a result of a poor "dead" drift. The normal reaction to "spoiling" the drift is to pick up and recast elsewhere fearing you may have spooked the trout in the area. Steady your nerves and rod and let the drift continue flicking the tip every 4-5 feet. The object is to vibrate the fly not pop it. At the end of the drift raise your rod and momentarily hold the fly in the current and very lightly swing the fly across the current skittering it on the surface. Lift the leader off the water if you can. Keep in mind the size of the fly and its natural counterparts' possible ability to move on the surface. The best fly that I have

found to do this with, because of its design, is the elk hair caddis 14-16. Also do not use a leader of less than 10-12 feet for all dry presentations longer if you can turn it over. When you apply floatant to you fly also apply to the full length of you leader and always keep you fly line dressed, at least twice a day!

A second lesson I have learned is that matching the hatch to the nth degree of detail and size could be reducing the odds of attracting a rise. Try a larger, maybe two hook sizes, to get some interest. Why compete with hundreds of the real thing? Toss an attractor or terrestrial in the melee... try the twitching method above. If you are unequipped to throw dries at the instant of a hatch keep fishing the same way as the feeding frenzy usually lowers the trout's guard and the strike odds are good. The window of opportunity during a hatch may only be a few minutes as we all have sadly experienced. If you are nymphing try high sticking the rod and get your bug up near the surface and skitter it at the end of the drift. I have actually done this on a sink tip line with a wooly bugger and caught fish! Admittedly, not your classic stream side image

Don't get hung up on tradition:

Being OUT OF THE BOX as explained above can open up many pleasurable experiences. The tradition of fly fishing and more so dry fly fishing many times reduces the experience as we are subject to peer pressure, the sports media and the orating icons of the past. I have recently taken to "giving the fish a break" and only throw dries in EXCESS of 50 feet of line upwards of 70 feet. It improves the casting, accuracy, forming loops and sharpens the double haul. The hook ups are much less and the presentation hampered by cross currents but releasing a fish taken at great distance is incredibly rewarding to me.

My dry fly set up:

Having a number of rods and lines to choose from, I have sampled most all brands, wts. And flex actions. I choose 2 rods: both 5 wts with a mid action flex; A Sage SP and an Orvis 0 Gravity 9.2 tip flex recently acquired. More important however, or certainly equally so, is fly line selection. Mine is the Joan Wulff Triangle Taper 5 wt with a 10-12 foot leader and 5X tippet. Start with a 7-8 foot 4X leader and add on the 5x. The heavier leader tip and butt rolls over better. Many will argue that this is not fine enough but it works well for most all flies and fish in most waters.

Well intended individuals, fly shop salesmen, gurus and others experts provide an encyclopedia of advice to anyone who will listen about equipment for the flyfisher.

In a minutia of detail, every component of the "gear" is dissected and finely tuned to the consumer. Rods, reels, waders, boots, flies, leaders, tippet (you know the drill) are dissected and absorbed with thousands of choices and volumes of literature to digest. After dizzying deliberation, the neophyte has now assembled some thousand dollars of gear and almost as an afterthought the line selection decision is most often: "Get a WF line to match the rod weight." That's it! No further discussion necessary... right?

It is my theory that this is far from the correct choice and for the most part a detriment to the caster. The weight forward line manufactured today is most consistently built along the same specifications: 15 feet of front taper 30 feet of bulge and 45 feet of level running line. Follow this, the typical caster is usually attempting to present a cast of 35-40 feet, most adequate to fish in 75% of all water and most fish species. At this distance The WF "bulge" is in the rod guides! Not where it is intended for the use of the line. This added weight on the rod would appear to over load or bend the rod and adds to the forming of tailing loops as well since a concave rod tip path and "shocking" would almost always occur to move the line. This is even more aggravated in slower action beginner rods. The WF line has a specific and most efficient casting length at or beyond 60 feet with faster action rods and in a few wind conditions below that. The WF is also considerably harder to roll cast as the bulge diameter must be lifted from the water adhesion at distances under 40 feet which is beyond even most intermediate casters to execute at longer lengths.

The more correct selection is a double or single taper line. In fact this should be the more suitable line for all casters! Its 15-20 foot front taper allows smooth long casts up to 60 feet and turns over better at all distances with a matched leader. In fact, long casting in tournaments I have been told, is with a DT line or shooting heads with similar design. The Triangle Taper designed by the Joan Wolff Company is even better with 40 feet of front taper and my line of choice in fresh water, moderate winds, up to 60 foot casts and up to 7 wt rods. It is also a dream to roll cast with up to 40 feet effortless accomplished.

Bass, tarpon, and salmon fishers are turning over heavy and high wind resistant flies with faster action rods. The WF in the proper hands may be the more efficient line choice in these few situations.

Fly selection:

Again, I greatly limit my choices to only a few patterns. Changing flies, matching the hatch and prospecting for the BEST FLY is just not productive. I carry in quantity: hoppers, stimulators, elk hair cadis, blue wing olives and parachute Adams in 12-16 sizes. The ONLY RULE here is to keep the bug as dry as possible and floating as high as possible ALONG WITH THE LINE, LEADER AND TIPPIIT. Change the fly often and after 2-3 hook ups. Use floatant and drying agents frequently, as much as every 10 drifts.

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### **DVD / Book Reviews**

Reviewed by Bruce E Harang

#### **LaFontaine's Legacy** by Al and Gretchen Beatty

The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT, 2008

135 pages, Hardbound, illustrated Color, suggested price \$27.95

From the end of the 1970's into the early 1990's a number of American fly fishermen changed the way the whole world looked at fly design and fly presentation. What they brought to trout fly fishing was both innovative and profound. So much so that their names have become legend. In the area of caddis flies that name is Gary LaFontaine. But Gary did much more. He moved forward into areas of fly design for all types of suggestive and attractor flies for trout. Fly patterns relying on "triggers" instead of attempting exact imitation. Presentations that mimicked real trout food mannerisms found through underwater observation. Whether or not fly fishermen liked how these flies looked or agreed with Gary's theories, the vast majority of them report the fly patterns and presentation techniques work extremely well. Gary has left us now, but the authors have published the last patterns and ideas of this fly fishing innovator. Here are twenty six patterns presented with step - by - step photographic tying sequences as well as notes and thoughts of Gary. Fishing hints, theories, and the stimuli leading to each patterns creation. These patterns cover the full range of trout foods including Mayflies, Caddis flies, damsel flies, minnows, Stoneflies, crayfish, Shrimp, Sow Bugs, and even the common House fly. Also included are interesting and very effective tying techniques that allow every fly tyer to more ably create successful trout flies. These techniques alone are worth far more than the price of the book.

The writing is well done, easy to read, and effective at transferring the information from the mind of one of the legends of fly tying. It also is effective in conveying to the reader a glimpse into the personality of Gary. The photographs are very well composed and reproduced making the text easy to visualize and the patterns clear to any tyer wanting to reproduce them. The authors have done the fly tying world a wonderful service by preserving for the future the wisdom of this gentleman of fly tying.

If you tie flies to catch trout this is a must have volume.

## *More Upcoming Stuff...*

**Fly Tyer's Guild** - Once again, we will meet at the Rudy A. Ciccotti Center on Aviation Road (off Metro Park Drive) in Colonie. Guild meetings will be on Tuesday nights, and will start at **7:00 P.M.** (Note - different start time than in the past).

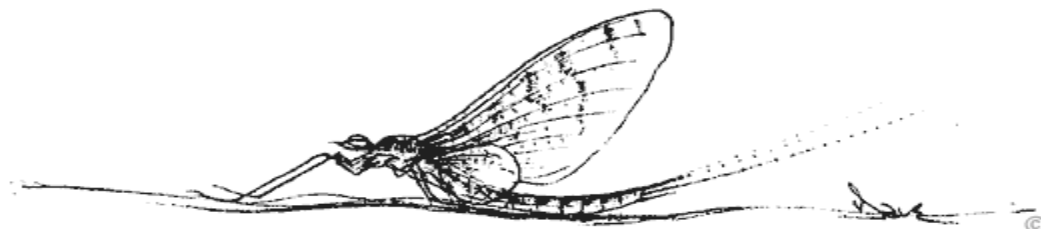
### **From the South:**

Take I-87 to the Wolf Road exit. Go straight through the light on to Wolf Road. You will pass through several traffic lights, including the intersection of Wolf Road and Sand Creek Road. Take a right at the light at Metro Park Drive (The Macaroni Grill will be on your right). Follow Metro Park Drive to the end. BEFORE entering the Crossings Park, take a right on to Aviation Road. The entrance to the Rudy A. Ciccotti Family Recreation Center will be on your left.

For more info - [www.colonieyouthcenter.org](http://www.colonieyouthcenter.org)

**Fly Tying Classes** - CDFF will again offer a Fly Tying Class at the Clifton Park - Halfmoon Ambulance Corps. Classes will again be held on Wednesday evenings, starting January 14th. The Club is looking for tyers and floor-walkers. If you can already tie a fly, you are more than qualified. To sign up, or for more information, contact Paul or Rodney.

**Web Page** - Due to changes with our previous host, our web page provider and address will be changing. As this issue goes to press, we don't have many details. More information is to come at the September meeting.



Courtesy of Dave Whitlock

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**Just a reminder from your Editor** - I'm sure we all had an adventure or two over the last few months. Maybe you went to some new waters, maybe you even figured something out about one of your favorite places. Ever consider writing a newsletter article on it?

We all get new fishing books every now and then. Ever get a really good one? Ever get one that you didn't like? One that you wanted your money back? Write a review on it.

The **From the Members** part of the newsletter is just that: **from the Members**. It can be anything: book or DVD reviews, a new fly pattern, a new tool you made, anything.

Never written anything before (or at least since High School)? Give it a try. We edit well, here, and you might be better at it than you think. -Ed.

## Upcoming Events Calendar...

<b>October 7</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>October 14</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>October 15</b> Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	<b>VFW Post 8692, 140 VFW Drive, Colonie</b> <b>Salmon River Fishing with Jack Whittman</b> <b>Featured Tyer: Jack Whittman Fly of the Month: Salmon</b>
<b>October 21</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>October 28</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>November 4</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie Also - Election Day - Fly Tyer's Guild to be confirmed
<b>November 10</b> Monday 6:30	<b>Executive Board Meeting - 76 Diner, Latham</b> <b>C'mon out and help steer your club - you might have good ideas...</b>
<b>November 11</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie Also - Veteran's Day
<b>November 18</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>November 19</b> Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	<b>VFW Post 8692, 140 VFW Drive, Colonie</b> <b>How to Capture that Perfect Picture (coordinator - Lou Bruno)</b> <b>Featured Tyer: Eric Kroth Fly of the Month: Perch Streamer</b>
<b>November 22-23</b>	<b>Int'l Fly Tying Symposium Somerset, NJ, Doubletree Hotel</b> <a href="http://www.internationalflytyingsymposium.com">www.internationalflytyingsymposium.com</a>
<b>November 25</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>December 2</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>December 6</b> Saturday 6:00 Cocktails 7:00 Dinner	<b>CDFE Holiday Party - Guest Speaker - Bobby Lindquist</b> <b>Time to start thinking about Raffle Prizes</b> <b>Food Coordinator - Lou Bruno</b>
<b>December 9</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>December 16</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>December 23</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>December 30</b> Tuesday 7:00	Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Center, Colonie
<b>January 21, 2009</b> Wednesday 18:30 FTC 19:00 Meeting	<b>NYS Region 5 Fisheries Manager Bill Schoch (Coordinator - Rodney)</b> <b>Featured Tier – Bill Roberts Fly of the Month Brook Trout Clouser</b>

**October Meeting**  
**VFW Post 8692, October 15th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**140 VFW Drive (off New Karner Road)**

**Fishing the Salmon River  
with Jack Whittman**

**Our own Jack gives tips and tricks for this great body of water**

**Fly Tyer's Corner: Salmon Flies: Jack Whittman**

### **Upcoming Events**

Tuesdays, starting in October – Fly Tyer's Guild, Ciccotti Ctr. Colonie

November 10 – Executive Board Meeting, 76 Diner, Latham

**The BACKLASH** - Is the official publication of the Capital District Fly Fishers Inc. and is published monthly from September through May, with summer editions as needed.

Submissions for publication **must** be in the editor's hands two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled monthly meeting.

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