

The *FLYRODDER*

PUBLISHED BY

LONG ISLAND
FLYRODDERS



The Flyrodder
is a monthly publication of
The Long Island Flyrodders, Inc.
Editor, *In Memoriam*
Gian Padovani

This Month's Meeting *July 5, 2005*

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Circulation Manager

The Long Island Flyrodders
meet at 8:00 PM on the
first Tuesday of each Month
at the: **Levittown VFW Hall**
55 Hickory Lane
(North of Hempstead Turnpike
& West of Jerusalem Avenue)

2005 OFFICERS

Mike Gelber
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Jim Foley
Vice President

Lee Weil
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Paul McCain
Speaker Coordinator



God Bless America



*Herb Schneiderman at the vise, all the way from Lake Worth, FL,
presides over the Dry Fly session in the Favorite Fly Series.
Looking on are Lee Weil and Wolfgang Porté*

GUEST SPEAKER:

Captain Rob Thompson

**“How to Create Your Own Flats Boat,
on a Limited Budget ”**



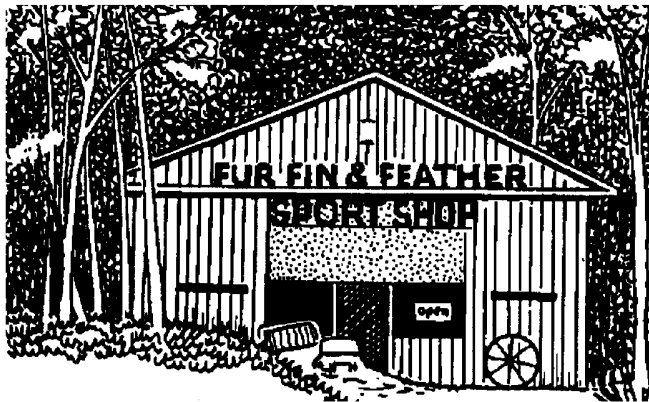
President's message

Should I fish the salt, should I fish the lake, should we drive over to the river? So many decisions it's hard to make up your mind some times. We are getting fishing reports from "Flyrodders" all over the map. They've been spotted in Maine, Minnesota, South America, and the usual haunts in the North East and even as far away as the Peconic River. **Lee** and **Jeff** ran their annual Peconic River trip in Riverhead last month with a lot of great fish stories coming out of there. We also had the Farmington River camping trip run by **Tony** and **Karen Agnese**. Stories on that one will follow in future issues of the *Flyrodder*. During the month of July, we have a couple of fun trips. **Joe Caroleo** has set up a trip to Eldred Preserve. The preserve was featured on the channel 7 morning news and looked like a great place and only a tank away. **Gordon Mueller** is running a trip up to the Finger Lakes area for bass, bream and crappie. The home base for the trip will be Gordon's summer house. Contact either of these members for more information

on these trips.

Last month's meeting was fantastic... between **Mark Sedotti** casting those football sized flies and our resident chef **Paul McCain** working the grille, we had everyone interested. It was amazing to see Mark cast those flies with such little effort; they really did look like birds flying by, they were so big. Mark has offered to set up some casting clinics for us, so we'll get the details out to the members as soon as we have everything set up. Coming up in July, we have another in our great speakers list. **Captain Rob Thompson** will be giving us a presentation on flats boats that sounds pretty interesting. Captain Thompson is from Fly Away Charters and we will be having tying demonstrations at 6:00 pm. Come on down and check this out. Sounds like another fun time with the Flyrodders.

See you on the river,
Mike



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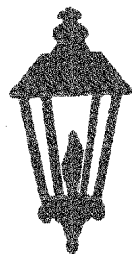
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For Your Nymphormation

by Lee Weil



L.I. Flyrodders Peconic River Trip

Most fly fishermen target trout as their species of choice, but for the past 5 years in June, **The L.I. Flyrodders** have set their sights on the warm-water fisheries, specifically the Peconic River. This trip gives the members an opportunity to try something a little different without traveling too far. The tackle is slightly heavier, the flies are bigger, but for the most part it is basically the same as fishing a trout stream. You try to fish the areas that look “fishy” and provide cover and forage for the bass and pickerel.

The biggest difference on this trip is the need for watercraft, in the form of canoes, john boats or kayaks. While a lot of the members have their own vessels, there are also boats available for rent from the Fishermen’s Deli, just a short distance from the launching area. This way we all fish the same area of water and can meet up for lunch at noon after the fishing gets slow. Our picnic takes place in the D.E.C. parking area where we launch the LIFR fleet.

This year’s trip took place on June 14th, and the forecast called for 95 degrees. We were blessed with a breeze that picked up throughout the morning, making for tougher casting but more bearable conditions. When it comes to bass fishing, the best action happens at dawn, and the earlier you can get

on the water the better.

Joe Otterstedt and Linda Macy were the first ones on the river, and were rewarded with the first fish, a nice bass. Joe also caught a huge crappie; I believe he said they had to tail rope it to get it alongside the canoe to release it. By the time Jeff and I got Maddlin unloaded from the top of the truck, they were almost out of sight on their way upriver.

Wolfgang Porte and Al Battistelli were first timers at playing the Peconic game, but they caught fish, including a nice pickerel on a small foam popper. **Jeff Farrell** also did well with a little frog popper, breaking the ice with a nice largemouth. I hooked a “Gorilla-Gill” late in the morning on a Peconic Paddler that put such a bend in my rod that I would have sworn it was a bass.

We met up for lunch at noon under the convenient shade of the trees in the parking lot and enjoyed the breeze while we feasted on hero and salads. After a pleasant lunch and much conversation, we loaded up the canoes one by one, said our “so longs”, and headed home. As we drove past the ice cream stand (without succumbing to temptation) I said to Jeff “we gotta do this more often”. And hopefully, we will.

Tight Lines & God Bless, Lee



*Herb, Lee and Susan Solomon
“Favorite Fly Series - Dry
Flies” June 2005*

*The next class will be “Saltwater
Flies” in September, with Paul
McCain as instructor.*

The Fishing Wasn't Great in 11/04, But We Ate Well!

By Mike Lackey

Mike Gelber and I thought it a good idea to take one last trip to the Housatonic before winter weather made the fishing unbearable.

As usual, we planned the cuisine and cooking duties in advance. Mike would make his famous hors d'oeuvres and accompaniments, while I would prepare more hors d'oeuvres, marinated steaks, and vegetables for dinner. Carol, my wife, made one of her outstanding fruit pies that Mike and I would treasure for dessert on Saturday night and savor again after Sunday's breakfast. Mike and I would split lunch sandwich duties and combine our considerable culinary talents for breakfast. Fortunately, since it was just Mike and me, the food bill was only \$549.59!

I arrived at the Housatonic Meadows Campground first, but not before the "obligatory stop" at the twosome of excellent fly-shops in the area. The proprietors filled me up with what I was told were the killer flies, streamers, wets, nymphs, fly-boxes, leaders, tippets, bottles of floatant, socks, underwear, and cold-water gloves I would need for the afternoon's fishing. About \$549.56 later I returned to the campsite just as Mike pulled into the parking area. Thank goodness Mike had some extra cash, of which I borrowed some, so I could fill-up my "Site Commander's Jeep-Camper" with gasoline for the trip home!

Housatonic Meadows is an empty place in early November. No kids on bikes; no blaring music; no outlandish campfires to bleach out the stars; no crowds of people at every campsite; and, no bugs. The campground is serene, without the bustle of summer.

Luckily fairly warm weather was with us, and

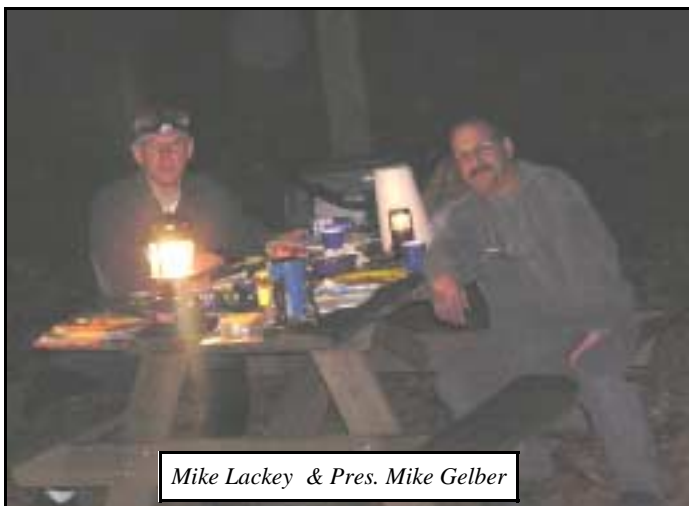
the sun shone brightly in a cloudless sky. The only thing out of the ordinary was a hurricane of a wind and leaves turned slightly past their best fall colors.

After setting up camp, our dynamic culinary duo went about gathering firewood and preparing the cooking area for the evening's feast. Then we were off to "the river," as Huck Finn would say, to try our luck. However, we found fly-casting in a November gale is a far different matter than is the easy casting in an August zephyr.

Another unexpected quandary we had to overcome was the river's surface – it was chock-full of all sizes of floating multicolored leaves, branches and twigs, and debris. These bits of flotsam and jetsam strongly competed with our flies for space and visibility on the water's surface, and under the surface, while our flies frequently snagged at them in what seemed an angry manner. At first, Mike and I thought we were getting a number of "hits" on our dry flies. But these hits were in almost all cases a pesky leaf; although I still refuse to believe that many of the tugs were not lightning fast and voracious hits on my impeccably presented dries. Mike thought my observations funny, having seen my fishing prowess up close and personal on breathless summer days.

Fortunately two of the "leaves" we snagged turned out to be large browns – that were reasonably close to 10 inches!

Leaf snagging and monster trout catching aside, it's nice to know the food and the company on a November LIFR trip are as great as they are on a summer trip!



Mike Lackey & Pres. Mike Gelber

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**The club is putting together a book of club members and their favorite flies.
See Paul McCain at the meeting for details.**

ELDRED FISHING TRIP

July 16 – 17, weekend, the cost is \$125 plus tax for two people. The cost for children is \$8.00 each, plus tax, maximum of four persons per room. Food is not included in this package. You can purchase food from their restaurant. This entitles you to overnight accommodations, free access to the Catch and Keep Pond, and you have to pay \$4.25 per pound for whatever you catch. Fish cleaning is available at fifty cents per fish. They will pack your fish in ice free of charge.

For an additional \$10.00 per day you can fish in the Catch and Release Pond. This Pond is for flyrodders only, with barbless hooks.

Boat rental. They have two lakes available for bass fishing and pan fish. The cost for this package is \$80 plus tax for two people. They furnish you with a bass boat and you can fish from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. If you want to add another person on the boat it is an additional \$30 plus tax. You can keep the pan fish but must return the bass. You must have a valid NYS fishing license for the lakes.

September 20 -21, weekday, the cost for this package is \$80. per person, double occupancy. This package entitles you to overnight accommodations, free access to the Catch and Keep Pond, and you have to pay \$4.25 per pound for whatever you catch. You are also entitled to dinner at their restaurant, but no breakfast. The \$80 also includes tax and gratuities. The cost for children, ten years old or younger, is \$29, tax and tips included. This includes overnight accommodations, dinner from the Children's menu, free access to the Catch and Keep Pond and they have to pay \$4.25 per pound for any fish caught.

You can also fish for bass and pan fish in one of their two lakes. See the previous paragraph concerning the rates for the boat rental.

Also available are Sporting Clays. The cost for a round of twenty-five clays is \$8.00. You can bring your own shotgun and ammunition or rent a shotgun from them and purchase ammunition from them. The cost to rent a shotgun is \$5.00 and a box of twenty-five shells is \$8.00. Ear protectors are provided.

Horseback riding is available nearby at an additional cost. The rates for the horseback riding are not available at this time.

RACINO: They have computerized gambling available at the Monticello Raceway only ten minutes away for those of you who want to try their luck.

In addition, within a half hour from the resort you can fish at Mongaup Pond, Rondout Reservoir or the Delaware River.

**Any one interested can sign up for the trip during the coffee break or call me,
Joe Caroleo, at 718-845-4225 anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.**



*(l) Mark Sedotti
demonstrating his casting
technique - making it look
easy*

*(r) Lee Weil
displaying some of her
prize winning flies*



Soft Hackle Flies

By Jim Abbs
Reprinted from the FFF Clubwire

Students of history find that brand new ideas are really quite rare. Rather, many new developments are just new additions to old ideas or just old ideas recycled. Fly patterns are no exception. Moreover, when certain fly pattern styles turn up again and again, it generally means that the look or the behavior of a group of insects is being especially well-imitated. Perhaps there has been no idea in fly pattern design as enduring as the soft hackle wet fly.

Consider the history of this favorite fly of many modern trout anglers, the soft hackle nymph. In the last decade, Sylvester Nemes published a book called *The Soft Hackled Addict* (1993). However, this book was an outgrowth of an earlier book (1975) by Mr. Nemes entitled simply, *The Soft Hackled Fly*. Mr. Nemes' first book on soft hackles offered a review of the tying of soft hackle flies and their history. According to some

sources, Nemes was influenced by Paul Young of Michigan who sold hackled (not winged) nymphs, based upon patterns from a James Leisenring of Pennsylvania. In addition, just a few years before Nemes' book (in 1971), Vernon Hidy worked with that legendary James Leisenring to write yet another book entitled, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*. This book, also focused on so-called "Soft-hackle nymphs". Hidy's book however was a revised version of a yet earlier book by James Leisenring alone, entitled, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly*. So where did Leisenring get his ideas? Leisenring was a student of the English fly tyers and most students of fly pattern history believe that these flies originated in the Border Counties of Britain, in the regions between Northern England and Scotland, maybe as long as 500 years ago.

Obviously while this history is interesting to many, the key question may be why are these simple patterns are so enduring and effective. Basically, Leisenring and his predecessors recognized that trout like to feed on insects that are in the transition stage from nymph form to adult form, sometimes called emergers. These insect forms do not have wings, leading to

the idea of a wet fly without wings, but with legs fully apparent. If these legs are imitated by soft hackle, they move in a natural, enticing way, capturing the quivering natural pattern that makes this fly so effective. There are many specific patterns that belong to the soft-hackle family. The oldest are flies like the Partridge and Green or Partridge and Orange, with other colors used to imitate different species of insects. Other popular flies of the soft-hackle style include The Breadcrust, Carey Special, Tup's Indispensable, Starling Herl, and others. These kinds of flies are thought by some to imitate caddis emergers (Dave Hughes), but other authors report using them very successfully in the early stages of mayfly hatches (Gary Borger). No matter what insects the soft-hackle patterns are supposed to imitate, they are found in the fly boxes of many expert trout anglers. Obviously, soft hackles, because of their universal appeal also represent very good searching patterns when there are no hatches.

The most famous soft hackle flies include patterns that long have been popular in England, including the Partridge and Orange, Partridge and Green and Partridge and Yellow. These fly names refer simply to hackle (partridge) and to the color of the body. The other appeal to soft hackle nymphs is that they are not only deadly, but very easy to tie.

(continued on next page)



MATERIALS

- Hook:** Sizes 10-18, Mustad 9671, Tiemco 200, 5262
- Thread:** Color to match body color
- Body:** Floss or fur in olive, green, orange, yellow or brown
- Thorax:** Optional fur dubbing
- Legs:** Soft fibered feathers from a gray or brown partridge, grouse or hen

TYING STEPS:

1. Lay down a layer of thread back 1/3 the distance from the eye to the end of the hook. Tie in floss (about 5-7 strands, depending on thickness of body desired) and wrap forward to tie in point. Carry out similar construction with dubbing with body extending from bend of the hook to tie in point.
2. Add thorax, extending over first third of floss body. If the body is constructed from dubbing rather than floss, the thorax can simply be an increased concentration of dubbing in from the tie in point back 1/3 the distance toward the bend of the hook.
3. Select a large feather with fibers that extend in length from just beyond the eye to the bend of the hook. Some of the soft-hackle flies use shorter or longer fibers, depending upon what you find most effective. A standard soft-hackle would extend about one-half the distance from the back end of the body to the bend.
4. Fold the fibers from the two sides of the quill so both are at right angles to that quill. Pull off those fibers from the quill (another option is to leave the fibers on the quill) with a quantity necessary to give the desired density of hackle.
5. Lay the fibers on one side of the hook and begin to tie them down, slowly distributing the fibers around the hook at the same time. The key to this "distribution wrap" is to keep the tension on the thread fairly low. Apply a second wrap to secure the fibers, pushing the fibers so they are as evenly distributed as possible. Stroke the fibers back toward the hook bend after each thread wrap.
6. Clip the butt ends of the fibers, whip finish and apply head cement. Go fishing!

Editor's Note: Oops, I goofed. The Farmington Trip (June 24 - June 26) was incorrectly listed as the Housatonic trip. The **REAL** Housatonic Trip will take place August 5 - August 8. See Mike Gelber at the meeting to sign up.

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CONNETQUOT RIVER TRIPS - 2005

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 **\$20.00**. No checks will be accepted;

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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 AM to 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

For Details call Lee Weil - (516) 997-6743.

CONNETQUOT DATES - 2005

July 18	August 15	September 19	October 17
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Only members with 4 weight rods or larger will be allowed to fish on the Monday Sessions

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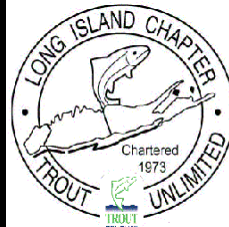
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Hicksville VFW Hall

320 S. Broadway

Hicksville at 7:30 p.m.

Visitors are always welcome.

See www.longislandtu.org for more info.

To conserve, protect and restore North America's cold water fisheries and their watersheds.

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Mike Gelber: (516) 221-9508

For casting classes, contact:

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Intending to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, except to the extent that indemnity insurance is available, I waive, release, indemnify, and hold harmless, **LIFR**, its Officers, Board of Directors, and members, against any and all claims for personal injury, disease, death, and property damage or loss, that I may incur, arising out of or connected in any way with any and all **LIFR** activities. I assume the risk of undertaking all **LIFR** activities, including related travel.

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Print name: _____

Address: _____

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E-mail address: (optional) _____

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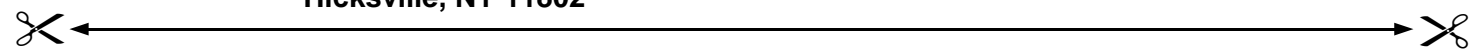


PHOTO CONTEST RULES

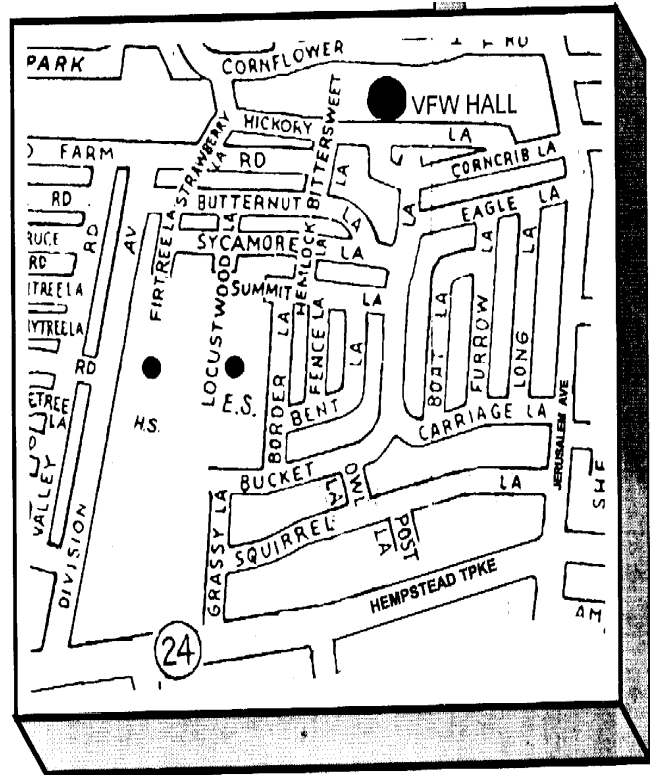
1. **PRINTS ONLY 4" x 6" (color or black & white); subject fly fishing**
2. **Put your name and phone number on back of the photo in small letters**
3. **All photos submitted may be used by LIFR, e.g., *Flyrodder* and lifr.org**
4. **There will be play-off contests at each Club meeting June through October**
5. **Three winners will be picked by members present at each of those meetings**
6. **All winning photos will be entered in the Dinner Dance GRAND CONTEST**
7. **Members present at the Dinner Dance will select the three Grand Prize winners**
8. **In case of a tie or dispute, the decision of the Chair will be final**
9. **All photos are to be handed or mailed to:**

LIFR Photo Contest
% Bob Skoy, Chair
328 Bedell St
Freeport NY 11520-5132
516 379-7600
flyline@hotmail.com

LONG ISLAND FLYRODDERS COMING EVENTS

July - 2005

- July 5 **General Meeting - 8:00 P.M.**
Cookout on the lawn at 6:00 until 7:30 pm
Speaker: Capt. Rob Thompson
"How to create you own flats boat
on a limited budget"
- July 15 - **Cast & Blast Trip - Eldred Preserve, NY**
July 17 Contact: Joe Caroleo (718) 845-4225
See Details & Info on Page 5
- July 15 - **Casting for Recovery Retreat**
July 17 Contact: Lee Weil (516) 997-6743
- July 18 **Monday Fishing at Connetquot State Park**
Contact: Lee Weil (516) 997-6743
See Page 7 for details
- July 21 **Board Meeting**
7:30 P.M. at the Levittown VFW Hall
- July 28 - **Windmill Farm, Cortland, NY (Bass Ponds)**
July 31 Contact: Gordon Mueller (516) 820-3689



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