



**Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 • 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Join us for dinner at 5:30! We can send out for pizza and get an early start on tying.

## From the President

Well, April is here! After having some wonderful speakers at the Club, including last month's Sheila and Bill Hassan, we can now start to go out on our own.

I've been going out and catching some nice trout.

Using the knowledge I've learned from the Club tying is paying off. Just today I got a half dozen trout using both a soft hackle and picket pin fly!

Soon we all should be catching stripers. When I travel, I stop into shops, and all are reporting there are stripers to be caught!

April's meeting will be a full-tying session. Corey will be coming and we are having a drawing for a great trip with him.

Remember, May 22nd is our annual barbeque and we have some new plans for this event.

This is a free dinner with plenty of food so make sure you can

attend. We hope to have some instruction on casting and to have some different happenings. Plus, remember that we can all fish at Whiting's pond.

Don't forget to use the web site for both calendar and message board. Our web site offers a lot of information, I am constantly told how informed and good it is. Don't overlook using it.

Joel Kessler



Last year's BBQ event.

**Crossroads would like to thank Bill and Sheila Hassan for their wonderful presentation on Bonefishing.**



Left to right: Joel Kessler, president, Crossroads Anglers; Sheila and Bill Hassan; and Dave Ferretti, past president, Crossroads Anglers.

## Fly Tying and Fly Casting

On May 12, the historic Longfellow Wayside Inn in Sudbury is having a fly tying and fly casting event. Actual official opening day at Josephine's Pond.

Please let me know if anyone from CA would be willing to tie flies for the event. CA will be joined that day with United Fly Tyers, New England Fly Tyers, The Bass Pond and Federation of Fly Fishers. CA will have table and chairs – free.

# THE POOR MAN'S SALMON

by Sonny Levine

**Each year the shad migrate from the ocean to the rivers for spawning. For me, this event is the highlight of the fishing season. The starves tree in the back yard has burst into a snowy white cloud signaling the shad are moving up the rivers.**

I GATHER TOGETHER my trusty fly rod, a box of shad flies and (I hope) leak proof waders. In a deep masculine voice, I inform my wife that the shad season has begun; thus all house repairs, errands, etc., will have to wait. Quickly (very quickly) I hop into the car and head for my local river.

Upon arrival at the river I'm always amazed to find myself alone. No one is fishing, not a car in any of the parking areas, the river deserted. Well, almost – the shad are in. Everyone seems to be home awaiting the news that the shad are in. An occasional straggler comes by, but doesn't stay. They don't seem to believe the time is ripe for shad.

It's really great fishing those first few weeks, you have the stream to yourself and the shad, very strong being in the river only two weeks or so.

Hastily I rig up my fly rod with sinking line and rub leader sink on my leader. Tying on what I hope will be the shad fly of the day, proves to be a difficult task even with a box stuffed with flies. Generally, the shad are quite particular about color and size. Red and white, white or yellow, from sizes 4 to 10 are among the first to get wet.

Once the fly selection is made, look for that ideal pool. Let's breakdown this general statement:

1. Check the current. Most migrating fish follow the thin line upstream.
2. Check for a hole or indentation in the river bottom using your wading staff. Don't use your right boot as you might end up swimming. The indentation may be only 4 or 5 inches deep, but it's deep enough

for that six pound shad to rest in during its journey upstream.

3. Look for shade. Trees hanging over river, large roots, etc.
4. The hole should have at least three feet of water.

Once you have found your ideal pool, get that line in the water. How deep do we fish? There's only one place to hook shad and that's on the bottom. Do whatever is needed (weighted flies, split shot on leader, etc.) to keep on the bottom.

Now you might prefer to do either of two things: Jigging or retrieving as both methods have there own merits. "Slow" is the word at this time. Make that fly crawl 3 inches off the bottom and you're in the strike zone. Once a shad is hooked, play it gently if possible for they have very soft mouths.

Shad are generally moving best early morning and late evening with day light hours a poor third. Fish generally hooked at this time come from the holes we discussed before.

Watching a half-submerged rock will give you an idea when the tide rise and fall. Generally, shad move best with rising tide. When checking over your local ocean time table, remember that tides up river might be as much as 4 to 5 hours later than the mouth of the river. The ideal outfit, in my opinion, consists of an 8 foot rod in the 6 or 7 wt. range with matching sinking or sink tip line plus 100 yards of 20 pounds test backing. Believe me, hook a shad in shallow water and you might wish you had even more backing.

Tight lines....

## TIP OF THE MONTH

A common mistake many fishermen make is not allowing the fly to come to a complete stop after the swing. Many times I have seen a swirl where the fly was after the fisherman has pulled the fly out of the water.

# California SHAD FLIES

by Ralph S. Wood, III

*Shad time in California always calls forth the faithful. There are still a lot of people out fishing even through during the last few years the runs in several of our favorite rivers have diminished appreciably.*

MY FIRST CONTACT WITH the American shad was through Cal Bird and his fly-tying shop in San Francisco, CA, as some of you probably know, is known as the originator of the Bird Stone fly patterns. Flies tied for shad require lots of flash and a rugged construction to take the abuse they receive. Cal's shad flies were tied with a minimum of hackle and weighted bodies to insure that the fly would sink rapidly down to the level of the fish. Cal's favorite fly type used mylar tubing in silver and gold and was my first exposure to the use of mylar. Steelhead hooks were used in sizes 4 - 8, 1X long and 2X stout. I have since discarded the use of X stout hooks as I find them more difficult to set. I prefer regular wire hooks and lead wire. There has been a tendency to use hooks as small as size 10 in the last few years. However, I feel they don't allow enough purchase and the smaller the gap the greater the tendency of the hook to cut through the shad's tender mouth.

## **Cal's patterns is as follows:**

Hook: 4 - 8, 1X long

Thread: Red

Body: Silver mylar tubing - 10 or more wraps of .030 lead wire covered with baton or thread. Apply cement liberally over the covered wire before sliding tubing on. I use single strand radiant red floss to cover up butt windings.

Hackle: Oversized soft white

Head: Radiant red chenille - one complete turn.

After finishing the fly body, the assembly should be liberally covered with lacquer and allowed to dry. During the waiting time additional bodies can be made. After the entire fly is completed I normally hold the fly vertically, hackle downward and allow some thin, clear lacquer to flow into the base of the hackle to insure that it doesn't slip back over the body or come loose. The fly is extremely rugged and will take a lot of abuse, which is necessary due to the shad's sharp teeth and the fact that the fly is continually bouncing over the

bottom. This fly also works well without the hackle, just a body with a chenille head. Body colors, butt winding, chenille head, and hackle can be varied. Some of the better combinations are:

Tread: Yellow

Body: Gold mylar tubing, red butt windings

Hackle: Fluorescent yellow

Head: Fluorescent yellow chenille

Thread: Green

Body: Silver mylar tubing, red butt windings

Hackle: Fluorescent green

Head: Fluorescent green chenille

Tread: White

Body: Silver mylar tubing, red butt windings

Hackle: Fluorescent white

Head: Fluorescent white chenille

Another fly type commonly used in California incorporates chain head eyes. The beads are tied on top at the eye of the hook using heavy, size A thread in a crossing pattern. A base of thread should be laid first and then the beads are put on. Use as much pressure as the thread will tolerate and plenty of cement. If the beads are not tied in properly, they will slip under the pressure of the cast. The weight of the beads makes the fly ride upside down, which some people feel gives a better holding percentage since the hook purchase is then in the shad's upper palate rather than in the softer tissue along the sides and bottom of the mouth.

Hook: 4 - 8, 1X long

Thread: Red

Body: Silver mylar tinkle started at the head, wrapped to the tail, then back to the head and lacquered. I also use the same body as the first fly type because of its looks and durability. In that case, however, the chain head eyes are put on after the body is completed.

hackle: Long soft fluorescent white wound directly behind the beads.

*Continued on next page. ➤*

# CAGALLERY

## The Club Trips in Salt Water

**May 6, 3:00am:** Cotuit

**May 12, 9:00am:** Instructional trip to Waquet  
For members who need to brush up on casting, fishing, and reading the water.

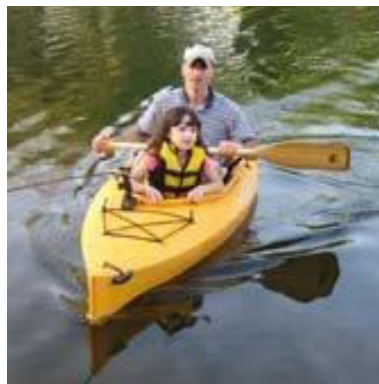
**May 27, 3:00pm:** Narrow River, RI

**June 3, 5:00pm:** Worm hatch, Ninigret Pond, RI  
To be included in any one of the four above trips please contact Howie de Beck at HLDFly@gmail.com or at our April meeting.

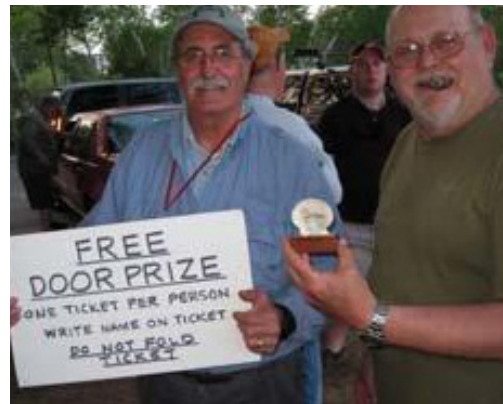
**River & Riptide Anglers** of Coventry RI, has offered to include members of CA on their May, Monday night weekly trips to Ninigret Pond (meeting at the shop at 4:30pm). This is an opportunity to fish with local anglers during the famous worm hatch. Don't miss it!

### Lets Car Pool!

Contact Joel Kessler at 781-344-3487.



More of last year's BBQ pics. Don't miss this year's event on Tuesday, May 22.



## Wood/California SHAD FLIES continued.

As you will note, I stay away from hair and feather tails and wings on these flies. First, they aren't necessary and second, they detract from the flies' sink rate, which is very important since if the flies aren't down on the bottom, you won't catch any fish! Another fly that has been successful is based on the wooly worm.

Hook: 4 - 8, 1X long

Thread: Orange

Head: Chain bead eyes

Body: Radiant orange chenille ribbed with ova silver tinsel weighted with 10 turns of lead wire .030.

Hackle: Palmered fluorescent white saddle

This type rides higher than the other ties, but the addition of chain bead eyes and lead wire offset this tendency. With these patterns in various colors and sizes, you are well equipped to do battle with the American shad.

Tight lines....

**WINNER of the Fly Tying Station is**

**KEVIN BROUSSEAU**

**CONGRATULATIONS Kevin!**



**New Raffle for the May Outing**

10 wt Gilmore Reel!  
Stay tuned for details.

# Some Tips for SHAD FISHING

by Armand J. Courchaine

SHAD COME FROM the sea and enter certain fresh water streams and rivers in the spring to spawn. Your best bet is to select a well-known river that has an annual shad run. Have a local angler contact you when they are in the river, many natives are more than pleased to contact fellow anglers. In the New England area shad runs are usually heavy during the month of May.

If you find yourself with time on your hands I suggest exploring new rivers that have herring runs, there may also be a shad run.

Fly patterns can be a problem – on the west coast some anglers use steelhead trout patterns and on the east coast some use bright streamers. Your best bet would be to ask the local anglers their favorite patterns. Shad fishing as in salmon fishing can be tricky in that the shad will prefer a certain pattern in one river and refuse it in another, USE LOCAL PATTERNS – if that fails – experiment.

Use a comfortable fly rod up to eight feet - stay away from heavy backbone rods. I use a 6 1/2' three weight which can be a lot of fun. The shad has a tender mouth, so a bass action rod will tear the hook out. During high and normal water conditions, a sinking line is a must. Cortland and Scientific Anglers have nice sinking lines. Later on in the season as the water gets low a floating line with red fluorescent beads can be used. (The beads are a help to sink the fly). Remember, the fly must be worked near the bottom.

Weather conditions present a problem. Shad generally prefer a cloudy day or conditions just before a storm. Early morning and evening bring on activity.

Do not try for fish on the move, a fish traveling on a zig-zag course is not about to see your fly. Get it near the bottom and fish for resting fish. Under certain light conditions you will be able to see where these fish rest in the pool. They do prefer water with some current flow.

I use a steady retrieve with no action to the rod tip. I fish my line downstream. Some people use gold-plated or nickel hooks, I prefer bronzed hooks in sizes 2 and 4 regular shank.

A few of the productive rivers on the east coast are the Connecticut River, St. John's River, Susquehanna, The Potomac, Hudson, Delaware, and a few small rivers such as the Palmer,

Indian Head, Narraguagus, etc. I believe that there are many more rivers not explored.

For a change of pace I decided to try a small stream for sea run trout (Salters). In the brackish water I took two salters, a mess of herring and calico bass on a number eight Red Ibis. These were taken in a pool under a very shallow falls. I decided to try the second pool which was a little deeper hoping for a big sea run brown. As it got dark I noticed the commotion of fish on the move, it must be shad, but why has no one ever mentioned this river. I put on a large shad fly and on the fourth cast I tied into a nice Roe (female shad with eggs) – just six pounds.

Since I found this new river, I haven't told anyone about it because the pool can only accommodate a few anglers at a time. If you find yourself with time on your hands I suggest exploring new rivers that have herring runs – there may also be a shad run.

A few years ago I went to the Indian Head River in Pembroke on a Friday afternoon. I did not see one shad – fished for trout and had some fun. Returned two weeks later on a Friday afternoon, shad were moving pool to pool in the day time. Had fun with my three weight.

Tight lines....

For the fly fisherman, this dark brown, early season mayfly has many common names which include the Alewife fly, Black Quill, Early Brown Spinner, Whirling Dun, and Early Brown Quill.

## THE BLACK QUILL: *Leptophlebia cupida* by Ingrid Sils

The fairly large (9-12mm) nymphs of this mayfly have thick leaflike gills, with the first pair of gills below the thorax region being fork-shaped. They prefer a habitat in sluggish streams, lakes and ponds where the bottom consists of leaf drift, silt and rotting sticks. These nymphs are agile swimmers and forage along the stream bottom during daylight hours. When mature, they congregate in sizable schools or colonies along the shore line areas a few days prior to emergence and migrate upstream, sometimes for up to a mile.

For the angler fishing nymphs, it is best to cast a weighted imitation across and slightly upstream, allowing a dead drift presentation while it is traveling downstream.

Emergence starts during late April in central New England and continues for two to four weeks. Sporadic emergence of these mayflies may continue until July or August in the northerly regions of their range. With water temperature around 57 degrees Fahrenheit, emergence begins around noontime, being heaviest between 1-3 pm, and typically ending by 4 pm. Prior to emergence, the nymphs display restless behavior and may make multiple trips to the water's surface. Yet, emergence itself is a slow process and takes place either just below the water's surface, or in the surface film itself. At emergence time, the nymphs will cling to stones or grass that protrude from the water in areas away from the main current and the typical salmonid feeding lanes. However, if a stream contains very few or no objects onto which these nymphs can cling prior to emergence, *L. cupida* nymphs will emerge directly from the water. Artificial emerger patterns set adrift in the surface film are highly effective during the early stages of emergence. Weighted nymphal patterns may also be used at this time, but in comparison to emergers

or unweighted nymphs, the effectiveness of such imitations declines rapidly once the hatch begins.

Arriving at a favorite small brook a few years ago, a profusion of duns could be observed on the water as well as in the air but few if any of the rises appeared to be directed at these surface-riding duns. The water level was higher and the current faster than normal because of a fairly heavy rain the night before. Close observation revealed that the waters were full of emerging nymphs that, most likely, had "lost their grip" on the streamside vegetation and were being swept downstream in the surface film. Weighted nymphal imitations proved unsuccessful in taking fish consistently as did adult dun imitations. However, unweighted nymphs and emerger imitations were highly successful, as well as dry flies that were fished wet – to imitate drowned adults.

Freshly emerger duns are almost black in coloration and depart the water's surface quickly and seek refuge in the nearby foliage. Cooler weather, however, causes these duns to ride the water calmly for two or three minutes before taking flight. When this cooler weather occurs, if the flyfisherman adds any fluttering movement (drag) to an artificial theta being presented to a feeding trout, the fly will receive a refusal since any naturals floating downstream are doing so in a very placid manner. It is for this reason that dead drifted imitations that have been tied in a no-hackle style or parachute style are far superior over more traditional (hacked) patterns when trout begin feeding upon duns. The angler should also be aware that trout can frequently behave "selectively" during this hatch, and because of this it is advisable to present your artificial to feeding fish in a manner where the fly will pass over the fish before the leader.

Smooth water areas of streams are best areas in which to locate trout rising for duns during a hatch. An important factor to remember, however, is that any breeze, regardless of how slight, tends to shut off the hatch and "put down" the fish. From many years of observation, this does not mean that the hatch totally ceases, but rather it means that the half-emerged duns drown and any nymphs still clinging to the grass alongside the banks of the river lose their hold and float free with the current. As a result, most trout will cease taking surface floating duns when a breeze freshens and resume their feeding on subsurface-drifting insects. Feeding will take place along the drift lanes downstream from vegetated areas where the nymphs had congregated initially. In such instances, the angler should resume dead drifting an unweighted nymph, emerger, or sink his dry fly and fish it wet. Take care to insure that the fly passes over the fish before the leader. If the slight breeze further stiffens, the harsh will, most likely, cease for the day.

**Smooth water areas of streams  
are best areas in which to locate trout  
rising for duns during a hatch.**

The Black Quill remains a dun for 20 - 48 hours before molting into a spinner. During the first week simultaneously on the water, and the duns are preferred by the trout over spinners. During this time frame, spinners will be present during the midday hours. As the hatch becomes established and continues into May, spinners will be observed during the late afternoon, and they will be taken in earnest by feeding fish.

Actual mating among spinners occurs over land and thus will not be observed by the angler. Spinners can first be sighted by anglers approximately 4 feet above the water's surface over riffle water. When fishing a spinner fall, an angler should position himself in the tail-end areas of riffle sections or areas of broken water. Spinner imitations generally do best when they are cast quartering downstream in a manner so that the fly passes over the fish before the leader. Depending upon the particular fishing situation, these imitations may be fished either dead or they may be twitched actively to imitate the ovipositing females. If the artificial will be fished actively, a hackle spinner imitation will be more successful in taking fish than a no-hackle artificial.

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## BLACK QUILL PATTERNS

The Patterns could all be placed in a box / the first three on one side and the balance on the other.

### **Nymph:**

Hook: 2XL nymph hook, #12-14

Thread: Maroon

Body: Dark chestnut brown seal fur or similar material.

Tails: Bronze mallard or woodduck flank fibers.

Wing Case: Dark turkey quill segment.

Legs: Bronze mallard or woodduck flank fibers.

### **Emerger:**

Tied exactly like the nymph but wing case is a loop of closed cell foam, darkened with a waterproof marker.

Hackle consists of a dark grizzly dun dry fly hackle turned parachute style around the base of the wing case.

### **Dun #1 [No hackle style]:**

Hook: Dry fly #12-14

Thread: Maroon

Tails: Bronze dun hackle fibers, tied divided.

Body: Tiers choice of either stripped peacock quill or dubbing blend of equal parts of fiery brown and black rabbit fur, dubbed sparsely.

Wing: Slate grey deer mask.

### **Dun #2 [parachute style]:**

Hook: Dry fly #12-14

Thread: Maroon

Tails: Dark dun hackle fibers, tied divided.

Body: Tiers choice of either stripped peacock quill or dubbing blend of equal parts fiery brown and black rabbit fur, dubbed sparsely.

Wings: Dark dun hen saddle feather, shaped with wing burners or dark slate duck wing quill segments.

Hackle: Bronze dun, parachute style around base of wings.

### **Spinner:**

Hook: Dry fly #12-14

Thread: Maroon

Tails: Dark bronze dun hackle fibers, tied divided.

Wings: White Herculon or polypropylene yarn, tied sparse in a spent position.

Body: Stripped furnace hackle quill or peacock quill (Note: The body these naturals is a medium reddish brown, and the males display distinctive abdominal rings. These are best imitated by using quill material).

Hackle: (optional): Cream, wrapped behind a dun front of wings. Bottom fibers clipped flat with body.

May 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Crossroads Board Mtg	2	3	4 	5
6 Trip to Cotuit 3am 	7	8	9	10	11	12 Sheila Hassan at the Bears Den  Trip to Waquoit
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 	21	22 CROSSROADS Meeting 	23	24	25	26
27 Trip to Narrow River 3pm	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

June 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worm Hatch Trip Ninigrit Pond 3pm	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Crossroads Anglers 2012 Officers

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Countdown to the  
April 24th Drawing!  
A Charter Trip with  
Captain Corey Pietraszek  
of Plug n Play

## Fly of the Month **BURROWING SAND EEL**

Hook: Size 1 Gamakatsu SC15.

Thread: Clear monofilament .006 (fine).

Wing: Olive Polar Fibre. Belly: White Polar Fibre.

Flash: Silver prismatic.

Head: White E-Z Body braid, size small.

Eyes: Size 1.5 silver-and-black prismatic stick-on.

Weight: Size 6/32 black-nickel dumbbells.

Epoxy: Devcon 5 minute.

Note: If you wish to cover the exposed hook shank, use a layer of white flat waxed thread between the hook eye and the lead dumbbell.

