

# FISHING FLIES DISPLAY BOX “FRAN BETTERS’

## OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

<b>Repository:</b>	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
<b>Creator:</b>	Paul Sinicki
<b>Title:</b>	Fishing Flies Display Box “Fran Betters”
<b>Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Quantity:</b>	1 item
<b>Identification:</b>	Folk Art

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Paul Sinicki is a fly fisherman, fly tyer and member of the Capital District Fly Fishers, founded in 1977 to work with community organizations to offer fly fishing and fly tying as a form of therapy. The club is affiliated with the International Federation of Fly Fishers and works to pass on the tradition of the long rod through casting clinics, public demonstrations, conservation programs and fly-tying classes. In 2004 Sinicki incorporated fly-fishing into recovery from burns, mentored by Rodney Priddle. Over the years, Sinicki has spent hundreds of hours tying thousands of fishing flies, especially enjoying teaching kids at the Saratoga 4-H Club and Double H Ranch. He is also an instructor at the Adirondack Folk School in Lake Luzerne, NY.

## INDEX TERMS

<b>Topics:</b>	Fishing Fly fishing Fishing flies “Dark Haystack” “Phillips Usual”.
<b>Places:</b>	Lake Luzerne, New York Wilmington, New York
<b>Important People:</b>	Sinicki, Paul Betters, Fran
<b>Form/Genre:</b>	realia

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:** Fishing Flies Display Box "Fran Betters"  
Folklife Center  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Purchased for the Folklife Center, 2013

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS**

Glass front display box with a hinged lid 15 inches x 12 inches x 2.5 inches featuring the biography of fishing fly designer Fran Betters (1931-2009) of Wilmington, NY and 2 of his original fish fly patterns, "Dark Haystack" and "Phillips Usual". "Fran Betters (1931-2009) was born in Wilmington New York where his mother died at birth and Fran was adopted by Victor and Margaret Betters. They lived on the West Branch of the Ausable River where his father was a guide. He started tying flies at an early age in the late 1930's; when his father taught him how to fly fish and started to learn to tie flies. He was mentored by many by many notables in the world of fly fishing as well. Owning the Adirondack Sport Shop in Wilmington NY where he tied his flies, guided and helped many people, he became synonymous with the West Branch of the Ausable River. You could enter the shop and see him tying at his bench. He tied a lot with woodchuck, deer hair, rabbit and calf tail because they were the most readily available to him but he also tied other patterns with other materials as well. As a writer he wrote and illustrated numerous books. To name a couple: Fran Betters AuSable River Guide and Fran Betters Fly Fishing, Fly Tying and Pattern Guide (1986). He also wrote articles for several newspapers and magazines. Along with books that Fran created he also created fly fishing videos. Flies created: best known for the Ausable Wulff (1964); other flies are the Ausable Bomber, Haystack Series, Mini Muddler, and the Phillips Usual (more commonly known as the Usual)." He was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in the Catskill in 2008.

### **Related collections:**

Fishing fly display box "Lew Oatman" – Paul Sinicki  
Fishing Flies and Fly Tying Kit – Marc Francato

### **Books:**

Fran Betters' Fly Fishing, Fly Tying and Pattern Guide. HOLDEN 799.1 Bet  
Adirondack Fish and Game Recipes. HOLDEN 641.69 Bet  
Adirondack Tall Tales and Short Stories. HOLDEN Bet