



TALE WATERS THE VOICE OF THE NORTH ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS

June 9, 2020

NORTH ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS

Tale Waters

North Arkansas Fly Fishers meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Van Matre Senior Center located at 1101 Spring St Mountain Home, AR 72653. Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm. All members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NAFF Board of Directors' meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm 1st Security Bank on 9th St. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visit North Arkansas Fly Fishers
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Staff: Mike Tipton & Rita Billbe

Contact:

sowbug@northarkansasflyfisher.org

AGFC Report Tiger Trout and Drag Chains



Hello Everyone! I hope everyone is doing well and finding time to enjoy outdoor activities, while still “social distancing”. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) continues to be operating in “remote mode”, meaning offices throughout the state are still closed to the public and most of us are still working from home. Despite that, we have continued to provide anglers with multiple opportunities and have stocked according to plan. Within the last few weeks, we have also stocked additional Rainbow Trout in the White, Little Red, and Spring Rivers that were purchased with FEMA money allocated to AGFC after the 2017 flood of the Spring River Hatchery. Those stockings included the ever popular, Golden Rainbow Trout. We are also happy to announce that this week, for the first time ever, we will be conducting an experimental stocking

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Bass Flies



Bass (largemouth and small-mouth) are the most sought after gamefish species in North America. While conventional fisherpersons clearly make up the majority of the anglers pursuing them, the number of fly fisherpersons seems to be growing, as many have discovered how exciting it is to catch these hard fighting and for the most part readily available fish on fly gear! An added bonus to their strength and numbers is the large variety of flies that can be used to catch them. I'm not saying that they are necessarily easy to catch, but a bass's diet can be fairly broad. Fish, frogs, crayfish, insects and even small birds are on the menu. If you've ever walked thru the fishing department in a large outdoor store, you'll see the sheer number and variety of lures designed and used to catch bass

(yes and fisherman too!). Similarly, but certainly not on such a grand scale, fly fisherman have a variety of flies to choose from as well. Timeless Patterns designed by legends like Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser and Dave Whitlock (and many others) have caught countless numbers of different bass species over the years and continue to do so today. In addition, there seems to be a whole new generation of angler/tyers that are coming up with their own designs using both traditional and newer to the world of tying, synthetics, in their own productive designs.

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Weather Cancellation Policy

NAFF Activities or Meeting will be cancelled or postponed when the Mountain Home Public Schools Cancel Classes.

Check KTLO radio website for school closing info.



Bull Shoals Dam Flood Gates

June President's Message

Hope you are dry as we have had a heck of a wet year so far. The lakes are full with high flows expected from the dams that will probably make wade fishing on the White and Norfork difficult most of the summer. If the rain will stay away, other areas will become easier to wade, like Crooked Creek and the Spring River. If you do decide to wade, stay safe and please do not wade beyond your ability. Way too easy to get too deep. Also be sure to use a wading staff.

The shops are starting to see an increase in business; so hopefully as the area opens, we can stay healthy with more visitors. It is great to see more boats on the rivers with guides finally getting some clients back. If you go out on a boat during these high flows, be careful and please wear a PFD. It does us little good if it sits in a locker when you have problems and end up overboard. Also, take care as debris with the high flows is fairly heavy.

With the lakes at high water, several boat ramps are closed, or if open, minimal parking for trailers and cars. The shoreline is now high enough that a lot of trees/shrubs are submerged under 30 plus feet of water. The fish will not be where you would normally find them. I went out on Lake Fork a few days ago and at the edge of the tree line, it was more than twenty feet to the bottom with little indication of fish on the finder. What fish there were are deep! Tough to fly fish, even with full sinking line. Takes some techniques most of us trout fisherman are not used to. As with the rivers, there is a lot of debris and one of the worst is floating submerged lumber. I hit one that was about 1 foot below the surface and it almost threw me out of my boat. As we get back into fishing the local waters, we need to think safety, so please take care and be safe as you head out onto the water.

David M Boyer

President, NAFF

Fly of the Month Clouser Minnow



Recipe

Hook - Mustad Big Game size 6

Eyes - Wapsi Pocket-Eyes Small Nickel with 5/32 Mirage Hologram Dome Eyes

Body - White and Shad Gray Bucktail Silver Flashabou Accent or Krystal Flash

Thread - UTC 140 White

Glue - GULFF "Grand Daddy" UV Resin

I once read an article where the author said that if he had one fly to choose for saltwater it would be an olive and white Clouser Minnow. Personally I would agree, except my choice would be gray and white and would also be my first choice for freshwater as well. This versatile pattern can be tied in several color combinations in order to imitate several different species of fish. According to Bob Clouser, his first Clouser Deep Minnow prototypes began in the late 70s when he first crimped Water Gremlin split shot to the hook shank of his deer-tail streamers. Then in 1985, Tom Schmuecker (Wapsi) sent Bob an assortment of lead barbell shaped eyes which added to some popular bass pat-

terns like the Woolly Bugger, Zonkers and marabou leeches. Then in 1987 these lead eyes were added to Bob's favorite deer-tail flies and the old pattern took on a new look. According to Bob, "the most important component of the new fly was now in place. The eyes provided the weight that made the fly dip and dart in the currents like a natural baitfish escaping a Predator."

Lefty Kreh once told Bob that, "he had caught 86 different species on the Clouser Deep Minnow." He also wrote about Bob's fly in an issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine in 1989. That article helped spread the word about this now widely used and extremely effective fly pattern.

Michael Schraeder.

Fly tied by Michael Schraeder Jr.



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DAWN SCHRAEDER WITH A CLOUSER CAUGHT BASS

Book Review

From Northern California to the Ozarks of Missouri How Rainbow Trout Came to the Show-Me State

Most of us have caught rainbow trout somewhere in Missouri, wild rainbows in the North Fork of the White or Crane Creek or stocked rainbows at Montauk Trout Park or Bennet Springs. There are a multitude of places to catch rainbow trout in the Ozarks of Missouri. But, have you thought about how trout from the western US ended up in the Midwest? I think that many of us have heard stories of young trout being stocked into rivers from milk cans carried by rail. But that is just a small part of the bigger, almost an epic, story.

From Northern California to the Ozarks of Missouri How Rainbow Trout Came to the Show-Me State by Rik W. Hafer tells the whole story. It is an interesting, well researched, story told in a very readable manner. It starts after the Civil War with the waters of the East Coast showing the detrimental effects of the industrialization and overfishing. The Transcontinental Railway has been completed. Some far seeing individuals came up with the idea (scheme?) to solve the fishing problems of the east by introducing trout and salmon (yes, salmon) into the rivers of the East and the Midwest. Along the way the first trout hatchery in California was built (on Indian land) and the first specially designed rail cars to carry fish and fish eggs were built (the first was lost due to a downed bridge before it ever got

to California).

In the early days, the railways carried the milk cans of trout and trout eggs for free or at a very reduced rate. The fishing commission employees rode with the trout for free or at reduced rate also, "sleeping" in whatever available corner they could find. Soon specially designed fish cars were designed and built which included tanks for the fish, storage for large quantities of ice, and bunks for the employees. But, as it still is today, managing the stocking of trout was a very physical and hands-on job.

The salmon scheme never worked out and was discontinued after 10 years. The introduction of Rainbow Trout was very successful. Many federal and state hatcheries were established. Dissemination of trout was accelerated by the policy of most federal and state fish hatcheries to send trout to almost any who asked for them, as long the requestor was near a rail line. Missouri was a little late in getting into the game but at the behest of the local politicians and citizens groups a state fish hatchery was built in St. Joseph and soon thereafter a federal hatchery was built in Neosho. The Frisco Line (The St. Louis and San Francisco Railway) became the railway by which trout were disseminated throughout the Ozarks.

Personally, I was most interested in the background story of how rainbow trout came to Missouri. I quite enjoyed the book. The book supplements An Entirely Synthetic

Fish, but with a much more positive spin. I think that anyone who is interested in the history of our sport will enjoy the book. From Northern California to the Ozarks of Missouri How Rainbow Trout Came to the Show-Me State can be purchased from Amazon.

Mike Tipton

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Drag Chain Next Generation

Many of us who fish the White River from a river boat use a drag chain. In its simplest form, a drag chain is a 3-4' steel chain attached to the bow ring of a boat with a long rope. The chain is tossed over the bow at the beginning of a drift, and is pulled along the bottom by the drifting boat. Its purpose is to keep the boat drifting straight and in-line with the river so that fly fishermen can cast to likely looking spots on either side of the boat without interference from the boat itself. Without a drag chain, the bow tends to swing right or left until the boat begins to helicopter down the river in the current, effectively ending the drift from a fishing standpoint.

There are a few disadvantages to the drag chain described above. First, it is noisy. The bare chain clinks and scrapes along the bottom and could move fish away from the reach of casting fly fishermen. A second disadvantage has to do with safety. The links of the chain can hang up in rocks and roots as it moves along the river bottom. I have a friend who uses a basic drag chain from an aluminum jon boat. One day, he hung up his drag chain on the bottom. The boat jerked to a sudden halt, and all the fishermen were thrown to the deck in a tangle of arms, legs, and fishing rods. In this case, no one was hurt but a more seri-



PAUL SCHOEFFLER

ous outcome would have occurred if someone had been thrown overboard. Another very dangerous situation can arise if the boat is on the small side with a shallow draft. A stuck drag chain can jerk the bow of such a boat under water. The incoming rush of the river water can quickly fill up the boat and sink it to the bottom of the river along with all the equipment. Occupants are left adrift to swim for the bank.

My first experience fishing the river from a boat was with White River guide Danny Barker. Those of you who know Danny appreciate his innovative spirit for both fishing and boating. I was impressed with what he had done to improve his drag chain system. First of all, he had encapsulated his drag chain. For materials, he pur-

chased a large diameter bicycle inner tube, and a length of blue 3" flexible discharge hose. He encased the chain in rubber from the bicycle tube, then slid the chain into the discharge hose, folding the larger discharge tube over upon itself. He then wrapped the entire length with duct tape, leaving the end of the blue hose open so that the chain could drain when pulled out of the water. He tied 10' of 3/8" braided rope from the boat side of the chain to a bright yellow 7" diameter boat fender with eyelets on each end. To the other end of the boat fender, he attached a 3' section of 3/8" braided rope. His connections to the boat fender used a fisherman's loop knot to provide maximum freedom of movement. The other end of the 3' section of rope attaches to the boat bow eye.



SHRINK WRAP TUBING

Now here is a key safety provision. Danny created another loop knot on the 3' rope and used a 175 lb. breaking strength zip tie to connect the front side of the rope to the bow eye. This zip tie is an effective break-away system. Even though the encapsulated chain is not likely to hang up on the river bottom, it still does so occasionally. When this happens, the zip tie snaps and the boat is free of the drag chain assembly. Danny's clients avoid piling up on the floor of the boat which is a good thing for customer relations. He has never lost a drag chain either. The boat fender is easily visible either floating on the surface or just beneath it. Danny motors over to it and uses a modified gaff hook to snare the boat fender and free the drag chain. Add a new zip tie, and he is ready to resume fishing.

The encapsulated chain has three distinct advantages. First the plastic of the surrounding discharge hose and duct tape deadens the sound of the chain as it moves along the river bottom. We have determined that fish do move away from it, but are not alarmed, are still in casting range, and will readily take our flies. Secondly, the encapsulated drag chain is very

environmentally friendly. With the chain being encapsulated, there is no damage done to the river bottom or substrates. Anglers wading with studded wading boots will likely do more damage than an encapsulated drag chain. Third, the encapsulated drag chain is user friendly. Just toss it overboard at the beginning of your fishing excursion and forget it. When traveling up river, the system lays flat against the underside of the boat and does not scratch it because everything is much softer than the gel coat of the boat. After positioning the boat for the beginning of the drift, we put the engine in reverse briefly to pull the chain assembly from underneath the boat. The system does require some maintenance. The river bottom will slowly erode the duct tape and even the blue discharge hose. We simply have to take time to replace it periodically. We do have to remember to pull the drag chain assembly back into the boat before loading out onto the trailer. It's kind of like remembering to insert the plug into the boat before launching.

And now for the next generation improvement. Paul Schoeffler is a new NAFF member and the third member of our fishing fellowship. Paul is a consummate handyman and can repair or improve almost anything. Paul's latest contribution is with shrink wrap. Now we all are familiar with shrink wrap, using it to insulate spliced wires for new trailer lights or other electrical repairs. But did you know that shrink wrap is available in 2" diameter sizes? Paul knew this and saw the opportunity to improve our drag chains. Our drag chains fit easily into the shrink wrap. In fact, I retained my old bicycle tube, blue discharge hose and duct tape, and slid the whole thing into the shrink wrap. Paul applied his heat gun and before I knew it, my drag chain was encased in a tough and slick feeling shrink wrap. We could easily have added a second shrink wrap layer, but we decided to keep the single layer for the initial trial. We have now modified chains on both my boat and Danny's. Early returns show this



FINISHED DRAG CHAIN

new version slithers along the bottom smoothly, keeps the boat positioned correctly, and is very wear resistant. We hope that many of you will also benefit from this latest improvement in drag chain technology.

Currently, drag chains are not allowed to be used on the Norfolk Tailwaters. This ruling came about many years ago and is a rule that needs to be changed, especially for people who are willing to encapsulate their drag chains. The benefits of using a drag chain far outweigh the negatives of not being able to use one. Drag chains make life much easier when fishing from a river boat.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has proposed to remove the drag chain restriction on the Norfolk Tailwater. AGFC is currently soliciting input on that regulation (and others) through a public comment survey. The public survey will be available until July 10th and can be accessed by clicking the following link. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSev06o44AxIDHL29YdnWEaKLWEuGl-pgA-DcWVszyUZUSnwBg/viewform?usp=sf_link We hope NAFF members will participate and let their voices be heard.

A summary of the Next Generation Drag Chain rigging starting at

the terminal end follows: (3 feet) 5/16-inch galvanized steel chain >>> (10 feet) 3/8" braided rope. Shrink wrap on the chain and part of the rope. >>> 19 - 22" boat fender with eyelets each end>>> (3 feet) 3/8" braided rope prepared with fisherman's loop >>> 175 lb. zip tie >>> boat bow eye.

Dave Schisler

Paul Schoeffler

Danny Barker



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Rivers Edge Marketing
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troutboy8747@yahoo.com

Membership Report

A special thank you to Beth Holloway for your inclusion of a club donation with your membership renewal.

We have 100 memberships that are still overdue from Jan-May, with both email and hard copy renewals sent. June/July reminders will be sent later this month. The electronic payment system on the club web site is no longer functional, so If members have their own PayPal accounts, they may process renewals electronically by sending their payment to the following PayPal account: nafftreasurer@gmail.com

Please do not send payments to naffmembership@gmail.com. This PayPal account is not linked to the club's finances and will be returned to the member after 30 days.

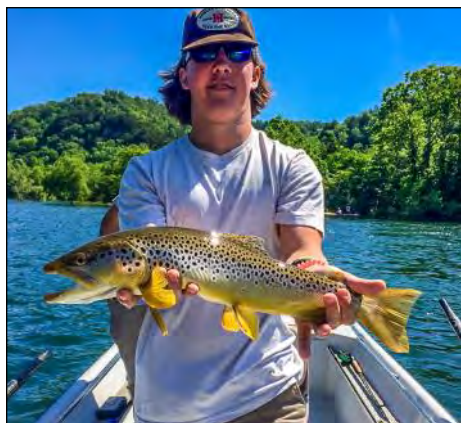
Please join me in welcoming our latest member:

Russ Hannah of Jonesboro, AR

Paul Ashton—NAFF Membership



River Fishing Report



Looks like we beat last year's record for rain which was the second rainiest year on record. With that being said, our two lakes are at the top of the flood pool with flood gates currently open on the White at Bull Shoals. The C.F.S. has roughly been about 9 units of water. Two of the generators are also down which means some pretty warm water is mixed in with the colder water. That of course makes catching on the spillway side of the dam a little tougher. The water seems to start mixing up in the state park. After that, catching on the right side of the river (looking down) gets much easier.

I've been fishing with two 3/0 split shot using Cortland's Top Secret 4X tippet with an egg and various colors of SJ Worms on roughly 10-11 foot leaders from indicator to first fly. The extra unit of water is covering some areas of the river that normally do not see any water, but it does force up cane worms from the ground which of course trout love to eat. I'm looking for shallow areas of

the river which includes some areas in the middle of the river. Islands or even submerged islands are a great spot to look for. The catching can get tough if the water bumps up a bit which causes the river to get mossy so I make a run downstream to get in front of it. Then I make a run back upstream when the water stabilizes. We are catching some good fish (both bows and brown trout) but not like in years past when the flood gate water was at 10 or 12 units of water and covered even more ground. Unfortunately, that kind of water starts to get really close to homes and buildings. The C.O.E. has done a great job this go around of containing property damage.

Be careful on the river in these flows as your drifts are moving fast. Be aware of what is below you. There are also lots of trees that have fallen into the river as well. Trees can get one into trouble in a hurry.

Jimmy T.

Wishes & Fishes Fly Shop
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The Guides Speak Update

Work is continuing apace on Fly Fishing the White and Norfolk Rivers - The Guides Speak. Keith is collecting photos of the guides, Dave has contacted AGFC for maps of the rivers, Mike is photographing flies. The book will include pictures and recipes for the favorite fly of each guide. It will also include pictures and recipes of the flies most recommended by the guides. This book will be a great addition to the library of anyone who fly fishes the White River tailwaters.

The book will be ready to sell to the public at the 2021 Sowbug Roundup. You can preorder a copy or copies now from Mike Tipton for \$20.00 each. The book is a fund raiser to support youth fishing in Baxter and Marion Counties. A donation towards defraying the cost of the book will be very welcome. Keith has pledged \$500, NAFF is supporting to the tune of \$500, and we have already gotten a donation and preorder check from Steve Antonic. Don't miss your opportunity to get in early!



Musings of a Fly Fishing Guide

“Teaching Kids How To Catch Fish”

For parents, family members, or even just individuals that want to invest in younger generations, teaching a child to fish can be one of the most rewarding experiences you could ever participate in. Seeing the smile on their face when you snap a picture of them holding up their first fish is a moment in time that will be treasured and remembered by all for many years to come. Teaching kids about the outdoors and the environment we live in is a very exciting thing for all of us. When I was a young child, I remember spending many hours going on hiking, fishing and hunting trips with my family in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia and Virginia. Eventually we moved to the east coast of Virginia, where I was introduced to the salt marshes and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Our lives centered around the outdoors. Outside of my parents' forty-hour work week, fishing was a number one priority for my family. We now live in a world of electronics where many kids have no idea what the outside world is like. I think I lived in the best of times during the '50s and '60s, grow-



ing up without the enticement of all those electronic gadgets. All is not lost, though, because we can still introduce young people to the world of fishing and experience many outdoor activities in the natural world. As a society, we must strive to do that. We owe that much to our grandkids and all other kids growing up in a world of technology. We can make a difference in their young lives.

At what age do you start teaching a kid to fish? According to the so-called child experts, you should start them around the age of three. Personally, I think a good age to start a kid fishing is around four to five years old; however, a lot depends on the maturity level of the child. Some children mature a little faster than others. Some kids will show some interest while others don't. Most people teaching a child to fish will usu-

ally start them off using some type of bait with a bobber, fishing for bluegills or some other type of game fish. That has been the traditional way of teaching kids for many years and still is as far as I know. I have a different philosophy or viewpoint in teaching kids on how to fish that is much different than the traditional way of using “bobber and bait”. I believe in starting kids off using artificial lures and artificial flies right off the bat. Don't laugh, because I am serious about teaching kids to use lures and flies at the beginning of their young fishing careers!

Growing up under the guidance of my parents in the early '50s, it was a mandatory requirement that you learn to use artificial lures to catch your fish. If you didn't, you were not allowed to fish, so I learned to use artificial lures, which was better than sit-

ting on a creek bank watching my brothers fish with mom and dad. In fact, I learned real quick under their leadership! No nonsense parents, I call them! No bobber fishing with bait in my family, only artificial lures to catch our fish.

As most of you know, children, and even teenagers, have a very short attention span. They like to go from one activity to another in short order. That is normal behavior for most kids. If you start them bobber fishing with bait and they aren't catching fish, they become disengaged very quickly—and I mean quickly! Sometimes when they are catching fish, they will become disengaged and want to go on to something else. They will lie down, throw down their rod, and start throwing rocks in the water, or make mud pies along the bank, or pick up sticks to play with. They may even chase a few ducks around the lake. If you want to keep a child entertained while fishing, teach them how to cast and work a lure back to them. When your hands are busy and your mind is thinking about working that artificial lure back to you, fishing becomes exciting and they will stay involved and engaged in that activity for a much longer period of time than fishing with bobber and bait. Fishing and catching fish

with artificial lures or flies will keep kids focused for a much longer period of time before they are ready to go on to something else.

Many adults underestimate the learning capabilities of young kids. One of the best places to teach a kid to fish is Dry Run Creek down by the Norfolk trout hatchery. Start them off using flies on a fly rod or Tenkara rod. If you know someone who has access to a small lake or pond, catching bluegills on flies or small lures is a lot of fun. My guide trips involving kids have proven to me that they are smart and very capable of learning at a very quick rate. I have taken seven and eight-year-old kids on their first fishing trip and taught them how to hold, cast and put action or movement in an artificial lure or fly, and many catch fish within thirty minutes to an hour. Unbelievable what a seven year old can do in just thirty minutes of time! The best part of it all is that they are engaged in the activity and having fun. I do suggest to parents and grandparents to keep the fishing trip to just a half-day. With a few snack breaks and something to drink most kids and teenagers do very well on half-day fishing trips. Kids thoroughly enjoy casting and working a lure back to them and that keeps body

and mind engaged in fishing for a longer period of time. Kids making something happen with a rod and reel is much better than waiting on something to happen with a rod and reel. Give it a try the next time you are fishing! Parents, you will be pleasantly surprised by what kids are capable of doing—and it ain't with "bobber and bait!"

Danny Barker

Fly Fishing Guide

Buffalo City Guide Service
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Danny Barker • 870-424-4110
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barker002@centurytel.net

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 Carolyn Gill / Jane Hatchet
870-435-3000
 107 Harding Blvd.
 Cotter, AR 72626
 Trout Capital USA
cottertroutlodge@gmail.com

Tenkara USA

Daniel Galhardo
 FOUNDER & CEO

BEST	info@tenkarausa.com
DIRECT	daniel@tenkarausa.com
PHONE	888-483-6527

tenkarausa.com

Davy Wotton The DW Dun

Sad to say we just do not see longer periods of minimum flow these days. It seems that every year rainfalls increase that largely preclude longer periods of good wading water. Some of you will remember the days before minimum flow when for weeks we saw no generation above 50cfs of escaped water at the dam. Those days we saw spectacular midge fishing at the dam. Further downstream dry fly and midge fishing were often the order of the day. I know there are some who dislike minimum, but seriously it was the best thing that has happened for the benefit for our rivers. I remember times when water temps rose so high that fish died. We have now better emergences of caddis and that was not the case when we had no minimum. We also see increases in some of the mayfly species and crane flies. What I do find strange is it appears the large numbers of sow bugs and scuds, which were at one time very evident, seem not to be these days. There was a time at Bull shoals dam when you could fish all day with a sowbug or scud, but not so now. That said imitations will still catch fish.

Dry flies.



So how do we categorize a dry fly? As far as I'm concerned, it is a fly that is visible to you. It can be a fly in stages of transition from the pupa or nymph. Both male and female will die on the water. Same also applies for caddis and chironomids albeit there is, in this case, no dun.

Either way, it amounts to the fact that flies seen by fish in the meniscus are a food source.

Back in my homelands, the UK, there was at one time and still is for some of the beats on the English chalk streams. the rule that you could only present a dry fly upstream to a seen rising fish. That is known as a purist attitude,

However, there is some sense to this rule which was related to the fact that back then wet flies were often used. That blindly fishing the water would put fish down and make them more wary and

there is truth to that argument. That said, I know fly fishers personally that will fish only a dry fly. Numbers are of no concern; that's what they choose to do and it's fine with me. There is no reason to call them as having a purist attitude. That is wrong. You don't call nymph fisherman a purist or a guy stripping a woolly bugger, right? Frankly, I admire those who wish only to pursue trout by that means.

Dry fly patterns have evolved in many ways, but in most cases, they sport a hackle in order for them to float. Today, with use of modern materials, or by the construction of the material used, we can produce flies that need no hackle to float. They represent emergers, duns, and spinners. And or larger terrestrial species such as hoppers, cicada, and flies of that nature.

My article this month is related to the tying of my DW dun pattern. It is a fly that goes back to the 80s for me. A fly that is, if you like, a good general purpose fly when fish are seen feeding on small species such as chironomids (midge) baetis such as BWO, and or any other insects water born or terrestrial that the fish have interest to take. That said, even if you see no fish surface feeding and you know of the location of fish, such as riffle water or slow back eddy seams, often as not a dry fly cast into those zones will promote interest.

There has always been historically the view that 3 things matter in a dry fly which are size, shape and color, and I would agree most of the time. That said, I also know that fish found in rivers where they see daily hatches of flies can be difficult to catch, (if you have fished the Henrys Fork you will know what I mean) chuck and chance is not going to work. You have to use flies that are generally close to what the fish see, and you have to present them in a natural manner. Granted you can get away with a skating caddis for at this time fish will chase the naturals and your fly. Not so when small species are what the fish are feeding on as often as not they are stationed in feeding zones where those small items are being con-

centrated by movement of water. Often as not also fish feeding on small bugs will be found in flatter slower water seams. That being so they have a greater view of what's going on. And your approach has to be that much better: right fly is one requirement; controlled drag free drifts is another; and that is the main reason why many fail at such times.

The DW dun came about due to the fact that I used to fish a river where there were daily hatches of small baetis and midges which were the daily diet of those wild browns. Flies that averaged size 16 and smaller.

Of course, I caught fish, but I was also of the mind that I could produce a fly that needed only a change of hook size and color of materials used to represent those species. This river was slow moving but had some faster zones that would concentrate the emerging bugs.

Also, it needed to be a simple fly to tie. No fancy work needed, just tail, body and wings and at times a small hackle, which I generally only use for the larger hook sizes, 16s and sometimes 18s.

Tying the DW Dun.

Dry fly patterns and certainly those fished in the surface do

need a little more attention to detail than say a beadhead soft hackle or a Woolly Bugger. Why? Because you are normally fishing them dead drift and the trout has more time to see what it's looking at before it makes a commitment to take.

That being so, more attention to detail is required so far as the proportionate values of construction of that fly based largely on the hook profile you are using and more so when small flies are being tied. You need a good looking profile of what a fly looks like and not a blob, so to speak.

Do not use nylon yarn for the wing as it is not hydrophobic as Poly yarn is.

This pattern is a formula I use for many of my smaller dry flies. And one you can vary by choice of color used for the body and wing.

Materials.

Tail Coq de Leon. There is no finer feather than this for tails. If you do not have it, then the next best alternative is micro fibbets. Dally's fly shop has CDL.

Body Wapsi. Super fine. Color chosen to suit your choice of pattern.

Rib Strand of tying thread. Color of choice or ultra-fine wire

Spring River Report

Spring River fishing report

Plenty of heavy rain over the last few months has kept water levels up. Water levels at the spring have been 560 cfs, 350 avg, and clarity has been poor.

In between the rains the river clears up at times and the trout have been hitting strong. Y2ks and woolly buggers with a little extra weight to get down have been producing well. A dry spell could be very helpful.

Public areas have been busy. All of the campgrounds are open and can offer easier wading access. Jim Hinkle fish hatchery has continued weekly stocking with some really nice sized rainbows. Saturdays have become busy with canoe hatches. Thru the week is the best time to fish the Spring during summer-time.

Tight lines and good luck,

Mark Crawford

springriverfliesandguides.com



Wing Wapsi Poly floating yarn.
Color to suit your choice of fly

Thorax Super fine or hare's ear, a darker shade than the body color.

Hackle If used, color to suit species.

Thread Any neutral color.

We will tie a BWO as example.

Start thread behind the hook eye to about midway the hook shank, leave a long tag of thread as this will serve as your ribbing.

You will need about 4 or 6 fibers of the CDL hackle fiber, if using micro fibbets 4. The tail fibers need to be at least close to twice the hook shank length. Continue with thread to the hook bend and maintain tail fiber above the hook shank, while maintaining the thread tag.

At this point raise the tail fibers and take a thread wrap under the tail and back over 2 turns the hook shank.

Dub now the fly body, about 3/5th the shank length. Now, using the thread tag, rib the fly body.

Time to set the wings. You may have to reduce the bulk of the yarn to suit the wing size needed. Cut a length of 1 inch. Set

this crossways on top of the hook shank with a figure 8 wrap of thread. Now hold the wing up and wrap two turns around the base of the wing with your thread to the right side of the wing base.

Hackle, if you are going to use one, will be tied in at this position. Hackle size, when wound, should not exceed the gape of the hook. This fly should sit at a low profile to the water surface. If you use a hackle too long in fiber, it will cause the fly to sit high.

Form now the dubbed thorax making sure you also bring the dubbing figure 8 between the wing which will maintain its position outward.

Now take one turn of hackle left side of the wing and one turn in front. Secure the hackle and cut off excess. Finish the fly head.

Davy Wotton



of Tiger Trout in the Bull Shoals Catch-and-Release area below Bull Shoals Dam. Tiger Trout are a hybrid cross between a Brown Trout and Brook Trout. We are really excited to be able to provide this opportunity to anglers and we will evaluate the stocking to see if it is something we want to pursue in future years. For access to our recent article about the Tiger Trout stocking, please visit: <https://www.agfc.com/en/news/2020/05/27/agfc-to-try-tiger-trout-hybrid-in-bull-shoals-tailwater/>.

Our agency is also in the process of requesting public input and comments on proposed Fisheries Regulation changes. The public input survey will be available until July 10th and can be accessed at the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSev06o44AxIDHL29YdnWEaKLWEuG1-pgA-DcWVszyUZUSnwBg/viewform?usp=sf_link. All regulation changes, if approved, would go into effect January 1, 2021. The input form includes the opportunity to comment on each of the 48 Fisheries Management proposed changes and the 24 proposed changes to Commercial Fishing regulations. While we welcome input on any or all of the proposed changes for the state, there are some that apply specifically to trout fisheries because they fall within the "General Fishing Regulation Changes" or because they are "Trout and Tailwater Specific Regulations". Stakeholder involvement is one of

the most important aspects of fisheries management, so I'd appreciate it if each of you took the time to check out the survey and provide your input.

Until next time, Happy Fishing!

Christy Graham

Christy.Graham@agfc.ar.gov




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


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Fly Tying Tip Alternate Tools Continued

Another issue I ran into is when grabbing hooks stored in a magnetic case or in a pack that has a magnetic pad it is easier to grab a hook with a tweezer rather than your fingers, especially if you have a small space and large fingers. BUT, if you use a standard tweezer, they can become magnetized and you may get more than a single hook (photo #1, bottom). There is an alternate style tweezer that has non-metallic ends. This way you can pick up a single hook at a time (photo #1, top). Makes grabbing as single hook a whole lot easier.

Another cool item is a pair of lead shears. These are small wire cutters but have a retention system (photo #2) while the jaws are closed. When you cut small clumps of hair, or other items that may be difficult to hold onto, the shears will hold them until you can grab them with your fingers. Works great not only on standard long hair, but best on short hair like moose hock or similar. (Photo #3)

As for last month, items can be found at electric supply stores like Orvac (California) or Altex (Texas) or through the internet. Search for >Authentic InnoVaper Precision Ceramic Tweezers= or >Lead Shears=

Dave Boyer



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3

Last year, while preparing to fish in the World Championship Bass on the Fly Tournament held each year on Lake Fork in Texas, Jr. and I watched several Lake Fork fishing videos prior to sitting down at the vise to tie what would hopefully be our “tournament winning flies”! Now, having lived in Texas, I was well aware of Lake Fork’s reputation for giving up some seriously BIG bass. Since 1986 Fork has provided 261 8lb and larger bass to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Sharelunker program! So, the ol’ standard sz 6 clouser just wasn’t going to cut it! No sir!, it was going to be BIG baitfish patterns, RIO Big Nasty fly lines and frogs tied with enough foam to keep a house cat afloat!

When we pulled up to Lake Fork Marina we were feeling fairly confident and maybe a little concerned. When we drove in, we really weren’t expecting to see standing timber in the middle of the lake! This is typically where you can safely drive your boat! No problem, we soon found out that all we needed to do was purchase a \$50.00 SD card for our graph! This would show the “boat lanes” on the lake. Yes, these are the “lanes” that you “really

want to stay in, because if you don’t, you get to come home early!” After being informed that we could add the SD card to our tab “handy”, we decided to check out the very large “this is what works on Lake Fork” lure selection. Now I’ve seen big swim baits before, but apparently I’ve just not been around enough 13 lb bass to realize just what they are capable of fitting in their mouth! Oh, and Lake Fork bass have apparently over time developed a fairly sophisticated diet that includes bats! Yes, a life-size, treble hook equipped “bat lure” hanging right there on the peg board! And I’m not talking your run of the mill free-tailed variety from down in Austin. No, the only thing missing from this thing was an imitation mango attached to its foot! Needless to say Jr. and I were starting to feel a little “under gunned”! However, as it turned out, we had a great time, met lots of other “bass on the fly” fisherpersons and found out that you really didn’t have to use a bat fly or a 14” streamer to catch bass on Fork, which is a good thing because I don’t think Renzetti makes a fruit bat extension!

Michael Schraeder

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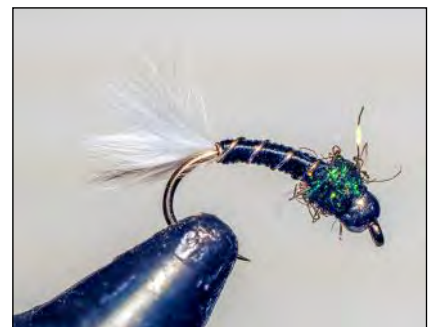


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Events of Interest to NAFF Members

No events scheduled until further notice!