**FFF ClubWire**

Welcome to the September / October 2011 issue of the ClubWire e-mail news service for clubs.

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Keep watching for more information on our 47th event in Spokane: [http://www.federationconclave.org/](http://www.federationconclave.org/)

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To connect and learn about wild steelhead and salmon visit the website of our steelhead committee. [http://www.ospreysteelhead.org/](http://www.ospreysteelhead.org/)

**Splitting Hairs**
By Clay Gill – Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

Everyone likes to tie flies once past beginner’s fear of tying. The first Clouser or Seaducer looks so good in the vise. And after tying a box of them you feel pretty good. Then someone asks you if you would like to tie a tough one. Spinning hair is really fun but scary to the beginner. Many hold off until they get more experience. It is not so bad at all.

The first time you try it often is a clumsy mess. The apprentice breaks most any thread pulling with too much pressure. But--once you get the hang of it and the body hair you use to spin around the hook flares out and around the hook you progress quickly. As the buildups create a fuzz ball a waiting trimming it begins to gel. This mess on a hook will be a
marvelous fly capable of turning the average fish into an active feeding predator with the bug’s appearance and action. I have seen multiple fish race to crush hair bugs launching skyward.

There is just something about the hair bug as the fly is generally called. Beginners usually make them too large and even for offshore fish they need not be so large. A good size for Bass is just an inch and a half. The tail, body material and the shape of the head give the most common types of hair bugs an action that is hard to beat. With a grabber style hook that drops down well below the belly of the fly it is amazing the violent response you get using them. I have always liked black and yellow blends on the color.

It is an art to pick the right deer hair for the body construction. The tail is usually hackle. Eyes are best made with the craft store rattle eyes with moving black pupil that emit vibration to trigger a strike you don’t get with flat one dimensional eyes. You simply cut out a pocket for the 1/8 or ¼ inch rattle eye and glue it on with Goop. Predators strike the head.

The color variations come from various Deer hair colors and the rotating application applied all the way around the hook. That makes color bands. You can make spots, as in a frog pattern by just tying a clump on and pulling tight and not spinning. It sounds hard but with a patient instructor and some practice you can create something amazingly effective and deadly for fish which feed on the top. Hackle can emulate legs and also be tied like a tail.

Once you get good, you can also make hair bugs that will dive down on a strip, and return to the top on slack line. This emulates the Bass’ favorite, a swimming Frog. The Dave Whitlock Near Nuf Frog will do this and is a superb example of a super deadly fly constructed by spinning hair. I have one Dave gave me many years ago in San Marcos after he tied it for us in a class and fished it in Aquarena Springs on a casting demo. It is bullet proof and looks real!

What I remember most from his class was not to pull too hard on the spinning process. Relax and let the process work. What he stressed was using a good cement after each application of hair to make a rock solid bug and always be cognizant of proportion and symmetry. Once you get the hang of it the bugs will look the same one after another.

Many people really like to fish hair bugs but fear the effort to make them. It is not hard. Sweat shops overseas have tiers making gobs of them and they all look the same. Those people make them quickly and they are good at the job. They do it all day long. To make good bugs over and over you need to make a few messes. But guess what. Even a bad hair bug catches fish. Even the tiny ones drive Perch crazy. There is just something about them. You will see it time and time again. A hair bug has a life of it’s own and it gets noticed quickly!

One thing to remember is the leaders need to be shortened -- any time you tie on a big heavy bug. A typical nine foot leader will give you a fit. Trim it back until it flies well and turns over like it should. You will figure it out quickly. The hair bug even works sitting still on water!

Get a good instructor to get you started on the fundamentals of the hair bug construction. You will not be sorry and will leave class with some useful ammo after the first spinning class. As you progress you will learn to apply color patterns and spots. Then you can make them weed less, and even color your own Deer hair later if inclined. Body hair is cheap and comes in brilliant colors and varieties. Don’t invest until you take a class so you will understand the types of hair and how the hollow hair reacts to the thread pressure in the spin process. All the tools used for typical tying work well. It is just another way to tie flies.

What you will see for sure is action like nothing else. The hair bug drives fish crazy. It is just another top water bait. But it possesses special magic. Fish cannot leave them alone. Build some and ease one through some good cover. It won’t last long! -Fish hammer hair bugs.

**Finding Fish – Part 1**

By Walt Alexander – Taken from the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers Newsletter

I believe in the adage that 90 percent of the fish are FOUND in 10 percent of the water. So if we can eliminate that 90 percent of barren water we can greatly improve our odds of catching fish.
Let us consider a scenario where we are visiting a lake for the first time. We arrive and see this large, flat, featureless body of water. What we should do first is look at the contour of the land above the water level. What we see above will probably extend out into the lake for some distance. For instance a slowly sloping meadow will probably mean shallow water, a ridge indicates a point with deeper water on both sides, a steep bank or cliff means deep water, and so forth.

If there is a high point available, USE it. From here you can sometimes see submerged islands, drop-offs, and weed beds. These are all HOT spots.

As fly fishers we are pretty much limited to shallow water. I personally prefer water that is less than 12 feet deep. If this happens to be a deep lake I have already eliminated most of the water.

The 4 BASIC needs of Trout are Food, Oxygen, Water Temperature, and Shelter or Cover. The more of these needs we find in one area the higher the likelihood we have of finding Trout present.

FOOD: The Trout must eat to survive, so the first place to look for Trout is where the food is. Most of the food in a lake is found in the shallow or shoal areas. If there are weed-beds present so much the better. Weed-beds are food factories and provide oxygen through photosynthesis; they may or may not provide the other TWO needs.

DROP-OFFS: Can provide all of a Trout’s needs. The water depth can provide the Shelter as well as the cooler; more oxygenated water and gives the Trout easy access to the shallow area for short foraging trips for food. The most productive area is usually right along the lip of the drop-off.

The Shallow Area can provide all 4 needs under certain conditions. Low Light periods and Wind can provide the Shelter and as long as the Water Temperature does not exceed 60 degrees Fahrenheit the oxygen content will be acceptable.

Another prime spot is INLETS. A Creek or River flowing into a lake can provide all 4 of a Trout’s needs. The current can bring in Food, Oxygen, Cooler or Warmer Water, depending on the season, and provide Shelter.

Another spot is OUTLETS. Outlets will concentrate the food and if the water is deep enough they can provide shelter and cool oxygenated water.

Submerged springs can be a productive area, especially in the summer when a lake warms up. The springs provide cool oxygenated water and if they are deep enough cover.

The most critical of a Trout’s 4 basic needs is OXYGEN. The reason is that the oxygen content of the water is already so low that a small change can make a huge difference. To put this into perspective the air we breathe is about 21 percent oxygen. According to a book, written by Ron Cordes and Randall Kaufmann titled “Lake Fishing with a Fly”, 1 liter of air contains 210 cubic centimeters of oxygen and 1 liter of completely saturated water contains 9 cubic centimeters of oxygen. This would mean that water would contain less than 1 percent oxygen.

There are many things that can influence the oxygen content of water.

TEMPERATURE: As water temperature increases it loses some of its ability to retain oxygen. Trout can become stressed when water temperature exceeds 60 degrees Fahrenheit and it can become fatal if it exceeds 70 degrees. When temperatures get up into these ranges Trout will seek cooler water, this usually means depth. When a lake stratifies in the summer it forms a barrier called the thermocline. The coldest water is below the thermocline, but this water is almost void of oxygen, so the Trout will normally drop down to just above the thermocline.

WIND: Is the most important element in keeping a lake in chemical balance. WIND will add oxygen to the water as well as mixing the water. The WIND will blow the water from one side of the lake to the other. The displaced water is replaced by water flowing along the bottom in the opposite direction of the WIND. If the lake has stratified this mixing, action will remain above the thermocline. In either case this brings cooler more oxygenated water to the surface. In the fall the water will cool and when the entire lake reaches the same water temperature the thermocline will disappear and the entire lake will mix again. This is called TURNOVER. At this time oxygen will again be equally distributed throughout the lake. While on the subject of TURNOVER let’s look at Spring TURNOVER. Water is at its densest at
39.2 degrees Fahrenheit. If the lake freezes over the water just below the ice will be 32 degrees Fahrenheit, this will be the coldest water in the lake. After the ice melts the surface water will start to warm. When the entire lake reaches 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit the lake will again mix causing Spring TURNOVER, and once again the oxygen will be equally distributed. In a frozen lake oxygen depletion can become a problem causing what is referred to as Winter Kill.

Green vegetation adds oxygen to the water through a process called photosynthesis, but decaying vegetation can rob oxygen from the water. Photosynthesis requires sunlight. If a lake freezes and snow builds up on the ice, light penetration can be reduced to the point that photosynthesis no longer occurs. This reduces the oxygen, the vegetation dies and starts to decay further reducing oxygen. The ice prevents the WIND from mixing the water. This snow balling effect can become FATAL to the Trout.

Another thing that can cause oxygen depletion is ALGAE BLOOM. The ALGAE can get thick enough to hamper light penetration. There are a couple of pluses with ALGAE: It is plant matter and can add oxygen, and it can also provide cover for the Trout to move into the shallows and feed. The ALGAE accumulates near the surface so use a sinking line and fish under it.

During these periods of oxygen depletion, THREE areas of a lake become important to the Trout for survival. The FIRST is DEPTH: The Trout may go to deep for the fly fisher to reach, the other TWO are Inlets and Underwater Springs. Both of these can provide cooler more oxygenated water. The Inlets are easy to see the Springs are not so easy, look for Clean, Clear areas on the Bottom with a lot of Bubbles rising through the water column, or you can check water temperature. When I used to fish from a Float Tube many times I could feel the temperature change on my legs. Sometimes a map of the lake will give you locations of springs.

We are entering that time of year when Stillwater fishing for Trout is at its BEST. The days are getting shorter, the water is cooling down, and the oxygen content is going up. Somehow the Trout seem to read this as lean times are coming and they put on the FEEDBAG, PORKING-UP for the long lean Winter. Remember most of the Hatches are over for this year so I recommend imitating some of the year round food items such as Leeches, Scuds, Baitfish, or Midges.

So get out there and catch some of those Obese Stillwater Trout.

**Where Have All The Feathers Gone?**
By Tom Gadacz – Taken from the Suncoast Fly Fishers Newsletter

Also what has happened to the price of hackle for tying flies? A recent fashion fad has invaded the fly fisher’s world. There is a run on hackle and a run up on price. The demand has come from the world of fashion – feather hair extensions. This is attributed to Steven Tyler from the Aerosmith group when he appeared on American Idol with a feather in his hair. This is now the rage in hair salons. According to St. Petersburg hair stylist Joyce Wright Deel at Affiniti Salon, women are now coming in for feather hair extensions. Joyce was apologetic for the invasion into the world of fly fishers but took time out to explain the new style. Feathers (hackle) are now being incorporated into hair styling in several ways. Here is a fly fishers approach.

The Feather Hair Extension Tying Bench;

Materials: Several long hackle, color to suit hair color; microlink, color to match hair; hook instrument; no fish hook but individual requesting feather extension.

Steps:
1. Select 5 to 8 stands of hair at root level
2. Select color of 3 to 5 hackle feathers (grizzly and brown most popular)
3. Place microlink over hook instrument
4. Hook strands of hair and pull through microlink
5. Insert hackle into microlink, position hackle, crimp microlink, and cut excess hackle above microlink
6. Advise individual to carefully wash hair and may need readjustment as hair grows.

Another technique consists of hair clips with feather extensions. These are ready-made hair extensions and can be placed anywhere in the hair.
I plan to ask Joyce if I can setup a fly tying space in Affiniti Salon where she works. Perhaps we can also introduce some of our favorite flies to be worn in the hair. There may be an opportunity for fly fishers to tie flies for fashion. Those who wear feather hair extensions need to be cautioned that they may attract fish if they wear them while swimming.

**Who Owns The Rivers?**
By Don Daniell - Taken from Mid-South Fly Fishers Newsletter

In recent years I’ve heard numerous stories from members and others describing ‘harassments’ they endured from property owners while walking, wading, floating or otherwise navigating along our home waters.

Though most incidents involved mild to moderate verbal chastisements, a few seemed to border on criminal assault. So recently, when one of our members described an aggressive verbal exchange at the hands of an unusually agitated and persistent resort owner, it seemed we should attempt to better understand the rights, if any, that fly fishers have regarding use of our streams and rivers.

With this understanding hopefully we may help better educate our members and others regarding lawful use of our public waterways and the avoidance of unnecessary trespass, e.g., other than in a life or death emergency.

**So which rivers are owned by the public, and to what extent?**
The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the bed and banks under all rivers, lakes, and streams that are navigable, for title purposes, are owned by the states, and held in trust for the public. Title in this context means ownership, and this public-trust ownership extends up to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM.) Therefore, the public has the right to navigate and to exercise the incidents of navigation in a lawful manner up to the OHWM on all navigable waterways.

**What is a ‘navigable’ stream or river for title purposes?**
As the U.S. Supreme Court says, “Rivers that are navigable in fact are navigable in law.”

Federal courts have held that even those streams or rivers that are navigable only by small, non-motorized watercraft are still navigable for title purposes, even if the stream is not practically navigable for the entire year (courts have mentioned 6 months).

**Where is the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)?**
The Army Corps of Engineers defines the OHWM as “that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.” The line should be something that ordinary people can see. In the case of rivers, such a line would be the line below which the vegetation and soil show the effects of submersion under water. On most rivers such a line is pretty obvious: below it you see water-dependent vegetation like green grass, small green bushes, tamarisk, or other plants that you don’t see up on the surrounding land. And you see sand, gravel, and rock that have been washed clean by the passing of water, while above the ordinary high water line you see more dirt and soil.

**What to do if you are faced with an unlawful river situation?**
Your time is likely better spent advertising the favorable court decisions that already exist and helping educate the public rather than via a court procedure. So instead of going to court, contact all the local powers that be—government agencies, politicians, landowners, and journalists. Give them a copy of this or related information and anything you can obtain from the State Lands Office, or the Natural Resources Department of the State Attorney General’s Office. Notify them of the legal issues involved and the legal rights that are being violated, and emphasize that the problem needs to be corrected. Then follow up as necessary to make sure that it is.

Don’t expect overnight success. Though the law is on our side, few people may know that, so we will be well served to get as many people as possible to understand it. The chances of a court making future rulings in our favor will be greatly enhanced if we start laying the educational and political groundwork now. Stay safe and stay legal!
Casting Tip for TBFFC: 20
By Pat Damico - Taken from Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

We described different grips while casting, but did not address how tight or loose it should be. The tendency to grip harder as more power is needed seems normal, but is detrimental. A tight grip will become tiresome and will send unnecessary shock waves thru the rod. When you practice, use only your thumb and two fingers to hold the rod as you go thru the casting stroke. You will be surprised how effective and relaxed your casting will become.

Leigh West Has Hints for Leader Construction
Taken from Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

I make my own leaders since it is fun and economical. I still use the easy leader formula Capt. Bill Miller taught me years ago:

~section length (ft.) 4 --- 3 --- 2 --- 1 --- fly
~breaking strength (#) 30 --- 20 --- 10 --- ~20 --- fly

I use inexpensive Ande monofilament line for the 4/3/2’’ sections. The one foot section is the bite tippet- usually 20 to 30# fluorocarbon for inshore species. Tie-able wire can be used instead, for mackerel, barracuda, etc. I would use 30-40# fluorocarbon if big snook are around.

I usually tie the 4’>3’ sections together with a blood knot, and then tie in a perfection loop in the 30# end. I coil and store a few 4’>3’ sections in a ziplock bag in my pack until I need one (rarely).

I tie the 2’>1’ sections at home using a triple surgeon’s knot to connect the softer Ande line to the stiff fluorocarbon. I coil and store them in small ziplock bags, labeled with both the class and bite tippet breaking strengths (a half dozen/bag). I keep the bag(s) in my shirt pocket for easy access while fishing. The reasons for going to this trouble are 1) wind knots are most common (and most difficult to remove) in the thin class tippet, 2) the bite tippet will often need to be changed after catching a ladyfish or snook and 3) the surgeon’s knot is difficult to tie well under adverse conditions due to the line material property differences (between nylon and fluorocarbon, e.g.) and will be more likely to fail if not tied well. Therefore, I just cut out the old 2’>1’ section and tie in a new 2’>1’ section whenever I need to replace either the class tippet or the bite tippet section. I tie in a fresh 2’>1’ section to the 3’ section using a blood knot. It is much easier to tie a 4’>3’ section to a 2’>1’ section than to replace the whole leader on the water since the long length of the entire leader makes it harder to handle in the wind and more likely to tangle under any condition. This leads to…

What I carry in my fishing shirt pockets:
Ziplock bag containing a few 2’>1’ leader sections (see above article)- 10# Ande > 20 or 30# fluorocarbon.
Nippers with wind knot needle tool, tied to a whistle
Lens cleaners (from CVS drug store, individually wrapped. Cut the corners off the package, otherwise they poke through the shirt and are annoying)
A few flies that I know I will most likely use, in a small plastic ziplock bag, and Lip balm with UVP > 15

Fishing Quotations
From The Quote Garden

There are two types of fisherman - those who fish for sport and those who fish for fish. ~Author Unknown

Fishing is the sport of drowning worms. ~Author Unknown

This planet is covered with sordid men who demand that he who spends time fishing shall show returns in fish.
A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work. ~Author Unknown

May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it. ~Irish Blessing

I fish better with a lit cigar; some people fish better with talent. ~Nick Lyons, *Bright Rivers*, 1977

All the romance of trout fishing exists in the mind of the angler and is in no way shared by the fish. ~Harold F. Blaisdell, *The Philosophical Fisherman*, 1969

There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind. ~Washington Irving

Somebody just back of you while you are fishing is as bad as someone looking over your shoulder while you write a letter to your girl. ~Ernest Hemingway

The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad. ~A.K. Best

The gods do not deduct from man's allotted span the hours spent in fishing. ~Babylonian Proverb

It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming. ~John Steinbeck

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day. ~Author Unknown

Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley. ~Author Unknown

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after. ~Henry David Thoreau

All fishermen are liars; it's an occupational disease with them like housemaid's knee or editor's ulcers. ~Beatrice Cook, *Till Fish Do Us Part*, 1949

An angler is a man who spends rainy days sitting around on the muddy banks of rivers doing nothing because his wife won't let him do it at home. ~Author Unknown

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles. ~Doug Larson

We ask a simple question
And that is all we wish:
Are fishermen all liars?
Or do only liars fish?

Fishing is boring, unless you catch an actual fish, and then it is disgusting. ~Dave Barry

There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process. ~Paul O'Neil, 1965

The best way to a fisherman's heart is through his fly. ~Author Unknown

I love fishing. You put that line in the water and you don't know what's on the other end. Your imagination is under there. ~Robert Altman
Give a man a fish and he has food for a day; teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend.

~Zenna Schaffer

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot. ~Steven Wright

The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope.

~John Buchan

**A Fly of a Different Color**

*Taken from the Kelly Creek Flycasters News Letter*

Kelly Creek Flycasters has for some time been using the Fly of the Month feature from the Federation of Fly Fishers website. This is an excellent source, which encourages such use with proper credit, but it has seemed to me a little silly to simply copy and condense their offering. You can just as easily visit their site directly at [http://fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4478](http://fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4478). If you have not previously visited their site, I encourage you to do so. It is a treasure of tying instruction.

This also ignores the fact that our club has our own core of excellent, accomplished fly tying artists. We all know LeRoy Hyatt’s work from his television program. Most of us have seen the beautiful steelhead flies that Dave Clark brings for the club drawings, and Will Godfrey’s fly box is a splendid example of organization and detail. Those are just a few that come to mind at this moment.

We also need to remember that a national publication’s fly du jour might not be the best use of our publication for our region. With that in mind, I will try with this edition to start a tradition of featuring local tiers with locally relevant flies. In order that all who come after will not be self conscious, I am starting with our least accomplished tier. That way we can’t help but improve as we go along.

It is certainly steelhead season, so here is one of my recent patterns. I’ve heard it said, often enough to repeat here, that choice of fly doesn’t matter – that if almost any fly passes correctly in front of a willing steelhead, it will hit. We tie elaborate flies more out of respect for the fish or to satisfy our own aesthetics, rather than in expectation that a particular pattern or nuance will attract more fish. With that in mind, I had a yen for something blue, and went looking for material. I found a really nice Silver Doctor blue Spey feather cape at The Red Shed. There was a $500 price tag on it, but that’s a funny story for another day. Poppy suggested that black and blue look good together. I tied a few and caught my first steelhead of the year on my first cast with it, which proves absolutely nothing.

Hook: any steelhead up-eye hook, size 2 – 8  
Tag: flat silver tinsel  
Body: Uni-stretch 1X, Black  
Wing: 4 “spikes” of Silver Doctor Blue marabou  
Hackle: Silver Doctor Blue Spey hackle  
Collar: dark blue dyed guinea

1. Pinch the barb and dress the hook with Uni-stretch back to the bend.  
2. Dress a tag of flat silver tinsel.  
3. Wrap the Uni-stretch back to the midpoint of the hook, taking care that it lays flat.  
4. Tie in a sparse small bunch of blue marabou which reaches back barely past the bend of the hook. Tie down the cut ends and progress the Uni-stretch slightly forward.  
5. Tie in three or four more similar bunches of blue marabou in a similar fashion, each slightly longer, so that they all terminate at the same distance, barely behind the bend of the hook. (This is flagrant plagiarism of John Shewey’s Spawning Purple technique.)  
6. Change to 8/0 black tying thread, and tie in the Spey hackle by its tip. Make three or four turns of hackle and tie it off.  
7. Add another small bunch of Marabou in front of the Spey hackle.  
8. If you really want to be elaborate, tie in Jungle Cock nails here.  
9. Tie in the guinea by its tip, fold the feather and take two or three wraps.  
10. Tie off, make a small neat head, and treat with head cement.
11. Touch up the hook point with a sharpener.

Teaching Can Be Rewarding
By John Berry

The other day I received an email from a former client, Greg O’Neal. He has recently built a home in the Norfork area. Like every fly fisher that spends any time in the area, he realized that in order to effectively fish on high water he would have to acquire a river boat and learn how to use it. Greg did the sensible thing. He rented a boat at Cotter Trout Dock and tried his luck boating in the Cotter area before buying a boat. He took his nephew, his regular fishing buddy, with him to see if he could get the hang of drift fishing. Unfortunately, he couldn’t consistently achieve the drifts necessary to catch fish.

He sent me an email and explained his experiences and asked my opinion. I asked a few questions. Was the motor running at all times? If so, was the gear engaged or was the motor idling? I was trying to determine if he had the motor engaged at all times. If he was doing this, the boat would move downstream at a slower pace than the river and it would be difficult to achieve a perfect drag free drift.

Most guides and serious anglers run their motor at all times. Their thinking is if they get in trouble all they have to do to avoid an obstruction is to immediately run the boat forward. They generally let the engine idle and engage it from time to time, when needed to steer the boat. My main problem is that, I don’t want to listen to my engine run at all times.

I explained that the way I control my drifts is to turn the motor off and control my boat using a paddle. There are several benefits. The first is the engine noise. I took up fly fishing because I enjoy the solitude. I yearn for a quiet day with low water and few other anglers. With the engine running, you cannot carry on a decent conversation with your fishing companions. I believe that the sound of the motor spooks big fish. I feel that I can get much closer to trophy trout by not running my engine while drifting. Finally I find that the paddling is great upper body exercise. I participate in a lot of paddle sports (canoeing and kayaking) and I enjoy it. I must add that this technique requires that you must have a reliable motor that is properly maintained and capable of starting immediately.

Greg asked what it would cost for some instruction on how I control my drifts. I told him that I would do it fairly inexpensively. We agreed on a price, time and place. We met at the Rim Shoals ramp at 1:00 PM on a Saturday. There were few cars in the parking lot. The Corps of Engineers were running the river at around 16,500 cubic feet per second or the approximate equivalent of five full generators (Greg had specifically asked that we do this on high water). The forecast was for rain so we both loaded our rain jackets into the boat.

I motored downstream to the White Shoals area. This is a wide section of the river with few obstacles and it fishes well on this level of generation. I set up a drift and showed Greg how I controlled it. I then motored back up stream and handed the tiller over to him. I moved up to the front of the boat and pulled out my fly rod. The best way to see if the drift was right was for me to fish and see if I could land some trout.

This was a dream job. I seldom get to fish high water. If I am on the water, I am usually guiding and I do not fish when I guide. My job is to get my clients to catch fish. If I am fishing, I am not giving all of my attention to my clients. If I am fishing with my wife, Lori, I am operating the boat and do not get to fish. The same thing happens when fishing with friends. I generally end up running the motor and controlling the drifts. I occasionally get to fish with other anglers like my brother and we take turns handling the boat.

Greg was an eager student and quickly picked up the process. I knew that the best way for him to learn was to get some tiller time. With a good drift, I was into fish almost immediately. The fishing was good and I caught several. I gave Greg pointers from time to time. It began raining. We stopped long enough to put on our rain jackets and continued fishing. The overcast sky was perfect for going after brown trout. They seem to not like the sunny days and are more active when the light level is low. I started picking up some nice browns. The biggest was nineteen inches and fought well. I congratulated Greg on his guiding skills, for putting me on such a nice fish.

The highlight of the day wasn’t the fishing but the camaraderie. Greg and I had an ongoing conversation that covered everything from politics to literature (we both enjoy reading John Gierach). Time flew by. I checked my watch and noted
that it was 7:00 PM. We had been fishing nonstop for six hours and it was getting late. I had Greg motor back to the
ramp. We loaded the boat and said our good byes.

A couple of days later, I went to the mailbox and found a package from Greg. It was a copy of Gierach’s latest book, No
Shortage of Good Days. It reminded me of the great day and proved that teaching can be rewarding.

- Check Out Your FFF Council’s Website –
Gulf Coast [http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/](http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/)
Ohio [http://www.ohiofff.org/](http://www.ohiofff.org/)
Oregon [http://orcfff.org/](http://orcfff.org/)
Southwest [http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/)
Western Rocky Mtn [http://www.wrmcfff.org/](http://www.wrmcfff.org/)

Upcoming FFF Council Events

**FFF 47th Annual Flyfishing Fair & Conclave**
July 10 – 14th, 2012
Spokane, Washington

**OCTOBER 15, 2011 - SOUTH WEST COUNCIL** – [www.southwestcouncilfff.org](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org)
A Night with Joan Wulff - The Olympic Collection, Los Angeles, CA

Fly Fishing Expo 2011 – Orlando, FL

**NOVEMBER 4-6, 2011 - GULF COAST COUNCIL** - [www.gulfcoastfff.org](http://www.gulfcoastfff.org)
Annual Rendezvous - North Toledo Bend State Park, Louisiana

Keep Informed and Spread the Word
The FFF needs more clubs to join the ranks to help in the conservation and education efforts of the FFF. If you would
like to start a club or know of a club that might be interested in affiliating with the FFF please direct them to the Club

Please send an e-mail to [fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org) should your club have a fishing / tying event / banquet. We would
like to add these events to our web site calendar of events. Provide the date, location, name of your club and a website
address that I can link to direct our members for more information. The events calendar is on the following web page