FFF ClubWire
Welcome to the November 2011 issue of the ClubWire e-mail news service for clubs.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!!!!!

- FFF Member e-newsletter –
If your not getting our monthly FFF Member E-newsletter and would like to. It’s easy to sign up. Go to http://fedflyfishers.us2.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=d28b2db781f34121dd311fb8f&id=917545c60e Then just enter the e-mail address you would like it to be sent to.

- 2012 FFF Annual Fly Fishing Fair (Conclave) –
The Washington State Council is excited to have the Fly Fishing Fair and Conclave in Spokane Washington in 2012. This is the second time that it has been in Washington. In 1980 it was also held in Spokane. The Council hopes that many of you and your families will be able to attend.

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

- The Osprey Journal –
To connect and learn about wild steelhead and salmon visit the website of our steelhead committee. http://www.ospreysteelhead.org/

- The FFF Fly Tying Group – Request for Help From Clubs –
The FFF Fly Tying Group recently adopted a Strategic Plan for the group. Phase 1 of the plan is to begin the process of developing a Directory of Fly Tying Instructors and Demonstration Tiers.

In this effort the Tying Group is asking each Club President or Fly Tying Chairman and others to provide us with the names and contact information for the Tying Instructors and Demonstration Tiers in each FFF Club. We would also very much appreciate contact information for NON-FFF instructors in your area. Those people teaching in Fly Shops and to other organizations can help us out a lot.

This information will help the FFF in providing educational opportunities, information, and teaching materials to fly tying instructors and students alike.

It is the intention of the Fly Tying Group to interview all these instructors and demonstration tiers to learn about their teaching activities. We would like to learn who they teach, what they teach, how often they teach, and what teaching materials would benefit them in their efforts.

Please, send us any or all names and contact information for tying instructors or demonstration tiers in your area. We would like an email address included in the contact information as we will send out an email questionnaire to all instructors.

This is an opportunity for all FFF Clubs to contribute to the educational opportunities FFF can provide. Please help us. Send Instructor and Demo lists to: Frank Johnson, Project Chairman - 307-672-5164 - bighornjohnsons@gmail.com
I know, it’s not about fishing but you can fish there. The record Walleye came from lake nearby. But Palo Duro Canyon is a must see adventure for summer travels. In keeping with my quest for great places just one-days drive from home, this is a must see bucket list item. Tight in one place near Amarillo is so many things to see. The second largest canyon in the USA, and the summer time play “Texas” held in a large canyon with real time action and a large cast is just amazing. Call this the summer travel issue but it is well worth a visit. Especially with kids. The play is that good, and not really expensive. Just back,--we were enchanted with it all!

The flat plains of Texas really fool you. After leaving the Hill Country early in the morning with a stop for breakfast in Kerrville, it was just a hop to get to San Angelo and on up to Amarillo. The last few miles are just grassland but once you topography hints of change. You are not ready for the next curve in the road. Someone moved Grand Canyon. Once in the park and dropping down into the huge ditch filled with every Earth tone you can imagine, the difference is --being down in the canyon. At Grand Canyon you just visit the rim. Not Palo Duro!

Palo Duro Canyon is a place filled with history and stories about Native Americans who were driven from the lands and put on reservations and their horses killed to force the issue. Charles Goodnight and people like him tamed the lands and promoted settlement by hordes of people from the “East”, who hoped to make a life in the grassland with a promise of great expanses and productivity. What a surprise to find a harsh land best suited for the Buffalo hunts that sustained the people who lived down in the cooler, wet canyon they called home. It is so interesting to go to the museums and visitor centers for accounts of the wild west it once was.

The play called “Texas” is a long night production and happens throughout a large canyon you sit in in a large outdoor theatre. You hear every word, see it all, and will be on the edge of your seat! It is that good. People hug and congratulate the large cast of students and actors who produce this extravaganza each summer. There is room for everyone and it is very comfortable. Being down in the canyon well below ground level it is cool right after dark. You are far enough up in the plains it might be sweater weather by the end of the show. Horses, trains-- real trains!, and so much more are part of this amazing show. Go soon, and stay in Canyon Texas. Or further down the road is Amarillo with more food choices. Either way it is just a hop to the action. Another super way to enjoy the canyons area is the Jeep adventures.

A major plus to the trip is a stop at another canyon system on the way home at Caprock Canyons. This State Park is about Buffalo and the Bison roam this park. But the canyons there are more colorful and amazing than the Palo Duro, I think. The best part of both canyon systems is being able to drive down in the bottom and look up. You will take hundreds of photos. We took a thousand and just stopped there. You just cannot believe you are in Texas. Caprock is about an hour south of Palo Duro and on the way home. Take three days and hit Caprock on the day back. You can see it in two hours and still be home the same day.

The Bob Will’s museum is near the park in Turkey Texas and well worth a quick stop. It has tons of photos and memorabilia in the small town display which is located in a converted school. His old tour bus in on the main street there. Turkey is about the size of Pecos if you have ever been there on the way to the Rockies.

I am supposed to mention fishing so you can wet a line in a permanent lake in the Caprock Canyon’s Park. I bet you forget to. The scenery in both of these places will stick with you forever. What sets this adventure apart is the cooler canyons you drive down into. Unlike Grand Canyon up on the Kaibab, you are down in the lush wet canyons and understand why the Native Americans loved this place. It truly is an oasis and deserves to be on the “bucket list” for anyone. Erosion is so marvelous.

The best way I can describe this place is to depict what I saw near an overlook. Imagine a bus filled with school kids on a tour. All the kids should be horsing around in the bus. We saw bug eyed faces in every window—all silent! Now that my friends, is some powerful stuff. Sneak away and see the play. Take the kids!
Finding Fish – Part 2
By Walt Alexander – Taken from the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers Newsletter

Last month we looked at the 4 basic needs of trout. This month we will examine other factors that influence the movement and location of trout.

Seasonal Changes

Spring: Is a very good time to be fishing stillwater. Trout are coming out of their winter funk and are hungry! The water is warming up and the oxygen content is good throughout the lake.

This time of year don’t plan on being on the water at the crack of dawn, unless you just like being out in the cold freezing your toes off. Now myself, I usually sleep in, then have a nice breakfast, and plan on being on the water about 9 or 10 a.m. This gives the sun time to warm the water a degree or two. It is amazing how much difference a degree or two makes in the trout’s activity. In Ron Cordes and Randall Kaufmann’s book, “Lake Fishing with a Fly,” they state that a trout is so sensitive to temperature change that it will respond to a change of 0.1 degree.

Chances are the only thing emerging this time of year is midges (chironomids), so this is my first choice of imitation. My Second choice would be year-round food sources such as scuds, leeches or baitfish.

Summer: This is the time of year to be on the water at the crack of dawn before the water warms up from its nightly cool-down. This time of year the oxygen content of the water may become a critical factor for the trout’s survival, it may outweigh their need for food, so look for them in cooler more oxygenated water such as springs and inlets.

This time of year the trout may hold in deeper water and make short foraging trips into the shallows, even though oxygen may be their first priority food is still necessary. This is the time of year when most of the insect emergences occur, so imitating mayflies, dragonflies, damselflies or caddis flies may be your best bet.

Fall: This is the best time of year to be fishing stillwater for trout. The water is cooling down, the oxygen content is going up and the trout are porking up for winter.

During this time of year, again think about fishing through the middle of the day as you did in the spring. Most of the insect emergences are over so again think about imitating the year round food sources. All of the insects are present in the nymph or larva stage but they are quite small, so if you want to imitate these you will have to drop down in size. Where a size 12 may have produced well a month or two ago it may take a size 16 or 18 to get the job done now.

Winter: Things really slow down in the winter and you should too, make your retrieves very slow. When the water temperature gets down into the thirties and forties the trout become lethargic, their metabolism goes way down, and they eat very little. They will not move very far, or fast, to take a Fly. Inlets and springs may provide warmer water that will attract the trout.

There is one thing that may put trout on the feed and that is a midge emergence. As long as a lake does not freeze over, midges will emerge. Midge imitations would be my first choice this time of year.

Other Factors

Barometric Pressure: Trout like stable conditions; a sudden change in barometric pressure can really turn them off. This is particularly true of a falling barometer, which usually means a storm is approaching. When there is a sudden change in barometric pressure the trout go deep and lay on the bottom sulking until things stabilize. When the storm actually gets there, the trout sometimes really go on the feed.

Sometimes you can get an idea what the barometer is doing from the wind direction. If the wind is coming out of the North or West it usually means a high stable barometer. If the wind switches to the East or South it probably means the barometer is falling.

For an example of this, last spring I was fishing McCumber Reservoir. In the morning the wind was coming out of the North, I was fishing in about 12 feet of water and consistently getting takes at a depth of 5 to 6 feet. I took a lunch break,
then returned to the same area and presented the same fly in the same manner I had prior to lunch. After about a half hour with no takes I decided something must have changed, the wind was now coming out of the East and South. Suspecting the barometer was falling I started presenting the same fly just above the bottom and was again into the trout.

Turnover: When a lake turns over the entire water column mixes bringing up a lot of sediment from the bottom. So if the water in your lake is clear one day and cloudy with a lot of suspended matter the next, your lake is probably in turnover. Oxygen-poor water from the bottom is mixed causing oxygen depletion for the entire lake. The trout go into survival mode and shut down. The odds of you catching anything during turnover are very low. The good news is that turnover only lasts for a day or two and all lakes do not turnover at the same time, so my advice is move to another lake.

Temperature: Fish are cold blooded, in other words their body temperature is the same as their surroundings. Trout seem to be most comfortable in water that is in the fifties. I read somewhere that the ideal temperature for rainbow trout is 56 degrees Fahrenheit. If the water temperature goes into the sixties trout become STRESSED, if it goes into the seventies it can become fatal. On the other end of the spectrum when the water temperature drops into the thirties and forties the trout become lethargic and eat very little.

Oxygen-poor water from the bottom is mixed causing oxygen depletion for the entire lake. The trout go into survival mode and shut down. The odds of you catching anything during turnover are very low. The good news is that turnover only lasts for a day or two and all lakes do not turnover at the same time, so my advice is move to another lake.

Water level: Drastically fluctuating water levels can turn fish off. This occurs mainly in reservoirs. Drastic fluctuation of water levels can destroy weed-beds thereby destroying some of the food chain.

Spawning: rainbow and cutthroat trout spawn in the spring; brown and brook trout spawn in the fall; so in the spring look for rainbow or cutthroat trout near any Inlet, in the fall look for brown or brook trout in the same area. Even if there are no Inlets the trout will still spawn, but probably not successfully. The spawners will move into the shallows to spawn and the other fish will follow to feed on the roe. I have not tried it myself but an egg pattern could be a good possibility at this time.

Putting it all together: In this article and the one in the September Newsletter we covered most of the factors that influence the movement and location of Trout! By evaluating all of these factors we can see how they are intertwined. The one factor that keeps showing up time after time is the wind. I know as fly fishers we tend to curse the wind, I was no different until I came to realize all the benefits the wind gives us. Besides cooling, mixing and increasing the oxygen content of the water, wind provides cover for both the trout and us. It will provide cover for the trout to move into the shallows and feed as well as make us less visible to the trout. The broken surface created by the wind helps to cover up our not so perfect casts and the wave action can give a fly fished under a strike indicator a very seductive up and down motion the trout find hard to resist. So the next time the wind comes up instead of heading for the barn try coping with it; by remaining on the water you may find that you are catching more and bigger fish. I know this has been true for me.

There comes a point where the danger outweighs the benefits, so if the wind gets to severe by all means GET OFF THE WATER!

Teach The Children Well....
By A. Kitson – Taken from the St. Joe River Valley Fly Fishers Newsletter

Teaching Kids To Fish Is a Wonderful Experience That Will Make You a Better Fly Fisher.
Okay, I will admit that I was one of those dads who put a fly rod in my infant’s hand and took a bunch of pictures for my office desk. That said, I have never pushed my kids to fish. Over the past few years they have floated in and out of “fishing fever”, until this summer when my six year old became engrossed in all things fishing! And, has the summer moved on, the eight and ten year olds followed suit. I have learned a lot about all aspects of fishing through teaching them… And while I DO NOT pretend to be an expert on the subject of teaching kids to fish, I wanted to share a few things I’ve discovered along the way.

Make it fun. Obviously, it all starts with learning to cast. And the back yard is the perfect place. I was fortunate to teach elementary kids to cast with Jeff Stanifer the past few years picked up some really good techniques. The “hello?.....Goodbye!” method is very effective. Have them pretend the cork handle is a phone. Pick it up quickly to your ear and say “Hello?”… wait for the line to load, Say “Goodbye” and move the rod down as if you are hanging up. You have just performed a cast! Most beginners perform this motion way to quickly and extend the rod tip too far back. Hold their wrist and still and use their arm to cast until there muscle memory kicks in. After they have the basics down, give
them targets to aim at. Tie a piece of yarn six foot leader and place a hula hoop 15 – 20 feet away. After they can consistently get the fly in the circle, add a second hoop. Challenge them to put the fly in one hoop then the other with only one false cast… or better yet, none! Making up games like these keeps them interested and will probably make them a better caster than you before you know it!

_Kids love to fish._ That is… kids like to “catch” fish by nature. After a few back yard sessions, the child will definitely be ready to catch something. This will take some pre planning on your part. I recommend keeping it simple. A small pond full of bluegill may be your best bet. Stay close by and wear your sunglasses! Expect them to wrap the line around your head on the first several strikes. Fishing dry flies on still water will get them used to the strike. Bluegill are great because they keep coming back… no matter how many times you miss them. Don’t be afraid to hook a few for them and let them fight the fish and strip it in. Nothing you can do in your backyard can prepare them for “the bite”. Make sure they always “do the work” as I call it… Hook the line with your finger and keep tension on the fish. Always praise them on their catch… even if it’s a lowly chub.

**Be patient, and set them up for success.** Now, they are ready to get serious! It’s time to hit the stream. Moving water. First things first… most kids have never felt a current in their short lives. **EXPLAIN TO THEM THE DANGERS OF WADING IN A RIVER!** Not to scare them, but to help them respect the river. Stay close to them and don’t start out on a roaring river that’s going to have you fighting for your life all day. Small to medium meandering streams are your best bet… at least until they get their sea legs. Use simple, sure fire techniques on short, even runs. I like to sweep soft hackles across broken water or fish hoppers (with a dropper sometimes) or beetles. Something that’s easy for them to see, and that fish will just pounce on. Above all, keep your cool. The first time I took my oldest son trout fishing, I had scouted the perfect spot and knew it was full of fish. I tied on a size 10 Borcher’s Special dry fly gave him specific instructions on where to cast and where to expect to get a strike. My heart was in my throat not once, not twice, but three times as I watched an 18” brown trout rise up and spit out his fly! Finally he stuck the pig and fought it for about 2 seconds be for it shook it’s head and spit out his fly, never to strike again. A few casts later, he stuck and landed a 12” brown… not bad for his first trout! He was thrilled… and so was I. Plan on loosing lots of flies, untying lots of knots in their leader, and digging flies out of brush and snags. It’s going to happen, so deal with it and DON’T LOOSE YOUR COOL!

_Don’t sell the kid short._ You will be pleasantly surprised how quickly they will pick up techniques. I was shocked at how well my kids could mend after only a few simple tips. I am constantly talking to them throughout their drift… “Nice cast ! ! !… mend, mend, mend… good!!! Now pick it up and put it back out there!…” is my usual cadence. By the end of their first day on the stream, they could mend (and better yet understood why and when to mend) and even perform a pretty respectable roll cast. Show them how, and teach them why and when to perform a particular cast. When you change flies, let them know why you are choosing this one over another and get their input… They will think you are a genius!

_Know when to say when._ When you feel your patience start to slip, or see them start to disconnect, either take a break or call it a day. Especially if the bite is not on. I always carry plenty of water and a few snacks in my vest to ward off the “fish diva”. Nuts, beef jerky and snickers are my standbys. A break in the action is always a good time to teach them how to read the water and continue their education… It’s also a great time to get them know them better and increase your bond. This is my favorite part of the trip more often than not.

_Teach them to give back._ Let’s face it, we are teaching the future leaders and stewards of our precious waters and environment. Getting them involved in conservation and understanding how precious our natural resources are is key, and should be a big part of their continuing education. Get them involved with club functions and conservation projects. So there it is. A few things my boys have taught me this summer. Teaching them has made me a much better fisherman… and has giving me fishing partners that I will share many adventures with for the rest of our lives! What more could I ask for?

**Casting Elbow and Other Physical Ailments**  
By Shane Morrison - Taken from Pikes Peak Flyfishers Newsletter

I am not a physician or physical therapist, and therefore cannot diagnose medical problems. I do know, however, something about casting ailments and perhaps I can pass on some advice. I have been troubled by tendonitis since I was
in my early thirties. My first encounter with tendonitis was the result of very active sailing, cranking the grinders and pulling on halyards and sheets to raise and trim the sails. Now in my fifties, I have frequent bouts of tendonitis in a variety of body parts often caused by excessive fly casting. Face it. A lot of us fly fishers are “old cockers”. Younger fly fishers are but a few years behind us and by developing good habits now, maybe they can avoid some of our aches and pains.

Contrary to what you might think, casting is not a non-impact sport. No, I don’t mean throwing leg blocks while combat fishing on our crowded trout streams, tempting as it may be! Casting being a repetitive sport repeatedly and rapidly extends and shortens the muscles and jars the tendons. The tendon is the bundle of fibers that attach a muscle to the bone. Particularly when we cast aggressively as in long distance casting we attempt to bring the rod to a sudden stop. This stop of the casting arm, and also the hauling hand, can jar or shock the tendons.

Muscle soreness is not necessarily a bad thing. Certainly, we encounter more soreness as we get older. However, this soreness is a warning sign to be careful not to over-do it. Particularly, when we extend the arm during casting it can strain the tendon. A jarring stop can increase the strain several fold. This can occur during repetitive casting. The impact to the tendon during hard casting such as distance casting can be severe. It is often the jarring at the end of the cast that really strains the joint and tendons. Long hard hauls with the line hand at full extension can be severe. This has probably been my biggest problem.

How to Deal With It

Go Easy – Usually if we are getting pain, we’ve been casting too hard. If you must cast, do it gently.

Avoid – full extension of the joints and lifting heavy objects (with severe tendonitis, it could be a cup of coffee.) When lifting an object, lift slowly so the strain of the weight is taken up slowly. Don’t extend the joint fully when lifting.

Rest, Rest, Rest – if your tendonitis is severe, stop casting until the pain goes away.

Ice – frequent application of ice for about 20 minutes at a time several times a day is a big help. Don’t use heat at first. Heat primarily is useful to help loosen stiff joints. Ice is better on inflammation.

Drugs – consider using supplements such as Chondroitin, glucosamine, and MSM. They seem to help me. Take a pharmaceutical-grade anti-inflammatory (e.g., Ibuprofen) as necessary, but see your physician.

Therapy – visit your physical therapist or chiropractor. They have other approaches to therapy and sometimes resorting to injections may be necessary.

How to Avoid It

There are several things we can do help avoid casting injuries. This starts with regular exercise and good nutrition. This includes regular aerobics such as walking, swimming, cycling or rowing. This keeps the joints moving and maintains the body’s natural anti-inflammatory process.

Cast regularly, daily if possible, in small periods of about 20 minutes. Don’t over-do it! If you are just starting out such as after a long winter, increase your casting effort slowly, starting out with “non-impact” casting.

Loose, loose, loose – keep your grip loose during most of the casting stroke. I can’t over emphasise this. Gripping the cork continually and/or too hard can contribute to the development of tendonitis, besides being tiring. The hand should increase the grip, squeezing the cork, at the end of the back and forward casts.

Take casting lessons. Most people cast way too hard. Learn to cast with less and less movement and effort. There’s no reason to cast any harder than we have to for the task at hand. A good instructor can help you cast better and more efficiently.
Casting Tip #21
By Pat Damico - Taken from Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

How many fish have you caught while false casting, moving the rod back and forth before delivering the fly to a target? The more time a fly is in the water, where the fish are, certainly increases your opportunity for success. Have you ever noticed the best fly fishers/casters false cast very little? When fishing in situations where long casts are needed and a lot of water is covered, like drifting the flats, working a shoreline, sight casting to spooky fish, casting again when a fish is missed or the cast is off target do not strip line in almost to the leader. If most forward tapered lines have at least a 30 foot head, including a 10 foot leader means that the caster must carry sufficient line to load the rod properly. Retrieving less line before the next cast and starting the back cast without slack will allow you to shoot sufficient line to eliminate false casting and improve your catching success.

Yes, We Have No Bananas Today!
Submitted by: Ken Hofmeister – Suncoast Fly Fishers

“Bananas bring bad luck on fishing boats.” True _____ False____ Maybe_____

We’ve all heard of guides searching coolers and tossing bananas overboard because of superstition.

Myths abound concerning the bad fortune brought upon banana-toting anglers. Stories are told concerning the bad “Ju-Ju” that comes from fooling around with bananas on board.

SFF is dedicated to using and acting upon scientific data and not simply relying upon oral tradition of lying fishermen. So where could we test this superstition? Why not on one of our outings — North Shore Park to be exact?

Woody Miller, to his credit, applied all of Dave Dant’s tips about reading charts, maps, tidal currents, and satellite views of the targeted fishing area. He also asked successful anglers like Ken Doty where to fish. Highly motivated, Woody launched his kayak in the dark and paddled to the spot marked X. He also utilized a “spotter” (Ken Doty didn’t fish but did use his binoculars to monitor the outing). Yes, Woody caught lots of fish. Yes he caught a 22 ½ inch trout (Doty estimated 23—but what’s a half inch in our club).

It seems that Hofmeister and Pitcher were not doing so well and that Ken did have bananas on board his 20 foot Scout. Ever hospitable, Ken offered Woody a banana. Woody declined as he reminded Ken and Al that bananas were bad luck—very bad luck for fly fishers. Alas! After consuming the banana, Ken somehow let the peel fall unnoticed in the stern of Woody’s kayak. The research project was on go.

Woody paddled about 30 yards toward the rest rooms before being swamped by a herd of manatees!

The banana peel floated to the surface and Woody knew he was a part of the club’s scientific project. Was the manatee swamping an anomaly? Soon we’d know. Woody bailed his craft and continued casting—to no avail. His “killer gurgler” fly had lost the motivation to catch fish. We’d say the “Fishing Force” was no longer with him.

We are all deeply indebted to Woody for bringing us an answer to the ageless question. Even though the study did not include a large sample, we would fearfully conclude that bananas are bad news for superstitious fly fishers. In appreciation for his contribution to this research, we are awarding Woody the TOP BANANA TROPHY. Way to go Woody!

Top Water Action On Dry Run Creek
By John Berry

Last Thursday I was able to do one of my favorite things, guide on Dry Run Creek. I had a delightful family from Missouri. The two sons Ben (13 years old) and Graham (11 years old) were excited about the prospect. They both had a lot of experience fly fishing the farm pond at home for bass and bream. Dad was very interested in seeing his boys do
well and manned the landing net for most of the day. Mom was the official photographer and was kept pretty busy recording all of the fish caught.

I started the day by putting on my waders and carefully rigging the boy’s rods. As is my custom when guiding two anglers, I used different flies for each one. Ben got a sowbug (a good imitation of the major food source on the creek), a bit of lead and a strike indicator on his rod. I used 4X tippet and carefully bent down the barb on the fly. Graham got a cerise San Juan worm rigged the same way except that the worm was tied on a factory barbless hook. I prefer factory barbless hooks but I am unable to find them for all of the different flies that I tie.

We walked far from the parking lot to a spot where I had experienced a lot of success on previous trips. When you are guiding two anglers on wade fishing trips you have to find a couple of productive spots that are reasonably close together. Both anglers have to catch plenty of trout and you don’t want to wear yourself running from one spot to another.

I put Ben in one location with a fast run and he was into trout immediately. He caught one trout after another. I put Graham in a spot where a strong current ran into a pool. It is usually very productive and had surrendered some incredibly large trout in the past. He hooked a big bow immediately but lost it due to an equipment malfunction. The braided loop on the end of his fly line had not been properly attached the night before and came off taking the leader, strike indicator, lead and San Juan worm with it. I took a minute to put on a fresh braided loop.

Meanwhile, Mom saw the strike indicator by a large rock near the bank. She reached down and picked it up to realize that the large rainbow was still attached. It took a strong run for the far bank breaking the tippet and stealing my San Juan worm, in the process. We did recover the leader. I was able to quickly attach it and tie on a fresh tippet and fly. Since Ben had been doing so well on the sowbug I opted on one for Graham. He continued fishing and picked up some nice trout but was not catching nearly as many as Ben. We decided to have the guys switch spots to see if we could even out the catch rates.

We moved Graham over to the fast run that Ben had been fishing. I worked with him for a while until he got into the rhythm of the water. In no time he was landing trout after trout including some fine specimens. Ben had moved into Graham’s previous location and landed a few fish. The action was nothing like he had been experiencing before.

I worked with him for a while and observed that there were several trout feeding on the top of the water column. I saw plenty of trout feeding but could not see any insects hatching. This means that they were either keying in on tiny midges or some small emergers. Either case would require a very small fly and tippet. This would make it more difficult for my young clients to land these big trout. I thought that if these fish were looking up for their food they might be interested in a grasshopper. Why mess around with small aquatic insects when you could have a nice big tasty terrestrial? In addition, with a hopper, we would be using a big hook and a larger tippet. This would help us land larger trout.

I took Ben’s rod and stripped off the sowbug, lead and strike indicator. I trimmed the tippet/leader combination back to about eight feet so that Ben could easily turn over the big fly when he cast it. I tied on a size eight Dave’s hopper, carefully applied some fly floatant and pinched down the barb. I gave him a quick suggestion. Most anglers try to set the hook too soon when using a dry fly. The sight of a rising trout usually kicks in the adrenalin. I recommending that he let the trout close its mouth and go below the surface before striking.

He began casting to risers on the far side of the creek. I was fairly amazed at how well he was casting. He struck a little too soon on the first take. Two casts later he was right on the money and hooked and landed a fat twenty inch rainbow. He continued fishing the hopper and caught several nice trout including an extraordinarily fine twenty two inch cutthroat.

With Ben catching some good trout, I turned my attention back to Graham. He was catching plenty of fish but most were smallish. I went over and stood beside him to coach him a bit. He was getting some good drifts. I decided to try some different flies. We tied on several different colors of San Juan worms but to little effect. I returned to the sowbug and on the third cast we hit a good fish. I got a good look at him and immediately saw that it was a big brown. I had been using my short handled wading net and quickly realized that it wasn’t big enough. I waded over to where Mom, Dad and Ben
had gathered to watch Graham fight the big trout. I grabbed my boat net and returned to land the incredibly fat twenty
four inch brown.

This was a great way to end the day. We said our good byes. The guys said that it was the best fishing they had ever
seen. I knew that they were right.

- Check Out Your FFF Council’s Website –
Florida http://www.fff-florida.org/
Gulf Coast http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/
Great Lakes http://www.fffglc.org/
Mid Atlantic http://www.macfff.org/
North Eastern http://fffnec.org/
Northern California http://www.nccfff.org/
Ohio http://www.ohiofff.org/
Oregon http://orccff.org/
South Eastern http://www.fffsec.org/
Southern http://www.southerncouncilfff.org/
Southwest http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/
Washington State http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/
Western Rocky Mtn http://www.wrmcfff.org/

Upcoming FFF Council Events

FFF 47th Annual Flyfishing Fair & Conclave
July 10 – 14th, 2012
Spokane, Washington
http://www.federationconclave.org/

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 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