

Blue Ridge NC Trout Unlimited



March 2024 Newsletter

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Henry David Thoreau wrote that some people go fishing all their life without knowing it is not the fish they are after. On a recent trip our guide said that the trip is made up of three things: the journey, the company, and the destination. Catching fish is a large part of the journey, and companionship with good friends is a wonderful thing. But beauty is generally in the destination. The above photo is a trout stream in Yellowstone National Park and surely anyone who has ever been there has seen the beauty. But if you will look for it, you will find beauty in almost everywhere you fish. We will share with you some of that beauty with a photo journey to many destinations I have fished at the end of this newsletter. And share a recent adventure in the Everglades. If you have been to a beautiful destination, send us a photo and tell us all about it. BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com

But for the journey we will expand on the theme of last month's newsletter and provide you with a few more tips on how to improve that cast and catch more fish making every journey a great one.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The mission of Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited is "To conserve, protect, and restore trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds".

Beyond being a mission statement, it is a call to action for all of our members. What better way to connect with fly fishing than to restore a stream! Our stream restoration event planned for this past Saturday, February 24th, has been rescheduled to this Saturday, March 2nd.

We will be planting live stakes along the stream banks and live trees in the area as well. The stakes help with bank erosion and trees provide shade to the stream. Rebuilding the stream bank improves the health of the stream and its habitat.

It takes many hands to accomplish our goal! Experience is not required! There will be many past participants who can show you what to do.

If you've considered helping with a stream restoration but never pulled the trigger, now would be a great time to go. Get to know our North Carolina streams first hand by participating in this important aspect of our organization. See the flyer important details.

Sign up at [Bank Restoration](#)

I hope to see you there!

Fred Frank

MARCH MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 19th, 6 PM

Where: Little Richard's BBQ
109 S. Stratford Road

Who: Jacob Rash

Coldwater Research Coordinator NCWRC

TOPIC: Native Brook Trout Conservation in NC

Jacob Rash is Coldwater Research Coordinator for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, where he assists with the coordination of applied research and management of the State's trout resources. He will discuss the NC Wildlife Resources Commission program to help maintain and restore the states native brook trout population.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

There are always new places to go fishing. For any fisherman, there's always a new place, always a new horizon.
.....Jack Nicklaus

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bank Protection at Todd Island/Lansing Park: The project had to be delayed due to the weather. It is now rescheduled for Saturday, March 2nd at 9:30.

Fly Tying Classes: At 9 AM on Wednesdays Project Healing Waters will host fly tying classes and at 6 PM on Wednesday evenings Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited will host

You are receiving this newsletter either as a member or prospective member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please respond by email to BRNCNews@gmail.com and let us know.

classes. The classes will be held at the South Fork Community Center at 4403 Country Club Road in Winston Salem. The classes are free and all are welcome - from beginners to advanced. No need to sign up, just come join us. If you have specific questions about the evening classes, you can contact, Rusty Berrier at rustyberrier@outlook.com.

Spring Balsam Trip: The trip is now fully booked and has a full waiting list.

Great Outdoors Film Festival, March 6th 7-10 PM.

The 18th annual FLY FISHING FILM TOUR (F3T) is back on the road January 2024 with a top notch selection of short films that are sure to get you fired up for the season ahead!

This year there will be films that take you into the science of the Costa Marlin Project, to the deep depths of the jungle for the massive Peacock Bass, and will have a Steelhead story with characters as rare as the fish itself + many, many more.

The F3T is the original and largest fly fishing film event of its kind and we are proud to be an annual community event for all anglers.

Come for the action and stay for the prizing.

[Fly Fishing Film Tour - Winston-Salem!](#)

TIC Release Dates

Location: Stone Mountain State Park

- April 24th - Ledford, Summit
- April 29th – East Davidson, Reagan two classes, Alternate Day, if needed
- May 1st - Davie, School of the Arts, DDCC, Lexington

More information to come on volunteer needs and program details.

The sign up should be on the BRTU website soon. Check it at www.blueridgetu.org.

NC Trail Days, June 1st in Elkin. Presenting the Mitchell River and effect farming is having.

June 8th Wilson Creek Event



An invasive variety of giant bamboo is altering the flow of Wilson Creek during flood stage and causing erosion as much as 100' from normal river banks. We are asking members to attend

and help us rid it. More details to follow.

THE TROUT STREAM ADVOCATE

Advocacy for our trout streams comes in many forms. Some may be political activism while others come from education of the public and taking action. We ask our members to help us plant trees and shrubs on streams to stop bank erosion and prevent silt from entering the stream. However, there are a lot more benefits and awareness that comes out of it.

At our restoration sites coming up in Todd Island and Lansing Creeper Park invasive species are one of the big culprits of stream degradation. Invasive species like Japanese knotweed, oriental bitter sweet, multiflora rose, and



bamboo compete with native plants and trees and in time choking them out, leading to death. Many exotic species were imported as ornamental plants, while some came along with products shipped across the world.

Our chapter is replanting trees and live stakes to compete with these invasive plants on

Todd Island. At Lansing creeper park, the Japanese knotweed forms a fortified band of 4-5 feet on the bank preventing anything from growing through it. See photo. This eventually will spread everywhere. We are trying to do the same there, compete and crowd those species out while stabilizing the banks and creating a diverse habitat for insects, birds, shade and cooler temperature for the trout. This does not happen without a lot of work and dedication by a lot of volunteers. This is activism at its best.

Another form is educating the public by our members through these projects on the effects of planting exotic species and how their escape leads to destruction of natural habitat. So next time you talk to your friends and family let them know what you saw at those restoration sites and how hard everyone has to work now to attempt to reverse the tide. So, we ask our members to be advocates for the streams wherever they are and on as many levels as possible.

Robby Abou-Rizk

FLY ANGLERS ON-LINE

On a cold or rainy day when you're looking for something to entertain you, check out the Fly Anglers On-Line website. [Fly Anglers OnLine](#) I've found this to be the most comprehensive fly fishing website anywhere on the internet. I first learned of it tying flies when I discovered it has detailed instructions for tying flies from beginner to advanced. In addition they have much more in the way of fly fishing instruction plus sections on cartoons, essays, and even fly fishing poetry. Try it-you'll like it.

FLY CASTING TIP

"Keep the casting stroke tight and don't think about casting the whole rod. Just cast the rod tip. It happens with your wrist. Cast from the wrist to the rod tip."

RIVERCOURSE YOUTH PROGRAM 2024

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Support Rivercourse, enter to win Yellowstone Fishing Adventure! Win 6 Night Trip & Fly Rod of Your Choice



Please Help RiverCourse build the next generation of leaders in cold-water conservation. Every year we educate young women and men aged 12-15, at our camp. Enter to win this dream trip at Yellowstone Angler's Basecamp, \$1000 travel stipend, and fly rod. Proceeds directly support North Carolina Trout Unlimited's [Rivercourse Youth Program](#).

[Read More](#)

Call For Volunteers



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IN THE MUSIC CITY!
MARCH 15-17

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2024 Southeast Rendezvous

March 15th-17th in Nashville, TN

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Join fellow TU members, supporters and volunteers from across the region on March 15-17th, 2024 at the Holiday Inn: Nashville-Vanderbilt Downtown for some great fishing, informative presentations, inspiring dialogue and engaging camaraderie with those who share your dedication to TU and our mission.

For more details visit [Southeast Regional Rendezvous](#)

THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE THAT CAST IS TO PRACTICE ONE TIP AT A TIME

Fly casting has dozens of elements needed to create perfection from the grip, to the back cast, to the forecast, and more. Last month we touched on the basics of fly casting. This month we give you many tips to perfect it. To try to memorize all the elements and then go practice them is futile. What we suggest is that you look at these tips one and a time and then practice that one. By repeating each single element several times you are much more likely to remember it when you continue with the others and eventually put them all together. You may not win a professional tournament after combining them all, but you will definitely be a much better fly caster.

9 Common Fly Casting Problems (And How to Solve Them)

June 03, 2021 • [Angler](#) • [Fly Fishing](#)



We all know that mastering a fly cast is a life-long endeavor. Some days we're throwing tight loops wherever we want them to go, and other days, well, we're spending more time untangling our line than actually fishing. It happens to the best of us.

That being said, those bad days don't have to be so frequent. Fly-fishing guide and certified casting instructor Susan Thrasher excels at pointing out

the flaws in a cast and finding the remedy. She has years of experience helping anglers of all levels (if you want to know more, read her about her journey here) and we thought it'd be a good idea to pick her brain for a bit.

It turns out there are a few mistakes that are extremely common, and they also have common remedies as well. Here are nine casting mistakes and Susan's advice for solving them.

Too Much Slack to Start

Symptoms: Tangled line to start the cast, lack of immediate power

It helps to start your cast on the right foot, and one of the most common mistakes Susan sees is angler pulling out too much line and starting their first cast with slack:

"They'll have too much line out on the water to begin their cast, and most times it's in a slack form. Folks really need to master the roll cast so they can cast out a nice straight line. The straighter your line when you start your cast, the better cast it's going to be."

Simply roll cast some line out before you do anything, and you'll have a nice, straight, taut fly line to start your overhead cast.

Starting With the Rod Tip Too High

Symptoms: Having to bring your arm too far back, not feeling the rod load properly

Another problem that pops up at the beginning is the simple positioning of the rod. If your tip is too high, you'll be sacrificing valuable room in your motion to capture the rod's power:

"When you start with your rod tip down close to the water, you get the maximum load in the rod because surface tension is holding the line down on the water. So, you're going to get the maximum power if you start with the rod tip just a few inches off the water."

By starting too high, you'll be behind your cast before you even know it, trying to catch up to the slack tension in your

line. Drop that rod tip and make good use of the water's surface tension.

Ripping Instead of Pulling

Symptoms: Scaring any fish within catching distance, tiring out your arm

One last issue before we really even get to the casting. This generally comes with experience, but there's no need to "rip" the line violently off the water. In fact, it will waste a lot of energy and cause quite a ruckus. Here's a great tip Susan uses for her students:

"Ripping the line makes it feel like the line weighs a ton. Peel it off the water, starting from a slow acceleration to the leader and then, in one stroke, just snatch the leader off the surface. You peel it to a stop. For students, I tell them to peel the line off the water like you're peeling a banana and then when you get to the leader, snatch it to a stop."

Once you get used to the weight of the line and the motion of your rod, it'll be like second nature. That being said, as soon as you get tired or frustrated, you'll go right back to ripping, so stay on top of it.



Breaking the Wrist

Symptoms: Slapping the water behind you with the fly, wide loops.

Perhaps the most common mistake in every fly cast, the ol' tomahawk is a killer of tight loops. To correct this problem, Susan isn't afraid to take it to extremes:

"If you have long sleeves, you can take the rod butt and stick it down into your jacket sleeve or shirt sleeve, and you'll be able to see a difference. When I'm teaching, I'll tell people to actually stop the rod tip straight up and down, vertically over their head. I never tell someone to stop at one o'clock or two o'clock. When they do that, even if they're stopping at one o'clock in their mind, they're going to stop at four o'clock."

In short, if you think your casting motion is tight enough, it's probably not. It's pretty difficult to overdo it, so err on the side of 10-to-12 o'clock and you'll probably be hitting it just right.

Not Stopping in the Backcast

Symptoms: No power in the forward cast, rod not loading, fly line sliding down the guides

A poor backcast is a common mistake because the action isn't happening in plain sight. It's behind you. So, in your head you think you're halting the cast perfectly, but more often than not Susan sees it sliding to a stop, or not even stopping at all:

"The most important part of a cast is the backcast's stop. Too often, I see what I just call a 'dull stop,' where it really needs to be a sharp, crisp stop. Whenever I'm teaching the backcast, as soon as someone's supposed to stop, I'll clap. Then, I'll tell them, 'When I clap, that's how crisply your back cast should be stopped.'"

The stop is everything. It gives your line something to work off of, and if you're not stopping you'll end up with a weak cast. Bring that motion to a screeching halt and you'll be using your rod to its full potential.

Rushing the Backcast

Symptoms: "Whip cracking" the line and losing flies, rod not loading properly

Luckily, one of the most common fly-casting mistakes is one of the most easily addressed. Just give the line a bit more time on the backcast to let it do what it does best. Otherwise, you'll get the infamous "whip":

"If you don't let the line straighten all the way out behind you, you know you've messed it up when you get that 'whip crack,' and you may even whip the fly off of the line. You need to give the line a bit more time, even just a split second longer to let it straighten out. When you do come forward, you'll have a nice loading of the rod."

To see this in action, you can always turn sideways when practicing and watch your backcast to see if it's unfurling properly. On slower-action rods, like our [buttery-smooth Revival](#) line, you may need to give the rod a bit more time than you're used to.



Forward Creep

Symptoms: Ripples in the line when you cast forward, arm needing to "throw" the line out

This is the silent killer of many fly casts because most anglers don't even know they're doing it. When you cast forward, be sure it's all in one motion. Here she explains the difference between creep (bad) and drift (good)

"On the backcast, what you should do is stop and then continue back a few more inches. It's like follow-through backwards. Someone told me it's like punching a cloud. Keep the same angle between your rod butt and your forearm, but you stop and then your rod tip continues to climb another two inches. It gives you an extra amount of loading on that forward cast. Creep is just the opposite. Drift is good, creep is bad. Creep is when you stop and then you come forward before you're actually committing to the forward cast. It's almost like a ricochet. You stop and then you come forward and then you cast, which you can't do. Once you stop, don't move another inch unless you're moving backwards."

In short, it's good to continue drifting backward in your backcast a little bit after the stop. But, if you're casting forward, make sure you're fully committing to a full motion and not stuttering.

Too Much Muscle

Symptoms: Tailing loop (when your loop becomes a circle), improper fly placement, tired arms

Listen up, musclemen and women. You don't need to crush your cast to get the fly out there. In fact, great fly rods (like *ahem* ours) are designed so you don't have to work hard to make a great cast. If you're working hard, you're not casting correctly:

"If you're overpowering the cast, you'll get that tailing loop and also the line will bounce back at you. It will unfurl in front of you, but then it'll kick back towards you and you're actually going to lose distance. You want your line to have just enough power so that it uncurls and lands straight on the water. Too much power is going to cause ripples and slack to form in your line."

Work smart, not hard. If your line is landing past your fly, this is probably what's going wrong.

Too Many False Casts

Symptoms: Tangled line, lost flies, tired arms, weird looks from other anglers

We'll end this lesson on a classic. Too many anglers have fallen victim to a harrowing syndrome called *A River Runs Through It*—good movie, not a great example of fly fishing. Susan's advice is to do the opposite of what Brad Pitt does and just give it one or two casts before getting the fly in the water:

"Try and limit the false cast to one, maybe two at the max. To false cast five or six or seven times is too much. First, you need to have your fly in the water to catch fish, but also the more times that you false cast, the more times you have to screw things up."

Every cast you make you're rolling the dice, so you may as well put the odds in your favor and get that fly in the water.

A big thanks to Susan Thrasher for sharing her tips. If you're interested in fine-tuning your skills or hunting down monster trout, there's no better guide to go with—you can learn more about her services at [southernbrookies.com](#). Hopefully, her advice can help you correct some on-the-water problems. What are some of the more common casting issues you run into on the water? Let us know in the comments below!

LOUIS'S FLY FISHING YOGA

August 14, 2023 / by Louis Cahill



Reece takes one for the team.

Photo by Louis Cahill.

Here are two simple stretches that will help your fly casting.

From time to time I see a fly angler who has trouble with their casting because their shoulders are too tight. A limited range of motion can cause all kinds of problems with your cast. It's worth taking some time to do some simple stretches.

I have a shoulder stretch I learned in martial arts training, that I do every day in the shower. It only takes a few seconds

and it keeps my shoulders flexible. I have another I like to do before I hit the water. This insures that I'm in my best shape for casting.

I'm expecting my audience to have a lot of fun at my expense on this one. It's silly to stretch in front of the camera anyway and I'm pretty tubby at the minute. It's ok, go ahead and laugh. These stretches really do make a difference and you don't have to do them in front of the camera.

WATCH THE VIDEO TO LEARN TWO STRETCHES THAT ARE GREAT FOR FLY FISHERS.

[Louis's Fly Fishing Yoga](#)

Louis Cahill

Gink & Gasoline

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BETTER FLY ROD GRIP FOR BETTER CASTING

by Louis Cahill



The grip is the most fundamental part of your fly cast.

When I'm helping someone with their casting, their grip is always the first thing I look at. The grip is so basic that many anglers never take time to learn it. A bad grip has effects that ripple out through your casting. Even if you have a good grip, you may be using it wrong. It's more common than you'd think. In fact, I struggled with it myself for years.

Don't let your grip slow you down. Take some time to learn the best way to hold the rod and work on it when you practice your casting. It will pay you back in more fish.

WATCH THIS VIDEO TO LEARN THE BEST WAY TO GRIP A FLY ROD.

[Fly Rod Grip for Better Casting](#)

Louis Cahill

Gink & Gasoline

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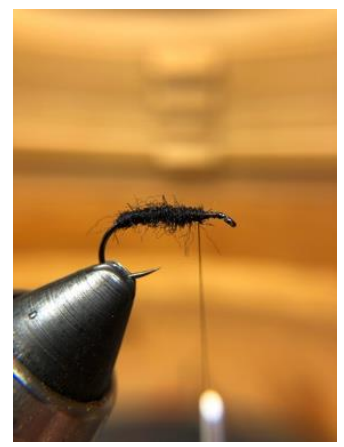
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ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Judging by the buds on the trees, spring is upon us, and promising a great season. Stocking begins in the DH and HS water, so make some afternoon time to tease those fish out. I wanted to continue the winter stone with a little adaptation of a dry to out last months nymph under as a dropper. I have come to appreciate the advantage of foam fly pattern's especially when using a dropper. As a rule, I still drop off the bend of the dry, and some folks prefer a barb on the dry to keep the dropper tippet from sliding off accidentally, strictly up yourself, but wanted to mention that.



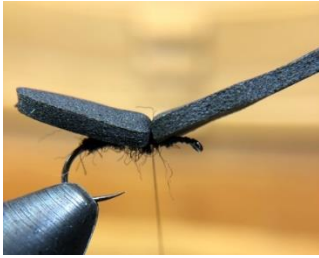
I'm using the Neversink Caddis as my guide on this one but keeping it black for the winter stone match. I tie these from #18 to #14. The hook I'm using is 103BL, standard dry hook. On most foam flies, a longer shank may be preferred, but with this small fly, I like this standard hook length- and the wide gap. Black thread, and a black Antron fiber dubbing. That gives it a bit buggier look than superfine dry dubbing. For the wing, dyed black elk hair and a cream hackle.



Start the thread at the eye and dress to the bend. Sparsely build a dubbing noodle and return to the eye, leaving about an eye length undubbed.



I use the River Road cutters on my foam flies but cutting them with scissors is just fine. Cut the blank to cover the fly from eye and extend about a shank's worth off the bend.



As you see, this blank was much longer, tie that in at the midpoint of the shank with a couple snug wraps and trim the butt end just behind the eye. Wrap that tightly to the eye to make an even foundation for the hackle.



Cut a small clump of elk hair and stack it to align the ends. Pinch wrap those fibers in with the tips aligned with the back of the foam underwing. Trim out the butt ends and tidy up the head.



Even out the head and with a bit of dubbing and tie in the hackle. Then, just a touch more dubbing to give the hackle a firm bed to reside, and wrap a few times, but don't crowd the eye. There needs to be a definite head on this guy to mimic the stone. Black or grizzly hackle would be perfectly fine on this fly, the cream makes it a bit easier to see.



Whip finish and repeat. You can use any color combination on this fly and it makes a great high floating pattern to hang a nymph off of. Hit it with some floatant and she will fish all day for you.

If you have a pattern you would like to see in the column, shoot me an email and we can feature that in an upcoming month. As always, I'm honored to answer questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly tying and fishing. Don't hesitate to contact me at Jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com Please check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

Dave Everhart



[Epic Fly Rods](#)



5 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR CASTING

Becoming a good fly caster is like being a proficient musician, it takes time, practice, and some knowledge of the theory behind it all. Here are 5 simple tips that will help improve your fly casting and your fly fishing.

1. Slow down

Less is often more and that's certainly true for casting a fly line. High line speed has become a myth about by fly rod marketers and regurgitated by anglers that simply don't know any better. Most casters thrash a fly rod far too fast - slow

down and concentrate on good form. Good form and solid technique will get you where you need to go, not speed. Slowing down will also improve your accuracy. Here's a check - use your ears. That swooshing sound your fly rod is making as it cuts through the air is a sure sign your tempo is too high, slow down, pause just a little longer and see if you can cast silently.

2. Use less power

Like a good Scotch, Be smooth. Similar but actually distinctly different to my point above. Most casters overpower the rod and doing so is a major contributing factor to tailing loops. It takes surprisingly little power to keep a fly line aerialized. Try this simple exercise: Strip off 15 to 20 feet of fly line, put your line hand in your pocket, no hauling allowed. Concentrate on casting nice loops with minimum power. Now take out a little power, and a little more. Keep buttoning off, take out more power. Do this until the line falls down around your ears (it wont, not on your first attempts anyway) - you'll be amazed at how little effort it takes to form a good loop.

3. Learn to vary your casting arc and stroke length

Most of us are self taught fly casters and somewhere along the line we all read the same book. "Fly casting takes place between ten to two" - or something like that. As Lefty says, clock faces are for telling time, not fly casting. Casting a short line requires a short casting stroke and narrower casting arc than casting a long line. This combination should be almost infinitely variable. Long line - long stroke. Short line - Short stroke.

See the video below for full explanation

[Vary the Casting Arc](#)

4. Tracking

Tracking refers to the path of the tip your fly rod travels in. Unless you are spey casting which requires the rod tip to travel in three dimensions - good single handed casting requires that the rod tip travels in a relatively straight line in both the vertical and horizontal planes. On the back cast your line should be directly behind you, on the forward cast, directly in front 180 degrees from your back cast. Most casters either hook the fly rod around behind them toward the opposite shoulder or throw their back cast out to the side on the backcast.

Try this: Make a few false casts and on one back cast let it drop and lay out on the ground behind you. Unless you've had a few lessons and have really focused on tracking I can just about guarantee that your fly line will be running out behind you on an angle rather than directly behind you.

The Fix: Targets: Pick two targets, one out in the distance in front of you, the other behind you. A tree, a sign, a fencepost. Now stand directly in line between those two

targets so that you are in line with your front and back targets. Practice casting your line at the front target on your forecast, and the rear target on your back cast.

5. The most important bit

Practice. Good fly casters are easy to spot, they've practiced. Take time out to throw a line in the back yard or park - even better take a buddy and practice together. Yes, you'll get a few smart ass remarks from passers by - if you get anything original, do let me know. All accomplished sports people practice. Come game day it's too late, and there are few things more frustrating than duffing cast after cast.

Practice your fly casting with a short line, take your time, use less power, slow down, nail that tracking and your loops will improve no end.

A WEEKEND IN THE EVERGLADES



Bill Elliot is a well known wildlife painter and has been a good friend for several years. A big part of his lifetime was spent in Florida so I contacted him about a trip to the Everglades. He put me in touch with a friend of his and guide who lives in Everglades City. We booked a weekend trip with Elmer Pillon at Rhino Diaries Adventures and it turned out to be an excellent recommendation. While Elmer has not been guiding for a long time, he and his wife both love fishing the glades so have spent a great amount of time exploring it and learning the backways through the mangroves and where the places the fish are holding.

Our goal for the trip was baby tarpon. Neither my son nor I have a desire to spend a couple hours on the end of a flyrod fighting a 150# tarpon, but we have learned that the thrill of the fight and the jumps of a 25# baby tarpon is just as exciting. We had a bad trip a couple years ago because the tides were wrong so we contacted Elmer and asked him for the ideal time to come. He picked the best tide times for our

trip and to our surprise he said the best time of year was actually in the winter. We booked the first weekend in February.



The weather Saturday couldn't have been more perfect. We had rented a cottage on the canal and Elmer picked us up at our dock at 6:45 AM. The location where we would be

fishing that day was about 26 miles away. We headed out and at the entrance to the lake we would be fishing started the day on the water. The first fish in the boat was a redfish which came as a surprise to Elmer. He said very few were caught this time of year and to his greater surprise we actually caught eight of them before the day was over.

As the day progressed the snook took over the main bite and before the day had ended we caught over 20 snook. My son and I both caught one over 30" before the day ended.



Catching tarpon was a lot tougher. Michael and I both hooked a few but never got them much beyond the first big jump. Fighting tarpon is the opposite of fighting a trout. The instruction is to keep the rod tip low and bow to them when they jump. Basically what that does is to take the pressure off the line and not pull the hook out of their mouth.



They have a very bony mouth that is difficult for the hook to penetrate. On the other

hand when you are fighting a trout you need to keep the rod tip high and the line tight and after seventy years of trout fishing the brain is tough to retrain. After losing a few and with loud coaching from Elmer and I while he fought it, Michael finally brought one to the boat.

A major storm was forecast for the next day that looked like it might shut off our fishing trip so Elmer kept us out until almost 6 PM. It was great that he did as the bite really turned on. We caught several more snook and I hooked three nice baby tarpon. As I said, my mind was trained by trout

and in spite of my son and Elmer coaching I didn't bow to the tarpon as I should. From the bite to the first jump is usually very quick and the adrenaline rush blocks any logical thinking in those first few seconds.

The next day the storm that had been forecast to last from 9 AM to 4 PM came through at 9, but blew through before 11. We had already checked out of our cottage so we met Elmer at his dock and headed out to a different section of the Everglades. After a long run through a mangrove tunnel we came to a series of lakes. We worked around and in one of the coves I hooked up another tarpon. This time I had finally trained my mind and managed the proper bows and brought it to the boat. That was the climax of my weekend.



From there Elmer took us to a channel where he said he and his wife had discovered that the snook like to hang out. It was amazing with one bite after another of medium to large snook as we cruised on through the channels. At the end of the channels was another mangrove tunnel that was a bit wider and higher, but still pretty tight. He had Michael who is a phenomenal fly caster throw his fly down the tunnel and on the first cast he hooked into a nice snook. I would have wagered there was not a chance he would land it, but with a



lot of finesse, he was able to work it though all the mangrove roots and bring it to the boat. The photo here is actually toward the end of the tunnel where we finally brought into the boat, but he pulled it through some

much tighter sections.

We chatted a lot along the way and Elmer commented that a trip is really made by a combination of the journey, the destination, and the company. I've described the journey here and it was a wonderful journey. The company was great. I always have a great time fishing with my son Michael, but we also really enjoyed being out there with Elmer. He is a great guide and shares a lot of information about the Everglades, its history and the wildlife. But the



Everglades as a destination truly completes the adventure. Gliding through the Everglades and especially cruising through the tunnels of mangroves is very unique and there is an amazing amount of wildlife. We passed a flock of maybe 500 white pelicans that took to flight as we went by. There were a lot of alligators and

one surfaced and then ducked under right before we almost ran over him.



If you are looking for a great adventure and actually one not too far from home, consider a trip to the everglades. It's a saltwater trip without the salt water and the wide open flats that make fly casting a lot more difficult. And check out www.rhodiariesadventures.com. Elmer will take you on an adventure you will always remember.

You can see a 10 minute video of this trip at [Rhino Diaries | Chick and Michael Take On The Everglades](#).

THE ALL NEW HELIOS CLAIM

Having been educated in the sciences this caught my interest. The new Helios scientifically can make an improvement in your casting accuracy. Certainly your abilities are the major factor, but as you become proficient with your casting skills, the rod tip not wobbling may add another layer of accuracy. I don't know how important this is on smaller trout streams, but on large rivers and especially on the salt flats this can make the difference between spooking and catching a fish. Be sure to watch the video.

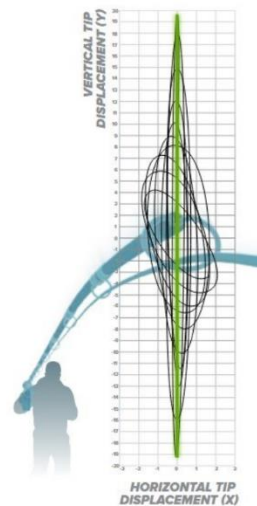
[Helios Fly-Fishing Rods | Orvis](#)

Accuracy

*The most accurate fly rod in the world
AND WE CAN PROVE IT*

HOW WE ACHIEVED ULTIMATE ACCURACY
The incredible new Helios is 4X more accurate than Helios 3—the previous undisputed industry benchmark—and leaves all other competitors even farther behind. To achieve this quantum leap in accuracy, our designers had to solve for one of the main enemies of precision: tip displacement. When the energy of the forward cast is released, it can cause the rod tip to wobble around the horizontal and vertical axes—reducing the accuracy of the cast. The new Helios displays dramatically increased hoop strength and minimized vibration along the blank, leading to a radical reduction of tip displacement. The result is a precise, smooth energy transfer from your hand to the fly and laser-like precision.

SEEING IS BELIEVING
The graph to the right illustrates horizontal and vertical tip displacement of the new Helios versus those of the leading competitor. As you can see, the Helios rod tip is much more stable. Featuring the most significant reduction in tip displacement ever measured, the new Helios allows you to hit your target with laser precision.



FISH LIVE IN BEAUTIFUL PLACES

Over the last 10 years my son Michael and I have made regular fishing trips to many places. Thinking about the destinations where we have traveled started me thinking about the beauty of many of our trips. We both looked back and picked out some of the best and we share them here with you.

On a chilly morning in Alaska we took a ride to the mouth of the Copper River.



It is hard to find something more beautiful than a sandy beach on blue water. This photo was taken from the porch of our cottage on Turneffe Flats in Belize.



Perhaps one of our most beautiful journeys was floating down the Green River in Utah through the mountain valleys.



The mangrove tunnels may not be described as beautiful, but drifting through them provides a peaceful quiet and eeriness that stays in your memory.



That same peacefulness comes with the sunset on an Everglades lake along with its beauty.



And the sunshine on a mangrove flats gives you a warmth and well being.



The Jumbo River falls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



A morning on the New River fishing for smallmouth bass



The airport approach at South Andros in the Bahamas



The Emerald Pool on Wilson Creek



But perhaps the journey I love most of all is the beauty of a stream like Helton Creek with its autumn foliage.



We'd love to hear your input. If there is a topic you'd like addressed or if you have something to share in the newsletter, please contact us at BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com.

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