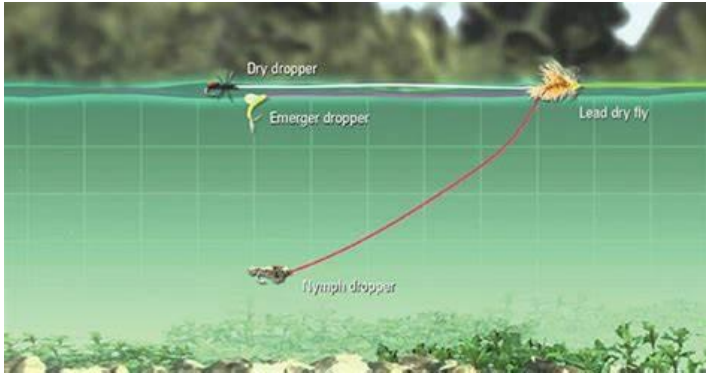


Blue Ridge NC Trout Unlimited



June 2023 Newsletter

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This month we're going to discuss the tandem rig for fly fishing. There are two primary types: the Dry Dropper rig and the Below the Surface rig. Most of our fishing is done below the surface, but there are times the dry dropper is the way to go. An example is the rainbow trout mounted on the TU wall at Wilson Creek visitor center. Steve Mull of Hickory caught that fish on a dry dropper at Wilson Creek using a Stimulator as his dry fly. A great time for the Dry Dropper is during a mayfly hatch. Use a mayfly as the dry fly and a mayfly emerger as the dropper. Read on and you'll find more ideas about when and how to use each type of rig.

Also, please read to the end to see some great photos from the Balsam trip and Trout in the Classroom release.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Judge Vacates Bottomley's penalties.

On May 4th, an administrative law judge vacated the penalties (266K) levied to the Bottomley companies for the destruction of Ramey creek, Roaring Fork and Big Piney brook trout streams two years ago on a signature technicality. The issue was the Secretary of DEQ had left for another job at the time the penalties were issued by the Department of Environmental quality DEQ. The penalty was signed by Jeff Poupart who was, at the time, the Section Chief of the Water Quality Permitting Section of DWR (which is itself part of DEQ). The Administrative Law judge found that only the Secretary of DEQ or the Director of DWR has authority to sign the penalty—not Mr. Poupart as the Section Chief of the Water Quality Permitting Section. Thus, the penalty assessment could not be delegated to any other DEQ or DWR employee and so it was vacated. The violations still stand, but now the DEQ has to figure out its next step. This bears a chilling effect on enforcement of our water quality laws if the

penalties are not reassessed quickly. Violators will know they can keep destroying our streams and get away with it. We will be asking our chapter members as well as all TU chapters to send letters to the DEQ asking them to remedy the situation quickly and reissue the penalties so violators know that a technicality will not void their obligation. Please watch for an action alert email to come out next week.

You can read the detailed story by Lisa Sorg who published several articles on the demise of Ramey creek. Here is the link for it:

<https://ncnewslines.com/briefs/judge-tosses-historic-fine-against-bottomley-properties-because-wrong-deq-employee-signed-the-paperwork/>

You can also find the legal brief on our website.

Robbie Abou-Rizk

JUNE MEETING

When: Tuesday, 20th, 6 PM

Where: Sixty-Six Grill and Tap House
3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem

Who: Derek Ware, Timber Manager Duke Energy

What: Stream Side Buffers

Currently, Derek manages roughly 400,000 acres of land across the Duke footprint (NC, SC, FL, IN, KY, OH, TN).

MAY CHAPTER MEETING

Sam Methvin, the Orvis Greensboro manger presentation in May was on salt water fishing, specifically Red Fish of the coast of NC. He covered many topics from gear to flies, locations, clothing and shoes needed for saltwater fishing as well as explanations for the tides and how they change from one inlet to another and its effect on fishing. Sam was very knowledgeable. Orvis Greensboro also has trips for saltwater fishing in NC. Sam also noted that he is happy to work with our members to outfit them with what they need in gear, clothing for the specific location they may go fish at. Orvis has supported BRTU in many ways over the years and so we ask you to do the same and patronize the store. Please let Sam or other sales people know you are from BRTU. They often give members discounts so ask Sam for one.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I will fish as long as my hands can hold a rod and reel"
.....*Steelhead Manifesto*

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fly Tying Classes

At 9am on Wednesdays Project Healing Waters will host fly tying classes and at 6pm on Wednesday evenings Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited will host classes. 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.

Bryson City Oct 12-15: This year we will switch from going to Balsam Smoky Mountain Retreat. That area hosts all kinds of streams and opportunities. See the details later in the newsletter in the Balsam trip report.

Ararat Stream Clean

June 10, 2023

Time: 9am - 12noon

Location: Ararat River, HB Rowe Environmental Park, Mt. Airy, NC

We will have our annual spring stream clean at the Ararat River in Mt. Airy NC. After the stream clean lunch will be provided. Please, sign-up for the Stream Clean, so we have enough food for lunch. [Click here to sign-up.](#)

Rod Building Classes

Rod building classes continue on Wednesday mornings and evenings at 9:00AM - 12:00PM and 6:00PM - 8:30PM through July 26, 2023. For information about the classes please contact [Ed Graham](mailto:EdGraham31@gmail.com)

EdGraham31@gmail.com

336-413-5457

FLY FISHING TIPS

Be Careful When Drifting – You only really need to drift about 6 to 8 feet, any farther and you'll have line management problems. One of the main culprits of over drifting is casting too far to begin with. Keep it short and simple until you become more proficient with line management.

YOUTH FISHING EVENT ON ELKIN CREEK

On May 18th BRTU and Watershed Now, a nonprofit organization from Elkin, hosted a youth fishing event at the Elkin recreation park on Big Elkin to highlight issues with sediment on the Big Elkin and the Mitchell River. The Elkin River turns orange every time it rains due to run off from tobacco fields and the Mitchell is filling up with sediment from agricultural fields above the DH section. The event was a great success with about 20 kids showing up from elementary and middle schools. NCWRC was very gracious by stocking the big pool below the spillway with trout the day before. The kids had a great time and all caught many fish with the younger ones beating the older more seasoned kids. They only broke for Pizza and then went back to the river to fish as the excitement of trout tugging on their line and fish flopping out of their hands could not be contained. We want to thank all the volunteers that helped, especially our BRTU volunteers Ally Jones who put on her waders and rescued

many snagged lines out of the river while Randy Mays helped kids fish and unhook fish. All fish were released except two that were not going to survive. Robby Abou-Rizk manned the lure tables and provided flies, sinkers and tied lines and manned the BRTU table.



BRTU BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Board members needed for the fall election: In October, 3 of our board members will finish their terms. If you have enjoyed all that Blue Ridge offers you, then it is time for you to step up and join the board. If you are interested, just talk to a board member at our chapter meetings or contact us at our website www.blueridgetu.org.

THE POST SPAWN FLY

My son and I made a trip to the Roanoke River recently for striped bass with Captain Will Paul. In early morning there was a spawning frenzy going on and if you have fished at this time you know that the bite slows during spawning, but picks up after for a short time. You have an hour or two window after spawning to catch them and you want something that will really get their attention. As you are probably aware that it is a frequent practice after sex to relax with a



cigarette after sex so we developed a fly that would really entice them.

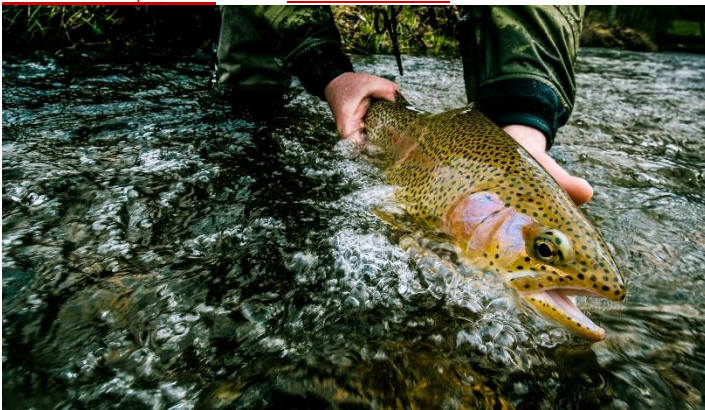
So the next time you're fishing to spawning fish from striped bass to brown trout and really any species, tie on the cigarette fly and grab their attention. Here's the

proof that it works.



Tandem Tactics for Trout. Part One: Touching The Surface

MARCH 6, 2023 / BY LOUIS CAHILL



FOR A WHOLE LOT OF REASONS, TWO FLIES ARE BETTER THAN ONE.

There's nothing new about fishing teams of flies. European fly anglers have fished elaborate multi-fly systems, called casts, for generations. Most serious trout anglers here in the US regularly fish two or three flies, where regulations allow. Still, there are many anglers who resist this technique. These anglers are often intimidated by casting a team of flies and, perhaps more often, just not sure what to tie on.

Nymph rigs, with split shot and indicators, are a challenge to cast but the second fly is really not the problem. When the setup tangles, the split shot is generally the culprit. If you are comfortable casting split shot, you will likely not have trouble with the extra fly but if you are still concerned, consider replacing that split shot with a weighted nymph. A tungsten bead or some lead on the hook shank can sink your setup as effectively as shot and may catch a fish.

My nymph rigs almost always include two or three nymphs and at least one split shot. Yes, like everyone else

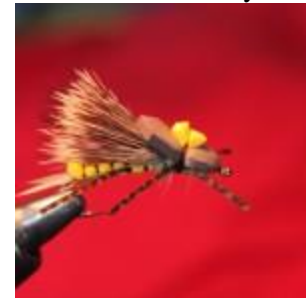
who owns a fly rod, I occasionally get a tangle. I'm pretty good at getting them out and adhere strictly to the two minute rule. If it's going to take more than two minutes to untangle, I cut my flies off and re-tie.

There are a couple of things you can do to reduce tangling with weighted set ups. Tangles usually result from slack in the system. Slow your cast down and focus on making nice clean loops. The smooth application of power and abrupt stop are never more important. In truth, most tangles do not form in the cast itself but are due to a failure to control your line while not casting. Fish often help with this. Missing a fish on a small trout stream often ends in tree climbing. Be conscious of you rig as you move from spot to spot and set up to cast. This will cut out a lot of the birds nests.

Dry Dropper rigs

The most commonly used team of flies is the dry dropper. There are two common strategic ways of looking at this technique. The first is searching the water with a dry fly and adding a nymph or emerger pattern to pick up the fish who don't want the dry. The other is fishing a nymph with a dry as a strike indicator and picking up the occasional fish who looks up. There are only two practical differences in the set up. Your frame of mind and possibly the distance between the two flies, with the indicator idea being the longer.

A third and more technical strategy is to cover a hatch with flies that represent the same insect in different life stages. This is not a searching tactic but a way to really maximize your opportunity on a good hatch. It usually involves an adult dry and an emerger or floating nymph.



the early season through summer and hoppers in late summer and fall.



Caddis pupa and midge larva are great choices as well.



Hopper and adult stone fly patterns (shown) are great dry flies for dropper set ups. These flies generally incorporate foam, bushy hackles, deer hair wings or all of the above. They will float a weighted nymph with ease and are productive searching patterns with the stone flies working in

Bead head nymphs are a great choice for these teams with one of my favorites being a split case nymph with a tungsten bead (shown). Old standbys like hairs ears and pheasant tails always produce. Even medium size stone fly nymphs are a great choice where the naturals are present.

If you're confident throwing a three-fly rig the popular Hopper, Copper, Dropper set up is a proven producer. This system utilizes your hopper or adult stone fly as an indicator

and trails a Copper John (shown) or other heavily weighted fly, which in turn trails a small nymph or midge pattern. It is effectively a nymph set up with an eatable indicator and split shot. It's very effective.



Big bushy flies are great for floating droppers but the dry dropper technique is not limited to big flies. Many smaller caddis and mayfly patterns float a nymph nearly as well. On broken water an Elk Hair Caddis is a great choice and deadly in pocket water. Many mayfly patterns, even parachute patterns work well where the water is softer. Don't rule these patterns out as they are often more productive than the larger flies. Pay attention to the naturals which are available on the water and imitate them.



Even legitimately tiny flies can work in the lead position. A number eighteen Klinckhammer Special (shown) will not float a bead head nymph but teamed with an RS2 (shown) it is one of the most effective tactics I know. The parachute post of the Klinckhammer works well as an indicator for the super subtle RS2. It may not go under but having the awareness of your fly's location gives you the confidence to set on a nearby rise form. This team is amazing for covering a Blue Winged Olive hatch.



Other great match the hatch teams include caddis emergers dropped behind adult dries like Elk Hair Caddis, Trudes and my favorite, the CDC Caddis (shown). Pheasant Tail nymphs dropped from an Adams cover many species of mayflies and adding a parachute pattern to a winged adult is always productive.

When a hatch is heavy and your offering has to compete with hundreds of naturals on the surface don't be shy to tie on two identical flies of the hot pattern. During spinner falls and trico hatches this can literally double your odds. It's a great way to cover BWO, Caddis or any blizzard hatch.

The distance between your lead fly and dropper, or droppers, depends on the water and the tactics you are using. It's usually between two and four feet with the shorter lengths working well for random dries, dry and emerger teams and searching teams. Longer droppers are generally reserved for water where getting a weighted nymph down to hungry fish is key. Don't be lazy. Change your rig as conditions change.

Fishing tandem rigs is not rocket science and I guarantee these tactics will put you on more fish. Give it a try and don't be afraid to experiment. Unconventional tactics often

produce great results. If you have favorite teams of flies, please share them in the comments section for others.

In part two we will take the team sub surface.

Louis Cahill

Gink & Gasoline

Tandem Tactics for Trout Part Two: Below The Surface

MARCH 12, 2023 / BY LOUIS CAHILL



Photo by Louis Cahill

DRY DROPPER SET UPS ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING. SOME OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE TEAMS RUN DEEP.

Tandem nymph rigs are hands down the most effective way to catch trout. Let's leave behind the aesthetic arguments about dry fly fishing for the minute, there's a reason that all competitive trout fishing is done with teams of nymphs. It works and it will increase your numbers.

There are a host of ways you can choose to fish nymphs. I'm not going into the details of Czech Nymphing vs. French nymphing or Merican nymphing, but I will include some links at the end of this article. For now I'm going to focus on choosing and rigging nymphs that work effectively as teams.

Rigging

There are two common ways to rig tandem nymphs. The simplest and most commonly used for indicator set ups is to tie the dropper off the bend of your lead fly's hook. Sixteen inches of tippet between the flies is a good average length. You might assume that the dropper would fish sixteen inches deeper than the lead, but that's not the case. It all depends on the distribution of weight.

It is pretty common to fish a weighted lead fly with an unweighted dropper. This team will fish at about the same depth. This tactic offers the fish two choices at the same depth. If your goal is to fish different levels of the water column, you must use a weighted dropper or a split shot four inches or so above the dropper. An unweighted dropper with a split shot will have better action but is a little more maintenance and can compromise your tippet strength. The difference in depth between the two flies will only be about half the length of the tippet which separates them so you may want to go longer than sixteen inches, depending on conditions.

This is the setup I use most commonly. I place a split shot above my last blood knot on the leader, ten inches above my lead fly. My lead fly is usually weighted and the dropper set up varies between unweighted fly, unweighted fly with split shot and weighted fly. It has been my experience that most anglers do not fish enough weight. If you're not finding the bottom once in a while, you aren't nymphing this rig effectively.

The other common method for teams of nymphs is to tie each fly from the tag end of a blood knot. This method is most often used for tight line methods like Czech nymphing, because it allows the flies to move naturally in the water while the leader itself remains under tension.

Leave the tag end of your leader about eight inches long when tying on tippet and tie your fly to it. It's important that the fly is tied to the leader end of the knot rather than the tippet. This way the fish will pull the knot tighter and not apart. Repeat this procedure for the second and even third fly. Tie the entire leader before adding the flies.

The weight for this kind of rig is traditionally incorporated in the flies. The set up is challenging enough without split shot. There are many schools of thought but putting a very heavy fly in the middle of a three fly team with a smaller weighted fly in the lead and an unweighted fly at the termination of the leader is a common and effective method. The flies fish in a kind of W formation. You can also attach the three flies by tags and terminate the set up with split shot.

If you choose this type of rig, save yourself some grief, and minimize your casting. Lifting the flies to the surface and flipping them upstream is the best way to avoid making a mess of it. A classic dead drift with no indicator, or a tight line method yield best results.

Selecting flies

Fly selection is a matter of psychology. Whether fish psychology or angler psychology is debatable. Effective anglers, sane or otherwise, employ some kind of strategy in selecting a team of flies. Often a given fly is only effective when paired with the right partner. Here are some strategies I commonly use.

Big / small

This is almost always at play in my nymph rigs, sometimes incorporating another strategy as well. The larger fly is always in the lead position and is generally weighted. On streams where stoneflies are present, those are my go-to patterns. I may select a natural dropper like a Hare's Ear, a Caddis pupa or midge larvae, or I may choose some type of attractor.

Attractor / natural

Hot Spot nymphs, flashy nymphs and bright colored patterns like San Juan Worms get fish's attention. They catch fish but they can also make your natural patterns more effective by drawing the fish's attention. I decide which is the dropper by weight and size.

Nymph / emerger

This is a great technique for taking advantage of pre-hatch insect activity. Target a species of insect you expect to be active and use a nymph and emerger that imitate that same species. There is no wrong way to set these flies up but I like to put the nymph in the lead and use unweighted patterns for both. You can fish them in the film or add a split shot. CDC emergers are my favorite and will still ride higher in the water column than the nymph, especially with split shot.

Junk / subtle

I have found it very productive to pair subtle, natural patterns like RS2s or tiny Pheasant Tails with junk flies, especially egg patterns in the lead. Whether or not you like egg patterns they get the attention of fish. On highly pressured waters where fish will refuse eggs, they still look at them. You can use this to draw attention to a pattern they might eat, but might not see otherwise. This trick works well when water clarity is poor. In this case I keep the dropper no more than a foot from lead fly.

The hot ticket

When fish are keyed in on a particular pattern, there's no reason you can't fish two, or three of them. You can vary the size and color slightly to increase the attraction. Spreading the patterns out let's you cover the water more effectively and increase your odds of a hook up.

Built to swing

One of the most productive teams you can fish is a Woolly Bugger followed by a soft hackle. Both flies work as dead drifted nymphs but they are both super effective on the swing. I will typically cast this team upstream for a dead drift presentation, then swing and lift them at the end of the drift. You can cast them down and across for the swing or straight across and strip them back. You'll even catch fish casting upstream and retrieving. There's no wrong way to fish this team, which makes it a great choice for beginners.

Streamers

Yep, even streamers can be fished in teams. You can combine two flies of the same size or fish a small streamer behind a larger one. Flashy nymphs work extremely well dropped from streamers too. The fish who may not have the confidence to eat the streamer may eat the nymph. Larger patterns like size eight accommodate the heavier tippet needed for streamer fishing.

A word of caution

Fishing tandem set ups can sometimes end in foul-hooked fish, and anglers. Keeping your flies at least sixteen inches apart will help reduce this but foul hooking is usually a result of a slow hook set. If your timing is good, it shouldn't be much of an issue. It's a good idea to fish barbless hooks, especially on random set ups. This will reduce the chance of seriously injuring a fish or yourself. The worst hooking I ever got was from a dropper pulled into my hand by a fish. The hook went through my thumb and came out through the nail. I was never more thankful that I'd crushed the barb.

Tandem flies are a powerful tool for putting fish in the net. This should give you some ideas and get you catching

more trout. Don't be afraid to experiment. Find what work for you on your water. There are no wrong answers.

[Read Tandem Tactics for Trout Part 1](#)

[Read about Czech Nymphing](#)

[Read about Merican Nymphing \(indicator nymphing\)](#)

Louis Cahill

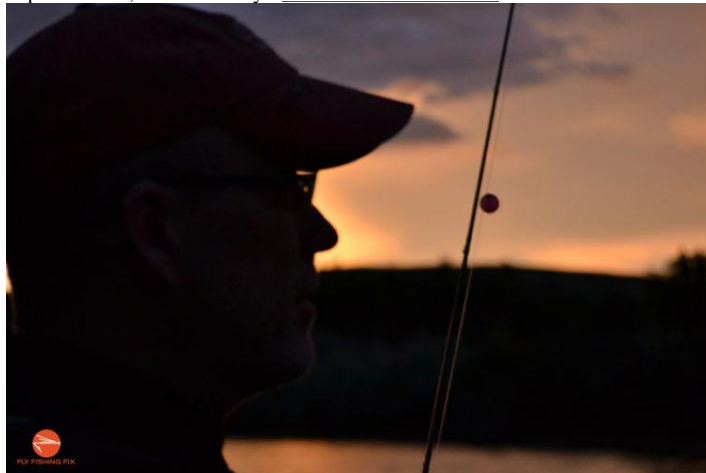
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[EASY WAY TO TIE A TANDEM RIG](#)



Strike indicators play an extremely important role in your success as an angler. But, with so many options out there, it can be hard to pick just one. **So, what is the best strike indicator for fly fishing?**

In short, the Thingamabobber is widely considered to be the best all-around strike indicator for fly fishing. Due to their buoyancy, ease of casting in windy conditions, and sensitivity to strikes, Thingamabobbers are hard to beat. Additionally, since they are sold in multiple sizes, you can use them in almost any fly fishing situation.

That said, every strike indicator has its benefits and drawbacks. So, while the Thingamabobber is a good choice for most occasions, there are situations where it might not be your best option.

Additionally, when you're nymphing for trout, choosing the right strike indicator can be the difference between a successful day on the water, and a big ol' skunk! So, to put it bluntly, this is a decision you don't want to get wrong.

And that's exactly why I am writing this article.

In this guide, I am going to cover 7 of the best strike indicators for fly fishing, and the situations in which situations they work best.

Let's dive in!

Disclaimer: This post may contain affiliate links, meaning we will receive a small commission (at no cost to you) if you click through and make a purchase.

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1. THINGAMABOBBER



Throughout all my years of fly fishing, I have tried just about every strike indicator on the market. Between yarn indicators, stick-ons, and even a self-made indicator fashioned from a braces rubber band and stain-proof carpet teased with velcro, I've been around the block a time or two.

And after all that experience, I can tell you with quite a bit of confidence that the Thingamabobber is the best choice for most fly fishing situations. (Hence why it is at the top of this list.)

Thingamabobbers come in four different sizes: ½", ¾", 1", and 1 ¼". The smaller sizes work great for smaller streams and rivers — where you are more likely to encounter skittish fish — while the two bigger sizes work great for larger rivers and lakes.

It might sound obvious, but the main thing that makes Thingamabobbers such great strike indicators is that they float so well. I mean, after growing up in a world where yarn indicators — which required a fresh application of floatant about every 10th cast — were the only option, Thingamabobbers were a breath of fresh air. Beyond that, thingamabobbers are easy to cast into the wind. Which, once again, is a nice change of pace from yarn indicators that suck the big one on a windy day.

So, if Thingamabobbers are so wonderful, why would I even think to include six other items on my list of the best strike indicators? Well, that's simple, they are a bad choice when you're casting to skittish fish.

You see, Thingamabobbers are less than subtle when you're trying to make a gentle cast. They land abruptly, and disturb the water; which, is obviously a bad thing. So, if you're ever in a fly fishing situation where stealth is a high priority, the Thingamabobber isn't a great option.

Related Content:

[Do You Need a Strike Indicator? "Naked Nymphing"](#)

[25 Tips For Fly Fishing Small Streams And Creeks](#)

[21 Common Fly Fishing Mistakes To Avoid](#)

[25 Proven Tips To Catch More Trout](#)

[How To Tie A Double Nymph Rig? A Step-By-Step Guide](#)

[What Is An Attractor Fly? \(With 10 Examples\)](#)

2. AIRFLO AIRLOCK INDICATOR



Airflo Airlock indicators are very similar to Thingamabobbers in that they are a little, air-filled plastic bubble that floats on the water. However, they come with one major difference: the way they attach to your leader.



As opposed to a Thingamabobber which you have to essentially tie to your leader, Airflo Airlock indicators have a fastening system that allows you to attach them without looping and kinking your line. This is a great little invention if you are constantly adjusting the placement of your indicator.

However, with the added weight of the little plastic fastener, these actually disturb the surface of the water more than a Thingamabobber. So, I only recommend you use these indicators on larger bodies of water where their lack of subtlety won't be an issue.

3. NEW ZEALAND STRIKE INDICATOR



The New Zealand Strike Indicator is probably the most unique indicator on this list. It is similar to a regular yarn indicator, except for the fact that you get to determine how much yarn you use, and they are much easier

to move up and down your leader.

Additionally, unlike the Thingamabobber, this indicator is great for delicate casting situations when you don't want to spook any fish.

That said, the downside to these indicators, is that they require the new zealand indicator tool in order to attach them to your leader. When you first buy this indicator, it comes in a kit with everything you need, but you do have to keep the tool loaded with little sections of rubber tubing; which can be a little inconvenient. Also, like the yarn indicator, these can be a pain to cast in the wind.

4. FOAM INDICATOR



The more traditional, foam indicator is another great option. While it may look similar to a yarn indicator, it does not need to be dressed with floatant, which is really nice. Also, it is easier to cast in the wind.

I would place the foam indicator as a good middle-ground between a Thingamabobber and a New Zealand Indicator. In other words, if you like the convenience of a thingamabobber, with a more delicate nature of yarn, then the foam indicator is a great choice.

5. CORQS STRIKE INDICATOR



CorQs Strike Indicators are extremely buoyant, because they are made of, you guessed it, cork. And while in most cases, the Thingamabobber is a slightly better option, these indicators really shine in one particular

situation: wind.

Of all the indicators on this list, CorQs are, by far, the easiest to cast on windy days.

Seriously, I can think of multiple occasions in which I actually swapped out my Thingamabobber for a CorQs indicator, just because I needed less wind resistance.

So, if you find yourself consistently fishing in windy conditions, it's a good idea to have one or two of these on-hand.

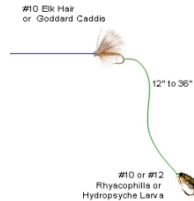
6. STICK-ON OVAL INDICATORS

Stick-on Oval indicators are probably the most convenient strike indicators on this list. They don't take up much room in your vest or pack, they attach to your leader without any kind of knot or tool, they are pretty easy to cast in the wind, and they are great for delicate casting situations.

In situations where you just need to get an indicator on your line quickly, these should be your go-to.

However, like all the other indicators on this list, there are a few drawbacks to these indicators. For one, I have had these fall off my line on multiple occasions, which I can't say has happened to me with any of the other indicators on this list. On the other hand, I have also had these indicators basically weld themselves to my line on a hot day, which makes them near impossible to get off; also annoying. Finally, these things just don't seem to maintain their 'stickiness' over the course of a few months in storage. So, if you plan to use them, you should buy a new pack every season.

7. DRY FLY



When it comes to strike indicators, the dry fly is often overlooked and underrated. Now, I realize that you can't really use a dry fly as an indicator for deep water fly fishing situations. However, **if you ever find yourself nymphing shallow water**, setting yourself up with a **dry dropper rig can seriously increase your chances of catching a fish**.

If you're going to use a dry fly as an indicator, I recommend using a large, buoyant fly like an Amy's Ant, or a Stimulator. But, if you are fishing small streams, even a small Parachute Adams can do the trick.

Oh, and if you haven't subscribed to the [Fly Fishing Fix](#) email list, you should make that your #1 priority, and do it right now! Why? Well, it's rumored that we won the Academy Award for Best Email List Ever Made. Though, I can't actually confirm that, because while all those actors and actresses were giving each other awards, I was probably busy landing like a 30" trout. Oh, and if you're wondering 'who' I was wearing the night of the Oscars... Simms. Take that Vera Wang!

FLY FISHING TIPS

Slow down, take a deep breath and observe your surroundings. What do you see in the cobwebs from last night? Which way is the wind blowing? What about the sun, will you cast a shadow over the water? We're all excited when we first get to the water's edge so don't blow it before casting a line.

PHW ROD BUILDING (AND MORE) CLASS

At a recent PHW rod building class visit they are making some beautiful fly rods and a new trend of wrapping golf club handles and transforming them into wading sticks or walking sticks. They are light, very strong and unique. If you would like a spiffy custom wading staff, just contact Tim Moore, one of the TU/PHW instructors. You can reach him at TMoore8024@aol.com or call him at 336-817-1656.

A



And they are also making some beautiful bamboo rods.



ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Thought I would take an afternoon break and write this article from stream-side during a week long trip to fish some of the many streams Ashe County has to offer.

This week has been perfect weather, good water levels and plenty of bugs coming off the water. All that was set up to fish all the boxes at some point-and everything was productive. While it's always fun to catch stockers, it's an unexpected joy to catch wild fish-and several wild browns were brought to net this year. Those were either tight lined Euro style in the deep runs or on dry-dropper set ups in the seams. This month's discussion about tandem rigs could not have been more timely to show you an emerger pattern that I have been fishing under a dry very successfully for years. It's a simple pattern that can be tied with any variation you want to change up so it's a great foundation to build on.



I love the dry dropper rig- you need to fish it like a dry but the added nymph gives a little different set of rules. I want this nymph to trail off the bend of the drifting dry as close to a 90 degree angle as possible. If fishing top to bottom of a run downstream, the nymph rises at the end of the dry drift, and often you get the strike at the end of the dry drift when you would normally have considered the drift over. Let it get tight and drag to let that dropper come up- and be prepared for the bite. The fish will follow that down and that little rise provokes them to committing.

For the hook, the TMC2457 is my go to. It's a little heavier than some of the other curved hooks and I want that extra to keep it in the zone. I tie these from 20 up to 14 typically, but certainly you can use this a pattern as double nymph rig and go larger.

The bead is a countersunk tungsten, again that tad more weight keeps the fly down and allows that to rise at the end. You can use brass or glass as your water levels and needs may dictate. I like the matte black as a standard but there

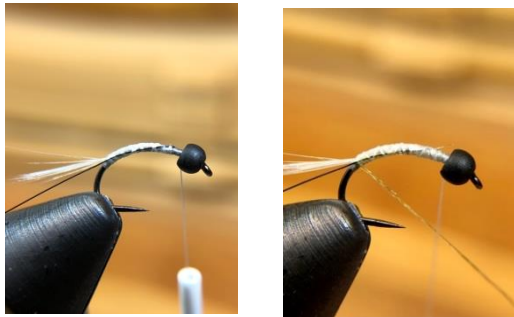
are plenty of new colors that work as a variant to this pattern. That's the beauty of tying-get what you need. I've not had issues with getting my dry swamped with the heavier bead, but plan on using a dry pattern that is commensurate than the dropper. Skittering Caddis, ECH, Parachutes and Stimulator patterns are my choices, and of course any of the foam body patterns support a dropper. I use white thread so that the body quill color can come through with some translucency.

Tailing is some stiff white or cream CDL hackle fibers, is a pretty big clump to imitate the shuck being shed of the emerging mayfly. Tie it down just past the bend of the hook and fan it out.



Tie on the ribbing. I'm using extra small black wire to segment the body, color choice of rib is one of those variants that you can make.

For the body, I use body quill in different colors, yellow is one of my favorites, but any natural color-browns, greens, black, cream and even red or purple would get the job done. I always carry a variety to keep the odds in my favor for picky fish.



Wrap the body with touching turns of the body quill material to the bead and secure that with a couple thread wraps. Segment the body with wire ribbing and secure with a couple wraps.



Coat the fly with your UV resin of choice. I'm using Solarez Bone Dry thin. That minimizes the drag factor to keep the fly as close to that 90 degree trailing as possible and gives a natural translucent shine.



Form a short dubbing loop for the collar. I use squirrel to get that spikey look, but CDC, Simi-Seal, or any buggy dubbing in the loop will work fine. Again, thousands of variants are possible.



A little black marker on a couple inches of thread and whip finish.



Hope these guys find a home in your box and as part of your tandem rig-either as a dropper or as a double nymph.

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 or check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

Dave Everhart

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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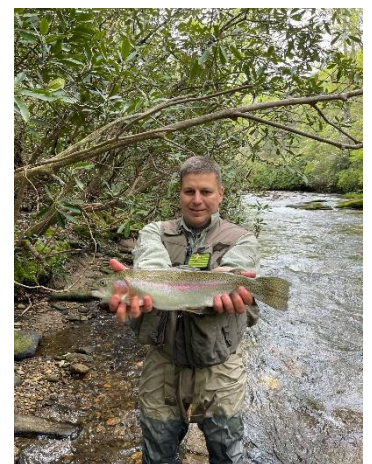
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BALSAM TRIP REPORT

Three days of beautiful weather. On Thursday we fished the Mills river, East Fork of the French Broad, West fork of the Pigeon. On Friday we fished the Tuck, Raven, SOCO, & West Fork of the Pigeon. Saturday we went to the Headwaters Outfitter Private water in the East Fork of the French Broad and North Fork of the French broad. Lots of fish caught all three days. Sorry, I forgot to get a group picture.

For the Fall trip we are partnering with the Charlotte Rocky River TU chapter. We are going to Bryson City, they have reserved some cabins at; Smoky Mountain Retreat. At this location you can stay in the cabins, tent camp or bring an RV. The date is October 12-15th. The sign up will be on the Rocky River TU website, should be posted in August.



2022/23 TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Thank you to all the teachers who help make the Trout in the Classroom program a great success this year.

Steve Calloway-Forbush
Stephanie Pearson-Reagan
Lori Heath-Reagan
Eli Lindsey-Davie
David Ring-Davidson Davie CC
Jordan Leonard -Easts Davidson am
Cathy Berrier-Ledford Reynolds
Melanie Ethridge-
Kristy Thornhill – Lexington
T.J. Petronzio-Summit

And thank you to all the volunteers, especially Ranger Lynette Hicks who manages the release at Stone Mountain State Park.

See a video of the releases at [BRTU Website](#)

