

Blue Ridge NC Trout Unlimited



October 2023 Newsletter

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If you are new to fly fishing, the first thing you need to learn is how to cast. It's not difficult to learn enough to get started fishing on the river, but the fine tuning and perfection of the cast will become a lifetime experience. If you are ready to learn, there is a great opportunity this month. BRTU is hosting a "Fly Fishing Skill Building Event" on Sunday October 23 at Bolton Park. Details of the event are listed below.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S CORNER

As Robbie mentioned in our last newsletter, October is election month for Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited.

Change is in the air!

As terms end for current Board Members, I'd like to thank the outgoing Board Members for their leadership and service to BRTU. Robbie is ending two terms as President. Thank you, Robbie, for all you've done to help grow and manage our Chapter. Barry Parks' term on the Board is also ending. Thank you, Barry, for all of your help!

The election for new Board Members and officers is to be held at our new meeting space located at Little Richard's Bar-B-Que on Stratford Road at our next meeting scheduled for October 17th. Please come out and support the following candidates: Fred Frank- Chapter President, Alex Jung-

Treasurer, Rusty Berrier and Dave Williams- Board Members.

Our membership is growing! We currently have 398 members! In 2023 we added 39 new members. Please join me in welcoming them to BRTU! Please come out to our next Chapter meeting or join us at our Meet and Greet at Bolton Park on October 22nd from 2-5pm to learn more about fly fishing.

We are most successful in our endeavors when we have full participation from our group members. This allows us to support many programs including Trout in The Classroom, Stream Cleans, Stream Restorations, etc. Like Uncle Sam says, "WE NEED YOU!"

Fred Frank

OCTOBER MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 17th, 6 PM

Where: Little Richard's Bar-B-Que on Stratford Road

Who: EJ Stern, Orvis Endorsed Guide

What: How and when to fish the Smith River

EJ is a resident of Wake Forest NC and is the owner of Raleigh Flies [raleighflies](#) and also guides for Smith River Outfitters [smithriveroutfitter](#). Locally he fishes the Neuse, Tar, Eno, Haw, and Cape Fear Rivers. Offering great spring striped bass and shad fishing. Summer provides excellent river largemouth bass fishing on topwater. He also provides float trips for trout on the Smith, Catawba, and Jackson tailwaters and smallmouth bass trips on the New and Dan Rivers

He will speak about his story, giving advice on fishing North Carolina and Virginia streams, and share the secrets of multi-species fly-fishing. EJ is an Orvis endorsed guide and will also discuss the endorsement program.

FUTURE MEETINGS

November: Join us on November 14th to hear Elizabeth Underwood, director of the New River Conservancy speak about their activities. Note that this meeting is being held early on the 14th to avoid Thanksgiving week.

December: Pull out your recipe books and find your best chili recipe because on Sunday, December 10th there will be a chili cook-off at Fiddlin' Fish. Watch future newsletters for details.

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 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 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.

BRYSON CITY: October 12 – 15, 2023.

Alarka (Bryson City area) Trip with Rocky River Chapter
<https://www.smokymtnretreat.com/>

Register at [Alarka Trip](#)

- Costs: Food/Tent Camping: \$90 for 3 nights
- Cabin: \$190 for 3 nights, beds are first come first serve, each cabin sleeps 8
- Prices include 3 dinners (Thur/Fri/Sat), 3 breakfasts (Fri/Sat/Sun) and use of the campground.

The Smoky Mountain Outings are held twice a year, Spring and Fall. The event is a 4 day camping/fishing trip to the DH and Wild Western North Carolina streams. We stay at the Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground (hot showers, laundry room, ice on site). The chapter provides most of the meals for the trip for a FEE. The meals range from pizza, catered pulled pork barbecue, and catered fried chicken dinners over the three nights, and continental breakfasts in the mornings.

- Hot Showers, Sheltered Mess Area for Tent Campers
- Meals: Thursday dinner (some early arrivals) Friday breakfast & dinner (many arrive late Friday afternoon due to work schedules) Saturday breakfast & dinner Sunday breakfast (pack up to leave by mid-morning to fish and travel home)
- 2 truckloads of firewood for campfires, tall tales, guide talk from a local fly shop, occasionally a fundraiser raffle, casting competition, One Fly Competition – we always come up with something.
- Countless DH and Wild fishing opportunities within 45 minutes of camp.
- Typically the Weekend following the early-April and early Fall NCWRC stockings on the Nantahala, Fires Creek, Tuckasegee and Big Snowbird.

Fall Camping Trip

Thursday Nov 2 - Sunday Nov 5

Location: Helton Creek Campground
Grassy Creek, NC

Fall fishing in western NC is wonderful. We will camp, fish, and fellowship for the weekend! The cost is \$10 per person per night for camping. If you prefer you can make reservations to stay in a cabin about 10 minutes away. Click the registration link below for website information to reserve a cabin. [Click here to register.](#)



FLY FISHING SKILL BUILDING EVENT

Chapter Event

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Location: Bolton Park

1590 Bolton St SW, Winston-Salem



Whether you are an experienced fly fisher or a beginner or just curious, come join us for an afternoon of fly fishing fun. We meet at Bolton Park's shelter for a session on fly casting, knots, fly types, and equipment swap. All skill levels are welcome and encouraged!

WHY DO WE LOVE FLY FISHING



They say there are four stages in a fly fisherman's life.

1. I want to catch a fish
2. I want to catch a lot of fish
3. I want to catch a big fish
4. I just want to be out there, fish are a bonus.

They say trout live in beautiful places and that is what leads us to stage four. Just being in the beauty and serenity of the trout stream brings you to a place in your life where stress just seeps away and you find relaxation and contentment. Of course snagging a tree or losing a hook brings you back to a bit of reality, but once you've retired the

hook and made that next cast all of that frustration just melts away.

Whether it is a cool stream flowing gently through a forest, a rushing brook falling down out of the mountains, or even the mangroves on the flats, each has its own form of beauty and serenity.

I would like to do a future article on the beauty of fly fishing so I am asking all of you to find the most beautiful photo you have from your adventures and email to me along with a brief description of what, where, and why it means so much to you. Please send it to:

BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Yup, I go fishing for the "likes"

I like sunrises and sunsets, I like screaming reels, I like bent rods, and I like spending time on the water with loved ones."
Unknown Author

CASTING CAROLINAS TOURNAMENT

SAVE the DATE!! Sponsor, Fish, or Volunteer for Casting Carolinas' Tie One On Tournament October 21 and 22



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FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT

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FLY FISHING 101: BEGINNER'S GUIDE



Written by: [Kenneth Reeves](#)

www.perfectcaptain.com

Has the thought of fly fishing recently piqued your curiosity, but you currently have no idea where to start? If so, you are certainly not alone. To the casual observer, fly fishing looks much more complicated than it is. Fly fishing is gratifying and far easier to learn than one might think.

The bottom line? Anyone can learn to fly fish with the help of a bit of guidance. This exact notion is why I decided to write the following guide.

If you are ready to dive headlong into the tranquil yet exciting world of fly fishing, then read on to learn everything that you need to know before wetting your first fly.

What is Fly Fishing?

Fly fishing is a method of angling used to draw strikes from fish that instinctively feed on varying types of insects and other prey of minute proportions. Fly fishing provides anglers with the most practical approach toward replicating prey of this nature, as traditional fishing gear is generally ill-suited to presenting ultra-lightweight lures.

The History of Fly Fishing

The history of fly fishing dates back centuries, having evolved from primitive angling tactics of several individual cultures. However, the practice of fly fishing is generally thought to have first originated in England around the 4th century.

Additional reports suggest that similar practices were employed in Rome around the same period. An early Japanese fly fishing technique, known as Tenkara, was also well documented and said to have existed 400-500 years ago. As we know it today, fly fishing stems from an overlap of multiple regional fly fishing tactics, which eventually gave way to modern practices.

Fly Fishing Today

Today, fly fishing is characterized as the use of [specialty tackle to cast miniaturized lures](#) in a bid to catch fish that feed heavily just below the water's surface. In this angling method, a weighted line is used to facilitate casting, as traditional flies are too lightweight to be cast with standard fishing equipment.

What is the Point of Fly Fishing?

The practice of fly fishing seeks to capitalize on the natural predatory instinct of game fish. As a matter of survival, fish must seize upon a meal when provided. While most species of fish feed on a wide variety of food sources from day to day, virtually all feed heavily upon insects and other small invertebrates at different times throughout the year.

What Value does Fly Fishing Offer?

Insect larva, nymphs, and flies provide an easy to obtain a meal for fish throughout the year, with many species, such

as trout, relying upon this form of food as a staple of their diet. Fish typically wait just below the water's surface, especially in flowing bodies of water, waiting to feed as such prey floats by.

While it is not impossible to catch fish, such as trout, with the use of standard tackle, one is quite limited in their ability to present small, insect-like lures. On the other hand, the use of fly fishing gear allows an angler to accurately replicate the exact scenario needed to draw strikes when the use of standard equipment proves to be ineffective.

Does Fly Fishing Catch More Fish?

In many ways, fly fishing does provide an angler with the means to catch more fish than when fishing with conventional equipment. However, as most anglers are well aware, fish do not always feed on the same types of prey from day to day.

While fish might largely ignore the topwater insect bite and key in on schooling baitfish on one given day, they are just as likely to miss other food sources in a bid to feed on insects the next. When these two situations present themselves, there is nothing as effective as fly fishing. However, those who do not fly fish often find themselves in a much more difficult spot on days like these.

In essence, fly fishing allows an angler to more aggressively target fish holding tight to a particular feeding pattern or species of fish that favor an insect-rich diet, such as trout. Unfortunately, either of these situations tends to prove troublesome for anglers who fish solely with traditional tackle.

Is Fly Fishing Hard to Learn?

In most cases, fly fishing is no more challenging to learn than any other type of fishing. There is undoubtedly a learning curve involved when first getting started, but one can typically get the hang of their equipment and begin catching fish after only a few days on the water. As with anything in life, practice makes perfect.

What is the Difference Between Fly Fishing and Regular Fishing?

The main difference between [fly fishing and regular fishing](#) relates to the exact selection of tackle used. Fly fishing is typically conducted with a lengthy, specialty fly rod and a purpose-specific fly reel. This reel is fitted with a weighted fly line, which allows an angler to cast insect-sized flies that are mainly absent enough weight to cast with conventional equipment.

Conversely, "regular" fishing is generally conducted with a standard rod, a baitcasting or spinning reel, and mono, fluorocarbon, or braided line. When fishing in this manner, an angler either casts out a baited hook and waits or casts out a lure that is then retrieved to mimic a swimming action.

Fly fishing also primarily takes place on moving bodies of water, such as cool running creeks and streams, while regular fishing is generally associated with lakes and ponds. However, you can use each of these two fishing methods interchangeably and universally across virtually any body of water.

But because of the fishing locations, some anglers have combined biking and fly fishing ([#bikefishing](#)) to access more fishing spots. And with so many available [apps for cyclists](#), you can easily record your fishing location for future fly fishing.

Essential Equipment for Fly Fishing

Before your fly fishing adventure, here are the essential gears that you need to grab:

Must-Have Gear

- [Fly rod](#)
- [Fly reel](#)
- Fly line/backing
- Leader/tippet
- Flies
- Waders

Fly Rods

Along with its reel, a fly rod is the backbone of any fly fishing rig. Fly fishing rods differ from standard rods used when fishing conventionally. These rods vary in length. However, 9-foot is the standard and most commonly used fly rod length. Rods of this nature also come in various weights. The weight selection of a fly rod must match that of an angler's reel, as well as their line.

Fly Reels

Like fly rods, fly reels come in many different sizes and configurations. [Choosing the correct fly reel](#) is of immense importance, as it directly transfers an angler's input of manual force into a robust degree of fish fighting power. A [fly reel](#) must also be matched to the weight of the particular rod that is to be used and the weight of the line that one will be fishing with.

Fly Line/Backing

Fly lines are typically 90-foot in length and come in a significant range of weights. These weights are generally graded numerically, with 1 being the minor diameter and 12 being the largest. Each line features three sections; the head, taper, and running line.

The head is the heaviest part of a fly line, to which an angler's flies are tied. The taper is the segment that connects the head and running line. The running line is simply that which is spooled out when casting or when fighting a fish.

Additionally, a monofilament or fluorocarbon line backing is used on virtually all fly fishing reels. This backing provides extended line length, should an extensive fight unfold while protecting your fly line while on the reel.

Leader/Tippet

A fluorocarbon or monofilament leader is used to attach the end of an angler's fly line to their tippet. This tippet then ties off to a fly at its opposite end. Leaders can be purchased in many sizes and lengths, providing a viable option for virtually any circumstance imaginable.

The spool can purchase a Tippet and is available in an array of strengths. These strength ratings range from 0X-8X,

with OX being the strongest available. Like leaders, tippet is offered in both monofilament and fluorocarbon forms.

Flies

Today, you can purchase flies in various sizes, shapes, and configurations. The most common flies are dry flies, nymphs, and streamers. Dry flies look like actual insects and are designed to float atop the water. Nymphs is miniature, look like tiny invertebrate, and flow through the water column. Streamers give off the appearance of native baitfish, such as minnows.

Waders

While one will not always find themselves wading a body of water, the layout of many creeks and streams makes such actions necessary. As a result, Waders are available in virtually every size and offered in insulated and non-insulated forms. This provides an angler with multiple options to select from in a bid to find a set of waders that perfectly suits their needs.

THE 5 ESSENTIALS OF A GOOD FLY CAST REVISITED

POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 / BY LOUIS CAHILL



Photo by Louis Cahill

Let's take a minute to look at the 5 essentials of a good fly cast.

I was giving a talk about saltwater fly fishing the other day when I mentioned the 5 essentials. I was shocked to find that no one in the crowd knew what the 5 essentials are, or that they even existed. I've never written on the topic because I thought it was common knowledge. Apparently I was wrong.

I did some research and was even more surprised to find that there is a good bit of variation in what has been written on the topic and there is some of it I don't agree with. That said, understand that what I'm about to set out for you are the 5 essentials as I learned them and as I believe they are best explained. They are roughly equivalent to the 10 commandments for the IFFF and there will no doubt be some who consider any variation sacrilege. I encourage you to read the original and take both as good advice.

The 5 Essentials are the work of Bill and Jay Gammel. Their article on the subject was written in 1990 and while it's important work, you should bear in mind that it pertains to single hand, overhead fly casting only. Many of the ideas apply to other casting styles, but not all. I have discussed this

version with some of the most knowledgeable IFFF casting instructors I know and am very confident in it.

THE 5 ESSENTIALS OF A GOOD FLY CAST

The first thing I learned about the 5 Essentials was that there are 6 of them, so you can see that I'm off to a good start.

1. THERE SHOULD BE A SMOOTH, ACCELERATING APPLICATION OF POWER.

Lefty Kreh described this motion as feeling like throwing wet paint with a brush. If you start too quickly, the paint will fly back on you, so you start slow and speed up as you go. The casting stroke should do the same, start gently and accelerate smoothly, stopping at its fastest point. This leads us to essential number 2.

2. THERE MUST BE AN ABRUPT STOP

Here is where I first deviate from much of what is written on the topic. The abrupt stop of the casting stroke is the action which forms the loop. It is extremely important but is skipped over in almost everything I've seen written. If you've ever been told that you're dropping your rod tip, you're missing the all important stop. There are 2 important things to keep in mind. The stop must be abrupt to form a tight loop and the rod must pause in the stop position to keep the energy in the loop.

The original version of the 5 Essentials skips this and talks about slack instead, saying slack must be kept to a minimum. In my opinion, and those I have consulted with, this falls short in two places. First, if the 5 Essentials are performed correctly, there will be no slack. Slack is a symptom of a casting problem, not a naturally occurring condition. There should be no slack, not minimal slack. Secondly, it's of no use to tell a caster to keep slack to a minimum and not tell them how. The only place I see merit for this is when beginning the cast. I've written about that [HERE](#).

3. THE ROD TIP MUST FOLLOW A STRAIGHT LINE PATH

One of the most common problems in fly casting is deviation from the straight line path. If your loops are big and round and your line piles up on delivery, this is likely your problem. The fly line follows the path of the rod tip. In order to make a nice flat cast, with a tight loop, which will cut the wind and go the distance, the rod tip must travel in a flat, straight line.

To accomplish this we must balance two mechanical actions performed by our casting arm, rotation and translation. Rotation is the movement of the wrist and translation is the push-pull motion of the arm. Too much rotation and not enough translation causes the rod tip to travel in an arc rather than a straight line.

Some rotation is necessary, however. It is important in lengthening the casting stroke as well as generating line speed but is also important in creating that straight line. Remember, as the rod loads it bends, in effect becoming shorter. If there were no rotation in your stroke, your rod tip would bend into a convex path, causing a tailing loop. Remember that the line travels in the same path as the rod

tip. You can diagnose and adjust your stroke by watching the shape of your loop.

4. THERE MUST BE A PAUSE AT THE END OF EACH STROKE, PROPORTIONAL IN DURATION TO THE LENGTH OF LINE OUTSIDE THE ROD TIP.

This is a fancy way of saying that you have to wait for the line to fully straighten out on both your forward and back casting strokes before applying power in the opposite direction. Starting the stroke before the line straightens robs the cast of power because the rod does not have the full weight of the line to load, and you create slack in the system. Taking that slack out, with your casting stroke, truncates your stroke and results in tailing loops.

5. THE LENGTH OF THE STROKE MUST BE PROPORTIONATE TO THE LENGTH OF THE LINE OUTSIDE THE ROD TIP.

Simply put— long cast, long stroke. Short cast, short stroke. If we look at this a little closer you'll see that what we are talking about is how much of the rod we are loading.

For a short cast we only have a little line out of the rod tip. Let's say ten feet of line plus our leader. Our line is designed to load the rod with the full head, not ten feet. Without the weight of the head we can only load the tip of the rod. Since the tip is six or eight feet out the shaft of the rod, its motion is amplified. It takes a short, fast stroke to cast a short line.

To cast seventy feet or more of line we must use the power of the heavy butt section of the rod. This requires a much longer casting stroke. As the rod bends deeper, the long stroke forms the crucial straight line path. You will notice that competitive distance casters grip the rod at the very back of the cork, right against the reel. This allows them to access the heaviest, and strongest part of the rod.

6. EXTRA CREDIT...THE LENGTH OF THE HAUL (AS IN "DOUBLE HAUL") MUST BE PROPORTIONATE TO THE LENGTH OF THE LINE OUTSIDE THE ROD TIP.

It is absolutely possible to do a lot of fly fishing and catch a lot of fish without ever using a double haul. However, it is a powerful technique used by all advanced casters regardless of the fishing situation. Once you learn to double haul, you never go back.

Just like the casting stroke, the length of the hauls is proportionate to the length of the line you're casting. Short cast, short haul. Long cast, long haul. If you're six feet tall and you want to make a hundred foot cast, you'll find yourself using all six feet of your arm span for your haul.

I hope this demystifies some of the fundamentals of the fly cast. If this is new information for you, I suggest you write down the 5 Essentials or print this article and carry it with you next time you practice your casting. It's a great check list to help you diagnose casting problems and get your cast tuned up in a hurry. Please feel free to share your thoughts in the comments.

Louis Cahill

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Essentials Of A Good Fly Cast

FLY FISHING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are multiple opportunities to learn fly fishing. To get started the best is to attend the BRTU event on October 22. The second is to come to the BRTU meetings and meet up with the people there. If you let it be known you want to learn fly fishing, you can be in touch with someone with the experience to help you get started. The third is to attend the fly fishing classes at the Orvis store in Greensboro. You can learn about upcoming events at [Greensboro Orvis Classes](#).

The basics of fly casting is the most important thing you need to learn and that is best done by an experienced instructor. It's best to master that before heading to the stream. For the other skills and knowledge of fly casting, Orvis has a series of videos on flies, reading streams, and much more at [Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing](#).

NCWRC FLY FISHING RULES

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has a maze of fly fishing rules and several differently designated fly fishing streams.



Delayed Harvest is open from October 1 through the first Friday in June. It is well stocked and is catch and release. That is where most of us fish. In the summer many of us head to the wild trout streams in the higher elevations.

Before you get started, be sure to get your license and be sure to read the rules for the stream type you will be fishing. You can find these at [General Mountain Trout Regulations](#).

If you are looking for a river to fish, a map of trout streams is published at [NC Fishing Areas & Trout Waters](#). Rather than blindly pick out a stream, the best method is to go with someone who has been there before. A great way to do this is to attend the BRTU monthly meetings and meet other fly fishermen with the experience to help you out on that first trip. Two is always better than one on the stream.

TWO ANGLERS ARE OFTEN BETTER THAN ONE

POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 / BY KENT KLEWEIN



Capt. Joel Dickey and I soaking up the team victory. Photo By: Louis Cahill

You can't enjoy camaraderie on the water by yourself.

There's no high-fives, no passing the victory flask around, and worst of all, it's awfully hard to snap a quality photograph of you and a prized catch. Wait a minute, I take the latter back. It is possible to get a good photo by yourself if you've figured out a way to strap a tri-pod to your back and you're also willing to lug it around all day. That being said, the main reason I think two anglers are often better than one, is because it allows you to work as a team, and that generally makes it much easier to find success on the water.

Louis and I have had pretty consistent success fishing together over the years. Even during really tough fishing conditions we generally find a way to put enough fish in the net during the day to call it a win. The biggest reason for this is because we're always working together to decipher the fish code. Fishing as a team, we figure out what the fish are feeding on, where they're primarily located, and what are the hot fly patterns. We make a point to never tie on the same patterns first thing in the morning, and quite often, we don't even start out fishing in the same water column. This allows us to quickly eliminate what's not working and adjust our fishing tactics to what is.

It's a pretty simple concept, more common sense than rocket science, but it works well, and we stick to it. Even in situations where only one of us can fish at a time, like on a flats boat, the non angler will stay busy maintaining line management and aiding in spotting fish. We always have each others back, we openly strategize together, and we're not afraid to push each other to our limits when success depends on it.

So next time you're fixing to head out fishing, take the time to call and invite a buddy to tag along with you. You just might find it's the winning variable in the equation of success.

Keep it Reel,
 Kent Klewein
 Gink & Gasoline
www.ginkandgasoline.com

DELAYED HARVEST STOCKING SCHEDULE

Fall stocking on the delayed harvest streams takes place in early October and early November. If you've already had a chance to learn your basic casting skills, then October is time to get out there and use it. If you haven't got the skill yet get to the chapter event on October 22 and then hit the stream in early November. Fall is the most beautiful time of year to be on the stream with the colored leaves and cool air, however, you may catch more leaves than fish that time of year.

Stocking will resume in March of 2024, but the schedule will not be available until February.

COUNTY	LOCATION	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Alleghany	Little River	6	6	4	3	2
	Helton Creek	1	3	1	2	1
	Trout Lake	1	3	1	9	7
Ashe	Big Horse Creek	6	6	4	3	2
	South Fork New River	6	6	4	9	7
Burke	Jacob Fork	3	5	3	10	8
Caldwell	Wilson Creek	2	4	2	10	8
Clay	Fires Creek	7	11	2	5	13
Graham	Big Snowbird	7	6	1	2	9
Haywood	West Fork Pigeon River	1	4	8	2	6
Henderson	North Fork Mills River	2	5	5	3	1
Jackson	Tuckasegee River	3, 7	3, 5	1, 3	9, 10	2, 8
Macon	Nantahala	2	4	8	3	14
	Big Laurel Creek	1	10	4	4	1
Madison	Shelton Laurel Creek	1	10	4	4	1
	Spring Creek	3	6	4	6	9
McDowell	Curtis Creek	3	5	3	4	3
	Mill Creek	3	5	3	4	3
	Catawba River	3	5	3	4	3
Mitchell	Cane Creek	3	5	3	5	6
	North Toe River	2	4	2	10	9
Polk	Green River	6	4	3	6	7
Surry	Ararat River	3	3	3	11	9
	Mitchell River	1	3	1	2	1
Swain	Tuckasegee River	6	10	2	11	3
Transylvania	East Fork French Broad River	2	3	1	4	6
	Little River	1	3	5	5	7
Watauga	Watauga River	1	3	1	9	7
	Lake Coffey	1	3	1	9	7
	East Prong Roaring River	1	3	1	2	1
Wilkes	Stone Mountain Creek	1	3	1	2	1
	Reddies River	2	4	2	9	7
	Elk Creek	2	4	2	9	7
Yancey	Cane River	7	10	5	5	6

ADVICE FROM THE VISE

With this month's theme about learning to fly fish, I thought it fitting to tie the first pattern many new tyers master, the Pheasant Tail nymph. I remember this one well on a Sunrise vice with 3 ingredients that used to come in every new "kit" – pheasant tail, peacock herl and wire rib.

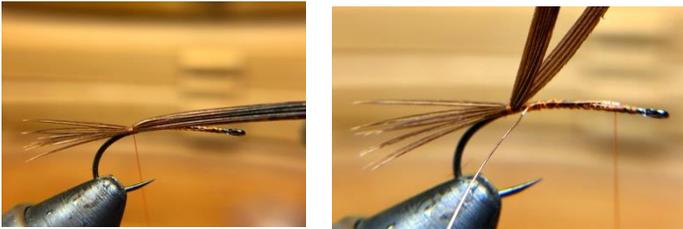


It's a great pattern with hundreds of variations. The original came from English river keeper Frank Sawyer to imitate mayfly nymphs.

I'm starting out with a wide gap barbless nymph hook, size #12 just for illustration purposes, these fish just fine down to #18 on a drop shot, or under a dry. They can be weighted with lead or tungsten wire or with the addition of a bead if desired.



Dress the hook from the eye to the bend. I'm using an orange thread, but red or claret is also a common choice.



Select 6-8 tail fibers from the pheasant tail, stroking them away from the quill to align the tips and cut free from the quill. With the thread at the bend, pinch wrap the fibers in with the tail length about half the shank of the hook. Don't trim out the butt ends, as this will form the body. Flip those



butt ends up and tie in a length of copper wire to wrap from the bend over the body.



Wrap the pheasant fibers to just behind the eye and trim out the butt ends. Counter wrap the wire rib to the eye. This gives the fly a touch of weight and durability.



Select another set of fibers from the pheasant tail as before. This time tie in the tips extending in front of the eye. These will be the legs of the fly to tie backwards after the thorax is built. The butt ends will be used to build the wing case, so again, don't trim those out yet.



Using two strands of peacock herl, tie in from the eye to about 1/3 of the way back on the shank. These will be wrapped to the eye to form the thorax and secured behind the eye. Trim out the butt ends of the herl.



Pull the pheasant tail butt ends over the thorax to form the wing case and secure those behind the eye and trim out the butt ends.



Divide the fiber tips and stroke them back along the side of the thorax, it's easier to do one side at a time, and secure those behind the eye.



Take several wraps to build up a head and use a touch of UV resin to varnish the head and you are ready to get this one wet.



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

Editor's note: Dave sells his flies on Etsy.com or you can contact him directly to purchase them.

FLY FISHING—THE MOST COMPLICATED HOBBY IN THE WORLD?



Deseret News

Story by Collin Leonard • Jul 5



“Angler” is as broad a term as you can get. It describes my grandfather, who stuck a rod in the sand and fell asleep while bass pilfered PowerBait off his hook. It also describes Norman Maclean, author of the novella “A River Runs

Through It,” who wrote, “It is really fishermen who experience eternity compressed into a moment.”

I'm not saying one approach is better than the other, but for a kid growing up in the Rockies, fly-fishing possessed a kind of romantic glow that could not be matched by bait fishing. It's that snappy little whip of a cast that turned my head. It's walking around in a river in your waterproof waders, but not getting wet (the same feeling that makes waterbeds the ultimate sleeping platform). It's being so attuned to the stream that fish can't tell where bugs end and your fluffy little fake fly begins.

This summer, knowing absolutely nothing about fishing, I got serious about my fishing game. I wanted to feel eternity dripping down my elbow as I pulled a rainbow trout from the streams of time. “Enough of this indoor living,” I told myself. “I'm gonna be a water boy.”

I was in the right place. Utah is home to some of the best fly-fishing in the country (so I've heard). The Green River and the Provo River top the list, containing almost too many trout species to count. That could be cool if I knew the difference between a brookie and a rainbow. But I was hungry for that fish. For that lifestyle.

The preliminary research should have warned me that fly-fishing is complicated. Really complicated. My only experience with fish involve [my pet betta](#), the aquariums at Scheels and my grandmother's baked salmon.

I had to find a mentor, a professor of fish knowledge. So I reached out to a local man on the KSL classifieds who orders fishing equipment in bulk from China and sells it out of his garage. He set me up with a fishing pole. It had numbers on the side, a cipher containing all the characteristics of the rod — weight, flexibility, maybe snappiness or grabbiness, maybe length. I don't know.

His workbench was covered with boxes of fake flies. Another vital part of fly-fishing I knew nothing about.

There is a guiding phrase in all this: “Match the hatch.” Matching the hatch requires a regular guy like me to understand which bugs are hatching on which specific bodies of water during the times of the year I plan on fishing.

So I stood there, looking at these little hand-tied bugs on a workbench. I was told half are tied by a guy in Kenya. I don't ask how a guy in Kenya knows what's hatching on the Strawberry Reservoir in July. I don't care.

My fish professor tried explaining what I was seeing. I heard the words he was using, but they meant nothing to me. I don't know what a No. 20 Zebra Midge is, I don't know how to use 4x tippet (which is some kind of fishing line) to make dropper rig out of a No. 16 Prince nymph.

I felt like I was listening to the undecipherable commentary on freestyle skateboarding tricks at the X Games: Kickflips, Ollies, Who Dunnits.

Here I was, rod in one hand, a little box of flies in the other. But there was still more gear to acquire. Snippers and clippers and pinchers and nets and wet pants and dry bags.

All this for a fish. A fish that you will catch, brag about and release.

Back at home, I sat and watched hours of videos on the types of knots, as wide in variety as species of trout in the Logan River, and put my rod in order. But there was still the issue of that magic cast. A cast, as Maclean put it, that was “so soft and slow that it can be followed like an ash settling from a fireplace chimney.”

I’ve seen anglers in my local park, in a wide field on a sunny day, practicing their cast. Back and forth for hours as the dogs in the shade follow the motion of the rods with their heads. Back and forth. “That’s cool, I guess,” I thought to myself. “I’d rather learn on the job.”

Related

So I planned a trip to the South Slope of the Uinta Mountains, hoping to catch some cutthroat to roast over my coals. I hiked up into the solitude of pristine alpine lakes. It was drizzling, and my cast fell about five feet in front of me, sometimes five feet behind me. Eternity is swishing and slapping your little fishing pole around for hours without the slightest hope a fish will mistake your fly for a flake of ash settling on the water, or an actual fly that looks yummy.

I realized I was unprepared. I had overlooked a couple dozen details that are vital to the beguiling of fish. Despite clawing my way up the learning curve, I did not deserve to call myself an angler.

But then the sun set behind Mount Emmons, and the water grew still and glassy. The lake was a mirror reflecting blushing clouds and the silhouettes of pine trees. I stood there in silence, listening to the evening calls of a dove or grebe or something. I don’t know, some kind of bird. I stood very still, watching the dark ripples of trout nibbling at real bugs, and this whole fishing thing became very simple.

Remember the quote: “Some people go fishing all their lives and never discover it’s not the fish they are after.”

Training Tip: *Don’t teach your kids or spouse to cast. Especially on a fishing trip. The Divorce Attorney’s bill will be much more than hiring an instructor or getting a guide for your spouse or child before you go.*

Editor’s Note: *There is no greater reward than teaching your child to fish. When he was young I took him fishing. Now that I am old, he takes me fishing.*

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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