Blue Ridge NC Trout Unlimited

September 2026 Newsletter

Visit us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeTU/

While North America has some fantastic fishing, there are many places around the world that offer a great adventure. What you need to remember, however, is traveling to a foreign country can have complications, requiring visas, vaccinations, and more to enter the country. The internet has a lot of information out there to help you with planning that trip.

One thing to remember is the climate around the world may be different due to proximity to the equator and winter south of the equator is opposite of the north. A good source on when to go is available through Yellow Dog Fly Fishing at When to Go. Visa, shots required and other information can be found at Travel Advisories.

This month we will provide you with information about making it a memorable trip.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our next chapter meeting will be held on **September 15th**. We meet at Little Richards Bar-B-Que on Stratford Road in Winston Salem. The meeting starts at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker will be **Alen Baker**, a renowned fly fisherman, author, and representative of the Patterson School Foundation, home of the Cap Wiese Fly Fishing Center in Lenoir, NC. Alen will give us an update on the renovation efforts at the Patterson Fly Fishing School. He will also tell us about the "Voices in the Valley" event scheduled for October 3rd at the Patterson Fly Fishing School. Alen also has a new book out "Southern Fly Tyers" Life stories of those who tie flies.

Not sure if you are aware of the bad storm that hit Mt Airy and the Ararat River on August 1st. It caused major damage to the Ararat River and its walkway. Our 2026 stream cleanup has been scheduled for **October 17TH** on the **Ararat River in Mount Airy**. This Saturday event will take place following the first delayed-harvest stocking, so bring your fly rod and enjoy some fishing after the cleanup. BRTU will provide trash bags, grabbers, and lunch following the event. Participants should bring their waders. Please sign up on our website!

Help wanted! Our trout in the classroom program is in need of a new coordinator. Rick Conner has done a great job of running this program for the last 5 years and is need of a break. This is one our most important programs! It starts in September with the new egg distribution and ends in April with the release at stone mountain. Rick will provide mentorship for the new coordinator! Please consider this opportunity and reach out to me to discuss. Fred Frank 336-442-4676.

Fred Frank

SEPTEMBER MEETING

WHEN: September 15th, 6:30 PM
WHERE: Little Richards BBQ
109 S. Stratford Rd, Winston-Salem
WHO: Alen Baker
WHAT: Cap Weiss Fly Fishing Center Lenoir
Voices in the Valley Event

BRTU LOGO GEAR

Our new **BRTU logo apparel** is now available on our website and at chapter meetings. Items include:

- Gray and salmon long-sleeve hooded flyfishing shirts **$40**
- BRTU hats — **$25**
- Logo gaiters (tan or green/blue) — **$15**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Fly-Tying Classes every Wednesday at the South Fork Community Center (4401 Country Club Rd, Winston-Salem): 9 AM – 12 PM & 6 PM – 8 PM Instruction by Master Fly-Tyer Rusty Berrier. Come learn to tie your favorite patterns!

Fall Alarka Outing, October 15th – 18th, Rocky River TU has an open invitation for you to attend their fall outing. For details and to sign up: Sign Up

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 BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com and let us know.

Balsam Fly Fishing Trip, October 23rd–26th. Balsam is currently fully booked.
Ararat River Cleanup, October 17th. SignUp

Note: If your organization has an upcoming event and would like it in the newsletter, send it to HkyNCTU@gmail.org.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." — Sherry Anderson

PATTERSON VOICES IN THE VALLEY

Patterson School in Happy Valley is hosting its annual Voices in the Valley event on Saturday, October 3rd. This year they have invited the Southern Fly Tyers Guild to join in the event and we are looking for volunteers.

We are looking for 20-25 tyers and a few people to demonstrate casting. Most will be in the two classrooms, but a couple will be out in the vendor tents to promote those inside. A tyer will have a table with 3-5 chairs for visitors to sit, watch and interact with the tyer.

The Patterson School Foundation needs an accurate list of participants so it can prepare campus lanyards and passes. Only those who RSVP by email will receive a pass for campus admission; everyone else will be required to pay at the gate.

To volunteer for fly tying, contact Bill Jewett at theflytying-santa24@gmail.com. To volunteer for fly casting contact Alen Baker at alenandscottie@aol.com. If you would like to present as a vendor, go to VendorRegister.

The Southern Fly Tyers Guild will also be donating to the raffle fly fishing items and a good number of fly boxes with flies. We have several fly fishing guided trips if there is a silent auction.

For more details on the event, visit Event Details.

HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION PROJECT

There are efforts amongst several groups including TU to protect and preserve native brook trout in the high country. As you might guess, water temperatures are becoming an increasingly severe threat to these fish. In order to get better data to best protect the brookies, a temperature monitoring program has been started with the support of NC Wildlife. The Stone Mountain and Blue Ridge chapters have installed and maintained temperature monitoring stations in several creeks in Stone Mountain state park. NCW and the NC Brook Trout Association would like to expand that to the Doughton Park and Thurmond Gamelands which are located just to the west of Stone Mountain.

I would like to get a handful of TU members from surrounding clubs to help support this expansion of the program. This would involve acquiring and installing these stations along with at least annual trips to the creeks (generally in December) to capture the temperature data for the year (via bluetooth to a phone app).

Please let me know if anyone is interested in participating in this worthwhile endeavor to help protect our native cold water trout. This will require some hiking to fairly remote areas in some cases. Training will be provided by NCW and the NC Brook Trout Association.

Please contact Jon Pershke at jpershke@gmail.com or 919-667-7369.

Honoring a Life of Generosity

This year's gathering will be held in honor of Bob Nanney and his lifelong legacy of generosity within the fly-fishing and fly-tying community.

Throughout his life, Bob taught and mentored countless fly fishers and fly tyers, freely sharing his knowledge, patience and enthusiasm. He also generously donated his time and talents to the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians in Bryson City, North Carolina.

The gathering will celebrate Bob in a way that reflects the spirit of his life: by bringing people together, passing along knowledge and using fly fishing to help others.

At the heart of the event is Tie for a Cause, an effort that collects donated flies for organizations supported by the Maggie Valley Fly Shop and the Southern Fly Tyers Guild. Participating tyers may choose the patterns they would most enjoy creating and donating. Every fly collected will be passed along to organizations that use fly fishing and fly tying to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

NCWRC FLY FISHING CLASSES

09/04/26 Learn to Fly-fish: Casting, 10:00am - 1:00pm (Black Mountain)
09/04/26 Learn to Fly-fish: Equipment, 2:00pm - 4:00pm (Black Mountain)
09/09/26 Learn to Fish: Catfishing Basics, 6:00pm - 8:00pm (Virtual)
09/18/26 Learn to Fly-fish: Casting, 6:00pm - 8:00pm (Marion)

WEEKLY STOCKING REPORT 2026

COUNTY	STREAM	9/28–10/2	10/5–10/9	10/12–10/16	11/2–11/6	11/9–11/13
Ashe	Helton Creek	X			X	
	Trout Lake			X		X
	Big Horse Creek		X		X	
	South Fork New River			X		X
Burke	Jacobs Fork		X			
Caldwell	Wilson Creek			X		
Clay	Fires Creek	X				
Graham	Big Snowbird				X	
Haywood	West Fork Pigeon River		X			
Henderson	North Fork Mills River	X				
Jackson	Tuckasegee River		X			
Macon	Nantahala		X			
Madison	Big Laurel Creek				X	
	Shelton Laurel Creek				X	
	Spring Creek					X
McDowell	Curtis Creek		X			
	Mill Creek		X			
	Catawba River		X			
Mitchell	Cane Creek		X			
	North Toe River			X		
Polk	Green River					X
Surry	Ararat River			X		X
	Mitchell River	X			X	
Swain	Tuckasegee River				X	
Transylvania	East Fork French Broad River		X			
	Little River					X
Watauga	Watauga River			X		X
	Lake Coffey			X		X
Wilkes	East Prong Roaring River	X			X	
	Stone Mountain Creek	X			X	
	Reddies River	X			X	
	Elk Creek	X			X	
Yancey	Cane River		X			

INTERNATIONAL FISHING OUTSIDE NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAS

Unfortunately, I didn't have the time or finances to take serious fishing trips until after I had retired. I retired at 66 and have taken trips with my son to Alaska, Belize, Mexico, and the Bahamas, but never farther. A few years ago I started limiting our trips to no more than two time zones. If I could roll back the clock I have learned about many places that I would love to have gone. With some searching on-line I've found some rankings on which ones that would be. A search of the web has provided recommendations for several places I wish I had gone.

Alphonse Island Seychelles

Alphonse Island sits isolated in the Indian Ocean, a pristine atoll offering the rare opportunity to pursue multiple trophy species in a single day. The shallow flats host healthy populations of bonefish averaging 4-6 pounds, but the real draw is the permit fishing—these waters produce more permit on the fly than almost anywhere else on earth. The lagoon and ocean-side flats hold giant trevally cruising in packs, their aggressive nature making them willing targets for large flies. Milkfish frequent the flats seasonally, while the island's legendary triggerfish population presents one of fly fishing's greatest challenges. Fishing is primarily by wading, though boats access more distant flats. The season from October through May offers consistent fishing with calm conditions and good visibility. Limited bed capacity ensures uncrowded waters.

Kamchatka Peninsula Russia

The Kamchatka Peninsula represents the pinnacle of wild, untouched fly fishing. This volcanic wilderness on Russia's Far Eastern coast offers pristine rivers flowing with aggressive rainbow trout commonly reaching 24-30 inches with specimens over 36 inches regularly landed. The peninsula's isolation has preserved extraordinary runs of all six Pacific salmon species, including massive king salmon exceeding 50 pounds. Rivers like the Zhupanova and Kol flow crystal clear through remote valleys where bears outnumber people. Fishing conditions demand skill: fast currents, boulder-strewn channels, and fish that have never seen artificial flies. The brief season from July through September offers 20-hour daylight, allowing extended sessions. This is expedition fly fishing at its purest—helicopter access, tent camps, and fishing pressure measured in rods per season rather than per day. Over 160 volcanoes create nutrient-rich waters supporting incredible biomass.

South Island New Zealand

New Zealand's South Island epitomizes sight fishing perfection, where gin-clear spring creeks and braided rivers hold some of the world's most selective trout. The Southern Alps create a dramatic backdrop for waters hosting rainbow and brown trout averaging 4-7 pounds, with trophy fish exceeding 15 pounds not uncommon. These fish are educated—generations of catch-and-release fishing have made them wary, demanding precise presentations with delicate leaders. Rivers like the Mataura, Oreti, and Clutha flow through tussock grasslands and beech forests, their pale limestone bottoms allowing anglers to stalk individual fish. Sight fishing here is an art form: spotting a subtle shadow, calculating current speed, then presenting a size 16 dry fly on 6X tippet to a fish that's seen countless imitations. The season runs October through April with prolific mayfly and caddis hatches.

Patagonia Region Argentina

Argentina's Patagonia region delivers vast, wind-swept landscapes where freestone rivers and crystalline lakes harbor trout of legendary proportions. The volcanic soils and glacial melt create exceptionally fertile waters supporting rainbow trout averaging 3-6 pounds and brown trout frequently exceeding 10 pounds, with 20-pound browns possible. The Rio Chimehuin and Rio Malleo are renowned for technical dry-fly fishing, while the Rio Limay provides consistent action on streamers and nymphs. Patagonia's famous winds, often gusting 30-50 mph, demand heavy rods and expert casting but also drive terrestrial insect activity triggering explosive surface feeding. The season runs November through April, with late summer offering hopper fishing that's unmatched globally. Estancias provide access to private waters, while public rivers offer solitude where distance is measured in hours and wilderness is the norm.

Other Possibilities

Of the three web sites I found suggesting international travel the ones above were the most recommended, but there were several others you might want to consider. You can visit these three sites through the following links:

Fly Fish 100
Yellow Dog Flyfishing
Sport Fishing Mag

Unless you have some direct information on these distant destinations, it's a good idea to book through a group that has connections there. A couple years ago we booked a trip to Mexico through Yellow Dog Flyfishing. They did a great job of connecting us and getting the best reservations. They only made one mistake and that was letting us book at the time of an exceptionally low tide that cut short our last day. Whenever you book a trip to saltwater, be sure to check out that the tides are right with the trip.

If you are young enough to handle the long distance travel of a lifetime, when you get back, write up a short story about the trip and how to help others plan and prepare for it. And if long distance adventures aren't necessarily your cup of tea, there are plenty available in North and Central America and the Bahamas. You can see reports on a great many of these in our past newsletters at Past Newsletters

TRAVEL ADVISORIES

A Travel Advisory is a report from the U.S. Department of State that describes the risks and recommended precautions for U.S. citizens—not foreign nationals—in a foreign destination. The Department of State has no higher priority than the safety and security of U.S. citizens abroad. Information contained in these advisories reflects an assessment of threats only insofar as they may impact U.S. citizens, nationals, and legal residents.

Find your destination and explore the travel advisory map before you go. Travel Advisories

StRAP PROGRAM

The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) provides funds to organizations working on projects that help reduce flooding, restore streams, and protect the integrity of drainage infrastructure across North Carolina's waterways.
Soil & Water - StRAP | NC Agriculture

WILD WATER® Since 2006

TRAVELLING WITH YOUR FLY FISHING GEAR: THE COMPLETE PROTECTION GUIDE

Written by: Eric Dodds

Your fly fishing adventure should be about making memories on the water, not dealing with broken gear at your destination. One damaged rod or lost reel can turn your dream Alaska salmon trip or Iceland trout expedition into a nightmare.

These risks increase further when baggage handlers toss luggage around in cargo holds that reach -20°F to 70°F. Car doors slam shut on rod tips. Temperature changes crack fly lines.

Therefore, the difference between a successful trip and a disaster often comes down to how well you protect your fly fishing gear during travel.

This guide covers everything you need to know about protecting your fly fishing equipment during travel. From airline-specific policies to seasonal packing techniques, we'll help you get your gear to the water in perfect condition. Let's start with the essential checklist every angler needs.

Plan Your Next Family Fishing Adventure

YOUR ESSENTIAL FLY FISHING TRAVEL GEAR CHECKLIST

The key to stress-free travel is knowing exactly what goes where before you start packing. Airport security, customs officials, and baggage handlers all follow specific rules about fishing equipment.

Download our free Travel Packing Checklist - Wild Water's Complete PDF Guide that covers every piece of gear and where it should go for your next trip.

TSA-APPROVED CARRY-ON ITEMS

These items pass security screening and should travel with you in the cabin:

Your fly rods fit in overhead bins when packed in proper rod tubes measuring 30-32 inches for 4-piece rods. Remove reels from rods first - this protects both pieces and prevents reel foot damage. Quality rod cases provide crush protection and often include storage pockets for leaders and tippet.

Pack your waders, fishing vest, and other clothing in carry-on luggage. Maps, fishing licenses, and documentation should stay with you. Sunglasses, hats, and other non-sharp accessories pass security without issues.

ITEMS THAT MUST GO IN CHECKED LUGGAGE

Sharp or potentially dangerous items require checked baggage placement:

All flies and hooks trigger security concerns due to sharp points. Fishing line could be viewed as restraining material. Pack all pliers, nippers, and cutting tools in checked bags. Any knives or multi-tools definitely belong in cargo holds.

Your fly assortments and tackle boxes travel safely in checked luggage. Fishing guides recommend keeping backup flies separate from your main collection.

AIRLINE POLICIES AND TRAVEL REGULATIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Understanding specific airline rules prevents costly surprises at the gate. Each major carrier has slightly different

policies, but most follow similar guidelines for sporting equipment.

MAJOR AIRLINE SPECIFICATIONS

- **United Airlines** allows fishing rods up to 115 linear inches (length + width + height) as checked baggage.
- **Delta** permits rods up to 115 inches with a $30-75 fee depending on destination.
- **American Airlines** accepts fishing equipment up to 126 inches total with fees ranging from $30-150.

Most airlines classify fishing rods as sporting equipment rather than regular baggage. This often means additional fees of $30-150 per bag, depending on your destination and frequent flyer status.

Fly reels travel better when removed from rods and packed separately. This prevents damage to rod seats and reel feet during rough handling. Cargo hold pressure changes can affect sealed reel cases, so slightly loosen drag systems before flight.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

International destinations require additional documentation and planning. Many countries require fishing licenses purchased in advance. Some locations like
Norway and Iceland have strict regulations about bringing used fishing equipment due to invasive species concerns.

Research customs regulations for your destination. Countries like Canada require detailed gear declarations. Remote locations such as Alaska lodges often have specific gear recommendations and restrictions.

Need help with travel planning? Our customer service team provides personalized advice for any destination. Check our FAQs for common travel questions and solutions.

AIR TRAVEL PROTECTION: PROFESSIONAL PACKING STRATEGIES

Air travel subjects your gear to extreme conditions and rough handling. Cargo compartments experience dramatic temperature swings and pressure changes. Professional guides and outfitters use specific techniques to protect client equipment during transport.

ADVANCED PACKING TECHNIQUES

Start with quality rod tubes that accommodate multiple rods. Foam padding prevents internal rattling and impact damage. Many experienced anglers pack 2-3 rods in a single 32-inch tube using custom foam inserts.

Hard cases weigh 8-12 pounds empty but provide maximum protection. Soft cases weigh 2-4 pounds and offer reasonable protection for shorter flights. Consider your total baggage allowance when choosing between protection levels.

Cross-packing works brilliantly for family trips or group travel. Split essential gear between multiple bags. If one bag gets delayed, everyone can still start fishing with shared equipment.

Understanding what makes fly fishing rewarding can also help you choose the right gear for travel. To get a deeper sense of the health and lifestyle advantages the sport offers, explore the benefits of fly fishing.

TRAVEL KIT SELECTION FOR DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS

Four-piece rods excel in travel situations. They pack into 30-inch tubes compared to 54-inch tubes for 2-piece rods. Modern 4-piece designs perform identically to traditional 2-piece rods in casting and fighting fish.

Summer trips to warm destinations require different packing than winter travel. Heat can soften fly line coatings, while cold makes them brittle. Pack lines in insulated containers for extreme temperature destinations.

Our fly fishing kits include travel-optimized rod cases and reel pouches designed for baggage handling. The integrated storage system keeps accessories organized and protected during transport.

Spare rod tips travel separately in carry-on luggage where they won't get crushed. A broken tip ends your trip, but a replacement keeps you fishing. Learn more about protecting your investment with our rod warranty program.

ROAD TRIP ADVENTURES: VEHICLE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

Car travel offers more space but creates unique challenges. Road vibration damages delicate equipment over time. Temperature extremes stress rod materials and reel lubricants. Sudden stops turn loose gear into dangerous projectiles.

PROFESSIONAL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

Roof rack systems provide optimal protection for complete rod setups. The Riversmith River Quiver offers aerodynamic design and universal mounting compatibility. These systems secure rods externally while keeping vehicle interiors available for other gear.

Interior storage works well for shorter distances under 200 miles. Back seats accommodate most rod cases safely with proper padding. Trunk storage protects equipment from theft and temperature extremes in hot climates.

Our fly rod cases withstand road trip vibrations and impacts. Hard cases protect against crushing damage. Soft cases save weight and storage space while providing adequate protection for careful handling.

EMERGENCY PROTECTION METHODS

When proper cases aren't available, careful disassembly prevents damage. Break down rods completely after each fishing session. This eliminates stress points and reduces overall length for easier storage.

Bundle rod sections using velcro straps or soft rope. This prevents rattling and contact damage between pieces. Avoid tape or anything leaving residue on rod blanks.

Protect rod tips with clean socks or microfiber cloths. Tips break easily and cost $15-50 to replace through warranty service. Simple padding prevents most tip damage during transport.

Secure all equipment to prevent movement during emergency stops. Tie rod bundles to seat anchors or cargo hooks. Loose gear becomes dangerous in accidents or sudden maneuvers.

Learn proper handling techniques with our guide on how to avoid breaking your fly rod during travel and use.

COMPLETE TRAVEL SOLUTIONS: CHOOSING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

Case Type	Weight Range	Protection Level	Best For	Price Range
Hard Cases	8-12 lbs	Maximum	Air travel, rough handling	$150-400
Soft Cases	2-4 lbs	Good	Car travel, short trips	$50-150
Rod Tubes	1-3 lbs	Moderate	Carry-on, multiple rods	$30-100
Complete Kits	3-6 lbs	Variable	Beginners, organization	$200-500

AIRLINE-SPECIFIC TRAVEL STRATEGIES

Airline	Rod Length Limit	Fees	Special Notes
United	115 linear inches	$30-75	Free for Premier members
Delta	115 linear inches	$30-75	Reduced fees with status
American	126 linear inches	$30-150	Highest limits, variable fees
Southwest	115 linear inches	$75	No status exemptions

WILD WATER FAMILY TRAVEL SOLUTIONS

Our 5-weight fly fishing kits handle 90% of fishing situations you'll encounter. These versatile outfits work for trout streams, bass ponds, and light saltwater applications.

Small stream specialists appreciate our 3-weight kits for backcountry adventures. They pack light for hiking trips where every ounce matters.

Multi-generational family trips benefit from matching equipment that works together. Grandparents, parents, and children learn faster when everyone uses similar gear. This creates shared experiences and lasting memories.

Budget-conscious families save money with complete kit packages. You get professional-grade equipment at beginner-friendly prices. This approach costs 30-50% less than buying individual components.

Tenkara packages offer ultimate travel simplicity. No reel means no line management complexity. Traditional Japanese designs pack into 20-inch tubes and weigh under 4 ounces.

SEASONAL TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Winter travel (December-February) requires extra protection from temperature extremes. Pack reels in insulated containers. Cold makes fly lines brittle and shortens their lifespan.

Summer destinations (June-August) present heat challenges. Avoid leaving gear in hot cars where temperatures exceed 120°F. Heat warps rod blanks and damages reel lubricants.

Spring and fall (March-May, September-November) offer ideal travel conditions. Moderate temperatures reduce equipment stress. These seasons also provide excellent fishing opportunities with fewer crowds.

PLAN YOUR NEXT FAMILY FISHING ADVENTURE

Proper gear protection ensures your equipment performs when it matters most. Invest in quality travel solutions now, and your gear will provide decades of reliable service for your family's fishing adventures.

Our experienced team provides personalized recommendations for any destination or travel method. We've helped thousands of families choose the right equipment for creating lasting memories on the water. Read more about our commitment to family fishing in our About Us section.

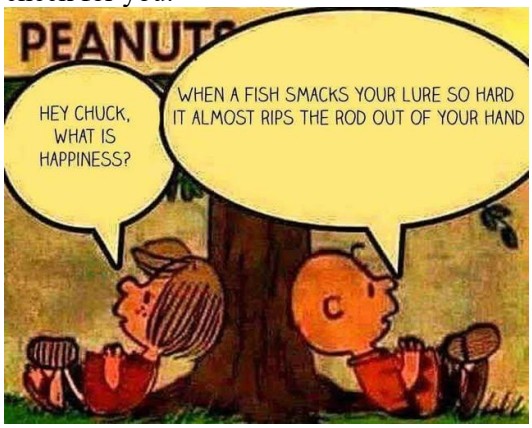
TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The trout in the classroom program is back for the 2026/27 year. In August we delivered the consumable materials for the new year and in the last half of September we should be picking up the eggs from Wildlife Resources and delivering them. From that point until next spring the program is primarily up to the teachers unless there is an equipment failure and we have to provide the replacement equipment. This year we have thirteen schools in the program.

Each year we have a moderate expense for consumable, but not too unfrequently need to purchase replacement equipment that can be quite expensive. If you are able to contribute, please bring a check to the meeting or you can mail it to the chapter at:

Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited
5335 Robinhood Village Dr
Suite 156
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

We are fortunate to have a retired IRS agent as a member of TU and at a recent meeting he gave us some great advice on making a charitable donation. Once you reach age 70.5 and you have an IRA, you can have a check made out directly from your IRA to the organization and the money will be removed from our account without paying income tax on it. You just contact the company that manages your IRA and they will prepare the check for you.



ADVICE FROM THE VISE

This pattern crossed the bench last year, and I had not tied it up and took it for a walk. I got a chance this month to do it and it fished remarkably well for bass and pans. I even took it off for a while to try some other patterns, but they did not garner the attacks this one did.

This is the Bouface. It's a simple leech pattern by John Barr. I'm tying in black, but I can see any color combo working just as well. Purple anyone?

I think the key may be the silver/gold two-sided flash. Or the killer motion in the combo or rabbit and marabou. Reminds me of a scaled down DaliLama. It worked equally well on the drift, strip, swing, and they hit it on landing. Bet most of you have this material already on your bench, so let's get tying.

Tying this on a 3x #10 streamer hook, 3.8 gold countersunk tungsten bead. The body is turns of black thread, a rabbit zonker, strung marabou, and some spikey black squirrel dubbing for the collar. The flash is silver/gold two sided. Your choice of small, medium or large. I didn't notice one outperforming the other.

I put 5 wraps of .020 lead free just to snug the bed and give me a little landing pad for the zonker.

The body is touching turns of thread. I don't use if often, but Danville's Flymaster is perfect for this. It's a heavy thread and makes for a nice, layered body. Rumor has it that they are discontinuing retail sales of fly-tying thread. Start behind the weight wraps and secure those in with a couple wraps and head down the shank, trimming out the tag at the bend. Head back too the bead and down to the bend again with touching turns.

Once you get to the bend, stroke the hairs (a little spit helps) on the zonker to leave a tail off the bend about half a shank in length. Settle in on the shank with a loose wrap, then snug it in place and take a couple more.

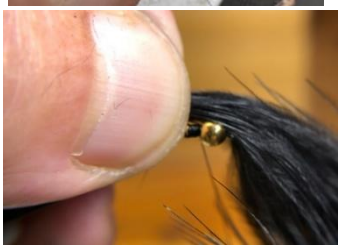
Now stroke all the zonker backwards and line up the landing pad with end of the zonker and secure that in.

Trim out the tag and tidy up the collar.

Tie in the flash, one on each side.

Take a marabou quill and stroke all fibers toward the tips to gather a bunch to tie in on the top.

Pinch wrap the marabou bunch so that a 3/8 inch or so is behind the bead. This forms the "face" of the fly that gives it great motion. Rotate the fly and do the same for the underside.



Trim out the butts and lightly dub the thread for a nice spikey collar with the squirrel. Would a ice hot spot work? Pretty sure that would be just fine!

Tie up a few and add them to your streamer box- or better yet, take them to the water and see how they do for you!

Please don't hesitate to contact me at Jacobsforkflyting@gmail.com with questions or to just talk tying. Please follow along on Instagram check out some current ties @ Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

Dave Everhart

7 BITS OF ADVICE TO PLAN A DESTINATION FLY FISHING TRIP RIGHT

Whether you live in Wyoming and travel to the saltwater flats for a fly fishing trip; live in Brooklyn and are headed on a guided Montana fly fishing trip; live in Los Angeles and off to fly fish New Zealand; or in London and venturing off for some fly fishing in the Seychelles, destination fly fishing travel is full of adventure…and at Yellow Dog, we take pride in

Here's some help for planning a destination fly fishing trip.

1. **Up-to-date passport.** This seems obvious, but you never know when you might get an invite. Always ensure your passport is valid. And since most, if not all, countries (including Canada) now require United States citizens to have passports, don't be left out. A few years ago, a friend was invited on a free fully guided Elk River trip due to a last-minute cancellation. He couldn't go because he let his passport lapse.
2. **Gear—know what you need and what is provided.** If you're planning to fish with guides or stay at a destination lodge, do your research ahead of time and know what is provided and what is not. Sleuth it out—all the way down to flies and tippet. For example, fluorocarbon has proven very effective for saltwater flat fishing and many guides in international destinations will be very happy if you arrive armed with fluorocarbon. Many western trout guides provide gear like rods and reels, but it's rare for a saltwater guide to supply rods and reels and flies.
3. **Attitude makes the difference.** Keep a positive attitude throughout the trip, from planning to on-the-ground-fishing. If you're hiring out your fishing and lodging, trust your hosts to have your best interests at heart. If you're going it alone, be prepared for changing conditions and putting forth extra effort if curveballs occur— locally, the one we see most often is the Gallatin River being blown out due to rain in the Taylor Fork. Flexibility and a "roll with it" attitude is important.
4. **Communicate ahead of time and during your trip.** Having honest and open dialogue before your trip regarding your expectations and goals is crucial. If fishing dry flies to rising trout is important, you must communicate that to your guide or ask local sources if that will occur during your visit. If tarpon is your target, be sure to ask if it's likely that they'll be around. Will your fishing be mostly on foot or out of a boat? What will happen if adverse weather affects fishing conditions?
5. **Take your health seriously.** This is an often-overlooked component of any destination trip. It might seem like advice from a nagging grandma, but it's actually pretty darn crucial. Sunscreen, hydration, proper clothing for hot or cold climates, eating right, and getting sleep all add to the success or failure of a trip. Don't spend time and money to travel only to spend a day hungover or sunburnt. Drunk and sick might be fine back home, but not when tailing bonefish are within casting range.
6. **Be honest with yourself about your ability.** Don't spend thousands of dollars traveling across the globe if your 30-foot cast won't cut it. An honest look at your own skill level is the first step in deciding where to travel and what species to pursue. If you've always wanted to catch a bonefish but can't cast 40 feet and further on a consistent basis, you should practice more before investing in a trip.
7. **Call Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures.** We are the industry leader in world-wide angling travel and Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures' services are always 100% free. Let our experience work for you to help you plan a great fly fishing trip.

Traveling to fly fish is one of the many joys of the sport. From the planning to the anticipation to stepping into new water for the first time, fishing a new destination is an added

bonus of our chosen pastime. But, before you make those first false casts on a first-time trip, do your homework so you ensure there will be a second time.

FLY FISHERMAN

YOUR GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL FISHING

Preparation for international expeditions goes far beyond tying exotic patterns or packing an extra rod tip.
By Brian Irwin

Photographer Jim Klug, founder of Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, was deep in the Bolivian jungle fishing for golden dorado. He was visiting Tsimane Lodge on Bolivia's Asunta River and was heading back there after a day of fishing. His guide was navigating a series of rapids when the push pole became stuck. As the boat moved, the pole bent until the guide could no longer hold it. It sprang lose, striking Klug in the right eye. He was knocked unconscious, and when he came to his senses he was blind in one eye.

Fortunately for Klug, he had medical evacuation insurance through Global Rescue. The next day, he was transferred to a local hospital, then on to Miami, and eventually to his home in Montana, where he was able to get the appropriate follow-up. Just a few weeks later he was back out fishing, and enjoying a full recovery largely thanks to rapid extraction and medical attention.

Preparation for international expeditions goes far beyond tying exotic patterns or packing an extra rod tip. The world is peppered with equally exotic infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and cultural barriers. So if you're planning on going for peacock bass or even bonefish, it's wise to think about your health and plan ahead so you can come home with great memories, not malaria.

Plan ahead. One of the first steps in planning a fishing expedition is to prepare for an emergency. Trip cancellation insurance won't cover elaborate extrication or complicated foreign medical care.

It's wise to arrange for a satellite phone and purchase medical evacuation insurance like Global Rescue. Not only can they provide over-the-phone medical support, but they can cover your expenses in the remote countryside and fly you home on a moment's notice, should that be needed. For travelers going to destinations where there's little in the way of medical infrastructure, this is one of the most important investments you can make in your health.

Get shot. Another early step in planning for an international expedition is to review your vaccine history. Anyone playing with hooks should have an up-to-date tetanus booster. Hepatitis A is a viral infection that can cause serious illness and even liver failure (rarely). It is a routine childhood vaccine today, but most adults are not immunized.
This disease is common in many parts of Asia, South America, and elsewhere in the tropics. A booster is advised.

Typhoid fever is not a common disease, but when outbreaks occur they can spread like wildfire and if you're caught amid the spread it can be fatal. Over 200,000 people die of typhoid each year, and considering it's prevalent in Central and South America where fly fishers do most of their fishing for peacock bass, dorado, and other jungle species, you should consider a vaccine before you go there.

Yellow fever is a potentially deadly disease transmitted by mosquito bites, and it's common everywhere you'd fish for peacock bass or tigerfish. Vaccination is mandatory for entry into some countries. Parts of Africa have seasonal meningitis outbreaks, so a vaccine can be lifesaving. Likewise, depending on your itinerary, rabies is yet another vaccine-preventable risk.

Medical evacuation insurance is smart protection for travel into remote areas like Patagonia, Kamchatka, or Alaska. Companies like Global Rescue will get you home quickly if you become ill or injured. Grace Smith photo.

Don't get bit. Not every disease is preventable through vaccination. Some diseases, like malaria, are best prevented by avoiding insect bites. Malaria is one of the world's most deadly diseases and is prevalent in South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Vigilant use of DEET is a wise precaution, and Simms Bugstopper pants and long-sleeve shirts can greatly reduce the risk of malaria, not to mention eliminate the discomfort of itchy insect bites.

Simms also sells a Bugstopper hat, neck gaiter, gloves, and sun sleeves that are all UPF50 and treated with Insect Shield (insectshield.com). This stuff really works, and as a doctor I don't recommend traveling anywhere in the tropics without this level of protection from both the sun and biting insects.

Dengue fever is transmitted by mosquitoes, has been reported in over 100 countries, and is rampant in the tropics. While it may only cause a flu-like illness, it could cause a collapse of your blood clotting system.

Chikungunya is another similar disease that can be prevented by avoidance of mosquito bites. Like dengue, there is no preventative medication, nor treatment beyond supportive care.

Tick bites are common in North America, Asia, and Europe. Not only can they spread the infamous Lyme disease, but they also are the vector by which Rocky Mountain spotted fever is transmitted.

Get drugged. Even with DEET and Bugstopper clothing, mosquito bites are still possible, and just one can transmit malaria. Fortunately malaria can be effectively prevented by taking antibiotics during and after your trip. Anyone traveling to a malaria-endemic area should seek expert medical consultation to acquire the best medication for your destination.

There are other preventive medication options for other medical conditions. For example, antibiotics or even Pepto-Bismol can help prevent travelers' diarrhea and could be considered if your trip can absolutely not suffer a medical setback. These modalities aren't standard convention, as any use of medications carries the risk of side effects. For travelers' diarrhea preventative meds to be appropriate for you, the risks of the disease must outweigh the risks of the medications.

Don't get clot. Distant fishing expeditions often require sitting for long periods of time en route to your destination. This puts you at great risk for blood clots in your legs. The veins in your legs are not terribly elastic pipes, and they largely rely on compression from the muscles in your legs to squeeze

blood back to your heart. But when you're stationary in an airplane seat, those muscles don't do much, and the blood can clot.

If a blood clot forms, it can break loose and migrate to your lungs. If a clot jams up there, it can kill you.

While prescription blood thinners are available, for most people, simply getting up and walking every hour is the best medicine. By doing so, your ambulatory muscles move the blood back out of the veins, keeping the flow going and preventing clots. While often recommended, aspirin has not been proven to prevent such clots.

Stay off the pot. The most common medical complication during international travel is accidents. However, arguably the most common infectious complication is travelers' diarrhea. This condition afflicts up to 70 percent of international travelers, depending on the destination. Unlike the common viral "stomach flu" that often circulates in the United States, most travelers' diarrhea is caused by bacteria. E. coli is a common offending agent, as is Campylobacter and an assortment of other pathogens.

Quite frequently travelers' diarrhea can be prevented by judicious caution when choosing your meals, eating cooked foods only, avoiding raw foods like salads, and drinking only treated, purified water. Even then, it's prudent to have a course of antibiotics on hand so you can self-treat should this occur. Ciprofloxacin is the most effective medication in South America and parts of Africa; azithromycin is the best choice for Southeast Asia and India.

Come prepared. Even expeditions that are organized by outfitters in the United States often use local guides and services at the destination. The depth of preparedness can be spotty, especially in third-world destinations. It is always a wise idea to carry your own comprehensive first-aid kit.

In addition to the aforementioned medications for malaria or diarrhea, your kit should include a supply of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Wound care materials can prevent infection in the case of a laceration. A set of tweezers can help you pluck off ticks before they can transmit disease, or help to remove a painful sliver or thorn.

One of the most commonly overlooked components of a first-aid kit is a small thimble of temporary dental filling. This inexpensive item can save your whole trip if you crack a tooth on the Kenai.

Watch what you eat. We're fishermen. And although (hopefully) most of us release all indigenous fish, the fact remains that fish are tasty. I have a hard time passing up blackened mahi mahi for dinner when I've been chasing tails on the flats all day.

Mahi mahi, however, can cause an allergic-like reaction known as scombroid if the fish is not stored or handled properly. The typical presentation is dizziness, flushing, and headache. Bonito, bluefish, and other species can also transmit scombroid, so ensure that your fish comes from a reputable place where you are reasonably sure it's been refrigerated correctly.

Ciguatera is yet another form of fish-transmitted food poisoning. Predators that eat smaller fish (barracuda is the most notorious fish for transmitting ciguatera) harbor high levels of toxins and can transmit them to you when you dine. Nausea, vomiting, and even neurologic symptoms like peculiar sensations or even hallucinations can occur. Barracuda is delicious but incredibly risky.

Seek expert opinion. Planning for an exotic international fly-fishing trip can be complicated, but the result is usually a healthy, stress-free, and successful adventure. The best way to get started is with a formal consultation with a travel medicine doctor. The International Society of Travel Medicine has a list of providers and their locations at istm.org.

In addition to a consultation with a medical provider, you can research the basic risks and recommendations for your destination at cdc.gov/travel. This website has a broad collection of information that can help prepare you for the most memorable experience of your angling career.

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"Fly fishing is not merely a sport; it's a poetic experience of patience, skill, and deep connection to nature." – Burning For Success

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