



"TROUT LINES"



FLY TYER'S CORNER by CHARLIE NICHOLS

I have horrible hand/eye coordination. I don't know why but I do. When I shoot skeet or trap I always contribute it to being left eye dominant yet shooting right handed. I am nearly 60 years old and no one told me anything about dominant eyes when I began shooting; now, at my age, there is no need to change, I am too set in my ways. That is why I love to fly fish. One only needs to "get the feel" of casting a fly rod and you can hit what you aim at. To handicap myself I tie my own flies. Nothing like jabbing a stick in the spokes of a fast moving bicycle but I have been addicted to fly tying since I began in 1988. I am not an expert but I have learned a thing or two from reading the experts and following their advice, and from taking fly tying classes from the guru's at KVCTU.

I follow the advice of the famous guide and tier Jack Dennis of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Jack states when creating flies at the bench there are three commandments of fly tying: 1) Thou shalt tie flies that are durable. 2) Thou shalt tie flies that are easy and quick. 3) Thou shalt tie flies that catch fish. By following these rules and discovering "the hatch" on the streams I fish, I can do above average. From mayflies, to caddis flies, to stone flies I have learned the hatch. For me that is 90 percent of the problems out on the stream or behind the fly bench. The other 10 percent of fly tying is size, shape and color of the insect you are attempting to imitate. Using my hatch chart I can mimic the major hatches and that makes fishing for trout with a fly so much fun. Allow me to share some of the things I have learned here in the Fly Tier's Corner.



WINTER FISHING

Stoneflies are out there hatching on most high gradient freestone streams right now. The Black Taen (*Taeniopteryx maura*) hatches in the morning and afternoon and is a size 12. You may not find as many of them as you do the Little Black Stones or Needle Fly as some call them (*Capnia vernalis*) which are a size 16; I have seen some as small as 18. The Little Black is on Williams River, Cranberry River, Cherry River, Dunloup Creek, well heck, a good many of the high gradient streams. Stoneflies have to have lots of oxygen and the cold water of steep streams provide that for them. For both of these flies I tie a simple pattern. Now let me assure you that all stoneflies have only two tails and all have two wing cases. Do with that information what you will as that makes for easy identification on the streams but a pain putting on wing cases on a size 16 nymph.

The Black Taen hatches from February to mid-March. The Little Blacks hatch from March till mid-April, except on the Elk River where you will see them in late December. I don't tie a Taen adult as they crawl on the rock and then metamorphosis occurs. The Little Blacks will do likewise but a bunch of them hatch

(Continued on page 2)



coming right up in the top of the water film, swim to a rock or tree hanging in the water and dry off to fly away. Therefore, I tie an adult that is a hoot to fish. I swear you can be standing in the stream and they will crawl up your waders to dry off and fly away. I had a rainbow hit the back of my leg while fishing on the Cranberry to eat these flies. It scared the bejebbers out of me.

The Little Blacks can swarm at times in hatching; absolutely hundreds of them. The Black Taen hatch is

after fly is finished). Legs: Black Ostrich herl.

Little Black adult—Thread: Black 6/0 Hook: Cabela's Model 1 size 16 (Mustad 94840). Body: Black Super Fine Dubbing. Wing: Dun CDC tied down wing style.

Fish the nymphs so they get on the bottom. Hit the head of the tail of the riffle where it drops off into the deep part of the pool. Be sure to work the riffle up and across with your cast, working the inside of the riffle first using short cast then work your cast out into the deeper and faster water. Effective casting is up and across, out and across, or across and down using a tight line or just a bit of slack. The trout will pick the nymph and spit it out quickly so you need to set the hook quickly: for me that usually means I catch a lot of sticks and leaves, but heck it is a hoot to be out fishing this time of the year. For the adult Little Black short pocket water cast are the order or you fish the heads of the pools where they are swept in. Always have a change of clothes nearby; if you take a swim, hypothermia is a very real threat when winter fishing.

(Editor Note: Charlie's Hatch Chart is available in the Catch and Release Guide)



sporadic for the most part.

The Black Taen nymph—Thread: Black 3/0 or 6/0. Hook: Cabela's Model 30, size 10 (Mustad 3906). Tail: 2 Black Goose biots. Ribbing: Gold wire. Body: Black, Hareline Dubbin Stonefly. Wing Case: Scud-back 1/8" clear (color with black permanent marker after fly is finished. Legs: Black Ostrich Herl.

Little Black nymph—Thread: Black 6/0. Hook: Cabela's Model 30, size 14 (Mustad 3906). Tail: Black Hen Hackle split to form two tails. Ribbing: gold wire. Body: Black Super Fine dubbing. Wing Case: Scud-back 1/8" clear (color with black permanent marker

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Randy's Journal

June 4-5-6-7, 2012

And Another Lousy Day in Paradise

Dale Battles, Denny Grizzle and I participated in another one of our fishing trips. We splurged for comfort and stayed in the Fishing Room at the Elk Springs Lodge. Dale, that SOB God Bless Him, again screwed me in sharing the cost. He still owes me \$27. Just like last year. And the time before that too.

The fishing conditions were tough in that the water was "at the end of July stage" here in early June, i.e., the water was very low and very clear. Dale said it best, in fact he said it so often, how could anyone forget it. "When the fishing is tough, you either take a nap or you start drinking." Denny, of course had his Bacardi Rum and Dale and I each brought a fifth of Mr. White Tail Whisky. White Tail is the type of drink that gives you a smile on your face with each sip. Then, who cares if the fishing is good or not. We never drank on the stream, but were sorely tempted.

We did catch a lot of fish, mostly dinks, until Denny and I got tired of drinking and decided to hire Dave Breitmeier as our guide on Thursday. The only problem with that was we should have hired him on Monday at the beginning of our trip and not on Thursday at the end.

So, here is a Before Breitmeier and After Breitmeier report.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we did a lot of drinking since the fishing was slow. We caught fish in the mornings, averaging about five fish a day each, most of them around 10". Then after our nap, we went for the evening hatches which were combinations of yellow sulfurs, isonichias, small caddis, frequent green drakes, and midges with the big fish slurping something other than what we were throwing. We did our usual activity of losing the big trout on tiny flies, and were very jealous of each other

when one of us finally landed a 20+ inch trout. Granted, an 18" trout is called a 20" trout because we never measure them. In any event we struggled catching and landing big fish Before Dave.

Now comes the After Dave Report. He put us on his version of the #26, #28, and #32 flies and he figured out immediately they were hitting on #28 BH Midge Pupae. I was first up at the plate. While Dave was talking to me, Denny was standing close enough to kiss both of us at the same time—he didn't want to miss anything Dave was saying. I immediately didn't hook up on the first five strikes in a row. I couldn't see the strike; whereas, Dave saw the fish take the fly and neither Denny or I could see the fish open its mouth, take the tiny fly, and turn. You're supposed to set the hook when the fish closes its mouth, that is if you can see the big fish's mouth in the moving water. Anyway, I hooked up into a 20" rainbow almost immediately. And landed it in Dave's net.



Now, it was Denny's turn and I ventured upstream by myself. Every time I looked at them, it seemed that Denny was fighting and losing one fish after another. Then he finally landed one and was quickly into another. I started getting hook-ups on my own. We caught more big fish combined in four hours with Dave than we caught in the entire three previous days without using Dave's flies or techniques.

(Continued on Pg. 4)



Most people think that once a rain jacket “wets out” or seems to lose its water-proofness that it’s either time to get a new jacket or to apply some type of DWR (durable water repellent) like Nikwax, ReviveX, or Sport-Wash. While these products typically work as advertised, there’s one much cheaper and better working alternative—the dryer.

While it may sound counter-intuitive to throw your multi-hundred dollar rain jacket in the dryer, experts in the field have assured me this is the easiest way to bring your rain gear back from the dead. Randy Verniers, a technology specialist at Marmot explains it this way: “As long as the DWR has not been worn off of the fabric, heat can revive the DWR.” Think of the DWR as a series of soldiers standing at attention with their helmets on. When they are standing up, the helmets are close enough to create the surface tension needed for water droplets to roll off. “When the soldiers get ‘tired,’ as from abrasion, the soldiers fall over and their helmets no longer provide the surface tension,” he says. “Heat makes the soldiers stand up again. The DWR chemical is drawn toward the heat and the molecular chain is also ‘straightened out’

again.”

The process is simple. **#1 Clean it.** Simply toss your jacket in the wash according to the manufacturer’s recommendations. Make sure to zip up the garment and use powdered detergent if possible. **#2 Dry it.** Place jacket in the dryer by itself for about 10 minutes, periodically checking to make sure it’s not overheating. Placing it in with other wet clothes will cause overheating, as the dryer works to combat all that extra moisture.

(Continued from pg. 3)

Dave asked what we wanted from him. Denny said everything that is needed to catch fish, including all the tricks. I said I wanted to learn how to sight fish, to hook up with the difficult-to-catch Elk Springs big trout that ignores everything you throw at it. Dave taught us a few tricks, but it was mostly in line management, how to make short accurate casts.

He showed us a special fly he uses on special occasions, which of course worked like magic. Many times! Dave says it takes forever to tie and the materials are very hard to get. He calls this fly the DoWapaDilly. Then, Denny bought every one of them in the fly shop. And now, there are no more to be found—anywhere. It is too hard to tie and Dave does not make them anymore. Trout fishing shouldn’t be easy, you know.

PS Dave asked us not to tell about his DoWapaDilly fly thinking that if that happened, no one would ever need to hire him as a guide.



UPCOMING KVCTU EVENTS

- ◆ January 8th membership meeting, South Charleston Library 7PM-9PM. January's program will be the annual fly tying event preceding the WV Hunting and Fishing Show Jan. 18-20 at the Charleston Civic Center. All members are encouraged to bring along their favorite pattern and demonstrate their tying technique. All flies will be donated to the TU booth to be sold at the show. Also, bring one for the "Door Fly Drawing"
- ◆ WV Hunting and Fishing Show, Chas. Civic Center Jan. 18-20, If you are interested in volunteering contact Bill Todd at dutchstar@frognet.net
- ◆ January 24th Angling Arts Classes begin at the Elk Elementary Center
- ◆ January 22nd KVCTU board meeting, South Charleston Library 6:30PM-8:30PM

KVCTU Winter Classes

Winter Fly fishing Classes start January 24th. Introduction to Fly Fishing, Beginning Fly Tying and Beginning Rod Building will be offered in the first session. The second session will immediately follow the first and include Intermediate Fly Fishing, including video taping and review of participant's fly casting, Intermediate Fly Tying and Intermediate Rod Building.

In past years, additional "specialty" classes, such as Winter Fishing and Wilderness Fishing, have been presented. If enough are interested.

All classes on Thursday nights.

To register, call Charlie Krepps 304-562-9050 or email Ken Eigenbrod at kenscustorods@yahoo.com.

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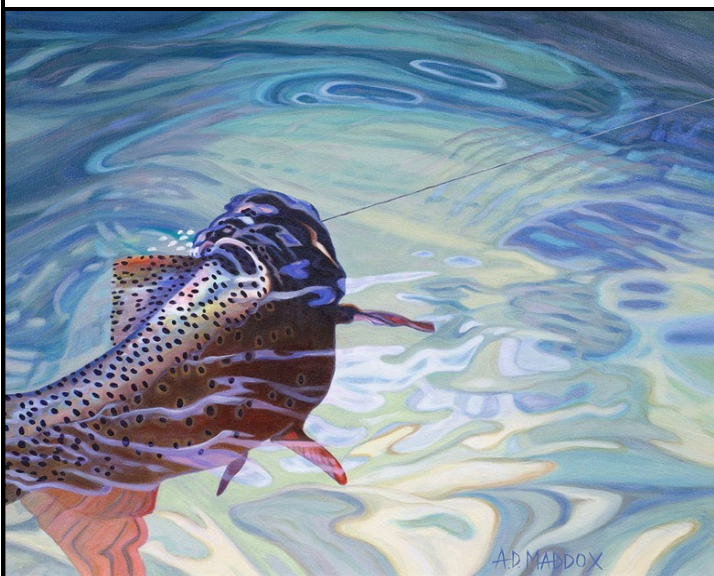
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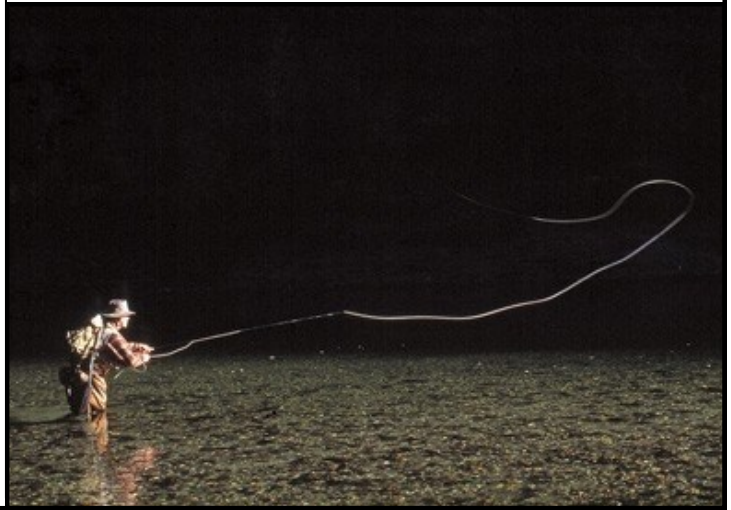
Cable TV series features state trout fishing

From the Charleston Gazette

A cable television program will feature West Virginia trout fishing in several episodes this year. The West Virginia Department of Commerce says six episodes of "Fly Rod Chronicles" will be filmed on public waters in the state. West Virginia will be integrated into seven other episodes of the series on the Outdoor Channel.

The department says "Fly Rod Chronicles" draws nearly one million viewers per episode. The series, in its seventh season, is hosted by West Virginia native Curtis Fleming.

This season's first episode, "Pipestem Trout Wrangler," was shot on the Bluestone River in November. It aired New Years Day, and will be repeated at noon Friday and 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Other episodes will be shot at other locations around the state, including the Cranberry, Potomac, and Greenbrier rivers.



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