



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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August 2021

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dave is having a break this month.

## **FISHING REPORT**

### **Auckland / Waikato**

Another visit to the Waiuku lakes last month saw a number of fun Rainbows and one nice Brown come to the net, as well as a number of long distance releases. These lakes are always worth a visit, particularly during the winter months.



*Our overseas fishing reporter Roy, recently landed this lovely Rainbow from a rural Melbourne lake that is up on a plateau and can match Turangi for the winter chill factor. Photo courtesy of Roy Pollard.*



## Rotorua

Recent reports from those braving the winter weather, Kerry, Rob, and Garry, have not been altogether favourable. The odd fish caught but hard conditions and very snaggy water. A lot of exploring is going on and soon enough the recipe will be discovered and a red letter day unfold.

## Taupo Region



*Pawel, testing his rod for all its worth on another really solid Hatepe Rainbow. I have seen some video of Pawel and Johan fishing this river and they really did have a ball.*

*Photo courtesy of Johan Kok.*

Having just returned from the Club Trip to Turangi I can say that the fish really are living up to all expectations, good condition, hard fighting, and plenty of them. The only down side can be the difficulty in finding a bit of water to yourself. We had 18 Club Members down there on the Trip and another nationwide club had 30 people there. Combined that's an instant rent a crowd. A very big thank you to Maurice for organising this Trip, it really was great fun, with a bunch of really good guys having a great time.

Despite the crowds, if you walk that little bit further, as Maurice and Brendan did on the Friday morning, then you can get water that is relatively undisturbed and Trout that are more likely to bite freely.



Personally, I found that Hare and Copper flies, both little size 14's and big size 8 'Bombs' worked extremely well, with the Glo Bugs being more effective early and late in the day.

Russell and Laurie were out at the delta fishing from Russell's boat but while the fish were big and fat, the fishing was definitely slower than in the rivers.

Further reports this week from Ross, our host for the Trip at Tongariro River Motel, have been excellent as well, with many of his guests having great fishing and 'personal best' days on the river.

In short, get to Turangi now.

*Lucas Bathurst with one of a number of fish that he and Dad Leon landed. Lucas is a very keen angler and catches more than his share of good fish. Photo courtesy of Leon Bathurst.*



## Saltwater

Simon and Johan headed out to Meola reef recently during a very short weather window and they had a ball, catching Kahawai, Trevally, Parore and Snapper. Just because its winter doesn't mean all the fish leave the inshore spots...



*Johan with a Meola Reef winter time Parore. Most of us overlook the Parore but they are a hard fighting fish and actually quite a prized catch in parts of Australia, where they are often referred to as Luderick. Photo courtesy of Johan Kok.*

## **Fishy Tales**

- One never to be named, but forever ridiculed, Club Member thought it would be nice to smoke some freshly caught Trout for the boys on the Thursday night. So he prepped his fish, got the portable smoker and put it on the BBQ in the carport next to his unit. Then, thinking how nice it would taste with some nice crusty bread and a slice of brie, he shot of to the supermarket, thinking timing would be perfect. Only to return and find a 3 foot high fat fire scorching the paint off the back of the carport and threatening to engulf the BBQ. After a quick turning off of the gas bottle and some beating out of the BBQ towel the fire subsided.

Fortunately Ross was incredibly understanding, but he did make said Club Member carry the big hotel fire extinguisher with him during cooking efforts for the rest of the weekend.

- If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com) . Happy Fishing and Tight Lines – Freddy Da Fish.

## **SUBS FOR THE YEAR 2021 ~ 22 ARE NOW OVERDUE.**

Adult \$80.00 discounted to \$60.00\*\*

Family \$90.00 discounted to \$70.00\*\*

Junior \$30.00 discounted to \$20.00\*\*

**\*\* Please note that to pay the discounted subscription rate for prompt payment your sub must be paid by the close of banking on the 30th June 2021. After that date the full subscription rate, not discounted for prompt payment, will be due.**

Please pay to:

12-3209-0190179-00

North Shore Flyfishers Inc

**Please make sure your surname is in the details.**

## **LAST CLUB NIGHT**

Last month we had Johan Kok talking to his video on fishing the Waioeka River.

This was a very enjoyable talk and thank you once again Johan.

## **NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 7.30 PM**

This month we have Nigel Juby talking to us. Nigel is a very experienced fly fisher with experience in all kinds of water from the top of the country to the bottom, as well as being an elected representative on our local Auckland / Waikato Fish and Game Board. The name of his talk explains the topic, **13 Regions, 13 Methods. What a fishing road trip has taught me.** It is sure to be an interesting night and we hope to see you there.

## **WHY WE FISH**

*Where the wandering water gushes ~ From the hills above Glen-Car, ~ In pools among  
the rushes ~ That scarce could bathe a star, ~ We seek for slumbering trout ~ And  
whispering in their ears ~ Give them unquiet dreams; ~ Leaning softly out ~ From ferns  
that drop their tears ~ Over the young streams. ~ Come away, O human child! ~ To the  
waters and the wild ~ With a faery, hand in hand, ~ For the world's more full of weeping  
than you can understand.*

*Yeats - The Stolen Child*

## **CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS**

Committee members organising club trips and similar events are finding that the phone and email information that we hold for some members has become out of date. If you have changed your address, landline number, mobile number or email address in the last year or so and have not passed the new details on to NSFF, could you please advise Barrie Barnes by email, his email address is [barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi](mailto:barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi) .

## **FISHING BUDDIES SOUGHT**

The intention is to display a list of names of Club Members that are keen on finding a 'buddy' to go fishing with, either on a regular basis or just for a day. In essence it's a fly-fishing dating service...

| <b>Name</b> | <b>Availability</b>   | <b>Contact Details</b>  |
|-------------|---|---|
| Ron Blair   | Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco<br>with 60hp etec Evenrude<br>for serious fishing Salt or Fresh | home 09 834 8841<br>mobile 0275 006 336<br><a href="mailto:ron.blair@xtra.co.nz">ron.blair@xtra.co.nz</a> |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Les Rose       | Retired and is happy to take another home 09 4183634<br>person fishing during the week.  |
| Graham Carter  | Lives in Hamilton, keen on 021 026 00437<br>weekday / mid-week trips. 07 855 1833  |
| Lloyd Altham   | Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Mob. 021 0295 9167<br>Available most time, but prefer Home 09 420 3120<br>weekdays. <a href="mailto:email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz">email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz</a>  |
| Gary Bolstad   | Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even Mobile 022 379 3070<br>Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish & <a href="mailto:gd.bolstad@gmail.com">gd.bolstad@gmail.com</a><br>Game and Taupo season licences so keen<br>to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to<br>go most of the time. |
| Derek Robinson | Retired available most times keen to do Ph 4437311<br>Waikato streams and most other things. Mob: 0212 595 371<br><a href="mailto:pamanddek@outlook.com">pamanddek@outlook.com</a>   |

## **CLUB TROPHIES**

**Brown Trout Trophy** – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – May 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Current holder is **Fikrit Chinassi**.

**Chain Snore Trophy** – A fun award given immediately after any Club Trip to the person who has done the ‘funniest’ thing over the weekend. If nobody has had anything like this happen it may be awarded to the worst snorer.

**Ian Hunt Memorial Trophy** – Heaviest Trout caught fly-fishing by a Club Member during the Pupuke Challenge Competition. A competition run every year to promote the Lake Pupuke fishery. This was not held this year due to Covid lock down. Current holder is **Lucas Bathurst**.

**I Love Flyfishing Trophy** – Awarded to the Club Member who has caught the most species of Saltwater fish fly-fishing over the year – 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April. Current holder is **Russell Nelson**.

**Rodd And Gunn Trophy** – This is the Club Competition which takes place over two days. One Day on a Lake and one day on a River. Current holder is **Johan Kok**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. Current holder is **Meinrad Roehrs**.



## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*It is all about having a deep respect for nature, and then tricking nature into eating a plastic frog.*

*U.N. Known*

## **“BROWN TROUT TROPHY” COMPETITION RULES**

Winning fish will be determined by weight.

Verification by partner where possible and/or by photograph.

Details to be provided to any committee member.

Competition period May 1st to April 30th. Prize awarded at AGM in April.

Winner's name and weight of fish to be published in May club newsletter.

## **NORTH SHORE FLY FISHERS CLUB SALT WATER FLY FISHING COMPETITION RULES**

The “essence” of the competition is to encourage club member participation and in the process, to award a winner's trophy to the individual who catches the greatest number of salt water species. It will run from 1st May in one year to 31st April in the next year with the trophy awarded at the following AGM. For the full rules please refer to the Club Website [www.nsff.org.nz](http://www.nsff.org.nz)

## **CLUB TRIPS 2021**

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes FEBRUARY 2022

March – Lake Otamangakau MARCH 2022

April – Whanganui River – Club Competition Trip – April 2022

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes MAY 2022

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo JULY 2022

November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2021

December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough ‘novice’ anglers are interested)

December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 2021

The NSF committee arrange various Club Trips over the year to different parts of the country. If you would like to be involved, or have an idea for a trip please let one of your committee know.



*Simon almost there with another Meola monster. He really was on fire, catching fish after fish, after fish. A great day. Photo courtesy of Johan Kok.*

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

I was at the mall the other day eating at the food court, when I noticed an old man watching a teenager sitting next to him.

The teenager had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, and blue.

The old man kept staring at him.

The teenager would look and find the old man staring every time.

When the teenager had enough, he sarcastically asked, "What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?"

The old man did not bat an eye in his response, "Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my son."

## **RIFLE, ROD AND GUN PUBLIC HAVE LOST TO "OMNIPOTENT MORAL BUSYBODIES"**

**Opinion by Dr. Charlie Baycroft and Tony Orman – NZFFA Website**

Born in Belfast, Ireland, **Clive Staples Lewis** (1898–1963) was one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century and arguably one of the most influential writers of his day. He held academic positions in English literature at both Oxford University and Cambridge University.

His quotes are often brilliant but one that I consider very apt in (what we're about to say) is this as follows:-

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

C S Lewis is very correct.

"Omnipotent moral busybodies" are so dangerous in influencing public opinion – "omnipotent meaning "having great or unlimited power." With that power they become potent in spreading their gospel.

"Omnipotent moral busybodies" are fervent and evangelical. But they can temper it with calculated cunning in spreading their message into the best places for maximum effect.

Then they are at their best, if you're one of them.



“Omnipotent moral busybodies” who feel somehow entitled to mind everyone else’s business, are definitely the dangerous breed of all.

They pave our road to hell with their plausible “good intentions”.

### **Infiltrate Tactic**

Look what happened to our political system. The moral busybody activists of the 1970’s and 1980’s realised that the way to get what they wanted was to infiltrate and take control of the political parties and they did. They infiltrated parliament.

Later a prime example was and is the Forest and Bird Society. The late Kevin Smith joined Forest and Bird in 1984 and in 1989 was appointed conservation director for Forest and Bird and moved to Wellington.

In 2000 Kevin Smith became senior conservation officer in the parliamentary office of the then Conservation Minister, Alliance MP Sandra Lee who just happened to be a Forest and Bird member too.

That was a prime example of cleverly infiltrating the sphere of maximum influence.

Forest and Bird have infiltrated into other places of influence such as the Department of Conservation, local government councils, the media – in fact most places where they can exert maximum influence for their ideology.

Meanwhile the outdoor recreation organisations have been left well in the rear, sometimes preoccupied with domestic tiffs, but never realising where the best direction is.

Perhaps the rest of us are more to blame for allowing the likes of Forest and Bird to take this control of our system, government and lives by not competing?

### **Time for Action!**

The only way to restore sanity and integrity to our government is for those of us who are being oppressed and discriminated against to do the same thing.

There are less than 50,000 political party members in NZ and less than 20,000 who are involved, attend meetings and determine who will represent them – and us and what they will do when elected.

Attend a local political party meeting and you will find that there are probably less than 12 people there and they are getting what they want.

It would be so easy to infiltrate, take over and reform the Labour and National parties but no-one seems to have the courage or ambition to do so.

People do not get what they deserve.

That is a myth.

You only get what you earn, negotiate and take.

### **Smarten up!**

If 10 or 15 percent of the hunting and fishing community would smarten up, learn the system and get involved they could have a deep and meaningful influence on future governments.

It's never too late.

Complaining, petitions, protest demonstrations and trying to negotiate with people that believe any means is justified to achieve their agendas is never going to get us anywhere.

Neither is forming more and more impotent little wanna-be political parties that achieve nothing.

Everyone has probably heard that democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people.

But they forgot the vitally important part which is government of most of the people by the “omnipotent moral busybodies” minority who have figured out how to work the system to their advantage while the rest by non-participation allow themselves to just get exploited and ripped off because they are too stupid, uncomprehending and/or lazy to participate.

The reason the system fails the fishing and hunting public is because they fail to be involved and represented.

The “omnipotent moral busybodies” minority are in control.



*Just one of Jason's upper river Rainbows. He had a great time up river on the Tongariro and if you buy him a beer he might just tell you where. Photo courtesy of Jason Crang.*



## **FISH & GAME REPRIEVE**

### **NZFFA July Newsletter**

We are extremely pleased to learn that, despite the Fish & Game NZ Council pushing for it, the decision to reduce the number of regions and number of elected Councilors will not take place this side of the next Fish & Game Councilor elections. In practice this should mean another three years of unpaid, committed and selfless Councilors representing the interests of F&G licence holders, without paid Government appointees.

The NZFFA has been opposed to the recommendation to reduce the number of regions simply because there has never been a reasoned, fact based foundation for doing so – it appears to be a whimsical notion from a lifelong civil servant.

Similarly, we oppose the recommendation of reducing the number of elected F&G Councilors as we believe it reduces participation in the democratic process, the opposite of what F&G should be pursuing.

Most importantly and at the risk of repeating ourselves, we urge the F&G NZ Council and Chair to ask its paymasters, the licence holders, what they want.

## **SUBMISSIONS ON NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT BILL**

**The NZFFA submitted on the Natural and Built Environment Bill (Exposure Draft) as it has a number of concerns over the draft Bill as follows:**

1. Overall we are pleased to see the replacement of the RMA. As it stands the RMA favours those with deep pockets who can afford lawyers and expert witnesses to act on their behalf. It is a case that those with the most money will always prevail in a consent, a commissioner's or Environment Court hearing.
2. We also support the proposal to move away from effects based legislation to one founded on hard environmental limits and attributes, as the latter are far more objective and rely less on expert witnesses, offering their paid opinion.
3. There are some concerns however:
  - (a) The Bill talks of 'Te Oranga o te Taiao' with no explanation or quantification of what this is. We caution against legislation that relies on narrative and/or animist concepts rather than facts.

- (b) The Bill promotes renewable energy, in practice in NZ this means HEP schemes. We have over 100 of these currently not one of which has a functioning salmonid fish pass, many have devastated the river ecosystem and many do not enable native fish migrations.
- (c) We note that the hard work in establishing National Policy Statements, National Environment Standards and Water Conservation Orders, should not be lost when the new Bill is drafted as these have contributed to water quality.
- (d) There is an over emphasis on protecting indigenous species only, whereas we believe our ecosystems are mixed (native and introduced) and that this is not always a bad thing and should be recognised as such.

### **COUNCIL SAYS “GOOD JOB FARMERS”**

Environment Waikato Press Release.

Monitoring by Waikato Regional Council has found the number of significantly non-compliant dairy farms in the region has halved on the previous year.

It’s a result that has been applauded by the council who says it reflects the industry’s commitment to stepping up to address environmental issues.

“We call it as we see it, and we are very happy to say that our farm inspections over the last year show a significant drop in non-compliance relating to dairy effluent management in the Waikato,” said council Regional Compliance Manager Patrick Lynch.

“Over the 2020/21 financial year our Rural Compliance Team monitored a total of 1172 farms – of these, 81 or just 7 per cent were found to be significantly non-compliant.

“In the previous year, our monitoring was impacted by COVID-19, but we still managed to inspect 820 farms and found 102, or 12 per cent, had significant compliance issues.

“This year’s results clearly indicate a real improvement, and we would like to acknowledge all of the hard work being carried out across the dairy sector to achieve this,” Mr. Lynch said. “The risk to the environment has undoubtedly been greatly reduced on individual farms by the investment in effluent infrastructure.”

Waikato Regional Council Chair, Russ Rimmington, acknowledged the pleasing result. “This is a good news story and reflects what can be achieved when the council and industry work closely together on important environmental issues.”

## **FLY FISHING USING EGG PATTERNS**

[www.manictackleproject.com](http://www.manictackleproject.com) - Chris Dore

There are many ways we can have our eggs and don't we enjoy them all.

Scrambled with bacon, poached with bacon, fried with bacon, bacon eggs benedict, the list goes on! As much as our preferences change week by week, it's the same as our approach to winter fishing each year and the variety of ways we fish and select our patterns improves each season with experience and as new materials come to light.

So this is far from just another glo bug article but a refresher and an overview of some of the many fly fishing tactics and techniques we employ using egg patterns to hopefully spark some of your latest and greatest ideas this winter.

### **WHAT ARE GLO BUGS?**

Love them or loathe them, trout eat glo bugs. (or emerging trout imitations for those dry fly stalwarts struggling to justify their use).

Trout generally spawn across the winter months, when the water temps are cool and oxygen levels are high, essential requirements for eggs to develop. Exceptions to this could be in lake tributaries, offering cold water through the later months of summer, simulating the higher oxygen requirements of spawning.

When it comes time to spawn, female trout create redds in suitable gravels by scraping it out with their anal fins. This activity excites the males who fight for position and excitedly await the dropping of the eggs by the hen. As the eggs drop, Johnny On the Spot races in to fertilise them, and many milking eggs inadvertently end up drifting off downstream in the flow.

As trout are cannibals, and eggs are obviously an easy high protein meal, many become a target especially to larger rainbows that often follow the browns up earlier in the winter, or themselves as winter moves on. Needless to say, roe becomes a highly desirable winter staple for many fish.

### **WHEN TO FISH EGG PATTERNS**

Whilst egg patterns can be effective at any time of the year, spawning season or otherwise, it is across the winter and early months of spring when they are most readily available and accepted as food. At other times they can provide colour on a dull day or in discoloured flows, but it is during the winter spawning runs where they come into their own.



Both dawn and dusk are prime time to fish egg patterns in any conditions, however many will find much greater success by switching to naturals throughout the day in normal water and clearer weather conditions. More eggs will get washed downstream in times of increased flows and so any high water or increasing flow can be a great time to break out those glo bugs.

## **CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLOUR ROE IMITATION**

You're at a major disadvantage if you head out to the river with only one size and colour egg in your fly patch. Earlier on in the spawn the roe can be bright, and so oranges, tangerines etc can be at their most effective. Later on eggs lose their vibrance and so early girl and more muted tones can be the way to go.

Additionally, on low light days brighter colours will stand out and especially in discoloured flows, larger patterns in chartreuse, oranges etc will grab attention, and in lower, clearer or brighter conditions the sensible option is to stay smaller and with more neutral tones.

While much of the above applies to moving water, similar advice can be followed when fishing lakes. However in stillwater situations eggs can be washed down from the stream mouths or found suspended in the water column at any time making them a good, all day addition to your rig.

## **HOW TO RIG YOUR EGG PATTERNS**

### **THE TRIED & TRUE DOUBLE NYMPH RIG**

Tied behind a nymph and fished upstream beneath an indicator, or off a dropper above your weighted point fly. It pays to get into the habit of every few casts letting them swing at the end of the drift and hanging for a few seconds before introducing a few strips / stops. You'd be surprised how often you're pulling the flies out of fishes mouth when you are in a hurry to recast

### **TIE ONE ON BEHIND YOUR STREAMER**

This adds an extra incentive to fish that may not be interested in a bigger meal and often converts those 2lb pocket rockets, amongst other things.

## **ADD ONE TO YOUR STREAMER**

Egg-Truder style. There's a hook trailing off the back there so why not dress it and add to your pattern?

## **STILLWATER NYMPHING, INDICATOR STYLE**

Suspend a pair of egg patterns beneath an indicator, depth to suit. It may take time for the indi to register a take, and a soft egg type pattern is likely to be held by the fish for longer than an artificial yarn type imitation due to a much more natural feel. As well as fishing them static, occasionally draw your rig towards you and allow them to settle again, both the rising motion, and slow sink of your flies will often grab attention. A favourite Marty Langlands tactic when fishing adjacent to stream mouths.

## **GO SOLO WITH A SINGLE GLO BUG**

Add some Loon Black Drops, for snaggy sections of water where you don't wish to lose tandem flies every few casts.

## **FISH A TEAM OF EGG PATTERNS ON A SINKING LINE**

Try and fish your glo bugs on a longer trace. Every draw of the line will pull them deeper and forwards, and an extended pause will see them rise so slightly, more so if a small booby type pattern or FAB is used on point.

## **ON A DROPPER EURO STYLE**

This is a no brainer with a heavier job nymph on point and one or two egg patterns on droppers, worked seductively through a run. Try using a small, well weighted streamer pattern on point to make fish move.

## **FISHING THE RIP**

Try fishing an egg cluster on a short dropper and Di7 line, leaving it to move about the currents in the rip. Either fish it heave and leave style, or slowly crawl it back up the edge of the in flowing current.

## GETTING YOUR EGG FLY INTO THE EAT ZONE

As many egg patterns are tied from yarn type materials - the same stuff often used as indicator material - they tend to be rather buoyant. If fishing an egg behind a nymph you should choose a heavier pattern to pull it down. Iron Maidens, Hooligans and Simons Ugles, as well as the famous Bomb Squad are my pick.

Try the hanging shot technique below using Loon Black Drops, eco friendly lead shot which matches the accepted weight of lead split shot:

1. Simply split your tippet six inches above your top fly with your favourite dropper knot, tying an overhand knot in the end of one tag end and leaving it long.
2. Attach your shot to the tag end and avoid damaging your mainline as you squeeze them tight
3. In snag prone areas maybe tie the dropper off a tippet ring using much lighter line. Chances are the shot will snag and can be pulled free with a straightened rod and tight line

Utilising a long, level tippet and good mending technique are the hallmarks of a good, winter angler so you don't have to deal with as much uncomfortable excess weight, and can allow your flies to move more freely within the currents down below.

## LET'S GET INTO EGG PATTERNS

As mentioned, utilise colour and flash in low light, or coloured water conditions or even to get seen from a distance if the run is few and far between. Smaller, more natural patterns are our go to in clear water flows.

In slower water or when fishing further from my indicator I'm going to want a fly the fish will hold for longer whereas for rough and tumble jungle fishing, or when fishing in faster flows which are harder on flies I'm reaching for durability.

## FLY TYING MATERIALS

Yarn has been the traditional pattern for eggs for many, many years both being durable, easy to shape and easier to tie. However often being of the same materials we choose for its floating properties as indicators, you often require excessive weight to sink these flies quickly.



Along with their durability, yarn patterns can also be advantageous when fished below a dropper holding split shot, for if snagged the lighter trace to the shot is likely to break first while your buoyant yarn bug is hopefully floating above the debris.

Soft rubber eggs offer a more realistic, translucent appearance and feeling much more natural may be eaten more confidently in slower water or in times of heavy angling pressure.

The drawback however is their durability and ability to stay on the hook, however various glues and the addition of Egg Veil yarn used for effect can also further improve the durability of your soft egg pattern.

Choose your flash wisely for too much flash can put off fish in clear or bright conditions however can add the attraction of reflected light on duller days. The addition of Fritz, UV Dub or other eye catching materials add some pizzazz without going too overboard when needed.

A wide gape hook leaves plenty of room around your bulky bead pattern and heavy gauge wire is a must, for you will often be fishing deep with heavier rigs that seem to love finding every snag and overhead branch they can. On this note, it's wise to carry a hook hone to touch up any dulled down hook points following such an encounter.

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountains and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books*

*John Lubbock*



*Ron in action on the Hatepe. There are a lot of fish in this river but they do tend to hide behind a lot of snags! Photo courtesy of Daryl Sinclair.*

## **IMPROVING YOUR WATER HAUL CAST**

By Justin Pickett – C/o [www.ginkandgasoline.com](http://www.ginkandgasoline.com)

Fly-Fishing around tight canopy can prove challenging, and, here in the southeast, there is plenty of it.

Rhododendrons dominate the banks, along with wise, old Hemlocks, Oaks, pines, and many other bushes, shrubs, grass, and flowering flora. Because of this, I often do my best to take them out of the equation by changing my casting technique to best suit each situation.

One of the casts that I use most often, when tight banks and overhead canopy are staring me down, is the water haul cast. It's the perfect cast for keeping you out of trouble for a few good reasons. For one, it takes the back cast completely out of the equation, eliminating the possibility of getting hung up in the trees and bushes that lurk behind you. As well as keeping your cast close to the water's surface, which keeps you relatively safe from most overhanging obstacles. On the other hand, if not executed correctly, the water haul can prove frustrating and getcha worked up in a hot minute.

When it comes to mistakes made with the water haul, there are a handful of problems that I see consistently when I'm guiding clients.

### **PROBLEM: YOUR CAST IS PILING UP AND IS WELL SHORT**

During the passive phase of the water haul, you are allowing the flow of the water to straighten your fly line and leader, downstream from you, which pulls against your line, leader, and flies which transfers energy to the rod blank. This step loads the rod and gives you the stored energy needed to make the cast. What I see happen most often is that when the angler begins to make their cast, the rod loads up and then slingshots forward, but the flies only sling a few feet out of the water, or maybe not at all.

The first thing that often happens here is that during the time it takes to straighten your rig and load the rod, your flies fall to the bottom of the streambed, and if you're fishing with an indicator or a dry fly, the hydraulic force of the water presses the indicator/dry fly into the water's surface, if not below the surface. When this happens, the water flow is creating more resistance and energy than you have stored in your rod. The end result is often what I described above. The energy stored in the rod isn't enough to overcome the forces of the water against your rig and your flies aren't able to well...fly. The solution to this issue is simple, though. As you prepare to straighten your rig, move your rod tip a few more inches downstream and let it come tight. As you become ready to cast, raise your rod tip slightly and move your rod tip forward those few inches that you added on. This will bring your

flies up in the water column, greatly reducing the water's resistance against them. If you are fishing with a dry (especially larger flies) or an indicator (especially thingamabobbers), focus on trying to "skate" them across the water for a few inches before attempting your cast. This breaks much of the surface tension and allows for an easy, well executed cast.

The second reason that your flies will pile up while attempting a water haul is because of the introduction of slack into the system. This happens when the angler has done everything right and just before they execute their cast, they move their rod tip downstream and then begin their cast. This does two things: It kills the energy that was loaded in the rod; your flies drop back down into the water, which equals greater resistance. So it becomes exactly like the situation I discussed above, only worse, because now there is zero stored energy in the rod. It's hard for some folks to overcome because the back cast is essentially ingrained into our muscle memory. You have to resist the urge to move your rod tip downstream and trust the cast. The first step in setting up for a water haul is what replaces the back cast and loads the rod. This is one of those casts that is best practiced on moving water, but can be simulated in the backyard as well. My suggestion is to make a few practice casts well downstream of your intended target until you've got it down.

## **PROBLEM: POOR ACCURACY**

A lot of my clients initially struggle with their accuracy when performing the water haul cast, but fortunately this is easily remedied with a little practice as well. The most common problem I see with my clients is (for a right hander) that their flies tend to travel well left of the intended target and fall short. This is simply because the angler isn't stopping their rod tip when the cast is completed. Whether they are trying to "help" the flies along, or just out of habit, their rod tip continues to travel towards their left shoulder (this would be the right shoulder for a lefty). Remember that your flies will always follow your rod tip, so in this case the flies land well left and short of their target. The easiest way to fix this is to simply stop your rod tip when it points at your target. It may be a rock, a tree, a twig, or a flagpole, but when you stop, your rod tip should be pointed at that target. As long as the wind isn't howling into your face, your flies should land on target and at the intended distance.

## **PROBLEM: YOUR FLIES ARE CRASHING INTO YOU**

This is likely because the angle between the starting point of your flies and your target isn't along a neat, straight-line path. The thing that I most often see is that the angler will plop their flies in the water just about anywhere behind them and try to execute a water haul cast to a target. They can focus so much on the target that they forget about where their flies are and don't realize that they themselves are between their flies and the target. They'll also often find their flies are crashing into the rod, and flying everywhere but where they



are intending them to go. If you find this is happening to you, check the path of your cast. If you are starting your flies behind your back (as a right hander), but your intended target is somewhere off your left shoulder, then the straight-line path for those flies just might smack you on the back of your head on their way to that target. You might also find that, given the same scenario, your flies will fall wide right in an attempt to avoid hitting yourself. The path of your cast can be easily manipulated for optimal performance by changing the angle at which you hold the rod tip (which will slide your flies over in the current), and finally by turning your dominant shoulder towards your target. Make small corrections initially, as it doesn't take much change in angle to make a big difference.

The next time you're on the water and need to present a good water haul cast, remember these tips in order to sort out the kinks. It will save you wasted time untangling flies from tree limbs, and keep your flies in the water longer!

*You never know what to expect when flyfishing. Daryl arrived at the river, rigged up and ready to start fishing, when out of the tree line appeared the pictured angler with a glo bug imbedded firmly in his face! Some quick surgery with a pair of pliers later and both Daryl and his patient were on their way, one to his fishing and the other to contemplate the benefits of barbless hooks over a medicinal whiskey. Photo courtesy of Daryl Sinclair.*



## **EDITORS NOTE**

Never Leave A BBQ Unattended.

## **FISHING FUNNIES**



(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated)

## **MEMBERS FEEDBACK**

We, your committee, are always trying to give you what you want.

## **But are we??**

In order for us to do our job properly we need to have your feedback, positive or negative. For example, have you been on a club fishing trip? Did you enjoy yourself? What would you change, if anything? Club nights – what would you like to see more of? Less of? In short, talk to us.

The contact details of all your committee members are listed at the end of every newsletter. So if you have something on your mind let us know.

Thank you - Your committee

## **NSFF CLUB MERCHANDISE**

Cap – \$15.00 Inclusive of GST

Green or Beige, one size fits all, with embroidered badge.

Embroidered Cloth Badge - \$7.50 Inclusive of GST

Brushed Brass Metal Pin Badge - \$12.50 Inclusive of GST

If anyone is interested in purchasing these products please either place an order at Club Nights.

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**Meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm:**  
Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, North Shore City

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## **NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE**

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