



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

July - 2020

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Some time ago, in one of my articles, I recalled the occasion when I caught my first trout on a fly. It was at Turangi in the Tongariro river and the fly was that old standby, the “red setter”. However, it was not actually the first fish and in fact that event was a year or two earlier and only an hour's drive or so from home. Having been introduced to fishing at an early age by my grandmother, the passion developed and through devouring as many books on the subject as I could, I invariably discovered fly fishing as well, although at the time the sport in this country was exclusively fresh water.

Fred Field, the father of my mates, the “Field Twins”, Rod and Ian, was a skilled fly fisherman and also worked at Tisdalls, having retired from the navy as a gunnery officer. On many occasions when I visited the Field home, Fred would be sitting at his vice tying flies and thinking back, it would be where I picked up my fascination with the idea of “matching the hatch”. I’m not absolutely certain but it was probably Fred who sold me my first fly fishing “combo”. Compared to the rigs of today, it was pretty rudimentary but to me it felt like a million dollars. The rod was a 2 piece, fibreglass “Robin Hood” with a metal ferule, the reel was a “Shakespeare” and the line was a “Scientific Anglers”, 8 weight, level, floater. I don’t know whether or not level lines are still available but once you have mastered casting one, double tapered and weight forward lines are a breeze.

Anyway, being suitably “tooled up”, the next step was to catch a fish. At the time, one of my mates had shifted with his new family to Otatau, just south of Waiuku and on a road which led up to the Maioro, an elevated area of ancient sand dune country which held one or two lakes including Parkinson’s. By way of reconnaissance, we loaded up a small dinghy and managed to launch it into the lake where a couple of hand lines and worms produced two fairly “eel-like” rainbows. That was all the encouragement I needed! The next day, I went back up to the lake with my trusty “Robin Hood” and an assortment of dry flies. (I hadn’t even given wet flies or nymphs a thought). It was dead still in the lee of the dunes and fish were rising along the weed line about 20 feet or so out from the edge. With sweaty palms and a pulse rate of what seemed like 200, I dropped a Coch-y-bondhu onto the surface and to my utter amazement, it got sucked under, I struck and it was “all on!” My first trout and on a dry fly! But wait, what weight? There was no weight. But there was a fish! Not exactly a gear busting run but a very satisfying connection, even if it did turn out to be an average sized Rudd.

The important aspect of the whole episode is the massive satisfaction gained from realising the finale of a dream conceived and anticipated for years and which for me, opened a whole new chapter in the world of angling. It also serves to illustrate the importance of making sure we continue to introduce young people to our sport instead of spending so much of their time pursuing sedentary, electronic pastimes.

See you in “the great outdoors”.

Dave Symes - President

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

No report from this area this month. Too cold, too windy, too wet.



Meinrad hooked up on the Whanganui last month swinging some heavy water. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.

Rotorua

The tributaries are all but closed, although you can still fish the lower Ngongotaha below the state highway, and the Lakes are closed to Boat fishing. However, some excellent shore based fly fishing can still be had, just check the Eastern Fish and Game regulations as where you can and can't fish.

When it all gets too much and the river is flooded you can always just warm up by the fire. Kerry resting his eyelids on a Club Trip to the Ngongotaha.



Taupo Region

They said the Trout were in great nick down in Taupo and they were right! A recent weekend down there saw a bunch of eager fish come to the net and at least as many again unable to be stopped as they ran back to the lake and consequently lost, or as some say, long distance released. The smallest landed was 3.25 pds and the best 5.5pds.

Talking to others down there on the same weekend was interesting. Some had struggled and others prospered. The Hatepe was again fishing well to the Czech nymphers but those using regular nymphing techniques struggled. The river mouths have all slowed down a little and the lake is still very low. All the recent rain will no doubt have brought some fresh runs with it so get yourself down there.

Mike, Dennis and Trevor headed down last Tuesday for a few days and landed some very nice fish. However, it was very busy! Everywhere they went, no matter how early, there were other anglers. The stay home and be a tourist in your own country idea is definitely a two edged sword. Great that we are spending our cash domestically, but a lot more people on the water. Still, there is a lot of water available in Taupo and with a little effort you can hopefully get away from the crowd.

Saltwater

No report from the Salt this month. Too cold, too windy, too wet.

Fishy Tales

Two unnamed Club Members made their try outs for the New Zealand Olympic Swimming Team during the recent Club Trip to Ngongotaha. It was, by all accounts, quite spectacular to watch.

The first was trying out for the Deep Diving and his head first almost complete submergence in deep water whilst wading a flooded river was quite special. He scored very well for his artistic, slow motion entry into the water. The judges awarded full points for this dive.

The second Club Member tripped while walking downstream in shallow water and the trip turned into that running fall that we all know as you try to regain your balance. Upon falling he found his left side in shallow water and his right in deeper water, resulting in a spectacular sweeping out of his legs and a 360 degree barrel roll before some semblance of control was regained. Unfortunately he did lose some points for causing a small localized earthquake with the initial impact.

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

NSFF SUBS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2020~21 YEAR

The annual subs for the year, 2020 ~ 21, for the North Shore Flyfishers Inc are now due. Please pay to:
North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated - A/c: 12-3209-0190179-00.

Please ensure your surname is in the Payment Details.

The subs are as below and discounted if paid by 31st July 2020.

Adult \$80.00 discounted to \$40.00 if paid by 31st July 2020
Family \$90.00 discounted to \$70.00 if paid by 31st July 2020
Junior \$30.00 discounted to \$20.00 if paid by 31st July 2020

REMEMBER

To get the discount the subs must be paid by the 31st July 2020

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we Bruce Stuart from Lost Arts NZ talking to us about knife making. It was a very interesting night and thank you once again Bruce.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 21st JULY 7.30 PM

This month we have Will Preece talking to us about Fly fishing for Bonefish in Aitutaki.

Will is a regular visitor to the flats of Aitutaki in the Cook Islands where he has caught plenty of big bonefish and an assortment of other tropical species on fly. He will be sharing his knowledge about the amazing flats fly fishing the island has to offer as well as some tips for planning a trip, whether it be guided or DIY.

It is sure to be an interesting night and we look forward to seeing you there.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

What do the little fishes do that make the most truthful men untrue?

Joseph Morris

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 .

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...

Name	Availability	Contact Details
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etec Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
Les Rose	Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week. Has a small 2 person boat.	home 09 4183634
Graham Carter	Lives in Hamilton, keen on weekday / mid-week trips.	021 026 00437 07 855 1833
Lloyd Altham	Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Available most time, but prefer weekdays.	Mob. 021 0295 9167 Home 09 420 3120 email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz
Matt Meikle	Available both week days and Weekends	09 908 1909 027 285 7521
John Gausden	Time limited - weekends / arrange trips only. 5m aussie barra boat / 70 yamaha / minn kota - serious fishing mainly lake / saltwater but keen to learn more on the rivers	021704373 john@st-classic.com

John Rust	Anytime. Keen to give it a crack. joan10@live.com	021 648 991 09 415 4919
Barry Schultz	Has a 551 MacLay with a 90hp merc used mostly for SW fishing. Also a 6.5 mtr motorhome that provides transport, accommodation & meals etc. whilst camped riverside or beach front, plus is currently being fitted out to carry a three person inflatable with a 4 hp motor. Prefer weekdays or multi day trips away in the motorhome.	09 4159692 e-mail bardot@xtra.co.nz
Gary Bolstad	Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish & Game and Taupo season licences so keen to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to go most of the time.	Mobile 022 379 3070 gd.bolstad@gmail.com

So, if you are keen to find someone to share the cost and the fun of a fishing expedition with, then send in your details and we will get it all started. Send details to iconpromote@gmail.com

022-379-3070, and my best email address is gd.bolstad@gmail.com.

CLUB TROPHIES

Brown Trout Trophy – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – May 1st to 30th April. Current holder is **Simon Hoole**.

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 – 1st May to 30th 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 **Simon Hoole**.

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



Andrew hooked this fish, played it for several minutes and then lost it as it wrapped him around a snag, only to hook and land it again 10 minutes later. He knew it was the same fish as he was able to retrieve his lost flies from its mouth. Photo courtesy of Andrew MacPherson.

“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 May. Winner's name and weight of fish to be published in June 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

WHY WE FISH

All of us search for that perfect trout stream. Those who find it treasure it the rest of their lives. Those who don't, keep on searching.

Jimmy D. Moore - Trout Streams I've Known

FLY TYING INSTRUCTION

This will be running again on the 1st Tuesday of next month. Stay tuned for more details on how to log in and what Fly will be tied via an email from Barrie.

This is going well and all who participate seem to be enjoying it greatly. Easy to follow, easy to connect, and easy to hear. Reports from the Members receiving the interactive instruction were equally positive.

A big credit and thank you to Johan Kok, our instructor, and to Barrie Barnes for setting it all up.

If you would like to see the videos of the Flies being tied just click go to <http://www.nsff.org.nz/> .

CLUB TRIPS 2020

February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes

March – Whanganui River – Club Competition Trip 2020

March – Lake Otamangakau

May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes JUNE 2020 – 19th 20th 21st

July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo JULY 2020

November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2020

November – Tuition weekend (Held if enough 'novice' anglers are interested)

December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 2020

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.

CLUB TRIP TO NGONGOTAHA AND ROTORUA AREA

How best to describe the recent Club Trip to Rotorua and Ngongotaha....WET.

Sometimes the forecasters predict atrocious weather and it turns out beautiful, as happened on the February Ngongotaha Trip, but sometimes they are 100% correct. We got smashed down there with almost constant rain while Auckland had a beautiful sunny weekend. This resulted in flooded rivers and some hard fishing on the Friday – Saturday – Sunday. Thursday was the saving grace for those of us lucky enough to get away early as despite the rain the river stayed clear the whole day, allowing us to land good numbers of Trout. Most of these had been in the river a while and were quite coloured up and thinking about spawning.

Well, these things happen and all you can do is make the most of it. Perseverance eventually paid off for most, with some heading to distant Lakes like Okataina and others choosing to hunker down with a good book by the fire and wait for the river to become fishable again.

Despite the weather a lot of fun was had and many thanks to everyone for making it an enjoyable Trip. Good people, good laughs, and good fun.

Duncan



Two of Fikrits fish and a good example of the Lake versus river fish for this Trip. The fat, prime Rainbow came from the Ohau Channel and the coloured up Brown in the middle of spawning mode came from the flooded Ngongotaha. No doubt the heavy rain would have brought a big run of fresh run fatties up the rivers just after we returned home. Photos courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.



JULY CLUB TRIP TO TURANGI

This year's Turangi Club Trip is again being organized by Maurice Parlane and will take place on Friday 24th, Saturday 25th and return on Sunday 26th July. The Club has booked out several units at Tongariro River Motel and costs will be \$105 per person. This will include 2 nights' accommodation on a shared unit basis and a slap up BBQ dinner on the Saturday night. There are fish cleaning facilities, an electric overnight smoker, multiple BBQ's and a quick hot smoker.

Also, a number of people choose to come down on the Thursday night as well. If you do this just add \$45 to the cost.

If you are interested in going on this please contact Maurice ASAP as this is always a popular Trip. Maurice's contact details are as follows: mobile 021 650 692, or e-mail to: maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz

Turangi in July means two things, good fishing and COLD frosty mornings. Blue pool access on the Tongariro on a sub-zero dawn.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Two crocodiles were sitting at the side of the swamp near the Wellington waterfront.

The smaller one turned to the bigger one and said: 'I can't understand how you can be so much bigger than me. We're the same age; we were the same size as kids. I just don't get it.'

'Well,' said the big croc, 'what have you been eating?'

'Politicians, same as you,' replied the small croc.

'Hmm. Well, where do you catch them?'

'Down the other side of the swamp near the parking lot by the Parliament.'

'Same here. Hmm ... How do you catch them?'

'Well, I crawl up under one of their BMW cars and wait for one to unlock the car door. Then I jump out, grab them by the leg, shake the **** out of them and eat 'em!'

'Ah!' says the big crocodile, 'I think I see your problem. You're not getting any real nourishment. See, by the time you finish shaking the **** out of a politician, there's nothing left but an asshole with a briefcase.'

THE HAIR STACKER

Article published here courtesy of Dave McLellan's generosity.

In 1993 New Zealand sent a team to compete in both the World and Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships in Canada. The World event was held in Kamloops British Columbia followed by the Commonwealth competition on Nimpo Lake some 200 miles north. There were eight Commonwealth countries taking part and a bus had been laid on to take the teams North after the world Championships. Unfortunately there was only room for seven of the teams on the bus and the New Zealand team was asked if we would use our minibus that we had hired for the occasion. So it was decided that we would take off early in the morning and have breakfast on the way. The plan was simple, to arrive at the lake well before the bus and have some practice on one of the nearby lakes.

As it was we managed to get away by 5:30 a.m. and headed north following a hand drawn map that we had received from one of the officials. For over two hours all went well until we drove over the crest of a hill and into a thick fog. So thick in fact that we had to reduce our speed to less than 10 miles an hour just to see the road. The situation was made even more frightening by the fact that we were not used to driving on the left, and half expected some large truck to come hurtling towards us out of the fog. There were six agitated anglers on the mini bus and they were getting frustrated and argumentative, the situation exacerbated by the fact that they were also getting very hungry. Adding to all this was the realisation that we were also getting low on fuel and had not seen a filling station for some time.

"Stop", cried one of the anglers "we have just passed a sign". Carefully we backed up to where a narrow dirt track left the hard road and an old wooden sign in the shape of a hand with the words coffee & fuel barely visible on the faded timber, pointed a disconcerting finger towards the rutted path.

Someone suggested that it was a sign from the big angler in the sky, so with a certain amount of uneasiness we started down the track, the fog enveloping us, perhaps never to be seen again. After a few hundred yards we passed between two large pillars and saw a glimmer of light ahead of us struggling to shine through the mist. As we approached it we realised that it came from the window of an old rustic cabin and as the engine was switched off the sound of muffled voices could be heard coming from within. As we piled out of the bus we were met by the unmistakable aroma of fresh coffee which instantly removed any lingering doubts that we may have harboured regarding our decision to venture down the track. On entering the cabin all chatter from the five or six occupants ceased to be replaced with an awkward silence and fixed stares. There was something not quite right, nothing you could put your finger on and for a moment it occurred to me that we may have entered a private home. Perhaps these people were all part of the same family because in a strange way they did look slightly similar. I was just starting to entertain the idea that we had somehow found our way into a parallel universe when the spell was broken by a large round faced man who appeared through a side door and asked if he could be of assistance. This action seemed to relax the other patrons who returned to their conversations in muted tones.

“Yes”, I said, “we would all like coffee and would it be possible to get some breakfast?” “Sure”, said the man, wiping his large hands on his equally large round and slightly grubby apron, “bacon, eggs, sausage, hash browns that sort of thing?” There were murmurs of approval from the others. “Yes thanks we will have all that times six”. We shuffled into narrow bench seats three each side of a long table.

Shortly the man returned carrying a tray with large heavy mugs of coffee and the assurance that breakfast would not be long. When it did arrived we were all pleasantly surprised. We were not sure exactly what we expected from this strange place with its slightly weird people, but the breakfast was excellent. Crisp bacon, eggs fried just right, non-fatty hash browns, two tasty sausages, baked beans and crisp toast. When we had finished the meal and were on our second cup of coffee the proprietor approached the table. “You’re not from around here then”. We were not sure exactly where “here” was but explained that we were the New Zealand fishing team heading North to fish in the Commonwealth championships. This information seemed to impress him, even the patrons turned to look at us and the thought occurred to me that had we said that we were the McCoy’s we may have been in serious trouble.

Suddenly we had everyone’s attention, and they crowded around our table as we explained where New Zealand was, what it was like, and what competition fishing was all about. As it turned out they were all keen fishermen themselves in one form or another and as we have discovered so often, there is no place for racial barriers, or privileged status, when brothers of the angle meet.

At this point it seemed appropriate for introductions to take place and we were not surprised to discover that many of the names were as strange as the people themselves.

“Would you like to see my tackle shop?” asked the proprietor, “it’s right next door”. We followed him along to the far end of the wooden deck, which ran the length of the shack, weaving our way through an assortment of old couches and easy chairs. He unlocked a door and ushered us into a small room full of tackle. There was a small area in one corner dedicated to fly fishing, with an assortment of fly tying equipment. Amongst the various tools there was a small wooden tube, which I picked up to examine more closely. It was in two equal parts, the bottom section was simply a hollowed out tube with a closed base, the other part had a fluted end at the top and was hollow. The proprietor saw me examining it. “That damned thing has been here ever since I purchased the store six years ago, but no one can tell me what it is for. Tell you what, if you can tell me what it is you can have it”. “It is a hair stacker”, I explained and went on to show him how it worked and how essential it was when tying hair winged flies.

We inquired about fuel and were directed to the rear of the shop where a very old metal pump with a cracked plastic shell head very slowly, but thankfully, dispensed diesel.

The fog was lifting and we eventually left with much shaking of hands and even the odd slightly embarrassed man hugs. It was not until we had passed the two pillars that we had noticed on the way in, that I realised they were holding up a large sign. As we drove up the track I glanced back in the rear vision mirror and discovered that there were three words on the sign. It was difficult to read in reverse but the last two words were unmistakable INDIAN RESERVE!

At the time of writing this true story, I am still tying flies and when I occasionally have to use my polished rose wood hair stacker, it conjures up memories of a foggy day somewhere in Canada.

2020 KAI IWI LAKES TROUT FISHING COMPETITION

This year’s competition is organised for the **2nd, 3rd and 4th October 2020.** Fishing commences midday Friday until 11am Sunday. All anglers will need a valid NZ sports fishing licence. A day licence will cover the competition period.

Early Bird tickets are available now from our office.

Adult Early Bird	\$40		
Late Ticket	\$55		
Juniors	FREE	Children	FREE

As part of the kids fishing programme, juniors and children will be free to enter the competition but they must register for the competition and be accompanied by an adult ticket holder.

Please find attached the flyer for the competition. The top prize vouchers are for the heaviest trout followed by 2nd, 3rd and 4th heaviest and a range of spot prizes. All entrants will be eligible. There will also be a kid's draw for a Viking kayak.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and friends at this year's competition.

Regards

The Team at Northland Fish & Game Council
09 438 4135



On the recent Club Trip to Ngongotaha Laurie felt that there was so much s...t being talked over the whiskeys each night that he needed his own bovine excrement removal tool, which he found just yards from the river. Photo courtesy of Laurie Griffiths.

RISE UP: UNDERSTANDING TROUT RISE FORMS

Deciphering Rise Forms Is The Key To Unlocking A Hatch

By Spencer Durrant – 18/06/20 www.hatchmag.com

Aside from a healthy dose of luck, a well-rounded education on aquatic insects is the most valuable piece of tackle for any fly fisher. Certainly a witless angler with a \$1,000 fly rod might get lucky and catch a fish or two just out of sheer persistence, but a fly fisher with an old Fenwick Fenglass from the 70s and a studied understanding of how trout eat will always put more fish in the net.

In no instance is this so acutely obvious, I think, than in dry fly fishing. One more than one occasion, I've futilely thrown one good drift after another to a river boiling with trout, only to have my dry fly completely ignored.

Then, I met a guy named Ryan McCullough, who happens to be the best dry fly fisherman I've ever shared a river with, and who schooled me on the art of identifying rise forms. Identifying rise forms, in turn, allows you to identify what fish are eating.

His secret?
Watching.

What Is A Rise Form?

The way Ryan explains it, a rise form is the particular movements, sounds, and disturbances on the water's surface made by a trout eating dry flies—all of which differ depending on what a trout is eating.

For me, learning to recognize these differences led to what felt like a quantum leap forward in my angling abilities. Before, I'd get frustrated and contemplate walking off the river with an hour of daylight still left during a big hatch. Now, I'm confident that I'm fishing the right fly at the right time which means that if I'm not hooking up, it's likely my presentation that's to blame.

While presentation is a crucially important part of successful dry fly fishing, I don't want to focus on that here. Instead, I want to focus on the streamside education Ryan gave me all those years ago, on a forgotten stream in the high desert of Oregon.

Emerger Eats

The first signs of a good hatch are the subtle, soft rises of trout looking up and snacking on emerging insects. Most often, this is characterized by trout rising with their dorsal fin and tails out of the water, but the rest of their body submerged. It's as if the fish just levitates straight up in the water column, then back down again.

When trout are snacking on emergers, they don't make the classic plop sound most often associated with rising fish. In fact, emerger rises are fairly quiet, and unless you're paying close attention, can be hard to miss, especially in bigger water.

When you see this, it means that trout are eating bugs stuck in the surface film — or just below it. Emerging insects, especially mayflies, spend a relatively long time in the surface film as they emerge from their shucks and take flight as full duns.

Duns And Cripples

In the midst of a big hatch, you'll see the classic rise that all anglers, I think, long for in some way — the mouth and head of a trout breaking the surface. This shows you that the trout is not only feeding with abandon, but also that it's eating flies right off the surface.

In most cases, this sort of rise means that fish are taking either duns or cripples. I don't want to get too far into the weeds of whether fish eat more duns or cripples (the answer is cripples), so it's enough to remember that the rise form for trout feeding on either bug is usually the same.

You likely won't see much more of the trout breaking the water's surface when they're eating duns and cripples. Trout like to position themselves right below the surface, moving up and down with their mouths open to vacuum up whatever is floating by on top. At first glance, it might look like the trout are just feeding without any regard for what they're eating. If you take a few minutes to watch, though, you'll see the fish targeting specific bugs — especially when they're keyed in on duns.

Spinners And Spent-Wings

Towards the end of a hatch, mayflies in the final stage of their lives “spin” slowly back to the water's surface to mate and lay eggs, where they're often quickly gobbled. These bugs are, I believe, the most sought after by trout, because both spinners and spent wings are easy prey and often descend to the water in massive numbers, triggering a trout feeding frenzy.

I'm going to borrow Ryan's words here in describing what trout look like when rising to these bugs:

“The classic head-to-tail rise is accompanied by the trout leading with an open mouth above the surface. You will know it because it will sound like constant gulping or lip-smacking. Sometimes, a trout will feed so actively that the top of his body hardly leaves the surface and you will see a half-open and closing mouth that looks more like a person swimming and breathing than a fish eating.”

Trout expend the energy to stay near the surface and eat these bugs because the payoff is worth it. During a spinner fall, the calories a trout can intake can greatly exceed what it expends by swimming against the current at the surface (which is significantly stronger than the current elsewhere in the water column).

Other Rises

There are two other rise forms that deserve mentioning here, the first being the splashy, loud rise that makes every angler whip his or her head around looking for its source when it's heard on the river. The majority of the time, this rise is caused by a small fish trying to get to bugs before larger fish.

However, in the case of a good stonefly hatch, or if there are any terrestrials on the water, big fish will often hit those bugs hard. That behavior can cause the same splashy sounds you hear when smaller fish are eating.

And last, but certainly not least — don't discount the smallest, most subtle rise of them all. You see this most often when fishing slow-moving water, or in crystal-clear spring creeks. It looks more like a dimple in the water's surface than a true rise. Ryan calls these "sipping rises," because in many cases, trout are doing just that — sipping bugs right off the water's surface.

These are the most difficult rises to cast to, because fish that have the time to leisurely swim around, inspect flies, then casually sip them off the surface are generally well-attuned to the traps we lay for them. As someone once said to me while fishing the Green River in Utah, "It's like the fish have time to come up and count the tail feathers on your fly, and if there's too many, they won't eat."

In these instances, a smaller bug on a light, long leader is your best friend. I love throwing small midge patterns (size 26 parachute midges are fantastic for fish like this) but if there's a significant bug hatch on the water, try to match that as best you can.

Watch And Learn

To wrap up, I want to reinforce what I believe is the most valuable lesson I've ever learned in regards to fly fishing: There's nothing wrong with sitting on the riverbank, watching trout eat, and absorbing that knowledge. You don't have to immediately start casting when you see rising fish. In fact, I'd wager that the rush to cast and catch (or at least try to) is what leads to many anglers to leave a river of rising fish empty-handed and frustrated.

Back in March, before the world went to hell in a handbasket, I sat on the banks of a river with Ryan and we just watched. We were there to fish a blue-winged olive hatch, and the

fish weren't really working the surface. It wasn't until we saw consistent rises on emergers that we got off the bank and started casting. All told, we spent the better part of an hour just watching those fish.

If you want to truly decode rise forms, and learn to fish the flies that trout are eating, then there's no better teacher than the trout themselves. Take five, ten or even twenty minutes, watch feeding trout feed, and you'll be amazed at how much you learn.

FRIDAY FLY DAY - HOW TO CHOOSE WINTER FLIES

www.manictackleproject.com - By Chris Dore - 06/19/2020

Hey, we get it. We have a huge selection of patterns in our Manic Fly Collection and there are many reasons for that. Sometimes choosing the right fly can be daunting, but we are more than happy to help. Personally, I consider the water and conditions I'm going to be fishing and buy a broad, but targeted range of streamer patterns. What happens on the day and on the water can be a little more focused, and broken down into four main considerations. Check this...

Size

Don't go too big, too soon. I determine fly size from a number of factors, but water clarity and flow are the big players. With such clear water we don't need to overdo it on size. On a clear, bright day a fish may notice a swinging fly from 20m away or more. In heavier water or discoloured/clearing conditions I'll often go larger, simply to ensure I'm getting noticed. Remember, trout can pick a size 18 caddis out in some of the fastest water. They can see your fly.

Colour

This is generally determined by water clarity and weather conditions. Bright flies, bright day, darker flies, darker day is a mantra many go by yet there are more considerations in play for me. How fresh are the fish? If they have just moved into the river or if I'm fishing lower down the system then purple, orange, or hot coloured accents can be killer. If they have been in the river a few days, or I am fishing further upstream then I'm generally looking to more natural coloured flies, black beads etc.

Weight

Consider your sink tip. Light flies with heavier tips are great for not hanging up as you swing through softer water, whereas to really get deep, a heavy fly on a longer leader is called for. Lighter flies on a longer leader will move more freely amongst the currents, yet in winter you need to get down to where the fish are holding. I try to use the lightest fly I can get away with for the water in front of me and use a range of mends and presentations to compensate for weight.

Movement

The materials incorporated into the fly are a major consideration for me. If I'm after a subtle, slim profile then marabou or hair/fur slims right down in the water and offers the action I'm after. Similarly, if I'm after bulk then a magnum rabbit strip provides that, along with movement for days. I generally focus more on longer, softer material offering super movement when fishing in softer water, and stiffer, more solid profile flies when swinging the fast stuff. Loop knots and the rod tip can be used to give all flies a more fishy action.

Build your collection around a few tried and tested stalwarts then play with size, colourway and accents. It's good to have options, even for your own sanity.



An oldie but a goodie. The Green Woolly Bugger. An excellent Tongariro River wet fly, and an absolute must have in your wet flybox.

FIVE WAYS TO SPOT MORE TROUT

Sight fishing is arguably the pinnacle of Trout fishing. Spotting a fish, carefully approaching it, making the cast and watching it take your offering, what could be better?

Here are five tips to help you spot more fish.

- 1. Look in the right place.** The secret to spotting fish is knowing where to look. Sounds very Zen like I know, but if you know where the trout are likely to be you will see more of them. Some prime spots are in front of and behind large rocks, where two currents converge, in back eddies and in the tail of the pool.
- 2. Put the sun behind you,** without putting your shadow in front of you. Do that, and the river lights up so you can see better. For example, if the river runs North to South and its mid-morning then fish from the Eastern side, and in the afternoon fish from the Western side.
- 3. Look through the water column,** not only at the bottom or the surface of the river. Looking through the water allows you to pick up motions that reveal a fish's presence.
- 4. Look for movement rather than a whole fish.** In other words, focus your gaze, and realize that what you are really looking for is a tail, or a shadow, or movement. You don't see a whole fish (usually) until you learn how to spot part of a fish.
- 5. Learn to recognize what is NOT a trout.** If you teach yourself what wagging weeds and sticks on the bottom and so forth look like, you hone in on finding the trout through the process of eliminating distractions.



Photos courtesy of Sporting Life.

A STALKING CALCULATION

How close can I get to the Trout before I scare it? Well a Trouts eyes are significantly different to ours and as such the Americans have come up with the following Calculation to avoid spooking the fish. (This is worked out from refractive indexes and all sorts of other clever stuff).

If you are 6 feet tall and standing on the riverbank at the waters edge then you need to be at least 36 feet away from the fish to avoid it seeing you. A 6 to 1 ratio. If you are standing in 2 feet of water and are 6 feet tall then you need to be 24 feet away from the fish to avoid spooking it, etc, etc.

EDITORS NOTE

If you remember the Yes Minister and Yes Prime Minister TV series like me you too will probably see a remarkable similarity with the planned 'review' of Fish and Game NZ by a government department. You can almost guarantee that the result of the review has already been decided behind closed doors by government ministers and civil servants long before the review commences. They want to make a change but they want to be seen as doing the 'right thing' and 'consulting' with end users.

Fish & Game was set up as independent as possible to the government of the day, in fact they have over the years criticised various governments environmental policies, is self funded, and is able to be held to account by the actual end users, YOU and ME. The fact that we don't have our say, and we vote in such low numbers in the Fish and Game elections is OUR fault and is a sad indictment on our own apathy. However, regardless of whether we vote or not we have the option to do so. If Fish and Game is taken over by a government department we will categorically lose that right.

Fish and Game as it stands right now is, in some isolated cases, not living up to its potential. Unfortunately those cases appear to being used as an excuse to bring Fish and Game back under government control.

ANY situation where DOC or any other government department ends up in charge of Fish and Game is a situation that WE WILL ALL COME TO REGRET.

Please follow this review closely, and have your say if and when the chance arises.

And remember...



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 or at Hunts Sports.

Meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm:
Milford Cruising Club, 24 Craig Road, Milford, North Shore City

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