



Editor's Eddy

For many years, I've cycled through my neighbourhood in an attempt to forestall the effects of time. But lately I've been doing some serious walking – and noticing things which weren't before apparent to me at fast speed.

During one week in early April, for example, it rained virtually every day. And, as is typical when the ground has thawed, earthworms emerged in vast numbers onto driveways, streets and sidewalks to avoid drowning. You know the scene: squirming worms and dead worms flattened by car tires, the distinctive odour of annelidan mush in the air. And robins so satiated that one can imagine them sitting with distended bellies in trees, saying, "Oh, man, if I have to eat even one more ..."

But the carnage wasn't universal. In more – how shall I put it? – upscale streets, there was scarcely a worm to be found. By "upscale" I mean the lots with impeccably manicured, totally weedless lawns tended by landscapers who ensure that doses of fertilizer, weedkiller and pesticides (mainly chinch bug killer) are deposited at prescribed intervals – whether they're needed or not.

There are, on the other hand, relatively modest streets where the roving worms counted in the many thousands; where most residents, for one reason or another, look after their own lawns, and with much less of a vengeance (perhaps even digging up weeds and bugs by hand); and where many more birds seem to make a living.

Although there's no demonstrated link (yet!) between "x-icides" and human health problems, it doesn't seem to be a stretch, at least in my 'hood, to connect the wanton application of them to the effects on the lowly worm that is both an important part of the food chain and an excellent soil improver. And who knows what these chemicals do in our watercourses? Controversy rages, of course, but Toronto, a few other Ontario communities and the Province of Québec have recently banned the use of synthetic pesticides. Will our province follow suit?

On a positive note, I've seen a couple of blue jays and crows – species once common in my wooded area but particularly hard hit by West Nile Virus – for the first time in two years. Are the surviving birds becoming resistant to WNV, or is human intervention a factor? Whatever the reason, I'll enjoy having them (and their squawking) back.

Bob Kuehnbaum, May 6, 2004

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Another Sad Note ...

The local flyfishing community has lost another honoured member. **Greg Clark, Jr.**, one of the first members of IWFFC, died in Toronto on April 6, 2004. We extend condolences to his family.

He joined the club in the early 1970s when the group still met at the Chamber of Commerce in Oakville. Some time later, the meetings were relocated to Thorne Lodge Public School in Mississauga where Greg was Principal. He served on the club executive and as the Forum's Banquet Chair.

He later moved into Toronto and left IWFFC, only to become a founding member of Winter Hatches. He was a long-time member of the Caledon Mountain Trout Club and had recently joined the Franklin Club.

According to Don Moore, Greg was a "true fly fisher." He had a great sense of humour, inherited from his father, renowned outdoor writer, Greg Clark, Sr.

Quotable / Notable Quotes

No one man or woman who has once taken an interest in fly-fishing ever becomes indifferent to it. A fresh source of pleasure in life has been gained and one that will continue to afford enjoyment until the end of the longest life.

- Theodore Gordon. "Jottings of a Fly-Fisher," in *Forest and Stream* magazine, 1903

Executive Changes

At our early April meeting, **Mark Mulford** came forward to assume the mailing duties for the club. We appreciate Mark's new involvement in IWFFC activities. **Mike Rowan** has assumed the position of Forum Chair recently left vacant by Ken Geddes after his successful two-year stint.

The current club executive is given below. Two positions (Webmaster and Conservation) are available for replacement by qualified volunteers. We hope that you may feel that it is your time to step up to offer your services to keep all the aspects of IWFFC functioning smoothly.

Club Executive

** elected positions*

President: Ted Armstrong*

Vice-President: Bob Kuehnbaum*

Treasurer: Ken O'Brien*

Beginners Tying: Pierre Turgeon

Forum Chair: Mike Rowan

Program Chair: Don Arthurs

Venue: Robert Cristant

Library: Pat Kelly

Conservation: Bob Kuehnbaum

Single Haul Editor: Bob Kuehnbaum

Webmaster: Bob Lundy

Membership: Ken O'Brien

Mailing: Mark Mulford

Meetings

We are now on summer hiatus, and there will be no meetings until the third Tuesday in September (the 21st). Tight lines until then!

Conservation Workday Report

April 18th Clean-Up: The 2004 workday season was launched with TUC's Greg Clark Chapter annual Sligo and Forks of the Credit cleanup. In spite of a heavy downpour in the morning, including local hail, a total of 19 intrepid individuals stuck it out. Included in these are club members Ted Armstrong, Pat Kelly, Jack MacKay, Bob Morris, Ken O'Brien, Roger Pettit, Bob Thomson, Len Yust and Mike Zimmer (with son). Dave Beaton of CVC helped to co-ordinate the day. Thanks to all!

May 2nd IWFFC Tree-Planting: What a success! Despite very cold (about 5°C) and very wet

conditions, 21 folks came out to plant 275 shrubs and trees on CVC land on the West Branch of the Credit River in Erin. Not only did they suffer through 2½ hours of planting, but almost everyone lingered for a barbeque in the drizzle.

We appreciate the efforts of the following IWFFC members: Don Arthurs, Robert Cristant, Brian Greck, Pat Kelly, Mark Mulford, Ken O'Brien, Dave Potosky, Bruce Rattray, Len Yust, and Michael Zimmer (with his son Erich on his 2nd birthday!). Credit is also due to Mike Retallick and Frank Calleja for helping; Frank, an Erin resident, flyfisher and Toronto Star columnist, recorded the event. Thanks to all.

Recognition also goes to the Ministry of Natural Resources for providing \$1,000 through the CFWIP program. Your club contributed about \$500 for additional plants.

Thanks are due to CVC for the nourishment and the remaining costs of the planting; and to CVC's Dave Beaton who organized the delivery of the plant stock, and found several of the volunteers.



Erich Zimmer (maybe our youngest helper ever) with his dad, Michael.

Len Yust photos.



Robert Cristant & Mike Retallick looking thoroughly miserable.

2003 Conservation Workday Schedule

June 13th (Sunday): TUC Caledon Mountain Trout Club planting

July 24th (Saturday): UCRRRI silt trap repairs

August 8th (Sunday): IWFFC Workday: Logjam installation around Forks of the Credit

August 14th (Saturday): TUC installation of garbage kiosks

August 28th (Saturday): IWFFC Workday: Logjam installation around Forks of the Credit

September 25th (Saturday) Open workday, to be selected later

October 31st (Sunday): CVC-sponsored brown trout spawning survey

November 7th (Sunday): CVC-sponsored brook trout spawning survey

For more information, please call Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684.

2004 Forum Results

Ken O'Brien, IWFFC Treasurer, has compiled the following results from this year's Canadian Fly Fishing Forum®.

The Forum – including the show, banquet and auction – netted about \$6,300, an improvement over last year's \$4,000. Although attendance was lower than last year, savings were realized in the smaller and more intimate venue. In 2004, there were two more vendors than in 2003.

Under the guidance of Mike Rowan (see note at top of page 2), plans for 2005 are ramping up. It will be held most likely on **April 9/10** in Burlington.

Community Events

A few volunteers are still needed at our club booth at the following upcoming events. Please call Ted Armstrong at 905-637-2058 (evenings).

Riverfest: June 5th. A village festival in Norval celebrating "Life on the Credit River." 9 am to 5 pm.

Bruce Trail Day: June 6th. The Toronto Bruce Trail Club is hosting a trail hike day in the Limehouse Memorial Hall. 10 am to 3 pm.

Canadian Rivers Day: June 13th. The Toronto Region Conservation Authority is holding this event at the Kortright Centre. 9 am to 5 pm.

Club Outings

Beginners' Day: Saturday, May 29th on the upper Credit River, 2:30 pm. See the April issue of *Single Haul*, or contact Sheldon Seale (905-855-9369 or sheldon.seale@sympatico.ca) for details.

Bass Day: Saturday, July 10th, on the lower Grand River in the Paris-Brantford area. Wade or float with canoe, float tube or pontoons. BBQ in late afternoon. Check IWFFC website or contact Sheldon Seale (see above) for particulars.

Keep Your Steely Eyes Peeled

In early April, MNR and CRAA transported 36 spawning-ready steelhead from the Streetsville dam to Black Creek in Georgetown as part of a spawning experiment. Since there is an unknown risk of the fish dropping back to the main stem and migrating to the headwaters of the Credit, all of the fish were tagged for identification purposes. The tag colour is being withheld to eliminate the possibility of false reports. For example, some steelhead do make it past Norval dam on occasion, and there may be adult Atlantic salmon still in the upper river from last fall's stocking.

Although the methodology for tracking the fish is unscientific and not in the least rigorous, all groups (MNR, CRAA, TUC and IWFFC) will have to rely on anglers to identify errant steelhead. Therefore, if you are angling on the middle or upper Credit, and think you've spotted a tagged steelhead, please call MNR right away and report the fact, noting the tag colour. If you land one, get the number from the tag before releasing the fish, and report it.

The MNR contact is Mark Heaton at 905-713-7406.

UCRRRI – Phase II

The close of 2003 marked the formal end of the first phase of the Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative. Founded in 1998, UCRRRI was a collaborative of the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC), IWFFC, Upper Credit Trout Club, Alton-Grange Association, Ontario Streams, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC). It was formed to improve aquatic habitat and water quality through restoration projects such as

tree-planting and instream work on the Credit's main stem mostly from Charleston Sideroad upstream to near Orangeville. The intensive field component, involving hired work crews (managed by CVC), ran for four years, the last three of which were partly funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Of note, more than 400 people volunteered over 2,000 hours. IWFFC and our members contributed about \$10,500 in cash.

With the question "Where do we go from here?" in mind, the Greg Clark Chapter organized a one-day workshop with financial support of the Aurora District of the MNR and organizational support by CVC. It was held on Saturday, April 3rd, at CVC's Mississauga headquarters. More than 30 participants, including many representatives of all the member groups, councillor Mary Shields of the town of Erin, and Lorraine Symmes of the Credit River Alliance, discussed options for focusing resources and volunteers for rehabilitation projects.

In an open series of discussions, including break-out groups focussing attention on their particular concerns, it was decided that the West Credit will be the focus of attention beginning this summer and for the next several years. Activities include tree planting, in-stream work and gathering data to improve water quality and fish habitat and community awareness; maintenance and monitoring will continue on reaches where rehabilitation work has already been done. It is anticipated that the same partners will oversee the yet-to-be-named project which will once again rely heavily on volunteers as well as student crews.

Note that our May 2nd tree planting day in Erin on the West Branch (page 2) was a small, first step in the newly-identified area of focus.

Credit River Brown Trout Telemetry Study: Spring 2004 Update

In the July-August, 2003, edition of this newsletter, and at an earlier club meeting, Michael Zimmer presented the results of the first year of CRBTTS. At our April 20th general meeting, Michael returned to give his interpretation of the data he collected over a period of a year and a half.

The study was initiated as a follow-up of the Credit River Fisheries Management Plan, part of which requires that any proposed barrier to separate spawning Lake Ontario steelhead from resident brook and brown trout of the upper river not substantially interfere with the annual movements of the resident trout. Prior to this work, almost nothing

was known about the migrations of brown trout which are able to occupy lower reaches of the river than brook trout.

Michael tracked the seasonal behaviour of brown trout in the Credit River between Norval and Cataract. The study area was divided into three sections: from Norval to Olde Baseline Rd., with an average gradient of 0.26%; from Olde Baseline Road to McLaren Rd. (0.25% gradient); and from McLaren Road to Cataract, with a gradient of 1.03%, or about 10 m fall per km.

In the spring of 2002, ten fish from each section were either line-caught or electro-fished and implanted with radio-transmitters. The minimum size of fish was 510 gm, averaging 822 gm. During the summer, a number of fish died through predation, angling and unknown causes, and some appear to have physically rejected the transmitters in the initial phase. Many of the transmitters were located and refitted into new fish. Michael walked, waded and floated the river twice per week for a year to track the fish following their release.

Twelve temperature loggers were also installed at a variety of locations, and monitored. Four discharge gauges operated by Water Survey Branch of Environment Canada provided flow data for the study area.

Here's a brief summary of what Michael has learned:

- In the lower two zones (Norval to McLaren Road), brown trout moved a lot – up to 27 km. Four of the 24 trout from the fall of 2002 made treks of 20 km downstream to over-wintering locations; three of these trout are among the largest of the study group.
- Trout over-wintered, and remained until late spring as far downstream as 9-13 km above the Norval dam.
- In the upper zone, there was little movement if any, with a mean range of only 200m.
- In spring there was upriver and downriver movement, in (early) summer movement was almost all upstream, whereas in the fall it was almost all downstream. In winter, there was little movement. This pattern repeated the following spring.
- The amount of movement was independent of the size of the fish (i.e., all sizes showed different degrees of movement).
- There is a very good correlation between movement and habitat suitability index (a mathematical measure of the quality of habitat): low index = high movement.
- Movement is also correlated to water temperature, especially when the temperature

approached stress point (19°C) or even upwards towards the fatality threshold.

- Holding depths of the fish varied between 0.75 and 1.25 m (average 1m). Most fish held in pools; a few in riffles.
- Almost all redds (91%) were located in the upper two sections (Lower Baseline Road to Cataract).

A lively discussion/question period followed Michael's presentation. One aspect which remains unknown is whether fish move about partly in search of food; lack of forage (insects and/or baitfish) could reflect low habitat suitability. It is interesting that the Cataract area fish move very little; this section is where there are many known springs, so temperature may remain acceptable – at least locally – throughout the year.

Deer Hair Nymph

Don Moore

Synonymous with the name of fly fishing in Canada is the beloved name of Gregory Clark (1892-1977) who served as a reporter and journalist with the *Star Weekly* and *Montreal Weekend Magazine* from 1911 to 1977, excluding The Great War. Over that period of time, nineteen books on his collected stories were published and literally thousands of articles were printed. [The local Credit River chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada is named after him – Ed.] Little known, though, is that he originated the "Deer Hair Nymph" 75 years ago, pre-dating a similar-looking fly called the "Strawman Nymph" (see Gary LaFontaine's *Caddisflies*). His fly, representing a stick caddis, came into being because he "was fishing with a deer hair type of streamer one day on the Mad River [Singhampton, Ontario] with no success. Out of frustration, he took out his scissors and simply began chopping it up," said his son Gregory Clark Jr. "The fly was a big hit and not long after, master tyers like Jack Sutton and Alcock were turning them out by the thousands." He continued, "Dad simply referred to it as 'my Deer Hair Nymph'."

Of interest, the stick caddis is usually associated with slack water yet Gregory Clark's Deer Hair Caddis came into being on a river. Gets one thinking, doesn't it? Could we have a fly for both rivers and stillwater? "When fishing ponds and lakes, creep it slowly along the bottom with a sinking line," said Gregory Clark, Jr. "It's been a great fly for me in the heat of summer or, for that matter, whenever the fishing is slow."

It's not difficult to tie. Gregory Jr. simply puts chunks of deer hair into a spinning loop, gave them a spin, wrapped the mess around a hook shank and then clipped to shape. Ribbing is optional. Note that the flies are a tad chunkier at the thorax.



The picture above is of a Deer Hair Nymph by an unknown tyer, taken from Gregory Clark, Sr.'s fly box (thus the barb). "Could have been Dad, maybe Sutton, maybe Alcock," wrote Greg Clark, Jr. "Who knows? In those days, they were just cranking them out as quickly as they could. It was a big seller."

Editor's Note: This pattern was described in Don's "Fly of the Week" email distribution earlier this year. It generated a lot of response from many for whom the pattern brought back memories of a "Canadian connection." The recent death of Greg Clark, Jr. (see page 1) made the dialogue quite poignant, and it is fitting to summarize some of the comments herein.

Greg Clark, Jr. wrote that his father "never tied a fly in his life" although he apparently collected flies from the world over like some people collect stamps. His father's angling notes date the creation of the "Deer Hair Nymph" to 1929.

William Gerrard noted that George Herter, in his *Professional Fly Tying and Tackle Making Manual and Manufacturers' Guide* (Third Edition, 1941), credits Paul Young for popularizing the fly in the U.S. but says that it was created in Canada, without mentioning the name of the creator.

Mike Warran remembers buying a few "Strawman Nymphs," ribbed with yellow floss, in the 1960s. At the time, he was just beginning to tie and couldn't figure out how it was done, but is now quite certain that it must have been the "Deer Hair Nymph."

Lastly, Dave Prothero wrote: "Jack Sutton taught me how to tie it and fish with it. One method ... was to ... roll the Strawman up in a ball of clay and lob it out and let it sink for a few seconds and twitch a few times. This makes the clay [fall] off and the Strawman comes to the surface just like a hatching nymph. I tried it a few times in pond fishing and it works." (*Good one to keep in mind. – Ed.*)

Some Thoughts on Improving Your Fly Tying

Elliott Deighton

- Have a dedicated space to tie at; nothing encourages you less to tie than having to set up and take down on the dining room table.
- Keep your materials organized. Clear plastic boxes are cheap and, besides being moth-proof, you can see what's inside. I have one for every type of material: capes in one, bucktails in another, and so on. (*In a previous article in the March, 2003, issue of the Single Haul, Elliott describes his woes of handling all the material he has accumulated over the years. Does this mean he's reformed? – Ed.*)
- When first learning to tie, there's a great enticement to try to tie every pattern you can. The only way to perfect a fly is to tie that one pattern until you have it down pat. It is better to tie a few patterns well than a lot of patterns not so well. It is very helpful to have good samples of the flies you plan on tying. Let's say you want to learn the Royal Wulff, for example; lay out enough materials to tie a dozen flies all of the same size. Larger hook sizes are easier to learn on in the beginning. Pay particular attention to proportions as you tie. As you finish each fly, stick it in a piece of foam or paper in the order that it was tied. You should see a marked improvement in the last flies you tied compared to the first few. Take a razor blade and strip off the ones you don't like and re-tie them. You should now have a dozen flies that you will be proud to add to your box. By tying in this systematic manner, you will learn each pattern faster and your tying skills will dramatically improve. Fly tying is just like any new skill; it takes practice and, boring as it may be at times, repetitive tying is the way to improve. I remember watching Winnie Dette, tying classic Catskill March Browns in the Dette's little shop/home in Roscoe N.Y., and was immediately impressed at the uniformity of her flies; that sort of consistency can only be achieved through tying the same pattern over and over again. If you think that 12 flies all the same is a lot to tie, think of the professional tyers like Fran Betters who cranks out hundreds of Usuals or Ausable Wulffs on a daily basis.
- Don't fall into the habit of only tying recognized patterns. If your only purpose in fly tying is to catch fish anything you create yourself will probably work, especially if it is buggy looking. My first attempts at tying were simply a yarn body on a #10 wet fly hook with a hackle wrapped over it: a shorter, tailless Woolly Worm, if you will. The hackle fibres were too long so I just cut them shorter. That fly caught my first rainbow and brown trout. Good tyers are always experimenting and creating new patterns, so don't fall into the trap of just tying known fly patterns.
- As you improve in your tying, try to look for shortcuts or little tricks that will speed up your tying or which will create stronger, longer-lasting flies. For example, try tying with your scissors in your hand; this cuts down on the several times you normally pick up and put down this essential tool during the tying of just one fly. Several materials can be tied in by the end instead of being tied in with a tag end sticking out, which has to be cut off anyway. This cutting off of tag ends of material like chenille, yarns, flosses, tinsel etc is a waste of time *and* a waste of material. Learn to tie this kind of material from the spool or card that it comes on and keep a small rubber band around the spool to keep the material from coming unraveled as you wrap it. Tying instruction books for beginners still tell you to cut a 5-inch length of chenille when tying, say, a streamer body, or to cut a 5-inch strip of tinsel to spiral wrap over a body. After the material is wrapped, tied and cut off, you are left with an inch or more of material that is too short to do anything with except throw out; twelve flies and you have thrown away over a foot of material! This may not seem like such a big deal, but over the course of a season's fly tying it adds up. It is just a case of developing the skills to handle the extra spool or card.
- Learn to tie a whip finish knot by hand instead of relying on a tool. Not only do you save time by not having to pick up another tool, but also you get a tighter and more precise knot by using your fingers. There is still nothing equal to the human hands to gauge thread tension while tying.

- This brings me to the next tip of tying to just under the breaking point of your thread. Beginners either do not tie tight enough, making for a loose and sloppy fly that will fall apart, or they constantly snap the thread. Practice will give you a feel for the thread's breaking point and three tight turns of thread are better than 10 or 12 loose ones.
- Famous tyer Ted Niemeyer suggested changing hands from time to time while tying – that is, if you are right-handed, try tying left-handed – to build up material and tool-handling skills in both hands. While most of us are not prepared to go to this extreme to become ambidextrous, it does help if you use both hands during your daily lives; computer keyboarding and playing a musical instrument, for example, are all good two-handed skills. Being able to comfortably handle materials such as a bunch of deerhair or squirrel tail hair with either hand is a huge asset to the fly tyer.
- Wait until the end of your tying session before applying head cement to the flies you have just tied.
- Tying bass bugs can be very time consuming unless you take steps to tie in stages. For example, I tie the mono weedguard on a dozen or more hooks then coat all of them at once with epoxy. While the epoxy is drying, the bodies (cork, balsa wood or, my preference, foam) can be prepared. I then glue the bodies on all the hooks at one time, then tie all the tails and skirts next, and then thread the rubber hackle through all of the bodies at one time. The weedguards are tied off last and cemented; the 12 or more flies are finished. Tying in this manner enables you to be very consistent in your proportions, and saves mixing many batches of epoxy; it is just generally faster and neater.
- Join a fly fishing club that has tying classes or meeting nights. Not only will you learn a lot faster than on your own but you will meet people with the same interests, and learn new ideas and tips.
- Above all, enjoy the time you spend tying. I know several fly fishers who only tie out of necessity. One chap says he actually hates tying and only does it because it is the only way that he can get the hundreds of flies he goes through in a season. I spend as much time tying as I do fishing and to me, fly tying is an addition to my sport and a relaxing stress relieving pastime; you may as well have fun doing it.

April Guest Tyer: Dan Kennaley

At our April 6 meeting, Dan Kennaley was the guest tyer. In addition to his “day job,” Dan is the flyfishing editor for *Ontario Out of Doors* magazine, and is an active member of Kitchener-based K-W Fly Fishers. He regularly fishes for brook trout on the upper Credit River on the way home from work.

Dan created the Copper Caddis Emerger after catching a brook trout that disgorged long and slender, yellowish-tan caddis emergers (pupae) with prominent legs and antennae. He wanted a non-bulky fly with some weight to sink it nicely so that it could be made to “emerge” on the downstream swing. On the first attempt during a caddis hatch, his impressionistic fly outperformed a more realistic imitation by a wide margin. You can find Dan's write-up of the fly in the December 1999 - January 2000 edition of *Ontario Out of Doors*.

(I guess that we could paraphrase Elvis for any fly which is not made to be pretty (but could be) and which has some life in the water: *A little less gawk ... a little more action!* – Ed.)

Copper Caddis Emerger

Hook: Mustad 9671 (2XL) size 12-14

Abdomen: Copper wire

Thorax: Dubbing of any kind; tan, yellow, green or orange

Hackle: Partridge wing, 2 wraps only



Dan's *Isonychia* nymph is also impressionistic and, lacking wingcase, ribbing and hackle (legs), is much simpler to tie than many of the patterns that are around nowadays (you know the ones with the light-coloured median dorsal stripe). It is an imitation of a swimming *Isonychia* nymph. When swimming, the natural becomes very

stream-lined, propelling itself, legs and gills tucked in, with vigorous undulations of its lower abdomen and tail. Dan also thinks that the Isonychia, with its blunt, rounded head is the perfect nymph to be imitated with a beadhead.

Isonychia Nymph

Hook: Mustad 9671 size 10
 Bead Head: 5/32 inch, black
 Tail: Grouse tail, tied short
 Body: Dyed-brown muskrat, dubbed in a cigar shape

Shock Waves

Dan Lagace, Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

Shock waves are those peaks and valleys in the fly line that occur when the fly is cast. They are caused by oscillations in tip of the rod, and they rob the caster of distance and control. Consider, for instance, a cast wherein the line contains only six shock waves, the first of which is 18 inches from peak to valley, the second shock wave is half the height of the first, etc. to a final shock wave of about ½ inch. Adding these up results in nearly 3 feet of peaks and valleys that must be stretched out before the line straightens.

Try the following to illustrate the reason for these oscillations. Hold an empty fly rod firmly in front of you, parallel to the ground. Next, move the rod as though making a sidearm forward cast. When you stop, count the number of times the tip oscillates before coming to rest. Try it again, except this time, start more slowly and speed up only at the instant before completing the forward rod movement. You should have noticed a significant decrease in the size and number of oscillations in the rod tip. I urge you to work at this, attempting to achieve only one oscillation before the rod tip comes to rest. The trick is to start very slowly, adding speed only at the last instant of the casting motion. Work on it with the back cast as well.

Now that you can both create and correct the problem at will, string up and experiment with variations in this slow-to-fast casting motion. Start by doing your best to create as many shock waves as possible in the fly line. You know how to do it; begin your casting stroke with too much speed. Next, apply the correction excessively by starting your casting stroke so slowly that you can barely stand it. The balance is between these two and is unique for each caster. When you discover this

balance, you will have achieved a significant improvement in casting distance and control. Oh, one other thing: You should never experience tailing loops again.

(© Dan Lagace, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire)

Join Glen Haffy Fly Fishers Club

The Glen Haffy Headwaters Trout Ponds and Glen Haffy Fly Fishers Club (FFC) are owned and operated by Toronto and Region Conservation. The benefits of a membership in the FFC include: access to two fly-only headwaters ponds 6 days per week, early April to mid-November, sunrise to sunset; a key to access the facility; resident brook trout and stocked rainbow trout; keep one fish per visit; access to rowboats, the log cabin and a barbecue; free admission to Glen Haffy Conservation Area.

Membership Fee \$400, plus GST

Glen Haffy Headwaters Trout Ponds are located at 18620 Centreville Creek Road, north of the Finnerty Sideroad in Caledon.

Glen Haffy (905) 584-2922

ghaffy@trca.on.ca

TRCA (416) 667-6299

TRCA Web site www.trca.on.ca

Fly Fishers Club site: www.rhen.com/glenhaffy



Cane Rods for Sale

Mike Milner in Orillia is selling some split cane trade rods (Heddon and South Bend). He can be reached at mmilner13@rogers.com or 705-325-1710.

Contacting IWFFC

Website: <http://www.iwffc.ca>

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