



## Editor's Eddy

As promised, this issue is more angling-oriented than the last. This is also appropriate since it's time to gear our thoughts towards our favourite waters and pastime.

Nonetheless, there is some conservation reporting. It's the season to do in-stream rehab work, and we'll be reminding everyone of the workday schedule and be reporting on the results. Not only that, but a discussion at a recent club meeting instigated the writing of the following article on the relevance of and need for our conservation efforts.

But, back to fishing! The trout season has started cold, wet (*really* wet for this fellow) and relatively unproductive for most trout nuts. As I sit writing this (May 15), there are reports of snow in eastern Ontario. The upper Credit River water temperature was a whopping 9°C yesterday afternoon, and the flow was as deep as I've ever fished it. Nary a bug was hatching. But, the lord of rivers knows that rain is badly needed to replenish aquifers after several hard, hot summers – so I'm not complaining. Maybe I'll take up full-dress body surfing for a while.

For those of you who anxiously await the star of the walleye and bass seasons, I hope that conditions have stabilized by then. Good luck!

*Bob Kuehnbaum May 23, 2002*

## Why a Conservation Program?

Since its inception 30 years ago, IWFFC has become an important educational organization, with an admitted social aspect. But, when we developed our active conservation program about 25 years ago, we became much more, and began a heritage of which our membership should be justifiably proud. Many of our members - going back to the programs with Trout Unlimited with Phil Kettle, Bill Christmas and Jack Imhof, to name only a few - have been very deeply committed and involved. But some might ask, "Why should we have a program? After all, aren't Trout Unlimited and Ontario Streams the 'professionals' at this kind of stuff? And isn't the conservation program a potential burden on our resources?"

Well, although we're reasonably certain that no one would ask that question in a serious vein, it is healthy to reflect and to remind ourselves exactly

why we do what we do. Here are four very good reasons, in no particular order of importance.

Firstly, IWFFC promotes and encourages angling by teaching the art and science of flyfishing. This is a principal reason for the Forum and our regular off-season club meetings. Without doubt, our activities directly cause additional stress on the limited angling resources in our region with its burgeoning population. We number amongst the users, and we therefore have an ethical and moral responsibility to carry out and finance conservation, and also to educate others in conservation ethics and practice, and encourage our membership to participate in any way possible. This is why any member who takes part in *any* conservation work in our region qualifies for our annual draw.

Secondly, the more groups there are doing conservation, the more will get done. Period. As an example, as complex as the Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative is, it may not have happened at all (and certainly not at the present scale) were it not for the commitment of several organizations – IWFFC included. Any single group has only a limited amount of time, energy and scope (i.e. human resources) at the directorate level, and a finite amount of cash. Organizations working both independently and collaboratively add up to more directions, more viewpoints, a variety of strategies and tactics, and a greater collective energy.

Thirdly, the club executive and Forum committee plan to expand the use of corporate endorsements and donations to help finance our ventures. These days, with responsible corporate environmental practice a legal requirement, many firms have made it a part of their culture; larger organizations have environmental codes of ethics, and some even encourage and abet their employees to participate in work projects. What company wouldn't prefer to contribute to an "outdoors" organization that has an active and ongoing conservation program? This is a fact of life in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lastly, IWFFC's conservation activities have earned us a great deal of recognition and a certain amount of influence, and have elevated our profile in the community well beyond the intimate circle of flyfishers. (We could work a little harder promoting ourselves and our past successes.) Our members have worked closely with several levels of government including local conservation authorities, several communities, OMNR and the DFO. We have also funded research at the University of Guelph and the Exceptional Waters project, and

have worked with numerous NGOs such as Trout Unlimited and Ontario Streams. It has been our good fortune to learn along the way a great deal from those 'professionals' – some of whom are amongst the best in their business.

IWFFC is a "club" and should continue to be so. But we also educate, and we also care about our waters - both in a big way. Without those aspects, IWFFC might be viewed as simply the flyfishing equivalent of a bridge club in the colonies, with no particular relevance to the community. The enjoyment of our organization lies in the diversity of its activities. Let's continue to do ALL of these things.

## **Conservation Update**

Bob Kuehnbaum, Conservation Chair

### ***"Earth Day" Activities, April 21<sup>st</sup>***

The 2002 conservation schedule kicked off with the annual TUC clean-up day and tree planting.

Twenty-four people came out, and Roy de Guisti provided the locale for an excellent barbeque afterwards. Eleven volunteers picked up trash along the riverbanks of the special regulations agreement waters at Sligo and along the nearby roadways, as well as at Forks of the Credit. IWFFC members included Brian Greck, Roy de Guisti, Bob Morris, Bob Thomson and Mike Warriar.

The TUC – CFWIP sponsored tree planting was done at the Reid property where Hwy. 10 crosses the Credit River north of the village of Caledon. In the mid-1980s, TUC did extensive in-stream rehabilitation on this reach of water. This year, about 150 cedars of about 1.5-2m in height were planted on the northern bank of the river by 13 people. Members who helped out were Don Archibald, Andrew Bruce, Robert Cristant, Mike Ewaschuk, Terry Hayes, Ken O'Brien, Roger and Lisa Pettit, and Carlos Quevedo. Al Dingle, a non-member from Hamilton, signed up at the Forum and made the very long drive to Caledon. Dave Beaton of CVC once again flawlessly handled the logistics.

### ***IWFFC Tree & Shrub Planting, May 4<sup>th</sup>***

A crew of 22 club members and others gathered at the Town of Orangeville property where the upper Credit River loops beneath Highway 10 between Caledon Village and Orangeville. About 220 plants were dug along the river banks in a very open area – possibly a previous beaver pond – upstream from the highway. Plantings included cedars, a mixture of various types of willow and red

osier dogwood – all potted. This is an IWFFC sponsored project of the Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative, and will be funded by an OMNR CFWIP grant.

Due to the excellent turnout, the work was done in 2½ hours, allowing anglers to fish for the afternoon, or go home and get some yard work done. We would like to thank the following volunteers: Ray Archer, Andrew Bruce, Elliott & Sean Deighton, Mike Ewaschuk, Kevin Graham, John Jacome, Bob Lundy, Clayton Marsh, Tim Mills, Doug Nicholson, Ken O'Brien, Mark Pelzl, Challen Pride-Thorne & Chris Thorne, Carlos Quevedo, Andrew & Sophie Roberts, Scott Wagner and Mike Warriar. Dave Beaton of CVC did the hard work of organizing and delivering the trees, and coordinating the planting. Many thanks to all!

On both of the above projects, we thank Credit Valley Conservation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and The Trillium Foundation for their financial and in-field support.

## **Do You Remember?**

We are currently trying to assemble a detailed history of conservation projects which we initiated and/or funded since the mid- to late-1970s, including our financial input. However, much of our early and some of our more recent work have been lost in the mists of time. Therefore, if you remember anything specific about any of our projects, particularly the locale and year, we would be grateful to hear from you. Please contact Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684.

## **What You Can Do To Help Your Fishery**

With the onset of the trout season, later to be followed by the seasons for bass, walleye, and so forth, it's time to encourage anglers to keep their eyes open for problems and good things on their favourite watersheds. Good management requires good vigilance. Here are some suggestions.

### ***Monitoring and Reporting***

If you see any infraction of your local angling regulations, it's probably best not to confront the offender(s) – unless you're quite confident that the illegal fishing is innocent and due to lack of knowledge. Rather, take down relevant information such as a description or car license plate, if available, and report it to your local Conservation Officer. If you have a camera, take a photo. Remember - a poacher is a thief! Poaching and any

other criminal activity can be reported to Crimestoppers.

Should you see any evidence of potential environmental damage, such as unusual odour or inexplicably stained or muddy water, or even an overt act of polluting, call the Ministry of the Environment spills hotline.

If you observe any alterations to the floodplain, wetlands or fish habitat, call the local conservation authority in your area.

Crimestoppers: 1-800-222-TIPS

MOE spills hotline: 1-800-268-6060

Credit Valley Conservation: 905-670-1615

Grand River Conservation Authority: 519-621-2761

Conservation Halton: 905-336-1158

Toronto & Region C.A. 416-661-6600

Conservation Officers:

Grand R. Denny Novak: OMNR 519-826-4955

Cell 519- 242-8162

Credit R. Ian MacGee – 905-713-7737

Cell 905-717-5121

Bronte Creek: Aaron Barber – 905-713-7408

### **Fish Counts**

A traditional way of monitoring fish populations is through “creel counts.” (Let’s use the term “fish counts” due to our catch & release ethic.) Although few anglers keep detailed logs of their angling escapades, it would be of great assistance to many conservation authorities and the OMNR to have at least generalized notes on the date, where and for how long you fished, how many fish of each species you caught (& released), and the size range(s). This type of reporting should take only a few minutes at the end of each excursion, especially if you get into the habit of keeping a small notebook in your vehicle or vest pocket; and don’t forget the pencil. When your season is done, you can submit your census to your local conservation authority.

### **Observations on Fly Fishing with a Double Bass**

Rob Uffen

I’m a musician and play double bass. I’m involved in jazz and improvised music and most often when I play, my right hand plucks (pizzicato) although I enjoy playing with the bow (arco) as well.

Developing musicianship and proficiency playing a musical instrument in different situations can be very satisfying in many ways. Being creative and performing in the company of other like-minded people can be exhilarating and something to look forward to.

A few years ago I read the book *The Inner Game of Music* by Barry Green with Timothy Gallwey. You may know of Mr. Gallwey for conceiving the Inner Game books and workshops. He talks about tennis, skiing, golf and business each having its obvious code or methodology, but also involving a more subtle mental process. I was particularly interested in this book because Mr. Green is a well regarded classical double bassist and teacher, and because I was bothered about some aspects of being a musician. As it turns out, reading this book helped to focus some things I’d noticed about fly fishing.

Barry Green tells of an occasion when he asked a double bass student - who was having difficulty producing a satisfactory sound - if he fished. He then suggested that the feeling of resistance that a fisherman maintains in his line in order to keep a fish on is the same feeling needed with the bow as it is drawn across the strings. The student adjusted accordingly with that in mind and his sound immediately improved.

Fly fishing has so many things about it that are interesting. It’s great to catch a fish with a fly you’ve tied or selected that imitates the food that fish are eating. It can be exciting getting to know a new piece of water or revisiting a familiar place often. It’s wonderful being in the outdoors in different seasons and during different kinds of weather. Playing with fishing stuff can be a good hobby. Some people take great pride of ownership of good tackle. Some people are drawn to the business surrounding fly fishing. The history of fly fishing turns some people on. Perhaps it is books, art, rod building, saltwater, little water, little streams, hallowed rivers, a vacation or an adventure, hanging out with your pals or solitude, trout, salmon, green drakes. It’s a way of life. Study to be quiet.

There is a huge amount of good information available about the mechanics of fly casting. Books by Lefty Kreh and Ed Jaworowski come to mind, as do magazine articles by Joan Wulff. There are videos, forums and businesses that teach fly fishing and even associations that offer accreditation in fly casting instruction. I find the concept of relaxed awareness as described in *The Inner Game* more useful. Barry Green’s anecdote helped me to understand fly casting because I know, more or

less, the feeling that results from a good bowed bass sound.

Relaxed awareness is the same thing as the mindfulness described by Eugen Herrigel in his book *Zen and the Art of Archery*. Roshi Suzuki, in his introduction to the book, describes the art as "not intended for utilitarian purposes only or for purely aesthetic enjoyments, but . . . meant to train the mind, indeed, to bring it into contact with the ultimate reality." Perhaps that's a bit much for some of us but, if it helps to nail that big brown, that's OK.

I find it useful to think of the motion of casting to that of using a fly swatter. The rod amplifies what I do with my hand and allows me to feel the continued connection with the fly (and, hopefully, the fish) just as the bass bow is the means by which I'm connected to the strings and sound. I like bamboo rods or rods with a medium action because of that. The fly will go in the direction the rod tip is pointed when my hand stops. I try to consider obstacles to having the fly behave in an appropriate way and consider rod length, line weight and how I'll cast with that in mind. Will the fly make it above or below the obstruction? The wind and my position may be factors. Paraphrasing Jack Gartside, "do I want to be a mover or a groover?" Are the angles right for the fly to behave the way I want it to? Is the stream like a moving pool table where the fly becomes the object ball and the fish are moving pockets? (Why are spin fishermen, bait casters and worm dunkers called anglers?) I consider leader design and fly selection similarly.

I enjoy fly fishing for many reasons. A contemplative, creative, non-competitive pastime that is steeped in history of respect for nature is a thing to be nurtured. I find the Martha Stewart-izing of simple ordinary beautiful things distressing and offensive. I prefer Harry Middleton. Mindfulness in fly fishing may seem an odd thing if one is success-oriented. I don't care anymore whether or not I catch fish when I'm fly fishing but, oddly, the fishing's been pretty good lately.

"Unless we enter into mystic experiences by direct participation, we remain outside, turn and twist as we may." -Eugen Herigal, *Zen and the Art of Archery*

## In the Net: Searching for Patterns

Eli Robillard

So you've heard about this great new fly, the "Ring-Necked Spouse", that's slaying them on

the East Branch of the North Fork of Frenchman's Creek. Problem is, you only seen them from a distance (and that's the last time you'll be loaning that so-called friend a fly when you've got the only thing working), and after rearranging your bookshelf and eight year's worth of magazines you're still without a clue. Where to turn?

It's time to fire up the computer and plug into the Net. But, unlike bookshelves and so-called friends, the brute force method is no way to start. You're smarter than the average bear, so you dig out a ragged old Single Haul, flip to this page, and proceed to find the fly.

The basic approach, like fishing, is to cast about indiscriminately at first - just in case fish are everywhere and easy to catch. If you don't find any you can claim you were "just warming up." These are the big search engines. Next you hit the places known to hold fish. It takes more time but your odds improve. These are the fly pattern sites. Failing that, you can walk an hour to the spot known as Old Faithful, C&R a couple and get on home. Unfortunately you can't dial a line or e-mail to Sheldon every time you need a pattern or he'll stop answering.

Let's start from the top. My favourite big search engine is Google (<http://www.google.com>) but these tips work on other sites like Alta Vista too. Fire up a browser and you're two tips away from improving all your Internet searches. I'll capitalise what you're going to type for clarity, but you don't need to capitalise when you try these.

Tip 1. Put phrases in quotation marks. For example, search for "GREEN PETER" instead of GREEN PETER. The latter is interpreted as GREEN AND/OR PETER and will bring up a thousand sites with Peter Greens, pictures of Peter in green, and tips on what to do when your peter turns green. Not what you need. Quotation marks mean "treat this as a phrase and not just a bunch of words."

Tip 2. Putting a + (plus) in front of a word ensures it appears in the results. Otherwise the engine takes each term as optional. A - (minus) eliminates all pages with that word. Want to see Adams patterns that use Cree instead of Grizzly? Try adding +CREE -GRIZZLY to your search.

Now to put this to work, we'll look for the Green Peter.

First try: "GREEN PETER"

We still get the people named "Green, Peter" in the results because searches ignore punctuation. With over ten thousand results to wade through, we can do better.

Second try: +"GREEN PETER" +"FLY PATTERN"

"FLY PATTERN" will narrow the search to just fly patterns, right? And we've added plus signs (+) to ensure all the terms are included in the results. Press "Go" and we get a nice short page of results (9 or fewer). But, none have the dressing. Let's back off and try something else.

Third try:

+"GREEN PETER" +PATTERN +HOOK

If you like, first try just taking the quotation marks off "FLY PATTERN", which should be an improvement as well. This would remove the restriction that these words appear as a complete phrase. But searching for HOOK will focus the results even better because (we reason) this word shows up in 99% of fly dressings.

Press "Go". The first link has a good picture, and the third one the complete Green Peter pattern (at the website of Hans Weilenmann, a tyer from the '99 Forum). At least three of the links on the first results page lead to patterns. That's pretty good.

And finally, overkill: +"GREEN PETER" +PATTERN +HOOK +THREAD -RESERVOIR

Five results to go through, the top three are patterns, by now you know why it works. You too can do this in less than five minutes. Time to tie!

It turns out that searching for "PATTERN NAME" +HOOK +THREAD is a pretty good general-purpose way to find patterns. As an exercise you try to find that Parachute Adams pattern that uses Cree instead of Grizzly. After this, you should never have to wade through pages of results when searching online again.

If the big net doesn't work, go a size down and flog the holes where you've produced before. Many fly tying sites list hundreds of patterns and these are always a good bet. Several are listed below, and with a few more searches you're bound to find a bunch you'll come back to again and again. Enjoy.

Additional Sites:

Virtual Flybox. <http://www.VirtualFlybox.com/>

Webmaster: Byard Miller

Over 1,000 Patterns plus tips, swaps, and articles. Search is down a bit on the right.

Virtual Flyshop Fly Tier's Bench. [info@flyshop.com](mailto:info@flyshop.com)

Webmaster: Fly Fisherman Magazine

<http://www.flyshop.com/Bench/>

Archive of Patterns, Best of the Bench, hatch chart.

Wes' Virtual Pattern Book

Webmaster: Wes Newman

<http://www.magiclink.com/web/wesn/pattern.htm>

A selection of "undiscovered" patterns, well-presented.

## Quotable / Notable Quotes

"A nymph fisherman is, almost literally, a deeper person, someone who sees things that are not there."

-- William Plummer, *Wishing My Father Well*

"Nothing is so disturbing to the joys of trout fishing as to step on a slippery rock while wading a stream and go hip boots over tincups. There are several ways of avoiding this. Some people wear nonskid chain devices attached to their boots. Some people wear stocking-foot waders and hobnailed or felt-soled shoes. Some people with more gray matter just stay the hell out of trout streams.

-- Ed Zern, *To Hell with Fishing*, from *Essential Fly Fishing* by Tom Meade

## Matching the *Isonychia* Hatch

Len Yust

We were sitting on the bank of Cedar Run having a break from what, to that point, had been a slow day of angling on the Saugeen. It was late afternoon in mid-June and the conditions seemed perfect for a hatch to occur - which was why we were waiting patiently. Typically for the Saugeen, the Green Drake hatch had come and gone quickly a few days previously, and we had come to the conclusion that the trout had had their fill. Since both of us were devoted dry fly casters, our mission was to wait until dark, hoping for rising trout.

A violent splash quickly diverted our attention from our fish talk to the river surface. Another loud rise occurred followed by yet another. The fish were many and large. We could not see flying mayfly duns on the surface, but it did not matter. We knew that the trout were probably more excited than we were chasing fast swimming nymphs and emergers. It was the beginning of an event that changes the Saugeen from a quiet, tough river with seemingly few fish to an exciting vibrant resident brown trout fishery. "It has finally

happened," I said. "Now the real Saugeen season begins." ***Isonychia!***

Although our rivers have many mayfly hatches, sometimes the flyfisher will characterize or label a particular river by one particular mayfly hatch. Many will wait for and travel far to meet these dominant "event" hatches that will send trout into feeding frenzies on that river compared to no other time during the season. There are those early season Hendricksons at the Delaware; the difficult Sulphurs which appear every May on Pennsylvania's Spring Creek; the evening Hexagenia hatch on Michigan's Au Sable River; the famous Green Drakes on Penns Creek, and; the Tan Caddis on our beloved Grand River. But without question, the fly that we associate with the Saugeen is the *Isonychia*.

Early writings on the *Isonychia* hatch and conventional wisdom said that that the nymphs migrate towards the shore, and climb out on rocks and sticks to emerge. Hence, the dun was considered of less importance. Art Flick created the Dun Variant to simulate a surface fluttering mayfly appearing on rivers during windy days. Perhaps this is why most retailers do not list a true commercial *Isonychia* dry fly pattern. But in recent years, it has become more widely known that there is consistent in-stream emergence activity like most other mayflies (the reason for the creation of the XT emerger – Ed.) Doug Swisher and Carl Richards observed, in their recent book *Emergers*, that the *Isonychia* would emerge in eddies and faster moving water. The near shore migration generally occurs in quieter deeper pools in the river.

The key factor nymph anglers must remember about this hatch is that the nymph is fast swimming and a significant amount of movement must be applied to the retrieve versus a dead drift. Generally, weighted Leadwing Coachman wet flies, Peacock Halfback Nymphs and variations thereof, such as the Zug Bug, will work well. I will generally cast two flies using the larger peacock nymph as the dropper. Because the nymph is such a strong swimmer, a fast strip retrieve at the end of a drift can produce consistent takes. You do not have to worry about soft strikes. The trout also know they do not have the time that they do with other mayflies and will strike with reckless abandon.

My personal preference is to fish this hatch during the emergence period because of the simple reason that I enjoy casting to rising trout. *Isonychia* emergers tend to struggle out of their nymphal shuck more quickly and actively than other mayflies do. Trout will savagely take these emergers causing splashy louder than normal riseforms. Fish in areas

with moving waters especially at the tail of a pool or in eddies caused by submerged rocks. As is the norm when fishing dry flies a drag free float essential. A periodic twitch or sudden movement to your offering simulates the quick jerky movement of the emerging insect.

There have been several successful patterns I have used to fool trout while they were feeding on *Isonychia* emergers. My old standby is a slate coloured haystack developed by Francis Betters for the *Isonychia* that emerge on New York's infamous West Branch of the Au Sable River. A description on how to construct this easy to tie emerger or dun pattern is given in his informative 1986 book "Francis Betters' Fly Fishing – Fly Tying and Pattern Guide". This is my *Isonychia* searching fly or the fly that I use when moving quickly to different locations on the river. The secret to this fly's success is in the way it sits in the surface film due to the comparadun dun construction style. Over the years, I have altered the pattern to include a dubbing mixture of muskrat and woodchuck fur making sure to keep the guard hair in. The end product may not look pretty but the buggy construction is ideal for matching emergers.

The Poly-Wing Royal Coachman is another effective *Isonychia* emerger pattern introduced to me by long time IWFFC member and past President Peter Hurst. It is tied in the traditional manner with white poly-yarn tied split as a wing substitute and mink tail fibres used for the tail. Presentation is the key when using this pattern. Just treat the poly-wings with floatant, leaving the body and tail to sink under the surface film while the wings ride high on the water.

At times the trout can be fussy and selective causing us to turn to more impressionistic imitations. Two of the best are patterns have been developed by two former IWFFC members. The first is Ray Dawling's innovative XT *Isonychia* emerger extended deer hair body using a pale yellow claret combination of colours. The body is actually tied separately using an insect pin. The pin is removed from the body, which is then attached as an extended abdomen to the main fly. Tying instructions are published in the *The Fly Tyer's Almanac – Second Edition*.

The other impressionistic pattern is one published in *Flyfisherman* magazine by IWFFC past member Galen Mercer. A short strip of dark claret poly-yarn is substituted for the tail representing a trailing shuck. Combinations of dark olive and claret colours are used for thorax and abdomen respectively. Dun hackle and hair's ear guard fur is used to give that irregular bushy look of the

emerging insect. Instead of trying to find the dark claret poly yarn I use a rusty red Pantone permanent marker tinting white poly yarn.

#### **Leadwing Coachman Wet Fly**

Thread: Black  
 Hook: Wet fly, size 8 to 12  
 Body: Peacock herl  
 Underbody: Lead wire  
 Tag: flat silver tinsel  
 Rib: fine gold wire  
 Tail: none  
 Wing: Slate grey quill  
 Hackle: Coachman brown (wet fly)  
 Tying Notes: Tied as a classic quill wing wet fly. The peacock body is tied full. The gold wire rib is for strength and is optional.

#### **Peacock Halfback Nymph**

Thread: Black  
 Hook: Nymph 2X long, size 8 to 12  
 Body: Peacock herl  
 Underbody: Lead wire  
 Abdomen: Peacock herl  
 Rib: Heavy black thread  
 Tail: Three ringneck pheasant tail barbs  
 Wingcase: Ringneck pheasant tail barbs  
 Legs: Barbs from the wingcase  
 Tying Notes: The black rib is optional. The barbs from the wingcase are pulled down and tied back for the legs

#### **Zug Bug**

Thread: Black  
 Hook: Nymph 1X long, size 8 to 12  
 Body: Peacock herl tied full  
 Underbody: Lead wire  
 Rib: Silver tinsel  
 Tail: Three peacock sword feathers  
 Wingcase: Mallard flank  
 Legs: Coachman brown applied as a collar  
 Tying Notes: The mallard flank is tied in at the head then trimmed to extend over the thorax.

#### **Slate Drake Haystack**

Thread: Rust or dark claret  
 Hook: Dry fly, short shank, size 12  
 Body: Muskrat, Woodchuck dubbing mix  
 Wing: Slate coloured deer hair, haystack style  
 Hackle: (optional) dark dun, sparse and clipped underside  
 Tail: Slate coloured deer hair  
 Tying Notes: Wing tied as haystack or comparadun style. Dubbing mix is 50% dark

muskrat & 50% woodchuck body fur with guard hairs left in.

#### **Poly-Wing Royal Coachman**

Thread: Black  
 Hook: Regular dry fly size 12  
 Body: Peacock herl, red floss, peacock herl  
 Tail: Mink tail fibres  
 Wing: Poly-yarn tied split  
 Hackle: Coachman brown  
 Tying Notes: The wing can be tied spent to represent the spinner. The hackle must be tied sparse.

#### **Trailing Shuck Emerger (Galen Mercer)**

Thread: Olive  
 Hook: Regular dry fly size 14  
 Body: Dark claret or rust poly dubbing  
 Shuck: strip of dark claret or rust poly dubbing  
 Thorax: Dark olive hare's mask fur dubbing  
 Wingcase: Dun coloured poly yarn  
 Legs: Dark dun hackle palmered over thorax  
 Tying Notes: Only tie three turns of hackle for the legs. Leave the guard hairs in the hare's mask dubbing. The body is tied one-quarter the distance between the tie-in point at the base of the shuck and the hook eye.

The adult dun (subimago) is about 12mm in size and has a dark slate/olive body and dark slate wings. The legs are a combination of a pale yellow and brown. There are two grey tails. As mentioned previously, in quiet water the duns are mostly observed near the shoreline but on windy days and in faster moving water the duns can be fished using traditional dry flies. The fly to use in this situation is Art Flick's Dun Variant. The longer stiff hackles will skate the fly over the surface on windy days prompting sudden exciting riseforms.

Spinners (imagos) are the last stage in the *Isonychia* life cycle. These appear usually just before dark and can provide the most trout activity of the entire day. The spinner pattern to use is the White Gloved Howdy at about a size 10. It is tied with a dark rusty red body and grey V-shaped fibres for the tail. Instead of using the listed white poly-yarn for the spent wing I substitute pale grey deer hair.

In summary, fishing the *Isonychia* on the Saugeen and other rivers has brought to me several special moments of quality trout fishing. Matching the hatch has been a challenge and also an evolving experience. I have used new innovations and at times have gone back to the basics in attempts to try to imitate the natural fly. The

*Isonychia* hatch extends my fishing season into summer and until the season ends in October. It is my favourite mayfly to fish on my favourite river, the beloved Saugeen.

#### **Dun Variant (Art Flick)**

Thread: Rust or dark claret  
 Hook: Dry fly, short shank, size 12  
 Body: Muskrat, Woodchuck dubbing mix  
 Wing: Slate coloured deer hair, haystack style  
 Hackle: (optional) dark dun, sparse and clipped underside  
 Tail: Slate coloured deer hair  
 Tying Notes: Wing tied as haystack or comparadun style. Dubbing mix is 50% dark muskrat & 50% woodchuck body fur with guard hairs left in.

#### **White Gloved Howdy Spinner**

Thread: Olive  
 Hook: Regular dry fly size 14  
 Body: Dark claret or rust poly dubbing  
 Shuck: strip of dark claret or rust poly dubbing  
 Thorax: Dark olive hare's mask fur dubbing  
 Wings: Dun coloured poly yarn  
 Legs: Dark dun hackle palmered over thorax  
 Tying Notes: Tie only three turns of hackle for the legs. Leave the guard hairs in the hare's mask dubbing. The body is tied one-quarter the distance between the tie-in point at the base of the shuck and the hook eye.

### **2002 Conservation Workdays**

For those who would like to get out of gardening for a day, this is a reminder for remaining IWFFC and TUC workdays on the Credit River:

**June 8<sup>th</sup>:** IWFFC-sponsored tree planting at Charleston Sideroad bridge area, east of Caledon village. 9 am – 12 noon.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:** TBA, related to UCRRI.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>:** IWFFC-sponsored log-jam building project in the "meadows", Forks of the Credit Provincial Park.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>:** Spawning surveys.

**Date TBA:** IWFFC-sponsored tree and shrub planting at Scotsdale Farm on Snow's Creek.

For updated and more detailed information, check the IWFFC web-site, or contact Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684. For Bronte Creek workdays, please get in touch with Bill Christmas at 905-330-7083.

### **Shocking News**

Please keep in mind that CVC needs volunteers for electrofishing on the Credit River watershed for biomass monitoring. There are 22 weekdays and one Saturday scheduled between June 12 and September 14. We have designated two days as IWFFC days to encourage members to attend. The dates are: Wednesday, August 7 at Beechgrove Sideroad (upper Credit) and Tuesday, August 20 at Terra Cotta (middle Credit.) If you are interested in other dates or other reaches, check out the CVC website at [www.creditvalleycons.com/takingaction/electrofishing.html](http://www.creditvalleycons.com/takingaction/electrofishing.html)

### **Fall – Winter – Spring Meeting Schedule**

The following dates for the 2002-2003 meeting schedule have been cast in stone, and you can put them in you day-planner, calendar or hand-held device: September 17, October 1 & 15, November 5 & 19, December 3 & 17, 2002; January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 2003. The venue will again be Cawthra Community Centre, except for November 5 (Cawthra was unavailable, so we'll be at Lions' Hall in Port Credit.) See you there in the autumn!

### **Fly Tyers & Speakers**

This is a reminder that anyone who would like to be an intermediate or guest tyer, or give a presentation during the upcoming meeting schedule should contact Ted Armstrong, our Program Chair and vice-president, by phone at 905-636-2058 or e-mail at <[tarmstrong@uniongas.com](mailto:tarmstrong@uniongas.com)>. We know that there are people out there with interesting flies and destinations to discuss, and we'd love to hear from you!

### **Contacting IWFFC**

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