



## Editor's Eddy

A brochure published by Credit Valley Conservation poses the question: *Is the Credit River watershed healthy?* Their answer is that "the watershed is relatively healthy in most areas. However, those areas that have intense human activities (e.g. development, farming, sewage treatment plants) show declining trends in overall health. If growth continues and human impacts are not managed well, further declines in the health of the ecosystem are expected."

Given the rapid rate of development in at least the lower reaches of the river, and increasing development in the middle reaches, this is no real bombshell – particularly for those of us who have been involved with the river and are familiar with some of the changes. Incredibly disappointing, but not surprising. Even the upper reaches – where there *are* agricultural activities and a sewage treatment plant – are under stress, as suggested by the plummet in Green Drake populations and the apparent extirpation of the Quill Gordon (*Epeorus vitreus*) in the 1980s. And we frequently hear news about suburban expansion and developers requesting more of the resources from the hard-pressed upper watershed, such as for golf courses and housing developments, each with its own needs for water use and waste disposal. One wonders how much a "relatively healthy" river can take.

And, after all, as one of our members so frankly put it: "How many trout streams do you know of in cities?"

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Hearty thanks go to all of the Spring Fishing Show participants who represented IWFFC at the club booth and the informal "Showcase of Tyers"; and to those who assembled woolly worms *ad nauseam* at the kids' tying area. Jayne Butler did a great job organizing the volunteers. Much appreciation is also extended to the *Canadian Fly Fisher* magazine and Fly Fishing Canada for donating part of their space for the various fly fishing clubs and tyers.

*Bob Kuehnbaum, February 23, 2006*

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## Quotable / Notable Quotes

And we watch the five-day forecasts on the tube, the ones with the adorable little smiling suns and frowning clouds. These are presided over by painfully clean-cut announcers who make the now-common assumption that getting to work on time, and to the ski slopes on the weekends, is the moral goal of the universe, and that the respiration of the planet where we all evolved is just a periodic inconvenience.

– John Gierach, *Sex, Death and Fly-Fishing*, 1990

The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.

– H. Ross Perot

## Club News & Events

### Upcoming Meeting Schedule

#### March 7: Tying Meeting

Guest tyer: Michael Dinner will demonstrate how to use latex in patterns such as crabs.

Beginners Program: continues

**March 21: General Meeting – TBA**

**April 4: Tying Meeting – TBA**

**April 18: General Meeting – TBA**

**May 2: Tying Meeting TBA**

## 2006 Forum, April 8 & 9

Remember that the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum** is fast approaching. Please think about volunteering a little at the time of the show; you can contact Ted Armstrong at 905-637-2058.

Bob Lundy has set up a very effective **on-line registration** for the Forum, including payment for seminars, walk-in and the dinner. Members are strongly encouraged to register on-line to keep the mail-out workload to a minimum. And the earlier the better!

## 2007 Forum Committee

A number of the present Forum Committee members will be stepping down after the 30<sup>th</sup> Forum in April; many will have served two terms or, in some cases, more. Planning for a Forum always begins immediately following a show, and a new committee needs to be organized as soon as possible.

The Forum is the club's most important endeavour; it fulfills our mandates of educating in the methods of flyfishing and the ethics of our sport, as well as supporting our +30-year tradition of conservation.

To discuss available positions, including Forum Chair, please contact Bob Kuehnbaum (see page 1) or 2006 Forum Co-Chair Ted Armstrong (see box above). *You contribution would be highly valued and deeply appreciated.*

## Casting Clinic

IWFFC is holding a **FREE members-only** casting clinic on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at Queen Elizabeth Senior Public School in Mississauga. A location map is on the club website. If you wish to attend, please contact Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684

## The *Fly'R*: Email Addresses Needed

Although we try to get the *Single Haul* issued about eight times per year, its timing is a bit unpredictable since filling an issue relies on several unpredictables. Because of that and the lag in printing and mailing, the *Single Haul* occasionally notifies members of events that may be too near for people to react, or that may have gone by.

To counter this, Bob Lundy created the *Fly'R*, a digital mini-newsletter. It is by no means intended to supplant the *Single Haul*, but is designed to provide timely information on events that come up between issues, or to give folks sufficient advance notice to plan accordingly. A good example is the casting clinic in late February.

For the *Fly'R* to be truly effective, however, it must reach as many people as possible. But we have only about 20-30% of the email addresses of our membership. We therefore ask that you provide your email address, if you have one, to either Bob Lundy via the website, or Membership Chair Jayne Butler at butlerjl@rogers.com. Or, when you register for the Forum, please enter the email address on the paper or website form.

And don't be concerned. We will continue to provide paper copies of the *Single Haul* to the majority of members who elect to receive it that way.

## Second IWFFC Fly Swap a Success

This year's Smallmouth Bass Patterns fly swap, organized by Swapmeister Elliott "Bassman" Deighton, was so well received that it was fully subscribed within days. A total of 18 tyers committed themselves to the worthwhile project. The number of participants had to be limited because the more tyers there are, the more flies each tyer must prepare.

Remember, tyers: your flies are to be submitted to Elliott by the **end of February 2006**. Thanks for participating in this effort to help out both the Forum and Club. Pictures and patterns will be reported on in upcoming issues of the *Single Haul*.

## Help Wanted: Coaches' Program

The purpose of the coaches' program is to connect IWFFC members who describe themselves as "beginners" with experienced members ("coaches") who would be willing to spend a day, or a few hours, in one-on-one instruction – typically while fishing. Each coach and beginner would register with the Coordinator, indicating any specific areas of interest and any general concerns or restrictions. The Coordinator would match up beginners and coaches based on mutual interests, and provide contact details, while not overloading any one coach. Although it would be up to the individual coach and beginner to work out the details – where, time, travel details, etc. – the

Coordinator would follow-up to ensure that progress is being made on working something out.

The Coordinator will need nothing more than a notebook, pen and telephone. With a computer, basic computer application skills and an email address, however, a suitable process could be set up in that environment, too. Whatever the scenario, the processes should be documented in order to make passing on the job to the next volunteer much easier.

Please contact any member of the club executive to get started.

## Reel Raffle

IWFFC was able to make good use of the credit program offered by Grand River Troutfitters. Anglers are able to apply 3% of whatever they purchase towards an organization of their choice. In this way, IWFFC had accumulated a credit of over \$350 which was used to acquire two reels which will be raffled. Thanks to all who made this possible: to those who chose to benefit IWFFC; and especially to Ken Collins, owner of GRTF, whose great idea this was.

## Federation of Fly Fishers: 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual International Fly Tying Competition



In support of its many conservation and education projects, the FFF is sponsoring an international fly tying competition, which will run from February 1, 2006, until midnight April 30, 2006. There are 39 separate categories within which to enter a fly. Amongst other luminaries,

judges include: David Whitlock of bass fishing fame; Ron Alcott known for traditional salmon patterns; Bill Blackstone, the master of the "realistic" patterns; Bob Clouser, creator of the Clouser Minnow; Stu Apte the saltwater fly fishing notable; and instructor/guide Bob Jacklin of West Yellowstone, Montana.

In addition to the "judged" competition where specific flies must be tied for comparison by the judges, there will be a "Peoples' Choice" competition where tyers may submit the fly of their choice in any of the categories. These flies will be posted on the FFF website where the people will get to vote for their favourite patterns.

Awards include 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place medallions in each of the 39 categories, and many prizes totalling over US\$11,000. To learn more about this event, go to the following website where you will find the link to the Fly Tying Competition: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/begin.php>.

## Conservation Corner

### 2006 Conservation Workday Schedule

"Peripatetic Pat" Kelly, IWFFC's itinerant Conservation Chair who seems to be everywhere, has lined up a busy conservation-related activity schedule for 2006. Mark these dates on your calendar, but please watch for changes on IWFFC's website or [www.creditvalleycons.com](http://www.creditvalleycons.com) (see CVC's Stewardship Calendar). The club is a partner in the WeCARE project focused on the West Credit, and it would be good to have volunteers out on all of those workdays – but particularly those sponsored by IWFFC.

**Sat. March 4<sup>th</sup>:** WeCARE Community Conservation Symposium. Volunteers needed to man our mini-booth, help with registration, and general help.

**Sat. April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Earth Day: WeCARE sponsored planting and cleanup by Cubs and Scouts around Erin and Hillsburgh. Supervisors needed.

**Sun. April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Annual Sligo Bridge cleanup sponsored by Trout Unlimited Canada. Burgers for bodies! **IWFFC** clean-up of Forks of the Credit Provincial Park.

**Sat. May 6<sup>th</sup>:** WeCARE tree planting near Erin. Sponsored by Trout Unlimited Canada.

**Sat. May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Peel Region's Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake Conservation Area in Brampton for casting demonstration and fly tying. **IWFFC** has a formal invitation to participate in this one, so it would be nice to get out & promote our activities.

**Sat. June 10<sup>th</sup>:** Tree planting on the Safari Property on the main Credit upstream from Alton. **Sponsored by IWFFC.** This is our big one! We will need lots of help to impress the media. The Safari property was a target of the original UCRR project, but the landowners were uncooperative. So it is particularly satisfying the CVC now owns the land and we are involved.

**Sat. June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Rogers Creek near Terra Cotta. Baffle installation in the culvert worked on last year. Sponsored by Trout Unlimited Canada. Only a few people needed but they have to be strong.

**Sat. July 9<sup>th</sup>:** Forks of the Credit log placement. **Sponsored by IWFFC.** Here is a chance for members to create "secret" trout lies.

**Sat August 12<sup>th</sup>:** WeCARE rocky ramp to be built for a perched culvert near Erin. Sponsored by Trout Unlimited.

**Sat. September 16<sup>th</sup>:** WeCARE tree planting near Erin. **Sponsored by IWFFC.**

**Sat. October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Erin Fall Fair. Help needed to man WeCARE booth and IWFFC mini- booth, and with kid's fly tying.

**Sat. October 28<sup>th</sup> & Sun. November 5<sup>th</sup>:** Spawning surveys.

Several other events in which we'd like to participate are: Rattray Marsh workdays, Elora-Cataract Trail workdays, the Bruce Trail Spring & Fall hike days at Limehouse, the Inglewood Dandelion Festival (May), Riverfest (June) and the Erin Summer Celebration (June). We'll keep you posted.

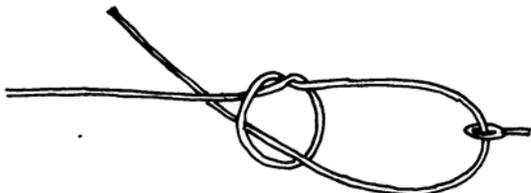
For information, contact Pat Kelly at [patkelly@look.ca](mailto:patkelly@look.ca) or 905-277-2505.

## Tips and Trips

### No Name Loop Knot Revisited

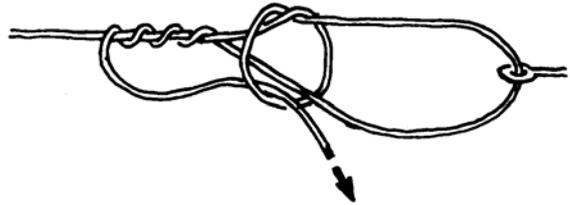
Despite our understanding that no diagram was available for Mark Sosin's knot, described in the February, 2005, issue of this magazine, one magically appeared at a later club meeting. Because it's not an easy knot, it's best to keep the words and diagram together; so the words are repeated below.

1. Begin with a simple overhand knot about 2-3 inches (5-7 cm) down the line.
2. Pass the tag end through the eye of the hook.
3. Pass the tag through the overhand knot.



4. Wrap the tag around the running line 3 turns for 50-60 lb line; 4 turns for 14-40 lb line; 5 turns for 8-15 lb line; and 7 times for less than 8 lb test.

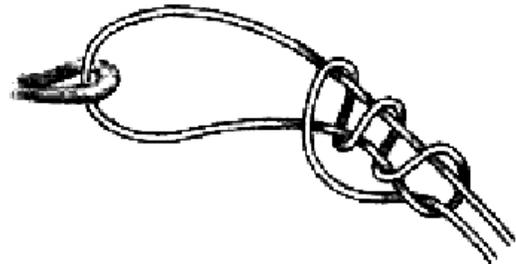
5. Pass the tag back through the 'V' formed between the first wrap around running line and the original overhand knot.
6. Pass the tag back through the original overhand knot.
7. Advantages are that the tag end ends up facing the hook, not the running line.



### Hemostat Knots

Greg Herring

In a normal Pitzen knot, the tag end is wrapped around both the (reversed) loop and the standing line, and then is put through the remaining portion of the loop.



If you look only at the portion of line that has gone through the eye of the hook and formed the knot, you will see that the knot itself is a cinch knot. A Pitzen knot is a cinch knot (back) around a standing line.

I do *not* wrap the tag end around the loop with my fingers or hemostats, the way many knots are tied. In this version, the hemos act like a stick to wrap/twist a loop around the standing line (while coincidentally wrapping the standing line around the hemos too). Then the hemos are opened slightly to grasp the tag end and pull it through the wrapped mess. I am right handed. When doing the following knot I hold the fly in my left hand, fly line and rod to the right.

Pull about 5" of tippet through the eye. Bring the end of the tippet (tag) back to the right, parallel to the standing line and hold both standing and tag end with your right thumb and forefinger. This allows you to momentarily let go of the fly and reposition your left hand. Pinch the eye of the fly

between your left thumb and forefinger, which at the same time secures the tippet in the returned position. When you pinch the fly and tippet, do so with the fly more towards the middle of your thumb and finger pads. With your right hand, take the tag end and make a (circle) loop back toward the hook (left thumb pinch) and lay the tag end in the crack between your thumb and forefinger, near the hook eye, with about 3/4" of the end tag protruding upwards from the pinch. You are now holding the fly and all tippet in your left hand. At this point, you will probably not see your fly because you are crushing it in the pinch of your left thumb and forefinger; to the right of the pinch will be the standing (incoming) line and a loop about 1½" across.

Take your hemos in your right hand and unsnap them, but keep the tips together. Engage the standing line with your right pinkie finger or between your right middle and ring finger, about 7" to 10" from the fly, and draw your hands apart horizontally. This will keep the standing line parallel to the hemostats. The concern now is to keep a light tension between your left and right hand so the standing line between your hands doesn't sag so much that you are chasing it when you do the next step.

With the hemo tip closed, insert the tip into the loop about 1", but not past the hinge point on the hemos. The standing line should be lying alongside the hemos. You have not pinched anything with the hemos yet.

Pretend you are trying to wrap (twist) the loop around the standing line. Rotate your right wrist three times, clockwise or counter-clockwise. The loop and the standing line both wrap (twist) around the hemos and make what looks like a mess. Leave the hemos in the 'mess', open them very slightly and grasp the tag end (which should be readily accessible above your left thumb/pinch). Gently pull the tag end through the mess. Open the hemos slightly and extract them, mostly backwards.

Holding the fly in your left hand and the standing line in your right, moisten the knot and pull your hands apart thus tightening the knot, you should feel the knot do the 'Pitzen lock'.

Why this works: In this version the loop and the standing line are wrapped together and the tag end is pulled through everything, including the remaining portion of the loop. It works because when the hook and the standing line are pulled, the standing line becomes stiff and slick, and the wraps sort themselves out because they are at that point the only supple part.

Use the same knot routine to tie a knot around a line that is different than the line that makes the knot. Then we can have back to back Pitzens and create leaders or join tippets to leaders. It is much faster for me than the Blood Knot.

*Greg is the current president of Winter Hatches.  
Courtesy FFF's ClubWire Newswire Service*

## Book Reviews

### Fast-Water Nymphing Tactics

By John Tedesco

Pruett Publishing Co., \$18.95

*Reviewed by Frank Flowers – in FFF Northeast Council newsletter*

Nymphing is a very specialized type of fly fishing and it becomes even more so when the angler confronts fast water. Whether on western rivers or back here in the east on such streams as the Millers, Deerfield, White, Battenkill and many others, this book will be a valuable tool in improving your nymphing methods.

The writer begins with a chapter on water-types: specific areas in the stream to target – pocket water, deep riffles, runs, plunge pools – which types of water to avoid. Since fast water is often where the largest trout habituate, specific tackle for this kind of fishing is required and John Tedesco thoroughly discusses rods, reels, lines, leaders and the controversial use of strike indicators in fast-water nymphing. He also goes into detail on the methods of fast-water angling.

Flies are included in a chapter entitled: "Impressionism vs. Exact Imitation", in which various patterns are described along with the recipes to tie them. This is an easy-to-follow instructional segment.

The "Approach – Adjusting your Strategy" chapter provides us with valuable insight into how to read the water and currents, where to place your nymph, and mending methods. The author is an advocate of shorter rods for smaller streams. The type of cast becomes very important in this specialized type of fly fishing and excellent instructions on performing such casts as the tuck cast, reach cast, roll cast and other casts for smaller streams and tight places are included here.

Lastly, the seasons are explored as well as angling methods, line weights, and various fishing techniques tailored especially for special case

streams such as tailwaters, spring creeks and large lakes.

For the angler needful of learning more about fast-water nymphing and its techniques, this book is indeed a valuable addition to any angler's collection.

Courtesy FFF ClubWire Newswire Service

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## Miscellany

### Fly Fishing Fallacies and Fashions

*Klaas Oswald, Sault Fly Anglers*

No, no, I don't mean fashions in the sense of parading around in the latest *haute couture* put out by the Orvis company. Certainly, none of us could manage the "runway walk" on our stream banks, without coming to grievous bodily harm.

I'm talking about the changing fashions in fly styles and patterns. Over the years

- Fancy "Victorian" wet flies of which we tied some examples last year.
- Exact copy nymphs (à la Schwiebert)
- Bivisibles
- Whole series of 'Catskill' dries
- Succeeding waves of hackled dries, thorax dries, no-hackles, parachutes, comparaduns, CDC flies, and now "Hi-Viz" flies with fluorescent post wings
- One book after another expounding the virtues of a particular style of fly to the exclusion of others have all made their appearance on the scene, and like a mayfly, emerged for a short time and disappeared again. Also like some mayflies, styles and patterns have emerged, died, and after another period of time living in the streambed, have emerged again in cyclical fashion.

Some anglers, and especially many of today's fly and tackle manufacturers, insist on expounding the theory that "today's fish are smarter" and therefore anglers have to buy the latest new fly designs. Actually this so-called theory has been around for years, and it is, simply, a bunch of crap.

Just think about it. Your average brook trout lives about 4 or 5 years if it's lucky enough to survive to full adult age, and might see a handful of artificial flies over that time. It's got a brain the size of a pea, incapable of much cognitive thought. It might share the pool with a few younger fish, but it has no means of communication with them - little fish do not learn from big fish! This is especially so when you fool them and then haul them out and eat them.

There is no set of libraries or other means that allows for the transmission from one generation of fish to the next, of the notion that grand pappy bass got caught on the first Henshall's floating bug in 1911 and all you young-uns ought not to bite at it.

This is not to say, though, that some individual fish don't learn, but I suspect it is at the instinctive level. For instance, fish often get nervous and refuse to bite when some hulking two-legged monster wades into their pool. Bass can go off their feed when somebody drops a tackle box onto the aluminum boat over their heads. Trout watching a fly may refuse to take it when it starts dragging its way upstream. Nonetheless, I have taken fish under all the conditions above, which is evidence that they are not all that bright.

So what does this rant mean in practice on the stream or at the tying bench? Mainly, it means that you don't have to be a slave to the latest fly catalogue fashion to take fish. Despite the wide variety of fly types, they all seem to have worked over the years!

If you derive a huge amount of pleasure from tying up the Victorian style of wet flies simply because they're colourful and pretty, go ahead, tie them and fish with them. You will catch many brookies with them, but not likely many brown trout. If you derive satisfaction from tying perfect, sparse, Catskill dries, then do it. The fish will love them during the right conditions. If you want to spend otherwise useful amounts of time in manufacturing stonefly nymphs so realistic that they start crawling on your tying table, be my guest. They will catch fish, but not all the time. Each one of the styles of flies will work, if tied in

about the right size and colour, and presented skillfully to the fish.

Not every fly pattern or fly style works all of the time, but there are times when a particular pattern will work to the exclusion of others, and that is what the manufacturers count on.

There is also apparently a deep human need to get that one product, the mythical super fly that works all the time. There is no such thing, but the hunt for it has spawned a century of innovation at the tying table. On the good side, this has resulted in the invention of some really useful fly patterns and styles and has given fly fishers a huge choice of flies to fish with. On the down side, we must continue to put up with the exaggerated hype in the fly catalogues.

*Reprinted with permission from the October 2005 edition of the Fly Paper, the monthly newsletter of the Sault Fly Anglers.*

#### 4th FFC National Fly Fishing Championships & Conservation Symposium

The 4th FFC National Fly Fishing Championships and Conservation Symposium will be held from June 22-25, 2006, on the Grand River, and will be based in Fergus and Elora.

The schedule of events is:

- 22 June: Registration and various team/captains meetings. Evening BBQ and opening ceremonies.
- 23 June: morning and afternoon sessions
- 24 June: morning and afternoon sessions
- 25 June: morning session; afternoon conservation symposium; evening parade, banquet and awards ceremony.

Partners working with FFC on this event are the GRCA, FOG, OMNR and the Fergus/Elora Chamber of Commerce. Warren Yerex (GRCA) and Jack Bramm (FFC) are co-chairs of the local organizing committee.



Toronto's Fly Fishing Centre

[www.wilsonstoronto.com](http://www.wilsonstoronto.com)

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Competitors will fish in teams of five persons, which may consist of official teams representing their province, region or a fishing club; individuals may get together with other singles to form a team, or they can wait to be assigned by the committee.

The events are strictly catch and immediate release. Members of the winning teams will receive gold, silver and bronze medals, and similar medals are presented to the top three individuals. For further information about Fly Fishing Canada visit [www.flyfishingcanada.net](http://www.flyfishingcanada.net) or contact Jack Simpson, Executive Director FFC ([flyfishingcanada@cogeco.ca](mailto:flyfishingcanada@cogeco.ca)) or Jack Bramm, Co-chairman FFC ([jbramm@rogers.com](mailto:jbramm@rogers.com)).

#### Keeping Fishing Records

When I joined IWFFC in the early 1990s, the club had a remnant supply of a pocket-sized booklet that had been printed up years before for keeping on-stream notes. I bought three, which lasted my first six seasons, and during that time it became normal practice to keep fairly detailed records of my angling excursions. Eventually, the notes became indispensable, both in the winter for selecting which fly patterns to tie in abundance, and during the season to guide me on which of those patterns should be in my vest at any particular time.

Keeping detailed records creates a palpable risk of becoming a "fish counter", but if that information is only being used for personal intentions, such as having more satisfying days on the water, I see no problem. More to the point, the notes are useful for other purposes, including year-to-year *non-scientific* monitoring of fish and insect activities. For example, fish log information suggested that brook trout populations in the upper Credit suffered major declines from about 1999 to 2003 – probably the result of extended droughts. Other insects which were once common now seem rare.

When my IWFFC notebooks were filled, it was easy to create a template based on the smaller pages. But I was able to expand areas where I usually write detailed notes. The example on the next page can be used for moving or still water, and for any species of fish that's taking insects – or not. It can be easily modified to suite any angler's preferences. I strongly encourage the keeping of notes of some kind. Anyone wishing an electronic version of the example journal need only contact me at the email address given on page 1. –Ed.

**Fly Fishing Journal**

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

**Area Fished:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From (am/pm):** \_\_\_\_\_ **To:** \_\_\_\_\_ **From:** \_\_\_\_\_ **To:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time Fishing:** \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.

**Weather Conditions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Water Conditions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Temperature Measurements (°C/°F)**

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Air:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Water:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insect Hatches and Spinner Falls**

**Insect** \_\_\_\_\_ **From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_ **Notes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Activity & Sieving Results** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fish Caught & Released**

Species	No.	Sizes/Comments
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>		<b>Hooked &amp; Lost</b> _____

**Comments/Flies Used** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_