



Editor's Eddy

The 27th Canadian Fly Fishing Forum came and went in the midst of two uncontrollable misfortunes: a medical scare and rotten weather. But, in the end, it was another great effort. Congratulations to all the devoted and hard-working members who made it so.

And a few weeks later, the trout season was upon us. My fly gear had been in hibernation since the end of last September, and it felt sweet to get the rhythm back in just a few strokes; muscle memory is a wonderful thing – particularly since my real memory is flagging. But it seems that I've been riverside socializing more than fishing; is that a sign of finally figuring out what this is all about, or a reflection of just getting a little older? (Probably both.)

Although more than ten years have gone by since joining IWFFC, I confess to having never before read Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. That changed when someone emailed me an article written in recognition of a major anniversary of the book's appearance, an event clearly worthy of an article herein (page 5) in honour of our namesake.

In addition, a little research was warranted and, believe me, there's plenty of commentary on Izaak out there - much of it by very learned and literate folks, indeed. I recommend that anyone interested do his or her own spelunking. If you haven't already done so, read the book, too; it really is delightful.

Walton was foremost a bait dunker, but his protégé, Charles Cotton, wrote an addition on flyfishing in a later printing of *The Compleat Angler*. Cotton's instructions were primarily for trout and grayling, and he even touched on practicing catch-and-release for smaller fish. Despite using a format similar to Walton's, he was, at least from my "angle", much more clinical and lacked Walton's sense of the poetic. Nevertheless, an IWFFC member suggested that our group might be called "The Cotton Club." No thanks; I can't imagine meetings with jazz in the background, and jitterbugging instead of coffee drinking during the breaks. (Besides, fly fishers are noted for shuffling, not dancing.) Heck, anyone got any old Cab Calloway recordings?

Bob Kuehnbaum May 6, 2003

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Quotable / Notable Quotes

My biggest worry is that my wife (when I die) will sell my fly fishing gear for what I said I paid for it.

-- Koos Brandt

Some of the best fishing is done not in water, but in print.

-- Sparse Grey Hackle

About Your 2003 *Double Haul*

All paid-up IWFFC members receive the *Double Haul*, and freshly minted copies of the 2003 edition were available at the Forum. Names of those who picked up copies were checked off a master list, but only about 70 members did so. We will be handing out others at the last club meeting (May 13th) and will be mailing out the remainder thereafter.

So, if your dues are current (see next page), and you have not received a copy by the end of May, please contact Bob Foote at 905-812-8249 or footeflies@aol.com. You can also leave a message on the club phone (see box above) or send a letter. In any case, provide complete mailing instructions. Your copy will be sent out to you as soon as possible.

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Typically, only about half of club members renew their membership at the time of the Forum, the rest electing to do so later in the year. We would like to remind you that the Forum is our membership anniversary date, and that all club membership renewals are due around the beginning of April.

IWFFC needs membership dues to satisfy commitments, such as: continuing to provide the *Single Haul* and *Double Haul*; renting the meeting venue and storage locker; insurance; and managing our conservation commitments throughout the summer. PLEASE REMIT YOUR DUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. *Thank you!* \$45 single, \$55 family.

2003 Conservation Workdays

The April 12th Sligo clean-up workday and fry counting survey – both to have been sponsored by TUC – were postponed; it was going to be tough finding garbage under the snow that fell the week before at the time of the Forum. A tree planting took place on May 10th; more of that in the next issue.

The remaining IWFFC and TUC workdays on the Credit River are laid out below. For updated and more detailed information, check the IWFFC website. Alternatively, contact Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684 or Dave Beaton at Credit Valley Conservation at 905-670-1615.

May 31st IWFFC-sponsored tree planting on a Town of Orangeville property, on Hurontario Street (Hwy. 10) just north of the southern crossing of the Credit River. 9 am – 1 pm.

June 8th IWFFC-sponsored tree planting and log jam emplacement. Meet at parking lot on south side of Charleston Sideroad, east side of Credit River. 9 am – 1 pm.

July 19th Joint IWFFC-TUC instream rehabilitation workday. Meeting place TBA. 9 am. Waders required.

August 16th IWFFC-sponsored log placement workday. Meet 9 am, Dominion Street Bridge. Waders required.

September 6th IWFFC-sponsored log placement workday. Meet 9 am, Dominion Street Bridge. Waders required.

October 25th Joint IWFFC-TUC soil bioengineering – erosion control project downstream from Grange Sideroad. Meeting place TBA. 9 am – 1 pm. Waders required.

November 9th CVC-sponsored trout spawning survey. Meet at Beechgrove Sideroad and Credit River, south of Alton. 10 am – 1 pm.

FFF International Fly Fishing Conclave & Show

FFF's annual show is being held this year in Idaho Falls, Idaho, from August 4 to 9. There are over 60 workshops planned, and attendees will have the chance to test some great trout waters before and after the show. Idaho Falls is in the midst of storied fly fishing rivers, most notably the South and Henry's Forks of the Snake River. West Yellowstone and the Madison River lie just beyond the Henry's Fork.

If you're interested and would like more information, contact an IWFFC member who's also an FFF member, or get directly in touch with the Federation of Fly Fishers at www.fffconclave.org or www.fedflyfishers.org.

Some Facts about the East Credit

Bob Kuehnbaum

Because the west end of the Oak Ridges Moraine roughly coincides with the upper Credit River, recent provincial legislation concerning the moraine triggered an analysis of the East Credit River. CVC has so far hosted two public meetings to review scientific data that has been collected and to invite public input into the future of the watershed.

The East Credit joins the Credit just upstream from Inglewood. Its 51 km² watershed (known as Subwatershed 13) lies roughly between Escarpment Sideroad on the north, 15 Sideroad on the south, Hwy. 10 on the west, and Mountainview Sideroad (near Caledon East) on the east. Most of its water drains off the glacial deposit-covered Niagara Escarpment just south of Escarpment Sideroad. The watershed has natural and designated development limits, and there are no large developments. It is the 4th most natural subwatershed of the Credit River, still mostly agricultural (60%), with healthy forest (25%) and wetlands (10%). Most stream corridors are forested, although the banks are unstable. Water temperatures in the main stem above its confluence with the Credit are above CVC standards, in part due to the generally slow flows, and in part due to online ponds which may some day be removed. Brook

trout occur only in discharge areas in tributaries on the Escarpment slope.

The basin is underlain mostly by permeable sand and gravel, with till deposits on the north and south margins. Beneath the glacial deposits, the Paleozoic-aged Queenston Shale represents an impervious layer which causes water to flow laterally at depth. Although all surface flows are towards the Credit, some subsurface water flows eastward into the Humber basin. The East Credit contributes about 9.8 million cubic metres of water every year to the Credit, or 6% of the Credit's flow into Lake Ontario; Devil's Pulpit Golf Course takes about 7% of the water flowing into the entire East Credit watershed.

The watershed is relatively healthy, and its future is positive. Those attending the second meeting generally felt that it is a realistic vision for the East Credit to be at least as healthy in 25 years as it is today. Some of the main strategies for accomplishing this, as the Towns of Caledon and Orangeville grow, are: monitoring the taking of water for golf courses and aggregate extraction; mitigation of the thermal impacts of online ponds; reforestation to improve groundwater recharge and; restricting traffic corridors.

Forum News

Preliminary Results: Treasurer Ken O'Brien reports that the 2003 Forum did somewhat better financially than in 2002. The auction and banquet generated a profit of about \$10,000, while the show lost roughly \$7,000, resulting in a net income of about \$3,000. The combination of completely unpredictable SARS concerns and problematic weather resulted in decreases in both seminar and exhibit hall registrants, and several of our seminar speakers - including Brian Chan - were unable to make it.

The Forum Committee and club executive are currently examining alternate sites and arrangements for next year's event.

Roderick Haig-Brown Award: This year, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources, Jerry Ouellette, was invited to present our 2003 Roderick Haig-Brown Award to members of the *Upper Credit River Rehabilitation Initiative*. The award recognizes the "Outstanding Achievements in Fish Habitat Conservation" of the UCRRI partners, including: Credit Valley Conservation, the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada, the Upper Credit Trout

Club, Ontario Streams, IWFFC, Alton Grange Association and the MNR.



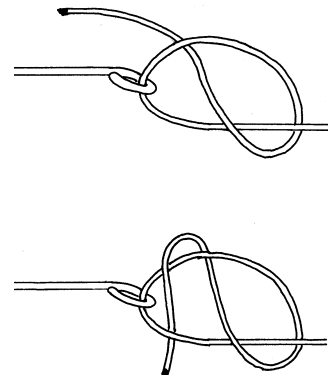
Left to right: Bob Lundy (President, IWFFC), Mark Heaton (Biologist, MNR), Bob Morris (Biologist, CVC), Jerry Ouellette (Minister of Natural Resources), Bob Thomson (President, TUC - Greg Clark Chapter), and Bob Marshall (Conservation Chair, Upper Credit Trout Club). Absent are representatives from Ontario Streams and Alton Grange Association. Photo courtesy of CVC.

Another Midge Knot

Bob Kuehnbaum

The February *Single Haul* contained a description of the "Timber Knot" which was adapted as a low-bulk knot for very small flies. Here's another: "The Knot", published in *Midge Magic* by Ed Koch and Don Holbrook (Stackpole, 2001).

It is truly simple. I tried it on a 6X tippet on a hook, and can attest (unscientifically) that it's fairly strong; wetting the knot before tightening, however, seems to improve its breaking strength.

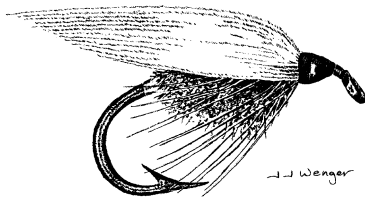


Revisiting the *Isonychia* Hatch

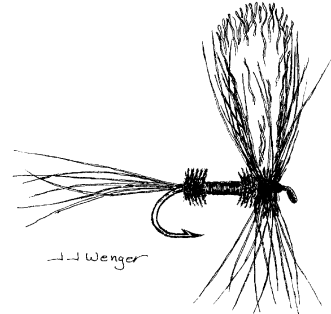
In the May, 2002, issue of the *Single Haul*, Len Yust's article on *Isonychia* patterns was unaccompanied by artwork, leaving their appearance to the reader's imagination. This was a very unfortunate omission since - unbeknownst to all but a few - Jim Wenger had created a drawing for each of Len's recipes, all of which was originally supposed to have gone into the 2000 *Double Haul*, an issue that never happened.

To highlight Jim's effort and to make Len's article more useful, all of the sketches are reproduced together. (You may have noticed that one or two of them also appeared in the 2003 *Double Haul*.)

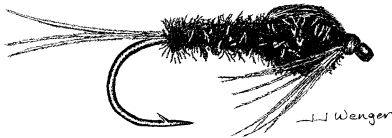
Lead Wing Coachman Wet Fly



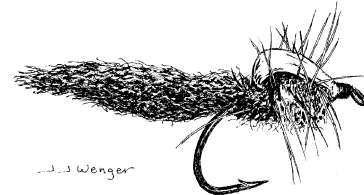
Poly-Wing Royal Coachman



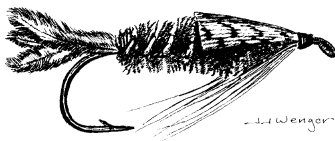
Peacock Half Back Nymph



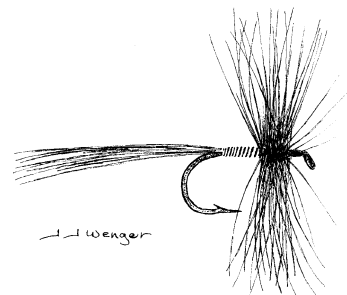
Trailing Shuck Emerger



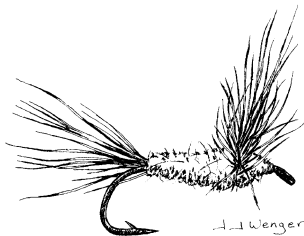
Zug Bug



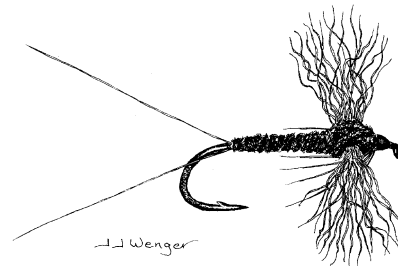
Dun Variant



Slate Drake Haystack



White Gloved Howdy Spinner



A Father of the Angle

Bob Kuehnbaum

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the appearance of *The Compleat Angler* (1653-1655). Why is this so significant that the *The New York Times* published an article in celebration of Walton's work, and the New York Public Library put on a special showing of various printings of the book? (There have been close to 500 printings - the third most in the English language, after the *Bible* and John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*). To answer that, it's necessary to know a little about Izaak and his book that became a kind of *angler's bible*.

Walton (b. 1593) was a well-read, if not well-educated man who lived as a gentleman, in the old-fashioned meaning of the word. Until 1643 he resided in London and ran a business in the parish where the poet John Donne was a vicar. They were friends, and Walton completed several treatises of the clergyman, including *The Life of Dr. John Donne* in 1640. He also wrote other biographical works on clerics for which, in his own time, he was held in high regard. Because of his Royalist sympathies, Walton left London for Staffordshire during the Civil War. He was either retired or semi-retired by the time he wrote *The Compleat Angler*, at the age of 60 and after ten years of total dedication to angling.

Following the death of his second wife in 1662, Walton lived at Farnham Castle as a guest of the bishop of Winchester. He apparently fished well into his 80's, and died at the age of 90 in Winchester on December 15, 1683. He was buried in the Cathedral where a glass painting portrays him streamside, book in hand and rod, creel and net at his side; we have used that image on our club's letterhead for many years, and it was included in the January, 2003, issue of this newsletter.

The Compleat Angler is part how-to manual and part musings. Three devotees of the three 17th century outdoor pursuits (Walton as "Piscator", an angler; "Venator", a hunter; and "Auceps", a falconer) meet and compare notes as they walk. They discuss the merits of their respective elements (water, earth and air) and the three pastimes, the best being the one that leads to a more perfect Christian life (in the austere times of Cromwell). Auceps makes an early departure, and Piscator takes Venator into his tutelage in the arts of fishing. For five days, they cross on foot a now-disappeared countryside just outside of London in search of good fishing and good times – in a setting of pre-Industrial Revolution England when salmon still negotiated the Thames River to spawn. They encounter

innkeepers, milkmaids, and other rural folk; they recite verses from poets of the time and sing. Walton extensively discusses the habits of local fish species and how to catch and cook them - including the lowly chub. He was hardly an avid flyfisher; there are descriptions of 12 trout flies, but his spectrum of bait includes all manner of grubs and worms, cheese and grain, various insects and, of course, baitfish.

Any modern reader of the book will realize, not surprisingly, that knowledge in natural sciences was fairly primitive in Walton's time. Some attitudes reflect the days long before the late 20th century concept of holistic conservation. For instance, we are all familiar with the phrase "I, Sir, am a Brother of the Angle." But the second half of the sentence, "and therefore an enemy of the otter," is almost always omitted. On the first day of their roving, Venator takes Piscator on a hunt for otters, reviled as fish eaters and valued for their fur; in other words, the only good otter was a dead otter.

Other bits of Piscator's information are still appropriate, for example: "... three or four flies neat and rightly made, and not too big, serve for a Trout in most rivers all the summer." Not bad advice for those who like to travel light and fish small streams.

In another admonishment perhaps even more suitable today than in the 17th century, Walton notes Solomon's observation that "he that considers the wind shall never sow." To the angler: Fish when you can, not when conditions are perfect.

The Compleat Angler gave Walton literary longevity, however, because it is far beyond being merely a book about fishing. It is, in the words of one reviewer, "a deeply engaging nostalgia trip into a never-never land of pastoral bliss which has no exact parallel in world literature." Walton successfully gets across to the reader the rewards that angling provides and writes that "... most Anglers are, quiet men and followers of peace." He pitied the rich as "always busy or discontented" and therefore "laid aside business, and [went] a-fishing." Walton wrote for pleasure about angling, and therefore made what he called "recreation of a recreation." (All very nice, if you can afford it.)

Another likely reason for the book's popularity is its readability – quite a contrast with the oft-unfathomable works of Shakespeare, for example, of only a half-century earlier. As an illustration, it's hard to not appreciate what is perhaps Walton's signature passage: "No life so happy and so pleasant as the life of a well-governed angler; for when the lawyer is swallowed up with business and the statesman is preventing or contriving plots, then we sit on cowslip banks, hear the birds sing, and

possess ourselves in as much quietness as these silver streams, which we now see glide so quietly by us. Indeed, my good Scholar, we may say of angling, as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries, 'Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did'; and so, if I might be judge, God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling."

Peter Kaminsky writes in *The New York Times* that "Walton, with his love of nature, poetry, food and angling, was in many ways the first modern sportsman. Before him, blood sports and their literature were pursuits of the aristocracy. But Walton ... seems much closer in temperament to a contemporary well-read middle-class retiree than he is to the regally outfitted medieval huntsman."

Perhaps it is the concept of "middle-class" that keeps us in touch with Walton and angling. Or maybe it is because, as Walton writes, "Angling may be said to be like mathematics, that it can never be fully learnt; at least not so fully but that there will be new experiments left for the trial of other men that succeed us." We are therefore motivated by the quest for the unattainable, or, as Howell Raines puts it, "a search for the grail: the place of perfect companionship and flawless contentment."

One more thing: Did Walton's connections with clergymen (and, before him, Dame Juliana Berners' membership in an order of nuns) have anything to do with elevating fishing - and flyfishing, in particular - from a mere means of catching fish to something akin to religion?

Goddard Caddis

Bob Bates

The Goddard Caddis (G & R Sedge) was developed as a still water pattern by John Goddard, well known English tyer and angler. It floats so well that it became a favourite of lake fishermen, and also proved successful for stream anglers. This was years before *The Trout and the Fly*, 1980, by Brian Clarke and John Goddard, described the fly. Some authors list others as co-developers, but I cannot find confirming evidence. The pattern described by Clark and Goddard is a little more complicated than what is given below. For one thing we do not have a green, seal-fur underbody.

Materials List:

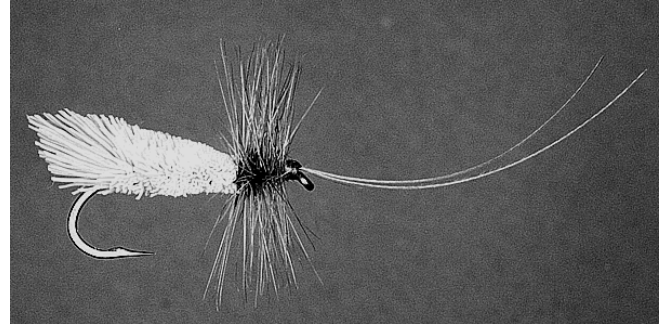
Hook: Mustad 94840, Tiemco TMC 100, Daiichi 1100, or other dry fly hook, 10-16

Thread: A or Kevlar for spinning and brown or orange 6/0 to finish

Body: Deer hair

Antenna: Brown hackle quills

Hackle: Brown



Tying Steps: There are many ways to tie this pattern from "spin the deer hair body and trim it in a cone shape, larger to rear, and chop it off square in back" to styles with some deer hair pointing rearward. However, when, I watched *Fly Tying, the Angler's Art* with Dave Engerbretson and LeRoy Hyatt, on Public Television, I thought LeRoy's technique produced a more realistic fly. (A note especially for the new tier 'also applicable to us older tiers:' Watch many tiers, try their techniques and pick the one that works the best for you.) As they say, "There are many ways to unfrock the feline." No matter what specific motions are used to tie a fly it will probably catch fish.

1. Attach thread near the bend. Cut off a sizable bundle (about the diameter of a wooden pencil for size 10 hook) of deer hair, and comb out under fur and short fibres. Trim off tips.
2. Put bundle on top of hook, add two loose thread wraps around middle of bundle, tighten but don't let bundle spin. Hold bundle on top of hook as you put several more tight thread wraps on top of first two. Wind thread through flared hair and half hitch in front of flared fibres.
3. Cut off an equal size bundle, clean out under fur and trim butts and tips. Position bundle in front of first bunch. Put two loose thread wraps around bundle, tighten thread until hair starts to flair and then turn it loose and let it spin around the hook. Wind the thread rearward into the first bundle; then forward again to front of second bundle. Winding the thread back marries the two sets of flared deer hair and stabilizes the first. Put two half hitches in front of flared deer hair and cut thread. Front of flared deer hair should be near the 1/3rd point.
4. Take fly out of vise and trim bottom hair flat as close to the shank as possible without cutting the thread.

5. Put hook into vise backwards. That is: Hold hook in vise at bend but have the shank and eye pointing over the barrel of the vise. It is easier to trim the cone shaped body so it is narrow at the front and larger to the rear. (A rotary vise is very handy for trimming a round body.) Trim top of wing parallel to the shank and trim the rear of wing sloping toward the bend a little. Then at back of wing trim sides to give the wing a little wedge pointing backward.

6. Put fly into vise correctly, and attach 6/0 thread. Pick thread color to match the small spots of color on your caddis. Strip barbs off of two feathers from an inexpensive (import) neck, and attach stems so the tips stick out over eye more than total length of fly.

7. Select a hackle feather with barbs about 1-1/2 the gap width. Modern genetic saddle hackles are best. Pull off some barbs at the bottom of the feather and attach hackle to hook by the bare stem. Wind hackle forward leaving room to tie off hackle, secure and trim excess.

8. Whip finish over the antennae and hackle tie off. Use a bit of head cement if you like.

9. Trim antennae to match your local caddis. If antennae don't curve the way you want, simply trap one antenna between your thumb nail and your first finger and slide along antenna. The antenna will curve toward the thumb nail. Push harder with thumbnail to make more curve.

The real beauty of a Goddard Caddis, whether black or natural, is that it floats in very rough water, and several copies of different sizes should be in everybody's fly box. It also does a good job when "traveling sedges" (caddis) are moving across the surface of a lake.

Buying a Nu2u Rod

Wayne Taylor, Peninsula Fly Fishers of Belmont, California

Some things to ponder prior to purchasing a Nu2u fly rod. Foremost, on what fish and water will the rod be used? Consider your strength and coordination. What is your fishing experience? Correct choice of line weight, rod length and action depend on this evaluation.

You want a good casting and fish fighting tool. You want good value for your money. So, what makes a quality rod? Generally speaking the more expensive the rod, the better the quality of material used in the guides, reel seat, and grip.

For guides, a rule of thumb is one guide, not including the tip-top, for each foot of rod length.

Fewer guides permit the line to sag and slap on the rod, creating more friction when casting. There is a right size for guides, too. Very small guides will create more friction and very large guides will permit more sag and slapping. The number of stripping guides varies. Lighter weight rods need only one stripping guide, while heavier weight rods should be equipped with two.

Should you have an up- or down-locking reel seat? Most fisher people prefer up-locking. If you wish to hold your rod near the reel, a down-locking seat subjects your hand to agitation at the juncture of the cork and the reel seat. On heavier weight rods it is nice to have a double locking screw system.

Cork is preferred for the handle, as theoretically it feels warmer in cold weather and cooler in warm weather. Cork doesn't get overly slick when wet, and it has great cushioning properties. Check the cork for quality. Are there any soft or loose spots? The less filler, the better. Shape and size of the handle are a matter of personal preference. Is the grip sized right and comfortably shaped for your hand for casting and fish fighting?

Next consider the workmanship and overall aesthetics of the rod. Most manufacturers polish their rods upon removal from the furnaces to eliminate any rough spots and the thread used to hold the graphite on the mandrels. (One company does not polish their rods. Know which company that is?)

Well-epoxyed, short, thread wraps extending just off the foot of the guides are the order of the day. The more thread and epoxy, the more weight - which dampens the rod's action.

Speaking of which, I recommend that one check the action of the rod. Most people pick up a rod and shake it several times, and that is that. Here's the way to really learn something about the rod. Hold the rod firmly, parallel to the floor, and whip the rod with some vigour. Watch where the rod flexes the most. If the rod bends in the upper one-third, you know that the rod is considered fast action; in the middle, it is medium action. If the rod bends down into the butt section, and you can even feel the handle bend in your hand, you know that the action of the rod is considered slow.

When you have a likely candidate, give it the real test. Take the rod, equipped with reel and line, to a pond for some casting, and check for these qualities. (Fishing is not a good way to make these evaluations.)

Start with balance. Is the fully equipped rod tip heavy or butt heavy? Cast the rod for feel. Does

the action suit your casting stroke? The rod should perform a number of tasks well. Test it thoroughly. Roll cast. Pick up thirty-five feet of line from the water and lay it out in a different direction. See that it mends and controls line on the water easily and accurately. Turn over a leader with a large fly, and present it with some delicacy at long distances. Will the rod deliver a fly accurately seventy feet and beyond? Does it shoot line easily? Will the rod load sufficiently with thirty to thirty-five feet of line off the rod tip for quick pick up and shoot? Try to form tight loops to get line speed and distance Does the rod generate high speed for quick, powerful delivery into the wind? Is there enough strength in the butt section to pressure a running fish? Could you cast repeatedly for long periods without fatigue?

If, in your opinion, the rod fulfills all the above criteria, then just possibly you have found the one for you.

Courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire

Bassman's What?

Editor's Note: Here's what a non-flyfisher (who shall remain unidentified) wrote after reading the note in the last issue of this magazine about Elliott Deighton's May 13th fly tying demo.

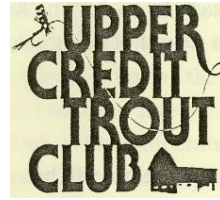
"I have been getting increasingly intrigued by flyfishing over the past months, but my interest plummeted while reading your latest *Single Haul*. I don't know if I could be a part of a group that revels in tying "Bassman's Asshair." It sounds cruel and unusual. I think you should find better ways to work out differences between the various types of anglers. I can only imagine with horror the indignities your group may have cooked up for steel-heads."

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

We now begin our summer break from meetings, and our first get-together in the fall will be on **September 16th**. See you then. In the meantime, you can mark down the following dates that have been firmly established: September 16th, October 7th and 21st, November 11th (note: 2nd Tuesday, not 1st) and 18th, December 2nd and 16th, 2003; January 6th and 20th, February 3rd and 17th, 2004.

Have a great summer and fish as much as you can or care to.

UCTC Memberships Still Available



This is a reminder that the Upper Credit Trout Club has some membership openings available this year. Contact Norm Huff (huffNM@aol.com or 905-272-7155) for further information.

Club Outing

A club outing has been planned for May 25th at Dikadel Ponds east of Toronto. The ponds are stocked with brook trout and rainbow trout. The cost is \$25 per person. If you intend to go, please inform someone on the IWFFC executive. The hours are between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, and you should bring your own lunch. Check www.iwffc.ca for general information about Dikadel and a map showing how to get there. For those of you without internet access, leave a message on the club phone; we'll get directions to you.

In the event of severe weather, an alternate date is a week later on June 1st.

For our members, this is catch-and-release, barbless hook fishing; you may, however, be able to arrange with our hosts to keep a fish - for a fee. Fishing is from the bank so, please, *no float tubes*.

Contacting IWFFC

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

IWFFC information line: (905) 276-6345

Mail: Unit 6, Suite 283

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