

Join the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

The Club

The Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club is a public, non-profit group of men, women and youth who enjoy flyfishing. The club was formed by 26 participants in February, 1971, to promote flyfishing and conservation of our aquatic resources. From novice to expert, flyfishers share their experience and learn from each other. IWFFC is an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

The club meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, September through May, at the Cawthra Community Centre, 1399 Cawthra Road, Mississauga (1/2 Kilometre south of the QEW).

Visit us at: www.iwffc.ca

Objectives

Without clean water, there are no fish; without fish, there is no flyfishing. For this reason, IWFFC extends its objectives beyond simply promoting the art and techniques of flyfishing.

- To promote and teach flyfishing as a sport and conservation method
- To encourage young people to take part in our programs
- To expand club activities in the area of aquatic conservation
- To make representation to all areas of government on fishing and fish habitat concerns
- To provide a public service as an information centre for fishing concerns

Members Receive

Single Haul, the club newsletter, announces club activities, meetings and special events with a variety of articles on techniques, tying, places to fish and conservation. About 8 to 10 issues per year.

Double Haul, an annual magazine produced at the time of the Forum, with the latest information on the arts and crafts of flyfishing and fly tying written by forum speakers and other contributors.

An opportunity to promote clean waters, angling ethics and the preservation of our natural resources.

Annual Membership Fees

- Family Membership - \$35
- Adult Membership - \$35

Please send your cheque or money order, with personal information*, to:

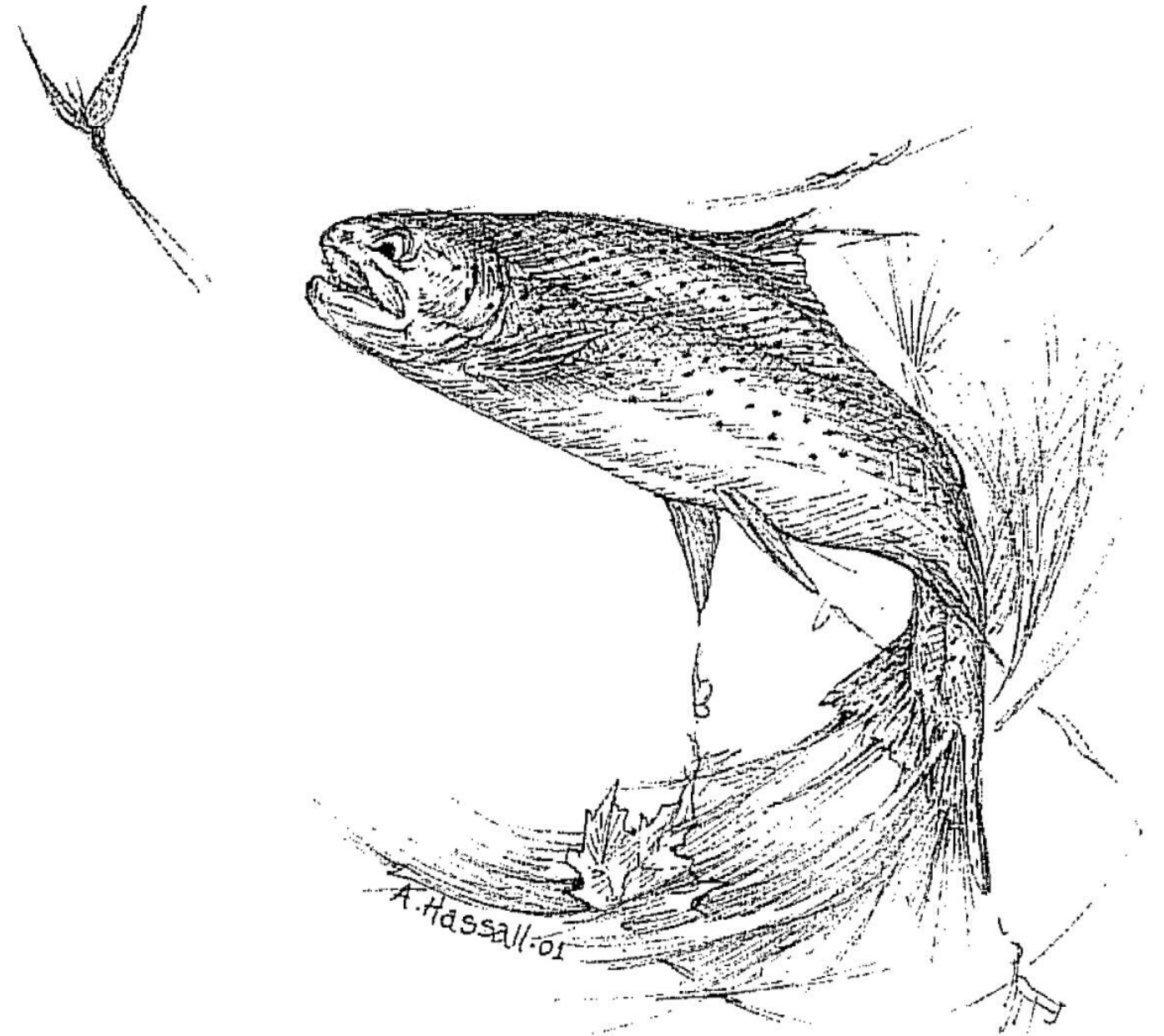
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* include name, address (with unit or apartment number and postal code), phone and email

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DOUBLE HAUL

Forum 2010



President's Message

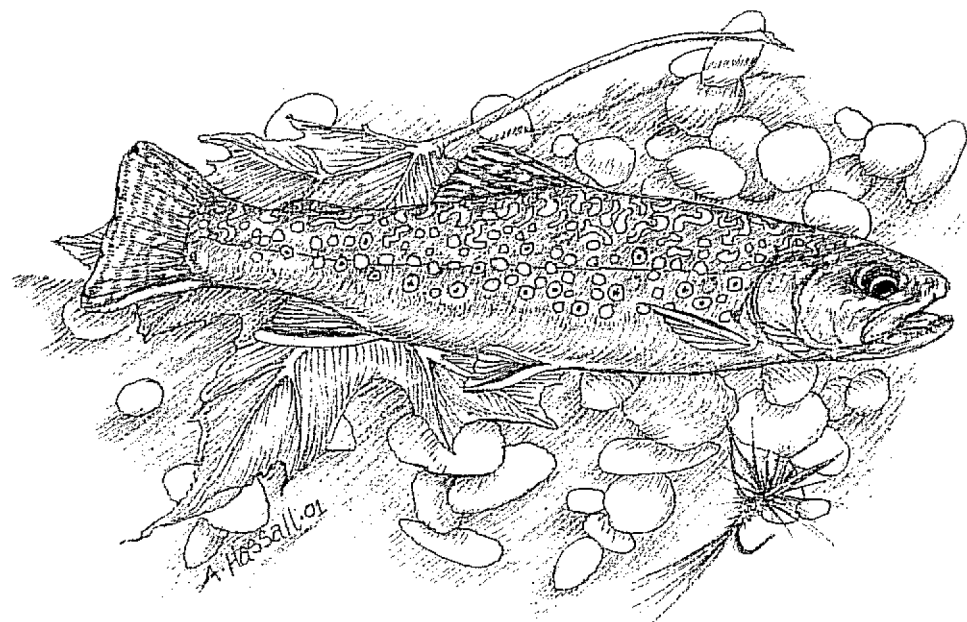
I was honoured to accept the position of President of the IWFFC last Fall and in doing so I join a list of remarkable people each of who have left their mark on the Club. I have also been honoured to have known all of our past Presidents and to have witnessed first hand the fine work they have all done on behalf of the Club. I hope I come close to doing as well; they left me pretty big wading boots to fill.

You would think that in this modern age of high technology the running of a Club such as ours would be simpler and in some ways it is, but in others it has become harder. Certainly communication has become a lot simpler and quicker with computers and emailing. Writing for the Single and Double Haul has become easier as well. I remember when I used to write articles by hand. My hand writing was and still is terrible so I used to print all of them in my very best drafting upper case lettering. Maurice How used to peck away on an old manual typewriter then he would correct the article manually. Everything had to be printed and mailed out, a slow and unreliable process at best. This meant of course that meeting notices had to be mailed at least a week prior to each meeting. Names and addresses of members had to be kept on index cards. The Forum registrations and packages were all hand done and either hand delivered at a meeting or mailed out if there was time. Computers have shortened up and even done away with a lot of this process but there is still the need for people to actually input the data and manage the various aspects, should it be Forum registration, Double Haul editing, membership management or any one of a number of other jobs that go to make up the Club and Forum.

Whether it be the fly tying, the general meetings, the friendships, the Forum or all of the aforementioned that you enjoy, I urge every member to offer something back to the organization in exchange for the enjoyment they receive from being an IWFFC member. To paraphrase a famous U.S. President, "Ask not what this Club can do for you. Ask what you can do for this Club".

I wish you all an enjoyable Forum and a successful upcoming fishing season.

Elliott Deighton
President IWFFC



a sense of the past and future. The flies Mark ties are inspired by the music he so dearly loves, and the lessons he has learned thereby. Today his flies are known as, Jazz Flies.

Ed Smith is the owner of Unique Fly Fishing Products and comes to us all the way from Kamloops B.C. Ed displays and ties fly patterns using a product called Liquid Lace which he distributes through his company. Liquid Lace is a hollow stretchy plastic like tubing that comes in three thicknesses and various colours. It is injected with oil before tying to give the fly a life like transparency and translucency. Ed demonstrates many patterns on his video tape from blood worms to stoneflies and we look forward to having him again this year.

Dave Verkuy has been learning how to tie life like fly patterns for almost 20 years. Growing up beside Wilmot Creek East of Toronto, he spent many hours studying the different insects that live in the different parts of the creek. Based on his on stream observations, Dave continues to come up with several innovative patterns that continually work well for him. He currently lives in Port Hope at the mouth of the Ganaraska River where he has plenty of opportunity to try out his amazing life like fly patterns.

Steven Wascher is a third generation family fly tyer who has been tying for over 41 years. He is a New York State Licensed fishing guide who specializes in trout and warm water species to include smallmouth and muskies! Steve's tying domain is rather extensive in that he enjoys tying patterns from midges to monster muskie flies as well as tube flies. In addition to tying standard patterns and creating new ones, Steve is challenged by spinning deer hair as well. Steve has also taught fly tying courses for over 14 years to both adults and youths. Also, Steve has taught flyfishing at the college level. When not spending time with his family, gardening, or creating a new pattern or reinventing an old standby Steve can be reached at stevenwascher@gmail.com

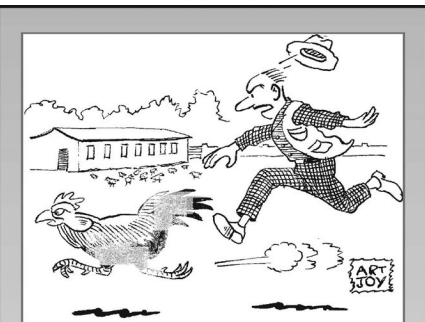
Jim Wenger from Toronto, ties flies for anything with fins that swims in cold, warm or saltwater. A published artist (including many of the drawings in

this issue), Jim has used his talents to capture realism and detail in many of his flies. He has instructed and demonstrated tying flies at flyfishing clubs and shows in the Toronto area and across Southern Ontario. Jim, is also an FFF-certified casting instructor, has done tying demos and slide programs in the USA for FFF's International and Northeast Council conclaves.

Harold Williams lives in New Jersey and 2005 marked his 50th year of fly tying. He considers himself a lifelong student of the sport. Over the past 30 years or so, he has had fly tying classes with many of the great tyers. Following the philosophy of Paul Jorgenson he has tried to learn to tie all types of flies - fresh, saltwater, etc. He and his wife, Virginia, fish mostly Pennsylvania, but have also fished from Canada to South America and as far West as Montana.

Additional Tyers

Randy Buchanan, Mark Romero, Wally Nowak, Dave & Jane Shenk, Lyne Trudeau.



"Come here! I only need four more hackles from your cotton pickin' neck!"

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Showcase of Fly Tyers

Dave Brandt based in Oneanta NY, has been flyfishing for over 35 years, teaching fly tying and flyfishing for over 25 years, the last 19 as an instructor with the Wolff School of Fly Fishing.

Chris Day is originally from Clarenville, NL. but moved to Ontario in 1996 to attend College. He has been tying flies for almost 20 years and flyfishing for 21 years. He enjoys tying Hairwing Salmon flies and specializes in using moose hair and tying in the traditional Newfoundland style of short and sparse wings. A spell of tying Atlantic Salmon Flies commercially has given his flies a unique sense of proportion and elegance. Believing that less is definitely more, Chris also ties simple trout flies with 3 materials or less. He lists Lee Wulff and Rob Solo as his biggest influences in terms of tying Salmon flies.

Elliott Deighton from Mississauga ON, has over 30 years of experience, is an award-winning fly tyer and instructor whose passion lies in spinning deer hair bass bugs, using synthetics and creating salt-water flies. He is also an FFF-certified fly casting instructor, as well as an outdoor writer. In addition to IWFFC publications, his work has appeared in Ontario Out of Doors and The Canadian Fly Fisher. Elliott is also a uniquely talented picture and shadow box framer of collectable flies and related art.

Greg Heffner is an avid fly tyer and fly fisher from Bath, New York. He is president of the Conhocton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and a member of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, Federation of Fly Fishers, Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers, Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club of Canada, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. He is a demonstration fly tyer at numerous flyfishing shows, and has had articles about his flies and fly tying in the Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide, the United Fly Tyers Roundtable, Fly Fishing New England, and the Federation of Fly Fisher's Patterns of the Masters, Vol. 6, and has published a book, Some Old, Some New, Some Borrowed: A Fly Tyer's Notebook of Favorite Patterns to Tie and Fish. His special fly tying interest is in traditional flies and techniques, including classic salmon flies, Catskill patterns, and New England streamers. He hosts a website: www.conhoctonriverflyshop.com offering flies and fly tying materials and information about fishing the Conhocton River, and is a

licensed New York fishing guide. When not fishing or tying, Greg is Planning Director for Steuben County, New York.

Ian Colin James is a full-time guide and certified instructor on the Grand River and elsewhere through southwestern Ontario. He has also been a part of the Canadian Fly Fishing Team. At once informative, enlightening and entertaining, Ian has a straight-to-the-point and witty approach to instructing. He is the author of the national best-seller Fumbling with a Flyrod.

Henri Lemieux was introduced to fly tying in the early 70's where he joined a flyfishing club in Montreal. In the mid eighties Henri began instructing fly tying. In 1997 Henri moved to Hamilton and joined the Hamilton Fly Fishers & Fly Tyers, where he demonstrates fly tying. Henry is also a member of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing club. Henri was recently featured in the Spring issue of Ontario OUT OF DOORS magazine as one of the province's top tiers

Bob Mead of Scotia, NY specializes in realistic style flies. He is a creator of such unusual patterns as the Praying Mantis, Walking Stick Bug and Water Scorpion. Bob is a former columnist for the original Fly Tyer magazine. His flies and articles about him have appeared in books, magazines and newspapers around the world.

Mark Romero spent 30 years in the music business, working as an audio engineer/road and stage manager with the biggest names in Jazz all over the world and then retired in 2002. He began fly fishing in 1989 after spin fishing from childhood. His fly tying life began in 1993 and he was tying at shows all over the east coast by 1997. In 2002 he tied at his first FFF International Conclave in Livingston, Montana and has been tying nationally and internationally every since. He does up to 20 to 25 shows a year from Washington State to Florida, Texas to New York. And while he ties most everything, his specialty is Artistic flies inspired by the Spey tradition, and incorporating the use of natural and synthetic materials together. All his flies are One-of-a-Kind original works of Art, and they are never duplicated. His use of hand made blind eye hooks which he paints, and silk worm gut eyes which he dyes, gives the flies added beauty and

Double Haul

Double Haul is a publication the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club, published annually in conjunction with the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum. All rights reserved, copyright 2010.

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John Fox

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Artwork has been graciously donated for this issue by Allan Hassall & Jim Wenger

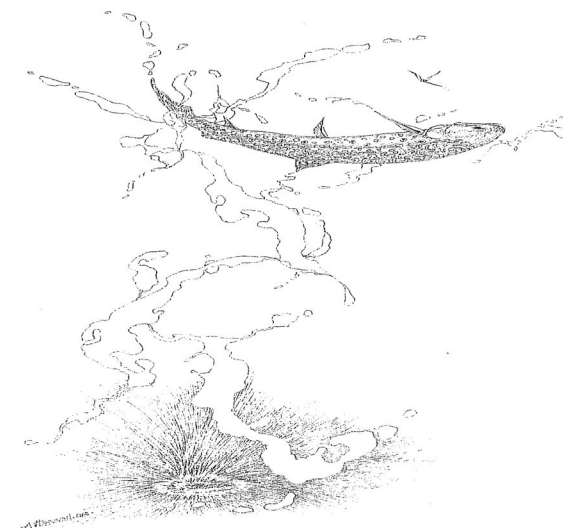
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Forum Committee IWFFC Awards - 2009

Chair - John Fox

Facilities - Ted Armstrong

Audiovisual - George Lewis

Banquet MC - Scott Wagner

Donors and Prizes - Vic Cairns and Don Arthurs

Double Haul Editor - John Fox

Exhibitors - Ken Geddes

Guest Speakers - Ted Armstrong

Guest Tyers and Tying Programming -

Elliott Deighton

Hospitality - Cliff Rose

IWFFC Club Booth - Paul Collier

Fly mounting and Framing - Elliott Deighton

Printing - Barry O'Rourke

Promotion and Publicity - Mario Carr

Registration - Pat Kelly and Bruce Bird

Treasurer - Ray Desilets

Volunteers - Geoff McGregor

Website - Dave Burt

IWFFC Executives

President * Elliott Deighton

Vice President * - Bob Kuenbaum

Single Haul Editor - Derek Giles

Treasurer * - Ray Desilets

Beginners Fly tying - Sheldon Seale

Conservation - Pat Kelly, Donna Cridland

Membership - Bob Kuenbaum

New members & coaches program - Peter Repath

Meetings program - Bill Spicer

Publications - Barry O'Rourke

Venue - Robert Cristant

Website - Dave Burt

Club Phone - Dave Potosky, Bruce Rattray

Library Bill -

* Elected positions.

Each year Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club present a few awards in recognition of the efforts of certain individuals. With the exception of the President's Award (decided exclusively by the President), the recipients are chosen by input from Club members, including your Executive Committee. Congratulations to the following recipients for 2009. The 2010 winners will be announced at the IWFFC Banquet on Saturday evening.

President's Award

In recognition of the continued efforts to support the progress of the club and for encouraging a spirit of fellowship among it's members
Paul Schram

Kettle-Knott Award

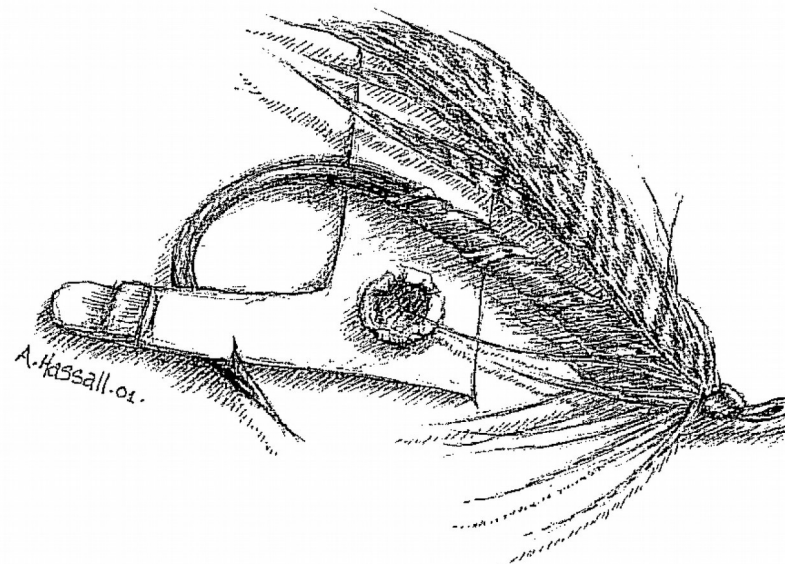
In recognition of outstanding contributions in education in fly fishing
Ian James for his College Course

Jack Sutton Award

In recognition of creativity in the delicate art of fly tying
Graham Coombes

Maurice How Award

Donna Cridland



Prepackaged leaders are available at most fly fishing shops in a variety of strengths and lengths. All you have to do is tie on the tippet. For bonefish and permit a 12-to14-foot leader is recommended. Have a few short leaders handy to take advantage of conditions and aggressive fish. Short leaders tend to have heavier butts which facilitate quick turn over in windy conditions-a common condition on the flats. These leaders will pay dividends when fishing for aggressive bones and snook especially in tight quarters among the mangroves. Fluorocarbon offers a significant advantage for knot strength and durability. These leaders are nearly invisible underwater, a key factor when fishing for spooky bones and wary permit.

When fishing for tarpon, barracuda and big jacks you will need a shock tippet. This is usually a 12-20 inch section of 30- to 100 – pound monofilament line. Unless you are expert in knot tying most anglers opt for prepackaged Bimini-style and wire leaders. Prepackaged wire leaders are also recommended for barracuda and other toothy characters you may encounter.

If you haven't made any plans for the upcoming winter and want to experience some of the most fascinating fly fishing on the planet, consider a trip to the salt water flats. You will not regret it. But beware, that first bonefish run or that first tarpon jump may well become your newest (and most expensive) addiction...



Permits are usually found in slightly deeper water, in water 2 to 5 feet deep. They can be spotted around bonefish schools, as “singles”, or sometimes, cruising behind sting rays to pick up food items stirred up from the bottom. Tailing fish are more likely to take a fly, but cruising permits are most commonly encountered, so you must be prepared to fire at any time. The ideal permit rod is 9 or 10 weight, and many experienced anglers have a dedicated permit rod ready at all times.

Jacks, barracudas and snooks

These species of fish are superb predators that are quite common on and around the flats. Jacks and barracudas aggressively take the fly and fight hard – real trophies for the fly fisherman. Jacks often hunt in group, and when you find a pod of hungry jacks, fast and furious action is almost guaranteed! Shrimps, deceivers, and poppers work well for jacks. Once hooked, jacks put up an incredibly strong fight... I have seen many rods broken by these powerful fighters.

Barracudas - sometimes more than a meter long – are usually spotted at the same places where bonefish are found, depending on the tide. They are not always hungry, and on occasions, they can simply ignore your fly and decide to take off after you have done several presentations. However, when a barracuda is on the hunt, it will attack almost anything so fast you don't even realize what happens – until it literally pulls the rod out of our of your hands. Once, I even had a massive barracuda take the little bonefish fly I presented in front of him, just for fun. The beast took off like a torpedo, peeled out at least 60 meters of line and backing, then exploded on the surface to “tail walk” on the surface, before finally snapping my tiny bonefish leader. All this sequence unrolled in just seconds, almost before I had time to realize what was happening – let alone, react to it!

A word on flies and leaders

Over the last 30 years, the creative genius of the fly tying community has resulted in an explosion of saltwater fly patterns. The majority are captured in a number of excellent illustrative books, which are great source material for the fly tier as well as the beginner who is planning a first time trip. In a nutshell, here are a few basic tips. Match the fly to the food type at your destination. Small crustacean imitations like shrimp and crabs will catch bonefish and permit in virtually any habitat. What is important is shape, size, color, and sink rate. Prey species occupy different habitats which vary from one location to another. A killer pattern in Belize may be ineffective in the Bahamas. Universal patterns include: Clouser, Gotcha, Crazy Charlie, Fur Shrimp, and Del Brown's Permit Fly.

Permit flies are generally larger than bonefish patterns because permit seems to prefer a slightly meatier meal. Although there is much debate over the best permit pattern, these fish are particularly fond of small crabs, so the majority of the productive patterns are crab imitations, size #2 and #4. Many permits also fall to a bonefish fly as well.

An assortment of tarpon flies for all conditions should include small flies for baby tarpon, sparse flies (light and dark shades in #1/0-#3/0) for clear water, and large patterns for dark/stained water in #3/0-#4/0 sizes. Don't leave home without these patterns: Cockroach, AptII Original, Black Death, orange Grizzly and Lefty's Deceiver. Solid foam poppers will also produce tarpon (especially baby tarpon), jacks on the hunt, and even opportunistic barracudas - adrenaline guaranteed! For the latter, long but skinny streamers and needlefish patterns also work well.

2009 Conservation Report

Credit River Projects

Fish Habitat Restoration / Upper Credit Conservation Area

IWFFC, in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation Authority and MNR grant completed a \$3,000 project. IWFFC provided \$ 1,500.00 financial support in addition to volunteer support. The property had former cattle access and over widened the area. Structures were put in place along the banks to narrow the channel. Youth core also provided some labour to help with the project. IWFFC plans to support this long term restoration project in 2010.

Orangeville Projects

Kaycee Gardens Park Planting along Mill Creek This was IWFFC's second year supporting conservation work in Orangeville community. We plan to continue support for coldwater improvements in this community. This was a \$1,500.00 contribution and a partnership with Greg Clark Chapter of TU. Volunteers planted shrubs and trees to help improve the quality of surface water. This was completed on Earth Day with active Orangeville community support.

Upper Nottawasaga River project

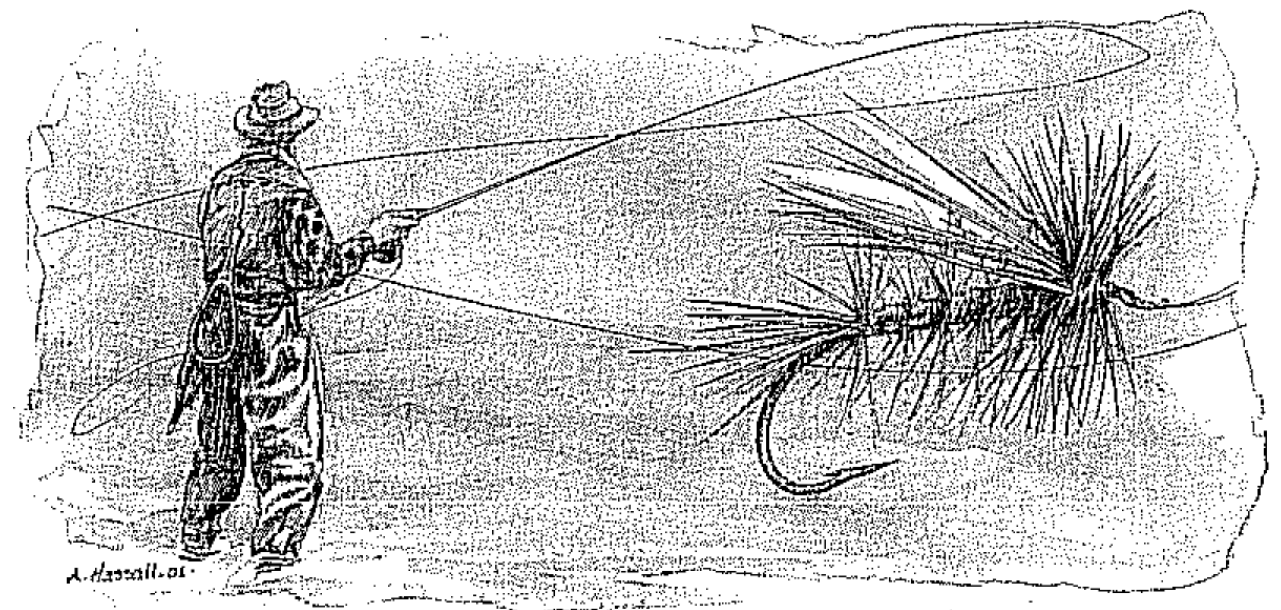
On-stream pond decommission on private property. To restore in-stream habitat and narrowing the channel for 150m of new coldwater habitat created in the trophy brook trout portion of the Upper Nottawasaga River (adjacent to Highway 10) The project will improve stream temperatures and oxygen concentrations When completed, this multiphase on-stream pond decommission project, will have the new stream channel completely isolated from the On-stream pond habitat. Partners include MNR, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, (NVCA), Nottawasaga Chapter TU and many others. IWFFC provided \$5,000.00 support for the 2009 construction phase which is being completed December 2009.

Caledon Tree planting project

Working with MNR and Species at Risk, IWFFC contributed \$ 500.00 towards Tree planting and the volunteer hours to see it to completion.

Study of Green Drake

IWFFC has provided \$ 1,000.00 to support research to understand the Disappearance / survival of the Green Drake in the Credit River watershed. The research is being led by Henry Frainia.



Green Drake Project

Report for 2007-2009

By Henry E. Frania

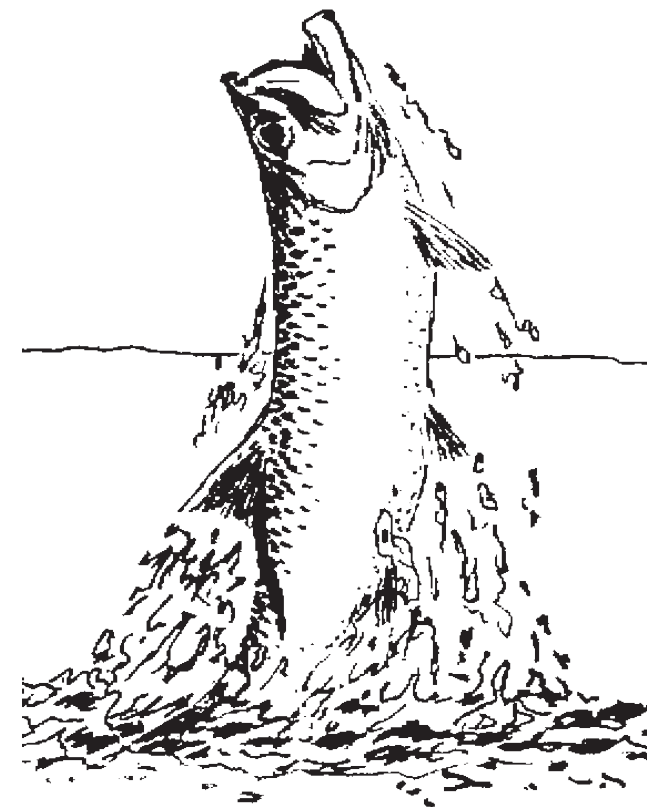
Conditions for Green Drake mayfly, *Ephemera guttulata*, the nymphs of which live in burrows in accumulations of gravel in riffles and rapids, have improved on the West Branch of the Credit River lately because from a low in 2008, the rates at which subadults were observed emerging downstream of Stonecutter's Dam during the "hatch" in 2009 rebounded to 2005 levels. Circumstances also have become somewhat better for the Green Drake on the Middle Branch and Main Stem of the Credit because nymphs that were transplanted to the vicinity of the Credit Forks during 2008 and 2009 lived longer and grew more than before, although except at the top of the Main Stem, the size of the "hatch" has remained negligible, and nymphs very scarce everywhere. Unexpectedly, in view of the improving situation on the Credit River itself, the Green Drake population on the lower part of Beeney Creek collapsed in late 2007 or early 2008, and has shown no signs of recovery, even though the nymphs are still common further upstream. Elsewhere, it was confirmed in 2007 that conditions on the Main Stem of the Beaver River downstream of the Eugenia Power Station were no longer suitable for Green Drake nymphs, but the situation did improve for them in 2009 because nymphs transplanted last summer to below the power station did better than previously.

Isolated pockets of Green Drakes still exist as well on the Credit River watershed, not only on Beeney Creek, but also on Silver Creek, Wolf Creek, and Shaws Creek. Presence of Green Drakes on Shaws Creek is compelling evidence that their range on the Middle Branch was contracted over the years in a downstream direction, as was observed on the West Branch in 2005/2006, and is further support for the Claim made in 2006 that the nymphs were disappearing because of organic pollution originating from sources upstream. It was also claimed that because of pollution, the microbial balance in the stream bottom had been altered in favour of a microorganism that produce a toxin to which the Green Drake nymphs are especially sensitive. It was thought that toxin to which the Green Drake nymphs are espithe-lial lining of the midgut, and it now appears that nymphs afflicted in this way eventually die of starvation, but it is now also believed that when the killing agent reaches a high concentration in the stream, it acts instead as a neurotoxin or has a narcotic effect on nymphs, which causes them to die within a few days. It was also proposed in 2006 that the decade of warm, dry weather that began in the late 1990's had made the situation worse, and it is thought that the recent signs of recovery both on the Credit River and Beaver River are due to the cooler and wetter weather that has prevailed in south-central Ontario during the past two years. As for the collapse on Beeney Creek, it is believed that a generally toxic substance was released into the creek in the vicinity of the railway bridge in late 2007 or early 2008, wiping out much of the benthic fauna and contaminating the stream bed downstream of the point of release.

Evidence was presented in previous reports that two other mayflies, the Gordon Quill, *Epeorus pleuralis*, and the Pink Cahill, *E. Vitreus*, which as nymphs cling to stones in riffles, and are even more environmentally sensitive than the Green Drake, both used to be found on the West Branch and elsewhere on the Credit River watershed. It is now known that not only does the Gordon Quill still occur on the upper part of Silver Creek and vicinity, but so does the Pink Cahill on Shaws Creek around Alton. No mention was made in earlier reports about another species of *Ephemera*, the Brown Drake, *E. Simulans*, the nymphs of which are more tolerant than those of the Green Drake, but it has been found out that Brown Drakes

When you start stripping, if everything goes well, the fish will aggressively take the fly. Some other times, tarpon will be following but not taking – try to change presentation, animation or fly pattern.

Once a tarpon takes, usually quite violently, it is important to wait until it closes the mouth, or better, turns the head before setting the hook. By doing this, the tippet will slide into the corner of the fish's mouth (the softest part) which is the best possible hooking angle. Tarpon have concrete-lined mouths, so a super shark hook is necessary. It pays to repeat 2 or 3 solid, vigorous strikes from your left (line) hand, and immediately after you have connected with the fish, add a series of strong side strikes, using the entire rod as a lever. But even doing so, the odds of losing a tarpon at the first jump remain very high. And tarpon really jump, several times in every fight – try to imagine a fish of several pounds (if not several dozen pounds!), jumping in the air a few meters from you... an awe-inspiring experience. As impressive as this may be, always remember to give the necessary slack in the line to avoid breaking up.



If not visible, tarpons can be fished "blind" in deeper channels, using a fast sinking or sinking tip line. Although this technique does not provide the visual excitement of the strike, it produces reasonably well if you or your guide know where the tarpon like to hang around when not visible. And if you happen to hook one, it certainly does have all the excitement of a hard fight with the Silver King.

The elusive permit

Few salt water anglers have caught permit, but all those who tried would tell you that the quest for permit can be like searching for the Holy Grail. You will not see as many permit as bonefish, let alone have good opportunities to cast to them. And even if you do, permit are so spooky and delicate that they usually flush at anything.

Presentation of the fly to permit is critical to success: the objective is to drop the fly 3 to 5 feet in front of the fish without alerting it. Allow the fly to sink at the right level, and you can begin retrieving the line with a series of 4 to 5 inches strips. If the fish follows, stop the retrieve and let the fly fall on the bottom – like a crab would do under these circumstances. The majority of the time, permit prefers to take a motionless fly. If you are lucky, you will see the permit "nose dive" to pick it up – time to strike!



guide instantly, so that in a split second you are already false casting and in a position to present your fly at the right place.

For bonefish, presentation is paramount. Always position your fly on the path of the cruising or feeding fish, close enough so that he will notice it, but not too close so as not to spook it. Once you gently strip the line with your left hand, always manage to have the fly move away from the fish, as opposed to moving towards the fish. Preys do not attack predators in nature! Bonefish will shoot for cover if your fly seems to attack them.

You will then see whether the bonefish is interested in your fly, as they usually follow the fly on a short distance before taking. You will notice the strike either because you will see the fish pause to inhale your fly, slightly tilting its body sideways; or simply because you will feel the resistance in your left hand. Then, it is time to strike – but not trout-style – always with a solid pull of the left (line) hand!

Once hooked, bonefish usually wonder what happened to them for a second – rarely two. That brief window gives you some time to check that your fly line is clear from any obstruction, such as any object left on the casting platform, you own feet, the reel handle, or, if you are wading, any mangrove branch. Because when bonefish run, they run fast. You will be amazed by that speed and stamina! Use your left hand to guide the fly line through the first guide, until you can play the fish directly with the brake of the reel. After 2 or 3 such runs, bonefish have spent most of their energy and should be landed quickly in order not to exhaust them too much. Take the time to revive your catch before releasing it – remember that the bonefish' most important weapon against predators like sharks or barracudas is their speed.

Seven to nine weight rods are perfect for bonefish, with a preference for 8-weight as the best all-around rod.

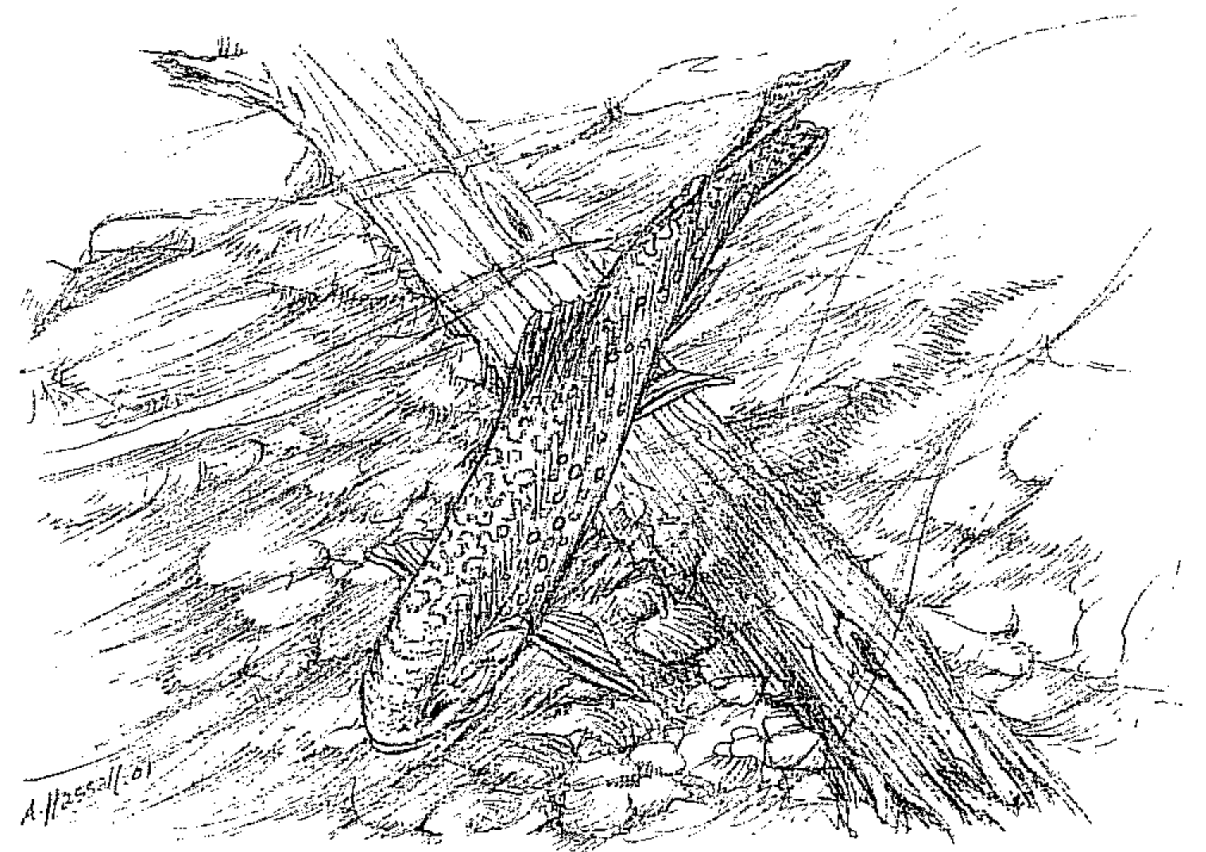
Tarpon

Tarpon can be found in a variety of places: from dense mangrove shores, inlets or estuaries that small tarpon like to cruise, to tidal channels that bigger tarpon like to hunt, or even in relatively deeper flats that groups of tarpon like to cruise. Similarly, they can be found in a variety of sizes, from baby tarpon of a few pounds to mammoth-proportion giants of 100 pounds or more.

There are two basic ways of fishing for tarpon: sight-fishing or blind fishing. You may spot the presence of tarpon when they simply cruise, usually in small groups of similar sizes, or more often, when they “roll” on the surface. Once fish have been spotted, sometimes from a distance, it is important to approach in order to be in a position to accurately place the fly a few feet in front of the fish's path.

are abundant on Shaws Creek above Alton, and also occur in small numbers on the lower part of Silver Creek and on the Main Stem of the Credit River watershed, including Main Stem right down to Lake Ontario, and so did the Brown Drake except in the immediate vicinity of the Niagara Escarpment, where the water was too turbulent for it, but by the 1930's only the Brown Drake was still present on the Cahill in spring-fed feeder creeks, and along with it where the west Branch and Middle Branch of the Credit descend the Niagara Escarpment, but neither has been seen there since the mid-1980's.

Nymphs of the Green Drake, the Gordon Quill, and the Pink Cahill were all found in 2008 on the upper part of Sheldon Creek, a tributary of the Nottawasaga River, along with nymphs of the Red Quill, *Rithrogenia impersonata*, which has the same way of life as the Pink Cahill and the Gordon Quill, but is arguably even more environmentally sensitive. The Red Quill was reported in the 1950's from Sheldon Creek, and also the Credit Forks; its continued presence on Sheldon Creek indicates that the upper part is about as pristine condition today as it was back then. Surprisingly, Green Drake nymphs proved to be scarce on Sheldon Creek indicating the under pristine conditions, they could also have been uncommon on comparable parts of the Credit River and Beaver River.

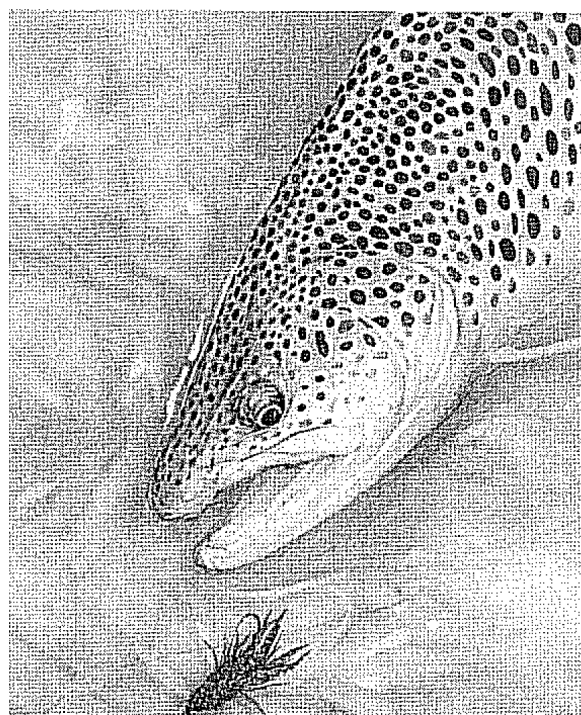


By Ian Colin James

In life, with perhaps the exception of the Leafs winning the Stanley Cup or the Scottish national soccer team failing to get past the first round of the World Cup, things change. Back in the dark ages when I learned to tie flies, the only hook I used was a Mustad 3399 wet-fly and it did a fine job of catching fish. Then in the blink of an eye, about 40 years later, suddenly there was a plethora of hooks on the market, and as so often is the case we are victims of choice. Heck I have been in the business for almost 30 years and I can't keep up with the latest and the greatest. I'm so lost in the wilderness that even the highly trained nose of a US bloodhound, capable of tracking an escaped convict though 12 feet of Alabama floodwater on a moonless night, would have given up the ghost a long time ago and settled in for a snooze in front of the fire with a large box of Milkbones.

Does it actually matter to the fish if the size #52 midge hook - clamped so firmly into the jaws of my 100% stainless steel, high altitude, calorie reduced rotary vise - was manufactured by Lufthansa in Liechtenstein out of recycled disc breaks from a stealth bomber? Probably not, but through the miracles of the internet and paypal, I've stocked piled a few 1,000 of them in my basement, in case there's a world shortage and the price goes up next week. Just as squirrels horde nuts and beavers build dams, it appears that fly fishermen are hard-wired to hoard stuff, and there is nothing wrong with that. Quite often we will wander into a fly fishing shop, just to shoot the breeze with the folk behind the counter and to graze upon the latest batch of new materials festooning the shelves. And when we do, it's nice to remember the fish have never actually been in the shop nor have they read any of the fly fishing magazines promoting things like, I dunno ... fly tying materials.

You need to ask yourself, do I actually need primrose, lite primrose, dark primrose, pale-watery dun primrose, blue-hue primrose and fluorescent primrose fly tying dubbing for my midges? Probably not, but those pretty coloured packages sure as heck look nice sitting on my fly tying bench. Tucked away somewhere I have a medium sized bag of buffalo fur and small bag of panther fur both of which were harvested for me by a veterinarian at a zoo, and not salvaged from a carcass or two on HW 401. Yes, just as I am stuffing the carcass of a panther into the back of my Honda Civic, it's at that exact moment when the OPP would show up and under the haze from the blue flashing lights they will say, "Now, before we begin, let me get a comfortable chair. I just know this is going to be good." I'll never use any of the fur, but it's nice to know that I have it ... just in case ... you never know. I live in hope that one day I will be on the river and the fish will all be super selective, which I have actually seen a few times with carp Canada's most selective game fish, but not so often with trout ... wild, stocked or imaginary.



Demystifying saltwater fly fishing for Canadians: What to expect on the flats

by Thibaut Millet

There are few fly fishing experiences more spectacular and intoxicating than saltwater fly fishing. Far from the trout streams and lakes which most of us are accustomed to fishing, the ocean flats and their elusive yet aggressive inhabitants pose a completely new challenge to the freshwater angler. Saltwater fly fishing does not require Herculean strength or exceptional skills. However, there are techniques and strategies you will need to master to make the most of the experience. Here is what to expect.

Basic Techniques

First, casting in the wind is a constant on the flats, so you'd better be used to it, or at least adapt to it quickly. Practice your casting, and try to master the double haul to generate high-speed, mighty long casts with a tight loop. Fly casting on the flats is often a very humbling experience, even for the experience freshwater angler.

Nothing drives saltwater guides to distraction more than poor casting and fly presentation. Since most anglers have trouble seeing bonefish and permit on the flats at the best of times, it is up to the guide to put you on the fish. They take great pride in their ability to spot fish so the last thing you need to do is botch the cast. Plus it ruins your chances at a hook up. Bonefish and permit move quickly on the flats so there is little to no time for false casting. The same applies for snook. Most times you get only one chance. As for tarpon, you may only get one chance or you may get half a dozen, depending on the day. This puts a premium on your casting skills. Practice the basic mechanics of the forward cast placing emphasis in getting the fly to the target with as few false casts as possible.

Bonefishing

Chasing the "the ghost of the flat" is a classic sight-fishing experience. This also means that in order to cast to a bonefish, you must be able to spot it first - easier said than done! It is important to know what to look for, that is, to get your eyes trained to the typical silhouette and motion of bonefish. Most often, your guide will spot fish before you do, thanks to years of experience and the better angle of observation they have from their poling platform.

Bonefish can be spotted when cruising the flats as singles or doubles, usually the bigger specimens. But it is also common to find schools of bones feeding gregariously. You may notice such a school from a distance because the silt stirred up from the bottom will create a cloud of muddy water - simply called a "mud". "Nervous" water can also be a visible sign: when feeding in shallow water, the motion of the fish will create characteristic ripples on the surface. Another visible cue of a feeding fish is a "tailing", that is, the tail (or sometimes the dorsal fin) of a bonefish sticking out of the water when the fish picks up a food item on the bottom.

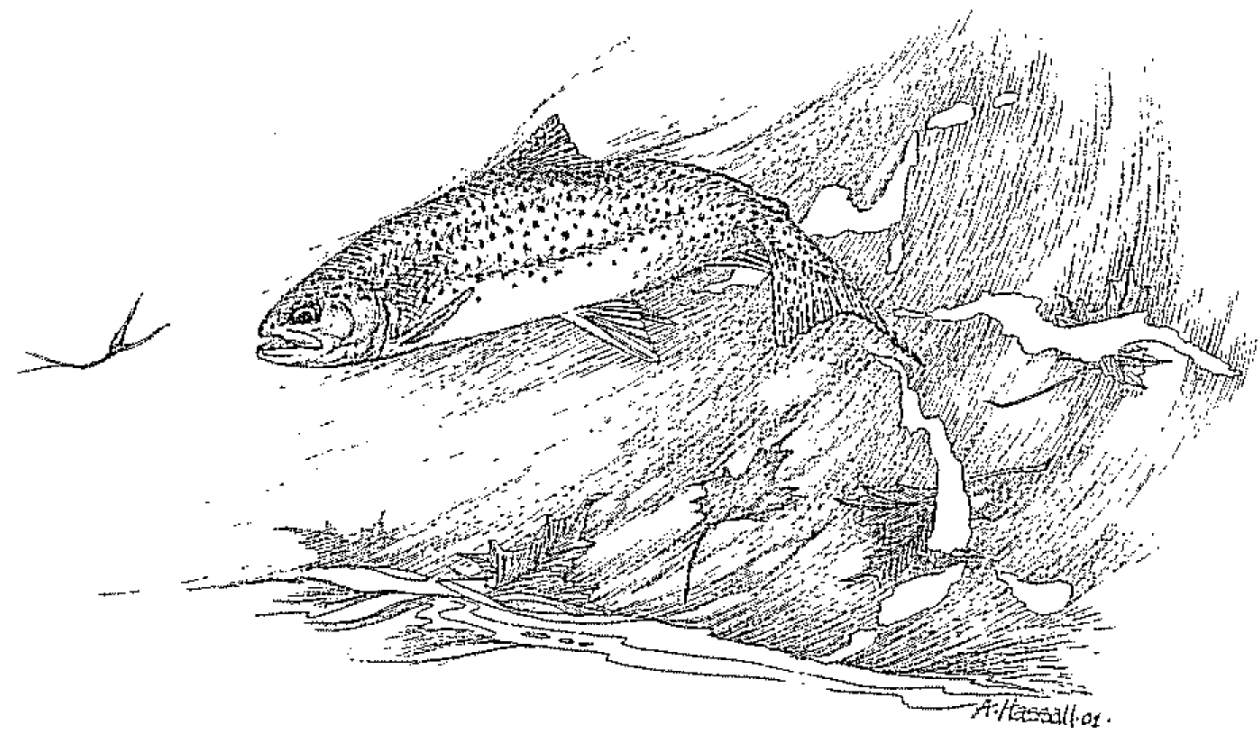
A vital skill in bonefishing is the ability to understand and react quickly to the "clock system". The guide will tell you something like "Bonefish, 10 o'clock, 50 feet". And he may add a sense of direction, too, like "moving to the right". It is always an advantage to be able to figure out the spot referred to by the



way down to the river, the mood shifted and we started to notice stares and looks from the other anglers on the water. It didn't take long to realize that we were the main attraction; we happened to be the ONLY women on the water that day. Although that was our first experience like it, this scene has often been repeated over the years.

Despite the stares, we fished Buffalo Ford with great excitement that day, catching beautiful cut-throat trout on the tiniest dry flies imaginable. It didn't matter to us that we were more than out numbered on the river, we were able to draw smiles, waves and friendly hello's from the anglers around us. Since that time, things have changed - a revolution has begun. No more are we the only women on the water, nor are we the only women eager to share our love of this great sport. As women continue to inspire each other to throw stereotypes aside, pick up a fly rod, and step into the river, they do so knowing that there is strength in numbers.

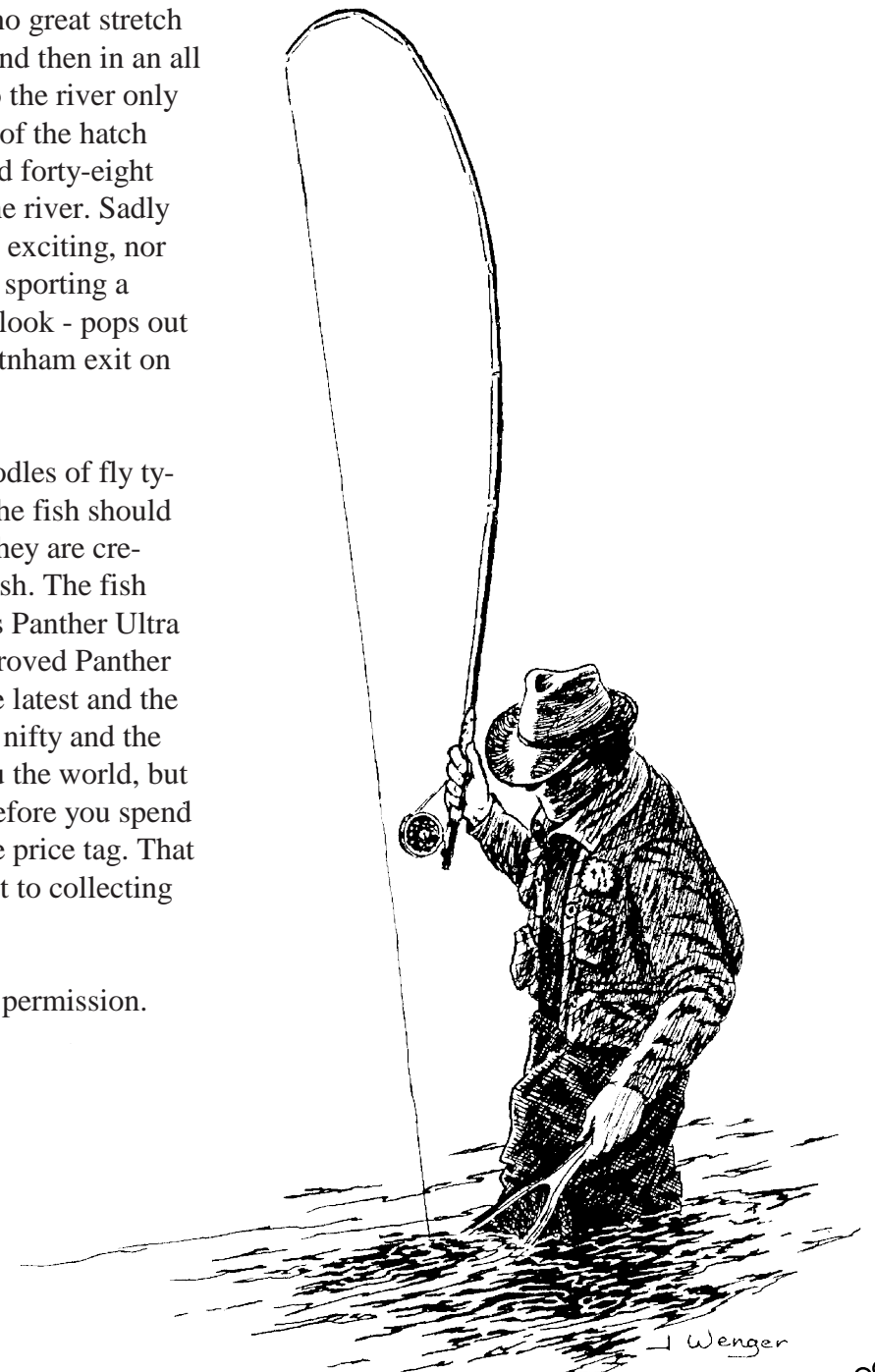
The biggest challenge for us now, living more than two hours away from each other, is getting out on the river for a few hours to cast a line. Much to our Dad's dismay, neither of our husbands have much of an interest in fishing, leaving us without a lot of options for companionship on the river. As we look back on the days of the four of us fishing together as a family, we can't help but feel that we sometimes took for granted the constant availability of a fishing buddy. As more women become captivated with flyfishing, the hope is that this won't be a reality for much longer. Our goal is to inspire women to reach out and forge relationships with one another, and to establish friendships based on a mutual love of fishing.



Anyway, the fish will be slurping down some little winged creature and every angler on the river will be getting skunked. Then one of the insects will drift past me, and as it gives me the one-fingered salute, I'll gently pick it up and with great glee I'll discover that back in the house my panther fur is the perfect colour for matching the body of my new found friend. I'll drive home like a man slightly possessed - I am a Leafs fan, so it's no great stretch - find the fur, tie up a batch of flies and then in an all out sprint to the finish, speed back to the river only to discover that I missed the tail end of the hatch and it ended precisely one minute and forty-eight seconds before I stepped back into the river. Sadly the journey back home will not be as exciting, nor as heart pounding, unless a panther - sporting a stunned and yet somewhat quizzical look - pops out in front of my headlights near the Putnam exit on HW 401. Thunk-a-thunk!

Fly fishing shops are packed with oodles of fly tying materials the majority of which the fish should never see because for the most part they are created to catch fly fishermen and not fish. The fish don't know if you used Big Shuggies Panther Ultra Dubbing or Big Shuggies Super Improved Panther Ultra Dubbing on your flies. Sure the latest and the greatest fly tying materials may look nifty and the text on the package may promise you the world, but you should stop and think for a bit before you spend that whopping \$2.00 indicated on the price tag. That said, there's something quite pleasant to collecting materials ... just in case.

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A Seven Year Love Affair

By Trevor Nowak

First Kiss

The summer of 1998 was my first season guiding for Plummer's Arctic Lodges on Great Bear Lake. The Tree River Lodge is a Plummer's outpost camp allowing guests who stay at Great Bear an opportunity for an overnight fly-out. Plummer's employs Inuit guides at Tree River as part of the lease agreement with the people of Nunavut. Back in '98, the opportunity for a Great Bear guide to go to the Tree was a luxury; a reward for working hard around camp, or going above and beyond the call of duty for the guests.

It was my rookie season that I first got the opportunity to fly into the Tree and it was not ideal circumstances. I was asked to go because all of the Tree River guides were sent home early as a result of stealing from one of the guests. It was supposed to be my day-off; a late night mission to the airstrip to unload a cargo plane had left me with only 3 hours of sleep at a time of the season when a good night's sleep was becoming harder and harder to find. I was to fly-out that afternoon, guide for the rest of that day and the following morning, before flying back to Bear the next afternoon. Less than 24 hours at the Tree and only 3 hours of sleep; my 19 year old body and mind was up to it, but thankfully that wouldn't be my last trip to the Tree.

Several years later after taking a few summers off from guiding in the North I called up Shane, Plummer's Operations Manager, and asked if he needed a guide for the upcoming season. To my surprise, not only did he need a guide, but he needed someone to spend more time at the Tree River throughout the summer. I thought he was joking, but the summer of 2003 would be my chance to re-visit the Tree more prepared, better equipped and hopefully, with a better night's sleep.

A guest once said to me, "This place (the Tree) really gets inside of you doesn't it?" They couldn't have been more correct. Before I met my wife I had started my love affair with the Tree. Now, after seven years of managing Plummer's Tree River Camp and guiding on the river, she understands why I have maintained this love affair. The Tree River, its fish, the Tundra; I should be so lucky to call this place my home for the summer.

A Tenacious river with Tenacious fish
The Tree River is very unique in terms of the angling world. Known most widely for the giant Arctic Char that ascend its rapids every summer from the Arctic Ocean, it still holds the IGFA all-tackle world record with a char that was 32lbs 8 oz. However, the stretch of water that has made the river so famous is less than 6 miles long.

The char that run up the Tree can only make it



"The New Girls Club"

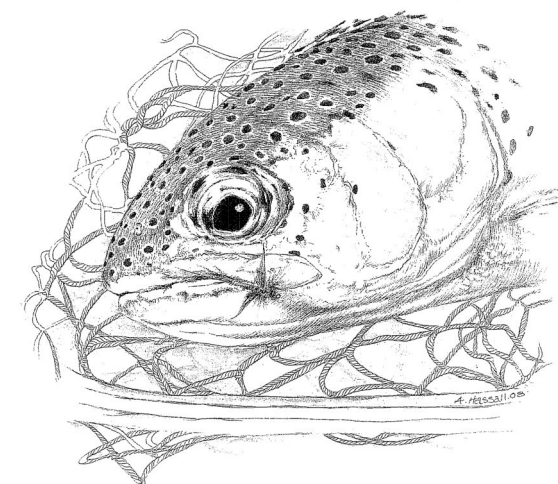
By Heather Jones and Sherri Steele

Clubs have rules -- and as the saying goes, rules are made to be broken. Or at the very least, stretched. Until recently, membership in the club of flyfishing required more than just a passion for the sport. Thankfully though, things are changing. Hopefully, in some small part, because of our family.

Who are we, you might ask? Heather Jones and Sherri Steele, or as many in the world of flyfishing know us, 'the Robins girls'. We are twin sisters, who have spent the last 23 years of our lives as anglers, flyfishing the great rivers of North America with our parents, Ken and Sue Robins. As adults, we can now look back on our childhood and see how important fly fishing was to our family. We spent many vacations travelling to fish famous rivers, and more often, the not-so famous ones. "A family that fishes together, stays together," was our Dad's favourite phrase; one he often repeated during the tumultuous 'teenage years' and more recently in the face of tragedy after losing our Mom in a winter car accident. The memories, strength and love that the four of us forged from flyfishing together have been the ballast keeping us steady and afloat. Given that sharing has been a cornerstone of our family's flyfishing experience, we hope to share a truly female perspective of this sport. No longer is fly fishing about just the 'old boys', but rather a new generation of women and their love of the catch.

Our family's passion for flyfishing began before we were born, as Mom realized that if she was going to spend any time with our future father, she was going to have to take up the sport. It wasn't fish that she trying to catch at that time, but this soon this changed and fly fishing quickly became something they enjoyed doing together and sparked a desire in them to share their passion with others. Not long after we arrived on the scene, Dad started reading books written by Canadian writer and conservationist Roderick Haig-Brown. Brown's stories were an inspiration to our Dad and helped shape him into the angler he is today. By the time we were old enough to pull on boots it was only natural that we would join them on the river. When we were older still, we followed in the footsteps of our mother, teaching and sharing our joy of flyfishing with other women. We started doing women-specific workshops in the late '90s, and at that time, the number of women interested in the sport was quickly beginning to grow. It was with great excitement that we cheered on new anglers, learning to cast for the very first time. Our Mom loved to inspire other women and enjoyed helping them find the balance between family and fishing, and given her background as a teacher, she especially loved including their young children in the sport.

Women and flyfishing has never been an foreign concept in a family where the majority of members were female. In fact, growing up it didn't really occur to us that flyfishing might be a male dominated sport. It wasn't until a family trip to Montana that this became more of a reality. The four of us rolled up to a popular fishing spot on the Yellowstone River in the heart of Yellowstone Park. With great enthusiasm, we started to ready our gear, all the while laughing and talking about our fishing adventure thus far on the trip. To that point, it had been an a typical summer in Montana and the fishing had been less than stellar, much to Dad's dismay. As we made our



Stillwater staples should be in constant use. Avoid the match hatch mantra. If there are no visible emergences, try your favourite dragon, damsel, scud, leech, forage fish or chironomid larva imitation. More often than not these journeyman presentations save the day.



as far as a 30' waterfall situated approximately 6 miles from the mouth at Port Epworth. In addition, the latter 3 miles of that stretch is a rambunctious corridor of rapids, standing waves and two other smaller sets of falls. It's no wonder that the char in this river are some of the hardest fighting fish in the world and grow to weights of 20 lbs and greater.

Finding fish in the Tree is easy: focus on any likely holding water that doesn't resemble a glacial torrent. Getting these fish to hit is another story. The sea-run char of the Tree are much like other anadromous salmonids in that they don't feed when they return to freshwater to spawn. Enticing them to bite requires the angler to exploit the fish's aggressive nature. Fly patterns seem to mimic the chars' attitude and surroundings by being composed of vibrant colours and radical materials such as marabou, rabbit, Krystal flash and other shiny synthetics.

The fly fisher's gear also needs to correspond to the water and the fish, so leave the 5 weights at home and make sure your reel has an excellent drag system and lots of backing! I have two "go-to" set-ups for the Tree. The first is a 14' 8/9-weight spey rod with a RIO windcutter line and a Type 6, 12' sink-tip. My second rigging is a 9', 8-weight single hander with a short (9') Type 6 sink tip for the pocket water just below the falls.



Arctic Mayflies

It was in the summer of 2003 that I first noticed the prolific hatches that occurred on the Tree. Prior to that summer, I don't think the staff or guests at the Tree paid much attention to the mayflies in the river and they certainly didn't really care about the resident lake trout and char that fed on these aquatic bugs. As far as fishing opportunities were concerned, the sea-run char were the only gig in town with the occasional lake trout that got "washed down" from the lake system up stream. For that reason, I believe I was the first person to try and "match the hatch" on the Tree River and target these feeding fish.

Some of the other guides argue that the smaller char feeding on the mayflies are merely adolescent sea-run fish that have not yet migrated to the ocean. After targeting these individuals for the last seven years, I find it hard to believe that an Arctic char smolt would grow to 20" in length and weigh close to 4 lbs, before migrating to the ocean. In addition, the resident char lack the broad shoulders of the sea-runs and seem to have smaller heads and skinnier bodies. Until further study shows otherwise, I'm quite confident these individuals are a sub-population of char that do not migrate to sea.

In terms of the lake trout I don't believe they are strays that have "accidentally" washed downstream from upstream lakes either. My good friend and fellow guide, Craig Blackie, has been studying lake trout for the past 5 years and has found that within the lake trout species there is incredible diversity in terms of life history strategies, habitat preferences and feeding behaviour. The existence of stream-reared lake trout is completely plausible and an accepted phenomenon in Arctic watersheds.

Regardless of the origin of these insect feeding fish, they present a fly fishing opportunity only matched by blue-ribbon tail waters of the Rocky Mountains. The resident fish run between 16 and 22", with some individuals pushing close to 24" and weights over 5lbs.

Those who have visited the north know that there is an abundance of insects up there; mostly mosquitoes and black-flies. However, Arctic waters also have prolific hatches of mayflies, caddis flies and midges. The Tree River is no different and some of the hatches I have seen on it rival anything I've experienced on rivers south of 60.

I'm no entomologist, but from the little info I've gathered about arctic mayflies, the dominant species on the Tree is in the Ephemerellidae family (PMDs and western green drakes). It is a medium-sized bug (size 12-14) with a light-olive hue to its body, pale orange segmentation and a dun coloured wing. During a good hatch they blanket the water's surface inside current seams and throughout long back eddies. The second species is most certainly a Baetis (BWOs) and usually only hatches on ugly days when the barometer falls. These bugs run between a size 16 and 20 with a dark olive body and tiny blue-dun wings.

Throughout the summer I keep my 6-weight rod rigged with a floating line and a size 14 mayfly cripple or parachute emerger. Sure there are huge sea-run char on my door step, but it's not everyday an angler has an opportunity to catch a wild, 20" salmonid on a dry fly. Because of this, the Tree River has managed to meet my entire fly fishing expectations.

Arctic Exotic: remote, foreign and beautiful

The Plummer's family has been operating in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for over 50 years. The Tree River is by no means a "new frontier" when it comes to angling in general. Yet few fly fishers have made the journey to Canada's North Coast to experience the Tree or other Arctic drainages. In my opinion, the Canadian Arctic holds all of the allure and mystique of any other exotic fly fishing destination.



Full sinking lines of varying densities suggest the horizontal darting motion of a baitfish. Try varied erratic retrieves from slow to swift. Most baitfish seldom leave the sanctuary of shallow weed beds and shoreline vegetation. Trout and char prowl the shallows, working together they concentrate panicked baitfish against the shoreline vegetation. Trout crash into the school with reckless abandon. Casting toward ravaging trout at this time is both exciting and frustrating as you hope your pattern gets mauled. Morning and evening are excellent times to probe the margins with a baitfish pattern.

Chironomid Larva (Bloodworms)

Most fly fishers omit chironomid larva from their stillwater staples list. The worm-like larvae however are seldom ignored by trout. Feeble swimmers, bloodworm lash and wiggle vigorously. Floating lines coupled with 15-foot plus leaders are a preferred presentation. Dead slow retrieves taking over five minutes to complete are common. Wind drifting is a favourite tactic as well as suspending bloodworm patterns beneath an indicator.

Available all season, bloodworm patterns are ideal choices after a strong windstorm. Many larvae are swept from the tubular homes they construct along the mud/water interface. During low light conditions bloodworm venture from their homes to forage and establish new homes. Early spring and fall provide ideal opportunities as bloodworm migrate from the shallows in late fall to avoid the ravages of winter and vise versa in the spring to complete their life cycles. Keep these opportunities in mind and take advantage of them.

