



Single Haul



The Newsletter of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

February, 2008

Editor's Eddy

As was noted in the last Single Haul, Bob Kuehnbaum has relinquished his responsibilities as Editor of the Single Haul Newsletter. After some 38 issues, it was high time someone took over from him before Bob became a bitter man about it! Just kidding... The Single Haul evolved and expanded under Bob's guidance and, on behalf of the membership, I would like to thank Bob for his contribution (one among many, needless to say). Thank you, Bob, for a job very well done indeed.

For the time being, I am undertaking a caretaker's role in publishing the Single Haul. Another member of the IWFFC has come forward but needs a few months before he is ready to take on the task (something about retiring as I recall). Until then, I will attempt to put out two or three issues of the newsletter until your new, to be announced, editor takes over.

This issue is my first in a very long time (yes, I am a previous Editor of the newsletter back before the days of the Internet). I will try not to mess it up too badly until someone with more time and patience than I can deal with it.

Every member of the IWFFC knows what an interesting, unassuming and unpretentious a group we really are and that we willingly share our knowledge with anyone who is interested. However, the lifeblood of the Club is the membership and we need new members. Please do not hesitate to invite new people, people you meet in your normal walk of life, even friends and relatives to come out to the club. We promise to show them a good time and, hopefully, we'll pique their interest enough into making them new members. I'm getting tired looking at the same faces all the time!

Sheldon Seale, February 2008

Quotable / Notable Quotes

Most anglers spend their years making rules for trout, and trout spend theirs in breaking them.

George Aston (1926)

*Single Haul*TM, the newsletter of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club, is published about eight times a year. *Single Haul* is provided free of charge to all club members; and is distributed to clubs, fly shops and other interested individuals.

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Correspondence to the Editor may be sent via e-mail at (sheldon.seale@sympatico.ca), or to the address on the last page.

Club News & Events

Meeting Schedule

Here is our meeting schedule for the 2008 session. Updates on speakers and tyers will be spread through the *Single Haul*, but members should check the website regularly.

February 5th: Tying Meeting

February 19th: General Meeting

March 4th: Tying Meeting

March 18th: General Meeting

April 1st: Tying Meeting

April 16th: General Meeting

Note: April 16th is a Wednesday.

May 6th: Tying meeting

Club Committee Roster

The following is a list of the Club members with roles in the running and organizing of things –

Elliot Deighton, Vice President

Ray Desilets, Treasurer.

Donna Cridland, Conservation Chair. She and Pat Kelly will constitute a long-awaited Conservation Committee.

Pat Kelly, Club Library.

Ken O'Brien, Forum Chair
Ken Geddes, Beginners Flytying
Bill Spicer, Club Program Chair (meetings)
Robert Cristant, Club Venue Chair (meetings)
Barry O'Rourke, Publications
Bob Kuehnbaum, Membership
Wayne de Freitas, Website
Jayne Butler, Double Haul Editor
Sheldon Seale, Single Haul Editor (Interim)

Vacant Club Positions

President: Yes, we are looking for a new Club President. In the interim, past presidents Jim Wenger and Ken Geddes are holding the fort, so to speak, to keep the business of the Club going. As a past president of the Club myself, I can assure you that you, as Club President, will benefit from the skills and knowledge of a great many people both among the members and throughout the fly fishing community. It is definitely a commitment in time but it will pay off several fold just from the experience.

If you are interested, please approach any of the members listed above at a Club meeting.

Canadian Fly Fishing Forum – 2008

April 12th and 13th, **Holiday Inn, Burlington**

If you'll be attending the Forum, please sign up as soon as you can. You will be entered into the Early Bird Draw if you register by March 31, 2008. Watch the IWFFC website for more information and a registration form you can download. Just mail it in, or pay at the next meeting. Thanks!

The Forum Committee still require volunteer club members for the following:

- Deliver brochures and put up posters
- At the Forum: check seminar badges, introduce speakers, help with the club booth, registration, fly tying and the silent auction.
- Help at the banquet and silent auction/raffles.

If you're going to the show, why not set aside an hour or two to help make the Forum an even better success? Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with Patrick Kelly at 905-277-2505 or patkelly@look.ca

Trout Unlimited Canada Events

The Trout Unlimited Canada annual Toronto **Single Malt Scotch Tasting** fundraiser is scheduled for Tuesday, **March 25th, 2008** at the National Club. TUC partner, Glenfiddich Distilleries, will again co-host the event. This popular fundraiser was a success last year despite the year's worst snow storm when Toronto was nearly shut down. More details to follow...

Trout Unlimited Canada's 22nd Toronto National **Conservation & Auction Fundraiser** dinner is to be held on **November 12th, 2008**, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The dinner and live auction will follow a reception and silent auction. Further details will follow shortly.

For further information or tickets, contact Len Yust at lyust@tucanada.org or 905-333-1994.

Conservation Corner

Workday Schedule

A new work day schedule is being built. As soon as the dates become available, they will be announced at the club meetings, put up on the IWFFC website (www.iwffc.ca) and published in the Single Haul.

Pat Kelly Receives CVC Award

As most of you know, Pat Kelly, our peripatetic conservation organizer, was awarded IWFFC's Roderick Haig-Brown Award in early 2007 for his enthusiastic efforts in in-stream rehab work and promoting flyfishing and IWFFC at numerous community vents. Pat was recently awarded an Award of Excellence by Credit Valley Conservation. The following CVC presentation speech says it all!

"Many of you will know or maybe recognize our next award winner, Mr. Patrick Kelly. Pat has volunteered his time and efforts in support of a wide variety of CVC programs and watershed activities. He is Conservation Chair for the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club and an active member of the Trout Unlimited Canada – Greg Clark Chapter Board of Directors

"On any given day, somewhere in the Credit River watershed, you may find Pat building a garbage kiosk, electrofishing, teaching fly tying or casting to children and adults, planting trees, picking up litter, monitoring benthic invertebrate communities (picking bugs), working instream – rolling rocks –

creating habitat for fish, fundraising, and attending meetings and workshops.

"The quantity of time and effort the Pat devotes to 'helping the river' is outstanding and should be commended. Pat volunteered more hours with CVC's volunteer electrofishing program this summer than any other volunteer has in the past three years...and that is only what he does on Fridays, in the summer.

"But it is the quality of the time that Pat spends that is truly special. He has an infectious enthusiasm for learning and sharing the things he loves about the river. Pat brings good humour, a balance of determination and patience, and a feeling of teamwork and camaraderie to every activity.

"Pat, your contribution to the watershed is greatly appreciated by the staff, students, and other volunteers that have had the pleasure of working with you...and I know by everyone here tonight. Congratulations on your Award of Excellence!"

Way to go, Pat!



Tips and Trips

World Youth Fly Fishing Championship

David Nonomura

This past summer, I was privileged to be one of six anglers to represent Canada at the 2007 FIPS Mouche Youth World Fly Fishing Championship (YWFFC). The competition was held in State

College, Pennsylvania, from August 3rd to the 10th, and featured teams from nine countries with two from the USA. Acceptances for the team were sent out to me and my teammates in early May. From that point onward, I was kept very busy tying flies and preparing, until I left on August 1st for Pennsylvania. Randy Taylor, President of Fly Fishing Canada, became the new coach for the 2007 Team in July. After months of anticipation, I arrived in State College in the late afternoon of August 1st; at this time I also met my teammates: Simon Wells and brothers Robert and Michael Lennox were all from Ottawa; James Reid of Chelsea, Quebec; and John Bransfield of Calgary. The Lennoxes and John were on the 2006 Team and formed a strong foundation for the new team members to learn from.

On the 2nd and 3rd we fished with a local guide and also scouted some of the competition water. During this time I did my best to learn Czech nymphing, a technique I cannot wait to try on more rivers in Southern Ontario. Fortunately, one of my teammates and my coach were quite skilled with the technique; both gave me very informative instruction while trying not to spook any fish. To deal with these wise fish, we tried to keep a low profile over the water or walk on our knees. John took this a step further and wore a camouflaged hunting mask on Fishing Creek, which was worthy of a Best Disguise Award. One of the biggest benefits of the pre-fishing was to determine patterns that worked. The team had the most success on Bead Head Pheasant Tails, Caddis Emergers, Isonychias, Zebra Midges and Green Weenies. Czech nymphing with three flies produced results through the pre-fishing as did a dropper below a dry fly.

The opening ceremonies, which began on Friday evening, were held at the baseball field at Penn State University. Local representatives delivered excellent speeches and I met competitors from across the world. The buses left relatively soon after the ceremonies which enabled us to tie flies and get some rest.

During the first day of official practice we fished Spring Creek in Fisherman's Paradise. The fish were quite spooky and, although I did not have success with it, Czech nymphing worked very well for some of my teammates. I fished a small pool that was formed by a removed bridge and landed two brown trout out of it. Both were caught on an olive scud that was under a foam post Klinkhammer, used as an indicator. I used other flies in the same pool, but had no more success.

Stealth was the key around the pool, as any movement caused fish to spook.

The afternoon brought a new challenge, Lake Perez. I found it to be some very tough fishing. I did not catch a fish on the lake; others had greater success, but not to the extent expected when fishing for sunfish. To quote Michael Lennox, a sunfish fanatic: "That was the toughest sunfish fishing I've ever seen."

On Sunday morning, I fished the Little Juniata, also known as the Little J, in the same place as I had during the pre-fishing. Czech nymphing worked, as did a size 20-24 caddis emerger. Fishing Creek was again a challenge for me, but I managed to land a small brown on a Green Weenie from a shallow pool that yielded nothing else. That night, I managed the most sleep of any during the competition: a full six hours.

With the pre-fishing completed, our focus changed to the official sessions of the YWFFC which began on the Monday. For the counted sessions, a controller is assigned to each of the competitors. The controller observes to ensure that rules are followed and measures caught fish. Some of the general rules are: trout must be over 20 cm to be counted; a maximum of three flies can be used at one time; flies must be spaced 20 inches apart; and you must fish the beat assigned to you. Finally, the morning sessions were from 9:00 AM to noon and the afternoon sessions ran from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM.

My first beat was the Little J, and the fishing was only half the story. Two vans were used to transport the anglers in my group to the river; I was in the second. Unfortunately, the two vans became separated at an intersection, and it became evident by the driver's choice words that he did not have directions with him! We were forced to go to a bus distribution centre so the driver could request a map. We arrived at the Little J at 9:30 AM, half an hour after the session began. By the time I had arrived at my beat, set up my rods, and began to fish, it was 10:10. Although we were given a full three hours so the duration was consistent with other competitors, it did not balance out. The anglers who were in the first van that arrived on time caught a trico hatch and did very well. I had a very nice piece of water which contained two deeper pools. The bottom pool I fished heavily but with no success. As I came around a bend in the river I saw the angler above me fishing in my beat; worse was that he had a fish on. It turned out that his controller made a mistake as to where the boundary was and had told the angler he could fish

in a section of my beat. I worked my way up to my top pool but tried to give it some time to rest because I was not sure how many fish the other angler caught out of it. Once I got to the pool, I managed to catch three fish out of it, all by Czech nymphing. The first and largest, 32 cm, was caught on a Green Weenie; the next two, 22 cm and 20 cm, were caught on Isonychia nymphs. I finished that session with the three fish, which earned me 6th place for the session, as well as 6 points (scoring is similar to golf in that the lowest score wins). After my first session of chaos, I questioned what I had got myself into. However, with competitions where not all factors can remain equal, it is something that you have to deal with. Also, with the schedule I had to keep, there was no time to consider it.

That afternoon I fished Fishing Creek. The top half of my beat consisted of very still water, with minimal flow. Below the flat stretch was a two-foot dam that emptied into a deep slow pool. From there I had a very shallow riffle and a small hole. I fished the hole at the bottom of my beat first, which only allowed me to glimpse three fish too small to count. I moved into the riffle to fish the seams in the current which still did not produce a fish. The pool in the middle of my beat was difficult to fish because there were six spillways that allowed the water to pass through, making for an irregular flow. Again I tried to fish the seams in the current coming down from the dam, and then changed tactics to a team of streamers which still did not create results. I moved into the slow water and fished a small ant near the banks but, since the fish were not rising, I did not fish it heavily. I then went back and fished the dam again with much of my remaining time, but did not catch a fish. Four other competitors in my group did not catch fish during that session; we were all awarded the maximum number of points, 10.

Tuesday had only a morning session with the afternoon off. I fished Spring Creek in the morning and my beat again had a large portion of flat water. Below this, there was also a pool with an overhanging tree and a shallow riffle with many pockets. I attempted to fish the bottom pool with a foam post Klinkhammer and dropper. I had a rise for the Klink, but missed the hook set. I fished the whole beat, remained fishless, and had an hour to spare to go back to the better looking locations of the beat. The riffle produced a 3-inch trout which was too small to count. I ended the session with my second blank, which did not inspire confidence. Again I received 10 points, as did two other anglers in my group who also blanked.

With the afternoon and evening off, the team was able to relax and took a break from fishing and fly tying to go to a baseball game. Although we only stayed to the 4th inning, it was a lot of fun and allowed us to still get back at a reasonable hour to tie more flies. That evening and night State College received almost 2 inches of rain which drastically affected the streams.

Upon arriving at Spring Creek II, a lower section of the creek, on Wednesday morning, I found that the river had risen 1½ ft overnight; visibility was 4 inches, which stirred memories of steelhead fishing in the spring. The beat was very similar throughout the entire stretch; the water would drop half a foot from a series of rocks across the whole river, then enter a piece of flat water. With the river flowing so rapidly, I tried to fish the banks where the bushes were overhanging and slightly breaking the current. I fished two streamers and allowed them to get as close as possible to the bank then swing the fly through the current. On the first pass along the beat, I was fishless, and missed at least one strike. I returned to the bottom of my beat and tried Czech nymphing in the slower – a word I use loosely in this case – water. Hooks with a tungsten bead and several layers of thick lead were still unable to reach bottom in most of the beat. In the three-hour session, I landed a large sucker (which did not count); it was also the only fish I saw. For the third time I earned 10 points.

For the afternoon session, I was the spare. I used the time to clean some of my well-worn gear, get an hour of sleep, and confirm that I had two leaks in my waders. The evening brought a nice dinner that was shared with the sector judges and controllers whose help allowed the event to run.

Thursday was relaxing as there was a conservation symposium and closing ceremonies scheduled. Canada improved from the previous year, and finished 9th; late addition Simon Wells led the team by finishing 11th and John Bransfield placed 25th. I managed to place 50th overall out of the 54 competitors due to the three blanks I suffered. France placed first, followed by the Czech Republic, and England in third. Once the competition concluded, teams' flies were no longer secret. Most teams were using similar flies, namely the Green Weenie, Zebra Midge, Pheasant Tail, Trico, most terrestrials, and Isorynchias. One of the few flies we did not try was a Sulfur nymph that worked very well for the English Team. The sulfur nymph had passed its hatch by several weeks, but since the fish rely so heavily on it at that time it seemed that it was a natural reaction to strike when the fly was

presented. Our approach to avoid spooking fish was to kneel; however, a few of the Spanish competitors crawled and pulled themselves along with their elbows whilst being facedown in the mud and dirt.

To compete, many generous individuals and companies sponsored me for the event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my corporate sponsors. They include: Angling Specialties - Central Parkway, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canadian Lama Company, Creative Interiors, Fishpond, Forget-Me Not Gift Shop, GESCO, Greys, Highfields, Islander, McShae Enterprises, Ogilvie Outfitting, Sage, St. Croix, The Barber's Chair - Erin Mills Town Centre, The New Fly Fisher, Westend Dental Associates, and WithaFly Tackle Shop. Again thank you so much to my sponsors, including the individuals who are not mentioned.

The Youth World Fly Fishing Championship was an unbelievable experience. As painful as it was at times to do anything when averaging just over four hours of sleep a night – to say nothing of slicing a finger on a hook when I fell asleep tying flies – it all added to the excitement of the Championship. I had the opportunity to fish amazing waters in a beautiful area of the USA, meet coaches, guides, and controllers, as well as anglers from other countries who share my passion for fly fishing. I was able to form wonderful friendships with my Canadian teammates and coach. The World Youth Fly Fishing Championship was an unforgettable experience and I hope to represent Canada again in the next Championship.

Fly Tying

Larva Lace Chironomid

*Bob Bates, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club,
Spokane WA*

Many years ago Jan Sadlo of the Blue Dun Fly shop in Spokane, Washington developed this style of fly when he was in Southern California. He tied the pictured fly 10 years ago at our club meeting. It is a pattern that can be tied in many variations. Body colors are up to you; just match the color of the chironomids in your area. You can add gold, silver or even the new colored beads. He tied several variations for us.

Jan didn't have a fancy name for it, so we decided to call it by the key material and what it is supposed to imitate. As water warms from the ice-covered cold, larger chironomids (midges) will start hatching,

A midge pupa is slender with unmistakable thorax and gills, and when ready to hatch it struggles toward the surface with occasional pauses to rest. Use a floating line, attach a strike indicator to the leader and enough tippet below the strike indicator to suspend the fly near the bottom. What? You don't know how deep the water is? From a floating device, clamp forceps on the fly and lower everything over the side until the forceps touch bottom. Set the strike indicator so the fly will be 6 to 12 inches above the bottom. For fishing a stream guess at the depth and set the strike indicator to fly distance at twice the depth.

Take off the forceps, cast and watch the strike indicator. Strike if the indicator does anything unnatural: move sideways, sinks or in flowing water stops. A very slow sinking of the indicator usually means that the fly hook a weed or something. Watching an indicator for any length of time gets boring. So pour yourself a cup of coffee, and look back to see the indicator rising to the surface.

Materials

Hook: Tiemco TMC 200R or any other hook, sizes 10 to 14
 Thread: Black, 3/0
 Rib: Fine silver or gold wire
 Body: Regular Larva Lace, color of your choice
 Wingcase: Moose hair, pheasant tail or whatever
 Gills: White Antron
 Thorax: Peacock herl



Tying steps

1. Smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers.
2. Attach thread near front of hook, and secure wire rib.
3. Cut a piece of Larva Lace long enough to extend from the front of the hook to a little around the bend. Spiral the wire around the hook shank three or four turns to the bend. Then thread the Larva Lace onto the wire and use the wire to

guide Larva Lace onto the hook. Push Larva Lace to front of hook.

4. Spiral the wire forward in about six turns and secure tightly with thread. Trim or break off excess wire. Wrap the wire so you don't unwind the spirals on the hook.
5. Select about two dozen moose hair fibers, and secure them to the hook with the longer portion facing forward. Trim any excess facing rearward, and wrap the thread forward forcing the moose hair against the eye.
6. Secure a few white Antron fibers over the moose hair with figure eight wraps. It is easier to handle if the Antron is longer than the final desired length.
7. Secure two or three peacock herls with the longer portion facing forward. Hold the thread and herl together and wrap rearward to about the one quarter point. (I am not sure if Jan did this, but it wraps the thread and herl together strengthening the herl.) Secure herls and trim excess.
8. Pull the moose hair to rear and secure. Trim excess hair. Whip finish over hair. Pull up on Antron and trim both sides simultaneously to about 1/8-inch.

It takes a few words to describe how to tie it. However, is really quite easy to tie, and it catches fish. I need to go downstairs while it is raining and tie a few of these for my next trip to our secret big fish lake. The body colors can be changed to fit your needs. Adding a bead can make it more attractive to the fish. Tight lines.

Courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire

Miscellany

Some Thoughts on Fly Selection

By Sheldon Seale

There has been a ton of material written about fly fishing and even the subject of fly selection. However, all that material and 20 years of experience and I still face the same quandary every time I go fishing. What fly do I use?

The selection of the right fly is often likened to solving a puzzle. The first parameter is, there must be fish present. Fly selection is a moot point if there are no fish! We will make an assumption that there are fish where you are fishing.

The next parameter is related. Assuming there are fish, which species? Fly selection is directly related to what species you're fishing for. While most fish will feed on whatever they can catch, it is fundamental that you wouldn't use a tiny midge emerger if you're fishing for Muskie.

Next, the water you're fishing in plays a part. Some types of fly patterns are more suited to one kind of water over another. For example, a sparsely hackled dry fly is generally not a good idea if you're fishing a riffle, unless you are really using it as a nymph because it will sink. Heavily hackled dry flies and those patterns that incorporate buoyant materials like foam or deer hair will generally work better in a riffle because they will float for much longer. Note, however, that a fly can be used in a manner it is not intended for and still be successful. I've "sunk" many a dry fly because it worked.

OK. We've reached the point where we know there are fish of a particular species (our target species) in a particular type of water habitat. This has helped us to eliminate many of the patterns we are carrying which, assuming we knew all of this in advance raises the question of why we are carrying all those fly patterns we weren't going to use? That, however, is a different topic entirely.

There are two possible scenarios open to us at this point. Either the fish are actively and observably feeding or they aren't. There are different approaches open to the angler depending on which scenario is encountered. Let's start with the fish actively and observably feeding.

If you can observe the fish feeding, you're a long way along to solving the puzzle. First thing I recommend is to tuck your fly rod under your arm and make some very careful observations. There are two tools that can prove invaluable in this effort, a small pair of binoculars and a sample net. If you cannot see what the fish are doing, break out those binoculars. Move into a position as close to the fish as you can. Make use of the available cover to remain unseen and go quietly. Try to understand three things, what the fish appears to be eating, when the fish feeds and in what part of the water column it's feeding in. This last part is often overlooked. Frequently, because the surface is disturbed by a feeding fish, anglers assume the fish is feeding there. Careful observation may show that the fish is taking food just below the surface and the act of its feeding is causing the disturbance. It may just be the end of the tail disturbing the surface as the fish returns to its lie.

Once you've got an idea of what the fish is feeding on and where it's taking the food, try to get a sample. Use your net in a different part of the water to see if you can get a sample of the food item. Here, there is another little tool that can help; a small magnifying lens. Some of the stuff a fish feeds on can be very small. However, the magnifying glass will help you pick out some of the subtleties of the food item and help with the colour. One important point is that you should observe the item in the same way the fish will see it. There's no point holding it on your hand, dry, if the item is being fed upon underwater. Put a little water in your hand and look at it. You will be amazed at the difference.

If you have succeeded in getting a sample, it becomes reasonably straightforward to match it from your fly selection. What happens if you have nothing to match? Well, that's where you get out your nippers and attempt to take the closest thing you have and modify it. I have often "cut down" a fly that was a size or two too large and been successful. I have seen folks darken a fly with a permanent marker on the streamside. You will, with experience and a little imagination, figure out what works for you.

There are a couple of guidelines when it comes to "matching" the food item. If you have to choose between a fly that is too large or too small, I would recommend the smaller. Likewise, if you must choose between a fly that is too light or too dark, I would recommend the darker. These are not hard and fast rules, merely guidelines and you may be equally successful by simply following your best instincts.

What about the situation where there is no observable feeding activity? First, look again. Fish can feed very subtly and in out of the way places. Watch a section of the bottom with your polarized sunglasses (another essential tool, by the way). Look in the shadows, especially along the bank. Fish will often feed in very shallow water where you may not expect them. Moreover, the fish may not be actively feeding. They may be feeding casually or intermittently. Give yourself a little time [Hint: when changing a fly, keep the water you are fishing in view so you can watch for feeding behaviour.]

If all else fails and you cannot see any feeding activity, what do you do? Well, you could go home or try fishing somewhere else. However, there are still a couple of things you can try. The first is to put on a type of fly generally referred to as an "attractor" pattern. This refers to a pattern that isn't meant to look like a food item but will stimulate a feeding or aggressive reaction. The fish will take it either out

of curiosity or irritation (of course neither of those emotions apply with a fish but they are illustrative of the reaction to your fly). Attractors often are large and brightly coloured. They have fallen out of favour in recent years with the popularity of the "match the hatch" philosophy. Nonetheless, they can be very effective for a large variety of fish species and sometimes the only way to catch a fish if it isn't feeding (like migrating Atlantic Salmon).

There is another aspect of attractor patterns which we generally fail to recognize. Since we have no way of knowing what a fish is thinking (indeed, if fish think or reason at all), we can never be certain that what we think of as an attractor pattern isn't really close enough to some food item to cause a feeding reaction. We really don't know how fish perceive colour or even how much detail they really can see (although the nature of their brain and the structure of their eyes gives us an educated guess). So, things we think don't resemble food might to a fish.

In any case, attractor patterns work. It is important to recognize that attractor patterns are distinctly different from "suggestive" patterns. Suggestive patterns attempt to suggest a broad range of food items, at least in our minds. Attractor patterns are not intended to suggest anything we might interpret as food to a fish. Attractor patterns have colours and shapes uncharacteristic of general fish food items. They tend to be much brighter than suggestive or imitative patterns and are often dominated by fluorescent colours. They are frequently quite large compared to food type patterns. For example, the Bunny Fly is made of dyed Rabbit strips and doesn't really look like anything a fish would eat (unless yellow and red or blank and orange are perceived as food to a fish).

As another option, try to use a pattern that matches the environment. What I mean by this is, if the bottom is dark, use a dark fly, if it is green, try a green fly, etc. Why do this? Well, the theory is that anything living in that environment that doesn't blend in is going to be eaten (or at least tasted). I would suggest a nymph or streamer under these conditions. It could be imitative or suggestive of a food item, but, because it blends in with the environment, it can't be classified as an attractor.

Then there's what's generally referred to as "rock rolling". That is, have a look into the environment and see what food items may be active. If you pick up a rock in a shallow riffle and it's full of olive green caddis pupae, then I might try an olive green Caddis pupa pattern in an appropriate size. If black stonefly nymphs show up, that too might give a suggestion. I have a couple of thoughts about

making a selection. First, I would follow a concept of the food item that seems to be the most mass, even if it's much smaller. Midges are small but often constitute the most food available for the fish. If that doesn't work, I would follow a strategy of give 'em steak and not hors d'oeuvres. A big grasshopper pattern or a Crane fly pattern has often worked on otherwise fishless days.

Finally, when faced with a day when the fish are being uncooperative, keep moving, keep observing and keep trying different things. Under these conditions, you're trying to find an active or aggressive fish. Don't waste a lot of time trying to dissect a small section of a stream or lake. Keep your head up and keep looking. A very wise old fisherman from my youth named Charlie Serby used to say "Fish are where you find them". It has taken half a lifetime to understand what Mr. Serby was talking about. I hope you can learn from him too.

Contacting the IWFFC

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

IWFFC Information line: (905) 276-6345

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