



# Single Haul



The Newsletter of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

April, 2008

## Editor's Eddy

Well, another spring is upon us and that means the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum is just around the corner. In fact, this year's edition will be held at the Burlington Holiday Inn on April 12 and 13, 2008. By now, you should have seen the announcement but if you haven't, you can get all the information and even register on-line at the Club website - [www.iwffc.ca](http://www.iwffc.ca). Please make an effort to get out to the Forum and volunteer to introduce a speaker or spend an hour at the club booth or registration desk. You will get to meet a lot of very interesting people that way.

Spring is also the start of our work days to aid fish habitat and clean up our waterways. Come out to a work day and enjoy the camaraderie and the satisfaction of knowing you are doing your part. Check in with Donna Cridland, our Conservation Chair, our website or any member of the Club executive at the next meeting or at the Forum and sign up.

As is frequently the case in Single Haul editions, the editor likes to comment on the conditions and circumstances of fishing in Ontario. We have enjoyed an abundance of fishing over the last several years and, in many ways, fishing is better now than it has been in a very long time. However, we still see southern Ontarians overlooking the world class fishing that is available in Ontario's Near North. Our American brethren are aware and willingly come to Ontario and pay the modest cost charged by outfitters and lodges for access to some of the best fishing anywhere. Perhaps its because we southern Ontarians feel that that kind of fishing should be freely available to us. However, the outfitters and lodges spend a great deal of time and institute their own conservation measures to maintain that fishery. If you're looking for a place for a fishing vacation this year, please consider the great folks who are striving to make Ontario the destination of choice for the anglers of the world. Give Ontario a try!

## Quotable / Notable Quotes

Of the many species of fish, each has its own special appeal, but none has the universal charisma of trout ... of all fish, the trout demands the most of the angler ... and gives the most in return.

Joe Brooks (1972)

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

## Club News & Events

### Meeting Schedule

Here is our meeting schedule for the 2007/2008 session. Updates on speakers and tyers will be spread through the *Single Haul*, but members should check the website regularly.

**Note: April 16<sup>th</sup> is a Wednesday.**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:** General Meeting

Nick Pujic, of Canadian Fly Fisher, magazine will be the guest speaker. Nick's presentation will cover the flies, techniques and locations for one of the most interesting and ancient members of the fish family, the Long Nosed Gar. Gar can grow to a length of almost 2 meters and take a fly with an explosive rush. Its very exciting fishing and can be done by anyone with stout enough gear. This will be a great program so come out and see what Nick has to show you about fly fishing for Gar!

**May 6<sup>th</sup>:** Tying meeting

Guest tyer - to be announced.

### New Members

The Club will be doing something special to encourage new members. Anyone who signs up for the Beginners Program at the Forum will be granted a complimentary year's membership to go with it. This is a wonderful way to encourage new members and the kind of value add



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## Fly Tying DVDs

Pat Kelly has been busy recording tying meetings – e.g. Henri Lemieux, Ken Collins, and Sheldon Seale – and he has created a DVD for each of them. He has also gone through some of our old VHS (and other tape) recordings and created DVDs of Dave Whitlock at the Forum in 1981 and 1986, Chico Hernandez (saltwater flies) at the 1982 Forum, and others.

The DVDs are available at club meetings for \$10 apiece.

**Breaking News:** Pat has been at it again! This time he has a 2 DVD set of every Double Haul and Single Haul ever published by the Club. There indexes to fly patterns and more. Get you copy at the next Club meeting or at the Forum!

## Canadian Fly Fishing Forum

Here is a synopsis of what you will see at the Forum, April 12 and 13, 2008.

**Seminars:** Choose from 31 informative seminars!! Whatever your interest – coldwater or warm;

river or lake; trout or bass – and regardless of your skill level, there's something for everyone!

**Speakers:** Choose from fly fishing's best! They will tell you the what, when, where, why, based on their experience and expertise.

**Fly Tyers:** Let our International Showcase of Fly Tyers amaze you with their creations, and share their secrets with you.

**Exhibitors:** Experience a fly fishing bonanza of tackle, gear, fly tying supplies, guides, lodges, books, art, and more. Shop 'til you drop!

**Clubs:** Find out about the fly fishing clubs and service organizations in your area.

**Just for Beginners:** Chose from five seminars designed for beginners including:

- Beginner's Fly Tying
- Fly Fishing Tackle Basics
- Knots and Leaders for Beginners
- Beginner Casting
- What to do for early Success.

**Just for the Ladies:** Heather and Sherri Robins will present their very popular "Fly Fishing for Women" seminar. Don't miss it.

## Annual Awards and Fund Raising Banquet

On Saturday evening the IWFFC holds its **Annual Awards and Fund Raising Banquet** starting at 6:30 p.m. As always, the Banquet features a rod raffle, pot raffles, as well as many great items in the silent auction. Funds raised will benefit conservation.

Enjoy Bill Spicer's presentation "Bloopers in making a Fly Fishing Show" as he shares pictures and stories about making "The New Fly Fisher" television show.

Seating is limited, so book your Banquet tickets now!

## Conservation Corner

There is a ton of work to be done this year and lots of events and festivals where members of the Club can help introduce the public to the joys of fly fishing and fly tying (and you don't have to be an expert!).

## Workday Schedule

### April 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Orangeville Maywood Park and Amelia & College Streets

Clean up and tree planting

TU/ IWFFC/ CVC / Town of Orangeville

### April 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday

Sligo Bridge Clean up

TU

**July** (final date to be announced)

Orangeville Maywood Park and Amelia & College Streets.

Clean up stream / instream habitat / garbage kiosks

TU/ IWFFC / CFWIP

### July 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Private Landowner, McLaren Rd, near Forks of the Credit

Instream habitat / tree planting / bank stabilization

TU / IWFFC / CVC

### August 9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

Ainsworth Pond Outlet, Hillsburgh

Stream work

IWFFC / CFWIP



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**August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday**  
Sauriol Property  
Construction of sediment traps  
CVC / TU

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**  
Black Creek (Acton)  
Spawning Surveys  
CVC

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday**  
Orangeville  
Spawning Surveys  
CVC

## Special Events

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday: 10 am to 12 pm**  
Mississauga Seniors Centre (next to Cawthra  
Community Centre) Fly Tying for Seniors

**May 22, 23 & 24 and 26, 27, & 28, Thursday,  
Friday & Saturday and Monday, Tuesday &  
Wednesday**  
Peel Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake  
Conservation Area  
Fly tying demonstrations  
CVC

**June** (final date to be announced)  
Norval Riverfest  
Fly tying demonstrations  
IWFFC

**June 6, 7, & 8, Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
Streetsville Bread & Honey Festival  
Fly tying demonstrations  
IWFFC

**June 13, 14 & 15, Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
Mississauga Waterfront Festival - Port Credit  
Fly tying demonstrations  
New 2008 IWFFC

**July 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**  
Lake Aquitane - Urban Fishing Festival  
fly tying

## Fly Tying

### Canadian Catskills Coffin Fly

By Sheldon Seale

Having just returned from a trip to the Catskills to meet the famous Green Drake hatch, I thought it appropriate to write about the pattern that served our crew the best. It is a simple form of Coffin Fly (the spinner stage of the Green Drake).

If you've never experienced a Coffin Fly spinner fall, you have missed one of the great spectacles of the fly fishing experience. To see tens of thousands of large, white mayflies flying upstream to mate and lay their eggs, only to die and drift downstream into the waiting jaws of the trout. There is no mistaking a large trout taking a Coffin Fly spinner. The take is deliberate and moves a lot of water. It can get you more than a little worked up.

These are not difficult flies to imitate. The patterns need not be complex and, over the years I have found just 3 materials sufficient. This year, after much musing and debate in the wee small hours with a dram or two of single malt, my friend Paul and I added a fourth material, Grizzly hackle. Radical, I know, but whether it will stand the test of time remains to be seen.

I can take no credit for the idea. The credit belongs to Paul. His idea was to imitate the venation of the wing (which, to our eyes anyway, is quite distinct). I confess to resisting the idea as I felt it an unnecessary addition. For me, this was taking us too close to an imitative rather than a suggestive pattern. Where will it stop? Are wings, eyes and 6 legs (complete with joints) next! Are we seeking the holy grail of Coffin Fly patterns or artificially boosting our confidence in the pattern? In the end, the debate was short lived. The darn thing worked!

#### Canadian Catskills Coffin

Hook 2x long, sizes 12-8 (Mustad 9671 or 94831 or similar)  
Thread White (for body), black (for hackle) 3/0  
Tail Moose mane or body, 4-5 fibres  
Body White dubbing  
Hackle 1 Silver Badger and 1 Grizzly, heavily hackled



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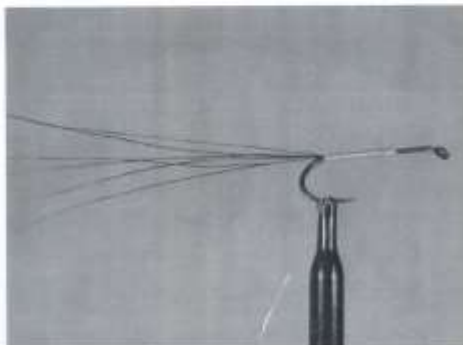


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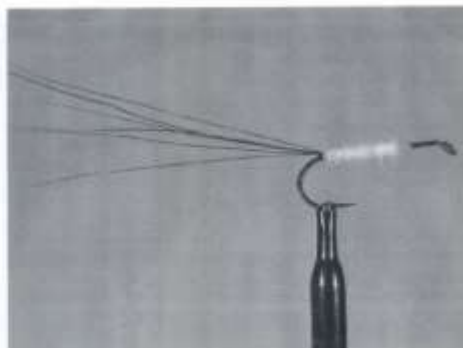
April, 2008

### Tying notes:

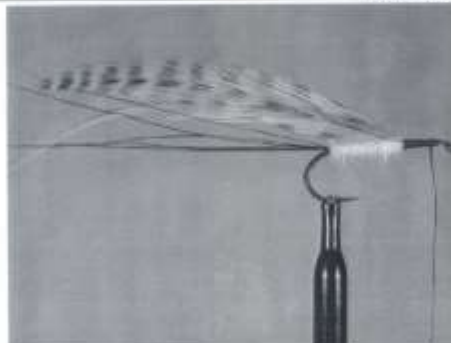
1. Start white thread 1/3 back from the eye and secure the tail. Wind the thread down to the hook bend, keeping the tail material on top of the hook shank.



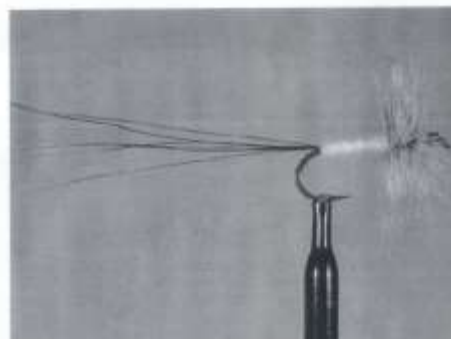
2. Dub a body back to the starting point and tie off the white thread.



3. Start black thread just back of the hook eye and wrap back to the body. Secure 1 Silver Badger and 1 Grizzly dry fly quality hackle. Bring the thread forward ensuring a smooth surface for wrapping the hackle.



4. Wrap the hackles separately. I usually start with the Silver Badger. As you wrap the second hackle through the first, waggle the feather back and forth to minimize the number of fibres trapped by the second hackle. Trim excess hackle, form a neat head and coat with head cement.



5. There are a couple of ways to finish the pattern. Trim the hackle flat on the body for the egg-laying female (as in the photo) or flat on top and bottom for the spent spinner.



Silver Badger is a white feather with a black center. It can be difficult to get a really white feather. However, just get the lightest you can find. The fish don't really seem to mind.

This basic pattern can be adapted to any large mayfly such as the early and late Hexagenia or the Brown Drake. In any case, it's relatively quick to tie and uses materials that can generally be located without too much trouble. Best of luck...

### Miscellany

The following is the latest instalment of the Green Drake Project report from Henry Frania. Henry is a biologist and fly fisher who has been tracking the demise of the Green Drakes (*Ephemera guttulata*) for a number of years in an effort to understand what is killing them, how much damage has occurred and if there is anything we can do to re-establish them - Editor

### Green Drake Project update, late winter 2008

There is now some indication that the nervous system is the initial target of the presumed toxin that is killing nymphs of the Green Drake mayfly on the Credit River. The evidence is that at least some of the nymphs that became moribund just a few days after being transplanted to the Parking Lots site on the Middle Branch of the Credit last summer apparently suffered considerable damage to the suboesophageal ganglion, one of the nerve centres that contributes to the stomodeal nervous system, which controls and receives input from the mouthparts and gut (Figs. 20, 21). It is significant in this regard that nymphs which sickened quickly, either did not resume feeding after being

transplanted, or soon ceased to do so. It remains to be demonstrated, however, that such individuals always sustain damage to the nervous system.

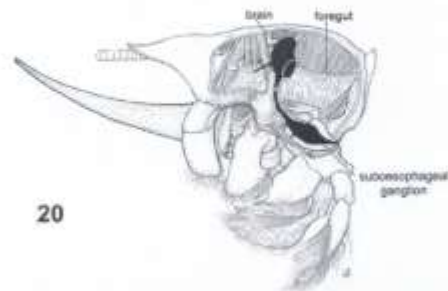


Fig. 20. A) Cut away side view of head of Ephemera nymph, showing some of the internal anatomy. Illustration taken and adapted from A. Strenger, 1970 (fig. 12) and 1975 (fig. 5); certain details from A. Säfteiu, 1993 (fig. 2).

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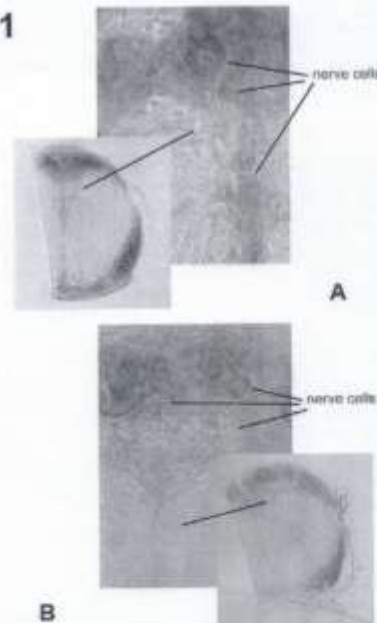


Fig. 21. Photomicrographs of thick transverse sections of the suboesophageal ganglion from (A)



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healthy Green Drake nymph, and (B) nymph that became moribund three days after being transplanted to the Parking Lots site on the Middle Branch of the Credit River. Note in (B) the weak intensity of staining of the tissue, and also the poor definition of the nerve cells.

It is now possible to reconstruct for as far back as the 1930's, how the Green Drake used to be distributed on Ontario trout streams, both in relation to the physical environment, and also in terms of where the Gordon Quill, *Epeorus pleuralis*, and Pink Cahill, *Epeorus vitreus*, mayflies, as well as the Brown Drake, *Ephemera simulans*, used to be abundant (Fig. 22). It can be seen from Fig. 22, that the Green Drake, along with the Pink Cahill, were common on what W. E. Ricker (1934) classified as the middle "swift trout stream" section of small rivers such as the Credit. Moreover, based on written accounts by F. P. Ide (1935) and others, and also label data from specimens in the insect collection at the Royal Ontario Museum, it is apparent that at least until the 1950's, the Green Drake also occurred "in countless numbers" in the rapids of the Ottawa River at Ottawa, and the St. Lawrence River at Montreal; whether they still do is doubtful. Thus, it is all the more unfortunate that in southern Ontario at least, the Green Drake is now fast disappearing even from its last refuges in the upper parts of trout streams such as the Credit River.



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Fig. 22. Generalized diagram of an Ontario trout stream originating above the Niagara Escarpment, flowing over it, and then into Georgian Bay or Lake Ontario, with one branch (M) arising some distance

from the edge of the escarpment on poorly drained ground, the other (B) close to the brink on well drained terrain, and showing where on this stream, ca. 1935, the Green and Brown Drakes, *Ephemera guttulata* and *E. simulans*, and the Pink Cahill and Gordon Quill mayflies, *Epeorus vitreus* and *E. pleuralis*, would have been found in large numbers. Stream classification and terminology according to Ricker (1934).

Henry Frania, February 28, 2008

### Contacting the IWFFC

Website: <http://www.iwffc.ca>  
IWFFC Information line: (905) 276-6345  
Mail: Unit 6, Suite 263  
2400 Dundas Street West  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5K 2R8 Canada

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