



Single Haul

The Newsletter of The Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club

October, 2008

This issue of Single Haul is the first, since I accepted the job as editor. My goal will be to produce a newsletter which is varied in content and of real interest to beginner and experienced fly fishermen and women alike. There are a few changes I have made and expect the visual format to evolve during the year, as will my learning curve at doing this. With that in mind I welcome any suggestions or comments regarding the format or content of the newsletter. Please EMail or contact me independently of the "Comment" column which will be included in the newsletter specifically to invite comment on any item published in Single Haul.

Welcome to our new members for 2008/9. During the last couple of club meetings I've noticed a number of new faces (or are they

very 'old faces' who have returned to the fold?)

In any case, if you are a new member and wish to become more involved in IWFFC there are a number of ways you can do that. A lot of help will be needed for our upcoming Forum 09 (stay tuned for announcements) as well as help with conservation efforts, club matters and general assistance. Contact either of our interim dual Presidents, Ken Geddes or Jim Wenger for more details.

I hope all had an enjoyable and successful fishing year and will take advantage of the few remaining fall opportunities to tighten a line.

Derek Giles

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The background images are from a recent trip to Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, U.S. Among them are shots of a rising Cutthroat Trout at Slough Creek, fishing at the Madison River and Soda Butte Creek and on the Yellowstone River.

IWFFC

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PLANTING AND CLEANUP ON LOWER MONORA CREEK IN ORANGEVILLE (April 19)

This was done in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation, Trout Unlimited, and the Orangeville Parks and Recreation Department. On this pleasant sunny day over one hundred local people plus club members Brian Greck, Pat Kelly, Scott Wagner, and Mike Warrion, planted 723 trees and picked up about 20 big bags of garbage. The town was very supportive of the project. They sponsored a barbeque after the heavy work for the hordes of hungry volunteers. We set up a club booth, helped eleven people tie their first fly, and gave a few casting lessons. The project is of interest to us because Monora Creek is a coldwater stream that contains brook trout and it forms part of the headwaters of the Credit River. The IWFFC put \$5000 into the project of which we expect to get \$1500 back from an Ontario

IWFFC

Ministry of Natural Resources Community Fisheries/Wildlife Involvement Project (CFWIP) grant.

DAM BYPASS OF POND ON THE WEST CREDIT NEAR HILLSBURG (August 9)

On a very wet day about ten volunteers helped build a fishway around a dam on private property in Hillsburg. Member, Brian Greck, did the design work. R & B Construction provided the heavy equipment and operators to excavate the site and move rock to the area. Credit Valley Conservation did the organizing and provided support. The landowner gave us a barbeque. The club contributed \$2500 to buy rock. We applied for a CFWIP grant of \$2000. The MNR thought project was so important they gave us the full \$2000. Darn, we should have asked for more!

FISH LADDER STUDY AT PALGRAVE (Ongoing)

Trout Unlimited Canada is studying the effectiveness of the fish ladder around the Palgrave Dam on the Humber River. Fish collected near the site have been tagged with PIT tags. All types of fish available have been tagged - brook trout, brown trout, bass, sunfish, suckers, etc. The PIT tags are tiny tags placed under the skin that send out a radio signal when excited by a radio signal of a particular frequency. The very weak signal can be picked up by an antenna no more than thirty centimeters away. The movement of fish up and down the ladder can thus be followed. Our \$3000 contribution to the study will go toward the purchase of more equipment.

Pat Kelly
Donna Cridland

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FORE and AFT FLIES

Mike Hogue

One of my original fly tying mentors passed away a several months ago. For many months I have been trying to think of some things to write about him and quite honestly I have been at a loss to come up with something. Call it writer's block.... more like a blank page. Lots of images, impressions and thoughts, but nothing that I could really wrap my word processor around. Recently, I was fishing a trico hatch and tied up some old midge patterns I used to use in the Midwest and it occurred to me that one of the best ways to write about my old mentor was to do what he did best, teach, tell and instruct. So here goes.... a story about a fly based on some very old, patterns created many years ago and a fellow that inspired me.

My first fly tying instructor was Ed Powell. I first meet Ed through an adult education fly tying class he was teaching in Ames, IA. I signed up for the class with the hopes of learning more about flies and fly fishing. I had no idea that single class would change my life in many ways. Over the ensuing weeks, Ed taught us how to make all sorts of flies and eventually, he introduced me to several members of fly fishing clubs and the organizations they belonged to. Over the next several years, I developed friendships with many of these members that have lasted for many years.

Ed was from California, growing up in family rich in fly fishing heritage. His Father was Watt Powell, son of E. C. Powell, the founder of the Powell Rod Company. For many years, his Grandmother tied flies on the dining room table and maintained a small fly shop for area fisherman. Ed learned to cast, fly fish and tie flies from his Mother and Father. At a young

age Ed became the junior champion of the GoldenGate Casting Club. (For some of my NY-NJ-PA friends if I am not mistaken, Joan Wulff also won this.) So I was quite lucky to meet such an accomplished fly tyer, caster and fly fisherman as Ed. In his professional life Ed was a Biology Professor (at Iowa State University), and he was also a wonderful teacher and mentor. His patience, kindness and gentle manner were some of the best things I remember about Ed.

Several years later Ed was asked to demonstrate some of his favorite flies that he used in his childhood at a local club gathering of the Hawkeye Fly Fishers. One of the members of the club, Byron Haugh created a midge pattern based on this style of fly, the Fore and Aft. These flies had 2 hackles on them, one on the front and one on the back. The front fly is called the fore hackle and the rear hackle is called the aft hackle. The most famous design of this style of tying that people are likely to recognize is the Renegade. The Renegade has a peacock center, brown hackle in the rear and white hackle in the front with a tag end of gold tinsel. Ed's favorite flies were the Clyde and the Buzz Hackle.

A good many fly tyers from the UK will see the Clyde fly and recognize this name. In UK, the Clyde is a river in Scotland. Flies tied for this region were typically tied in what many fly tyers would say is a reduced or low water style. In other words, a fly was dressed as say a size 14 on a 12 hook. Wings and hackles were also reduced. The idea was to create a sparsely dressed fly that was designed to be fished mostly as a wet fly or spider on a swing down and across the stream. The California style Clyde was quite different.

The California Clyde fly was named for his Uncle Clyde Powell. The tail on all these patterns was always tied down the bend of the hook with the fibers pointing down. The fore hackles on these flies was usually larger than the rear hackle and most of these patterns were tied as a size 8-14, generally on a 2 or 3 xl down eye hook. The Clyde was similar to the more famous Royal Coachman and had a brown hackle fore and aft. The tail was brown hackle fibers and the fore and aft hackles were tied on top of peacock herl wound around the hook shank. The waist of the fly was scarlet floss. Ed's other favorite was the Buzz Hackle. Ed's family claims it was named for a friend of his Grandfather's, while local fishing lore from the wife of Buzz Buzek claims it was named after the FFF tying legend himself, Buzz. The Buzz Hackle had a slanted downward tail of red hackle fibers, a tag of silver tinsel with grizzly hackle, a waist of peacock herl and a fore brown hackle tied over gold tinsel. Ed fished both of these patterns as dry flies and often used them on pocket water. Sometime later my friend Byron Haugh, borrowed these concepts to create a midge pattern. He used grizzly hackle and thread. The pattern has a grizzly tail, grizzly fore and aft hackle tied onto red thread. Byron liked to fish this pattern as a 14 or 16 but I found that an 18 often fished better. You can alter the pattern by using purple, hot orange, yellow or olive thread. Try the bigger sizes if you want, I found the local streams to fish quite well with the smaller sized, 18. Usually the strikes are quite subtle and the trout simply sip the flies or made a simple grab up for the fly as a strike. Unlike many mayfly or caddis strikes that are often hard and aggressive, these midging fish will not move or chase the fly. To catch fish with these, I usually tug the line to set the hook and if you are fishing too hard or fast, you will miss a good many fish. So slow down! Next time

you have trico or midge hatches, try this fore and aft midge with the understanding that is a very old style pattern that was time tested before you tied yours. Thanks to Ed Powell for his kindness and teaching me how to tie flies. I still miss my old mentor and have many warm thoughts about all that he taught me. Thanks also to Byron Haugh for his ability to innovate something based on history. Thanks also to my now clouding memory and the ability to piece this one together.

For some of the research I had to look back through archives of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association's newsletter, so thanks to Dale Sanders for archiving all those newsletters to pdf which I had to read, to find Ed's old story. (If you would like to read this story, contact the HFFA, Dale Sanders, Past Flyline Editor. I used the Flyline PDF, May 1996, page 6. Email me for Dale's address.)

Mike is owner of Badger Creek Fly Tying in Freeville, NY. (For those unfamiliar with NY) Mike lives near Ithaca, in the Finger Lakes region.) He is a member of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, Trout Unlimited, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and serves as Vice President of Conservation for the Northeastern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. You can reach him at www.eflytyer.com or email: Mike@eflytyer.com or 607-347-4946.

QUOTES

Many men go fishing all of their lives without ever realising it's not the fish they're after";
H.D. Thoreau

"Where's the Single Hauf?"
Sheldon Seale Oct 2008

VICETIME

With winter "vicetime" approaching Ron Koshoshek of Wisconsin has offered to provide us with a series of flytying tips. Ron's 50+ years experience as a flyfisher, tyer, bamboo rodbuilder and conservationist give us an insight into some less common considerations when at the vice.

I have enjoyed fishing for trout and bass with nymphs and streamers that imitate creatures living in the swim of things. It is not the same sort of joy attendant upon watching a fish rise to the fly and requires quite different techniques and, I think, a personal character marked by both patience and modesty. Fishing in the swim is not to everyone's taste and success varies greatly among those who give a try. I am convinced that, whether on top and below the surface, the "silhouette" of the "fly" matters a great deal and have propounded that view to my fly-tying students over the years. So, my fly patterns are marked by considerable "definition." Several years ago, a student challenged that belief by declaring that he cannot catch a fish on one of his beautifully tied nymphs until it has become a bedraggled mess. He promptly exhibited an unfinished, nicely tied stonefly nymph with a well defined thorax, clearly segmented abdomen, and legs put easily in motion by the slightest current. He laid it next to a well-worn specimen that only remotely resembled its original form. I picked up the beautifully tied nymph to examine it more closely in the dim light. I also took a good whiff of the fly and noticed a barely detectable "chemical" odor. I asked to see his fly box and was nearly bowled over by the sharp polybiphenol odor being emitted by the plastic box. His problem was not in the "tie" of the fly, but in its bad odor. A fish's sense of smell exceeds the power of its eyesight by many magnitudes, as anyone who has "chummed"

fish in a river well knows. The bedraggled fly worked because its odor had been washed and leached from the fly. From that day on, the first advice I give to novice fly-tiers is to keep all sources of odor away from your flies. Give that new fly box a smell before you buy it. Avoid using any sort of glue in your underwater flies, especially glue with toluene in it. Don't smoke where you tie flies or expose your flies to ambient air scented by a burning candle. If you have a concern whether your flies are odor free, fill a cake pan with Borateen and bury them in it for a week or so. And don't tie a fly to your tippet just after you have put on sun cream or sprayed yourself with mosquito dope. No matter how enticing you think your nymphs and streamers may look to a fish, it has to pass their smell test before they will regard it as a possible morsel of "food"

COMMENT

Dear Mr. Editor,
Regarding the meeting dates. I assumed that we met every second week but that is not always the case (Sept 30 for example). I thought I should enter meeting dates on my daily calendar and went to the web site to do so. To my dismay I discovered last year's schedule. I understand that a non-member, Wayne de Frietas, has kindly lent us a hand to run the site. Has anyone sent him a copy of our current schedule? If we want successful meeting attendance and a good means of attracting new members we must have up-to-date information on our site and perhaps an online registration form. I remain "in the fog",

Ron Chandler

Club Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at Cawthra Park Community Centre, Mississauga from September to May unless otherwise stated.

MILESTONES



Mel Krieger began fishing for black bass as a youngster in Louisiana and Texas. He moved with his wife Fanny and their two children to San Francisco in 1964 where he joined the Golden Gate Casting Club

and became an avid tournament caster.

His true calling as a teacher became apparent when he began tutoring a 10-year-old named Steve Rajeff. Krieger's most famous student went on to win the All Round World Casting Championship at the age of 16 and over time became the greatest competitive caster in the history of the sport. Mel was a great teacher who simplified things for beginners. Boiling away a lot of the obfuscation surrounding casting. Krieger was also an entertainer; he made learning to cast a fun gig, and did so in a non-threatening manner. It was a little like having your kindly grandfather teaching you.

He has written for Fly Fisherman magazine for decades, most recently "The Pull through Casting Stroke" (December, 2005).

He was an active member of the Federation of Fly Fishers and was influential in creating the FFF Flycasting Certification Program. In 1994, he was inducted into the FFF Northern

California Council Hall of Fame and in 2006 he received the FFF's highest honor, The Order of the Lapis Lazuli award in recognition of long-term, extraordinary service to the FFF.

Mel was ill the last 4 months of his life, and in the hospital for 2 months. He was undiagnosed until the last week of September when a brain MRI and biopsy revealed a brain lymphoma. It was little known that Mel was an avid golfer in his later years. Always the student and teacher, he spent much of his golfing time comparing it to casting; the pauses, acceleration and the follow through. He had a new book in the works to expound on that comparison most sadly it will not be finished.

He passed away peacefully at his home in San Francisco on October 7, 2008 at 3:30 A.M., at the age of 80.

FOR MEL

It seems that many within our ranks twin their passion of flexing bamboo or graphite with that of steel or the graphite of a golf shaft. As we know many of our top golf professionals are more than competent with a fly rod. As a golfer of 45 years, I have always been personally interested in the similarity of loading both sticks to gain maximum distance. I came across the article printed on page 7 which, over the years, is the best analysis I've seen to explain this similarity. I'm sure Mel Krieger was on to it, so as a tribute to his unfinished book Single Haul has included this piece. Ed

FORUM A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

It seems our fly fishing club has had difficulty recruiting and maintaining treasurers for the last few years. So much so that when I returned to club meetings last fall after an extended absence, the executive was so desperate for a bean counter that they unconditionally and hurriedly accepted my offer to take on the ask. In fact, I still remember the look of shock and disbelief on Bob Kuehnbaum's face along with the deafening silence in the room when I said "Alright, I'll do it". However, I'm not exactly sure why this position discouraged so many people when reporting financial results such as the 2008 Fly Fishing Forum is this exciting. I could understand if the event was swimming in red ink but the exact opposite is true. Who wouldn't want to report numbers like the following? Given that this is my first year as treasurer and the books I inherited were not quite as detailed as I would have liked, it's difficult for me to provide any meaningful comparative financial, statistical, and demographic analysis complete with growth projections and and future sales forecasts - Yeah right! However, if these figures don't excite you as much as a 20" Brown Trout or Pamela Anderson, then you may want to check if you still have a pulse. Of course accounting for the event is the easy part. Planning and execution is the hard part and the one that matters most. Full credit and accolades go to all the members of The forum executive and to all the vendors, volunteers, and attendees. Watch for the year end financial results in the January issue of the Single Haul. Cheers

Raymond Desilets
Treasurer, IWFFC

A FOUNDATION FOR POWER

I could not help but relate Tiger Wood's advice on "How to Smoke a Driver," with how to

produce power during a long cast with a fly rod. Tiger pays close attention to the placement of his feet—his foundation for power. He spreads his feet slightly wider than his shoulders for stability and flexes his knees enough to make them feel alive and promote easy movement of his torso. He flares both feet out slightly—the right to allow a modest hip turn without straining his knee and thigh, and the left to prevent turning his hips too far during the back swing (back cast) and to allow rotating his upper body freely on the down swing (forward cast). He also angles his right knee in a bit to make it easier to shift his weight toward the target during the down swing (forward cast). Of course Tiger has a completely closed stance whereas long casts with a fly rod require a 45 degree open stance. It goes without saying that a golfer (or fly caster) should not try to hit a ball (make a cast) with his arm muscles. The stoke starts with the hips turning, followed by the shoulders turning. This rotary motion is like loading a giant spring. By the time he reaches the top of the back swing (back cast) his hips and shoulders are primed to unload with tremendous speed. While he shifts his weight between his feet during the back stroke (back cast) and the down swing (forward cast) he does not allow his hips to slide back and forth because a sliding motion on the down swing (forward cast) cuts his power about 50 percent (the dreaded block to the right) of what he can develop by the unwinding of his hips and shoulders. He turns his shoulders further than his hips for a gradual application of power. Tiger also extends the butt end of his club (fly rod) as far from his right hip as he can. Turning his shoulders make this possible. He believes in a big shoulder turn. Tiger starts his down swing (forward cast) by first shifting his weight, then turning his hips and finally his shoulders—all in a smooth sequence—followed by uncocking his wrists (speedup-up-and-stop) at the very end.