



Single Haul



The Newsletter of The Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club

September, 2001

The Mystery of the "X" in Your Tippet

(from the FFF Club Wire. By Jim Smoragiewicz of the Black Hills Fly Fishers in South Dakota)

It was a passing thought that I had many times over the years but never took the time to look into it. What does the "X" on packages of tippet and leaders stand for? This was one of the things that I thought every fly fisher but me knew. As I came to discover, however, most other anglers didn't know the answer to this either, and prompted some research on my part.

A little history on some of our first mass produced tippet material. For some time early in the century, leaders were tied out of a silk strand that came from a caterpillar in Spain. The caterpillars were killed and then processed in chemicals to toughen their silk sacks. The silk sacks or "gut" were then removed from the caterpillar (usually two caterpillars). This packet of silk was then stretched out, usually reaching a length of 12"-15". Lengths of silk longer than this were scarce, and brought a premium price.

The silk strands were uneven in diameter and needed to be uniform in diameter for use in building a leader. The way this evening process was accomplished was by using diamonds to cut away the excess material. The diamond that had a round hole drilled in it and was polished on one side to form a cutting edge on the hole. The silk strand was then soaked in a solution to soften it, and then drawn through the hole in the diamond with all excess silk being cut away.

This uniform piece of "silk cat gut" (gut from a caterpillar, and not a house cat) was considered to be 1x in size because it had been drawn through a diamond one time or 1x. Next it was drawn through a diamond with a smaller hole to reduce the diameter even further. This piece of silk was now a 2x in diameter, or drawn through diamonds 2 times. This was continued until a 5x tippet size was reached, the smallest most flyfishers felt was usable at the time.

Editors' Note: *The above article was brought to our attention at about the same time as the October General Meeting. Those of us who were there enjoyed Don Moore's presentation on building your own leaders. More on that later.*

A Note from the Editors:

Trout season has wound down for the year. Unfortunately our traditional Fall Outing has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. We have been unable to contact any of our regular haunts in time, including the usually enjoyable Humber Springs Trout Club.

We're always looking for input on other places to hold our Spring and Fall outings. Please let anybody on the club Executive know your thoughts.

As Fall blends into Winter, most of us will settle into a routine of tying a few flies, attending club meetings, and generally whiling away the weeks until Spring pokes its head out of the ground. ("Spring has sprung / The grass has riz / I wonder where / My trout rod is!" – Yours Truly) Of course a few die-hards will be stomping around looking for muskies until the snow starts to fly, or chasing migratories up some rocky river bed. I suppose it's that one in a million opportunity that really keeps these types going.

For those of you with a slightly lower threshold of pain, please join us at the club meetings

If you are a budding editor-in-the-making, please step up and take hold of this puppy (the Single Haul). The benefit to you is that the more you get involved in the club, the better your fishing becomes.

Roll-Your-Own Leaders

Last month, Don Moore presented some techniques on how we can build our own leaders.

He spoke initially of level leaders, which could be as straightforward as 9 feet of 6lb. test mono. You would likely use this when "loch" fishing behind a boat, or float tube. Such a leader would not turn over too easily when casting, unless you were using a pretty solid fly. If using a sinking line, you could drop that back to 3 or 4 feet.

Most of us however, use tapered leaders. A good rule of thumb for a tapered leader is "60-20-20", referring to the relative lengths of the butt, mid (transition) and tip sections of the leader.

A simple tapered leader could be tied of 6 feet of 25 lb. mono for the butt, 2 feet of 17 lb. mono for the mid (transition) section, and 2 feet of 12 lb. mono for the tip. This would give a nice 10 foot leader for horsing bass and pike out of weeds and stumps.

Trout and trout flies require a more delicate presentation. So a trout leader needs to have each section built of about 3 parts, each tapering in diameter, and stiffness.

At this point in his presentation, Don brought up the idea of using coloured mono for leaders. For most of his leader material, Don was using Blue Stren. But for at least one section in the butt, he advocates the use of fluorescent yellow. This section serves as an effective strike indicator, without the *bobber-stigma* associated with globs of strike putty

For example, here is a formula for a 10 foot nymph leader:

Butt section, use Blood Knot:

- 3 feet, blue, 30 lb.
- 2 feet fluorescent yellow, 20 lb.
- 1 foot, blue, 17 lb.

Mid section use Double Surgeon Knot:

- 8 inches, blue, 14 lb.
- 8 inches, blue, 10 lb.
- 8 inches, tippet, 2x (or 3x)

Tip section:

- 2 feet, tippet, 4x (or 6x)

Don suggests using the Blood Knot in the heavier material of the butt, and moving to the easier to tie (even if slightly more bulky) Double Surgeon's Knot for the rest of the leader.

For still water fishing, Don suggests a 12 ft., 6 inch leader as follows:

Butt section, use Blood Knot:

- 4 feet, blue, 30 lb.
- 2 feet, 6 inch fluorescent yellow, 20 lb.
- 2 feet, blue, 17 lb.

Mid section use Double Surgeon Knot:

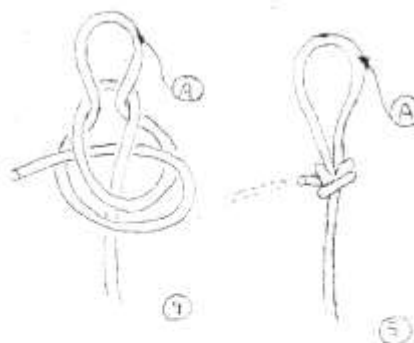
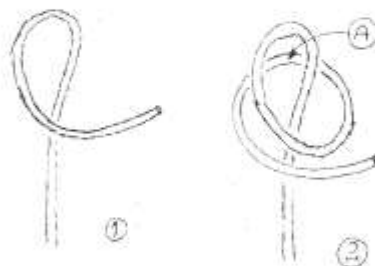
- 10 inches, blue, 14 lb.
- 10 inches, blue, 10 lb.
- 10 inches, tippet, 2x (or 3x)

Tip section:

- 2 feet, 6 inch, tippet, 4x (or 6x)

The knots required for building leaders are the Perfection Knot (or Perfection Loop), Blood Knot, and Double Surgeon's Knot.

The Perfection Knot is used to form a loop in the butt end of the completed leader. Like most knots, practice will help build the familiarity required to tie this when you need it most.



Just make a loop ("bite") in the end of your material. I cross the tag end over the "near side" of the standing part. Then make another loop (labeled "A"), behind the first, again with the tag end on the near side of the standing part. The drop the tag end between the 2 loops. Pull the 2nd loop ("A") through the first. Draw the knot up tight, and trim the tag end.

Since we're talking about leaders, you will be tying this in mono. With mono, remember to always lubricate the knot (with saliva) as you draw it tight. This will help reduce heat stress in the knot, making it much stronger.

Of course, you tie this knot in the butt, to be used in a traditional loop-to-loop connector on the end of your fly line. If you're a "nail knot person", then you can skip the Perfection Knot. Just remember to make the first (heaviest) section of your leader a little bit longer to allow for working the nail knot.

Election Results – 16 October General Meeting

- Bob Lundy – President
- Ted Armstrong – Vice-President
- Treasurer – Ken O'Brien

Also serving on the executive are a number of non-elected members:

- Joe Behar – Membership
- Mike deSilva – Library
- Bob Foote – Single Haul Distribution
- Ken Geddes – Past President
- Norm Jackson – Conservation (incoming)
- Bob Kuehnbaum – Conservation (outgoing)
- Barry O'Rourke – Publications
- Eli Robillard – Forum
- Blair Williams – Fly Tying

There are 2 vacant positions:

- Editor
- Programme

If you have an interest in helping the club to continue to grow, please step up to any member of the executive (past or present) to discuss what you can bring to the (tying) table.

The Izaak Walton Fly Fishing Club – Treasury Report

For the six months ended May 31, 2001 the club recorded \$5,625 in membership fees for 125 members and collected \$3,925 in meeting revenues. These were sufficient to cover \$8,650 in meeting expenses, Single Hauls, Club locker, new brochures, Insurance, phone, mailbox and other expenses.

In addition to the conservation workdays provided by it's members the club financed \$6,800 of conservation obligations made up of \$2,500 for the annual University of Guelph scholarship, \$4000 for the Upper Credit Rehab Initiative and \$300 for our Friends of the Grand Kiosk. The conservation funds were financed by \$1,450 of conservation draws, net of expenses. The remaining funds were financed by cash balances from both the club and forum accounts.

The club's future membership and meeting revenues are sufficient to cover the club expenses. To continue our conservation obligations we will have to recover funds from the forum auction, which in 2001 financed the forum shortfall, as well as collect unpaid membership fees from approximately 125 members.

Release: November 1, 2001

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT PROTECTS MORAINÉ WATER RESOURCES AND NATURAL FEATURES

CALEDON - Water resources and natural features on the Oak Ridges Moraine would be protected in perpetuity by a historic and comprehensive provincial plan proposed today by Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Chris Hodgson.

Speaking at Albion Hills Conservation Area on the Moraine, Hodgson said legislation to be introduced this afternoon would, if passed by the Legislature, allow the government to protect 100 per cent of natural and water resource features on the Moraine, preserve agricultural land and focus development in approved settlement areas. A clause in the legislation would prevent sensitive core and linkage areas from ever being diminished.

"The plan would include strong policies to protect water quality and quantity on the Moraine," Hodgson said. "It would protect wellheads, cold water streams, such as those running into Lake Simcoe, and all kettle lakes on the Moraine. It would require innovative stormwater management practices to protect sensitive recharge areas, and prohibit technologies that cause rapid infiltration of stormwater into groundwater."

Hodgson said the legislation and plan build on the final recommendations of the Oak Ridges Moraine Advisory Panel, which includes environmentalists and developers, and representatives of the municipal, academic and resource sectors.

"This legislation - and the proposed Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan - represent a monumental achievement," Hodgson said. "Over the past few years, municipalities, developers and environmentalists have spent millions of dollars and many months arguing before the Ontario Municipal Board about individual development proposals. Agreement seemed impossible. But when stakeholders representing a broad range of interests on the moraine were brought together, and challenged to look at the big picture and to reach a consensus, they rose to the challenge. The proposed plan, based on the Advisory Panel recommendations, would safeguard the Moraine now and in the future, while providing certainty for environmentalists, developers, municipalities, aggregate producers and farmers."



Hodgson also announced the settlement of several outstanding development applications before the Ontario Municipal Board. In the summer, he asked David Crombie to bring together all the parties with an interest in the applications and seek an agreement consistent with the principles of Smart Growth and the proposed plan.

As a result of those discussions, some 1,000 acres of sensitive land have been secured so natural areas can be protected. This is being accomplished through land donations and exchanges for provincially owned developable lands off the Moraine. A corridor across Yonge Street would be created that protects vital natural features, such as Bond Lake and its catchments. The lands being protected by the province are intended to be used to create a spectacular showcase park.

"Everyone involved in these discussions was totally committed to finding a fair solution that protects the environmental integrity of the Moraine," Crombie said. "I am delighted to have been part of this process, and to have helped protect these critical lands on the Moraine."

The province also plans to create a continuous east-west trail along the Moraine, so that everyone, including seniors and people with disabilities, can enjoy the natural beauty of the Moraine. Supporting the trail will be an Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation with a mandate to fund activities such as land securement, research, monitoring and public education.

Hodgson said funding for the Foundation would come from a combination of public and private sources. He said the provincial government has committed \$15 million in cash plus a substantial donation of land to be valued through a fair and transparent process that will be determined by the parties involved, toward a partnership fund. The federal government and the private sector will be challenged to participate in this fund.

If the legislation is approved by the Legislature, the Minister would appoint an interim board to develop Foundation programs, determine actual funding needs, and seek partnership funding. The interim board would include: John Riley, Science Director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada; John Burke, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources; Ric Symmes, board member of Ontario's Living Legacy Trust; Russ Powell, Chief Administrative Officer of the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority; and James McKellar, Associate Dean, Professor and Director of the Schulich School of Business at York University.

The previous article is the press release from the website of the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/inthnews/releases/20011101-3e.asp>). Thanks to Kat Cruickshank for bringing this good news to our attention.

Help Wanted – Forum 2002 Pre-Registration

A great way to help the Forum! Read on...

Pre-Registration Description and Critical Dates

General Description

The Pre-Registration process consists of the following general activities:

1. Collect the pre-registration forms by postal mail, fax, telephone, email and from the IWFFC website;
2. Enter the data into the database and verify cheque amounts. Process credit card forms where applicable;
3. Produce name badges/tickets (via database software);
4. Produce mailing labels for badge/ticket return (via database software);
5. Stuff envelopes with confirmation letter, badges/tickets, credit card slips (where applicable). Affix postage and return via postal mail;
6. Co-ordinate with Treasurer for regular drop-off of funds collected;
7. Co-ordinate with Membership Chair to provide updates membership database;
8. Work with Software Author to work out software bugs and other problems as required.

Other Pre-Registration Duties

In addition to the activities above, the pre-registration team should also:

1. Alphabetise the badges/tickets that were not registered before the cut-off date for mailing (1 week before the event). These tickets will be picked up at the registration desk;
2. Prepare name badges for Volunteers, from lists provided by other Committee Members or a Volunteer Co-ordinator;
3. Prepare name badges for Speakers;
4. Prepare name badges for Fly Tyers;
5. Prepare name badges for Exhibitors;
6. Train the volunteers on using the software (assisted by the Software Author).

Registration Desk at the Event

Since the Pre-Registration team has developed facility using the database software, at the event they should also:

1. Coordinate and supervise the volunteer complement;
2. Help with data input during the morning rush at the registration desk;
3. Perform administrative functions as required (e.g. change or update a database record).

Attention On-Line Shoppers!

With the Holiday season fast approaching (did I hear somebody say "too darn fast?"), many of us spend a bit of time shopping for that something special, for that someone special.

For many of us, the best gifts are books, music and video entertainment. If you have somebody in your life who would like to receive such a gift, please consider buying it on-line this year.

One of the best suppliers is the on-line store known as **Chapters.Indigo.ca**. And your best way to this on-line store is through the Izaak Walton Club's website (www.iwffc.ca). Just go to the club's homepage, and click on the Chapters/Indigo icon. Every time you enter their website, through ours, and make a purchase, the club is credited with a percentage of your purchase.

All funds raised through this means will be directed to paying for supporting the website, which frees up club funds for continuing the work we do.

What do they sell?

- Of course there is a full range of books; from *Harry Potter* through Roderick Haig-Brown's *Fisherman's Seasons*.
- Music too; from Bach to Bif Naked.
- And Video (both VHS and DVD); whether their 'thing' is classic TV like Patrick McGoochan's *The Prisoner*, to The Movie, itself (*A River Runs Through It*).

But is it safe?

- Despite a lot of negative press, using your credit card on-line with a reputable firm such as Chapters.Indigo.ca is at least as safe as using the same card at your local gas bar. Chapters.Indigo.ca use a standard, highly regarded technology that encrypts your transaction so others cannot snoop as your important data moves across the network. They also store any of your personal data (including your credit

card number, as well as your name, address and so on) on secure servers.

If you're shopping for yourself, there are plenty of items to choose from. There's even a Wish List feature, which you can use to direct your special requests to your own personal Santa.

Website Update – www.iwffc.ca

The look and feel of the Izaak Walton website has stabilised for the past year or so. I think it works well, but then maybe I'm prejudiced!

Earlier this year we introduced a new feature: Local Fishing Reports. We encourage all IWFFC members to record their results on-line, and share this with your fellow anglers. Of course, if you're trying to preserve that special spot, you can be reasonably vague.

This year will be the 2nd year that we will offer on-line registration for the upcoming Forum. As soon as the Workshops and Speakers are set, we will be opening this up for public use. This feature uses SSL to encrypt your sensitive and private data (including your name and address, as well as your Visa number). It was fairly popular last year with both the registrants, and the pre-registration crew.

Don't forget to check out the Links page, too. You'll have direct access to other clubs in the area, Conservation Authorities, and associations like the FFF (Federation of Fly Fishers).

Joke of the Month

A man was stopped by a game warden with two buckets of fish while leaving a lake very well known for its fishing. The game warden stopped the man and asked, "Do you have a license to catch those fish?"

The man replied, "No, sir. You see, these are my pet fish."

"Pet fish?!", the warden replied.

"Yes, sir. Every night I take these here fish down to the lake and let them swim around for a while. I whistle and they jump back into their buckets, and I take 'em home."

"That's a bunch of nonsense!! Fish can't do that!"

The man looked at the game warden for a moment, and then said, "Here, I'll show you. It really works."

"OK. I've gotta see this!!" The game warden was curious now.

The man poured the fish in the lake, and waited for a few minutes. After several more minutes, the warden finally turned to the man and said, "Well?"

"Well what?" the man responded.

"When are you going to call them back?" the game warden prompted.

"Call who back?" the man asked.

"The FISH!"

"What fish?" the man asked.

Next Meetings

20 November

Exceptional Waters – Ryan Plummer and Jack Imhof

The IWFFC has provided financial support over the past 3 years to this community based program. Come out for a progress report.

04 December

Fly Tying

John French – Balsa and Foam Bass Flies
Elliott Deighton (at the Intermediate Table) –
Deer Hair Flies (remember to bring your own tools, etc.)

At the Beginner's Table – continuing on the foundations

20 December

Origin of Water – Dave Calderisi

Bring your imagination!

08 January, 2002

Fly Tying

Details TBD

Note that this is not (really) the first Tuesday!

Contacting IWFFC

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