



News Caster

November 2011



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Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Idaho Pizza, 17 W. Commercial St., Weiser. Fly tying demo at 6 pm, program at 7 pm.

Join in the Fun!

Committees

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette Jones

Conservation and Youth: Mark Sands, Nando Mauldin, Rick Walters, Tim Torrel

Education: Perry Kelley, Garry Swindell

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Sarah Gulu

Historian: Suzanne Orwig

Library: Rod Jones, Ken Gissel, Dick Garrett

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Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley, Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett, Ray Perkins

Outings: Mike Bishop, Al Sillonis

Programs: Bob Maki

Publicity: Tiffany McPheeters

President's Message by Bob Maki

Ahhh November, cool days ahead for steelhead fishermen.

Well, at our last meeting Dick Evey gave us all a great introduction into his world of steelhead fishing. One can learn a lot from folks like Dick; he's put in lots of time on the rivers and we certainly thank him for sharing his experiences and insights on the flies he uses and the waters he fishes with us. I think he could easily come back again next fall just to give us a refresher course in the specialized world of steelhead fishing with a spey rod. Tiffany had suggested he would only have to talk for 15 minutes or so, let me say he could have continued on and I don't think anyone would have minded. I personally have not yet had the opportunity to try a spey rod but someday I most certainly will.

Sue Evey, now retired from TVCC enjoys fishing as well and mentioned an interest in the fly tying instruction Perry Kelley provides us. Speaking of Perry, he talked about conducting a beginning fly tying class at the October meeting. This class, which is to be conducted over four weekly sessions, is open to all interested. We will have several basic tying kits available for use during these introductory sessions and practice at home. For those who don't yet have what they need or even know what to get, this is a great way to get started. There are quite a few tools on the market and knowing what you do or don't need when getting started is invaluable.

Notice to fly tyers: Flies being tied for the festival of trees should already be delivered to Sara Gulu or must be soon, as the final stages of preparation for the fly ornaments are soon to be or are already underway.

Thanks, Perry, for the fly tying demo of the "EP-Weepee" a hatch that can be found on many waters but mostly on No-Tellum creek. Plus the interesting update on the Owyhee River guide/outfitter situation there.

Thanks also to Karen Kosowan for conducting the 50/50 raffle, which Tiffany McPheeters won along with the flies that Perry tied for the evening's demo. Great going Tiffany!

In the meantime the Weiser Pond was stocked in October with some 700 trout that will provide plenty of action to the local families and folks from neighboring communities that have discovered the pond as well. I tested the waters there using a midge pattern with a quick strip retrieve last week and was rewarded with a steady bite including a number of the bluegill and bass that the pond is now teaming with.

Fly tying class is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Weiser Library with instruction provided by Perry. (Not the same class as the beginning class previously mentioned.)

If anyone has a guest speaker or program suggestion please contact Tiffany McPheeters, our program director, as there are still a couple of time slots to fill.

From the fireside where stories are told and they never get old,

Bob

Common Mistakes and How to Correct Them for Stillwaters

by Zack Thurman

In the last article I talked about how to find fish in stillwaters, using a countdown system to find them in lakes. Here, I want to explore some mistakes that I have observed and address ways to fix them the next time you are out on the water. Finding the trout is one of the hardest things to tackle when you are fishing a lake. And finding fish still doesn't always mean that you will get them to grab.

Match your fly to the line

Many times I have seen people fishing very hard with the right flies in the right spots, but their choice of lines is preventing them from getting fish. More times than not it is someone fishing a fly that requires some sort of retrieve, and using it on a floating line.

The problem with a floating line in a situation where the wind is calm and you are casting and retrieving, you are making small wakes on the surface and will put fish down or move them out of the area you are fishing very quickly. As well, when there is wind, your line will have a bow in it and if you get a soft take more often than not you will miss the fish. Floating lines have their purpose, to fish dries or indicators, but a full -sinking line- preferably an Intermediate or sometimes a Type II is a better choice because you will break the surface and prevent wakes in windless conditions, and slack or bows in times when the wind is blowing. Also, you can count your flies down to the fish if the situation calls for it. Sink-tip lines offer a lot of the same problems as floating lines do because the majority of the line floats, it also presents your fly in a different manner than a full-sink. Because the tip of the line sinks, it will present your fly at an upward angle, where a full - sink will be more level. This is ok if you are fishing a fly that is imitating an insect emerging from the bottom, but many critters we imitate on lakes don't emerge in that manner. Sink-tips do have their advantages in pockets of weed beds or if you are only retrieving your fly short distances and picking up and re-casting, but try to match them to the proper situation, like any line choice, and you will be ok.

Move your fly slowly

Another common mistake I see people make is moving their flies way too fast, when retrieving them in. Most food sources, except baitfish, move very, very slowly on stillwaters. Almost everyone I have fished with on lakes move their flies way too fast, mostly by using retrieves that are too fast. I have experimented many times to try and get a fast retrieves to work, knowing that I am moving my flies faster than what the trout are feeding on, and have struggled to get it to work consistently. I have found you need to retrieve your flies slowly, sometimes so slow that it hurts. I have even had days where the difference between using a medium pace retrieve and a slow pace retrieve was mind boggling. Another way people move their flies too fast is when they are kicking in their boats and retrieving their flies at the same time. Even if you are retrieving your flies slowly, the movement from kicking is moving your fly like you were using a fast retrieve.

If you fish out of a float tube or pontoon boat, make sure that when you are casting and retrieving your flies that you are holding yourself in place or anchored-this will help prevent moving your flies too fast.

A basic rule that I have noticed fishing lakes is that the slower your retrieve, the softer the grab will be. I don't know how many times I have been sight fishing and watched a trout eat my fly without feeling a thing!

I always wonder how many times we miss fish we don't even feel, especially when there is preventable slack in your presentation. Detecting takes has a lot to do with how you hold your rod during the retrieve. A lot of times fly-fisherman hold their rod tip a foot or more above the water, causing a bow in the fly line. Before you can ever feel a fish grab, all that slack has to be taken out, especially with soft strikes. I know that sometimes fish will hook themselves, but why miss grabs when you don't have to? The simple solution is putting your rod tip a few inches under the water, allowing you to keep a tight line, and feel more of

those softer takes by trout. Another situation I have seen create slack in a presentation is being blown "into" your flies by the wind. This will happen when you are not staying in one place, whether it is because you don't have anchors set or you are not kicking in place in your float tube, and the wind is moving you into where you just casted. When in my boat I always put down two anchors, whether the wind is blowing or not. I want to be stationary and not have to worry about whether the boat is moving when I am trying to fish. In a float tube or pontoon boat if you don't have an anchor down to hold you in place, I find that if you kick every so slightly with your back into the wind it will help you maintain a tight line. The only problem with this, as mentioned earlier, is that if you kick too much you will be moving your flies too fast, so be cautious when doing this.

Match the leader to the fly

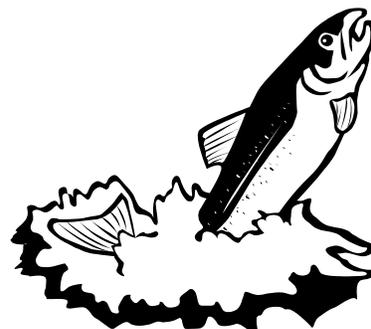
Matching the leaders to the flies is very important. Leaders inappropriate to the flies being used can make casting difficult, causing your leader to twist and tangle, hit the water too hard, spook fish, or are too close to your line and make your flies look like they are tied to rope. In most situations I fish a 12-15ft leader with 3x-5x fluorocarbon tippets. Typically, with bigger or heavier flies I will go closer to 12ft, and lean towards heavier tippets, making casting a little easier. The smaller the fly, the longer and lighter I will go. One problem I have come across occurs when I tie on too big or heavy of fly with a longer lighter leader. This not only turns over poorly, but I have found that it will cause your fly to spin and twist your leader. If you want to fish a long, light leader with a bigger fly, make sure that it is not spinning and twisting your leader. The opposite goes for smaller flies. If you aren't getting hit with what you are using it may be because you have too heavy of a tippet tied to your flies. Many times I have gone slightly longer, dropping down to the next size tippet, and experienced more strikes with the exact same fly.

Choose the right time to fish

The last thing I want to mention is choosing the right time to be out on the water fishing. Not everyone can be out all day, so if your time is limited, how do you choose when to go? There are many factors that effect when fish will be feeding, like water temps, wind, hatches, moon phases, etc. Water temperatures are the most important because if the water is too hot or cold in a certain area the trout probably won't be there for very long. Take water temps constantly and know what parts of lakes warm up or cool faster than others, and choose your times accordingly. I fish one lake that varies in temperature almost fifteen degrees in a day, so get out early, before they get too warm. Even though wind usually isn't appreciated by fly-fisherman, on lakes it is your friend. In clear, tough situations a chop from the wind provides cover for the fish and they feel safer foraging and there is a less of a chance of spooking them with your line hitting the water. Many times an afternoon breeze has provided great action, when only a short time before, it was calm, and I was scratching my head wondering what was going on. Hatching insects will almost always get trout going and knowing when a hatch is likely to come off can take a lot of mystery out of things, providing the right timing for the best action of the day. Full moons have always been puzzling and if possible, I try to avoid fishing right before, during, or closely after them. For a long time I thought fishing early and late was the answer to fishing full moons, and at times it worked ok, but at other times it failed miserably. Once last year I fished all day for two days on a full moon and landed less fish than the week before, but landed fish up to the 11-12lb range, so go figure. All I can say is that if you want to go, then go, who knows what will happen.

So —

With my pursuit of trout in lakes, these are some of the more common mistakes I have seen made, some of which I had to learn myself. Not every day is going to be one of those magical days that provide great fishing all day long, so if you find yourself struggling, consider some of these hints and hopefully, you will be more successful the next time you are out.



Fish and Their Senses

Taken from an article by Christine Peterson that appeared in the Casper-Star Tribune, August 25, 2011.

What do fish see? Can they smell? What are their most important senses? The Star-Tribune asked some of Wyoming's best fish biologists—Frank Rahel, head of the Department of Zoology and Physiology, and Wayne Hubert, retired professor and president of the American Fisheries Society—to break down fish senses. Expert anglers Trent Tatum, co-owner of the North Platte Lodge near Casper, and Mike “Hack” Patterson, owner of Hack's Tackle in Saratoga, Wyoming, explained why those senses mattered.

Smell and Taste

Biology: Yes, those tiny nostrils on the top of a fish's face are important. In some fish, such as rainbow trout, they're so small they're tough to even see.

In most fish, including trout and walleye, nostrils provide a highly developed sense of smell that's critical in finding food. They often use “smell,” or a detection of chemicals, to locate food before they can see it.

Migrating salmon use smell to find the exact streams where they were hatched, identifying the streams from unique geology and vegetation odors.

A fish's ability to taste is slightly less important. It's not as highly developed as some of the other sensory organs and as a result, not as critical to survival.

Trout do, however, have taste buds in their mouths, which help distinguish between artificial flies and lures versus real food like night crawler.

Fishing: Smell, along with taste, can often determine a fish's commitment when it comes in for a bite. Similar to taste, if a fly or lure doesn't smell right, the fish is likely to eat it, but then quickly spit it back out, Tatum said.

“They do know if it's real because it doesn't have any smell or taste,” he said.

“If it's an earthworm, they will eat it and it will be half-way down their gut. If it's a San Juan worm, they will get it in their mouth and with feeling and smell, it will go right back out.”

Fishing regulations take this tendency into account, allowing only artificial bait in catch-and-release areas to minimize deaths by fish swallowing hooks.

If you've gone through all the work to convince that monster rainbow that your San Juan worm is real, you have to be ready to set the hook. Don't hesitate when you feel a little tug to pull your line back.

If it doesn't smell right, the trout may just nibble, putting the hook barely in its mouth before spitting it back out.

Feel

Biology: Many fish feel with the “lateral line,” a row of cells running the length of their bodies that sense movement or vibrations in the water.

Microscopically, the lateral line is made of cells that have hair-like pieces surrounded by jelly-like material. When the hairs vibrate, nerve impulses go to the fish's brain telling it something has changed or moved in the water.

These kinks of cells can also be located at other spots on the trout's body, including its head.

Even as a fish swims through water, its waves bounce off objects and tell it what is around. This is particularly useful in the dark.

“This is why fish don't swim into the sides of an aquarium. The rebound of their waves tells them something is there even though the glass can't be seen,” Rahel said.

Birds, on the other hand, don't have this kind of sense, which is why they will often fly into windows.

Fishing: Anglers need to think about the lateral line when they move and when they toss a fly. When you arrive at a stream bank, for example, wait before you charge into the water.

“You need to sit down and look and see what's going on.” Patterson said.

Not only will you notice how fish are feeding, but you also may see where they are and analyze how any movement you make will affect the fish.

“When you drop a fly in the water, it displaces and pushes water, sending a signal to the fish. In murky water, a trout may feel the grasshopper hit the surface before it sees it”, Tatum said.

In the case of a grasshopper or other clumsy insect, the water movement is an attractant and benefit to the anglers.

But, if your pale morning dun or mayfly hits the water too hard, it may scare the fish, sending it away from your fly.

Sight

Biology: Several main differences separate a fish eye from a human eye. First, humans focus by changing the shape of our lenses. Fish, on the other hand, have perfectly rounded lenses that focus by moving in and out. Their eyes are positioned more on the sides of their heads, bulging from their bodies. This gives them a nearly 360-degree field of vision. Fish don't have eyelids, but an extra membrane that covers their eyes.

Instead of pupils like ours, which dilate or expand to control the amount of light entering our eye, fish have rods and cones.

Rods are sensitive to light and move forward in low-light situations. Cones are sensitive to color and bright lights and move forward when the fish are near the surface and light is brightest.

The rod and cone movement allow fish to see at exceptionally low light under water and also to distinguish between colors.

The cones also make reds appear brighter to many fish than it would be to humans, though from a distance the red fades to black.

Fishing: Because sight is critical to catching a fish, matching both the shape and color of an edible insect is important.

Red can be an attractant both up close – as a bright color red – and from farther away – as a black object.

In darker light, trout can't distinguish color as well, which means a dark fly will be the most visible.

A general rule of thumb is to use a bright, colorful fly on a sunny day, when the color-sensitive cones are forward, and a dark fly on a dark day.

"I've been in the river and the sun was out and we were knocking them out of the water on a white streamer. Then clouds came over the sun and we had to switch to olive," said Trent Tatum. "When the sun came out again, we switched back to white and they kept eating."

Fly of the Month

by Perry Kelley

This month's Fly of the Month is not specific pattern designed to fish our local waters but a fly tied with techniques suggested by David Klausmeyer in the Autumn 2011 issue of *Fly Tyer* magazine. In his article, "10 Tips for Tying Better Nymphs," Klausmeyer covers concepts that should be staples in all of our tying techniques. I will showcase several of his nymph methods in the Flies of the Month. I encourage all of you fly tyers to get a copy of this magazine. Next month will be the Rubber legged, two-toned wire, Hare.

Concept one, use curved shank hooks. Most nymphs assume a curved shape when dislodged in the current. Tying on curved shanks brings an element of realism to any nymph pattern.

Concept two, use new body materials. The fly tying and craft industry has literally hundreds of options. You would be amazed at the possibilities.

Concept three, tie two-tone wire bodies. Almost all aquatic life has multi-colored bodies. It is said that single color represents death.

Concept four, flashback wing cases. Tinsel or Flashabou imitates the gases nymphs create in their bodies during emergence.

Concept five, make the abdomen flat. Adding lead or wire to the sides of the hook shank brings realism to any pattern.

Concept six, rubber legs. Easy to tie, rubber legs make tails, antennae and legs that come to life in the water and they are very easy to tie.

Concept seven Hare E Ice Dub Brightens flies. Flash simply draws attention to any sub-surface fly.

Skinny Stone

Hook: 3 XL curved nymph

Tail: black goose biots

Thread: UTC 70 black

Abdomen: .Lash 025 lead wire on each side of the hook shank. Also add a slip of turkey wing on top of the shank. To get a translucent effect wrap the entire abdomen with clear Stretch Flex (craft store)

Legs: black rubber

Thorax: black peacock Ice Dub

Wing case: 1/4 black nymph stretch





P.O. Box 734, Weiser, Idaho 83672

The following members have November as their due-date for renewal of membership. Please see Jim Gulu and pay ASAP so he doesn't get to rough with you.

Gammons, Ed & Nina

Johnson, "Swede"

Sillonis, Al



Sarah Gulu's first Float trip. Wonder if she has a fishing license?



"The difference between fly fishers and worm dunkers is the quality of their excuses." ~ Anonymous

Coming Events

Nov 1—IFF Board,
Beehive 7 pm

Nov 8 - IFF Membership
Idaho Pizza
6 pm Fly tying Demo
7 pm Program

Nov 12—Fly Tying 7 pm
Weiser Library



NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>IFF Board</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <i>IFF Members</i>	9	10	11	12
13	14	12 <i>Fly Tying</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30			