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## **FlyMasters Fly Fishing School**

## **FlyMasters Tying Classes**

## **Fly Fishing Indiana**

*Brandon Butler*

## **Geared Up For Great Lakes Carp**

*Kevin Morlock*

## **Double Hauling in 300 Words**

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*Bruce Richards*

## **Wulff Triangle Taper**

*Doug Cummings*

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*Annette McLean*



FlyMasters Provides  
The Finest Service,  
The Best Equipment,  
and World-Class  
Experience for The  
Sport of Fly Fishing.

## **Five Principles of Fishing ~ Fox Statler**

**#1** Ninety percent of the fish in a river will be in a place where there is no current, such as the bottom of the stream or behind objects.

# FlyMasters Fly Fishing School



**Beginning Fly Fishing School** What a great time to learn how to fly fish! The modern rods, lines, leaders and flies make it so easy to learn and so much fun when you fish. This school offers an introduction to fly fishing, basic equipment, casting techniques, playing and landing fish. The school is divided into three easy phases to allow you to gain the most out of each session.

## Fly Fishing School Phase I Dates for 2009

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

*Call For Dates in  
July - September*

## Anyone Can Learn To Fly Fish

Fortunately, you do not have to wait until warmer weather to start learning when you learn at FlyMasters. We start our school when there is still snow on the ground. Phase one of our school is in the shop so we can start people on their way to learning how to fly fish early in the season.

**Phase One:** Introduction to Equipment and Knots

**Phase Two:** Basic fly casting and still water fly fishing.

**Phase Three:** Moving water and stream techniques.

Phases are usually on an individual basis, arranged around your schedule. Sessions will vary in length from two to four hours. It is best to have your own equipment, but equipment is available for use. The cost for the entire school is \$100.00 per person. Upon completion of the school you should have the basic skills to start to enjoy the sport and art of fly fishing.

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Buy One Regular Fly Fishing School For an Adult  
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*One Coupon Per Customer*

Child Must Be 18 Years or Younger

**\$100.00 Value**

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## Five Principles of Fishing ~ Fox Statler

**#2** Bugs spend ninety percent of their lives on the bottom of the river.

### "A Bite is success to the angler" ~ Fox Statler

After you have completed the Beginning Fly Fishing School we have more options for you to advance your fly fishing skills and keep you having fun!

**Nymphing Classes at Brookville Tailwater** "A Bite is success to the angler, no matter what fishing method employed or the species sought. The more Bites - the greater the success and the greater the opportunity there is for the angler to catch a fish. This simple principle defines success in all methods of fishing and business as well. Be a Bite fisherman. Use whatever fly that is needed to get the Bites." Fox Statler

We use Fox Statler for our Nymphing Classes at Brookville. These classes are for people who have finished the FlyMasters Fly Fishing School or for people who need advanced skills in Nymphing. Dead drifting with an indicator is the most effective way to catch trout. Fox developed the first indicator that was not a dry fly. The class is taught in the Spring and Fall and takes place at the Brookville Tailwater. Check our website **WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM** for the dates.

**Spey Casting Classes** Two-handed rods are effective and fun for fishing our Great Lakes Salmon and Steelhead waters. With Lake Erie and Michigan Rivers



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### Now Is A Great Time To Start Tying Your Own Flies

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close by a two-handed rod can be used from October to April in many of these rivers. On some streams, particularly narrow ones, the long rods have a better advantage than conventional rods. FlyMasters uses local and international instructors for our two-handed classes. Check our website for the next scheduled class **WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM**. Classes are taught in a group for beginners and hourly classes can be arranged for advanced casting. Spey casting is done with one and two-handed rods therefore, it improves your casting skill whether you use a one or two-handed rod. It is fun to learn spey casting and even more fun to catch fish with the long rods!

**"Let's Go Fishing" program** This is a free program that we put on from June through September, usually on Wednesday nights. It is an open clinic for anyone who already knows how to fly fish, but still has questions and would like to talk face to face with someone. Held in the evenings after work; anyone can stop by on their way home from work and either get in the water and fish or just get some professional assistance. Questions range from how to tie a particular knot, how to fish a bass popper, how to setup a dropper rig, wading safety, leader constructions and which flies to use. This is not for beginners but rather for those wanting some additional assistance to keep learning and fishing. It is always a good idea to check our web site before heading out for this program. Due to weather and water conditions the location of the class may change from week to week.



**Spey Casts are used with one and two-handed rods**

## Casting For Recovery and Project Healing Waters



Purchase a Casting For Recovery or a Project Healing Waters rod at FlyMasters and TFO will donate \$25.00 to these fine programs.



### Five Principles of Fishing ~ Fox Statler

**#3** Fish will feed on what is most available to them at any given time.



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INTERVIEW: JASON BORGER

ISSN 1913-8652



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# FlyMasters Fly Tying Classes



**A Matuka Tied By a Student**

Whether you are a beginner or have been tying for years, we have classes that will help you learn more about fly tying and keep this aspect of fly fishing fresh. There is nothing quite like catching a fish on a fly you have tied yourself. It is extremely satisfying to take a little bit of fur and feather and arrange it on a hook and then spend a whole evening catching fish on what you created. We have two types of tying classes at FlyMasters. There is a

**Beginning Fly Tying Class** where you will learn everything from setting your hook in your vise to tying your first dry fly. The second type is our **Intermediate and Skills Development Class**. This class is designed to pick up where the beginning class ends and continue to learn new techniques as well as new fly patterns.

**Beginning Fly Tying** The beginning fly tying class is a five part class that meets once a week for two hours. There is a class that is held during the week on **Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00pm**. The other class is held on **Saturday mornings from 9:00am – 11:00am**. They are the same class in the series just on different days to provide greater flexibility. There is formal instruction on



**It's Never too late to learn to tie flies!**

tools, hooks, materials, thread and nine different fly patterns. Fortunately, as the class progresses and students skills progress there is more time in the two last

## Kids Free Beginning Fly Tying Class

**Purchase One Beginning Fly Tying Class For an Adult  
and Get One Beginning Fly Tying Class For A Child Free**

*Offer Valid From January 1st through May 31st 2009*

*One Coupon Per Customer*

**\$50.00 Value**

*Child Must Be 18 Years or Younger*





### Teaching the next generation at a free kids tying clinic.

classes and we fill that time with other flies. The cost of the class is \$50.00 and this only includes the instruction. All tools and materials are the responsibility of the student to provide. This class is open to children six to seven years or older and adults of any age. We encourage parents and children as well as husband and wives to take this class together. Fly tying is a great activity for everyone and a wonderful way to spend an afternoon (especially a snowy one).

Even though there are set days and times that this class meets, we are very flexible if lessons need to be shifted around. We understand that from time to time life will intervene and you might need to meet at a different time.

Here are the dates for the beginning tying classes in 2009.

January 6, 10

February 17, 21

April 14, 18

August 18, 22

September 22, 22

November 10, 14

**Intermediate and Skill Development Tying** The class meets for two hours on Saturdays from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. The goal of this class is to provide instruction concerning various tying skills, use of tools and materials, and fly patterns. Many tiers want to learn new and interesting fly patterns. Some are more interested in other techniques and skills in fly tying. The flies we tie are usually focused on upcoming fishing seasons as well as flies requested by tiers.



## Tying Flies Makes You Smile

Here are the Dates in 2009 for our Intermediate and Skills Development classes. Please check our web site for what we will be tying that day.

January 3, 24, 31  
 February 7, 14, 12, 28  
 March 7, 14, 21, 28  
 April 18, 5  
 May 2  
 June 13  
 August 8, 15, 22, 29  
 September 5, 12, 19, 26  
 October 10, 17  
 November 7, 14, 21, 28  
 December 5, 12, 19

Hook: Mustad 94840 (10-18)  
 Thread: Uni-Thread 8/0 Olive or Black  
 Hackle: Furnace  
 Crackleback: 3 - 4 Peacock Herl Strands  
 Body: 6 - 7 White Turkey Round Fibers

### *Tying Instructions*

1. Tie in the hackle, dull side facing you, at the hook bend.
2. Tie in 2 strands of peacock herl at the hook bend.
3. Tie 6 - 7 strands from a turkey round feather at the hook bend.
4. Palmer turkey rounds forward, tie off and trim excess.
5. Fold peacock strands forward over back of fly. Tie off and trim excess.
6. Palmer hackle forward (5 or so turns) and tie off. Trim off excess.

The cost of this class is \$10.00 and all materials are provided. Students do need to bring their own equipment.

The content of each class, what we will be tying, is usually determined a few weeks before the class. You can check our web site to view just what will be tied in the class as well as view what we have done in the past.

Please check out our web site where you can view flies we have tied in all of our Saturday afternoon Intermediate and Skills Development classes from 2006, 2007 and 2008. Most have nice images of the flies we tied. When you are in the shop check out our class room where we tie!



## The Crackleback

## Five Principles of Fishing ~ Fox Statler

**#4.** Success to any fisherman, fly fisherman or otherwise, should be assessed in the number of bites and not number of fish caught.

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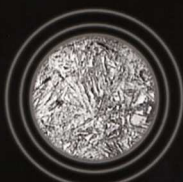


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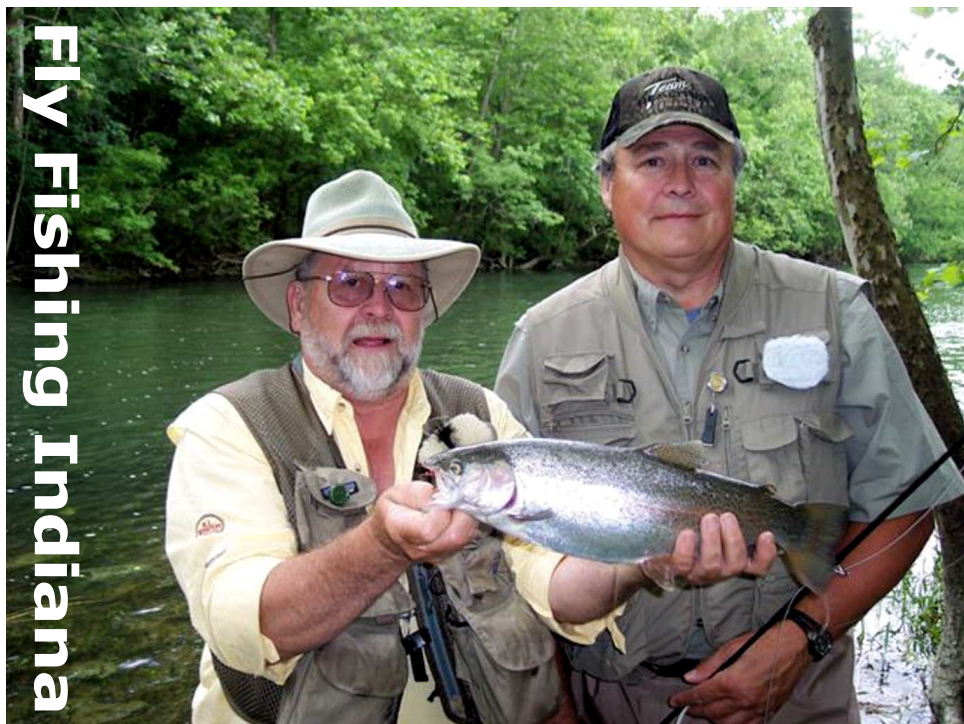
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# Fly Fishing Indiana



## **A Nice 23" Rainbow Caught During Nymphing Clinic at Brookville**

When those two beautiful words; fly and fishing, are uttered together, classic images immediately begin running through the minds of all in earshot. Grand mountain vistas, crystal clear waters, delicate little dry flies; these are staples of fly fishing mystique. But as Dylan so powerfully pronounced years ago, "The times, they are a changing".

Today, another crowd of fly-fishers is emerging. A younger, fresher, enthusiastic group of seekers has mixed the elements of a new generation with the traditional aspects of fly fishing. Rods are stronger and faster. Flies are bigger, heavier, and less natural. Smallmouth bass are targeted almost as often as trout, and with anglers chasing everything from tarpon to carp, few fish species are over looked by fly anglers.

This new energy in fly fishing has done wonders for less traditional fly fishing states like Indiana and its Midwestern neighbors. Anglers who once thought fly fishing was reserved for those souls living a mountain life are beginning to realize how exciting a largemouth bass exploding a popper on the surface of their subdivision pond can be. Many lifelong bait anglers are discovering the joy of using a 4-weight to lay a dry fly over a bed of bluegills, triggering a mass abandonment of worms under bobbers.

We have it good here in Indiana; probably much better than you realize. From our lake run steelhead of the north, to our ferocious stripers of the south, Indiana is blessed with an abundant variety of species of fish willing and able to put an ache in a fly anglers arm. Bluegills, bass, northerns, musky, crappie, carp,



catfish, steelhead, and yes, even trout swim the multitude of waters right here in land of Hoosiers. A complete list of places to fly fish in Indiana would take longer than my lifetime to compile. Basically, anywhere you can catch fish with spinning or bait casting equipment; you can catch fish on a fly rod. The short list of waters I provide here is only an attempt to highlight different regions of the state with different species of fish to target. By no means are these the only, or the greatest, waters to fly fish in Indiana. Get out and explore. Go back to your old reliable haunts, but this time, go with a fly rod.

**T**rail Creek, Salt Creek, & Little Calumet Great Lakes tributaries with annual steelhead runs are highly publicized in states like Michigan and Ohio, but many fail to realize that right here in Indiana we have a few outstanding creeks of our own. Trail Creek, Salt Creek and the "Little Cal" are Lake Michigan tributaries with notable runs of Skamania steelhead. Anglers should contact Fly Masters to keep abreast of when the runs are hot.

**B**rookville Tailwater Trout, trout, and more trout right here in Indiana. A true tailwater fishery, the two miles of river directly below Brookville Dam has become a fly fishing destination in the Midwest. Rainbows dominate the species, but twenty-inch browns are common. Please respect this valuable resource by practicing catch-and-release.



**Indiana Lake Webster  
Muskie**

**L**ake Webster Musky madness has swept Indiana. What was once a biological pipe-dream is now a nationally recognized success. Musky fishing in Indiana is growing and growing. Fly anglers are cashing in on the opportunity to tangle with toothy predators exceeding 40". Webster is just one of the many lakes in northern Indiana boasting a quality population of muskies.

**W**est Fork of the White River When Indiana's chief fishery biologist, Bill James, says water is "hot", you better take him for his word. President George Bush did when he appointed Mr. James to the Great Lakes Council. So when Bill James says the section of West Fork of the White River north of Indianapolis is the premier smallmouth bass water in the state of Indiana, believe him. Fishing streamers for smallies in this section can wear an angler out. Wade fishing and float fishing are both viable options for pursuing bronzebacks in this heavily populated section of river.

**G**reene Sullivan Strip Pits A very unique and biologically diverse section of Indiana is found straddling the counties of Greene and Sullivan. Commonly referred to as "The Greene-Sullivan", this area is heavily comprised of public land and water. Old strip mines have been returned to nature, resulting in hundreds of lakes full of bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish, and even a few trout.

**A**ll great fly fishing begins at a great fly shop. Here in Indiana we are fortunate to have one of the best. FlyMasters of Indianapolis is hands down one of the all around greatest shops I ever been in, and I've been in quite a few

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from coast to coast. Weather you looking for a new Winston or a custom bamboo, they have the rod you need and everything to go with it. As far as fly fishing knowledge is concerned, the staff at FlyMasters defines the term professional. So stop in the shop, and see what all the buzz is about. I know you'll be glad you did!

Brandon Butler is a professional outdoor writer from Bloomington, Indiana. His column, *Driftwood Outdoors*, appears in numerous Indiana newspapers. After honing his fly fishing skills while living in Colorado and Montana, he is now happily back home chasing his beloved bass.

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# Geared Up For Great Lakes Carp

Kevin Morlock

You have heard a lot about Great Lakes carp and are finally going to give them a try if only to be able to say, "Yes, I have fished carp and they just aren't for me!" At least that's what people think before they hit the flats,

## Beaver Harbor, two hour ferry ride from Charlevoix Michigan

become hooked and add carp to their favorites list. Carp likely offer some of the best sporting opportunities in the Midwest but are completely under appreciated. Let's quickly run through what gear and preparations you'll need to make your Great Lakes carp trip a success.

**Rod and Reels** Many use 7- to 9-weight rods for carp and they will handle the fish with no problem, though they may struggle with a combination of wind and large heavy flies. For this reason I personally fish a 10-weight every day. That way I don't have to switch outfits with larger flies or when the wind picks up. Carp are big and strong. I have never felt that a 10-weight was overkill. A good quality reel that will handle a couple hundred yards of backing is adequate. It's no fun to be spooled by the monster of the trip—that can and has happened!

**Lines and Leaders** You're going to use a weight-forward floating line 95 percent of the time. In a perfect world you should be able to turn over a light fly with little slap, while still being able to throw a weighted and soggy craw bunny into a hard wind. You will also want a clear-tip or braided leader for the dreaded flat water days—carp hate line shadow. Bring along a sink tip for targeting smallmouth, pike or other species too. I've used nothing but 10-12 pound fluorocarbon the past two years and it seems perfect under all conditions.

**Casting** You should be able to cast at least 50 feet in your backyard, in a variety of wind conditions, with the outfit you plan on using for Great Lakes carp. This will at least get you in the 25-40 foot range while actually fishing. I have had so many people deeply regret not putting in enough casting practice before

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their trip. Remember: wind + moving boat + moving fish = tough casting.

**Flies** When you see large slicks of mayfly husks on the water, it's time to tie on either a nymph or dry mayfly pattern—small hex patterns work well. Crayfish have been and still are a bread-and-butter choice. Each year gobie patterns work better and better. As the real gobies have been getting larger each year, so have the best gobie flies. It is good to note that yellow and red are key accent colors, and all wets need to swim “hook up” to help avoid rocks.

**Waders** I bring waders every day so that I always have the option of wearing them. Some areas are like slimy bowling balls, so you'll need boots with good traction. But no clicking—cleats are too loud. Day hiking or boat fishing may dictate your choice of waders. I prefer wading pants over chest-high waders for summer fishing. They are cooler and more comfortable.



**I think you'll end up agreeing, "Yes, I have fished carp and they are definitely for me!"**

**Other Gear** If you plan on day hiking you will want a pack large enough to hold your essential gear, along with everything else you carry. Once you've gone out several miles, which you can easily do, discovering a lost or broken item (and no replacement) can end your day. Consider bringing an extra rod and reel with line, a filled fly box and backup sunglasses. You may also want a rain/wind jacket, sunscreen, snacks and a water bottle. I recommend a stripping basket too. I use mine more each year.

Enjoy a safe, fun and successful Great Lakes carp trip. I think you'll end up agreeing, "Yes, I have fished carp and they are definitely for me!"

Kevin Morlock - Indigo Guides Service

Kevin Morlock is a fishing guide in West Michigan ([www.indigoguideservice.com](http://www.indigoguideservice.com)) on the Pere Marquette and other area rivers, and for carp and smallmouth on and around Beaver Island in Northern Lake Michigan.

## **Five Principles of Fishing ~ Fox Statler**

**#5** Fisherman will be more successful if they use a pattern that imitates what the fish are biting most.

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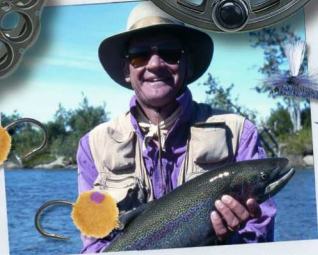
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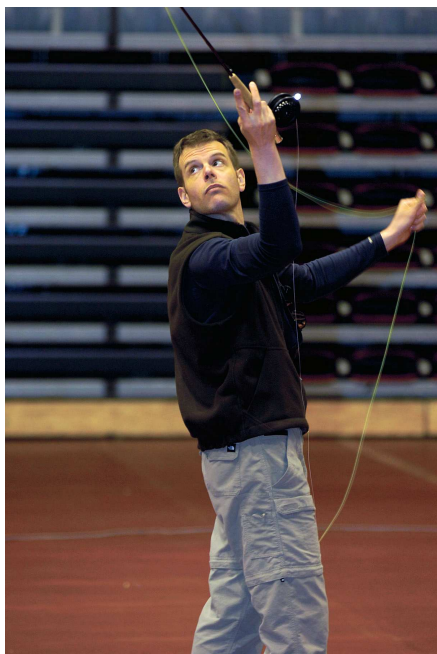
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Gary "The Professor"  
Borger (and friend).



**Jason Borger, the "Shadow Caster" in the Movie "A River Runs Through It"**

## Double Hauling in 300 Words

Jason Borger

Double hauling is an efficient way to increase the amount of energy in the rod/line system. You can learn the basics by using pantomiming (casting motions sans rod or line).

Begin with both your rod and line hands at your "ready to cast" position. Put your line hand directly under your rod hand—the Beginning Haul Position. Now make a downward tugging motion with your line hand that is about a foot long and stop—the Ending Haul Position. Now, move your line hand back up to the Beginning Haul Position. That completes one haul cycle—a Single Haul.

Now, make another Single Haul motion, but this time as soon as you have reached the Ending Haul Position,

immediately move your hand back up to the Beginning Haul Position. That is the basic timing: A "down/up" (à la Mel Krieger), or a "bounce." Now let's turn that into something real.

Starting at the ready position, begin to slowly pantomime a backcast. Move both hands in concert, following the rod hand with the line hand. Just as you are about to "turn-over" (a.k.a. "speed-up-and-stop," "power-snap," etc.) the imaginary rod, also begin to haul downward with the line hand. Mirror the speed, distance and motion of your rod hand with the haul. Your line hand should reach the Ending Haul Position at the essentially same time that your rod hand stops the rod.

On the forward cast, your hands travel together until the rod hand is approaching the "turn-over" position. Then, your line hand moves away, making another haul. By making a Single Haul on the backcast and a Single Haul on the forward cast, you have created a Double Haul. As you practice, learn to vary the length of the haul(s) with the length of the casting stroke (short stroke=short haul(s), long stroke=long haul(s)).

For a look at fly-casting in 100,000 words, see Jason Borger's Nature of Fly Casting – a modular approach (available from Fly Masters in Indianapolis).

We had held the world in our hand when we held a four-and-a-half-ounce fishing rod. ~ Norman McLean, A River Runs Through It






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[WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM](http://WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM)

# Sharkskin!!



Every now and then a new technology comes along that changes the playing field in any industry.

**The average caster sees a 5 - 10% increase in shooting distance with no increase in casting effort.**

In fly fishing, plastic coated fly line, introduced in the 1950s was certainly one of those innovations. Fly rods made out of fiberglass, then graphite, were certainly also game changing improvements. But true revolutionary changes don't come along very often.

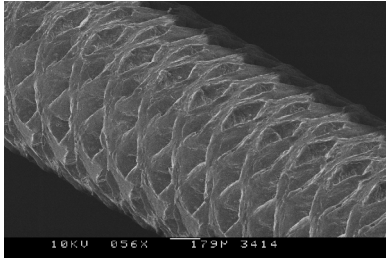
Scientific Anglers is always working on potentially revolutionary ideas, but only a small number of them ever actually make the final cut and turn into products. In most cases, a fatal flaw is discovered that renders the potential product worthless, or unaffordable.

A few years ago one of our lab guys, Jeff Wieringa, was doing some research and came across an interesting article on the "lotus effect". This is something that is found in nature and is responsible for the amazing water repellency of many leaves, most notably the lotus leaf. Other industries have used this technology from nature to very good advantage and Jeff decided to find out if it had any application in fly lines.

Making something very water repellent will also greatly improve flotation as the water's surface tension will repel the object forcing it high in the film. The lotus effect operates by a "microreplicated structure", and microreplication happens to be a 3M (SA's parent company) core technology. So with the help of internal research and development people and an outside machine building company, SA found a way to mold a microreplicated structure on the surface of fly lines. The risk was significant, before the idea could be tested SA had to build a very expensive machine so lines could be made for testing. If the technology didn't yield good results the money would be wasted. But fortunately, early lines tested very well so the project was continued.

Over time the structure, like a very fine texture, was improved and testing continued. It was expected that flotation would be significantly improved, and it was. It was also thought the friction in the guides would be reduced, and maybe even wind resistance. It was found the guide friction was reduced significantly,

but that the texture was too small to reduce wind resistance effectively. But the friction reduction benefits were significant, the average caster sees a 5-10% increase in shooting distance with no increase in casting effort.



### **The Microreplicated Structure of Sharkskin**

Side benefits that weren't expected were discovered. While some worried that line durability might be compromised, just the opposite was discovered. The texture provided small "stress relief" points that made the lines more flexible, with less memory, and that greatly reduced the tendency for the lines to crack. Some lines ran for more than 10 times the number of cycles expected for more conventional lines during durability testing.

The Sharkskin texture also tends not to stick to itself (or anything else) so tangling was also significantly reduced, even though the lines are less stiff. Since the surface is textured, not smooth, the lines have a very dull surface and have no fish spooking line "flash", another unanticipated benefit.

So, every now and then a new technology comes along that truly does change our sport, and Sharkskin is one of them.

Bruce Richards  
Scientific Anglers



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# Wulff Triangle Taper

The Triangle Taper was first marketed in the spring of 1983. The idea of a continuous tapered fly line had been percolating in Lee Wulff's mind for years. He always thought that if a knotless tapered leader was a better idea, why not do the same thing in a fly line and have a continuous smooth turnover. While his original concept was for a roll casting line, the Triangle Taper became much more than that. While it is a superior roll casting line, the theory behind the design is that heavier line is always turning over lighter line in the cast. This gives you a mechanical advantage you don't get with a standard weight forward line where you have level line pushing level line.

The TT also has a smaller diameter running line that gives you less friction in the guides, which translates to higher line speed and less casting effort. You can also trim the front of a TT by cutting back from the tip, inch by inch to accommodate larger flies or weighted nymphs. Because of the fine tip diameter you are not cutting off enough weight to make a serious difference.

The TT was originally marketed in 2 sizes, the 4/5 light and the 6/7 medium. We then added the 8/9 Heavy for Salmon fisherman. The theory behind the dual rating was that when you got past the 30' AFTMA weighing point, you still had 10 feet of weighted belly, so the second number let the angler to be aware of this.

At first the TT was sold directly to consumers through a small catalog and magazine ads. In time, fly shops discovered them and asked to sell them. At this point we started selling exclusively through dealers. Sizes 2/3, 5/6, 7/8 and 9/10 were added later to flesh out the series. TT's for other applications, Salt, Spey etc. soon followed and we went to a single line rating system in 2000 to simplify the process for dealers and consumers. There are now over 160 TT's in various sizes, colors and applications.

Doug Cummings  
President, Joan Wulff School



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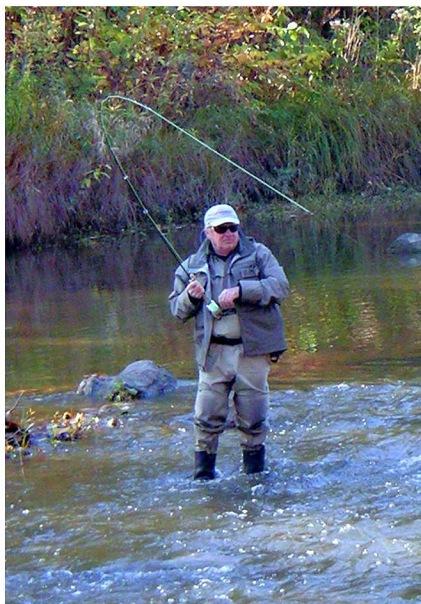
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Reel River is a full service guide operation. We employ three guides with experience in many different avenues of fishing. Our real passion is chasing steelhead in the Spring and Fall. Winter fishing can be good when the weather cooperates. Reel River concentrates on guiding the Lake Erie tributaries such as the Chagrin River, Conneaut Creek, Grand River, Rocky River, and the Vermillion River. We use several techniques for catching steelhead in the Great Lakes tributaries. Though indicator Nymphing is the most popular, our favorite way to fish is swinging a large streamer for an arm wrenching grab!



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# Steelhead By The Numbers

Jerry Darkes

As we get farther through fall and into winter, our choice of flies to use for steelhead often gets more limited. As water temperatures drop, steelhead feeding behavior will often change noticeably. When metabolism decreases in colder water, so follows feeding. The fish will be less likely to chase a fly any distance and often opt for a smaller meal. Under extreme cold, certain fish may become nearly dormant and stop feeding entirely for a period of time.

Here are a few general trends I have noticed over my years of chasing steelhead around the Great Lakes. When water temperatures are 55-45 degrees, fish will be very active and respond well to a variety of flies presented different ways. This is probably the optimum temperature range for swinging streamers and the possibility of some dry fly action.

From 45 to 35 degrees, we are in a transition area. Some fish will still respond to a streamer, but a dead-drift presentation becomes most effective. Here the egg/nymph combo really begins to come into its' own. Streamer addicts will get enough grabs to hold their interest, but numbers turn in favor of a dead-drift rig.

Below 35 degrees a dead-drift presentation is pretty much a necessity. Success really turns in favor of the egg & nymph crowd. In addition, presentation becomes much more critical. The flies need to be at the proper depth, drifting at current speed. There is little room for error as allowed when the water is warmer.

Most Lake Erie and Lake Ontario tributaries are examples of spate rivers. Water temperatures will often fluctuate like a yo-yo and can drop and fall quickly depending on the weather. In cold conditions, just a slight rise in water temperature will trigger steelhead activity. A jump from 34 to 36 degrees is like turning on a light switch. Once the temperature starts to drop again though, the action is over.

Many Michigan rivers are ground-spring fed and less influenced by rainfall and more by actual springs providing water to maintain flows. Several, such as the Muskegon, Big Manistee, and AuSable are also tailwaters that have flows regulated by dams. These waters are also fed by numerous springs and smaller

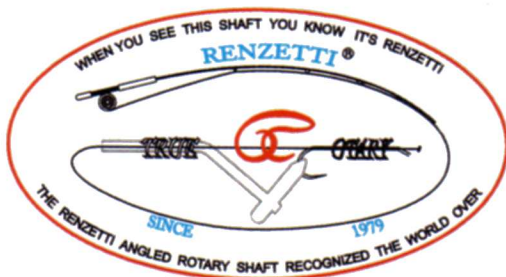
## Five Principles of Fishing ~ Fox Statler

"If a fish spends ninety percent of its life near the bottom, and ninety percent of the food is on the bottom, why couldn't ninety percent of its feeding activity take place on the bottom?"



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tributaries. Their water temperatures tend to be more stable than spate rivers, taking longer to cool off and longer to warm up. Steelhead are often less erratic in their feeding behavior in these waters.

In clear water, lifelike streamer patterns are often more effective. Large sculpin imitations have been proven in many Michigan waters. Shiner imitations are standard fare in southern Great Lakes tribs. It is a matter of matching flies to dominant food forms.

When the water is off-color any number of attractor patterns may work. One of my favorites is to incorporate purple and a brighter color such as pink, orange, or chartreuse. Purple is visible under a wide range of water clarity and still not overpowering in clear water.

In dead-drift situations, an egg/nymph combo is hard to beat. The egg is often an attractor when no natural spawn is present in the rivers. In clear, water more subdued colors like cream, cheese, or peach are best. When the water is stained, crank up the colors to

chartreuse, flame, or steelhead orange. Single color eggs can be used, but multicolor patterns like the Clown Egg or Scrambled Egg may be more effective.

Nymph patterns should be selected based on the prevalent insect life where you are fishing. Even in the southern tributaries we see an abundant variety of insect life. Little Black Stones, Golden Stones, and several varieties of caddis are found in quantity. In Michigan and Wisconsin waters Green Caddis, Black Stones, and Hex nymphs are abundant and a favorite food of steelhead.



**Fish On!**



**Steelhead Love Sculpins**

Boa Shiner, Boa Leech, Clown Egg and Scrambled Egg. The folks at FlyMasters can provide recipes for each of these flies.

The use of water temperature as a guideline to pick a particular angling technique will add consistency to steelheading success. Fly styles are selected based on the chosen technique. Individual patterns and colors are then incorporated depending on the clarity of the water fished. Steelheading by the numbers helps to simplify the mystery of how, when, and why when fly fishing for steelhead. Good patterns would be the

Ours is the grandest sport. It is an intriguing battle of wits between an angler and a trout; and in addition to appreciating the tradition and grace of the game, we play it in the magnificent out-of-doors. ~ Ernest G. Schwiebert, Jr.

# A Woman Angler's Perspective on Buying a Rod

Annette McLean

So you are thinking about buying a fly rod. After settling on this decision, your next questions will be...but what kind of fly rod? How much should I expect to spend? Who will be able to help me? For women, there are a few simple basics to choosing an appropriate fly rod.

If you are purchasing your first fly rod...congratulations and welcome. But how much should you spend? You need to think about how serious you might be about fly fishing. If you think this sport is something that you will enjoy for the rest of your life, then purchase quality tackle. It will not only perform better, it will also give you a sense of pride of ownership. If you are "testing the waters" so to speak, then look at an economically priced rod. It will give you the ability to experience fly fishing and allow you to decide whether or not the sport is something that will hold your interest.

When choosing the type of rod, consider the type of water that you will be fishing and the species for which you will be fishing. The fly rod is a tool that is designed for a specific range of fishing situations.

For women, this next consideration is very important. The rod you choose should be as light weight and comfortable in your hand as you can find. It should be easy to cast in the range it will be asked to perform. When you think about the number of casts that you may make during the course of the fishing day, you very much want a rod that will not fatigue your hand, arm or shoulder. Be sure that the grip is comfortable for your hand. If the grip is too large or too small, you will experience fatigue and possible cramping in your hand.

The rod of your choice should become an extension of your arm and should not be stubborn or difficult to load through the casting stroke. When you are on the water, the goal is to be able to enjoy the event of fishing. When you enter into that singular focus of the water, the fish and all that is related to that moment, the last thing you want on your mind is, 'Why is my arm hurting?'

When posed with all these questions and expectations, you will want to talk with the knowledgeable people at FlyMasters in Indianapolis. FlyMasters will not only be able to help you sort through all these questions, but they will become an invaluable resource to all your future fly fishing experiences.

I hope fly fishing brings to you all that it has given to me...the opportunity to meet exceptional people, experience beautiful waters and hold wonderful memories.

See you on the water.

Annette McLean

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Here is a list of some of our most popular trip that we have planned for 2009. Call us at the shop or send us an E-Mail and we can help you have the fly fishing trip of a lifetime!

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Scotland Atlantic Salmon  
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June  
July  
July  
August  
October  
November/  
December