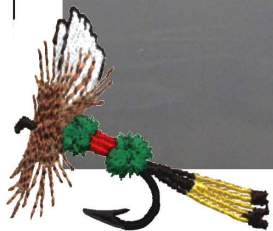


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Twenty years ago we started FlyMasters in a tiny store with a handful of products and a dream of having the best fly fishing shop in Indianapolis.

We will leave it to others to say if we have achieved that goal, but we do know several things for sure. Without the support of you our customers, we would not have achieved our current level of success and made so many great friends along the way.

As we start our next twenty years, our commitment to you our customer remains unchanged. We will strive to offer you the best fly fishing related service, selection and experience.



Jon Widboom
FlyMasters of Indianapolis



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Sport of Fly Fishing.

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FlyMasters Fly Fishing School

Beginning Fly Fishing School Why learn to Fly Fish in Indiana? Believe it or not you can catch Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Hybrid Bass, Striped Bass, Steelhead, Salmon, Trout (Browns and Rainbows), Muskie, Northern Pike, Carp, and lots of sunfish all within 0 to 3 hours of Indianapolis all on a fly rod! With just a little instruction you can begin to enjoy fly fishing for any of these species in no time at all. Our fly fishing school is a cut above the rest because we work around your busy schedule and make it convenient for you to learn.

Our school offers an introduction to fly fishing, basic equipment, casting techniques, playing and landing fish. The school is divided into three convenient phases to allow you to gain the most out of each session.

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 (in store phase we schedule)

Phase Two: Basic fly casting and still water fly fishing (by appointment Monday through Saturday Morning)

Phase Three: Moving water and stream techniques (by appointment Monday through Saturday Morning)

Phases two and three are usually on an individual basis, arranged around your schedule. Sessions will vary in length from one to three 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.



Fly Fishing School Phase I Dates for 2010

February	23 rd
March	4 th , 8 th , 23 rd
April	7 th , 13 th
May	12 th , 25 th
June	9 th

*Call For Dates in
July - September*

Fly Fishing Schools make a great gift for Christmas and Birthdays. Just purchase a gift certificate and beginners book and you have a gift that will keep on giving for years to come!

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!

Advanced Casting Lessons Learning to double haul will help you become more skilled in a number of angling situations. Windy days, casting big flies, reaching out to that special spot all require increased velocity of the line. This lesson will last for one hour and is done by appointment. If you are going on a winter saltwater trip we can usually find a day to have a lesson. Short practice periods are all that is needed to improve your skill. Don't wait til your trip to learn this important casting technique.

Fly Fishing Clinics



Fox Statler - The Art of Dead-Drift Nymphing This Clinic begins with an invertebrate on-stream collection, then a short seminar and fly tying session of the aquatics that were collected. The remainder of the clinic is filled with on-stream demonstrations of reading different water situations, mending techniques that work best in each situation, situation drifting techniques, position of the angler to optimize the dead-drift, different styles of cast that are advantage for each water situation, properly setting the hook,

fighting the fish, and landing the fish techniques. Students participation is maximized by having each student practice his/her skills at each dead-drifting situation. The latter portion on the clinic is student dead-drifting with one-on-one instructions.

Fox Statler - It's All Fly Fishing - Hair, Fur, Plastic, Metal, or Synthetics - Smallmouth, Trout, Sunfish, or What Ever This seminar/clinic is about using flies and techniques that are in the "Out-of-the-box" category for fly fishers that produce lots of fish and are lots of fun. Fly fishing was the first fishing method that used artificials (and may have been the first fishing method entirely), "It's All Fly Fishing". The presentations are simple so a novice can successfully employ them but it takes a master to adapt them to various fishing situations. This is a fun seminar/clinic for all skill levels of fly fishers and is great on a small warm-water stream with lots of sunfish and bass.

Two Handed Instruction Two-handed rods are effective and fun for fishing our Great Lakes Salmon and Steelhead waters. With Lake Erie and Michigan Rivers close by a two-handed rod can be used from October to April in many of these rivers. FlyMasters uses local and international instructors for our two-handed instruction. Not sure of what line you need for your new two-handed rod? FlyMasters staff has demo lines and can assist you with the proper line for your specific rod and the waters and flies that you fish.

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FlyMasters Fly Tying Classes



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 Level I The beginning level I fly tying class is designed for absolute beginners. If you have never tied a fly before this is your class. We will take you through all the steps of setting up our vise and tools to tying 9 different flies. This 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

Here are the dates for the **Beginning Level I Tying classes** in 2010

January	19 th , 23 rd
March	2 nd , 6 th
May	20 th , 24 th
August	17 th , 21 st
October	5 th , 9 th
November	16 th , 20 th



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 tools, hooks, materials, thread as well as how to tie flies. The cost of the class is \$50.00, this only includes the instruction. All tools and materials are the responsibility of the student to provide.

This class is open to children five to seven years or older and adults of all 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.

Beginning Fly Tying Level II The beginning level II fly tying class takes up where the level I class ends. This is not a class for anyone who has never tied a fly; that is the level I class. Many new comers to fly tying are eager to continue tying but lack direction or self confidence to continue tying on their own. Our level II class is a five part class (like the level I class) but meets on **Thursday evenings from 7:00pm – 9:00pm**. The cost of the class is \$50.00 which pays for the tying instruction. The thing that sets this class apart is that the students in the class pick the flies they want to tie. At the beginning of each class the student pour over a list of 100 different flies, ranging from trout (dries, nymphs and streamers), steelhead, salmon, northern pike, bass, panfish, and saltwater and pick the four they want to tie in the next class. They are then provided a recipe sheet for each of the flies so they can acquire the materials. This way the class is more tailored to what it is the students are interested in tying. If you like a more structured environment for your learning then signing up for the level II class when you are done with the level I class is what you need.

Here are the dates for the **Beginning Level II Tying classes** in 2010

January	21 st
March	4 th
May	22 nd
August	19 th
October	7 th
November	18 th

Intermediate and Skills Development Tying This 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.

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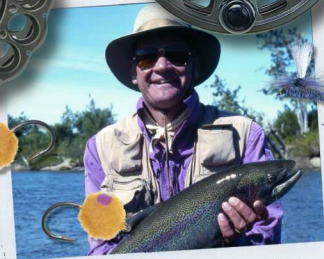
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As well as learning new and interesting flies we will also throughout the year be focusing on new tying techniques. Whether learning to spin deer hair, learning about various dubbing techniques or learning to work with certain materials we will have special classes that are focused on advancing your tying skills. The cost of this class is \$10.00 and all materials are provided. Students do need to bring their own equipment and can check out our web site for each of the classes to see if any special tools or equipment is required for the class.



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. While you are at our web site you can view flies we have tied in all of our Saturday afternoon Intermediate and Skills Development classes from 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Most have nice images of the flies we tied.

Here are the Dates in 2010 for our Intermediate and Skills Development classes. Please check our web site for what we will be tying that day.	
January	2, 23, 30
February	6, 13, 20, 27
March	6, 13, 20, 27
April	17, 24
May	1, 8, 15, 22
June	19, 26
July	3, 24, 21
August	7, 14, 21, 28
September	4, 11, 18, 25
October	2, 9, 16
November	6, 13, 20, 27
December	4, 11

Occasionally we have “special” Intermediate and Skills development class that are either longer or more involved. These could be more complex flies, learning new tools and techniques or even Guest tiers that will teach their particular flies and tying skills. These classes will normally be held on Saturdays but might have a longer time frame and/or a greater cost. You can always check the web site for additional information for any special classes we might be hosting.

Although advanced registration is not required (older class pages might say it is) it is a good idea to register ahead of time. We normally have plenty of space for folks who walk in on Saturdays but if there is a class you are eager to attend, registering in advance is the only way to guarantee a seat.

Lastly, always check our web site or call us to make certain the class that is scheduled is still taking place. It is very rare but occasionally we do have to postpone or cancel a class unexpectedly.



When you are in the shop check out our class room where we tie!

FlyMasters Destinations

We all like to fish the streams and ponds around where we live however, it is always nice to take our skills and knowledge and test them on new water. There



are all sorts of fishing destinations local and abroad. Some places are only a short drive away, some are a day's drive away. Still others are destinations you fly to. Each has its own appeal, its own attractions and its own rewards. There are so many places to fish there is always a destination to fit your needs.

At FlyMasters we are constantly investigating new and different places to fish, near and far. You can count on FlyMasters to research and evaluate waters to fish, guides to hire and lodges for rest. We strive to find the very best in quality and affordable fly fishing

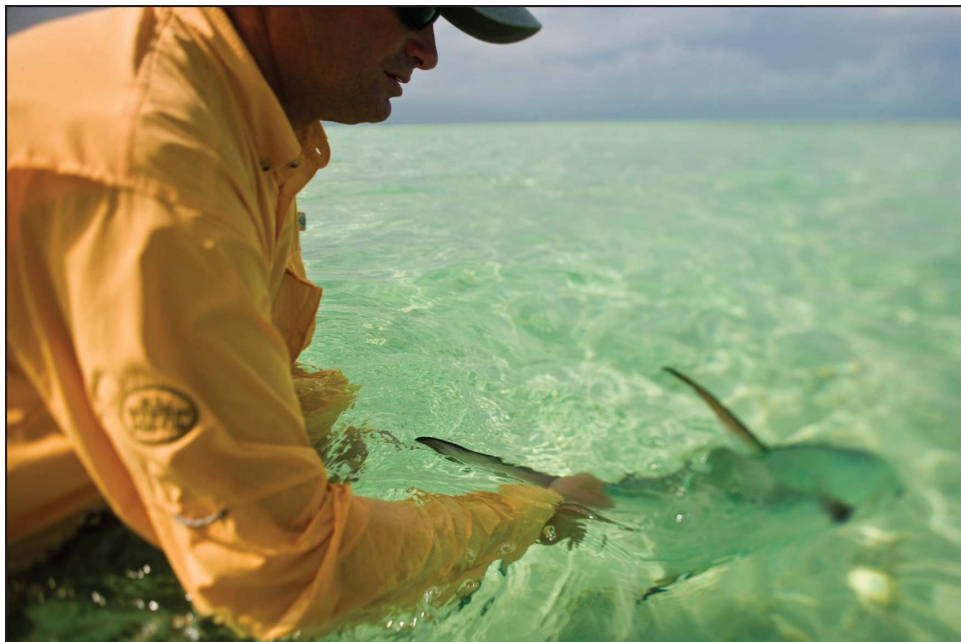
destinations. Each year we book fishing trips to the various destinations we prefer. However, you are not limited to going only when we go; we can make arrangements for you to fish these waters during times that fit your schedule. Here are a few highlights of our upcoming 2010 Fly Fishing Destination trips.

Ascension Bay We have been heading south for the month of February for the past 16 years. It is almost worth the trip alone to step onto the warm beach at the Ascension Bay Bonefish Club when you know it is cold and snowy back home. Bonefish, permit, snook, tarpon and barracuda inhabit these warm waters of the Yucatan. The fishing is great, the accommodations are great and the food is the icing on the cake.

Alaska Our Alaska destinations provide the opportunity to catch all five Pacific Salmon species as well as huge rainbow trout, grayling, char, and dollyvarden. If you want all-out accommodations and 5 star service then our trip to Mission Lodge is for you. The adventurous traveler will love flying out to new waters everyday as well as the excellent food and lodging. For someone with a more constrained time schedule our trip to Wilderness Place is just your ticket. Not far from Anchorage, you are on the water in no time and catching salmon and rainbow trout.



These are just a couple of our destinations for 2010. For complete up to date information, photos and videos check out our web site. We are always adding more!



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FlyMasters 20th Anniversary Events

2010 marks FlyMasters 20th year in business. To help show our gratitude and celebrate 20 wonderful years we will be hosting all sorts of special events throughout the coming year. The events are to help our customers learn and grow in the sport of fly fishing and get the most enjoyment they can from whatever facet of the sport they like.

Below is a list of all of the events we already have scheduled for 2010. More activities will be added throughout the year so please check our web site or call us at the shop to see what new activities have been added. For now, here are some highlights of upcoming events.



Photography and Fly Fishing Clinic with Barry and Cathy Beck

With catch and release being practiced more and more these days many people are turning to photographs of their prize catch as a way of commemorating the moment. Today's digital equipment makes it much easier than in days gone by to get a great quality photo. However, many fisherman and women need a little help in learning basic photography skills to ensure they are capturing

quality memories. Barry and Cathy Beck are well known for their photography and fly fishing skills. In April they will be doing a photography/fly fishing seminar to help people with both their photography and fly fishing hobbies.

First Annual Fly Tie-A-Thon If you want to combine your love of fly fishing and desire to help others, look no further than our first Annual Fly Tie-A-Thon in January. Bring in your equipment and materials and sit down and tie some flies. You can spend a hour or an afternoon tying. The only requirement is that all your tied flies stay at FlyMasters to be donated to Reeling and Healing Midwest. This is a great organization in Michigan that champions fly-fishing wellness retreats for women battling and surviving cancer.



Hardy Day with John Shaner One of our most popular events in 2009, John returns to share all he knows about Hardy, past and present. There are many



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exciting changes happening in the world of Hardy these days. Bring in your Hardy reels and John will give them a good cleaning and instruct you on the proper maintenance of this quality fishing equipment.

Thanksgiving Turkey Tie In celebration of Thanksgiving, join us for a turkey-themed event! We'll be tying flies with Turkey materials and roasting Trashcan Turkeys – which just might be the best turkey you ever tasted! This Thanksgiving we're thankful for you our customers! Come in for a good time tying flies, eating turkey and talking fishing. We may even have a few other surprises for this event!



2010 FlyMasters 20th Anniversary Events

November	Thanksgiving Turkey Tying Clinic
December	Bamboo Rod Seminar with Randy Fridlund of Amabilis
January	Michigan Spring Steelhead Seminar Indiana on The Fly Show Derby City Fly Fishing Show (Louisville) Tie-A-Thon - all flies donated to Reeling and Healing
February	Gary Krebbs Popper Cutters Fly Tying Class Boat Sport and Travel Show
March	Eumer Tube Fly Clinic with Jerry Darkes 20th Anniversary Dinner at Oakleys Bistro
April	Barry and Cathy Beck Fly Fishing and Photography Clinic
May	Great lake Carp Fishing Seminar with Kevin Morlock
June	Hardy Day with John Shaner
July	Bamboo Smallmouth Tournament
August	Local Warmwater Fly Fishing & Tying Clinic Indiana State Fair Mickey's Camp
September	Two Handed Rod Clinic – Swinging fly techniques for fall Salmon and Steelhead
October	Annual Customer Appreciation Day

As the seasons progress we will be adding all sorts of casting, fishing and tying events. Always keep an eye on our web site for up to date information. Better still, sign up for our weekly e-mail newsletter and have the latest news at FlyMasters delivered right to you.

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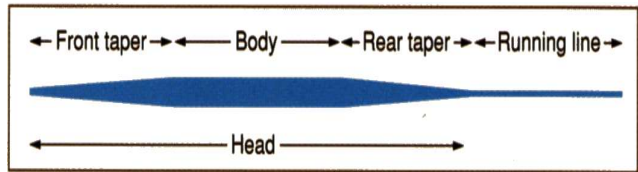
Choosing A Fly Line

Simon Gawesworth

In the old days, if you wanted to buy a new floating trout line it was fairly simple; there was a choice of a double taper, or a weight forward. The choice is not as simple these days. Nowadays the fly line world seems complicated..... confusing..... congested. The matter of buying the right line has been turned into a selection headache.

For example, if you look through the RIO catalog for a trout line you would find the new Trout LT, The new indicator line, the best selling RIO Gold, the RIO Grand, The WindCutter II, The Clouser, The Classic, The Mainstream Trout, the Mainstream Indicator, The OutBound and the OutBound Short - 11 lines (just in the WF range; there are also 3 different double taper lines to choose from!) designed for trout fishing!

So, why all the lines? Well, the modern fly fisher has become more aware of the subtleties in line design. There is no one line that will perform in every condition, in all types of trout waters and with



every fly size to be cast. - just as there is no car that will race around a race track, four wheel through bogs, carry families and the dog, have great fuel economy, carry large loads of gear, plus all the other permutations.

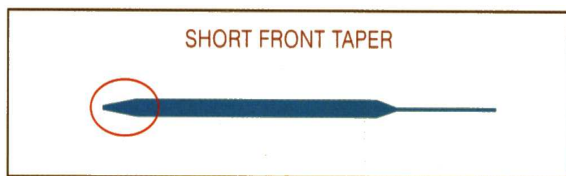
Modern fly lines are designed to enhance a particular aspect of fly fishing. Sure you can get an all round line that will do most things well. The RIO Gold is such a line and is pretty good at throwing flies between size 2 and size 22, but there are better lines for distance, better lines for presentation, better lines for modern fast action rods.

To "buy" a fly line that is right for a specific application, a brief understanding of the line's design characteristics is useful.

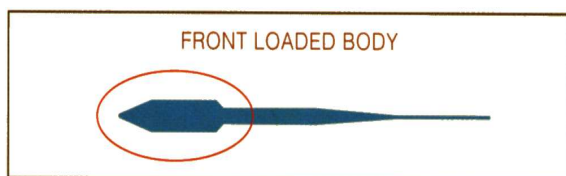
Simply put, a weight forward fly line has four parts; the front taper, the body and

the rear taper are combined in what is known as "The Head", then there is the running line that follows.

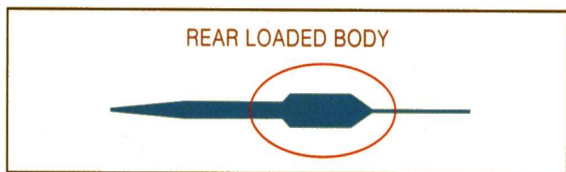
Front Taper The front taper will usually vary between 3ft and 10ft. A short front taper will turn over quickly; a long front taper will lose energy as it unrolls and tends to land gently. Thus a line, such as the new Trout LT, with a long front taper will be perfect for the subtlest of presentations, while a short front taper will be good in wind, or for casting big flies and indicators. Such a taper is part of the design of; lines like the new Indicator line and the Clouser line.



Body The Body section can be level, can have weight at the front, or have weight at the back. If you have weight at the front, the line will load the rod at short range and be good for fast "one-shot" casts when speed is vital. Most Importantly, weight at the front really helps cast big flies and Indicators and avoids the "kick"



usually associated with casting big stuff. The Rio Gold and Grand, the Clouser and the Indicator and the OutBound lines all have weight at the front. If there is weight at the back, the line will be stable at range, enabling the caster to carry longer lengths, it is also good for mending when fishing and ideal for roll casting and spey casting techniques. The Trout LT and the WindCutter II are two good examples of this.



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Rear Taper A short rear taper makes for a fast "shoot" of the line and is incorporated into lines designed for quick distance casting; lines like the OutBound and the OutBound Short. A long rear taper is good for mending ability and for allowing casters greater freedom in how much line they can carry while casting.

Head Length Finally, the head length should also be considered. A short head of 35 ft or so is an excellent choice for novice casters and, regardless of skill level, is ideal for casting in restricted casting spaces or when sitting low or wading deep.. The Rio Grand and OutBound Short are good examples of this. The long head fly lines, like the Trout LT, RIO Gold and the Indicator line are excellent river lines; great for mending, great for picking up at range and for carrying long lengths when casting.

So, a fly line isn't just a fly line; it's a carefully tested, painstakingly designed, perfectly honed tool; the end result of which is a line that will be the very best option for that discipline. The only problem you have, is deciding what "that" discipline is!

Simon Gawesworth
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Fly Reel Maintenance

John Shaner

A fine fly reel is an investment. Properly cared for, a quality reel will give many years of reliable service. My own favorite reel, a Hardy LRH, is over 30 years old. This reel has seen literally hundreds of days on the water and still works as well as the day I got it! With just a little care, I expect to go at least

another 30 years. Always read the manufacturer's instructions for specific maintenance tips, but if you follow the suggestions below, your reels will give the performance you expect of them.

1: Keep your reels clean. Sand, grit, and dirt are your reels' worst enemies. Once these contaminants get into the reel, they cause wear to precision parts and can also cause binding and jamming. Never set a reel down in sand or dirt! If you do get grit in your reel, remove the spool from the frame and using warm water, a few drops of detergent (dish soap is fine) and a soft tooth brush, gently scrub the interior of the reel. Rinse under warm to hot tap water and dry with a soft cloth. Make sure your reel is completely dry and go on to the next step.

(Any reel used in saltwater should be carefully rinsed with clean freshwater after every use. Even reels designed for saltwater use need to be rinsed. As saltwater evaporates, it leaves behind salt and other minerals that act like grit and can cause wear to reel parts.)

2: Lubrication. Many fine reels that come to us for repairs need nothing more than a little oil to get them back in shape. After cleaning, and periodically throughout the fishing season, put a drop or two of oil on any moving parts, especially the spindle, gears, pawls, and bearings. I suggest a quality reel oil, such as Hardy Reel Oil or Penn Reel Lube. Solvents and cleaners like WD40 dry out quickly and don't do a very good of lubrication. A little oil on a soft cloth can be used to polish and protect the finish. However, don't over-oil as too much lubricant will attract dirt.



3: Use common sense! I've seen fine reels ruined very quickly from negligence, misuse, or even abuse. Never put your reels down in dirt, sand, on rocks, etc. If you need to lay your reel on the ground, take off your fishing cap and put your reel in that. Never put your reels away wet, especially after using them in saltwater. Don't leave them mounted on the rod for long periods of time. During the off season, make sure they are dry and oiled and store them in a cool, dry place. If your reel needs repair, it's best to bring it to your local fly shop, or return it to the manufacturer. With just a little care, your reels will last for years and will always be in fighting shape when you hook the big one!

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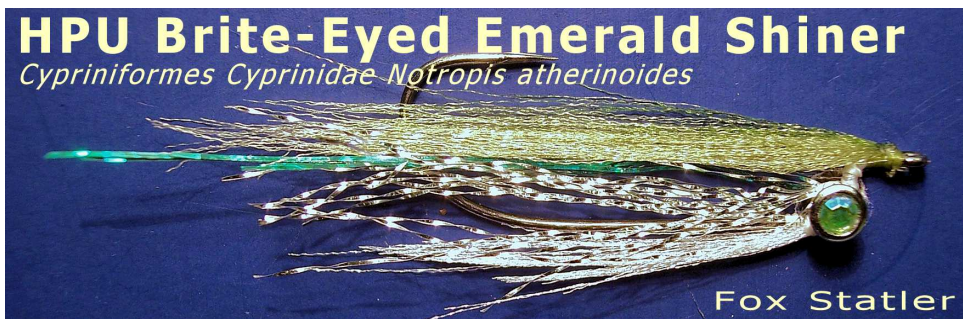
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The Emerald Shiner is now the most abundant minnow in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. It can be found in all the large streams throughout the Mississippi drainage, all the Great Lakes and their tributaries, the Hudson River drainage and northward into Canada. Emerald Shiners feeds at the surface down to mid-water in the water column. It prefers the open-water of channels, large streams to large rivers of moderate to low gradient, with medium to slow current. It is found on a large range of bottoms and is tolerant of turbidity. The Emerald Shiner avoids upland streams like those within the Ozarks. The spawning period is from May to July. The preferred spawning habitat is at night over shallow sand to firm mud bottoms. The Emerald Shiner's appearance is a slender minnow about three inches long with a white belly, silvery lower-sides, silvery upper-sides, a green-olive back with a faint peacock stripe down the middle, olive head, light green chin and cheek, and all fins are clear in color.

Materials

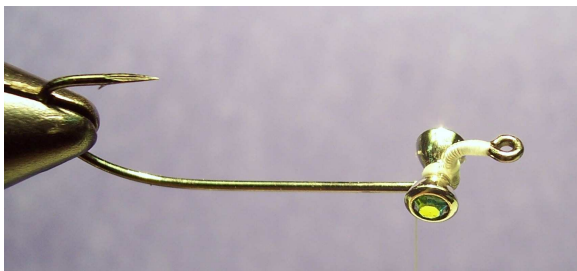
Hook:	#2 Gamakatsu or Mustad Offset Worm Hook
Thread:	White thread for the body and Olive thread for the head, 8/0 or 6/0
Eyes:	5/32 inch Nickel Real-Eyes by Spirit River
Eye Inserts:	10ss Green AB Swarovski Rhinestones
Belly:	White Fluoro Fibre by Spirit River
Lower-Sides:	Silver Crystal Splash by Spirit River
Lateral Stripe:	Emerald Holographic Mylar Motion by Spirit River
Upper-Sides:	Silver Crystal Splash by Spirit River
Back:	Olive Fluoro Fibre by Spirit River
Marker Pens:	Olive or Dark Green permanent marker for a faint mid-dorsal stripe down the minnows back and head

Tying the pattern

A note before tying the Emerald Shiner. Most minnows and shiners are very translucent except for the head portion of their bodies. The exceptions to these are those baitfish that are consider robust and stout shaped like sculpins, suckers, stonerollers and chubs. Because of this, the amount of material needed

to tie each component of the Emerald Shiner's body is minimal. This will make the tail portion of the imitation translucent and the head opaque. Remember this when you are tying such baitfish imitations.

Step 1: Glue the **10ss Green AB Swarovski Rhinestone** eye inserts into the **Real-Eyes** with a rubber glue or a jewelry glue especially made for glass to metal situations. Do not use super-glue because of the different contraction and



expansion rates of glass crystal and plated brass eyes. In cold water, the rhinestone crystals will pop off the plated brass eyes immediately. Place a **#2 Gamakatsu Offset Worm Hook** in the vise, with the hook-point up and level-wind with **White thread** from behind the hook-eye to the bottom of the hook offset. Tie in the **Real-Eyes** using a crisscross pattern. Super-glue the eyes into position making sure that the hook-point is perpendicular with the plane of the eyes (hook-point straight up above) and the eyes are perpendicular to the hook-shank (the eyes are at a right angle to the shank). Let dry for a few seconds.



Step 2: Just behind the eye, tie in the **Silver Crystal Splash** lower-sides by tying it down just past the center of the material with a few turns of thread then double it back and finish tying it down. I prefer this doubling-back

method of tying in fibrous materials because it holds the material securely with the fewest turns of thread. Invert the imitation or rotate the vise until the pattern is hook-point down. Tie in the **White Fluoro Fibre** belly at the eyes by using the same doubling-back method.

Step 3: Invert the imitation to the hook-point up position and tie in the **Emerald Holographic Mylar Motion** stripe above the eyes using the same doubling-back method. After tying in the stripe, pull the material of the stripe taught and place two or three spots of super-glue on it. This will make the stripe very thin and defined. Tie in the **Silver Crystal**



Splash material for the upper-sides using the same doubling-back method.

Whip finish the **White thread** at this location and start the **Olive thread** just behind the hook-eye.



Step 4: Behind the hook-eye tie in the **Olive Fluoro Fibre** back of the imitation using the doubling-back method. Whip finish and glue. Trim the imitation into the shape of a slender shiner. I suggest using a sliding motion of the

scissors, from the head toward the tail, as you are cutting the body materials. With the **Olive or Dark Green Permanent Marker Pen**, paint the faint mid-dorsal line down the middle of the shiner's back and head.

A note of interest Emerald Shiners do not have emerald coloring anywhere on them. So why are they called Emerald Shiners? I don't know. However I do know that the emerald stripe on my imitation is a better attractor than the silvery sides in all colors of water. So if you want to be anatomically correct in your imitation and catch less fish, delete the Emerald Mylar Motion in Step #3. Remember though, the secret to better fishing is getting more bites, not having an anatomically correct imitation.

It's All Fly Fishin', Fox Statler

This complete detailed article with more photos and text can be found on FlyMasters.com

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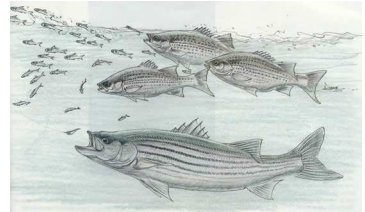


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Every fisherman I've met that has spent some time battling Striped, Hybrid Striped or White Bass has great respect for these awesome fish. They are members of the Temperate Bass family. In the Midwest and South-central U.S., all 3 species are fairly common.

After having caught countless numbers of all 3 species over the past 35 years, there is no question in my mind that the most explosive and hardest fighting of these great fish, pound for pound, is the Hybrid Striper. Once they exceed about 4lbs, which they commonly do, they are like overgrown turbo-charged White Bass.



History and Biology

Hybrid Stripers were first produced in South Carolina in the mid-1960's by crossing the eggs from Striped Bass with the sperm from White Bass. This original cross strain was called the Palmetto Bass. Some of these original strain fish were also stocked in Tennessee and called Cherokee Bass, for the namesake of the lake where they were stocked. These hybrids have the physical proportions of White Bass, very deep bodied, which gives them great fighting leverage.



These great fish are known by other names and nicknames including "Hybrid", "Wiper", "White Rockfish", "Rockets", and others, depending on what state you're fishing in.

They do make a spawning "run" and go through all the same mating rituals as White Bass are commonly observed doing, even though their reproductive efforts are largely unsuccessful.

Where-to and How-to

Nearly every fishery listed below has at least one significant tributary that receives a spawning run of Hybrids in the spring, though I have not outlined each of those streams specifically. (see full article for list)

Like White Bass, Hybrid Stripers are not usually difficult to catch once you locate them. Over the years, I have developed a network of contacts with a variety of

tackle shop staff, fellow fishermen (including local "good ole boy" minnow dunkers), landowners, fisheries biologists and game wardens for each specific fishery I pursue these fish. This is a tremendous asset in my continuing efforts.

Fly Tackle and Flies

If you are targeting Hybrid Stripers for the first time, there are tackle, leader and fly choices to make that are important to help ensure your success. As I mentioned in part one of this series, it is a mistake to try to get by with a 5 or 6 weight trout rod, except for very small White Bass of less than 2lbs. My tackle recommendations are not the only way you can catch these great fish, but I assure you that they are offered based on many years of personal experience and helping others to be successful, too.

Fly Rods:

The best overall fly rod choice is a 9 foot, 7 or 8 weight with a fast/stiff tip (not softer like many trout rods). If you fish a stream or lake where Hybrid Stripers rarely exceed 6-8lbs, a fast action 7 weight will work well for you. But, since some fisheries in the region commonly produce Hybrids in the 8-15lb range, along with their larger Striped Bass cousins, you will be wise to select a fast action 8 weight rod for this fishing.

Fly Reels:

For these hot fish, a large arbor style fly reel with a disk drag, capacity for your fly line and at least 100 yards of backing, and enough total physical weight to properly counterbalance your rod is my suggestion. Your loaded fly reel should balance equally or teeter slightly to the reel end of the rod when you balance your rod near the top of the cork handle on your index finger. If your rod teeters to the rod tip end, you will fatigue much more quickly during a day of fishing.

Fly Lines:

It's very important to have and use the right combinations of fly lines and leaders for Hybrid Stripers. Other than actually locating these fish, I believe this is the most important key to success. I've seen fly fishermen use the same fly pattern but with different line and leader rigging to what I suggest and fail miserably in



continued on page 31

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their efforts fishing very productive water where others are catching fish. (see complete article for full explanation of fly lines)

Leaders and Knots:

With fast to very fast sinking lines, the leader system I've found perfectly adequate and effective is a very simple two-piece leader. On a 7 or 8 weight line, I attach an 18" butt section of .015-.020 diameter mono and tie a 1.5" Perfection Loop in the end. The connection of the leader to fly line is accomplished in three different ways. A standard nail knot (for solid core fly lines), a needle nail-knot (for braided dacron core fly lines) or a knotless Zap-a-Gap splice (which can be used for solid or braided core fly lines).

To this butt section I loop-to-loop join 2.5' of 3x to 0x tippet with a double-surgeons loop knot. I rarely use fluorocarbon tippet for this type of fishing, though I know some do. If you decide to use fluorocarbon, you can definitely use a little stronger size since it is smaller in diameter for its breaking strength.

I attach the fly to the tippet with a Lefty Kreh Non-slip Loop Knot to allow the fly the most natural and enticing action.

Flies:

The most important forage foods for Hybrid Striped Bass, and all Temperate Basses, are Threadfin Shad and Gizzard Shad, in most Midwest and South-central fisheries. Threadfins reach a maximum adult size of 3.5", and Gizzards about 14". However, Threadfin Shad are not commonly found in fisheries north of approximately the Missouri/Arkansas or Kentucky/Tennessee borders. Hybrids will eat a variety of other baitfish (including small suckers, trout, chubs, darters, sculpins, perch and sunfish) and crawfish, but Shad account for the vast majority of their total forage.



It is important to understand that even though Hybrid Stripers get much larger than their smaller cousins, White Bass, they do not have particularly large mouths for their size, either. Most of the time, I don't use much larger flies for these fish, but I am careful to use a little larger and stronger hook to hold these hot fish.



With their common forage factors in mind, I tie and fish a variety of fly patterns and color combinations including the following: (see full article for list)

Retrieve Techniques

It's important to point out the need for variety and experimentation with retrieves for Hybrid Stripers, and all the Temperate Bass. There is not one

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magical best technique, but one thing I would definitely suggest to keep in mind is not to get into a rut with the same technique all the time.

It's important to have an intentional plan for why and how to modify your technique on the stream. There are a few basic guidelines I will share with you, most of which will make sense. Simply, if one technique isn't working, try a different one until you find what produces strikes. (see full article for detailed retrieve and line control info)

If you want to kick off your spring fishing with some hot action catching a great gamefish, do your homework and get prepared for some Hybrid Striped Bass fishing in the Midwestern States with your fly tackle, this year. Once you've caught your first decent Hybrid, you will be hooked for life on these awesome fish. Good luck!

See you on the river!

Bill Butts resides in Springfield MO with his wife, and two bossy terriers. Over the past 35 years, his interest in catching Temperate Basses has evolved from a seasonal spring and sometimes fall pursuit to a year-round passion focusing exclusively on these species. He has been featured in podcasts on The Itinerant Angler and Ask About Fly Fishing. He shares his knowledge and passion with fly fishing clubs, shops and at fly fishing events. If you would like to contact Bill directly, his email is bill.butts@sbcglobal.net.



(Editor's Note: Bill's original article, one of a 3 article series on Temperate Basses, appeared in our March 2009 issue of "The Drift" Newsletter, the official e-newsletter of FlyMasters of Indy. You can read the article in its entirety on our website.)

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Fly Fishing Indiana

Brandon Butler



There's an old saying that goes something like, "there are only two certainties in life: death and taxes." This may be true, but it's almost certain that you are going to need a fishing license if you hope to drop a fly in Indiana public waters. I say "almost," because, of course, there are exceptions.

Necessary licenses vary based on age, military status, and physical or mental health. There are numerous license

options available, and it's possible to find some of the finer details confusing. So, here's what I hope to be a helping hand in figuring out what license you need to legally fish in Indiana.

The most common Indiana fishing license is the annual resident license. A resident of Indiana is defined as anyone who has lived in the state continuously for 60 days preceding the date of license purchase. The annual resident license costs \$17 and is good for one year. Not 365 days from the date of purchase, though. It's good from April 1 through March 31 of the corresponding years. For example, 2009 annual fishing licenses are good from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010. Hopefully, you see the advantage of buying your license early. If you were to buy an annual license in February, you'd have to turn around and buy a new one in April. A non-resident annual fishing license follows the same time structure. The only difference is the cost, which is \$35.

Residents and non-resident both have the option of purchasing one-day licenses. One-day licenses cost \$9, and include a one-day trout/salmon stamp (more on these in a minute). Non-residents, but not residents, have the option of purchasing a seven-day license for \$20. Seven-day licenses do not include a trout/salmon stamp.

Seniors, youths and active military personnel get a break. A senior license is required for anyone age 64 or older, born after March 31, 1943. If a person was born before April 1, 1943, they do not need to buy a license, ever again. Those elder statesmen who fall in category of needing to purchase a senior license have two options. Seniors can buy an annual license for \$3 or a lifetime license for \$17. Each include the salmon/trout stamp. Youth, defined as 17 years old or younger, both resident and non, are not required to possess a fishing license. Resident active military personnel do not need a license, but non-resident military personnel must obtain a resident fishing license. Blind people, residents of Indiana-owned mental rehabilitation facilities, and residents of any licensed Indiana health care facility are exempt from license requirements.





Melissa Butler
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Trout/Salmon stamps are required to fish for trout and salmon from Indiana public waters. This includes Lake Michigan and its tributaries, as well as the Brookville Reservoir tailwater and any of the put-and-take trout waters (rivers, streams, and lakes) in Indiana. Trout/Salmon stamps are \$11, in addition to your license, and are good for the same time period as your license.

Yes, licenses are another expense, but of all the expenses you must endure to go fishing, you should feel good about purchasing a fishing license in Indiana. For the price of a pizza, you are opening up a world of possibility, and also, your dollars are directly contributing to the future of fishing of Indiana. A better deal may not exist.

Brandon Butler is a Public Affairs Specialist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and avid Indiana fly fisherman.



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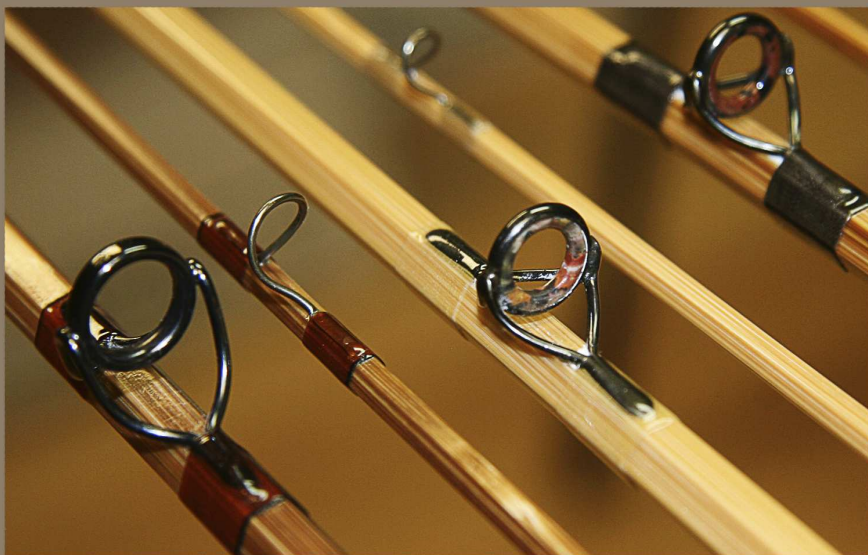
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The Right Rod for that Fishing Trip

Annette McLean

Frequently I have been asked why rods come in so many different lengths and line weights. Keep in mind that most of us are familiar with fishing situations on our home waters only and have little experience stepping outside those waters. But when we do, the question becomes 'What rod should I use?'. This is not a silly question to ask; but the 'smart' angler gives this question serious consideration.

The first consideration is the type of water that is going to be fished. Is it a small mountain stream, a 50' spring creek, a rambling freestone western river, shallow waters around the Keys or steelhead/salmon waters. This is something of a short list of different fishing waters that will cause us to think about the application of different rods. Along with each of these types of waters comes the question of fly selection and method of fishing.

All this is starting to sound too complicated for most of us. So here are some general rules of thumb. Please keep in mind that 'rule of thumb' is not intended to be accurate in every situation but rather an approximation. Actually this is an interesting phrase that some have credited to a British judge in the late 1600's who ruled that a husband could discipline his wife with a willow no bigger than his thumb. Fortunately for all you guys out there, this has been unsubstantiated and generally held to be fiction.

Okay, back to choosing a rod. Generally speaking, small water equals small rods. Big waters need bigger rods. Why? Smaller waters hold smaller fish. Bigger waters hold bigger fish. This is a good place to remember 'rule of thumb'. I have taken some very nice fish out of pretty small water. But those situations have always been wonderful, unexpected surprises.

There is another important aspect to keep in mind while sorting all this out. Generally, if we are fishing with small dry flies or small nymphs, our leader is going to be longer than if we are casting large flies. The reason is as follows. Small dry flies need to be presented to the water carefully; delicately, so as not to spook the fish and to imitate the landing of an insect onto the water. The delicate mayflies are not dive bombers. A funny side note to this analogy involves my husband fishing his Winston bamboo rod on one of our local waters. A fellow was anchored along the bank watching my husband who was casting a

PMD. The comment that my husband heard from the fellow angler was that the fly landed as softly as a mosquito with sore feet. But again I digress. Back to the leader. Delicate presentation of flies require delicate leaders, which are usually (Rule of Thumb) in the 12 feet length and anywhere from 4X-7X. It takes a special rod to be able to accurately cast this long and delicate leader. This rod has to have a softer tip action and in fact be able to "load" with a short amount of line (perhaps only 10') and still control the accuracy and presentation of the fly.

As strong contrast, let's look a big flies in windy condition. Forget about rods with soft tips and delicate presentations. This is where you will need a fast action rod that can generate good line speed. Keep in mind here that I identify fast rods not stiff rods. The rod has to be able to load and unload through the cast quickly and easily. As the angler, you need to be able to tighten the loop of the fly line in order to overcome the wind, the distance the weight of the fly at the end of the leader.

This is a very generalized overview of basic fishing situations and the determination of rod selection. As I stated above, it can be a little confusing and complicated when you are starting out. When you come into FlyMasters, explain to them the waters and conditions that you will be fishing and the experts can help you in choosing the correct Winston rod for you next fishing experience.

May all your fishing experiences secure all the best memories for you.

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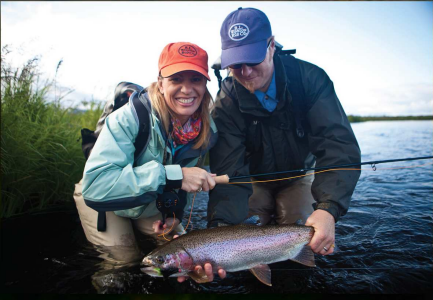
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A TUBE FLY PRIMER

Mention tube flies to most anglers and Atlantic salmon, steelhead, and maybe some saltwater use comes to mind. Tube patterns have been around in west coast fly fishing for many years, but tubes are considered mostly a European thing, especially in Scandinavia and the U.K. There has been a recent resurgence of interest in tube flies in North America. Much of this has centered on fishing steelhead in the Northwest and Great Lakes regions.

As more tube fly patterns are in use and more materials and components have become available, new applications for them are being discovered and developed. One area in the start up phase is in warm water use. Bass, panfish, pike, and musky are prime candidates for creative tube patterns. We are no longer limited to tying on Q Tips, drink stirrers, and Bic pen cartridges.

Why Tubes? Several reasons favor the use of tube flies. To start with, a short-shank hook can be employed, even with a long bodied fly. This gives less leverage for a hooked fish to work with than with a long-shank hook. The result is more hooked fish are landed.

A tube fly can be tied much longer than possible with a conventional hook. The tube can be any desired length with materials then attached to it. Eliminating the long hook keeps the fly much lighter and easier to cast.



Next is the ability to interchange hooks on the same fly. If a hook is damaged for some reason, it can be changed without discarding the fly. The hook size or style can be adjusted depending on the conditions or species sought. A fly can be easily adapted for saltwater or freshwater use, just be changing the hook. The angler can also incorporate a dressed hook or a bare hook, providing a maximum amount of versatility from a single pattern style.

Finally, tube flies make it easier to release fish quickly and safely. Many times fish are injured as the angler struggles to save the fly while unhooking a fish. With tubes, the hook can be clipped off and the fish easily released with the fly still intact. With toothy critters, the fly can also be slid up the leader away from

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wear and tear caused by sharp teeth.

The European Connection Tube flies originated in Great Britain sometime around 1940. A tube fly is quite simply what it says. A hollow tube of some sort



replaces the hook shank. The tippet end of the leader is run through the tube and tied to the hook. The hook can be rigged various ways, but most often it is pulled into back end of the body. The Scandinavians have had the biggest influence on the development of tube flies. They developed an exquisite style of tying using stacked hair wings that act as a keel and keep the fly swimming straight. The widest variety of tube fly components and materials come from this area.

A Russian angler, Juri Shumakov, examined how the shape and weight distribution of tubes affects the way the fly rides in the water and swims. He designed a series of tubes in different shapes made out of aluminum and brass. Michael Frodin and Hakan Norling developed the "FITS" system of plastic tubing and shaped cones, where all the components are sized to fit together. FITS products are distributed in the U.S. by Guideline. HMH is the main manufacturer of tube fly components in the U.S. and offers a variety of metal and plastic tubes and metal cones.

All of this was taken to the next level recently when Eumer began manufacturing and packaging tube fly components and materials in Finland. Eumer offers six shapes of machined brass tubes, each in several sizes, and multiple colors. In addition, they have tubing in a variety of sizes and colors all sized to work with their various components. Eumer also offers a full assortment of Finn raccoon, arctic fox, and Australian opossum.

The availability of this complete product assortment has opened up a whole new range of creativity in tying tube flies. With all the components and materials available, many conventional patterns can be changed into tube designs and the opportunity to create new patterns is limitless.



Salmon... The Right Way

Kevin Morlock

Each fall, anglers from every corner of the country converge on the rivers of the Great Lakes to chase big, powerful king salmon. Yet, while nearly all these traveling fisherman agree on the salmon's worth as a sporting challenge, most first timers, and unfortunately too many "old pros," don't understand how to properly fish them.

Expectations must be reasonable. Snagging salmon is easy. Getting salmon to bite takes skill and patience. I don't understand how an angler can be elated with hooking 6 steelhead, but disappointed in a day when they only hooked 25 salmon, especially since they average twice the size of steelhead. Now, even the best angler cannot help but foul hook salmon in the course of honest fishing, but snagging should never be an angler's goal.

Salmon have a few tendencies that cause some anglers to stray to the dark-side. First, salmon are large and easy to spot. Second, they often congregate in large numbers. Third, they can be tight lipped. Fourth, and often the deal breaker, salmon won't

flee for cover when disturbed. They may boil about, but usually end up settling in the same hole.

My goal, as a professional guide and devoted conservationist, is to help you achieve the excitement of "salmon fever." I want you to catch fish, not because I'm hoping for a big tip, but

because I want you to love salmon. The pure excitement and thrill of watching a 25 pound buck swing out, rush forward and smash your fly is a memory that will last forever. Snagging the same fish is a shallow, prideless act, you won't want to tell a story about.

Over the last decade a positive change has occurred; anglers are now discussing the number of biting fish they landed instead of hook-ups. This is a big step in the right direction. As more anglers look down

on "hook-up" style salmon fishing it will convert or displace snaggers while creating a better atmosphere on the water for everyone.

Starving and Angry but not Hungry

During their fall run, salmon go through physiological changes. Their color changes, as does their body shape. Their reproductive organs also develop.



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To top it all off, they lose the desire to feed. The good news is, in order to compete for the best spawning opportunities and guard their nests against egg predators, spawning salmon become supercharged with aggression. The most common nest predators in this region—small trout, sculpins, and other small fish, crayfish and large aquatic insects—are easily

duplicated as flies. Meaning, we have a chance at catching fish that are killing, not eating.

Be Quiet

If you disturb a group of fish and immediately start flopping flies at them you're essentially doing all you can to eliminate your chance of getting bit. You must approach salmon with stealth. If you disturb fish, give them 5 to 10 minutes to settle down. Use this time to sharpen hooks, change flies or replace tippet. It's common to get bit on the first couple of drifts through a new spot, but it's quite rare to get struck on the 50th.

Give Them Something Different

When you're confident a hole is holding fish, but you haven't had a hit after thoroughly covering the water, change flies. Good water can be hard to find, so try several flies before moving on.

Fly Selection -- Eat It or Get Out of the Way

Most of the flies I consider top producers for west Michigan salmon are wets and streamers in the three inch range, and eggs the size of your thumb nail. Normally, I go bright and flashy in dirty water or low light, and natural with little or no flash in normal to clear water. Experimentation over numerous seasons has taught me salmon like some of the new UV tying materials. Of course, all flies should be tied on high quality hooks, since spawning salmon have hard bony mouths.



I find it difficult to accept the suffering salmon receive from the ills of misinformation and lack of understanding. The Great Lakes states are blessed with abundant salmon runs providing a level of fly fishing opportunity most of the country should envy. Do your part to protect this incredible resource. You, and those you educate, can help lead a movement of creating a much better experience on our region's salmon rivers and streams.

Kevin Morlock is a guide for Indigo Guide Service in west Michigan. (www.indigoguideservice.com)

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Michigan's Au Sable has mystique, and lots of it. Its riffles have been plied by anglers with names like Richards, Swisher, Lively, Marinaro, and on and on – a veritable who's who of modern fly-fishing. But beyond the history and big names, this river continues to produce beautiful wild trout and bug hatches that can be as bewildering as they are epic. To the Midwestern angler, this is still Mecca. Better yet, the upper Au Sable is not one river but three.

North

The North Branch is a limpid river, clear and shallow with dark pockets of deeper holding water. This river is so full of fish that if you're in water over your knees you're probably standing where you should be fishing. There are lots of brook trout in here, and also some very large browns. There is no commercial canoe activity on this river, and there are long tracts of secluded water where the intrepid angler can pack a sandwich and make a day of it. A great terrestrial river...and a place to get away.

The Holy Water

The Mainstream is dominated by a stretch of river known as the Holy Waters for any number of reasons, including its enormous population of trout. Here anglers wipe sweat off their foreheads while digging deep in their fly-boxes as the rise rings spread around their quivering legs. This river looks and feels like a spring creek, and during a hatch one should fish fine and far-off, making slack-line downstream casts toward risers. I like to fish this river with double-fly rigs.



Guiding this stretch of river was one of my favorites, as the fish were very "pattern sensitive." Frustrating when you don't have it. But all smiles when you do.

Heading South

The South Branch is the wild card of the bunch. A scenic, undeveloped river of floods and droughts, its mysterious reddish tint conceals the fastest growing trout in the upper Au Sable system. If you saw a bear, were spooked by a beaver, or got hopelessly lost taking a shortcut back to your truck, it was likely

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on the South. This river is pleasant in the day, but it comes alive at dusk. This is a river to sit and wait, to walk along the nearly 13 miles of public banks and scout for the soft rises of a trophy brown in a backwater or against a logjam.

How We Do It

The first rule of catching a big Au Sable trout is to look before you wade, to, as Robert Traver wrote, horde the cast. Observation trumps casts-per-hour, and style-points don't mean anything when the sun is setting. The major hatches are well-documented and run from mid-April through July, but others – the tricos and BWO's of July, the mice (yes, mice) of August, the Isonychias and flying ants of September, and the olives of autumn – have their own devotees. I prefer...all of them.

Josh Greenberg
 Gates Au Sable Lodge

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.

HOW TO FLY FISH THE FLORIDA KEYS

Once upon a time, I read with great interest, an article in a very notable fly fishing periodical that talked about fishing the Florida Keys by car on your own. The basis of the article was a week of guided Tarpon fishing that went bad, but on the way home they stopped at a ditch in the Everglades and hooked some baby Tarpon and a Snook. I, being the adventurous type of angler, who thought he was good with a fly and had caught copious amounts of wild salmon, Steelhead and trout around the Pacific Northwest, I thought to myself, 'ya, I don't need a guide or a boat.' In fact, the very idea of hiring a guide seemed kind of silly to me, since I was into my second season of professional guiding in Bristol Bay, Alaska. Well, the other part of my equation was lack of funds, which is actually synonymous with being a fly fishing guide in Alaska who spends his off-season as a Snowboard stash Stealhead bum. Well, for years, I never got down there to explore.

The hope of fishing the Keys never faded and finally came to pass some years later, after taking a sales and marketing job for Mission Lodge during the Alaska off-season. The owner, Dale DePriest, had a habit of whipping out a stack of photos from his day timer and showing you all of his best catches of the past year or so. The first time he flipped through the glory stack of trophy catches I could not help but notice shots of seemingly giant Bonefish and Tarpon so big they looked fake. Later, each time an unsuspecting person showed the slightest interest in fishing, Dale would whip out the photos like some Vegas card shark, flipping through them with great flair and showmanship, all the while unknowingly taunting me to no end.



Fortunately for me, I was able to work a few deals that Winter that helped get us a monthly rental in the Keys the following Spring. A nice duplex for the first annually Keys Tarpon trip. That first trip down we borrowed a friends old flats boat, 'Two Ton Girdie' to get us around the local waters for a little 'do it yourself' fishing. And, we also hired guides, yes hired, for four days of our week long



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a tide, a flat,
and a flyrod in your hand...

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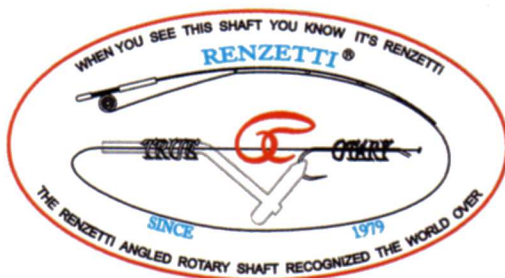


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fishing trip. Let's just say, that at the end of the experience, I could not wait until the next year to do it all over again. A little on my own and a little more days with a guide. On the boating factor, please remember my home in the summer is a jet sled wide open on tiny, winding creeks of Bristol Bay. Green is good, brown is bad when reading the water and that is when you do not have glare.



Let me tell you, as a fly caster with a couple of trophies, fishing in the tropics will unravel you. Especially Tarpon. The never ending 'breeze', large flies and larger rods will wear down most any fly angler. And then once you think you have the "pin-point, double haul, into the wind, cast" all figured out, then the fish come at you. At first you might have a hard time seeing them, but then they pop out of the gorgeous mosaic of tan, turquoise and green waters, larger than you imagined, coming right at you. It causes the adrenaline to pulse through your veins in epileptic proportions. Epic too for sure, but I am talking about shaking you to your core. The ensuing spasm terminates in your hands. The same hands holding the fly at the ready in one and the pole, as in telephone pole in the other. Your spasm causing you to quickly, but ever so precisely write your middle name, in cursive, with your fly, all the while using your other hand to tie the whole affair off in a clever and yielding knot. Good time to be in a guides boat with multiple rods and someone else to properly rig them for you.

After years of waiting for each Spring trip to roll around, we finally got smart and moved our office closer to the source of our new found addiction. For the last eight years we have spent most of the Winters and Springs living a ten minute boat ride to the flats of the Middle Keys. Looking back on the first article I read on fishing the Keys on your own, I have to laugh. The author's recommendation, while seeming frugal, actually cost many brave souls plenty of wasted fishing time. And as I get older, I am realizing that time, especially fishing time, is our most precious possession. So, if you are not scared by the tall tales, come on down and have a guide show you just why the Keys are still the 'Sports-fishing Capital of the World'. Better yet, come fish with me down here.



Guy Fullhart
www.fishingpursuits.com



I have been fishing for bass since I was a cub scout. I have read all the books on fly fishing for bass. But when I started reading "Lunker" by Bob Underwood I realized how unskilled I was at thinking about bass fishing and how little I really knew about bass fishing. Underwood published his book in 1975 after years of fishing for bass and after 1700 hours of underwater observation of the bass in their habitat. Read these tidbits from his book and think about what implications they have for your bass angling.

#1. "The bass is a cold-blooded creature and as such is comfortable regardless of the water temperature surrounding him because his body takes on the same temperature. He can never be uncomfortable because of a certain degree of temperature. He can be uncomfortable because of oxygen content but not because of temperature."



#2. "At 85 degrees a golden shiner was found to be in an advance stage of decomposition 45 minutes after being swallowed by a bass. At 50 degrees a golden shiner showed no signs of decomposition after 45 minutes. At 45 degrees a crayfish was only partly decomposed after four days."

#3. "His vision is close range; he is nearsighted. Should the object be moving rather fast at a distance, he may not ever see it clearly, thus making the action of the prey even more important in that it must stimulate a reaction that results in a positive decision to take. If moving slowly or not at all, then the size, shape, and previous action must be such as to excite the same reaction."

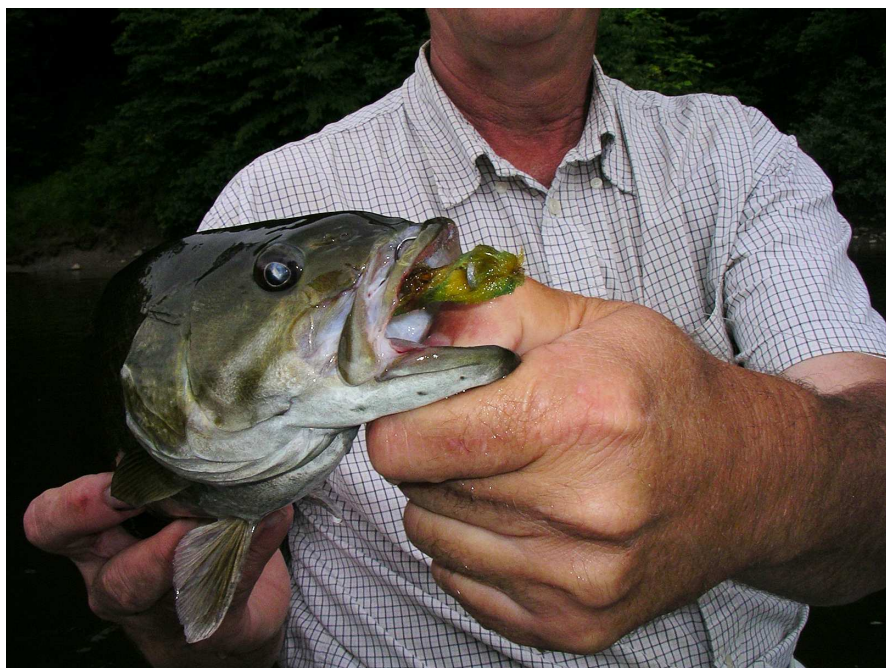
#4. "My underwater experience has taught me emphatically that, more than anything else, the success of any lure depends upon two things: **it's action and it's colors.**"



Fly Fishing was the first method that used artificials. One of Blackrock's missions is to merge the common elements of fly fishing and conventional tackle into a line of artificial jigs and lures that can be used by both methods of fishing.



Come by FlyMasters and/or the Boat, Sport and Travel Show (Feb. 19th - Feb. 28th) and see these New Lures & Jigs!



#5. "Three factors govern the location of a concentration of bass, but only two of these must be present in order for a concentration to take place. Listed in the order of their importance these factors are: cover; food availability; proximity to deep water. Temperature, as long as it is within reason, cannot be considered as a governing factor. Cover and proximity to deep water are interchangeable in that deep water is, at times, cover to the bass. Food availability is a must and either sufficient cover or relatively deep water must be present with this factor."

#6. "The bass can see from beneath to above the surface—and, to an extent, that is unbelievable. They can pick off a darting dragonfly two feet above the surface! They can intercept a speeding lure before it hits the water!"

#7. "The reason for the plastic worm's success in taking fish that I would say carries more weight than any other, however, is that the majority of fishermen are, for the first time, fishing areas of cover into which they never before would have dared to toss a lure. And fishing it slowly enough to take fish."

Those are seven quotes from the book that can provide you with enough information to significantly improve your bass fishing. As an example, next time you cast a popper in a great spot, remember that as soon as that popper hits the water you should be ready to set the hook because the bass may already have it in his sights (#6). Next time you are in the store, let me know what you THINK!

Derrick Filkins
FlyMasters of Indianapolis

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Whether you want to fish for Salmon, Trout, Muskie, Northern Pike, Grayling, Smallmouth, Carp or Steelhead we can equip you as well as get you there.

Here is a list of destinations that we have planned for 2010. Call us at the shop or send us an E-Mail and we can help you have the fly fishing trip of a lifetime!

Argentina	Janaury
Florida Redfish	January
Ascension Bay, Mexico	February
Ohio Steelhead	March
Detroit River White Bass	March
Michigan Steelhead	April
Canadian Northern Pike	May
Michigan Hex Hatch	June
Great Lakes Carp	July
Alaska	July and August
Scotland Atlantic Salmon	July
Michigan White Miller Hatch	August
Great Lake Salmon	September
Michigan and Ohio Steelhead	October
Louisiana Redfish	November

