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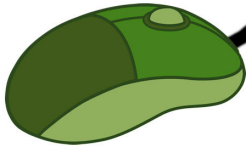




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# Trade-Up at FlyMasters



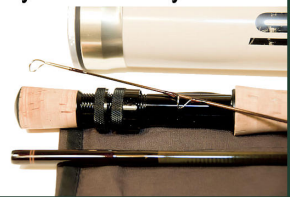
## 99.3% Positive Feedback!

"In our first 7 months on eBay we have shipped rods, reels and other fishing equipment all over the US, to all of the Canadian Provinces, and to at least 16 other countries in Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand and Asia" - Don Rollins, Trade-Up Manager

Bring in your used equipment and let FlyMasters sell it for you on eBay. Make 2012 the year you cash in your unused gear for something new.



See page 17 for more details!





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Cover Art: Pumpkinseed by Rod Crossman

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Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm







Derrick Filkins and Holly



Gary Griffith



Ian Anderson



Don Rollins



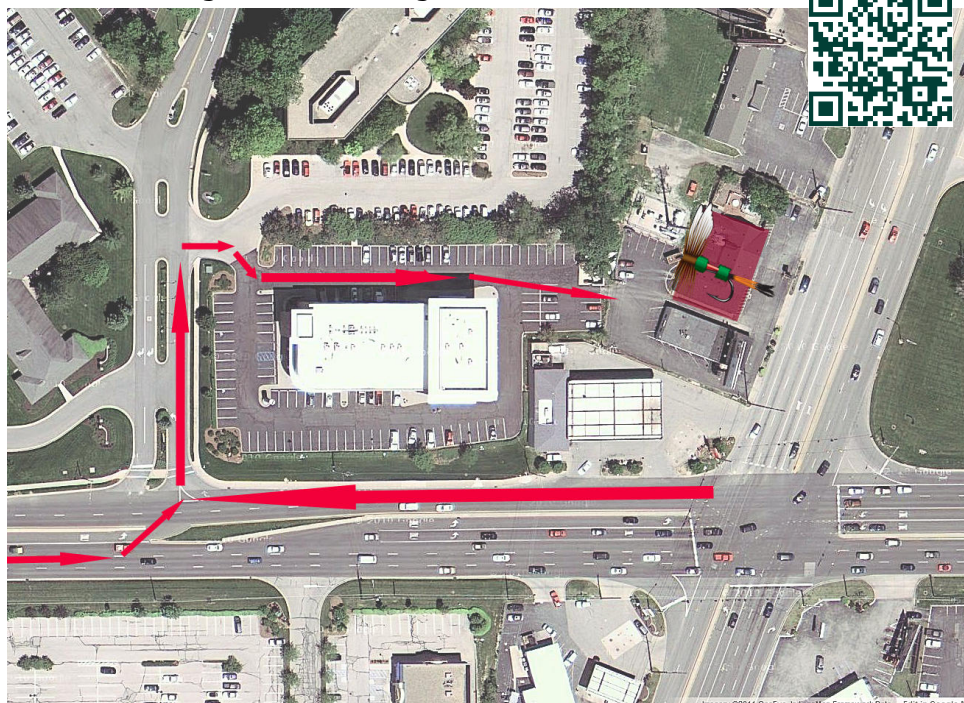
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Charlie Barnard

## FlyMasters of Indianapolis' Excellent Staff

Find out the easiest way to get to FlyMasters in 2012 during the Allisonville Bridge closure on Page 20!



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# FlyMasters Fly Fishing School



## Beginning Fly Fishing School

We have folks come into the shop all the time asking "where do you fly fish in Indiana?". Believe it or not you can catch many different species of fish within 1 to 3 hours of Indianapolis. Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Hybrid Bass, Striped Bass, Steelhead, Salmon, Trout (Browns and Rainbows), Muskie, Northern Pike, Carp, and sunfish can all be caught 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.

**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)

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. 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. If our fly fishing school does not work for you we also offer a number of other fly fishing classes that might fit your needs better.

## Fly Fishing School Phase I

### Dates for 2012

March	1 <sup>st</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
April	4 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
May	1 <sup>st</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>

*Call For Dates in June – September*

*Check the web site for date changes and additions*

*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!*





# Fly Fishing 101 & 201

Learn fly fishing basics for Free  
from Indiana's Largest Authorized  
Orvis Fly Fishing Dealer,  
**FlyMasters of Indianapolis**

## Fly Fishing 101

Now's your chance to learn fly fishing basics in one of our free fly fishing 101 classes. Free lessons on fly casting and outfit rigging.

### Event Dates

May 5, 12, 26  
June 2, 16, 23



## Fly Fishing 201

If you've already completed the Fly Fishing 101 class you are ready for the next step. Join us for our 201 class where you will get on the water, catch your first fish and tie your first fly!

### Event Dates

June 9



### Upon Completion of the Courses

You will receive special in-store offers valid toward purchase of Orvis products and a Free Trout Unlimited membership a \$35 value. The Federation of Fly Fishers is offering a free 1-year electronic membership, value of \$35.00

**Reservations are required as class space is limited.**

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





**Orvis Fly Fishing 101** If you want to learn fly fishing and get out on the water as soon as possible then our Fly Fishing 101 class is for you. In this you will learn the basics of fly casting, equipment and techniques. The Fly Fishing 101 sessions are all free and are held through out the summer months. Call the shop or check the web site for the next date that we will be hosting a Fly Fishing 101

session. Reservations are required. You do not need any equipment just an eagerness to learn about fly fishing. All participants receive a savings card for shop merchandise.



**Orvis Fly Fishing 201** New for 2012 is the Orvis Fly Fishing 201 class. This class is a one day event focusing on teaching more of the basics of fly casting as

well as fly tying. The event is open to anyone who has taken the 101 class or already knows a little about fly fishing and wants to learn more. It is an all day event where you will learn more about fly fishing and you will learn to tie your own flies. As a bonus you receive a free Rod, Reel and Line combo, flies and lunch for the day.

#### 2012 Orvis 101 & 201 Dates

May	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>
June	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> ,
June (201)	9 <sup>th</sup>

Check the web site for date changes and additions

**Advanced Casting Lessons** If you have taken the Fly Fishing 101 or the Fly Fishing School you might find yourself wanting more hands on instructions. At FlyMasters we have a number of avenues for you to expand your fly fishing knowledge. You can take advanced casting lessons with our instructor to improve your accuracy or your distance. You can also learn different casting techniques in our advanced casting to help you with fly presentation. These sessions are billed by the hour and are booked by appointment.

## Fly Fishing Clinics

Once you get past the basics of fly fishing there is no end to the application of fly equipment to fishing. Nymphing, dry flies, topwater, streamers, wet flies, swinging flies, floating lines, sinking lines, single handed rods, double handed rods, and on and on. It can be overwhelming to someone just getting into fly fishing. FlyMasters has a number of Fly Fishing Clinics through the fishing season to help expand your fly fishing knowledge. Here is a list for some of our past clinics.

**Two Handed Fly Rod Instruction \* Crawdads For Smallies  
Fishing Topwater Flies \* Swinging Streamers \* Nymphing for Trout**



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---

*Lafayette, Indiana*



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Tippecanoe Fly Fishers is a diverse group of men and women who's passion is fishing. Whether it's fly tying, rod building, travel, or just spending a day on the water, you're sure to find a home with the Tippecanoe Fly Fishers!



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education in learning or teaching,  
contributing through 'Casting for Recovery'  
and much more!



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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 fly. The second type is our **Intermediate and Skills Development Fly Tying 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 Classes in 2012

January	10 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup>
March	6 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>
April	10 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup>
September	4 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>
October	9 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup>
November	13 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>

Always check the web site for date changes and additions

**Beginning Fly Tying** The beginning 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 8 different flies. This is a four 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 10:00am –12:00am**. 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 include all instructions, all tools and all materials. All you need to bring each class is yourself and a desire to tie flies!



This class is open to children 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.



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DESCRIBE YOUR FISHING.**

**OR YOUR  
FLY RODS.**



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**Intermediate and Skills Development Tying** The goal of this class is to provide instruction concerning various tying skills, use of tools and materials, and fly patterns. This class meets for two hours on **Saturdays from 2:00pm – 4:00pm** (usually). 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. Aside from 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 normally \$10.00 and all materials are provided. Students do need to bring their own equipment and can check out our



<b>Intermediate and Skills Development classes for 2012</b>	
January	14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
February	4 <sup>th</sup>
March	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
April	14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
May	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>
June	16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup>
July	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
August	4 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
September	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
October	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup>
November	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
December	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup>

**Always check the web site for date changes and additions**

web site for each of the classes to see if any special tools or equipment is required for the class. Usually, we will have the flies posted a week ahead of the class on our web site so you can see what we will be tying. You can also view the flies we have tied in past classes to get an idea of what this class has to offer.

One thing we strive very hard at FlyMasters is to be in touch with what our customers need. This class, in particular, is focused on what our customers are interested in learning and in tying. If you have a particular fly you would like to learn or a particular tying technique you would like to master, send us an email or call us with your request

and we will get a class scheduled for you!

Occasionally we have "special" Intermediate and Skills Development Fly Tying classes 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. It is a good idea to register ahead of time. We normally have plenty of space for folks who walk in on

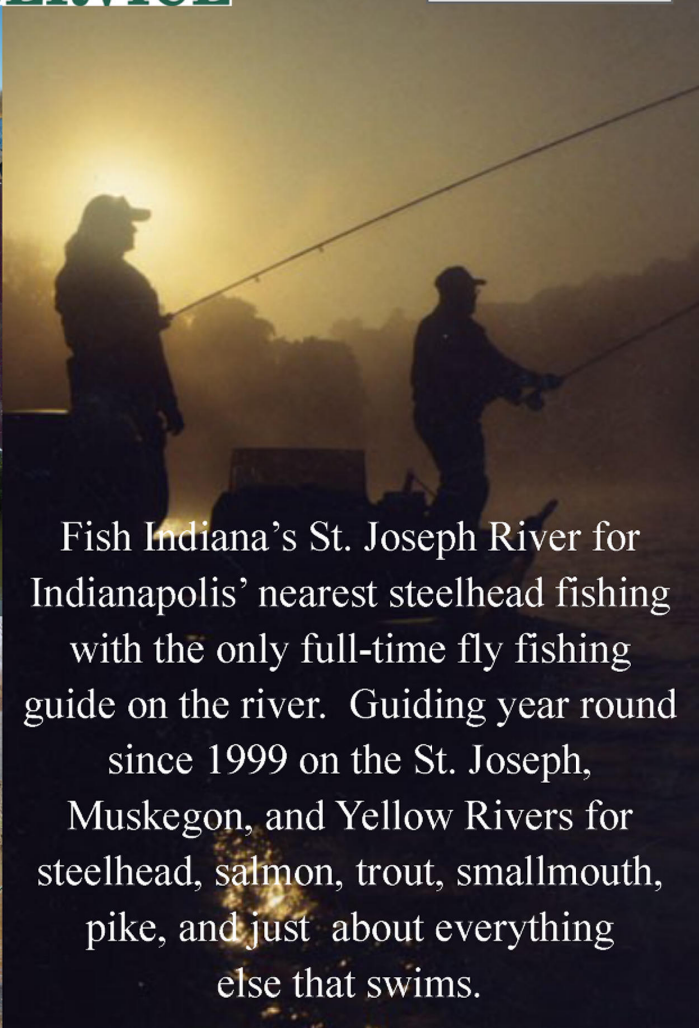
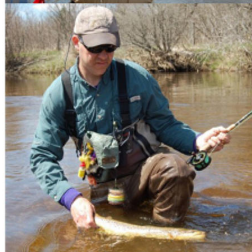


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Saturdays but if there is a class you are eager to attend, registering in advance is the only way to guarantee a seat. Lastly, always check our web site or call us to make certain the class that is scheduled is still taking place. It is very rare but occasionally we do have to postpone or cancel a class unexpectedly.



## FlyMasters Destinations

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 of the destination we book adventure with.

**Ascension Bay Bonefish Club** – Yucatan peninsula, Mexico. Bonefish, Permit, Snook, Tarpon and barracuda in the cold winter months.



**Mission Lodge, Alaska** - Five Pacific Salmon species as well as huge rainbow trout, grayling, char, and dolly varden. If you want all-out accommodations and 5 star service then our trip to Mission Lodge is for you.

**Tweed river, Scotland** – Atlantic Salmon fishing in the fabled Junction Pool of this historic river. Another of our 5 star service destination.

**Camp Anjigimi, Canada** – Remote wilderness fishing for large Northern Pike and Brook Trout.

**Michigan and Ohio Steelhead** – Spring and fall steelhead fishing on the Pere Marquette, Muskegon, St. Joe in Michigan and the Northeast streams of Ohio.

**Beaver Island, Lake Michigan** – Great Lakes Carp and large Smallmouth Bass fishing from May to August on a fantastic Island get-a-way.

**These are just a few of the destinations we book trip for. Contact us at the shop or through our web site for more details and to book a trip for 2012.**

# FlyMasters Events

At FlyMasters we recognize the best way to spend your time is on the water fishing, however that is not always possible. Bills have to be paid so work has to get done. As well, too often the weather gods do not look upon you fishing with favor. That is why we consider the next best thing to being on the water is time spent in our fly shop.



Just stopping in and talking fishing, tying, travel or trading fish stories is good enough but we have so much for to offer throughout the year when you come by FlyMasters. We often schedule special "Events" that help keep you connected to fishing when you can not be actually fishing. Some of these events are a few hours in duration and some last all day. All are fun and informative and most are free. Here is a list of some of the events we have planned for 2011.



**Hardy Day with John Shaner** - John will be here sharing all he knows about Hardy, past and present and hosting and "English Spider" fly tying class.

**Gary Krebs Popper Jig Tying Class** - Gary will be back in the shop showing people how to use his incredible foam popper head jigs and tying some great topwater flies.

**Customer Appreciation day** – An annual event to show our appreciation for the wonderful customers we have that keep us in business.

**Crawdad Round-Up** – A special tying session where we tie crawdad flies and cook fresh crawdads cajun style.

**Thanksgiving Turkey Tie** – Celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday FlyMasters style, tying turkey flies and cooking a trashcan turkey.



**Visit our web site for the latest events and dates!**





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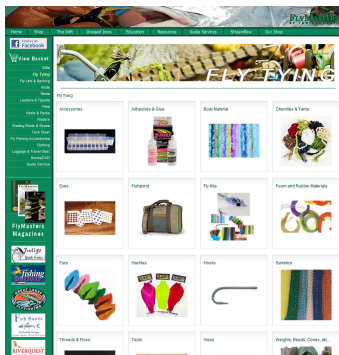
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# Shop Online at FlyMasters.com

The best shopping experience you can have is to come into our shop in Indy and spend some time with us. However, we understand that is not always possible. Especially, if it is late at night and you are tying up some flies and run out of something and want to order it at the moment. It also isn't convenient for all of our out of town customers that always stop by when they are in the neighborhood.



Because of this we have developed our online presence to include shopping. We have many products online currently and are getting more and more each day. We even have a form online you can fill out to request a product be available on our web store.

Shopping FlyMasters.com is made even better by the fact you can redeem and purchase gift certificates online. Purchase gift certificates in any amount and print them right at home. Give them to your loved ones and they can use them either in the shop or online to purchase the products they need. You can also elect to have your entire purchase picked up in our shop. Saving you any additional shipping fees. Remember that the next time you are coming to Indy. Make your purchase at FlyMasters.com and simply drive in and pick it up. But don't forget to at least say "Hello".



## FlyMasters TradeUp Program

In 2011 we kicked off our "TradeUp" program and it has done better than we ever suspected it would. Apparently, there are a lot of fisherman and women that have old unused gear collecting dust that they want to put to good use. That is exactly what we do with our Trade-Up program. You bring (or send) in your old rod, reel, tying vise, etc... and we will clean it up and sell it for you on eBay. This is not limited to just fly gear either. All bait casting and spinning gear is welcome. The great thing is you don't have to do anything. We do all the work of cleaning it, photographing it, listing it and handling the sale. You get 100% of the selling price (minus eBay fees) as a FlyMasters gift certificate. You can then shop in the store or online and use it to upgrade to newer and better equipment.



Do your loved ones a favor this year, bring all that old dusty gear from the basement or garage and let us turn it into some green stuff for you. You can then fill that space back up with new and shine things they will all love to look at. Head over to [flymasters.com/tradeup.asp](http://flymasters.com/tradeup.asp) for details on Trading Up your old gear.

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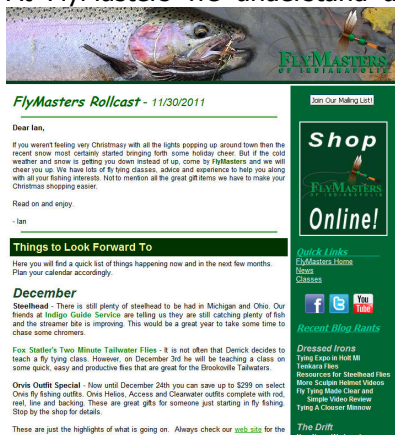


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# FlyMasters Rollcast

At FlyMasters we understand all too well just how busy life can get. Work, families, homes, friends and relatives all take up a slice of our precious days. You have some many plates twirling sometimes you can't even get out to our website to catch up on what is new and happening here in the shop. We do update our website often, just about every day, and sometimes, especially if you are headed out of town on a fishing trip, it is a good idea to check in with us to see what is new or get a fishing report. That is where the Rollcast comes in.



help keep our customers informed. The Rollcast is designed to be a quick read, usually less than five minutes [we hate junk email too] with lots of links to resources on the Internet for those looking for more details. We include information in each issues about what is going on in the shop and fishing around the Midwest. We have information on new and great products we have in the shop, all of which can be purchased online as well with a simply click.



The Rollcast is not all business though. We have links and information to great fly fishing websites and blogs, we have a featured fly in each issue complete with material information and the videos we link to in our Video Break section are always a favorite.

We also have links and information pertaining to all of our upcoming classes, schools and clinics that will be happening between each issues. All in all, the Rollcast is a great resource to keep you up to date on what is happening in the fly fishing community and in FlyMasters. Plus, when you sign up you are entered into a monthly drawing to win a dozen flies! So sign up today if you haven't. If you are, have your friends sign up and they can split the flies with you!

## Dressed Irons & The Drift

We have a couple of other resources for those who need a daily fix of fishing information. FlyMasters has two different blogs at FlyMasters.com. The Drift and Dressed Irons. The Drift is a blog that pretty much is all fly fishing [occasionally, conventional] and nothing but fly fishing. We have our own articles posted here. News in the industry as well as fly fishing world is also posted here. We also post reviews on books and DVDs on The Drift. Plus, we even get to post our own editorial views from time to time and if it concerns fly fishing it will be on The Drift.



Dressed Irons is the Drift but only for fly tying. We have a large fly tying population here in the Midwest and they are always eager to soak up any new information about materials, techniques and flies. Dressed Irons is a location where we focus on just fly tying and passing along all of this kind of information. There are tying book and DVD reviews, tying videos, links to tying resources, and our own high quality step by step instructions for some of our favorite flies. If the subject is fly tying, look no further than dressed Irons.



## Getting to FlyMasters



In 2012 INDOT will replace the Allisonville Road Bridge. Sometime between March 2012 and November 2012 the contractor has 110 days to fully close and rebuild the bridge. The ramps on both sides of the bridge will remain open during construction. All the new construction takes place within the present ramp system. Our website will have up to date information on the progress of construction. The following are

suggestions for getting to FlyMasters during the construction period.

1. Traveling East on 465 you will get be able to get off the Allisonville Ramp, turn right and come to the store as usual. To return west on 465 travel West on 82nd Street to the Keystone/465 exit.
2. Traveling West on 465 from I69 interchange get off the Allisonville Ramp, turn right to 86th Street, turn right at next stop light and continue through the mall to 82nd street. Turn West on 82nd Street and continue to FlyMasters. To return East/South on 465 simply leave the store and get on the ramp at 465/Allisonville Road. Or use the next option.
3. Traveling South from Fishers/Noblesville etc get off the I69/82nd Street interchange and travel West on 82 Street to FlyMasters. The new bridge on 82nd Street has vastly improved the flow of traffic on 82nd Street.



Check our website ([www.flymasters.com/gettoflymasters.asp](http://www.flymasters.com/gettoflymasters.asp)) for up to date information or give us a call. We greatly appreciate your business and we look forward to the new bridge and improved traffic flow. We are very happy to take any order over the phone and ship it to you or shop FlyMasters.com as we continue to add more products to our online store.





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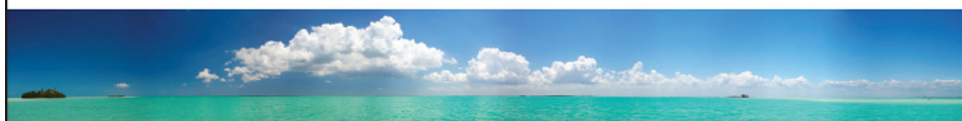
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# LET'S GO FISHING!

BY DERRICK FILKINS



A father brings in his son and/or daughter to buy some worms to go fishing in a neighborhood pond. They come to FlyMasters because it is a fishing store and they expect to find what they need to go fishing. They ask for worms and are told that this is a fly shop and we do not sell bait. Instead they are directed to some other place to buy worms. Too many times this scenario was played out at FlyMasters. This was not a wise practice. It was a deterrent to introducing children to fishing. It built a roadblock for fishing to be a family activity.

The Outdoor Foundation and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation launched a research study to evaluate the quintessential outdoor pastime of fishing. The report said that fishing is the most popular adult outdoor activity. On average, each fishing participant spent 20.4 days fishing last year (2010). Even though fishing is the most popular adult outdoor activity, its' participation bucket has a small hole in the bottom. More people are dropping out of fishing than new people getting started. Elitist attitudes in the fly fishing industry have deterred growth in fly fishing and fishing in general. Fly fishing was the first method of presenting an artificial lure but it is now not the only method. Our fly fishing only attitude of the past has restricted the growth of our own knowledge of fishing and has turned away people from the sport we love. We needed an attitude adjustment.

Our customers have begun to notice a variety of conventional product in our store. We apologize to those customers who, in the past, have been reluctant to mention that they used conventional tackle. We would now like to sell you that equipment. As with our fly fishing equipment, we carry the best product



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available. G. Loomis, St Croix, Shimano, Fins, Zman, etc. And our \$40 Blackrock spinning rod combo's are the best available. We are happy to announce that we no longer turn away parents and children who need live bait. FlyMasters sells the best nightcrawlers and red worms available. Most of us started fishing with a worm, hook, and bobber. FlyMasters will be working very hard this year to



introduce the sport of fishing to new participants. Free Orvis 101 Fly Fishing Schools get started at the Boat, Sport, and Travel Show this February. FlyMasters own Fly Fishing Schools and Fly Tying Classes continue throughout 2012. Sign up for our online newsletter and receive other information about special events this coming year. We have enhanced our mission of providing the best service, fly fishing equipment, and expert experience to include all methods of fishing for all ages of people for all species of fish!

When fishing season starts this year, bring your sons, grandsons, daughters and granddaughters to FlyMasters and prepare them to enjoy the most popular outdoor activity. Worm and bobber, fly and float, rod and reel, we have it all at FlyMasters.

***Let's go fishing!***

Derrick Filkins, Shop Manager and Guide  
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The common carp is a wonderful creature. Gold and bronze hues with big line backer shoulders and an eerie calm when you get them to hand, makes you think that this fish is studying me? NO, it already knows he is smarter than me! The great lakes are abundant with carp and in some areas there just down right loaded! This being said, just because there are loads of carp doesn't mean that you can stumble out there flailing away with a fly rod and expect to have carp racing toward your fly. You need to be stealthy sometimes taking as long as 30 minutes just to get within casting range. The common carp may not be able to see very well but those fish know your there before you get your boat off the trailer.



Every watershed has its own forage base. Figure out the primary forage and you have cut the task in half of what old pucker mouth wants to eat. Here on the great lakes it is gobies, crayfish and mayfly larvae. In my opinion these would be the big three and in order of importance. Match the hatch, so to say, with those three offerings and I

would be confident to fish anywhere in the great lakes.

"Just because there are loads of carp doesn't mean that you can stumble out there flailing away with a fly rod and expect to have carp racing toward your fly."

Finding carp locations can be a challenge some days, but a good rule of thumb would be to start your search on wind blown points and bays. Anywhere that will collect warm or warming waters. These spots don't necessarily need to be big bays or points. Some of my best spots are the size of a pick up truck! Some type of bottom structure is another key that will



hold fish. Rocks, mud, or even logs laying on the bottom will keep fish in a area mainly to feed but also because all of these will absorb heat from the sun and create warm water.



Rod and reel combos consisting of 8-10 weight rods with a reel that has room for lots of backing and a floating line are important. All reels should have at least of 200 yard of backing for the sole purpose that these fish can run as far as they want and some smaller males will scream out a 100 yards in nothing flat. Saltwater lines do work quite well in the summer and I prefer Redfish lines because they stay soft even if you find some cooler water. Rods

"Grouse hunters lead there shots, deer hunters lead there running shots, guess what? Moving carp.... all together now....lead you shot."

and reels for me are Hardy & Greys. In my opinion they are the best, but you can have the best rod & reel combo money can buy and if the angler cannot hit a umbrella sized area at 50 ft with a slight breeze blowing they might as well be using a broom stick!! Practice, Practice, Practice. Nothing will frustrate a good fly angler more than me telling him (politely of course) that he just bombed that 40 pound carp on the head and that you need to lead that fish by 3 feet. Grouse hunters lead there shots, deer hunters lead there running shots, guess what? Moving carp.... all together now....lead you shot.



The common carp are a great way to keep brushed up on your saltwater skills and by implementing the same skills needed to catch those salty fish a fly angler can be honed to a fine point when its time to wade the flats.

Steve is a full time fishing guide hailing from northern Michigan Guiding the famed Pere Marquette river, the clear water flats of Beaver Island and the Naknek River camp in King Salmon Alaska

Indigo Guide Service  
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# **Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show Remains Unique as Its 58-Year History**

By Josh Lantz

The Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show has been synonymous with Indianapolis' Renfro family for the past 48 years, but the event's unique history goes back even further.



An Indianapolis businessman named Melvin Ross began the Boat, Sport and Travel Show in 1953, and operated the event at the Indiana State Fairgrounds for 10 years prior to one of the state of Indiana's worst recorded tragedies. On October 1 of 1963, a leaking propane tank used to heat the popcorn machines in the then-called Indiana Coliseum exploded during an evening performance of one of Mr. Ross's popular Ice Capades shows, killing 74 and injuring 400 more. It was a dark day in Indiana history, and an otherwise successful man, Mr. Ross, was devastated.

Enter Harry Renfro.

Renfro had been selling booth space for Mr. Ross when the Coliseum tragedy occurred. When the broken Ross wanted out of the business, Renfro stepped up with the money and a new found energy that would take the event to a new level. He would eventually succeed in his vision of transforming the already successful show from an adult, male-dominated event to a treasured, family venue.

Harry's son, Kevin, has fond memories of growing up with the business.

He remembers one particular evening at the show in the late 1970's when Samson -- a 700-pound Asian black bear who delighted crowds by taking on all comers in a hybrid of professional wrestling and modern-day cage fighting -- ran amuck through the Pepsi Coliseum. "The orchestra was playing and the spotlights were on", he says, when Samson decided that something just wasn't quite right. "The bear freaked out", Renfro recalls. "He ran right through the ring and just kept going. Ironically, I remember he completely devastated the Ontario Tourism booth that was located just outside the ring." It took the handler nearly an hour to calm poor Samson down enough to return the animal





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to its cage, but not before Samson had completed several laps through the hallway surrounding the Pepsi Coliseum and cornered three terrified show-goers.

Of course things have always gone more smoothly than not over the show's 58-year history, and by the time Harry Renfro passed away in 1986, he had attained his goal of creating a true family event – a goal that still drives the show's features and direction today.

Now run by brothers Kevin and Mark, the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show is indeed the largest event of its kind in the nation. It will return to the Indiana State Fairgrounds for its 58th year February 17-26, 2012, with a dizzying array of exhibitors, features and events that cover all aspects of the outdoor recreational experience. "There is truly something here for everyone in the family", Kevin says. "Of course we'll have all the best new gear and equipment you could ever imagine, but we also provide friendly and entertaining experts who share their expertise on using it too".



All that variety makes the Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show easier to attend than ever. It's a comfortable experience that is appreciated by everyone – regardless of their particular background or experience. People go because it is enjoyable.

"I don't consider myself an outdoorsman by any means", Brent Stafford told me at last year's show. "But I know what I like when I see it", he chuckled. And judging by the smile on his face and the 6-weight fly rod cases he and his son held tucked beneath their arms, Brent liked smallmouth bass very much -- or would come to do so sometime soon.



For more complete information on this year's show, visit [www.indysportshow.com](http://www.indysportshow.com).



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# The Incredible, Edible... Bead?

If you take anything away from this article let it be that all anadromous fish eat eggs at some point or for a majority of their life. From the time they hatch in the



gravel the first meal they have is an egg. So, as fishermen trying to out smart these fish, why would we not fish the closest thing to an egg? Of course I'm talking about the incredible, edible, Bead!

Long gone are the days of glo bugs. With the ability to add ladies nail polish to match any egg color in the

water to perfection, beads have revolutionized the fly fisherman's egg fishing arsenal. Simply place a bead on a toothpick, find the desired shade of polish, spin on a light coat and let air dry.

"Anadromous fish eat eggs at some point or for a majority of their lives. When they hatch from the gravel the first meal they have is an egg."

Simple enough right? Well as with anything, it all depends on how involved and consumed you are willing to allow yourself to become. Certain fisheries require the utmost attention to detail where just like matching any hatch, only the combination of the right polish, size bead and color will find you success. Fortunately, this tends only to be the case on streams that receive heavy pressure while streams that haven't ever seen beads tend to (for a lack of better words) fish quite stupid.



Another benefit to fishing beads is having the right hook on your line. Most hooks work, so why are there 100 million different styles and brands out there? Because every hook serves a purpose. Bead fishing allows you to choose the style that fits your taste or need. More importantly you have confidence in the hooks ability to land your fish! In most cases you're hooking big fish on small hooks on the outside of the mouth so getting a good stick on them becomes very important. In the past decade I've been fishing beads, I developed my confidence in snelled #2 & #4 Gamakatsu octopus hooks for salmon, steelhead





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and big trout, while using #6 & #8 Gamis, Owner mosquitoes and Daiichi 1120 for your smaller fish.

The final piece of the puzzle is pegging your bead in place on the line. You can angle cut a piece of weedwaker cord, 200lb mono, or just a simple old tooth pick wedged in place will hold the bead above the hook. With the bead slightly away from the hook



this allows you to have the most natural presentation and also minimize the

**"Bead fishing has and will continue to push the effectiveness of fly fishing"**

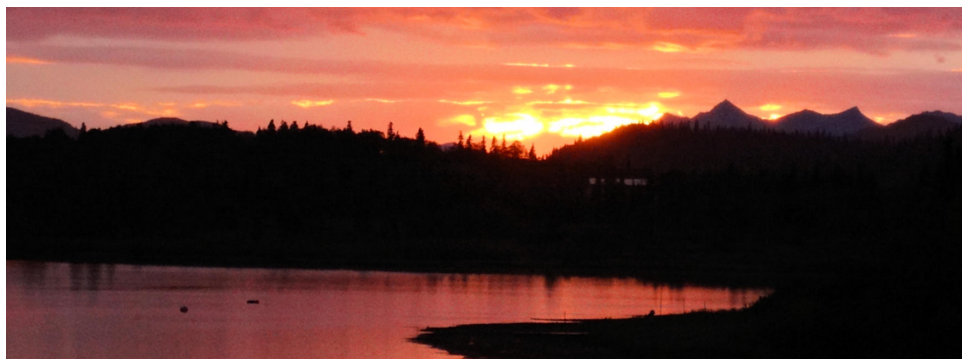
impact on the fish. Since the bead is pegged an inch to two inches from the hook very rarely do you ever see fish take the hook deep in the gills or tongue.



From the trout streams of Alaska to the steelhead rivers of the mid west, bead fishing has and will continue to push the effectiveness of fly fishing and give fly fishermen the most realistic tool to fool fish next to putting a salmon egg on your hook.

The author, Justin Tenzler, has been guiding Alaska and Washington for almost a decade and has been a steelhead bum even longer.

For more info go to [Olympicpeninsulaoutfitters.net](http://Olympicpeninsulaoutfitters.net)





# *Streamer Fishing for Michigan Steelhead*

Kevin Morlock

This article is a combination of a series of articles written in the Spring of 2011 for ThirdCoastFly.com. The article(s) focus on various methods I employ for catching Michigan steelhead on streamers. I am not implying I am the grandmaster ninja of steelhead streamering, but over the years I have developed



a straightforward and efficient method that puts chrome in the net. The series covers: Gearing Up, Streamer Patterns, Reading Water with a Thermometer and Calendar, Reading Water and Finding Patterns, Presentation Styles, Fishing Basics, and Ways to Make Sure You're Getting the Job Done. The first three parts are included here and the remaining sections can be read on ThirdCoastFly.com.

## **Gearing Up**

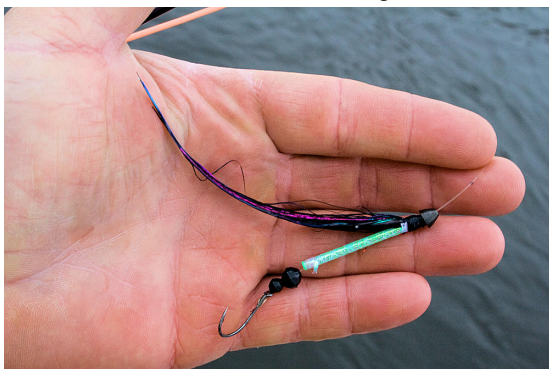
Let's jump right in to the gear used for swinging streamers for steelhead.

**Rod** - Temple Fork Outfitters 13'0" 7/8 weight, 450-700 gr. Of course you can effectively streamer fish with a single-hand rod, but it is a lot more work and not as effective in many situations. I use this relatively big rod because it has no limits as far as the west Michigan rivers I fish are concerned. I can cast a large fly the distance I need to with enough weight to get the job done, I never have to compromise because I'm never "under gunned".

**Reel** – Temple Fork Outfitters LA425. I own a dozen reels of different sizes in this series. I have owned them for years. I never service them. I have never had one repaired and they are all still working and working well. They have plenty of drag to handle even the hottest fish and because the drag surface is synthetic/stainless they don't freeze up in winter.

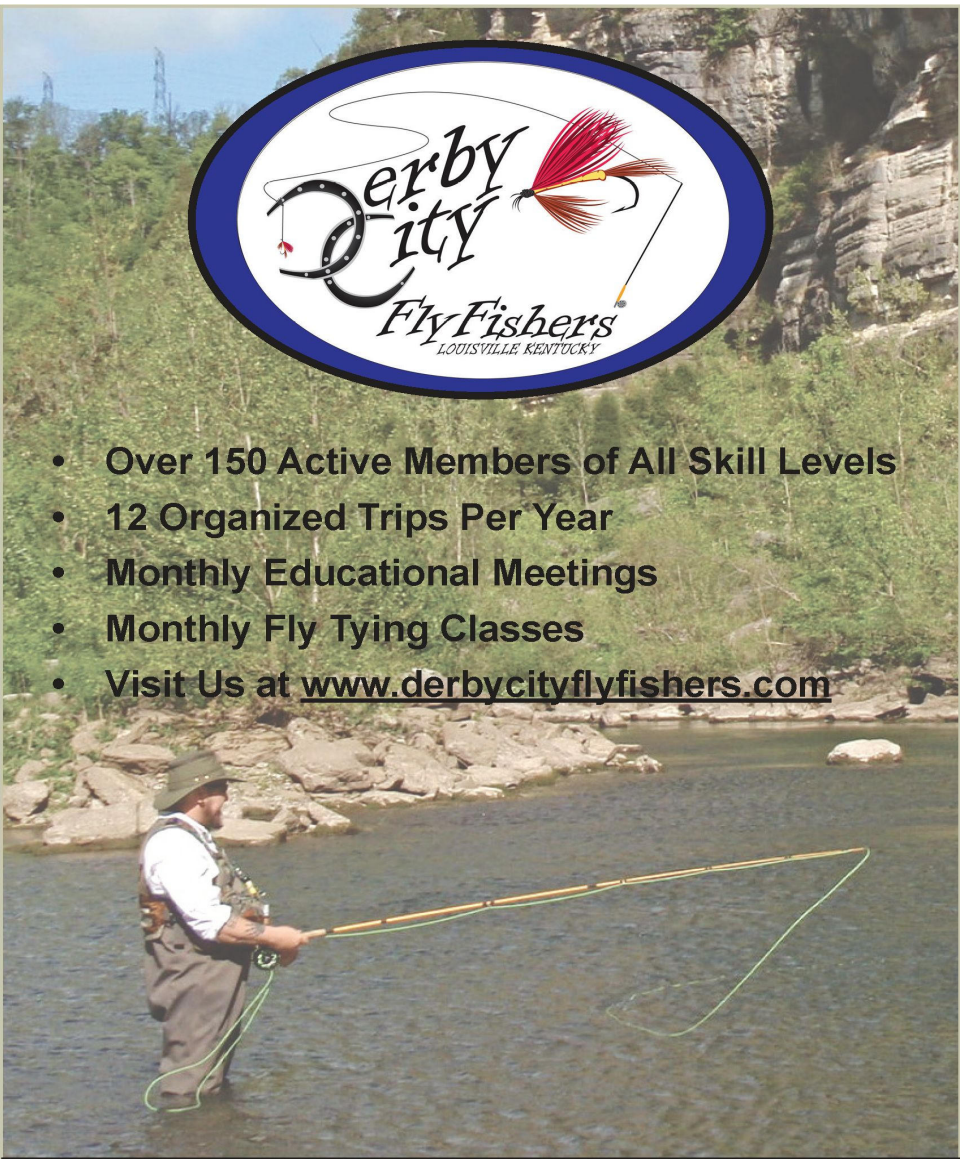
**Backing** - 20lb Dacron.

**Running/Shooting Line** - I've used a lot of different running lines over the years and while it's not the most important part of the rig for me, a coated running line like Rio's Powerflex will result in fewer tangles than something like Amnesia.





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## Fly Line - Scientific Anglers Mastery Series Spey Skagit Deluxe 550 gr.

**Sink Tip** – 12 to 24 foot of Rio T14. In the lower Pere Marquette I have been using an eighteen foot section this entire season. I like the Rio T line of sink tips for many reasons, but particularly because you can tie a knot in them. I end the T14 with a 4 wrap uni-knot tied to a large two-way swivel.



**Leader** – 3 to 4 foot of 20 pound fluorocarbon. Tied to the large two-way swivel with an improved clinch knot. This section of leader ends with another medium sized two-way swivel. I feel that knots to swivels are faster and more secure than line to line knots and I like having the swivels to eliminate line twist.

**Tippet** – 2 to 3 foot of 12 pound fluorocarbon. For all my tube flies I have tippet sections pre-snellled on my favorite hook and keep them in a leader keeper. For streamers on traditional hooks I simply add a few feet of the same tippet material to the second swivel.

**Hook** – Gamakatsu octopus 02408 in size 4. This is the finest tube fly hook I have found for Michigan steelhead.

"This fly is the polar opposite of what most tiers aspire to: it is absolutely basic, not a collection of exotic materials and involving no complex techniques. Dubbing loops? Temple dog? Nope and nope."

## Fly Patterns

In the past several years my steelhead streamer box is filled with mostly one pattern in several color combinations. I call them Basic Bucktails and I've been reluctant to post anything about them because they are so basic and simple



The Pere Marquette and other West Michigan rivers, especially the lower sections, are chock full of wood. These tube flies are easy to tie so when you break one off it's not the end of the world. This fly is the polar opposite of what most tiers aspire to: it is absolutely basic, not a collection of exotic materials and involving no



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complex techniques. Dubbing loops? Temple dog? Nope and nope.

For those folks that are eager for a more complex version, perhaps you should shoot your own deer and dye your own bucktail.



Though do not underestimate this fly pattern. The fact is, the Basic Bucktail puts steelhead in the net.

Most of the key attributes of the Basic Bucktail are shared by all tube flies: the tinsel rarely tangles and fouls, it is extremely versatile, you can quickly add weight with in-line cones and change bead colors, and it allows for the use of a short

shank hook on a large fly, in particular the Gamakatsu 02408, which greatly increases hook ups and fish landed.

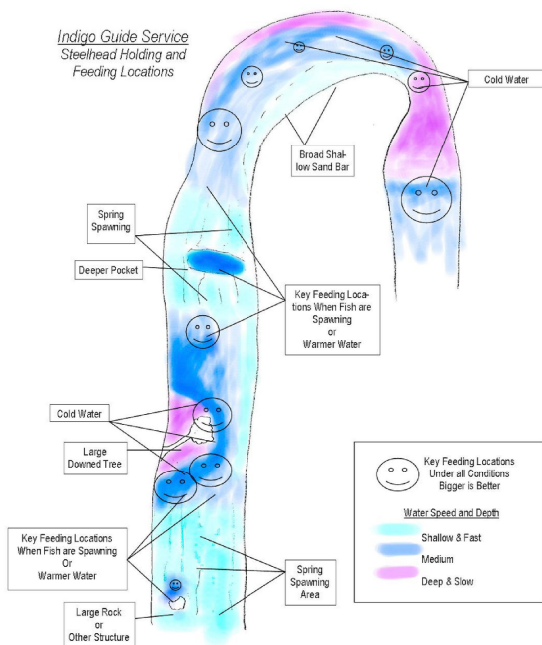
**"Let's start out with a simple, golden rule: warm is fast and cold is slow."**

But the Basic Bucktail also has it's own advantages: it casts and handles like a small fly but has a big profile in the water with quite a bit of action with the tinsel over-wing. It can have a lot of horizontal contrast, i.e. different levels of color from top to bottom, something that seems to be important for convincing steelhead to eat.

There are tying directions on [www.IndigoGuideService.com](http://www.IndigoGuideService.com). I recommend tying this fly in a few different colors. I divide my box into dark, light, and dark over light combinations. Black over orange and black over pink have been quite productive.

## Reading Water

Let's start out with a simple, golden rule: warm is fast and cold is slow. This just about covers the bases for steelhead. Water temp dictates digestive rate and overall metabolism, presentation speed and preferred holding waters, though the calendar is a rule breaker when spawning is involved.





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## **September (50's) through Mid November (40's):**

If spawning salmon are in the area you're fishing, fish near them. Steelhead sniff out and focus their attention on the salmon. The feeding opportunities for a steelhead behind spawning salmon in the deeper water are obvious, eggs. You also have aquatic insects being dislodged as the female salmon excavate their redds, as well as smaller trout, bait fish, and crayfish that are swept into the pocket as they try to get into the egg action.



Without spawning salmon, steelhead will hold in areas that offer good feeding opportunities and enough depth or cover for them to feel secure, and this changes depending on water clarity. I also find that steelhead avoid holding in slow sections of river or the deep dark slow holes that we often refer to as "frog water" until the water gets cold.

## **Late November (30's) through February (30's):**

Steelhead are transitioning to medium and slow water. Winter is a time of energy conservation, eat when you need to but don't waste energy. The tail outs of holes are some of my best spots in cold water. When the water temps dip into the 30's, we often fish through our favorite holes that had been fishing well all fall and are disappointed. But then, while covering the tail out, we put a fish in the boat. As the water cools down, always fish tail outs and even a bit farther onto the flat.

## **March (30's) into May (40's and 50's):**



With the exception of post spawn or "drop back" females, steelhead are going to be focused around spawning areas. The bigger and better the spawning area the more fish it will hold.

A section of quick riffles or a deep dark run is often what comes to mind for anglers when they imagine fast and slow water, but you can find fast and slow seams and pockets throughout a river. Steelhead can and will hold and travel through whatever water they need to in order to find cover, feed, or spawn but are relatively consistent in where they hold in relation to the calendar and water temp.

Of course there is never a substitute for experience. Steelhead are often caught year in and year out in the exact same specific locations, and knowing these locations is a huge key to success. But by following the golden rule, you can usually go out and find a few for yourself.

Always remember... "warm is fast and cold is slow".

You can read parts 4, 5 and 6 on [ThirdCoastFly.com](http://ThirdCoastFly.com). You can also scan the QR code to the right and be taken directly to the web site!





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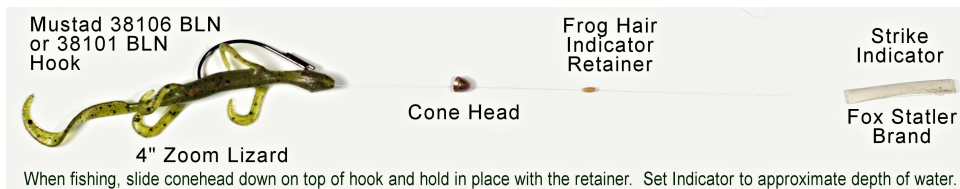
## Part II

Fox Statler & Derrick Filkins

### Rigging Soft Plastics and Spinnerbaits on Your Fly Rod

Last year Fox Statler introduced the idea of fishing smaller soft plastics on fly rods. This was not a totally new idea. Fifty years ago it was not uncommon to paddle a boat with one hand while using the other to hold a fly rod with automatic reel and a plastic worm as the terminal tackle. Throw the worm into cover or on top of lily pads, hit the lever on the reel slightly to give the worm some movement and behold a bass showed up to inhale the worm. Somewhere along the way fly fishing gave up two of the best lures for catching any fish, the rubber worm (soft plastics) and the spinnerbait. Fox has reintroduced these great lures to fly fishing. Our customers have been asking how to rig fly rods for fishing plastics and spinnerbaits and that is the content of this article.

What rod do you need for casting plastics will be determined by the weight of the plastic you are using. Fox and I cast a 4 inch Berkley Power Bait worm on a #4 G-lock hook on our one weight rods. We use no weight other than hook and worm. If we needed to get the worm down a little quicker we would use a 3 or 4 weight rod and add a small, medium conehead of some color. If we are casting a 4" Zoom Lizard with a 2/0, 1/0, 1, or 2 EWG (Extra Wide Gap) hook and conehead we will use a 6-8 weight fly rod depending on the action and what rod is available to us. Incorporated into this rig is a swivel, bobber stop, and strike indicator and you are all set.



There are additional ways to rig soft plastic worms, lizards, crayfish, minnows and grubs: Sinking! There are several methods of sinking soft plastics. Tie Brass-Eyed jigs using I-Balz or similar eyes, light weight Slider Crappie jigs. When using a conehead or any weight above the hook-eye, the weight must be stationary. Do not allow it to slide up and down. In his book "Lunker", Bob Underwood made a very strong point that a moveable weight will foul the angler in the debris on the bottom. His recommendation was to peg or stop-knot the weight as close as possible to the hook-eye. We have found that the bobber stop from Frog Hair provides an easy





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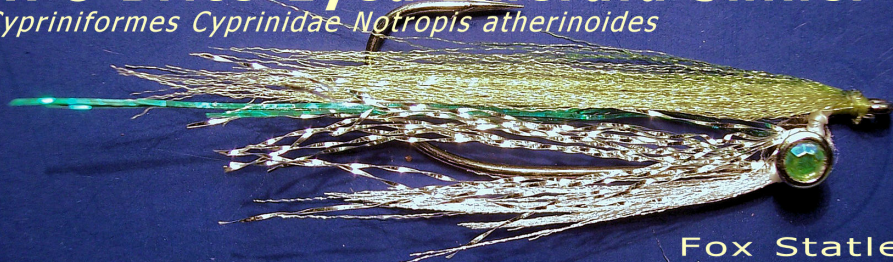
mechanism for stopping movement of weight. If you find another, let us know!

Floating! If you want a pattern to float on the surface use a Styrofoam or a popper body above the hook-eye and stop it with a bobber stop. If the hole is too big use a toothpick to hold the popper body in place. You do not have to paint the popper body or Styrofoam indicator. White is the belly color of 85% of fish species. Between movements of the soft plastic, the tail will sink just like a dying minnow. Because the larger plastic imitations sink fairly well, we often use only the soft plastic imitation and the offset worm hook or EWG with no weight at all. This is a very effective in shallow areas. The smaller plastics imitations are very slow descending and these are great for fishing lily-pads, water-grasses, and floating limbs and logs. Just make sure that the hook-point is embedded into the plastic.

Fox started experimenting and designing HPU (hook-point-up) fly patterns several years before the natural disasters that occurred in his river. He was trying to create lighter Clouser style flies to fish in shallow Ozark streams. He discovered that offset worm hooks ride HPU and the addition of small brass hourglass, dumbbell eyes, etc were all that was required to insure that the fly did not invert even in strong current. At the same time, he realized that super-gluing brass eyes to offset worm hooks created a great jig for soft plastics. His favorite eyes are the round dumbbell eyes called I-Balz. They come in four sizes: 5/32", 3/16", 1/4", and 5/16". Spin fishermen that Fox guided quickly realized that the various sizes and plating available with hour glass style eyes made them more effective since change in weight and color could be accomplished with minimal time and material. The one problem with this rigging is that the plastic imitation must be positioned on the hook before the Brass-Eyed jig is tied to the line. But the advantage to this is that the fishermen must tie a fresh knot. Numerous times we have seen fishermen get snagged and they pull extremely tight to dislodge their jig. Once they get it loose they rarely retie their knot. They have flat spotted their mono and weakened it significantly. Tying fresh knots insures that the terminal tackle is at its best. The tackle closest to the fish is the most important, retie that knot. With the huge assortment of offset worm and EWG hooks,

## HPU Brite-Eyed Emerald Shiner

*Cypriniformes Cyprinidae Notropis atherinoides*



Fox Statler



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finding a hook that will fit your needs is quite easy. Fox has tied a HPU Shiner that has a #2 offset worm hook and a 3/32" hourglass eye that is extremely stable. The Emerald Shiner in the 2010 FlyMasters magazine is an example of a HPU fly. Flies of lighter weight act more like the actual minnow, and it is easier for the angler to distinguish between a fish and a hangup or the bottom. When fish feel a heavy weight they get rid of a fly or lure immediately.

**"The tackle closest to the fish is the most important, retie that knot."**

The problem of fly fishing the larger soft plastics is their weight. Finding plastic patterns small enough and in good color combinations is an on-going scavenger hunt. One simple idea solved the search for small worms. Fox took worms and cut them diagonally, which reduced the weight of the worm by half while maintaining its basic movement in the water. The split worms did not last as long as whole ones, but there were twice as many. Some worms, like the ZinkerZ from Zman, are split about an inch behind the head ending the cut an inch before the tail. This soft plastic worm is basically the same shape at both ends. The single worm has now become two and the full size head makes it more durable. Because of the diagonal cut method, the worm now has a slender swimming tail. This slender tail adds lots of action when the worm is doing any kind of movement at all, descending, gliding, sliding over objects, etc. Some grubs do have thin tails but sometimes the body is so big that their weight is difficult to cast. But we like the split worm because its shape is closer to a baitfish shape than a grub with a thin single or split tail.



Crayfish, crawdads, and mudbugs: Depending on your geography, Crawdads from one to two inches are great baits in the early spring because the naturals in the stream are about the same size. As the summer moves on the crawbugs get bigger. The new Punch CrawZ and Flappin CrawZ from Zman are great crawfish imitations. The bodies of both can be shortened to match the size of the crawfish in your rivers. You can also downsize the Flappin claws with a pair of scissors. The Yum 2.5 inch Crawbug is a great pattern. These Crawbugs are designed to be fished with tube jigs, so they are hollow so the jig can go up inside of them. Don't fish the standard jig head as mentioned previously. Instead use a Brass-Eyed jig made with a #1 or #2 EWG offset worm hook with I-Balz or hourglass eye in the bottom of the offset. One more issue, cut the belly of the crawbug from the head to the center of the tail. This allows the hook to set more

efficiently without the soft plastic belly interfering. Since the Crawbug is hollow, fish hold it longer because they assume it is a crawdad in the soft shell phase of molting. Why different brands of crawfish and crawbugs? You will not always find





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all the correct colors for you water in one brand. It therefore is necessary to use various colors and sizes of different soft plastics. "What Fish See" by Colin J. Kageyama, get it, read it, and study it. It applies to all fishing!



Some jig heads do not work well. Never use the standard lead head jig with the hook eye coming out of the top of the lead unless your are vertically jigging.

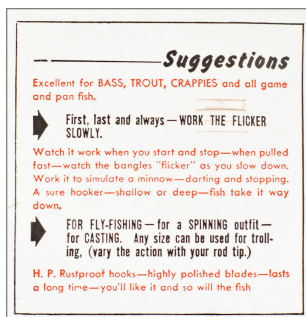
The physics of the standard lead head jig causes it to roll over, thus hook-point-down, when being horizontally retrieved and it encounters an object. The force on the line inverts the jig as the hook-eye reaches the top of the object. This automatically forces the hook-point into the object causing it to foul hook at almost every occurrence. Use a swimming jig instead. Swimming jigs have the eye coming out the front of the lead.



Spinnerbaits found their origin in INDIANA. A dime and a hat pin and made for his fly rod. Hildebrandt's little flicker is still a fantastic spinnerbait. We carry all sizes and colors at FlyMasters. A more recent version of a spinnerbait for fly fishing was created by Fox Statler. The Spinner'd Minner. Using the inline blade on a straight eye streamer hook Fox created an exciting streamer pattern that catches all species of fish. What blade color, what size blade, what body color, and when to fish them. The answers to all the

above questions are in the book "What Fish See" by Colin J. Kageyama. When we fish spinnerbaits on our fly rods we use a speed swivel approximately two feet above the fly. This keeps the blade from twisting up our leader and subsequently our fly line. The last spinnerbait I will mention is the Original Chatterbait from Zman. I use the 1/8 oz and file down the head to make it lighter. I cast them on my 7 or 8 weight and use a two hand retrieve for speed if needed.

There is more to "No Boundaries Fishing" simply because it is unbounded. The purpose is the continued use of innovative adaptive ideas and materials regardless of their origin. But this is a magazine not a book. Three books to get for further education: "Lunker" by Bob Underwood, "What Fish See" by Colin J. Kageyama, and "Slider Fishin'" by Charlie Brewer. Let's go fishing and celebrate the return of the rubber worm and spinnerbait. Fly fishing is welcoming home some of its very best tackle!



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# THE MANY FACES OF BAMBOO

Randy Fridlund

Bamboo, unlike other materials, is in itself unique in that it is easily adaptable to countless processes and techniques, many yet to be discovered. Its performance as a fine fishing tool continues to be pushed to levels that meet and exceed possibilities unavailable with other older or newer materials. Since the early 1900's Tonkin bamboo, or *Arundinaria Amabilis* loosely translated as "the lovely reed", is the primary bamboo used by rod making masters around the world. Bamboo is not a wood as some believe, but is actually a species of grass. Due to the lovely reed's unique properties it is amazingly strong, resilient and, even today, the most versatile rod making material available.



Since the time that Hiram Leonard developed his automated spline-milling machine that revolutionized the mass production of the high tolerance bamboo strips used in the manufacture of bamboo fly rods, rod makers have continued to find increasingly inventive and unique ways of improving the use of bamboo as a rod building material. In their continued quest to improve performance and push the capabilities of bamboo to its limit, rod makers usually focus on two distinct areas. The most straightforward method of changing a rod's performance, other than by simply adjusting the taper, is varying the structural cross section of the blank. By varying the quantity and angles of the individual strips, rods have been made in configurations ranging from two to twelve sides. Each configuration has both advantages and the occasional drawback in rod performance.



The most common configuration and, most believe, the best overall in strength, durability and performance is the hexagon. The six strips used to form the rod blank are each milled or hand planed into six tapered, equilateral 60° triangular splines which, when glued together, form the familiar 6-sided rod section.

Of the less common cross-sections, probably the most seen are the "quads". Traditionally made with four tapered triangular strips to form the square cross section, a more recent configuration of the "Quad" is the PMQ, or "poor man's quad". Requiring no special planning forms or jigs, it is easily made with basic hand tools and is comprised of only two strips making up the square cross section. Yet another variation is the rectangular "Quad" made of four strips that are not equal in width. Most people believe that the advantage of the "quad" configuration is that it offers a stiffer and lighter rod with better tracking





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characteristics when compared to a hexagonal cross section made up of the same volume of material.

The pentagonal cross section is another even less seen configuration that has its own following. Composed of five equal triangular strips that form a pentagon, the highly specialized tooling needed to make the individual strips or splines that form the pentagon make this a more costly-to-produce and even scarcer seen configuration. There have been very few variations, one being the very complex Pentalux that uses five tapered, triangular strips comprised of 60°, 75.5°, and 90° strips. Besides believing that the pentagonal cross section makes for a lighter and stiffer rod, its advocates point out that, due to the guides being on a flat with the opposing side a peak, this configuration actually makes the rod stiffer on the forward cast while being more resilient on the back cast which aids in protecting fine tippets.

Other seldom seen configurations, used more frequently in the past, consisted of using eight to twelve strips for making rods that needed to be large, long and strong for the purpose of beach casting, big game, or salt water casting.



The second distinct method of increasing the performance of bamboo rods that receives the most attention and is highly embraced by modern technology is hollow building. Experimented with by earlier makers, it is commonly believed that both E.C. Powell and Lew Stoner (of Winston Rods) first expanded the technique of

hollowing into a viable procedure for rod production. Being quite different in execution, both of these men filed patents covering their own procedures in the 1930s.

Powell used a technique of removing all of the interior pith of each strip that was then replaced by laminating a strip of cedar onto the remaining strip of "power fibers". The cedar was then removed in short "hollows" alternating with solid "dams" of cedar, which provided not only a gluing surface but structural support as well. Powell then used a uniquely developed saw which both beveled and tapered the strips into splines which, when glued together, formed the finished rod section. Although these steps created a rod that was pleasant to cast and measurably lighter, the volume of work and careful planning provided only minimal weight reduction due to the fact that the thinner the wall was made the more support in the form of solid dams it needed. One small drawback of Powell's process has become evident only years later when, on occasion, a Powell rod can be found with slightly concave faces with an occasional small split. This is evidence of being hollow built and marks the location of a hollow section.

Instead of relying on a series of hollows and bulkheads throughout a rod section to make it lighter, Lew Stoner developed a unique system of "fluting" which used



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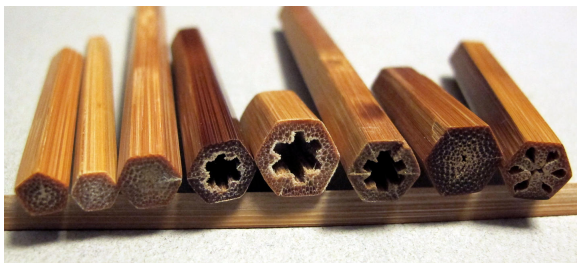
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a ball-end drill to cut a continuous curved groove into the length of each strip. The biggest advantage of Stoner's method is that the wall thickness can be reduced enough to provide adequate lightening while the thicker glue-joint surfaces also provide enhanced reinforcement and resistance to buckling of the completed rod section. An added benefit is ease of construction. The finished triangular strip, unlike Powell's technique of scalloping, can be run through a jig without stopping repeatedly to leave solid dams for needed reinforcement. In addition, by easily controlling both wall thickness and profile by simply changing the ball-end drill size, the rod maker can easily expand his design possibilities.

The experimentation with the above, as well as with other techniques, is just a sampling of the ideas available to the knowledgeable bamboo rod maker in his continuing pursuit of increasing rod performance and fishability. He can easily produce a custom taper and



use a variety of methods and techniques in a combination that is unique to your rod. By virtue of being made one at a time, its creation requires no special tooling, jigs or production methods that would be economically unfeasible and impossible to duplicate with other materials. This one-of-a-kind material offers exciting and unmatched possibilities that both the rod maker and the rod user can appreciate and enjoy!

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