



2013

\$4.99



LATE... AGAIN

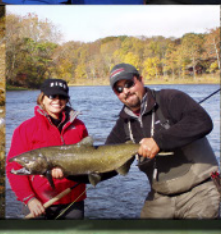
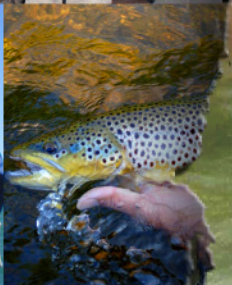
Service Selection Experience



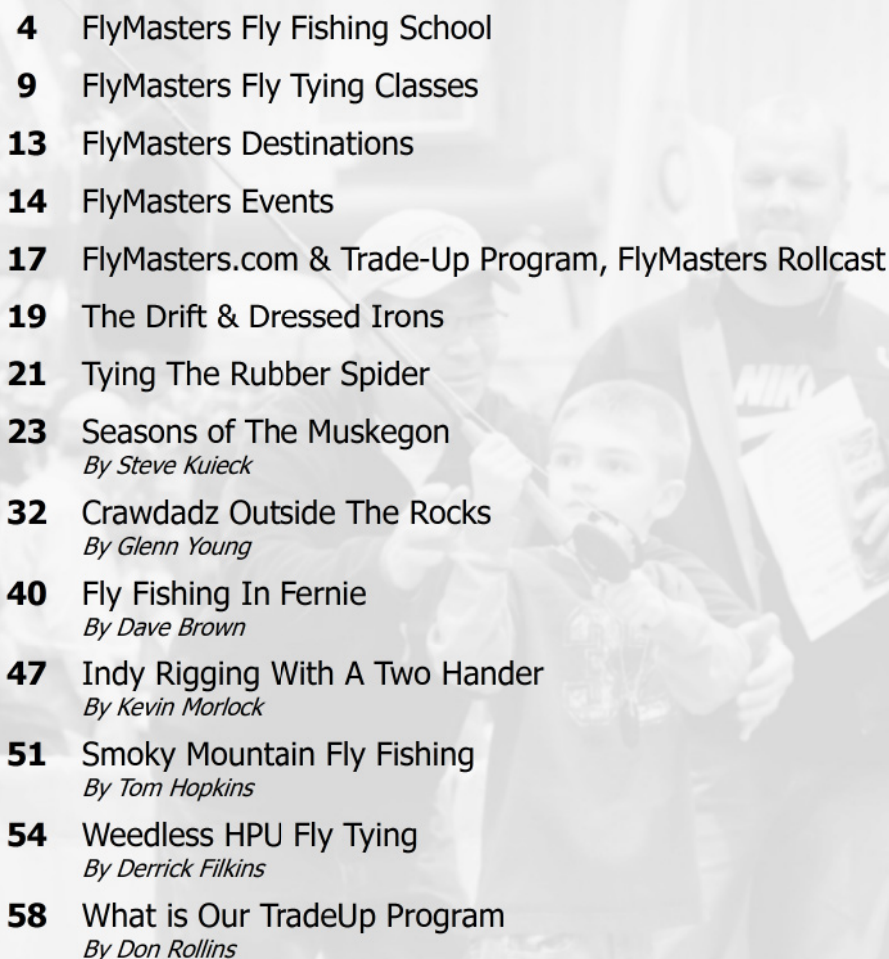
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# RIVERQUEST

CHARTERS





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

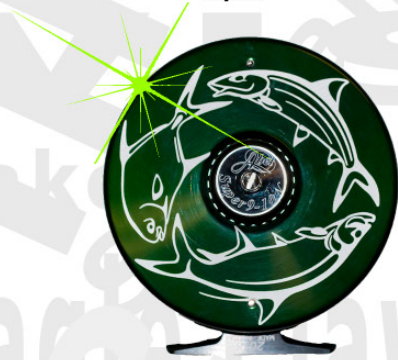
FlyMasters of Indianapolis  
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Indianapolis, IN 46250  
317-570-9811  
WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM  
Monday – Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm  
Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm



**100% Positive Feedback!**



Bring in your tired, dirty, old and unused fishing equipment and let us replace it with some bright shiny new stuff



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"For the past year and a half we have shipped rods, reels & other fishing equipment all over the US, many to Canadian provinces and to 6 other countries (England, Ireland, France, Brazil, Czech Republic, and Italy)."

- Don Rollins, Trade-Up Manager

**Trade-Up**  **at FlyMasters**

317-570-9811



# FlyMasters Excellent Staff



Jon Widboom - Owner



Derrick Filkins - Manager/Guide



Gary Griffith - Travel



Charlie Barnard - Fly Tying



Ian Anderson - Tying Instructor



Don Rollins - TradeUp/Ebay

# FlyMasters Fly Fishing School



**Beginning Fly Fishing School** We have folks coming 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 while 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

## Fly Fishing School Phase I Dates for 2013

March	5 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
April	4 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
May	Check Website for all Future Dates

*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 the fly fishing basics for Free  
from Indiana's Largest Authorized  
Orvis Fly Fishing Dealer.

### 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.



### 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!



Check out the New Silver Sonic waders with  
Sonic Seem technology and cast the New  
Helios 2 at FlyMasters today!

offer a number of other fly fishing classes that might fit your needs better.



**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** Introduced during 2012 as the Orvis Fly Fishing 201 class. This class is a one day event that focuses 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 how to tie your own flies. As a bonus you receive a free Rod, Reel and Line combo, flies and lunch for the day.

**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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# 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 2013

January	15 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>
March	12 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>
April	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
September	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup>
October	15 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <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 ages. We encourage parents and children as well as husbands 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).



At FlyMasters,  
we don't discriminate  
against the 6 year old  
boy or girl who wants  
to go fishing with worms!



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Rods and Reels  
Beginning to expert  
conventional tackle



Including  
Nightcralwer  
Red Wigglers  
& Bee Moths





# Intermediate and Skills Development Fly Tying



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

Intermediate and Skills Development classes for 2013	
January	12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>
February	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup>
March	9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup>
April	13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
May	11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
June	15 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
July	13 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
August	10 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
September	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
October	12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>
November	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>
December	7 <sup>th</sup>

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

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 \$15.00 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 are 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.



Occasionally we have "special" classes that are either longer or more involved. 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 online ahead of time.

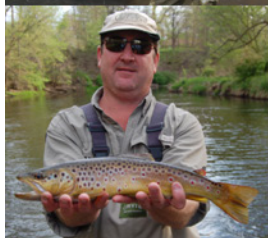
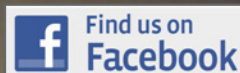


# RIPPLE

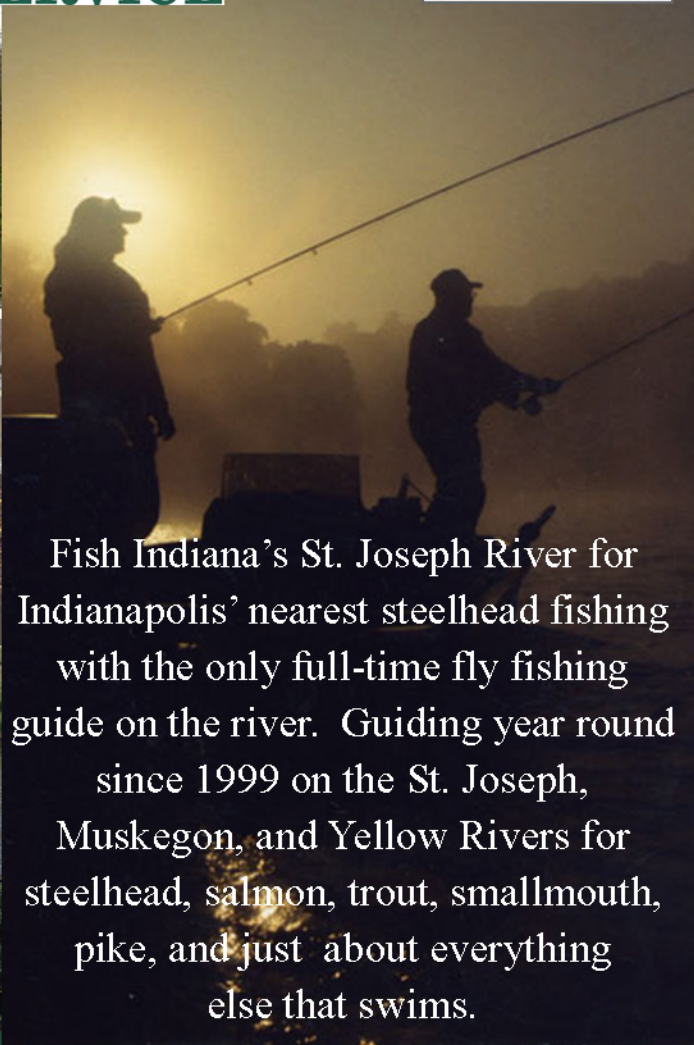


## GUIDE SERVICE

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Indiana Gar of the Year  
2012  
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Fish Indiana's St. Joseph River for Indianapolis' nearest steelhead fishing with the only full-time fly fishing guide on the river. Guiding year round since 1999 on the St. Joseph, Muskegon, and Yellow Rivers for steelhead, salmon, trout, smallmouth, pike, and just about everything else that swims.



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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 to which we travel.

**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.

**Fernie, British Columbia** – Just over the border into Canada, is a slice of heaven called Fernie, where Rainbow, Brown, Cutthroat and Bull trout are plentiful.



**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. Contact us at the shop or through our web site for more details and to book a trip for 2013.**

# 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, work has to get done. Far 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 2013.

## **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.



**Cabin Fever Festival** – Another annual event where we help our customers stay in touch with the fishing they love and get out of the house in the winter.

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





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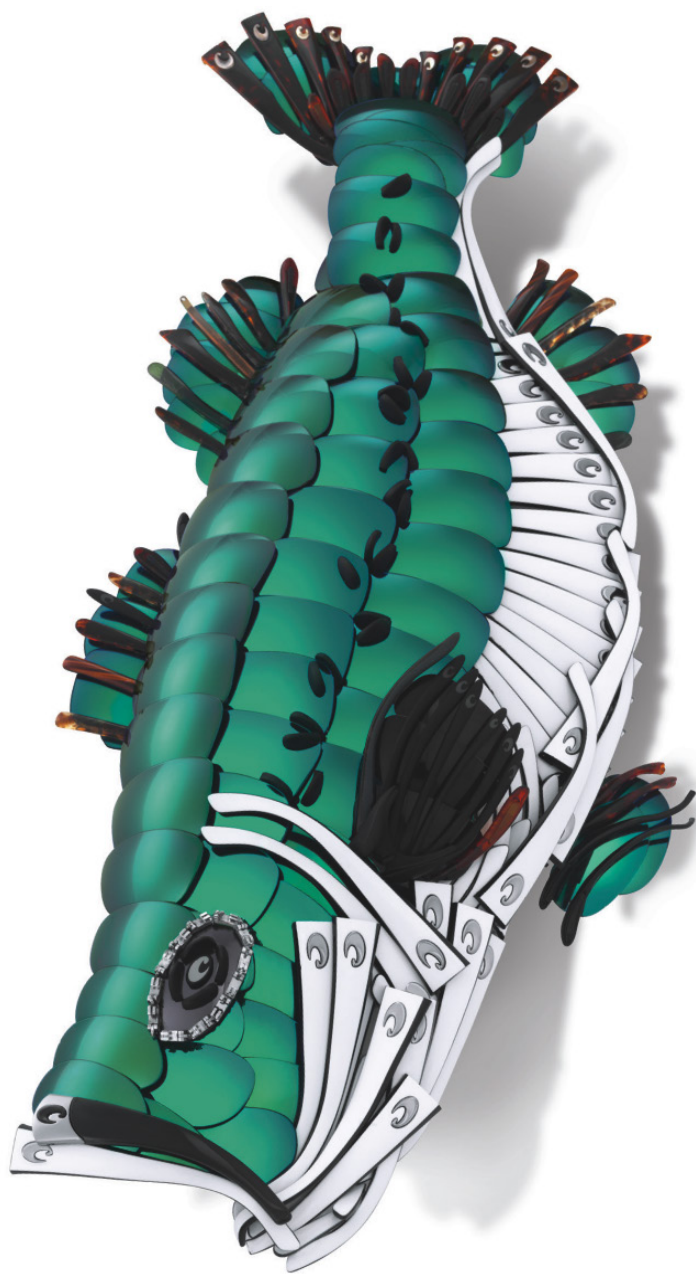
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INSPIRED BY OUR FRIENDS IN THE WATER. BUILT FOR OUR FRIENDS ON LAND.



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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 expected. 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. Head over to [flymasters.com/tradeup.asp](http://flymasters.com/tradeup.asp) for details on Trading Up you old gear.

## 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

Window Lettering  
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have so many plates twirling sometimes you can't even get 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.

The Rollcast is our information packed newsletter that we send out twice a month to 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 issue about what is going on in the shop and fishing around the Midwest. We have information on the new and great products that we have in the shop, all of which can be purchased online as well with a simple 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 issue. 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 at 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 the 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. If it concerns fly fishing it will be on The Drift.



Dressed Irons is like 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 the location where we focus on just fly tying and passing along all of this kind of information. There are reviews on fly tying books and DVDs, 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.





## NEW PRODUCTS 2012



MADE IN THE USA

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# Tying The RUBBER SPIDER

1) Make thread base & leave thread on rear kink



2) Cut slit in foam for rear kink



3) Two wraps of thread around foam and pull thread down



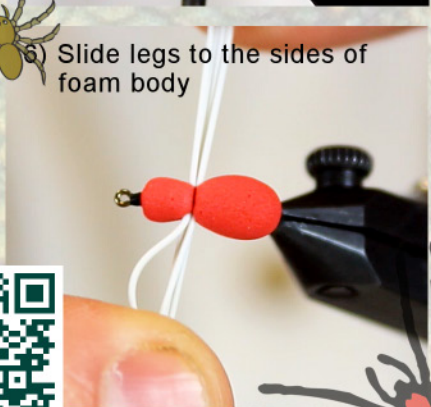
4) Three wraps around four rubber legs and pull thread down



5) Make thread head, whip finish and cement head



6) Slide legs to the sides of foam body







**NEW**

## **SMALL WATERPROOF FLY BOX**

**MAGNETIC/FOAM FLY STORAGE**

- Rubber gasket provides watertight seal to protect flies from moisture
- Magnetic plate provides secure holding area for tiny bead heads/flyies
- Slit foam technology for easy fly storage and removal
- Non-slip rubber coating
- 4" x 3" x 3/4"



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# SEASONS OF THE MUSKEGON

by Steve Kuieck

I suppose every fly fishing guide loves his or her home river. It's only natural to embrace that which one knows well. Certainly, Michigan guides, blessed with storied rivers such as the Ausable, the Manistee, and Pere Marquette, understandably hold their waters close—rivers that reward and please so bountifully. And so it is with RiverQuest Charters guides and their home river, the Muskegon.

Flowing out of north central Michigan's Houghton Lake and coursing some 212 miles to empty into Lake Michigan, the Muskegon, with its western river scale and year-round fishery has truly won our hearts. Though we run float trips on other western Michigan rivers, our affection and fascination with the MO is off the charts.

We don't talk about it much, the allure of the Muskegon, but much of it has to do with the nature of us guides. The truth is, we get antsy if we fish the same fish with the same methods in the same water for any sustained time. We also find ourselves valuing quality over quantity, beauty over blandness, solitude over crowds. To be sure, we love double digit steelhead days, and we fish stretches bordered with cottages, and we will sidle in and cast with others, if need be, but more than any of this is our desire to hook up in wild places—largely alone. This and more the Muskegon gives, year round.

## **Winter: January - Early March**

A sunny day, twenty degrees plus, calm wind. Give us a day like that in the dead



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EXCLUSIVE traction outsole options include:

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- Vibram® Idrogrip and Studded Vibram® Idrogrip

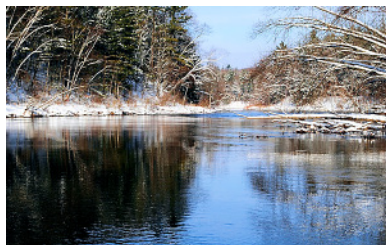
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of winter, and we are pumped to the max. If we can get our boats in and out of the landings without some winter-borne mayhem, we will be on the river, with or without clients. We flat-out love winter steelheading, and the MO is an excellent winter steelhead fishery. Steelhead, chrome bright, having trailed Chinook to pools and gravel as early as mid-October, winter over in preparation for spawning in March, April, and early May. Sure, the ice cold water slows metabolism requiring deep nymphing presentations, but the steelhead, strong and conditioned prime, give good accounts of themselves and when brought to hand—color what otherwise is a world of white. It's magical: the silence of snow-laden pines, the ink-dark water, and chrome tinged in purple and crimson there in your net, however briefly, only to glide off to thrive and perhaps thrill again. Live it with someone true to you or just a good bud, and you'll long smile upon reflection.



For our clients who've chosen to hole up in our river's edge lodge, the Muskegon River Lodge, at days end, it's a soak in the hot tub, a dash to the sauna, and a mellow-out in the lounge. We bring our families to the Lodge in winter because the beauty and solitude of the place and season stand unrivaled. Cap it all with a gourmet dinner prepared by our chef—extraordinary.

And, on a sunbathed afternoon, cloaked in white your fly fishing pals may find hard to believe, break out the whisper wands—the three and four weights; hang on a scud pattern, and nymph away to your heart's content. Browns and rainbows cluster together now; find them, and you'll be amazed at the quality of the fly fishing. No gimmick; this is real fly fishing in a most improbable setting.

## **Spring: Mid-March - June**



Snows receding, sun warming, birds arriving, and the MO swelling—must be spring or the near spring of mid-March, and so it is. Steelhead move now ever closer to the gravel they'll soon defend, and trout—grazing a buffet of eggs and bugs, dart in and out among them. Steelhead fishing of national quality runs

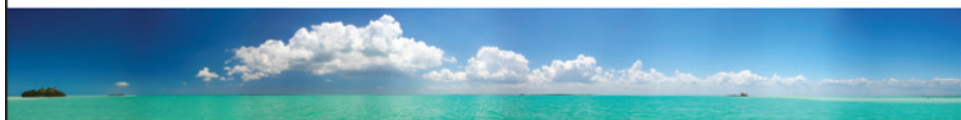
into early May with the steelhead succumbing to nymphs, eggs, and streamers presented with deep nymphing, indicator, and sinktip streamer methods. Switch and Spey rod delivered streamers also turn fish. MO steelheading cannot be recommended highly enough.



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By mid-May, we're tossing streamers as we float miles of river seeking to connect with steelhead slipping back to Lake Michigan and with resident brown and rainbow trout, now, absent caviar, chasing sculpins along with chinook and steelhead fry. Stone flies, some of which enticed trout to rise even in early April, wane as caddis and mayflies vie for attention. So, we carry four weights in our boats, rigged for indicator nymphing and dry fly fishing at the ready because the

warming river can turn the feeding preferences of the trout quickly. Often, we start with sinktips and streamers, move to indicator nymphing, and finish the day with dries. It's fly fishing variety with never a dull moment. Caddis, Isonychia, Gray Drakes, and Sulphurs own the month of June. With ever greater patches of aquatic grasses blanketing the river, mayfly hatches, more prolific and varied than ever, spur attention from trout and us.

## Summer: July - Early September

As summer river temps crack the seventy mark, we pass on trout to target smallmouth bass, prolific throughout the Muskegon River system. With miles of river to explore, we never need fish the same water day to day. Whether they smack poppers or sprint after streamers and crayfish patterns, smallies win our hearts with their aggression and fighting spirit. Floating miles of river, bathed in the warmth of summer, we might see



osprey, eagles, mink, along with the ever present herons, ducks, and turtles—lots of turtles. Cooperative bass render the livin' easy.

## Fall, Early Winter: September - December

We've been urging our fall clients to consider a September trout trip in lieu of Chinook salmon. Not that we don't smile hanging on to 15-20 lb. plus salmon on the long rod, but September trout fishing charms: Mother Nature flashes her fall finery; temps are pleasant, and the trout, now finning in cooling water, feed actively. Of course, if bending the ten weight is



more to your taste, Chinook will test your tackle and your fish fighting skills, no question about it.



Following the Chinook up river in mid-October are fall steelhead—muscular, chrome rockets that melt fly line into backing. Water clearing leaps, screaming runs: neither are exaggerations. Best of all, freed from the rigors of spawning, fall steelhead aggressively take nymph, egg, and streamer patterns. Single-handed, switch, and Spey sticks are the tools of choice. Truly, the quality of this fishery is extraordinary; we host guests from far flung

places, and well it should be so; the fly fishery is that special.

## Last Cast

And so it is, year-round, on this magnificent gift to us all, western Michigan's Muskegon. To clubs and civic groups, we give a slide presentation talk entitled, "The Muskegon River: National Quality Close to Home." It's no lie, no fib. Best of all, the MO affords us fly fishermen a wonderful variety of fly fishing targets and methods. Just about the time, one begins to wonder what's next, it's a new species, a new method. Whether with RiverQuest or one of the other fine guide operations on the river or on your own, put the MO on your "Must Fish" wish list. From experience, we know you will be long pleased that you did.

### Contact:

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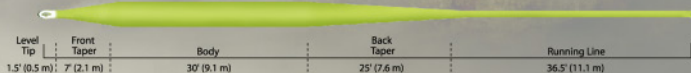
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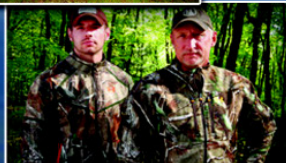
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# CrawdadZ Outside The Rocks

By Glenn Young

Crawdads are that one aquatic treat that just about every creature enjoys, from Raccoons, to Humans, to Trout and that much pursued fish we call the Bass. Of course, we humans get the pleasure of dipping them in butter and boiling them in delicious Cajun spices, but fish prefer theirs in its truly natural state.

There is certainly no shortage of options when it comes to artificial crawdad imitations. Crawdad flies, crawdad patterned hardbaits, crawdad colored jigs, and certainly no shortage of soft plastic imitations. When it comes to soft plastics and natural presentations, it's going to be hard to beat the Z-Man CrawdadZ. Made from Z-Man's proprietary material called ElaZtech, these craws won't rip or tear like plastisol baits and are completely buoyant which opens up a wide range of rigging options. ElaZtech is also a non-toxic





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material, containing no phthalates or PVC, and is 100% made in the good 'ol US of A by a team of hopeless fish addicts in Ladson, South Carolina.

Z-Man makes 3 different types of craws to choose from, the CrawdadZ which is a 4" realistic imitation with very lifelike detail, including different colored claws and legs that move with the slightest current or twitch of the rod. The other members of the family are the Flappin CrawZ with big oversized claws that help any jig stand straight up and get noticed and the Punch CrawZ which are a very compact craw pattern designed to effortlessly penetrate

thick cover and is also a very effective finesse bait when fished on a Shaky Head jig.



The bait that I want to focus on here is the traditional CrawdadZ. This has to be one of the most versatile craws around. One of the benefits of the ElaZtech material is that it allows you think outside the box when it comes to rigging and

presentations. Most anglers are used to seeing a craw rigged on a jig head, or Texas rigged on a wide gap hook with a bullet weight pegged to the front of the hook. One presentation that had not been used prior to this bait coming along was rigging a craw on a weighted swimbait hook like the Gamakatsu weighted 3/0 EWG. Probably one of the reasons this had not been used in the past was the

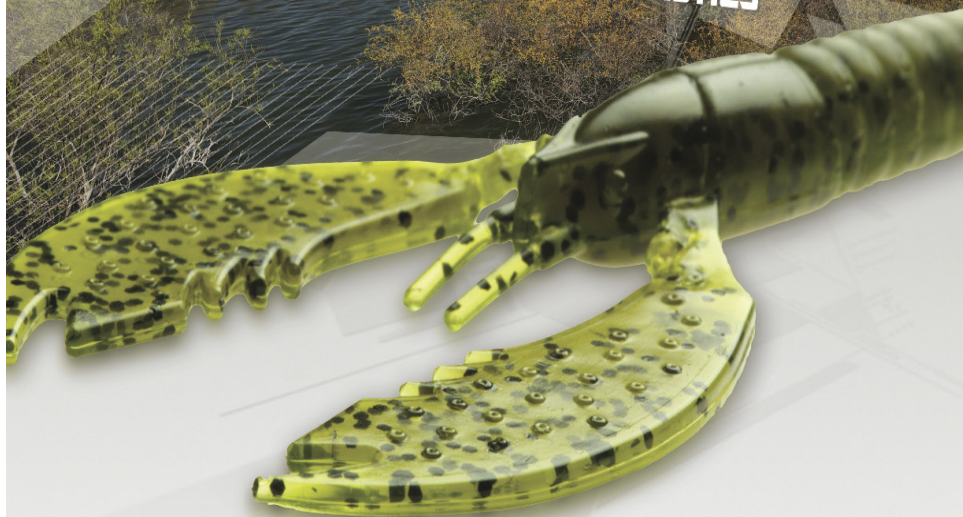
fact that you can't rig a plastisol craw over the lead portion of the hook without tearing it. With the ElaZtech craws, you can easily pull the material up and over the lead and onto the offset without it ripping apart and you can





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re-rig it time after time and fish after fish.

When you rig the CrawdadZ on a jig head, you can hop it across the bottom and it will stand straight up and wave its claws around, but if you rig it on a 3/0 weighted hook, you can actually swim

it and it will swim naturally and won't roll over because the buoyant craw is keeled by the weight underneath. This enables you to swim it in natural position and when you stop the retrieve, the craw will settle to the bottom and rock back with the claws up in a natural defensive position. It won't be straight up and down.

Now, instead of only being able to hop a craw along the bottom, it can be used as a search pattern like you would use a swim jig. I've been able to throw this rig in front of cruising Bass in shallow water, retrieve it past them, get them to chase it, and when they're right behind it, I'll stop it, let it settle, and as soon as those claws go up, it's fish on. You also gain the ability to control your depth and retrieve speed more than what you can do with a traditional jig head.



I did remarkably well on Lake Champlain on both Largemouth and Smallmouth by swimming it through the shallow boulder fields and getting them to ambush it, which made for some great strikes. The Z-Man CrawdadZ also have a hook pocket that allows you to hide the hook point to keep it weedless, yet still expose the hook easily when the

fish takes it.

Whether you're fishing the crystal clear waters of the northern lakes and streams, or the lilly pad, and timber laden lakes of the southeast, the Z-Man CrawdadZ on a weighted hook will appeal to just about any aquatic resident and looks so real, just you may want to dip it in butter yourself. Give it a try, I'm pretty sure you're going to like the results.



## About The Cover

This year we wanted to have some fun with the cover to the magazine. We kicked around a number of ideas and eventually settled on some sort of cartoon type cover. Rod Crossman put us in touch with Eric Reaves and the ideas started flying. Eric gave us a number of mock-ups of some ideas and we settled on "Late Again". Something all fishermen and women can relate to.



Eric Reaves is a professional cartoonist who lives in Northern Indiana with his wife, Lori and their five children. He currently

draws the syndicated comic strip, Hi & Lois. He also drew the Garfield comic strip for 17 years before that. When he isn't drawing he enjoys watching his children's activities of college baseball, college soccer, dancing, acting, and music. He can also occasionally be found catching large fish and then releasing them.



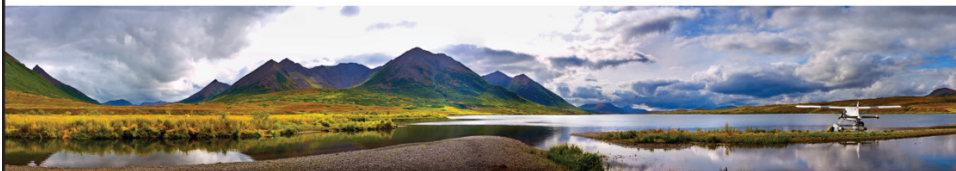




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## When You Can't Ski, You Fish in Fernie



Due North of the state of Montana lie the trout rich waters of Southeastern British Columbia and Southwestern Alberta, until recently these waters have remained under the radar screen of most fly fishers. What awaits visiting anglers to the region is incredible fishing for bull, brown, cutthroat and rainbow trout on a variety of rivers which range from small alpine walk and wade creeks to larger slow moving technical tailwaters best suited to drift boat fishing.

Unlike Montana the rivers in the southern Canadian Rockies receive little pressure compared to the famous rivers on Montana. This past summer we had the great opportunity to showcase a few of our rivers with Gary Griffith who hosted a group from FlyMasters Fly Shop. During the trip the group fished 3 rivers during their four day trip. We fished the Elk River in British Columbia which offers outstanding dry fly opportunities for large Cutthroat trout. Then we headed over the pass into Alberta where we fished the Oldman River tailwater section for rainbows during a P.M.D. Hatch. On the last day the group split. Some went for a walk and wade on an Elk river tributary while others floated the Saint Mary River which is an hour drive from our base in Fernie B.C. The result of the







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trip were lots of opportunities to fish dry flies for trout which is what I think fly fishing is all about.

During non-hatch periods we fished steamers with good results. Overall, the group fished mostly dry flies which were a mix of terrestrials, flavs, P.M.D.'s and Caddis

patterns. All of the fishing is done with 4, 5, and 6 weight fly rods and matching reels. This along with the normal trout equipment is all that is needed. Anglers can expect to wet wade as daytime temperatures can be as high as 100 degrees. However, 75 degrees is the average daytime high.

All of this excellent fly fishing takes place within a stones throw from the magnificent Canadian Rocky Mountains making it easy to miss strikes because you are staring up at mountains as you float down a river. The region is home to a large array of wildlife including Grizzly and Black Bears , Rocky Mountain Sheep, Whitetail and Mule Deer, Elk and Moose which are often spotted along the various rivers.



Visitors to the sleepy ski town of Fernie B.C. will be impressed by the wide array of excellent eateries including bistro's and a steakhouse. Island Lake



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Lodge also is worth the trip for a great dining experience. Overall this is an excellent trip for anglers of all skill levels as there is something for everyone. Our guides are the very best in the region. All are excellent instructors and enjoy sharing their fly fishing knowledge with you. For the 2013 season FlyMasters will be offering two trips hosted by Gary Griffith. The trips will take place in August. Rivers flows are stable then and while other places are suffering from southern doldrums, fishing in Canada remains awesome. For more information contact FlyMasters fly shop. I am also looking forward to coming out in March and spending time with the great staff at FlyMasters.



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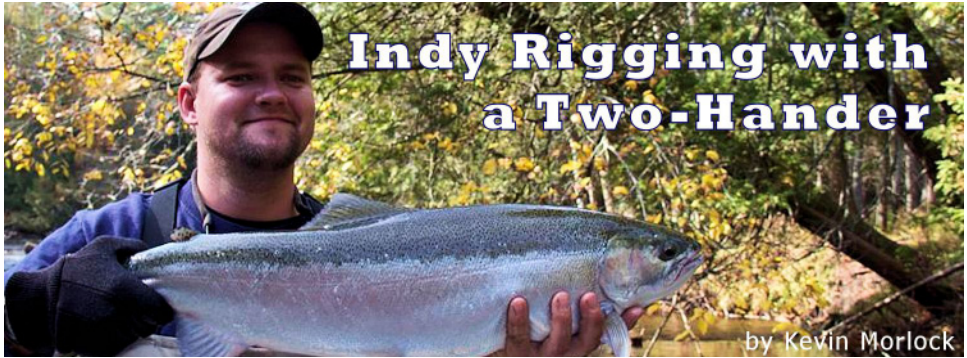


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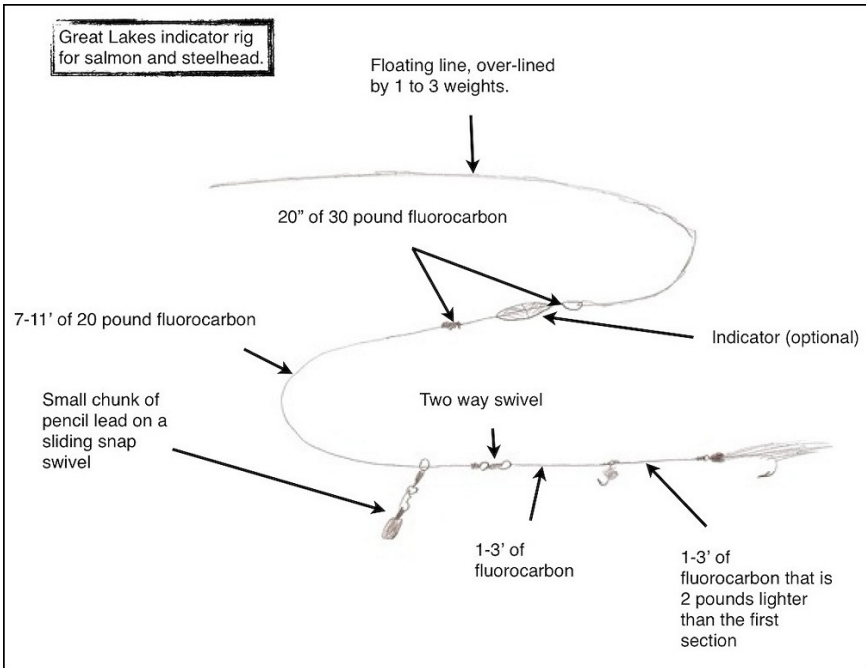




To the frustration of many, I'm a very basic fly fisherman and tier. Over time, I find myself winnowing everything down to the most basic and simple level possible. The indicator rig I use for salmon and steelhead is very basic. In my opinion, the rig is perfect.

The number one question I get is: why do I put the weight on a sliding swivel? The clip swivel allows me to quickly adjust weight but the bottom line is that I lose less weights this way. There is a lot of energy violently introduced to the leader when casting, but particularly when breaking off snagged flies. I think that the sliding rig eliminates much of the shock associated with casting and breaking off flies and thus greatly reduces the amount of re-rigging I have to do on the river. I often go days without losing a weight.

Why is the indicator optional? The same rig without an indicator casts better and



stays deeper longer during the swing-out than with an indicator, but I almost always fish an indicator because most anglers are better at making good drifts and detecting strikes if they have the visual cue of the indicator. (Though guide Walt Grau almost never uses an indicator on his trips and there is no question that his clients catch plenty of fish.)



With a two handed rod I most often use the type of indicators that have a hole from end to end and that allows them to slide freely on the short piece of 30 pound. I do not use the indicator to adjust depth, I simply use it as a visual aid. I adjust depth with line control, adding or subtracting weight, and lengthening or shortening the leader. I want my flies as close to the bottom as possible and "floating" your flies with an indicator works against this in nearly every situation.

Though there is one exception, this is the couple weeks where steelhead are holding behind spawning salmon. This is a time when I go heavier on the weight but only fish three or four feet between my weight and indicator. I need the presentation to get down immediately behind the salmon but I also don't want to be on the bottom, as the steelhead are often more than happy to role up and aggressively grab an egg. With this method we get to the needed depth quickly but avoid many snags by not being on bottom.



Why do I use a two handed rod? With



a single handed rod it is much more difficult to throw the weight necessary to get your flies to the bottom quickly. I have a saying that I often use when someone demonstrates poor casting skills or a poorly balanced outfit, usually a single handed rod: "your trying to pound fence posts with a carpenter's hammer, how about trying this sledge hammer instead?" This is my joking attempt to get them to switch to a two handed rod so we can focus on putting the flies on the bottom and the fish in the net. I should note that I love fishing with a single handed indicator rig, but I know that I'm not getting or staying down as well as I would be with a two hander.

Kevin Morlock

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# SMOKY MOUNTAIN FLY FISHING

by Tom Hopkins

One of America's most beautiful areas for fly-fishing is best known for its wild and introduced Trout and Smallmouth Bass. There are countless streams that contain these.....some large and others small and incredibly picturesque. The Tuckaseegee, Nantahala and Pigeon Rivers are the go-to rivers during the Delayed Harvest. These three rivers produce, at times, huge numbers of Brown, Rainbow and Brook Trout.....and some really big ones to boot. Only eight hours from Indianapolis, you can fish it on your own or use a guide to put you on the best fishing spots twelve months a year.

The "Tuck" is a wide and easily accessible river that is stocked the first of October, November, March, April and May, as are all Delayed Harvest designated waters. Experienced fly fishers love it because it is large and provides so much water to fish. For inexperienced fly fishers, it is the best possible classroom. Plenty of room to learn to cast and generally a flat cobble bottom to wade. Near Dillsboro and Sylva, NC, accommodations and facilities are nearby.

The East and West Forks of the Pigeon River are two of the most picturesque trout fisheries in the mountains. It requires a bit more wading talent and casting talent due to the various contours of the bottom and overhanging foliage at river's edge. Although the CFS (water flow) can be a bit high during heavy run off, it is never



anything but crystal clear water. Both experienced and non-experienced fly fishers can enjoy this water, though sometimes the surroundings require more than classic casting techniques. Above all, the beauty is breathtaking.

The famous Nantahala River known also for whitewater rafting is also an experience in absolute beauty. Although the main flow of the river below





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the generators is fishable, the Delayed Harvest designated area above the generators is, for here, the go to place. The Nantahala Gap is breathtaking all year long and, like the Pigeon River, you feel like you are fishing in a National Geographic centerfold. There are plenty of pull offs throughout the stretch and the water is just steps away. Someone in your favorite spot, just go up or down the road where you will discover another favorite spot. It fishes very well.



There many Hatchery Supported streams in Western North Carolina and they can fish well. Jackson County alone boasts fifteen key areas with twenty specific rivers and streams. Some of these streams run right through small town downtown areas and others are very remote. Some are quite large and others are a “one-man wide” fishery. It is a good idea to check the stocking schedules for all of the NC trout streams, which can be found at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).

Smallmouth Bass fishing is also good in the mountains. The best streams for them are the lower Little Tennessee River and the lower Tuckaseegee.

Fly-fishing isn't just about the fish. It's about the entire experience: he fish, the beauty of the surroundings.....trout pick the most beautiful places on the planet to live.....and don't forget the camaraderie.

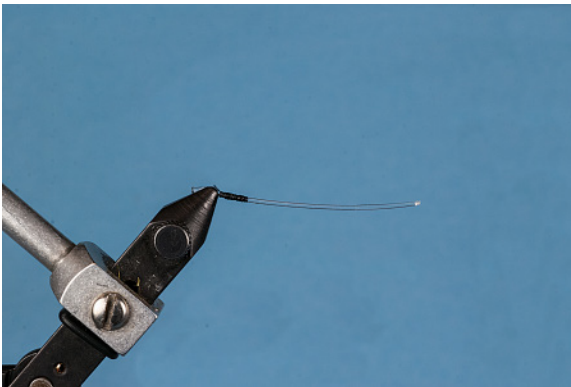
# Weedless HPU Fly Tying

by Derrick Filkins

In Bob Underwood's book "Lunker", he made the observation that "the plastic worm has slowed the average fisherman down in his manner of fishing and by doing so has forced him to cover an area with a thoroughness never before experienced. Where once he would cast a plug, reel it in, present it to another spot yards along the way, now he must take a bit of time in fishing out a cast of the worm." Secondly, and most important, "the majority of fisherman 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".

The importance of covering an area thoroughly is lost in the fishing style of cast and strip. This is the same method as cast a plug and reel it in. Bass are in a given area because there is food present. They are not territorial but they do compete for the available food which is great for the bass fisherman. Next time you find a couple of bass in a given area slow down your pace and cover all the angles, boulders, brush, down trees, or any other structure which are present. If you do not want to cast plastics on your fly rod then I have a suggestion.

Fly fishing has not created a similar lure/fly for fishing cover, until now. The HPU weedless minnow is the fly which can be fished in cover just like the rubber worm. It rides hook point up, the point is protected from hanging up on debris, and it can be tied to sink very slowly into cover. Almost any style of streamer can be tied in the HPU weedless style. The fly is truly a cover buster. Here is how the fly is tied.



- 1) Secure hard Mason monofilament in the vise. Wrap a small base of thread and coat with super glue on the end of the hard Mason close to the vise. The tag end of mono inside the vise will eventually be cut off. The thread and super glue keep the resulting fly tied on the mono from sliding off the monofilament.



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2) Attach marabou or other tail material to the rear of the hard Mason so the marabou is right in front of the vise. You will then attach marabou, hackle, and other body material of your choice, in this case Estaz.

3) Wrap the body material onto the hard Mason and then the hackle. Your resulting body should be as long as the distance from the hook point to the bend in worm hook behind the eye. Leave some hard Mason bare at the head of the fly. This bare mono will be tied to the worm hook behind the eye of the hook.



4) Wrap the bare portion of the mono on the hook behind the eye. You may have to trim this mono to get the correct length of the fly. The tail material should pass easily through the hook point and be close enough to also protect the hook from hanging up on debris.



5) Once the fly is secured to the hook you can add additional body material over this portion of the fly, put on eyes, etc. You now have a weedless fly that can be cast into any cover. Some people are concerned about the size of the hook. A 2/0 Mustad 38106 is easily consumed by a Rock Bass. Most people are tying bass flies on hooks designed for the small mouth of a trout. Tying HPU's for

trout is another upcoming video!

Almost any fly you now tie on a hook can be tied in this style. You can watch this fly being tied by following this link or scan the below bar code with your smartphone.

<http://vimeo.com/36925079>





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# What is Our TradeUp Program

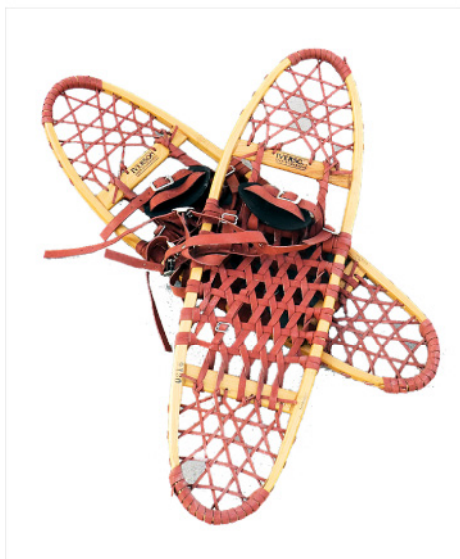
by Don Rollins

Soon the FlyMasters TradeUp Program will begin its 3rd year. Never did we dream that so many people would have used, and sometimes very lightly used, outdoor equipment that they wanted to convert to a FlyMasters TradeUp Certificate that they could use to buy new equipment.

FlyMasters TradeUp Certificates can be used to buy anything in the shop, any item that we can order for you from the many name brands that we carry (including Orvis), and any item that is listed for sale in our FlyMasters Web Store.



As we finish our second year of the FlyMasters TradeUp Program and our eBay Store, we have found new FlyMasters customers in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In addition, our FlyMasters TradeUp business has grown dramatically outside the U.S. We have shipped our products to all of the Canadian Provinces and Territories and more than 30 other countries all over the world.



If you are unable to make it into our Indianapolis, Indiana shop to bring us your TradeUp items, feel free to send it to us for evaluation in our FlyMasters TradeUp Program. If you don't approve of our strategy for selling your items, we will send it back to you at our cost. Our FlyMasters TradeUp Program is an easy, no-hassle way for you easily afford the newest and the best of equipment.

If you can make it into the shop, bring us those items you are no longer using. We can convert them to store credit that you can use to buy anything that we sell (except other FlyMasters TradeUp items). Call us 1-317-570-9811 or email us at [info@FlyMasters.com](mailto:info@FlyMasters.com) to get any

questions that you might have answered quickly.



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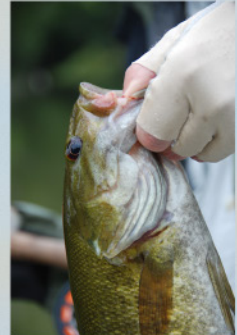


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