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Tying Classes

Equipment Trade-Up
Program

- The NED Rig
- Fly Line Basics
- Springtime White Bass
- HPU RealDad Fly
- Outfitter Profile:
Schmidt Outfitters
- Company Profile: Chota

2015

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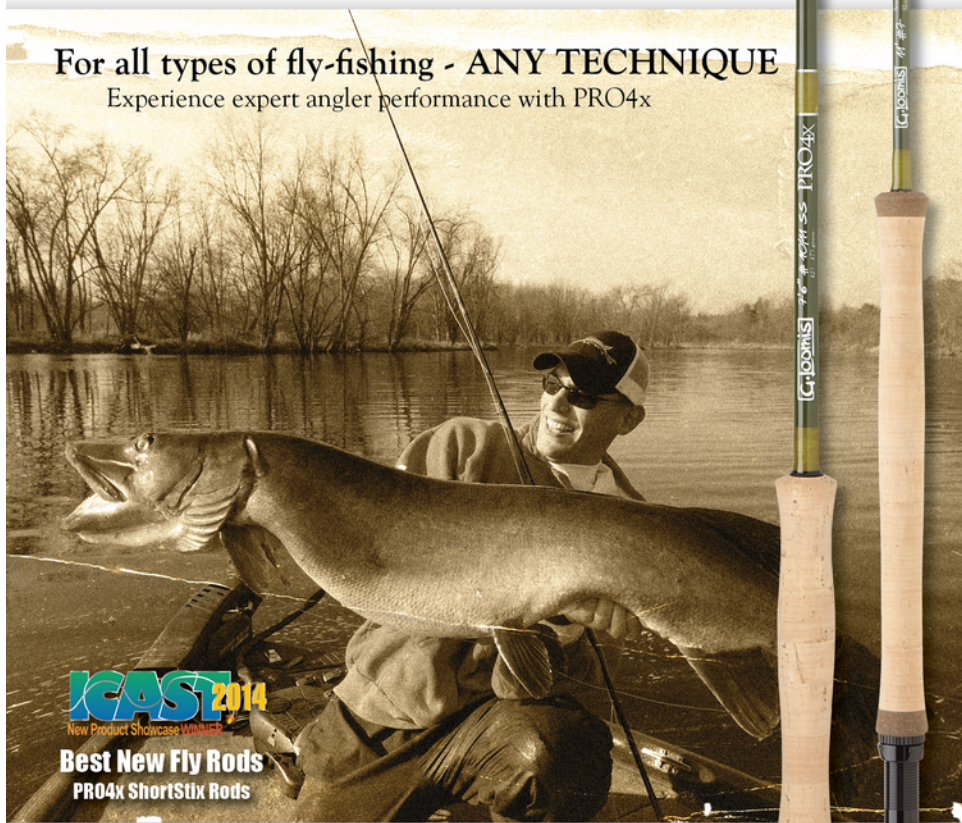
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Experience expert angler performance with PRO4x



ICAST 2014
New Product Showcase WINNER

Best New Fly Rods
PRO4x ShortStix Rods

- Award-winning single- and two-hand rods designed specifically for nearly every fly-fishing situation - and now new ShortStix and 'Long Handle Predator' models
- Rod taper design for all fly-fishing skill levels
- Lightweight feel, precision casting



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Proudly handcrafted in Woodland, Washington - USA



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

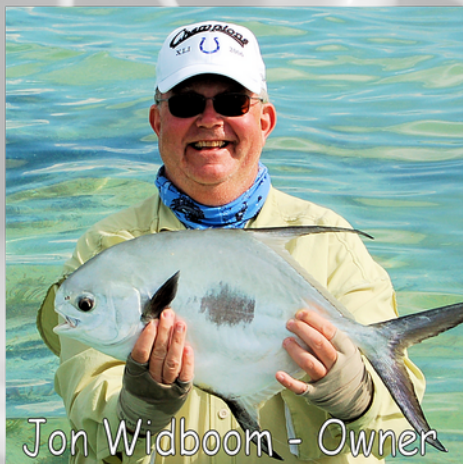
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Cover Photo by: Bill Hassan

FlyMasters of Indianapolis
8232 Allisonville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46250
317-570-9811
WWW.FLYMASTERS.COM
Monday – Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm



FlyMasters Excellent Staff



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 at 7:00 p.m.)
- 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 will have the basic skills to enjoy the sport of fly fishing. If our fly fishing school does not

Fly Fishing School Phase I Dates for 2015

March	4th, 10th, 19th, 24th
April	2nd, 7th, 16th
May	5th, 13th, 21st
June	2nd, 10th

Phase I classes start at 7:00 p.m.

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!



All Fish. All Waters.

- Over 150 Active Members of All Skill Levels
- 12 Organized Trips Per Year
- Monthly Educational & Fly Tying Meetings
- Healing Waters Program
- Visit Us at www.derbycityflyfishers.com



Derby City Fly Fishers Presents the 10th Annual

Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show

Featuring: Kevin Howell

January 24, 2015

Louisville, KY

For Details, Visit: www.kyflyshow.com

work for you we also 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 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. We frequently hold this class in Brown County.

Fly Fishing Clinics

For additional skills training with fly fishing FlyMasters offers a variety of clinics. Including but limited to,

- **Advanced Fly Casting, working on distance and accuracy**
- **Two Handed Fly Rod Instruction**
- **River Smallmouth Bass Fishing**
- **Nymph Clinic**
- **Casting Large Flies**



These are offered at different times of the year. Consult our website or call for detailed information and exact dates and times.

→ INTRODUCING THE NEW

K-5 BOMBER



Korkers

2 SOLES INCLUDED.

The Normal City Fly Fishing Club

Supports teaching, sharing of skills and the environmental aspects of Fly Fishing.

We are an affiliate club of the Minnetrista Center
Muncie Indiana



Contacts:

forbill50@hotmail.com

or

jaydowd9191@gmail.com



GRAB YOUR FLY CHARTERS



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KANKAKEE RIVER
LAKE MICHIGAN

DUN
PAGE 5
GUIDE

Simms
Catch of
The Day
Guide

GrabYourFlyCharters.com

AdduciAustin@gmail.com

630.886.1964

CARP

BROWN TROUT

SMALLMOUTH

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 to cover all levels of fly tying.

Beginning Fly Tying Classes in 2015

January	20th, 24th
March	3rd, 7th
April	21st, 25th
September	8th, 12th
October	27th, 31st

Always check the web site for date changes and additions

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

Beginning Fly Tying The beginning fly tying class is designed for absolute beginners. 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. 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).



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



ST.CROIX ROD



Powell **SHIMANO**



Rods and Reels
Beginning to expert
conventional tackle



Including
Nightcralwer
Red Wigglers
& Bee Moths





Intermediate and Skills Development Fly 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 three hours on **Saturdays from 2:00pm – 5:00pm** (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. 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 \$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 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.



Intermediate and Skills Development classes for 2015

January	3rd, 24th, 31st
February	7th, 14th
March	7th, 21st, 28th
April	18th, 25th
May	2nd, 16th, 23rd
June	6th, 20th
July	11th, 25th
August	8th, 15th, 22nd
September	5th, 19th, 26th
October	3rd, 17th, 31st
November	14th, 21st, 28th
December	5th

Always check the web site for date changes and additions

These classes are 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" 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.

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You will never need another cooler (unless you want one of our other sizes). Our engineers have crafted the toughest mobile cold storage unit possible, with no detail overlooked. Reinforced corners and thick walls insulate better for longer ice retention while protecting from impact. Superior stainless steel hardware and built-in UV resistance protect for a lifetime. And that's not even getting into the specifics. Test one for a lifetime and see.

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1. Up to 10 Day Ice Retention*
2. Integrated Pressure Release
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4. Press & Pull Latches
Wide for Gloved Use
5. Freezer Grade Gasket
Watertight Cold Seal
6. Stainless Steel Hardware
Corrosion Resistant Hinges & Screws
7. Molded-in Lift Bar Handles
8. Rugged Rotomolded Body
Ultra-Thick Polyurethane Insulation
9. Nonskid & Nonmarking Raised Feet
Protects Boat Decks & Floors
10. Reinforced Impact-Cushioned Corners
11. Molded-in Tie Down Channels
12. Sloped Floor & Tethered Plug
Threaded for Hose Attachment
13. Padded Grip Swing Handles
14. Nonskid Lid Surface
Integrated Fish Ruler

*See Page 10 for Maximum Ice Retention Guidelines & Accessories

More at PelicanProGear.Com 1.800.473.5422



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 destinations we have found to be popular with our clients.



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.

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.

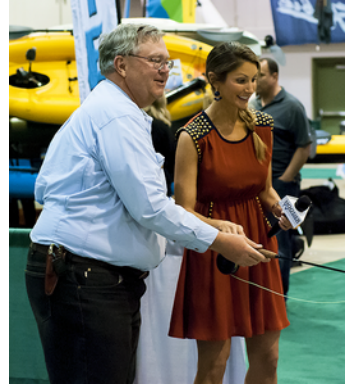
Pere Marquette River, Michigan – The Pere Marquette river in Michigan has some of the best Chinook Salmon, fall, winter and spring Steelhead the state has to offer.

For 25 years FlyMasters has been assisting customers with a variety of fishing experiences. Use FlyMasters for your next Angling destination.

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 more 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 the coming year.



Cabin Fever Festival – A January event to help everyone keep their sanity until the waters warm up and we can fish again. Local fly tiers demonstrating their skills and lots of new products to check out.

Boat Sport & Travel Show – the largest outdoor sports show in the country. Ten days of outdoor goodness for fly fishers, bait casters and spin

fishermen and women.

FlyMasters Warmwater Rendezvous – This is a springtime event to help kick off the local fly fishing season for all the warmwater species we are famous for.

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

Thanksgiving Turkey Tie – an annual event to kick off the holiday season. We cook up a great turkey and tie flies with turkey parts. Great fun.



Visit our web site for the latest events and dates!

A man in a blue and yellow wader and a cap is wading through a river. In the background, another person is in a red inflatable boat. The scene is bright and sunny with some water spray.

ORVIS

SILVER SONIC

ZIP IT!

Full zip, full featured, welded seams...
the future of waders is now.

Tim Linehan - 2013 Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide of the Year

SUCCESS IS NEVER OVERRATED

IN FLY FISHING.



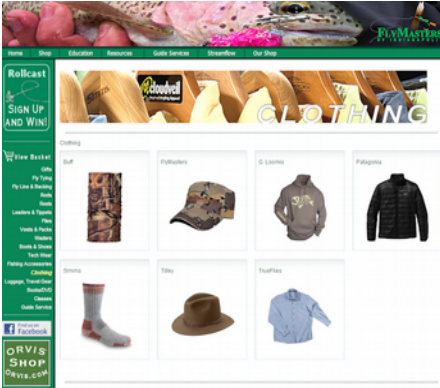
Boron III fly rods were created to provide unprecedented performance in every fresh and saltwater situation imaginable. The goal is simple: angler success.

winstonrods.com

THE BORON III ADVANTAGE



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 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.

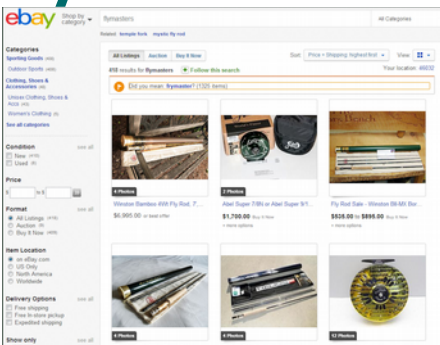
Because of this we have developed our online presence to include shopping. We

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 at 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.

FIT TO
FLY

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TOM ROWLAND

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NECK GAITER



FACE MASK



SUN GUARD

UV BUFF®

DEFY THE ELEMENTS >> Don't let sun and heat shorten your time on the water. UV Buff® headwear wicks away sweat and protects you from harmful UV rays. Buff® headwear, the perfect fit.

FIT TO LIVE

WWW.BUFFUSA.COM | #BUFFINC





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 shiny things they will all love to look at. Head over to flymasters.com/tradeup.asp for details on Trading Up your 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 have so 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, in fact 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 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 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. So sign up today if you haven't. If you are, have your friends sign up so everyone you know is in the know.



SMOOTH PERFORMANCE
CASTING ACCURACY
ALL-DAY COMFORT

STELLA

PRIDE AND JOY



ANTARES

NEW BENCHMARK HAS JUST BEEN SET



Metanium

LIGHTWEIGHT VERSATILE PERFORMANCE



SHIMANO
fish.shimano.com

The Ned Rig

by Steve Galletta

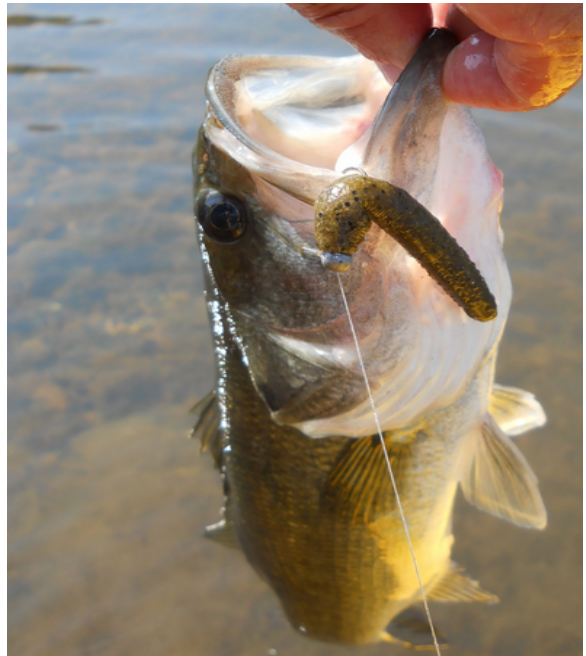
Have you tried the Ned Rig?

A question being asked more frequently and in many different parts of the country lately. While this technique is just now starting to really take off, it's far from new. It's a system that's been decades in the making. Essentially started by it's namesake, Ned Kehde and his close friend and finesse guru Drew Reese, the Ned Rig appears simple upon first glance, however the development of it was anything but.



*Finesse T.R.D. in Canada Craw
rigged on the Finesse ShroomZ Jig
Head*

Originally developed for bass in highly pressured Kansas reservoirs and gin-clear Canadian lakes, the Ned Rig finesse technique has proven to be an incredibly productive one in fisheries across the US and for species well beyond bass. Tournament anglers have begun to figure out that they can produce numbers quickly (though they're not really spreading the word) and guides are using it with their clients to keep their rods bending all day. It simply produces bites when other techniques won't.



Z-Man played an integral role in the development of the Ned Rig technique and, through the guidance of Ned and Drew, have developed the baits and heads ideal for this technique. The main reason Ned and Drew came to Z-Man was because they discovered that Z-Man's ElaZtech material possessed the buoyancy and durability that allowed them to dial in their presentations to a degree that wasn't possible with ordinary soft plastics. It started simply enough with a Z-Man ZinkerZ cut



**Finesse ShroomZ
Jig Head**

ELAZTECH®

10X Tough SPACE-AGE SOFT PLASTICS




TOUGHEST WORM FOR EVERY TECHNIQUE

FINESSE WORMZ™, ZINKERZ™, & FATTYZ™

- Finesse WormZ float up off the bottom, aggravating inactive fish to bite.
- Salt-impregnated ZinkerZ create a slow, vibrating fall that fish can't resist.
- FattyZ's unique, bulkier profile entices bigger fish with a power-finesse presentation.

The Entire Worm Lineup Is:

- Made of 10X Tough proprietary material
- Incredibly soft, yet tear-resistant
- Non-toxic, containing no phthalates
- Made in the U.S.A. 

AS SEEN ON

PROJECT Z



Scan this QR Code
and see these baits
in action in Z-Man's
new reality fishing
mini-series, Project Z.



LUKE CLAUSEN

2004, Forrest Wood Cup Champion
2006, Bassmaster Classic Champion

“As an angler that makes a living from a variety of worming techniques, the action and durability of FattyZ, ZinkerZ, and Finesse WormZ definitely play to my angling strengths. Whether skipping docks, shakey heading, drop shotting or Carolina rigging, Z-Man's worm lineup has me covered in my hunt for a money finish!”

Z-MAN®

THE SCIENCE & ART OF FISHING®

zmanfishing.com



in half and affixed to a small gopher head jig. It has now evolved into 3 separate families of baits that include the Finesse T.R.D. (The Real Thing), Hula StickZ and the Finesse ShadZ along with a full range of Z-Man jig heads called Finesse ShroomZ specifically designed for these baits and this technique.

The presentation is relatively simple and is usually dictated by the type of bottom.

Usually fished with 4lb.-8lb. line, it can range from a swim and



Finesse T.R.D. in PB&J

glide retrieve to a dead-stick, drag, or shaky head

presentation. In fact, Z-Man has entire page on their website dedicated to the Ned Rig, <http://www.zmanfishing.com/nedrig>. Even though the T.R.D. doesn't look like much, there is some science behind it. It actually resembles what a

crawdad would look like after it molts and loses it's claws. Virtually every fish that swims is genetically designed to recognize that shape as food and pick it up.



I have personally seen this system work when others just won't produce. For example, I was recently fishing a river near me that was low and very clear. I was using the new Slim SwimZ and hooked a

14" Smallmouth bass. While fighting it, a much larger Largemouth bass started chasing my fish around. I quickly released the Smallmouth and threw Slim SwimZ in the area where the big boy came from. 8-10 casts later, nothing. I grabbed another rod rigged with the T.R.D., cast to the same area and hooked up within seconds of the bait hitting the water. The result was a very nice 19" Largemouth. So, with that said, I have a question for you, "Have you tried the Ned Rig?"s.





Nestled in pristine northern Michigan, Schmidt Outfitters provides outdoor enthusiasts plenty of fly fishing opportunities. We're centrally located near the Big Manistee River, the Pine River, the Little Manistee, Bear Creek, and the Pere Marquette. Our fisheries are diverse. Depending on the time of year, we have world-class trout, steelhead, salmon, and smallmouth bass fishing—basically in our back yard!

Schmidt Outfitters began with one mission: to provide fly anglers with the best possible fishing experience. Hospitality is our #1 goal. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable and work hard to provide the best possible service we can.

Our lodges are fully-appointed, clean, well-maintained, and most importantly, very comfortable. Fly fishing artwork dresses each room with an "up north" feel. Each lodge unit has two queen beds, a fully-stocked kitchenette, linens, towels, and daily housekeeping. Three of our units even have gas fireplaces to enjoy during those chilly northern Michigan evenings. We also have a house on our property that we rent. The Schmidt House has a full gourmet kitchen, three bedrooms, a big screen television, and two bathrooms. People come back year after year to enjoy the comfort and seclusion of our lodges. You will too.



For many fly fishing is not only a hobby, it's a passion. Anglers take their obsession all over the world, fishing flies for everything from bluegills to tarpon. With all the different types of fish to target, the different methods of presenting a fly, and the different climates to fish, fly fishing can seem very overwhelming.



The Best in Fly Fishing



Fly Shop

Lodging

Fly Fishing Guide Service

Cast & Blast Guide Trips

Fly Fishing Schools

Steelhead - Brown, Brook, and

Rainbow Trout - Smallmouth

Bass - Salmon

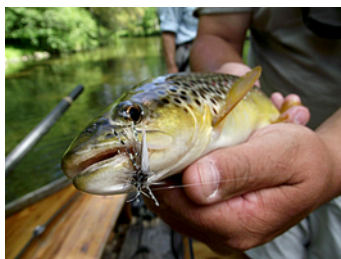


918 Seaman Road - Wellston, MI 49689

231-848-4191

www.schmidtoutfitters.com - schmidt@schmidtoutfitters.com

Schmidt Outfitters caters to anglers of all ages and experience levels. Between our knowledgeable, friendly staff, our clean and comfortable lodge, and our fully stocked fly shop, anglers will find everything they need to advance their fly fishing education.



Instruction is a major part of our guide service, with everyone from beginners to advanced anglers finding benefit. We offer a comprehensive beginner fly fishing school that focuses heavily on the basics of fly fishing including knot tying, basic casting techniques on our private pond, building leaders, equipment (rods, reels, lines), and of course, fishing. This school is perfect for those who may have only limited knowledge of fly fishing or for those who have never fished before.

For those who have a basic understanding of fly fishing, but want to learn more advanced techniques, our staff is perfectly suited. Whether it's advanced casting, spey, or switch rod techniques, nymphing, dry fly, streamer, or indicator fishing, our experienced guide staff teach it all. We offer personalized schools based upon the anglers' experience level, and keep our angler to guide ratio at 2:1 so that each participant gets as much one on one time as possible. Anglers walk away from our schools and guide trips with a knowledge base that will allow them to fish on their own immediately.



One of our biggest draws is our professional guide service. Our fully-licensed fly fishing guide team is friendly and knowledgeable. We guide everyone from beginners to advanced anglers, and specialize in several techniques including dry fly fishing, nymphing, spey casting and fishing, switch rod fishing, and indicator fishing. Our guides are also instructors and can conduct private schools for any of these specialized techniques or integrate them into a guided fishing trip.



If you're in our area, be sure to stop in our full-service fly shop. You'll be greeted by our friendly staff who can help you with any fishing needs you may have. Our walls are crammed

full with fly tying materials and hooks, waders and wading accessories, clothing, rods, reels, and flies. And of course, don't forget to ask for an updated fishing report and access points while you're here.

If you're looking for an unforgettable fly fishing adventure, look no further than Schmidt Outfitters.

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Getting Started with Fly lines

By Doug Cummings

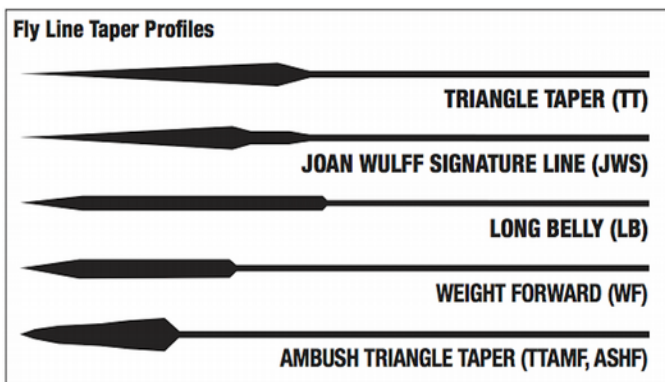


Many new anglers ask us "Which is the best line for me?" Why are there so many designs and what are they all for? How can you cast a fly that weighs next to nothing?

The basic difference between fly-casting and spinning or bait casting is in the weight of the lure and the weight of the line. In spinning or bait casting the lure has weight and the monofilament line is weightless. It's like throwing a rock with a string behind it. In fly casting the weight you cast is in the fly line. And it is flexible weight. The line must form an open-ended loop, through your casting stroke, to carry the essentially weightless fly along as a passenger.

There are four decisions to be made with your tackle: the weight of the fly line; the design, the color and whether it is floating or sinking or somewhere in between.

All fly rods are designed to cast a fly line of a particular weight and this number is marked on the butt section of the rod. They are numbered from one on up to 12 or more. Trout fishermen use line weights from one to eight but a number five or six is the place to start.



Lines are designed with tapered sections and level sections and "weight forward" lines have a small diameter shooting line behind the 30'weighted section (the head), especially for the purpose of making long casts easily. Fly line boxes usually show the design silhouette. Wulff Long Belly lines have a front taper and longer bellies than the standard.



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Photo by Fred Conant

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The Triangle Taper fly lines do not have a "belly". The lines are a continuous taper from the front tip to the end of the weighted section, followed by a back taper to the shooting line. Lengths of the weighted section vary with the purpose of the line for various fishing conditions.



T Triangle
T Taper
6 Six Weight
F Floating

Fly line color is another commonly asked question. Many fly line colors mimic the natural surroundings that they are designed to be used in, often soft pastel colors. Trout lines may be ivory, greens and yellows, while a salt water line may be sand colored or sky blue. Visibility of the line by the angler is a consideration and some anglers like bright colors so they may more easily keep track of the line in the water. Many experienced anglers think that brighter colors will spook a fish, but properly placed, the fish will only see the fly with the invisible leader of 7-9 feet separating the line and fly.

Start with a floating line until you know why you want something else. The best way to get started is to visit your local fly shop and learn about the roll and basic cast, which will give you the best introduction to this wonderful sport.

What is Our TradeUp Program

by Don Rollins



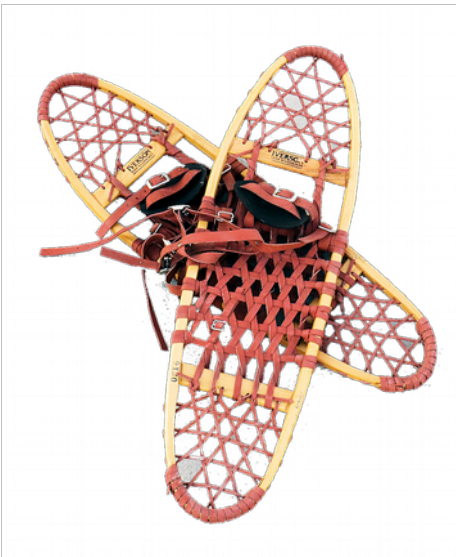
Soon the FlyMasters TradeUp Program will begin its 5th year. Never did we dream that so many people would have used, and sometimes very lightly used, outdoor equipment that they wanted to convert to a FlyMasters TradeUp Certificate that they could use to buy new equipment.

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 fourth 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 62 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 them to us for evaluation in our FlyMasters TradeUp Program. If you don't approve of our strategy for selling your items, we will send them 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 to get any questions that you might have answered quickly.

By: Bill Butts

Fly Fishing For Springtime White Bass in The Midwest



Bill Butts with
a nice springtime
White Bass

The availability and catchability of White Bass is very well-known by thousands of anglers across the country, but particularly in the Great Plains, Midwest, South and Southeast regions of the U.S. Their reputation as a hard striking and fighting gamefish has been experienced and documented for many decades. The Midwest states of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Indiana, Tennessee and others provide excellent fisheries for quantity and size of these great fish.

Fly Fishing for White Bass, along with their larger Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass cousins, has been a personal fishing passion of mine for over 30 years. For years it was a seasonal pursuit mostly in the spring and some in the fall, but now it is my focused year-round pursuit.

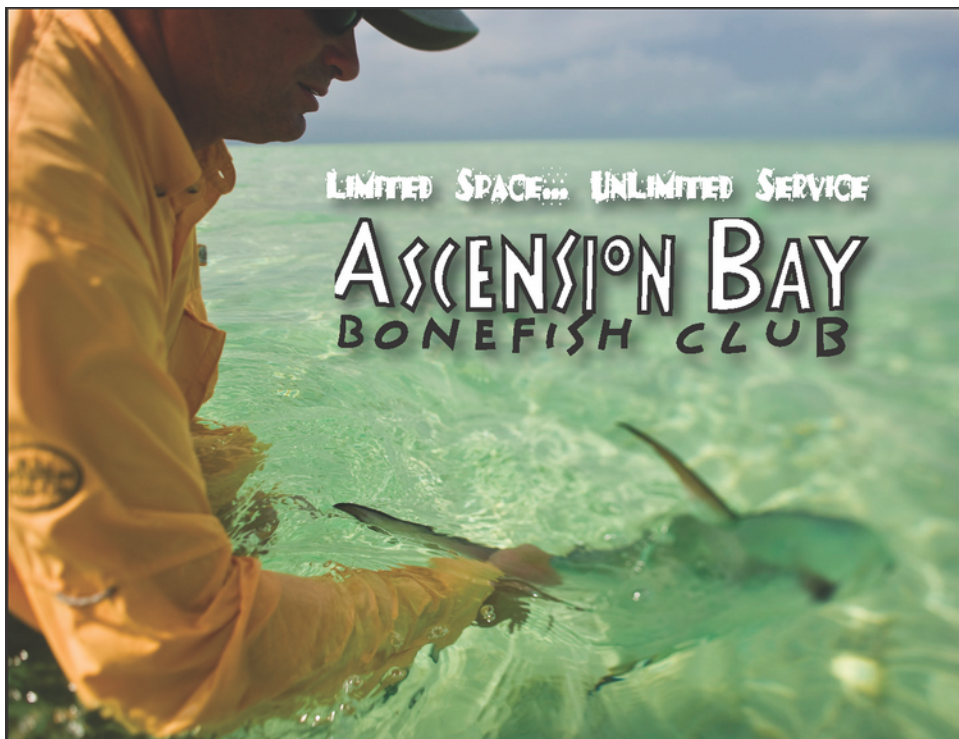
History and Biology

So, how did these prolific fish find their homes in so many lakes, reservoirs and rivers for us to enjoy? White Bass are members of the Temperate Bass family and are native to the Mississippi River and virtually all of its tributaries. Stop for a moment and think about how geographically widespread that made them even prior to the construction of many dams on river systems that include the Illinois, Des Moines, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland, White, Arkansas, Red and others. Yes, they once inhabited only rivers.



Today, these rivers still contain resident populations of Whites as do nearly all the lakes and reservoirs that have been constructed along their flowages and tributaries. White Bass are so prolific that some fisheries management biologists have stated that from their professional perspective the White Bass is about as close to the perfect gamefish as they could hope for.

In the spring, White Bass that inhabit impoundments make their annual spawning run up into the primary tributaries. The timing of a fishery's run is



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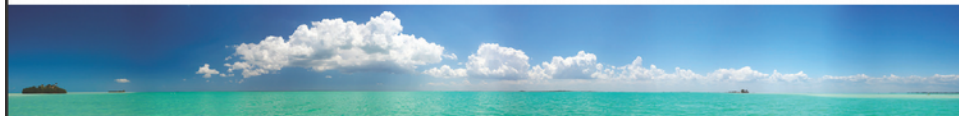
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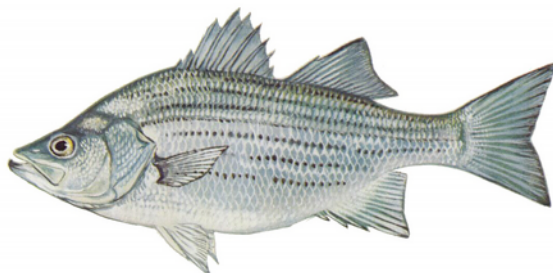
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dependent upon a number of factors including water temperature and daylight hours. You can sometimes find Whites in the river mouths or lower river channels as early as January and February particularly during stretches of unseasonably warm sunny weather. In Indiana, White Bass can sometimes show up in early March for short periods of time. However, when the air temperatures drop the Whites will retreat to deeper, warmer lake water temporarily ending the fishing excitement.

Where and How-to

If you live in the Midwest you are not far from an excellent White Bass fishery.



White Bass

This region is covered with lakes that have wonderfully healthy populations of not only White Bass, but also their larger tackle busting cousins, Hybrid Stripers and Stripers.

Some of the best known fisheries in the Midwest, with their respective available species are as follows:

Indiana:

West Fork of the Whitewater River above Brookville Reservoir (White Bass)

Ohio River (Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass)

Patoka Lake (Striped Bass)

Lake Freeman and Tippiecanoe River (Hybrid Stripers)

Mississinewa River (White Bass)

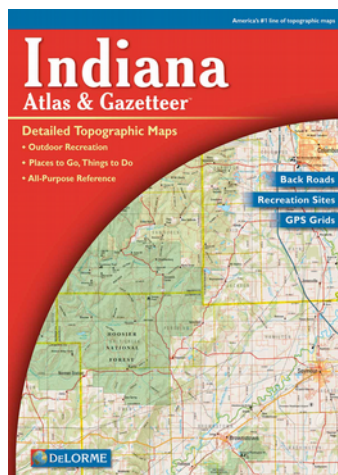
Cecil M. Harden Lake (Striped Bass)

Lake Maxinkuckee (White Bass)

Eagle Creek Reservoir (White Bass)

This is not a comprehensive list of White Bass fisheries, just some suggestions. However, if you will pick just one or two fisheries and invest the time and effort to learn how, where and when to find these fish in the Spring you will be rewarded for your efforts and maybe catch yourself thinking about and fishing for them all year, too.

White Bass are not usually difficult to catch once you locate them. Over the years, I have developed a network of contacts with a variety of tackle shop staff, fellow fishermen, landowners, fisheries biologists and game wardens for each specific fishery I pursue these fish. This "network" is





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absolutely critical unless you hire the services of a guide or know someone that has already developed a local knowledge of a fishery that will take you with them.



Additionally, I use a variety of maps and online resources to continually educate myself. County road maps, DeLorme Gazetteer topo maps (by state), Google Earth satellite photos, and several websites for water flow and temperature data are constantly utilized for their valuable content.

Fly Tackle

A lot of fly fishermen attempt to use their light trout rods when first learning to fish

for these strong fish and I think that is a mistake. The tackle that I suggest is recommended based on many years of experience and helping others learn to catch these awesome fish.

Fly Rods:

The best overall fly rod I would recommend is a 9 foot 7 weight with a fast/stiff tip (not soft like many trout rods). If you fish a stream or lake where you never catch a White Bass over 2# and there aren't Hybrids or Stripers in that fishery a fast action 6 weight will work for you. Since a number of fisheries also contain Hybrids and Stripers, you don't want to hook a five to ten-pounder of either specie and not have the rod strength to land it or fight it so long you can't release it. In Indiana most of our White Bass river do not have hybrids. A five or six weight rod would be adequate.

Fly Reels:

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

Fly Lines:

Using the right combination of fly line, leader and fly for White Bass fishing is what I believe gives the fisherman the best chance for success. I've seen fly fishermen with very similar rigging to what I suggest and fail miserably in their efforts in very productive



water where others are catching fish.

For most spring White Bass fishing, the most important fly line you should have is a 10 to 15' type 3 sink-tip. The most important factor in this line is "type 3". I use a 15' version but the reason I say 10-15' is that different brands and qualities of fly lines are available and some of them are 10 and 12' which will work very well, too. Most economy priced sink-tip lines that I have seen have 10' sink-tips. A floating line can be effective, but I prefer to use the sink tip with lightly weighted or un-weighted flies so that I can retrieve the fly more slowly or dead swing and twitch them especially when the water is cold early in the season.



Leaders and Knots:

With a sinking tip fly line, the leader system I've found perfectly adequate and effective is very simple. On a 7 weight line, I attach an 18" butt section of 15-20# mono and tie a 1.5" Perfection Loop in the end. The connection of the butt section to line is accomplished with a needle nail-knot, regular nail-knot or a Zap knotless splice for a smooth connection.

To this butt section I attach 30" of 3x to 0x tippet with a double-surgeons loop knot. I rarely use fluorocarbon tippet for this type of fishing, though I know some who do. If you decide to use fluorocarbon, you can definitely use 1x or 0x since it is stronger than mono in the same diameter. I don't usually find that tippet diameter is much of an issue unless the water is extremely clear. In very murky to muddy water, or at night, the tippet size should not be any issue. Use the heaviest size you can. I attach the fly to the tippet with a Lefty Kreh Non-slip Loop Knot to allow the fly the most natural and enticing action.



Threadfin Shad

Flies:

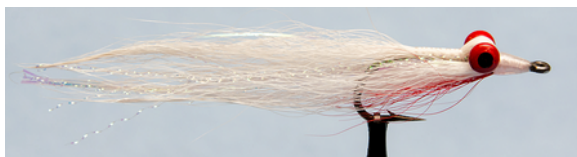
The most important forage foods for White Bass, and all Temperate Basses are Threadfin Shad and Gizzard Shad, in most Midwest fisheries. Threadfins reach a maximum adult size of 3.5", and Gizzards about 14". Sure, Whites do like a variety of other baitfish (including small suckers, trout, chubs,



darters, sculpins, perch and sunfish) and crawfish, but Shad account for the vast majority of their total forage.

With these forage factors in mind, I tie and fish a variety of baitfish patterns and color combinations including the following:

Fly Patterns



Clouser Deep Minnow, Half & Half Deep Minnow, Cowen Baitfish, Blanton Flashtail Whistler, Woods SeaDucer, and Bill's Mylar Jig

Color Combinations (top/mid-section/belly color)

Gray/White, Black/Gray/White, Bright Pink/White, Chartreuse/White, Chartreuse/Orange, Chartreuse/Black, Olive/Orange, Olive/Cream, all White, all Tan, and all Black or Purple (for nighttime and muddy water)

It is more important to have the correct size (length) baitfish than a specific hook size. If I meet another fisherman on the water who is really catching fish, I always ask what length and what color of lure or fly they are using. In Indiana the largest forage food is carp and sucker fry.



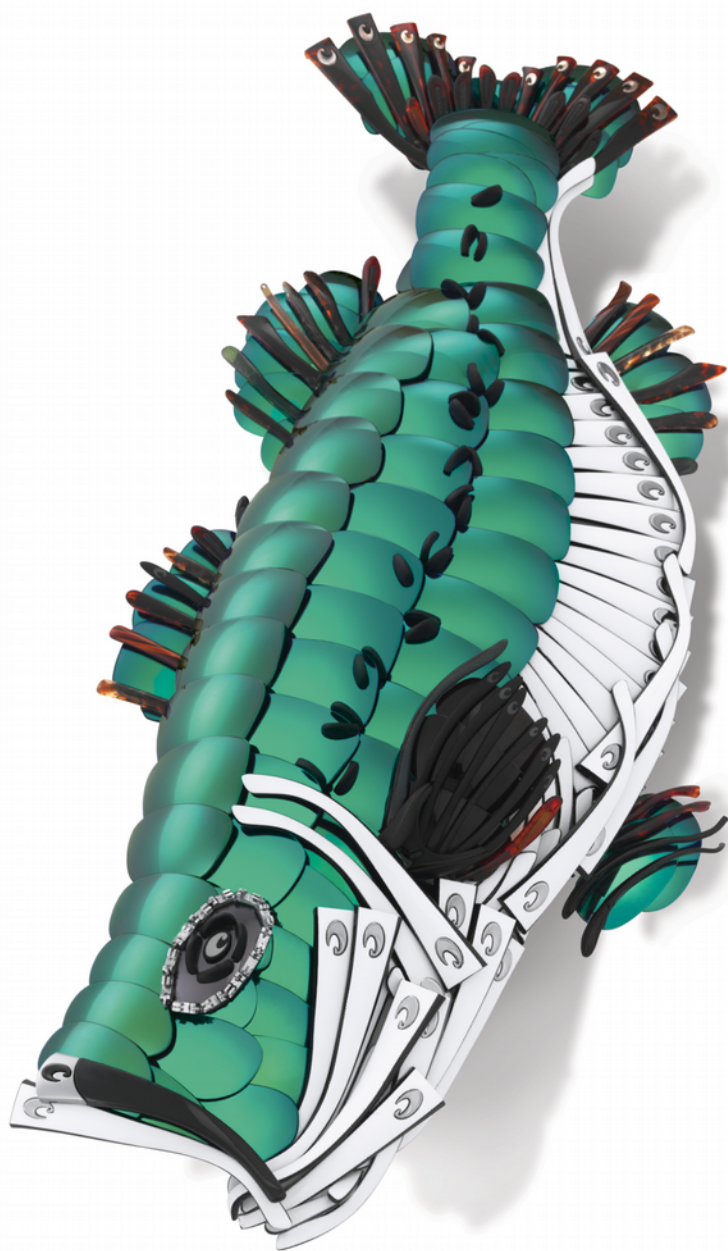
Retrieve Techniques



It's important to point out the need for variety and experimentation with retrieves for White Bass. There is not one best magical technique, but one thing I would definitely suggest to keep in mind is not to get into a rut with the same technique all the time.

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

It is also important to have the proper rod and line control as you make these



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retrieves. I keep my rod tip at or just above the water and pointed almost straight at my line as it swings in the current. My strip retrieves are controlled by never allowing any slack line between my casting hand and where the line touches the water near my rod tip. I maintain tight control of the line with either my index finger or two fingers on my rod hand, as well as with my opposite hand, so that I can instantly and aggressively set the hook. The angle of the rod at hook-set is about 30-45* which utilizes the more powerful butt and mid-sections of the rod for a solid hook-up.



If you want to kick off your spring fishing with some hot action catching a great gamefish, do your homework and get prepared for some awesome White Bass fishing in the Midwestern States with your fly tackle, this year. See you on the river!

Be prepared for some awesome White Bass fishing!

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



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

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- Hook:** Gamakatsu size 1 offset shank worm hook (#58410)
- Antenna:** Brown vinyl rib material
- Body:** Chenille in color to compliment/match Crawbodies, EP Wooly Critter Brush 1" , color to compliment/match Crawbodies
- Weight:** .025 lead free wire
- Shellback:** FishSkull Crawbody, Tack-free flexible UV coating (brand of choice)
- Thread:** Uni-Thread 8/0, again in a matching color
- Eyes:** Black or brown ball chain for eyes

Step 1: With hook in vise in an HPU setting (Hook Point Up), attach approx 1/2" to 5/8" lead free wire to bottom side of shank with wire stopping just under middle of barbed area. This aides in the fly swimming hook point up in the water and less snags.



Step 2: With thread at eyelet end of shank, attach chenille and wind thread to just past where wire stops. Spin chenille down shank until also just past end of wire. Secure with a few wraps of thread and return the thread to eyelet end of shank. This helps make the overall fly more secure.



Step 3: Spin chenille back up shank to just shy of the offset in shank and secure with a few winds. This gives the fly two layers of chenille, once down and back up the shank and more bulk to the body.





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Step 4: Cut a piece of EP brush that is slightly shorter than the length of the chenille. Rotate your fly upside down and attach the brush at the offset end where the chenille ends. Run your thread down to where the brush ends and secure with a few winds (this should be slightly shorter than the length of chenilled shank). Return fly to HPU position



Step 5: At the end of the chenille, just below the barb, attach a pair of ball chain eyes to the top side of the shank with several figure 8 wraps. Secure them tightly so they stay firmly in place.



Step 6: Cut approx. 2 ½ to 3 inches of rib material, crease and fold it in the middle. Turn the fly back over and attach the creased part just under the eyes with several tight wraps. Return fly to HPU position



Step 7: Where the fluke of the crawbody meets the first segment, punch a small hole just big enough to pass the eyelet through. Pass it over the eyelet and down the offset to the right angle bend. Lay the body along the top of the chenille. Your bobbin should still be at the 'head' end of the fly from attaching the rib. Just behind the eyes, attach the body with a few winds. Leave a short tag end of the felt sticking out between the eyes. Lay the tag end between the eyes and use a few more figure 8 wraps to secure the material between the eyes and build the head of the RealDad. Use an under side half hitch to 'jump' the thread back to the notch in the felt where the body transitions to tail (just behind claws) and secure with a few winds. Continue using the underside half hitch and a few winds to jump back in short intervals and build the segments of the tail. After securing the last segment where the tail meets the fluke, tuck



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SILVER MEDAL TRITICALE - Whiskey
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SILVER MEDAL - Gin
San Diego International 2013

SILVER MEDAL - Vodka
San Diego International 2013

SILVER MEDAL -
Port Finished Wheat Whiskey
San Diego International 2013

DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL - Vodka
San Francisco International
Wine & Spirits Competition 2009

BEST IN SHOW - Vodka
San Francisco International
Wine & Spirits Competition 2009

BRONZE MEDAL - Wheat Whiskey
San Francisco World Spirits
Competition 2013

SILVER MEDAL - Barrel Reserve Gin
San Francisco World Spirits
Competition 2013

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Port Finished Wheat Whiskey
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GOLD MEDAL - Triticale Whiskey
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Competition 2013

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the fluke down tight in the right angle and secure with several tight winds and knot & glue. This holds the fluke in a downward position effectively steering the fly down when slowly stripped through the water.

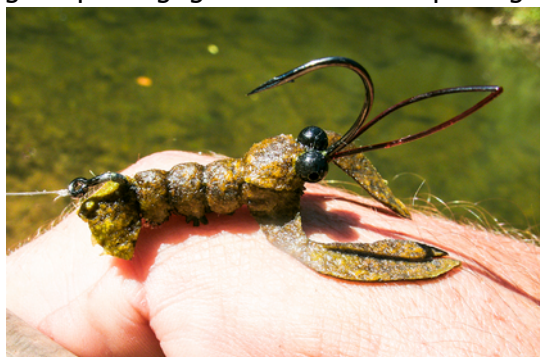
Step 8: Trim the rib material and arrange as to form antennae. Your HPU RealDad is essentially built and read for a very thin coat of UV flex. This will darken the felt considerably and give the fly a very realistic mottled look. Make sure to apply the UV coat lightly in the thin part of the area where the claws meet the body. This allows them to retain more movement.



*To make this fly weedless, simply wind on a section of 30lb mono to the short shank using the thread color of the fly. Trim the mono right where it meets the hook point and you now have a Weedless HPU RealDad.

Short history of the RealDad:

I fish the limestone creeks of Southern Indiana religiously for smallmouth bass. These creeks are crystal clear and relatively weed free. Many of the feather based flies simply look like a mass of feathers waving in the water, and the ones tied on felt-only bodies became too limp in the water for my taste. After much experimentation I came up with an ultra realistic looking mudbug (hence the name) that can be fished on a very slow swing, bounced slowly upstream, or twitched very slowly across the slab-and-pebble bottoms of shallow pools and depressions. This fly works best when fished agonizingly slow. It is a bit heavy for lighter weight rods, but is manageable on a 5-6 wt. It also works exceptionally well on largemouth along shorelines in a weedless setup. Don't tell the purists but it can even be cast by light spinning gear for those super tight confines. I have been vague about colors because every water has a slightly different shade of crawdad inhabiting it. Mess around with colors to match the 'hatch' of crawdads in your home pool. Here's to bent rods and straight whiskey! Happy fishing.



Company Profile: Chota

by Beau Beasley

The cover was pretty tight, and to be honest I had my doubts the angler I was intently watching could make the cast. Standing on a high bank and looking down I observed intently as he maneuvered silently and deftly into position. He seemed to be quite at ease in the tight canopy cover which is so common in the highlands of Tennessee where we were fishing. Having been invited to visit the City of Gatlinburg to sample the fly fishing offerings near the city, I was making the most of my time and taking full advantage of all the area had to offer. Taking note of the tight cover and a total lack of any back casting opportunity our guide Dave Anderson who worked at the local Orvis store in Sevierville, shot out a bit of encouragement to the angler below. "I know he's in there Frank, it's tough down there I know," Anderson said almost apologetically, "but I know those fish are in there."



The angler was none other than Frank Bryant, the owner of Chota Outdoor Gear; a well-respected wader manufacturing company headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee. Bryant didn't reply, but he did cast a careful eye to the surrounding mountain laurel. Having made his assessment he then made what appeared to be an effortless role cast. The fly hit the back end of the pool with precision and I had to admit I was more than a little impressed, but I held my peace.

Bryant slowly retrieved his pattern slowly from the back of the pool. From my vantage point I saw a slight twitch and then the tell-tale sign of a tightening line attached to was



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sure to be an aggressive trout. Anderson was all smiles now and he looked over his shoulder glancing up towards me as I continued peering down at them both. "I knew he was in there," Anderson said with confidence "I just wasn't sure he could get to him." Bryant seemed pleased with his catch as a broad smile broke over his face. The tug of war only lasted a few minutes, with the fish nearly getting off after a last surge of determination. He doggedly attempted to stay lodged in the deepest end of the pool, but it was too late. Bryant carefully brought in the highly colored rainbow to hand, and then gently released his quarry back into the secluded area from whence he came.

Having landed his fish, Bryant made his way up the steep bank and all three of us headed upstream to a new pool. Bryant refused to crow having made an excellent cast, instead brushing off my compliments and Anderson's as a veteran angler with a simple "I just got lucky". This was total hogwash of course, and Anderson and I both knew it. Instead of luck what Anderson and I had witnessed was years of angling skill distilled into a few moments of expert execution. Not surprisingly, Frank Bryant has used this same type of hard earned experience in building Chota outdoor gear into one of the best known brands in the fly fishing industry.

Frank Bryant came by his love of the outdoors the old fashioned way; he inherited it. Young Bryant spent his childhood growing up in the northeastern corner of Indiana near the Michigan state line. He describes the area as "being like a small piece of Minnesota with hundreds of glacial lakes nearby only located in Indiana". Bryant's father fly fished these lakes and often took little Frank along with him in the family canoe. "One of my earliest memories is falling asleep in the bow of that canoe and smelling the fine odor of cedar and canvas around me. My dad loved to fish the Hex hatch on summer evenings on Little Long Lake."

Bryant is a man completely comfortable with who he is and, not one to enter into meaningless small talk. Perhaps the only thing that rivals his easy going manner



is his attitude about being comfortable in watery environs, which is not surprising since Bryant spent 25 years in the scuba industry. Once he retired from that industry, he became bored and decided to marry his desire to create water related products to fly fishing, thus Chota Outdoor Gear was born. Chota is a Native American word that means "branch or

river", and was the name of the principal Cherokee village located near the Little Tennessee River. The site of the old village is now underwater due to the creation



Dave Brown

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of the Tellico Dam, but Bryant fished there in his younger years. "The Little Tennessee River was my favorite water in the 1960's and 1970's" says Brant reflectively. "I'd often eat my lunch near the old Chota town site while paddling downstream with my rod or gun in hand." Spending time with Bryant forces you to slow down as he's not one to be in a rush. Even as we fished, he seemed to pace himself and this slow but methodical approach to his personal gate, has spilled over into this business philosophy.

While some companies in the fly fishing industry rush to continually come out with new products and add dozens of new dealers each year, Bryant has a different approach. "Our first concern is functionality and comfort before anything else. We strive to have the most comfortable wading shoes and products in the market bar none, so I'm not one to rush something to market just because I think it will sell."

Mark Brown the general sales manager at Chota who was fishing along with Bryant and Anderson, has a similar take on product development. He too is keen on customer service and seems committed to making the best wading products possible. Brown asserts they go out of this way to treat each and every customer like they are special to the company. "We try to treat each Chota dealer the same way no matter their size". Brown went on to say "This industry is small and we want to be on good terms with everyone." Brown looked over his shoulder as we made our way up stream to find a new pool. Frank trudged along behind us at a leisurely pace. "The man isn't much for speed," Brown said "However you'd be hard pressed to find anyone that's a harder worker, it was all I could do to get him to come fishing today" said Brown. I finally told him we needed to do some "field research" and put some of his new gear



Dave Carson, Mark Brown and Frank Bryant after a day of field testing. Note that Mark is testing two different pairs of Hippies at the same time.

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through its paces.”

While many companies tout good service, few take it to heart like Bryant. If you need proof positive that good customer service is a trade make of Chota, you need look no further than fly shop owner Allan Bright. Bright, owner of Spruce Creek Fly shop in the tiny hamlet of Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania has been a Chota dealer for as long as he can remember. He not only loves the product, he appreciates the company's attitude towards its dealers. “The reason I like Chota so much is they combine quality products with true customer service. I never ever feel like I’m merely a number with them. In fact” says Bright “when someone there answers the phone, chances are better the average, they know me by name. They are simply a great company to deal with and I sell lots and lots of their products.”



Byron Begley, owner of the famed Little River Outfitters in Townsend, Tennessee, feels much the same way. Though Little River Outfitters is a large and well known store, Begley was with Chota before his store gained so much notoriety. “I’ve been a Chota dealer since 1998 and I love doing business with those guys. Frank is as close to a water expert as you likely to find and he really knows his stuff when it comes to materials.” Begley went on to say “When you combine that kind of know how with excellent customer service it’s hard to beat.” Begley’s also quick to point out that “Our part of the country and in particular the Great Smokey Mountains, were the original testing grounds for Chota .In fact some of the company’s products have born the names of our local waters.”

While Chota’s become known for quality products, it’s their constant striving towards innovation that sets them apart from others in their field. They recently released their camouflaged waders which are popular not only with anglers of every stripe, but duck hunters as well. The idea being hunters and anglers need to blend in with their natural surroundings while afield. A similar cutting edge

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product in the company's arsenal of offerings is their "Hippies". This minimalist product is quite popular with trout anglers who fish small streams or in elevated regions like the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. Hippies were designed to cover the area just above your shoes including the angler's knee, with other options going as high up as mid-thigh. They're a great addition to Chota's variety of wading shoes and full length waders that are as comfortable as they are rugged. Brant told me flatly, "Rack appeal is necessary for sales, but not at the expense of performance, especially durability. Need more convincing? A recent customer who was serving in the Army cheerfully wrote to Chota after purchasing a pair of their wading shoes while on leave. The owner liked them so much he took them back to Afghanistan!

"I purchased a pair of Chota WW700 in my hometown of Hamburg, PA while on leave from my third deployment to Afghanistan, and they're the nicest, softest, most comfy pair of boots I've ever owned... I've worn them almost every day of the remainder of my tenure here since then. Yes, although these boots were not designed for Afghanistan, I walk on more river rocks in a day as I do on a sidewalk, and the soles and uppers are holding out great,"

While few things give Bryant more pleasure than seeing his products used on stream, he admits it's not easy keeping up with trends since some products take multiple years to fully develop. "Some of our products can be turned around in a year or so, others might take multiple years before I feel we can bring it to market and have them perform as intended."

Bryant also sees an ironic and perhaps even frightening trend with the anti-felt soled crowd. "Some guys traded in their felt soled wading shoes for new ones using rubber when that became all the rage. They incorrectly think they never have to clean their wading boots now since they aren't felt soled. This is just plain wrong, aquatic organisms get trapped in the seams and lining of your wading shoes no matter who makes them, or how good they are." Bryant insists "Anglers still need to be proactive in cleaning their gear even if they have non-felt soled wading shoes."

To prove his point, Bryant showed me a pair of wading shoes that looked identical to felt, in fact I thought they were felt,



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but instead they were rubberized material on the soles of his wading shoes." That material isn't felt" he said to me. "It sure does look like felt." I said in disbelief. "I agree" said Bryant "and in fact it acts like felt in the way it holds anglers to rocks, but that same material holds organism that can be transplanted to other waters. I don't care what manufacture you're getting your wading shoes from; you need to clean them."



During my time with Bryant he brought to my attention something I hadn't thought much of lately. "Beau when was the last time you washed your waders? I don't mean the wading shoes, I mean the waders themselves. Try this test. The next time you take your waders off, wring them out over a pan and look at all the stuff in the pan. Those organisms that were sticking to the legs or the stoking foot of your waders can be easily transported somewhere else the following day if they aren't completely dry or cleaned. Just food for thought" Bryant said to me with a mischievous grin.

The rest of the morning Bryant and I traded placed along the stream. Sometimes he would cast, sometimes I would, as we worked our way around tight cover and crystal clear plunge pools. Brown hopped from pool to pool out fishing Bryant and I both, but to be

honest nobody was really trying to keep score. By the end of the day we stood alongside Anderson's truck and we simply stared at the small trout steam beside us enjoying God's creation and all the fun we'd had. I thanked Bryant and Brown both, as well as Anderson for showing me the ropes in the laurel flanked trout stream. "Beau come on back anytime" Bryant said, "we can always use an extra hand doing field research."

Sidebar

If you'd like to check out Chota for yourself, you're in luck. There are currently 400 Chota dealers scattered across the country, each offering different levels of selection. But what if your local dealer doesn't have what you want. No problem. While Chota doesn't sell direct, you can see their product offering on their web-site, then order what you want from your closet dealer. To get a better look at all the company has to offer today angler check out their web-site at www.chotaoutdoorgear.com.

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