



June/July News: How to Select Flies, Open House Announcement

By Mike Hogue

It's been awhile since I did the last newsletter. My ISP Time Warner got bought out by Spectrum and with the change over, I am not able to mail more than 200 emails in one day. I am having to redo my email newsletter and

hopefully, I'll get the tech issues ironed out.

I thought in this issue I would go over a few ideas. I had some customer questions about how to choose flies. I think it might be useful to discuss some ways to make fly selection work for you. A lot of times we over analyze things and make things much more difficult than it needs to be. As a group, fly fishers tend to overthink and over analyze them. Begin by simplifying your thought process.

I'll tell you this story. My Father fly fished for years. The fellow was a fishing magnet. He caught everything and he caught things with little or no background, training or instruction. Fly fishing was always something he did with his brothers. He didn't know the names of flies, the kinds, the sizes or even bug names or any latin. When I asked him how to choose flies he said, " Well sometimes you need black and sometimes white. Some float and some some sink. " That's it, the Master Yoda's sage advice. Fish you will.

I think there is a bit more to it than this. Many years ago there was the "Match the Hatch" started by Ernie Schwiebert. I have sort of have a love / hate relationship with this. I honestly believe that this is only partially correct. Jack Gartside once pointed out to me that we fail to recognize fish behavior. Jack said that fish have no hands, so like a kid they put stuff in their mouths to see what it is. Jack also said that fish are playful and curious. Fish want to know what something is and they are attracted to noise, colors, motion and activity. Add to this locations. Many areas you fish as home waters, you get to know. Fish have predatory behavior. Bigger fish protect areas and chase other fish out. Sometimes they will attack things that invade their space. Also fish like structure. Very likely if a fish was caught in a hole, there is a pretty good chance that's a place to fish again.

Years ago, I was told by some researchers from the MN DEC that big trout needed three things: overhead cover, a food source and a place to hide. Add into this what the area has for forage. For example, my neighbor does research for Cornell on Brook Trout ponds and discovered from many exams of fish that their main forage in ADK ponds are leeches and crawdads. Another variable is color. The water color, the depth and the time of day can change the colors of things. Also the clarity of the water. I've seen fish feed in water so stained and muddy you can't see six inches away from you without the water shading out your fly.

So let's add this up. Select flies based on size and color. Choose flies that match the available forage and also match the location. If you are a trout fisher, honestly several colors of parachutes solve most of the trouble: olive, cream/tan and gray. For nymphs peacock princes, hare's ears with or without bead heads almost always work. Woolly buggers in black and olive with beads are close matches for many things. Try heavily weighted small Clousers for big fish. I often have good luck using ADK patterns of Ausable Wulffs, Bombers and Ugliers. I toss in a few stimulators and also some of my favorite Pass Lake specials and I am always catching fish.

One pattern I've grown to love is an H+L Variant. It's an old time pattern and its easy to see and it works for many things. A few soft hackles in partridge and orange or green make great emergers. I switch back and forth and often I can find the active feeding fish.

For bass size the flies up and for smallmouth use medium sizes flies. I break bass flies into swimming, floating and sinking. Most of the bass flies I've seen lately, are these giant oversized things that are way over dressed and look nothing like anything real. Also these very large flies are very hard to cast, hard to store, they are expensive to buy and time consuming to make.

Try fishing flies that are smaller but bigger than trout patterns. Flies say size 10-2 for bass and for smallies flies that are 2-8 work really well. Have Clousers in a 4 or 2, buggers in black and olive, popping bugs and deer hair flies in 4-2 . Add in some large stonefly nymphs. Here's a bonus: in the new book called *Smallmouth Tactics* the authors talk about wiggles. These are large hopper like flies that are great for bass. Western patterns like Amy's Ant, Fat Alberts, Hippie Stompers or Large Chernobyl Ants are awesome for taking top water bass. I've had a few nights where I caught dozens of fish on top water Fat Alberts. Try tossing a few really large dries like size 8 or 10 Royal or White Wulffs. These are killers in clear water.

For panfish, size up your trout flies or size down your bass flies. Anything with rubber legs usually works. I love having bright and dark colors mixed. For example chartreuse popping bugs are dandy. I also like Fire Tiger poppers. Old favorites like Madam Xs or Parachute Madam Xs are great flies and I often like to fish some small rubber leg bead chain dragon and damsel nymphs. White, pink and chartreuse small streamers are awesome for crappies and the old McGinty wet fly is a long time favorite in many ponds. Try a San Juan worm as a double tied to popping bug for a hopper/dropper rig. So match water, forage, conditions and also type of fish. Don't over think things. If all else fails as Poul Jorgensen said, "Use an Adams."

Events: Lots of cool stuff at places near (for some of) you. Stop out !!!!!

Summer Show: PFFMA Heritage Day: We will be at the **Sixteenth Annual Fly Fishing Heritage Day, Saturday, June 16, 2018 along the banks of Letort Spring Run. It is near the PA Turnpike Carlisle Exit 226. The new address is 101 Shady Lane, Carlisle, PA 17013** Guest speakers include George Daniels, Julie Szur (giving a women's program), a free casting clinic with Jim Rainy FFI certified casting instructor, and Penn State FF Professor Greg Hoover will be giving a talk on aquatic bugs. Admission is \$10.

Free Talk: I will be giving a free talk for the BC Fly Fishers: **Understanding and Selecting Natural Fly Tying Materials" Thursday June 21, 2018, Endicott Public Library, 7:00 PM** At 6:30 I will be demoing some flies that may appear in a later article for Fly Tyer.

I will also be doing an interesting and unique hands on discussion of natural fly tying materials. I will show the differences and uses of genetic hackle, variants, imported hackle, Coq de Leon, streamer hackle and how to choose hackle for your application. I will also show soft hackle materials and their substitutes as well as how to select deer hair for various patterns. This presentation will have many unusual and unique items, in which you can look, see, touch and understand which materials to select. Stop out.

Open House: 622 W. Dryden Rd, Freeville, Sat June 23 9-4pm.

Due to some rather strange scheduling this year, we are doing the Open House much later . There were 2 club outings, Ithaca fest, graduations, a show and so I had to bump it out. **This is now our 13th year. The Open House is June 23, 2018.** Joining us will be Eric Mastroberti, Joe Cambridge as fly tyers and Carol Cambridge and Kevin Gilroy will be providing casting instruction. There will be a **free rod drawing** for those that attend. If you bring a fishing friend, you can register again. **Free snacks.** Should be fun! **Stop out.**

New Stuff: In this issue I have lots of nice items selected. Many are unique and some I haven't had in a long time. Like the wood background? My counter is made of native pine harvested locally. I made the counter a number of years ago. I think it is 2" thick.



Keough Bugger Saddles: These are nice saddles. Ideal for large dry flies, buggers and streamers. Black, Sculpin Olive Variant, Red Brown Grizzly. **\$45 or 2 for \$80**

Keough Hen Saddle: (shown right) . These are variants that have some nice hackle. Many of the smaller ones at the base tie 12's, a few 14's some 10's. Barred Dun, Barred Ginger/Cree, Mottled Brown and Brown Variant. **\$20 or 2 for \$30**



Metz Chocolate Brown Dun/ AKA Waterhen Sub: This is about the closest thing I've ever found for Waterhen. Really nice bronze colored dun. These also tie to size 20. Grade 2. **\$25**

Metz Cree Rooster Cape: I get asked for cree all the time. These are grade 3 capes and tie to size 20/22. Loaded with usable size 12/14/16. Some capes have the shoulders. **\$65**



Pro Grade Jungle Cock: I got a shipment in. These are Pro with some splits. I have them in **B-: \$75, C+: \$65,**

C: \$55. Okay, not my best, perfect for fishing flies. Many of the Grade A's now sell for \$150-\$135. These sold out fast last year.





Cortnix Quail: These are super nice. These are mottled tan, ginger and brown. Comes with wings, head tails and also body. Perfect for sulphur soft hackles.
\$25 2 for \$40



Montana Blue Grouse: These are nice dusky blue dun. The feathers are mottled dun with dark brown. Tails are dark gray with a black stripe. Very unusual, I haven't had these for a long time. Very big bird, these are game birds and as such hides have imperfections. Some heads missing, **I would call these B grade: \$35, A few Grade A \$40.** A few females available in mottled brown.



Sage Grouse: Very rare. these are mottled cream with brown. The hide includes: head, body, wings, tails. Very hard to get. I haven't had these before, very limited supply. Again, these are game birds and hides are less than perfect. **\$40**



Dragon Tails (Stnd): These are nice , reminds me of the old bump chenille we got at craft stores. Very long with a tapered tip. These are about 10-12? long and about 1" wide. Treated with UV2 dyes. Has a core with very thick plush to it. Colors: Chartreuse, Black, Olive, Hot Orange, Gray, White: **\$9.00**

Dragon Tails (Mini): Same product about 6" long. Might be useful for bass flies and also saltwater. Treated with UV2 dyes. Colors; Black, Chartreuse, Hot Orange, Gray, Olive and White **\$9.00**

=====

Web News: I am going to build a new web site this summer. This is a big project. I have around 5000 skus to load. In the interim, **I have put up an Esty site.** You can go on to Etsy and see lots of new stuff as it comes in. I will load mostly natural materials on this page and as stuff sells, I'll change it. Also when something new comes, I'll add that. I have an active Facebook page and that I can load things as they come in, **like us on Facebook** and you'll see many of my new things. Do a search for **Badger Creek Fly Tying on FB and Eflytyer on Etsy.** Etsy has lots of cool stuff .

Tackle: I have some great buys of tackle this month. Some are super close out prices! **WOW!**



Superfly Combo Kit:

Want to take a kid fly fishing? This is a perfect set up for a kid. Short 6'6" rod allows a smaller person easier casting. 4 piece with metal large arbor reel + line. Ideal for small upstream Pa/NY/WI/IA streams and spring creeks. Very few short 5 weights around. **WAS \$110 NOW \$80**

NEW! Maxxon Reels CSX (shown below) : These are a sealed disc drag bar stock reel. Compare these to reels costing \$500-700 or more! These are machined CNC reels and have ported spool with a disc drive and counter balance. Perfect for saltwater, you can use this in tough conditions and **this reel can take a lickin' and keep on clickin'!** (if you are as old as me, you'll remember this from Timex, takes a lickin and keeps on tickin').



THESE ROCK!

One cool feature is the interchangeable knobs. You can label each reel with a brass etched knob. Each reel can be marked with a number to designate line size. Extra brass knobs included. This is a great reel for the money and one of the best values we've ever had. (If you look close, you will see the numbers !) Sizes: 3/4, 5/6 , 7/8, 9/11 **\$200**

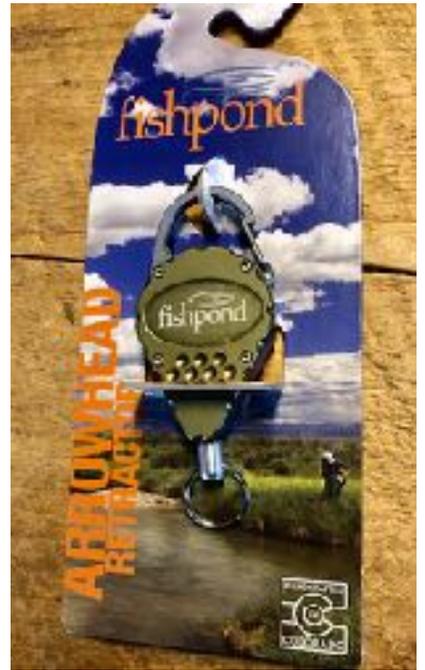




Gadgets: We've got some cool items this month. Stuff you can't live without. We can rig you up so that you have the best stuff to make your fishing easier.

Mountain River Tippet Holder (shown left) : These are one piece vertical tippet holders. Holds 1 think t6-7 spools of your favorite tippet. Machined aluminum anodized olive. Made in USA. **\$20**

Tungsten Wide Paddle Nipper (shown right) : These are leverless design that is coated with rubber. Tip is extra sharp and has a needle embedded in the lip. **\$10**



Fishpond Tool Zinger (shown right): These are cool. Olive metal zinger with carabiner clip. Clips on packs, straps and smaller belts. Has kevlar cable and it will hold tools, nippers or hemos. Made in Colorado. **\$ 30**

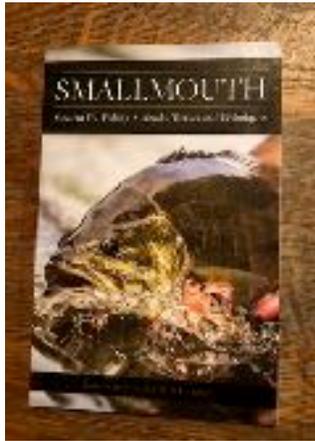


Fishpond Confluence Net Release: This is an aluminum covered rare Earth Magnet attached to coiled cord. Holds larger heavy nets (like the Fishpond Nomad Series). Has quick release French style snap. Very well made. **\$30**

Solarez UV Cure Wader Patch: Grab and stash it. This is UV wader patch. Don't even take yer waders off! Apply, wait in the sun, **CURED!** Keep fishin'! Flexible UV wader patch mends waders, jackets and can be used on rafts and tents. **\$5.50**



New Books: For those seeking fly fishing enlightenment we've got some nice new books. You can take a few trips and while it isn't an African Safari, it is possibly a new fishing adventure and these guide books will show you some new spots.

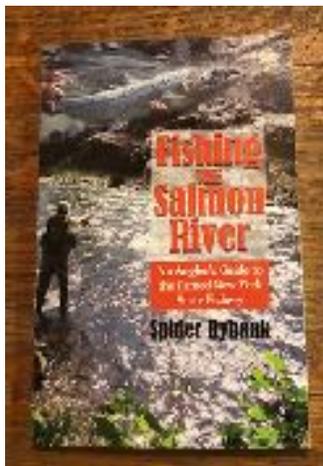


Smallmouth: Modern Fly Fishing Methods, Tactics and

Techniques: This is a great book that talks about methods to catch smallmouth. Lots of great tips and stories on fly selection, rods, fly lines and rigging. Includes methods to try along with various times of the year. Published by 2 Upper Midwest Guides (okay Cheesers for all you Iowa folk). From near my old stompin' grounds in Upper Mississippi River. Almost a must have if you are into smallies. **\$29.99**

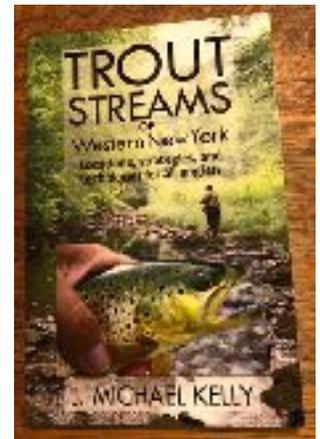
Fishing the Salmon River: An Angler's Guide to the Famed NY State Fishery By Spider Ryback

Fishing the Salmon River is the first book to detail the where and how of fishing the entire length of the river. Includes maps and more. Has notes on significant places to fish for all varieties of fish. Also has info on different seasons of fishing, surrounding streams plus upstream lakes. Well done. **\$20**



Trout Streams of Western New York:

By J Michael Kelly Michael Kelly was for many years the outdoor editor for the Syracuse newspaper. He also was President of the Outdoor Writer's Association and published articles for NY Game and Fish magazine. If you are looking for new areas to fish, look no more. Covers a lot of ground from Elmira to Buffalo. Includes areas like the Catt, the Gennie and several streams in the Rochester area. Has lots of tips and stories. Mike Kelly is a great writer. **\$20**



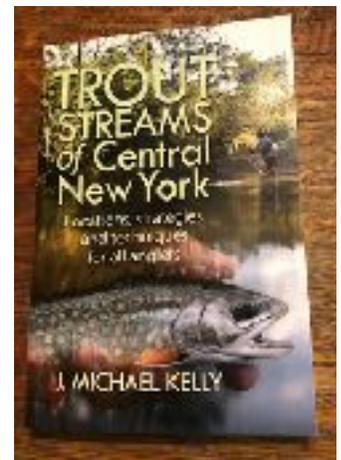
Trout Streams of CNY: J Michael Kelly Before this book, folks had to seek out copies of Sanderson's Guide to the Finger Lakes which was the bible for local fishing. While, this guide isn't Sander's Guide, it is pretty good. Before anybody freaks out about revealing their favorite spots, take a look at this. The maps are clear but still require you to do some leg work to find good spots. Kelly reveals many of his top places to fish. If you are looking for a new locations, this book is a must for Finger Lakes FFs. **\$20**

Flies: We have one of the largest selections of flies in Upstate New

York. We stock flies tied locally and we have our own contract tyer overseas that makes great patterns for us. We stock Catskill Dries, Adirondack Favorites, Smallmouth, Salmon and Steelhead patterns.

Import Dries, Nymphs and Streamers: \$12/doz or \$1.50 Each. Locally tied flies: \$2.50, \$3.50 \$5.00. I stock some cool **Smallmouth Wiggles.**

Amy's Ant, Fat Albert, Hippie Stomper and Turk's . **All \$1.50** . Cool Clouser Bunny Flies, Double Barrel Poppers, Walt Cary Poppers, Craft Fur Clousers and Kreelex **all \$3.50.** If you want, I can personally select some flies for you. At last count I think we have close to 700 dozen different patterns plus several sizes and colors. Maybe 5,000 + flies on hand? I haven't counted them.



Fishing Report: I thought I would do something unique and talk about different kinds of fish and possible choices. I won't mention specific places, but I'll give you an idea where to try.

Brook Trout: I've caught some wild brookies. These have been quite small. My best was maybe 12". Given the streams, this was a whale. Much of the areas you want to fish are quickly brushing out with lots of cover. I have been fishing headwaters of streams. Best hint is above RT 90. I've had good luck with H+ L Variant size 12, Ausable colored soft hackles, Ausable Bomber size 10 and also my Devil Bug in size 12 in Insect Green.



Warm Water: I've caught a few smallies in downtown Ithaca. Some streams have been very cloudy. I've done well with a lead eye crawfish in brown olive and Clouser minnows. For dark side fans, some lake run carp are in. These are spawners and brutes that will smoke backing and bust rods. Locals use Kreelex in bronze, I had good luck on rusty brown lead eyed crawdads. Try Whitney Point Rez upper. There are walleyes in and a full sink plus a muddler is killer. WP Rez has a ton of crappie.

Hit those with Pink, Chartreuse and White streamers. If you find a school, don't release a bloody fish in the area, they will shut down.

Upstream Brown Trout: I fish Owasco Inlet between Groton and Moravia. This is one of my home waters and there are around 6 landings and pull outs. 15+ miles of stream! Brown trout and rainbows are best bet. Photo was a wild brown with nice colors. Try dries before dark. Light Cahills, Stimulators, Parachute Adams also Ausable Wulffs are productive. Bug Week starts in a few days in the Catskills, one of the best times of the year to fish. A real sleeper is tying a dun Stimulator with dun hair size 14. **Get Out Soon!**



Contact Info: Badger Creek Fly Tying, 622 W. Dryden Rd, Freeville, NY 13068, 607-347-4946. www.eflytyer.com, email: mike@eflytyer.com. We are open most afternoons from 3-7pm and weekends. If coming from out of town, please email and schedule a time that works.

Shipping info: NY residents will be charged 8% sales tax. Shipping is as follows. \$4.50 to \$25, \$5.50 \$25-35. \$45-\$65 \$6.50, over \$75: \$7.50. Rods \$10, reels and vises \$15. Alaska, HI and overseas will be at cost. \$25 Minimum for credit cards, for small orders send a check. We take phone order credit cards, cash, checks, money orders and Pay Pal.

