



FRESHWATER SPRING EDITION 2022

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Calendar of club events 2022

February	Activity 21/2/2022	Invitation speaker Frank Pocock
March	Activity 21/3/2022	Fly tying
April	Activity 11/4/2022	Auction
May	Activity 16/5/2022	Fly tying
June	Activity 20/6/2022	Quiz – with prizes
July	Activity 18/7/2022	Fly tying
August	Activity 15/8/2022	AGM
Sept	Activity 19/9/2022	Fly tying
Oct	Activity 27/10/2022	Casting comp
Nov	Activity 21/11/2022	Invitation speaker Glen Powel
Dec	Activity 19/12/2022	Christmas wrap up

OTHER CLUB EVENTS 2022

PERCH BASH	Easter long weekend	APRIL 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th,
MAYFLIES	MAY 9th 10th 11th 12th	LEAVE ON 13th
WINTER WASH	WA long weekend	JUNE 4th, 5th 6th
FISH A FEST	Queens Birthday W.A	SEPTEMBER 24th 25th 26th
OCTOBER NYMPHS	OCTOBER 10th 11th 12th 13th	LEAVE ON 14th
Recfish Funday	Drakes Brook Weir	Saturday October 15th
Recfish Funday	Big Brook Dam	Sunday November 6th

REPORTS FROM THE CLUB'S AGM 2021

Presidents Report

I would like to welcome you to the club's 55th Annual General Meeting and once again I thank you for your support.

This is the fifth time that I have had the honour of presenting to you a Presidential speech.

To open my report, I would like to thank our council for all the work they have done on behalf of you the membership.

Geoff Barret, Treasurer: Shawn Saunders, Members Secretary and Vice Chairman: Mario Riggio, Cottage Maintenance: Stuart Bowman, Cottage Bookings: Nick Dernberger, Activities Officer: Monty Moy: Graham Bryder: James McDonnagh: Council Officers: In addition, I would like to thank Doug Buchanan for once again compiling the figures from the catch cards, without which there would be no trophy presentation. Also, many thanks must go to Tom Meredith for the work he does behind the scenes and for the maintenance of the web site. I would also like to acknowledge the work and effort Steve Agate has put into our face book page.

In addition, I thank John Goulding and Brennan Rose, for their efforts and contributions while they were on council. Sadly, personal circumstances lead to them resigning during the past few months.

This last year has been quite an extraordinary year. Working with covid mandates has been very taxing. Covid, has possibly been instrumental regarding attendances, these have been down both at the activity nights and club competitions. This is somewhat disappointing but hopefully soon we will see a greater confidence and life returning to somewhat of a normality, thus giving members a chance to return and physically support their club.

I strongly thank those members that do put the effort in to support the activities nights and club competitions time in and time out, but I would joyously like to see some of the old faces return and join us on a regular basis

The good news is that the club has acquired two new dams. Firstly, George Boshoff agreed to allow us to stock another dam on his property. This has been done and the dam will be open to members from the 1st of September 2022. Members will be informed where and how to get to this dam shortly.

Secondly: Through the prompting of Monty Moy, John Omodei has persuaded his brother Robert, into allowing us to stock one of his dams. This is a large dam close to Pemberton, and this dam will be stocked this year for the first time subject to translocation papers being approved. Also, some intermedial work is required to the fence so that access to the dam complies with the owners' requests. This dam will hopefully be available to fish from September 2023

Being your club's president, which I must say I still treat as being an honour, I had several ideas on how we as a club could move forward. However, I soon learned that it takes a lot of time effort and members participation to try and put these ideas into motion.

It soon became apparent, that it was the same few members who volunteered when club participation was required. These volunteers over time have however, become fewer and fewer. It would be great to have others get involved as this diminishing trend has left the club relying on a few stalwarts to see it through and fulfil the club's commitments.

As a club, we are so fortunate to have the Graham Whitehouse Cottage, fondly known as Rose Cottage, I believe facilities like these would be the envy of most clubs. However, to maintain this great asset requires ongoing upkeep. Members using the cottage do a great Job but sometimes the work required goes beyond a sponge and a mop and it is with this in mind that your participation will be asked for, as a Busy Bee for cottage maintenance will be required very soon.

During the year, the club once again held a successful Fish a Fest, Perch Bash, and Winter Wash. Although numbers were down for each of these events, those that participated had a great experience and a lot of fun which these events generate in abundance. Many thanks to those who helped in running these events and those members that supported them. In addition to these club events, I would like to thank Monty Moy for running the May Flies and October Nymphs. These are two weeks within the calendar year, that some senior club members mostly retirees, get together for a fish. The result of which are invigorating times, great comradery, and special moments for those involved.

Also, for the 4th year in a row, we had a presence at the Recfish Troutfest at Drakes Brook Weir, where as a club we were able to offer to the public, advice on fly casting, fly tying, soft plastic, and spin fishing all of which help to promote the club in the freshwater fishing arena in a professional way. Thanks to those that again surrendered their time to help and hopefully you will be available to do it all again this year, as again this event is to go ahead at Drakes Brook on Saturday 15th October. In addition, this year there will also be a similar event held at Big Brook Dam on November 6th, 2022.

As a freshwater fishing club, climate change and heavy damming of our already diminishing water resources, are going to be the biggest hurdles we as a club will face in the immediate future. I believe it is plain to see that the lack of water during the summer period is having a serious effect on the fauna and flora in the Southwest Region. I feel that as a club, we need to become far more active in what is happening within the realms of freshwater fishing. We are a respected club and have on many occasions been able to voice our opinion which history will show, largely contributed towards the freshwater fisheries that we have now.

Making ourselves heard and seen in the right areas can only benefit the club and hopefully help maintain or even improve our freshwater fishery. However, I believe as a club, we may have become complacent.

So, I put it to all of you here and to the membership in general, that if we as a club wish to participate or contribute to what direction freshwater fishing takes in the future, we must be prepared as a club to support and voice our opinions in the right areas when required.

The opinions of the WATFAA membership and its passion towards freshwater fishing are second to none, therefore, as a group we need to make sure they are felt and heard.

I believe that we need to show Recfish West that they can rely on WATFAA for an input and our support in their pursuit of freshwater initiatives. We should also make it known that we strongly support the Pemberton Hatchery refurbishment and if this is not forth coming express our concerns and ask WHY.

I am concerned that without this reliability and commitment from the membership, we will lose the respect of the governing bodies that are at the helm of instigating what happens within the freshwater scene.

I believe, as a club with a long historical background it is important that we continue to try and contribute to our governing bodies, hopefully having an influence in the future of freshwater fishing in the Southwest.

Thankyou

Stewart King

WATFAA President

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report, prepared by Tom Meredith and Geoff Barrett, was presented by Geoff Barrett, who reported on the financial position of the club with reference to financial statements and the Summary Review (AGM Financial report), which were circulated to members during the meeting.

Geoff reported that all the financial statements are in order, the club is in a sound financial position, there being no issues of concern.

Net annual profit increased from \$1,722 in June 2021 to \$9,758 in June 2022, largely due to reduced maintenance costs (last year, cottage repairs and maintenance included a new hot water system, New TV units, new BBQ, cell phone range extender and defibrillator). Keep in mind repairs and maintenance to the cottage will continue to be a significant expense as the years go by given wear and tear. The club committed an additional \$10,000 to the Term Deposit account with Bendigo Bank, increasing the balance to the current figure of \$52,955.

Bank interest income was similar, as was cottage accommodation and membership income. The club also spent \$1,000 less on stocking fish this year.

Total current assets up from \$64,846 last year to \$73,446 this last financial year, with cash at bank sitting at a healthy \$72,196, indicating that the club is covering its monthly expenses. This vindicates the decision by your council to increase membership fees by \$20 at the AGM in 2019. Due to continued covid restrictions affecting use of the cottage and the strong financial position the club is in, council has decided to not increase membership fees for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Increased cottage insurance cover to \$421,000.

The treasurer expressed his gratitude to Tom Meredith for his support of the treasurer position.

Geoff Barrett
Treasurer

WATFAA Record Keepers Report 2022

A total of 36 record cards were returned for the season. Fifteen of these cards were recorded on the club's database. The remaining twenty cards were sent to the club's record keeper. Three of these cards recorded no fish caught. The use of the club's database is the preferred method of submitting the information as it is easier to report on. However, if you prefer to send them to me direct I am happy to include them on my database.

During the 2022 season there were 517 fish caught which is an increase of 48 compared to last season's catch of 469 fish. It should be noted that one member returned a record card of 200 fish caught during the season what a great effort, hopefully it will inspire others. It is good to know that members can still catch trout even during these difficult times.

Trout caught by season

Season	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Trout	352	179	256	382	532	943	1050	223	469	517
Browns	20	3	4	3	10	44	67	30	79	85
Rainbows	332	176	252	379	522	899	983	193	390	422
Trout on fly	295	157	233	351	507	896	1025	210	391	477
U/S trout	96	69	33	141	151	353	345	86	185	80
Released	345	152	251	377	501	934	1033	209	461	508

Most productive club waters

Knights Dam	Rainbow Trout	55 fish
Big Bush (browns dam)	Brown Trout	30 Fish
Stirling Gully Dam	Rainbow Trout	21 Fish
Omodei's House Dam	Rainbow Trout	12 Fish
Stirling house Dam	Brown Trout	12 Fish

Most productive public waters

Lefroy Brook	Browns / Rainbows	75 Fish
Warren River	Browns / Rainbows	68 Fish
Blackwood River	Rainbow Trout	59 Fish
Waroona Dam	Rainbow Trout	47 Fish

What was the best fly to use

The most productive fly this season was the Woolly Bugger which caught 128 fish. This fly was recorded in several different patterns, however the most popular by far was the standard Black Woolly Bugger. This fly fishes well throughout the season and can be particularly good fast stripped on dams during dark nights. It also works very well as a streamer in the fast-flowing Southwest rivers and brooks. The next most popular fly was the egg fly which was used in the capture of 58 fish. Some members recorded catches on type of fly, using this format members recorded 70 fish on streamers, 28 on nymphs and 14 fish were recorded on dry fly,

Fish caught by month and location

The attached data sheet shows that the best month this season for catching fish was June. During June there were 135 fish caught. Of the 135 fish caught 72 or nearly half of them were caught in the Lefroy Brook or Warren River. Next best month for catching fish was September with 86 fish caught. The 86 fish caught were spread fairly even across club and public waters. During August 68 fish were recorded, again these fish were evenly spread across club and public waters. The fourth best month for fishing was May with 42 fish caught. 17 of these fish were caught in Lefroy Brook See attached spread sheet.

Report Summary

Despite the restrictions caused by Covid the fishing has been fairly good with better than average catches. There was 151 Perch caught with most of catch occurring during the annual Perch Bash. The one area most affected has been the Marron season there were only 9 Marron recorded as being caught. It would appear that most members chose not fishing for them, perhaps due to Covid restrictions or hot weather during the season. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all members who completed a record card this year. The information you have provided is invaluable to the members and to the club. This report provides information on when to fish, where to fish and the best time of year to fish here in the Southwest. So, if you use this information to go fishing, please pay forward the information in the form of a record card this season. It should be noted that among reasons for members joining and staying in the club is to catch fish. As a self-funded organization, it is critical for us to attract new members and maintain the existing membership. Information collected from record cards helps new and existing members catch fish

Perhaps one of the main reasons to complete a record card is to enable the clubs stocking committee to establish the best management's policies for stocking the club dams. In addition, the information collected and telephone surveys by Fisheries Department are the only record of freshwater fish catches in Western Australia. Completing record cards also puts you in the draw for a free membership.

Once again, I would like to thank the 36 members who completed record cards. No doubt the information you have provided will help new and existing members improve their enjoyment and catch rate during the new fishing season.

Have a great season and I look forward to recording your catch.

Doug Buchanan

WATFAA Record Keeper

WATFAA Trophy Winners Season 2021/22

Sandover Trophy Largest Rainbow from public water

Mario Riggio. Treen Brook 590mm 2.8 kg Rainbow Trout caught on lure

Heaviest brown for season

Ryan McConigley. Warren River Brown trout 2.608kg caught on lure

Largest trout on fly

Shawn Saunders. Omodei's Vineyard Dam Rainbow 580mm 2.65kg caught on Damsel olive nymph

Peters Trophy Heaviest trout on dry fly

Shawn Saunders. Omodei's House Dam, Rainbow trout 440 mm caught on Caddis dry fly

Boans Trophy Heaviest Trout by adult new member

No nominations

Rainbow light tackle trophy. Heaviest brown by adult new member

No Nominations

AAA Trophy Heaviest trout from nominated dam

Shawn Saunders Waroona Dam. Brown trout 540 mm 2.15 kg on fur fly

Captain Noel Parker trophy. Heaviest trout from nominated river

Ed Longville Blackwood River. Rainbow 440mm 1.25 Kg on fly

Kristina Richards Trophy. Heaviest Redfin

Steve Agate Lefroy Brook. Redfin 1.3kg 460mm caught on lure

Watffaa trophy Largest Marron (net)

Peter McAppion. 121mm Warren River

Noel Morrissey Trophy. Largest marron on snare

Peter McAppion. 121mm Warren River

Club member for year

Stewart (Taffy) King

Club fly casting champion

Shawn Saunders

Winner of free membership for catch card returns

Geoff Barrett

Raffle Prizes

1st prize: Harry McDonald - \$90 Gift Voucher from Blue Water Tackle
2nd prize: Jim Boardman - \$70 Gift Voucher from Blue Water Tackle
3rd prize: Geoff Barrett - \$50 Gift Voucher from Blue Water Tackle

Door Prizes

1st Prize: Tony Brand

2nd Prize John Kalgee

Nominated Waters 2022/2023

Murry River and Omodei's Lower House Dam



Winter Wash 2022

By Shawn Saunders



Everyone arrived safely for the Friday night briefing and team selection. Due to the low numbers of members this year, with some only staying for the one day, we made the decision to run with only 3 teams. This would allow for some free time, during the middle of the day, which would give competitors the chance to fish the streams, have lunch, or simply chill out. The weather for the weekend did not look too promising as the barometer was rising and then falling just as fast. This seemed to affect the fishing especially on the Saturday.

Surprisingly, the morning sessions were a bit quiet from all accounts, however, our experience at Omodei's Lower House Dam got the blood circulating. This was our first dam of the competition. As the light increased, we could see several fish were cruising the shallows. Using as much stealth as possible and having several follows but no takes, you could say it turned out somewhat frustrating. It was still great fun but hard work. These rising fish were easily spooked when casting to them, up and down the shallow banks.

The house dam was next. The water was disappointingly low and with shallow water for the most part, we again saw fish in close cruising the shallows. However, due to the clarity of the water, the fish saw us before we saw them, making fishing very hard.

Later that day we had 3-4 hours to kill before our afternoon session was due to start, Steve and I decided to head off to the Warren and have a look at some spots we had not fished for a few years.

Any fish caught during this time were not counted in the weekend competition.

Moons crossing was our first stop and although we did spot a couple of fish we moved on lower down the river. What we found was that nearly every river

crossing, whether it was a log, road or bridge held fish, mostly pairing up to spawn. We did manage to catch a couple of rainbows and missed a brown.

That evening we fished Knights Dam with no luck. We saw some fish rising but with the weather turning and rain coming through, the cold got the better of us, so we headed back to town for dinner from the “Source Kitchen”.

At the cottage that night Dave Whitelaw was once again on form as he entertained us with some great stories and jokes that had us all in stitches. Then with plans made and leaders retied we were ready for the next day.

Early morning weather was good as we headed to the Gully Dam first up. The far banks proved to be the pick of the spots, with fish moving up and down the banks. At first light we managed to catch a couple of rainbows. In the early morning light, with fish still rising, we moved on to Stirling Lower Dam for a while, but didn't see any fish moving at all. Mid-morning we tried the House Dam.



We saw some fish rising in the middle. This was a positive sign, with the sun still just hidden by the tall karri trees. Steve was the first to hook up, on the trusty “Manji Marauder” in a new colour he was trying out, landing a lovely Brown at 410mm. After another twenty minutes he had a brief hook up but lost that one. I was able to land a fish around 350 mm whilst fishing off the wall, fishing in the pockets of reeds.

Later that morning we moved on to fish some spots on the Lefroy Brook for a few hours.

In the afternoon we headed out to the three Bush dams. First up was Little Bush Dam where Steve and I saw one fish rise but nothing was caught. Next was Big

Bush, but there was nothing to report from here either. We then tried Bush House Dam.



During the last hour and a half of the day, the browns were seen rising along the banks around the back end of the dam. Stalking these fish in the shallow water is always a challenge.

My first target was hanging round the creek mouth. With a careful approach, I made a cast of around 15 meters across the mud with only about 30cm of leader in the water. The fish turned and took the little Dawyl Bach Nymph. Once hooked, it made a quick splash before the brown was soon landed on the bank. The fish was in good condition at just over 300mm. James also hooked

and landed a nice brown followed by another, a much better fish, at 420mm. Both were caught on a brown bead headed nymph.

I later hooked up and landed another nice brown. This fish the same size as the one James caught at 420mm. Both James and I continued to cast to cruising fish, but light was failing, so Steve and I decided to head back to the cottage for the wrap up.

Results

1st Team: “The Mrs Simpsons” 9 fish @ 3135mm total length

Shawn 6 Fish James 2 Fish Steve 1 Fish

2nd Team: “The Wooley Buggers” 4 fish @ 1400mm total length

Nick D 2 fish Paul B nil John K nil Alex 2 Fish

3rd Team: “The Red Tags” 4 fish @1330 total length

John 3 Dave 1 Cooper Chris

Biggest Brown James and Shawn tied both @ 420mm

Biggest Rainbow John @ 390mm

Total 17 Fish @ 5870mm

Thanks Shawn, for both running this event and writing this article for freshwater.

THE ART OF FALLING IN

By John McConigley

We have all fallen in at some stage of our angling career. Some take their ducking with grace and aplomb, others' flounder about like a sinking ship. I, of course, fall into the latter category. My latest effort was an excellent example of how not to fall full length into a freezing stream.

I was manoeuvring in fast flowing knee-deep water to cast to a difficult spot when I walked into a submerged boulder. Unable to move my feet, my momentum carried my bulk forward and I flat faced into the stream. As I descended into the water, I thrust my precious fly rod aside and submerged myself in an icy baptism. Now I must state that I have the lightning reflexes of a sloth on Valium, and when I staggered upright, to the applause and laughter of my so-called fishing friends, I groped around for my fly rod which I held aloft in triumph, whilst Looking like a "Michelin Man" with bulging waders. Unfortunately, my once two piece was now a three-piece rod. Not my best



moment, but it did entertain my companions.

I can recall other occasions when I was not the recipient of the ducking. We were fishing along the Warren River and one of our party was standing on a vertical bank, about two meters above the water, when without warning the bank he was standing on descended vertically into the river. He suddenly found himself hip deep in mud and sand and swirling water, with a vertical bank behind him and his so-called friends falling about with laughter. How easy it is to laugh when disaster befalls someone else. As it turned out, it was quite difficult getting him out. Perhaps we could have tried harder.

Yet another incident involved a voluntary ducking. A good friend was standing on a log fishing in the high winter flow of the Warren when his Akubra hat blew off and landed in the swirling water. With the determination of a died in the wool Akubra fan, he threw his rod on the bank and jumped in with all his fishing gear on... waders, vest and net. Somehow, he managed to affect some sort of swimming stroke and caught up with his hat a short way down river. Triumphantly emerging wet and bedraggled he held his hat aloft, only to discover his fly box with all his flies had floated out of his vest and disappeared down river. We commiserated with him on that one.

One last ducking. It occurred last season on the Warren. We were fishing a lovely fast rapid that plunged into a deep hole. I opted to check a run downstream and had just rounded a corner when I heard a yell. Hooray, I thought, someone is into a fish. I continued and fished the run without result. Upon returning I observed one of our party on the opposite bank, dripping wet and in the process of emptying waders and generally trying to dry himself out. What happened, apparently, he was edging into a prime casting spot when he slipped on a wet and slimy log and plunged into the white water. Happily, he is a very experienced white-water kayaker, and his predicament held no terror for him. He held his rod and managed a good backstroke until his feet touched firm ground. Very level-headed, in what could have been a life-threatening situation. However, I had missed the whole thing, and no one had taken a photo. I politely asked him to repeat the performance so I could witness it firsthand and get a good photo. I was a bit miffed when he declined. So, the moral of these stories is: make sure it is your friends that fall in in comical circumstances. Not you.

Thanks John, for a very amusing article. (editor)

From the Archives

NANGA FISH LADDER:

Sunday 16th July 1974 was bright and sunny. Fourteen men made much progress while the womenfolk and children enjoyed the surrounds.

The initial diversion was made short work of, along with cleaning out the pool at the base of the waterfall. Sandbags and rocks diverted the water to cleanse the rock ready for stage two. A new water course was formed to re-enter the main stream some 20 yards below the base of the waterfall. An alternative theory was to bring the water back to the main pool at the bottom of the falls, thereby forming a gutter at the bottom of the fault. Due to unstable foundation material along this course and the additional work involved, this idea did not warrant precedence over the original plan.

Credit must be given to those who fronted up at short notice. A very good showing when you consider several of our more prominent members were unable to attend. On that same day preparations were being made to transport a contingent of 5 – 7-inch trout from Pemberton.

STAGE 2

The response was great, over 100 men, women and children enjoyed the calm conditions of the day. Many willing hands completed the job, it seemed as if no obstacle was too great to overcome. Most of us found that to remould a part of nature was a most satisfying thing indeed! That's what stream management is all about.

The composite rock and cement walls, down the rock face, were completed before lunch. Some of those who favoured the alternative theory, along the base of the rock fault, began to dig out the earth down to the rock base.

After lunch, Sylvester took a team of men on his truck to scrounge for more rock. The rest of us continued excavating earth along the fault. When this task was completed, it became apparent that this was indeed the most obvious route, although the original channel was still feasible. A wall was constructed to stop any flow down the previous channel. The rest of the job was accomplished in no time at all, including some reformation work to the pool at the bottom of the fall.

An atmosphere of congenial coordination was very apparent throughout the day. We shall need such motivation for future projects. In the foreseeable future it is the formation of a complete ecology on at least one Association water. Then there's three miles of a stream we have been offered. On this water many pools can be enlarged, not to mention some re-arrangement of flora to make for enjoyable angling.

This extract was taken from the 1974 July issue of the WATFAA Journal which I hope you found interesting and informative and for some bought back memories.

As a result of wear over the years the ladder is once again in tip top condition having been repaired this past summer by the ATF/WATFAA members.

Fly Tying

Fly Tying Harrop's Hairwing Dun

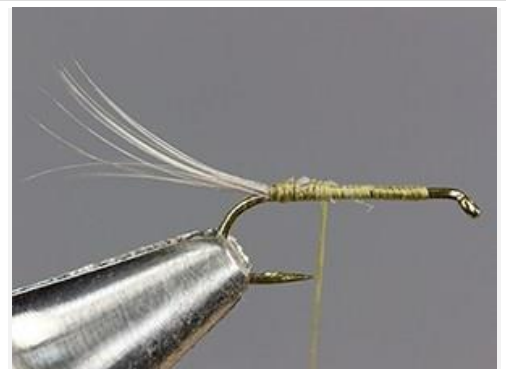


Hook: Dry Fly 14-18
Thread: 8-0 Olive Thread
Tail: Dun Hackle Fibres
Abdomen: Olive Super Fine Dubbing
Hackle: Dun Rooster over Thorax
Wing: Elk

Step 1: Mount your hook in the vice and wrap the thread to the bend of the hook.



Step 2: Tie in the hackle fibres approximately the length of the shank of the hook. I often go the length of the entire hook. Feel free to tie them as a split tail with 4-5 fibres each side if you prefer.



Step 3: Twist on a small amount of dubbing.



Step 4: Dub a slender body.



Step 5: Tie in the hackle.



Step 6: Wrap the hackle over the thorax. Do not crowd the eye.



Step 7: Tie in the wing. Measure the wing to the bend of the hook, change hands, and bind down. Grip it firmly to prevent it from spinning. Don't let go with your left hand until it is secure.



Step 8: Then whip fining under the butts of the hair to clear the eye of the hook.



Step 9: Trim the butts over the eye of the hook. Then trim the hackle even with the hook point. Now go catch some fish.



Acknowledgements: <http://flyillusions.com>



Cleaning Fly Lines by [Jordan Sly](#)



Keep 'em clean, folks. Photo: Cameron Miller

Clean Lines

Changing over my fly lines on my reels got me thinking about the new advancements in fly lines, and the care needed to make them last. The advancements in fly lines over the last couple years have been dramatic, and many improvements have been made. How well the line shoots (texture and coating), the amount it stretches, the buoyancy it has, etc... all have been improved and all help an angler fish more effectively.

Even with these improvements, some line care is necessary to make that \$70+ fly line live up to its potential. One thing that is often neglected, but is super simple, is cleaning one's fly line periodically. I do this at least a couple times a year, and here is the process I use.

First, I remove my leader and normally just discard it unless I know it is almost brand new. I fill the sink with some warm water and a SMALL amount of very mild dish detergent. I then strip the line into the sink and allow it to soak for a little bit. If it is really dirty, I will let it soak for a couple hours, maybe more, but normally I do this while I am changing lines, so I

will just remove it from the reel, wind the new line on, then go onto the next step. You should end up with your line piled in the sink, leader end down, and backing end up.

The next step is to grab a washcloth, dunk it in the sink, wrap this wet cloth around the backing end of your fly line, and start stripping it through the washcloth towards the tip. You should end up with your line now piled on the floor backing end down, and leader tip up.

Next, grab your favourite fly line lube, and put a little of this on a dry cloth. Now wrap that cloth around the leader section of the line and start stripping towards the backing section. You should end up with your pile moving, and also flipping over with the backing end now on the top.

Next attach to your reel and wind on your clean, lubricated, line.

A Few Tips

While doing this I find it easiest to remove the line from the reel and backing. I make this easier by tying large loop knots on my backing so I can slide the line off easier.

Try to coil the line as best you can in the sink and on the floor. The sink is the hard one – your line will want to float, but with a little patience you will get it down. With the floor, just make your loops really big – this will help a lot.

Always clean and lube any lines before your put them away.

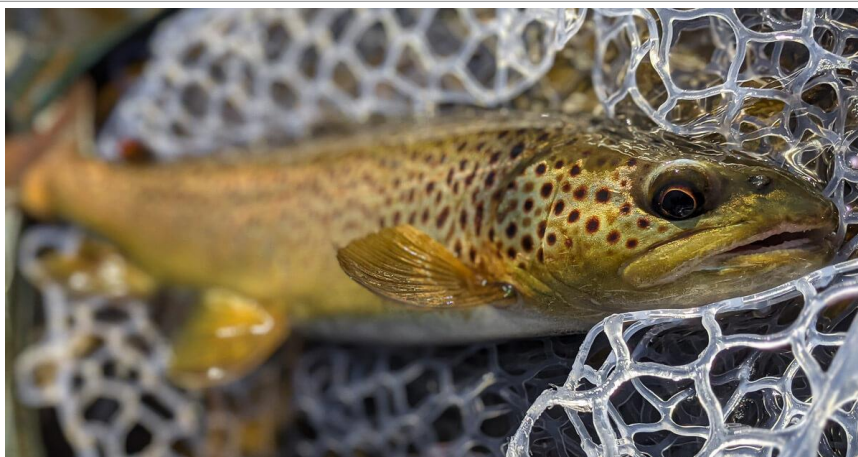
Tight lines

Jordan



Find Your Rabbit Hole

by [Domenick Swentosky](#)



Someone recently told me that fly fishing seems like a lot of work. They said it looks more like tying knots while walking upstream than it does fishing — that the whole thing seems like a lot of trouble just to catch a fish.

I thought about it a moment and replied with honesty. It is work, and that's just one thing we love about it. Most of us would make the effort even without a fish dancing at the end of the line. And we'd come back to do it over and again. But when a good trout does take the fly, it's enough to keep us going for a long, long time.

[It needn't be complicated](#), of course. Fly fishing for trout can be done easily and done well with a couple of flies in an old box and a pair of hiking boots on your feet. That's how I fished for years. Chasing small wild trout through steep mountain valleys was a simple affair. If they wouldn't hit a Royal Wulff, then I was in the wrong place, or I was spooking trout before they ever saw my fly. Back then it was about exploring water. These days it's about exploring tactics.

As the years pass, so do my obsessions. Fly fishing and pursuing trout remains the constant, but how I approach them with a fly is as varied now as it's ever been. Boredom is

impossible, because river time is too short to answer one question before the next one arises. Because trout are too guarded and mysterious to grant firm answers about much of anything.

While experience is the one true teacher, the ideas of fellow anglers help shine a light on the next path for us to follow. A good book leads you to the trailhead, fills you with a bunch of thoughts that don't quite make sense and then tosses you down the rabbit hole— saying, have fun, you'll figure it out.



Wild Brown

Likewise, I remember far off fishing conversations with old fly fishermen who are now gone. They talked about rivers and methods that lost me along the way. But those ideas took seed in memory. And all these years later, some of what they taught me has grown limbs.

In large part, we choose our influences for fly fishing. We select a path of interest and find the tutors. Then we fish. Sometimes, while in the throes of testing and experimenting, I go through long spells where I deliberately avoid fishing with others or soliciting advice. I don't want my opinions and conclusions, or my own direction, swayed by the bent rod of a friend upstream. But more often, I'm a researcher, a questioner, a seeker of any and all things that are possible while standing midstream with a fly rod.

From Sawyer to Croston, Humphreys and Harvey, Rosenbauer, Brooks, Daniel and Olsen, understanding their ideas through the decades is how I learn. It's how we all learn. The names change, but the process remains. We build a framework from others. Then we fit together the pieces of who we are as an angler.

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Periodically I intend to include articles on fishing in different parts of the world. I hope that you will find these articles interesting and who knows they might give you inspiration to take a fishing holiday abroad. Below is such an article. (Editor)

Deep and Slow

The secret behind catching Scottish spring salmon!

By Samantha Datta



A hard fighting Scottish springer, the ultimate prize
Samantha Datta

The Scottish spring salmon is one of the most sought-after fish amongst the fly-fishing fraternity.

These magnificent creatures

are often big in size, and incredibly powerful. They can give any angler a run for their money. The feeling that you get after successfully landing one of these stunning fish is truly indescribable, as they can be quite rare. So, what are the best tactics, when chasing early season Scottish spring silver?

The Scottish salmon fishing season begins at different times, depending on the specific river itself. Generally, a few rivers open in January, and by mid-February, all the main salmon rivers have their season underway.

At this time of year, the weather in Scotland can be quite inhospitable. It is often very cold, with strong winds and even frequent snow showers. River levels are usually quite high, and the water is very cold.

You therefore need

to make sure that your fly is moving through the water column at a decent depth and at the correct speed. This will give you the best chance of making contact with a hard-fighting Scottish spring salmon.

When it comes to fly patterns, there is no need to be subtle in your choice. The fresh springer is usually quite an aggressive creature, and if it sees the fly, it is likely to take it. Indeed, it is often said that a springer is the easiest fish to catch but the most difficult fish to find, and this often rings true.

Therefore, when it comes to choosing a fly pattern, you want to make sure that it is highly visible in the water. So be bold in your fly size and choice, and make sure that the fly is quite bright. If the fly shows up well in the water, there is more chance that the fish will see it. Also, make sure that the fly is big enough. Usually early in the season, tube flies between one and two inches can be perfect for the job. Salmon flies like the Willie Gunn, Cascade and Posh Tosh are all excellent spring flies and are very successful in Scottish waters.

Big bright tube flies are perfect for the job



Subtlety in fly choice

is not key, when chasing Scottish springers, but the depth and speed at which the fly moves through the water certainly is. Usually between the months of January and April, the water temperature in our Scottish rivers is quite low. This is often because of melting snow and limited daylight, early in the season.

When the water is cold, you want to get your fly moving close to the riverbed. Most of the fish in the pools, will be lying well down in the water column, close to the bottom. Often, the fish are not willing to move any great distances or come up towards the surface of the water to take a fly in such cold conditions.

There are two ways

in which you can make your fly fish that bit deeper through the water column. Firstly, this can be achieved by altering the fly line that you are using. By using a sink tip or

full sinking line, the fly will move through the water at a greater depth and therefore closer to where the fish are likely to be lying.

The second way to make the fly fish deeper is by changing the weight of the fly itself. Tube flies are made from various materials, which differ significantly weight. The body of the tube can be composed of copper, brass or even tungsten. These heavy flies, sink quickly after they hit the water and so get down in the water column quickly. If the water is very high and cold, you may opt for a fast-sinking line coupled with a large tungsten tube (the heaviest material tube flies are constructed from) to achieve maximum depth.



The much sought after Scottish spring salmon

Samantha Datta

So far, we have looked

how to get the fly to fish at an adequate depth. Another factor we need to consider is the speed at which the fly moves through the water. When the water is cold, you want the fly to move through the water as slowly as possible. This gives the fish the maximum amount of time to see the fly. Also, when the water is cold, salmon are not keen on chasing flies long distances, so a fly moving at slower speed is more likely to be effective.

If you are allowing the fly to swing around in the current naturally, by using a heavier fly, it will automatically move through the water more slowly. So, a heavy tube fly is perfect for the job.

Another way to slow the fly down, as it swings around in the current is by putting an upstream mend in the fly line. This can be achieved by flicking the tip of the fly rod upstream in circular motion after casting. This creates an upstream belly in the fly line. This will not only slow the fly down, as it swings around in the current, but also give it more of a chance to sink and get to the optimal depth.

So, as you can see,

the pattern of the fly is not as important as the speed and depth at which the fly is moving through the water. Generally, you want the fly to be moving as slowly and deeply as possible, especially when the water temperature is low. If you can get both these two parameters right, you then tilt the odds greatly, in your favour of catching the king of fish, a prime Scottish spring salmon



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