



TALE WATERS THE VOICE OF THE NORTH ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS

August 11, 2020

NORTH ARKANSAS FLY FISHERS

Tale Waters

North Arkansas Fly Fishers meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Van Matre Senior Center located at 1101 Spring St Mountain Home, AR 72653. Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm. All members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NAFF Board of Directors' meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm 1st Security Bank on 9th St. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Visit North Arkansas Fly Fishers
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Tying and Fishing the Muddler Daddy



A SELECTION OF MUDDLER
DADDIES

Crane flies, known as daddy long-legs in the UK, have been recorded in fly fishing literature some 200 years ago as a species that trout will avidly take when they are available.

There are many species of crane fly, all of which belong to the order of Diptera, that is flies with a single pair of flat wings.

There are both aquatic and terrestrial species. Albeit both can and are of interest to the fish after emergence as a winged fly. Some of you may have observed the crane fly hatch we see on our rivers, most of which are a pale yellowy tan color about a size 14 hook. That said we also do see larger terrestrial species, and trout take notice.

In the UK it is the Cont. Pg. 13

Crane Creek – Wild Trout in Southwestern Missouri



Crane Creek is not all that well known but is famous for its wild McCloud rainbow trout. A couple of weeks ago Schuyler Brower and I made the 2.5 hour drive to Crane and Crane Creek to check it out.

Basically, you drive as if you are going to Springfield and then go west on US 160 just north of Branson. If you set your nav system for the Crane City Park it will take you to a parking area right by the creek. Crane Creek has three or four miles of easily accessible water. It is within the State of Missouri's "Wire Road Conservation Area" and the state website provides a nice downloadable map. Besides the city parks area, the state provides three parking areas for convenient ac-

Cont. page 2

cess. The regulations are for flies and artificial lures only, no soft plastics, and one fish over 18 inches.

We brought our lunches because of the COVID-19 situation. There is a Subway in town. In more normal times I would drive up in an afternoon and stay in a motel. A quick Google search found that the nearest motel is in Aurora, about 20 minutes away.

The local state maintenance guy turned out to be a fly fisherman. He pointed out the fishing would probably be better in the morning and evening when there are hatches. High noon and 95 degrees are not prime fishing conditions.

So, how was the fishing? Schuyler and I decided that wet wading would be the ticket. The wading was easy. Nowhere did it reach our gonads and the water was cool. The Cont. Pg. 12



Hope, Lori, and 18 inch Brown

August President's Message

We were fortunate enough to have our Granddaughter, Hope (now 11), visit from Southern California for the month of July. She has tied flies with me since she was three years old, so knows Granddad's passion is fly fishing. She has joined me in fishing here in the past, but is one who has an aversion to BUGS. Last year I took her to Dry Run Creek; and when a BUG landed in her lap, she screamed and threw her hands (and rod) up into the air, sending the rod to the middle of the creek! The funny thing is, she went through the TU summer camp last year and her favorite part was the hands-on dissection of a trout! BUGS are bad; but blood and guts are okay ... go figure!

This year I tried to take her on the White by myself, which proved tough. I took two rods to try and keep a rig ready for her to fish and one to untangle. Did not figure handling the boat, un-tangling, re-

rigging, helping her cast an unwieldy rig and watching her indicator was WAY TOO much for a one man operation. After no fish, decided I needed help, so I contacted John Berry and Lori Sloas. On our appointed morning, John operated the boat and Lori coached Hope one-on-one to great success. Lori worked with Hope's casting, helped her keep her rig untangled, gave pointers with hooking, playing and landing a fish. At the end of the morning, she had the biggest fish and smile. THAT is what being a Granddad is, finding ways to let the younger generation learn and have fun!

As with teaching a spouse, you may not be the best at helping. Call in for some reinforcements so all can enjoy this sport we call fly fishing! Hope is already looking forward to next summer and a return trip.

Tight Lines,

Dave Boyer



Michael Schraeder

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Weather Cancellation Policy

NAFF Activities or Meeting will be cancelled or postponed when the Mountain Home Public Schools Cancel Classes.

Check KTLO radio website for school closing info.

Fly of the Month Wired PT Nymph and Flymph



A few years back I was standing in Jimmy T's shop and noticed a spool of copper brown colored Uni-wire. I have never been happy with the color of the abdomen on a pheasant tail nymph: too much black, not enough brown, and had been looking for a substitute for the pheasant tail fibers for a number of years. The copper brown wire looked like the color I had been looking for. I purchased a couple of spools in different sizes, went home and started experimenting with different combinations of wire size and numbers of wires. Eventually, I came up with the below listed combination, and have been greatly impressed with the pattern's effectiveness during the months of June thru August on the White River.

Wired PT (pheasant tail) Nymph

Hook: Mustad 3906B

Bead: Copper, Tungsten

Thread: Uni-thread, Camel color, Size 6/0 for hook size 14 and larger, 8/0 for hook sizes 16 and

smaller

Tail: Natural pheasant tail (originally, I used Brahma hen saddle hackle for the tail, but the pheasant tail fibers proved to be more durable)

Abdomen: two Copper Brown wires, one Copper wire. Wire size varies with hook size as follows, medium wire size for hook sizes 8 & 10, brassie wire size for hook sizes 12 & 14, and small wire size for hook sizes 16 & 18.

Thorax: Arizona Synthetic Dubbing, peacock color

Covert: Whiting Brahma Hen saddle, color, March Brown

Hackle: Whiting Brahma Hen saddle, color, March Brown

A few notes on tying the nymph.

The three strands of Uni-wire should be tied in at the same time, with the copper wire closest to you; the reason being that when the wire is wrapped around the hook shank, it will give a more even looking rib spacing.

The wires should be wrapped as one, all three wires at one time.

Use the tying thread to taper the abdomen. It makes for a nicer looking fly.

This pattern proved to be very successful when fished under an indi-

cator with a Ruby or Root Beer midge as a dropper. My only issue with it was that it wasn't a soft hackle. I have had a passion for swinging wet flies and soft hackles since the mid-sixties; and based on my success with a GRHE Flymph during our caddis hatch, I decided to create a soft hackle or Flymph version of the fly. This version has exceeded all of my expectations. I believe this is because of its versatility. It can be fished as a nymph or swung across and downstream as a soft hackle just by mending your line. The point being some days the fish want it on the bottom and some days they want it suspended. The Flymph style allows you to fish it either way with no changing of your line set up. One other thing about the Flymph version is, I always attach the fly to the leader using a loop knot. I would suggest that when fishing any fly tied on a jig style hook that you tie it to your leader using a loop knot. It gives the fly a lot more freedom of movement. Below is the pattern for the Wired PT Flymph.

Wired PT (pheasant tail) Flymph



Hook: Hogskin Creek CJ600

Bead: Copper Tungsten

Thread: Uni-thread, Camel color under abdomen, and Fire Orange at head Size 6/0 for hook sizes 14 and larger, 8/0, for hook sizes 16 and smaller

Tail: Natural pheasant tail

Abdomen: two Copper Brown wires, one Copper wire. Wire size varies with hook size as follows, medium size wire for hook sizes 8 & 10, brassie size wire for hook sizes 12 & 14, and small size wire for hook sizes 16 & 18.

Thorax: Arizona Synthetic Dubbing, peacock color

Covert: Whiting Brahma Hen saddle, color, March Brown

Hackle: Whiting Brahma Hen saddle, color, March Brown

A few notes on tying the flymph.

1. Use the camel colored thread when tying in the wire and tapering the abdomen. If you use the hot orange thread, it will show thru the wire wraps.
2. The same notes that applied to the nymph version also apply to the flymph version
3. The physical dimensions on tactical hooks are all over the board. The standard is there is no standard. I take a Mustad 3906,

standard wet fly hook and compare its shank length to the tactical hook shank length to get the right size fly.

Any questions or comments please send to jschepp5@yahoo.com

Fly designed and tied by John Schepp.



Membership Report

A special thank you to two of our members for their inclusion of a club donation with their membership renewal.

Magell Candelaria of Grapevine, TX

Phillip Allen of Arp, TX

A further thank you to the July/August renewals received this month and the past due members renewing with only a few remaining overdue. The club roster has been updated with the corrections sent in by our members and will be republished the end of the month. Please check your listing for correctness and let us know if any updates are needed.

Email any corrections to naffmembership@gmail.com

Paul Ashton

Membership



When a Bass Meets a Mussel

Freshwater mussels are considered one of the most imperiled groups of animals, with over 75% of all species listed as endangered, threatened, or in need of conservation actions. Arkansas is home to 85 species of mussels, of which over half are federally listed or listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Captive propagation is often used to help bolster populations in game species, such as Largemouth Bass, but it is used sparingly in the conservation of rare species, such as freshwater mussels. Currently, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is collaborating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Norfolk National Fish Hatchery to propagate freshwater mussels for release into various rivers across northern Arkansas.



Mussel Life History

Freshwater mussels have a very unique lifecycle. They are obligate parasites of fishes, meaning they need fish to complete their life cycle. A portion of the female mussel's gills are used for brooding the larvae, called glochidia. Glochidia are very, very small, with most being slightly larger than the

thickness of a human hair. This is where the unique part of the lifecycle and fish come into the picture. The female mussel must deliver the glochidia to the fish. Once attached to a suitable host fish, the glochidium adheres to the skin tissue of the host fish where it will remain from 2 to 8 weeks. During this period, the glochidium will transform, similar to a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. Once the transformation is complete, the juvenile mussel will drop off the fish onto the bottom of the river where it will grow to become an adult. During this process, the host fish are unhurt and usually unaware of the process.

Bass Serve as Lovely Host



The process to produce juvenile mussels is very unique and complicated involving many steps and partners. In the spring, AGFC Dis-

trict 2 fisheries personnel collected approximately 150 bass from Norfolk Lake ranging in size from 6 to 10 inches. The bass were transported to Quarry Marina and Jordan Marina on Norfolk Lake where they are infested with glochidia from a female mussel.

Once the larvae are pipetted onto the gills of the host fish (top left image) they are kept in a system of floating cages. The fish are kept in the cages to allow the larvae to mature and drop off onto the sand substrate in the bottom of the cage (bottom right image). After approximately 5 weeks, the cages are opened and the fish swim away unharmed leaving behind the juvenile mussels. In the early fall, usually October, the cages are raised to the surface and the juvenile mussels are removed to be stocked in a river. Over the past three years, our collaborative efforts



have resulted in over 14,000 muskies of 5 species being stocked into the Strawberry River, Myatt Creek, and War Eagle Creek.

If you enjoyed this article and would like to receive more information like this than please sign up for District 2's Constant Contact emails. You can do so by clicking on this link (https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/opt_in?v=001x98VhqiTII5FFUKjGc4UMhSp_aRdGI4xBQDKeeEOOKZA-rDaAAOTt39q8g_u04deZL3sf09rdf7fLSrIm3XJiA9TUFxm2TNnaWstHc2IkHfU%3D). Once you've clicked on the aforementioned link, please enter your contact email and sign up for District 2 email list. You can also sign up to receive information from other fisheries districts, trout program, and/or stream teams if interested

River Fishing Report



Water flows are lower in the mornings at the moment and especially during this cooldown that we are having. Temps in the 50s as of the writing of this report. Look for 4 units on bull until after noon then look for a ramp up of up to 6 or 7 units. The Norfolk is actually seeing some minimum flow water during the night for a few hours but one would have to get up at midnight in order to fish it. Generation is starting up at about 7:00 AM.

Girdle Bugs and Sow Bugs. Those seem to be the hot flies at the moment. As you may recall those two flies came up in last month's fishing report.

The girdle bug in a size #10 or #8 are on fire at this time. Remember to fish them close to the bank on rocky structures and set the hook at the slightest bounce of your indicator. Feel free to drop a midge or a sow bug from this fly as well. Also working well are gray sow bugs #14s dropped under a SJ Worm and split shotted with a couple of BBs. Fluorocarbon tippet which disappears (I use Cortland's top secret) in the water and is much stronger and abrasive

resistant than the other leading brands. The trick to making tippet stronger with the same diameter is to get rid of the micro bubbles. Cortland achieves this by extruding the tippet under pressure which forces out the bubbles. It is a much more expensive process, but the results are incredible. Next time you are in Bull Shoals, drop by the shop and try to break a piece of 5X in half.

The lake levels are down on both lakes with Bull Shoals at 685+ and Norfolk down to 569 and some change. Not the dramatic drops that we were hoping for! Especially on Bull Shoals as that level is only 10 feet above the top of the flood pool. It looks as though wadable water is still a few months away. Hopefully, we won't get hit with fall deluges of water.

Jimmy T.

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This is a phrase that I'm sure we've all heard at least once in our lives and it can be applied to a countless number of situations! To a Fly Fisher (person) it may be the variety of places one could fish, or the variety of flies that they have in their pack or in this case the variety of fish that can be pursued/caught on a fly rod.

As many of you know Dally's Ozark Fly Fisher recently hosted their annual "All Species Odyssey" fly fishing tournament. This is a "catch, photo and release" event where the participants try to catch one each of the 30+ designated species selected for the event. This list included everything from longnose gar to rainbow trout and a host of other game and non-game species as well. Being an "all water" enthusiast and also because I had the pleasure of working with Steve last year for the inaugural tournament, I find this event very special.

A week before the event my gallbladder (or what was left of it) decided it needed to be removed right NOW! Thus the Father/Son "Team Flywater" became the Mother/Son duo and honestly I couldn't have been more excited! Dawn and Michael Jr. joined 17 other teams from 4 states, all excited to fish an event that yes, had some very nice prizes for the teams that finished in the top 5. But, beyond the monetary value of this event, it also highlighted the wonderful variety of fish and waters



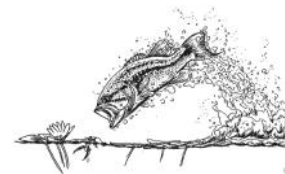
that we have right here in our area and throughout Arkansas.

The event was a huge success with teams catching 20 different species during the allotted 2 day/15 hours of fishing time. Most teams stayed in the area, taking advantage of the warm and cold water fisheries that we have right here in our own backyard. Duane Hada and his young teammate decided to head south to the Arkansas River to take advantage of the wide variety of fish that call that river home. This decision certainly paid off as Duane and his partner finished the tournament in first place! After ending day one in the lead with a total of 10 different species, Dawn and Michael Jr. finished the tournament with sore feet, lots of great memories and a very respectable 4th place finish.

Being a part of an event like Dally's All Species Odyssey or Sowbug Roundup or so many of the other events that we have, makes me realize that those of us involved here in our fly fishing community, real-

ly are like a big family and I mean that sincerely. Even though we come from a great variety of backgrounds and most certainly a variety of ideologies, we do have a strong common bond! I think more than ever it's important that we look to expand our "family" by sharing our passion and love of the outdoors. Whether it's helping someone catch their first fish on a fly rod or simply sharing your time and knowledge of something as simple as a sowbug or other "cool" critter that lives in a stream. We should never underestimate our ability to make a positive change in someone else's life!! Since we truly live in an area with such a variety of outdoor options, our biggest "challenge" is simply finding someone to share our knowledge and time with.

Michael Schraeder



Spring River Report



Water levels are running at 450 cfs., 350 avg., and water clarity has been heavily green tinted. There has still been a lot of rain in the area keeping the river from getting clear but it has dropped over a foot in water level from the spring rainy season.

With the water conditions it has been very hard to beat woolly buggers for trout. Olive has been the go-to color with brown being very hot after rains. We have tried some hopper dropper action and have got fish on the droppers but not much on top. For the smallmouth, olive skull heads are great and olive woollies with lead eyes, tied Clouser style, and of course crawfish patterns. The smallmouth really like a fast dropping fly and hit a lot of times on the drop.

With the Covid crisis the river has been very busy on the weekend. It

is highly recommended to come up and fish thru the week to avoid crowds. The Spring River is a quiet place during the week. Above dam 3 up into town was heavily stocked with really nice trout. Lasiter walk-in has good trout again. The moss has been thick and heavy this time of year. Fish the open channels. They are watching them.

Pic of Hunter Crawford
Tight lines and good luck,

Mark Crawford

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Musings of a Fly Fishing Guide

“Fishing Multiple Flies”

Swinging multiple flies is not a new way to fly fish; in fact, anglers in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world have been fishing multiple flies for centuries. Setting up and fishing as many as three wet flies—or more—spaced out along a section of leader-tippet was traditional during those days. This style of fishing was popular for both still waters and flowing streams.

How many of you fish with more than one fly attached to your tippet? Many anglers will not fish more than one fly at a time because they don't want to spend the time attaching several flies to their tippet. They don't think the effort is worth the reward. They believe that casting and managing multiple flies is more difficult to deal with. It is true that, when you add an additional fly, a new hinge point is created, which can lead to more tangles between the flies and leader in the case of poor casting and line management. Adding split shot along your leader creates another hinge point which can lead to tangles as well. However, bad casting and poor line management will lead to tangles even when fishing with only one fly. If you have difficulty controlling your casts, I recommend that you learn the Belgian style of casting. This will allow you to handle and manage multiple fly setups. I would encourage all fly fishermen



to polish their casting skills, because the benefits of fishing multiple flies are overwhelming. Your number of takes will go up, along with your catch rate.

There are several advantages to fishing multiple flies spaced out along your tippet. Fishing a team of wet flies or a team of nymphs that represent different stages of an insect's life increases the diversity of your presentation. You can dead drift your nymphs or swing your wet flies to cover different levels of the water column rather than just one. Being able to cover more levels is a great advantage. Fishing a colorful attractor pattern along with different fly sizes and weights with varied color combinations is sure to get a fish's attention. Fish respond to certain triggers and seeing multiple food items coming towards them will often trigger a feeding response. There is no question in my mind that fishing multiple flies will give

you a leg up on the angler who fishes with only one fly.

One day, I was guiding Bob and his girlfriend Mary. I had both fly rods set up with an indicator and two tungsten slotted jig nymphs in size #14 and size #16. Both anglers were into fish immediately. Everyone was happy, having fun catching a lot of fish. Bob and Mary were making this old fly fishing guide look very good! Then, all at once, Bob, who was fishing in the front of the boat, stopped catching fish. Mary, on the other hand, continued to catch fish. Bob wasn't happy that she was catching more fish than he was, and Mary wasn't helping the situation by letting him know how many more fish she was catching. Paying attention to detail is one of my stronger

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suits as a fishing guide, so, from my distant position in the stern of the boat, I happened to notice that a fly was missing from Bob's tandem fly setup. Bob had only been fishing with one fly on his tippet, which was why he wasn't catching any fish. I asked, "Bob, what happened to your other fly?"

He replied, "The top fly was getting in the way of the bottom fly, so I took the top fly off. I have it laying here in the boat tray. Do you want it?"

I shook my head. "Bob, you are fishing a system of flies that work together in unison. When you removed one of those flies, you drastically changed the dynamics of the system. You aren't getting to the bottom of the water column with only one weighted fly nymph and the nymph is moving way to fast too be recognized as a food item by a fish. Always remember that your flies are working together, as if they were a team, even though you have two individual flies on your tippet."

I'm not sure Bob understood what I was telling him, but I tied Bob's top fly back on and he was soon back into the business of catching fish. Of course, Mary commented, "Let him fish with only one fly while I fish with two!" She had a great laugh at Bob's expense.

There are a myriad of combinations a fly fisher can come up with. Just use your own imagination. Some of the more popular

combinations are: dry fly/dry fly, wet fly/wet fly, hopper/dropper, egg/nymph, San Juan worm/nymph, nymph/nymph, streamer/streamer, hopper/hopper, etc. Try some of these tandem fly combinations or put some of your own combinations to good use!

There are also several different leader configurations that can be used to attach two or more flies to your tippet. The in-line method of attaching two flies is one of the more popular and common setups you see used on our tail waters in Arkansas. The in-line system consists of a point fly tied to the standing line. A smaller dropper fly, twelve to twenty-four inches in length, is tied off the bend of the hook of the point fly. Another method is to tie on a point fly to the standing line, then use the hook eye of your point fly to tie on a smaller dropper fly twelve to twenty-four inches in length. This setup is very popular in many western trout fisheries of the United States. My favorite setup is the European method where you tie in a four to six-inch tag for attaching a dropper fly. The tag is normally tied fifteen to twenty-five inches from the end of your standing line. The point fly would be tied at the end of your standing line with a smaller dropper fly tied on the end of your dropper tag. As you can see, there are several different rigging configurations that can be used to setup two or more flies. I have caught fish on each one of these rigging configurations, but my favorite is the European meth-

od. It allows your flies more freedom of movement and more flexibility in your setup. It also makes changing flies much easier.

Fly fishing with a tandem fly setup, paired with the Belgian style of casting a team of flies, is a great opportunity to hook and land more fish. Tip the odds in your favor by putting more offerings on your line. Add multiple flies to your fly-fishing game and you will see a big difference in your hook-ups and catch rate.

Danny Barker

Fly Fishing Guide

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Fly Tying Tip THREAD CONTROL

Thread control is the basis of all fly tying, no matter the skill level. The more knowledgeable you are of the thread you use, the better tier you will become. Twist is an issue we all deal with when tying. So what, who cares? You should!

John Van Derhoof from the Long Beach Casting Club and a Buszek recipient (a great tier) is constantly dealing with the results/consequences of thread twist: Tired of fighting with thread that wants to twist at the wrong time? Wraps around the nose of your bobbin holder? With flattened thread you can make "loose loop" wraps that are truly loose loop. By that I mean you don't even have to run the thread up between the thumb and forefinger over the top of the material and down between the thumb and forefinger. Getting your thread to be exactly where you want it, when you want is a simple matter of counter-spinning the thread.

When you start tying, after your jamb hitch at the eye, you then wrap thread down the hook shank, then back to the front of your hook. When you want to place your tail or other material on, there may be issues! If you leave your thread twisted, the loop/thread wants to jump forward (Photo #1) making the pinch wrap (described above by John) the only way you can grab the ma-

terials without pushing it over the hook shank. Alternatively, as John suggests, un-twist your thread (Photo #2, lefties go clockwise), until it is flat and the loop goes straight up (Photo #3) or with further un-twisting the loop jumps rearward (Photo #4) allowing you to catch material easily. Another way to tell which way to un-twist, is let the bobbin holder drop and see which way it wants to rotate on its own. Let it rotate until it stops. Of course, the fastest way is to spin it yourself once you know the direction. There is a whole lot more to learn using flat or twisted thread, but twisting/un-twisting is a basic technique great tiers use, whether you see it on videos or not.

Dave Boyer



PHOTO 1

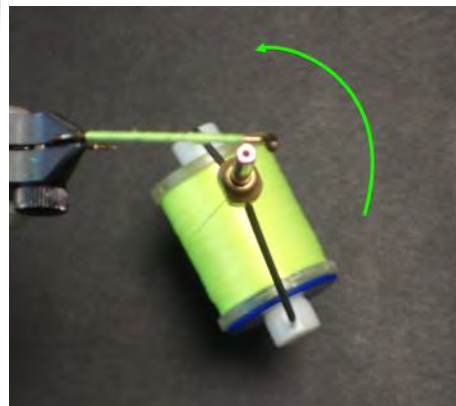


PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

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"In our family, there was no clear line between religion and flyfishing." Norman Maclean

McCloud rainbows are famous for their spookiness. We generally didn't see any fish until we cast into a pool and they took off in all directions. In any one pool we could usually get a take on the first or second cast. Not much point spending any time after that.

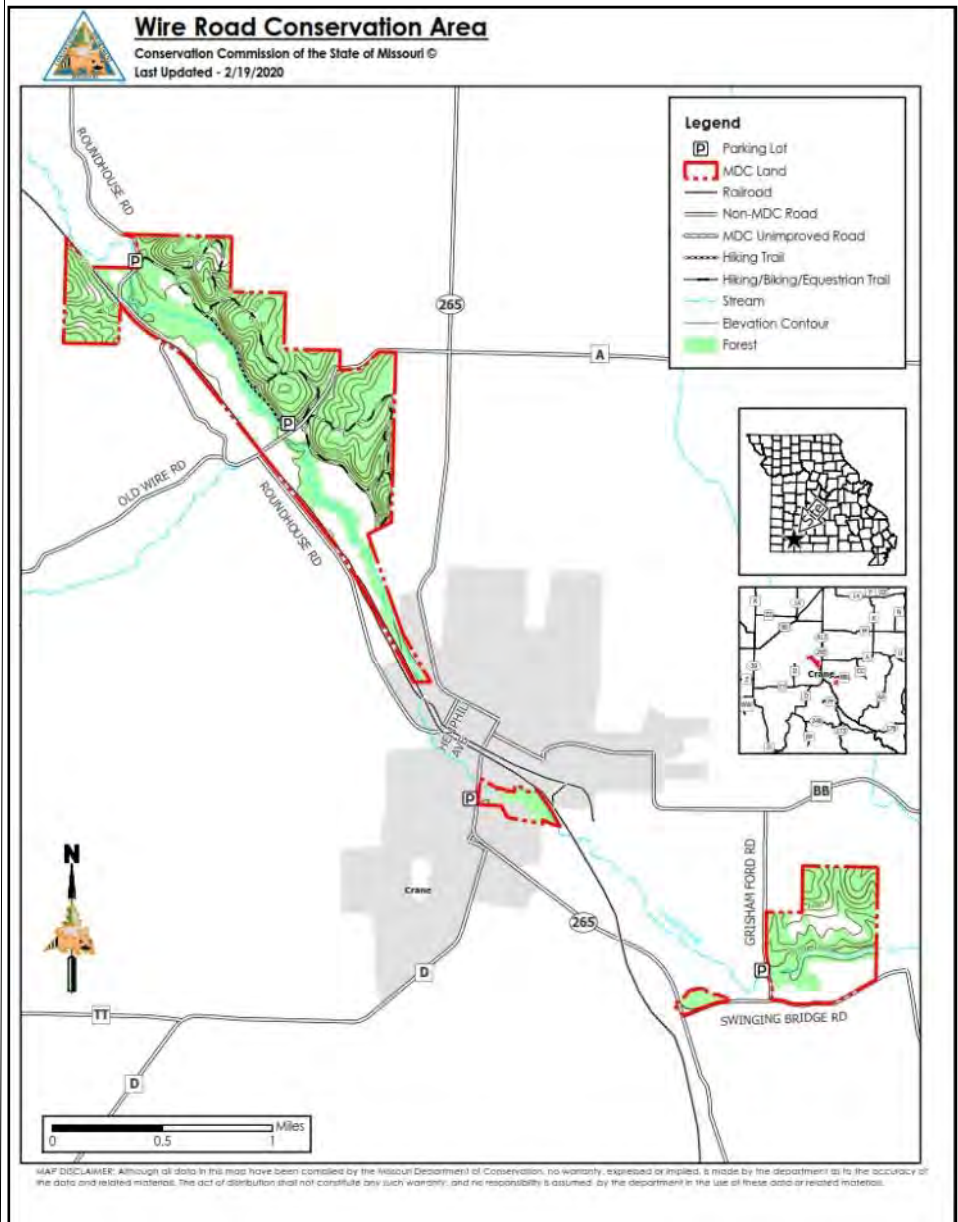
Did we catch anything? No, but we had plenty of hookups. We will be returning!

Crane Creek, Crane Mo. About a 2.5 hour drive from Mountain Home.

More info at:

<https://www.missouritrouthunter.com/crane-creek.html>

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/wire-road-ca>





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Schuyler Brower Fishes Crane Creek

larger crane fly that may be an inch in length for the abdomen, sporting 6 long gangly legs that drive the trout nuts. Their inability to fly in a wind causes them to be windblown and the trout chase them.

It was once common practice to use the live crane flies for the method of dapping, two flies are impaled by the head, attached to a short mono leader and to that a blow line. A rod as long as 20ft would be used, held high so as the wind catches the blow line. The angler's skill is to allow the crane fly to be dapped on and off the water surface. It is deadly, I can tell you from experience, and is still a practice used on the great Irish limestone loughs. Not a practical method to use when actually casting as we would with a fly rod, so we use artificial, which if tied right can be pretty darn close to the naturals. That said, you can with practice dap an artificial fly with a regular 10 or 11ft fly rod.

The closest representation of fishing the crane as seen by some trout is to use what is called lough style, which as many of you know I practice here with wet flies and emergers. More of that later.

The main reason why the daddy came into being was this. I fished often with a well know UK reservoir angler by the name of Arthur Cove, now passed on. We were fishing a reservoir and that day 100s of crane fly were being blown across the water. Fish were

gorging on them and neither of us had a crane fly pattern in the box. All I had was a small muddler minnow. I tied that on, cast it out on the surface, tweaked it; and bang, in no time, I had my legal limit of 8 fish. I gave it to Arthur and he did the same.

That gave me the idea to tie a fly that incorporated the elements of the crane fly with additional attraction, the deer hair head. That would allow for the fly to create more surface disturbance and attract the fish, particularly browns. They cannot resist it.

This is not to say I innovated crane fly patterns as such. Before my time there had been many variations. Due to the length of the crane fly abdomen which can be as much as a size 6 long shank hook, the fly tying material company of Veniard in the UK actually sold a rubber molded body that was tied as the extension of the crane fly abdomen, the legs and hackle tied to the hook. We also used the rubber valve tube which we used for bicycle tire repair. Further, extensions were tied using deer hair, on the basis that it made the fly look more realistic, which it does. Personally, I have tried them all and have never found an extended body to be an advantage for any dry fly. In fact I will argue that the stiffer extension reduced effective hooking.

The Fly.

I have many variations of the daddy muddler. Some would say more like a daddy hopper pattern, deadly for our rivers.

This is the standard tying.

Hook..... Longshank 10 1x.

Body..... I use tan hairs ear dubbing. You can use any natural fur dubbing of a tannish gray shade. Do not use synthetic dubbing.

Rib..... Fine wire, horsehair, or thread.

Legs.....6 single double knotted strands of rooster pheasant center tail. Or 4 pairs of double strands knotted.

Hackle... brown partridge, hen pheasant or hen hackle.

Head.....Fine deer hair.

Thread...I use Wapsi or Danville's 6/0

First tie your 6 legs. Not easy to explain here other than form a loop of the tail fiber in your left forefinger and thumb then use a pair of tweezers to hold the tip of the feather and pull it back through the loop. That forms the knot. You make two knots. Try to make the knots for the 6 legs all at equal distance. You can also double up by using two strands of tail fiber, again two knots. (figures 1 and 2).

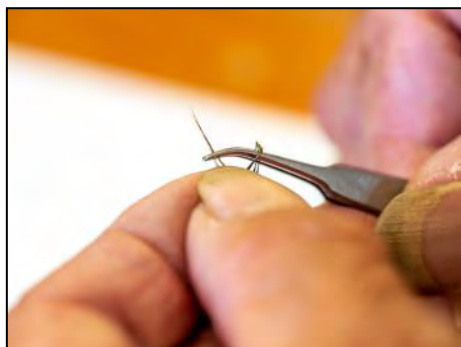


FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

Dub the fly body about $\frac{3}{5}$ th the hook shank length and rib it (figure 3).

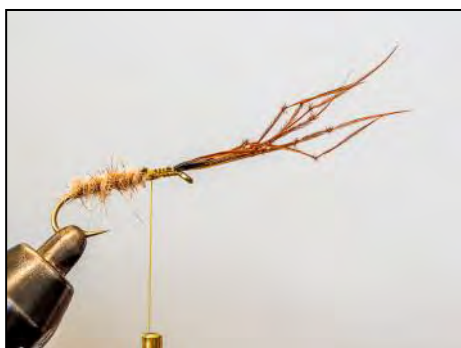


FIGURE 3

Hold all your legs equally together so as they extend over the hook eye, at least $\frac{3}{4}$ ins, Take a couple of thread wraps while maintaining tension on the thread behind the hook eye. Now fold back the legs to see how far they are extending rearward and past the fly body (figure 4). If not enough repeat the 1st stage and advance the legs further forward of the eye and repeat.

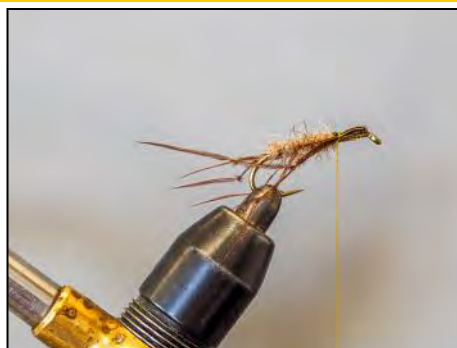


PHOTO 4

Once you have the length correct, take 3 of the legs draw the rearward to the nearside of the fly body and take your thread back to secure them in place. Do the same for the opposite side. You should now have 6 trailing legs that are rearward and facing somewhat downward.

If you formed the legs by using two strands of tail fiber, you should have 4 paired sets so two sets for each side.

Now is the time to wind the hackle and make sure you leave enough room for the deer hair head.

Secure the hackle and form a neat thread bed for the deer hair (figures 5 and 6).

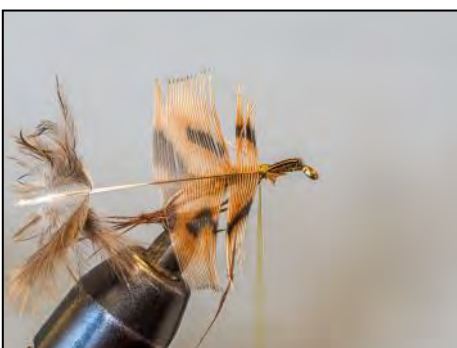


FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

Now the tricky part is how much hair to use. With practice you will know how much to form the head spin in one go. You will need a hair stacker to shock the hair tips together. Carefully remove from the stacker and do not disrupt the hair. Hold the hair above the hook so as the hair tips are about $\frac{1}{4}$ ins extending to the left from the tying down position (figures 7 and 8). If you know how to spin deer



FIGURE 7



FIGURE 8

hair, then you will know to take two slack turns of thread as you begin tension; so you cause the hair to rotate around the hook shank equally as you continue with the thread wraps.

My advice to you if you have not mastered this, is to practice on a hook, just spinning hair. This fly requires a small head unlike a bass bug type.

Once you have the hair spun, secure the thread and whip finish. Final stage is to trim down the head of the fly. To do that I use scissors (figure 9).



FIGURE 9

Fishing.

The more advanced patterns I use as a single dry fly. These are the flies with wings and a palmered body hackle. Present the fly as you would a hopper close to the banks-or at least in agitated water, such as shoals and riffles.

The fly we have just tied I use as my top dropper for wet fly style. That is I would have a tail fly, a mid-fly attached to a dropper; and the daddy as the top dropper, which should be at least 6 ins or more in length. This is needed to allow for the daddy to be animated

in the surface of the water. Short droppers do not work that well as the object is to only have the fly seen by the fish and not the leader above or below the fly.

The above method we would fish lough style for still waters, no different from the river. Those of you who have my wet Fly Ways DVD will know what we are talking about here.

I can assure you this fly has taken many trophy browns on our rivers, just ask my customers.

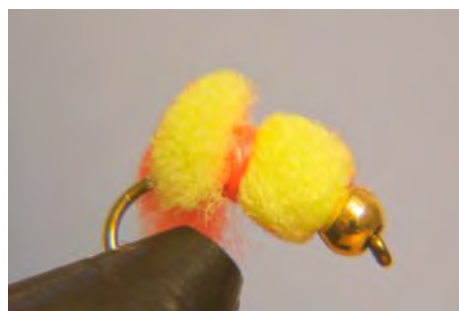
Davy Wotton



A WINGED MUDDLER DADDY



Flys of the Month of Years Past



The Economics of Mask Mandates During COVID-19

By Steve G. Parsons, Ph.D.
(excerpt from a law journal article, reference citations available)

Introduction

Like most economists, I prefer limited government interference in markets, business, and personal affairs. Economics has a short list of potentially-valid rationales for government intervention. One of these is an “externality,” which is usually in the form of an external cost. An external cost occurs when one economic agent makes a decision, but that decision has a negative (cost) on other economic agents. An example of an external cost is pollution, in which case government intervention is potentially valid. An infectious disease, such as COVID-19, also has an externality dimension: those infected persons who are not careful can impose an external cost on others they infect.

Consider the two primary categories of government intervention in the U.S. in response to COVID-19: 1) business closures and stay-at-home orders; and 2) mandatory mask-wearing. By April 6, 2020, 43 states had issued stay-at-home orders. Moreover, virtually every state had some business closures, such as for gyms, sporting venues, bars and indoor dining. In contrast, by that point in time, only seven states had mandated masks in public.

Good economics also requires an estimate of the benefits

and costs of any government intervention. It is difficult to estimate the costs of business closures during the COVID-19 pandemic in part since some reductions in business activity would have occurred regardless of government mandates. However, given the reduction in GDP, the expenditures by Congress, and actions by the Federal Reserve, the cost is trillions of dollars.

Precedents and Analogies for Mask Mandates

There are two categories of precedents for requiring the use of masks. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires certain occupations to wear surgical masks and other occupations to wear N-95 respirators. There are other government requirements that are partially comparable to a requirement to wear masks. Smoking bans were based in part upon evidence of the health dangers of second-hand smoke — an external cost — and analogies can be made to the COVID-19 pandemic. Americans seem to have generally accepted smoking prohibitions. However, the externality rationale is much stronger for COVID-19 than for second-hand smoke: if you contract lung cancer from second-hand smoke, you cannot spread the cancer to others you come in contact with; moreover, you can see who is smoking.

Consider just one aspect of modern life for which there is substantial government intrusion: driving. Americans have generally accepted laws requiring driver's li-

censes, proof of insurance, seat belts, airbags, crumple zones, fuel efficiency levels, car safety standards, emissions tests, speed limits and car-pool only lanes. Similarly, life jackets are required in boats, football and motorcycle helmets are required in some states, and government restrictions on the maximum rent you can charge on a home exist in some cities. These requirements have either weak externality-based justifications, or none at all.

However, mask requirements have triggered some surprisingly emotional reactions. Store employees often suffer the brunt of anti-mask reactions including broken arms, being punched in the face, or even being shot to death.

Mask Effectiveness

Research on the effectiveness of masks is not new. In 2011, a scientific article reviewed 67 other scientific studies and found that “[s]imple and low-cost interventions [hand washing and wearing masks] would be useful for reducing transmission of epidemic respiratory viruses.”

A recent cross-country comparison found mask-wearing is highly correlated with low per-capita COVID-19 mortality rates. Those countries with high COVID-19 rates and lower instances of mask-wearing were: Brazil, Turkey, Spain, Italy, the United States, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom. Those countries with low COVID-19 rates but high mask-wearing included: Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Shri Lanka. The United States has

COVID-19 mortality rates that are fifty times higher than any of these mask-wearing countries.

In examining the effects of mask-wearing, it is important to distinguish between the benefits to the person wearing the mask and the benefits to others around the person wearing the mask. Several recent scientific studies indicate that cloth masks provide only some protection to the wearer but result in much greater effectiveness in reducing the spread of the virus to others. This asymmetry in protection is due to a mask's ability to prevent outbound droplets from becoming aerosolized as microdroplets.

A recent study in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found that “among all the strategies for reducing transmission, wearing face masks may be *the* central variable that determines the spread of the virus.” A study released on July 19, 2020, traced 139 patrons exposed to two hair stylists (in Springfield MO) who were COVID-19-positive at the time, but the stylists wore masks. None of the 139 patrons were infected while four of six close contacts/family members for the stylists outside of work (where no masks were worn) were infected. Other recent scientific studies had similar conclusions.

United States health officials initially did not recommend mask-wearing for the general public due to: A) fear of redirecting supply away from medical professionals; B) a concern that the public would be more likely to touch their faces while wearing a mask;

and C) an expectation that transmission was largely via viral particles on surfaces. However, now health officials universally suggest that the public wear a non-medical cloth mask when they can't socially distance, especially indoors for four reasons: 1) more evidence of airborne infection; 2) a high proportion of pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic infectious people; 3) continued shortages of antigen or antibody tests; and 4) and long delays in processing tests. This is important, because “this will help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.” Recent scientific evidence supporting mask-wearing is voluminous.

Costs and Benefits of Mask

Mandates

Attempting to quantify the benefit of wearing masks is more difficult than simply recognizing the strong evidence of their ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19. [A model developed](#) by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation projected (on July 10) approximately 44,800 fewer deaths in the United States by November 1 provided that 95% of the population wore masks. At that time, a mandatory mask mandate was estimated to be approximately four times more effective than retaining other existing mandates (business restrictions) in terms of controlling the spread of COVID-19. An Arkansas model estimates mask wearing would cut infection and death rates by 70% and each additional mask wearer saves the economy

\$3,000 to \$6,000. A recent study by Goldman Sachs found that wearing masks as a partial substitute for business closures could save the United States \$1 trillion.

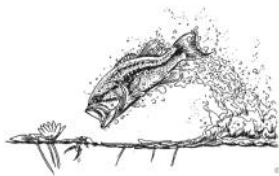
What are the costs of wearing masks? \$10 billion would buy every American four reusable cloth masks. There is some evidence of adverse effects from wearing medical-grade surgical masks and N-95 respirators (for example, headaches). However, this literature largely focusses on N-95 respirators. There does not appear to be any meaningful scientific evidence of any dangers of wearing a non-medical grade cloth mask unless one has a pre-existing respiratory problem or claustrophobia; I have evaluated other claims to the contrary and have found they are based on inapplicable studies, pseudo-science, or just plain bull. However, one could add another \$50 billion for inconvenience or other costs.

This article began with a discussion of externalities as the possible economic basis for valid government intervention. However, to control pollution (an external cost), economists generally recommend a tax equal to the cost of pollution. This avoids dictating a technology or a method of control. Sadly, we can't use such an approach for COVID-19, as there are over 330 million potential “polluters” (infectious people). Moreover, it is obvious that voluntary mask recommendations are not very effective in the United States. Polluters (as well as businesses and citizens with respect to other taxes) don't have the option

to voluntarily decide whether they pay their taxes.

Conclusion

I find government-ordered business closures and stay-at-home orders far more onerous than mandatory mask orders. I estimate the cost per life saved via business closures and stay-at-home orders may be at least 20 times greater than mask-wearing. Wearing a mask is the epidemiological way to be polite: it is equivalent to saying “please” and “thank you” and holding the door open for someone, all at once. Other than signing your organ donor card, it is probably your best chance at saving someone’s life. Perhaps it is time for all Americans to be more “polite,” and more economically rational. Even ignoring public health rationales, mask-wearing is simply the most economically-efficient response to COVID-19. Two teenagers (whose father recently died of COVID-19) said: “be pro-American, wear a mask, if you just want to be pro-yourself - don’t”.



Nymphing Fly Line – Light and Lean

Fly fishing with nymphs from a boat is significantly different from wade fishing in a stream or small river. I first started fly fishing for trout with nymphs under an indicator back in the 1980s. In those days, all of my experience was wade fishing in the streams and rivers of Colorado. I dearly loved the sport, especially watching that indicator dip under the surface of the water, or perhaps just pause during a drift, both of which would indicate a take. I never had the opportunity to nymph fish from a boat until I retired to Mountain Home, AR a few years ago. I booked a guide trip with Danny Barker. His methods for presenting nymphs to trout in the White River were unfamiliar to me, but equally as captivating as my prior experience wade fishing. When I took one of his rods in hand equipped with a 16-foot leader with dual flies, an indicator and lots of weight to get the flies down, I was concerned about casting such an ungainly rig. Danny patiently explained and demonstrated line management, casting, mending, and proper hook setting. I managed to catch a good number of fish that day, and I was thrilled with the results. But my casting skill wasn’t always pretty. I had a few “line management issues” with tangled tippets and flies that required reconstruction. I vowed that day to learn all the nuances of what it would take to excel at this



new method of nymph fishing.

Fast forwarding to two years ago, I learned about the “Euro-nymphing” or “Czech-nymphing” revolution. By then, Danny Barker was a good friend of mine. He gave me a slightly used spool of Cortland Competition Mono Core line specifically designed for Euro-nymphing. The line was much lighter and thinner than my standard Scientific Anglers GPX. It was almost an extension of my leader’s butt section. One of the key advantages cited for the Euro-nymphing technique over indicator fishing is virtual elimination of fly line drag during drifts. That’s because in most cases, all of the fly line is off the water. Some anglers are so close to the fish that the fly line barely extends beyond the rod tip. The best resource that I have read for Euro-nymphing is Tactical Fly Fishing by Devin Olsen. This talented competitive angler told his story about how effective the Euro-nymph technique was in reducing drag and creating more

frequent takes. In fact, he states, "No mending is required when Euro-nymphing." The technique and line proved to be a good match for nymph fishing on smaller waters such as those found in Missouri and the upper Midwest. It was very sensitive to a fish's take, and had very little drag in the current.

When fishing the White and North Fork rivers here in Arkansas, I felt that indicator nymphing was a better choice than Euro nymphing. Our tail waters here are too large and deep to approach the best holding waters clad in waders, especially during the high-water times that we have experienced for the past two years. But a question loomed in my mind – could I still use the Cortland Competition line to nymph fish using an indicator rig? Better yet, what about using it from a boat with that ungainly 16-foot leader rig? The short answer is – yes you can, but there are some accommodations to keep in mind. Another question – should you? The answer to that one may be a matter of individual choice. As for me, I like it a lot and plan to continue using it.

Let's take a closer look at the lighter, thinner Cortland Competition lines. The lines are popular yet have a little different design approach. They have a traditional weight forward taper, yet the front taper is extremely long which acts like an extension of your leader.

One version has a braided core. The other, which I am using, has a full monofilament core for increased sensitivity. This latter version reportedly tends to coil in colder weather. Personally, I have not encountered any such problems fishing on Arkansas' cold winter days.

I have discovered two distinct advantages fishing with this line. Due to its light, somewhat stiff nature, the fly line stays off the water for casts out to about 25 feet. This means, virtually no line drag and little to no mending needed since a short section of leader butt above the indicator is the only thing in the water. I rather enjoy holding my rod and watching my fellow anglers in the boat mending away while I focus solely on the indicator and how it is moving relative to the current. Longer casts beyond 25 feet will put a short section of the fly line on the water. Some mending is needed for these longer casts but the drag is much less than with conventional fly lines. The second advantage with the light, thin line is that it develops very little belly from the rod tip to the leader during a drift. A heavier line that forms a belly can actually pull the indicator rig slowly towards the boat and require the angler to make frequent casts.

Okay, so these advantages look appealing and I can vouch for fish

catching success. Are there disadvantages? Yes, there are, but they can be accommodated. The most significant issue is that this line is a bit more difficult to cast than a traditional fly line sporting a shorter taper and more mass towards the front of the head. A game changer to successfully cast the competition line is to use a Belgian (or oval) cast. Look up videos on YouTube to learn how to execute this cast. Essentially, you start with a sidearm cast and keep the rig constantly moving. As the line moves behind you, sweep your rod in a loop so that your forward cast moves to a traditional vertical plane. This will prevent the leader from collapsing upon itself and creating a tangled mess of flies and tippet. Another important factor is the rod. I own two 10-foot 5 weight rods, yet they are significantly different from each other. One is a TFO Lefty Kreh model. It has a soft tip and slender base that is well suited to fishing small streams. But it lacks the power that I need to deliver the long leader-multiple fly rig that we use on the White River fishing from a boat. One day, I decided to try this rod matched with the Cortland Competition line. I was fishing with my two amigo friends above Cotter. My shorter casts were successful, but as soon as I tried for distance, I encountered a "line management issue". As fate would have it, another boat pulled up beside us with our NAFF president and a couple of other guys I knew. And there I sat with a tan-

gled mess of flies and tippet in my hands. It was one of those character-building moments for me. As I sighed and gazed up into the heavens, I was reminded of an old saying that “humility is good for the soul”. Now then, my other rod is a 10-foot 5 weight Moonshine Drifter fly rod. This rod has more backbone than the TFO, and casts the competition line and 16-foot leader system with ease. It is also effective in hooking fish by simply loading the rod and is sensitive enough to feel every movement of that fish. Needless to say, it has become my go-to rod.

Another minor disadvantage for the Cortland Competition line is that it doesn't float as well as other lines that feature low density coatings. I don't worry much about this because there isn't much line on the surface anyway and an occasional mend negates the problem. A related issue is that this thin line has a fairly hard coating. If you attach leader to fly line with a nail knot as I do, you will need about eight wraps to secure it. Stopping with five or six wraps will result in the leader slipping off the fly line.

There are other fly lines out there that are advertised as well suited for nymph fishing with an indicator. I don't pretend to be an expert here because I lack deep knowledge of the design technology, and I haven't tried fishing with any of these out on the river.

Some of the favorites are Rio Grand WF Floating Fly Line, Rio InTouch Extreme Indicator line, and Scientific Anglers Amplitude/MPX Taper. The prevailing theme for these lines is that they have a relatively short front taper, and are advertised as weighty and powerful for casting indicator rigs with ease. Another feature mentioned is ease of mending, which I believe customers would need to do frequently with all that line weight and belly sag. One line that seems similar to the Cortland Competition line is the Rio Fips Euro Nymph fly line. This line is built on a thin diameter and features good sensitivity.

Fly line selection for indicator nymphing is a matter of personal choice. It seems to me that if we can reduce or eliminate fly line drag ahead of an indicator rig when fishing from a boat, then we can attain a convincingly natural drift, improve strike detection, and get more takes.

The industry recommended lines that I have listed above offer compelling features for the casting challenge, but are silent on the drag issue. One additional factor worth mentioning is price. All but one of the lines listed above are right at or somewhat north of \$100. The Rio Fips Euro Nymph fly line is listed at \$60 and the Cortland Competition Mono Core line is \$55. They won't break the bank. They are light and lean and I can attest that fishing

with the Cortland line catches a lot of fish.

Dave Schisler



Events of Interest to NAFF Members

No events scheduled until further notice!