

# Christchurch Fishing & Casting Club Inc.

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(The Friendly Bunch)

[www.cfcc.co.nz](http://www.cfcc.co.nz)

**Patron: Peter Shutt**

President	Secretary	Vice President
John Collins	Shirley Salisbury	Dave De Montalk
03 332 3947	03 322 8218	03 942 2339

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## Next Meeting

At Cotswold Preschool Hall  
37 Colesbury St, Bishopdale.

[Go to Papanui & turn into Harewood Rd; after the Bishopdale Mall, take the first right into Cotswold Ave, then first right again into Colesbury St.]

**7.30 pm 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015**



**Speaker: Alan Burgess**

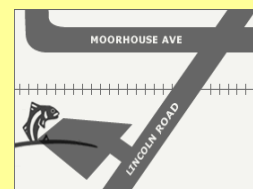
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### Articles in your Newsletter

Do you have an article, event, picture, item, or anything else for your newsletter? Please send it to me by e-mail or post. Contributions need to be in by the 20<sup>th</sup> to make it into the next month's newsletter. My email address is [richardlamb@orcon.net.nz](mailto:richardlamb@orcon.net.nz) and phone is 03 359 0333.

My postal address is 2/43 Eastling St, Bishopdale, Christchurch 8053

*Richard*

### Advertisements in your Newsletter

The club newsletter can be used to advertise a trade or service or special skill you have to offer. The advertisement is a standard half-page, and costs \$5.00 per advertisement per month. You must be a financial member to advertise in this Newsletter.

## ***Fly of the Month*** ***Hakatree***

**Hook :** 10 -14  
**Tail:** Brown cock or hen  
**Body:** Silver Tinsel  
**Rib:** Fine cooper wire  
**Thorax:** Red floss  
**Wings:** Speckled Mallard  
**Beard:** Hackle black



### **Method:**

Bind hook from eye to end of shank. Tie in tail, tinsel and rib. Take the thread forward 2/3 of shank. Wind on body and tie off, trim surplus. Wind on rib, tie off and trim. Tie on red floss and form thorax, leaving room for the head. Take a matched pair of slips from a speckled mallard feather and tie in front of body, extending half the length of tail. Tie in a few black hackle fibres underneath behind eye as legs, whip finish and apply head cement.

This fly was given to me by Norm Whyte who used it a lot in the Waitaki River. It was one of his most productive flies. It will work just as well in any river. It pays to use two different wet flies when fishing across and down. I would suggest a bottom fly Twilight beauty and the Hakatree as the second fly. Try it in the Waimak.

*Tight lines*  
*Norm Parkyn*

**Thank You**

**Thanks to David & Shirley Salisbury, for producing last month's  
Newsletter, when I was indisposed.  
Richard Lamb**



# Flyshop NZ Ltd

**Dear John,**

A plea for help from Serge up in Hamner over the application for a resource consent that will take 1600 lps from this little spawning stream.

**Please sign [the petition](#) today and help save Kakapo Brook**

The application is very short on detail so gives no confidence that the stream will be protected, from the size of the stream in the photo it's hard to see where they can ring the 1600 lps from, the lack of detail means we should all oppose this in it's current form and we can all do this in a few seconds by signing the petition which already has close to 500 signers



More info is available here: [Overview](#)

And the resource [consent application is here](#)

And there's a short video on the [petition page](#)

This type of development highlights a worrying trend as irrigation moves further into the less developed high-country targeting smaller waterways as a water source - where will it all end...

**Kind regards,  
Steve Gerard  
Flyshop NZ Ltd  
30B Forest Drive  
Methven 7730  
New Zealand**

[www.flyshop.co.nz](http://www.flyshop.co.nz)



**John Collins**

*C.I.D.D. - NZADVT. CERT PT & DEC*

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**John@PaintersDecorators.co.nz**

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## **Snippets of Angling Philosophy**

You can't buy happiness but you can buy fishing tackle and that's pretty much the same thing.

I had 99 problems but after fishing I found that I had solved 99% of them.

I know a non-invasive way to help trout grow Whenever I've released any I find that they have all increased in size by the time I get home.

Everyone should believe in something. I believe I'll go fishing!

*Henry David Thoreau Courtesy of Frank Cartwright*

There is no losing in fishing. You either catch or you learn. Either way, its way better than work. Courtesy Bish & Fish

## Catch of the Month

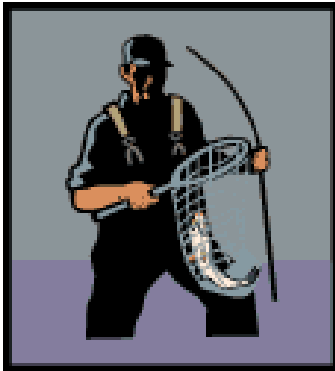
Hi Everyone

Hope you all had a good Easter. Dave and myself went to the Molesworth for the weekend.

He caught two 4lb trouts and I caught one this long ----- I decided it counts as it took the fly in the mouth, and the next was about 1 and half pound, with the next being 2lb. So I figure I'm on my way to bigger fish.

Shirley

## Catch of the Month



Give us the details so that we have the opportunity to share your success!

Name.....Date.....

Size.....Length.....Fish.....

Condition.....Tackle used.....Locaation.....

Which Category Entered.....

Here are the various Categories for you to aim for:

**Novice** - Anyone who has not been fishing long

**Best Photograph** - Can be any sort of photograph e.g. scenery

**Best Junior Fish** - Fish caught by a Junior Member

**Mick Starkey Cup** - Best Sea Fish - Sea Fishing

**Club Trophy** - Best Fish on a Club Weekend or Day Trip

**NZ Farmers Co-operation Assn Ltd Cup** - Largest Salmon

**Ron Corney Trophy** - Best Trout caught on self made fly

**Mason Struthers Challenge Cup - Largest Trout** - Sea, River, Lake, Lagoon etc

**Canal Fishing Cup - Biggest Fish** - From the Canal



## **MEMBERS FEED BACK SECTION.**

We, your committee, are always trying to give you what you want, but we need your feedback to do our job well. Be it positive or negative ( be gentle ) for the good of the club. IE Have you been on club trip ? Did you enjoy yourself ? What would you change, if anything. Club nights – What would you like more of /less of?

So please talk to us as we need to know.

We are a small committee, you are welcome to join to give new ideas to help the club.

Many thanks

John C

### **Safety First**

**An extract from “First Cast” by courtesy of  
AUCKLAND FRESHWATER ANGLERS CLUB INC**

Having had reason to go to Invercargill we took the opportunity to tour some of the South Island and we are currently at Lake Tekapo, a great spot. I have seen some great water, however thanks to exceptionally strong wind conditions have only had a line in the water on a few occasions.

As is so often the case when casting about (no pun!) looking out for items appropriate for First Cast, something comes up that is most important and of which mention should be made. In this case it is that of WATER SAFETY WHEN FISHING. I am sure we have all been in situations when luck has been on our side and we have managed to recover from a slip in the river realising that if it had been worse you could have ended up taking a swim or worse being swept away and being unable to get assistance. This situation is in fact worsened when you are fishing on your own and a report in yesterday's Otago Daily Times is a very timely reminder as the season gets under way. The Coroner, Richard McEltrea is recommending that anglers wear inflatable life jackets. This follows the drowning of an experienced angler in the Makoroa River in August last year. He recommended that all organisations should publicise the 'desirability' of anglers wearing life jackets in addition to waders, especially when fishing alone or in strong currents.

Mr. McEltrea also recommended anglers should carry a waterproof means of communication. By this he is referring not to just a cellphone which as often as not

is inoperable due to lack of cellphone coverage, but to a locator beacon. This is a matter that has been discussed within your Committee regarding safety on club trips and this timely reminder is most appropriate.

I am also reminded of the time that a good friend and very experienced fisherman that will be known to many of you, Strato Cotsilinis, almost drowned when the boat he was fishing from was sunk by a freak wave while fishing the Pairs Competition on Lake Rotoaira. In this case Strato was wearing a life jacket however he had mistakenly worn it under his fishing jacket and could not inflate it. (Strato wrote a very good article on this and it will be reprinted in Riffles.)

In summary, wader safety is most important. Some of you will remember the wader safety courses the club used to run, which thanks to the increasing regulations surrounding what you can do in swimming pools, have ceased to be run. Let's re-visit this. And let us use this timely reminder to: fish with someone else when possible; to keep in touch with the other fisherman; to carry a whistle and even a torch at all times; to carry a cellphone/locator beacon/walkie talkie and, as this fatal case reminds us, an inflatable life jacket. All of us will be aware of the increased publicity being given to wearing life jackets at sea, including seeing mentors such as Pine Tree Meads preaching the gospel very visibly and well. May I suggest that we too learn the lessons taught?

Just one last thing on this if I may. Breathable waders and the importance of a good, sound WADING BELT. We are in some ways back to the old rubber waders days which were known as being dangerous. They do not have the flotation or the insulation and warmth of neoprenes. The breathable do not. I think a wading belt, and even a wading stick, is a must in many situations.

*Jan Rodger*

## **Joke of the Month**

**“I think it is just terrible and disgusting how everyone has treated Lance Armstrong, especially after what he achieved, winning seven Tour de France races while on drugs. When I was on drugs, I couldn't even find my bike”....**

**Willie Nelson**



## **Black Forrest Trip March 2015**

Well it was a small group of us who headed down to Black Forrest on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. Our group was Rex, Murray, Doug, Dave, Tim, Sheridan, Graham, Sharon, Richard, John and Myself. Friday was a nice warm day (not like the snow that is falling as I am writing this). We met up with Sharon and Richard at the Fairlie Bakery for our usual pie stop this time with the added bonus of hot cross buns (I think the best in NZ). We stopped for a fish at the delta of the Tekapo River and meet up with Rex and Murray. Rex had one fish but it was hard going.

Saturday was another great day with sun shine and no wind. Sheridan and Graham had a great day on the lake in their boat and had the bonus of a fish for Graham. Sharon, Richard, John and I went further around the lake from Black Forrest. I managed to catch a fish on a live bait by catching a small fish and watching a bigger fish come along and eat my small fish. The bigger fish didn't realise it was hooked until it spat out the smaller fish and realised it had a bullet lure in the side of its mouth. Unfortunately we hadn't taken our net down with us and it managed to swim off with my lure. Sharon got a salmon that was wanting someone to help put it out of its misery. Apart from some really small fish the boys had no luck. When we got back to the house no one else had much luck either.

Sharon, Richard, John and Rex went out to do a night fish at the delta with again no luck but fish jumping and splashing all around them. One even jumped so close to John he nearly had to check his underwear afterwards. The heavy rain had set in by the time these hardy souls got back to the house.

Sunday morning was overcast but the rain had gone thankfully. No reports of any more fish caught on the Sunday. So not a high fish count weekend but as usual specular scenery good weather and a bonus of no wind. We meet up again with Sharon and Richard at the Farilie Bakery for our pie and coffee. John was talking with Rob at the Loft after the trip and he said he had heard of trout putting the small fish into bait balls and coming up from below; maybe that is what they were doing while we were there as there were lots of small fish in the shallows. Looking forward to the next trip which will take us this way at the end of April.

Thanks, Della

What do the little fishes do that make most truthful men untrue?  
Author: Joseph Morris    Courtesy Bish & Fish

## It's More Fun Coaching The Fairer Sex!

Over the years I have taught a number of women to fly fish and without exception have found it to be intensely satisfying. Women's approach to fly fishing tuition is invariably different to that of male pupils who often entertain pre-conceived notions which tends to inhibit one's attempts to set them on the right path. Women, on the other hand, appear to approach the challenge of fly fishing much more open mindedly and this characteristic invariably leads to their mastering the art of fly fishing with far less fuss than that of the opposite sex. In a nutshell, it's more fun to be involved with females - they don't know it all!

At least ten years ago I had the pleasure of coaching a delightful young woman whom I recall would have been in her mid twenties. She was a most attractive lass indeed but more than her obvious physical attributes, it was her bubbly personality and uninhibited shrieks of laughter at duffed casts which made her such an engaging and memorable person. In all aspects of casting and rivercraft, she was a model pupil, absorbed all I could teach her and graduated with honours as far as I was concerned.



Then I lost touch with her until late one afternoon some two or three years later, I saw her walking up my driveway. She was positively beaming and bubbling over with excitement.

"Hi Frank, do you remember the Black Gnat dry fly that you gave me after I had completed the course? she asked. I nodded.

"Well, I was fishing this afternoon just below the Tuamarina bridge and I caught a three pound brown trout on it!" and with that she gave me a big, fatherly hug. Then she added "I just had to come and tell you!" and with the lightest of kisses on my cheek, retreated down the drive and out of my life.

This particular episode is just one of many special occasions in my angling life that I like to quietly relive when winter winds confine even the hardest angler to home base. Then it is time to open my fishing diaries, take a stroll down memory lane and perchance recall, with just a touch of nostalgia, a certain young woman who came back to thank me for favours received.

To steal a line from Bob Hope, "Thanks for the memory."

*Frank Cartwright*

## **6 Tips to fish more effectively. Jason Sealock, Wired2Fish**

1 --- Even in the smallest bodies of water the fish will congregate in one area at times. Sometimes smaller than a kiddies swimming pool. So you need to move, chances are when you start fishing from the bank it may not be where the fish are. Keep moving until one fish gives a clue as what you should be doing.

Move to a new area, change presentation. Work down a Lake Shore or River with a Streamer / Lure, try a Fly / Soft Plastic on the way back.

2 --- Mix your retrieve. Cast and Retrieve, Let it sink, slow retrieve, mix up the speed, fish the surface then the bottom.

3 --- Clearer the water, more you want to Match the Hatch.

4 --- Smaller is often better. If having no luck with large Flies, Nymphs, Spinners, Go small, especially around weed beds.

5 --- Be a more proficient caster, ether spinning or fly-fishing. Getting the lure close to target, without spooking the fish.

Shallower the fish go, Better and Quieter your cast must be. Practise, Get some lessons.

6 --- Rule of thumb – Fish brighter Flies / Lures when sunny, Dark when dull or at night. But try the opposite as well, something different often works.

Tight Lines JC

## **Fulbright Project on Pesticides in Clutha River Trout**

We have a request for assistance from Aaron Horrell, of the Clutha Fisheries Trust, if you are fishing Lakes Wanaka or Dunstan, before the end of this month: a young researcher who is after some fish samples from the Clutha system to investigate pesticide signatures in brown trout. We need a sample of five adult fish brown trout from Lake Wanaka and ten from Lake Dunstan by the end of April. They need to be dispatched and then wrapped in sanitised foil then placed in a plastic bag for freezer storage.

Any chance you or some club members would be interested in assisting. I have the foil, bags etc that I can bring through. At this stage any help would be great.  
Phone: 03 445 1605

The researcher describes herself:

My name is Rachel and I am the visiting Fulbright researcher who Kim Hageman and Gerry Closs warned you about several months ago. I've now arrived in Dunedin and started work on my project (looking at pesticide signatures in fish from the Clutha, and trying to link those with life history patterns). I've just met with my advisers to develop a sampling plan, and will hopefully be receiving ethics approval for the use of animal samples in this project sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Rachel Scholes  
Cell: 0204 064 3478

## **LIMIT FALSE CASTING TO IMPROVE YOUR CASTING STROKE**

*The following article is taken from the [www.ginkandgasoline.com](http://www.ginkandgasoline.com) website. This is an excellent American site and well worth a visit.*

### **When We First Start Out Fly Fishing And We're Still Learning The Mechanics Of The Casting Stroke, It's Very Common For Many Of Us To Make Excessive False Casts In Between Our Presentations.**

For some of us, excessive false casting is an excuse to impart quality control during our fly casting, for others, we justify it for the simple fact that we just love casting a fly rod. Whatever the reasons may be for excessive false casting, it needs to be kept in check, if anglers want to fly fish at their best. If you're currently in the beginner or intermediate skill level range, one of the best ways to take your fly fishing to the next level, is to make yourself minimize your false casting on the water.

I can remember like it was yesterday, when I finally made the decision to cut the number of my own false casts in half. There I was, twelve years old, wet wading for shoalies and sunfish on my home waters, ready to stray from what had grown to feel comfortable to me. At first, I hated the change. It made the majority of my presentations feel rushed, but eventually, I noticed my casting started to improve significantly. I found by not giving myself the luxury of extra false casts, it forced me to pay closer attention to my casting technique, and all aspects of my fly casting improved. I found that false casting less, I no longer found myself saying, "I should have let that last cast go, one false cast earlier". Tangles became less frequent, I spooked less fish, and I seemed to get the fly to

my target quicker. Remember, if you're false casting twenty times, in between presentations, it's only a matter of time until you'll lose your focus and technique. And when that happens, you'll usually end up with a poor presentation. From a beginners stand point, extra false casting can at times seem necessary, but from a veterans point of view, it's inefficient and a waste of time.

## **4 Ways Too Much False Casting Hurts Anglers**

### **1. It Increases Fatigue**

The more we cast, the more worn out we get during the day. Angler fatigue directly effects our fly fishing performance on the water. If you're going to add extra false casts prior to your presentation, make sure it's called for. That way you'll have enough gas left in the tank to finish the day off strong.

### **. Demands Extra Focus From The Angler**

Every time you make a cast, your brain has to focus on each element of the casting stroke. Have you ever noticed that the amount of tangles you get on the water increases as the day goes on, particularly during the last couple hours of the day? This doesn't happen all of the time, but I've noticed as mental fatigue sets in and focus becomes harder to maintain, anglers make much more mistakes on the water. If you learn to cut out extra false casting when it's not needed, you'll be able to maintain sharp focus for longer periods on the water.

### **3. Extra False Casting Requires More Time To Present Your Fly**

Sometimes we have all the time in the world to present our fly to fish, and a few extra false casts is not a problem. Unfortunately, we don't always have unlimited time to make our presentations when we're fly fishing. For example, quite often when we're floating down a river in a drift boat, we may only have 2 or 3 seconds to present our fly. In this fly fishing situation, there's no time for extra false casting in between our presentations. To be effective, anglers need to be able to present flies accurately without the need for extra false casts.

### **4. Increase The Risk Of Spooking Fish**

If you regularly fly fish, you've probably been in a situation where too much false casting put down or spooked the fish you were trying to catch. When fishing conditions have fish on high alert, anglers can really increase their success if they minimize their false casting.

Today's fly fishing tip about limiting your false casting is a simple and effective way to help you improve your casting efficiency, cut down on the down time of untangling knots, and increase your catches. It's the little things that make a huge difference for the fly anglers moving up in the ranks. Try it out next time you're on the water and you've had some time to warm up. Force yourself to decrease the number of false casts it takes you to make a good presentation. At first you'll likely only be able to eliminate one or two false casts. However, with some practice, you'll be able to cut them in half. Lastly, pay attention to where

the fly you're casting is pausing in between your forward cast and back cast. If you're getting the proper distance to your target after a few false casts, there's no need for you to make more false casts if you've already got sufficient line out and the fly is on target. Just present your fly and see what happens. Keep it Reel,

*Kent Klewein - Gink & Gasoline*

*www.ginkandgasoline.com - hookups@ginkandgasoline.com*

## **A great kahawai season!**

This article is really a salmon fisher's lament; from someone who really doesn't want kahawai! It is mid-April and the salmon have still eluded me this season. In the last twenty five years this has only happened twice before!

Although I tackled the Rakaia mouth several times, most of my season has been spent at the Waimakariri mouth. Since February I have "put in the time". In Ross Millichamp's book (Salmon Fever) he states that it takes the average fisher 30 trips per fish. I must have done close to my 30 and come out with a "below



Kahawai  
Chasers

average" grade. I can almost hear the "must try harder" comment.

The excuse in the past, for low salmon totals, was that I was always working



eight days a week and could not get out often enough. I do tend to blame my work-a-holic tendencies for a lot of things. This year I became “semi-retired” and can work my hours around the tides, but it hasn’t produced the desired results. It is a bit like being one of those young blokes who invests in the latest deodorant, as advertised on TV, which promises a bevy of fair maidens chasing you – but then finds it doesn’t deliver.

It’s the old story. It was always the guy that I was chatting with in the “picket fence”, or sometimes the one next to him, that seemed to get the salmon. The kahawai though, that is another story. They would not leave me alone. I do not wind in rapidly like the crew chasing them down in the surf, but I think the fish targeted me! I rarely had a kahawai free day. It is like the “old days” in the 1990s when I fished the Rangitata mouth. On the north side, especially, the first line of breakers was often black with the backs of the fish as they swarmed in after silveries. On one occasion whilst fishing with two old mates we all lost count after 20 hook-ups each.

My first ever kahawai on salmon gear was at the Rakaia mouth. Its mouth and gut were so full of silveries that I could not understand how it had found room for the lure.



Six kahawai landed in an afternoon was my best this year. Everything you ever read about them being great sport is true; unless of course, like me, you only want a salmon. The words “it’s another bloody kahawai” were uttered by many of us this year; much more often than usual.

#### Kahawai Fishers’ Stash

The “kahawai sea gulls” are a regular feature at the Waimakariri. These people often wander up and down the line scavenging kahawai that are about to be returned. I am always amused by the regulars who have four or five fish, mostly caught by others, on a rope leash tied to their belt or ankle. Perhaps they have big families to feed, or perhaps they have never tasted salmon. I think that sometimes they are just “gatherers” who want to be seen as “hunters” – a topic I covered a couple of months ago.

“Blaming” kahawai has become a habit for many of us. Have you noticed that when most people lose a fish they try and convince themselves, and us, that it has to have been a kahawai; especially if the distinctive forked tail has not broken the surface?

A few days before writing this I watched some young blokes playing kahawai



on six pound line. Yes, they were snapped off by a couple. They were using soft baits with a feather attached. Whilst it was “fun” for them, I am still a fan for getting a fish in as soon as possible to avoid the sometimes unsurvivable levels of stress that extended “playing the fish” can cause.

Beached Kahawai



Two Forlorn end-of-season fishers

Misplaced excitement

whilst salmon fishing in the past, has been compounded a few times by hooking into barracuda, star gazers, flounders, mullet and even a shag, but none of them put up a fight quite like that of a kahawai. As one colleague commented recently, “If they grew as large as salmon, we would not be able to land ‘em”

I did keep three this year. Two went to my fish-smoking brother in law. Even although I have a smoker my natural lazy streak means that I would rather take a vacuum packed smoked trout fillet from the freezer. Do not get me wrong, I love most sea fish, it is just that even properly bled kahawai are somewhat bland in

taste; especially when compared with salmon and high country trout. think I really only kept them to prove to the family that I could still actually catch something. Salmon fishing is probably a form of gambling addiction. The symptoms seem similar. We keep on doing it even when we are “losing”. Just as a gambler rolls the dice, or spins the pokey tumbler, we cast out various colours of ticer, Z spinner, salamander or quicksilver and hope that our number comes up. Few of us ever see the salmon before we hook it. Skinner’s rats proved that intermittent reinforcement is all that a conditioned response needs. I am

conditioned to enjoy catching salmon. “The most fun you can have with your waders on” a female fisher once told me. The odd kahawai provides “Claytons” reinforcement but I guess it keeps me, and plenty of others, going. It is a bit like getting a bonus ticket on your lotto strike. These tickets never seem to produce a prize but it seems like you are being “rewarded”.

Those of you who have had a good season will be gloating about your tallies, (the “you should have been here on Tuesday” brigade included and saying “that is fishing”.

All I can do is draw solace in my good trout tally and prepare myself for an earlier start to the salmon fishing next year. The reels will be serviced, the hooks checked and the line replaced. Hopefully the 2015/16 season’s fish will be larger than the bulk of this season’s average of about ten pounds. As one colleague said “You need to get at least two together to make bottling worthwhile this year”.

Then again, I guess there is always the possibility of a winter salmon from the canals.

Rex

## **Successful Fly Fishing with Streamers: Wading & Floating Tactics – Part 1**

*A box of appropriate flies to entice the big one*

Fishing with streamers is perhaps the best way to connect with an oversize fish. However, this is one of the least utilized means of fly fishing.

Even when anglers do use streamers they often go about it wrong. This article will explore the best ways to fish for trout with streamers from a drift boat as well as wading.

## **Fishing Streamers from a Drift Boat**

Use of a drift boat will provide a wealth of opportunities for the streamer fisherman. First of all it allows access to lies that are often inaccessible to the wading angler. These spots are often in deep, swift water. Second, floating gives an angler quick access to a number of good spots.



Specialized tackle will increase the odds for success when streamer fishing from a boat. We always recommend a six or seven weight fly rod that's relatively stiff. This should be coupled with a sink tip or full sink fly line. We prefer sink tips with a rapid sink rate. These lines are a little easier to manage than a full sink line. Leaders should be short and stout. Six feet is plenty long and they should taper down to no finer than 2X. A leader that tapers to 0X should not be considered too heavy. It's important to have a heavy tippet if you hook that brown trout of a life time. In a more practical sense, the short, heavy leader helps turn over bulky flies that draw the most strikes. We consider a #6 streamer fly to be small and focus our attention on flies that are #2, sometimes larger. These flies need to be heavy to get down in the strike zone quickly. Rabbit hair strips, rubber legs, and flashy tinsel add visibility, action, and the illusion of life to these flies.

Watch for three things when casting streamers from a boat: structure, structure, and structure. Big trout use a number of features for cover and a place to stage an ambush on unsuspecting prey. Watch for undercut banks, logs in the river, big rocks, cracks or ledges, and even shadows. All of these have potential to hold a large trout.

Cast the fly upstream of the target so it sinks and the fish has a chance to see it. Do your best to get the fly on target, but don't obsess about absolute precision.

Big fish will often travel to take the fly so if you're within two feet of the target you're close enough. Casting a large fly and sinking line is hard enough without doing it two or three times for every lie. We often see anglers drop the fly, pick it up, then drop it within a foot of the original cast, then begin the retrieve. The first cast was just fine, and over the course of the day the angler has made more tiring casts.

*"Cast your fly to cover and then make an action packed retrieve."*

Once the fly is in the water the retrieve is of paramount importance. In fact, the retrieve is the key element to success. A perfect cast with a poor retrieve is far less likely to entice a strike than a mediocre cast with a perfect retrieve. The most important thing to do is to keep you rod tip low, even in the water. This keeps the angler tight to the fly and every twitch you make translates directly into action on the fly.

If you're in the bow of the boat swing the rod across the nose to get tension on the line. This position will also make it easier to use the tip of the rod to enhance the action of the fly with a "jerk strip". Hook sets are easier in this position as well. An angler in the back of the boat should swing the rod tip toward the rear of the boat for the same reasons. An aggressive retrieve usually works better than a slow retrieve. You can experiment with long strips or short strips, but they should always be fast. If you see a fish following the fly you should never slow the retrieve, but speed it up a little bit. Never stop the retrieve when a fish shows interest. Think about real world predator and prey relationships. Prey will try to run away when pursued. Speeding up your retrieve will excite the fish and reinforce the idea that the fly is prey. You've probably heard of "playing possum", or "playing dead". This is a successful tactic used by some animals that aren't fast enough to run away from predators. Stopping your retrieve is the equivalent of playing dead and will turn off a predator's instinct to attack. Streamer fishing from a drift boat is fast paced and requires team work between the rower and angler. The angler needs to communicate to the angler how he needs the boat positioned. By the same token, the rower needs to keep one eye on the current situation while keeping an eye on water that's coming up and advising the angler of opportunities on the horizon.

### **Fishing Streamers While Wading**

Fishing streamers while wading a river or stream isn't as specialized an endeavor as fishing from a boat, but an angler should watch for the appropriate situation for streamers. The size of the water will dictate the size of the rod. A five weight will suffice on smaller streams and rivers, but a six weight is more appropriate for larger waters with larger trout. The size of the flies and the distance of the casts are the primary considerations.





Flies used on small to medium size waters should be a little smaller than those used on big rivers. The main reason is that there are fewer fish capable of eating a huge fly and a smaller size will get more action.

Streamers seem to perform best on streams when water conditions are high or off color. As a result, this type of fishing might be effective when conditions are blown out for dry fly and nymph fishing. Tight line nymphing skills will certainly help though.

Many anglers tend to cast across the river and let the fly swing before or during the retrieve. This is fine in big holes and long runs, but becomes less effective in broken water. Be sure to look at the water under your feet. Some of our best success has come from flipping a streamer just off the bank, letting it sink, and hopping on a tight line as it drifts downstream. This is usually accomplished with only a few inches of fly line out of the rod tip.

Unlike fishing from a boat you are certainly grounded so you can spend as much or as little time as needed on each spot. After a few retrieves you should change where you're casting or move on. If you see a fish flash the fly wait a minute before casting back to the same spot. Chances are good the fish will take another swipe if it didn't get the hook on the first attempt. Keep the fly in the strike zone as long as possible by casting downstream and holding the fly in the current. Give the fly action with the rod tip, letting it fall with some slack, then twitching it back to life. Repeat the process several times before pulling the fly out of the water.

Open, meadow streams often provide the most opportunities for streamers. A fly fisher can proceed quietly along the stream bank and



fish both sides of the creek without getting in the water. Again, be sure to give plenty attention to the water under your feet.

The size of the streamer fly you choose will depend on your goals. Pick a smaller size like #8-10 if you want more action. However, the average size trout will be in line with the river's average size. Pick a larger size if you're willing to trade action for quality. Most average size trout won't respond to a larger #2 streamer but a larger fly will often stir larger fish.



## **Streamers: Think Outside the Swing By Phil Monahan**

### ***Streamer Theory***

For the rest of the afternoon, during which I caught several nice trout on the North Fork Special that Larry had given me, I pondered the ease with which one can become set in his fly-fishing ways. Many of us consider fishing a streamer only under a limited number of fairly specific conditions — early or late in the season, or when the water is especially high or off-color, for instance. One reason for this mindset, of course, is that we relish the opportunity to fish the delicate stuff. Fishing a dry fly or a nymph, we believe, tests our skills more fully through the need for accurate casting, good line management, and the ability to achieve a dead drift.

All you need to do to fish a streamer is cast quartering downstream and let it swing through the current. You don't even have to strip the fly if you don't want to.

But of course, that's not true. More than anything else, I think, it is this impoverished view of streamer fishing that keeps anglers from tying one on in a wider range of angling situations. Actually, there are many different ways to fish a streamer — some of which call for the same skills required by nymph fishing — and a Woolly Bugger or Black-Nose Dace can be productive in many different kinds of water. By thinking of your big, meaty patterns as versatile weapons in your fly-fishing arsenal — rather than as last-chance options — you'll put yourself in position to catch more big fish. Let's examine a few streamer-fishing methods that go beyond the simple strip-and-swing technique. The fact is, you can fish a streamer in almost any situation — including during a hatch. Just because you *can* fish a dry fly doesn't mean you should.

### ***Swinging the Seams***

The standard wet-fly swing can be adapted to fit any number of angling situations, and you can control both the direction and the speed of the streamer to trigger more strikes. Rather than simply executing the same quartering-downstream cast over and over again — like an Atlantic salmon fisherman trying to cover every inch of a pool — try to guide the fly to specific lies, so that the end of the swing occurs right in front of the trout's nose (if there is, in fact, a trout there). Pick your spots by allowing the fly to dead-drift into position before you allow it to swing, and then control the motion of the fly by adding mending, slack, or tightening the line during the swing. With a little bit of practice, you'll be able to swing a fly into very tight spots.

I like to use a streamer to work the same scum lines and current seams that I would target with a dry fly or nymph. To work the seam between fast water and an eddy, for instance, cast the fly into the fast water and then swing it into the seam itself. Make a few strips right up through the edge of the slower water, and then try lengthening your casts to cover the entire seam. Vary the speed of your retrieve with each cast.

Because streamer fishing is a less-than-exact science, I change my position frequently so that the fly moves into a possible trout lie in several different ways. For instance, once you've swung a fly into a seam line for a while, reposition so that the fly swings *through* the seam and into the slow water. Then try swinging from the slow water into the fast water. The possibilities are limited only by the availability of places to stand. Each time you change position, you alter the presentation slightly — its speed, angle, or the profile of the fly — and oftentimes this is all it takes to draw a strike.

To be Continued next month.

By Phil Monahan who *is a former Alaskan guide and was the long-time editor of American Angler magazine. He's now a columnist for MidCurrent and writes and edits the fly-fishing blog at OrvisNews.com.*

[Reprinted courtesy of The Auckland Freshwater Anglers Club Inc]

Datin' is a lot like fishin'. Sometimes catch and release is the best method.

Author: Earl Dibbles Jr.      Courtesy Bish & Fish

**NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF  
FRESHWATER ANGLERS (INC.)**



**Official Notice:**

The  
NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers  
Annual General Meeting  
will be held on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
at the  
Sudima Hotel  
Christchurch.

The meeting will begin promptly at 9a.m. on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June and conclude for the day at 5.00p.m. Business will recommence on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 9a.m. and will conclude at 12.30p.m.

Notice of remits and/or of intention to present a paper  
close with the secretary on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The meeting will be agenda-driven. Following 16<sup>th</sup> May, a full agenda will be provided to executive members and interested parties. As the programme will be full, it is unlikely that changes will be made after that time.

**Important Notes:**

Accommodation has been booked, and will be held for six weeks, for the nights of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June for all executive and life members. Please liaise with the secretary, not the hotel, in regard to your accommodation.

Please indicate likely attendance or otherwise to the secretary promptly.

Complimentary shuttle transfers to and from airport will be provided by the hotel.

Further information and enquiries: contact the secretary Barrie Clark [barrie.helen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barrie.helen@xtra.co.nz)

Unclaimed mail to:  
2/43 Eastling Street  
Bishopdale 8053  
Christchurch

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in the letters and articles in this newsletter are the authors' own and not necessarily those of the Editor or The Christchurch Fishing and Casting Club Inc.