

# Fly Lines From CADDIS

## Club News

Well, just when you figure that you've gotten your last CADDIS newsletter, one shows up in the mail. It looks like the old newsletter editor has managed to get his act together and get out another newsletter. Enough for my rather weak apology for missing last month - on to the news.

It turns out that that the speaker that we had lined up for the April meeting can't make it. But not to worry - good ol' Hugh has arranged for Sarah Keeting, Interpreter for the Lake Dardanelle State Park, to come speak to us about the Park and the new facilities there. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to hearing what she has to say.

Our next meeting will be, as usual, on the second Monday of the month (that's Monday, April 14) at 7:00 pm. As usual, the meeting will be at All Saints Episcopal church on South Phoenix in Russellville.

## Membership Dues

For those of you that didn't renew your membership at the banquet, it's time, past time actually, for you to renew your membership for 2003. The cost is still the same - \$20.

## Collins Creek

As you may know, CADDIS has taken an interest in the Collins Creek project on the Little Red. So much so



**Dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of fly fishing through education, conservation and sportsmanship.**

that we're planning to make a monetary donation to this effort. That is, if we can ever get Tom Bly here to receive our donation. In the meantime, Mr. Bly has scheduled a Collins Creek work day for April 26. The plans are to work on the trail as well as the creek itself. Those wishing to participate should bring your own tools. Things that might come in handy include:

- Rakes
- Shovels
- pry bars
- loppers
- limb saws
- waders (There will be some working in the water - you don't think you'll actually have time to fish, do you?)
- anything else that you think you might need

Don't forget gloves and a lunch. Plans are to meet at the pavilion in JFK Park at 9:00 am and work all day. If you have any questions please contact Tom Bly at 1-877-470-3309 ext. 203 (office) or 501-250-3228.

## FF ClubWire


### Technique

#### Shock Waves

Shock waves are those peaks and valleys in the fly line that are observed when the fly is cast. They are caused by oscillations in tip of the rod. They rob the caster of distance and control. Consider, for instance, a cast wherein the line contains only six shock waves, the first of which is 18 inches from peak to valley, the second shock wave is half the height of the first, etc. to a final shock wave of about    inch. Adding these up results in nearly 3 feet of peaks and valleys that must be stretched out before the line straightens.

Since this article is written with reader participation in mind, I ask that you try the following to illustrate the reason for these oscillations. Hold an empty fly rod firmly in front of you, parallel to the ground. Next, move the rod as though making a sidearm forward cast. When you stop, count the number of times the tip oscillates before coming to rest. Try it again, except this time, start more slowly and speed up only at the instant before completing the forward rod movement. You should have noticed a significant decrease in the size and number of oscillations in the rod tip. I urge you to work at this, attempting to achieve only one oscillation before the rod tip comes to rest. The trick is to start very slowly, adding speed only at the last instant of the casting motion. Work on it with the back cast as well.

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Now that you can both create and correct the problem at will, string-up and experiment with variations in this slow-to-fast casting motion. Start by doing your best to create as many shock waves as possible in the fly line. You know how to do it; begin your casting stroke with too much speed. Next, apply the correction excessively by starting your casting stroke so slowly that you can barely stand it. The balance is between these two and is unique for each caster. When you discover this balance, you will have achieved a significant improvement in casting distance and control. Oh, one other thing, you should never experience tailing loops again.

(© Dan Lagace of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire)

## Great Cotter Trout Festival

May 2-3

Cotter, Arkansas, Trout Capital USA, is proud to present the second annual "Great Cotter Trout Festival" at Big Spring Park on Friday and Saturday May 2 & 3, 2003. Trout fishing, boating, great food and entertainment will headline an outstanding event for the whole family on the banks of the beautiful White River.

The festival will open Friday, May 2nd, with an authentic White River Shore Lunch Fish Fry at the pavilion. Entertainment will begin at 4 p.m. and the fish fry will be from 5 till 9 p.m. A band will entertain throughout the fish fry.

On Saturday, May 3rd, the festival grounds will open at 9 a.m. and most events will run continuously throughout the day. Trout fishing programs, a major river boat show, fishing and conservation seminars plus a variety of other exhibits will be provided for every trout fisherman from the novice to the expert.

Fly fishing will be highlighted by fly casting demonstrations and instruction by certified experts. Fly tying demonstrations will show visitors the latest techniques. Special seminars will stress how and where to catch more fish. A special program is being scheduled for

the ladies. A variety of fly fishing gear will be on display.

Bait fishing will be featured at the kid's (16 and under) "fishing hole." A special bank fishing area will be established in the outflow from the Big Spring. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will provide keeping size trout. The area will be supervised and kids will be shown the proper ways to rig poles, catch, handle and clean fish.

A river boat show and sale will be conducted on the baseball field adjacent to the railroad memorial. Boat manufacturers from several states are expected to show their latest designs.

River boat rides will be offered to the public for a nominal fee. The rides will depart from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Cotter Access adjacent to the Big Spring. Rides will be given by experienced White River guides.

A variety of other exhibits from throughout this area will offer the visitor further opportunities to take home a souvenir. For further information about booth space contact Sonny Sharp at 870-492-4483.

The Great Cotter Trout Festival is sponsored by the Cotter Area Chamber of Commerce. For festival information contact Festival Chairman, Gary Flippin, at 870-435-6144 or Chamber President, Gil Stammer, at 870-435-2663.

## Meandering

My thoughts are like a stream. Always changing directions. I frequently think about one thing for awhile, then a few minutes later the flow of thoughts change directions.

You younger fly fishers have a lot to be thankful for. In the early 1980's, everything on the stream had to be spoken in Latin. We never had a Salmon Fly hatch on the Big Hole river or the Madison...it was the Pteronareys hatch. It wasn't the Caddis flies on The Missouri, we had to call 'em Hydropsyche. The Blue Wing Olives were flavilnea and there were at least four different species of BWO's with four different Latin names. Some of the fly fishers expected you to tell the males

from the females. The males had the red eyes. Or was it the other way around? The Midges were never called midges...they were Chironomids.

Thank God we got past that phase of our sport. I prefer to call them "bugs".

Have we become too sophisticated (or maybe to arrogant) that we have to change the names of some of the very popular equipment that we use? It's been called a bobber for over 100 years but we had to change its name to a strike indicator. Now let me think...a bobber sits on the surface and wiggles, bobs or goes under water when a fish hits the hook. While a strike indicator does, ah, er.....the same thing.

We fish with bead heads, cone heads, barbell or dumbbell heads.....these are all jigs. Why can't we just call them jigs? A jig is a hook with a weight (usually lead) attached to the front end of it. We would never think of using a lowly worm for bait, but many of us have a San Juan Worm in our fly boxes. Use a Salmon egg for bait? NEVER! But we have the Glow Bug, Krystal Ball, Alaskan Omelette, Fat Freddie and other various salmon egg imitations.

Whoever started the misnomer of using the word "Pod" to describe a school of fish? My poor 6th grade English teacher would rise up from her grave and pound you on the head if she heard that. It's like scratching your fingernails on the chalk board. Until we start fly casting for Orcas, let's come down to earth and use the correct term. Fish gather in schools.

I prefer to keep it simple. When you see me on the river, you can be guaranteed that I will have an ample supply of bobbers, worms, jigs and eggs. Yes, I will still be using my fly rod to present these "baits" and I'll be casting to every school of trout that I see.

(by Bill Fett of the Missouri River Flyfishers of Great Falls, Montana courtesy of the FFF ClubWire)

