

# Fly Paper

A publication of Rocky Mountain Flycasters affiliated with Trout Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishers

Volume 13

April, 1997

## Backcast

The March 12th meeting was saved by the Wyoming Flyfishing Connection's Gary Edwards. He gave an exciting slideshow describing the nearby fishing opportunities in Wyoming, in the Laramie area, both public access and fish-for-a-fee fishing. The Connection offers a \$50/day fishing opportunity in private waters, both streams and lakes. For more information contact Gary at (800) 347-4775.

The raffle for the meeting included the following items donated to the chapter:

Garretsons - Lanyard, Hat, and *Great Outdoors* book  
St. Peters Fly Shop - Sage Shirt, Hat, T-Shirt, Mug, and Flybox

Hank Roberts - Box of flies

Blair Lampe - Flies & flybox

Rocky Mtn Flyshop - River Journal-Yellowstone Park, Flyfishing calander, Hook Honer, Big-T map, Fly Box and flies

Rocky Mtn Flycasters -*Selective Trout*, Eagle Claw fly hooks, Fisher flyrod

-Ken Eis

## Forward cast

Our next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April at the usual time of 6:30 for a fly tying demo and regular meeting at 7:00. Our speaker is world-class rod builder L. A. Garcia who, this time around, will not be talking rod building (although I am sure he could be coerced into solving some problems); instead he will give a presentation on his latest trip to Chile! L.A. is a great photographer as well as flyfisherman so I am sure his show will be a delight to behold. Please join with fellow TUErs and FFFers on the night of April the 9<sup>th</sup> a Wednesday as usual at the University Park Holiday Inn to welcome L.A. to town..

## President's Beat

Ya Hoo Spring has sprung!!!! Yes my friends, it is time again to start flyfishing in the wonderful Northern Colorado - Southern Wyoming outdoor scene. I think that sometimes we are all guilty of not realizing how fortunate we are to have such wonderful opportunities at our disposal. I just returned from a spring break trip to Southern New Mexico and the El Paso area. Doing family things (no, I am not a Texan) and a little camping-sun worshipping but no flyfishing! The country down there is really kind of interesting, in a desert sort of way, but boy o boy a guy sure does miss the sound and feel of a fine cool stream! Winter around here sure seemed too long even though it really wasn't so bad. Now the ice is coming off all the lakes and the rivers are pre-runoff; way too much for a former trout bum to think about. I say former because of time constraints that have taken over my life. A person has to make a living and home ownership is always a chore of one kind or another. Talking with my buddies I have ascertained that I am not alone in this dilemma; most of my friends are in the same fix. So what can a poor boy do!! Well when you do find yourself astream or float tubing on a fine lake; make sure that you fully value your time on the water. Whenever possible, go early and stay late but also take the time to watch the eagles etc. Most importantly, realize that this beauty and serenity is not to be taken for granted. By staying active in Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Flyfishers and keeping up with the issues that affect our area you can stay aware of problems and solutions for our area. At the very least try to get out for a couple of hours on our local streams and ponds; not necessarily world-class destinations but a good break nonetheless.

The next few years are going to be a very important time for our local resource; what with the added pressure of steadily growing population and continued degradation of the fish stocks due to whirling disease and habitat destruction. So stay active!!! And go fishing!!! Thanks -Tom -

Richard Jones, our Chapter Secretary, is moving to Boise Idaho for career reasons. We will miss him. He was a good fisherman, always ready to get on a stream. We should all look him up when we are on our way to the NW Steelhead scene.

### Action Alert from FFF

The following article was extracted from a FFF action alert e-mail. It describes action that, unfortunately, we can't take because of the speed of newsletter production and snail-mail. If you would like me to send these alerts to you via e-mail please let me know and I'll put you on my group listing.

The House Committee (Agriculture and Economic Development Committee) will meet again this coming Wednesday, March 26. At the last meeting there were three more votes needed to pass Senate Bill 253 from the committee to the House of Representatives. It passed the Arkansas Senate with flying colors. Senate Bill 253 is to get the Extraordinary Resource Water (ERW) designation status for Crooked Creek (Arkansas). If it passes the committee, and then the House, it would then become law, and would stop the gravel mining that is taking place in the streambed of the stream. The mining is destroying the ecological habitat of Crooked Creek, destroying one of the country's finest smallmouth bass streams.

What can you do as in-state or out-of-state interested sports persons? Bobby Hogue is Speaker of the House, and reportedly is in favor of the ERW designation for Crooked Creek. Telephone his office at 1-501-682-7771 between now and Wednesday (March 26), and tell him you are FOR Senate Bill 253 that would provide ERW status for Crooked Creek. Tell him, or his office, you oppose the gravel mining destruction of the ecological habitat that has been taking place in Crooked Creek. Tell him gravel can be removed from many other sources, and that the destruction to Crooked Creek is irreversible.

Approximately 10 days ago an unknown individual opened the valve to a very large diesel fuel storage tank, allowing some 500 (+ or -) gallons of diesel fuel to run into Jordan Creek that runs into Crooked Creek. Some 200 to 300 fish were detected as dead, almost immediately. The count of dead fish is now suspected to be much higher. The storage tank was near the stream, did not have a firewall to contain the fuel, and apparently was not locked.

In closing, the Crooked Creek Coalition is hard at work, and representatives of the CCC will be in attendance at the House Committee meeting this Wednesday. Hopefully the CCC representatives will be given the opportunity to speak to the Committee.

*Editor's note - Our cold water resources are under more attack than I realized. This alert message is just one of many instances that doesn't make the nightly news. Currently there is a plankton bloom off the coast of Louisiana that has created a dead zone over 7000 sq miles in size. The decaying plankton uses up all the oxygen, killing all the fish and plants. It's the result of*

*increasing pollution from the Mississippi River. The river is the primary source of nitrogen and phosphorus on which the dead zone relies. In the past, the usual list of suspects would include cities throughout the nation's heartland, but the U.S. Geological Survey has said municipal sewage is only a small part of the problem. Instead, attention is focused on causes such as agricultural runoff: fertilizers and manure that are washed into the Mississippi's vast watershed from our fields, lawns and feedlots when it rains.*

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### FLY OF THE MONTH (FFF ClubWire).

THE FUNSTON MINNOW From Bob Goff of the Kern River Fly Fishers

Several years ago, when I first started fly fishing and fly tying, I took a hiking trip with a couple of club members to an area of the Kern River known as Funston Meadows. My fly tying skills were very immature and instead of taking all the time, effort and skill to tie a muddler minnow, I developed a version that was quick to tie and more importantly, caught fish. I named it the Funston Minnow after that very successful trip and it soon became one of my favorite flies to use up and down the Kern. In fact, a couple years and a few dozen Funston Minnows later, I caught the biggest wild Kern River Rainbow of my life at a fat 18 inches! I have had success fishing this fly wet (stonefly?), dry (caddis, hopper?) and as a streamer (minnow, stonefly?). Whatever the situation calls for, I almost always can induce a strike with the Funston Minnow.



### MATERIAL FOR FUNSTON MINNOW

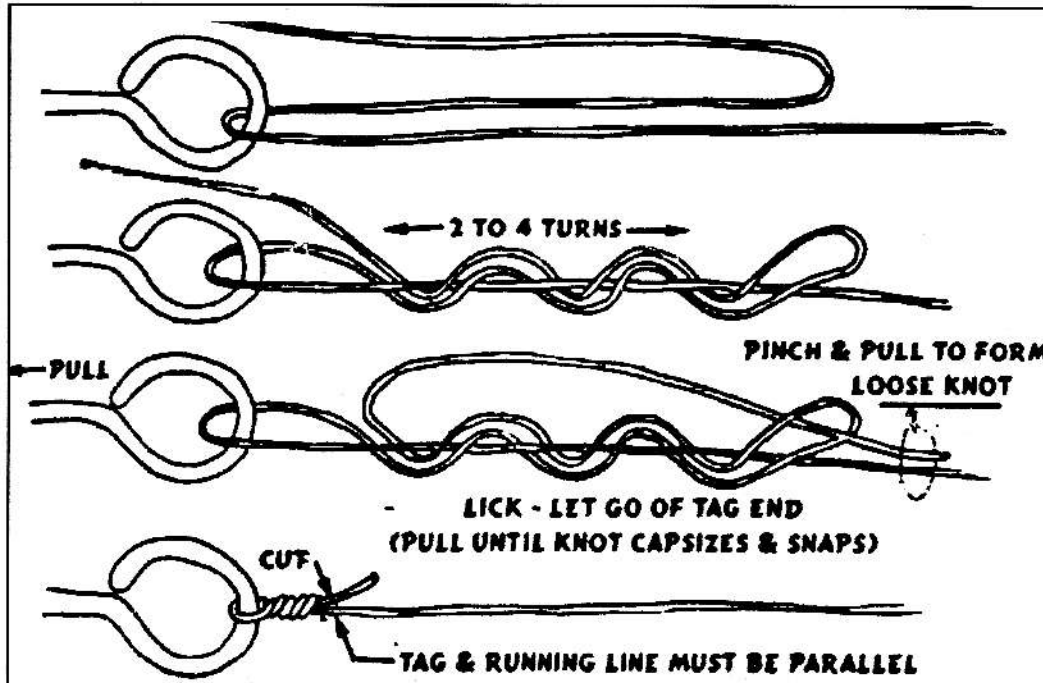
Hook: Streamer hook sizes 10-18  
Body: Flat medium gold tinsel  
Wing: Elk hair or deer hair  
Thread: Brown, Yellow, Black (8/0)

### TYING STEPS

1. Tie on thread 2/3 the way up the hook shank. Tie on gold tinsel at the rear and wrap thread back to starting position.
2. Wrap tinsel up to thread and tie off. Tie in clump of hair making sure to have excess to make the head of the fly.
3. Slightly spin deer hair to make the butt ends stick up. Trim butts and whip finish the fly.
4. If the deer hair wing flares up as well as the butts, try loosely wrapping the wing with the thread while you trim the head of the fly.

**A knot for your collection** The Eugene Bend (terminal knot) and Eugene Sling (loop knot) were developed in the early 1970's by the eponymous Ken Eugene of Belmont, California.

Both knots maintain 100% of the strength of the leader....really. Tie one up and give it a hook to hook test with any other knot you use to tie on your fly - you will be convinced. Besides strength, the knots have the advantage



of being easy to tie and can be trimmed closely. Be advised, however, that when you do break off, you are likely to lose your whole tippet. The terminal knot is stronger than the blood or double surgeon's knot used for tippet attachment. Ken uses a Bimini twist to attach his tippet, even on trout leaders. When tying the knot, always lick or moisten the knot before tightening. These knots may not tie to maximum strength if not lubricated during tightening. As you tighten the Eugene Bend, it will turn itself inside out and snap into place. If it does not snap, it is not tied correctly.

**HOW DO YOU RATE YOURSELF ON ANGLING ETIQUETTE?** (FFF ClubWire). These 10 questions was adopted from an article by Al Kyte, "In Search of Etiquette," (California Fly Fisher, Sept-Oct '94; we acknowledge the generous permission of the California Fly Fisher to reprint it here).

1. While fishing a river you arrive at a favorite pool to find another angler already fishing there. You believe there is enough room for two anglers to fish. Do you ask the other angler's permission before casting into that pool?
2. While passing an upstream-fishing angler on a small stream, do you note his or her rate of movement, stay back

from the bank, and walk far enough around to leave that angler an estimated half-hour of undisturbed water before fishing again?

3. When fishing your way down along a creek, you notice an angler approaching you from downstream. Do you stop fishing and move around that angler, thus honoring the tradition of yielding the right-of-way to an upstream-fishing angler?

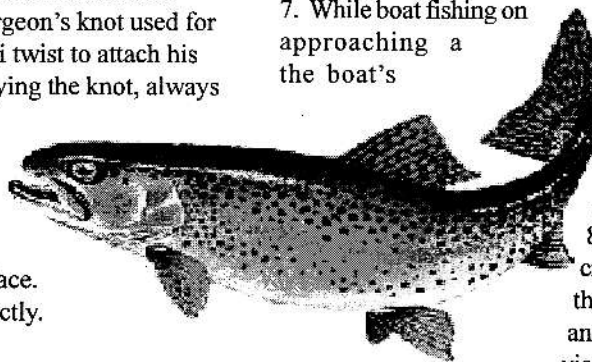
4. When you are fishing a spot where anglers must wade or float through to reach other water, do you yield your right-of-way to such access?

5. When you approach an angler on a lake or spring creek, do you stop far enough away to leave a little unfished water between your casts and his or her longest casts and drifts?

6. While float-tubing you notice a fish rising behind a nearby angler's float tube within his or her casting range. You also notice that the angler seems preoccupied in casting to other rising fish.

Do you alert that angler to the fish rising behind the tube and cast to it only if invited to do so?

7. While boat fishing on a river, you find yourself approaching a wading angler. Do you guide the boat's course away from the water being fished, keep as low and quiet as possible, and avoid dropping anchor where it might disturb that person's fishing?



8. When walking along a spring creek, do you walk well back from the banks to avoid spooking fish and even farther back around any visible angler?

8. When walking along a spring creek, do you walk well back from the banks to avoid spooking fish and even farther back around any visible angler?

9. When you encounter another angler, are you likely to acknowledge that person's presence with a friendly gesture, smile or greeting?

10. When approaching a river pool, you see an angler on shore who isn't fishing. Do you consider that he or she might be resting the water and ask permission to fish there?

If you can answer "YES" to questions such as these, you've already learned that there is far more to being a competent angler than your ability to catch fish.

## Calendar of Events

**General Meetings** Wednesday April 9th, and May 14 after Summer recess the next meeting will be on September 10th

**Board Meetings** April 14, and May 19

General Meetings are always at the University Park Holiday Inn at 6:30 PM the second Wednesday of the month.

Board Meetings are held at the County Cork at 7:30PM on the Monday following the general meeting. The Board meeting is open to all members.

If you have any suggestions for the next newsletter please contact Ken Eis.

## Rocky Mountain Flycasters Board of Directors.

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*Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection*

&

*Enhancement*

*of our Nation's Coldwater Resources*

