



CADDIS CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Jerry McKaughan
P.O. Box 85
Pottsville, AR 72858
(479) 964-2385

VICE PRESIDENT

Grant Ehren
650 Cliff Road
Russellville, AR 72801
(479) 968-1840

SECRETARY

Ron Schwartz

TREASURER

Dave Snelling
61 Abbey Rd.
Russellville, AR 72802
(479) 967-8664

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at All Saints Episcopal Church 501 S Phoenix in Russellville at 7:00 PM. The Board meeting begins at 6:00 PM.

Fly Tying

The fly tiers meet every Monday except the Monday of the monthly meeting at All Saints Episcopal Church 501 S Phoenix in Russellville. We begin at 7:00 PM.

Come on down to tie, tell your latest fish story, or just be around other folks who also have this fly-fishing thing real bad.

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

Good Fishing Links

CADDIS on the line

www.caddisflyfishers.org

Mountain River Fly shop

These folks have supported our banquets well / let them know we appreciate them.

www.mtriverflyshopstore.com

Bass on the Page

This is not your expected bubbabassguy site. Especially check out the fly fishing for bass and smallmouth books pages.

<http://hometown.aol.com/BassBks/index.html>

Water levels and releases

Check 'em out before you leave:

www.swpa.gov/generation.html

A Good Warmwater Site

Well presented with a lot of features and information. Check out their podcasts.

www.flyfishohio.com

CADDIS CALENDAR 2009

Feb. 7th – CADDIS Rotary Vice Tie-in with Mike Clark at Dardanelle State Park Visitor's Center. 10 'til 2 on a Sat.

March 7th – Annual CADDIS banquet at Chambers Cafeteria on the Tech campus. 6 p.m. on a Sat.

April 7th - CADDIS/agfc Fly Fishing Clinic at the Hughes Center. 6 p.m. on a Tues.

March 19-21 – annual Sow Bug Roundup weekend in Mt. Home

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Well it has been a slow start for me this New Year. Sorry I did not get any news out last month. As we all know last year for fishing was a bust due to the weather and high water. I hear that this year should be much better, but that the fish may be in different locations.

This year "TROUT DAY" was a huge success thanks to David Snellings, Russellville Parks & Recreation and the Arkansas Game & Fishers guys. We had lots of trout, gifts and donations, so we need to be sure if we run across the donors to thank them. With approximately 180 folks at the pond I'd say it was a good day. And a big thanks to all the members who showed up to help.

I hope that we can start off with a list of officers and board members that have our

club and community in mind as they plan the activities for 2009. Our first club activity is the Mike Clark "Rotary Fly Tying Seminar", Pot Luck lunch and tying demonstration at the Lake Dardanelle State Park visitors center, February 7th, from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m..

The other item coming up soon is our "2009 Annual Banquet" March 7th, 6:00p.m.at Arkansas TECH Chambers Cafeteria. If you have anything you'd like to donate or make for the raffle or silent auction please let someone on the banquet committee know. Things are shaping up nicely and we will be looking for volunteers to help with different aspects at the next meeting.

Have a great month and hope to see you soon.

Tight Lines
Jerry

Caddis fly fisher's please remember:

Let our local and national vendors know when you're buying or talking with them that we greatly appreciate their contributions.

AGFC Rule Changes

LITTLE ROCK – A number of changes in fishing regulations for Arkansas anglers went into effect Jan. 1. Most are minor or

local rules, but a couple apply statewide.

Another statewide rule is on how to measure a fish. It received the additional words "on its side." You measure a fish's length from the top of the nose to the tip of the tail with the tail's lobes pressed together. And you do it with the fish lying on its side, not upright. * Regulations on trout fishing boundaries on the White River below Bull Shoals Dam and Little Red River below Greers Ferry Dam were changed to read : "as indicated by signs."

* A 24-inch minimum length limit and a daily limit of one was put on brown trout on the white River below Bull Shoals Dam and on the North Fork River below Norfolk Dam.



Do Bass Remember?

When that new fly or bass pattern that was so hot for a couple of weeks loses its charm and you know the honeymoon is over what really happened? Did the season or

weather change that much? Is the food source or fish habitat involved? What gives here anyway? The following by Dr. Keith Jones of Berkley was published earlier this month. It presents some insight into the situation.

"More and more in bass fishing, we hear the pros say that bass are "conditioned." The term usually comes up when discussing pressured fisheries and difficult bites. But do we really know whether bass become conditioned? Specifically, whether they become conditioned to avoid certain lures they see time and again?

There are certainly trends on the bass tours that would seem to suggest that. For example, spinnerbaits - once a dominant presentation for top pros - seem forgotten bait now. Small worms, swimbaits, frogs and other newer trends have replaced it. But no examination of tour results is truly scientific, since too many variables factor in, such as venues and seasons. There has been significant scientific research done on the subject, though. Dr. Keith Jones, who works in the research department of Pure Fishing and is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost bass experts, writes about that research in his book

Knowing Bass: The Scientific Approach to Catching More Fish.

Four Types Of Learning according to Dr. Jones, bass "learn" in several different ways.

The four main methods of learning are:

Associative Learning - Think of this as trial-and-error learning. The fact that bass are capable of associative learning, Dr. Jones writes, is proven by laboratory experiments "where the animal is taught to link two types of stimuli, such as a certain-colored light with an ensuing electric shock. Bass readily learn these associations, both in the lab and in the field, although not as fast as some other species."

Habituation - This is the type of learning through which bass gradually become less sensitive to particular stimulations. Examples would include fish in an aquarium that no longer shy from people who walk by, or bass that learn to ignore boat traffic on a busy lake.

Spatial - Bass learn to move around their environments, recognize landmarks or objects and stake out home territories. Their ability to do so comes through spatial learning. In fact, according to Dr. Jones, bass in the laboratory have been able to find their way through an underwater maze to reach a desired point.

Prey Images - The fourth type of bass learning that Dr. Jones describes is the ability to develop and recognize prey images. Bass therefore can recognize a shad or crawfish as prey. "Given enough positive experience with a certain prey type, a bass will gradually come

to actively seek out that specific prey," he writes. "Prey species, for their part, often counter the bass's efforts by changing their signature stimuli, often through the use of camouflage." Noteworthy too is Dr. Jones' observation that while bass are capable of these different types of learning, individuals learn at different rates. He cites a 4-year study in Illinois that documented recapture rates of largemouth bass. The average bass was caught twice each season, but some bass were caught up to 16 times in a single season. "Within every population of bass, some individuals learn to renounce lures very quickly, whereas others never make the mental connection between lures and trauma," Dr. Jones writes. "So much individual variation in learning rates exists that at one time, Texas Parks & Wildlife explored the potential of developing a genetic race of dumb bass."

Bass Memory For Lures

What's especially interesting about Dr. Jones' discussion of bass learning is a study conducted at Pure Fishing that tested bass memory for lures. The results suggest that bass "remember" lures for quite a long time. In the study, bass were allowed to freely strike a minnow lure for a 5-minute test period. In the initial exposure, most strikes came in the first 1 to 3 minutes. By the end of the 5-minute period, the bass had learned to ignore the lure "since it provided no positive food reward."

The bass were then divided into two groups and held separately, with no additional testing, for different lengths of time. After 2 weeks, the bass in one group were re-exposed to the same minnow lure, again for 5 minutes. The response was one-tenth of what it was in the initial exposure, "indicating that the bass had retained a strong negative memory of the bait during the 2-week interval."

Holding bass for an even longer period yielded similar results. After 2 months, the second group of bass still tested well below the original response level. Dr. Jones concludes his discussion of the memory study by writing: "The results show that under some circumstances, bass can remember lures for at least up to 3 months and perhaps much, much longer. Who knows? If the experience is bad enough, they might never forget."

What's it all mean for the bass angler? While there are no hard and fast rules in fishing, the research certainly seems to suggest that anglers should try different lures in the same areas, especially areas they fish regularly or that are heavily pressured."

I find Dr. Jones' ideas thought provoking. I still wonder why one or two of my "go to" flies are generally effective until the real pattern for that day is discovered.

Dan Terry





"Yes, we stock tape measures. Do you want the angler's model or the accurate?"



Fly Tiers Corner

Dan Terry

What Makes a Good Fly?

My own requirements for designing a proper bass fly have long been:

- a little wiggle
- a little flash
- a little red
- some big ol' eyes

The following written by Tim Holschlag appearing in Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine goes right down the same vein with the ideas of Dr. Keith Jones in the Bass Pond section of this newsletter.

"Thousands of warm water neophytes have lots of expensive trash in their fly boxes. Elaborately tied crawfish, minnows, frogs, even imitation mice that may please the human eye, but are just so much flotsam to the fish.

So what's the problem, why do so many otherwise intelligent folks have such stupid flies? We can blame it on trout. The trout orientation of so many fly fishing writers and tiers lead them to apply trout fly principles to their non-trout patterns. Trying to match the hatch crawfish (or minnow) with religious zeal, too many people give little thought to what actually appeals to the fish. Seemingly not understanding that piscatorial species such as bass are very different than trout, lots of folks are still trying to apply trout theology to warmwater tying.

COLOR POSSIBILITIES

Warmwater color choices is another area that departs markedly from trout theology. While many trout flies attempt to duplicate the subtle hues of the "naturals," a tackle shop tour will show you where warmwater lure color is at. Many of the most effective lures sport exceptionally bright finishes, often in totally unnatural shades. The reason a gaudy color such as yellow or chartreuse is so good is simply because the fish can see them better than natural hues. Not only does a fish often have to find your fly in a low visibility environment, your offering also has to compete with an abundance of real food. A fly color that "stands out from

the crowd" often receives more attention (and more strikes) than a more drab creation.

Though black bass, pike, white bass and other species are regarded as sight feeders, they also make good use of their hearing to detect prey. This is especially obvious when you make a popper "pop" and fish suddenly become very interested. In many cases, fish that wouldn't give a quietly drifting surface fly a second glance come from significant distances to investigate the unusual noise created by a popper or hair bug. And this is why so many frog and mouse patterns are so awful. By attempting to imitate the exact shape of the creature, tiers create a fly that is not only unnaturally stiff, but is also incapable of popping, chugging, glugging or making any other sound that fascinates fish. Forget the "match the frog" concept. Use surface flies that have lots of tail (or leg) action and make distinctive sounds."

THE RIGHT FLY WEIGHT

Even more important than a subsurface fly's size or color is its weight. With a floating line, fly weight will determine how close to the bottom you can fish, how fast the fly will sink, even how much you'll snag up. Water depth, current speed and buoyancy of the fly's material should also be taken into consideration when deciding on the weight to use. But despite the critical importance of fly weight (especially for river fishing), few give it the attention it warrants. Do you know how much your woolly bugger

weighs, or how heavy the barbell eyes on your Clouser Minnow are?

Though manufacturers don't always clearly label them it's critical to know how much your flies weigh and their sink rates. You should also realize that it's not just the total weight of the fly, how it sinks is important, too. Not only will a weight-in-the-body fly sink

horizontally, it will sink slower than one tied "weight forward" (weight in its head).

Fortunately, with weight forward flies (especially those with metal eyes) it's easy to produce the same pattern in several different weights. While river fishing, I commonly use several different weight flies during the same day. Light 1/50th ounce eyes are best for shallow slow current areas, 1/40th or 1/36th ounce flies are good for moderate depths and current speed, while extra heavy 1/24th ounce eyes are needed to reach bottom in deep water and strong currents.

WARMWATER FLIES-- THE ACTION FACTION

Unquestionably, the motion or action of a fly is its most critical attribute. No mater its size, color or weight, if a fly doesn't produce an attractive motion, you're out of luck. Most of the best patterns are those that generate lots of tail undulation, or have a pronounced side to side wobble or produce an up and down hopping motion. And when you combine plenty of undulation with side to side action or up and down motion

you have a terrific fly. Of course, to produce these characteristics you need to include the right materials in the fly, add the proper weight to it and use the right retrieve.

The three most common materials that create hot tail action are marabou, rabbit strips and long bucktail hairs. Even with slow retrieves, all of these materials produce good to excellent undulation, with most effective patterns including one of these materials in its tail.

PUTTING THEM ALL TOGETHER

To best understand how important the correct fly weight is and how a good retrieve is necessary to produce attractive motion, let's look at a specific pattern. An old favorite of mine is the rabbit strip leech. So simple and plain some guys seem embarrassed to use it, the bunny leech is nothing more than a palmered strip of rabbit fur with plenty of tail. Though rabbit strips produce great action, the real secret to the bunny's success is its barbell eyes and hopping retrieve. Since it's tied "weight forward" the fly dives head first to the bottom, and with a slight snap of the rod (followed by a distinct pause) the rabbit strip leech hops up and down along the bottom. It stays in the zone where fish reside and it produces the motion fish can't resist. Does this column cover everything there is to know about warmwater flies? Of course not, but this should give you a solid foundation to build on. And hopefully, I'll see fewer

of those stiff crawfish and mouse imitations around.



"You may feel a little discomfort... like impaling yourself with a 3-0 salmon fly hook."

FLYLINES EDITOR

Dan Terry
11739Hwy.80
Danville, AR72833
(479)495-2053

Please let the editor know what you would like to see included or changed. The suggestion box is always open.