



Newsletter December 2015

President's Letter

Well, the calendar says December, but it seems more like early November. After my November steelhead trip I usually put my rod away, but with the mild weather we have, I have been out twice so far. I may go back out again this weekend. It has been fair fishing. I think the fish are somewhat confused as well.

Last month we had Rick Little of Shad Creek flies talk about fishing up North and what flies to use. It was a great presentation. Most people have commented to me they enjoyed it. If you did not sign up on his web site I urge you to do it. www.shadcreekflies.com.

This month our own Larry Grant is going to tie and have a small presentation. As usual we also are having pizza and cake. Hope you can come. We are urging everyone to bring their children or grandchildren!

In January we are bringing back Ron Lasko, who this time will offer a new presentation of fishing the kettle ponds of Cape Cod. This should be real good. Other speakers are being asked and as they come on board we will let you know.

We once again are having a raffle for a guided trip in Rhode Island by Capt Ray Stachelek. We are going to start selling tickets in December. So make sure you buy them early as we ran out of tickets last year. If you want to know about the fishing ask Howie—he won. Or Mike Mathias who was with Capt Ray fishing for his first Albies.

Our web site continues to get praises from everyone who have seen it. If you are not a regular user go on the site and sign on as a member in the member message board. There are lot of conversations and talk going on. If you have any photos of yourself or club members fishing—send it to Steve. He is looking to add your pics to our web site.

At this point of the year I also want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year. Hope to see you all at the December meeting. At the meetings voice your opinions. This is your club. Tight lines. Hope to see you,

Joel



It's Pizza & Party Time

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday December 22, 2015
Foxboro Community Center
6:30 to 9:00 PM

December Speaker/Fly Tying Program Info:

"The Flies that Santa Ties"

A short program by Larry Grant featuring some old standbys that every fly fisherman or woman would like to find under the tree.

Using some of the festive colors of the season, Larry will tie some variations of the Royal Coachman and others that are as good to fish with today as ever.

The short slide show will follow a tying demonstration and of course all will be invited to tie along with me.

FLY TYING CORNER

Armand Says:

THE FOREVER BUG

My neighbor Gene Landurand asked if I want to go to a special show on salt water fly fishing in Medford, MA. Howard Laws, Gene and myself were on our way. I was fifteen years old. United Fly Tyers sponsored the event by Lefty Kreh of Miami. It was at Medford National Guard Armory. From that moment on for almost fifty years Lefty has been my mentor. Lefty was the presenter at many UFT meetings. His writings inspired many in the sport of fishing and photography.

In the early years he spoke of the Lefty Deceiver. A pattern for all fresh and salt water gamefish. This fly was special in Striped Bass and Bluefish fishing. It was a sink fly pattern. In fishing for Largemouth bass in weed infested shallow waters, I had trouble because I couldn't fish the fly slow. One of my favorite Smallmouth bass fly patterns was the Muddler Minnow.

The solution was to combine two great patterns. Armand's Mud/Deceiver was created. The body was traditional Deceiver with a head of a Muddler. It was tested in Leonard's Pond, Big Bear Hole, Watson's Pond, and A-1 Pond located in Massachusetts. In fishing I could either fish slow or fast. Using the fast approach I would see wakes of Bass and Pickerel trying to ambush the fly.

Armand wrote about the Mud/Deceiver in the UFT Roundtable in 1973. He received comments about the fly from people on both the east and west coasts of the United States. ED.



In salt water while doing some testing in the Warren River in Rhode Island, the surface strikes would be etched on my mind forever. I could not believe seeing striped bass rising in some fifteen feet of water to engulf the fly.

The Mud/Deceiver was user friendly on the fly rod. It was less wind resistant than traditional cork or balsa wood poppers. The action on the surface drove fish crazy with a savage strike.

ARMAND'S MUD / DECEIVER

Hook: Daiichi Model X472 size 1/0 or 2/0
Thread: UTC G.S.P. 100, Color is not important.

Tail: White saddle hackles.

Body: EZ Body piping pearl

Wing: Yellow 15 strands bucktail, brown 15 strands brown or blue bucktail

Throat: White 15 strands white bucktail with small amount red kinkle fiber

Head: Natural or white deer body hair, spun and clipped, Cement winding.

Eye: 3D eyes attached with Goop.

Fly Of The Month



THE DETAILS:

Hook: 1/0 Eagle Claw 254SS

Thread: White Danville A unwaxed

Bucktail: White, Pink, Chartreuse

Flash: Ice Blue Flashabou

Eyes: Stu Dickens #3 Krystal

5 Minute Epoxy

Howie
DeBeck's

Tutti-Fruitti

To All Our Members:

We would like to see your fly patterns here.

Send us pics & details and we'll include your special flies in upcoming newsletters!!



REMINDER:

This Month is our Holiday Meeting!

Bring A Family Member!

Children & Especially
Grandchildren

Are Welcome

We'll Have Pizza & Cake and Soda



Learning to Ice Fish.....

Miss Baker wanted to go ice fishing. She had read several books on the subject, and finally, after getting all the necessary equipment together, she made her way out onto the ice.

After positioning her comfy stool, she started to make a circular cut in the ice.

Frighteningly, from up above, a voice boomed, 'There are no fish under the ice.' Startled, Miss Baker moved farther down the ice, poured herself a large coffee, and began to cut yet another hole.

Again, from the heavens, the voice bellowed, 'There are no fish under the ice.' Miss Baker, now became very concerned so she moved way down to the opposite end of the ice, set up her stool, and began again to cut her ice-hole.

The voice rang out once more, 'There are no fish under the ice.' Miss Baker, stopped, looked upwards and said, 'Is that you, Lord?'

The voice replied, 'No, this is the Ice-Rink Manager.'



Winter Fly Fishing

Comments by Joel Kessler

Although the temperatures are dropping and the snow will soon be here, this time of year can really provide us with some of the best trout and steelhead fishing of the year.

Suggested winter trout strategies

As the temperatures drop, so do the size of insects trout are keying in on. Small midge patterns such as Zebra Midges, Rainbow Warriors, Disco Midges and Griffiths Gnats in sizes 18-24 are all likely to produce trout.

Scuds and sowbugs offer trout a great source of protein. They will often move a distance to intercept one. They can especially key in on a pink scud (dead scud) or a scud with an orange hot spot (egg carrying scud). Tie your standard scud patterns down to size 18 in olive, tan, pink and orange.

If you prefer streamer fishing, a dead drifted wooly buggie is often an overlooked tactic that can be extremely effective.

The fish are most active during the warmest times of the day. There's no rush to get to the river by 7am. Instead, hit the river after lunch. You will often be surprised by the amounts of little black stoneflies and midges you will find hatching along the river banks.

Suggested winter steelhead strategies

If you are nymphing don't be afraid to tie on a smaller size 16 nymph such as a pheasant tail or stone fly in natural colors (TMC 3769 is a great hook for this). Late season steelhead in the Salmon River have seen many flies by now and aren't interested in large, flashy Estaz Eggs.

If you prefer swinging flies to steelhead the same rule holds true. Reduce the amount of flash in your flies and go down a size or two.

More natural sculpin colors such as olive & orange can be deadly this time of year.

River flows can also be a key factor in your steelheading success.

Check our website for live updated USGS Stream Flow Charts

And read the article below for some more info on Winter Fly Fishing→

Fishing Doesn't Hibernate in Winter



Winter in Colorado generally means ski gear is taking up most of the space in your car. But be sure to leave a little room for your waders and rod. Although the weather is colder, fly fishing remains hot.

Fishing during the colder months is possibly the most rewarding time of year to fish. Not only does catching a fish justify the hours spent in the cold and wind, and give you a reason to spend more time in some of the [best fisheries in the country](#), but winter trout require much more precise technique and skill than any other time of year.

When the air temperature drops, the water temperature drops with it. Like most fish, trout cannot regulate their body temperature and therefore operate at the same temperature as the water around them. When fish get too cold, they become sluggish and dormant.



Trout prefer temperature between the ranges of 45-65 degrees Fahrenheit- also known as the Trout Zone. This is no problem for summer days in Colorado when the water remains in this range, but during the winter, the temperature can drop below freezing. In order to survive, trout will find holes or eddies where the water may be warmer and stay low in the water.

In order to catch the fish in these spots it's best to use a nymph. Fish won't move more than a few inches to catch food. When their body is cold and metabolism is low, it's not worth the risk to waste energy by moving for a small reward that a bug might offer. Therefore, drop nymphs to the bottom of the stream where they can see it and move slightly to eat it.



When fishing in these winter streams, remember that trout are still alert and they know what it is worth wasting energy for and what is not. Every single move they make and bite they take is a gamble. If they strike and miss, that's a lot of energy wasted for no reward.

Winter streams are generally lower and clearer. Trout will be able to see your tippet if it's too big. Try to use one tippet smaller than what you'd normally use on that body of water. If you use a 5x tippet in spring and summer, drop to a 6X tippet in the winter months. This will not only help that the trout won't see the line, but that the nymph is presented more realistically.



For the same reason that the tippet should be shortened, it's also important to stay low. Because the water is clearer and lower, it gives the fish a better chance at seeing you.

While nymphing is the [best tactic for winter trout](#), don't put all of your dry flies away quite yet. Keep a view on your vest because in deeper pools trout may still rise. This generally occurs in tailwaters (rivers that flow from bottom-released dams). In these tailwaters, the water is moving out of the dam fast enough that the water temperature generally remains in the Trout Zone year round.

During the winter trout will also eat minnows and crayfish, but remember they won't move too far for them to conserve energy. Fishing streamers is a good tactic but just like everything else, they need to be presented next to the trout ensuring they don't need to move as much.

Remember to keep fish in the water as long as possible, especially in the winter as the outside temperature can harm and possibly kill them. Use the [fundamentals of proper handling](#) when fishing.

So don't take that fly rod out of your car just yet- or ever. Because fly fishing never hibernates. And when you're stuck in ski traffic, there's no better way than to wait it out by wading out.

Posted by Jeff Florence on November 17, 2015 in [Chapters](#), [Legislation and Advocacy](#), [Press/PR](#), [Trout](#), [Water Quality](#), [Youth Education](#)

**Thank you for spending some time reading the new Crossroads Anglers Newsletter.
See you next month!**