



The Official Newsletter of the Hamilton and Area Fly Fishers and Tyers

May 2002

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Opening day has come and gone for Trout. Within a couple of weeks, everything is open again. Oh, to lament the joys of being a fly fisher. Why bother, just GO FISHING!

If you haven't had a chance to exercise that arm of yours, I must encourage you to give it a try. It's a wonderful feeling, that occasional spot of sun peeking down on you; the water to yourself (I hope); with a little luck and even a wee bit of skill, you'll be stripping or reeling something in.

This is a long one this month everyone; to make up for last month I guess. For our beginners, your corner has part 4, the final installment to the "Reading Water" series. I hope you found it useful and interesting. We have a couple of honors to bestow on a couple of individuals whom both John French and Ron Marini do a fine job. Finally, take note of the work events and all of the upcoming summer events. I'll leave it to both John and Ken to state their piece on this.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Since this is our last large format newsletter for this year I decided to do a review of our activities. The ideas and suggestions tabled for discussion at our December meeting have almost all been acted upon and implemented. Our web site [even I can find it now] and web master[s] are doing a bang up job of delivering information. Bob Mackenzie, the Sage/Scientific Anglers rep attended our swap meet to talk about products and answer questions. He also generously donated two fly lines for our raffles. Volunteers actually stamped out of the wood work to help at the Spring Fishing Show and our presence at the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum was even more obvious this year. Jay "Fishy" Fullum was a big hit and we almost broke even on the expenditure for the event. Thank you to Ken Welch for hosting "Fishy" while he was here. So far our survey response leaves a lot to be desired. I can only assume no one else has ideas, suggestions or requests. The 11 hardy souls that braved the fearsome trek up highway 10 to Primrose trout farm deserve some kind of commendation. On the way home I formed a Presidential Sub-Committee and by a unanimous vote it decided to ban Karl Peter from further club sanctioned fishing outings. Not only did Karl show complete disregard for the feelings of his fellow HAFFT members by continuously catching fish after fish, he compounded this by flaunting the bare hook he was

using to catch them by wandering around and showing it to us all. Thank you to Jordan Sinke for the use of his barbecue, to Hank Nyhof for transporting it and Peter Cook, master chef. That is his name, really!

The recognition of Joe Szymanski and Henri Lemieux, recipients of the Becker/Knott Founders Award for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively was accomplished and the choices were popular. Nominations for 2001-2002 can be submitted to any executive member. This year also represents the 10th anniversary of the founding of the club. Any suggestions on how we can recognize this milestone? Club shirts, jackets, vests? A big party this fall? Go fish somewhere? How about some ideas.

On a much more somber note, I regret to have to relay the news of the passing of Olga Becker, Harold's wife. The support and generosity of members in attendance at our meeting on April 22 was quite moving. Club members signed the expression of sympathy card for Harold and spontaneously contributed \$140.00 which the club rounded up to \$150.00. This was delivered to the Cancer Assistance Program, 569 Concession St. Hamilton, L8V 1B2 in Olga's name.

Our sympathies must also go out to Henri Lemieux, who lost his brother also late in April. Henri had to leave suddenly for Montreal, so I have no further details.

Since my return as club president a number of members have told me they are glad I came back, that the club needed a president. I do not intend to take credit where it is not due. With the exception of co-coordinating the Spring Fishing Show volunteers, which was made oh so much easier by Hank Nyhof donating a display unit and the 14 members that came to me and volunteered, I have done very little. You the members have done the work. Chris Morioupoulos, Bruce Wainman, Dave Bour, Ken Glasbergen, Andre Ferron, Ed Stevens and Michael Dmytrusko all deserve a thank you for their efforts on your behalf.

You get out of something what you put into it. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our work days and club events this summer. Or as Bobby Vinton said.... See you in September.

John L French,

HAFFT President

UPCOMING EVENTS

. May 16/17 FOGV volunteers who can help out with this are asked to meet at the Zehrs supermarket parking lot on Hwy 6 at the south end of Fergus. We hope the

MNR stocking truck will be there by 12:00 noon, though some years it has not arrived until nearly 1:00 in the afternoon. You'll need waders or wellies at least. We'll proceed with this rain or shine, unless the river is dangerously flooded. The stocking will be spread over 2 days because the hatchery truck cannot bring all 22,000 fish at once. We'll be using several trucks with tanks that we can offload from the main hatchery truck. Hope to see you there. For more information, contact Ian D. Martin, email: idmartin@golden.net or 519-846-8448

- May 27 Bond, James Bond on the Credits no longer secret service
- June 8 Grand Opportunities, Belwood Lake Conservation Area: Used equipment sale, tying demos, casting demos, in river seminars, auction, Manufacturers demos, women's intro to fly fishing, kid's events river insect id
- June 12 Mooneye Madness - Seneca Park Flats, Caledonia 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm [apparently the channel cats come onto the flats after dark and bust mooneye]
- July 6 Tying instruction and casting demo volunteers needed. Two places:
Dunnville Kids Fishing Derby, Dunnville, Ontario
Caledonia Family Fishing Event, Caledonia, Ontario
Dunnville is annual event we participate in and Caledonia event is with Caledonia Outdoor Youth Group that visited our meeting this past year. If you can tie a woolly worm you are qualified to help and I could use a couple of people who can cast comfortably in front of people and describe what they are doing.
- July 7 or 14 Tuber Day at Rockwood Conservation Area: Haul out those "O" boats, "U" boats, Pontoon Boats, Water Craft of any kind and attend the First Annual Tuber Event [FATE] full details to follow
- July 13 Conservation Day at Hunter Farm property
- Aug 10 Conservation Day at Hunter Farm property
- Sept 14 Conservation Day at Hunter Farm property

CONSERVATION CORNER

Well winter is over, spring has started, albeit slowly, and are thoughts turn to the outdoors and what the summer has in store for us this year. As in past years we will be running a number of work days throughout the summer. We will continue working on Flechers Creek by Neil Hunter's property. For those of you who have been coming out for the past couple of years, you will be familiar with the site. Again, we will work on removing tornado damaged trees from the creek. Most of the trees have been removed over the past couple of years, so that faze of the work is coming to an end. So in addition to debris removal, this year we are going to start working on trying to re-establish a single channel through the Hunter Property. The work the club has been doing in this area looks really good, and after this year we may have had that section licked. Workdays at the Hunter Property will be, July 13, August 10, and September 14. We will meet at the normal parking area at 9:00. A map of the meeting place is on the club web page.

In addition to the Hunter Property we will likely have a forth work day on Spencers Creek, working with Ontario Streams and the Hamilton Conservation Authority. There is a low-head weir

just upstream of the Safari Road Bridge that is a barrier to fish movement. Funding has been acquired to design and build a fish passage channel around the weir. We have been asked to help out in the construct this channel. The date of this workday has yet to be set, but I will let club members know when does.

It also appears that the Dundas Valley is going to be the focus of a restoration program being this year. A gentleman from Toronto, who grew up in the Dundas Valley area, remembers catching brook trout throughout the valley. Recent studies completed by the Hamilton Conservation Authority have not turned up any Brook Trout in these waters. This man, who now lives in Toronto, has by some means or another learned of the Authorities results and was distressed by them. So in response has provided the Conservation Authority with money to try and bring the trout back. So for this year it looks like the CA will be assessing the creeks in the valley, and then looking at creating a reintroduction program. Bruce Duncan for the Hamilton Conservation Authority would like the club to become involved in this project. If anyone is interested in helping out this summer, it sounds like Bruce would like some help with capturing/looking for Brook Trout, mainly in Ancaster and Sulphur Springs Creeks. In the future we may get involved in Brook Trout transfers or building upwelling hatchery boxes, this still has to be decided.

Then on-top of all of this, there is going to be a work day on Bronte Creek in the late summer, early fall. This work day has been coordinated by Bill Christmas of the Isaac Walton Fly Fishing Club. A number of the Hamilton members have been helping out on this workday for a number of years now and it has gone over well. Bill is hoping that more Hamilton members will join in on this day. It is a great chance to meet and work with members of the Isaac Walton Club, and if last year is a measure, a good lunch to boot. The date of this workday is yet to be announced.

So, there is lots going on this summer, and a good variety of work to get involved in. If anyone is interested in helping out on any of these workdays, or would like their name added to the call list, please let me know (Ken Glasbergen). You can give me a call at (905) 639-2460, send me an email at noturus_1@yahoo.com or let me know at the upcoming meeting in May. I can give you more information about the different projects and where we will be meeting. Hope to see you out on the river.

WORK DAYS

By John French

Some organizations that depend largely on volunteers to perform their good deeds remain purposely vague where descriptions of the deeds are concerned. When you combine an organization of fly fisherman with physical, outdoor work, the vagueness, ambiguity, [out-right deceit] approaches the surreal. Expressions like tree planting, bank stabilization, brush removal and fish stocking are used to help conjure up images of small babbling brooks on warm, sunny Spring days. No one actually tells you until it is far too late to hit the snooze button on the alarm what is really involved when you volunteer for a work day for the first time.

Physically arriving at the work site frequently involves travels that would daunt characters in Tolkien's writings. Is it a genetic flaw or just stubbornness that prevents us from asking for

concise, accurate directions to our destination? To aid in this process warnings should be included with the myriad of lovely before and after photos so popular with conservation groups. Something along the same lines that automobile manufacturers adopted for rear view mirrors would be appropriate: "Locations in these photos are further away than they appear", or maybe "Volunteers required; No longer exactly where shown."

Does it build character, or just aerobic fitness to walk three sides of a county concession rather than walk forty feet if you park on the other side?

During these marathon treks, why is it that squadrons of blood sucking insects rendezvous above your head despite the half can of bug spray now running into your eyes? Some of these airborne assassins are capable of removing chunks of hide that would rival a Tiger Woods divot in size.

Once at the work site, usually hours after everyone else because you followed the WRONG trail marked with that truly unique fluorescent orange ribbon, other surprises await. They usually involve water. A stream, a river, a pond or the thousands of gallons falling from a previously clear blue sky, water is a given. Whether you have to walk through it, work in it, physically carry it, or just discover it knows where the openings in your boots are, water will somehow be involved.

This water may contain mud, slime, man-eating dragon fly nymphs, hidden rocks, snapping turtles cleverly disguised as hidden rocks, leeches and slippery logs. It increases in depth alarmingly, without any visible indication or warning. It will be surrounded by banks notoriously unstable, be camouflaged by stinging nettles, wild grape vines and eons worth of brush.

Hidden by these debris[which you are there to either stabilize or remove] are biting ants, bees, hornets and wasps, ground dwelling birds with a penchant for sudden, erratic vertical flight, and small woodland creatures who perform incredibly realistic impressions of rattle snakes as the scurry about.

Even after you leave the work site the impact of the water will remain evident. Somewhere in your vehicle the water saturated clothing you removed to go home, resides. Simply taking it out of the vehicle does not help. The remaining essence will continue to increase, forcing you to attend more work days until you become accustomed to the aroma or until you sell the vehicle. Of course if you sell the vehicle you have a valid excuse for not being able to attend any more work days.

Hmmmm.....?

DESERVING DUO

By Ron Marini

This month's column title aptly reflects the subject: the two members from our club, each of whom was awarded the Becker-Knott Founders Award: Henri Lemieux and Joe Szymanski.

If you attended the March 25 club meeting, you witnessed our club acknowledging these two for their long support and their selfless contributions to our club. Henri and Joe are indeed worthy recipients but as you will find later on, they are more than what you see on the surface.

What was striking in observing the presentation of the awards was the genuine humility both demonstrated upon receiving the award. Both men have given a great deal of their time and patience and expertise to the membership in the pursuit of instructing others in fly tying. Simply put, the presentation by club president John French and the receipt by Henri and Joe were Club Pride at its best.

John French has this to say about Henri in the following narrative:

"HENRI moved to Hamilton from Montreal. While in Montreal Henri was instrumental in forming Les Moucheurs Montreal Metropolitan. The hardest part of transition was not language but convincing Henri we did something other than tie flies. Henri recently submitted a pattern to annual FQSA [Federation Quebecoise pour Saumon Atlantic tying competition and is expecting results late April. Henri has tied at both the Spring Fishing Show and the Izaak Walton Showcase of Tyers and was center stage at the Montreal Fly-Fishing Show.

Henri's personal passion is soft-hackle wet flies and he will demonstrate anywhere, any time and volunteers before he is asked. Henri prefers to teach hands-on rather than just demonstrate so take the hint folks and bring your gear to tie along."

Henri has been fly fishing and fly tying for about 25 years and instructing for 17 years and as observed by John French above, he is a veteran fly tying demonstrator having appeared over the years at a number of venues. When asked who influenced him most in the sport, Henri quickly volunteers two giants in the game, Lee Wulff and Harry Darbee.

Henri's story of how he met Lee Wulff is great stuff so what follows is what Henri revealed at our last meeting.

Apparently, Henri was fishing the Willowemoc in the Catskills and decided to look up the fly fishing icon that lived in the area- Lee Wulff. Henri and his fishing pals went up to Lee and Joan Wulff's house and met both of them. He describes Lee as being a generous and gracious host. Later that evening, at the invitation of Lee, Henri attended an impromptu seminar given by Art Flick. The next day Henri went into Roscoe to meet Harry Darbee and Walt Dette.

Of all these famous Catskill tyers, Harry Darbee inspired Henri the most. As you probably would surmise, Henri fishes Catskill patterns almost exclusively.

Henri is clearly no shrinking violet when it comes to rubbing shoulders with the giants of our sport. He completes his story by relaying how he was looking for a particular material for his beloved soft hackles so he decided to call Sylvester Nemes, who sold him some sample necks (Henri described them as rusty edge capes).

As for Joe Szymanski, John French offers this insight:

"Joe takes 30-40 minutes on a good day to get to our meeting from St.Catherines. Finally, we decided it was more convenient to keep gear here because he was hauling it back and forth. Joe is always ready to volunteer for fishing show or club booth and he took top honors at Canadian Fly Tying Classic. He has tied at both Spring Fishing Show and Izaak Walton Showcase of Tyers. In spite of all of this personal recognition Joe admitted the high point in his tying was to sit and learn at the vise of Mary Dette.

Joe's reply to congratulations sent shows more than my words why the recognition was justly deserved. "I would like to thank all of the club members for choosing me as the recipient of the Founders Award. I find great pleasure in teaching fly tying and I hope to continue teaching for as long as there is someone willing to learn. When I first joined the club I was also a beginner, and had the pleasure of learning to tie flies from members who are

now among the best tyers in the sport. I feel that by teaching the beginners what I have learned over the years will help to keep the club alive. Who knows, maybe one of our beginners may become one of those elite tyers that we read about in the magazines. To me that would be the greatest reward a teacher could receive."

Joe started fly-fishing about 15 years ago when he fooled around fishing fore bass with an old fiberglass rod at the cottage. He credits lessons given by the venerable Ted Knott of our club as the vehicle that launched him into his passion for fly fishing and fly tying.

Starting fly tying about 10 years' ago, Joe says that no one person really influenced him, but like Henri he enjoyed the Catskill patterns. His fondest tying memory is the time he sat and tied with Mary Dette in Roscoe.

A member of our club since its inaugural year, Joe quickly advanced in his fly tying skills, especially through his contacts with Rick Whorwood and Bill Spicer. Through Rick's instruction, Joe became involved in classic patterns and eventually tied with Bob Vaverka and Ron Allcott, two well-known classic fly tyers.

Joe loves to fish for steelhead in the Niagara River gorge. As well, he likes to fish steelhead streams on the American side of the border. During the summer, Joe can be found on the upper or lower Grand River or along the Lake Erie shoreline. Most recently, Joe has been pursuing warm-water species such as Musky on the fly. In addition, Joe conducts demonstrations but prefers instructing groups of 4 to 5 people.

Joe continually changes the patterns he fishes. He has no favorites, and his latest love is the Compara-dun and Fishy Fuller's terrestrials.

Joe concluded his interview with this opinion as to how to make this a better club. He suggests that club members get involved and volunteer where they are needed. Joe observes that he once was a beginner and now he leads. He loves the instructing because people teach him new ideas all the time. Even without experience, new members offer fresh ideas and different perspectives.

It's appropriate to have John French provide the summary comment about the contributions of Henri and Joe:

"Both were members in 1995 when HAFFT, as a club, received the Jack Sutton Award "for excellence in fly tying" from the Izaak Walton Club. This was the first time other than an individual received this award. Blame in part these two guys for helping to clutter up all our rivers and stream with horrible casters carrying boxes and boxes of beautifully tied flies. Take a minute to thank them for their time and efforts and when you catch something on a pattern they taught you to tie, take a photograph before you release it and bring it in to show them and us."

Following on John's advice, "merci" Henri, and "thank you" Joe, for all you've done to make this a premier club. Congratulations and well done. You truly are deserving of the recognition. Your work makes all of us feel Club Pride.

GONE FISHING...

By John French

Texas. The Lone Star State. Home of the Alamo and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. Also the home of an annual event that was to affect my well being while fishing off James Bay.

The event I refer to is the annual State of Texas Chili Con Carne Recipe competition. Chefs, cooks and grub slingers from around the globe vie for the title of Chili Champ of Texas.

Secret ingredients and treasured family recipes are more secure during this competition than the codes to launch all those nuke tipped rockets that are located on the maps in that five sided building in Washington, DC. Once the winner is announced however, the recipe is published in any two-bit rag that can spell chili. It was the winning recipe from 1986 that caused me all the trouble.

The fishing camp on the Ashweig River in Northern Ontario was reached by float plane based in Webequi. Commercial flights [if you want to call twenty seat turbo-props commercial] serviced many of the smaller communities including Webequi.

Equipping for this trip had more than the usual restrictions on baggage and weight because the camp was self provisioning. We had to bring food with us for one week for four people; two fisherman and two guides. Our bags and gear had to fit in a small float plane used to transport us from base to camp. The smallest passenger [yours truly] was crammed into a jump seat just in front of the planes tail and I rode the whole way with my knees up at my ears.

The camp was clean, well built and in a picturesque setting. The river yielded brook trout and pickerel on successive casts often enough to be very exciting. Our rations were supplemented with these fish and it wasn't until day three that we had chili on the menu for dinner.

Imagine four men sitting at a small table with Coleman lanterns providing light, bread and butter and cold trout fillets as horderves and a delicious aroma emanating from the pot on the propane stove.

Three of the diners had no idea what was in the chili. The fourth, the master chef who had produced the chili from the winning recipe had only neglected one minor instruction while recreating the dish.

It took about three spoonfuls for yours truly to lose interest in all of the other surroundings except for my water glass. Similar reactions could be seen around the table, yet no one surrendered. It was a point of honour to finish the bowl. Tears were rolling down the cheeks of the two guides and even the master chef, a lover of Szechwan cooking had broken out in a sweat. I think smoke was rising from my ears and somehow my throat had caught fire. For two days after we were all very careful around open flames and there seemed to be a lot of painful noises while answering the call of nature.

You see, our Master Chef and trip provisioner while making the chili had failed to complete one line of the recipe. The fourteen jalapeno peppers were to be removed from the pot after it had simmered for one hour and before being eaten.

BEGINNER'S CORNER

By Bryant J. Cochran, Jr., re printed with permission of the publisher, Killroys.com.

READING WATER – PART 4

This installment of reading water deals with details for the fast water types described in part 3. If you have not read parts 1-3 I

suggest that either pull your old newsletters or go online to www.hafft.ca for them in old newsletters. This is the final installment in this series.

Rapids, riffles, pools, pocket water, slicks, eddies, these are the types of water you fish in a river or stream. The places fish like to call home are found in each, your job is to recognize the feeding lies, see the fish and then cast to a position so your fly (lure) passes where the trout will see it and hopefully eat it. In the last installment I glossed over each type of water to give you a way to go to the stream and try out your new knowledge. Now it is time to get into details.

Rapids are the fastest water flows in a stream. They are at least three feet deep and usually have shallow areas and deep pockets that the current has dug out of the streambed. In order to be able to find these different areas, a little information on hydraulic action of water currents is needed.

To begin we will look at the effect the streambed has on current flow. The water just above the streambed will flow slower than water further away from the streambed; this is due to friction of the water against the streambed. This "pocket" is normally a foot deep. You can check this in an area with a weighted nymph on a long, fine leader, in clear water. Cast up stream and watch the speed of the nymph as it sinks, you will be able to discern several different flow rates as the nymph sinks and you might even see a change in direction of the drift. Knowledge of this can make the difference when casting to a specific fish. A boulder in the rapids causes several different conditions around it. First it blocks the flow and forces the current to split the resulting friction slows the flow rate on either side of the obstruction. An area of slack flow is created immediately in front of the boulder; a slower flow is created down stream of the boulder (this is usually further down stream than you might think) found just behind the visible turbulence down stream of the boulder. If you find two or more boulders forming a dam-like structure you might find a deep pocket down stream of this structure, this is the result of the flow deflections caused by the structure. A formation like this also forms an area toward the bank, extending out to approximately the inner edge of the stone closest to the stream centerline and down stream approximately the length of the dam. In other words, a triangle from the outer most stone to the bank shaped similarly to a 30-60-90 triangle. This area can be very productive, slack current with a seam line running from the outer most stone to a bank junction point. The main thing to remember is that any object in the water is going to effect the current flow in some manner. Fish will look for the slowest water they can find next to a feeding lane (think food conveyor belt). When there is deep water or other cover close at hand as well then you have the makings of a prime lie and the bigger fish will want this type of environment for their home.

Now back to the rapids. What you want to look for in fast moving water are places where the current changes flow-rate. The best place to observe the water and the flow-rate is from as high above the water as possible. Keeping a low profile will ensure that the fish will have a hard time seeing you and you will be able to see into the water with fewer glares to contend with. You will be looking for all the things that cause the current to slow. Large and small boulders, flat areas on the streambed, moss heads, under-cut banks, bank walls formed where a shelf drops off, dips and holes in the streambed, bank protrusions into the current, logs and fallen trees that have become lodged against the bank. Each one of these types of flow disrupting structure must be thoroughly investigated with a studied eye else you miss seeing a fish. You also need to be able to discern the different current flows caused by these obstructions and

recognize the feeding lanes that the obstructions set up. Remember that the only difference between Rapids and riffles is the average depth of water.

Pocket water could be described as Rapids but the true nature of pocket water is more specialized than the Rapids description. Pocket water is fast moving current with the streambed literally strewn with boulders and rocks. If you were a boater, pocket water would be very frightening or you would simply portage around it. When looking at pocket water for the first time you will probably know it is pocket water instinctively. The boulders and rocks of pocket water usually end up in the streambed as the result of a rockslide. I was very fortunate to see a section of the Truckee River become pocket water on a fishing trip. I was also very lucky (Grace of God) to survive the event. I went back to that stretch of river two weeks later and the fishing was magnificent! The term pocket water comes from the myriad of pockets of slow water created by the jumble of stones in the streambed. Trout seem to love all the slack current and the intertwining of food lanes that occurs in pocket water. Survey this type of area like you were going to be selling maps of each fishy location and you will never leave without having caught a few. The one big drawback to the tailwaters I fish now is that I have no pocket water to exploit. The best tip on pocket water I can give is take time to get above the beat and carefully study the way the current reacts to boulder singles, doubles, triples, and all other stone arrangements. Keep your eyes open and looking for the little "windows"(areas of very smooth water that form in conflicting current flows) these will give you the ability to see deeper into the water with a clear view.

I hope you will take the time to draw a map of each bit of water you explore with your new knowledge. Marking where you see fish holding and giving your self-some type of indication of the current flow in the area of each fish spotted as well. Every fish spotted needs to be observed long enough for you to be able to tell if it is feeding or resting. A twenty-pound trout that is in a resting lie will most likely be a non-cacheable fish.

When you go fishing I hope that you don't wade right in and start slinging line. I see lots of fishermen do that on my home waters and they are usually lamenting about their lack of success when they are going home. The thing is, they do not prepare themselves to be successful before they start casting. Time spent looking at the water you intend to fish will allow you to locate the places in that beat that should hold fish. Time spent looking in the located lies will allow you to see the fish holding in those homes and how they are feeding. This information gives you the knowledge base needed to use the right type of lure (fly) right off the bat. You also know where to start your presentation to that fish so you get the best opportunity to hook up. When you take this pre-fishing time you also have the location of every fish you could see before you make that first cast. This means that you can adjust your starting point so you have the best opportunity to catch all the fish you spotted. Sure some anglers can catch fish by blindly going forth into the fray, but these fellows would increase their catch quantity and quality if they would try some stream investigation first. Here's an example of what I am trying to get across. I was on the Little Red at Cow Shoals a while back, as I approached the stream I was delighted to find the water level low. The river is tail water and for me low water means easier fish spotting. As I walked the bank, noting the lies and listing them in order of importance in my stream log four fishermen came to the shoal. These fishermen walked up the bank, waded out and began casting and drifting nymphs, not one of them took time to scope the water before they started

fishing and they were at the head of the riffle when they waded in. I was higher than they were and saw five good fish bolt to the pool above the shoal. These fish had been holding only a foot or so from where these guys splashed in to the water. Their haste to begin fishing cost them some great fun right from the start. I continued my stalk of this beat and a half hour later, when I was ready to make my first cast, these fishermen were complaining "I don't think there are any trout in here today" one of them said to me. My reply was "tough day mate?" Two of the four watched me carefully take a position in a stretch they had fished about twenty minutes before. I made a cast one foot ahead of a bulge in the water and held my line up as the gold ribbed squirrel nymph drifted in the seam formed by the submerged rock, I felt the take and after a strip strike I had my hands full. When I landed what turned out to be a 24-inch brown trout, I heard a gentleman remark "we fished the heck out of that riff and didn't get anything! He just walked in and hooked a big one!" I caught and released seven fish of quality in the next two hours. Those four fishermen went home skunked and discouraged. After I ate lunch on the bank, I went down stream to the second pool after the riffle. There is a nice high bank with a walk ledge on the far side of the stream. After carefully crossing at the tail of the pool I crept along the ledge, looking down into the water. This pool has two really deep holes on the far (right) bank and plenty of moss heads; there are four good boulders as well as an undercut bank. When I observe this pool I have to look for perceptions of fish, the cover is dense and usually all you will see of a trout is the tail moving. I spotted one between the bank and the first boulder as it sipped in something; the flash of a white mouth gave it away. I watched him sink to his holding position and his camouflage made him almost invisible. Up stream from that first fish was a large moss head and after looking at the tails waving in the current for about five minutes I distinguished four tails

moving almost perfectly in time with the moss tails. Almost directly in line towards the left bank is the drop off of the shelf you have to use for wading to fish this pool. I spotted five trout lined up and hugging the bottom of this bank wall, it is almost always in shadow and the fish love to be in that shadow. As I watched these fish one of them raised its head and took some morsel from the current about a foot from the wall. I continued my stalk up the pool and when I was ready to fish the pool I knew where twenty-five trout were hanging out. I also knew that I would hook and land at least five and most likely more if I started from the tail of the pool and worked my way to the head. I also knew they were most likely feeding on nymphs swimming toward the surface to hatch. I knew this because I observed the way the trout feeding. As it turned out, I landed and released nine of the trout I had spotted. Two of which measured 25 inches in length, trophy fish to be sure. The two key elements that allowed me to have this success were the patience to look stealthily for fish and the calmness to move very quietly through the water.

Next time we will cover the details of slow water, the pools, slicks and eddies. I encourage you to go to your favorite fishing waters. Find a high place to look into the beat and take a note or sketch- pad and pencil and draw the river as you see it. Try to include every detail you find. Try to see the fish living in the homes you find, if you do see them, include their locations in your map. Take this map with you each time you fish this beat. When you have all the houses and all the fish spotted and included in your map you will be able to catch a large percentage of the fish every time you fish this beat. Think of how great it will be when you have done this mapping for each beat you fish.

CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE

May 13 2002	Don Moore	Tying leaders and tippets, strength competition.
May 27 2002	Tying Night - TBA	TBA

CLUB CONTACTS

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Meeting Place: Sherwood Public Library, 467 Upper
 Ottawa Street, just north of the Fennel Ave intersection.
 Downstairs in the A/B Meeting Rm.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 78023, Westcliffe Postal Outlet,
 632 Mohawk Rd W. Hamilton, Ontario, L9C 1Y0