



*A club interested in learning about,  
promoting, & enjoying Fly Fishing.*

LONGVIEW  
EAST TEXAS FLY FISHERS

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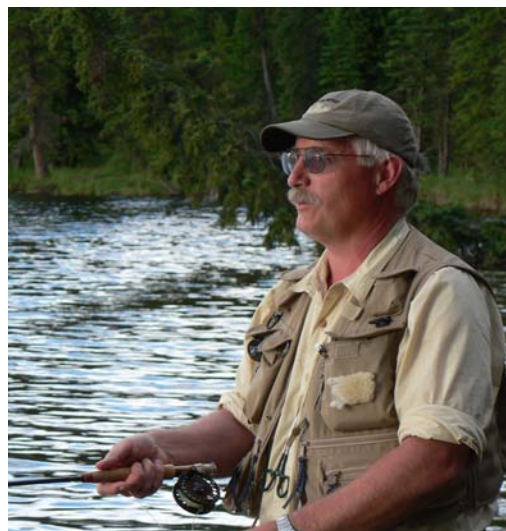
October 2009

## STREAMING THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

"We can never know about the days  
to come but we think about them  
anyway"

*Anticipation* – Carly Simon

These words only give a small hint at the forethought that goes into a fly fishing trip. For me, aside from studying hatch charts, tying flies, buying new gear that I think will be needed and perhaps going to the extent of building a new fly rod for the occasion, the day dreaming is the most fun. It gets bad enough that I am nearly useless to my employer for about 2 weeks prior to departure, but please don't tell him. In my day dreams I am standing in my favorite stream in Alberta casting to a rising Rainbow Trout that is about 18" long. The walls of the river valley are fairly steep on either side of the river, there is high Cirrus cloud in the blue sky, a



cool breeze wafts down the valley and the water is incredibly cold making me shiver just a little in spite of waders and a fleece liner. I've put a #16 Adams on the end of a long 15' leader and tippet; (continued page 4)

## FISH IN LITERATURE "Tying Small Flies" by Ed Engle

### A Review by Terry Will

Now, everyone likes to be on their favorite trout water and see a large size 14 or 12 dry fly being slammed by a gorgeous brown trout. Who wouldn't? But in most situations that is not the case when fishing more heavily fished rivers such as the San Juan River or the South Platte River. This is where this book shines. Mr. Engle's approach to tying smaller flies to catch more fish solves this problem.

"Tying Small Flies" breaks it down for you in describing the hooks, materials and tools that are used, as well as, describing the different types of flies that can be tied to imitate these smaller insects. This book is filled with step by step instructions in tying some of the most popular small flies, with the highest quality pictures depicting each step of the tying process.

It may be difficult for you to imagine fishing or even tying flies is sizes 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and yes, even the ultimate in small, size 32. For those that were worried about the infamous size 32, Mr. Engle has set aside a chapter specifically to cover this topic. (continued p. 6)

## LIFT OFF

by Jerald Lewis




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Willie Surles

With an article title like “Lift-off”, one might think about rockets. While there are some parallels to launching rockets, it’s actually about lifting your fly line off the water to make the next cast. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- ***Eliminate the slack both on and above the water.*** Prior to a rocket lift-off, there are preparations that must be made. The same is true prior to lifting a fly line off the water. Make sure there is very little slack in the fly line lying on the water. Strip in the excess slack. Or, if there is too much slack to strip in, perform a roll cast. Start with the rod tip close to the water. If you start with the rod tip more than a few inches above the water, then all that slack has to be removed during the cast. These two things will insure that slack is minimized at the start of the cast.
- ***Keep the rod horizontal.*** Instead of just rotating the rod to vertical during lift-off, it should begin with a “lift” keeping the rod horizontal as it starts up, and then rotate to the back cast. This will better lift the line off the water, instead of just pulling it toward you.
- ***Lift off the line at the right speed.*** If you rip the line off the water with the speed of a bottle rocket launching, the rod will not load properly and you’ll likely scare the fish with all that noise. If you lift off the line as slow as the space shuttle lifts off, then the line will start to sag back toward you and will introduce unwanted slack. The correct speed is something in between. Play with it. Do it too slow. Do it too fast. Experiment with something in the middle until you have it right.
- ***Lift off until the fly line / leader connection starts to come out of the water.*** At that point, accelerate into your back cast.

When your lift-off is correct, your back cast is better and the rod will load easier. This will make your overall casting better and might actually reduce the number of false casts needed to make the next cast. As much as we might love casting a fly line, we need to remember that the fish live in the water. So the sooner we can put the fly back in the water, the better!



*Give me a rod of the split bamboo,  
a rainy day and a fly or two,  
a mountain stream where the eddies play,  
and mists hang low o'er the winding way*

Excerpt from “Trout Fishing” by

Mrs. Eunice B. Lamberton

# ><((((<sup>◦> ETFF Membership <sup>◦>))))><

## The Perfect Gift for Your Loved One (...or just you)

Time to learn a new skill, meet a new friend, and fish somewhere you have never been! Please come out and invite a friend! We are in the process of collecting membership dues. Please choose a category from the list below, complete a Member Profile form and mail your check to P.O. Box 4545, Longview, Texas 75606 (or bring to the next meeting).

### What do you receive for your membership?

- ✓ An opportunity to participate in informative meetings about fishing, fishing techniques and the fisheries in various areas.
- ✓ A monthly online newsletter, and a quarterly published newsletter, which contain interesting articles and informs members of upcoming ETFF Club events.
- ✓ Depending on the demand, an opportunity to participate in rod building and fly tying classes.
- ✓ Christmas Dinner, Annual Banquet and Prize Drawings.
- ✓ An opportunity to participate in club outings.

### Membership Dues

Student	\$20
Individual	\$30
Family	\$35
Sponsor	\$50



Ralph Nader

## UPCOMING CLUB PROGRAMS

*All programs are held at Johnny Caces in Longview and start at 6:30pm*

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>November 10</b> | Fly Fishing for Wild Trout in Northern New Mexico - Doc Thompson |
| <b>December 8</b>  | Christmas party  |
| <b>January 12</b>  | Jim Koukl  |
| <b>Feb 26-28</b>   | Little Missouri outing   |

### Lower Mountain Fork Outing

About 12 club members attended the Club Outing to Lower Mountain Fork, September 25-27. The fishing was great as were Willie Surle's hamburgers and David Lewis' surprise dessert! Watch for details on the next club outing to the Little Missouri in February 2010

Congratulations to members **Jerald Lewis** and **Mike Hawkins** for successfully passing their Certified Casting Instructor Exams

We now have 2 more *certifiable* members!  
... fishing does that to a person.



Bubba Headrick

## Anticipation (continued from p. 1)

the casting is going well, no tailing loops and no wind knots. The water flowing around my knees is so clear you can see every detail on the pebbles at my feet and there is the sound of riffled water just behind me. I wonder if I should be carrying some kind of Bear protection because a sow with a couple of cubs was spotted in this area a week ago. I talked with a Fish and Wildlife officer this morning and they were concerned about fishermen..... wait a minute this is just a day dream. You see I can get carried away. It is often true that the anticipation and preparation for a trip can be just about as much fun as the actual trip itself. Sometimes the trip doesn't come up to expectations but as often as not it does.

That then begs the question "what makes a good fishing trip?" Well I can think of a number of elements that make good memories for me. The first is the people I fish with. I enjoy being out with one or two other fishermen or with a particular fisherwoman. They should have a sense of humor and be able to take a little teasing. These folks need to be comfortable in the outdoors, not too fearful of the large wildlife but knowledgeable enough not to be careless. They have to have a laid back unhurried manner. Each person should be in great shape so walking and fighting current all day long is not a chore. In the evening at the end of a long day they should be happy to share in the various camp chores without complaining. Laughter and story telling around the camp fire should come easily to them. In short these people need to be good companions.

Weather is always an issue; good fly fishing often takes place in poor weather and a person has to be prepared for it. In Alberta, where I spend most of my fishing money and time, I have seen snow, hail, sleet, hot sun and thunderstorms all in the

same 8 hour period. If you hike any distance from the vehicle you need to be ready for a variety of weather situations. If not it's possible to get dangerously cold and all the enjoyment of the trip disappears at that point.

Wilderness helps the trip to be a good one. I have a theory that goes something like this: The size and number of fish in a stream goes up exponentially as a function of the distance from the parking lot. On one trip my wife and I brought mountain bikes along. Karen devised a simple and effective way of attaching rod tubes to the bikes and we biked up Clark's Creek in Pennsylvania well beyond walking distance from the parking lot. It helped that an old abandoned rail road bed left us a great path to follow with the bikes. What we found at the end of the ride was great water and great fishing.

Anyone looking at my physique would rightly conclude that I enjoy food and this is an important element on any fishing trip. Lots of drinking water, a thermos of good coffee, and gourmet sandwiches that can be savored at mid day beside a picturesque stream somehow make the trip more wholesome.

"Proof" is part of what the modern fly fishermen must deal with. A recent book by Linda Greenlaw declares in its title "All Fishermen are Liars". In my father's day proof came in the simple act of keeping and eating the fish, usually at home after the trip. The evidence was very visible and tasted pretty good, especially if my mother was the cook. Sometimes if a particular fish was big enough it would get mounted and put on the wall. More recently when most of the fish we catch are released back into the wild we are left only with stories but telling stories is not enough. It is now necessary to produce what is called "fishporn" that is a hero shot with the fishermen holding his or her prize carefully just above the stream before graciously

**A Book Review**

By: Phil Rispin

**Casting a Spell: The Bamboo Fly Rod and the American Pursuit of Perfection**

(Hardcover) by: George Black

Publisher: Random House, 244 pp.

Amazon.com Price on September 17<sup>th</sup>/07 was \$16.29

All of us who have been fly fishing for some time and who have also been reading about the sport will have come across the names Leonard, Edwards, Thomas, Payne, Garrison and others. However most of us would have a hard time putting these people in proper context within fly fishing history. "Casting a Spell" is one of the best books on American Fly Fishing history that I have ever read and it clears up a lot of questions about the split bamboo fly rod and it's place in the American fly fishing tradition.

The first question was where did the tradition come from? My limited understanding of the art said "England" but I learned that the split bamboo rod was a technology developed here in the United States and no where else. The first split bamboo fly rods appeared in Pennsylvania Circa 1845. Hiram Leonard, whose rods are now much sought after collector's items, built his first rod in 1871; perhaps inspired by a chance meeting with Henry David Thoreau some years earlier. The skills, procedures and tools used were kept very much as a proprietary secret by the small groups of men who practiced the craft and passed it on from master to apprentice for almost 150 years. Very recently, Everett Garrison a master builder himself, perhaps out of a concern about the technology being lost in past history authored "**A Master's Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod**" published in 1994 thus revealing the methods and tools of the craft to the masses. There has been a surge in Split Bamboo fly rod building all around the world since that time.

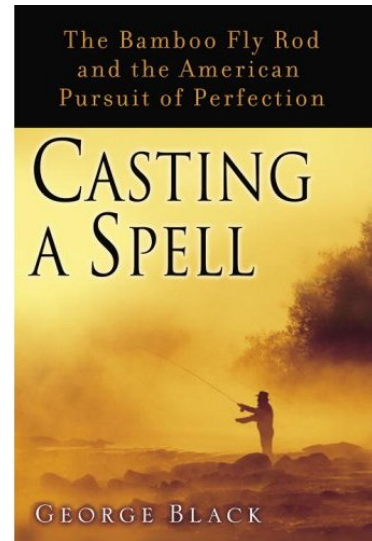
A second question had to do with the material itself, where did it come from? I found out that several different types of Bamboo had been tried but the material of choice is called Tonkin Cane. It grows in a very small geographic area in south east China. During China's Cultural Revolution in the post WWII years this type of Bamboo was very hard to get due to the trade embargos between China and the United States. The closing of China to the west coincided with the post war advent of Fiberglass and Graphite which largely replaced Bamboo as the material of choice for fly rods. This came close to killing the market for the Split Bamboo rod.

One of the repeating themes in the book, that seems to be applicable to a broader range of artistic pursuits, is the tension between the need to make a living and the desire to turn out very well made or, as the book's name suggests, the perfect fly rod. Due to the growing market for outdoor leisure immediately after the American Civil War there was pressure to commercialize the production of fly rods to supply a large demand from the public. However the cost of creating a good split bamboo fly rod was and is prohibitive when the hours of labor and high level of skill are considered. As a result many of the efforts by the small groups of craftsmen trying to supply a large market failed and the craft nearly died away several times being kept alive by a relative handful of dedicated men.

While I don't think that Mr. Black's intent was to warn us would be rod makers away from the craft the book does provide a warning to those who want to make a living producing such a beautiful tool for the market. It seems that Split Bamboo Rod making will remain in the hands of a few men who are willing to sacrifice a great deal to practice their art or the rods will be built by people who are also practicing another vocation to pay for the normal price of existence.

In a broader sense the book is a comment on western consumerism. It is an illustration of how we have perhaps settled for second best because our economy does not easily support the craftsman trying to do a superlative job.

I highly recommend the book to anyone who is interested in the history of fly fishing in North America and in gaining a perspective about how market and business pressures affect the pursuit of perfection.



## Anticipation (continued from p. 4)

returning the brute to the water. These pictures are then put up on FACEBOOK or some other internet sight. The images point to a person's prowess as a fly fisherperson. All of this of course requires the purchase of a water proof digital camera which can cost as much or more than a good fly rod. It might be better to get a video camera because the fish often doesn't want to cooperate for the posed picture and escapes into the water before the picture can be taken. If caught on video this small drama is a lot more entertaining than the standard fishporn shot and can be uploaded to the internet too.

Reliable transportation is a major issue in making an enjoyable trip. I was once coming home from a fishing trip with my father in an old green Plymouth equipped with those large tail fins. We had 60 or 70 miles of rough gravel road to travel from Cadomin to Edson before getting anywhere near civilization and I asked the question "Dad what would happen if we got two flat tires?" Within the next hour or so we had two flat tires. Getting back to civilization involved a long wait for someone to come down the road to give Dad a ride with the two tires to a fixit shop and then an equally long wait hitching a ride back with the repaired tires. Dad illogically looked at me as the cause of the inconvenience for having mentioned the possibility but the situation made an otherwise great fishing trip into a bit of a pain. However there is some compensation to this kind of problem because many years later you can start a conversation with "do you remember when....." and all the laughs and shaking heads are worth the hardship experienced in the distant past.

Over night lodging can make or break a fishing trip. This can run the spectrum from fishing with a hiking back pack on your back and sleeping under the stars all the way to staying in a high roller's fishing lodge. I've never done the later but I have done some of the former. Most of my experience with sleeping places falls in between the two extremes leaning heavily towards the sleeping under the stars variety. In recent years the outdoors industry has come up with fantastic sleeping mats called Thermarests, good warm light weight sleeping bags, and small light weight tents. If you can find reasonably level ground with a minimum of rocks you can get a good night's sleep making the hiking and fishing a very pleasant experience indeed. More recently, along with my aging body, my wife and I have tried bed and breakfast establishments from which you can base daytime forays. Costs are reasonable and there are often many rivers and streams within driving distance and the food.....well you know.

Now what about the fish themselves? I am not one of those people who can enjoy a trip even if the fishing is poor. Good fishing conditions and catching fish is sort of like the Maraschino Cherry on top of the pudding, the trip is unfinished or unfulfilled if the fishing is poor. One has to plan for success in this too. To my shame I have actually arrived at a stream in Alberta one week early for the season. Apart from feeling incredibly stupid it was costly and created some unhappy companions. Reading the rules and understanding the season dates is one thing but you should also know what types of bugs will be in and on the water at the time that you intend to go so that your trips to the fly shop or time spent at the tying bench is not wasted. Walking into a fly shop without the appropriate information sets you up for expensive mistakes. A lot of production fly tying is aimed at catching fishermen not fish. There are some incredibly attractive flies found in many fly shops. I really like the small nymphs tied with a gold bead head and a lot of shiny synthetic material. These will probably be ignored by the trout but quickly gobbled up by uninformed fly fishermen. The internet provides lots of great information about hatches that are expected in various streams of North America and there are excellent books like "Western Mayfly Hatches: From The Rockies To The Pacific" by Rick Hafele and Dave Hughes or Hatches II: A Complete Guide to the Hatches of North American Trout Streams by Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi. All of these resources are able to help you make informed decisions.

So you see a major part of the fly fishing experience is the anticipation preparing for your next adventure. If you have a good imagination and a large repertoire of memories you can spend a lot of time fishing without even leaving the office but don't let your boss catch you, he won't understand you humming Carly's "Anticipation".

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1) *Western Mayfly Hatches: From the Rockies to the Pacific* by: Rick Hafele and Dave Hughes, Published by Frank Amato Publications November 30, 2004

2) *Hatches II, A Complete Guide to the Hatches of North American Trout Streams* by: Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi, Published By: The Lyons Press; First edition June 1, 2004

3) *All Fishermen Are Liars* by: Linda Greenlaw, Published by Hyperion July 6, 2005

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WEB SITE

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Mr. Engle's philosophy is to tie simple flies that are durable and will catch fish. This is made even clearer with his section on tying midges. This book shows how important midge larvae are to any one who fishes the San Juan River. Ed shows some of the more effective patterns of San Juan River guide Gary Willmart. Although, Willmart ideal spooks in his words the "pretty boy" fly tiers, he shows how easy they are to tie using his simple techniques with emphasis on tying thread flies, which work.

These and many other classic patterns are covered, as well as, fishing techniques used and the history behind the small flies. All in all, this is a great book for anyone who enjoys tying or learning more about the small flies that these imitations mimic.

**Overall Rating 4 out of 5**  
1-5 with 1 being "horrible" and 5 being "outstanding"

Review brought to you by Terry Will March 20, 2007. Terry is a web developer for Neiman Marcus and NOT affiliated with any fly fishing company. When not spending time with his family you will find him usually hip deep fly fishing for Rainbows and Browns in the Lower Mountain Fork River tail waters just outside of Broken Bow, OK.



Da Boys

# **Caddo Conclave**

**A HANDS-ON FLY FISHING EXPERIENCE**

**Caddo State Park May 1, 2010 10:00 – 5:00**

**A joint venture between:**

**East Texas Fly Fishers/Lone Star Fly Fishers/North Louisiana Fly Fishers**

**Featuring – Fly Tiers all day – Special Presentations Hourly –  
Casting Clinic w/CCI's**

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