



Updated Newsletter Format

Just too much too share!

Ian Anderson

Webmaster and Fly Tier

Believe it or not, you are actually reading the first “real” newsletter from **FlyMasters!** In the past year we have been experimenting with a number of different formats for getting information out to our customers. The biggest problem we have is that there is so much information out there to try and pass on that seems to be changing very daily. Most of us take up fly fishing as a means of “slowing down” life and it has caught up within our own pastime. Through some trial and error, and lots of inquiries from our customers, we think we have finally come up with something that will meet our needs as well as our customers (or anyone else interested in fly fishing as well).

Our plan is threefold. Our first goal is to pass along as much information as we can in each newsletter without turning it into a small novel. You will find information about products and industry changes, as expected (we are a retail shop after all) but you will also find information on fishing, tying, conservation, casting, rod building, travel and general fly fishing fun. With our

continued on page 2

Latest News

From the fly Fishing World

The Waters are Rushing at Brookville

As the weather is warming everyone is thinking about getting out fishing. We have been receiving many calls from people stating, “I just have to get out and wet a line!”. Most people are looking to head down to the Brookville tailwaters to scratch their itch. Not only because the trout fishing there in the past few years has picked up but because often tailwaters will not be blown out when other streams are in the spring. Alas, such is not the case. The tailwater has been below 4 feet only about 11 days out of the past 30 days. It is currently running at over 6 feet! This makes for some dangerous wading. Fortunately, we at FlyMasters have a whole section of our site devoted to the [Brookville tailwater](#). If you browse to our main page and look under the Resources section you will find the information. Always check the stream flow before you go. Be safe!



patagonia Has Arrived at FlyMasters

For some time now visitors and customers to our shop have asked us to carry Patagonia. You do not have to ask anymore. We now have waders, wading boots, vest, luggage, outerwear, shirts, hats and more from patagonia in stock at the shop. There is even a special happening from April 1st through the 30th with the Patagonia waders and boots. If you purchase a pair of Watermaster II or Watermaster Light waders and a pair of Riverwalker or Canyonwalker wading shoes you can receive a **50% discount** on the wading shoes. Now would be a great time to get those new waders and boots for fishing Brookville this summer! Stop by the shop and check our complete line of patagonia products.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Updated Newsletter Format |
| 1 | Latest News |
| 3 | Product News |
| 4 | Fishing Safety |
| 6 | Trip and Travel News |

*continued from page 1**continued from page 1*

Update *cont...*

new format we will be able to expand the amount of news, reviews, product info and articles we can pass along.

Our econd goal is to bring our customers into the information dissemination process. That's a fancy way of saying we want our customers, friends and visitors to pass along fly fishing related information and articles. Maybe you recently went on a trip and you think others might benefit from your experience. Maybe you recently purchased a new product and have some feedback you would like to share. It could be you simply have the "outdoor writer" bug and are itching to get a story you have out for others to read. Whatever the case, we are interested in getting articles, stories, reviews, and feedback from our customers, visitors and friends. We will have forms up on our web site (www.flymasters.com) soon for you to fill out and submit your information. For the time being you can send your articles, reviews, etc... to our general information e-mail box, info@flymasters.com. Please keep in mind that FlyMasters reserves the right to determine what should and should not be published in our newsletter and on our web site. As always, if you have any questions please call us at 317-570-9811. Our third goal is to publish this newsletter every month. This will help us to keep people informed on all aspects of fly fishing.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and find at least a few things useful. If we can help you enjoy the sport of fly fishing a little more than our day is made!

Be Well,

Ian



News *cont...*

Intermediate and Skills Development Tying Classes

Many people are already aware of the tying classes we have each Saturday afternoon. However, many people are not aware that just about anyone can join in on the fun. We have many people stop by the shop just wanting to learn a new pattern or learn a particular skill. This is precisely what the Saturday Afternoon classes were developed for. They are not beginning classes, we have another class setup for that, but if you can tie a Woolly Buzzer you have the basic skills to attend. You can find out more information about these classes on our web site under [Classes](#). You can also see some of the flies we have tied up in the past. We are certain there is something to cover any interest. Stop by before you get too busy doing summer chores (yuck) and fishing (yeah).

Fishing School Classes

FlyMasters [fly fishing school](#) is in full swing again. Even though the weather is just starting to show signs of spring, Jon has already had a few new students out on the pond. You can find out more about our fly fishing school by checking our [web site](#). New dates for Phase I are being scheduled often. You can always call us to find out when the next Phase I meeting is or check our web site. Now is a very exciting time to learn to fly fish. Don't delay!

Indiana Fly Fishing News

The Indiana DNR now provides the current publication of fishing regulation as a downloadable PDF from [their web site](#). We have also placed a copy of it [on our site](#) with a link to download it. It is nice

continued on page 3

Go Deep and Dark For Early Smallmouth

Early smallmouth (Late March through April) are still moving slow as the temperatures warm up. Keep your flies down deep and the colors dark for your best chances. Don't even add any action to the fly, just let it dead drift. As temperatures warm up the smallmouth get more active and you can start to liven things up with action and color.

Product News

What's New in Fly Fishing Gear

Ian Anderson

Webmaster and Fly Tier



Rainy's Boobie Eyes Foam

One of our best selling flies last year for panfish and bass was the Boobie Fly. It's a great little foam fly which is easy to fish and very productive. Well for all you tiers out there, Rainy's is now selling the foam eyes to make this fly. There are two

different types of foam eyes, round and flat. With great colors like chartreuse, orange, yellow, black and white you can tie up all kinds of flies with these foam eyes. Who knows what wonderful uses you will find for these eyes.

A Better Whip Finish

Many fly tiers use a whip finish to finish off the heads of their flies then they apply head cement to the knot. A more solid knot can be had when you add the head cement (or even better Zap-A-Gap) to the thread before you pull it under the thread wraps of the whip finish knot. This helps get the cement into the knot.

Simms Layering System

Simms has made some updates to their layering clothes line. Simms, long known for their excellent waders, also makes great fleece products to keep you just the right temperature while in your waders.



The WaderWick, Rivertek and Guide series of fleece layering garments have been expanded and new colors have been added. At \$29.95 the Simms Crew Neck top is the perfect layer for all four seasons. In Winter it fits next to your skin and pulls moisture away to keep you dry. In Spring it is light enough to wear under your fishing shirt and offers warmth on the cool mornings and evenings. In Summer when you get caught in a cool rain it does not get damp and soggy under your rain jacket. And if it gets wet it does not take the rest of the day to dry out. In Fall it operates the same as Spring. That is its uses for

News *cont...*

to have around in case you are going fishing to a new destination and are uncertain as to any specific regulations. You can also get your [2008 fishing license online](#), which is what we recommend. When you purchase it online you can print out multiple copies. These come in handy when you place one in your vest, car glove box, wallet, tackle bag, etc... You always have on close by. Another bonus is if you lose one you have back-up copies and you do not have to pay more to get it replaced.

Closed Trout Fishing At Brookville

Indiana has a catch and release season for the tailwater at Brookville from January 1st through April 14th. After the 14th the tailwater is closed to trout fishing until the regular season opens on the last Saturday in April (26th) at 6:00am.



FITS Now at FlyMasters

Product News *cont...*

fishing. For casual wear it is great when you are having any outdoor activity on a cool evening. Wear it by itself or under a jacket or shirt. They are the modern t-shirts that are more comfortable and useful than cotton. You can find a wide selection in our shop by the waders.

Scientific Anglers Skarkskin Line Expands

By now most people have heard of the new Sharkskin line by SA. When first introduced it was only available in a trout line. As we expected that is no longer the case. SA has already released a saltwater version and will soon (as in any day now) be releasing a salmon and steelhead line. The Sharkskin line is a fantastic line and there is no doubt the new tapers will be just as great.



Fishing Safety

Remember Common Sense

Ian Anderson

Webmaster and Fly Tier

The day has finally arrived. It is early spring and the weather is finally in your favor. You are all caught up in your work, or at least as far as you won't feel guilty taking a day off to hit the stream. You have all the flies you need and that new rod you received for Christmas. Like an over excited kids, you even have a hard time sleeping the night before. But the day has arrived. You are headed out to you favorite water for the first time this year to see if the big one is still where he was last fall. You have your waders and boots all set out, the reel has new line and you even remembered to pick up some new leaders from the local fly shop. In short everything you need for a great day on the water. Or do you have everything? How about any first aide supplies (even Band-Aids), water, rain gear, light jacket, flashlight, or (dare I say) a cell phone? Believe it or not some



or all of these items are just as important on your outings as the flies you throw at the fish.

Many outdoorsman and women do not give much thought to any of the above items when they head out, other than to make certain they DON'T take some of them. After all our forefathers and mothers got along just fine without a GPS unit didn't they? The nice thing is that in most situations you do not need much more than your rod, reel and flies to have a great time outdoors. However, if you are heading out during the spring (March, April, May) and fall (September, October, November) months you should think twice about fishing safety. During the winter months most people automatically think about safety,

for obvious reasons. In the summer months it is not as big of an issue (for most inland waters - Great Lakes excluded) because it is already warm. During the spring and fall months the weather can change very rapidly (in just a few minutes in some cases).

I like to break down fishing safety into two main areas. The first is preparedness and the second is common sense. Neither out weighs the other since they are so closely tied. You have to use some common sense when preparing your outing and by preparing you are exercising common sense. However, let's take a look at each of these areas.

Webster's dictionary states preparedness means "*the quality or state of being prepared*". This would imply having some sort of preconceived idea about an upcoming event and taking steps to get ready for the event. In our case we are trying to get ready for some sort of "bad" thing that might happen. In order to get prepared we have to think about what kinds of bad things might happen. Here is where that common sense thing comes in. If you are going fishing in Ohio you probably do not need to be prepared in case you run into a Grizzly. Similarly, if you are fishing on the flats in the Florida keys, making certain you have enough layers to stay warm in case the weather dips below freezing is probably not a big concern. However, sunburns, windburns, UV protection, first aide, outer gear, nutrition/dehydration are all concerns wherever you are fishing. So preparedness means to think about what could go wrong on your forthcoming outing and try to minimize the effects of the bad event. Always take some sunscreen, bug goop, a minor first aide kit (Band-Aids, aspirin/advil, ace bandage (even a bandana), anti-biotic ointment), distress whistle, water proof matches, and a small mirror. Most of these things can be put together and fit into a zip-lock sandwich bag. Taking (or at least taking and leaving in the car) rain gear, a light fleece jacket, and some water is also usually a good idea. Keep in mind different times of the year require more or less thought and preparedness of these items. Some questions to consider might be;

- Are there poisonous animals you might run into and what can you do if bitten?
- What is the likely hood of a dramatic weather change, flash flood, or major drop in

Fishing Safety *cont...*

temperature?

- How far away from other people will you be and what happens if you break a leg?
- How do you get help if you need it?
- Will you need nutrition and liquids while outside?

During the spring and fall some of these questions might have more impact. Again, use common sense when thinking about what safety concerns you should have on our outing.

Now let's look at common sense. This is a tuff thing to pin point because what may seem logical and a real concern to one person might not to another. In getting prepared for an outing (and any bad things you might think of) it can be very easy to get carried away and try to take everything you can think of for every situation you think of. The only problem is you will not have any room left for your fishing gear. So common sense would dictate that you may not need you rain gear or light jacket if you are fishing a small pond 50 feet from you car (as long as you don't lock you keys in your car). However, if you are wading all day long in the middle of summer and it is supposed to get in the 90 degree range, common sense you say take extra water and sunscreen and possible outer wear to protect you skin even more (hat, bandana, buff, gloves, etc...). Common sense would scream bug goop if you were evening fishing on the local stream or pond in the middle of summer. Common sense should also tell you that the rapids you routinely wade across in average to lower water during the season might not be wade able (or at least deserve caution) during the spring (i.e. lots of rain). Some other

Rainy's
Boobie Heads



Knots That Catch Fish

Most fisherman give little thought to the knots they use while fishing. The clinch knot and a loop knot are about it. Believe it or not (no pun intended) the right knot can make a big difference. Depending on the fly you are fishing and the knot you use to attach it to the leader your fly can drift in a manner that helps attract fish or sends them swimming. Fox Statler has written a great article on using knots to help you present your flies in a manner to increase takes. You can read the article [here](#).

common sense things to consider while preparing or fishing might be;

- Notifying someone you know about where and when you will be out and when you should return.
- Check the local stream conditions and weather before you go if you are going to be out long or if you have to travel far to get to your water.
- Take GPS unit and/or map if hiking any distance to your destination.
- Take an emergency notification device (like a Spot Satellite Messenger).
- Take a cell phone with you (you would be surprised where you can get reception).

Everyone has read or heard stories of simple fishing trips ending in disaster. Since we all spend many hours doing things other than fishing we need to make certain our much anticipated outing does not end up being another one of those stories. With a little common sense and preparedness you can stack the cards in your favor that your trip won't end up a disaster. Remember, it is only fishing and not worth risking you life for. Even if your outing is canceled, you will still be around for the next one. Just remember to take a charged cell phone with you!

Safe Days

Winston Boron II-MX

Fly Fish America 2008 Editors' Choice Award



THE NEW STANDARD IN FAST ACTION RODS

Trips and Travel



2008 Ascension Bay Bonefish Club

It was another great time in Mexico this February! The weather was great, the accommodations keep getting better and better every year and the fishing was wonderful. A number of good size (20 plus pound) permit were caught, despite some windy conditions. The guides were great putting us on fish



everyday and showed their customary level of patience with those just learning saltwater fly fishing. Many bonefish were taken by all. Numerous bones

were taking in the 5 – 6 pound range. People who have been going down with us over the past 15 years commented on how this year most of the bonefish seemed to be bigger than in the past. A few people caught some snook, had a few shots at tarpon and

even took a shot or two at some sharks! No luck with the sharks but there were a large number of barracuda around. A few people took a



chance and were rewarded with some nice size 'cuddas. Good times, good food (really good food)

and good friends make for a great get-a-way in the middle of the winter. If you think you might be interested in saltwater fly fishing, the Bonefish Club is a great place to learn. The guides are all very knowledgeable and patient and the fish are plenty. Over the years we have helped many people learn how to fly fish saltwater and enjoy this type of fishing. We are currently booking for Ascension Bay for 2009. Call us at the shop, or e-mail us at info@flymasters.com if you would like more information about this trip. We have lots of photos and information to share!



Upcoming Trips at FlyMasters

[Florida Tarpon](#) with Captain Tony Petrella
June 8 – June 12 off the Gulf Coast.

Atlantic Salmon on the River Tweed in Scotland
July 13th – July 20th

Fall Salmon on the Pere Marquette at Barothy Lodge
Sept 30th – October 3rd

Ascension Bay Bonefish Club February 2009
Jan 30th – Feb 6th *Sold Out*
Feb 6th – 13th 2 spots open
Feb 13th – 20th 2 spots open

Call us today to get more detailed information or to book a trip. Next Month.... Details about our March Argentina trip!!