



Summer Is Here

Let the Fun Begin

Ian Anderson

Fly Tier and Webmaster

You can tell summer is finally here. It is inevitable every summer, like the cycle of the tides and the rising of the sun. Once summer really gets here two things always happen at FlyMasters. First, the attendance and activities of our Fly Fishing School increase and the attendance and activities of our tying classes decrease.

Winter is over and people who have had the itch for the last month or so to get out and learn to fly fish are in the shop on a daily basis. Seasoned fly fishers are getting new lines and leaders and those new to the passion are getting their first outfit. The recurrent phone call of “schedule my next class” happens at least three times day. Our instructor is busy all the time with classes.

With winter being the time people can’t (or don’t) fish much it is usually reserved as a time to tie flies for the up coming season. November through April all of our tying classes are busy as well as sales of tying paraphernalia. But as soon as summer arrives tying activity drops. Less people are starting the journey that is fly tying and less and less current journeyman (and women) are coming by to explorer the craft.

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Latest News

From the fly Fishing World

Local Guides Services Have Resumed

With the arrival of spring our resident guide here at FlyMasters has resumed guiding on local waters for smallmouth and trout. There are so many great smallmouth streams available here in central Indiana and Derrick has been fishing most of them for years. He has also been spending a lot of time exploring the water below the Brookville dam, learning all there is to know about the best trout fishing in the area. Weather you are looking for a nice relaxing day of fishing or want someone to take you out and help “show you the ropes”, contact Derrick at the shop to schedule a great day of Indiana fishing.

New “Let’s Go Fishing” Program

A while ago we started our Intermediate and Skills Development tying classes to help beginning tiers continue to learn and expand their knowledge and skills. Along those same lines we are starting a new program at FlyMasters this summer called “Let’s Go Fishing”. Often people who go through our Fly Fishing School have questions about places to fish, flies to use and fish to catch. Our Let’s Go Fishing program is designed to help out in this area. Most Wednesdays from June through September someone from FlyMasters will be on the river from 6:00pm until dark to help answer all of these burning questions. Check out our “Let’s Go Fishing” page on our web site for more details. The great thing is that it is all free!

Fishing Report

People are starting to get out and have some fun. Here are a few of the fish and places people have been catching them.

Tippecanoe River – some nice smallies and white bass were caught this past April and May. Fishing was tough because of the numerous releases. The water is starting to get up to the 60 – 70 degree mark. Topwater should be turning on now.

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In my younger days I greatly enjoyed science and math classes in high school and college. I am certain if I were to apply some of that well invested information I could come up with some sort of formulas to explain the inverse relationship between the fishing school and the tying classes as the days move from winter to spring, then summer fall and winter again (because the exact opposite happens in the fall). Maybe, I might even expand it into a whole article for Scientific America (or at least Grey's Sporting Journal) and develop one of the first formal laws of fly fishing. Then again, I want to enjoy fly fishing and that research seems like the wrong kind of work.

For now, I can simply add this little annual event as another marker of the passing of the seasons. As sure as the leaves turn green, the flowers bloom and birds sing, summer is here.

Be Well,

Ian



Simms
3X Dry
Shirts



Exofficio
Buzz-Off
Shirts
For The
Summer

News *cont...*

Whitewater River (above Brookville Res.) – Lots of wipers and white bass were caught this past month. White and cream colored flies, small (#8 and #10) seemed to do the trick. Smallmouth are spawning and getting active. Darker streamers seems to be doing the trick for the smallies.

Brookville (below the Res.) – All of the spring stockings are done and the water is clearing up. For a number of weeks in early May there was too much algae from the Reservoir all over the stream bed. This has all cleared out and the fishing is doing great. Nymphing is the way to go.

White River – The smallies are starting to get active. Catching is still slow for the most part due to the fluctuations of the water levels. Dark patterns fished low and slow, especially on overcast days. If you get a nice day of sun the shallows might warm up enough to get some of the bass on Topwater flies. Expect the waters to warm up through out the month and the morning and evening Topwater action to get hot.

Lake Webster – We have been hearing reports of some good Muskie's being caught this spring in Lake Webster. This body of water has become a jewel in the Midwest in the past number of years for lots of big Tiger Musky. Cooler waters in the spring help to get them on the surface. Look to finding them deeper as the waters warm.

As always, you can phone in or e-mail us with a report on your fishing. No need to give away secret locations just the body of water, fish you were catching and type of flies you were using (here specifics can help).

When to Fish Topwater For Smallmouth

When the water gets into the mid-fifties and sixties it is a great time to start casting poppers for smallies. In the spring you can have days were they produce all day long. When the hot days of summer come most Topwater action is relegated to the early morning and late evening hours (or at night).

Product News

What's New in Fly Fishing Gear

Ian Anderson

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Abel Aluminum Handles

Stop by FlyMasters to take a look at the worlds largest fly reel handle. Abel Automatic now makes aluminum reel handles for all models of their famous reels. These anodized aluminum handles have the same smooth touch and action

as the more traditional wooded handles. Available in many different colors and sizes for all reels these handles can take anything you can put them through.

Lubricate Your Knots

Many fly fishermen and women are not aware that you should lubricate your knots in your monofilament leaders and tippet before you tighten them. Without it, friction builds up as the knot is tightened and degrades the leader/tippet. Simply wet the knot, either in your mouth or dunk it in the water then tighten it.

Renzetti Vises

Many fly tiers are aware of the great quality vises the Renzetti Company makes. Their Master vises are one of the best top of the line vises money can buy. However, their Traveler series have become the work horse of tying vises. Renzetti has just announced two new vises to their product



line. The Clouser Cam and Traveler 2200 vise are now at FlyMasters. Stop by and take a look at these great vises.

Magnum Taper

Unless you have been out of the fly fishing bubble this past year you are already aware of the new Sharkskin line by 3M. With an advanced coating this line shoots farther, handles easier, and needs less cleaning than conventional lines. 3M has just released a new Magnum taper model of the Sharkskin line. Specifically designed for big bass bugs this line comes in sizes 5 weight through 10 weights. With this line you will have an easier time casting those big wind resistant bass bugs we all love to fish. Also, if you like pike or musky fishing this line will help you get those big flies where you want them. Stop by the shop today to check it out.



FITS Now at FlyMasters

Lamson Reels at FlyMasters

FlyMasters is now carrying Lamson reels. The Velocity, Litespeed and Radius have made a reputation for themselves in fly fishing and the new Lamson Konic is sure to follow suit. Quality reels that will not break your budget, Lamson are becoming a staple in the fly fishing world. Stop the shop and ask to take a look at any one of the many we have in stock.. We can get all sizes and colors for whatever your fishing needs.



How It All Started

Or How I Lost My Spinning Addiction

Ian Anderson

Fly Tier and Webmaster

It was way back in 1973 that it all began. My parents had just purchased a lake house in northern Indiana. My older brother had been attending military school on the shores of this lake and it looked as though their second son and three daughters would be attending as well. Since they lived only a couple of hours away in Illinois they purchased the home to be around their children more (even if their teenage children did not want them around). It took all of .0854 seconds for me to get bitten by the fishing bug once I walked into that house and saw that lake. Now I had been fishing before, a number of times and always liked it. But this was different, this was serious.

Like most boys at 10 years of age who have been bitten, I fished with “conventional” tackle. My



Zebco 202 and I saw a lot of mileage those first few years. I read as much as I could about fishing, which my parents were glad to see simply because I was reading. I joined the still very young B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society). When I could not fish I was either cleaning my gear or reading about it. However, something seemed to be missing. I was very interested in fly fishing but was unable to master its secrets on my own (at least not yet). My father did not fish. His father, who passed on when I was six years old, was an avid fly fisherman and tied his own flies. But none of this passed on to my father. He always said this sort of thing skips a generation anyway. As well, there were not too many “Stillwater” fly fisherman back in those days in northern Indiana. Not for lack of trying in those days

but I just was not getting it. I had an old bamboo rod that was my great Uncles and a reel. I purchased a line and spun it on the reel. I would go out and do what most people do when they first try (especially without instruction) and whip that rod around like I was driving a stage coach. I managed to snap off a few flies and tangle myself all up and quit after my short supply of youth patience was used up. And that is pretty much how my fly fishing proceeded for a number of years. Then came April of 1980 and the full fishing bite.

In my middle teen years my folks would let me spend some time at the house when the ice went out to do some crappie fishing. Newly open water, my new Diawa spinning outfit and a bucket of minnows and I was set for some early season slabs (or specks if you are from the south). The April of 1980 started out like most others, crappie fishing that is, with me catching a few most days and occasionally about 15 on a good day. One particular day I happened to notice a man fly casting to crappie back in a channel off of the main lake. My first thought was that he would not be catching anything since it was too early for any bugs too be out. Before the day was over I was to learn just how shallow the well of my fishing knowledge really was.

The day wore on and I fished and would occasionally see this man casting, never catching. Later in the day, I had not been catching anything for a while and thought I might check this guy out. I had moved further down the shore from him and did not want to run my boat up through where he was fishing so I climbed out and walked over too him. I asked if I could watch a while. He said it would be fine and continued to fish. The very first thing I noticed was the fish he had caught so far. He had a five gallon bucket on the ground full of crappie. I don't mean full as in swimming around and happily jumping around like in a Disney movie. I mean each fish was lying on its side and on the side of another full; like a stack of pancakes! The limit of crappie was 25 fish and he had all 25 in that bucket. I looked back at my boat and thought about the stringer I had tied to it with only about 5 fish on it. Let's just say at that moment I didn't need a slap upside my head to learn the lesson in front of my face.

Now I started to pay attention to what he was doing. The first thing I noticed was that he was not whipping this rod and line over his head like he was

Fishing Safety *cont...*

putting out a fire. He didn't even do any backcast. I was soon to learn that he was "roll" casting. A quick little rolling of the line and he was back to fishing. As I watched him for about 15 minutes, with little to no talking, he caught six more fish and missed just as many. Even I could see the line twitch as the fish were taking his fly. He would bring in each one, unhook it and throw it back into the water. At one point he saw me watching him release these and said "I already have my limit". Not only did he catch his limit but he is still catching them! I wondered, just how long did it take him to catch his limit and how long is he going to stay catching fish? It was almost as if he could catch them at will.

I stood watching him for about 30 minutes. I only asked three questions. The first was what fly he was using. He showed it to me and it looked like a small gray lump of fuzz on a hook. Years later I learned that it was a nymph pattern, specifically a sowbug. I asked him if he would show me a "falsecast". He moved to a little more open area and proceeded to show me how to overhead cast a fly line. Immediately I noticed two things (only because I was now about 16 years of age and paid more attention to things). One, he was not casting all the way behind and in front of himself. Two, he would pause for a second or so when he stopped his backcast and then cast forward. This is how I learned that the previous cast he was doing was a roll cast. Finally, I asked him what other kinds of fish he caught on a fly rod. "I can catch any kind of fish in the world on a fly rod", was his reply. He even added that he used to have a lot of baitcasting and spinning gear that he eventually gave away because he never used it again. This last

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 at,

<http://willowford.net/Knots That Catch Fish.html>

bit of news hit me hard at the time. I had spent a few years of my youth amassing a number of tackle boxes and rods and reels. I loved them all and the thought that if I started fly fishing I would eventually not use any of it made my heart sink.

I watched for a few more minutes, thanked him for his time and instruction and made my way back to my boat (all cool and casual of course). I then buzzed on back home and ran to get my fly rod and reel out. I knew nothing about line weights and leaders or flies but I managed to get a rod, reel and line that worked, I later learned they were balanced. I tied on a three foot piece of 6 pound mono for a leader and clipped the wings and collar off of a grayish blue mayfly imitation to make a gray fuzzy bug. By now it was dark and I had to wait until the next morning to try out my newly acquired knowledge.

Dawn came quickly and I buzzed out to the same spot he was in the day before with fly rod in hand. I managed to get some line out on the water and quickly got the roll cast down. In no time I was into fish. I was getting hits on almost every cast. About every third or fourth fish that hit would actually make it into my hands. After a while I attempted a false cast and was proud as hell that I could do it. I spent the day and the rest of the week fly fishing and have not stopped since. That spinning gear, it has been collecting dust for 27 years and I don't miss it a bit.

Be Well,

Ian

Winston Boron II-MX

Fly Fish America 2008 Editors' Choice Award



THE NEW STANDARD IN FAST ACTION RODS

Trips and Travel



2008 Argentina

Our March trip to Argentina was a great time! March in Argentina is like August up here on our side of the globe. Long hot days and plenty of good weather. The accomidations at Murophy's Lodge were no less than we have come to expect. After a day on the water it is such a nice treat to come back to the lodge and have



such accomidating staff and a wonderful atmosphere to relax in. And let's not forget the food. The meals alone are worth the trip. But the fishing is what we went for and the fishing was great. A number

of nice browns were caught as well as rainbows. The fishing in the Rio Rivadavia was the best; what a great float. The guides put us into fish each day and did their best even when the weather got really hot. All in all another good year in Argentina.

Florida

I [Ian] had the pleasure of heading down to Sanibel Island for spring break this April. The family and I went down for some much needed climate change. The weather was perfect and the shelling, which is what Sanibel is most noted for, was also fantastic. Fortunately, I even managed to get



out and do a little saltwater fly fishing. My first stop was the Bait Box, Sanibel's local fishing and tackle shop. The folks there were very friendly and helpful. Unbeknownst to me the author of the book "Snook on A Fly", Norm Zeigler, works part time at the Bait Box. It was there I met him and got some first hand info as to where to fish and what to fish with. I spent a fair bit of time talking with Norm and learning all kinds of things about fly fishing on the island. I did manage to get out one morning and fish along the east side of the island; no luck though. Only saw one cruising Snook and a few lady fish. Early April is a little early for the Snook, May and June are better months. But it was fun, I learned some things about fishing the islands, and met some nice people. If you find yourself in Sanibel or Fort Meyers stop by the Bait Box first and then head to the beach for some saltwater action.



Upcoming Trips at FlyMasters

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 5 spots open

Fall Steelhead in Ohio
October 3rd – October 7th Now Booking

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!!