



The Grayling Society

Newsletter

Area 8 February 2021 (No. 54)

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Stop-Unplug-Escape-Enjoy
“Fennel Hudson”

News From the Front

Well January has seen it all Snow, Rain, Floods, Lockdown and Pandemic, it could almost be said to have been Biblical but we have not had the plague of Locusts !!! One friend on Facebook wrote “ It has been the driest month so far”. He was not talking about the weather but his fishing tackle, it had not seen water all January. With all the rivers and still waters being well out of sorts or in flood he had not been able to fish. And speaking of floods, just a couple of pictures from Facebook of the rivers Wye and Derwent as a result of storm Christoph.



Darley Bridge



Baslow Weir, Before



Bakewell, Before



Baslow Weir, After



Bakewell, After

Brian

History of Nymphing

Nymphing and grayling seem to fit together naturally. Of course, we all like a bit of the old 'dray fly' when we can but I suspect most of us look to the nymph as we move more and more into the grayling 'season'. It is the approach which is probably the most successful and it is certainly the most popular and fastest growing these days. It is also the area where most development has taken place in terms of tackle and, probably, of flies. It is not surprising really that it is so successful since the grayling takes much more of its food underwater than it does from the surface. Where freshwater shrimps are present, for instance, they can make up as much as 80% of the fish's diet and the nymphs of upwinged and other fly species are easy pickings compared to the geometric calculations required and energy expended in travelling upwards to intercept a fly on the surface.

So lets take a look back at how nymphing became so important.

To many, including myself, GEM Skues was the big daddy of the nymph. Although many anglers would have nymph fished before him, whether they realised it or not, it was Skues who started to codify the black art and generate publicity for nymphs. He was considered a heretic by many and was viciously attacked by Sir Joseph Ball during the infamous debate at the Flyfisher's Club in 1938. However, Skues persevered with his nymphing and gradually it became an accepted form of fishing, even on the snooty chalkstreams although it is only reluctantly accepted even today in some of the more, shall we say, traditional fisheries there.

Of course Skues nymphs were all unweighted and were designed to fish just a few inches below the surface and, in line with the prevailing chalkstream ethics, he cast them at 'rising' fish. By that I mean fish that taking nymphs just below the surface That they worked cannot be doubted and they work just as well today. He created many patterns with some being quite specific as to which fly they represented and in which month. My own two favourites are his No. VI representing Olives and No. X which is a clear Iron Blue imitation.



Skues No. VI



Skues No. X

The real breakthrough, though, came with Frank Sawyer a keeper on the River Avon around Netheravon in Wiltshire. He had plenty of time to study trout and grayling behaviour and realised that a weighted fly would have more chance of success more of the time than an unweighted one.

Cont;

So, along came the Pheasant Tail Nymph, and what a world shattering fly that was. Not being a wealthy man he looked to use materials which were easily and cheaply obtained. Male pheasant centre tail feathers were very easy for a keeper to acquire, especially in a game shooting area near Salisbury Plain, as was copper wire from an old motor winding. And so the weighted nymph was born. Incidentally his Killer Bug also used easily obtained materials such as thicker copper wire from a similar source and everyday darning wool. To say Chadwicks 477 was an everyday item seems a bit far fetched nowadays when a full card of it can command a three figure sum!

A lot of his secret was in the way the fly is tied. It must be very slim so it enters the water easily and sinks straightaway. Many I see are far too fat and generally have tails too long and thoraxes that are too big. Nobody, in my personal, experience has ever tied a PTN better than Mrs. Sawyer.

SAWYER PHEASANT TAIL

SIZE

13



Of course, Oliver Kite then went one stage further with his Bare Hook Nymph which just consisted of a copper wire thorax and nowt else! The other part of the secret is, of course, the fishing method. Frank always fished as directly upstream as he could, pitching his nymph ahead of the fish so it had descended to the right depth when it reached said fish. And he always fished it dead drift minimising drag as much as possible. Finally, if there was no interest after a few casts he would resort to the 'induced take' where he lifted the fly fractionally as it reached the fish. This sudden movement often impels the fish to take the fly and can work brilliantly with grayling, providing you can see them of course. Then came the 'goldhead' and a whole new era of nymph fishing was born. Now inventive tyers could go mad creating any kind of bizarre confection they could muster up from their supply of materials. I once calculated that using just 5 different tailing materials, 5 abdomen, 5 thorax, 5 ribs and 5 different beads you can tie 3,125 totally unique flies! Look through any fly fishing magazine and you are regaled with masses of 'killer' beadhead flies each of which is the best ever!



Goldhead Hair's Ear



Ginger Tom Jigs

Cont;



PPP (Purple and Pink Peril)



Hotspot Nymph ii

Just after we all got used to bead-head flies along came Czech nymphs, which were variations of flies used by the Polish national fly fishing team in the 1980's. And lets not forget all the other nymph types such as shrimps, caddis, mayfly, stonefly etc.



Gammy Parasite Shrimp



Peek a Boo Caddis

So, these days we are well armed with just about any type, size and weight of nymph we choose to carry when we go chasing the lady. And, to support these new generation flies, there came new techniques such as the short line euronymphing approach and the use of extremely long french leaders.

Of course, we all settle down with our favourite patterns, and fishing style, only adding to them if something either really takes our fancy or we hear of some amazing success with a new fly.

But, shouldn't we ask ourselves, how many of these are really nymphs? If we are honest we would accept that most are, in fact, just lures which bear little or no relationship to anything which swims or crawls about under water. I can live with that although I do seem to graduate to the more natural looking nymphs whenever I open my box – and they work just fine!

So, whether you are a natural nymph purist or have more catholic tastes there is always a 'killer' fly for you to go down, down, deeper and down!

Happy nymphing.

Steve Skuce

Photographic Competition

Many thanks to all those members who contributed to the competition. It was a hard task to find the winner, but Hilary and I finally decided upon this photograph by Ian Hawkins. Congratulations Ian and what was the fly you used it looks rather buggy.



Ian your Prize, the £20.00 Orvis Bakewell gift voucher for fishing items will be winging its way to you next week.

Fly Tiers Corner

No 5



Kite's Imperial

Courtney Williams in his "Dictionary of Trout Flies" describes the "Imperial" thus;

*This fly was invented by the late Major Oliver Kite as a representation of the **baetis rhodani Dun**. The date of origin was 1962 since when it has gained a considerable, and well deserved, reputation. The Imperial can also be used to good effect as a general pattern.*

Although the original pattern does not have a wing, only a hackle I have included a wing/post for obvious reasons.

Brian

Cont;

Materials;

Hook; Partridge SUD #14 or #16
Thread; Peasall's Purple
Tail; Coq de Lion "Flor De Escoba"
Hackle; Honeyn Dun Cock
Body; Medium Grey Ultra fine dubbing.
The original pattern states 4 heron primary fibres, doubled and re-doubled to form a thorax.
Rib; Fine Gold wire
Post; White Antron. Or any colour you choose

Method;

- 1 Wind the thread half way down the shank of the hook, then wind the thread halfway back up the thread you have already fitted.
- 2 Lift the post material up under the thread onto the top of the hook and securely bind in. wind the thread up the post for about 3mm, then back down onto the shank of the hook.
- 3 Tie in the hackle and bind in up the post to the height of the thread.
- 4 Tie in both the rib and the tail and bind down to the bend of the hook and cut of the excess material.
- 5 Dub the dubbing to the thread and wind up to the post.
- 6 In open turns wind the rib up the shank to the base of the post, bind in and cut off the waste.
- 7 Dub on the dubbing once more and form a thorax at the base of the post and wind forward to the eye.
- 8 Whip finish and cut of the thread.
- 9 Turn the vice so that the hook is on its side and re attach the thread on the base of the post.
- 10 Wind down the hackle 3 or 4 turns to the base of the post and bind in the hackle.
- 11 Cut off the excess of the hackle and whip finish around the base of the post.

Brian



Coq de Lion "Flor De Escoba"



I have been making cork body Avon floats as well as the Righyni floats. These take more weight and are better suited to heavy shotting where you need to get down deep quickly or deep river conditions and the use of larger bates. They come in either yellow, orange or red tops but black would be a special order. If interested in either Righyni or the Avon floats please contact me on 07711 905776 or yorkshire_pudd@hotmail.com

Annual Subscriptions

Just a gentle reminder that subscriptions for the Society are due on the 1st of January each year.

We still have one or two members who have not yet renewed, so if you think you may be one of these people please check and if you do decide to renew please do so asap.

I know that the Area has been rather quiet as far as events are concerned but I am sure things will be getting better and value for money.

Adult £28.00
Over 70 £22.00
Joint £47.00
Junior £5.00

Any problems email or phone me
07711 905776 or yorkshire-pudd@hotmail.com

Thanks
Brian

Friends of Area 8



The Willows Business Park,
Near Bank, Shelley,
Huddersfield HD8 8LU
Tel/Fax: 01484 600555
Email: info@flyonlyonline.co.uk
www.flyonlyonline.co.uk

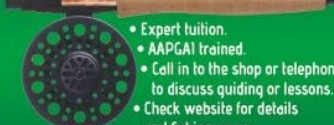
Friends of Area 8



Orvis Bakewell
7 King Street
Bakewell
DE45 1DZ
Tel: 01629 810226

Bakewell Fly Fishing Shop

3a Hebden Court, Bakewell,
Derbyshire, DE45 1EE



- Expert tuition.
- AAPGAI trained.
- Call in to the shop or telephone to discuss guiding or lessons.
- Check website for details and fishing news.

The delight of casting a dry fly gently in lovely surroundings and watch the fish rising in the clear water of the Derbyshire Wye.

01629 813531 - www.bakewellflyfishing.com - Tuition, Guiding fly fishing & tying sundries



111 Dudwell Ln, Halifax HX3 0SS.
Chris Eastwood 01422 322954
lathkill.com
Order by phone or internet



Croft House, 8 Croft Field, Silsden, Keighley
BD20 0NA
Phil Holding on 01535 657479
www.flytyingboutique.com
Order by phone or internet

Grayling Fishers DVD library

Grayling Fishers evening with Philip White A.P.G.A.I.



© Grayling Fishers 2012

Philip White's fly tying demonstration on the 8th November 2012 for the Grayling Fishers evening.

Grayling Fishers evening with Stuart Crofts



© Grayling Fishers 2014

Stuart Crofts fly tying demonstration on the 15th October 2013 for the Grayling Fishers evening.

Price £6.50 + p&p
Cheques made out to
Grayling Society Area 8

For details contact :

Brian 07711 905776

or

Hilary 07920 013361

STOP THE SPREAD



Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.



CHECK Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk and search for Check Clean Dry



CORMORANT WATCH



Seen a cormorant or goosander?

Please help us by recording sightings to persuade governments to increase the number of licences to shoot these highly damaging birds



Report sightings online at
www.cormorantwatch.com



Show your support and help spread awareness of this issue by downloading this poster from www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants

Produced with the support of...



Join today at www.anglingtrust.net or 0343 5077 006



Scan the code

RECYCLE YOUR FISHING LINE

What has this got to do with line recycling?

The amount of line UK anglers send to landfill or incineration every year would reach to the moon.

384,400 km

How do I recycle my fishing line?

Step 1

To find out where your local recycling point is you have two options;

Visit the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme Facebook page where you will find a list of all participating shops/venues.

Visit our website www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

Step 2

Keep your old monofilament and braid separate and take it along to your chosen recycling point. The shop may have separate bins for braid and mono but if they have a single bin please keep the braid bagged and place this in the bin.

Step 3

No recycling points near by? You can post it to us via ANLRS, c/o Tools n Tackle, 11 Bridge St, Newhaven BN9 9PH.

How is it recycled?

The waste line is sent to a recycling processor that returns it to a useable material. Recycled nylon is currently used to make traffic cones, wetsuits and sports clothing.



"Something the whole of angling can agree on"



For more information visit: www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

Founded by LISA in association with GGGI. Flyer sponsored by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

