



# Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

## June 2022 Newsletter



**This month's cover photo:** This is a photo of the Tongariro River looking upstream from Major Jones Bridge, photo taken by Malcolm Francis

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**Club activities**

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 27 June	Club Night -Club Auction	Wayne
Tuesday 14 June	Fly Tying workshop Waikanae Boating Club	Gordon
15 to 17 July	Club trip to Turangi – staying AFAC Lodge	Malcolm
19 to 21 August	Club trip to Turangi – staying AFAC Lodge	Malcolm
16 to 18 September	Club trip to Turangi – staying AFAC Lodge	Malcolm

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***At this month's club meeting is on Monday 27 June Club Auctions starts at 7:30pm – viewing from 6:30 followed by light super***

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## **Presidents report**

This is my first contribution to the newsletter as your President. Since joining the club 14 months ago and becoming the Vice President under Malcolm's tutelage I have been inspired by the number of members who are actively engaged within the club whether at committee level or as members who are engaged with ensuring the club continues to operate for the benefit of members. Membership has remained strong under Covid and despite the challenges of operating in a restricted environment over the last few years the club has continued to provide members with opportunities to connect and undertake activities under Malcolm and the last committee's leadership.

At the last club committee meeting Leigh Johnston was unanimously elected as the Vice President. I am very glad that Leigh agreed to step into the role as I shall miss the first meeting that I am supposed to chair. I am on my annual fishing trip to Rotorua for the end of the season close. This is something that I have done for the last 25 years and as with all things fishing there is nothing to rival the competition and comradeship amongst long-time comrades.

I am hopeful that we will be successful in significantly increasing members engagement with club fishing trips and we are able to stage trips which have strong participation support from members. Having just arrived in Rotorua's Marama Resort I have no trout pics to share as yet but I am confident that the fish will fall to the hook and come to the bank over the course of the week. I am equally certain that you will all have a great club meeting under Leigh's chairmanship and auction under the stern guidance of Gordon Baker.

I wish to acknowledge and commend Gordon for his tireless effort on club events and know that at the meeting you will all show your support with a generous and hearty round of applause.

Here's looking forward to a great 2022-23 club year.

Tight lines

Wayne Butson

***Editor's note: I received an email from Wayne this morning (Sunday) and he landed 7 trout on Saturday, stating that the channel is on fire.***

## Club Auction list of items for sale

If you are interested in purchasing any of the items in the auction you will need to obtain a bidding prior to the start of the auction, all the listed items will be on display from 6:30pm.

We will accept cash, but our preferred payment is by transferring the money into the clubs bank account: **031531-0042482-00** (Westpac Coastlands), **please provide you name and Lot Number as your reference.**

Lot	Description	Reserve
1	Flyfishing in New Zealand. Ferris	
2	Trout Flies in New Zealand. Draper	
3	An Outside Chance. McGuane	
4	Nymphs. Schwiebert	
5	The Complete Book of Flyfishing. Cederberg	
6	4X Assorted fly-tying materials	
7	5X Green Woolly Buggers.	
8	5X Orange Rabbits.	
9	Grey fishing vest	
10	Kilwell Matrix 9'6" 8 weight flyrod with tube	
11	Cortland GRF 1000 8'6" 6/7 flyrod and tube	
12	Dragonfly 375 reel and spare spool. 8 wt. floating and sinking lines	
13	Mitchell 758 7/8 fly reel	
14	Small box of Dry Flies	
15	6 weight Intermediate fly line, as new	
16	Fishing multi-tool. New.	
17	Redington wading boots. UK11. as new	
18	Airflo Tactical 5 weight rod with reel and DT6F flyline	Yes
19	CD XLS 8wgt rod and reel with 3 spare spools and lines	Yes
20	Fly tying vise set	Yes
21	Fly reel with spool and lines	Yes
22	Airflo Ballistic WF7F flyline (as new)	Yes
23	Fly reel with clear 6 wt. line	Yes
24	Shimano spinning reel with spare spool and lines	Yes
25	Trout Stream Insects of NZ. Marsh	
26	Trout on a Nymph. Orman	
27	The Feather Mechanic	
28	CD XD 13'6" 3-piece surf rod	Yes
29	Silstar graphite 8'6" spin rod	Yes
30	Flybox with 50 assorted flies	Yes
31	Camo belt pack	Yes
32	Fly reel WF6F line. Spare spool with shooting head	Yes
33	Assorted fly-tying materials + some nymphs and cicadas	
34	The Sotheby's Guide to Flyfishing for Trout	

<b>Lot</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reserve</b>
35	Airflo wading stick	
36	Caddis nymphs	
37	6X Size 16 nymphs, Greg du Bern	
38	3X Size 12 GBHE, 2X Woolly Buggers. 2X Red Setters	
39	Rabbit flies 2X each Black, Orange, Red	
40	Bushline-Outdoor lightweight fishing vest	Yes
41	Airflo lightweight fishing vest	Yes
42	Wynrod 9'6" 9 weight fly rod with cloth bag	Yes
43	Lanyard	Yes
44	Kilwell Genesis 789 reel with 9wt shooting head	Yes
45	Columbia vest size M	Yes
46	Dual rod holster	Yes
47	3-piece split cane	
48	2X steel spin rods	
49	14ft JW Dominator surf rod and reel	Yes
50	Box misc. saltwater fishing gear	
51	Kids Spin fishing reel	
52	Vintage Penn big game reel	Yes
53	JW Young Gildex reel	Yes
54	Nordic Spinmaster reel	Yes
55	Olympic 460 reel	
56	Landing net	
57	Assorted saltwater terminal tackle	
58	Fly-tying kit in case	

**At the end of the Auction can you please come to the admin team and confirm your purchase, thank you.**

### ***Fly Casting Tuition by Gordon Baker***

Club member Gordon Baker is available for one-on-one casting tuition. Gordon is a casting instructor with Flyfishers International (USA). He is available to help beginners get off to a good start and to assist more experienced members improve their distance casting skills. Although not yet an approved two-handed casting instructor Gordon is a keen learner willing to share new skills.

Email Gordon [kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com) or phone 0274946487 to arrange a suitable time for a lesson. There is no charge.

## ***Mid-Week Fishing trips by Hugh***

For those members who are lucky enough to be able to fish mid-week during the forthcoming season please confirm your desire to be included in the mid-week fishers email list to:

[\*\*hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com)

The emails are often sent out only giving very short notice to take advantage of the prevailing conditions and members availability, as an example the afternoon of day before the proposed trip.

**If you are interested in participating on any mid-week fishing trips, please email Hugh Driver with your contact details and you will be added to the email list.**

## ***Subscriptions for 2022-23***

Your membership of the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club is valued by all our members, the subscriptions for 2022-23 are now due, we would appreciate your continued membership.

You can pay by Direct Credit or by cash at the next club meeting to our new Treasurer, Ashley Francis.

To pay by direct credit the details are as follows:

- **Our bank account details are [031531-0042482-00](#) (Westpac Coastlands)**
- **In the reference field please write your [Name](#)**

The subscription fees for 2022/23 financial year are as follows:

Adult Member subscription	\$38.00
Family subscription (2 adults)	\$46.00
Junior subscription (under the age of 16 years)	Free

**On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to thank all our members for your continued support of the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club.**

## *Fly Pattern of the Month –Copper John*

### **Czech and Euro Nymphs**



These patterns have become very popular because they are effective. They are generic rather than relying on individual designs. Created to be very dense and heavy for their size and smooth so they sink quickly to fish that are deep or in fast water. Czech nymphs tend to be larger and suggest caddis whereas Euro nymphs can be tied to size 18

<i>Hook:</i>	<b>TMC 2499SP BL size 8 -12 (Czech) TMC 413J for Euro</b>
<i>Thread:</i>	<b>Black 6/0</b>
<i>Bead:</i>	<b>Tungsten, black, gold, or silver bead</b>
<i>Underbody:</i>	<b>Lead wire</b>
<i>Rib:</i>	<b>Copper, gold, or silver wire</b>
<i>Body:</i>	<b>Floss or dubbed fur</b>
<i>Coating:</i>	<b>5-minute epoxy</b>

**Please note** that if the next fly-tying meeting is held at the **Waikanae Boating Club at 7.30pm Tuesday 12 July** you will need to bring your club membership card. If you haven't received yours yet you may do so at either the club or fly-tying meeting.

*Feather Merchants (NZ) sponsor our fly-tying group. Go to their website [www.flyshop.co.nz](http://www.flyshop.co.nz) to see their wide range of top-quality tying materials, tools and flyfishing accessories.*





## *Kapiti women on the Fly by Leigh Johnson*



Photos from our weekend fishing with Heather Carrington of Fly Ferns team on Hinemaiaia

### **WoTF trip to Hatepe/Turangi**

**July 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

We are fortunate to have access to a lovely house at Hatepe with plenty of beds. The plan would be to arrive on Thursday night, or for whatever period suits you. Please don't think you're not good enough to join in. We're all learning together. Please book your bed now!

### **Central Plateau Women's Social Fly-Fishing Tournament**

Can you imagine the fishy talk and laughter from 30 female fly fishers together? Jenny Tracey and I had a fabulous weekend at the tournament, both coming home with prizes. The event was great fun with the NZ Fly Ferns providing mentoring and leadership.

### **Wellington WoTF Spring Workshop**

Plans are firming up for a regional weekend workshop in late November.

Please forward this message to any women you know who fly fish or would like to give it a go.

[www.facebook.com/WomenontheFlyKapiti](http://www.facebook.com/WomenontheFlyKapiti), [www.instagram.com/kapitiwomenonthefly/](http://www.instagram.com/kapitiwomenonthefly/) and at [www.kapitiflyfishing.org/kapitiwomenonthefly](http://www.kapitiflyfishing.org/kapitiwomenonthefly).

I can be contacted at [leigh@leighjohnsonnz.com](mailto:leigh@leighjohnsonnz.com).



## *What does it take to catch a big trout? By Domenick Swentosky*



**Large Brown trout caught on Whakatikei River**

For many years, I believed that it takes nothing special to catch a big trout. I argued with friends about this over beers, during baseball games, on drives to the river and through text messages at 1:00 am. My contention was always that big trout don't require anything extraordinary to seal the deal. They need a quality drift, a good presentation, and if they are hungry, they will eat it. I frequently pushed back against the notion that big wild trout were caught only with exceptional skill.

So, for all who've heard me make this argument, I'd like to offer this revision: I still believe that large trout don't need more than a good presentation. But what is *GOOD* may actually be pretty special. Meaning, it's rare to find the skill level necessary to consistently get good drifts and put them over trout (large or small).

Some guys are good at tight line nymphing but have no dry fly game. Some girls can plant a streamer in the bullseye but can't dead drift a damn thing. Big trout can be anywhere. And they might eat anything. So, we need precision casting and an ability to feed s-curves into the tippet-leash of a Rusty Spinner. We also need the facility to tuck cast a #16 beadhead into the two-foot froth and get a ten-foot drift before it plunges over the lip. The best big trout anglers are good at all of this.

And how good should the presentation be? Top notch. And how rare is that? I think it's an uncommon skill. But remember, I didn't think that before. And that was the crux of my dispute with friends. When I argued that it didn't take anything special to catch big trout, my friends and I were really disagreeing on what was an *average* skill level.

But what about those big trout? Are they looking for anything different than what the mid-sized, garden variety fish are looking for?

Just a minute . . .

### **Which trout?**

Let's quickly define what we're talking about here. Some readers get a little bent out of shape when I bring this up, but I'm saying it again, because quality counts.

When I talk about targeting big trout, I only consider wild fish — not club fish, stocked trout, or anything else besides river trout that aren't being fed from the bank or being fed fingerling trout stocked by a fish commission. There are a lot of artificial setups out there. And such a thing changes the conversation because trout in a club environment or trout from a stocked strain are a different thing altogether. Their habits are dissimilar from wild trout. Their expectations are unnatural.

Are they fun to catch? Absolutely!

Does it take a lot of skill to put one of those big trout in the net? Maybe. And maybe not. When there's a setup, it's hard to say.



### **There is no super drift**

There's no extra-special drift required to sell a big trout. Get a great drift. That's enough.

On a nymph, the presentation should be a one-seam drift in the strike zone, long enough for a trout to see it and close enough to the trout to make it worth his time. Honestly, how can that be improved? It can't, really. Get it perfect, and if a twelve-inch trout is in the pocket and hungry, he eats. If a two-foot trout is in the pocket and hungry, he eats. There is nothing extra — nothing more — no magic trick beyond a quality presentation necessary to fool a big wild trout.

Same with dry flies. Just show them a dead drift in one seam. Make it excellent and you've got a shot. Don't line the trout. Shoot ahead of your target, etc. Hungry trout eat, whether big or small.

Streamers are a bit of a different story. Many different presentations are successful on the river, so every avid steamer angler has a few in-house tricks that he swears turns on big trout. That's fair. But as I float down a river, covering miles of water and targeting every watery log, boulder and undercut, there is no way to predict what will come charging out to eat the long fly. Good streamer presentations fool both large and average sized trout. But bad ones do not.

### **So, is it all luck?**

Yeah, it kind of is. But I've written my thoughts on this before. It takes persistence, knowledge of the river and good fish-fighting skills. Above all else it takes having big fish in the area. You can't hook a big trout if the river doesn't hold one.

But if it does — if big wild trout are around and your technique is solid, you stand a good chance of catching a big wild trout.

Lastly, the hardest part about catching a big trout may be fighting and landing it. Truly, this is an uncommon skill.

### **Fight me**

I've argued about this for years. And I know that my thoughts go against conventional wisdom. Honestly, I think it's part of the angler lore that many enjoy. You want to think that you did something really special to catch a Namer. But I tend to think you just got a good cast in front of a great fish that was hungry.

If you have other thoughts about all of this, drop a line in the comments section below. It's interesting to hear what big fish anglers from all different regions think about why big trout eat.

Fish hard, friends.

[READ: Troutbitten | Catching big fish does not make you a stud . . . necessarily](#)

### ***Getting close by Todd Tanner***



#### **Are in-close skills the true test of a sportsman?**

When I was a kid back in the late '60s and early '70s, I used to spend my weekends fishing at Murrow Park. The park's small pond, which was situated in the middle of a gorgeous meadow, had a sandy beach at one end where the locals came to swim in the summer. The deepest spot, out near the middle, was all of fifteen feet.

Every April our local hatchery truck would pull up and stock thousands of trout, creating an oversized version of "fish in a barrel." A week or two later, the town's youngsters would arrive for the annual Kid's Fishing Derby. We all hoped to win the Lions Club trophy for biggest fish.

I never won the Derby, although I sure put my time in. I fished that pond as long and hard as the rules allowed, and I always blamed my failure to take home the trophy on the fact that I couldn't reach the cool, deep water out in the middle. The kids who were lucky enough to have open-

faced spinning reels and fancy rods could cast further, and they always seemed to do better than those of us relegated to the waters near the bank.

Little did I know that this one particular lesson - something akin to the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence - would mess up my fishing and hunting for years.

Society teaches us that further is always better. A forty-metre putt that drops into the hole is incredible. A two-metre putt - well, anybody can do that. It's the same thing with home runs, three-point field goals, and touchdown passes. We're always rooting for the Ruthian blast that clears the bleachers, or the 60-metre pass that settles into the receiver's hands at the goal line. Let's face it. Those are feats of skill; displays of power and talent so extraordinary that they separate the stars from the also-rans. And who doesn't want to be a star.

Unfortunately, this "further is better" mentality has spent the last few decades creeping into our hunting and fishing. We admire the guy who can drop a deer with one shot at 400 metre, or who can throw an entire fly line, or who can crank his bow up to 320 f.p.s. and arrow a massive whitetail at 57 paces.

Many of us equate skill with a rod or a gun with prowess in the field. We've convinced ourselves that someone who's a great shot must also be a great hunter, and someone who's a marvellous caster must be an incredible fisherman. Yet we rarely consider that our sporting pursuits are not simplistic, one-dimensional activities, but rather the marriage of all the skill, knowledge, passion, intuition, and experience we can bring to bear.

Having the ability to make that long shot or long cast is a wonderful thing, assuming that it's part of our tool kit; the set of diverse skills that we've developed over the years. But if we use those long-range skills on a regular basis - if we take that 300-metre shot, or make that 20-metre cast, because we're lazy or because we haven't cultivated the complementary talents that allow us to get close to our target - then we're missing out on the true outdoor experience.

Extreme distance, whether it's with a cast or a shot, severs any sense of connection between us and our quarry. And that connection is what our time outdoors is all about.

Thankfully, the pendulum of distance is finally swinging back where it belongs. Sportsmen and women are once again calling for balance; for integrating our skills rather than relying on technology to make up for a lack of physical and mental prowess.

The argument against distance come down to two things: skill and respect. Let's say a deer hunter with a scoped rifle decides to take a 200-metre offhand shot. He takes careful aim and then drops a walking mule deer buck in its tracks. Let's assume that the hunter is in reasonably good physical condition and that the terrain provides some cover. Did our hunter make the right call?

Let's look at "respect" first. As hunters, we should do everything in our power to harvest our quarry in the most humane fashion possible. That means we have a responsibility to take shots with an extremely high likelihood of success. For a fellow hunting with a longbow, respect might dictate that his shots are 20 meter or closer; for a compound bow with mechanical sights, 30 metre might be the outside limit. A rifle hunter with a good rest, quality optics, an intimate knowledge of his weapon and an animal standing broadside might decide that 300-metre is reasonable. That same hunter, with no rest and a moving animal, might determine that an 80-

metre shot is not. In other words, there are any number of situations that are black and white, and even more that are shades of grey

So, let's boil it down to a simple formula. If you can make that exact same shot nine times out of ten, then take it. If not ... well, you've got to decide what's more important, your ego or the animal you're trying to harvest. As far as most ethical hunters are concerned, it's not worth taking a chance on a questionable shot. If you've ever tracked a gut-shot deer or lost a crippled elk to a snowstorm, you know exactly what I mean.

Let's get back to our example; the hunter who killed his buck at 200 metres with an offhand shot. Did he make the right call? From my point of view, the answer is a flat-out "No." I've never met a hunter who could put a bullet in a deer's heart/ lung area ninety percent of the time when he was shooting offhand, and the deer was both two hundred yards away and on the move. Consequently, it was a poor shot despite the results.

But what about the "skill" angle? After all, doesn't it take a tremendous amount of talent to make that 200-metre shot without a rest?

The answer is a definite "maybe." There are certainly hunters who, through years of practice, can consistently put a bullet into a pie plate at 200 metres offhand. There are even marksmen who can do it with a moving target. So, for those few people - yes, there's an incredible amount of skill involved. But for the rest of us, that shot comes down to luck. And from where I sit, a wing and a prayer aren't nearly enough justification when you're trying to make a clean, ethical kill

Now to tell the truth, I didn't used to feel that way. In fact, I used to believe that my ability to shoot a buck through the heart while he was leaping over a fence, or to kill a distant elk with an offhand shot, was a sign of my ability as a hunter. Man was I wrong. I took shots I had no business taking, and I justified my faulty judgment by saying that I almost always hit what I was shooting at.

Well, that's all fine and dandy, but when your ethical sidestepping leads to a long and fruitless blood trail - which it eventually did for me - you have two choices. You can try to figure out where you went wrong, or you can start lying to yourself. And that should be an easy choice.

So, respect - respect for the animal, respect for the sport, indeed, respect for yourself - boils down to knowing your limits and your quarry and refraining from questionable shots. That's easy enough.

Skill, though, is not so simple, especially since it takes so many different forms.

There's no doubt that shooting a bow or a rifle well is a valuable skill, as is the ability to make a long, accurate cast with a fly rod or a spinning outfit. Indeed, most folks would agree that if you're going to hunt or fish, you owe it to yourself to develop a certain level of proficiency with your equipment.

Be that as it may, I'm going to make a statement that some people won't like, but that the best hunters and fishermen will almost never dispute. The ability to make a long, accurate cast or shot should be down near the bottom of the list when it comes to a sportsman's priorities. In fact, I'm going to go even further and say that the reason many people rely on a long-distance approach is because they don't have the necessary skills to get in close - and that those close-in skills are the true test of a hunter or angler.

I believe that the mark of a great sportsman is his (or her) ability to get in tight to his quarry. The most accomplished fly fishermen don't usually cast more than 10 metres when they're fishing for trout on moving water. And it's not because they lack the skill to make long, difficult casts. It's because the closer they get, the greater the likelihood that they'll put the fly exactly where they want it, adjust for drag, and see the rise. Getting in close gives them more control over the entire process.

It's the same for hunters. The hunter who releases his arrow at 12 metres not only has the satisfaction of being mere yards from his target - close enough to smell that huge bull, to hear the sound of its breathing, to see the bark shavings hanging from its antlers like dark tinsel on a huge, barren Christmas tree. He also he knows that his odds of making a successful shot are excellent. Chances are that the bull won't jump the string, or a gust of wind won't turn his arrow from the mark, or his elk won't take a step or two before the arrow arrives at the target.

Even better, our hunter has played the game at the highest possible level. He's beaten the odds to get within mere feet of a monarch, and that very act, that culminating moment of skill and woodcraft, brings him into the moment in a way that's impossible for a guy who's 400 metres away.

Which is the exact opposite of that 60 metres touchdown pass we like to rave about. You've already done the hard work, you've used your skills to overcome that animal's incredible sensory defences, and all that's left is a shot you could make in your sleep. That, my friends, is the mark of a true sportsman.

## ***The catch with catch and release by Fly Fishers International***

### **All Fish All Waters Angler Pro...**

It's no secret that many populations of wild salmon, steelhead, tarpon, striped bass, and other aquatic species are threatened. Likewise, it's well-known that these populations' pronounced decline comes as a direct result of human activity; what scientists call anthropogenic pressures. These pressures come in many forms and operate at many geographic scales, including habitat degradation in local streams, overfishing and by-catch of regional stocks, and the global stresses of climate change. Over the past 30 years, there has also been an awakening by fisheries scientists and anglers as to the impacts of another threat to fish survival and population health: recreational angling— including the practice of catch and release.

Science focused on catch-and-release angling has shown that physical injury and physiological stress caused by capture and handling can influence the fate of fish. However, research also demonstrates that many of these impacts are in an angler's control and can be greatly reduced by changes in angler behaviour.

Crimping the barb on a hook, for example, can reduce physical injury and the amount of time a fish needs to be handled before release. This becomes even more important when you consider that many of our most treasured species are caught multiple times over their lifetime or even within a single season, and that many more fish are caught and released than kept in North America. As such, getting more anglers to learn and adopt science-based best practices for catch-



and-release is an essential step towards establishing resilient and sustainable recreational fisheries.

With the above in mind, our mission at **Keep Fish Wet** is to help anglers improve the outcome for each fish they release. We make the science of catch-and-release and related best practices accessible and understandable. We help sidestep scientific journal paywalls and translate scientific jargon so that science-based best practices can reach a broad cross-section of the recreational angling community. Tied to our mission, we firmly believe that access to this type of knowledge should be barrier free, thus we made the conscious decision to forgo a membership structure and make our information available at no cost.

At **Keep Fish Wet**, we work to build a community of informed angler-activists and aim to change social norms about how fish are caught and released. By fostering a community of anglers to help guide our own actions and to socially reinforce conservation values, we can help secure the future of fish and fishing. We start important conversations within the angling community, help anglers remain curious and provide a foundation for those who care about wild fish. We believe that, as anglers, we have a responsibility to help create more resilient fisheries through the use of science-based best practices. This is especially important for threatened or vulnerable wild fisheries and in the face of other impacts, such as climate change.

**Keep Fish Wet Principles** We have distilled the principles for science-based best practices down to three short phrases that can help anglers remember what to do. Our principles encompass the actions that are most in an angler's control and which create the best outcomes for fish that are caught-and released.

1. **Minimize Air Exposure** Fish need oxygen just like us, but they get it from the water, not from the air. Most of the science says that 10 seconds or less of air exposure is OK for most species. It also says air exposure is more detrimental to bigger fish and when in higher water temperatures. The takeaway: Keep a fish's mouth and gills fully submerged in the water as much as possible.
2. **Eliminate contact with dry and hard surfaces** Fish need their slime the same way we need our skin. Dry, rough, and hard surfaces remove the slime from fish and can also remove scales and damage fins, making them more susceptible to diseases. Keeping fish in or over the water, and supporting them with clean, wet hands or a soft rubber net will help keep their slime layer and scales intact and the fish disease-free.
3. **Reduce handling time** Handling is the time elapsed from landing to release, including all the way the fish is restrained (i.e., in your hands or in a net). Multiple studies have shown that longer handling times lead to poorer outcomes after release. Each of these principles are simple and doable by any angler of any skill level in any fishing situation. Most importantly, each one is backed by science and will make a difference to the fish that you catch-and-release. See our Tips section of our website for more information on setting yourself up for successful Keep Fish Wet best practices.

Fish Friendly Photos: Tips to capturing the moment Documenting our experience is inarguably part of the appeal of angling. But a little forethought goes a long way in helping create more resilient fisheries.

Get set up. Whether you plan to do an in-water or above water shot, make sure the photographer has everything ready to go before you pose the fish. Wet fish look good. A fish photographed in the water or dripping wet looks more natural and less like the dead slab photos your grandfather used to show you.

Measure air exposure. If you do lift the fish out of the water, consider this trick to keep the amount of air exposure short: Hold your breath when you take the fish out of the water—when you need to breathe the fish probably does too.

Don't drip-dry your fish; fish out of the water should be dripping profusely.

Get a new angle. The classic 'grip and grin' is tired and overdone. Instead of bringing the fish up for the camera, bring the camera down towards the fish. Notice how getting your camera as close to the water as possible enhances your photo.

Keep Electronics Dry. Get a waterproof case for your camera or phone. Submerge your camera instead of lifting the fish out of the water. Break out the selfie stick. While often disdained, telescoping monopods can be very useful for taking unique photos of fish, particularly if you're in a boat.

Solo sacrifice. If you are fishing solo, your ability to document the experience can be limited. That doesn't mean it's impossible, however. Try holding the fish by the tail or keeping it in the net, using a low camera angle to get a close-up.

Be mindful of conditions. There are times when conditions simply will not allow for a photo, and when releasing a fish soon as possible is the priority. Factors include water temperature, whether the fish is deeply hooked or if there are predators in the area.

Ecologically, fish occupy almost every type of water body on earth, from high mountain streams to the deepest parts of the ocean and are integral in structuring aquatic food webs and ecosystems. We have learned to fish in most of the accessible places where fish are found and today recreational angling is a billion-dollar industry, with hundreds of millions of fish caught in the U.S. each year. More than half of those fish are released, either voluntarily or due to regulations such as size limits. That means there are literally millions of opportunities for us to create healthier, more resilient recreational fisheries by using science-based best practices.

### **Top Tips to Keep Fish Wet**

Keep Fish Wet also provides Tips to help make adhering to the principles even easier.

- Follow local regulations
- Do not target spawning fish
- Be wary of warm water
- Use barbless hooks
- Use rubber nets
- Limit the use of lip grippers

- Carry a hook removal device
- Limit 'fight time'
- Hold fish over or in the water
- Grip fish carefully
- Photograph wet fish
- Only revive fish that cannot swim.



### Sascha Clary Danylchuk – **Keep Fish Wet**

Sascha is the Executive Director of Keep Fish Wet. As a worshiper of sandy toes and mountain air, Sascha has spent most of her life seeking water in one form or another. Her obsession has led her to a career centred around the natural world. As a fisheries scientist, Sascha has focused most of her work on recreational angling, specifically the science of catch-and-release.

Editor's note: Would recommend that you have a look at the Keep Fish Wet website, they have a number of very interesting articles available to read.

<https://www.keepfishwet.org/>

## **Quick takes: 12 trout fishing tips by Todd Tanner**

A dozen digestible tips on everything from flies and reading water to rods, reels, and taking fish photos.

Those of us who came of age in a different era can find it disconcerting to live at a time when knowledge and expertise frequently take a back seat to marketing hype and fact-free perspectives. Still, fly fishers will always benefit from accurate information and informed opinions. Here are my thoughts on various aspects of fly fishing for trout. I hope they'll prove worthwhile ...

### **Reading water**

Anglers who have the ability to read water typically discern two things: where the fish are likely to be, and where they aren't. Both are extremely important. Any fly fisher worthy of the name should work to develop a basic understanding of river currents and the places where trout tend to hold. You don't necessarily need a post doctorate degree in hydrodynamics — not that it would hurt — but you do need to understand where to find your quarry if you want to be successful.

### **Reels**

Way down deep in the bowels of the angling universe, there's a school of thought that says reels don't really matter, at least not for trout. I disagree. If you've ever had a reel suddenly free-spool, or had your drag freeze up, or had a fish blow up the precisely-engineered innards of your reel, or had the spool lock up, or the spool fall off the reel — and sadly, I've personally experienced

every one of those unfortunate occurrences — then you know reels are actually important pieces of gear, and that you should look to save money somewhere else.

Several decades ago, I spent a solid 10 minutes beating on a particularly offensive reel with a large hammer, making sure that it would never cost me, or anyone else, another nice fish. That was the last cheap reel I owned ... and I have never regretted my decision to spring for quality reels in the years since.

## **Casting**

If you've read the comments on any fly fishing-related social media thread, you've already been told that there's no reason to practice your casting. After all, there are always anglers happy to proclaim that they catch a ton of fish without being solid casters. You can obviously make your own choice, but my advice is to ignore those people.

On average, good casters catch more fish — and have more fun — than poor casters. Why not play the percentages? And just as importantly, why would you take fly fishing advice from someone who proudly proclaims that they lack basic fly-fishing skills? Learn everything you can about fly casting, and then practice your casting whenever you have the chance.

## **Awareness**

I know some really talented anglers who will disagree with me, but my personal view is that awareness is the single most important skill that any angler can cultivate. Awareness — which I'll define as the ability to open your senses to the world around you and intuit, or accurately perceive, what's happening in your immediate vicinity — is absolutely vital. It helps you discern where the fish are and what they're doing. It also tells you which technique(s) will work best given the current conditions.

Awareness takes most of the guesswork out of fly fishing and offers the highest ROI (return on investment) in the sport. Yet most people have no clue how to improve their awareness skills ... which I find incredibly sad.

## **Flies**

There are no magic flies. Or, to put it another way, there are no flies exuding so much magic that they can overcome poor awareness, poor casting, or poor technique. If you can't cast, you can't get a drift, and you have no clue what's going on around you, you truly are out of luck. No fly known to man will rise above that particular combination of fly-fishing inadequacies.

Yet there is indeed something you can do to maximise your own personal fly juju. Tie your own. There may well be a stellar fly fisher who doesn't know how to tie his or her own flies, but I've never run across such an individual. Tying your own helps you understand a ton about the flies themselves, as well as the insects we're trying to imitate. You could even say that our flies — or at least the flies we tie ourselves — occupy the very centre of trout fishing's most interesting Venn diagram. If you're not already comfortable at the vise, it's time to learn.

## **Rods**

Here's a secret that most rod manufacturers would probably prefer that you didn't know. Fast action rods limit your success. Sure, there are a few exceptions to the rule. But if you fly fish for

trout, an overly fast — or overly stiff — rod is likely to have a negative impact on both your casting and your angling. Even worse, it can take the fun out of your fishing. So, the next time you see an ad extolling the benefits of that brand new, super-fast wonder rod, remember these two words:

Caveat emptor.

### **Tippetts**

There's been a fair amount of discussion in the fly-fishing media over the years about tippet size. Some folks are light tippet advocates, while others disagree vehemently. I have a really simple rule of thumb when it comes to tippet size. Use the heaviest tippet that you can get away with on the water. For certain situations, that may be 6X. For others, it might be 1X. It's up to you to know your options and make the best possible choice. At the end of the day, though, make sure you commit to using the heaviest tippet that will work under the current circumstances.

### **Playing fish**

Play your fish as fast as possible. In most situations, and for most trout, that means you've landed the fish (or he's spat the hook or broken off) in 90 seconds or less. Whatever the particular scenario, put the wood to him and land him as quick as you can. Don't wait until the fish is exhausted. Don't fight him for longer than necessary. Don't baby him because you're fishing a light tippet, or because you want a photo, or because holding him in your hand helps validate your ego. Unless you're going to bonk him on the head and eat him for dinner, get your trout in and then let him go as soon as possible.

### **Landing your fish**

Don't take your trout out of the water unless it's absolutely necessary. If you're in a boat and it's safe to do so, anchor up and lean over the side to remove the hook. If you're wading, keep the fish wet at all times. Whether or not you use a net, do everything you can to keep your fish in the water. Your trout will be happier, your conscience will be clearer, and you'll be setting the right example for everyone who sees you on the river.

### **Taking pictures**

There's an open secret in the fly-fishing industry that's worth sharing with the general angling public. Serious fly fishers don't want to see you thrusting your latest conquest towards the camera with a manic grin on your face. To put it politely, it's not a good look. So don't do it. If you need yet another fish pic, then keep the fish in the water and have a friend take the shot. Do not place your trout up on the bank, or on streamside rocks, or try to hold him with one hand while you take a photo with the other.

Be respectful. And keep in mind that the best angling shots are focused on showing the magic of the moment; the scenery, or the sunset, or the wildflowers, or the otter who came so close you could count its whiskers. You don't need photos to keep score, or to promote your angling skills on social media.

### **Summer angling**

It's not that hard. Do the right thing. Carry an accurate thermometer and stop fishing for trout when the water temp hits 18 degrees Celsius.

## **Pace**

There's an old saying that fly fishers should remember every single time they're on the water. Speed kills. In other words, slow down. Look more. Walk, or wade, less. Fit your pace to your angling, rather than maintaining the same frenetic tempo you employ in your day-to-day life. Not only will you enjoy yourself more — which is the true purpose of our time on the water — but you're also likely to catch more fish. Which, in the grand scheme of things, is a win/win no matter how you look at it.

## ***Is it time for anglers to ditch their ball caps? By Chris Hunt***

*Your trusty baseball cap is failing you when it comes to sun protection.*



***Nose, ears, and most of the angler's face left exposed***

That old, weathered baseball cap that's endured the best of adventures and is likely worse for the wear is a time-honored look. Torn and worn, faded and, let's face it, absolutely filthy, it speaks more to the brand of the angler than to any brand that might be scrawled above the lid. It's a statement piece, meant to promote the person beneath it. But, if you want to fish well into retirement, it's probably time to put it on a shelf, where it can still speak to your past adventures but stop leaving too much of your face and head exposed to the worst of the sun's cancer-inducing ultraviolet rays.

A few years ago, I went to the dermatologist to have a little bump on my right ear looked at. I only did so because it hurt and wouldn't heal. Because my baseball caps don't cover the tops of my ears, they're almost always the first place I apply sunscreen. But I'm negligent in that department. My customary once-daily application is likely three applications too few. So, when I arrived, the doctor took a device akin to a hole-punch and took a chunk out of my ear. A couple weeks later, the biopsy results came back negative. Bullet dodged. But the warning was received.

It's estimated that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer at some point in their lives. Every hour, two Americans die from skin cancer, and more than 9,500 people are diagnosed with skin cancer every day. It's the most common form of cancer, and, while most people survive it, it can be deadly.



The root cause of most melanomas is prolonged sun exposure. A single sunburn may not be a harbinger of the disease, but five or more sunburns doubles the risk of acquiring melanoma. For anglers, particularly those who spend time on and in the water, the danger can be acute.

### **Danger from above**

The baseball cap, while it might provide some protection for the angler's face directly beneath the bill, is an inadequate deterrent. Throwing a face gaiter into the mix can help, but for many of us, especially in the summer or on prolonged visits to saltwater locales, these great little sun protectors are just too damned hot.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, "hats should have a minimum 75mm brim around the circumference or a minimum 75mm bill with a permanently attached drape to cover the neck and ears." Additionally, the SCF recommends hats be either dark or bright (not white or light-coloured) and be made of tightly woven fabric.

"Dark or bright colours keep UV rays from reaching your skin by absorbing them rather than allowing them to penetrate," the SCF says.

Fortunately, this is where style meets function. And where function meets protection. A wide-brimmed hat, from a simple Indiana Jones-type fedora to a floppy straw number that might conjure up images of an octogenarian tomato gardener, is likely the best option for days spent on the water. Yeah, you might think you look silly. But, in 20 years, you might still have most of your nose. And honestly, some of the options out there these days aren't bad. Some, I dare say, are pretty stylish.

### **What lurks beneath**

What's more, while most of us understand that the sun hits us from above, many of us forget that water, particularly flat water, is reflective, and the sun's rays get us from beneath, too. No hat in the world is going to completely block reflective rays coming from below, but a wide-brimmed hat will help disperse the UV.

"In terms of sun protection, a wide-brimmed hat is your best bet," Jessica Wu, M.D., a Los Angeles-based dermatologist told How Stuff Works. "And the wider the brim, the better. A wide-brimmed hat will protect you from direct UV rays, as well as reflected rays from the water and sand."

### **Covering up**

I'm as guilty — if not more so — as anyone else when it comes to failing to protect my face (and my arms and legs) from the sun. It's not as if I don't try, though. In recent years, I've become an ardent believer in the sun hoodie — lightweight synthetic shirts that cover the entire upper body and offer the option of a light hood to pull over the head when the sun is acutely bright. I wear the gaiter, too. And long, quick-dry fishing pants. And sunglasses — years ago, my ophthalmologist warned me that my eyes were in danger of damage because of the unblocked sunshine, and since then, I wear sunglasses outside almost all the time. It doesn't really seem to matter what I do during fishing excursions that last a few days or longer. I still come off the water with racoon eyes and a lively burn.

And as noted, I've failed in the hat department. My sweat-stained collection of branded ball caps might be one that most would admire. But for me, the caps are utilitarian. The bill keeps the sun directly out of my eyes. The ball cap helps reduce the glare and helps me see where I'm casting and, if I'm lucky, what I'm casting toward. That's why I, and I'd venture to say the vast majority of anglers, wear baseball caps — not because we're trying to protect our faces from the sun's cancer-causing UV rays.

Serious sun protection? Not so much.

In recent years, I've taken to wearing a kitschy straw fedora during the summer. It's not a terribly functional hat for anything other than daily wear, but it does cover the tops of my ears, my nod to the close call with the dermatologist.

But when fishing, I've yet to find the sweet spot in the Ven diagram where protection, comfort and function come together. Sadly, I often go with function and comfort and hope my face gaiter and sun hoodie fill in the gaps.



*If he can do it, so can you.*

Genetically, I'm at risk. With family origins in the British Isles and continental western Europe, I can be classified as "hopelessly white." And the sun has taken its toll over the years on my face, my arms and, yes, the tops of my hands. But the dermatologist — a man I now see often enough that we're on a first-name basis — is most worried about the skin on face and ears. And I'm under strict orders to find a lid that really protects against the sun.

I know there are options — from light and floppy cloth hats to chic and stylish fedoras — that will do the trick. It's a matter of prioritizing the protection and finding comfort and function as I go.

I'm off to south Florida for a quick retreat with friends next week, and I'm planning to fish the beach. My travel bag has several hats, gaiters and sun hoodies already packed — and, reluctantly, sunscreen. Hopefully, by the time I board the plane home, that little sweet spot will become evident, and I'll have a better long-term plan to protect against an angling retirement that centres around precision surgical procedures and biopsy results.

Or maybe I'll just start growing tomatoes.

## *Truckin' to the River by Todd Tanner*



My fly fishing is starting to rust. That's never a good thing when you're in love with your angling. I'll get back to the rust in a minute. First, though, I wanted to share a few things I've noticed over the years.

I was in my 20s when I realized that most folks — including yours truly — had to leave home to enjoy a truly stellar fly-fishing adventure. There was no way I could walk out my suburban front door and dive into the kind of wonderful, transformative experience that I would find in the glossy pages of a magazine. If I wanted to chase native trout in the shadow of the jagged Tetons, or raft down a remote wilderness stream in British Columbia, or dodge brown bears on Alaska's Moraine Creek, I had to drive into the city, stash my vehicle in long-term parking, and get on a jet — or really, a series of jets — that would eventually transport me to the destination of my choice.

When adventure called, my only response was to call my travel agent. Which, to my way of thinking, was a serious issue. Travel is both expensive and time-consuming, and it also requires a fair amount of planning on the front end. It's simply not a good fit for those of us who prefer our outdoor escapades to fall under the heading of "frequent and spontaneous."

There was a solution for that particular issue, of course, and I grabbed it with both hands. I packed up my truck with my fly rods, shotgun, bow and rifle, then cleared a space on the passenger seat for my golden retriever and drove west towards the setting sun. I eventually ended up in a place where the mountains were bigger, the trout more plentiful, and grizzly bears and wolves roamed free in landscapes far wilder and more alluring than the pastoral valleys and ridges of my youth.

Long story short, I traded the idea of the occasional trip to the other side of the continent for a home on the edge of a vast wilderness; a place where the only things necessary for a story-book adventure are a fly rod and a 4WD pickup with good tires.

I've owned a number of solid trucks over the years, along with some pretty serious SUVs. My current rig, which I purchased brand new back when the Clintons were still in the White House, is a 4WD Toyota Tundra that has explored countless dirt roads and sketchy two tracks in pursuit of the great unknown.

Some years ago, I found a remote, gated dirt road, off of another dirt road, which was preceded by a couple more long and lonely dirt roads, in the Canadian province of British Columbia. The gate, as luck would have it, was wide open, and a sign that was conspicuously free of bullet holes informed me that my friends and I happened to be there during the one month of the year when the road was open to motorized traffic. There was a massive mountain looming straight up to our left, and a gorgeous river in the ravine falling off to our right, and my map — this was before you could pull up directions on your phone — told me that the road paralleled the river for some miles before reaching a dead end high in the wilds of Canada.

As you might imagine, we did what any sane, God-fearing fly fishers would do in those circumstances. We drove past the open gate and headed up the dirt road for parts unknown.

We eventually found a spot where a massive logjam — it looked almost like beavers the size of elephants had built a dam from thousands of huge trees — separated the river's far upper reaches from the fertile waters below, and we ended up spending a good portion of the day just upstream from that impenetrable barrier.

My guess is that there are larger and heavier and more aggressive Westslope cutthroat trout living somewhere else in North America, but I have to confess that I don't know exactly where that would be. I will say that the stretch of water above that goliath log jam sported elk tracks on the banks, and wolf tracks alongside the elk tracks, and some of the very best fishing I've experienced in my 61 years on the planet.

I haven't been back since — there are always new roads to travel, and new spots to explore — but if I decide to give it another shot this summer, I doubt it would be an issue. It's less than five hours from my Montana driveway to that particular dirt road, and then maybe another hour in 4WD to a place worthy of any angler's daydreams.

Sadly, though, my truck and I are both growing a little long in the tooth. To be frank, I've noticed recently that we're both starting to rust.

My rust, as you can imagine, is mostly metaphorical. My back is balky, my knees crunch just a bit at times, my shoulders are sore, and the rest of me seems prone to the aches & pains that are the legacy of a life lived well.

The Tundra's rust, on the other hand, is all too evident to anyone who walks by and looks closely. I don't anthropomorphize my truck — it's just a rig; it's not a friend or a family member — but I'm afraid that at 22 years and change, its days of exploring and adventuring are rapidly coming to an end.

Which leads me to wonder which new 4WD pickup will eventually replace my ancient Tundra. I've been doing a little late-night web surfing, and a fair amount of research, and I'm truly hoping that my current ride will be my last gasoline-powered vehicle.

Rivian is making a brand-new electric pickup — the R1T - that received an Editor's Choice award from Car and Driver magazine. Not to be outdone, a recent Road & Track headline proclaimed: "The Rivian R1T Proves That the Perfect Off-Roader Is Electric."

And while I've never owned a Ford in my life, the new F-150 Lightning — Ford's new all-electric pickup — sure seems to be calling my name.

Some folks — the less adventurous ones — might see an EV (electric vehicle) as a bit of a stretch right now. I'm not one of them. I like the idea of a quieter ride, and better traction, and less maintenance, and more room for my gear. It's much, much cheaper to drive an electric vehicle than a gas or diesel rig. I'm intrigued by the F-150 Lightning's ability to power my home in the event of an electricity outage. I also think it's wonderful that an EV would allow me to avoid gas stations for the rest of my life.

I should also mention that there's one more thing pushing me toward an electric pickup. I absolutely love the fact that electric vehicles don't pollute the atmosphere or diminish the magnificent world our grandchildren will inherit when we're gone. As attached as I am to my Tundra, and as grateful as I am for 22 years of performance and dependability, I'm looking forward to stashing my waders and my fly rod in an electric pickup and heading out for parts unknown.

It's time for a new adventure.



*Ford in my life, the new F-150 Lightning*

### ***Newsletter articles by Malcolm Francis***

One of the challenges I have as the Editor of this newsletter is finding articles that will be of interest to all our members, as what may be of interest to me may not be for you the reader. I would value your feedback on what you would like to see in the newsletter as I am open to your suggestions, so PLEASE pass on any ideas that you may have.



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If you have never seen a Kiwi in its natural environment (near natural) then I would recommend the Kiwi Night Encounter at Nga Manu, you will need to book as it is limited to 10 people each night.

***Newsletter content with built-in links to other documents by Editor***

Readers of our newsletter may not realise that when you see a name or wording underlined in an article, as an example [a Harvey leader](#) this is a link to another article where you can find more information. All you need to do is hold down your CTRL key and click on the words and the link will open.

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[malcolm1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malcolm1@xtra.co.nz)

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**Purpose:**

**To promote the art and sport of Fly Fishing.**

**To respect the ownership of land adjoining waterways.**

**To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.**

**To promote friendship and goodwill between members.**

**To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members.**

**Club meetings**

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

Our **meetings start at 7:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers of activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and the meetings are held at the Waikanae Boating Club and start at 7:30pm.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

*Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that members are welcome to use, just contact Malcolm Francis*

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