

"A Short Line from Bob Jacklin"

DEAR BUD:

THIS IS A COPY OF
MY LETTER TO CHARLIE
SPERRY, FISH-GAME.

I ALSO SENT GREG L.
A COPY.

I LOOKED FORWARD TO
THE DRUM PROGRAM.

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Outfitters For The World
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Bob



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December 24, 2002

Mr. Charlie Sperry
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
1402 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Mr. Sperry:

I have been silent for several years and now I believe it is time for me to let my feelings known to the Governor through you and the River Recreation Advisory Council. I'm a transplant from New Jersey, some thirty years ago. I started visiting and fishing in Montana in 1967 when I was discharged from active duty with the U.S. Army. In 1970 I started working in the summers as a fishing guide for Mr. Bud Lilly in his famous Trout Shop located in West Yellowstone. I moved to West Yellowstone and became a resident of Montana in 1974 and opened my own fly fishing shop. After thirty years of being a licensed Fishing and Hunting Guide, Outfitter, and businessman in West Yellowstone, I guess I can consider myself a resident of Montana. Over the years I have been the President of the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Chamber board for about fifteen years. I was also a city Councilman for eight years in West Yellowstone, and chairman of the W.Y. Tax committee. During my time as councilman we implemented Montana's first "Local Option" resort Tax to help provide very needed services and infrastructure for the 2.5 million visitors who impact our town and area every season. We are approaching our 20 year mark with this tax and it has sure helped. Many of these visitors are fishermen and general tourists on their way to Yellowstone National Park. Most all of these visitors are Non-Residents. Over the years I have served on several Fish and Game study councils, and have been a part of advisory groups which help established several fishing regulations for Yellowstone National Park. I was on the Fish and Game study committee that studied the overcrowding and commercial guided use on the Madison River some years ago. When I first heard that the Governor was putting together this River Recreation Advisory Council I was in hopes that I would be asked



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to be a part of this study group, I was not. I am however, very happy to learn the Mr. Jim Rainey, the Executive Director of the Federation of Fly Fishers, is on the council. I have full confidence in Mr. Rainey's ability to be fair and give the council good input from the Fly Fishing community.

I have several comments to make which I feel strongly about. Over the thirty years that I have been a licensed Outfitter in this great state, I have seen my area of operation go from a non-restricted state-wide license to a very restricted and limited area of use. The Montana Outfitter and Guide, being licensed by the state, is the easiest to control or limit to any special regulation or area; The general public is not. Over the last several years the state has, through the Montana Outfitters and Guides Board, restricted more and more areas of use by the Licensed Outfitter and has, and is, making it more and more difficult to operate and serve the visiting public. This is a trend that I have monitored for several years. I see some real problems down the road with our state's economy. Somehow, several years ago, a big push was started by a group or groups of "concerned citizens," Resident hunters and fisherman, most of whom are from the larger city's like Butte and Billings to restrict the non-resident public and outfitted public, which is made up of mostly non-residents, from using and enjoying Montana's natural resources. This group or groups has succeeded in making it more difficult for the resident Outfitter to make a living and more difficult for the visiting public or non-residents to enjoy the hunting and fishing in our great state. Montana spends thousands of dollars every year in promoting and advertizing our state's natural resources to the world. The State receives a major part of its total income form the money's generated from this visiting public. Why are we now trying to restrict and make it more difficult for the non-resident to recreate in our state? As I see it, Ranching, Mining, and Tourism are the three major revenue generating industries in the state of Montana. Tourism, which includes Outfitters and guides, I believe to be the only industry of the thee major industries in Montana not subsidized by the state or federal government in some way. If it's not broken, don't fix it, please! I am just appalled at



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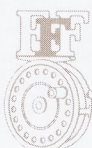
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what Montana has become and where it is headed through the state's attitude with its hunting and fishing regulations pointed at the non-resident. This non-resident who wants to enjoy our hunting and fishing and outdoors, is being sent a message, this message is loud and clear, You are not wanted in Montana. These non-residents are the bread and butter of our state's economy. Are we, as a state, doing that well that we can afford to alienate and turn away the non-resident who is willing to spend their money in our state. I am convinced that the last two Governors of Montana have received no input at all, and have know idea where this push for regulations against the non-resident will led us. I believe this River Recreation Advisory Council is a steep in the right direction.

Any restrictions on non-resident use of a river and or a stream which gives the resident a special time, area, or special privilege over the non-resident or outfitted non-resident should not be permitted. If for some reason there needs to be special regulations on an area or fishery because of problems with the fishery or lack of fish, game or birds, then all the public needs to be treated the same. I can think of one area where we, the small non-subsidized business persons and the state of Montana has lost millions of dollars in lost revenue, because of state regulations and quotas in the number of non-resident deer licensed available. There is no sound reason for any quotas on the number of non-resident deer licenses sold. At this time in Montana we have more deer the we could harvest. We, the State of Montana, has been saying to the non-resident deer hunter; we don't want your money and we don't want you. There is a push on now to put the same quotas on the non-resident who wants to hunt birds in Montana, What are we doing? Now these same "do-gooders" want to push something not needed and not smart on our non-resident fisherman, which will have a great economy impact on our Outfitters and small business owners like Dude Ranches, Motels, Restaurants, and all other small town business where the non-resident adds to the total economy of the small town and the state of Montana. Just who is advising our Governor and Legislature? Where are we headed? Who are these "do-Gooders?" It seems that they would have all of us go someplace, so they can



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enjoy their "God-given" rights to the waters, fields, and mountains of Montana. Is this where we are going? Are we restricting the Non-residents the pleasures of sharing our beautiful state, the last best place, for a few who want it for themselves, I hope not.

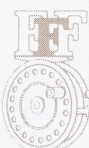
Somehow, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, has embraced the idea that they are now charged with the social aspects of our hunting and fishing experience in this state. It seems to me that there is lots of work still needed in stream improvement and habitat preservation than spending our time and state's money on social issues.

I closing, I hope I have not rambled on too long and taken up your time. I believe in what I have stated and want to help. I am interested in helping you and your council with any information or in anyway I can. I am willing to come to Helena to give testimony if asked. Thank you for your time and the chance to voice my concerns. I will be in Helena on January 9th. Sharyn and I will stop at the fish and game office as we are license providers. Please let me know if you have time to visit with me.

Bob Jacklin
Outfitter and Guide
President of the Western Rocky Mountain Council
of the Federation of Fly Fishers

CC:

Mr. Lorents Grosfield: (Big Timber, Montana)
Mr. Jim Rainy: (executive director FFF)
Mr. Greg Lilly: (Outfitter)
Mr. Bud Lilly: (Senior Advisor)



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FLY CASTING MADE EASY

A short presentation designed to improve your fly casting

With Bob Jacklin

Introduction:

This short presentation on fly casting is designed for the beginner as well as for the seasoned fly fisherman. What I would like to accomplish here is to make the fly fisher or fly caster a little more aware of the theory and the technique of the cast. Once understood, this basic theory and technique will benefit the beginner, the seasoned fly fisher, and the fly casting instructor. By analyzing and describing just what is involved in fly casting, I will highlight some of the faults that I have seen during my long teaching tenure and present some helpful guide lines or principles to follow.

Many other well-qualified fly fishing and fly casting instructors have written books on fly casting, and we should use and accept what they have presented to our advantage. Someone once said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." What then, is a video worth? Priceless! Many of these great fly casting and fly fishing instructors, whom I have known, have written books on fly casting and how to teach fly casting, and in the last several years they have also presented nicely prepared videos on fly casting. Keep in mind that many of us fly casting instructors have just a little different twist or way of presenting fly casting. Sometimes we do not all agree on any set of principles or theory on how to make the cast or how to teach it. That is O.K. Most all of us like and respect each other, and we all enjoy exchanging and sharing fly casting tips that we feel are important. At the end of this presentation on fly casting, I have compiled a good

bibliography on fly casting videos which I believe will benefit the reader and add to what I present here.

THE THEORY OF THE CAST

The theory of fly casting revolves around a set of principles that are well thought out and tested over many years. Unlike other types of casting, such as bait casting where we cast the line off a revolving spool or spin casting where we spin line off a stationary spool, in fly casting, we roll the line itself and the fly goes along for a free ride. In bait casting or spin casting, we toss a single weight and this weight carries the light line along with it as far as it will go. In fly casting, however, the bulky fly line itself is the weight along with its stiffness and memory distributed throughout the entire line. This stiffness and bulk allow the line to roll when commanded by the rod. We roll it through the air during the aerial portion of the cast, and we roll the line on the water during the standard roll cast. It is the job of the fly rod, acting as a lever, to form an anchor point that will cause the line to unroll in the form of a loop, when the power of the rod is transferred to the line. This transfer of energy from the rod to the line is activated when the rod is brought to a sudden stop, or power snap, during the back cast as well as during the forward cast. It is this sudden stop that commands the line to roll and unroll through the air and form what we call in fly casting, "The Loop." This loop uses up or expends the energy transferred from the rod to the line as the line unrolls and completes the cast. This energy is also transferred to the leader, the tippet, and right down to the fly. We can now see, by using a tapered fly line and a tapered leader, how this tapering will help to transfer the line's energy to form a nice soft presentation when the line, leader, and fly unroll and the cast is completed.

THE TECHNIQUE OF THE CAST

The technique in fly casting is somewhat simple. I would like to add, however, that you are not required to be, nor do you need to be, an accomplished fly caster to go out and have a great time catching trout on a fly. If you will keep an open mind, remember the principles of the cast, and follow my lesson plan, you will soon learn to become a more proficient fly caster and that will definitely increase the number of trout you catch.

The technique used in making the cast is simple, nothing more than moving the rod through a single plane and speeding up just before you make the rod tip stop to form a loop and send the line on its way. Where we make this stop and the angle, curve or path our rod tip travels during this acceleration part of the cast will determine the shape and the effectiveness of your loop and cast. Keep in mind throughout all of your fly casting that it is the tip of the rod that gives the final command and sends the line, leader, and fly on their way. This command can be a very good command or an ineffective command, depending on how you execute it. You are the captain.

THE ELEMENTS OF FLY CASTING

1. We need to stop the rod tip abruptly to command the fly line to roll and unroll.
Joan Wulff refers to this sudden stop as the "power snap."
2. The fly line will move or unroll only in the same direction as we speed up and stop the rod tip, i.e., in the same plane as the movement of the rod tip.
3. We always start the cast with the tip of the rod moving slowly at first, to get the line moving, then gradually accelerating to a sudden stop or power snap.

4. The line must be in motion and traveling in the direction we desire it to go before we execute the stop of the rod tip and make the cast happen. Remember, we do not toss the fly line out there. We roll it out with a very smooth and accelerated movement to a sudden stop.

I recommend learning the three basic fly casts and practicing them as often as you can. Do not practice when you are fishing. Instead, find a small pond or lake—or even an open place with lots of grass to protect your fly line—to practice. Practicing on water, however, is better. Always attach a small piece of yarn to the end of your leader when practicing; never use a real fly.

Practice what you have learned when you are fishing. Fly casting and fly fishing are an ongoing learning process. The reward is fooling and catching a nice trout on a fly. However, the real reward is not so much what or how many you catch; it is learning and having the self-satisfaction you get when you have learned something and it all comes together. Do not think for a minute that, because I am the instructor, I think I know everything about fly fishing. I do not. If I really thought or believed I knew all I needed to know about fly fishing for trout, I would find it quite boring. I love to teach fly fishing, enjoy exchanging information on fly fishing with others, and, most of all, I enjoy learning. Fly fishing has been my whole life, and it is a sport that can be enjoyed by almost everyone.

THE THREE BASIC CASTS TO LEARN:

1. The Roll Cast.
2. The Pickup and Lay Down.
3. The False Cast.

1. The Roll Cast:

The Roll cast is the first cast we should all learn. It is a very simple cast and one that almost everyone does rather poorly. The weight and stiffness of the fly line and the surface tension of the water all play a major part in rolling the line on the water. We must practice the Roll Cast on water. This surface tension of the water is what holds the line and allows it to roll over itself. Practicing the roll cast on the lawn is not recommended. Use a floating fly line to practice the roll cast unless you, for some special reason, want to practice using a sinking line. The following rules are just a few helpful hints that I have used over the years to teach my students to improve their roll casts.

1. Always start the roll cast by bring the rod up slowly and stopping the rod in a vertical position just past you (overhead) and slightly away from your body. Allow the line on the water enough time to stop and form a half circle or "D" loop of line just past your right shoulder, if you are right handed, reverse it if you are a lefty. As in all fly casting, you should start the cast by moving the rod and line slowly at first and then speedup to a sudden stop. The line will roll and travel in the direction where you stopped and pointed the tip of the rod.
2. On the forward stroke, as you make the cast, drop your elbow as you come forward. This will cause the loop of line during the roll to be somewhat smaller and less air resistant during the cast and will make a crisp cast and more directed to your target.
3. As in all other fly casting the tip of the rod must travel in a flat straight path from where you start to where you finish the cast. You do not need to form a circle with the rod tip as you come forward in the cast to make the line start rolling. Just

bring the tip of the rod forward and down in a straight path and stop the rod when you eye, the tip of the rod, and the target are all in line. The stiffness of the line following the command of the rod and working against the surface tension of the water will form a loop or circle and the cast happen much like a wave in the ocean rolls into shore.

4. One basic rule we must remember in roll casting is that when the line in the water is on our right side we make the cast from our right side. When the line is on our left side we make the cast from our left side, that is, with the tip of the rod over our head and on our left side, the same side as the line. Reverse this for left-handed people.

2. The Pickup and Lay Down:

This is the aerial portion of the cast, where we must make the rod come to a sudden stop, to form an anchor point with the tip of the rod to command the line to form a loop and unroll. In theory, the pick up and lay down is nothing more then picking the line up off the water, then laying it back down on the water, thus presenting the fly.

Where we make this sudden stop or power snap of the rod tip on the back cast as well as the forward cast will determine how and in what direction the line will travel. If we make this sudden stop with the tip of the rod pointed high, the line will travel up. If we make this sudden stop with the rod tip pointed down, the line will then travel down. Making the cast is quite simple. The tip of the rod must travel in a straight path from anchor point to anchor point, both on the forward and on the back cast. As we can now see, if the rod tip

travels in this straight path, then the line will also travel in a nice straight path. The line simply follows the command of the rod.

To practice the Pickup and Lay Down cast, start with about twenty-five feet of line stretched out in front of you. Bring your rod tip up starting slow at first, then accelerate to a stop or power snap at twelve o'clock. This will send the line up high and overhead for a high back-cast. As soon as we see the line go past us on this back-cast, we start the forward stroke slowly at first, to allow the line to straighten on the back cast, before we get the line moving forward and make our sudden stop. Once the line is moving in the forward direction, we can then speed up and stop the rod tip, at about ten o'clock, to make the forward part of the cast. Note that the tip of the rod during the acceleration phase of the cast should only travel in a flat or straight path or plane, horizontal to (parallel with) the ground—never in an arc. This straight path should start at point "A" where we start the cast and continue through the cast to where we stop the rod at point "B," and execute the cast. We should now be able to understand the theory and the mechanics of the simple pick-up and lay-down cast. This is a very good time to go over and re-examine the four basic elements of the cast, I'll wait!

3. The False Cast:

The false cast is the one cast most associated with fly casting. It is this cast that we see as we watch someone wave the fly rod back and forth, back and forth, over the water with the line moving in one direction then in the other. This false casting has been described as poetry in motion and it truly is. With just a little explanation of what it is we are trying to accomplish and some helpful suggestions, this cast will look and feel like the poetry it is. I started off by describing the false cast as someone waving the fly rod back

and forth, and that is exactly what it looks like to the average person. Let us now take that next step and analyze the false cast and develop a style for ourselves that will be smooth, functional, and not only look, but feel like poetry in motion.

The most important principle in all fly casting is to make the sudden stop with the rod tip which will command the line to form a loop and unroll. Let's not wave the rod back and forth; instead, let's lead the line forward and stop, and make the forward cast. Then lead the line back and stop high to make the back cast. The false cast then becomes a forward movement to an abrupt stop and a backward movement to an abrupt stop. In practice, I often say "Stop" to myself at the end of the forward stroke, and "Stop" at the end of the backward stroke. I make the rod stop when I say "Stop." The theory of the fly cast is that the rod does not actually stop when we make it stop. The tip of rod continues forward or backward and bends thus forming a loop as it transfers the energy of the rod to the line as the line rolls over the rod tip. If we don't make this sudden stop or power snap the energy we have built up in the rod during the cast is never fully transferred to the line, and we have an open, ineffective loop and cast. In essence, we are wrongly using the power in our wrist to make the cast and not letting the rod make the cast. This is also very unproductive and tiresome. Again, let's make sure we make the stop or power snap and form a nice loop during our false casting. The sudden stop or power snap does not need to be a motion with brute force; just a definite stop will do the job with a short false cast. As we extend more line and start casting longer and longer amounts of line, we will certainly use more (and need more) force, when we make this sudden stop or power snap. After the Stop, the next most important item or part of the false cast is the casting stroke itself.

The casting stroke is the distance the rod travels from where it starts the cast to where the rod stops. The rule of thumb in fly casting is, "the longer the cast the longer the casting stroke, the shorter the cast the shorter the stroke." So just what is this casting stroke? In my own fly fishing, when I am working a small section of a river with a dry fly and casting only about twenty feet of line, my casting stroke is short. If someone were watching my false cast he might not even be aware of the stroke unless he were a fly casting instructor watching and evaluating my cast. My casting stroke is no more than about two feet from start to finish on such a short cast. As I need or extend more line, my casting stroke increases. The theory on why we use a casting stroke is simple. We must get all the line in motion and moving in the direction we desire it to go before we execute the stop and make the cast. With a short line, all we need is a short movement of the rod or stroke to get all the line moving. If we are casting a longer line we must have a longer movement of the rod in order to get all of the line moving in one direction before we can again execute the stop and send the line on its way. To get more line out and extend our cast, or to change direction, or just dry the fly off we must work the line back and forth through the air using the stop and the casting stroke, i.e., the False Cast.

We must not over use the false cast. Two, three, or even four false casts are more than enough to dry a fly off in most dry fly fishing. If we need to extend more line, the false cast is again used with discretion. I use the false cast to extend line, but usually only on the forward cast. Changing direction can be done, by casting a little to the right or to the left and continuing around one way or the other until we have re-positioned our cast to a new target. This false cast is one that should be practiced with a minimum amount of line out. About twenty or thirty feet of line is enough line to practice with. Concentrate on

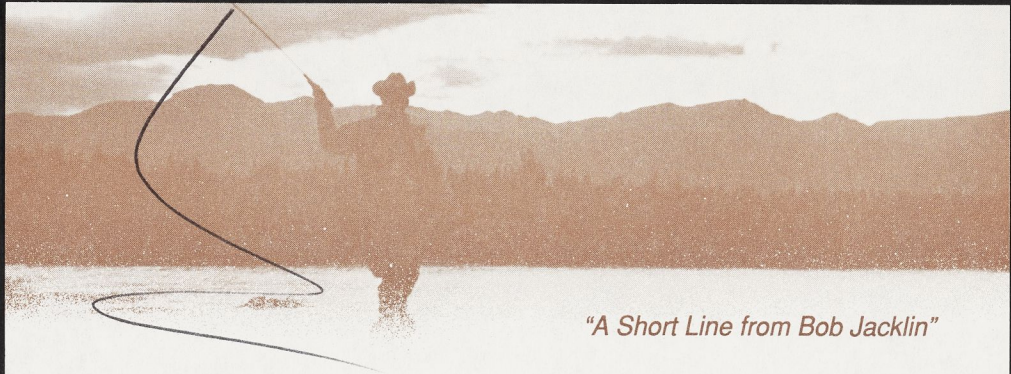
a smooth and effortless cast. Do not over do it. Practice three or four false cast and then present the fly or yarn to a target. The target can be almost anything. A pre-set target like a ring, garbage can lid, or what I like best, the hula-hoop cut down to a thirty-inch diameter which is regulation size for tournament casting.

Now that we have covered the three basic casts, let's have a quick review. The three basic fly casts to learn are, The Roll Cast, The Pickup and Lay Down, and The False Cast. These three basic casts are paramount to all others. Learning these three casts well and understanding the principles of fly casting will give you a solid base on which learn and develop many of the specialty casts which will in turn bring you many years of productive fly fishing. Now that we have covered the theory and have a good understanding of what the fly cast is all about and have also tried and mastered the technique of fly casting and have learned the elements of fly casting, we are ready to move on to the specialty casts. These are the casts that will bring a rise to a dry fly and a take somewhere subsurface. Getting the fly to the fish and making it look natural, as if it were not attached to the line is the trick. Remember, all these specialty casts are predicated on our three basic casts and the elements we have learned.

SPECIALTY CASTS:

There are many different specialty fly casts. These specialty casts are nothing more than working the fly rod in a special way to allow the line and the fly to land on the water in a special way to achieve a desired presentation to a trout. How we accomplish this task is the trick. First, keep in mind that all these specialty casts are predicated on the three basic fly casts we have just covered.

1. THE BOUNCE CAST OR CHECKING THE CAST: Bob Jacklin, George Harvey, and Joe Humphrey.
2. THE CURVE CAST: Negative and Positive Curve.
3. THE REACH CAST: Right and Left reach.
4. THE PUDDLE CAST: OR THE PARACHUTE CAST.
5. THE ROLL CAST PICKUP: Joe Brooks.
6. MENDING THE LINE: On the water and in the air.
7. THE SINGLE HAUL.
8. THE DOUBLE HAUL.
9. DOUBLE HAULING THE ROLL CAST.
10. THE TAILING LOOP: Not a good cast.
11. THE TUCK CAST: Joe Humphreys
12. THE OVAL OR BELGIAN CAST:



"A Short Line from Bob Jacklin"

DEAR BOB:

THANK YOU FOR THE NICE
TELEPHONE CALL. GOOD
TALKING WITH YOU.

I TIED THESE SALMON
FLIES FOR YOU LAST EVENING
AT 10:30 PM. SUNDAY IS
MY LATE EVENING AT THE SHOP
AS I GIVE A FREE FLY CASTING
PROGRAM EVERY SUNDAY.

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ALL OF
MY BEST!
Bob

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Bob Jacklin's Western Stone Fly Selection

This Unique selection of Western Stonefly (Adult Dry Flies) were designed and dressed by Bob Jacklin. Each fly in this series was researched and tested by Bob for many years on western rivers like the Madison and the Henry's Fork of the Snake. The hook size, pattern, and the coloration are all matched to the natural insect they represent.

Giant Salmon Fly (Pteronarcys California)

Hook: Dia-Riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 4 and 6.

Thread: Gudebrod # F77 Flo-Orange, size G or 3/0

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Black Elk or Deer Hair.

Body: Salmon Fly Orange Dubbing or Poly yarn.

Ribbing: Two Brown Saddle hackles.

Wing: Long Blond Elk Hair.

Head and Collar: Dyed Brown Deer hair.

Legs: 4-Black, Rubber Legs size Med.

Golden Stone (Acroneuria California)

Hook: Dia-riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 6 and 8.

Thread: Gudebrod # 63 Rusty Brown 6/0.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Dyed Brown Deer Hair.

Body Golden Stone Dubbing.

Ribbing: Ginger Saddle Hackle.

Wing: Light Elk Hair.

Head and Collar: Elk Hair Dyed Tan.

Legs: 4- Brown, Rubber legs, size Small.

Western Yellow Stone (Isoperla Marmona)

Hook: Dai-Riki # 700, 270, or tiemco #200R. 4X long size 8, 10, or 12.

Thread: Gudebrod, #45 Yellow 3/0 or 6/0.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Natural Grey Deer Body Hair.

Body: Pale Yellow Dubbing Fur.
Ribbing: Light Cream Ginger Hackle.
Wing: Light Elk Hair.
Head and Collar: Elk Hair Dyed Pale Yellow.
Legs: 4- Small Rubber legs, Pale Yellow.

Little Olive Stone (Chloroperla Coloradensis)

Hook: Dia-Riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 10 or 12.

Thread: Gudebrod #45 Yellow Size 6/0.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Med. Olive Deer Hair.

Body: Pale Olive Dubbing.

Ribbing: Light Ginger Hackle.

Wing: Light Elk Hair.

Head and Collar: Natural Gray Whitetail Deer dyed Yellow.

Legs: 4- Small Rubber legs, Light Olive.

Early Black Stone (Capnia Vernalis)

Hook: Dia-Riki #700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 12 and 14.

Thread: Gudebrod 6/0, # 118 Black.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Black Deer Hair.

Body: Australian Opossum Dubbing, Light Brown.

Ribbing: Natural Black Hackle.

Wing: Mouse Gray mule Deer Hair.

Head and Collar: Short Coastal or Texas Deer Hair Dyed Black.

Legs: 4- Small Rubber Legs, Black

Little Bright Green Stone (Alloperla Imbecilla)

Hook: Dia-Riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 14 or 16.

Thread: Gudebrod # F21 Size 6/0.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Natural Deer Hair Light Gray.

Body: Bright Green Dubbing.

Ribbing: White or Cream Hackle.

Wing: Light Elk Hair.

Head and Collar: Light Deer Hair.

Legs: 4- Ex-Small Rubber Legs, Natural

LEADERS AND TIPPETS

BY Bob Jacklin

INTRODUCTION:

In over forty years of Fly Fishing and well over thirty years of teaching Fly Fishing and being a guide and outfitter in the Yellowstone area, I have come to one conclusion. Presentation is much more important than fly pattern. Along with presentation, having a properly constructed leader and tippet is the most important part in your fly fishing tackle. This terminal tackle is also the most overlooked and least understood area by the beginner and intermediate fly fisher. The following is a simple and straight forward look at fly fishing leaders and tippets and how they are used.

THE LEADER:

The leader in fishing is an almost invisible link of monofilament nylon or other similar material, connecting the end of the line to the hook, lure, or fly. The leader can be short, long, level, or tapered. In fly fishing, the leader must be tapered like the fly line must be tapered to dissipate or use up the energy caused by the back and forth motion of the false cast. The flexing action of the fly rod imparts movement to the fly line of a given weight and length and thus produces the cast which lays out the line and leader. Ideally, the energy or power of the cast is slowed down or expended to the point that there is just enough left to turn over the fly at the end of the cast. The fly should flutter down and land on the water as though it were not attached to the line. If the fly slaps the surface of the water too hard, causing rings, the leader and tippet are too heavy, too short, or both for the size of the fly used, or the fly could be too large for the leader. It is evident, then, that there is a close relationship between the length and taper of the leader and the particular fly to be used.

Selecting the proper leader and tippet to use frequently stumps or frustrates the beginner- to intermediate-fly fisher. For this discussion, let's say that our leader is nine feet long with twenty four inches of tippet added to the end to make an eleven foot leader. In matching the correct tippet size to a tapered leader, you must first consider the size of fly you will be using, the size of the fish (trout) you expect to catch, and the water conditions you will encounter. The basic rule is to use a tippet size heavy enough to turn the fly

over at the end of the cast, light enough to be almost invisible to the fish and permit the fly to float naturally as if it were not attached to anything, but still strong enough to land fish of the size you expect to catch. On rough or broken water like the lower Madison river, for example, a 4X tippet, which will test at 4 pounds, might be perfect with a size 12 or 14 Fly. On the upper Madison River, in Yellowstone park, however, where the water is smooth, calm, and glassy, you would need to use a 5X tippet, which is about three pound test, with the same size 12 or 14 fly. For my general dry fly fishing for Trout, I like to use a nine foot 4X tapered leader with twenty-four inches of 5X tippet.

THE DRY FLY LEADER:

There are two basic types of fly fishing leaders available in today's market. The hand tied or knotted tapered leader and the knotless tapered leader which is leader material (Nylon Monofilament) that has been drawn or extruded under heat to form a knotless tapered leader. The standard length of a fly fishing leader is 7.5 and 9 foot. The 9 foot leader is used more often in dry fishing and the 7.5 foot leader is used for wet fly or small stream work where the longer 9 foot leader is not needed. Both the 7.5 and the 9 foot leaders come in 0x through 6x. The school of thought has always been that a hand tied knotted leader turns the fly over better than the lighter knotless leader. My thought is that, yes, the hand tied knotted leader may turn over the fly at the end of the cast a little better than the knotless leader, but this advantage does not outweigh the disadvantages of having a dozen or more knots built into your leader. These knots catch or pick up stream debris and add to your frustration when you get a tangle or wind knots accrue. In short, the knotted hand tied leaders are more trouble than they are worth. The way I construct or use my personal dry fly leader is to start with an 18 inch butt section of 25 lb. test Maxima leader material. Then I add a 4x knotless tapered 9 foot Maxima leader. I finished my leader with a 24 to 30 inch section of Maxima 5x Ultragreen tippet material which is 3 lb. test. My total leader length is then about 13 feet long, a good all around 5x leader for dry fly fishing with just two knots.

THE WET FLY LEADER:

The wet fly leader is nothing more than a shorter version of the dry fly leader. For my personal Streamer fishing I use an 18 inch section of 25 lb. Maxima Chameleon leader material for the butt section. For the tapered section I start with a 7.5 foot leader and cut it back to about five feet long or 1x on the tip

end. For a tippet I use about 18 Inches of 2x Maxima Chameleon which is 6 pound test. My finished wet fly leader is then about 8 feet long with just two knots. For my general nymph fishing I add another short tippet of 4x Maxima Chameleon which is 4 pound test. When I fish for Steelhead, Salmon, or Larger Trout, like on the Missouri River with large Streamer flies, I cut back my tapered section to 0x add a short 10 pound section then add an 8 pound tippet to finish the leader. Remember, the actual tapered section of a Knotless tapered leader is only five feet. The process which extrudes or tapers the leader can only do a total length of five feet. So whether the leader is 7.5 feet long or 9 feet long the taper is only five feet, the rest of the leader has a level butt section as well as a level section at the tip. When I construct or prepare my own leader for fishing I use this tapered section to get me from a heavy butt of 25 pound test to whatever I want for a tippet. The trick here when fishing for larger fish like Steelhead and Salmon with a large wet fly is to use two tippets. The first tippet is a short section of 10 pound test then I add my 8 pound Maxima Chameleon to finish to leader. I am now ready for a big fish.

THE TIPPET:

When someone comes into my shop and tells me, "I have the right fly, trout are rising all around me, but I can't get a strike!" My first thought is, "Take me to your leader." In three out of four cases, this fisherman is using no tippet at all, has used up the level tip section of the leader, and is tying his flies directly to the stiff heavy section of the leader. Consequently, the fly is being bossed by the stiff and larger diameter of the leader, which looks unnatural and can cause drag. This problem can be corrected by the use of a tippet. The tippet is an additional twenty to thirty inches of soft, fine monofilament material added to the tip or end of your leader, even a new leader. By adding this additional section of tippet material to your leader, you will increase the total strikes on dry fly by 40 percent. This tippet will allow the dry fly to act as though it were not attached to the line when floating along with the current, resulting in a perfect, natural drift. Good Fishing!

Bob Jacklin's Sizing Chart to Match Leader, Tippet, and Fly.

This sizing chart is one I have used for many years, and is helpful for the beginner as well as the advanced fly fisher. Like all general charts, however, this one should be used as a guide to be deviated from when circumstances

warrant. The X size and the pound test used in this chart are taken from Maxima Ultragreen leader material (different leader material may actually vary). A helpful rule in understanding the X's, which are nothing more than sizes or diameters in thousands of an inch, is to remember that, in leader or tippet material, 4X is 4 pound test (.007 thousands of an inch about is size of a human hair). One of the curiosities of fly fishing is that someone long ago decided that a leader of .011 inches in diameter should be called 0X--Zero-X--so each X equals .001 difference in diameter; 4X is .004 inches smaller than 0X.) The recommended size of the fly to be used with the tippet is also a general rule, but like most rules, there may be exceptions dictated by water conditions, visibility, and so forth.

Pound Test	X	Diameter	Suggested fly Sizes
1 lb. test	7x	.004	22-24-26-28
2 lb. test	6x	.005	18-20
3 lb. test	5x	.006	14-16
4 lb. test	4x	.007	10-12-14
5 lb. test	3x	.008	8-10-12
6 lb. test	2x	.009	6-8-10
8 lb. test	1x	.010	2-4-6
10 lb. test	0x	.011	1/0-1

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FEB 4, 2008

DEAR BOB:

I RECEIVED YOUR CHECK, THANK YOU.
I WILL BE HAPPY TO PUT TOGETHER
WHATEVER YOUR FRIENDS NEED IN MARCH.

SHARON AND I WILL BE DRIVING TO HELENA
ON APRIL 4. I WOULD LIKE TO STOP TO
SAY HELLO.

I WILL BE SENDING YOU A COPY OF
A LITTLE STORY I FINISHED ABOUT THE
WIDOW'S POOL. I AM IN THE PROCESS
OF SENDING A COPY TO THE "BIG SKY
JOURNAL" FOR POSSIBLE PUBLICATION.



Bob

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JACKLIN'S *Outfitters For The World of Fly Fishing*

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Bob Jacklin's Western Stone Fly Selection

This Unique selection of Western Stonefly (Adult Dry Flies) were designed and dressed by Bob Jacklin. Each fly in this series was researched and tested by Bob for many years on western rivers like the Madison and the Henry's Fork of the Snake. The hook size, pattern, and the coloration are all matched to the natural insect they represent.

Giant Salmon Fly (Pteronarcys California)

Hook: Dia-Riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 4 and 6.

Thread: Gudebrod # F77 Flo-Orange, size G or 3/0

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Black Elk or Deer Hair.

Body: Salmon Fly Orange Dubbing or Poly yarn.

Ribbing: Two Brown Saddle hackles.

Wing: Long Blond Elk Hair.

Head and Collar: Dyed Brown Deer hair.

Legs: 4-Black, Rubber Legs size Med.

Golden Stone (Acroneuria California)

Hook: Dia-riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 6 and 8.

Thread: Gudebrod # 63 Rusty Brown 6/0.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Dyed Brown Deer Hair.

Body Golden Stone Dubbing.

Ribbing: Ginger Saddle Hackle.

Wing: Light Elk Hair.

Head and Collar: Elk Hair Dyed Tan.

Legs: 4- Brown, Rubber legs, size Small.

Western Yellow Stone (Isoperla Marmona)

Hook: Dai-Riki # 700, 270, or tiemco #200R. 4X long size 8, 10, or 12.

Thread: Gudebrod, #45 Yellow 3/0 or 6/0.

Tail: None.

Egg Sack: Natural Grey Deer Body Hair.

Body: Pale Yellow Dubbing Fur.
Ribbing: Light Cream Ginger Hackle.
Wing: Light Elk Hair.
Head and Collar: Elk Hair Dyed Pale Yellow.
Legs: 4- Small Rubber legs, Pale Yellow.

Little Olive Stone (Chloroperla Coloradensis)

Hook: Dia-Riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 10 or 12.
Thread: Gudebrod #45 Yellow Size 6/0.
Tail: None.
Egg Sack: Med. Olive Deer Hair.
Body: Pale Olive Dubbing.
Ribbing: Light Ginger Hackle.
Wing: Light Elk Hair.
Head and Collar: Natural Gray Whitetail Deer dyed Yellow.
Legs: 4- Small Rubber legs, Light Olive.

Early Black Stone (Capnia Vernalis)

Hook: Dia-Riki #700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 12 and 14.
Thread: Gudebrod 6/0, # 118 Black.
Tail: None.
Egg Sack: Black Deer Hair.
Body: Australian Opossum Dubbing, Light Brown.
Ribbing: Natural Black Hackle.
Wing: Mouse Gray mule Deer Hair.
Head and Collar: Short Coastal or Texas Deer Hair Dyed Black.
Legs: 4- Small Rubber Legs, Black

Little Bright Green Stone (Alloperla Imbecilla)

Hook: Dia-Riki # 700, 270, or Tiemco #200R. 4X long size 14 or 16.
Thread: Gudebrod # F21 Size 6/0.
Tail: None.
Egg Sack: Natural Deer Hair Light Gray.
Body: Bright Green Dubbing.
Ribbing: White or Cream Hackle.
Wing: Light Elk Hair.
Head and Collar: Light Deer Hair.
Legs: 4- Ex-Small Rubber Legs, Natural



"A Short Line from Bob Jacklin"

DEAR BUD:

I thought you would
enjoy this little story
about the "Widow's Pool".

Sharyn and I will be
traveling to Helena on
April 4th I would love
to stop in for a visit.

Let's keep in touch about
the FFF

JACKLIN'S
Outfitters For The World
of Fly Fishing

Bob

BOX 310 — 105 YELLOWSTONE AVENUE
WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758 — 406-646-7336

By Bob JACKLIN

#2

Culver's Pond (aka The Widow's Pool)

I first heard about the Widow's Pool in 1967, during my first trip to Yellowstone National Park and the West Yellowstone area. I was twenty-two years old, having just completed a three-year tour with the 389th U.S. Army Band. As a confirmed fly fisherman all through my high school and military years, I promised myself a fly fishing vacation to the Yellowstone after I completed my military service. I knew there was great fly fishing for trout in the Yellowstone area, and I saved and planned the trip for three years. I arrived in mid-July, made West Yellowstone my headquarters, and sampled the great fishing for several days. A native of New Jersey and very fond of brook trout, I quickly noticed several trophy brook trout mounted in several of the local tackle shops. My inquiries about these mounted trophies all led me to a name and a place which was to intrigue me and capture my attention and affection for over forty years--"The Widow's Pool."

Bill and Lillian Culver and Lillian's son, Fred Hanson, created the pond about 1900. It is located in the eastern most region of the Centennial Valley at a large spring known then by the Culvers as Picnic Springs. This giant spring was to become part of the Culver/Hanson homestead and ranch. Using a large horse-drawn scoop, they removed excess dirt and high spots along the first quarter of a mile along Picnic Creek. Then they built an

earthen dam approximately a quarter of a mile downstream on Picnic Creek where the natural necking down of this little low land depression would create a sizeable spring-fed pond that was about sixty yards wide at its widest part. The depth of this shallow pond was two to five feet. The pond was also fed by another smaller spring from the east. I am sure that Lillian and Bill Culver and Fred Hanson created this pond for water for cattle and other livestock, but later they stocked the pond with local trout and grayling, hoping for a constant, readily available source of fish for food.

The original stock of fish probably came from nearby Red Rock Creek or even from Picnic Creek itself. A native population of cutthroat trout and grayling existed throughout Centennial Valley. Some time later, they also stocked brook trout as well as a shipment of steelhead/rainbow trout fingerlings. It wasn't long before a quality fishery was established and everyone wanted to fish "Granny's Pond." Lillian Hackett Hanson Culver was Granny who lived at the head of this spring-fed pond. Lillian built a small bridge and shed over the head of the pond at the spring. She used this shed as a hatchery station for the pond where she helped in the natural spawning of the various species now thriving in this cool spring-fed environment. Remember, this was between 1895 and 1905. How did she ever do it?

The first evidence I found about the fishery is a photograph, taken in 1913, of two fisherman with a large catch of big trout. The fish in this old photograph appear to be rainbow trout, which could have been from that stock of steelhead rainbow trout fingerlings planted several years earlier. The second bit of information came from the late Pat Barnes (1910-1998) who was the "Old Fishing Pro" in the West Yellowstone area. Pat told me how his uncle brought him fishing to Granny's Pond when he was ten years old, i.e., around 1920. They caught large brook trout and paid a price for the privilege of fishing and keeping the fish they caught. This was the earliest reference to the Culver's charging a fee to fish and harvest the catch. I am sure it must have been the first pay-and-fish preserve in Montana.

The first written account of fishing this "pay-and-fish preserve was in a little book, *The Waters of Yellowstone* (1938), written by a Mr. Howard Back, an Englishman living in New York City who had fished the "Widow's preserve," as he called it, sometime prior to the book's publication. I am sure Howard Back must have met Lillian and assumed that she lived alone. The latest written account of fishing at the Widow's Pool I found is a memoir by Jack Hemingway (1923-2000), *Misadventures of a Fly Fisherman* (1986). Jack, the elder son of Ernest Hemingway, tells of fishing the West Yellowstone area with some college friends in the summer of 1941. He

purchased a copy of Howard Back's book in West Yellowstone, and they decided to try their luck at the "Widow's preserve." Jack and his friends caught many two- to three-pound brook trout and very large grayling. Jack also recalled hooking several larger trout, but he was unable to land any of them due to the heavy weeds in the pond and his unreliable silk worm gutt leaders. The boys agreeded to keep just two fish apiece, and when they checked out at the cabin they had over twenty pounds of fish which cost them just over eight dollars. Each fish was cleaned and then weighed. The cost was forty cents per pound. Jack stated that he returned many years later and found the pond incorporated into the Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge. He wrote, "I've never bothered to go back again."

In 1936, Lillian Hacked Hanson Culver passed away and her son, Fred Hanson, continued to run the homestead along with his own homestead a mile away. Around 1941, or soon thereafter, the U.S. Government under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took possession the Culver/Hanson homesteads and incorporated it in the Red Rock Lakes Wildlife Refuge. The original ranch house where Lillian Hackett Hanson Culver ranched and fish farmed was the last standing building. I remember seeing the ranch house several times in the late 1960s, and then it was gone. Only Granny's Pond remained with a small population of brook trout to temp the visiting angler.

In 1959, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service broke open the original earthen dam and built a new dam about half a mile farther down on Picnic Creek, thereby connecting the original Granny's Pond with another pond. This enlargement made a pond about three-quarters of a mile long and about thirty acres. A large feed-storage tank was placed near the upper spring to provide grain for the water fowl and trumpeter swans.

The very first time I fished the Widow's Pool, which is the name used and accepted by all the locals, I was with a fishing buddy, Mr. Joe Hughes, from our home town of Roselle, New Jersey. We drove across country from New Jersey to attend the third Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and to fish the Yellowstone area. The year was 1968. The correct name of the pond is Culver's Pond according to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. Over many years, however, the local fisherman called it the "Widow's Pool."

Joe and I got up very early in the morning and followed Howard Back's instructions which brought us around Henry's Lake and up over Red Rock Pass along a gravel road. We arrived at the pond just at daybreak. We were the only ones there and the big brook trout were feeding just under the surface causing large boils on the surface of the pond and a feeding sound that still haunts me. Remember, I was a kid from New Jersey and the largest

Brook Trout I had ever caught was about twelve inches long. These were big trout. Could I catch one? Wild brook trout in a pond can be and often are hard to catch. They feed on or near the surface of the water during the early mornings and again in the evenings. Brook trout will also feed during the day on days with low light conditions. We fished with a small Otter Nymph. What excitement to have a two- or three-pound wild brook trout follow and grab your nymph as you slowly stripped it back. We each kept only one two-pound brookie that we cooked at camp that evening. In short, I thought I had died and gone to Brook Trout Heaven. I have had the great pleasure of fishing this little Brook Trout fishery year after year for forty years.

During the late 1960s,, I caught and released many nice-sized brookies in Widow's Pond. The largest were from two to four pounds. I could see what I thought to be larger trout, but I could not catch one. One evening in 1973, however, while fishing the pond with several friends, I noticed a large swirl in the middle of the pond, just out of my fly casting range. I was determined to reach that big fish, so I walked all the way around the pond and got positioned straight across from where I had been. The big trout swirled again and I made my cast. It was a long cast and I was fishing with a small size ten Yellow Muddler Minnow. The big fish startled me, for he came some distance from the right side and with a giant swirl grabbed the

fly. I was now into my largest trout to date. It jumped twice and took line, not at all like a big brookie. I was using a seven-and-a-half foot Fenwick Glass Fly Rod and had a four-pound tippet. It seemed like forever as the fish would take some line and I would take it back. I managed to bring it to the shore where I was able to land it. It was a six-pound rainbow/cutthroat hybrid trout. Where did that fish come from? Could it have been one of the last descendants of those monster steelhead rainbows that Lillian planted many years ago. Had its forbearers mixed with the native cutthroats to create this hybrid rainbow/cutthroat monster I was lucky enough to catch? Later that evening, I caught two three-pound brook trout. I kept the six-pound hybrid and one of the three-pound brookies. I released the other brookie unharmed. I have always practiced catch and release with all of my trout fishing; however, I am a licensed taxidermist who has specialized in trout for the last forty years. I still have that 26" hybrid rainbow/cutthroat mounted on display in my fly shop. I may make it sound as if the fishing is easy; it is not. Most people who fish the pond never return to the pond because they do not catch anything. It is hard work, and many evenings I go fishless, that's for sure. My largest brook trout caught at the Widow's Pool was in September of 2000. I was fishing with my wife, Sharyn, and I hooked and landed a full five-pound female brookie. Sharyn photographed the fish, and I released it to

spawn more great fish. The very next summer the pond was dewatered for whatever reason and the big brookies were gone. Over the many years, this pond has been dewatered several times that I know of, and I am sure it has hurt the numbers and the size of the remaining populations of brookies. The natural progression of things causes a small lake or in this case a spring-fed pond over the years to lose its capability to furnish enough food and to offer good reproduction to maintain the high quality fishery it once had. I believe this factor, plus dewatering, is the cause of the lower numbers and the size of the brook trout population there at present.

For over forty years, I have cherished and appreciated this lovely bit of heaven with its history, romance and challenges. You could say that I have developed a personal affection for this special place. I believe that Lillian and her family must have had this same affection. This wonderful little spring feed pond has given me and the many fisherman before me the pleasure of a wild brook trout fishery and the chance to learn and record some of the history of Lillian Hackett Hanson Culver, a remarkable little lady and, of course, "The Widow's Pool."