



FLYPAPER



December 2021

Looking Upstream

Dec.	2	Board Meeting	
Dec.	16	General Zoom Meeting	Members Annual Fish Tell Share Night
Jan.	2	Board Meeting	
Jan.	20	General Zoom Meeting	Elections with presenter TBA ASAP

December 16th Zoom Meeting

Fish Tale - Share Night

Is the story true or is it just another fish tale?



We do this every year and you're the presenter. This is your chance to show the membership what you did right in 2021. Show your Power Points, pictures, maps, flies or anything you want to share about flyfishing. Nothing too crazy, it's all in good fun. It doesn't need to be glossy and professional you just need to zoom in and tell us what you did that was fishy and fun this year. It can be five minutes or twenty minutes long, your call. Watch your email for pre-zoom class information.

Banquet Message from our Vice President

By the time of the banquet this year, we will have spent two years anxiously waiting to share a meal and face to face friendship again. I for one have missed shaking hands, slapping backs and the spontaneous laughter that is such a part of the soul of fly fishing. Virtual fishing lies are just not the same as the real thing.

A number of surveys have been sent out to the membership and the respondents have expressed their thoughts on attending a banquet this January and the results are almost equally split between attending and not attending.

I respect people's desire to choose whether or not to vaccinate, wear masks and gather in public groups but with only a few dozen people planning to attend because of the pandemic, the cost to the club would be prohibitive as well as unfair to those who chose not to come, because they would have missed out on all the cool stuff that was scheduled to be auctioned off. Therefore with a heavy heart, your board voted to cancel the WVFF Banquet planned for January 2022. On the positive side, we have not given up on a safe means of meeting together and with that in mind are perusing alternative methods of holding an auction and will keep you posted on our progress.

I can't tell you how much I look forward to seeing you all again in person. Take care, happy holidays and see you on Fish Tale - Share Night. Steve Aguila

WVFF BOARD NOV 4, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

Present: Bob Bartlett, Steve Aguila, Bruce Phillips, John Richmond, Bruce Merighi, Wayne Steele and Gary Anderson Absent: Alex Fisher and Al Smith

Call to order: Time: 6:37 PM

October 7 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve: Wayne Second: Gary Vote: Approved

President's Report:

1. Web Site:

- Have now engaged Patrik Hertzog of NW Web Development to review our website. Have authorized Patrik to spend up to 6 hours @\$85/hour (\$510) on initial work.
- Bruce M & I have met with Patrik and he believes he has everything he needs to make the fixes and updates we need. He's also stated he's "going easy" on counting hours he's billing us since we're a non-profit. May be good for club in long-term.
- Have incurred bills for "plug-in" for email and PayPal integration (\$125), and for web hosting (\$185 for 3 years).

2. Election of Officers:

- Have made no progress to date on nominating committee.
- Have announced to membership at Zoom membership meeting, and need to announce via newsletter and email that club needs to elect officers in January.

FFI Activities:

- We're invited to "FFI Virtual Expo" on Nov. 5-7.

Vice Presidents Report:

2022 Banquet / Fundraiser:

Steve's results from initial banquet survey in October: 24 responses to survey.

- 21% said "no" on wanting a banquet.
- 20% not comfortable with a live setting.
- About 50% willing to participate in online auction as fundraiser.
- A majority of respondents want proof of vaccination as attendance requirement.

If banquet is held.

- Steve reported he enrolled in SurveyMonkey so WVFF will have access for next year. Cost is \$288, and board voted to reimburse Steve for this expense.
- During discussion, it was determined 2019 per-person fee was \$40 in advance and \$45 at door. (per Bruce M)
- Steve will conduct straw poll at membership meeting to gauge interest, and will
- Announce Board intent that Covid vaccinations will be required.
- Steve will do another poll in November to assess number of club members willing to attend a banquet and use results as decision-making tool to decide whether to go ahead.

Conservation Report:

- Bruce M reported "steady as she goes" with conservation projects as planned by the various groups he tracks. No ideas yet on immediate candidate (s) for remaining gift monies.

Education Report:

- Bruce M sought input from board on again scheduling fly casting instruction. After discussion, Bruce will check instructor availability for Spring, such as April.

Treasurer's Report:

Club Financial status: John provided the following:

- Checking/savings account balance \$9,500 combined balance.
- Community Foundation investment (\$7,500) balance now \$7,900.

Outings Report:

Al, Bruce P and Bob met to formulate plan for 2022.

- Email and survey sent to members asking for their input. I've gotten emails from 3 members basically stating they want outings, and want mix of 1 and multiple day outings, with the overnights including RV camping with hook-ups plus other trips that are more boondocking.
- October survey results showed members want to be told about club-scheduled and member-scheduled trips.

Membership Report:

- *Will need email to all members once web site is fully operational.*
- Bruce P & Bob think we've had 2 or 3 new member registrations this year.

Program Report:

- November 18 Zoom membership meeting will be Phillip Rowley with program on "Advanced Chironomid Techniques". Phil will be available at 7pm which should work out fine.
- December membership meeting will again be a "Fish tale sharing" program. We'll have a challenge to get volunteers to do presentations on Zoom, so may need to recruit. Also plan to have a Zoom practice session 2 nights before our meeting. Bob will announce and send email announcing Zoom link to practice session.
- Steve asked Gary to plan for 2022 programs so we have a schedule of programs at the start of year.

Old Business:

Board Decision-Making Process:

- This is a "place-holder" since I plan to continue this discussion as soon as we're back to in-person meetings.



**WVFF 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES
DUE 4/1/'22**

Of Memories, Fishing and Fathers

This month, we celebrate some of the highlights of our fishing year, days of shared fun and solitary replenishing of the parts of our being that fishing so aptly heals. The old joke about a dead fish continuing to grow in size as the years go on, has a corollary in the general stream of our memory.

As we get older, our memories do change, yes somewhat due to the mechanics of perception and the effects of time on the raw substance of our gray matter but also as a result of a change in perspective.

My father, the often-emotionally and physically distant absent-minded professor, and I had a difficult relationship. He was a brilliant man, fluent in both Spanish and the obscure language of

mathematics. He started the first high school computer class, complete with a teletype connected to the University of Arizona mainframe, the only one in Tucson, and the only counterpart of which, at the time, was the Lakeside High School computer club in Seattle where Bill Gates got his start.

But family dynamics and the struggle to be the alpha male, did not go well in our family. As a result, I left for college firmly convinced that I had learned nothing from him. I took all of my math (except the singular computer class) including calculus from other teachers or out of the textbooks in summer school.

But of all the things that my father was and was not, he gave me one gift, that at the time was a seemingly typical and simple thing to do with your son... he took me fishing. I remember in YouTube video clarity, his mugging imitation of a fish swimming up to take the bait hanging under the bobber. I remember the first day on the California pay-to-fish pond. I remember the magical trips to Banff, Canada where we rented old wooden boats on the Vermillion Lakes and caught the shimmering, birefringent Kamloops rainbow trout with a torpedo bubble trailing the famous Royal Coachman.

And here is where the plasticity of memory is such a blessing. Over the years, those early memories have taken on a power that I could never have foreseen. At sixteen, I took up fly fishing and since, have had countless days of fun. I have enjoyed slapstick laughter with the inevitable disasters of land creatures trying to navigate the world meant for finned creatures. I have had the privilege of days of great fellowship with the other two-legged fools in their pursuit.

And gradually, the memories have changed. They are no longer a catalog of scenes from the past, they are now gifts of the present, the feeling of peace and return to self that occurs when one steps into the cold swift waters to reach out once more for that twitch of life. They are the reminder that we are not alone on this planet and that if we ever are... we will surely die. They become the glowing visions that give meaning to the past and hope to the future.

So, bring on the stories, bring on the tales of success and woe, bring on the memories and kindle the dreams of the future. I know that I will dream those memories, and in my dreams, my father will change and shift and grow, just like the fish we all brag about. And somehow, the professor that seemed to know so little about real life will have just a bit more wisdom than I understood at the time.

Tight lines and good memories, Steve Aguilu



Bruce's Class Notes

Advanced Chironomid Tactics

From the Nov. WVFF Zoom Meeting/Presentation by Phil Rowley

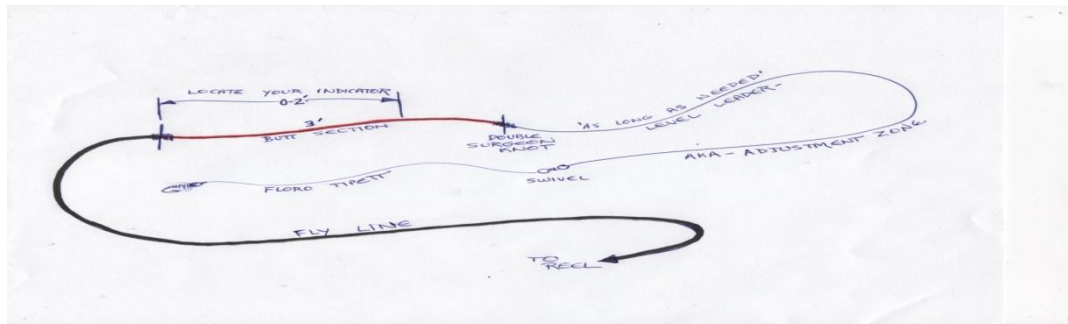
On the next pages are my takeaways from Phil's very well attended presentation. He really opened my eyes to new Chironomid fishing techniques and tactics. My notes are not a book about how to fish this type of fly pattern in stillwater but simply a list of salient points that I wanted to remember. My hope is that somewhere below is a small nugget that'll help you effectively apply Chironomid flies to catching fish.

In case you missed that fact filled evening, Phil covered in great detail four major techniques for fishing Chironomids in stillwater, plus some thoughts on flies, fly tying and patterns.

INDICATOR TECHNIQUE

Sinking a fly down to a desired depth and using an indicator to signal a strike.

1. Useful at 15' or less of water depth.
2. Note the following diagram:



3. It's best to use a level, non-tapered, leader between the butt section and the tippet. Different sized leader components sink at varied rates compared to a level section.
4. Change your depth by adding or subtracting line between the swivel and the butt section of the leader, attached with a surgeons knot. Your 'Adjustment Zone'.
5. Attach your indicator to the butt section within two feet of the fly line. This set-up makes it easier to cast. But still not easy...
6. In very deep water the nylon leader is too stretchy so consider using 20-30# braided line for the first 2/3 of your leader. Hard to cast so roll cast.
7. Use a bobber stopper to help reposition your indicator after taking a fish.
8. Use your hemostats, clipped to the fly, and lowered down to determine depth.
9. Quick release indicators a must and:
 - a. Put the indicator peg on the fly side of the indicator to avoid hang-ups.

- b. Use a Swivel between the level leader and the Floro tippet because it will be easier to adjust your Level Leader section and because Mono knots fail easily when tied to fine diameter Floro.
 - i. Heavier sizes add weight & dampens the effect of wind.
 - ii. Prevents indicator and peg from being lost, if a fish breaks you off.
 - iii. Consider copper swivels in the fall and as an attractor.
 - iv. Acts as a spacer between Floro tippet and Mono leader. This can reduce knot breakage issues.
 - v. Helps to determine fish depth. If you get hits but never hook up or your foul hooking fish (by pulling up and into a fish above the fly) then your fly is too deep and the fish are hitting the swivel.
- 10. Bobber Stops allow you to easily reset your indicator after catching a fish.
- 11. When indicator plug is worn down wrap tape around it to extend its life.
- 12. Consider the visibility of your indicator and adjust color for best view.

NAKED TECHNIQUE

Using floating line and a long leader to fish a fly that arcs down to the desired depth. Once at depth you subtly retrieve, and react to takes that are signaled by movement of the floating line.

1. Use for 15'-25' of water.
2. Fish with a floating line and a long leader.
3. More labor intensive more variables you need to play with. This method teaches you patience and touch.
4. Leaders are opposite of indicator technique.
 - a. Use a nymph style tapered Mono leader;
 - i. To turn over longer leaders.
 - ii. To slow sink rate of fly.
 - b. Consider a standard tapered 15' mono leader with a ring (not swivel) then attach five feet of Floro tippet.
 - c. Leader length should be the water depth in feet x 1.25 (25% Rule)
5. Four Keys to Naked Success
 - a. Leader length (reach desired depth) 25% rule
 - b. Speed of Retrieve (keeps fly at the desired depth) GO SLOWWWW
 - c. Weight of Pattern (get to desired depth and stay there)
 - d. Sink Time (allow pattern to get to desired depth) Use a watch/start at 30 sec.
6. Reasons for failure are primarily that the fisherman:
 - a. Retrieves too fast don't straighten out line surface squiggles to act as indicator.
 - b. Doesn't let the fly to get deep enough.
7. Thoughts on takes, from an anchored position.
 - a. Sometimes a take feels like your dragging something, like weeds or a stick at the end of your line.
 - b. Be aware that your rod tip might point a different direction from the fly's location.

- c. Squiggles in your surface line shape disappear because you are retrieving too fast or the pull of a fish.

8. Swing Tipping

Hold your rod close to the water after casting. You raise the tip during the pull portion of the retrieve, then the line drops during pause portion of the retrieve. If your line doesn't drop, that means something is pulling on it so set the hook.

SLOW SINKING LINE TECHNIQUE

Fishing with clear intermediate lines that create longer sink times for when you're searching and the fish are spread out.

1. Use in depths greater than 15'.
2. Use a 9' leader and Slow sinking lines will hover.
3. Sink times can be long.
4. Good for windy conditions.
5. Takes are more obvious.

FAST SINKING LINE TECHNIQUE AKA DANGLING

Fast sinking line with 4' or leader that sinks fast and then dangles directly below the rod tip.

1. Water 20' or + deep.
2. Sinking line opportunities extend from spring turnover through fall.
3. Fishing from an anchored position.
4. Good for windy conditions or bright/clear waters.
5. Set up similar to fishing with indicators.
 - a. Set fly depth to one foot less than water depth.
 - b. Leader 3-4' plus tippet.
 - c. Let fly sit for a few minutes before beginning slow hand twist retrieve.
 - d. Prepare for savage strikes.

CHIRONIMID FLY PATTERNS

1. Design:
 - a. Give them what they are they eating. Properly use of a throat pump is critical to figure out what's down there.
2. Size:
 - a. Clear water conditions dictate the use of smaller sizes #12-#16.
 - b. Algae type lakes go #12 or larger.
 - c. Use smaller realistic patterns when fish are fussy or pressured.

- d. Larger patterns stand out in a crowd when the hatch is strong and trout are focused on color rather than size.
 - e. Larger when fishing deep.
3. Consider the color spectrum at various depths.
 4. Black with either a red or silver rib is the most commonly used color scheme.
 5. Fly Patterns – Larva
 - a. Skinny and segmented.
 - b. Presented at or just above the bottom.
 - c. Hook Styles
 - i. Straight shank for cast and retrieve techniques.
 - ii. Curved shanks work well for indicator presentations
 6. Fly Patterns – Pupa
 - a. Also slender and segmented with a slight taper.
 - b. Tie onto a scud or 2xl curved nymph hook.
 - c. Use curved hooks for active emerging pupa straight shanks for staging pupa.
 - d. Pupa flies are typically larger than the corresponding adults.
 - e. Since the critters live down near the bottom, consider the fact that color diminishes with depth. Roy G Biv always says, colors disappear in the following order:
 - Red > Orange > Yellow > Green > Blue > Indigo > Violet
 - f. UV is important to try in deeper water in low light and on overcast days.
 7. Fly Patterns – Emerging Pupa
 - a. Pupa use trapped gas to aid emergence so mimic it with silver and gun metal grey Flashabou. Use shiny patterns when emergence is underway.
 - b. Black holographic Mylar also is effective.
 - c. Tie with a variety of colors for ribbing.
 8. Other Stuff
 - a. Proportions:
 - i. Fly should be thin with just a slight taper to the front half.
 - ii. Butts should be just 3-4 turns of material.
 - iii. Make your ribbing even and try to make 7 turns to create 9 segments. But , fish don't count so don't get hung up on the exact number of wraps.
 - iv. Keep gills small and with material that will fluoresce.
 - b. Attractor patterns work: experiment with larger, different colors and presentations.
 - c. Presentation depth is more important than pattern.

