

Flatland Fly Fishers

Wichita, Kansas

www.flatlandflyfishers.org

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Presidents Line

June, 2008

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We have accomplished so much this last year with the completion of the tax exempt status, federation affiliation, newly designed web site and bringing back the fall banquet that all members should be proud. But with all that has been accomplished this is no time to sit back and relax, so we constantly move on and try to improve our club and educate our members.

What's next? Videos are what I am thinking. Short videos that we can post on our web site that highlight different educational topics. These will focus on casting problems, how to double haul, knot tying, fly tying, rigging etc. you get the picture. A short series of videos will not only help our members but any other fly-fisherman that browse our web site.

The problem with all this is we do not have a video camera or editing software. If you have a newer digital video camera, or if you have video making or editing experience please volunteer your equipment and time to accomplish this task. If you would like to help, either call me or look me up at the next meeting.



Stuart with a nice Striper

See you soon.
Stuart

Anyone who would like to share pictures or articles for the Newsletter should contact the editors at:
07editor@flatlandflyfishers.org

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Next Meeting June 5, 7:00 P.M.

2 *Fly Casting at the June Meeting*

Flatland Fly Fishers



2008 Activities Calendar

Casting instruction will be the focus of our June Club meeting. There will be stations for beginners, accuracy and one that combines distance and line hauling. In the past, this has been a good exercise for all who have participated. I have found that practicing on my own casting has helped me learn how to deal with random scenarios on the water. I may be out fishing, and spot a bass cruising under an overhanging tree limb, and know that if I can't get my fly behind the edge of the tree, I will not have a shot at catching the fish. I've lost a few flies, using this kind of judgment.

However, I have learned that a slight flick of the wrist in a side arm cast will give my line the amount of speed and trajectory, to help either air ride my fly below the branches, or make it skip across the water's surface, landing back in the cover. This and many other tricks are valuable skills that you can only learn by practicing. Though some casting strokes may not look so pretty, and break the rules a bit, many unsightly maneuvers can help increase your cast to hook up ratio. I have hopes of helping and learning from others to improve the desired casting and presentation techniques.

We encourage you to bring your personal rod, as you may have a better feel of your own equipment. If you do not own a rod, we will make sure to have club rods available.

We hope you will be able to join us.
Tight lines 'til we meet again Rory Wiske
(We have a back-up plan for bad weather)

June 5, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers meeting 7:00 pm
Great Plains Nature Center
Program--Fly Casting

June 7, 2008

Slough Creek Clean-up (see page 3 this issue)

June 12, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers board meeting
Ark River Anglers 7:00 pm

July 3, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers meeting 7:00 pm
Great Plains Nature Center
Program pending

July 10, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers Board meeting
Ark River Anglers 7:00 pm

August 7, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers meeting 7:00 pm
Great Plains Nature Center
Program pending

August 14, 2008

Flatland Fly Fishers board meeting
Ark River Anglers 7:00 pm

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Slough Creek Clean up

Neal Hall

The Club will need every members help on Saturday June 7th on a conservation project to do maintenance work on the waterway. The work will begin at 9:00 AM and proceed throughout the day. We will be repairing dams and clearing trees from the creek. The club has a donation of 300 bags of rip-rap concrete form Quikcrete which will allow us to properly rebuild the dams. The stream at the pipes will need to be backfilled a little on the east bank just south of the pipes and there are several trees that need to be removed.

Bring your chain saws, shovels and wheel barrows and give the club your time to bring this local trout fishery back up to what it used to be.

The Club will provide lunch.

See you there.





Fixing The Cast and How To Maintain It

This will be a stepping stone series of articles that you'll be able to check in on occasionally, to read and perform at your own leisure. If you're a beginner, a casual, in development, an intermediate, or an expert caster, I hope to hit a spark that may help you.

As a beginner or a casual fly caster, developing the best possible loading of the rod is the fastest path to good casting. A no loop cast or leader piles up cast are two results of poor rod loading. It takes three principles for proper load.

1. A progressively increased bending of the rod, smoothly accelerating the speed of the rod through the cast.
2. The tip of the rod travels in a straight line through the cast.
3. A positively firm stop is made to unload the rod.

To help to fully understand these three principles to rod loading refer to the three figures and apply the 1 to 10 count to help show acceleration. On the forward or back cast with no speed changes a 1 to 10 count would look like this.

1..2..3..4..5..6..7..8..9..10 as would occur in fig 1

The 1 count is the starting position of the rod tip and 10 is the ending position. The equal spacing between the numbers represents no changes in rod tip speed.

An accelerating cast using the 1 to 10 would look like this.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6....7...8..9..10 fig 3

The rod tip starts the move slowly like the earlier numbers and ends fast like the later numbers. This smooth increase in speed bends the rod progressively deeper down the rod.

After applying the acceleration, the next adjustment is creating the movement in the cast that makes a straight line of the rod's tip. A straight path is good, a round path is not. Many casual casters become wrist casters, rotating this wrist to swing the rod from begin to end of the cast. This windshield wiper style cast cannot create the straight line needed for good loops. Instead more use of the forearm is needed to increase the stroke (The lateral movement of the casting hand).

The final principle of rod loading is the stop. The stop occurs at the time that will fling the line straight out, focusing the energy toward the target. The steadier the tip is at the stop, the fewer waves are in the line. Waves are bad because waves are slack. Slack is the number 1 enemy of any fly caster and will be fought off by all levels of casting skill.

Next time we'll concentrate on the back cast with tips on maintaining proper rod loading.

Fig 1 (open loop)

Convex curving path of the rod tip does not "focus" the line outward. Excessive wristing and insufficient Stroke (lateral movement of the cast hand) creates the convex tip path. No acceleration through cast causing the line to not have a loop.



Fixing The Cast and How To Maintain It

Doug Meyer

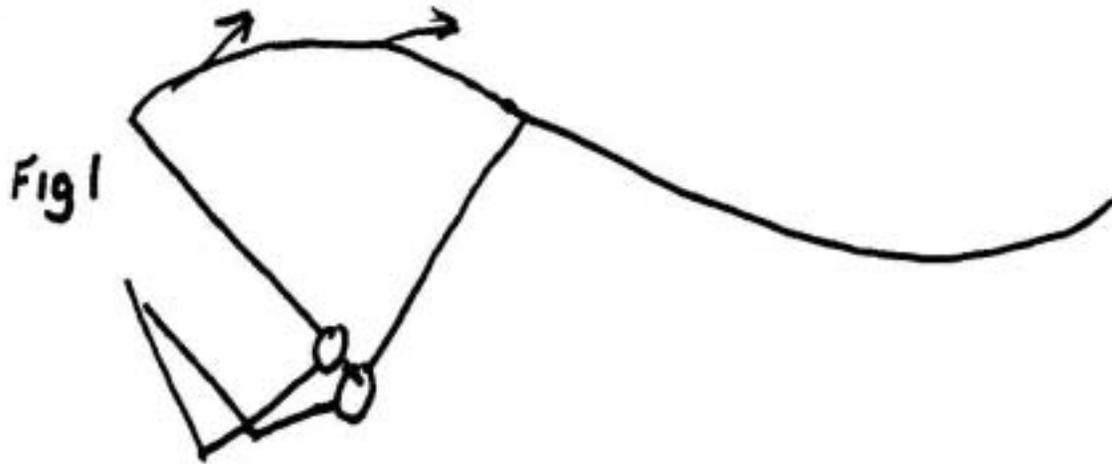


Fig 2 (leader piled and not straightened on cast)

In figure 2 the good news is the rod was accelerating through the cast and had a good stop. The bad news is it was still “wristed” and did not allow straight tip path. This kept the cast from being allowed to straighten.

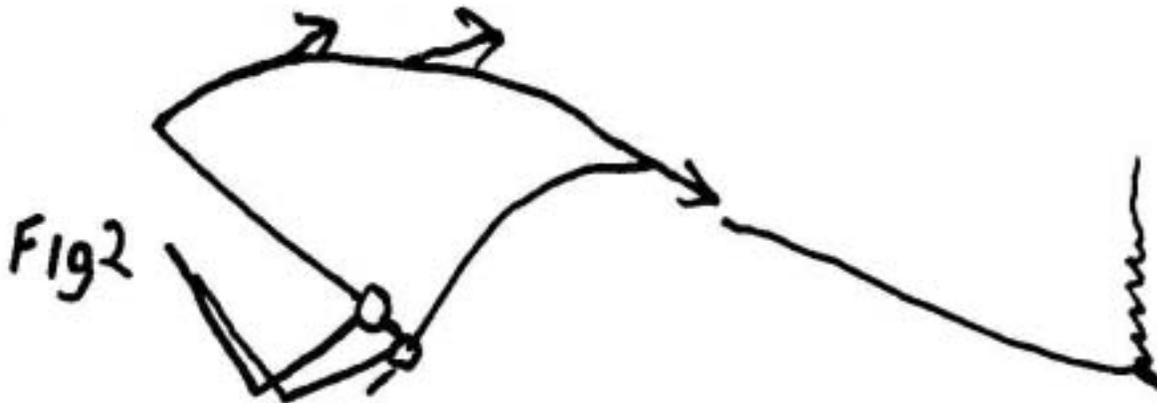
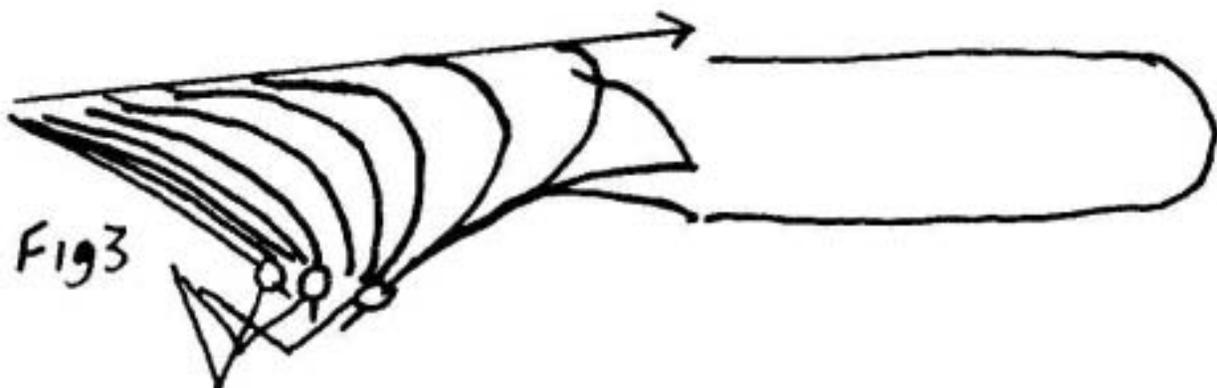


Fig 3 (proper rod loading creates a looped cast that will straighten the leader)

This has straight line path of rod tip, accelerating rod through cast bends the rod deeper as it travels through the cast and at the stop unbends the rod flinging the line in a focused direction outward toward the target.





Arkansas River Annual Trip



On April 26th around 20 members of the Flatland Fly Fishers embarked on the annual Salida, Colorado Mothers Day Caddis hatch trip on the Arkansas River. After last years extraordinary hatch still fresh in my mind; this trip had been greatly anticipated. This year was a 180 from last years trip. After checking the Royal Gorge Anglers website prior to the trip, the outlook looked bleak. The Rockies had a large amount of snowfall last winter and the state is worried about how much water will back up in the storage reservoirs. Colorado decided to start releasing water from Twin Lakes Reservoir upstream of Salida to make room for all the snowmelt. The river usually flows around 300 CFS this time of year and was now flowing at 550 CFS, keeping the magic number of 54 degrees from taking place; which is the required temp for the hatch to take place. The ability to safely wade the river was greatly diminished.

With all this knowledge in hand we knew the fishing would be tough. On Saturday afternoon we pulled off the road just upstream of Salt Lick, and decided to get started. Here the river flowed fast, but there were three sandbars that provided some slower water to fish.

Blair was the first one down to the river with his brand new bamboo rod Curt had just built for him, and by the time I got down Blair was battling the first brown of the trip and breaking in his new rod – was this a sign the fishing would be great? This stretch of river was very nice and offered protection from the main river, and provided us with a small BWO hatch. I had a couple of strikes on a Micro Mayfly, but no hook ups. There was a couple of surface or just below feeding fish. After fishing here we drove up to Salida and met up with the group for dinner. Everyone agreed the fishing was tough that day.





Arkansas River Annual Trip

Michael Carr

Sunday morning I decided to go and check out a small lake that Bill Edrington had talked about at our winter show named O'Havre Lake. Upon arriving at the lake, which sits above 9000 feet we found the small lake still covered in ice. The beautiful lake looks like it would be an excellent place to camp and fish out of a float tube. Along the way up to the lake we came across a small creek named Poncha Creek. The water looked awesome, lots of nice runs and beaver ponds, the creek had to be fished and we caught quite a few browns from the six to twelve inch range. The creek saved what may have been a really tough day on the river.



Brandon who had already caught a half dozen trout. It took me a while to catch my first fish, but once I

learned they were just hugging the rocks on the bottom, dredging became the way I would have to fish to catch fish consistently. In the morning and evenings the group would get together and share their days experiences on the river. Rory and Neal were treated to a group of adult bighorn sheep rams drinking from the river. This year on the river may be remembered as the trip without a hatch, on our last night we found some adult caddis flying around the bridge in town, but no surface feeding trout. For me personally the fishing was tough, but just being on the river



Monday we went up to check out the Browns Canyon area, but the water according to the map was to high to cross – where most of the accessible water was. After scouting that area we proceeded to the downtown area of Salida and met up with Jay and

in the mountains with my friends, makes the experience a total success. I can't wait for next years trip and would encourage everyone to go and experience the caddis hatch. This was the biggest group I have been on the trip with and it was a total success.

Mark your calendar to attend the Flatland Fly Fishers Fall Banquet.

Where: Camp Hiawatha
When: October 25, 2008

Look in this space in future newsletters for news and updates concerning the banquet.

2008 Club Officers

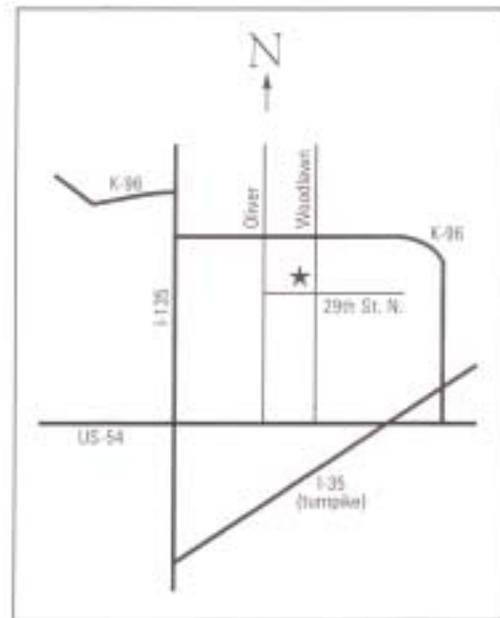
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Flatland Fly Fishers



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