



FALL NEWSLETTER 2009

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST :

- > **New Orvis Hydros Fly Rods**
- > **Casters Fly Shop Online Store**
- > **Outlook for Trout Fishing This Fall in the Southeast**
- > **Winter Fly Tying Class**
- > **Guest Speaker Landon Mayer at Casters Fly Shop February 20, 2010**

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INVASIVE SPECIES, FELT SOLES, AND THE FUTURE

Invasive species are a real threat to our fisheries across the globe and it's encouraging that all companies that manufacture wading gear are looking at alternatives to felt soles and other fabrics that prevent these aquatic hitchhikers from moving from one place to another. Orvis is working on this problem from many directions, and below is an explanation and clarification of their position on the subject.

Are felt soles becoming obsolete? Will I have to throw away my felt-soled wading shoes? Should I even buy a pair of felt-soled wading shoes or waders?

There is no doubt that, without proper care, felt, along with porous fabrics in wading shoes, laces, and even waders help transport invasive species (<http://www.orvis.com/intro.asp?subject=3591>). However, if you always fish the same watershed, felt soles are not a problem. Aquatic birds and mammals transport far more spores from one watershed to another than anglers ever could. Thus, you can keep your felt-soled waders reserved for a specific watershed. In addition, you can greatly minimize the threat by cleaning, drying, and inspecting (<http://www.orvis.com/intro.asp?subject=3591>) your felt

soles after each fishing trip. Trout Unlimited has called for a ban on selling and producing felt-soled wading shoes by 2011 but it's doubtful that we'll see a wholesale, government-regulated domestic ban on felt soles like the one New Zealand has implemented, anytime soon. So, if you are used to the idea of wearing felt soles and will use them on the same watershed, rest assured your current or future felt-soled wading shoes won't be obsolete.

What is Orvis doing for the future?

In their continuing effort to be an industry leader, Orvis has partnered with

OUTLOOK FOR TROUT FISHING THIS FALL

Summer has lost its grip and the best time of the year is upon us. Although rather mild, there were still numerous oppressively hot days this summer. Therefore, it's good to see the cool nights and moderate days back again.

Get your fly boxes and gear out of the closet 'cause fishing this fall is going to be fantastic. Why? We finally have water in the rivers and streams. I have had a rather short stint living in the South but who can remember the last time we had all this rain through the

summer, particularly in September?

Trout and aquatic insects need water so this is a great start. You should have a good selection of terrestrials, caddis, tiny blue wings, midges, and crane flies in your boxes.



Hydros Saltwater Configuration

NEW! ORVIS HYDROS FLY RODS

The Orvis Hydros fly rod will be unveiled this October, just in time for the Holidays. This rod series gives anglers the Helios fly rod technology at a price that's far lighter.

Cast an Orvis Hydros and you'll smile twice. Once at the extraordinary response and accuracy, and once at the remarkable price for a rod that is as light and powerful as this one.

Using Orvis' patented He-

lios technology, the Hydros rod blanks are finished with lightweight chrome snake guides, brushed and anodized two-tone skeletal reel seats, and super grade cork handles. They also come in a Cordura® rod tube with protective internal dividers.

As a result of these changes, these rods will be slightly heavier than the ZG Helios -- more akin to the premium models offered by other compa-

nies.

Unconditional Orvis 25-Year Rod Guarantee. You will find no better fly rod in the world at this price. Made by Master Craftsmen in the rod shop in Manchester, Vermont.

Be sure to stop by the shop and waggle one or go to the Casters Online Store and reserve one now.

**http://
www.castersflyshop.com/
onlineflyshop/**

**Walk In Promo-
Purchase 1 Dozen
Flies and get 3
\$1.95 Flies FREE**

Valid thru November 1st

**Helios Promo-
Purchase any
Helios Fly Rod and
Get a Battenkill
Large Arbor Reel
FREE**

Call for details

NOW OPEN! CASTERS FLY SHOP ONLINE STORE

Well, it's still a work in progress but the Casters Fly Shop Online Store is now open.

It has been a long, arduous journey and now I understand why computer programmers and technicians charge what they do. There is a lot of time spent stomping the feet and punching the keyboard. Man, the elbow on my

mouse arm is throbbing.

Anyhow, there are tons of great products from Orvis, Ex Officio, Raymond Rumpf, Wapsi, Float Master Strike Indicators, Spirit River, Daiichi, Hareline Dubbin; as well as, C&F Design, Andres Touceda, Dr. Slick, Brodin, Wasatch Tools, Virtual Nymph Products, Cliff Outdoors, Angler's Image, Enrico Pug-

lisi, BoogleBug, and HHM.

We offer **FREE STANDARD SHIPPING** to the lower 48's; plus, **NO SALES TAX** for orders placed and shipped outside of North Carolina.

Shoot us an email or give us a call if you have any questions concerning products or policies.

WINTER FLY TYING CLASSES



8 Year Old Parker at the Bench

Join Orvis Fly Designer, Dave Hise, as he reveals (some of) the tricks of the fly tying trade! Utilizing over 25 years of fly tying experience, Dave aims to teach the basics of fly tying; useful techniques, how to use specific materials, and how to efficiently tie the major groups of flies (streamers, nymphs,

wet flies, dry flies, and egg patterns). Completion of these fly tying lessons will allow you to make informed decisions on the equipment and materials that you will need to get started (and continue) in this fine art. Having trouble with a specific technique? Intermediate and advanced fly tying lessons

are also available. Vise, tools, and materials are included throughout the entire class.

Group classes begin in January 2010. They are \$85.00 for four 2 hour sessions. Individual (private) lessons are also available. Need a Christmas gift? These classes are a great option.

SECRETS OF FALL TROUT FISHING

BY TOM ROSENBAUER

There is a period of dry-fly activity on most trout streams every fall that rivals the best hatches of spring. It's a "fall" (as opposed to a hatch) of migrating winged ants, and when these insects are on the water nearly every trout in the river will feed on the surface with abandon. As autumn approaches, ants hatched in their underground colonies sprout wings. All at once, over a period of a few days, these insects fly off to mate and cross-pollinate with ants from other colonies. For some unknown reason, the dying ants are attracted to water and other shiny surfaces, much like mayfly spinners. There is no predicting this opportunity, but experienced fly fishers can feel it in the air, usually on warm, still, moist, soft September afternoons. I often leave my office for the day, smell the air, and know that when I reach my car the hood will be covered with two or three different types of flying ants. Dinner and any other social obligations will have to wait a few days.

I know it's hard to compete with the pleasures of raking leaves or installing storm windows, but you should really put aside a day or two for fall trout fishing. To most fly fishers, trout fishing in the fall is much like reading last week's Sunday Times on Saturday—some interesting stuff, but it's mostly over. Streams are vacant, except for roving bands of mergansers, and in places where you feel like you had to take a ticket in June you'll have the water to yourself, with no looking over your shoulder for intruders every few minutes.

But you'll have to pay a small price for that solitude. Trout won't come as easily as they do in June. Although weather conditions parallel spring temperatures, most insects have hatched for the season. And biologists studying trout physiology and behavior observe that trout do not feed as heavily or as often in the fall as they do in the spring and summer. As long as summer-like temperatures hold, trout will feed best from dawn till mid-morning, and in the evening. Once the air temperature stays below 50 degrees during the day, best fishing will be from noon till late afternoon.

What and when to fish

On warm, stable days with light or calm winds, you might see mayfly hatches. Fall mayflies come in several varieties: small olive mayflies, tiny olive mayflies, and ridiculously tiny olive mayflies. That's an exaggeration, but small olives are by far the most abundant mayflies from September through November. You should not even get within earshot of a trout stream without plenty of olive emergers and dries in sizes 18 through 24. And don't try to cheat—I know you'll try to get away with not buying or tying those size 24s, figuring a 22 will be good enough. Don't count on it. Ask anyone who fishes the Delaware or Housatonic or Missouri in October.

Until the first hard frost, and sometimes even after, grasshoppers and beetles are very important trout foods. In the fall, a beetle is a far better fly for prospecting when no trout are rising than the typical Wulff or Adams or Humpy. Just make sure the beetle is one with a red spot on it, as plain black beetles are nearly impossible to follow on the water. Lacking a beetle, small Elk Hair Caddis or Stimulators can be effective searching patterns, as they look like hoppers or other large terrestrial insects.

Fall rivers can be painfully low, slow, and transparent. Trout have been pounded all year and they won't tolerate a fly line (or even a leader butt) falling on their heads. You won't have much luck with a 9-foot leader, and are much better off with a 12-footer or even a 15-footer for slower pools.

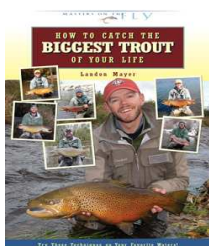
Fishing with Motion

On windy fall days you'll find the water covered with leaves, twigs, and nuts falling from trees. When this happens, it's tough for a trout to discern food from debris, but if you twitch a hopper or beetle just once during its drift you might get a trout to pick out your fly. When fall weather turns cold and rainy as well as windy, hang up the dry flies and throw streamers into deep water, especially at the tails of pools. Brown and brook trout migrating prior to spawning in late November often stack up at the back end of pools, and although they don't eat often once they get spawning on their minds, they get pretty confrontational and will take a swat at anything in their way. It helps to have a sink-tip line handy, to get your fly swung across a trout's nose in the deeper pools.

Don't leave your other trout flies at home. You never know when you might see a fall caddis hatch or some big mayflies like the dark size 12 *Isonychias*. You might wonder if nymphs are effective. Nymphs are always effective, but I don't find them as useful in the fall unless some aquatic insects are hatching. There just isn't as much stuff on the bottom as there was in May or June. However, imitations of the small olive mayflies, midge pupae, *Isonychia* mayflies, plus a large caddis pupa to imitate to big orange caddis that hatches in October, should cover your nymphing requirements.

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We're on the Web!
www.castersflyshop.com



**Orvis Clearwater Navigator
Wading Boot w/ Vibram Soles**

Casters Fly Shop was established in Hickory, North Carolina in 1999. We are located at the foothills of the Appalachian mountains in western North Carolina—the gateway to some of the finest trout waters east and west of the Mississippi. Not to mention, the smallmouth bass, striper, and saltwater fishing in North Carolina can be spectacular during certain times of the year. It is our mission, as a Platinum Orvis Dealer, to furnish the fly angler with all the tools necessary to be successful on the water or in front of the fly tying bench. Our fly tying selection is one of the most extensive selections in the Southeast.

EVENTS:

Be sure to mark February 20, 2010 in your calendar. Casters Fly Shop and the Northwestern Chapter of Trout Unlimited are teaming up to bring you one of the Masters of Trout, Landon Mayer. Stop by and check out his book, How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life, if you're not sure who he is.

**INVASIVE SPECIES, FELT SOLES, AND THE FUTURE
CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

Vibram to develop the new EcoTraX™ wading boot outsole. The sole has been added to a new wading boot, as well as, some of the existing styles, creating the River Guard series of wading products. Using Vibram's® innovative Idro-grip compound, which offers 30% better grip on wet surfaces, Orvis created an exclusive tread pattern that offers a high percentage of sharp leading edges for maximum grip while helping to keep the pattern clean of mud and debris.

Additionally, by incorporating tungsten-carbide screw-in studs, anglers can achieve a level of grip that is comparable to the felt-soled boots they have used for years. This sole was designed primarily to help mitigate the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) such as didymo, mud snails and the whirl-

ing disease spores. While the sole is designed not pick up excessive amounts of stream debris it is still important that anglers follow a few basic steps to help reduce the chance of spreading aquatic hitchhikers.

1. Remove all mud and vegetation from your equipment prior to leaving your fishing location.
2. Eliminate as much water from gear as possible before transporting.
3. Clean all your equipment with hot water (>104 °F/40 °C).
4. Thoroughly dry all your gear before entering a new body of water.

What about chemical equipment?

While true that some chemical treats, such as 409 and chlorine bleach, will kill ANS like mud snails and didymo, they are harsh on equipment and

harmful to the environment. Can you imagine what fishing access sites, riparian zones and river water would look and smell like if everyone got out of the water and doused their gear in 409 and bleach? For more information on ANS and what you can do to help stop the spread, visit orvis.com/invasivespecies.

Overall, the safety of my customers is the primary concern and rubber bot-tomed soles, alone, aren't safe. Therefore, the incorporation of the (removable) tungsten studs is a great alternative. These can be removed if the angler is fishing from a drift boat and replaced again later.