

SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW

Article by Wet Fly Waterguides

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For every action there is a reaction, and fly fishing is no exception. Dry flies have subtle sipp, nymphs have a slight hesitation on a drag free drift, but wet flies have an explosive grab that will give you an adrenaline rush that can't be duplicated. We all know its human nature to have a favorite way of doing things, but we should also keep an open mind. Wet fly fishing is by no means a new type of fishing, it's been around for ever. After all if you trace back the roots of the sport you will find that this is where it all started, but somewhere along the way this particular style of fishing took a back seat to the other two styles of fishing (dry fly and nymph) not to say there's anything wrong with these types.

Anyone who has been fly fishing for any length of time knows that 90% of the trout feed under the surface. For every fish you see feeding on the top there are more than likely three feeding under the water. Before 1958 wet fly fishing was considered to be the gold standard for fly fishing, but in the early 60's things started to change. The trend was leaning more and more toward dry fly fishing. This type of fly fishing has pretty much been the main stay since, but in the past few years wet fly fishing has started to make a very strong come back.

Here are a few examples you might want to think about. When false casting a dry fly the main reason is to dry it out to make it float. Some of today's dubbing is impregnated with a chemical to make the fly float. The market is filled with products from sprays and pastes to silicon crystals to make the fly float. Wet flies on the other hand let nature take its course. False casting is out, there is no need to dry the fly out it will naturally sink. The body's natural fur will absorb the water which will make it sink. Last of all the hackle and wings are all constructed of soft material which are not designed to make the fly float. These soft materials were used to tie the first flies. I know the new materials weren't available back in the day but maybe just maybe it's because the flies weren't mended to float. No one is saying that wet fly fishing is the best way to fly fish, it's just an alternative. Casting wet flies on a multiple rig does have certain advantages. With this type of rig you can cover all the water depths. The first would be the point fly. This would take care of any fish feeding on the bottom. Next the first dropper would get the attention of any fish feeding in the mid section of the stream. The top fly would finish off the hat trick by taking the feeding fish on the surface. Lets face it when a fly hatches it has to get from the bottom to the surface, and there's only one way, that is straight up. The other advantage is the way you cast the flies. By casting a quarter down stream with a three-rig system you can cover three times the area with one cast. Last but not least the major advantage is when you can fish wet flies. These flies can be fished before, during and after the hatch.

Over the last fifteen years we have figured out that there are three main keys to wet fly fishing, movement, movement and movement. The more movement the better the chance to trigger a strike. With all the soft material on the market today the only thing holding you back is your imagination. Remember if it was good enough for our fathers than it's good enough for us.