

# *The Scottish Flyfisher* *Quarterly Magazine*

*July 2023*

Linlithgow Loch Spring Competition

Fishing by Nigel Duncan

Crunchers - The How and Why!

Caenis or The Fly Anglers Curse

How to Collect Bamboo Fly Rods



Robin Lambert editor  
[www.scottishflyfisher.co.uk](http://www.scottishflyfisher.co.uk)

Welcome to the Scottish Flyfisher Magazine's quarterly July 2023 issue.

Page 4: Linlithgow Loch Spring Competition  
Page 8: Catch & Release the Devil's Advocate.  
Page 12: Fishing by Nigel Duncan  
Page 14: Crunchers - The How and Why!  
Page 16: How to Collect Bamboo Fly Rods  
Page 18: Tackle Review  
Page 20: Caenis or The Fly Anglers Curse  
Page 21: Staycation Time  
Page 23: Linlithgow Loch 2024 Boat League

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Hi everyone, yet again my apologies for the shorter version of the magazine this issue.

Like they say old age doesn't come easy, it just doesn't creep up on you, it hits you on the back of the head with a **GIANT PRIEST**. I'll be 70 at the end of July and in the last couple of months I have now been diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease, Emphysema and am now in the middle of getting over a mini stroke.

So, all the above has now put a major dampener on my plans for travelling further afield within Scotland this year to visit more cracking fishing locations from rivers to lochs and some great fisheries. Also I had been planning to go to Dallas in Texas in September to stay with the daughter-in-law's relatives on their massive ranch and get some first class fishing done over there, I did look at the costings for just travelling over for the flights and insurance, the flights are roughly the same price as last year, but bloody hell the insurance was only about £650 last year, but due to the above illnesses it has shot to well over £2000 for a 10 day trip, so needless to say I'll be staying home now, and hopefully get the planned trips done in Scotland instead once I'm allowed to drive again.



## Have Your Say Here

If you have any questions or issues regarding fly-fishing within Scotland, then why not have your say here and see what advice you can get from the great Scottish fly-fishing community.

Or if you have a great fishing story to tell, then why not share it with everyone else.

Send the questions or your story to [editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com)



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## LINLITHGOW LOCH SPRING COMPETITION

The inaugural Linlithgow Loch Spring Competition was held on Sunday 14 May 2023.

Unfortunately, there was only 19 anglers taking part in the competition, this was due to quite a few anglers who had booked their place in the event not turning up on the day. However, the anglers who took part in the competition really enjoyed themselves on the day. What with the banter and windups etc. they all had a good laugh.



All the competitors were randomly paired up with another competitor and allocated their boat.

There was a 2 Fish Limit, followed by catch and release. The first two fish must be kept, timings of first fish caught was to be recorded on catch sheet in case of a draw on weights of the fish; the timings would decide the winners where necessary. The timings were to be witnessed by other boat partner. 2lb per fish caught was added to total weight score for fish caught after the bag limit.

When talking to the competitors on their return, they all said the same thing, that the fish were everywhere and they could see them rising in the water. The trout were either nipping or just tugging at their offerings, but not actually taking.

It may have been due to the change in the weather as the wind overnight had completely changed to a strong cold North Easterly which can have an effect on the fish's behaviour and responses.

In total there was 57 fish caught on the day, 30 of which were kept for the weigh in.



The method for the day was either floating lines or midge tip lines with Buzzers, Muskies, Mini Lures and Snakes as the main offerings to the trout.

Most of the fish caught were mainly taking either Buzzers or Muskies along with lures.

Some of the anglers also caught some Pike on the buzzers.



First Place was Trevor Gibson with 11 fish to the net.

Trevor was using a floating line with various Buzzers and Black or Olive Muskies to entice the fish to the net.

First Place Prize was a £100 Glasgow Angling Centre Voucher plus a Trophy.



Second Place was Jimmy Russell with 6 fish to the net.

Second Place Prize was a £75.00 Glasgow Angling Centre Voucher.

Even though there was a draw for second place on weight and fish caught, Jimmy managed to land his first fish at 9.25am

Jimmy was using a floating line all day with various Buzzers and Olive Muskies to entice the fish.



Third Place was Jim Mackie with 6 fish to the net. Despite getting snapped quite a few times and losing the fish coming to the net Jim's first fish wasn't netted until 12.25 but he soon made up for it in the afternoon.

Third Place Prize was a £50.00 Richard Wheatley Voucher kindly donated by Richard Wheatley.

Name	Fish Caught	Placing
<b>Trevor Gibson</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Jimmy Russell (first fish caught 9.25)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Jim Mackie (first fish caught 12.25)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
Craig Dalgleish (Heaviest Fish 4lb 12oz)	4	4 <sup>th</sup>
Micky Tarbet	4	5 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Lawton	4	6 <sup>th</sup>
Matt Neilson	4	7 <sup>th</sup>
David Eadie	3	8 <sup>th</sup>
William Cochrane	3	9 <sup>th</sup>
Ricky Wilson	2	10 <sup>th</sup>
Gavin Dunn	2	11 <sup>th</sup>
Colin Sharp	2	12 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Green	2	13 <sup>th</sup>
Stuart Hepburn	2	14 <sup>th</sup>
Ali Fyvie	1	15 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Smith	1	16 <sup>th</sup>
Dode Cunningham	0	
Brian Dempsey	0	
Des O'Conner	0	



## **LINLITHGOW LOCH SPRING COMPETITION 2024**

The date for the 2024 competition to be announced

So, if you want to enter next year's competition, please email the fishery to get your name listed.

On behalf of myself and the association we would like to very much thank the following companies for their very kind donations to the event.

There was that many prizes available that it was decided to hold a raffle, so that everyone had a good chance of winning something on the day. Plus, we would like to thank the following fisheries for donating a day's fishing: - Linlithgow Loch Fishery, Bowden Springs Fishery, Allandale Tarn Fishery and Burnhouse Lochan Fishery.

## *The Scottish Flyfisher*

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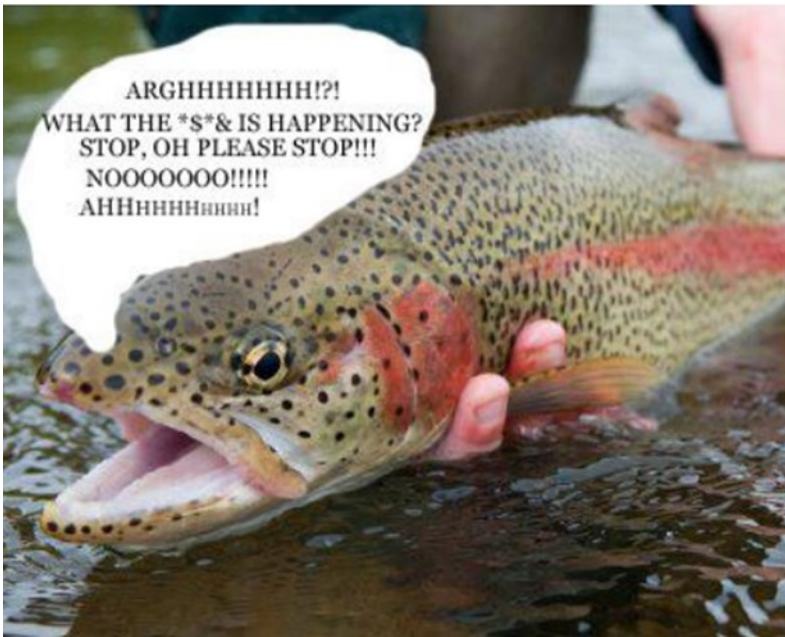
## Editors Comments: Catch & Release the Devil's Advocate.

The catch and release debates are really starting to kick off yet again; as there are quite a few sceptics out there that think if you catch the fish, you should kill the fish even if you do not want to eat it. What a load of Bull Shit.

Due to the climate and changing weather conditions it is having a drastic effect on the life cycle of the various fish in our rivers, lakes and fishing ponds around the world.

Also, the stupid mentality of some of the fly fishers out there is not helping the matter any. Every fly fisher; whether they fish for salmon; trout; bonefish or any other sort of fish should if it's okay; keep a fish or two if needed for the dinner table, then carry out catch and release.

If the art of catch and release is carried out properly it will help the fish to recover and to fight another day, only next time it will be bigger, heavier and a lot wiser so will give the fly fisher extra sport the next time it is caught. In addition, it can hopefully replenish the rivers etc with their offspring and help the build-up of more native fish and maintain the ecosystem.



### Should Fisherman Always Catch and Release?

Ask any fisherman, and he'll tell you that there's nothing quite like the tug of a fish on the end of the line. Once you land your catch, there's a decision to make -- keep it or release it. Most times the decision is made for you. Rivers and lakes all over the world are managed by wildlife organizations governed by agencies like the U.S. Department of Interior. These groups spend a great deal of time studying fish populations in the lakes, rivers and oceans of the world. Based on the findings of these studies, limits are imposed on the number, size and species of fish that can be kept. There are also rules regulating where and when fishing is allowed to take place in a body of water or region.

These rules change with the growth or decline of a particular species. It's called wildlife management, and it's an important part of ensuring that fish thrive in the future.

Fish populations are at risk though, according to some studies. One such study found that as many as four out of 10 freshwater species in North America are in danger of approaching extinction. Much of the blame goes to water pollution and other damage to the natural habitat, but some of it can be placed on overfishing. Oceans are in even worse shape. Marine biologists in Nova Scotia believe that all saltwater fish and seafood species could collapse by the year 2048.

But the rules don't cover every species in every habitat. Many times, the restrictions leave room for each angler to make a decision whether to catch and release or keep the fish for dinner. Is the practice of catch and release the environmentally responsible thing to do or are there occasions where keeping the fish can actually help the population thrive?

Catch and release is a practice within recreational fishing intended as a technique of conservation. After capture, the fish are unhooked and returned to the water before experiencing serious exhaustion or injury. Using barbless hooks, it is often possible to release the fish without removing it from the water (a slack line is frequently sufficient).

In the United Kingdom, catch and release has been performed for more than a century by coarse fishermen in order to prevent target species from disappearing in heavily fished waters. Since the latter part of the 20th century, many salmon and sea trout rivers have been converted to complete or partial catch and release.

In the Republic of Ireland, catch and release has been used as a conservation tool for Atlantic salmon and sea trout fisheries since 2003. A number of fisheries now have mandatory catch and release regulations. Catch and release for coarse fish has been used by sport anglers for as long as these species have been fished for on this island. However, catch and release for Atlantic salmon has required a huge turnabout in how many anglers viewed the salmon angling resource. To encourage anglers to practice, catch and release in all fisheries a number of Government led incentives have been implemented.

Effective catch and release fishing techniques avoid excessive fish fighting and handling times, avoid damage to fish skin, scale and slime layers by nets, dry hands and dry surfaces (that leave fish vulnerable to fungal skin infections),



and avoid damage to throat ligaments and gills by poor handling techniques. It is also important to use a type of net that is not abrasive to the fish (such as a rubber coated net or lightweight mesh), because fish can easily damage themselves in a hard plastic-style net while thrashing.

The use of barbless hooks is an important aspect of catch and release; barbless hooks reduce injury and handling time, increasing survival.

Frequently, fish caught on barbless hooks can be released without being removed from the water, and the hook(s) effortlessly slipped out with a single flick of the pliers or leader. Barbless hooks can be purchased from several major manufacturers or can be created from a standard hook by crushing the barb(s) flat with needle-nosed pliers. Some anglers avoid barbless hooks because of the erroneous belief that too many fish will escape. Concentrating on keeping the line tight at all times while fighting fish, equipping lures that do not have them with split rings, and using recurved point or "Triple Grip" style hooks on lures, will keep catch rates with barbless hooks as high as those achieved with barbed hooks.

One study looking at brook trout found that barbless hooks did not result in statistically significantly lower mortality rates than barbed hooks when fish were hooked in the mouth, but did elevate mortalities if fish were hooked deeper.

The study also suggested bait fishing does not have a significantly higher mortality when utilized in an active style, rather than a passive manner that allows the fish to swallow the bait.

To make a hook barbless, the barb is simply crushed flat with a pair of needle-nosed pliers, a trivial task. Medium grit sandpaper can be further used to ensure complete removal of the barb, but this is not necessary and is rarely done.

The effects of catch and release vary from species to species. A study of fish caught in shallow water on the Great Barrier Reef showed high survival rates (97%+) for released fish if handled correctly and particularly if caught on artificial baits such as lures. Fish caught on lures are usually hooked cleanly in the mouth, minimizing injury and aiding release. Other studies have shown somewhat lower survival rates for fish gut-hooked on bait if the line is cut and the fish is released without trying to remove the hook.

Catch and release is a conservation practice developed to prevent overharvest of fish stocks in the face of growing human populations, mounting fishing pressure, increasingly effective fishing tackle and techniques, inadequate fishing regulations and enforcement, and habitat degradation. Sports fishers have been practicing catch and release for decades, including with some highly pressured fish species.

Proponents of catch and release dispute the suggestion that fish hooked in the mouth feel pain.

Opponents of catch and release point out that fish are highly evolved vertebrates that share many of the same neurological structures that, in humans, are associated with pain perception. They point to studies that show that, neurologically, fish are quite similar to "higher" vertebrates and that blood chemistry reveals that hormones and blood metabolites associated with stress are quite high in fish struggling against hook and line. The idea that fish do not feel pain in their mouths has been studied at the University of Edinburgh and the Roslin Institute by injecting bee venom and acetic acid into the lips of rainbow trout; the fish responded by rubbing their lips along the sides and floors of their tanks in an effort to relieve themselves of the sensation. Lead researcher Dr. Lynne Sneddon wrote, "Our research demonstrates nociception and suggests that noxious stimulation in the rainbow trout has adverse behavioural and physiological effects. This fulfils the criteria for animal pain."

While a number of scientific studies have now found shallow water fish caught-and-released on fly and lure have extremely high survival rates (95–97%) and moderately high survival rates on bait (70–90%, depending on species, bait, hook size, etc.), emerging research suggests catch and release does not work very well with fish caught when deep sea fishing.

## **How to Release Fish**

Every angler should expect and be prepared to release some portion of his catch. Catch and release has become a popular and preferred method of angling. The number of fish that survive depends on several factors, including the length of the fight, where the fish is hooked, water temperature, and how the fish is handled and released. To give fish released the best chance for survival, the following guidelines are recommended.

### **Use barbless hooks**

Barbless hooks can facilitate the quick removal of the hook from a fish and also reduce the risk of hooking injuries to the angler. Pinching down the barb with needle nose plier's work.

## **Play fish quickly**

Try to land your fish as quickly as possible and don't play the fish to exhaustion. This is particularly important when fishing for trout in periods of warmer water temperatures (greater than 70 degrees F), but it is also true for Cool water and warmwater species, when water temperatures are relatively high (greater than 80 degrees F). Keep in mind that as water temperatures warm, dissolved oxygen levels in the water decline. Therefore, fish are subject to stress and exhaustion in a much shorter period of time at 70 degrees compared to 55-degree water temperatures. If it takes you a long time to land fish, your drag may be set too loosely or your gear may be too light for the fish you are catching

## **Use a landing net**

The use of a fine-mesh landing net may aid in reducing the amount of time required to land a fish and keep it from thrashing about in shallow water or on the shore.

## **Keep the fish in the water**

The chance of a fish being injured increases the longer it is held out of water. It is preferable to remove the hook from a fish you intend to release without taking it out of the water, or at least minimize the amount of time a fish is held out of water.

## **Wet your hands**

Wet your hands, your net, and other materials that may come in contact with the fish. This reduces the removal of the mucus on the fish and lessens the possibility of bacterial infection.

Hold the fish upside down while removing the hook This can often pacify the fish and reduce handling time.

## **Remove hooks quickly**

Hemostats or long-nose pliers are essential tools for quickly removing hooks. Cutting hooks from a lure may facilitate lure removal in some cases; therefore, wire cutters are a valuable addition to an angler's hook removal arsenal.

## **Cut the line**

When it is not possible to remove the hook without harming the fish, cut the line. Only a small piece of line should be left on the hook to ease passage through the digestive system. Research has documented that cutting the line can greatly increase the survival of deeply hooked fish.

## **Don't touch the gills**

Do not handle fish by placing your fingers in the gill slits. Fish gill filaments are very sensitive and can easily be injured. Fish should be handled by cradling the fish near the head and tail if possible, or by gently holding the fish near the mid-section. Bass can be safely handled by holding the lower jaw, thumb in the mouth and forefinger under the chin.

Hold the fish upright underwater after hook removal and allow it to swim away under its own power

If necessary, hold the fish out of the current until it revives.

Fish that are bleeding from the mouth or gills due to hook removal and handling indicate your catch and release techniques need to improve

Survival is reduced significantly when damage resulting in bleeding occurs; if regulations allow, fish that are bleeding are the ones that you should consider keeping.

Catch and release can be a double-edged sword whereby it helps the fisheries in managing the various fishing locations to save on their overheads by not having to restock on a regular basis, but it also has a detrimental effect on the income of the companies providing the stocked fish, the less they provide the fisheries the less money they make.

What do you say on this matter, why not email in and let your thoughts be known to other fly fishers. Send your email to [editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com)

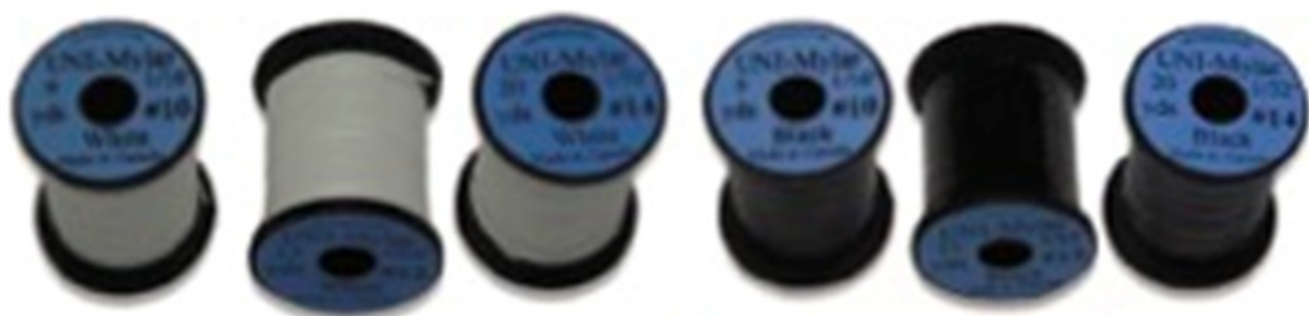




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### **Fishing by Nigel Duncan**

West Lothian Angling Association (WLAA) have launched an initiative to encourage more people to go fishing. The first session at Mid Calder Community Centre concentrated on fishing theory, rod set-up, and fly tying, the second is a still water fishing session focusing on casting technique and fish handling plus fly selection and the venue is Pottishaw Fishery.

The third session is on the River Almond when attendees will learn techniques, fly selection and river history and techniques. The cost is £60 for all three sessions and a dedicated women's session is available as well as kid's sessions which cost £30 for all three events.

The course was trialed last year the women's session is hosted by members of the Scotland Ladies Fly Fishing team and Fraser Thomson, vice-chairman of WLAA, explained: "Fishing offers many recognised social and health and well-being benefits and the club wants to share their passion for all things fishing and the outdoors.

"This a friendly and enjoyable course introducing people to the essential skills of fly fishing from experienced members of the association. We want some new blood into the sport and show people responsibilities from the start. rather than training after they have been at the river."

Those responsibilities include the proper way to dispose of used line and notification of pollution on rivers which, he claims, is responsible angling.

He said the minimum age for attendance is from ten upwards and disclosure is covered and a bonus in the package is a fee permit for West Lothian Angling Association and a free day ticket to Pottishaw Fishery.



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## Crunchers - The How and Why!



The trout cruncher fly, or cruncher, is a great imitator of nymphs for rainbow and brown trout. They do look similar to spiders with a hot spot behind the hackles, but its these that help throw them outwards.

### Fly Fishing with Crunchers!

When a buzzer hatch is on, these cruncher flies come in to their own. It is best fished on the top dropper of a leader where the hackle gives a better disturbance on the water.

Try using a buzzer or diawl bach on the middle dropper - creating a great rig.

The cruncher is usually fishing on an intermediate or floating line using a figure of eight retrieve.

You will actually find a lot of fly anglers using the cruncher fly around Stillwater's and on the competition scene for rainbow trout in particular.

### General Nymph Fishing Advice



Most trout feeding is below surface where they forage on Nymphs. Insects drop their eggs on the surface and these drift to the bottom of streams and rivers where they stay until hatch and the newly developed nymphs are prime food for hungry trout. There are hundreds of nymph patterns available with Prince nymphs, Hare's Ear nymphs and Pheasant Tail nymphs being the most popular nymph patterns sold.

If you follow the life cycle of a fly there are 3 usual phases of flies; eggs, nymphs and then the flies whose life cycle may be as little as a day!

Nymphs here represent insects in their sub-surface and emerger stages of aquatic life. This stage comes before the adult stage where the insects emerge out of the water and fly away. The final stage is the dry fly where the fly mates and lay eggs and the cycle repeats itself.

The term 'Nymph' is commonly used to refer to any insect in its aquatic life stage. Nymphs are, perhaps one of the deadliest ways of taking trout because most trout feed sub-surface.

Sometimes nymphs are weighted in order for them to achieve the proper depth. This additional weight makes them a little harder to cast but the good news is that there is almost no wind resistance. Generally, fish nymph flies along the bottom, move them slowly and smoothly in a nice figure of eight.

Every now and then dart the fly forward as if it is attacking its prey or trying to escape from the advances of a predatory large fish. Such sudden movements hopefully may induce a following trout to take your fly

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## How to Collect Bamboo Fly Rods



If you have an interest and passion for collecting antique bamboo fly fishing rods, also called split cane rods, you're in luck, as the collection of bamboo rods has enjoyed a resurgence of late.

Whether you are a seasoned fly fisherman or simply an enthusiastic bystander, collecting these beautiful, nostalgic fishing rods can be an enjoyable, interesting and rewarding hobby.

It can however be very expensive, as vintage rods are highly desirable, with prices sometimes reaching into the hundreds or thousands of pounds.

There is a place for everyone in the market for collecting bamboo rods, whether you have adequate spare funds to spend or a little pocket money, everyone can afford to buy something that they will like.

Educate yourself on the history and current market of bamboo rods and their makers. Visit online forums dedicated to bamboo rod collecting, join fly fishing or collecting clubs, visit fly fishing fairs and read as many books and articles you can find on the subject.

Always familiarize yourself with the names of manufacturers of these rods, as there are many.

Learn the parts of a bamboo fly fishing rod and the function of each, as there are many of these as well.

The more you know, the smarter buying decisions you will make. as you can. Ask the dealer as many questions as possible about what makes the rods desirable, or undesirable to collectors. For example, rods that are 8 feet in length or shorter are considered most collectible, as are rods in usable condition.

Educate yourself on the quality. For example, a few signs of a quality rod include a straight shape, sections of equal length, and two or more metal guides on the tip section. Also look for rods that come complete with their original fabric bag and metal tube container, as opposed to a cardboard box.

Learn to spot the difference between new and vintage bamboo rods.

Because so many modern rods are made to look nostalgic, it is easy for a novice collector to purchase a new rod, mistakenly thinking it is vintage. Ask a dealer to point out the differences between new and vintage. You'll soon be able to spot them for yourself.

Purchase rods for your collection, once you feel knowledgeable enough to make a smart buying decision.

You may want to start small by asking older fly-fishing buddies, friends and relatives whether they have any bamboo rods they don't use anymore.

Alternatively, try scouring garage sales and flea markets, as sometimes you can find non-collectors who simply want to unload their unwanted clutter cheaply. Reputable dealers will charge more, but you can be certain of the rod's quality and value.

Store or display your collection in an air-conditioned environment, such as your home or office. High heat can damage the rod's varnish.

You need to have years in the trade to get knowledgeable. Read books, catalogues, attend auctions or visit auction sites, meet colleagues and bamboo rod makers in person, write articles...Only then you start to get an immediate feeling about a vintage fly rod.

**Have realistic expectations:** Antique bamboo rods are unique and are a sought-after collection piece.

The most expensive bamboo rod sold in an auction was about £20,000. But generally, you can buy a really old good quality bamboo rod for about £3,000. Many bamboo rods in the past were also made for the mass market and even today you can still obtain some at a very cheap bargain price.



Check for trademarks, numbers, signatures, look at the metal parts, control the quality of the metal parts, the binding.

Consider contacting real professionals for information and assistance when considering buying an antique bamboo rod:

-  
Ask Antique Appraisers Antique Experts are Online. Antiques Appraisals Today:  
[Antiques.JustAnswer.com/Appraisers](http://Antiques.JustAnswer.com/Appraisers)

In the UK Thomas Turner and Son, established since 1895 <http://www.cane-rods.mistral.co.uk> For the rest of Europe,  
[www.vhvdaca.org](http://www.vhvdaca.org) European collectors

There are some excellent books on the subject of bamboo rods and makers they are: -

J. Campbell's Classic and Antique Flyfishing Tackle

Ernest Schwiebert's indispensable multiple volume treatise Trout.

A Masters Guide to Building A Bamboo Rod by Everett Garrison & Hoagy B V Carmichael

Handcrafting Bamboo Fly Rods. By Wayne Cattanaach

### **How to Care for your Antique Bamboo Fly Rod**

Many fly anglers and fly rod collectors still rely on the traditional bamboo fly rod when fishing a stream or lake. Often their grandparents or parents will have handed down their old bamboo fly rod after teaching the youngsters how to fly fish.

Because of this and the high price of bamboo fly rods, anglers will want to take special care of their bamboo fly rods to ensure their long life and durability.

#### **Things You'll Need:**

Denatured alcohol or lighter fluid

Cotton ball or soft cloth

Cotton swab

Furniture polish

Furniture wax (optional)

Rod sock and tube

1. Clean the ferrules (the metal joints that join the sections) by applying a small amount of denatured alcohol or lighter fluid to a cotton ball or soft cloth and rubbing the metal. For the smaller, inner part of the female ferrule, you may use a cotton swab and alcohol. Avoid making contact with varnish on the wood.
2. Polish the wood of the fly rod with a soft cloth and the furniture polish of your preference. You may use a thicker, paste polish to avoid dripping or a darker polish if the varnish on the rod is coloured. You also may consider waxing the rod once yearly.
3. Rotate the rod during use, especially when a fish is on the line, to prevent strain and bending on any particular area of the fly rod.
4. Wipe your fly rod dry with a soft cloth and separate each piece before storing. Place the rod inside a rod sock. To avoid accumulation of dirt or dust in the female ferrule ends and on other tips, place them toward the bottom of the sock.
5. Place the rod sock into a sturdy and protective rod tube (usually aluminium). Store the fly rod tube in a horizontal position out of direct light, intense heat or humidity



## Tackle Reviews

All tackle reviews are impartial and honest reviews undertaken by the editor.

If you want an honest and frank review of your fly-fishing tackle please email me at [editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com)

<https://www.upavonflyfishing.co.uk/>



I received some Straggle Hackle from Upavon Fly Fishing to undertake a review on the material.

I received the following colours and sizes from them: -

- 4mm Olive Mosaic
- 6mm Camo
- 8mm Black Mosaic
- 10mm Blue Flash Damsel
- 12mm Copper Flash Damsel

All the above packs come in 2 metre lengths, and are suitable for tying up a number of great lures and the smaller 4mm sizes are perfect for tying collars on nymphs etc.

The straggle hackles are exclusive only to Upavon, as they are designed, manufactured and processed in their own UK workshop. Their manufacturing process ensures that they make the right materials for the fly-tying enthusiast. Also, their exclusive Pure Colour formula negates post-manufacture dyeing, resulting in consistent, vivid, 'pure' colours that won't run or fade.

And at only £3.50 a pack great value for your money.

As you can see below, I tied up a lure in each one they sent me, and I must admit it is really good material and colours. The sizes I really liked was the 6mm & 8mm as they gave a really nicely shaped body.

However, the larger sizes would be perfect for that added movement in the water to attract the fish, and for the predatory fish like pike the 14mm would be perfect for that pike fly, especially the Copper Flash Damsel as it has that added sparkle and movement for getting the pike interested.





I also received some fly-tying dubbing from [Waldo Trout Flees](#)

The blends are really excellent and especially with the added flash through the blend it gives it that extra bit of sparkle to the fly and should entice the trout to take your offerings.

The dubbing would be great on the bodies of nymphs, thoraxes on emergers and bodies on wet flies and some lures.

You can get the dubbing in 40 different colours, mixes and shades.



Wet Fly using the Olive dubbing mix for the body



A wee gold hotspot nymph using the black and orange dubbing mixes

## Caenis or The Fly Anglers Curse

Caenis, that annoying little fly, is still being reported in many Stillwater's at the present moment.

Just 3/6 of an inch long this can really frustrate the fly fisherman.

The caddis is also commonly known as the sedge! Caddis (Trichoptera) or sedges can be found anywhere there is fresh water. Mostly nocturnal, the adults hide in vegetation during the hours of daylight and are hard to find. Mating takes place at dusk, either in flight or on vegetation. You will often see them skating across rivers and the surfaces of Stillwater's through the year.



Over the years there have been many great caddisfly patterns developed, Goddard's Caddis (on the left) and Elk Hair Caddis being two very popular caddis fly patterns. Balloon caddis is a newer pattern with its highly visible hot spot; these are deadly as suspender patterns.

### Caddis Fly Fishing Techniques

Because caddis is seen skating in bursts across waters, you should do the same with your trout fishing flies. Cast single flies using tapered leaders and twitch retrieve, pull it 12 inches then stop, this mimics the natural. Another deadly alternative is to suspend buzzers or diawl bach flies below the caddis as they are highly buoyant.

Caenis are possibly one of the most frustrating flies to use, as when trout become focused on them catching with Caenis flies becomes tough, hence why they are called the angler's curse!

The best technique I find very successful is to cast my dry flies in sizes 18/20 without any floatant on a long leader.

Although leaving them to move in the current provoked occasional bites, a twitch to submerge these dries followed by gentle retrieves with the dry fly just subsurface can be superb for producing bites when the Caenis are abundant in the water.

### Top Lake Flies

Buzzers are working very well at the moment during the day, but more productive in the evening. I find the Dennis the Menace buzzer and the Muskies working very well on Linlithgow Loch.

The best method I've found for fishing them is a floating line with a Fab on the point and the buzzers muskies on the droppers just 12 to 24 inches below the surface. Another good set up is just a single dropper about 10 inches long with the buzzer attached, on the point tie on a Muddler pattern, this can be a deadly method for catching the trout either when their feeding off the surface or just subsurface.

### Sedge Fly Fishing Techniques

By way of general sedge/caddis info, there are great sedge fly patterns, particularly the Goddard's Caddis and Elk Hair Caddis patterns that provide deadly sport on both rivers and lakes.

Caddis flies are far more flexible than is first envisaged when used in a team. As sedge/caddis flies skate across the surface of the water, these are great flies to suspend buzzers or nymphs below on rivers and lakes. This deadly technique works by allowing the sedge to drift with the buzzer or nymph below.

Stopping the sedge/caddis during the retrieve causes the suspended buzzer or nymph to rise and fall through the depths of the water as this would imitate the natural buzzers/nymph's movements through the depths. Best if there is a slight ripple on the water surface to allow your dry fly to drift with the current.

## Staycation Time



### HUNTLY CASTLE CARAVAN PARK

Huntly,  
Aberdeenshire,  
AB54 4UJ.

Tel: 01466 794999

Email: [enquiries@huntlycastle.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@huntlycastle.co.uk)  
[www.huntlycastle.co.uk](http://www.huntlycastle.co.uk)

Huntly Castle Caravan Park is under a 10-minute walk from reception to the town centre and local amenities. The park has four touring areas including one for families, one for adults only and a large camping area. There are 66 spacious pitches all with electric and T.V. hook-up, most of which are hard standing. There is also a good selection of fully serviced pitches with individual water, drainage, electric and T.V. Hook-up.

There are 2 fully equipped toilet blocks, which have private washing and family shower cubicles along with hair drying facilities. There are 2-dish washing and vegetable preparation areas, as well as a fully equipped laundry.

The park is especially welcoming to disabled visitors as it offers level paths and a fully equipped separate disabled suite within each toilet block. We will endeavour to allocate particular locations to suit your individual requirements.

### Opening times

For tourers and tents, the park is open annually between the beginning of April to the end of October.

There are two great trout fisheries nearby for the avid fly fisherman/woman.



### Forgue Fish Farm

Inverkeithny  
Huntly  
Scotland  
AB54 7XD

email: [forgue@fishfarm.fslife.co.uk](mailto:forgue@fishfarm.fslife.co.uk)

Forgue Fish Farm is situated about half way between Huntly and Turriff, in the North East of Scotland. Over the years since moving to Forgue, in 1988, Bob and Pat have built up a successful trout farm, surrounded by four lochs, occupying 13 acres. For directions to reach us please see the map.

All the lochs are stocked daily with Forgue trout, ranging in size from a pound and a half up to well into double figures. The fishery is open daily from 8am until dusk, 365 days a year. This being said, in the winter it is advisable to contact either Bob or Pat to see if the lochs are frozen.



### **Artloch Fishery**

Mellowdew,  
Huntly  
AB54 4XA  
01466 799410

Artloch Fishery is located 3 miles outside of Huntly in Aberdeenshire and offers almost 5 acres of bank rainbow and brown trout fly-fishing.

This fishery is very popular with local anglers due to the quality of its fishing trout, modern facilities and natural setting.

Originally opened in 1976, the loch was extensively renovated and re-opened in October 2003. The loch varies in depth from 5 to 15 ft, is fed by water from Glen Burn and is stocked with Rainbow trout between 2.5 - 10 lbs and resident Brown trout up to 10 lbs.

Facilities for the disabled include toilet, electric scooter and almost complete access to fishing around the loch.

Open: 363 days a year from 0830 until dusk (Closed Christmas and New Year Day).

4 Fish - £22; 3 Fish - £18; 2 Fish - £14; 1 Fish - £10. Over 3 hrs C&R - £12; Up to 3 Hrs C&R £10; Rod hire £5, Tuition £15 pp.

Facilities For Disabled: Toilet, electric scooter, almost complete access to fishing around the loch/ Long handle fishing nets.



And not very far away is the great **River Deveron** is situated in North East Scotland within the counties of Aberdeenshire and Banffshire and has an overall catchment area of 1266 km<sup>2</sup> and a length of 96kms (61 miles).

The Deveron is a prolific salmon, sea trout and brown trout fishery and holds the record for the heaviest fly caught salmon in the United Kingdom.

The Deveron salmon and sea trout season officially opens on the 11th February and closes on 31st October (inclusive) and the brown trout season runs from the 15th of March to the 6th of October (inclusive).

The Deveron has a well-deserved reputation as top-class salmon river, with runs of spring, summer and often prolific runs of autumn salmon through to its season's end. It is a river of big fish and each season brings in some fish in the 30lbs (13.6Kg) class. The Deveron has the fifth highest salmon and sea trout rod catch in Scotland and currently holds the record for the heaviest UK fly caught salmon, weighing 61lbs (27.6Kg) and caught by Mrs. Clementina "Tiny" Morison on 21st October 1924.

For more information about the fishing and permits visit the River Deveron website: - <https://deveron.org/>

# LINLITHGOW LOCH 2024 BOAT LEAGUE

The Linlithgow Loch Fishery committee had their monthly meeting to and it was agreed that if enough people entered, we would hold a Tuesday Evening night boat league starting in May 2024.

Please see below the details of the event. If you are interested in entering, please PM me to get your name down.

## Linlithgow Loch 2024 BOAT LEAGUE

The 2024 LINLITHGOW LOCH BOAT LEAGUE commences on Tuesday 7th May and runs every Tuesday until 27th August.

The Linlithgow Loch Boat League is a friendly competition and the main aim for most is to get some fishing in the beautiful environment of Linlithgow Loch.

The fishing is all by boat (which limits angling pressure) and your boat and partner is randomly allocated each night of the League.

The details of the rules are below but the main aim is to enjoy your sport, the long summer evenings, and the fun of the organized fishing.

Fishing commences at 6pm and is till 10pm - every Tuesday until the 27th Aug which is the final night.

At the beginning of the night, you take your boat partner's score card and mark in THEIR catch including the time of the first fish as you go. At the end, you BOTH NEED TO SIGN IT.

The competition is catch and release and all flies must be debarbed – shouldn't snag a garment.

The final positions are based on the angler's top 12 heats out of 17, commencing Tuesday 7th May. The final heat and presentation are on Tuesday 27th August.

Entry to the League is £20. 100% of this subscription money will go towards monetary prizes for first, second, and third places. The cost for the 4 hours evening session would be £20 for each evening fished.

There will be two prizes awarded at each heat – 36 mixed flies and a free heat voucher (a day's fishing on the loch Catch & Release Basis which can be used within the next season) for the top competitor on the night. Competitors can only receive each prize once; prizes then being awarded to the next best angler who hasn't reached a prize limit.

## League Rules

In the event of a tie in the number of fish released the winner is decided on the basis of the time of the first fish caught (also recorded by your boat partner).

Boat pairings are randomly selected on the night.

The command of the boat changes halfway through the shift and competitors can change ends or as may be mutually agreed.

Any complaint arising during the course of the heat must be notified to the person in charge within 20 minutes of the end of the heat.

The committee reserves the right to disqualify any angler from the competition.

**If you would like to enter the 2024 Linlithgow Loch Boat League, then please email your interest to the fishery email address on their website.**

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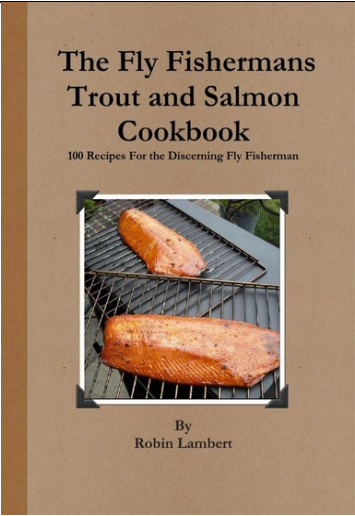
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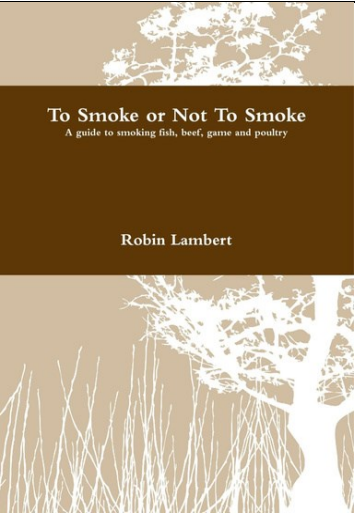
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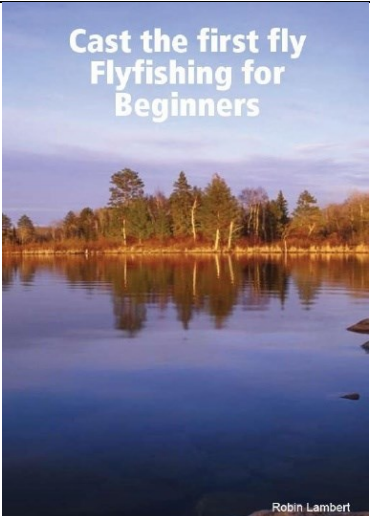
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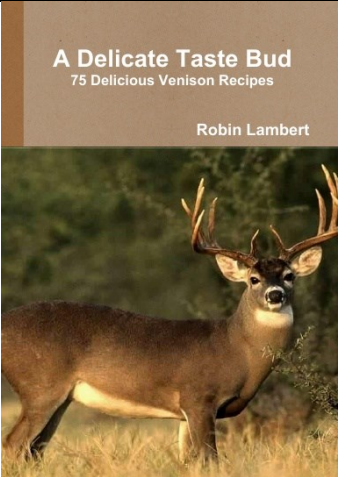
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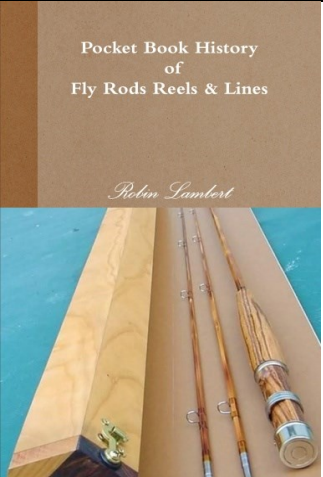
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