

The Scottish Flyfisher

Quarterly Magazine

July 2021





Robin Lambert editor
www.scottishflyfisher.co.uk

Welcome to The Scottish Flyfisher Magazine's quarterly July 2021 issue.

If you would like to let other people know about your fly-fishing day out, or want to say something or ask a question about the fly-fishing in Scotland then email in to me at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com and I will add them to the magazine or to the "Have Your Say" page.

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If you would like to advertise your fly-fishing business or holiday accommodation within either the magazine or the parent website, please contact me directly at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com for an advertisement rates card.



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.



The Editors Bit (more like bite)

Indicators or float fishing, whatever it is – in my eyes it is definitely not fly fishing however it is put across.

When I was a young lad (god that seems like centuries ago); I enjoyed nothing better than to sit back on the riverbank or lake on a lovely sunny day watching the world go by and occasionally eyeing the float in the water just waiting for it to dip under the surface to indicate I had a fish on.

By using a plastic float or any type of indicator on your fly line and just watching and waiting for the indicator to drop under the surface is akin to float fishing for coarse fish. Eventually due to using the float/indicators you would start to lose the magic and thrill of casting your flies onto the water and using all the skills and knowledge you have gained over the years would just float away.



So, if you are happy to just sit back watching a float all day then go sell your fly-fishing equipment and buy a long pole with a float on the end and take up coarse fishing. Leave the fine art of fly fishing to the people who really care for the sport; the knowledge and skills it brings along with the lifelong friendships made through sharing their knowledge and sometimes their closest secrets on flies and methods that have caught them hundreds of fish over the years.

The only indicator you will need on your fly line is a dry fly sitting proud on the water, then like magic it's gone in a flash, either sucked down or has been torpedoed by the trout and the fight begins. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing your well presented dry fly being taken.

I gave up the float fishing for coarse fish years ago when I was introduced to fly fishing by an old school pal of mine as I found it more exciting trying to entice a wild brook/brown trout to take my small imitative dry/wet fly or buzzer/nymph.



“KEEP FLOATS OUT OF FLY FISHING”

Today's fly fishers approach the sport with a religious reverence. Perhaps it's because learning to catch the salmon and trout is a complex process bordering on religion. Yet it is one of the fastest growing sports in the world from fresh water to salt water.

To the uninitiated, the sport may seem ridiculous someone standing on a riverbank or at the side of a Stillwater whipping a pole back and forward so that the line can fly through the air and land on the water with a fake fly attached to the end of a bit of nylon.

The disciplines involved in this seemingly simple act may take years to master or comes as second nature after a short period. Beginners to fly fishing often quit in disgust or spend hours on the edge of the riverbank or fishery bank, pleading to their guardian angels for the strike of just one fish. Eventually, with patience and practice, the casts begin to land right, without a splash, and then one day a fish rises to examine the offering and strikes, once this happens it is not just the fish that is hooked but the fly fisherman/woman also.

With split-second timing, the rod tip is lifted, and the battle begins. Since the fly is attached to the line with a thin tippet, a fly fisher must use the long, sensitive rod to tire the fish as it surges and runs leaps and sometimes literally tail walks across the water. There is no mistaking the magic and adrenalin rush that the fly fisher feels when they eventually see that forever elusive fish attached to their fly line.

As the fish tires, you draw it close to you, remove the fly and hold the fish for a moment admiring its beauty, estimating its length and weight before gently giving it back to the water gods. That too is part of the sport.

Morton Fishings



Morton reservoir is one of West Lothian's premier fly fisheries and was originally established as a commercial trout fishery in 1983. It is now run by John Mackay.

Morton reservoir covers 22 acres and provides one of the most beautiful fishing venues you'll find anywhere.

Fishing is available from both boat and bank for top quality rainbow, blue and brown trout which are stocked on a weekly basis.

With a fleet of twelve boats the fishery is an ideal choice for angling clubs and corporate events.

Fishing from the bank also provides some excellent sport with many features within casting distance. The Dam, Bay, Island and weed beds provide great variety for both boat and bank anglers.

Morton Trout Fishings central location makes it an ideal getaway within easy travelling distance from anywhere in central Scotland.

The Fishery is very easy to find. Whether you are travelling along the Calder Road from Edinburgh or coming along the M8. Exiting at J3 for Livingston and travelling up the expressway to the south end wherever they come from out with the immediate area. Coming from Livingston head towards Edinburgh on the A71. From the Lizzie Bryce roundabout, take the second exit off the Oakbank Roundabout staying towards Edinburgh on the A71 and in about half a mile you will see a sign pointing south that says Morton. Take this turning and follow the narrow single-track road, about 2 miles to the gate of the fishery which lies to the right in some woods. There are new fishery signposts on this narrow road showing you the way.

There is a room for eating in and a mobile toilet. There is a fishery shop, and they have a large selection of flies on offer which are tied by John Mackay.



Fishing is either from the bank, or from boats, oars and anchors are provided, electric outboards for hire or bring your own electric motor with you. Due to the water still being used for the local area, no petrol motors allowed.

Best parts for fishing from the boat is drifting down the dam wall into the corner where the dam wall turns right, the fish cruise up and down this area.

Along the weed bed behind the cabins, anchor up about 50 yards out and cast into the shoreline, sometimes they are right in tight to the shoreline so you will need to be nearly on top of the shoreline to get them.



The next best area is behind the island as they love to cruise up and down this area feeding.

During a good hatch they are all over the main basin, so get the dries on and have some blind casts, you never know what you're going to get.

For the bank angler the following areas are my best hot spots: -

Along the tree line from the fourth platform from the top and right up into the weed bed beside the inlets, there are some cracking trout to be had here. Like the boats along the dam wall; but from the outlet valve right round to the weed beds behind the cabins. Also cast a few lines out behind the island as well (you will need a floating line for here, as the water is shallow).

When I fish Morton and depending on the time of year buzzers are the main go to fly when trying to persuade the fish to take or using a dry fly when there is a great hatch going on. The fish don't half give you a good fight. Below is a cracking 3lb 10oz Blue caught on a size 14 bloodworm.



Morton Road,
Mid Calder,
Livingston
EH53 0JT

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

Fishery Number: 01506 883295
John Mackay Number: 07904 657899
or 07592 577652

Open: Tuesday to Sunday
Times: 9am to sunset weekdays
8am to sunset Saturday/Sunday

Car Park: for more than 40 vehicles

Burnhouse Lochan Fishery

Located in beautiful, natural Scottish surroundings, Burnhouse Lochan Fishery is one of Scotland's finest local fisheries.

Burnhouse is well sign posted off the B816 and has a well-maintained private entrance and car park close to the Bothy. Special parking is available for the disabled and OAP's immediately in front of the main jetty allowing safe access whatever the weather.

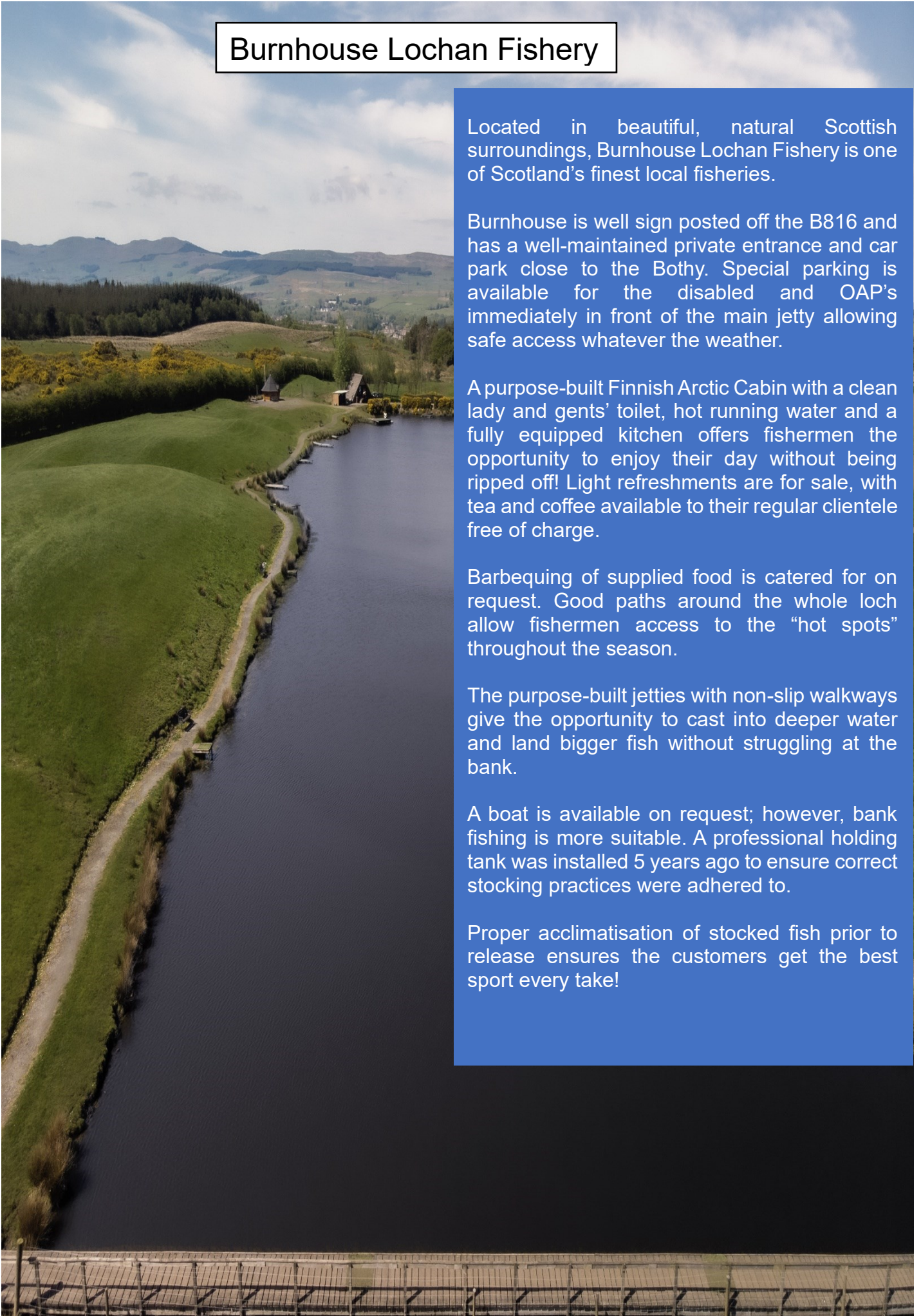
A purpose-built Finnish Arctic Cabin with a clean lady and gents' toilet, hot running water and a fully equipped kitchen offers fishermen the opportunity to enjoy their day without being ripped off! Light refreshments are for sale, with tea and coffee available to their regular clientele free of charge.

Barbequing of supplied food is catered for on request. Good paths around the whole loch allow fishermen access to the "hot spots" throughout the season.

The purpose-built jetties with non-slip walkways give the opportunity to cast into deeper water and land bigger fish without struggling at the bank.

A boat is available on request; however, bank fishing is more suitable. A professional holding tank was installed 5 years ago to ensure correct stocking practices were adhered to.

Proper acclimatisation of stocked fish prior to release ensures the customers get the best sport every take!





I've never fished Burnhouse Lochan before, so I thought I'd give it a go. You are given a really warm welcome on your arrival by Gary and given some great advice on the best tactic for fishing the water.

The fishery is managed by the delectable Maisy May, who also gives you good advice on where to fish and best flies etc to use. She also likes having a great chat and laugh with her customers.

When I visited on the 28 April 2021, I set up my Greys G series rod with the Greys GTS fly reel with an Airflo floating line.

The 15-foot leader was made up of a cormorant on the point, middle dropper was a red Diawl Bach and top dropper was a green Diawl Bach. I had quite a few nips and tugs but no solid takes. So, I changed to a size 12 yellow owl on the point followed by 2 size 14 emerger buzzers on the droppers and they seemed to work a treat as I started to get into the fish. One of them was a cracking 10lb rainbow seen below.



I was only there for 6 hours, which including talking to the regulars and having some welcoming coffee in the cabin as it was a cold windy and overcast day. I did however, manage 6 to the net, and they were all good-sized full finned and paddles for tails, the fish ranging from 3lb up to the 10lb one in the photo. There was plenty of fish rising despite the weather and being caught whilst I was there, and speaking to everyone, it seems that the best tactic on the day was a floating line and buzzers/nymphs either static or a very slow figure of eight retrieve.

The fishery is an excellent dry fly venue, so the dry fly aficionados will have a field day as there is plenty of water to cover and fish rising all over the place ready to take your dry fly.

Burnhouse Lochan Fishery, Burnhouse Farm, Allandale by Bonnybridge FK4 2HH
01324 840404 or 07889 603160 or 07742 755737
info@burnhouse-fishery.co.uk

Fishing sessions must be pre-booked before arriving at the fishery.
Please call 07889603160 to book.

Burnhouse Lochan Fishery had a fishing competition on Sunday 23 May 2021 and I thought I'd enter it, as it's been quite a while since I fished the competition scene, I normally fished in the competitions at the Lake of Menteith and Rutland Water, two cracking locations to fish. But now a days it's only for pleasure, due to getting a bit old and my poor body has too many aches and pains to endure the ardoise constant casting and fighting of the fish (that's if you're lucky enough to get into them all day).

There was a great turn out for the competition and some great banter going on between the competitors. Maisy May and her team did an excellent job in organising the competition and prizes, and laying on a fantastic BBQ lunch for everyone. Plus, there was a brilliant free raffle with some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Burnhouse Trophy Day Results



It was a day where the weather was awful, winds gusting to 26 mph and raining.

The big fish lived up to their heart & line breaking reputation and it appeared everyone was using rubber hooks as there was as many lost coming to the net than there was being in the net. but all the same it was a brilliant day. The banter was flowing, the fish (that stayed on) gave the anglers a tremendous fight and sore arms, there were some stunning fish landed.

I managed to land 4, but got snapped on my very first cast and later on to two monsters of a fish, plus lost a further 7 cracking fish.

1st place - Greg Hoggan with 15 fish

2nd place - Jim Anderson with 11 fish

3rd place - Rory Stewart with 9 fish

Biggest fish - Rory Stewart

1st fish landed - Greg Hoggan

Ross Morrison 6

John Donaldson 6

Scot Mitchell 6

Steven McGowan 5

Robin Lambert (Editor) 4

Ally McMahon 4

Alan Smith 4

Declan Winters 4

Michael Mckenna 4

Chris Melville 3

Lewis Kidd 2

Donald Forbes 2

Aaron Kirkwood 2

Derek Savage 2

Greg Howe 2

Johnny Porteous 1

Jonno McDonald 1

Dougie Hughes 1

Dan Brown 0





1st Place Winner - Greg Hoggan



2nd Place - Jim Anderson



3rd Place and Heaviest Fish
12-year-old Rory Stewart



Maisy May and the motley crew of competitors on the day

Donnay Mac Range of Flies

www.donnaymac.co.uk

07779197350

Let me introduce myself, my name is Kevin Wilson, in 2015 we lost a close family friend to cancer, Mr Donald MacDonald.

In 2016 our 11-year-old daughter Siobhan hosted her first Macmillan Cancer Coffee morning and our fundraising efforts began.

I am a fly fisherman and in 2017 I attended a charity event and that got me thinking that we could do something similar to raise money, we have now successfully ran 4 Donald MacDonald Memorial Day Fly Fishing Competitions which have been sponsored by Grey's and Sierra.

At 3 of our events Paul Young from Hooked on Fishing has attended doing the lunch time raffle and chatting to the anglers telling some stories about his travels. Quote from Mr Paul Young "A great way to support such a worthy cause...I'm delighted to be involved."

We also have our Donnay Mac Range of Flies which are tied by two excellent fly tiers Kenny Downie & Paul Grant, and Embroidered Clothing which we sell via our website www.donnaymac.co.uk

To date we have now raised over £12,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support helping to provide support to cancer patients and their families when they need it most.

Sponsors who provide us with all the materials that we need for to make our Donnay Mac Fishing Flies Range free are - Blob and Buzzer, Kindale Flies, Celtic Blob Company and Comp Candy Trout Flies

Average cost of the flies

Dries £1.00

Wets £1.00

Buzzers £1.00

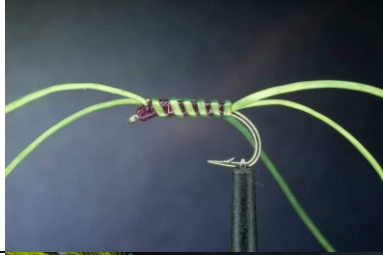
Lures, Eggs etc £1.25

100% of money from fly sales goes direct to Macmillan Cancer Support

quote from Julia at Macmillan Cancer Support

"We are incredibly proud of The Wilson Family and can't thank them enough for what they do for people living with cancer in Scotland.

To date, Kevin, Ellen and Siobhan have raised a phenomenal £12,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support, a living changing amount of money for a family affected by cancer. Particularly in this last year, Kevin did not let these challenging times get in the way of doing what he does best, we are so lucky to have such a committed, inspiring family as part of Team Macmillan. I am continuously amazed by what The Wilson's do and we simply could not do what we do without people like you, thank you!"



Float Tube Fishing



Float-tubing is a fun and exciting Method of fly fishing that has now become established and accepted by over forty fisheries within the British Isles.

Float tubes were first used in the USA, and they allow anglers an affordable way of accessing areas of lakes and reservoirs that previously could not be fished without a boat.

The original tubes started out as a converted tractor inner tube but have since grown into hi-tech flotation devices which suspend an angler

comfortably in the water allowing an extremely safe position to fish from.

The tube is propelled by fins worn on the angler's feet, and it takes minimal effort to travel around the water in normal conditions.

A float tube, also known as a belly boat or kick boat, is a flotation device which anglers use to fish from. They were originally doughnut-shaped boats with an underwater seat in the "hole", but modern designs include a V-shape with pontoons on either side and the seat raised above the water allowing the legs of the angler to be the only part of his body to be submerged.

Float tubes are used for many aspects of fishing, such as fly fishing for trout or lure fishing for bass and enable the angler to fish areas otherwise not fishable from the bank.

Float tubes are either "U" or "V"-shaped, or circular. A standard float tube consists of an inflated bladder inside a sewn cover providing the seat, reserve air compartments, and tackle storage pockets. Many float tube anglers customize their crafts with rod holders, lights, and electronic fish finders.

The angler generally wears stocking foot chest waders and scuba diving flippers, so his legs remain dry. Seated in the float tube, he paddles across the water with a gentle movement of the flippers, then remains still over the chosen fishing ground. An alternative to diving flippers is the "paddle-pusher", or "duck fins." These fins strap onto the angler's feet and have paddles situated on the outsides of the ankles. The paddles fold back when the leg moves forward and open when the leg moves back, allowing anglers to move forward in a somewhat less efficient but more natural walking-type motion.

The competitive side of float tubing for bass is growing in the US with the Sonoma County Belly Boat Bass Club which was the first of its kind and is by far the largest in the world and in South Africa with The Bass Challenge which offers a tournament trail called the Kickboat Bass Challenge for bass anglers who compete from float tubes. Anglers fishing from a float tube should wear a personal flotation device as float tubes are susceptible to punctures. Additionally, most manufacturers do not recommend using float tubes in moving waters, such as rivers or streams.

Good Practice Guidelines

The Float Tube:

Before inflating your tube, ensure that the bladder(s) are correctly positioned and that the valve is seated properly. Ensure no pinching or folding of the bladder whilst it is being inflated.

Inflate slowly to a pressure that is sufficient to fill the outer casing so that the tube feels firm but not hard when depressed with your hand.

DO NOT Leave a fully inflated tube in your car during hot weather, or in direct sunlight. (Air expands with heat and could burst the bladders).

Ensure all essential items are attached to the tube-landing net, priest, leader snips Scissors, etc. Pin on zingers should be attached to pockets away from the main bladder, a clip-on or magnetic variety is preferable to use.

The Fly Angler:

Always wear a life jacket. No matter how well you can swim it is very difficult to get out of a deflated tube when you have up to two rods and a bass bag full of fish around your ankles. A manual pneumatic lifejacket is the preferred choice of most tubers, auto inflatable are ok. but remember if they get wet they will inflate. A good quality CE approved lifejacket costs less than £100 and a rearming cylinder around £15. You will not be allowed on the water with the BFTA if you are not wearing a life jacket.

Ensure your flippers are attached to you with fin-saver straps as they do not float and they can easily get left in the bank-side mud getting in or out of the water.

Carry a whistle with you at all times, if you are in difficulties, you can attract the attention of other water users.

Neoprene waders are the preferred choice of most tubers in the winter months as they are warm and provide extra buoyancy. However, many members now use breathable waders all year round and invest in good quality thin thermal underwear for the colder weather.

Please observe weather conditions before launching as high winds can soon get you into difficulty. Know your limitations because paddling on large waters can be very exhausting.

Entering the water:

U-Tubes and Vee tubes - put the tube on to the water, and then arrange you're fishing kit on the tube. Enter the water backwards with your fins strapped on and with the tube behind you, if you trip or lose your footing you will fall into the tube saving you a premature ducking.

Move out slowly pushing the tube along with you until the water is just above your knees, it is then o.k. to sit down into the tube and fasten the crotch strap if fitted and stripping apron on the tube.

Doughnut Tubes -

Put the tube down at the water's edge, step into the tube with your fins on, ensure the seat strap is buckled correctly and pull the tube up by the carrying handles to just below your waist and then slowly enter the water backwards being careful with your footing. When the water is just about knee level gently sit down.

The best launch sites are gently sloping banks or slipways and if you launch into the wind it makes landing a little easier at the end of your fishing session.

Fishing/Paddling –

A steady action is preferable similar to back pedalling on a bicycle.

Long casts are not necessary, prolonged false casting increases the chance of hooking your tube. If you do hook your tube DO NOT pull the leader but cut it off and then remove it after you leave the water.

Any hook up below the water that you cannot see, again cut the leader, and then remove it after you leave the water. Play your fish out and then slowly bring the fish to your net. Do not lean forward or lunge to land your fish.

Returning to shore and stowing your tube:

Paddle backwards into the bankside, organise your fishing kit so that everything is to hand then stand up and leave the water backwards. Never try to walk forwards in flippers as the water resistance will trip you over.

Remove all accessories and sharp objects then deflate your tube, Partial deflation is o.k. but it is important to relieve the pressure from the seams of the outer casing.

Store hanging up in a dry area away from direct sunlight.

It is a good idea to remove and inspect the bladder periodically to check for damage/deterioration and to check for any debris trapped between the bladder and outer casing.



Within the UK there is only a couple of dozen fisheries willing to let you go on the water on a float tube, for information on fisheries within the UK that does allow you to go on the water check out The British Float Tube Associations website: - <http://www.bfta.org.uk/>

The BFTA is an association which promotes safe fishing from a float tube. The Association has successfully negotiated access to around forty UK fisheries. Members of the BFTA are covered by Third Party Liability Insurance when participating in our regular friendly meetings. BFTA is a Club Member of the Angling Trust.

Below are some fisheries in Scotland at the present moment that allows you to float tube on their waters: -

Swanswater Trout Fishery; Stirling.
Tweeddale Millennium Fishery – Gifford; Haddington,
Loch Tay
Loch Earn
Loganlea Reservoir
Harelaw
Snypes

Snowbee®.

Snowbee clothing options for 2021



Dartmoor
Polar Fleece
Gilets and
Jackets
from £79.99



Minipac
Jacket



Prestige
3/4 Jacket



New Snowbee
Ranger breathable
waders from £199



Nivalis Jackets
& Gilets in
gents and
ladies styles



www.snowbee.co.uk



Snowbee Prestige G-XS
9ft Line #6



Prestige G-XS Graphene fly rods
'Simply the best'



Classic² Fly Reel/Spool/Fly Line Combi Kits

For 2020, we have a new starter kit! Team up one of our new **Classic² Fly Reel/Spool Kits** from p22, add **three Classic fly lines** in floating, intermediate and fast-sink densities and you have the perfect 'starter kit' to get you fishing! Covering the full range of options, whatever the weather, or whatever depth the fish are at, from bank or boat there's a line to reach them. And best of all, when you purchase the complete kit, starting at under £320 there is a **saving of 20%** on the full RRP.

Plus when you purchase any 'perfectly balanced' Snowbee fly rod, reel and fly line **Save 20%** on all three items,...!!
(See website for details)



For a personal catalogue, nearest dealer, latest news and deals from Snowbee's most modern range of new products, please contact us
Tel:- 01752 334933
flyfish@snowbee.co.uk



Millhall Reservoir



Old Polmont

Falkirk

FK2 0QS

Contact Avonbridge Fishing Club on 01324 714190

Email: - buzzerbill@virginmedia.com

www.millhall-reservoir.co.uk

Despite the weather still being a bit cold and a really cold wind blowing, I had a cracking half day fishing at Millhall Reservoir on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

The fish were rising all over the place feeding off the surface, but weren't really taking the dry fly I was using, or even lures. So, I changed to Diawl Bach buzzers and they worked a treat. I had quite a few tugs on the line but the fish were not really taking them in the deeper water.

So, I started fishing the margins as they seemed to be cruising in and out of the weed beds, this worked a treat as I managed to keep 2 for the pot and released another 2. Plus, I got hit really hard and it snapped the 10lb fluorocarbon leader as if it was thread, in addition I lost 2 crackers just as they were coming to the net, but there again when your using barbless hooks this is to be expected at times.



The Reservoir is set in the heart of Central Scotland, and situated close to the village of Polmont.

It consists of eight acres of superbly stocked water, which is surrounded by natural woodland and shares a boundary with the picturesque Grangemouth Golf Club.

The Reservoir is easily accessed by foot and vehicular transport and offers a full range for the discerning angler. There is ample parking space for all anglers, with disabled parking spaces close to the jetty.

The Reservoir is the home of Avonbank Fishing Club and is administered by the serving committee of the club.

The fishery is fly fishing only and caters for both bank and boat fishing.

The water is stocked primarily with fully finned hard fighting Rainbow Trout, with a sprinkling of Brown Trout to enhance the resident Brown Trout population. Some of these Brown Trout are now reaching double figures. Last year, as in previous years, hard-fighting Blue Trout were also included in the stocking programme.

The average Rainbow being caught at Millhall exceeds 2lbs in weight and double figure trout are regularly caught at the fishery.

Day sessions at the fishery are from 9am to 4pm and from the 10 April they start an evening session from 4.30pm till dusk.

The prices for fishing the reservoir are reasonable: -

Full session – 4 fish limit + 4 fish catch and release is £25.00

4 Hours session - 2 fish + 2 fish catch and release is £16.00

Catch and release only - all tickets are 12 fish catch and release

Full session - £20.00

6 Hours - £18.00

4 Hours - £15.00

Junior tickets for 4 hours are £10.00

The fishery has some boats for hire and they are only £6.00 to hire.



(My brother John, fishing from the boat with his grandson Aiden)



Rosslynlee Trout Fishery

Newbigginghill; By Penicuik; Midlothian EH26 8QF Tel: 01968 679606



Rosslynlee fishery is situated in pleasant countryside close to the Moorfoot hills with fine views over Edinburgh, the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north, with the Moorfoot hills to the east.

The loch is 5.25 acres and is stocked regularly with top quality Rainbow and Blue trout from 2lbs to double figures.

There is also a good head of quality brown trout present.

Fishing is by fly only and the loch has a great reputation as a good "top of the water" fishery.

There are numerous well-constructed casting platforms and there are two boats available.

A fine fishing lodge with toilets and a disabled persons access.

The lodge provides a selection of snacks and hot or cold drinks.

There is a seating area with wood burning stove where you are welcome to eat your own food and join in the friendly conversation with other anglers or staff.

In order to avoid overcrowding and provide the angler with his or her own space, the fishery rigidly restricts the numbers and it is often advisable to book a short time in advance in order to avoid disappointment especially at weekends and holiday times.

The fishery is approximately 5 miles off the Edinburgh bypass. 4 miles from Bonnyrigg on the A6094 Bonnyrigg to Howgate road on the left-hand side about 2 miles beyond Rosewell.



When I arrived, I set my Airflo rod up with my Airflo Ridge Pure Clear Delta Intermediate Line and an 18-foot 8lb fluorocarbon leader, on the tip I placed a size 10 green hothead black/gold UV fritz, middle dropper was a size 12 black flashback hairs ear and top dropper was a size 12 cats whisker each spaced 6ft apart.

I took a wee walk around the fishery to get a better idea on how the water looked and to see if there was any fish on the move. Even in the colder weather this time of year you can always find the occasional trout cruising about.

There is a wooden walkway round the perimeter of the water, which is much needed too as the underfoot conditions could be quite swampy. There are also a good number of wooden piers around the banks and some level concrete platforms on the dam head, which keeps the anglers adequately spaced out.

After my first few hours fishing, I'd only managed to tempt a couple of pulls, whether it was due to me being under the weather and my reflexes a bit slower due to the cold, I had hoped to have landed one of them.

The catch record showed that many fish were being caught throughout the week on lures, black fritz"s and other lures mainly, while the manager on duty had recommended the black and green fritz or damsels.

There weren't very many other fish being caught, with a couple marked in the returns book and about 4 fish caught by anglers while I'd been fishing.

Rosslynlee has always been a great top of the water fishery, one of the best I've fished on for dry fly and top of the water sport, but today I was giving that a miss and go for subsurface/deeper flies and lures. Most anglers I spoke to on the water were on intermediate lines with lures and a few on floating lines up the shallower end of the water. I was fishing along the dam head and the South bank in the deeper parts. I had a few small pulls here and there but wasn't getting into full contact with anything yet and had the feeling I was in for a blank today.

A blank wasn't too much of a knock to bear though and I definitely wouldn't go home grumpy about it. There was plenty moving fish to keep me occupied and a few pulls to keep me motivated so I would of course be back to try another day.

To sum up the place it is a great wee fishery with very friendly staff & helpful when it comes to advice on which flies and tackle to use. It offers the discerning angler the opportunity to fish in clear waters for hard fighting and free rising trout.

From past experiences on Rosslynlee the fish here are hard fighting without exception and I have had some good and bad days on this fishery, sometimes with a bag of fish to take home for the smoker & sometimes like today with none!

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



This month's review is on the Mystic M-Series Rods



Mystic M-Series Rods
Line Weight: 7
Length: 10'3"
Sections: 4
Action: Fast

I was asked by the President of the Mystic Fly Rod Company to undertake a review on one of their rods.

I've never heard of them before here in the UK as the company is from America and they produce a fantastic range of fly rods to cover all your requirements, they run from 2 to 8 weights and from a medium to a fast action rod.

Conceived on the idea of achieving excellence, the M-Series fly rods are the flagship of the Mystic line.

Using a proprietary carbon graphite material to produce the rod blank, Mystic has refined the perfect combination of graphite fibres and carefully selected resin to produce an outstanding casting, fishing and fish fighting tool. Mystic rod blanks are manufactured to the highest standards of quality control producing a blank that is perfectly balanced.

The uniform spine is critically controlled during manufacturing ensuring the rod tracks perfectly resulting in acutely accurate casts.

But the magic of these rods doesn't just come from using the highest quality materials, but also from the custom mandrel design as well. The M-Series combines outstanding rod blanks with the best components available.

Stainless steel snake guides, Hook keeper and tip top Titanium stripping guides constructed with a quad leg design Aircraft-grade aluminium reel seats

Knurled and aesthetically pleasing winding check Super high grade cork grips

Up-locking reel seat with composite burl wood spacer, two locking rings with nylon locking grips

Hand wrapped in black with silver inlay.

All rods come with a Lifetime Warranty and are packaged in a Corduroy tube.



The rod I undertook the review on was the 4 piece 10'3" 7wt fast action rod.

Fast Action: A fast action rod is a powerful rod with less flex, requiring that the caster have good timing and technique. The stiffness of a fast-action rod can help bring in a fish more quickly, ideal when playing larger fish. A fast action rod is also beneficial in windy conditions.

Benefits: Make longer casts, land larger fish, cast in windy conditions and cast quickly - Can be difficult for beginners to cast, initially

When it arrived, I was pleasantly pleased with the finish of the rod and was looking forward to getting out on the water to put it through its paces.

As most experienced anglers have found out over the years, the best fishing rod is not necessarily the one that casts farther than all the rest. More importantly, is how it performs at short to moderate distances like 25-50 feet. This is the range that most anglers are fishing the majority of the time when on the river with a 5-weight rod, fishing either dry flies or nymphs.

However, when you want to get a good length out on the larger lochs; lakes and reservoirs, the Mystic rod was just the job and a dream to handle.

It was nice and light in the hand, with minimal swing weight compared to most other rods. Casting tight loops, even off the tip at short distances was effortless. The accuracy I experienced seemed to be on par or even a little better than with my Hardy Rod.

The rod had plenty of butt and tip section power to cast out a good 35 yards of line with ease. Accuracy was still very good at long range, and the rod felt well balanced with an Airflo Ridge Clear WF-7-F line.

With the new slightly stiffer mid-section and tip, the rod also performed far better than I expected in a strong wind, especially with more wind resistant flies like hoppers. It also has more than enough power for slinging indicators while fishing nymphs, or casting with mini lures and streamers when the need arises.

Mystic have always built a classy, good-looking rod, that has performed well, and the Mystic M-Series Rods are no exception.

Painstakingly refined over time Mystic's standard rods are three inches longer than most other rods and utilize their Tuned Tip Technology. Mystic rods have powerful butt sections for good line control and fish fighting capabilities coupled with sensitive tips that acts as a perfect shock absorber to protect your tippet when the fish hit you hard.

There was nothing mystical about the rod in fact it was like a magic wand in my hand doing everything I asked of it and more.

At only \$499.00 (£330.00) it is well worth every penny spent on it.

You can get one of these fantastic rods directly from: -
Mystic Outdoors
P.O. Box 576,
Portland, MI 48875



<http://www.mysticoutdoors.com/products/rods/mseries.aspx>

Stillwater Floating Fly Line



I purchased one of the Glasgow Angling Centres own floating fly lines as well as their intermediate line for my grandson as he was needing some new lines to go with his new fly rod and reels.

I was pleasantly surprised at how good they were to cast and lack of memory when coming off the fly reel.

The lines kept nice and straight when casting and didn't curl or crinkle when undertaking a slow figure of eight and laying on the ground, they just straightened out again no problem at all when casting out again. Which was perfect for my grandson as you can imagine how frustrated he would be being in a tangle.

I've used the two lines a few times at Linlithgow Loch fishing from the boat and found them to be ideal lines and getting a good distance out with them.

Even though they are not top of the range as other fly lines, but at £14.99 (were £19.99) each they are excellent lines for the new up and coming fly fishers to start off with.

Stillwater Line Offer

For only £29.99



Buy Any 3 stillwater lines for £29.99

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Pentland hills,
Flotterson
A702 Bigger Road Near
Penicuik
MIDLOTHIAN
EH26 OPP

Email glencorse1@outlook.com

Tel 01968 678 709 or 07703255955

Glencorse reservoir, is one of the most stunning locations for trout fishing in the Lothian's. And is only a 15 minutes' drive away from Edinburgh city centre. It's located at the foot of the Pentland Hills near Flotterson, on the Penicuik high road.

Glencorse RSV and Bill Taylor manage the boat fishing on the reservoir which is stocked on a regular basis with hard fighting quality rainbow, blue and brown trout.

The 2021 season is from 27th March - 10th October.

The fishery will be OPEN Day sessions Tuesday to Sunday 9am to 4.30pm for 3 boats or more, by bookings "only"

There are new boats for hire, and some items of tackle, snacks and soft drinks are available in the new timber cabin.

This is a boat only venue and no bank fishing are permitted. The boats don't have engines, however you can bring your own or hire them from the fishery, as the reservoir is still used for supplying the Lothian's with water; petrol engines are not allowed to be used. Also don't forget your drogue as it can be a wee bit windy at times, so the drogue will come in handy for slowing your drift down a wee bit.

Limited parking is available at the reservoir for anglers only.

Glencorse RSV parking areas A and B when A is full just park as shown at B and backwards. Ample parking room now available for ANGLERS ONLY parking permits will be issued when you arrive at Glencorse RSV. Please return permits at the end of your session.

Please take note, when parking you **"must"** park tight to the wall and as close to the car in front as possible.

Let your passenger out first before parking up." do not" park in the designated passing areas, or beyond the entrance gate.

Your cooperation would be much appreciated. This is to prevent any confrontation with the local residents, and from angler's vehicles being damaged

Over 300,000 people walk up the Glen Road annually, and traffic must be kept to a minimum to avoid accidents.

All angling clubs and cooperate days welcome as are the general public.

If like me you enjoy a great place to fish with some fantastic views then this is the place for you. You can catch some cracking fish at the reservoir. I would recommend using a midge tip or slow intermediate with a size 10 damsel on the point, size 12 cormorant on middle dropper and a size 12 orange blob on the top dropper. Also be ready with the dry flies as there can be some cracking hatches coming off the water especially up the top arm near the weed beds and some cracking sport to be had. All brown trout must be returned

Bookings can be made by telephoning: - 01968678709 OR 01314402572 or 07703255955, or by emailing glencorse2@outlook.com or glencorse1@btinternet.com



Fly Tying Time



Red Apps Beaded Bloodworm

The bloodworm is an imitation of the larval stage of the Chironomid midge or buzzer. Blood worms spend the majority of their time living in a silty tube. When disturbed they move their bodies from side to side which is where the mobility of this pattern's spanflex legs come into the equation.

This is one of the best bloodworm patterns you will find and can be fished throughout the year, not just throughout the winter. For some reason Olive Beaded Apps Bloodworms seem to work well when snails are visible on the water.

This fly is great in different colours, olive, white and pink being my personal favourites, the fish tend to switch off red bloodworms at times and need something else to entice them.

Can be fished as follows: -

- 1.) Floating Line - long leader using a dead drift, let the wind take the fly around. Occasionally use a very long pull of the fly line to pull the fly up a few feet and then let it sink back down again.
- 2.) Floating Line under a bung, Let the feet drift around in depths of less than 6 feet near banks.
- 3.) Intermediate - Can be awesome fishing this method, use variable rates of retrieve from a slow figure of eight twitch right through to the fastest pull you can achieve.

Hook: Kamasan B175 or Hayabusa 761 Size 10

Thread: Red

Body: 6 x Gutermann Rocailles Beads – Size 9/0

Legs: Wapsi Spanflex – Red

Tag: Glo Brite No 11 Phosphor Yellow

Wing: Mixture of Wild Ultraviolet and Phosphor Yellow Flash Attack

Step 1: For the first step, you will need a bobbin threader or a piece of wire bent in two. Thread 6 of the beads onto the bobbin threader.

Step 2: Now place two lengths of spanflex into the loop between the end of the bobbin threader and the beads.

Step 3: Now push the beads off the end of the bobbin threader and onto the spanflex as shown. Now grip the beads and pull two of the spanflex ends through them.

Step 4: This should leave you with 6 beads onto just two lengths of spanflex as shown. Position the beads so they are roughly in the centre of the spanflex.

Step 5: Take the hook and crimp down the barb. (If you don't do this then I've found that the beads don't seem to last very long, the barb seems to score the inside of the bead which in turn weakens it). Now thread each bead onto the hook shank along with the spanflex. After the first two beads are on, you will need to pull the spanflex at both the front and rear to get the spanflex to lay straight. Make sure that you try and keep the spanflex lengths at the front and rear about equal.

Step 6: Now push the rear 3 beads back a little, leaving a gap. Make sure that the lengths of spanflex at both the front and rear are of equal lengths before continuing

Step 7: Push the front 3 beads hard towards the eye and catch in the thread just behind the third bead. Lay a piece of spanflex across the hook shank and make sure each length is equal. Now catch in with thread using figure of eight wraps. Make sure that the spanflex stays on the top of the hook shank.

Step 8: Now take some lengths of Wild UV and Phosphor Yellow Flash Attack and lay across the gap between the beads. Pull down hard on the thread which should cause the flash attack to flare up and again perform some figure of eight wraps so that the material is secured. Whip Finish and cast off the thread. (Ignore this step if you require a standard Beaded Apps Bloodworm)

Step 9: Trim the Flash Attack so that it leaves a neat wing.

Step 10: The final step is to create a tag at the end of the last bead. Push the last three beads towards the area of the wing and then catch in some Glo Brite Floss behind the last bead. Wind back and forth until a tapered tag is created, whip finish and cast off the thread. The final step is to coat the tag with superglue and then reverse the fly in the vice and apply a drop of superglue onto the thread base where the wing was tied in.



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The Art of Buzzer Fishing



One of the biggest questions asked by new fly fishers is how do I fish buzzers.

Fly fishing with buzzers is hugely successful and under-estimated by many.

Buzzer fishing flies imitate the emerging form of a midge fly. Most typically they imitate the midge emerged. A bloodworm is blood red at the bottom of a lake, it moves slowly to the surface changing colour, often black but it can be brown, olive or other colours.

In its journey to the surface of the water the buzzer fly pupa throws out breathers and often moves up and down, not directly upwards to the surface. It reaches the surface film and has to break through, often hanging below the surface film. When it finally breaks through it emerges into a midge in just 30 seconds!

Midges are part of the Chironomidae family which is their Latin name, the fly fisher knows them as midges with their larval form called blood worm and the pupae are commonly called buzzers, these are what we use as flies for fly fishing.

What times of year do buzzers hatch?

There are three main times of the year for the buzzer fly fisher: -

March, April and May when they start to emerge during the spring.

June, July and August are the main seasons for buzzer fishing as there is prolific hatches coming off the water.

September, October and November, there is still some buzzer hatches but not as prolific.

Buzzers move very slowly when emerging, moving slowly up and down in the water column until, conditions are right for them to hatch.

A leader of 12-15 feet can often consist of 3 buzzers with the heaviest buzzer on the point.

Never strip a team of buzzers as you would with lures, allow them to drift naturally, allow the team to drop below the feeding zone. Lift the rod tip slowly taking about 3 to 5 seconds to reach 60 degrees then lower the rod tip rapidly, take up the slack line and allow to drop again. The lift and drop slowly imitates the natural movements of the buzzers we are trying to imitate.

When using buzzers, the best fishing method is to keep it slow!

What are the best buzzer fishing techniques? firstly the biggest mistake made by most fly fishermen/women is because they are used to stripping lures, they try the same techniques with trout buzzer flies.

Buzzer fly fishing is a slow technique, use buzzers on a drift with a floating fly line and allow the line to drift with the current or wind.

When fishing straight line nymphing it is always best to place your brightest nymph pattern on the top dropper. This will attract and pull the fish to your flies as it catches the sunlight better, obviously, it will attract recently stocked fish, but it will also attract resident fish to the more natural patterns further down the cast, it doubles your chances as any fish investigating your pattern from depth must swim by the other natural flies on your cast twice, on the way up and on the way back down.

Also I find the best method is an extremely slow figure of eight retrieve with a pause in between allowing the buzzers to drop back down again and then continue the slow figure of eight and pause retrieve until ready to cast again, but never forget to hang your buzzers just under the surface before casting for a few seconds, as it's not been the first and doubt it will be the last time a fish was ready to take the buzzer as it had followed right up to the surface when I was ready to cast again.

Like so much of fly fishing, getting it right with buzzers is about sussing out what the fish want on the day. Keep your eyes peeled for real, hatching buzzers as a guide; they come in various sizes and shades, from large and black, to tiny and olive or tan.

Generally, finding a rough match will help. That said, sometimes in a heavy hatch a fly that stands out from the crowd is worth a go, such as a brightly coloured buzzer or one with a more pronounced hotspot.

Setting up your leader

The best set of the leader is to use Fluorocarbon. I generally use an 10lb breaking strain at a minimum as the fish can sometimes hit your buzzer hard.

The reason for using Fluorocarbon is that it is nearly invisible in the water and won't spook the fish when inspecting your buzzers.

I normally use 15ft of leader and the droppers 5ft apart, the droppers being about 6in long.

Depending on the weather, I normally use a size 12 gold head buzzer on the point to get the line down quicker, and this also helps when using the figure of eight retrieve and letting the buzzers come up and down in the water naturally.

On the droppers I normally use a size 14 buzzer, which I try to match with what is coming off the water as it hatches.

Buzzer ~ Black / Gold Rib



Hook: Kamasan B110 Shrimp; Buzzer size 10-18

Thread: Black

Body: Black Flexifloss

Rib & Wing Buds: Gold Holographic Tinsel

Final Buzzer Coating: Varnish x 3 coats

There are many variants of the so called "Buzzer", but this is one of my favourites on a bright sunny day. The fly can be fished like many buzzers on either an intermediate or floating line using a very slow figure of eight retrieve. I have had many takes sitting this buzzer 2-4 feet below a dry fly used as an indicator and fished close to weed beds in shallow water. In winter this fly has excelled for me when trout are still taking buzzers as part of their diet.

Tying Instructions

Wind the thread down the hook shank, catching in a piece of flexifloss and gold holographic tinsel to the base of the hook. Return the thread only to the eye of the hook, making a slim and equal body as you go.

Wind the piece of flexifloss up the hook shank to the eye and secure.

Wind the thread back to the start of the thorax.

Wind the gold tinsel around the base of the hook shank a few times and then up towards the eye in equal spaced turns. Secure the tinsel and trim waste.

Catch in two lengths of gold tinsel facing towards the hook bend which will act as wing buds

Create a neat thorax by running the flexifloss back and forth, tie off the flexifloss at the eye and trim waste.

Pull both pieces of gold tinsel forward and secure at the eye. Create a small head to cover the tinsel's ends that are visible.

Varnish the whole body with Hard as Nails varnish.

For best results the body should be varnished at least 3 times to produce a good solid finish

Staycation Time

Cairnsmill Caravan Park
 Largo Road
 St Andrews
 Fife
 KY16 8NN

<https://www.cairnsmill.co.uk/>
 Email: info@cairnsmill.co.uk
 Tel: 01334 473604

Reception opening hours: Every day from 9:00am-4:00pm.
 (5:00pm on Fridays)

Situated on the outskirts of St Andrews, Cairnsmill Caravan Park is the perfect place for your next holiday! Whether it is with the family or just going on a weekend fishing trip and looking for somewhere to park your motorhome, caravan or pitch your tent, then this is the place for you.

The newly refurbished bar onsite offers a wide range of soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, all at reasonable prices.

It is the ideal place to unwind and enjoy the company of family and friends.

At Cairnsmill they have a lovely onsite fly-fishing reservoir which they regularly stock with some cracking trout.

Whilst you're enjoying a day fishing the rest of the family can enjoy the great facilities on offer, swimming pool, games room, soft play and gym



Time	Price	Bag Limit	Tourers/Motor Homes per night (Including electric)	
2hrs	£12.00	1	Standard (suitable for awning)	£28.00
4hrs	£18.00	3	Motorhome (strictly no awning)	£26.00
6hrs	£22.00	4	Tents per night	
Day ticket (8hrs)	£27.00	6		
OAP/Caravaners, Disabled/Child*				
2hrs	£10.00	1	Backpacker	April-June £9.00 July-Oct £10.00
4hrs	£14.00	2	2 person	£16.00 £18.00
6hrs	£16.00	3	*MAX TENT SIZE 4 MAN - 3Mx4M*	
Day ticket (8hrs)	£21.00	4	Pods per night	
Catch & Release	£3.00 per hour		2 people £40.00 3 people £45.00 4 people £50.00	
(Barbless hooks must be used)			Bunkhouse room per night	
			1 person £20.00 2 people £36.00 3 people £50.00	



The Hollies Highland Lodges

Muckrach House
Dulnain Bridge
Grantown-On-Spey
PH26 3LY

<https://thehollieshighlandlodges.com/>

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Call us on 01479 816397.

A collection of luxury self-catering lodges in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park with world famous 'coos right on your doorstep!

A little bit of luxury in a lot of natural beauty

Nestled in the scenic Highlands of the Cairngorms National Park, The Hollies Highland Lodges lie just besides the quaint village of Dulnain Bridge with close links to popular Grantown-on-Spey and Aviemore.

A luxurious collection of self-catering accommodation surrounded by acres of picturesque pastureland offering luxury accommodation for that special family holiday, a romantic getaway, or a catch up with friends.

To view each cottage, just click on the highlighted cottage name

The Cairngorm Cottage

(6 guests; dog friendly; hot tub)

The Cairngorm Cottage is a true hidden gem. Unassuming from the exterior, inside it offers a fabulously spacious home-from-home making it perfect for a break away with either friends or family. The Cairngorm Cottage offers luxurious accommodation sleeping up to 6 guests.

The Glenmore Lodge

(4 guests; dog friendly; hot tub)

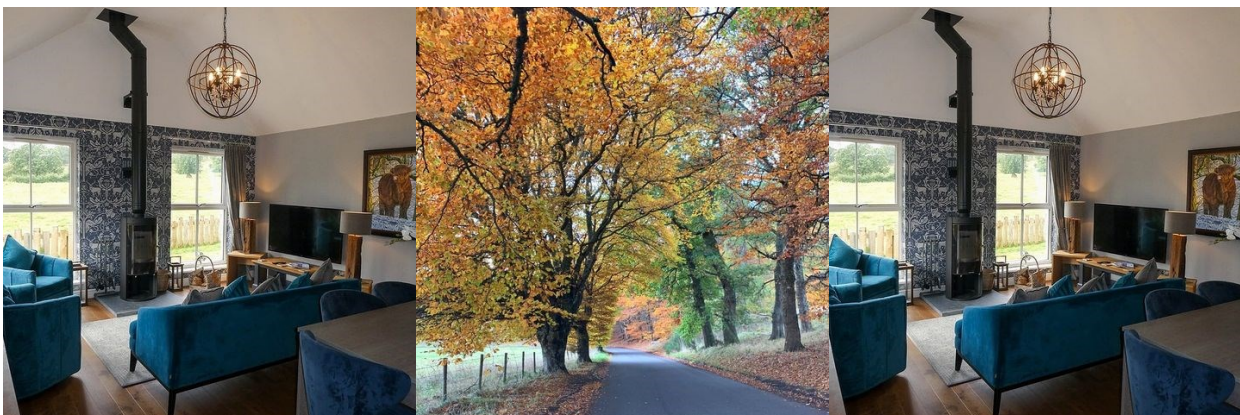
The Glenmore Lodge is a contemporary styled lodge with luxurious furnishings accommodating up to 4 guests in the utmost comfort with underfloor heating throughout. Enter through the porch where you can leave your wet weather gear.

The Speyside Suite

(2 guests, dog friendly)

The Speyside Suite will offer the perfect base to explore all that the Cairngorms has to offer with accommodation for 2 adults.

There is some fantastic salmon and trout fishing on the river Spey, just minutes from our accommodation for you to enjoy.





Lochend Chalets

Port of Menteith
Stirling
FK8 3JZ
SCOTLAND – UK

TEL: +44(0)1877 385 268
FAX: +44(0)1877 385 240
EMAIL: info@lochend-chalets.com

Lochend is a beautiful, 38-acre estate at the heart of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, an area steeped in history and striking natural beauty.

Hidden away on a tranquil corner of the Lake of Menteith, with spectacular views across the water to Ben Lomond, the waterfront self-catering chalets, log cabins, lodges and cottage have free WiFi throughout.

A perfect place to relax and unwind, Lochend also has a tennis court and games room, a bike park and rowing boats, and is home to the Nick Nairn Cook School as well as wildlife in abundance, sorry but they don't take pets. Only an hour from Glasgow and Edinburgh, the chalets lie almost right in the middle of Scotland, so it's a great base if you're looking to tour the wonderful Scottish countryside or to fish the various lochs and rivers within the area, with the Highlands and Islands, St Andrew's and Cairngorms all just a daytrip away.

They have two boats (and tackle) at Lochend that can be booked in advance or you can rent boats and tackle just a mile up the road at [Menteith Fisheries](#).

Unfortunately shore-fishing is prohibited on the Lake of Menteith, but wannabe Tom Sawyers can fish in the Goodie burn, which snakes around the back of the chalets close to the [Cook School](#) and [bike park](#).



Corrie Glen B&B

Manse Road
Aberfoyle,
FK8 3XF

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1877
382427 07766315527](tel:+44(0)1877382427)
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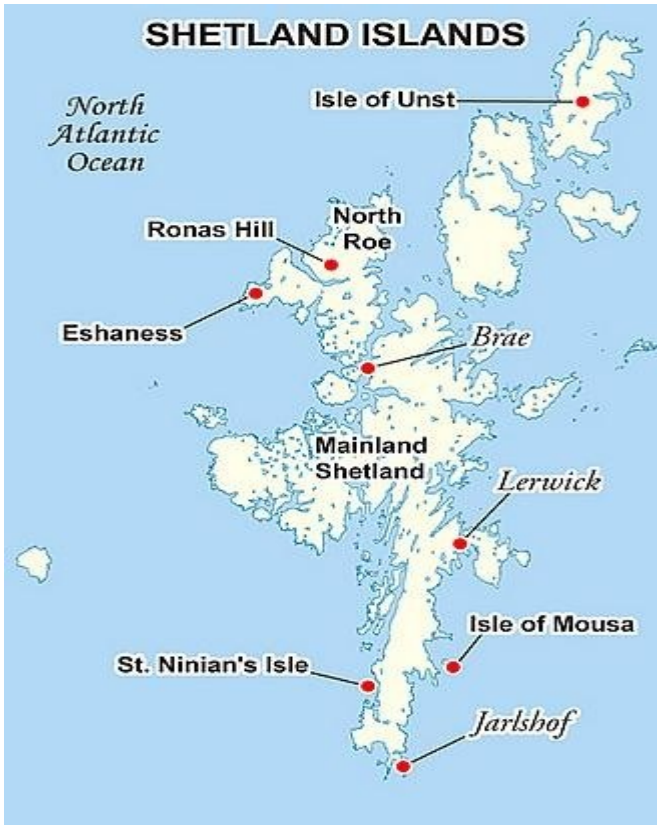
Corrie Glen bed and breakfast is located in a beautiful location in its own 12 acres of fields and just a short walk from the village of Aberfoyle in The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Residents can relax in the lounge or the conservatory and watch the horses or the frequent wildlife visitors in the large sunny garden.

They have 3 comfortable bedrooms all with private bathrooms and are open from Easter until October.

An ideal location and stop over for a few days if you are fishing the Lake of Menteith or the local rivers and lochs.

Trout Fishing the Shetland Isles



The isles lie about 200 miles north of Aberdeen and are, therefore, the most northerly of the British Isles.

For about 600 years, prior to the islands coming under Scottish rule in 1469, Shetland was under Norse influence and many place names and also loch names are still of Norse origin.

With the North Sea to the east and the north Atlantic to the west Shetland has a maritime Climate of cool, wet and sometimes windy weather, especially during the winter. Summers are usually cool and cloudy, but there is the bonus of long hours of daylight in the isles due to the northern latitudes. The weather can change quickly and sea fog can roll inland in a matter of a few minutes.

There are about 100 isles in the group but only the largest seven are of interest to the angler – Mainland, Yell, Unst, Fetlar, Whalsay, Bressay and Papa Stour. Inter island drive on, drive off ferries operate a frequent service between Mainland and

the other smaller isles. Public transport is limited but car hire is available throughout the isles.

THE SAA

The [Shetland Angler's Association](#) was formed in 1920 and has, over the years, done much to protect and improve the fishing, both for brown trout and sea trout. It owns certain fishing outright and rents or has permission to fish on most of the other mainland waters.

Since 1995 the Association has been pursuing a comprehensive stocking programme of both sea trout and brown trout, principally in waters on the mainland and Yell, aided by grants from the Shetland Islands Council, Shetland Enterprise, Shetland Community Councils and also European funds. All these fish have been reared in Shetland and it is hoped that the increase in numbers of fish in the lochs and burns which have been stocked will continue and we can look forward to a bright future for angling in Shetland.

Fishing permits can be purchased at either the Lerwick Tourist Office or the tackle shop, Rod and Line, which is in Harbour Street in Lerwick. The SAA organises a number of fishing competitions during the season running separate boat and bank leagues and the visiting angler will be made most welcome at these. Details will be supplied with your permit.

Boats for hire – The Association has a number of boats for hire and at the present these are located at the following lochs – Loch of Benston, Loch of Asta, Loch of Northouse, Loch of Clousta, Loch of Tingwall, Sulma Water and Punds Water. These can change but details of boat locations and hire can be got from the tackle shop.

Clubhouse – The SAA owns an unlicensed clubhouse, situated in Burns Lane in Lerwick, to which the visiting angler is most welcome. Hours of opening are from 8.30pm and 11.00pm on most Tuesdays and Fridays.

GAME FISH SPECIES

Brown Trout

The Shetland brown trout varies greatly in both size and colour depending upon the environment in which he lives. Generally, the peaty moorland loch may hold only small, dark little fish of 4 to 8 ounces but the larger, clear-water loch lying on limestone will hold fish of much better size averaging a pound or more.

Sea Trout

Many of Shetland's lochs see, or have seen in the past, a run of sea trout wherever they can gain access from the sea. It is usually August or September before the first fish run the burns depending on the amount of rainfall. Many sea trout are caught in salt water, both on fly and spinner when the fish gather at the burn mouths waiting to enter fresh water.

Salmon

Small numbers of salmon, both wild fish and escapees from fish farms are found in the voes and burns and the odd fish is taken by anglers fishing for sea trout.

Char

The only other salmonid found in Shetland is the char which is found only in the loch of Girlsta and these are occasionally caught on the fly during the summer months. The Association asks all anglers to return these carefully to the water.

FISHING EQUIPMENT AND TACTICS

Fly Fishing

I do not intend to dwell too long on the subject of tackle as most readers will be anglers of some experience and will have arrived in the isles with their own tackle with them, therefore I will give just some general advice.

The two main tackle shops in Lerwick are Rod and Line in Harbour Street and the LHD shop on the Esplanade.

With the vast majority of trout caught in Shetland being less than two pounds in weight a rod of nine to ten feet capable of casting a number five to seven line is quite adequate for both boat and bank fishing, though some may prefer a slightly longer rod for boat fishing.

For many years a floating line was the first choice for loch anglers but in recent years local anglers have learnt the advantage of having a wide range of lines from floater to fast sinker and are able to find the fish whatever depth they are at. This has become more important in recent years when a reduction in fly life at or near the surface has resulted in a decrease in fish caught on the floating line.

Anglers unwilling or unable to carry a selection of lines would find an intermediate a good compromise. On the subject of flies and how to fish them I would like to go into a little more detail. In the early years of my angling apprenticeship the fly patterns in common use were traditional Scottish loch flies. Many of these are still effective today but have been joined by more modern reservoir patterns. Dark flies work well and black and red are popular especially with a little silver in the dressing.

On a three-fly cast the bob fly or top dropper is usually a bushy fly which can be used to make a disturbance on the surface for a few seconds before lifting off and recasting. Contenders for this position would be – Bibio, Clan Chief, Loch Ordie, Kate McLaren, Soldier Palmer, Zulu, Bruiser,

Green Peter, Invicta and Muddlers. Add to these the Irish Bumbles – the Golden Olive Bumble and Claret Bumble being the most popular.

The middle and tail flies are more lightly dressed and will fish deeper in the water and will attract fish which may ignore the bob fly near the surface. Some flies for the middle position would be the Irish Dabblers – olive, claret and black and amber being some of the top colours, March Brown, Alexandra and many nymph-type patterns.

Tail flies can range from lures like the Ace of Spades, Cat's Whisker, Cormorant and Viva to slimmer and smaller dressings like Buzzer Nymphs and Snatchers.

This is but a short list and many other fly patterns will take fish so don't be afraid to give your own favourites a try.

Spinning

While the SAA is keen to promote fly fishing as much as possible, spinning is allowed on most of the lochs, the two main exceptions are the lochs of Spiggie and Benston. A seven-foot rod and a reel loaded with 6-pound line is would be adequate and the most commonly used lures are Mepps and Toby.

Bait Fishing

Although not actively opposed to worm fishing the SAA policy has been not to favour this type of fishing for conservation reasons. Float fishing or static ledgering can lead to the deep hooking of fish which greatly reduces the chances of returning undersized fish safely to the water.

Boat Fishing

The most commonly used method is the traditional "Scottish loch style"; that is, drifting side-on to the wind and the angler fishing the water in front of the boat. Most of the action will be found in the shallow water so stay reasonably close to the shoreline, around any islands and close to weed beds. If you can find a shoreline with the wind blowing parallel to that shore then a long drift can be had over productive water before having to motor back up the loch to start the next drift. Often, fish can be found very close to the windward shore where the wave action is stirring food up from the bottom but this can be a risky place to fish as the chance of running ashore is high. It can be difficult to re-launch a boat into the wind.

A drogue to slow the boat down on a windy day will be a useful aid as will a long handled landing net to get your fish into the boat. A buoyancy aid of some sort is an essential item in case of accidents, far too many anglers have drowned because they weren't wearing one. Even in the summer the days can be cool and anglers are well advised to wear plenty of warm and waterproof clothing as the weather can change very quickly. Finally, try to remain seated in the boat, many anglers are to be seen standing up and fishing but this has led to many an angler losing balance and ending up in the water.

Bank Fishing

With only a few of the larger roadside lochs available to the boat angler bank fishing is the most common method in Shetland. Many of the hill lochs have areas where there is deep water close to the shore and can be fished from the bank by an angler wearing only walking boots or Wellingtons, but in some lochs a pair of waders are essential to fish where there are areas of shallow water and the fish may be some distance out. Shallow water can be most productive early in the season as these warms faster in the spring and fish will come in to feed here.

When bank fishing it is best to keep moving and work your way down the bank, covering as much water as you can. Casting with the wind behind may be the easiest but may not always be the most productive – bringing the flies across the wind can be effective and the retrieve should be varied; sometimes a slow figure of eight is best and at other times a fast retrieve can work. It is a good idea to vary the retrieve until the fish let you know which method they prefer.

Float Tubing

Float tubing or belly boating is a great way to explore the lochs where boats are impractical. With carrying straps and a large number of pockets for tackle on the float tube the angler can walk into the hills and fish virgin waters, fishing around islands, skerries and weed beds which were never accessible before. The angler will be able to fish closer to these hotspots, holding position comfortably, whereas, a boat would drift over these areas too quickly. In our latitudes the water temperature can be rather cool at any time of year so neoprene chest waders are recommended although rubber or PVC chest waders can be used with thermal or fleece lined underwear.

Lack of suitable protection can lead to severe cramps, and since your legs are your only means of propulsion, this can leave you sitting adrift in the middle of a loch at the mercy of the wind. As with boat fishing it is recommended to wear a buoyancy aid when float tubing.

Safety and Country Codes

Many angling locations are remote and if fishing alone it is advisable to inform someone where you are going in case of emergency. Some areas are subject to sudden weather changes, in particular the higher hill areas. It is advisable to carry a map and compass and to wear warm clothing as a change from a clear day to thick mist can occur in a matter of minutes. When wading few lochs can be considered totally safe and there are some which can be considered positively dangerous. Hidden underwater hazards include large rocks, holes and areas of soft mud. In some lochs it is not necessary to wade as fish can be found close to the shore. Remember – IF IN DOUBT, DON'T WADE.

Access to many of the lochs is by obvious routes or tracks and anglers are asked to observe the country code by shutting gates, by not damaging walls or fences and by not leaving litter. Be considerate in parking, do not obstruct access roads or block passing places on single track roads. Do not unnecessarily annoy wildlife, especially nesting birds, which occupy most waterside locations and island during the breeding seasons.

Seasons and Limits

Season

Brown Trout and Char 15th March – 6th October
Sea Trout and Salmon 25th February – 31st October

No basket limits are set by the SAA but anglers are requested to appreciate the need for conservation of stocks, especially sea trout. Any Char caught in Girlsta Loch should be returned safely to the water.

Under Scottish law it is illegal to:

Fish for or take sea trout or salmon on a Sunday.

Cast out tackle and leave it unattended, this constitutes a set line.

For a person to use more than one rod and line at any one time.

Smoking Fish



With the modern-day emphasis on healthy eating, baked fish is arguably the best option and is by far the easiest method of cooking your catch. Not only does baking in foil keep the fish nice and moist but all sorts of ingredients can be added to add subtle alternative flavours.

Apart from the fish, all you need is some butter, some lemon, fresh herbs (such as parsley, thyme chives, dill etc). I like to add some white wine and other recipes recommend cider or even fruit juice but no additional liquid is really necessary as the butter/oil provides sufficient moisture.

Make a few diagonal cuts in the fish skin to help the flavours penetrate and then season inside and out with all the other ingredients. Wrap the foil loosely around each fish to make a foil parcel, folding the edges over to seal in the juices. Bake in a preheated oven at 180° C for 15- 20 minutes per lb (35-45 minutes per Kg). Fillets, being thinner, only need about the half the regular cooking time. Do not overcook the fish.

Fried

Use whole or boned fish, steaks or fillets. Dust with seasoned flour and fry in a little oil or butter for 5 minutes each side. Serve simply with a squeeze of lemon, herb butter or mayonnaise.

Grilled

When cooking a whole fish, slash thickest part 3 times on each side and brush lightly with oil. Alternatively, brush steaks with oil on both sides. Lay in pan and grill 5/8 minutes each side depending on thickness. Serve with a squeeze of lemon.

Microwave

Fish cooks perfectly in a microwave oven, either fresh or frozen. As cooking times vary for each make of microwave, refer to the instruction manual for cooking fish. As a general rule, fish take from 4/6 minutes cooking time when simply prepared, stuffed fish take a little longer. Slash thickest part several times on each side of whole fish for even cooking.

Poached/Steamed

Use whole fish or steaks and enough boiling, lighted salted water to cover. Poach gently for 10/12 minutes and drain. Serve hot and cold with butter sauce or mayonnaise.

Steam steaks or fillets after seasoning lightly, using a steamer or by placing between two plates over boiling water.

Smoking

Smoking is the process of flavoring, cooking, or preserving food by exposing it to the smoke from burning or smoldering plant materials, most often wood. Meats and fish are the most common smoked foods, though cheeses, vegetables, and ingredients used to make beverages such as whisky, Rauchbier and lapsang souchong tea are also smoked.

In Europe, alder is the traditional smoking wood, but oak is more often used now, and beech to a lesser extent. In North America, hickory, mesquite, oak, pecan, alder, maple, and fruit-tree woods, such as apple, cherry and plum, are commonly used for smoking.

Historically, farms in the western world included a small building termed the smokehouse, where meats could be smoked and stored. This was generally well separated from other buildings both because of the fire danger and because of the smoke emanations.

Cold smoking can be used as a flavor enhancer for items such as chicken breasts, beef, pork chops, salmon, scallops, and steak. The item can be cold smoked for just long enough to give some flavor. Some cold smoked foods are baked, grilled, roasted, or sautéed before eating. Smokehouse temperatures for cold smoking are below 100 °F (38 °C). In this temperature range, foods take on a smoked flavor, but remain relatively moist.

Cold smoking does not cook foods.

Hot smoking exposes the foods to smoke and heat in a controlled environment.

Although foods that have been hot smoked are often reheated or cooked, they are typically safe to eat without further cooking. Hams and ham hocks are fully cooked once they are properly smoked. Hot smoking occurs within the range of 165 °F (74 °C) to 185 °F (85 °C). Within this temperature range, foods are fully cooked, moist, and flavorful. If the smoker is allowed to get hotter than 185 °F (85 °C), the foods will shrink excessively, buckle, or even split. Smoking at high temperatures also reduces yield, as both moisture and fat are "cooked" away.

Smoke roasting or smoke baking refers to any process that has the attributes of smoking combined with either roasting or baking. This smoking method is sometimes referred to as "barbecuing", "pit baking", or "pit roasting". It may be done in a smoke roaster, closed wood-fired masonry oven or barbecue pit, any smoker that can reach above 250 °F (121 °C), or in a conventional oven by placing a pan filled with hardwood chips on the floor of the oven so the chips smolder and produce a smoke bath. However, this should only be done in a well-ventilated area to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Hardwoods are made up mostly of three materials: cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin.

Cellulose and hemicellulose are the basic structural material of the wood cells; lignin acts as a kind of cell-bonding glue. Some softwoods, especially pines and firs, hold significant quantities of resin, which produces a harsh-tasting soot when burned; these woods are not often used for smoking.

Cellulose and hemicellulose are aggregate sugar molecules; when burnt, they effectively caramelize, producing carbonyls, which provide most of the color components and sweet, flowery, and fruity aromas. Lignin, a highly complex arrangement of interlocked phenolic molecules, also produces a number of distinctive aromatic elements when burnt, including smoky, spicy, and pungent compounds such as guaiacol, phenol, and syringol, and sweeter scents such as the vanilla-scented vanillin and clove-like isoeugenol.

Guaiacol is the phenolic compound most responsible for the "smokey" taste, while syringol is the primary contributor to smokey aroma. Wood also contains small quantities of proteins, which contribute roasted flavors. Many of the odor compounds in wood smoke, especially the phenolic compounds, are unstable, dissipating after a few weeks or months.

A number of wood smoke compounds act as preservatives. Phenol and other phenolic compounds in wood smoke are both antioxidants, which slow rancidification of animal fats, and antimicrobials, which slow bacterial growth. Other antimicrobials in wood smoke include formaldehyde, acetic acid, and other organic acids, which give wood smoke a low pH—about 2.5. Some of these compounds are toxic to people as well, and may have health effects in the quantities found in cooking applications.

Since different species of trees have different ratios of components, various types of wood do impart a different flavor to food.

Another important factor is the temperature at which the wood burns. High-temperature fires see the flavor molecules broken down further into unpleasant or flavorless compounds. The optimal conditions for smoke flavor are low, smoldering temperatures between 570 and 750 °F (299 and 399 °C).

This is the temperature of the burning wood itself, not of the smoking environment, which uses much lower temperatures.

Woods that are high in lignin content tend to burn hot; to keep them smoldering requires restricted oxygen supplies or a high moisture content. When smoking using wood chips or chunks, the combustion temperature is often raised by soaking the pieces in water before placing them on a fire.

Home Smokers

Offset smokers



< An example of a common offset smoker which I use for smoking my fish and meats on.

The main characteristics of the offset smoker are that the cooking chamber is usually cylindrical in shape, with a shorter, smaller diameter cylinder attached to the bottom of one end for a firebox.

To cook the fish or meat, a small fire is lit in the firebox, where airflow is tightly controlled.

The heat and smoke from the fire is drawn through a connecting pipe or opening into the cooking chamber. The heat and smoke cook and flavor the meat before escaping through an exhaust vent at the opposite end of the cooking chamber. Most manufacturers' models are based on this simple but effective design, and this is what most people picture when they think of a "BBQ smoker." Even large capacity commercial units use this same basic design of a separate, smaller fire box and a larger cooking chamber.

Smoke Box Method

This more traditional method uses a two-box system: The fire box and the food box. The fire box is typically adjacent or under the cooking box, and can be controlled to a finer degree.

The heat and smoke from the fire box exhausts into the food box, where it is used to cook and smoke the fish. These may be as simple as an electric heating element with a pan of wood chips placed on it, although more advanced models have finer temperature controls.



A propane smoker

A propane smoker is designed to allow the smoking of meat in a somewhat more controlled environment. The primary differences are the sources of heat and of the smoke. In a propane smoker, the heat is generated by a gas burner directly under a steel or iron box containing the wood or charcoal that provides the smoke. The steel box has few vent holes, on the top of the box only. By starving the heated wood of oxygen, it smokes instead of burning. Any combination of woods and charcoal may be used. This method uses less wood.

Smoke is an antimicrobial and antioxidant, but smoke alone is insufficient for preserving food in practice, unless combined with another preservation method. The main problem is the smoke compounds adhere only to the outer surfaces of the food; smoke does not actually penetrate far into meat or fish. In modern times, almost all smoking is carried out for its flavor.

Artificial smoke flavoring can be purchased as a liquid to mimic the flavor of smoking, but not its preservative qualities (see also liquid smoke).

Preservation:

In the past, smoking was a useful preservation tool, in combination with other techniques, most commonly salt-curing or drying. In some cases, particularly in climates without much hot sunshine, smoking was simply an unavoidable side effect of drying over a fire. For some long-smoked foods, the smoking time also served to dry the food.

Drying, curing, or other techniques can render the interior of foods inhospitable to bacterial life, while the smoking gives the vulnerable exterior surfaces an extra layer of protection. For oily fish smoking is especially useful, as its antioxidant properties delay surface fat rancidification. (Interior fat is not as exposed to oxygen, which is what causes rancidity.)

Some heavily-salted, long-smoked fish can keep without refrigeration for weeks or months. Such heavily-preserved foods usually require a treatment such as boiling in fresh water to make them palatable before eating.

Foods have been smoked by humans throughout history. Originally this was done as a preservative. In more recent times fish is readily preserved by refrigeration and freezing and the smoking of fish is generally done for the unique taste and flavour imparted by the smoking process.

A smokehouse is a building where fish or meat is cured with smoke. In traditional fishing villages, a smokehouse was often attached to the cottages the fishermen lived in. The smoked products might be stored in the building, sometimes for a year or more.

Traditional smokehouses served both as smokers and to store the smoked fish. Food preservation occurred by salt curing and extended cold smoking for two weeks or longer. Smokehouses were often secured to prevent animals and thieves from accessing the food.

Traditional smoked fish is a high-end product sought after by restaurants.



Fish that can be smoked at home

Trout;
Salmon;
Eel popular in eastern/northern Europe;
Cod;
Haddock;
Herring;
Mackerel
Sea Bass;
Mullet

Best Woods for Smoking

Wood for using in Smokers: -

Apple: Produces a sweet, fruity taste. Good mild wood which works well on poultry and ham. Alder: It is the wood that is greatly preferred for most any fish especially salmon.

Cherry: Similar to apple... sweet and usually very fruity depending on the age of the wood. Tends to be mild making it a good choice for poultry, fish, and ham.

Hickory: One of the best-known woods for smoking, it can be a bit too pungent so great care must be taken so that it is not overused. Most feel it is excellent on ribs and most red meats. Can also be used very sparingly on cuts of poultry. (should be able to get this at the local hardware department store)

Maple: Gives a light and sweet taste which best compliments poultry and ham.

Mesquite: Some peoples favourite barbecue wood however, great care must be taken or it can become overpowering. Best not used for larger cuts which require longer smoking times.

Oak: Good choice for larger cuts which require longer smoking times. Produces a strong smoke flavour but usually not overpowering. Good wood for Brisket.

Pecan: Gives somewhat of a fruity flavour and burns cooler than most other barbecue woods. It is similar to Hickory and is best used on large cuts like brisket and pork roast but can also be used to compliment chops, fish and poultry.

You will have to experiment with the various woods to find out what works for you and what does not.

Smoked Trout Fishcakes Serves 4



Ingredients:

8 oz (225 g) smoked trout fleshy flaked
1 small onion, finely chopped
1-2 tablespoons oil
1lb (450 g) cold mashed potato
2-3 tablespoons chopped herbs (parsley, chives or fennel)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Seasoned flour 1 egg, beaten
Dried breadcrumbs

Method:

Soften the onion in the oil then add to the smoked trout, potato, herbs and seasoning to taste. Mix together well then mould into fishcakes with a spoon or using your hands. Coat well with the seasoned flour then cover with egg and breadcrumbs. Bake in a hot oven 220°C (425°F) gas 7 for 10 to 15 minutes, turning once.



Fish of The Week Competition



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For your chance to win £150 worth of [Daiwa Fishing Gear](#), simply send us a photograph of you and your catch with a little description. You can also enter in store - just ask a member of staff for assistance. The winner will be chosen by a panel of judges in our Glasgow store and will feature in the Scottish Daily Record newspaper on the Friday of each week. The winner will be announced on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) social media pages.

To enter online click [HERE](#)

Good luck and we look forward to seeing the entries



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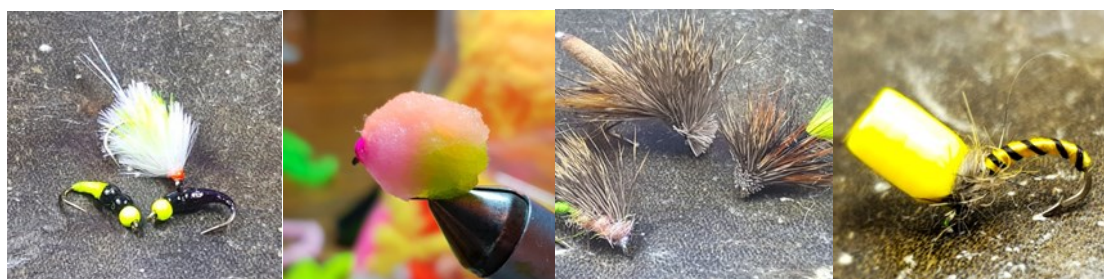
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PRESS RELEASE

UNI-PRODUCTS

Ste-Melanie, Quebec, Canada

June 13, 2021

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UNI-Products, a world leader in the supply of spooled fly-tying materials, announces the addition of Pumpkin to their very popular UNI-Thread 8/0 line. Pumpkin Orange adds to the versatility of the existing lineup: Black, Camel, Chartreuse, Dark Brown, Doctor Blue, Fire Orange, Fluorescent Green, Fluorescent Orange, Gray, Green, Iron Gray, Light Cahill, Light Olive, Olive, Olive Dun, Orange, Mahogany, Pink, Pumpkin, Purple, Red, Rusty Brown, Rusty Dun, Tan, White, Wine and Yellow. Tiers now have twenty-eight colors at their disposal to match the hatch or achieve the affect they want. Available on spools of 50 yards and 200 yards, waxed and un-waxed. Tiers can also take advantage of our popular 20-spool combo pack.

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Recipe of the Month

HERB BAKED TROUT Serves 4 – 6

Ingredients:

1 Trout
25 g butter or margarine
1 tbsp spring onion or shallot
1 tbsp each fresh parsley,
juice of 1 lemon
tarragon, sorrel, mint, basil and salt and
pepper to taste coriander

Combine the chopped herbs with the melted butter or margarine, chopped onion or shallot, lemon juice and seasoning.

Clean and bone the trout. Stuff each fish with some of the herb mixture. Place in an oiled baking dish, cover and bake for 12 -15 minutes at 200 C. Serve with the fish juices and boiled rice.

Note: Substitute extra parsley for any herbs that are not available. For a richer dish, add 5 oz (150 ml) cream or cream combined with yoghurt to the pan juices and heat through.

TROUT DRAMBUIE Serves 4

Ingredients:

4 rainbow trout, cleaned but with heads left on
2 oz soft butter (1/4 cup)
1 level teaspoon dried oregano 1/4-pint natural
yogurt (2/3 cup) 1/4-pint double cream (2/3
cup) 1 tablespoon Drambuie
salt and pepper
lemon twists for garnish

Method:

Wash and thoroughly dry the fish. Spread an ovenproof dish with half the butter.

Put the fish in the dish and spread them with the rest of the butter.

Sprinkle with the oregano.

Mix the yogurt, cream and Drambuie together then season the mixture before pouring it over the trout.

Bake the fish, uncovered, at Gas 4/350 F/180 C for 20 minutes. Garnish with lemon twists before serving.



Scottish Fishing Reports



Clarity has improved with more cloudy days and loads of wind. Havent got the exact data (we forgot) but the surface temperature at the boats is reading 15.3C so this bodes well for summer fishing.

Had quite a few complaints about anglers getting broken unexpectedly and bad batches of nylon on the go – and matches lost :(It appears we have a culprit this time. I tested some of this stuff in the shop and it is very very weak and has been taken off display. I contacted airflo today and got this reply from Colin Thomas. *“We have been quite open about there being a bad “mislabelled batch and will replace any fluoro for customers that have had issues.”*

Well done airflo for fessing up and the good branded G3 will still be my tippet of choice. It is just the above branding type that has the problems apparently – white with light blue quarter. The differently branded 8lb G3 is as the label says.....

The Lake is looking at is best in its summer finery these days. Make hay while the sun shines. The herons are busy upsetting the anglers by beasting into all sorts of chicks. On the upside I did see a heron tucking into some poor wee merganser chicks...Inside but not in a good way.....). Look out for feeding mergansers if you are pike fishing, swallows and martins if you are after trout.

Some good pike have been landed on the fly recently with Rob Fusco having tremendous sport last night. He told me the wind is good because it brings the bait fish to the surface...He had 48 jacks and biggest to the boat was 12lbs, although he lost two estimated to be in the 20lb range. Wind is also good because you cover more water, are harder to see and it helps cast those big mothers of all flies.

The cormorant youth club chase is going well with Angus Robertson in the lead and the rest of the pack grouped in the middle according to angling coach Alisdair Mair.

It was hard going at the weekend but the return to cooler cloudier weather has improved the fishing markedly with very good sport again to be had on the dries at the Malling Shore and to a lesser extend Tod Hole, Sandy Bay and Gateside Bay.. However, as they say a *“A week is a long time at the Lakeand techniques and hotspot areas can change”*. Stocking this week will be on Wednesday and thurs or Friday. Today's catches were a bit mixed with some good catches and some rating it har Top team in the Club championships was Saltire FF represented by Colin McDonald, Alan Gilbert and Peter Edge. They landed a total of 23 fish for a weight of 48lbs 12.6 ozs. Also going through to the semi-final are East Kilbride AC “B”, Dunfermline Railway AC “A” and Aberdour AA “A”.

Top rod on the night was Jim Hay of Dunfermline Railway AC “A” who landed 11 fish for a total weight of 22lbs, 6.4ozs. Craig Inglis won the boat league heat again (14 fish) pulling his damsel. It was the best catch night so far this season for the BL with a rod average of 4.7 fish. In the Scottish Open

Fly Fishing Championships heat on Sunday the top 3 anglers (Jake Gilchrist, Martin Mccafferty and Peter Auchterlonie) all had 9 fish in very warm, bright and windy conditions, 20 anglers progressed.

Gary Hamilton had a fine day on the dries and his catch included this bute. As he says *“Power to your elbow”*.





Linlithgow Loch Catch Report

Over the last week, we have had relatively few anglers out on the Loch. This is normal for this time of year but some good catches have been caught by a variety of techniques.

On Sunday 20th Mr McCutchen kept 4 fish for 16lbs, best fish 6lbs caught with a Damsel on a floating line. Jim Russell caught and returned 13 fish with Diawl Bachs and Fabs on a Midge Tip line.

The Saturday Club kept 8 fish for 27lbs plus returned 10, best flies were red Diawl Bachs below a yellow Fab on a Floating line. On the same day, evening rod Mr Saunders returned 4 fish on a Black Buzzer.

During the week, Ian Young and his partner out in the Wheelyboat kept 5 fish for 16lbs. Ron Thompson kept 2 for 6lbs and returned 12 fish. Mr Kint and partner kept 6 fish for 19lbs, returning 24 mostly caught by a blue Diawl Bach. Alistair Fyvie kept 2 for 6lbs and returned a further 4 fish. Evening anglers Edinburgh Mechanics kept 12 fish for 38lbs, all on Boobies and Mr Allardyce kept 2 fish weighing 6lbs.

Friday anglers Gavin Dunn and Jim Russell kept 3 fish for 12lbs and returned a further 11 caught on Diawl Bachs, a nice Bluey caught by Gavin - also, Mr Saunders returned 8 fish.

It must be mentioned that we have a strong green algae bloom on the Loch at the moment looking quite unsightly especially round the margins where it is mostly contained. It does not seem to be affecting catches as noted above. Hopefully, it will clear as quickly as it appeared.

We still continue to stock on a regular basis as seen on our Facebook page

Boats are available for most days for full day or 4-hour sessions but to avoid disappointment please call 01506 671753 or book online in advance. Evening sessions have now commenced and anglers can fish from 4:30 pm until dusk.

FRANDY FISHERY

Bank Returns: Albert McKinnes (Tullibody) caught & released 7. Wilson Orr (Tullibody) kept 2 fish weighing 4lb 4oz & released a further 4. Andy Hunter (Alloa) fishing over two days caught & released 17. Ronnie Pass (Alva) caught & released 6. Jim Donnelly (Tullibody) kept 2 fish weighing 4lb & released a further 7. Ben McGovern (Sauchie) caught & released 12. Paul Holbourne (Edinburgh) caught & released 4. Gerry Grattan (Kincardine) kept 2 fish weighing 4lb & released a further 5. Dave & Nathan Cosgrove (Dalgety Bay) between them caught & released 10. Bob Mitchell (Perth) caught & released 5. Robert Peden (Kelty) kept 2 fish weighing 4lb & released a further 4. Ronnie Turnbull (Tullibody) kept 2 fish weighing 5lb & released a further 4. Jimmy Miller (Tullibody) caught & released 3. Jimmy MacNicoll (Auchterarder) caught & released 3.

Boat Returns: George Keith & Tom Lansdown (Dunfermline) kept 4 fish weighing 9lb & released a further 5. Johnny Adamson & Colin Shepherd (Dundee) kept 9 fish weighing 17lb. Eddie Welsh (Burrelton) kept 5 fish weighing 11lb 8oz & released a further 2. Kenny Hutchison (Alloa) kept 3 fish weighing 6lb.

Club Returns: SPRA West caught & released 67. Midlothian A/C kept 6 fish weighing 14lb & released a further 12. Ken MacMillan Trophy kept 22 fish weighing 39lb 6oz. Dunfermline Artisan kept 25 fish weighing 46lb 4oz. Stanley A/C kept 21 fish weighing 36lb 6oz. Edinburgh Post Office kept 7 fish weighing 15lb & released a further 7.

Fly/Lure: Bibio Hopper, Black Cormorant, Black Buzzer, Millenium Bug, Coral Dancer.

Coptic Trout

By Jasper Onslow



There were six of us who jumped at the prospect of a fishing trip to the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia. Johnny, Kiki, Mike and Geoff made up the old codger's contingent, providing whiskey and wisdom while Colin and I injected the youthful vitality. Johnny, who runs Gone Fishing, a fly-tying establishment was keen to try his flies in the new environment (an excuse to go fishing).

The country was a mystery to me, certainly not what one would imagine as a trout fishing destination. Most of what I knew of it was hearsay and half-remembered fictions of mountain warriors from Wilbur Smith novels. Renowned to be picturesque, dramatic and different from the Africa that I know, it seemed like too good an opportunity to miss. The mountains are a gigantic, jagged massif that protrude to an altitude of 4,200m (14,000ft) from an otherwise flat landscape some 400 kilometers south of Addis Ababa. They are a drastic change from the monotonous but productive flatness of the agricultural land that leads up to the mountains. The change is so drastic and has been that way for so long, that the Bale mountains have developed their own species of flora and fauna that exist nowhere else on Earth. The Simian Fox and the Meneliks bushbuck among others only live in this remote corner. Trout were introduced in the 1960s by Dennis Leete and an enthusiastic group of fishermen from Kenya and Ethiopia. (I had the honour of chatting to Dennis before our trip. He was delighted that people were still benefitting from his initiative.)

The high-altitude conditions, cold, clear water and good breeding ground made the rivers that flow off the plateau the perfect habitat for brown and rainbow trout. In 1966 Dennis and a number of others flew 1000 fingerlings of brown trout and the same number of rainbows to Dinsho in Ethiopia in a rickety old army plane. The fingerlings came from a fish farm on the Aberdare mountain range in Kenya and represented a large investment and an even larger risk. The fish would be going into unprotected rivers in a country in which the team had no control. The remote mountains would only be accessible to the most devoted anglers.

We would fish two rivers that flow off the Sanetti Plateau down the northern side of the mountains.

Jamie Melvin and Sven Verwiel of Iolaus, our guides on the trip had been on a recce mission the previous year and reported decent fish in less than perfect conditions. With the right planning we hoped to hit the rivers at the right season so that the rivers would just be receding from being high from the annual rains. The fishing would theoretically be at its peak.

Rods packed and hopes high we set off from Nairobi in an enthusiastic group. Jamie and Sven met us at the airport and escorted us to our bed and breakfast on Bob Marley Avenue. There is an

intriguing statue of him, dreads in full flight, in the middle of a roundabout. We spent a comfortable but odd night in Addis where the yowls and chuckles of hyenas mingle with the grumble of traffic and the yaps and barks of dogs.

An early start and an 8 hour drive south from Addis brought us into the shadow of the Bale Mountains. The fertility of the land increases with the altitude as the road to Dinsho, our base, winds up through the rugged foothills. We arrived as darkness fell. At 5 in the morning, we awoke to fiendishly strong Ethiopian coffee. It is brewed in an amphora-like pot to a viscous tarry consistency that resembles molten bitumen.



The Web.

The river runs out of the national park in a narrow, swiftly-flowing stream over a mostly rocky bed. In the lower reaches that we fished, below a small waterfall (whose plunge pool harbored very decent trout) the river dips into a steep sided rocky-bottomed gorge. The sides are precipitous and imposing, reaching 200 feet in places. They are criss-crossed with the paths of animals and locals as the gorge lies across the route to Dinsho. The paths are rocky stairways covered with a layer of earth making descent very perilous indeed. Taha, our government-employed local guide and guru (he looked like one) informed us late on in the trip that a Frenchman had fallen from one of the cliffs to the river below. We never found out how he coped with the incident but having been there and seen the drop, it must have been serious.

The fishing was fun and eventful, fish were plentiful and the weather was kind. The two people I was fishing with caught many more fish than I, mostly on small nymphs fished low in the slightly coloured water. Mike, one of our party and a splendid fisherman, managed a double hook-up on a single rod. Two fish, of a pound or so each had simultaneously taken his dropper and his main nymph. He then capped his achievement by landing both. Mike pulled this off twice in the first day and set the yardstick high. My nymphing technique leaves much to be desired and I managed best on a Thompson's coachman, a regular coachman with a big white marabou tuft extending upward from behind the head. Under Jamie's tireless tuition I managed a few fish. The waterfall below the road spills into a large pool which held much enjoyment in the way of streamer fishing on big bead-headed fritzes and the like to larger trout than we had had a go at previously. The two beats on the Web that we fished yielded upward of 50 fish on the first day to our party through a variety of different techniques.

Taha fished near me during my struggles on the first day and watched me fruitlessly thrash the water in a long deep pool. He dipped his battered old 5 weight into the rapid at the head of the pool and pulled out a gnarly old cock fish bigger than anything I had caught all day. Somewhat mystified and a little indignant I asked him what his secret was. He told me, "fish slow" which is some of the best fishing advice I think I have ever been given. I left my Mrs Simpson sitting in the water for a moment as I pondered his laconic advice. As I took up the tension in the line, sure enough, a fish struck. Taha just smiled his quiet smile. He was a man who was truly in tune with the river. We kept only a few fish on the trip. Taha had to be cajoled and coaxed for every one of them. He hates people

killing his fish, a true river guardian, his rivers are his life and the fish his children. His respect and love of the rivers still makes me feel that, as long as Taha is involved, the rivers will run strong and the trout will thrive.



The Shia

The Shia is a larger river that has the clarity of an English chalk stream in the higher reaches. The fishing was trickier and yielded fewer fish throughout the day, though the long pools offered sight fishing to feeding fish, some of which were as big as two pounds. The fish seemed most receptive to streamers but we had success on small copper-john nymphs. The river

runs through meadows of cropped grass and cedar. Some of the photos we took could be easily mistaken for a Wiltshire chalk stream or Montana meltwater.

The landscape was gentle and quiet, a totally different character from the day before. I was not the only one whose calves and thighs appreciated the change from the steep dangerous climbing on the Web, especially at 11,000 ft. Climbing a 50-degree incline on a slippery path at 11,000 feet is a truly exhausting experience. A friend of my Dad's had contacted us as we were leaving Nairobi to fly to Addis and claimed to have caught an 8-pound trout in a particular pool on the Shia. We were all anxious to see the pool and possibly catch the fish or one like it.



After all, the story was from a trip a few years before, if anything the fish would now be bigger, possibly pounds bigger! Alas the expansion of the towns near the river meant that there was much activity above the pool, trucks being washed, children playing and animals stirring up the mud so that the water was too coloured and disrupted to hold any real chance of catching. Hopes of the monster dashed, we fished on upstream, away from the town. We experienced nothing of that size on the trip. The biggest fish we caught barely nudged 3 ½ pounds, but all fish caught were in near perfect condition and fought like demons.

In Ethiopia it seemed that fish were plentiful even in areas where there were loads of people. In our homeland over the border to the south in Kenya it would be very rare that any river in a populated area would retain any number of trout. They are poached voraciously for food but it seems they aren't at all in Ethiopia. This is surprising in that Ethiopia has endured some of the worst famines in recent history and yet it seems the trout, a seemingly obvious source of food is still thriving. We noticed the same thing with the other wildlife that abounded. Within site of the town of Dinsho, on the banks of the Danka stream, we came across a small family group of Mountain Nyala- a large and regal antelope with handsome spiralling horns and white stripes like careless paint splashes.



They are one of the most impressive of the Bale Mountains' endemic wildlife. The bull and his females were quite tame, allowing us to approach to within several yards of them and take some good pictures. This made a very nice change from the flash of colour and clatter of hooves of a fleeing kudu that we were used to in Kenya. The Nyala had almost no fear of us. Poaching, it seemed was not an issue at all. Ethiopia was full of these little paradoxes. Much of Africa, especially East Africa is plagued by corruption. Ethiopia is refreshingly free. Although they have had to endure their fair share of political hardship in the form of a couple of decades of hard-core collectivist communism.

Ethiopia was an incredible experience. The fishing was delightful, the landscape was dramatic and the wildlife was prolific. In one of the most remote, unexpected places possible, trout have found an environment that suits them down to the ground. As many fly fishermen like to do, I would love to keep this place as a secret retreat for an exclusive few, but, as it stands, fly fishing in Ethiopia is still very much in its infancy and could really use the support of more people to develop it into a sustainable and protected environment. I would encourage any who are tempted to do it. It's not for the faint of heart but it offers some exceptional fishing in a great new environment.

Find a Fishery – Quick Links

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<p>Inverawe Fishery Inverawe Fisheries & Country Park, Taynuilt, Ar- gyll PA35 1HU Tel: 01866 822 808 (Easter – December) or 01866 822 777 (January – Easter) shop@iverawe.co.uk</p>	<p>Kinross Trout Fishery Hetheryford Kinross KY13 0NQ Tel: 01577 864212 Mobile: 07376762057 Email: huntersofkinrossfishery@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Lake of Menteith Lake of Menteith Fisheries, Port of Menteith, FK8 3RA. Bookings Tel: 01877 385664 book- ing@menteith-fisheries.co.uk</p>
<p>Ledyatt Loch Ledyatt Loch Trout Fishery Ledyatt Loch Coupar Angus Road Lundie By Dundee DD2 5PD Tel: 07530 592724 or 07891 896848 ledyatt@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Linlithgow Loch 212A High Street (at Loch Side) Lilithgow EH49 7ES 01506 671753 linlithgowlochlodge@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Loch Fad Fishery Loch Fad Isle of Bute PA20 9PA Tel : 01700 504871 Mob: 07712 534511 info@lochfad.co.uk</p>
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