

Issue 191

TROUT FISHER

Fly-focussed ~ totally transferable

Summer 2024



CLARKE'S CADDIS

Reflections on nymphing small streams
A month in Montana ~ Luck or Knowledge
Confessions of an Addicted Salmon Angler
Wild Dogs & Fishermen

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2 On NYMPHING small streams

As I write this (my first article for a fishing magazine), I think about some of the advancements in fly fishing tactics for trout in the time that I have been involved in this fascinating pastime. It seems every year, more and more fly fishers are dabbling with techniques such as tight line nymphing tactics in its various forms. Tight line nymphing (to me at least!), comprises various forms that have gained popularity over the years, after being introduced earlier in the much larger markets of the US and Europe.

By Steve Griffith



6 STOP?

2024/25 began well for me on the lake. Searching open water for trout rather than the generally much easier task of trying to intercept them at the shoreline, using identical tackle and tactics, by mid-October I had already landed a third of my total catch for last season – my poorest in over 40 years' on this lake.

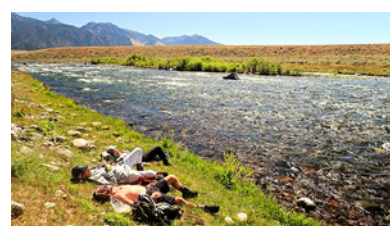
Talking Plenty with Peter Storey



12 A month in Montana

For a dry fly nut, a cold, wet Taihape Winter can make the fishing feel a long way away. A simple solution to this predicament is to get on a plane and fly to Montana for a month and that is exactly what I did in August 2024.

Nick Taransky escapes a Kiwi winter



22 NEW GEAR

From Boot Studs NZ, Manic and Kilwell

26 Clarke's Caddis

This somewhat unconventional deer hair technique is made easier if long hair can be used. Although regular long deer hair can be employed, I prefer to use the stiffer waxy cow elk hair. The extra length and rigidity of this hair makes the handling and technique much easier to perfect.

An adaptation of Chapter 14 of Barry Ord Clarke's latest fly tying book



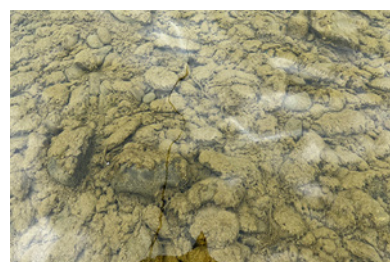
Cover Clarke's Caddis. (Barry Ord-Clarke)

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36 Feds Battle RAKAIA WCO Test

The NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers, a national trout and salmon fishing advocacy is battling to safeguard the future of the Rakaia River and several other prized waters that are protected by a Water Conservation Order status, akin to national park status on wilderness areas.

By Tony Orman



38 Luck or Knowledge

Over my nearly 21 years of life I have grown up with fishing. Both my parents went fishing and took me out with them. While I never really got into the hobby as much as them I still to this day, enjoy the ability to go to an open body of water and play around with different fishing rods, lines and flies.

Todd Storey reflects on an early season trip to the Waimakariri



40 Finding another 'Home Base'

As time rolled round to the 1997-98 fishing season there had been a change to my living arrangements. Hazel, who had been flatting with her oldest son, needed somewhere else to live and the logical thing was for her to move in to my place.

Part 8 of Confessions of an addicted salmon angler, by Larry Burke



46 Wild Dogs & Fishermen . . .

What makes a barren frost plain in a national park interesting for hikers, adventurers and anglers alike? Perhaps, it's what lies within these naked valleys is like a treasure hunt waiting to be explored? A land scattered with historic alpine huts built more than a hundred years ago, each with their own history and narrative. Once used for grazing and a working culture, today easily accessible for a day visit, or an overnigher. A place brimming with Australian wildlife, including brumbies and if you're lucky, a rarely seen wild dog

Matt Hoole and family visit Long Plain NSW





Clarke's Caddis

Adapted from: Chapter 14

The Feather Bender's Advanced Flytying Techniques

By Barry Ord Clarke

TECHNIQUES MASTERED

Elk hair extended body

- *A technique for making an extended body from a small bunch of cow elk hair.*

Elk hair down-wing

- *Elk hair down-wing made from the same bunch of cow elk hair as the extended body.*

CDC dubbing brush wing and hackle

- *A split tying thread dubbing loop loaded with CDC fibres to form a CDC dubbing rush for the hackle and wing.*



This somewhat unconventional deer hair technique is made easier if long hair can be used. Although regular long deer hair can be employed, I prefer to use the stiffer waxy cow elk hair. The extra length and rigidness of this hair makes the handling and technique much easier to perfect.

The North American elk (*Cervus canadensis*), is the second-largest species of deer in the world, also known as wapiti in Europe. Elk, on the other hand, in Europe is the name given to the European moose (*Alces alces*). The two are very different and should not be confused!

Elk provides us with perhaps the broadest range of hairs to meet nearly every tying situation or requirement.

When buying cow elk hair, look for 'Cow Elk Rump' hair that is long and straight, with steeply tapering tips with fine markings. You can see that it looks and feels a little waxy to the touch.

These larger diameter, late season elk hairs are already extremely buoyant to start with. But when folded to form the extended caddis body, they create a little elk hair pellet that traps air. The length or size of the extended body can be modified to the hook size being used, if required.

When stacking the elk hair, use a larger hair stacker to keep the long hairs in check. You may find that the hair you have is slightly curved. If so, hold your hair stacker at a 45 degree angle when rapping it on the table. At once all the hairs fall into line with each other. If you have managed to get some cow elk with unbroken tips and vivid markings, after stacking, the tips will align to beautiful effect.

Finishing the collar of the fly with the CDC dubbing brush can be done sparsely or full, depending on how you wish to fish the pattern, either as a high riding dry or as an emerging pupa.

The hook size and style plays a significant role in this pattern. The size 14 C49X hook that I use on the one shown here, has a deep gape. This not only retains a good 'bite' between the hook point and extended body, but also functions as a keel, keeping the fly fishing in the correct way. This I fish, well dressed with floatant, on a floating line in combination with a slow sink Poly Leader. This leader modifies your floating line into an extremely slow sink tip. This is still light enough to keep your fly dry, if required, but will make it dive and swim just under the surface when you make a retrieve. As your retrieve ends, the fly 'plops' up in the surface again, imitating an emerging caddis pupa.



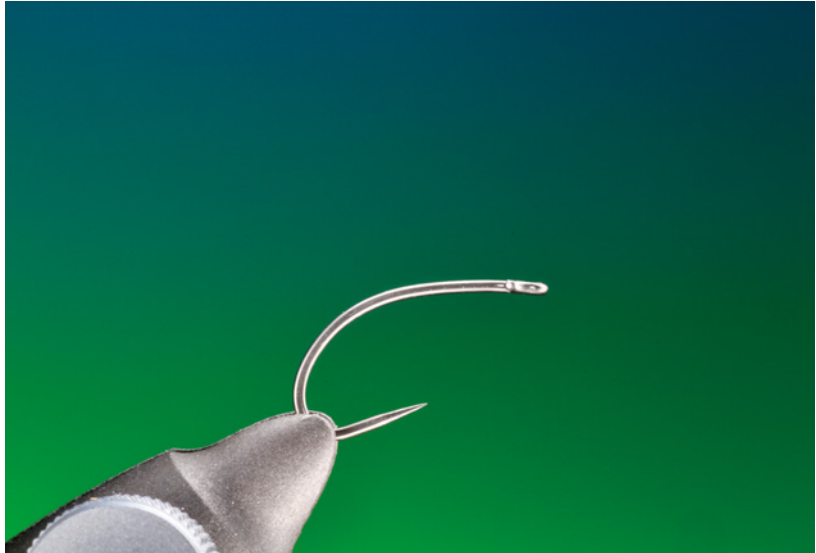
TYING CLARKE'S CADDIS The Dressing

Hook: Mustad Heritage C49XSAP # 14

Tying thread: Sheer 14/0 tan

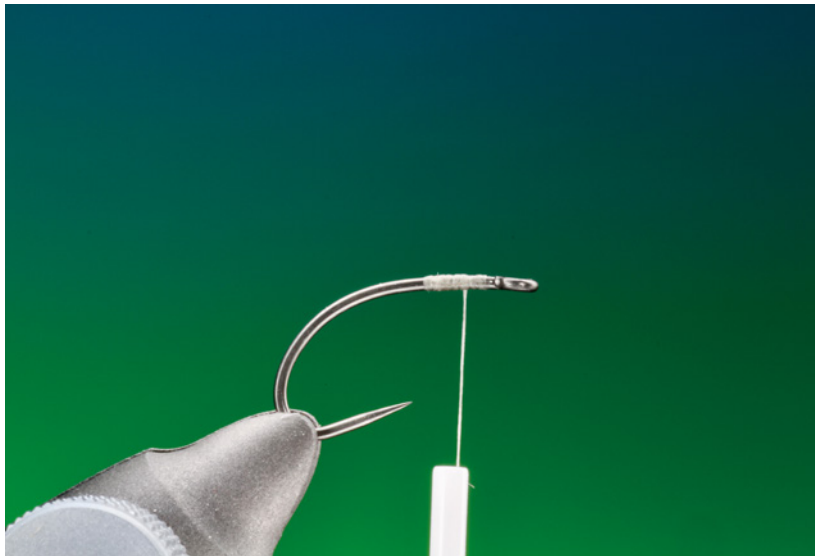
1

Secure your hook in the vice. Make sure that the hook shaft is horizontal. If you have a true rotary vice, centre the hook.



2

Attach your tying thread as shown, a little behind the hook eye and run a foundation a short way along the hook shank.



3

You will now need some fine, well-marked cow elk hair. It's not necessary, but it helps if it is long hair. This will make handling it easier. You can also use a standard deer hair.

