



January Meeting:

Notes by Dick Dragiewicz

How to plan for a successful fishing trip.

On January 9th, Paul Melchior from Angling Escapes (<http://anglingescapes.com>) gave us a presentation on how to plan (and pack) for a successful fishing trip. The information he shared with us was based on his extensive experience in the fishing travel industry. During his 25+ years in this business he has booked thousands of clients on fishing trips to locations all around the world. And, he has also traveled to many of these locations. So, the information he shared with us was based on first hand real life experiences.

Even though most of the program cited fishing trips that required extensive travel his information, with some obvious modifications, can be used for all of our future fishing trips and other travel plans. Here is my summary of the program.

There are four major parts in the planning process. The first step is to decide on what kind of fishing you want to do (freshwater, saltwater, trout, bass, bonefish, etc.). Next you need to select a location or destination. Timing of the trip was next. And, finally we need to prepare a budget to make sure we know all the costs of the trip.

The first three parts of the planning process are relatively easy to determine. The critical part is knowing when to take the trip. For example, you wouldn't want to travel to Yellowstone National Park when the summer snow melt is producing big runoffs and the rivers aren't fishable. Or you wouldn't want to go to Alaska unless you know the timing of the salmon runs. Learning when to go is really important. Answers to this question can be found in magazines, books, internet sites, or by calling area fly shops/ lodges/guides, etc.

When budgeting for a trip you need to have a good estimate of all the travel costs that will or could be incurred, e.g., passport fees, entry fees, air fare, rental car costs, gasoline, guide fees, hotels, meals, incidentals, phone calls, tips, extra dollars in case of emergencies, etc. Depending on where you go access to your local bank may not be readily available to get cash so you need to have some extra cash on hand. If you are going to be traveling out of the country or to other states it's wise to call your credit card company and let them know where you are going and when you'll be there. This way they won't be surprised and perhaps prohibit you from using the credit card at your destination.

Those are the four major areas to consider when planning a trip. Here is a listing of related tips and suggestions that Paul made during the course of the evening. They are listed as bullet points and

aren't organized under the four major points.

- Luggage with wheels is easier to handle than luggage that has to be carried.
- A back pack is more convenient than a tote bag. It frees up your hands and makes it easier to move through airports, into hotels, etc.
- Put proper identification tags on your luggage. Don't use the paper tags provided by the airlines, because they are easily torn off. Putting identification papers and travel plans inside the luggage is also helpful. Using a work address is safer than a home address. You don't want to tell the world that you aren't home.
- After you've selected the location make sure you pack the appropriate clothing.
- Rain gear is a necessity no matter where you travel.
- Consider putting a change of clothes, rain gear, and some warm clothes in your back pack/carryon luggage. This will come in handy if your luggage is misplaced.
- Buzz Off clothing minimizes the irritations caused by insects. And, always bring insect repellent along on your trips. (The higher the level of Deet, the better protected you will be.)
- If you use prescription drugs they should be carried on the plane along with the written prescriptions. Medicine packed in checked luggage that gets lost could present a serious medical problem.
- A money belt is helpful and safe in carrying cash.
- Make sure your passport is up to date. It is now needed when returning from Mexico, Canada, and all other countries.
- Leave a copy of your travel schedule, flight numbers/times, contact information, etc. with a family member or close friend so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Make sure you've assembled and double checked all the equipment and clothing you'll be taking on the trip. You don't want any surprises of having the wrong clothing or malfunctioning fishing tackle when you get to your destination
- Clothing made from synthetic fabrics can reduce the amount of clothes you need for a trip because they are easily hand washed and they dry quickly.
- Be sure to clean, lubricate, and test your fishing equipment to make sure its functioning properly.
- Instead of getting an extra spool for your reel to handle different line types consider getting another reel. So if your reel breaks you'll have a back up and not be left with two spools of line and a broken reel
- If you are going to a foreign country that uses a language you aren't fluent in bring along a language book or dictionary to help you communicate with the local residents.
- Bring a camera, film, extra batteries and memory cards (for digital cameras).
- Photographs of a trip are good way to share the trip with family and friends and to remember details in the future.
- Having a multi purpose super tool such as a Leatherman comes in handy if you need to repair your equipment, etc. When traveling place this tool in your checked baggage or it will be confiscated by the airport security staff.
- Binoculars help you enjoy the scenery and to see if fish are rising way upstream.
- Traveling is easier with 3, 4 or 5 piece rods since they can generally be carried on the airplane. Also, many of these multiple piece rods can be placed inside of your checked luggage.
- Using a rod carrying case versus the aluminum tubes rods come in will minimize problems of getting through airport security and on the airplane.
- Bring a notebook along to make notes of your trip.
- Have a book or magazine to read while waiting to board the plane, etc.
- Photographs of a trip are good way to share the trip with family and friends and to remember details in the future.

January Outing:

A Return to Paradise! — by Greg Schick

Once more into the fray.... Or something like that. A dozen or so intrepid anglers ventured out to Paradise Springs to inaugurate the new fishing year!! That, and to have some wine, cheese, and sausage afterwards in the parking lot.



I seem to be pretty good at finding new characteristics in that pond. Last year I found a new “pothole” along the southwest bank of the pond, close to the casting deck and “foundered around” a bit, getting my left arm and a camera wet.



This year I ventured along the southeast bank of the pond — and found *another* new hole! Got the right arm and shoulder wet this time! At this pond it doesn’t matter whether you get wet in the winter or the summer, the water temperature for both seasons is the same — cold.



The thing that does matter is that I should have looked more closely at where I was wading. The bottom can change from season to season and you always need to be aware of where you’re next step is going to be.

The pond seemed to be a bit short on fish numbers this year, and nobody was sure why. While we were playing in the water only a few fish were caught. I think Ralph got a couple, and another gentlemen — not with our club — netted a nice 13 to 14 inch rainbow.



I forgot to bring my Cheerio flies this time so I was skunked, although even they might not have guaranteed fish on the end of my line.



After our fishing adventures we retired to the parking to share a little camaraderie and excuses, not to mention some wine and cheese!

Tying Pheasant Tails

by Shilo Mathill

Winters in the Rockies can often be long. My favorite streams and rivers are under a blanket of ice and being hypnotized by a bobber at the local tailwaters is not the relief I'm looking for. It is that time of year when more hours are spent thinking about and preparing for fishing than actually getting out and wetting a line. Time is spent sorting through flies, fixing leaky waders, browsing catalogs for the latest gadgets, and reorganizing the gear I have amassed over the years – how did I manage to acquire six nets anyway? Much of my time is also spent at the tying desk - cranking out the flies I know are going to catch fish next season and tweaking a few for fun of it.



Pheasant tails can bring out some nice trout

As I go through my list and inventory my bugs, there is one fly I can never have enough of - the pheasant tail nymph. The pheasant tail was developed in England by Avon River Keeper Frank Sawyer. Sawyer's Pheasant Tail (P.T.) used only natural cock pheasant tail fibers and copper wire. Today, on this side of the big pond, various materials as well as thread is used to enhance what many would consider the greatest nymph imitation ever created.

There are many variations of this popular pattern – beadheads, soft-hackles, flashbacks, glass beads, rubber legs, crystal flash ribbing, etc...etc... Tied in variety of styles, colors, and sizes, the P.T. could very well be the only fly you would need to catch trout feeding on mayflies; nymphs, emergers, duns, or spinners. As a

guide, this is often my “go to” fly when things get tough and produces everywhere from ponds to tailwaters. It is also a great searching nymph when fishing new waters. A couple years ago on a steelhead trip in Southeast Alaska the fishing got tough and guess which fly produced – a size 14 bead head, soft-hackle P.T. swung down and across.

Today, bleached or dyed pheasant tail is available in every color imaginable and is inexpensive. My basic arsenal includes natural, bleached, olive, red, orange, black, and dark brown. With these colors, tied in sizes from 22-10, I can imitate any mayfly nymph. Of course I add beads and flashy accessories on some patterns and others are tied pretty sparse. I give them names such as Strawberry Zinger, Chocolate Sprinkle, etc..., etc... - they're just that yummy and fish love them. Tied with soft-hackle, crystal flash, and a loose dubbed thorax, this pattern will out-fish most caddis patterns during a caddis hatch – it just looks buggy!

One of my favorite variations, the Bead Head Soft Hackle P.T. works well in all types of water and lends itself to a variety of fishing techniques. In rivers, this particular pattern is one of my favorites and works well dead drifted with a slight rod lift and swing at the end of each drift. Many fish take the fly on the swing as it looks like an escaping insect. Another effective method is to fish this fly down and across much like the classic wet fly technique (make sure you throw a big upstream mend as this slows the fly down during the swing). When I'm guiding I'll often fish this fly as a dropper off of any dry fly pattern - this is especially effective during the beginning stages of a hatch. On lakes and ponds, this is a very effective fly (sizes 12-14) in the middle of the day during Callibaetis season. Use a floating line and retrieve the fly very slowly near the surface. Pay particular attention to shallow areas near weed beds. The B.H Soft-hackle Pheasant Tail is especially useful before, during, and immediately after a Callibaetis hatch.

Below is the fly recipe and tying instructions for the soft-hackle variation. Remember; tie many sizes, colors, and variations. Have fun and fill your nymph boxes – you can never have too many and you will be pleasantly surprised when those selective trout see something just a little different and take a bite. Yum, Yum.

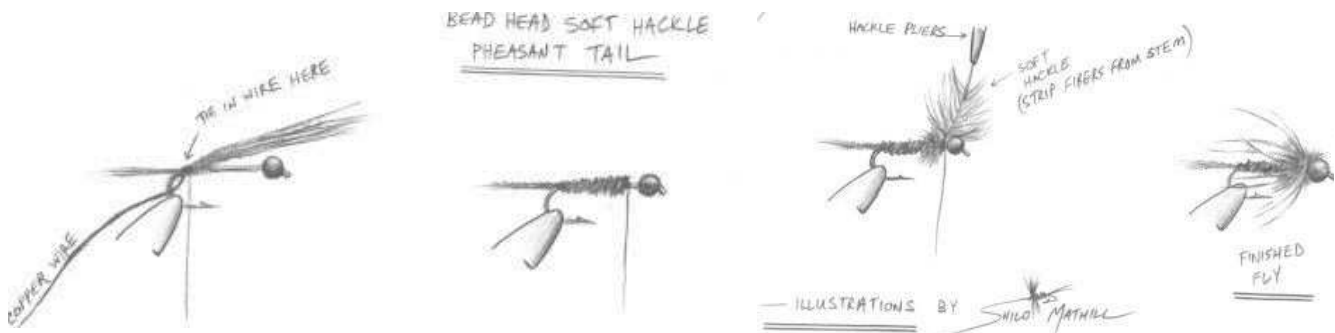
MATERIALS

- Hook:** Tiemco 200R - 3X long, semi-dropped point. Sizes 10-22 (any 3X nymph hook)
- Head:** Copper bead
- Thread:** Brown, or color to match dyed pheasant tail
- Tail:** 3-8 fibers from the tail of a cock ring-neck pheasant (Sawyer recommends 4)
- Rib:** Copper wire
- Body:** Fibers from center tail of cock ring-neck pheasant ribbed with copper wire
- Thorax:** Syntilla Peacockle dubbing (#46)
- Hackle:** Natural or Olive Partridge



TYING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Slide a small brass bead onto the hook.
2. Wrap tying thread just above the bend of the hook and tie in tips of tail feather fibers to form the tail of the fly. Fiber tips should extend one hook gap width past the bend. Do not trim butt ends of tail feather fibers, these will be used to form the body.
3. Tie in a length of fine copper wire at the hook bend.
4. Wrap pheasant tail fibers toward the eye of the hook, stop approx. 2/3 up the shank.
5. Wrap the fine wire forward through body, tie off.
6. Apply dubbing loosely to form thorax.
7. Tie in soft hackle and make and wrap one and a half to two turns, tie off hackle.
8. Finish the fly by adding a slight amount of dubbing in front of the hackle and tying off. Note: You do not need to add dubbing for the smaller sizes, just tie off with thread.



Editor's Note: The Pheasant Tail is a proven fly for trout. Be sure to tie up this and non-beadhead versions for your use this year. The unweighted version may well drift and tumble better and more realistically in our slower spring creek waters

- TIPS:
- HACKLE PLIERS w/ POINTED TIPS WORK BEST
 - CLAMP BARBS TO EASE PUTTING THE BEADS ON
 - SOFT HACKLE SHOULD EXTEND TO BEND OF HOOK

February Meeting:

What do you want to know about fly fishing?

Bring your questions to the February 13th meeting of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers and get the answers.

Knowledgeable club members will be there to answer your questions. We will have mini-seminars throughout the evening on a variety of topics. All this information will help you learn more about this great sport so you can enjoy it forever.

Some of the topics we'll be covering are: how to set up your rod/reel/line/leader, how to tie the knots you need, maintenance of your equipment, contents of a fishing vest, discussions on casting techniques, what flies to use when and where, how to find places to fish, how to find and catch those trout or bass, and more.

Join us on Tuesday February 13th at YesterYears Pub at 7:00 pm

It's Fishing Show Season!

There are still things to do in the winter months, and high on your list should be visiting the fly and "regular" fishing shows!

The list includes:

February 10, 2007

Badger Fly Fishers - Madison area
<http://badgerflyfishers.org>

February 16 - 18 - Itasca, IL (Chicago suburb)

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo
www.greatwaters2007.com

March 2-4

Northeast Wisconsin Sport Fishin' Show - Green Bay
<http://gbsportshows.com/newsemsched.htm>

Rod Building Classes:

Frank Stetzer will be hosting a rod making class at his home. The dates are Feb 6, 20 & 27 (all Tuesdays).

- The first class is learn what's involved & what materials to get.
- Second class is assembling the grip & reel seat and guide placement.
- Third class is guide wrapping & finishing

Frank will have room for a maximum of about four or five people, so you'll need to register if you want to attend.

For more information you can call Frank at 414-481-8935.



"I've been falling in so often lately, I figured
I might as well start taking a look around."

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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS 2007 CALENDAR

	February	March	April
Meeting	13th	13th	10th
Outing	24th Root River (tent.)	24th Black Earth Creek	21st (TBD)
Fly Tying	14th and 28th	14th and 28th	11th and 25th
Event			

	May	June	July
Meeting	8th	12th	10th
Outing	19th Lake Waubesa ?	22nd Door County Smallmouth?	20th
Fly Tying	9th and 23rd	None! It's time to fish!	None! Let's fish some more!
Event			

Meeting:	7 pm Yesteryears Pub & Grill 9427 W. Greenfield
Outing:	Meet at 6:30 am at Park & Rides lots. See Hatch for details.
Fly Tying:	Sportsman's Warehouse (I-43 & Mooreland Rd.) from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.
Event:	*

The Hatch is the monthly newsletter of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, an incorporated nonprofit organization affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers meets the 2nd **Tuesday** of each month at 7 p.m. at **Yester-Years Pub & Grill, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI**

Meetings **May through August** are on the water. Read **The Hatch** for locations or go to our website

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Submit contributions for **The Hatch** by the 20th of the month to:

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