



May Casting Clinic:

Casting Clinic:

Erik Helm and the art of fly casting

Featured at the May club meeting was Erik Helm and his great fly casting demonstration. This was the fifth or sixth time that Erik has showed us how to correctly cast a fly rod. He makes the process look easy and simple. It is. All we have to do is follow the directions and practice and practice some more. Casting correctly makes fishing easier and probably more productive. Here are a couple of ideas on how to improve your casting skills.

Take personal casting lessons from a qualified instructor. Watching other fishermen when they are casting may show you how to properly cast. Ask a friend for suggestions on how to solve a casting problem. Watch videos/DVD's on fly casting.



Search the internet for fly casting instructions. Read books or magazine articles on the subject.

Learning to cast a fly rod requires proper instructions and lots of practice. Improving your casting skills will make fly fishing more enjoyable and productive.



May Outing:

Panfish around Madison

By Ken Zielinski

I arrived at the Pettit Center on time and hoped we would have a good showing for this outing. Since we have been having such a cold spring I was hoping that the little bit of warm weather would bring in the bluegills even though a cold front had come in during the night. Frank Stetzer drove up a little while after I did but no one else did. I was sure at least two others would be going with us. Maybe they would show up at the park in Madison. They did last year.

When we got to Lake Farm Park we were all alone. Greg, who always goes on our outings had to work that day but I surely expected others to be there. This was easy fishing; no climbing up and down banks or fighting the current like we get while trout fishing. I guess everyone decided to sleep in that morning.

When Frank and I started fishing the water was only 59°. That's not too good for spawning panfish. It's more like trout water. We went in different directions and tried a lot of different flies but the fish weren't cooperating. In the three hours plus that we were there Frank caught five or six and I got none. During that time we took a break and climbed up on shore. A guy who works at the park came to talk to us and see how we had done. He had been fly fishing there since dawn and didn't get a thing either. He told us that he had been there the previous evening, before the cold front when it was quite a bit warmer, and had gotten twenty-five really big bluegills that were bigger than his hand. (And he had big hands.)

After a long while it was obvious that we weren't going to do well so we drove over to Lake Monona. That had been excellent last year too. Maybe it had warmer water.

When we got there the first thing I did was check the water temp. It was 67°. That still wasn't real warm but it was better than Waubesa. Frank got a few and after about a half hour I finally got my first one of the day. This was tough fishing but at least we knew there were more fish here. We kept switching flies and when Frank started using a white popper things got better for him. A lot of them were biting short but at least they were showing themselves. When I put on a popper



I had a lot of trouble timing my strike and kept missing them. After a while I took off the popper and put on a tan X-caddis that I had tied at one of our tying sessions last year I had tied it with a wing that was way too sparse and it was water logged because I had been standing in deeper water for a long time and all my flies were wet so I just used it as a little streamer. The bluegills just loved it. I couldn't believe it. It's like they were waiting all day for this particular fly. After a while I gave one to Frank and he had similar success. We had a fish hit on almost every cast. That one poorly tied fly was saving the day for us.

We kept it up for quite a while until we decided to go home. But I know we will be going back sometime soon. If the weather ever really warms up and stays that way we can have an awesome day and we now have another super fly that we know they like. I hope some of you will take advantage of it.

History of Czech Nymphing:

By Karel Krivanec

The "Czech Nymph" is a term now known throughout the whole flyfishing world. The term itself has two elements. Firstly the actual nymphs which are quite slim, weighted, tied on gammarus hooks with bent shanks. Secondly is the actual technique, when these flies are led, short under the rod. Virtually no actual fly line is used outside the top ring. By this method it is possible to lead a much broader scale of weighted flies and many different nymphs in this way.

I was lucky in that I could watch closely all the development work on these nymphs and the specific fly fishing technique. I must state that ten years ago there were only a few basic patterns, these were top secret. But despite this they gradually started to spread among a broader group of fishermen. I must admit that none of us believed at that time how famous this Czech innovation would become. It is estimated that there are now tens of original and new patterns of Czech nymphs and more are being invented all the time.



The first great success of the short line nymph technique was recorded at the World Championships in Belgium in 1986, where it brought a gold medal and the World Champion trophy for Slavoj Svoboda. Even though his winning fly at that time was the Hare's Ear Nymph in sizes between 10 - 12. Czech Nymphs as a global pattern of the fly then broke through at the World Championships in Wales in 1990 for the first time. Here it brought the title of World Champions for the Czech Team. It helped to get us the next title in 1994 in Norway

and again in 1996 in Czesky Krumlov. At this event the technique was explained to the English for the first time, and they arranged a detailed publishing of all the series of "Czech" secrets. The latest great success of the Czech Nymph was the World Champion's trophy for Vladimir Sedivy in Sweden in 2001.

Nowadays when new books about flyfishing arrive there are often many new "Czech Nymph" patterns. It would be useful perhaps to explain the actual origin and formation of the fly and the technique. There has been much speculation but little real knowledge. The current captain of the Czech team Jiri Klima read a report about nymphing upstream at the 1st Czechoslovakian Flyfishing Seminar in Ceske Budejovice in 1986. But the actual origin of all this is a little bit different.

It all began in 1984 on the Dunajec river in Poland, where the flyfishing tournament between teams of Poland (A,B,) GDR and the team of Czechoslovakia was held. The Polish fishermen were fishing a short line technique, which was surprisingly easy. At that time most of them did not have a flyfishing line. They substituted a thick nylon line of about 0.5 mm in diameter, which they bound to the tip. Mr. Jelenski showed our competitors two basic patterns; these were imitations of the caddis larvae. *Hydropsyche* a body made from natural hare fur and *Rhyacophyllia*



which had a green body and green tail. The backs were bound from peacock fibers on both patterns. Straight hooks were used, possibly with a gentle bend. In 1985 at the World Championships on the San river, our competitors were fishing in this way and they finished second behind the home team

Poland.

In 1986 Slavoj Svoboda was in Belgium as a competitor in the Fresh Water Club World Championships in Liege, where he bought a Daiwa flyfishing rod and with this new rod he won the trophy at the Champion of Czechoslovakia on the Vltava River that summer. Even today I can still see him fishing next to me using this unusual technique. As a backing material he was using Grafting Bast. Then a few weeks later he won the famous World trophy on the Ourth river in Belgium. At that time Slavoj was binding the bodies of his patterns from plastic foam, which he got from the sponge used by car drivers. Its disadvantage was its short life span.

Another of his proved patterns was the "Carrot", which he brought from the Orava region in Slovakia and for which he used beige chameleon substitute and strips from a red raincoat. All was ribbed with horsehair. This nymph was also used by our competitors on the San river.



At this period the secret of the short line nymph was only known by some of the best competitors in South Moravia (Svoboda, Klima, Malasek) they won on the Vltava river and the team event. Their secret of the short line nymph was watched closely by the other competitors from South Bohemia. Between them and lead by Milan Janus they began to experiment in the Competitions and at the Czechoslovak elimination competition on the Jihavka river in 1987. One year later the team from Strakonice (Janus, Ancicka, Seknicka) won the first league competition with this technique on the Malse river. At that time the big emphasis was on the development of the back, and it started being bound from the sausage skin, later the skin of the catfish or the eel were used. These first fat nymphs were called ""Bobesh"" and they belonged to the bugs category.



Radical changes in the appearance of the nymph were brought about by the use of ultra thin leaded wire, which led to a massive slimming of the nymphs. They also started to use the Gammarus hooks called Admiral (=Kamasan B100). This new technique was used by the competitors from Roznov (Karafiat, Machacek, Barton) who were very successful with these patterns. The next improvement was the use of thin rubber on the back of the nymph and its advantage was durability, transparency and easy tying. Firstly they used rubber strips cut from surgical gloves. Later directly prepared vinyl strips in different colors. Special plastic foil backs were the next innovation, with different printing strong colors or glitter.

Next the Hares Ear fur, even the rabbit fur in many colorful variations started to be used. By using seals fur a further new innovation started, and it has brought experiments with many different furs of exotic animals. Originally monotonously dyed bodies started being enlivened by red spots. One of the first who tried this was way the competitor Lukas Pazdernik. The real innovation the use of the craziest of colours was brought about by Pavel Machan (European Champion 2002) and also



Tomas Starychfojtu (Holder of three different individual medals from the World Championships) who used many new and nontraditional materials in his nymphs.

Trips by our competitors abroad and the learning of new materials has led to the next innovations. The artistic fantasies of the specialist fly tyers who do not have any direct relationship with the competition flyfisher is a developing subject with which I am not familiar and will not comment. One of the new innovators is Mr. Bulicek, whose patterns for the Ohre rive are very original. A new competitor Oldrich Dvorak follows his own way of imitating and it is very interesting that his way is very different from the attractive nymphs of his friend Pavel Machan.

Remarkable improvements in these flies required innovations in gammarus hooks. Nowadays people demand chemically sharpened hooks from companies Hayabusa, Kamasan, Mustad, Tiemco, VMC. Competition rules require barbless hooks and it has given the stimulus for local manufacturers, where hooks from Mr. Skalka or Mr. Knapek are highly appreciated. Hooks with lead weight, became the hit of the last season. Their advantage is the extreme temper and the possibility to tie even flatter types of nymphs. Which after completion can be pressed and scrunched into the shape of gammarus.



Even the leader material for this type of Nymphing technique has made big progress. At the beginning it was bound as tapered, when it was assembled from several parts of nylon line from 0.40 mm, through 0.30mm, 0.20mm, 0.16mm, possibly to 0.14mm in diameter. Most finished at 0.18mm and it was fished with two nymphs. Leaders tapered in this way sink badly. When the next new invention came to the world, which was a one-diameter leader, which was down to a contemporary diameter of 0.10-0.08mm. Of course these modifications were made possible because of the creation of completely new fishing rods as well, without these it would not have been possible. Even the number of nymphs fished has now been stabilized at three.



Czech nymphs are today a real term. In the top quality English flyfishing magazines there is always some information on them. Even if in time the attribute Czech is disappearing, which would mean the nymphs are not something particular to Czech. They are becoming the property of the world flyfishing family. I do not think that their development will stop, but on the contrary I would say that we will witness their next improvements and surprises of which we have no idea so far.

For many anglers on this side of the Atlantic, Czech Nymphing is still a pretty foreign idea. While we may, or may not choose to employ this short line method of fishing heavy nymphs, there is no doubt that the effectiveness of this approach makes it worth a second look. We can, and should take advantage of growing interest in this facet of the sport, and decide where it fits into our own approach.

Flies of this type can easily be made with “dubbing brushes”, which can give the angler a different looking nymph pattern — something the fish may find interesting, too!

To view how a “Turbo Twister” can be used to prepare these dubbing brushes, go to this link to see how it’s used in preparing dubbing brushes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozuKuJwWFns>

The Dubbing Brush Nymph below is simply a caddis pupa-like nymph that employs two of Jan Siman's products, as well as a dubbing brush. Once the dubbing brushes are made, this pattern is probably faster to tie than any other nymph. When you consider how easy it is to customize every aspect of these dubbing brushes, the options are endless.

Dubbing Brush Nymph Fly Pattern

- Hook:** Any curved shank/pupa hook size #8-#16
- Thread:** Brown 8/0
- Weight:** Med. lead wire
- Ribbing:** 4X or 5X leader material
- Shell Back:** Jan Siman's "Magic Shrimp Foil" pearl
- Body:** Dubbing brush
- Legs:** Jan Siman's "Oliver Edwards Caddis Legs" in 06 Brown
- Dark Brown permanent marker



Wrap 3/4 of the hook shank in lead wire as shown, secure with thread on both ends. The thread should be tied to create a taper that will make the material lay down more easily—as shown. Tie on the 4X leader material, then the shrimp foil at the rear of the hook shank, facing back. Next, tie in your dubbing brush and advance the thread up towards the eye of the hook.



Wind the dubbing brush forward in tight wraps, covering about 3/4 of the hook shank. Tie off, and remove the tag end



Tie in the Caddis Legs (they're like a dubbing brush that's been made from brown deer hair) and wind them forward, stopping just behind the eye of the hook. Tie off, and remove tag end. Using sharp scissors, trim the top of the fly so that the shell back will lay flat — both the fibers sticking up from the dubbing brush, and the disheveled-looking caddis legs.

Pull the Magic Shrimp Foil forward so that it is even along the top of the fly and secure it (under tension) with several tight wraps of thread. Trim off the excess, leaving a little behind.



Wrap the rib forward to form a segmented body and tie off .

Make several more tight wraps of thread, forming a thread "head." Trim the legs to a realistic length, but not all to the SAME length. Trim any fibers from the dubbing brush that take away from the overall grub-like profile of the fly. Using the permanent marker, color the shell back above the legs, the head to match...if you like!

June Meeting:

Fishing on the Fox River

The June 10th meeting will be at the Fox River in Rochester at the Case Eagle Park. This location offers us some new water and hopefully lots of big bass.

We'll be fishing from about 5:00 pm until (near?) dark. See club website for map/directions.

June Outing:

Trout Fishing on Castle Rock Creek

We'll be after trout on Castle Rock Creek for our June 21st outing. Castle Rock was one of Wisconsin's first catch and release trout streams. It's famous for its blue wing olive hatches, and large pools that hold large trout. There's a good crop of caddis and midges on the stream as well.

For those that want to carpool or caravan out to the stream, meet Ken Zielinski at the Pettit Center parking lot at 6:30 a.m. Be prompt — he'll leave at 6:45 a.m.!

See the club website for a map and general location.

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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS

2008 CALENDAR

	June	July	August
Meeting	10th —Meeting on the Water: Fox River at Eagle Park, Rochester	Meeting on the Water 8th	Meeting on the Water 12th
Outing	21st Castle Rock Creek	19th	23rd
Fly Tying	None — It time to fish!	None — It time to fish!	None — It time to fish!
Notes			

	September	October	November
Meeting	9th	14th	11th
Outing	20th	25th	None
Fly Tying	10th Only	15th and 29th	12th and 26th
Notes			

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

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 at: <http://www.mlsff.org>

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