

# *the* Flyrodder



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The Flyrodder is the monthly publication of the Long Island Fly Rodders, Inc.  
*Gian Padovani, Editor*  
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The Long Island Fly Rodders, Inc. meets at 8:00 P.M. the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Hicksville Elks Lodge on Barclay Street, off Rt. 107, north of Old Country Road. For information call the L.I.F.R. hotline (516) 679-5737

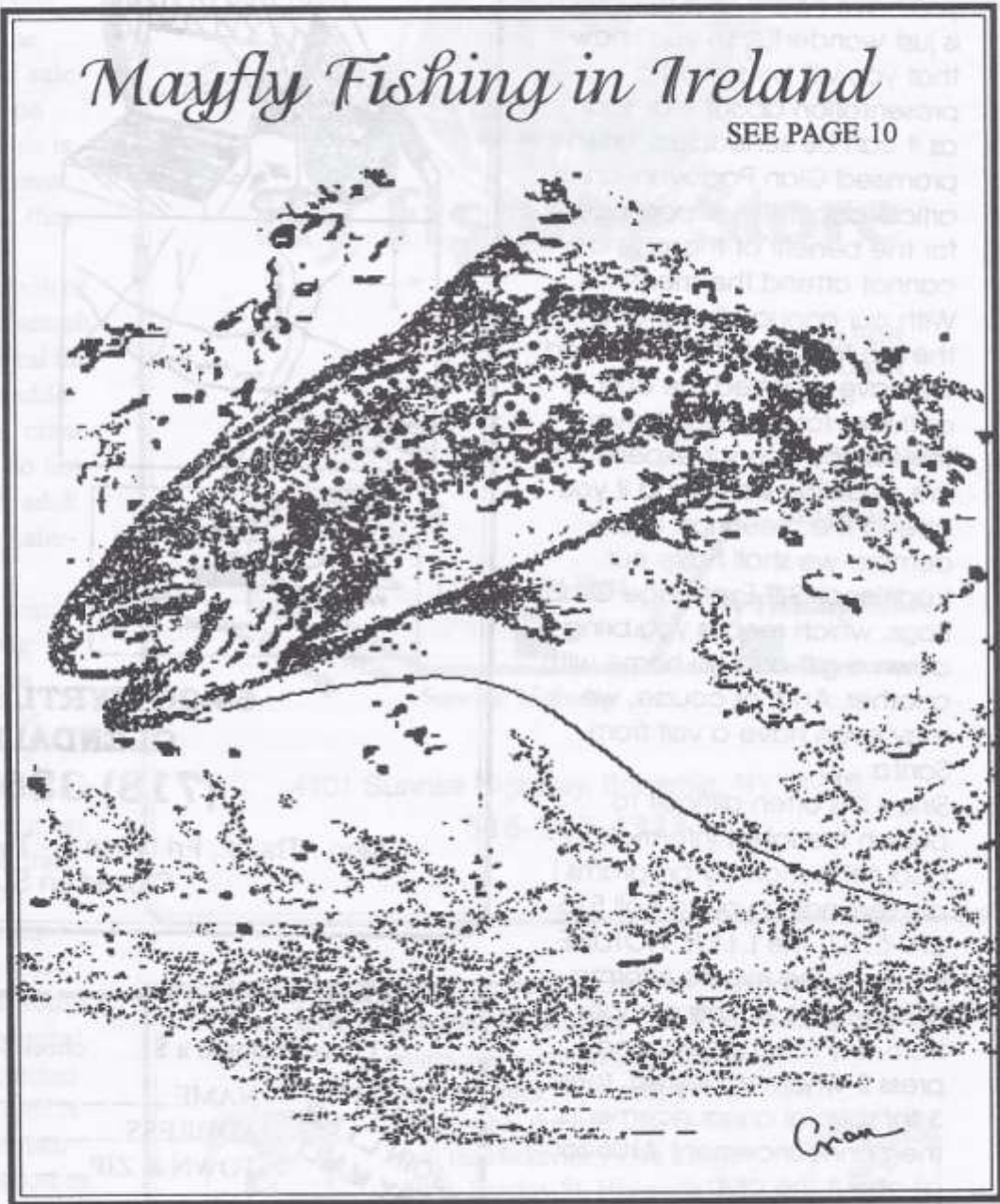
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## *Mayfly Fishing in Ireland*

SEE PAGE 10



**MEETING DATE: Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1995**

# president's line



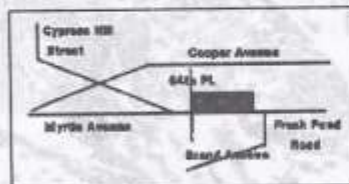
As some of you may know we have just returned from a trip to the fishermen's paradise, Alaska, our northernmost state. The fishing is just as great as you have heard and the area is just wonderful, so you know that you will be seeing a presentation about it as soon as it can be scheduled. I also promised Gian Padovani an article about the experience for the benefit of those who cannot attend the meetings. With our annual dinner and the trip to Pulaski for Steelhead we have reached the end of activities for this year. Nevertheless you can still experience lots of action when and if you attend the meetings. In December we shall have our traditional Gift Exchange Grab Bags, which means you bring down a gift and go home with another. And, of course, we may even have a visit from Santa.....

Since it is often difficult to publish the latest information about the monthly programs I am reminding you to call 516-679-5737, the L.I.F.R. HOTLINE for up to the minute information. Simply dial the number from any touch telephone, press 2 when requested, then 3 for special announcements, then announcement #106 for all about the club.

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*Alan Manz*

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# ABOUT NYMPHS

by Gian Padovani

Although your preference to fish is either with dry flies or streamers, you will have to admit that often nothing is more productive than a properly presented nymph. As you look through the fishing catalogs you cannot fail to be amazed at the excess of patterns offered for sale and this can be confusing as on what to order. The general rule is to pick a few patterns in different shades and sizes, hoping that they will do the trick. A nymph is nothing but a step in the growth of an aquatic insect's life and a search into a typical stream will reveal the nymphal stage of mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies, dobson flies, crane flies and midge flies. These do not look anywhere like the final, adult stage, not differently than a caterpillar does from a butterfly.

Many fishermen match the hatch with the adult flying insects but seldom inspect the water in an effort to match the nymphs that are prevalent in a specific stream. Although there are many aquatic insects that trout eat, most anglers seem to concentrate mostly on three of them, the mayflies, stone flies and caddis flies. Percentage wise the caddis flies are the major fare on a trout's menu even if most of the nymphal stages of this insect are protected by a "home". Usually this shell is constructed around most of their bodies, either with bits of wood or gravel and glued together with a substance secreted by the insect.

*Continues on page 7*

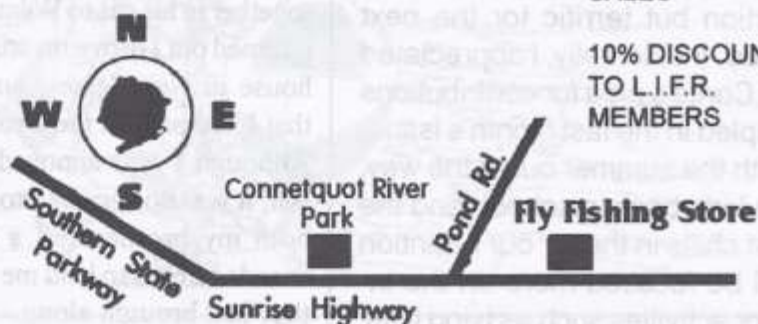
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## Editorially

When I asked for comments on the new cover design (in last month's column) I didn't expect a deluge of letters but was somewhat disappointed when NO ONE bothered to answer. Since, as they say, no news is good news, I assume you liked it and thus I am sticking with it. As sort of compensation, I did receive a couple of good articles, one a little too late for this month's insertion but terrific for the next issue. Incidentally, I appreciated Ed Conte's plea for contributions stapled in the last month's issue. With the summer out of the way, the kids back in school, and the first chills in the air our attention will be focused more on the indoor activities such as tying flies, reading about new places to fish and getting the equipment in top shape for next year. You could also pick up a pen or get to the computer and finally write that article you OWE me and the club. Did you ever consider how much writing I've been forced to do to fill each issue? But I have just about reached the bottom of the pit and beginning next month I will be forced to go back to past issues and re-run the articles.

*Gian*

## A Rod For All



by Gian Padovani

## Good Reasons

I had to agree since it casted effortlessly and I had no problems shooting the line almost to the backing.

As I performed my average casting skill, several members and Jerry Bottcher (The Hungry Trout's owner) gathered around and asked to try their expertise with the rod. Unanimously they all agreed that it was superb and well made with impeccable windings, superior guides and a quality reel seat. Dave told me that the secret of the performance lied in the blank (which are individually selected) and the position of the "spine" on the rod. Dave was also quick to admit that although he would suggest other weights and lengths for specific tasks, that particular rod was a good "all rounder"

For me it was love at first sight, but though Dave offered to lend me the rod, he also said that he couldn't sell it since it was his testing sample. When he noticed my disappointment, he told me that if I wished, he would build one expressly for me. We agreed on the price and I concluded that it was fair and more than reasonable when compared with the cost of mass produced quality rods.

I told Dave to take his time and once I returned home, I almost forgot about the incident, thus I was surprised when he called me up in the middle of August, to inform that my rod had been shipped and I could expect it presently.

Just before leaving Long Island for North Carolina I promised to several of my closest friends at LIFR that I would try to attend at least one club's trip every year. It was logical that I would choose the annual weekend excursion to the Ausable River, since at that time of the year fishing is good and many members drive up to enjoy the sport and the warmth of the Hungry Trout Inn.

This year I had originally planned to fly to Newark where I would meet my brother and drive together in his car to Wilmington. As it turned out I drove my truck to Gil's house in New Jersey, and realized that I had packed the wrong fly rod. Although I was annoyed with myself, it was no serious problem since both my brother and a couple of friends offered to lend me spare rods they had brought along.

I was particularly intrigued by a setup that David Sekeres asked me to use. It was one of several rods he had built and taken along to test under actual stream conditions. As most of you are aware, Dave is an incredible person with a fly rod and many persons have gained skill from his fly casting lessons. He watched me closely as I tried two of his creations, casting on the Hungry Trout's lawn, before he concluded that the 5 weight, 8' rod was *The One* for me.

TO NEXT PAGE

### FLYRODDER ADVERTISING RATES

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## A Rod, continued

Dave apologized for the delay, but it appears that suddenly everybody is ordering a rod from him! In anticipation of the "arrival" I began to plan where I would "baptize" the new rod and concluded that the Oconaluftee River in Cherokee was the place, since it is comparable in size to the Ausable and it is stocked regularly to withstand the heavy tourist fishing pressure.

Thanks to the Two Day Priority Mail the package was delivered on Saturday afternoon. I promptly examined the rod and concluded that it looked as good as I'd expected and once I added the reel, it felt perfectly balanced. As a comparison I fetched an equal sized L.L.Bean rod and checked their respective weights with a postal scale: Dave's rod was an even 3 oz., 1/2 an ounce lighter than the L.L.Bean. There was also a letter included with the package with Dave's suggestions pertaining to other line weights the rod could handle and INSTRUCTIONS on how to cast! Now, that is a new one, something I never got with other rods.

The excitement of the new rod prompted me to start the truck and head for Harmon Den; possibly a Trout or Bass could be induced to take a fly. The day was sunny and hot and though I tried, nothing happened insofar as catching a fish, but it gave me the opportunity to check out the rod under actual fishing conditions.

Monday was not as I'd hoped to be, since it was windy and heavily overcast but I drove the 25 miles to the Indian Reservation, secured a permit and entered the water of the Oconaluftee. Several other anglers were already by the shoreline spin casting with bait and I waded downstream from them, where the water is deeper and less disturbed. This was going to be an experiment so I began to fish with a size 20 nymph, chang-

ing gradually to larger streamers to test the rod's ability to handle them.

The wind certainly didn't help the situation but I managed to place my casts where I wanted them but it was after I switched to a large Moosehead Belle that a savage strike brought me to the reality that I was fishing and not just testing a rod! As the fish jumped clear out of the water, I saw that it was a good rainbow which

I estimated at over 18 inches. I played it, slowly narrowing the distance but as the fish came within grasp the hook pulled out and it regained freedom. Insofar as I was concerned, the rod had been duly and properly "baptized" and I was sure there would be more trout in the future.

David Sekeres is an active member of our club, and you can reach him by calling (718) 847-4493

# Fishing!

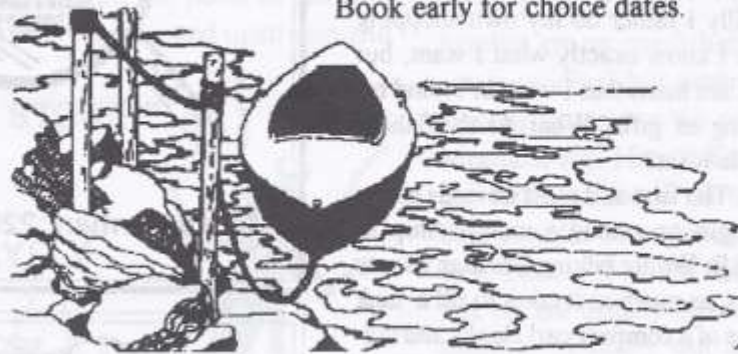
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# FLY FISHING GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by Gian Padovani

With the Holidays only a few weeks away the questions of what gifts to give or receive will soon arise. Since the Flyrodder is also read by relatives and spouses of members, let me list certain items that could warm up any angler's heart. Many persons are always stumped when it comes to gifts pertaining to fishing. They feel the anglers have already everything, or are not familiar with the sport and the gadgets that go with it. "You are a difficult; I gave you a new vest and never seen you using it!" my wife once remarked.

I also have several new fishing shirts in my closet, but I prefer wearing the old one that is practically falling apart. I have friends that love a specific rod, a hat, or a vest and will use these in preference to something new. Usually I rather do my own shopping since I know exactly what I want, but there are items that I wouldn't mind receiving as gifts. What do fly fishing people want?

The first and most obvious gift is to begin or extend a membership to L.I.F.R. We are talking less than twenty bucks, as much as it takes to fill a tank of gas of a compact car! Books and videos pertaining to the sport are a good choice as well, since you can easily double check what is already in the shelves. The easiest thing is to go to a fly shop and get a gift certificate or a package containing several inexpensive items. Ask a salesperson to select several essentials for you, such as leaders in different sizes, fly floatant, hook sharpener, leader snippers, hook disgorger, a fish stomach pump, a mosquito head net, a leader wallet, etc., etc. For less than twenty bucks you can get either a pair of polarized sunglasses, a good stream thermometer, a replacement felt soles kit, a tippet dispenser set, a disposable water-proof camera, or steel forceps. If you can add a couple more dollars you can choose between a

genuine Swiss Army knife, an old fashioned basket creel, or a new aluminum rod storing case. There are several items that will make appreciated gifts and priced around \$50.00: A Leatherman tool (combination of screwdrivers, knife, etc. all nestled in a folding pair of pliers), a Falstaff (lightweight wading staff,

that folds up neatly in its own carrying case), or a water resistant watch. If you want to spend over \$100 you could order a custom made fly rod from people that advertise in the Flyrodder. Not matter how many they own, few anglers would balk at a rod that was made specifically for them.

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## NYMPHS, from page 3

These casings may protect the caddis from other aquatic insects, but trout doesn't seem to mind them and will ingest the entire thing with relish.

You can find evidence of certain nymphs that have hatched by looking for their empty shells or casing. Keep in mind that there are several species that hatch at the surface of the water, after rising rapidly from the bottom of the stream.

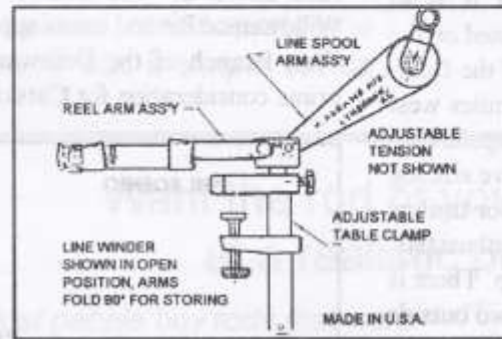
So, how do you match a nymph? A simple way to check on the sizes and colors is to get into the shallows and overturn the rocks and stones, but to do the job thoroughly you will have more success if you have (A) a 2 to 3 feet square section of wire screen mesh and (B) a buddy to give you a hand. Remember that with the exception of certain forms of caddis flies, all nymphs are free moving and inhabit the bottom, under rocks and debris, where they feel relatively safe from predators, such as trout. To collect, get into the stream and hold the screen where the current is swift, either at a riffle or at the tail end of a pool. Have a friend overturn the stones up from you, directly upstream. The nymphs will float into the screen and be pinned there by the force of the current. Place the nymphs collected into a small plastic pail and change the water frequently as these insects are delicate and need plenty of oxygen.

Fishermen use the nymphs mostly in the spring, switching to dry flies when the weather warms up, but in the middle of Summer when it gets really hot and nothing seems to bite, nymphs could be the answer. An effective way of fishing nymphs is to "tandem" them up

Page 7

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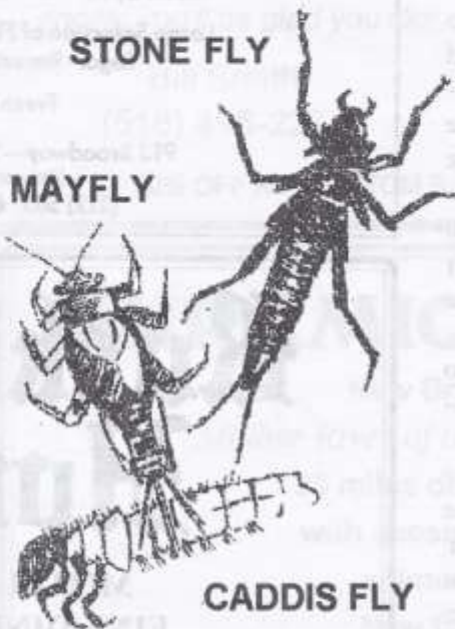


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as a Montana rig, that is a second nymph tied with a length of tippet to the bend of the hook of the first one. The rig is casted upstream and



monitored with a strike indicator, as it travels downstream.

My brother, who is a devoted dry fly fisherman, doesn't hesitate to switch to nymphing when nothing on top achieves results. The following is an excerpt of a letter that Gil sent me during the middle of the

heat wave that hit New York in the middle of July; it also contains some interesting trivia: "When the hatches are on, we fish dries (mostly small caddies) but when there's no activity up on top we switch to the Montana rig: Hare's Ear or Pheasant tail beadheads on top and the ever popular Serendipity on the bottom. Nine out of ten fish caught on this rig are usually taken on the Serendipity. Usually, our Serendipities have been either red or green, but lately, I've been experimenting with dual colors also with good success: red on the back half of the hook and fluorescent green up front. While this may be something new for the Serendipity, it is a standard pattern for the Bartellini Spider, an Italian wet fly pattern that, except for the way the wing is tied, is very similar to the Serendipity,

Other Italian flies that looks very much like a Serendipity are the Ossolina Emergers which believe it or not are (or were) the only flies in the world which were partially made by machine and were tied before the actual hook was formed

## AN UPDATE: SUMMER FISHING ON THE WEST BRANCH

by Stan Kornberg

For the last three years in August I have been going to the West Branch Angler a Sportsman's Resort. It is an "all inclusive" campsite situated on the banks of the West branch of the Delaware in Deposit, NY, 32 miles west of Roscoe on Rte. 17. The campsite contains small, large and executive size log cabins. There are hook-ups for trailers and campgrounds for tent enthusiasts, and an on the ground fly shop. There is a "dining in" kitchen with two outside barbecue pits that serve all three meals. For boating enjoyment, canoes can be rented as well as a guide service.

When the summer packages were offered this year, we (my father-in-law Harold Liebling and I) took advantage of the two night deal. This consisted of lodging in the small cabin-now air-conditioned (crampedly sleeps 4 in two bunk beds, but comfy for just the two of us), two dinners, two lunches, and two breakfasts. In addition, this package afforded us two hours of riverside fly casting/fly fishing instruction. The total price was \$240.

The staff at the West Branch goes out of its way in treating their guests warmly - from Rosemary in the kitchen to Larry as our riverside instructor to Jim in the fly shop as well as to Sam and Harry the father and son owners.

The fishing was good in the morning, fell off during the height of the day, then picked up again late afternoon. The flies that were attractive to the trout this time were the Sulphur dries sizes #16 and #18. and blue wing olives and blue wing emergers sizes 20 to # 26. For some reason the small trico patterns that were doing the job in early morning in the past two years were not performing this year.

Our most productive fishing was in late afternoon to sundown from 5:30 to 7:30.

This time our catches were exclusively made on the Sulphur patterns. The fish that I caught were all rainbows in the 13" to 15" range. During "off hours" (10 to 5) nymphing appeared to be the best bet as no fish were apparent surfacing. Due to the scarcity of rain down at the Beaverkill and Willowemoc Rivers, it was apparent the West Branch of the Delaware was a prime consideration for Catskill region

fly fishermen this summer.

For further information: Phone (607) 467-5525 or Fax (607) 467-2215



Stan's article is what the Flyrodder should be all about: Information. Although Montana, Maine or Alaska may offer superior fishing possibilities, they are far away, expensive and most Flyrodgers rather know what is available less than 100 miles away. Ed.

PHIL KOENIG



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## What? A Rod Holster????

by Gian Padovani

A rod holster? What is a rod holster? They say that necessity is the mother of invention. Well, my "Rod Holster" or "Rod Caddy" may not be an actual invention but it certainly makes things easier and others may benefit from this idea.

As you know fly rods are usually stored in the aluminum or plastic tubes that are sold with the rods, but during a fishing trip they are generally (A) Fastened into rod carriers that are mounted on the roof of the vehicle. (B) Placed inside the car, with things that may damage the guides or dangerously bent to fit the interior. Rod carriers are very convenient since the assembled rod is out of the way, ready for the next stop to fish. There are several rod carriers models for sale at tackle shops, with at least one that can hold up to three rods. My brother has a built-in convenience rack on top of his car and whenever he fishes from place to place, he fastens the rod(s) on this rack with lengths of strings. Rod carriers are very handy but I do not trust them, possibly because years ago I lost an expensive cane Thomas & Thomas rod to that convenience! The second alternative, just stuffing the assembled rod and reel inside the car is safer insofar as a loss, but you are chancing damage to the rod.

I faced this specific problem with my pickup truck and played around with a few alternatives.

I began by securing the rod on two U shaped hooks that I affixed on the inside of the vehicle. Since the rod was too long in one piece, I took it apart at the ferrule. It was a simple set up

and it worked fine, until I began to drive. Shortly the two pieces jumped out of the hooks, fell into the flooring, and I am fortunate the guides and tip didn't get crushed by everything else that was bouncing.

*Continues on page 11*

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# HOW NATURAL CAN ONE GET?

by Ed Condon

This is a story of my encounter with the mayfly in county Galway, Ireland, on the town of Oughterard, a place where time is on your side and fishing is considered a priority.

Mayflies lay their eggs on the water's surface but they quickly descend to the bottom where they will remain



for a year. As the eggs hatch, they will enter the nymph stage and as they ascend to the surface they will shed the skin pretty much like a snake. If some fortunate trout doesn't devour them first, the young mayflies will seek safety at the river's banks among the leaves of trees and shrubs. There they will mature in two more days and instinctively return to the river where they will mate in midair to begin the cycle again.

Fishermen collect the mayflies when they are concealed among the leaves by picking them gently between the thumb and the index finger. Around twenty to thirty of them are sufficient for a day's fishing and they are stored into hand crafted wooden boxes. Ready to fish, the long fly and dapping rods are packed into the boat together with a lunch that includes homemade brown bread and tea. A flask containing a wee bit stronger liquid is also added to quench someone's thirst. As the boat drifts gently away from the shore either one or two flies, sometime in mating position, are positioned on a size 10 or 12 hook. How natural can one get? A moderate wind is most appreciated and usually associated with productivity. The rods are held at a 30 degree angle and with a short cast, very similar to a roll cast, the mayfly is gently deposited on the surface of the water making sure

that both line and leader are kept in the air at all times.

Keeping the mayflies from drowning require extreme caution and concentration and all eyes, hopefully including the trout's, are focused on the floating insect. A sudden break in the water as the flies disappear is followed by a long, patient count to three, before the hook is struck and set. A wild, ferocious Irish trout declares war on the fly, indeed a frightening fighting experience never to be forgotten! As both fish and fishermen's throats are caught for words, experience is put to test; a test of time and, as we all know, time "flies" when we fish. A word of advice from all the avid mayfly men: "Have net will travel" which means don't leave home without it! At day's end we all met at the town's pub to extend one's

story which is at arm's length. Over pints of Guinness and Irish whiskey we eventually got to the bottom of things and to my knowledge, there were more trout caught in the pub than ever in the river "Rovub", county Galway, where the world's flyfishing championship will take place. As I await patiently for May 1996, I'd like to extend an Irish invitation to come fly with me.

*Ed is a new member and I loved editing his story, which is his first attempt at writing an article.*

*It is straightforward and gives an insight on how it is done in the Emerald Isle. The Irish have always had a knack for writing and I hope Ed will give us more fishing tales about "The old sod." Since the article was hand written I hope I perceived and spelled the names of the town and of the river correctly. If not, I apologize Ed!*

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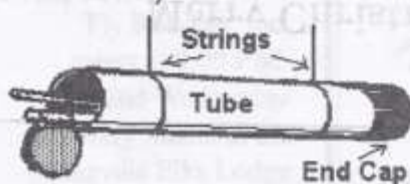
627 Woodglen Rd., Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 - 908-832-7704

## **A rod holster?**, continued

Obviously the safest way, was to take the rod apart and place it back on its own tube.

Suddenly I had an idea. I went into my shed where I knew I had a heavy cardboard shipping tube although an equal length of PVC pipe would've been just as good.

I cut the tube to less than half the length of the rod (8' 1/2"), leaving one end closed (capped) and checked it out; the two piece rod with reel fitted inside perfectly. Next I hung the tube inside the truck in such a way that one end was higher than the other (see sketch - out of proportion to show detail)



The reason is that with a slight angle, gravity will keep the rod from sliding out. I did this with two lengths of strings. Now all was perfect. I could carry the entire rig in a safe place, out of the way from everything else and with not a chance of losing it. I guess that if I owned a standard car, I would keep the tube wherever it would fit best and you will have to experiment. For me it works great and if there was an improvement that could be added, if you just wanted to store one rod, is to cut a notch on the bottom open side of the tube, wide enough for the reel to fit in. Try a rod holster yourself and let me know how you like it.

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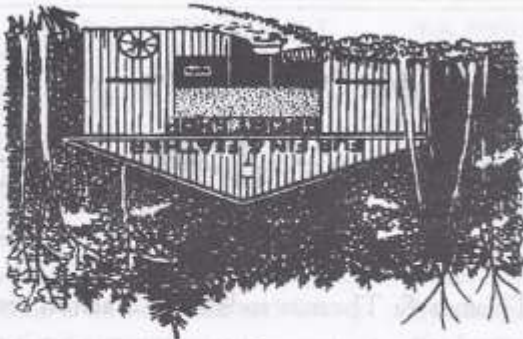
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