



Nymphing for Bass

Effective ways to take reluctant smallmouth and largemouth bass.

DAVE WHITLOCK

NYMPHS, PARTICULARLY the larger species of immature aquatic insects, are not only highly prized as food for coldwater species such as trout, char, and salmon, but almost equally favored by cool- and warm-water bass. Too few fly fishers, however, consider nymphing as an effective method for bass and for many years I certainly was among them. Except for the past five years, most large bass I hooked on nymphs were taken accidentally.

One of the largest bass I ever hooked took a barbless

#12 caddis pupa I was swimming across a big bed of bluegill and red-ear nests on a small municipal lake near Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The bass came like a big cat out of nowhere, scattering panfish like a covey of quail. Then it stopped and sipped in the tiny nymph more delicately than any hand-size bluegill could. With a chill running up my back and neck, I set the hook. The delicate action stopped immediately and a serious battle began. First, the big bass rushed off the shallow nest pocket-cover to deep water. After a few nervous give-and-take exchanges, the largemouth came up for a thrashing, head-shaking surface vault.

DAVE WHITLOCK is a noted fly tier, fisherman and author from Norfolk, Ark.

Somehow the fine leader and little hook held for about ten more minutes, then, unbelievably, the fish headed toward shoreline. I was powerless to turn it. Then the movement began to feel odd. I soon discovered why. Off the cove's point there was a big submerged tree trunk. The powerful fish had moved through the tree's massive limbs, threading the leader through several branches. The tippet soon parted with that all too familiar dull snap.

Two winters ago I was fishing a lovely, small river in Missouri with big #4 and #2, 4XL, dark stonefly nymphs for wild brown and rainbow trout that share this

largely spring-fed stream with an occasional walleye or native smallmouth. The river is full of large stoneflies. On a long, deep, dead-drift through an especially deep ledgerock pool the strike indicator suddenly twitched and dived. I quickly raised my rod, but the fly wouldn't budge. I assumed my nymph had found a ledge crevice, sunken root, or fallen tree limb.

As I was about to try dislodging the big nymph it seemed to move a little. "No, I guess it didn't move after all," I thought. I tried to dislodge the nymph, but suddenly, with the rod's prodding, the "snag" began to move downstream. The fish was so strong and heavy it seemed

AUTHOR'S PHOTOS



to be attached to the bottom. I became suspicious. It did not act like a trout. I worked the fish hard to get a peek at it, but the more pressure I put on it, the deeper and farther it moved into the ledgerrock pool.

I began to worry about wearing a hole in its mouth, so I backed off a bit on the pressure. I slowly picked my way downstream, below the fish, and gained some line. It seemed forever before the leader came close and I finally saw one of the largest smallmouth bass I had ever hooked on a fly. What a surprise!

Overlooked Tactic

NYPHING FOR BASS, including largemouth, smallmouth, Kentucky spotted, and other subspecies, is a delightful and unique experience for either trout or bass fly fishers. It is as unique for trout fishers as catching trout on bass bugs. Yet, in many waters it is extremely effective, particularly for large and selective bass who

have been overeducated by the bass-boat and plastic-worm brigade. Many fly fishers see bass as crude and gullible fish. Nymphing techniques will certainly change that mistaken impression of these intelligent, wild fish. Inch for inch, bass equal or exceed the fight of most trout on the same fly tackle. My experience has been that any bass over 15 inches is usually much harder to hook and land than trout living in the same conditions.

The popular preconception most anglers have about bass is that they prefer to stuff their big mouths with equally large minnows, crayfish, salamanders, frogs or, for that matter, any garish metal, plastic or rubber lure. Such ideas are wrong.

Soon after hatching, bass fry begin feeding on tiny aquatic larvae and nymph forms and continue catching and feeding confidently on nymphs that are nearly always available and plentiful. So those bass that survive nature and man by intelligence and selectivity often remain vul-

nerable to nymphing techniques. I often study bass by keeping them in large aquariums and find they eat small live shrimp and nymphs as much as minnows.

Nymph Flies and Tackle

MATURE BASS PREFER the larger nymph sizes. I've seldom seen sizable stream or lake bass actively feed on nymphs smaller than a #10. The mature nymph stages of the larger dragonflies, stoneflies, damselflies, Dobsonflies (helgrammites), crane flies and burrowing mayflies really turn bass on.

Often the waters bass inhabit are heavily populated with overly-enthusiastic panfish. Larger nymphs, tied on wide-gape hooks with nylon loop snag guards, discourage all but the largest panfish from stealing your nymph before a more conservative bass can take it. Number 8 to #2 hooks are most practical and effective. These hefty 3/4- to 3-inch-long nymphs also allow the use of practical,

heavy leader tippets and fly tackle required to hook, control, and subdue large fish in typical bass structure.

Bass are often hard to hook well on fly tackle: They have large, tough-skinned, bony mouths and usually bite and hold the fly firmly. To compensate, I file my hook points short with very sharp points and three edges. Equally important, I lower the barb angle and reduce its size, assuring fast, deep hook penetration. I now hook and land more bass than I did with "out-of-the-box" hooks. I'm convinced most bass I've lost on flies escaped because the hook point and barb lacked skin and jaw penetration.

For stream bass, 8- to 9-foot rods for 6- or 7-weight lines are ideal. For lake bass I might add an 8-weight outfit, especially for those waters that have larger fish and dense structure cover such as moss beds, lily pads, brush, logs and root clumps. In either type of water a larger bass

Continued on Page 81

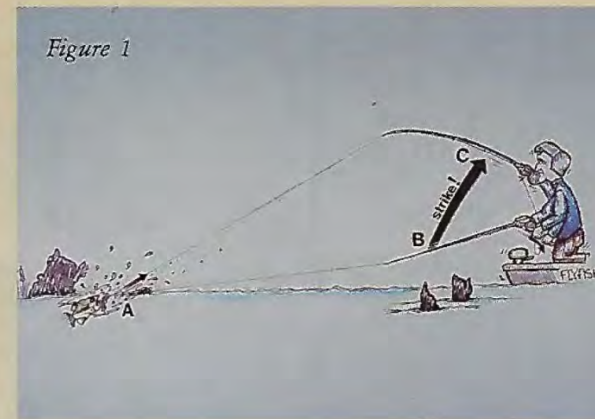


Figure 1

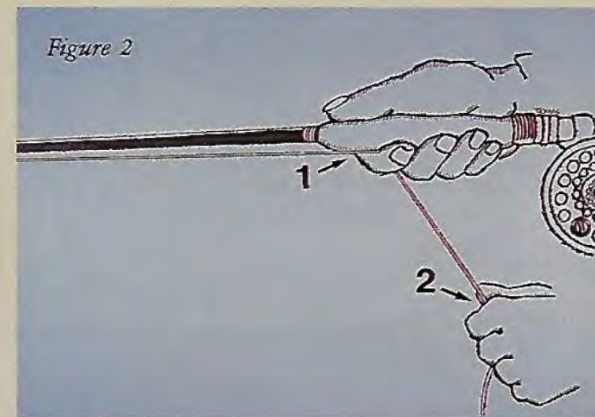


Figure 2

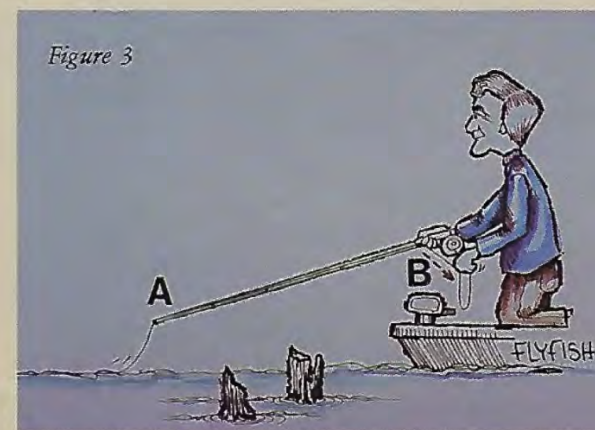


Figure 3

AUTHOR'S ILLUSTRATIONS

Proper rod positioning and line handling are crucial to successful nymphing. Illustrations 1 through 3 (left) show proper technique. Large damselfly nymphs, helgrammites and crayfish (top) are favorite foods of lake and river bass. Hexagenia nymphs (above) are imitated by Dave's soft-bodied nymphs.

Fig. 1 Rod tip low and pointed at nymph, with line kept straight.

Fig. 2 Retrieve nymph only with line strips, not rod-tip twitches.

Fig. 3 To strike, pull line tight with free hand, then lift butt and midsection of rod.

Fly fish the Metolius River in beautiful Central Oregon

11 mile stretch of spring-fed, crystal clear, fly only water. Fish for Rainbow, Brook, Brown and Dolly Varden Trout as close as your back door, or let us provide shuttle service along the river.

On-the-river accommodations with fully equipped kitchen and fireplace. Continental breakfast and full use of outdoor barbecue equipment included. Transportation provided from nearby cities of Bend, Redmond and Sisters.

Horseback riding, golf and trail hiking only minutes away. A photographer's delight.

WRITE OR CALL FOR OUR BROCHURE



Byron & Lee Beach - Hosts
Post Office Box 110
Camp Sherman, Oregon 97730
503/595-6290

Bass Nymphing ...

Continued from Page 33

will victimize you quickly if allowed to run very far. Bass are not polite, clean fighters, like most trout. They are skillful guerrilla fighters, and only a stiff powerful rod, strong tippet and a strong arm can stop them.

I prefer knotless leaders with 6- to 10-pound tippets. Give a big bass an inch at the wrong moment and it will snatch your nymph away from you.

Stream Nymphing Techniques

NYPH-FEEDING STREAM bass are usually found in three places—fast pocket water, slow pools and tailwater and sloughs or banks.

Fastwater pockets and run dropoffs are usually good spots to nymph for small-mouth bass. Fish generally hold right on the bottom in these areas. Look for dark-water areas or structure such as rubble, boulders, ledges, or logs in these areas. Cast up and across well above the structure and let the nymph sink and tumble downstream to it.

I use a floating line with long leader and a strike indicator in these situations. I watch the indicator for any unnatural movement; when I detect such movement, I strike. The nymph must bounce along bottom to work effectively, so weight the nymph and add lead shot to the leader if needed.

As the nymph drifts through these areas, mend and strip in line to prevent excess drag and slack from developing. Often I let the nymph drift downstream then swim it upstream until it surfaces. This sudden swimming, emergent, or escaping movement often triggers a strike from a reluctant bass. On a tight line and leader the take is seen or felt, or both.

I prefer soft, dubbed-fur-bodied, suggestive helgrammites, stonefly nymphs or crane fly larvae patterns for this type of bass nymphing. Weight the nymph so it will ride hook up or use a nylon-loop snag guard. Dirty black, dirty brown, olive or gold and yellow seem to be the best colors for these flies.

Slower-moving pools and tailwater areas are more likely to hold spotted bass and largemouths. Smallmouths also use the deep side of the pool or work the pool tailwaters during early morning, evening or at night.

Rather than fish the whole pool, look for shade lines, overhanging trees, fallen trees, logs, boulders, ledges, or aquatic weeds. Fish these areas with dragonfly or damselfly nymphs by casting to or just above the area and letting the fly sink to the bottom. Then slowly twitch the nymph along the bottom in 3- to 6-inch darts and pauses. You will usually see or feel the strike. When possible, locate the

Continued on Page 82

KAUFMANN'S Fly Fishing Supplies

FREE CATALOG 80 pages, color trips, guide services, schools, videos, plus every worthwhile tool, device, material, gadget and tackle imaginable. Write or call today!



FISHING SCHOOL you'll get the crash course and leave with insights most anglers never understand. Save yourself years of struggling! Small groups, intensive, yet easy going on-the-water fly fishing experience on Oregon's Deschutes River 3 days, 2 nights, food, lodging, instruction \$295! May 18-19-20 June 8-9-10 July 6-7-8 Aug 3-4-5 Sept 7-8-9 other dates

TOP 10 LAKE FLIES, many of which were developed by Randall Kaufmann. All appear in his book "Lake Fishing With A Fly." Per 10 \$12.95, per 20 \$23.95 Per 20 when purchased in conjunction with Lake Book \$19.95

LAKE FISHING WITH A FLY, By Randall Kaufmann & Ron Cordes. The insights and ideas will stagger you. 60,000 words, 225 ill. and photos, 4 pages color. Softbound \$21.95 pp. Hardbound \$31.95 pp. Deluxe edition limited to 300 numbered & signed, slip case with two flies tied by authors. \$125. Foreign catalogs outside Canada \$3

Yes, please send FREE CATALOG
Please send ☐ 10 Nymphs ☐ 20 Nymphs
☐ Lake Book ☐ Soft ☐ Hard ☐ Deluxe

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
KAUFMANN'S STREAMBORN
P.O. Box 23032 (FFM685)
Portland, Or. 97223

QUALITY ANGLING & ACCOMODATIONS ON THE BIG HOLE RIVER.

We extend a personal invitation to the devoted fly fisherman, and those who would like to be, to spend some time in anglers' paradise. We offer expert guiding and instruction, superb angling, sumptuous eating, riverside accommodations and old-fashioned hospitality. Float fish to or from the lodge; then sit down to a gourmet dinner overlooking the Big Hole River. For an unforgettable fly-fishing vacation at Montana's finest angling destination, please consider our service.

We would love to share this splendid mountain vacation retreat with you. Our worry-free service is unmatched. Please write or call for information and our brochure.

Best fishes,
Dave and Christine Decker



P.O. BOX 195 • WISE RIVER, MONTANA 59762 • 406-832-3175

ROW ROW ROW OUR BOAT IN MONTANA

\$75* FIRST DAY
12-FOOT AVON
FULLY EQUIPPED
\$50 SECOND DAY

U-ROW-IT AGENTS

DAVID L. KUMLIEN
2720 W. MAIN ST.
BOZEMAN, MT. 59715
406-587-4707

LAZY B MOTEL
(FORMERLY KINGS MOTEL)
TWIN BRIDGES, MT. 59754
406-684-5639

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS
TO BE ANNOUNCED

U-ROW-IT
RAFT RENTALS
P.O. BOX 3288
BOZEMAN, MT
59772

Discover Your Own State of Enchantment...



THE MAD RIVER VALLEY ...Still Vermont!

Scenic pathways, pastoral byways, lazy streams, white water on rock... with superb lodging, restaurants and shopping for the most discriminating.

Visit us this Summer!

VERMONT
A Special World

For our full color brochure write:
VACATION INFORMATION
Waitsfield, VT 05673-0173
(802) 496-3409

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bass Nymphing ...

bass visually and fish the nymph directly to it.

Tails of pools are productive early and late when the light level is low, and at night. Cast the nymph across and down to feeding fish. Let it sink, then swim it up and across the tail.

Large, slow-moving, deep pools, banks, and sloughs are prime areas for large-mouths, which prefer calm water. Nothing in these waters holds a big, smart bass better than a fallen tree or submerged log. With a floating line and long leader, cast a snag-proof nymph past or right against these structures and allow it to sink. Then slowly twitch and strip the nymph around each structure. Fish such areas slowly and thoroughly. Bass are seldom spooked but are often excited or angered by repeated presentations to the same area. Such waters have limited visibility due to water color and underwater structure, so several casts may be necessary to give the nearby bass more time and opportunity to find the nymph.

For these areas I prefer a dragonfly-type nymph or a large, long, soft-hackled Woollyworm with a short marabou tail. Black or dark olive are excellent colors. Rubber hackle legs and tails double the nymph's strike-provoking effectiveness.

Nymphing in Lakes

LAKES ARE MOST PRODUCTIVE if they have stable water levels and abundant aquatic vegetation. Such waters support larger populations of aquatic insects which hold bass longer than normal on weedy shorelines. Shorelines, shallow bars, reefs, or flats are the two most productive nymphing areas.

Relatively clean fast-sloping shorelines, with sandy or gravel bottoms and aquatic vegetation, and abundant in boulders, rocks, rubble, ledges and reeds are small-mouth favorites. Shorelines strewn with downed trees, cattails, stumps, cypress, docks, lily pads, weedbeds—with gradually sloping sand or muck bottoms—are favored by largemouth. Look for Kentucky bass in lake waters that fit in between these two types.

Lake nymphing is usually effective only if water visibility is two or three feet or more. Shoreline areas usually have good populations of crawling and swimming nymphs, particularly dragonflies and damselflies. Although bass eat these nymphs year 'round, a good time to concentrate here is from early spring until the adult emergence in late spring or early summer.

Fish these shoreline waters with a floating line and long leader. It's important to use snag-proof nymphs and knotless leaders with 6- to 10-pound leader tippets or you'll lose flies and land few bass. Knotless leaders prevent most structure hangups.

Continued on Page 84

6 adventure packed river trips through some of Alaska's most beautiful country. Fish, birds & game abound.

fly float fish

From \$750.
8 days &
7 nights
From Anchorage
and return.
Make your
reservations
today!



P.O. Box 104308 FF • Anchorage • AK 99510
(907) 276-3081/277-8426



BEARTOOTH BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS
HAND TIED IN USA

BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS IN 5', 7 1/2', 9', 12' & 14' LENGTHS.
STANDARD BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS AVAILABLE IN GRAY OR A DEEP TEA COLOR

SPECIALTY ITEMS:
• STRIKE INDICATOR BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS
• LEAD CORE BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS
• MINI-SHOOTING HEAD BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS
• BRAIDED BUTT LEADER KITS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WRITE:
BEARTOOTH BRAIDED BUTT LEADERS
P.O. BOX 734
W. YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758
TELEPHONE: (406) 646-9023
-DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED-

THE CLASS OF '85

Last Fall Fish & Game counted more than twice as many fish per mile than the day the Bighorn opened—a 121% increase in 18 to 21" trout! Come and meet our largest senior class ever.



Write for brochure:
BIGHORN ANGLER
Ft. Smith, Montana 59035 • 406/666-2233

The BOW RIVER CO. (Est. 1975) "The Bow River Authority"

"...for the Bow proved to be the best trout stream I have ever fished."

— Dave Engerbreton
Fly Fisherman
Sept. 1984

Contact: Peter Chenier
BOW RIVER CO.
FLOAT TRIPS INC.
Box 15, Site 9, R.R. 1
DeWinton, Alberta
TOL OXO
(403) 256-9020



Minipi camps

Jack E. Cooper

709-896-2891

P.O. Box 340
Happy Valley
Labrador
Canada A0P-1E0



The Anne Marie Lake watershed of the famous Minipi River has giant Brook Trout waiting for you. Wilderness fishing for wild Brook Trout AVERAGING over five pounds each. One trophy fish per sport to take home; all we ask is that you let the others go alive.

Chartered helicopter service from Goose Bay to our comfortable lodges in the legendary Minipi region, the finest Brook Trout fishing area in the world. Three world records since 1980!

Send for FREE COLOUR BROCHURE.

VIDEO FISHING RENT OR EXCHANGE FOR ONLY \$9.98

(1) Buy a tape. (2) Return it within 30 days for a refund minus \$9.98 rental. (3) Return it for another title and pay only \$9.98 plus shipping.

- ☐ FREE catalog of over 100 outdoor and travel titles.
- ☐ Fly Fishing Video Magazine #1 \$69.95
- ☐ Fly Casting (Mel Krieger) \$79.95
- ☐ Fly Casting (Orvis) \$69.95
- ☐ Nymphing with Gary Borger (3M) \$59.95
- ☐ Fly Fishing For Trout (3M) \$79.95
- ☐ Fishing the Dry Fly (3M) \$79.95
- ☐ Tying Trout Flies (3M) \$79.95
- ☐ How to Tie Dry Flies (Orvis) \$69.95
- ☐ The Dry Fly (Janssen) \$69.95
- ☐ The Wet Fly & Nymph (Janssen) \$69.95
- ☐ A New Zealand Fly Fishing Sampler \$69.95
- Payment: ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa
- VHS Beta Shipping: Add \$2.00 per tape
- Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

VIDEO TRAVEL
P.O. Box 1572, Dept. F6
Williamsport, PA 17703
717-326-6525
DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

Bass Nymphing ...

Concentrate on prime shoreline cover structure or spot a bass before you cast. Cast the nymph close to or past the structure; let it sink as near bottom as possible, then retrieve it *slowly with short, erratic, strip-and-pause movements*. Watch the line—either at the leader-tip junction or where it enters the water from the rod's tip—for any unusual or erratic movement. Some strikes are slow and soft, while others are frighteningly fast and violent. Use your vision and feel to detect and react to any nymph strike.

Individual structures such as large boulders, stumps, duck-blinds, or weed clumps near, but separated from, the main shoreline in three to ten feet of water are favorite big-bass ambush stations.

I learned an important nymphing lesson at a quiet spot in a Queric Park lake. The first day I fished the spot I could get the smallmouth to hit a surface bug, but by the second day the bass got smart and refused the floaters. Yet the nymph was always effective during the five days we camped near the spot. Three or four times a day the spot would produce a sizeable smallmouth if I just passed a dragonfly nymph by the base of a few reeds located in four feet of water.

Shoreline bass nymphing, just like bass bugging in these areas, requires bossing bass out of their dens as soon as they are hooked. Otherwise be ready to tie or buy a number of new nymphs. Nymphing gives a bass a big edge over surface bugging because fish take the fly closer to cover when they are suddenly stung by the hook.

Effectively nymphing lake flats, bars, or reefs usually means being there during the emergence of large burrowing mayflies. As the big drakes or hexes wiggle from their bottom burrows and swim in hordes to the surface to hatch into adults, they trigger every bass in the lake to feed. These hatcheries usually occur in late spring through late summer, when mature bass have deserted their shoreline feeding and nesting areas for the cool solitude of offshore living.

Open-water nymphing lets me use more delicate fly tackle. However, it is most efficient and effective to use a sinking-tip fly line and a 6- to 8-foot leader to get the nymph down deep and swim it up. A floating line and well-weighted nymph works okay if the bass are concentrated or feeding near the surface.

I also use a two-fly rig—a small yellow or tan hairbutt (#6 or #8) and an 18-inch dropper tied to the hook bend with a *Hexagenia* nymph tied to the dropper. Bass grab either or both during a good emergence. The two-fly rig works faster than a single of either a nymph or bug.

I have had eye-openers when using a small, soft-hackle wet fly, Woollyworm, or

Available in May
SALMON RIVERS

CAPE BRETON ISLAND

A guide to the island's rivers with a picture of every major salmon pool - 135 pages - 12 maps - 110 pictures - notes on access and tactics. Stiff paper cover - Velobinding - US \$11⁹⁹pp Can. \$13⁹⁹pp Hardcover - dust jacket - US \$15⁹⁹pp, Can. \$18⁹⁹pp Embossed hardcover - autographed - slip cased - US \$22⁹⁹pp, Can. \$28⁹⁹pp Deluxe leather binding - autographed slip cased - Limited to 50 copies - US \$55⁹⁹pp Can. \$68⁹⁹pp Check or Money Order to

James T. Grey, Jr., 107 Dolington Rd.,
Yardley, PA 19067

All royalties to the Margaree Salmon Museum
Order Now

Twalaquan Lake Lodge
The Ultimate in
Wilderness Sportfishing
Write or call for free brochure.
Dean Carrell 907-243-4200
P.O. Box 6012, Anchorage, AK 99502

WORLD'S LARGEST SELLER OF FLY ROD BLANKS AND COMPONENTS

Fenwick * Lamiglas * G. Loomis *
Dura-Flex * Mustad * Fuji *
Scientific Anglers * Many Others

Send \$2.00 (refundable) for our big catalog and discount flyers all year long.

BULLARD INTERNATIONAL
P.O. BOX 38131 DEPT-FFM
DALLAS, TEXAS 75238

LOOKING FOR A FISHING HOLE?

Over 300 pages of fine fishing rivers, lodges, guides and two-color maps of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

Following the Adams
and the Humpy

A GUIDE TO WESTERN STREAM FISHING FOR TROUT AND SALMON

jw publications
P.O. Box 1093
Palm Desert, CA 92261 \$18.95 plus \$2 shipping
Calif. residents add 6% sales tax

nymph behind a big popping bug. The big bug draws the fish's attention and the nymph entices even the most selective bass in the lake or stream.

Fishing a tournament-pounded, deep, clear reservoir lake with my son Joel, we accidentally hooked some of the best Kentucky bass I have seen by bugging brush-tops with #1/0 purple and blue hairbugs with #8 Dave's Damsel Nymph droppers. The damsel nymphs were for bluegill but the Kentucky bass did not know that, and nearly every good fish we hooked nibbled on the nymph.

Nymph Control

WHEN THE NYMPH is down in bass cover and you are pausing to let it sink among the structure, point your rod tip directly at the nymph and lower it to a foot or less above the water. Place the fly line between the index finger of your rod hand and the grip and with your free hand grasp the fly line between the rod hand and fly reel. Slowly pull or strip the slack from the line between the nymph and rod tip. Excess slack and a high rod tip prevent the carefully controlled nymph movement and prevent your sensing anything less than a violent strike. The slow-pull method prevents these problems.



DAVE WHITLOCK PHOTO

Use your free hand to animate, swim or retrieve the nymph—never the rod's tip. Rod tip animation, so popular with fly fishers in flowing or still waters, causes excessive slack and drastically limits strike sensitivity and control of the swimming fly. If I am unable to see the nymph, I

watch the fly line section between the rod's tip and where it enters the water for a strike indication during the retrieve. While watching, I also use the fingertips of my rod hand and free hand to feel any objects the swimming nymph encounters.

Continued on Page 86

"The Mark of Quality"



Even The Trout ... Look Up To Metz

Metz sets the standards by which all other hackle is judged, but the ultimate judgement comes when the trout looks up to your fly. Give yourself the edge with the best hackle available in the world and watch the trout look up to you.

Metz hackle . . . available in fifteen different trout-tempting natural colors.

Techniques of Fly Tying and Trout Fishing by George W. Harvey. Clearly illustrated step by step basic fly-tying booklet. Written by a master who has taught more people to tie flies than anyone on record. Also includes a concise chapter loaded with effective fly fishing techniques. A great value at \$2.95.

Available at fine fly shops, or write: METZ HATCHERY, Dept. MA, P.O. Box 5666, Belleville, PA 17004. Enclose \$2.95 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

ALL NATURAL COLORS
BLACK
DUN, Various Shades
SANDY DUN
BARRED SANDY DUN
GRIZZLY
CREE
VARIANT

WHITE SPLASHED
CREAM
BARRED CREAM
GINGER
BARRED GINGER
GOLDEN BADGER
BROWN
SANDY BROWN



SANDY DUN
Pale to dusky brown/gray shade with hints of cream in midrib (center) and tips.



Brodin Landing Nets

Handcrafted for Excellence
3 ply walnut-ash-walnut bow
with bird's eye maple handle,
soft cotton net bag and
french clip, \$49 ppd.

Write or call for a
free color brochure.

Dealer Inquiries Invited

P.O. BOX 269 • BELGRADE, MT 59714 • 406-388-1604



Bosebuck Mountain Camps

on Aziscoos Lake
Wilson's Mills, Maine

access to Parmachenee Lake, and over 16 miles of prime
rivers. Excellent Fly-Fishing for Native Salmon and Trout.

Located in the most remote section of the Rangeley region, at the north end of the Aziscoos Lake, and mouths of the Little and Big Magalloway Rivers. Here you will experience the ultimate in a fishing adventure, surrounded by 200,000 acres of wilderness accessible by private road only.

We have 11 rustic cabins, a main lodge and dining room with all the good home-cooked food you can eat.

American Plan

Family rates for July & August
Summer packages for 5 or more days
Fly-fishing school in June & July
Fall Grouse & Deer Hunting

For free brochure, write or call:

Tom and Susan Rideout
Box FF 2
Wilson's Mills, Maine 04293
(207) 243-2945

BOOK NOW
Guest List
LIMITED

NO TRESPASSING!

Unless you're a guest
at Elktrout Lodge...

private hunting and
angling on the Colorado River. Miles and
miles of "private waters" accompanied
by expert guides plus a lodge of
uncompromising comfort make
Elktrout among the West's
best. For flyfishing or Elk
hunting reservations, call
our manager, Steve Herter.
1-303-724-3343



ELKTROUT
A PRIVATE HUNTING AND ANGLING LODGE ON THE COLORADO RIVER

The BROGUE

IS BACK!

Alternative
wading
shoes
on the
market for the last 5 years have not proved satis-
factory. We re-introduce The BROGUE—an old world
name for a finely-crafted leather shoe. Full-grain
rough-out leather; won't crack or chip like synthetics;
triple-stitched, hard toe protection, long-lasting nylon-
felt sole, fully-lined heel. Even sizes 6-14. Order
1 size larger than street shoe.



\$7495 plus shipping

ANGLER'S COVEY, INC.
917 W. Colorado Ave./303 471-2984
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80905
Visa—MasterCard—American Express
(Dealer Inquiries Invited)

FREE CATALOG

Low Cost-High Quality Fly
Tying Supplies, Tools & Net Kits
One of Our Specialties:



Deluxe Net Kits

Walnut-Ash frames
Inlaid Cherry handles
Nylon nets
French snaps
Instructions

18" Back-Pack size \$18.50
21" Larger size \$19.50

Eggert's

Add \$2.00 for Postage

P.O. Box 1344
Cumming, Georgia 30130

Bass Nymphing ...

If a good fish swims up behind the nymph and takes it softly while he is moving forward, the strike is subtle, yet I will feel the rod and line get a bit heavier or lighter, depending on the bass's movement.

I usually strike with a firm, crisp line pull; then if I feel resistance I immediately begin striking with the rod. I rod strike with an up-and-back motion of the mid-and butt- section of the rod. I repeat the motion several times until I feel the bass has been shocked enough to open its mouth and set the hook. A rod-tip strike, however, often alerts the bass and the fish spits out the nymph.

Bass Nymph Flies

BASS ARE EXTREMELY sensitive to fly texture and animation. Soft-bodied, suggestive nymphs take more larger bass than hard, still, lifeless, exact imitations. Soft, suggestive nymphs also may be taken by bass for shrimp, crabs, crayfish, leeches, or small fish. I use soft materials such as natural and synthetic dubbing, rayon Swiss straw, chenille, chamois leather, marabou, soft hackles and rubber hackle to tie my suggestive bass nymphs. Most of my bass nymphs are weighted and are weedless or snagproof.

By using larger nymphs and working to the best cover or by spotting individual bass, you can avoid most distracting pan-fish strikes. Also avoid fishing the nymph very close to the shoreline, where there are many small panfish and fewer large bass.

Heavily Fished Waters

NYMPHING MIGHT just be the ticket for those who must fish heavily pounded bass waters. Bass are quick to learn about lures they see regularly. Few if any will be suspicious of a skinny damselfly nymph or fat spiderlike dragonfly nymph. Public-accessible bass waters are virgin territories for the open-minded, enterprising fly fisher.

Bass fishers tend to use boats and electric motors to move around the waters as they fish. That's okay for folks using spinner-baits or crankbaits, but nymphing is only effective if you can maintain a stable position. The tight fly presentation, control, and strike detection hinges on strict control. Drifting along with wind or motor power has the same negative effect on the bass nymph as dry-fly drag does to the spring-creek hatch matcher. Walking, wading, or float-tubing are the three best bass nymph approaches. Calm days, anchors, and a good paddle, oar or poling partner can make canoes and boats nearly as effective.

Bass are very special cool- and warm-water gamefish. Taking them on nymphs is a good way to make them even more special.

How To Take Bass on Nymphs

FLY FISHERMAN

JUNE 1985 \$2.95/£1.25

14323

MICHIGAN STEELHEAD

Fly Box Strategies

The Chuck Caddis

Fishing Nymphs Dry Striking Techniques



Bugs From Shower Shoes