

# Tight Lines

Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 3 - December 2009



## Fishing the Dead

*Landlocked Salmon and Brook Trout action was lively for MMBTU members Rick Darling and Smitty Smith and Pennsylvania TU member Ken Jay during a late season trip to the confluence of the Dead River and Spencer Stream. During the summer the area is frequented by rafters putting in to the Dead.*

### RAFFLE: "Fat Cat" Float Tube by Outcast

Retail value: \$350. Raffle Tickets: \$1. each or 6 for \$5.



**Float Tube will be raffled at the MMBTU annual Christmas Party - December 10, 2009 at Graziano's in Lisbon. Need not be present to win.**

Tickets can be purchased at any MMBTU meeting up to and including the December 10 meeting. Alternatively, clip ticket from newsletter, fill in name, address and phone #, photocopy as many times as needed, cut at perforation and mail ticket stubs along with payment to: MMBTU, PO Box 191, Richmond, ME 04357.

**Tickets & Payment Must be Received by December 10, 2009. MMBTU not responsible for tickets mailed but not received by December 10, 2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Raffle Tickets: \$1. each or 6 for \$5.

# Fly of the Month - December *Parachute Adams*

*Submitted by Dave Martel*

**Hook:** Tiemco 100; Mustad 94840

**Thread:** Black 8/0 Uni or 14/0 Gordon Griffiths

**Size** 12 to 20

**Tail:** Mixed Grizzly and Brown hackle barbs

**Body:** Gray Muskrat (Do NOT use Superfine...it isn't an authentic "Adams" if you do)

**Post:** AK Best-style white turkey T-base feather

**Hackle:** One Grizzly; One Brown....sized to suit

**Glue:** (For hackle(s). Zap-A-Gap Gel (and it \*must\* be gel or you'll ruin the entire fly)

**HINT:** This is the quintessential "all purpose" dry fly (sort of the PT nymph of dries). It will do in a pinch for both Mayfly hatches and Caddis...just make certain you have the correct size to match; and if you're in doubt...go a size smaller. You can



substitute kip tail for the post if you prefer; but I really like the clean lines of the t-base feather post. Tie up a half dozen of these in every size from 12 to 20 and you'll be OK in a pinch for whatever comes along next summer. Have a great Holiday season everybody. Enjoy....

## Help! The newsletter needs your news

Members are encouraged to submit personal photos and stories, as well as suggestions to re-print articles seen in other publications. As we are a non-profit organization, typical copyright issues don't apply, and publishers are usually happy to provide permission to re-publish. Please contact Lois at [info@mmbtu.org](mailto:info@mmbtu.org). Without news from members, there is no newsletter!



## Say "Yes" to e-mail from MMBTU

*Submitted by Smitty Smith*

We understand that not all members have the ability or the interest to receive the newsletter by e-mail, but the savings are significant enough to consider it.

If you would like to receive your newsletter and other MMBTU notices by e-mail, contact newsletter editor Lois Smith at [info@mmbtu.org](mailto:info@mmbtu.org).



### About Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited

Merrymeeting Bay TU Chapter 329 serves a membership of 200+ in the mid-coast area of Maine. For more information e-mail: [info@mmbtu.org](mailto:info@mmbtu.org), visit the web site, <http://www.mmbtu.org>, or mail PO Box 191, Richmond, ME 04357.

#### 2009-10 Board of Directors

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# How Not to Try Out a New Fly Rod

By Lois Smith

Finally! After a long week of work, I was finally on the water, paddling toward a favored fishing hole with my husband, Smitty Smith. It wasn't one of those perfect fall days, but it was close enough. There was a light wind, the fish were rising, but without much enthusiasm. I was excited, though, to try out the new L.L. Bean Orion rod I had just purchased, replacing the very first 5 wt I had ever owned. Our friend Dick Soucy had warned me that it might take some time to get used to the new rod, and Smitty had suggested that I practice from a standing position at first, rather than from sitting in a canoe. But I of course, knew better. I was imagining a perfect cast, with a pay off of seeing a fat and brightly colored autumn Brookie canoe-side momentarily.

Well, needless to say, things didn't go as planned. It was a good thing we had two anchors down, bow & stern, because the breeze picked up. Luckily I'm married to a guy who has done this a few times, and he had us conveniently positioned so that the wind was at our backs. My goodness, could I throw that line with that new rod! We knew nymphing was the way to go, so I was using a sinking line. Those darn fish weren't very interested in my initial offerings, and I had started that frustrating process of changing the menu -- repeatedly.

And then -- just like that -- it happened. "Hey Smitty, I called out, mid-cast, "the wind changed direction." "Yup," he replied. Bam! There was a fly stuck to my nose. Ouch! I knew right away that it was more deeply embedded than the times I had caught my shirt, or hat. I put my rod down, and gave it a nudge with my finger. It wasn't moving. Uh oh. "Hey Smitty, we have a problem." Now, as you can imagine, I was feeling pretty silly just about then. Smitty tried not to laugh too much, and offered to paddle us in. It really didn't hurt, and I hadn't caught that Brookie yet, and I wasn't looking forward to the looming removal process. So I snipped the line, put on a new nymph, and tried again. And again, and again, and again. I can't remember if I landed any fish, but it certainly wasn't the banner day that I had been dreaming of. All the while, Smitty and I are discussing the fine art of the "String-Yank Method of Hook Removal." He recounted, in a very confident tone, the times he had employed it in the past.

## The String-Yank Method of Hook Removal

The string-yank technique is highly effective and results in very little additional trauma. It is also referred to as the "stream" technique. It is commonly performed in the field and is believed to be the least traumatic because it creates no new wounds since the hook exits over the path that it entered. It may be used to remove any size fishhook but generally works best when removing fishhooks of small and medium size. This technique also works well for deeply embedded fishhooks, but cannot be performed on parts of the body that are not fixed (e.g., earlobe, eyelid).

A string, such as fishing line or a heavy piece of leader, should be wrapped around the midpoint of the bend in the

After awhile, I decided it was time to face the inevitable. We pulled the anchors and headed for shore.

Back at camp we were met

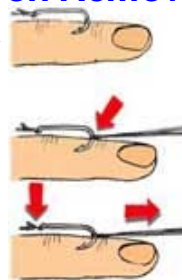


*Personally, I didn't think a photo was necessary.*

by our camping companions. The women milled about, buzzing with a mixture of concern for me and enjoyment of the entertainment that my predicament provided. The men looked on stoically, arms crossed, analytically discussing the fine points of the looming hook removal a la the "string-yank method." I had immediately applied ice to the area, and now decided I was ready for the imagined pain, blood, torn tissue and permanent scarring of my poor little nose. A girlfriend held my hand, I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and nodded to Smitty that I was ready. The next thing I heard was "Where did it go?" The hook was out, and was now somewhere on the floor beneath us. I hadn't felt a thing! Oh my goodness, what a guy I am married to! My hero!

Now, if I could just have another chance to figure out that new rod . . .

TU member & newsletter contributor Dave Martel adds this: *"Hopefully you were wearing glasses. . . and had de-barbed your nymph. The only time a de-barbed fly didn't come out of my face easily was when a gust of wind inadvertently threw the fly so hard into my face that it penetrated the skin, muscles, and went into the front of my skull. That one took a bit of "oomph" to get out."* Thanks for the input Dave, and yes, I was wearing glasses and had de-barbed the hook.



fishhook with the free ends of the string held tightly. A better grip on the string can be achieved by wrapping the ends around a stick or your hemostats. Push the hook shank down parallel to the injured tissue to disengage the barb on the hook (on the inside). While the hook shank is down, give the line a hard and sharp jerk in the direction the hook entered the tissue. The hook will usually come right out of the entry hole with very little pain and often the person doesn't realize it's been removed. This method keeps the wound size down and decreases the risk for additional infection when compare to push through and cut method. Clean the injury well with soap and water and apply an antibiotic ointment if you have it available, just like the push through method. Use a band-aid to protect the wound from foreign matter and remember the injury should be kept dry and clean.

## Events: 2009-10 MMBTU Year

The general membership and the general public are welcome at all meetings including Directors' Meetings. Meetings are held on the second Thursday, Graziano's Restaurant, Lisbon, Maine., unless otherwise noted. Board meeting begins at 5:30 pm., general meeting from 6-9 pm. For cancellation information in the event of poor weather, call: 353-4335.

**December 10:** Christmas Party & Raffle

**January 14:** Chutes de Facoli: Member Trip Report; Board Meeting at 5:30 pm.

**February 11:** Bighorn River, Montana: Member Trip Report; Board Meeting at 5:30 pm.

**March 11:** Alaska: Member Trip Report

**April 8:** TBA

**May 15:** Club Trip to Wiley Pond

## Christmas Party & Raffle Drawing

Thursday, December 10  
Graziano's, Lisbon, ME  
Bring a wrapped gift if you wish to  
participate in the gift swap