



FISHING AT LIMESTONE

With

Hatch Chart,
Tactics, and Tips

**Prepared by
Scott Simko
Dean Keister**

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ANGLER'S GUIDE

THIS IS LIMESTONE

Limestone Trout Club is a private fishing club with facilities located on a beautiful 94-acre property in East Canaan, Connecticut that includes three deep quarry ponds and three shallow man-made ponds. We have a comfortable clubhouse, a self-catering cottage for overnight stay, and boats on two of our quarry ponds. We are not a country club. We maintain the property and fisheries ourselves and strive to provide a relaxed atmosphere with the best possible fishing for anglers of all skill levels.

Trout are trout. However it takes time to figure out what makes a stillwater trout tick. Locating them, finding the depth where they're holding, and figuring out what they're eating can be a challenge. You should read *STILLWATER CONSIDERATIONS* for seasonal tactics and to better understand your prey. The *HATCH CHART* list flies that work and when to best to use them. Our website (www.LimestoneTroutClub.com) provides catch information for each pond and flies that have fooled the fish – valuable information to have BEFORE you leave home. AFTER you arrive, current conditions and hot flies are also posted at the clubhouse. **The rest is up to you.**

It never hurts to learn from the expert. A couple of hours guiding with Scott Simko to learn tactics and find and catch the fish is strongly encouraged. Contact Scott for rates and details.

Call (860) 453-4031 for emergencies or to reach Scott and (860) 672-8668 for announcements.

FISHING GUIDELINES

There are very few restrictions to your fishing at Limestone. We ask that you respect those that we do have. Help protect our fishery and maximize the enjoyment for all anglers. Changes may be made from year to year so you should always review the **Member's Handbook** for the most up to date information. As of 2018:

- A total of six fish per day may be taken by a member and his/her party without incurring extra charges. Beyond this limit the member will be billed at a rate of \$20 for fish 19" or less and \$30 for fish 20" or greater.

Help protect and sustain our large population of trophy trout.

Please limit harvesting of fish 20" or greater.

- Protected slot limit for **Cedar Pond** – Throughout the season fish less than 17 inches may be taken. Members only may harvest one fish 23 inches or greater per season. Additional fish 23" or greater will be billed at \$50/fish. Fish in the protected slot should be released.
- Only fly fishing equipment with artificial flies is permitted at all ponds except:
 - Worms may be fished on Birch Pond using a fly rod.
 - Children under the age of 8 years old may fish **Club, Rock, and Spruce Ponds** using conventional fishing gear (spinning, casting, and push button reels) with worms.

A VISIT TO LIMESTONE

Limestone Trout Club is owned by our members. Our 94 acres, three quarries, and three ponds are here to enjoy and share with our guests. Taking care of the property is everyone's responsibility. Use it and take care of it as you would your own home. Our Property Manager lives onsite and is responsible for managing the property and fishery. Please let him know if anything needs attention.

BEFORE YOU COME-WHILE YOU'RE HERE

Our website, LimestoneTroutClub.com, is regularly updated with information from your fellow anglers. See what fish have been caught, which ponds are hot, and which flies have worked. Review this information before you leave home to help you plan for success.

ON ARRIVAL

- Enter your name in the logbook and get your badge.
- Log the names of any guests and ask first time guests to fill out the liability release located behind the logbook.
- Check the board in the kitchen for the latest water and hot fly information.

DURING THE DAY

- Have fun. Both hot and cold drinks are available in the kitchen. Drinks are provided by the **Drinks Fairy**. The Drinks Fairy doesn't have any money so please be generous.
- Leave the clubhouse the way you would like to find it ... even if someone else didn't!
- Respect the fish, property, and your fellow anglers.
- Dogs are welcome but must be controlled at all times.

WHEN YOU LEAVE

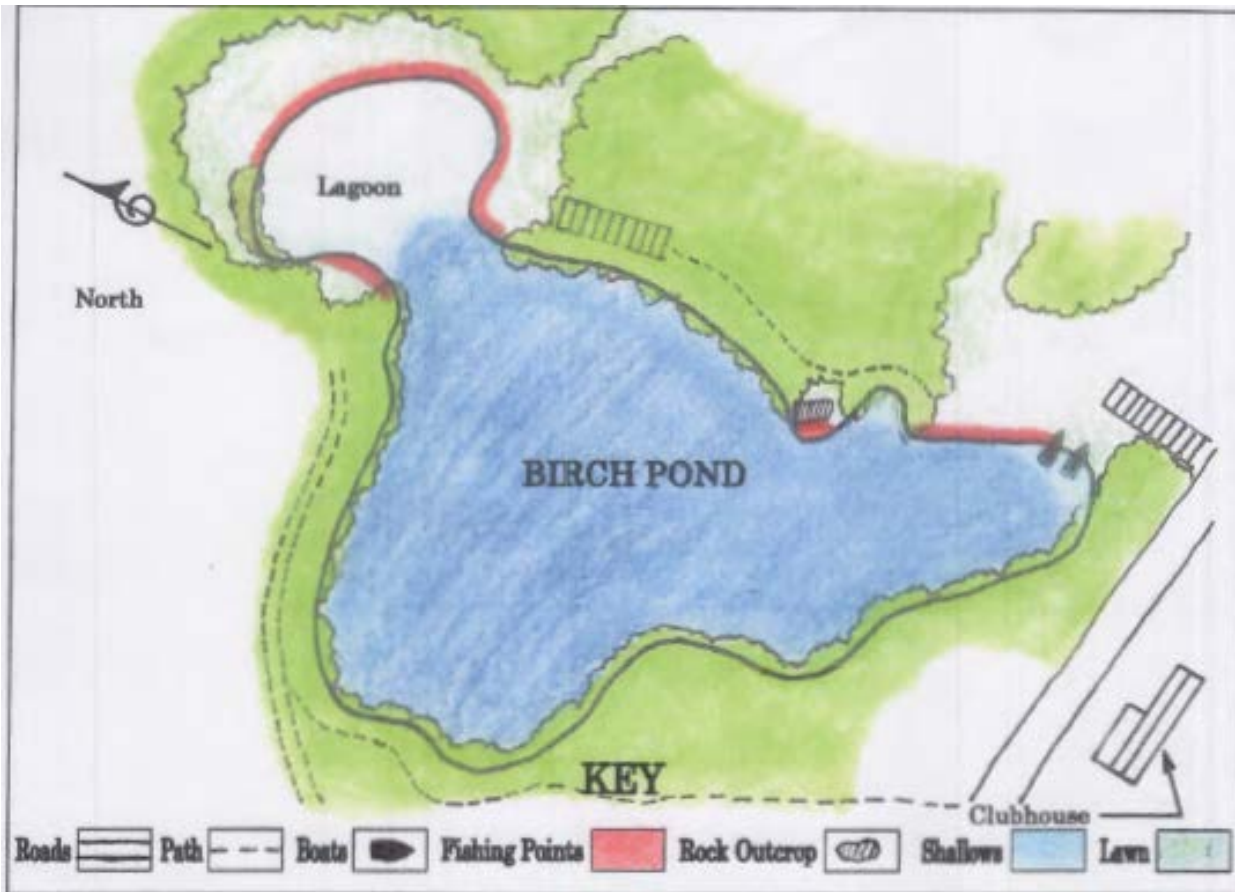
- Fill in your **Census Cards**. Census cards provide valuable information about our fishery. The information is used to help monitor the condition of our fish, guide current management practices, and help our Fishery Committee provide the best fishing experience for anglers of all skill levels.
- **Last Angler Out should lock the gate.**

ABOUT OUR PROPERTY

Limestone Trout Club



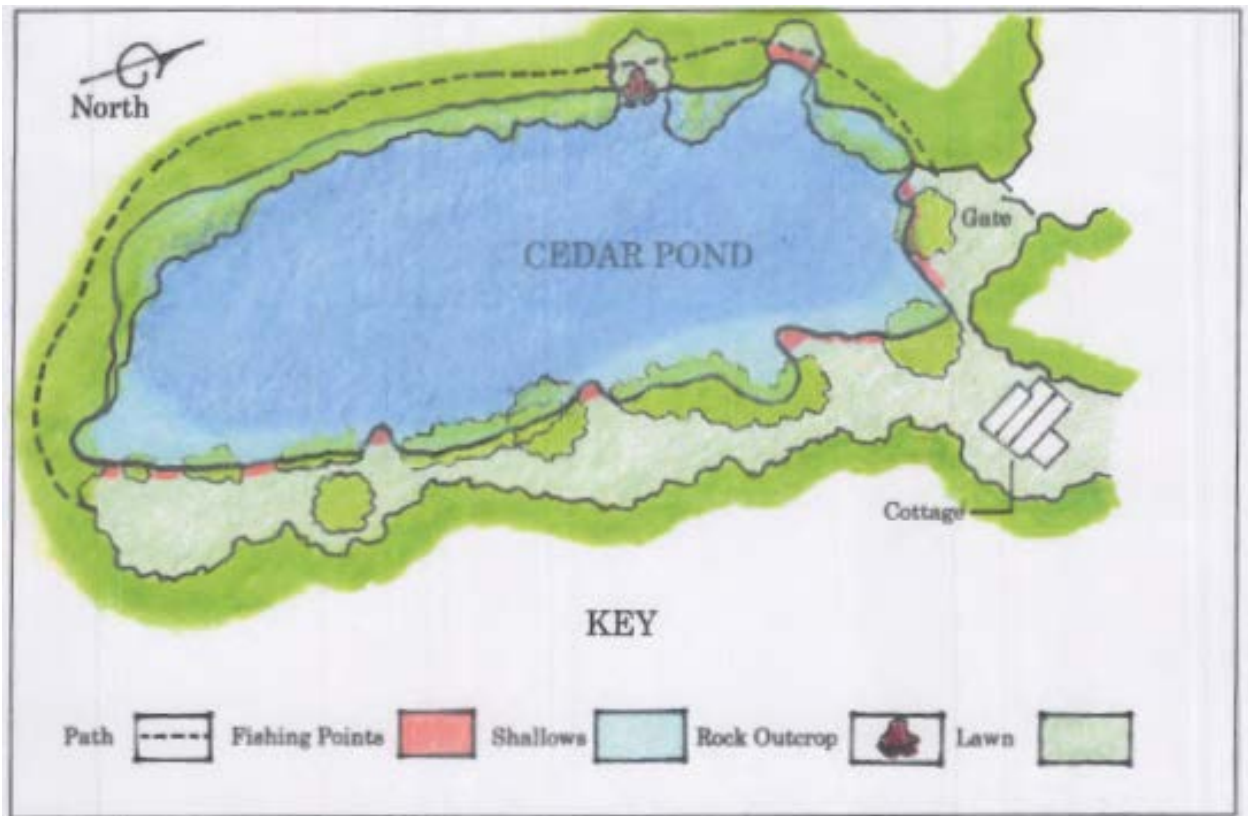
BIRCH POND



FEATURES

- Closest pond to the clubhouse.
- Second most fishing points of the three quarries.
- Inflow from home pools, near the boats, can be good fishing.
- Boats are good for reaching less pressured areas near the cliffs.
- Boats are not allowed in the Lagoon.
- The lagoon and narrows into to the lagoon are excellent for site fishing.
- Only pond where worms with a fly rod may be used.
- Fish terrestrials near the bushes.

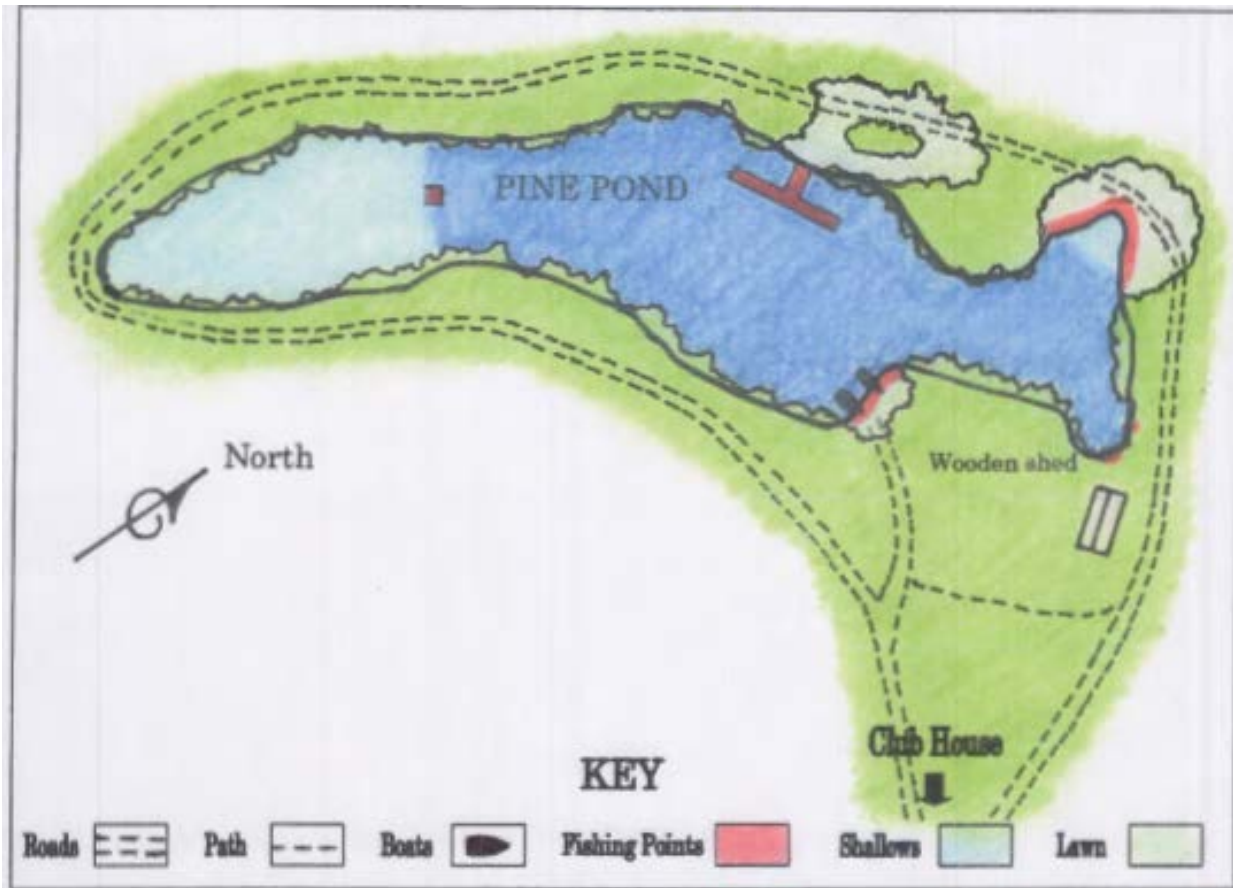
CEDAR POND



FEATURES

- 2 acres in size and 94 feet deep
- Many casting stations including one leaning post.
- Cottage with deck & screened porch available for rental by club members.
- The most open shoreline for fishing access of the three quarries.
- Picnic table and chairs on the lawn areas abutting the quarry.
- Best quarry for easy access for anglers with physical limitations.
- Handicap parking available in lot adjacent to entry.
- No boats are allowed.
- Protected slot limit – release all fish 17 inches or longer.

PINE POND



FEATURES

- Quiet fishing experience --- No road noise.
- Coldest water year round due to many springs and shaded edges
- Abundant overhanging bushes provide good cover for fish.
- Terrestrials work well near the bushes.
- Trolling with streamers is very popular.
- On very rare occasions in the fall when things are just right, rare freshwater jellyfish will appear by the thousands.
- Elevated picnic areas on the north and west side offer stunning views.

KEEP 'EM WET – KEEP 'EM ALIVE

MINIMIZE AIR EXPOSURE

Just like humans, fish experience exercise-induced stress causing them to tire and have diminished muscle function. In order to recover from being caught, fish need to be in the water so they can breathe and pump oxygen into their system.

Holding a fish out of the water prevents recovery and can lead to death if done for too long. Even shorter durations (as little as 10-20 seconds for some species) can have serious effects on short-term and long-term fish health.

You can reduce these health effects by keeping a fish's mouth and gills fully submerged in the water as much as possible during handling.

ELIMINATE CONTACT WITH DRY SURFACES

Fish have a layer of protective mucus (“slime”) that protects them from diseases. Contact with dry surfaces, whether they are hands, grass, boat bottoms, etc., can remove this protective slime and make fish more susceptible to diseases. Additionally, if placed on a dry surface, there is an increased likelihood that a fish could injure itself by thrashing around on lakeside rocks or the bottom of the boat. You should try to do the following:

- Land fish in the water.
- Wet your hands prior to handling fish.
- Hold fish in or slightly above the water, away from dry or hard surfaces.

REDUCE HANDLING

Generally the less a fish is handled, the better, so you should prepare in advance and take extra steps to minimize handling time.

- Land fish quickly without playing it to exhaustion.
- Hold fish in net or over water. The fish will be unharmed if you drop it.
- Fish barbless hooks and carry a hook removal device.
- Use rubber nets.
- Photograph fish wet.
- Grip fish carefully.

Carefully revive fish. In stillwater move the fish in a figure eight so water goes through the mouth and over the gills, **not back and forth!**

STILLWATER CONSIDERATIONS

SEASONAL TACTICS

SPRING

- TOP WATER
 - Dry flies on surface when fish are taking mayflies.
 - Dry dropper using an emerger fished just below the surface when fish are sipping.
- MID-DEPTH
 - Drifting nymphs with indicator on dry line 2-8 feet deep.
- DEEP
 - Sinking line or dry line with weighted fly, stripping using jerking motion with buggers, minnow patterns, or soft hackle wet flies.

SUMMER

- TOP WATER
 - Dry flies like Griffiths Gnat or Black Ant on surface when fish are sipping. (LONG LEADER A MUST).
 - Mouse pattern in early morning or late evening fished near shore.
- MID-DEPTH
 - Drifting midge nymphs on dry line with long leader
 - 12-18 ft. deep in the thermocline or off drop-offs. Use slow hand retrieve.
 - Dry line with Clouser or minnow patterns (jerking motion) when fish are attacking baitfish
- DEEP
 - Sinking line—Strip large buggers or minnow patterns just above the summer thermocline. (usually 8-15 ft. deep)

FALL

- TOP WATER
 - Dry flies and beetles on surface when fish are rising.
- MID-DEPTH
 - Drifting all Nymphs with indicator 2-8 ft. deep. Slow hand retrieve
- DEEP
 - Sinking line stripping large Buggers or Zonkers.
 - Sinking line stripping mini-Buggers or soft hackle wet flies.

UNDERSTAND YOUR PREY

TROUT IN LAKES ARE NOT TROUT IN STREAMS

- Many things are the same but there are critical differences.
- Trout in lakes always move in search for food rather than holding in a prime lie waiting for food.
- Trout in lakes must expend energy looking for food—cruising rather than holding.
- *A holding fish is usually not eating.*
- Trout respond quickly to changing conditions such as light, temperature, weather, and feathered, four-legged, and two-legged predators.

ANGLERS CAN LEARN HOW TO FISH LAKES

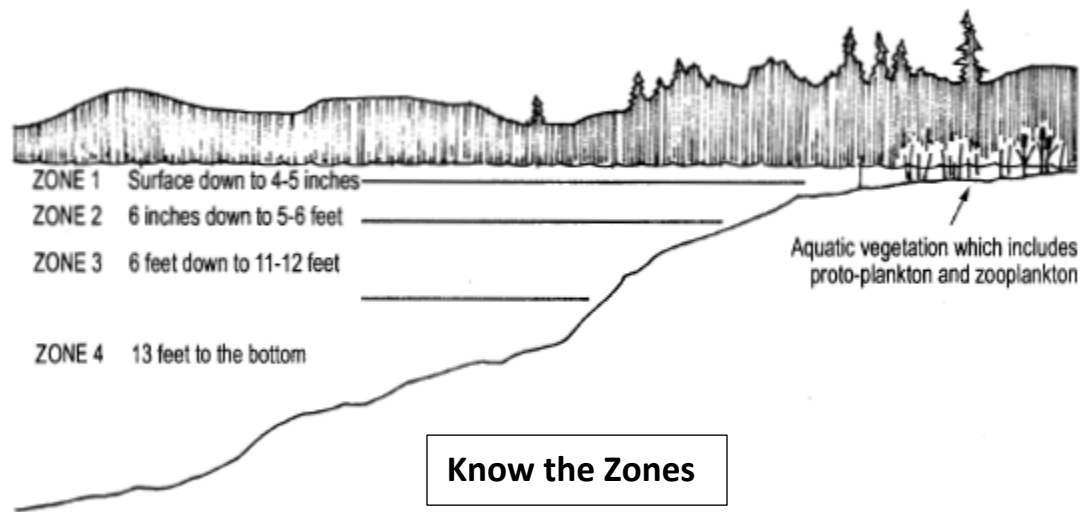
- Figure out **where the fish are** – location and depth guide presentation.
If a trout doesn't see your fly, changing flies won't help!
- Knowing where the fish are helps select the **zone** the fish are in.
- *Knowing the zone narrows **food source and presentation options.***
- Knowing the presentation option helps **gear selection** – rod, line, leader, and (finally) fly choice.
- Gear choice determines **retrieve options.**
*If your fly **acts** like food a trout is more likely to bite.*
- Be prepared for changing conditions. Trout quickly respond by changing their location, what they eat, and/or how they feed.
*If you haven't had a hit in 15 minutes, **change something!***

LISTEN TO THE TROUT!

- Be prepared to alter your presentation. When you don't have a bite, change but in an orderly priority of response:
 - Change retrieves before changing anything else.
 - Fish different depths before changing flies
 - Change fly based on assumptions of fish behavior.
- Are the trout generalists (opportunistic) or selective? Should you select an impressionistic or realistic fly? Consider:
 - General impression—does it act like food (presentation).
 - The right size and shape for the expected food source.
 - The right color.
- **Every cast tells you something.**

IMPROVE THE ODDS

- Figure out where the fish are
 - Horizontally and vertically
 - Polarized glasses are a must.
- Understand your presentation options - match to *what* trout are eating and *where* they are
 - Select the right line and tippet
 - Match the rod to line, conditions, and fish
 - Pick fly and presentation to match location and food



(Illustration by Dan Richards)

- Zone 1 – Surface to 1 foot
 - Food on surface, pupae in surface film and emergers travelling up from the bottom.
 - Presentation options:
 - Floating line with 9-12' leader
 - Intermediate line with 9' leader
 - 7 foot camo transparent sink tip, 9' leader
- Zone 2 – 1 to 6 feet
 - Food typically emergers travelling from bottom or minnows
 - Presentation options:
 - Intermediate with variety of retrieves
 - 7 foot camo transparent sink tip for top part of zone
 - 5 foot type 2 transparent sink tip for fishing up through bottom of zone
 - Floating (if you have to) with weighted fly
 - 9 foot leader

- Zone 3 – 6 to 12 foot
 - Typically non-feeding zone but chironomids and midge larva/pupa
 - Presentation options
 - Type 2 or 3 full sink lines with 6 foot leader
 - 10 foot type 2 transparent sink tip for working drop-offs with 6-9 foot leader
 - Floating line with indicator and chironomids or small nymph with 9-15 foot leader
- Zone 4 – Below 12 feet
 - Typically non-feeding zone – find the thermocline using chironomids and midge larva/pupa
 - Presentation options
 - Fast, full sink lines (type 3-7) with six foot leader
 - Floating line for indicator with chironomids or small nymph, leader length based on fish depth

SUGGESTED READING

- Marinaro, Vincent (1976) *In The Ring Of The Rise* New York, NY: Nick Lyons
- *Rickards, Denny (2010) *Stillwater Presentation* Klamath, OR: Stillwater Productions
- Rosenbauer, Tom (1988) *Reading Trout Streams* New York, NY: Nick Lyons
- Whitlock, Dave (1982) *Dave Whitlock's Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods* New York, NY: Nick Lyons Books
- Wyatt, Bob (2004) *Trout Hunting: The Pursuit of Happiness* Swan Hill Press, Shrewsbury, England
- *Wyatt, Bob (2013) *What Trout Want: The Educated Trout and Other Myths* Mechanicsburg, PA Stackpole Books

* If you only pick two books, these are the ones!

HATCH CHART

NYMPHS AND WET FLIES

<u>NYMPHS—WET</u>		<u>SIZE</u>	<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>
Prince Nymph (with or without BH)		10-18	March—November
BH Zebra Midge (black, red, cream)		16-22	March—November
Hare's Ear Nymph		10-18	March—November
Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear		10-18	March—November
Soft Hackle Hare's Ear		10-16	March—November
Pheasant Tail Nymph		10-20	March—November
White Nymph		10-18	March—November
Damsel Fly Nymph		10-12	April—September
Dragon Fly Nymph		6-10	April—September
Caddis Pupa Nymph (Various colors)		12-20	March—November


<u>NYMPHS—WET</u>		<u>SIZE</u>	<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>
Copper John (With or without BH)		10-16	March—November
Red Midge (With or without BH)		12-20	March—November All Summer
Brassie Midge (With or without BH)		12-20	March—November All Summer
Cream Midge (With or without BH)		12-20	March—November All Summer
Olive Scud (With or without BH)		14-18	March—November
Woolly Buggers (All Colors)		10-14	October—November
Egg Patterns (various colors)		6-14	March—April Best Sept—Nov
Variety of jig patterns		10-16	March—November

STREAMERS









<u>STREAMERS</u>		<u>SIZE</u>	<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>
Muddler Minnow		4-10	March—November
Wooly Bugger (Various Colors)		4-8	March—November
Clouser Minnow		4-8	March—November Excellent all summer
Zonker		4-8	March—November
Mickey Finn		4-8	March—November
Hornberg		4-8	March—November
Bunny Leach		8-10	March—November
White Marabou		8-10	March—November
Butt Monkey- Articulated		4-6	April – December

DRY FLIES

<u>Dry Flies</u>		<u>SIZE</u>	<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>
Grey Caddis (Elk hair or Adams)		12-16	March—November
Brown Elk Hair Caddis		12-16	Mid-March—Mid-April
Black Caddis		16-20	Mid-May—Mid-June
Griffith's Gnat		18-24	April—November
Hendrickson (Adams)		4-8	March—November
Klinkhammer Emerger (various colors)		4-8	Mid-April—Mid-May
Tan-Olive Emerger		16-18	Mid May – Mid- June
March Brown		10-14	Mid May – Mid- June
Callibaetis (Adams)		10-16	Mid May – Mid- June
Blue Damsel		8-10	May—June

<u>Dry Flies</u>		<u>SIZE</u>	<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>
Cream Midge		16-22	June – November

TERRESTRIALS AND OTHER

<u>TERRESTRIALS & ...</u>		<u>SIZE</u>	<u>TIME OF YEAR</u>
Corixia The Water Boatman		10-16	April - October
Beetle		14-18	June – October
Black Ant		14-18	June – October
Crayfish		4-8	March—November Excellent all summer
Fat Albert		6-10	August – November
Chernobyl Ant		6-10	August – November
Mouse Pattern		4-10	March—November
Snail Pattern		8-12	March-November

FISH HANDLING AND RELEASE

Reduce stress to the fish you plan to release:

- Fish barbless hooks to minimize injury.
- Do not to fight fish to exhaustion (the fish, not you).
- Use a rubber net and never lay fish on the ground.
- Minimize handling. Hold fish over the water and *always wet hands* before holding fish.
- Minimize the time a fish is out of the water.
Hold your breath. When you have to breathe so does the fish!
- Assist recovery until the fish can swim away. Move the fish in a figure eight so water goes through the mouth and over the gills, *not back and forth!*
- **In warm weather and warm water, release fish where they have easy access to deep water.**