



"Cultivating the art of fly fishing through a spirit of fellowship and resource enhancement"

washingtoncountyyflyfishers.com

Issue 301

August 2026

Meeting Location

Westbrook Club House

14255 SW 6th Street (one block east of SW Murray)

Beaverton, OR 97005

August Meeting:

There is no formal meeting in August; however, our annual **Summer Picnic** will be held at the Westbrook Club House **Saturday, August 8** from 4:00 to 7:00. The Club will provide burgers and brats and members are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert.

President's Message

August 2026

August is one month when I don't fish much. The lakes and rivers tend to be a bit warm and weedy, steelhead may or may not be in



the Deschutes, and the weather can be a bit hot. I suppose one could say that I am missing a lot of opportunity, but a month off here can recharge batteries for the fall seasons that are usually so good in Oregon. I use August preparing for the fall steelheading, October caddis, and lake fishing, getting gear organized, tying flies and looking forward to some exciting trips with good friends. I suppose I could go after bass and carp, and in future years I may just do that!

August 8 (Saturday) will be the club picnic in lieu of a normal meeting for August. It will be at the club house around 4 pm – 7 pm. Food will be available right at the start. The club will furnish the main course (hamburgers and brats) and water/sodas with members pot-luck for the rest. Bring a salad, side or dessert to share. We are planning a raffle and silent auction of some nice items and also a brief casting clinic. I hope to see you there!

My thanks to Joel Smith and Chris Wilson for reorganizing our storage closet! Chris Wilson donated a set of shelving and Joel did the heavy lifting to set it up so we can find things. It looks great!



August 12 will be a casting clinic on Hauling by Marc Williamson. See the email for details.

Tight Lines,

Rick Pay, President



Washington County Fly Fishers

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Club Calendar

- August
 - 8 – Club Picnic
 - 12 – Casting Clinic – Hauling – Marc Williamson
 - 15 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- September
 - 2 – Club Meeting – speaker Kevin Stertz – ODFW
 - 19 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- October
 - 7 - Club Meeting – speaker Brian Bangs – US FWS – Willamette Valley Non-game Species and their interaction with game fish
 - 17 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- November
 - 4 – Club Meeting – speaker Jennifer La Follette – Golden Trout at June Lake
 - 21 - Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- December
 - 2 – Christmas Dinner
- January
 - 6 – Club Meeting
 - 16 – Breakfast
- February
 - 3 – Club Meeting and Annual Meeting/Elections
 - 20 - Breakfast
 - 27 – DRA Auction

Finding the right fly rod for you



People ask me all the time if I could recommend a fly rod.

Sure, I say, but there are many variables to consider, and what works for me might not necessarily be your cup of tea.

Let's start with the basics.

Fly rods are categorized by length and “weight,” which doesn’t mean the actual weight of the rod itself. Instead, a “5-weight” fly rod is meant to cast a “5-weight” line, which now very loosely refers to manufacturing standards set by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA, formerly the American Fly Tackle Manufacturers Association or AFTMA). According to those guidelines, the weight of the first 30 feet of the line is measured in grains, and a 5-weight should be 140 grains... 6-weight, heavier, 4-weight lighter, and so on.



The line matters just as much as the rod, if not more.

These days, the truth of the matter is that many fly lines are intentionally produced a half size or more heavier than the standard because they work better when loading faster-action graphite rods.

It's all about the flies, not the fish

The thing to remember is that a certain weight rod/line has less to do with the types of fish you plan on chasing, and more to do with the types of flies you're going to cast.

A 9-foot 5-weight is pretty much considered the gold standard in the trout fishing world (over 70 percent of all fly rods sold in the U.S. are 5-weights... the fly-fishing world revolves on an axis of trout). While that might conveniently match up with most 8-20-inch trout, the real reason the 5-weight shines is because it is adept at throwing a wide variety of flies, from small parachute Adams patterns to grasshoppers and size #10 woolly buggers. If you want to fish a nymph rig with weight under the surface, no problem. Dry flies on the surface? Easy peasy. Streamers for bass as well as trout? Sure.

Personally, I like fishing dry flies for trout most of all, so if I had to pick one rod I'd choose an 8-1/2-foot, 4-weight rod. If I were going to throw heavy streamers all day, every day, I'd choose a 7-weight. But that's just me.

It's in the action

Now, let's talk about "action."

When we call a fly rod's action "fast," we're basically saying that it's stiffer. With a little more oomph and some refined timing of the casting stroke, an angler can generate more line speed, which often translates to distance. A "moderate" action rod is a bit more flexy, and that translates to "feel." The average caster is going to feel that line load as they stop the tip of the rod and change directions of the casting stroke.



Look at all that flex. Do you like it?

Some will argue that certain actions lend themselves to other things like accuracy and delicate presentations. But to be honest with you, the line has as much to do with all that as a rod does. And practice and skill matter 100 times more when it comes to casting accuracy and effective presentations than any rod or line ever will.

A rod for every scenario, or not

Do you like the rod? That's what really matters.

When you start thinking about all of this, it seems like you could justify a different rod and line for just about any fishing scenario—a dry fly, small stream trout rod... a rod for throwing pike bunnies... "Euro nymphing" rods, saltwater setups... it's almost limitless and that's *exactly* how the tackle companies want you to think. You should tread on that path at your own discretion.

To me, the number one factor for choosing a fly rod is very simple. *Do you like it? I mean really like it. Do you like how it looks? Do you like how it feels? Does it make you want to pick it up and cast it? Are you proud of it? A great fly shop is a matchmaker.*

If you legitimately love your fly rod, you're going to get good at fishing with it, because you're going to use it a lot.

The hours you put into a rod are what ultimately dictate its real-world performance, function and value far more than any advice you get from anyone else.

Is it too hot?



Trout Unlimited Staff

Jun 30, 2026



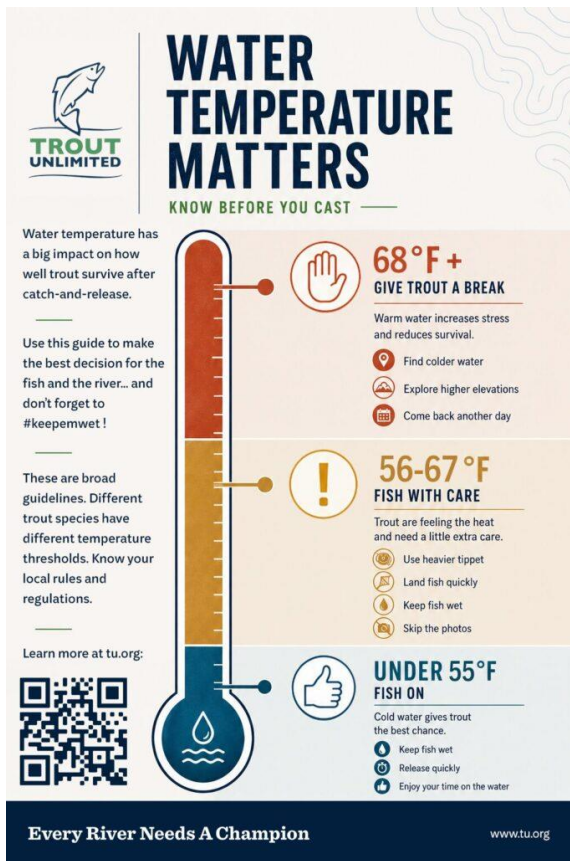
Did you know that trout are cold blooded? What does that mean, exactly? Well, it means that their body temperature depends on the temperature of the water in which they swim.

Why is this important to consider? If the water is too warm, trout struggle to thrive. Warm water carries less dissolved oxygen, which means it is harder for them to breathe. Think of the last time you hiked at an altitude higher than you're used to and how hard you were breathing. This is the same for trout when the water warms.

And when you catch a trout when the water is too warm, that is akin to running a marathon at 10,000 feet, or even higher. It is harder for them to recover, and at times, they don't and succumb to the stress.

Check in with your state's wildlife management agency for updated info and regulations. Remember to take the temperature of the streams you're fishing this summer to find out if it is safe to fish. If not, go higher and check the temperature again. Or fish only when the weather is cool in the mornings. Or fish for a warmwater fish like bass.

Take a photo of this thermometer and do your local fishery a favor to keep our beloved trout safe and alive this summer.



Of course, not all trout, and certainly not all fish, are affected at the same temperatures. Generally what's good for rainbow and brown trout is not cool enough for cutthroat and bull trout nor mountain whitefish. Keep in mind this nuance and use your best judgement. **If you observe fish acting sluggish or if you find them in really deep holes and not eating, it is likely too hot to fish for them.**



June 2026
FLY OF THE MONTH
"Pale Evening Dun"



Edison: June 2026
Written by: Eric Auson
Photographed By: Eric Auson Creator:
Unknown-George C.
Bainbridge's The Fly Fisher's Guide from 1816 is
the earliest reference I've found

The Pale Evening Dun

The American version of this fly is based on British Pale Evening Duns dating back into the 18th century. Those were all tied with starling wings, fussy and flimsy. Tiers in the Catskills adapted the fly to the more readily available and more substantial mallard quills. Preston Jennings' work A Book on Trout Flies does not mention the Pale Evening Dun at all, instead referring to The Little Marryat as his go-to fly for what we today call the Sulphur Hatch.

There is a great deal of bad information on the internet regarding this fly. It is not a Ray Bergman pattern as widely and erroneously reported. You can find it in Mary Orvis Marbury's Favorite Flies from 1895, wherein she attributes the fly to Alfred Ronalds. His book, The Fly Fishers Entomology, dates to 1836. There have been countless versions of this fly over time.

I remember loving the look of a Pale Evening Dun that I bought at a general store in Morrisonville, N.Y. on the Saranac River. It had a primrose floss body. I fished that fly quite a bit and tied them too. Honestly, as much as I fished it, I do not remember ever catching a fish with it. There is an older version of this fly tied by Theodore Gordon and the Darbees

that has fine flat gold tinsel wrapped as a rib around a primrose body. I have no recollection of this rib being present on the flies I fished in the '60s, but then again, my memory is anything but dependable these days. So add a rib if you like.

MATERIALS

Hook: TMC 100 or similar dry fly hook (Mustad 94840 or Allcock hooks for a true Catskill-style fly.) #12-18

Thread: 8/0 or finer primrose (light yellow)

Tail: Light dun Coq de Leon or spade hackle

Wings: Mallard quill slips, right and left

Abdomen: Yellow-orange dubbing



to the start of the bend. Tie in a tail consisting of 6- 8 Coq de Leon fibers. Wind the thread forward, binding down the tail on top of the hook as you go. Stop at about 30% back from the eye on the hook shank.

2. The photo shows two mallard quills, a "le" on the left and a "right" on the right. If the longer fibers are on the left side of the stem, the feather is a "le." The longer fibers are on the right side of the stem on a "right." Cut slips from each, around $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the shank.

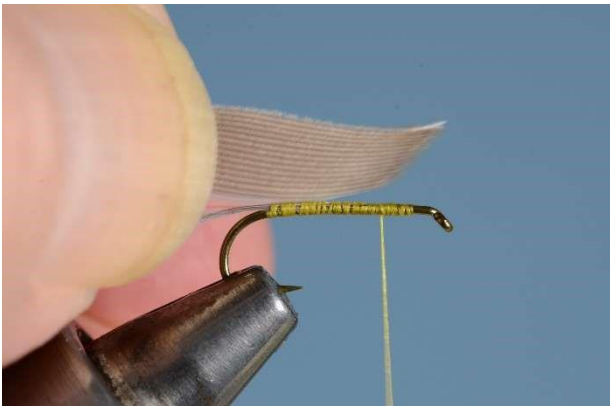


1. Start the primrose thread about an eye-length back from the eye and wrap

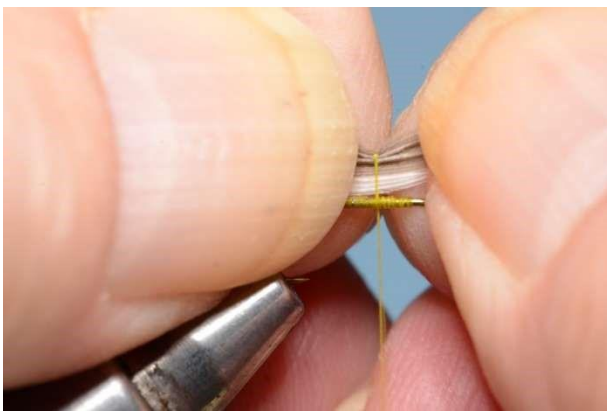


3. Shown here are the two slips, left and right, cut from the feathers above. I have taken these from the middle 3rd of each feather, the “sweet spot”. If you go too low on the feather the wings will be tough to mount as the slips will be flimsy. Too high on the feather and the slips will split as you

mount them. The middle 3rd of the feather is what you want.



4. Hold the slips back-to-back, tips flaring out. Measure them to be about hook length.



5. Tie them in at the 30% mark on the shank, right where you stationed your thread. I like

to use an elevated pinch, making sure that the thread is straight up and down at the eye in point. This assures that I have mounted the wings 30-33% back from the eye exactly. This mounting point is critical to the performance of the fly on the water. Straddle the top 3rd of the shank with the slips and take 3 turns rearward.



6. Adjust the wings aggressively to get them well-positioned. Trim the butts at an angle to form a taper. Wind the thread back to a point just short of the tail, binding down the angled wing butts.



7. Dub the thread. You will find you cannot easily dub it all the way up to the shank, and that's OK. Wind the undubbed section of the thread back to the tail, then wind the dubbed thread forward to just short of the wings.



Wrap the thread forward binding down the stem.

8. Select a hackle from a neck (not a saddle hackle). Why shouldn't you use a saddle hackle? It is not traditional, and this is a traditional Catskill-style fly. Find one where the fibers are $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the gap of the hook. Prep it by stripping off fibers from the base and 3-5 extra fibers from the lower right side. This will enable you to start your hackle cleanly. Tie it in leaving a bit of the bare stem above the tie-in point.



9. Bind the stem down forward in front of the wings as well. Trim the stem.



10. Wind the hackle forward;
bind it down
forward, and trim. The
number of turns of
hackle you make depends on
the water you
fish. Always err on the side of
sparseness. I
see far too many over-hackled
Catskill-style

flies around. If I'm fishing my usual flat
water I'll use two turns of hackle behind the
wings, and two in front. If fishing pocket
water, 10 turns might be advisable. But the
sparser you can make it and still have it
float, the more fish you will catch. Wind the
thread back to the hackle, whip finish
forward, and trim the thread. I don't glue
the heads or use any glue whatsoever on a

dry fly. The whip finish is all you need.

Editors Notes: Comments from the editor.

Fly of the Month: Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them. If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact the Fly Tying Group at ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly. This is the guest tier's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

Please Credit FFI Website or FFI Fly Tying Group Fly of the Month with any use of the

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