

RODS

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There was the tenkara rod I use for salmon that landed a legitimate 28-inch pink salmon buck in south-east Alaska in 2019. And those aren't even the book ends. How is one expected to part with functional art that carries a backstory like that?

Deciding upon an old American Tackle five-weight and a six-weight switch rod, I moved on to the fly selection to find a similar situation. Voluminous boxes and fly types that once were organized to a particular structure had fallen into disarray. Boxes were dispersed among the various backpacks and duffels devoted to field time and travel. Nymphs and streamers were the only flies I needed for this particular trip, but which of four streamer boxes held the small laser-dubbed bugger-type flies I sought, and where in the hell was it?

Grabbing each bag and emptying its contents on the couch littered blue, green, and white foam boxes, gray plastic flip-sided boxes, giant "meat lockers" packed with blue, orange, and purple "intruders" capable of spooking a shark, and the one aluminum box of meticulously separated nymphs. At least the nymphs are kept with some order, but the lid of that box was stuffed with various dry fly patterns. Grabbing the nymph box and small foam box of streamers provided enough ammunition to be dangerous, so I moved on to the reel selection.



Rods, reels, nymphs, and streamers selected for a day on a desert lake.

Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

Throwing the lid open on the reel case revealed a dozen reels to fit the rods of all sizes. I was looking specifically for the big Ross reel with full-sinking line for the switch-rod and an Okuma reel with the floating line for the five-weight. "Where is that Okuma reel with the white line?" I thought, before realizing that reel was attached to the Sage rod that found a new home last year. An Orvis Battenkill with a weight-forward floating line would be the replacement.

The Ross was an easy find as the sinking line was striped blue and orange, but I could not specifically recall the other line and reel I was seeking.

The deep green line was another sinking line. The bright orange lines were for a three-weight or the shooting heads for steel-head fishing. The bright green line was a double-taper floating five-weight that would not cut it on the lake. Finally, I recalled the reel was actually on a different rod in another case, but was an easy find since the case was too big to fit in the cabinet.

With the most important gear gathered, my attention turned to the various other necessities like leader wallets, split-shot, the multi-tool, snacks, fishing license, and camera and accessories. Luckily, I had only one set of waders and boots to

match up.

A week following the epic outing for feisty spring trout, my truck was loaded for a trip to Goodwill. A single fly rod found its way into the cab — a 14-foot, nine-weight spey rod that I had owned for a decade and never used. A modest "downsizing," and temporary at that.

I could use another 10-foot, five-weight to replace that Sage, I thought, when pulling away from Goodwill. After all, I had made room in the cabinet.

Brad Trumbo is a fish and wildlife biologist and outdoor writer in Waitsburg, Washington. For tips and tales of outdoor pursuits and conservation, visit www.bradtrumbo.com.

TURKEYS

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which employs a forward mounted wheel that allows use of four striking rails.

So I love box calls, but they keep your hands tied up, so you've got to learn how to use a reed. That way you can have your gun up and still be calling. The push box call is so simple that a kid can use it to call turkeys. And you can tape it to the forestock of your shotgun so you can be calling right up until you shoot.

You'll be sure want to carry a locator call. For whatever reason if you hit a locator call it will prompt a turkey to gobble which helps you locate them. I like a coyote howl, but crow or peacock calls are also popular locator calls.

SHELLS & CHOKES

Sixty years ago we used our leftover lead 2-shot duck shells but now there are turkey loads that are super-efficient. HEVI-Shot, Kent and nearly all of the big boys make turkey loads.

You need to use a turkey choke which are super tight chokes. Aim at the neck, about 3 to 4 inches below the head. If you aim at the head half of the BBs go whistling harmlessly overhead.

Well, I could go on for another 500 words but we're out of room so let's end on a note of safety. Everyone tells you to set with your back against a tree so a hunter sneaking in doesn't shoot you. Also don't sit on a flat spot level with your decoys or another hunter may come sneaking in and shoot your decoy with you in line behind it.



Tom Claycomb/Contributed Photo

You can see how tight of a pattern you can get with good turkey loads shot through a good choke.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 LG products
- 4 Porpoise relative
- 8 Root around
- 12 Cool
- 13 Polite address
- 14 Type of lock
- 15 "She Loves You" refrain
- 17 Snoop
- 18 Bark
- 19 Waterless
- 21 Fundraisers, often
- 22 Needed a scratch
- 25 Make lace
- 26 "Wool" on clay sheep
- 27 Alpine refrains
- 30 Big green parrot
- 31 Behaviors
- 33 Spinks defaeter
- 35 Healthy lunch

- 37 Pecan shape
- 38 Chest for the Commandments
- 39 Erase
- 41 Brush off
- 44 By word of mouth
- 45 Take a flier
- 46 Turkish title
- 47 "The Mammoth Hunters" writer
- 51 Cleveland's lake
- 52 Spunky movie princess
- 54 Moo goo — pan
- 55 Oriole's abode
- 56 Coops
- 57 Center

DOWN

- 1 Quaker word
- 2 Engage in rivalry
- 3 Workout facility

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	A	W		S	H	I	P		U	G	L	Y
H	U	E		T	E	N	T		R	O	U	E
A	D	D		A	L	D	A		B	E	T	A
M	I	S	E	R	L	Y		L	A	S	E	R
				C	R	O		P	U	N		
M	C	C	O	Y		A	L	G	E	B	R	A
L	E	A		W	R	Y		L	O	X		
B	O	R	E	D	O	M		L	A	T	T	E
				F	I	E		F	O	B		
H	O	O	F	S		B	A	S	S	O	O	N
A	L	P	O		F	E	D	S		W	H	O
R	E	A	R		A	L	E	E		L	I	D
D	O	L	T		T	A	D	S		S	O	S

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55					56					57		

- 4 Guru's mantra
- 5 Swift
- 6 Joker or ace
- 7 Lowell or Tan
- 8 Revolve
- 9 Commuter line
- 10 Wrist-to-elbow bone
- 11 Bases
- 16 Big laugh (hyph.)
- 20 Concerning
- 21 Flits about
- 22 "Gross!"
- 23 Not we
- 24 Breezy greeting
- 25 Won — soup
- 27 Even so
- 28 Bathe
- 29 Shutter part
- 31 Gloom
- 32 Vex
- 34 Seine vista
- 36 Rubber ring
- 37 Earthenware pot
- 39 Make empty
- 40 Per
- 41 Small brown bird
- 42 Charter
- 43 Wife of Osiris
- 44 Type of arch
- 46 Peak for Heidi
- 48 "Yuck!"
- 49 Water, to Pierre
- 50 Ad — (wing it)
- 53 Since

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