

FROM
The RIVER'S
EDGEBy
George MacAlevy

Start the season with nymphs

Of all the flyrod sports, nymphing is the preferred one for opening the trout season in April. In most of our streams, stonefly nymphs are prevalent and make up a considerable part of a trout's early season diet.

Many stoneflies emerge fairly early in the season, so many of these are big nymphs and as such are sought out by the fish. The nymphs of these early emergers will be moving about on the stream bed or clambering towards the surface on stream edges to gain a

place where they can crawl out and split the nymphal shuck, dry their wings, and fly. Some simply rise to the surface, split the shuck and extricate themselves from its confines, and then ride the empty shuck down the current as their wings extend and dry.

On our local west slope streams, there are a number of early stoneflies of small size. The Dark Stone, a nymph in brown shades in sizes 12 and 14 imitates a number of these early insects. Some light colored stoneflies are about also, and the Light Stone, a predominantly straw colored nymph in the same sizes would be useful. These two are preferred on fast downhill streams.

On water with large pools and wide gentle riffles, slightly larger patterns, say size 10 in a Yellow Stonefly nymph can be very productive. I recall a season opener on the Molalla River where this pattern filled my creel. I worked it almost exclusively on a cross stream cast. After casting the nymph directly across the current, let it drift while feeding some line. It will slowly swing in below you.

The most productive period of this cast is at the end of the swing just before the fly stops and hangs in the current. If nothing has hit the nymph yet, let the nymph loiter in the current moving the rod tip slightly to give the lure a back and forth weaving motion as it hangs in the current. If you still haven't had a strike, retrieve the nymph as slowly as possible.

This retrieving of a nymph is unnatural, but if it is done slowly and smoothly, the unnaturalness of it seems to escape the fishes attention. This cast has by now been worked out of every bit that was in it, but you may have alerted a fish in passing, so it is wise to repeat the cast without moving. He may take it on the second time through.

Do not neglect the upper portion of large pools. Trout in this area are always on the lookout for food that has washed out of the riffles above. Cast the nymph upstream to where the riffle enters the pool and let it dead drift from there. Watch the suspected location of your nymph as it drifts for a telltale flash of silver as this may be the only signal on the slack line that a fish has taken the fly.

Some nymphs I know, tie a short piece of bright colored thread around the line about 12 feet from the end. Anything even momentarily stopping the even drift of the fly will cause a wiggle in the fine thread. The greatest problem in dead drift of a sunken fly is detecting the strike. If you practice this method of fishing a lot, you eventually get so you sense this automatically and you will then hook more fish.

Good patterns for this method are the large ones. Casual Dress, a large nymph pattern of Polly Rosborough from Chiloquin, is made entirely of Muskrat fur and is quite dark. A nymph version of the Carey Special wet fly can be made by tying the body bulky and using but two turns of tackle. The Carey is made solely of Ringneck Pheasant rump feathers. Both of these are used large on 6 or 8 hooks. Neither of these is an exact imitation of anything, but both are impressionistic ties that suggest large nymphs to a trout.

The waters east of the Cascades harbour many large stoneflies, the most famous of which is the May hatching Salmon Fly. On opening day, many of the large nymphs of this species are available as trout food, and a stomach examination of these early caught trout will reveal that these large nymphs comprise the bulk of the trout's April diet.

Where the Salmon fly is known to be a major hatch on a stream, a nymph with some Orange in it is preferable. The Orange Stonefly nymph in sizes 6 to 8 is indicated. The larger stoneflies all have wide bodies, so if you tie your own, it is a good idea to build up a wide flat body beneath the dressing.

As I said earlier, swimming nymphs are unnatural to a trout in many cases, although some nymphs do swim about.



When fishing pocket water, a swimming nymph approach is the best and most productive way. By pocket water, I mean those long but not severe riffles which have little pockets of deeper slow water interspersed with the faster riffles. Wading in the riffles and swimming a nymph through the pockets is the way to take advantage of this water. Many pass this sort of water up. Good trout hold in these pockets, ever watchful for bits of food to wash by from the faster water above. As these pockets are small, the time the nymph is visible to the trout is short, and his decision to take must be rapid. He is easily fooled in this situation.

As to tackle for this early season nymphing, I prefer a slow action flyrod and a sinking line. Water levels are higher and the current faster at this time of year. Also the trout are more likely to be hugging the bottom. So a sinking line is a necessity to get the nymph down where the trout are. To get the most out of each cast you are going to retrieve most of the line before casting again, so the fast rod is not necessary to pull the sunken line out of a great depth of water. Also, the slow rod will not dry your nymph and it will sink readily on the next cast, which means it will be fishing sooner.

Nymphing is a fascinating way to fish and it is most productive once you master the techniques. I used to pass it up in favor of the dry fly until I was noticeably outfished on several occasions when up against a proficient nymph. Even when flies are hatching, trout often prefer to take the rising nymph in preference to the newly hatched fly. Take heed!



STREAMS WITH a lot of pocket water holes as pictured are good places for the fly fisherman to work his nymph across the pockets.

(Post photo)



ONE OF THE ideal spots for dead drifting a nymph when fly fishing is where the stream is wide and has a good flowing current.

(Post photo)



SANDY HIGH BASEBALL coach Glen Smith, right, discusses game plans with his players before recent game here. The

Pioneers have been getting good pitching this year, but the hitting has hurt the team's winning record.

(Post photo)

Sandy drops 4-0
game to Canby

Rain has played more in Sandy than the high school baseball team has during the past week. The only game the team did play they lost.

The team dropped a 4-0 game to division leading Canby. The loss almost ended all hopes the Pioneers have of catching the Canby team for the division title.

"Again our hitting was our problem," said Sandy coach Glen Smith. "We only got four hits and that is not enough to win games." Meanwhile Sandy pitcher Mark Baughman was throwing a 7-

hitter and yielded no earned runs.

The Sandy defense with four errors was responsible for allowing the Canby runs.

Baughman has now not allowed an earned run in 14 innings of pitching in his last two outings.

Getting the hits for Sandy were Dan Turin, Wayne Stone, Mike Wecker and Randy Moody.

The Pioneers now have a 2-3 league mark and will meet Molalla here at 4 p.m. if the rain will stay away. The Indians defeated the Pioneers earlier this season.

Sandy grade girls
play baseball

The Sandy Elementary School girls' softball teams opened their seasons on April 11 by dividing a doubleheader with Estacada.

The eighth grade girls lost 16 to 11. A big 7-run first inning for Estacada proved to be too large a lead to overcome and the Sandy girls never caught up. Sandy Cabot and Sonja Hanson each scored 3 runs for Sandy.

The seventh grade girls fared much better as they won their game 12 to 6. Susan Youngbluth and Nancy Perkins each scored three runs and Carrie Thompson did a good job of pitching.

Next games for Miss Ponta's teams is April 18 and 19. The boys baseball team will also play those days.

Thursday, April 19, will be a track meet at North Marion.

Mt. Hood charter
tourney set
for Mt. View course

Mt. Hood Community College's Charter Golf tournament is in search of golfers.

The annual golf tourney is scheduled for April 28 at Mt. View Golf Course. Saint golf coach Marv Hiebert says foursomes are being sought from schools, service clubs and members of the community.

Prizes will be presented for team play, individual gross play, and low net with a handicap system. There will also be prizes for winners in several other special categories.

"We hope to make this the

highlight of Charter week," Hiebert said. "Your early entry and support will make the golf tournament a success and an enjoyable event as we play, talk, eat and share stories with one another."

April 24 is deadline for registration. Information on entry fees and other details can be obtained by calling the Mt. Hood athletic dept. at 666-1561, ext. 450-452.

A no host breakfast is scheduled to start the tourney from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at a restaurant near the course.

First tee-off time is 8:30 a.m. Those who have pre-registered will be informed of their tee-off times in advance. Late registration will be handled upon the golfers arrival.

A complimentary happy hour is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Boring Grange Hall. A Western beef barbecue will highlight the awards dinner beginning 6 p.m., also at the Grange Hall.

All proceeds from entry fees go toward the Mt. Hood Student Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Meadows
continues
on weekend

As super Spring skiing lingers, Mt. Hood Meadows will continue weekend operations as planned until Sunday, April 29.

Weekday operations however, have been cancelled effective Monday, April 16. From that day there will be no mid-week or night skiing.

All services and facilities will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, 28-29.

Television stolen

Fred A. Woods Jr., 14830 SE Lincoln, reported to sheriff's deputies that a color television valued at \$485 was taken from his residence Sunday evening. A patio door was pried open to gain entrance.

BETTER BUYS

from the
Easter Bunny!

ELNA® SPECIAL
Model 31
Reg. \$429.50
\$389.50 FREE
PORT-A-TABLE

Sweater Fabrics and Trims
Reg. 25c oz.
10c oz.

Knit Fabric SEWING CENTER
175 N.E. Hood Gresham 665-2426

...IN SANDY NOW
SPORTS CENTER
SOON IN DAMASCUS ...

Gun Supplies

Rod and Reel Repair

Anchors and Boating Needs

New Ideas in Hospitality

Dining Flies, Tents,
Camping Supplies

Coffee

Donuts

Balloons and

all of the

other grand

opening type

stuff ...

Plus

Reduced prices

on name brands

such as

Hirsch Weis

Columbia Sportswear

Wilson

Converse

Eagle Claw

Speer

Odd hours for
sportsmenPlenty of fishing,
hunting newsEvery yard game
believable

Never out of worms

Inexpensive
supplies for kidsNew tackle
constantly

Great prices

NOW THRU APRIL 21

Tickets for drawing available. See
CLICKITAT CANOE for additional price information.

SALE

PACIFIC STOCK TANKS

Round End Tanks

100 gal.	2'x2'x4'	28.18	25.36
128 gal.	2'x2'x5'	34.84	31.36
156 gal.	2'x2'x6'	41.73	37.56

Round Tanks

170 gal.	4'x2'	40.50	36.45
275 gal.	5'x2'	52.77	47.50
395 gal.	6'x2'	67.56	60.80
718 gal.	8'x2'	100.36	90.32

Sheep Tanks

44 gal.	2'x1'x4'	26.98	24.28
59 gal.	2'x1'x5'	33.02	29.72
70 gal.	2'x1'x6'	37.89	34.10

Sale Prices Good thru April 30th



GRESHAM CO-OP

325 N.E. 242nd Dr.

665-9151