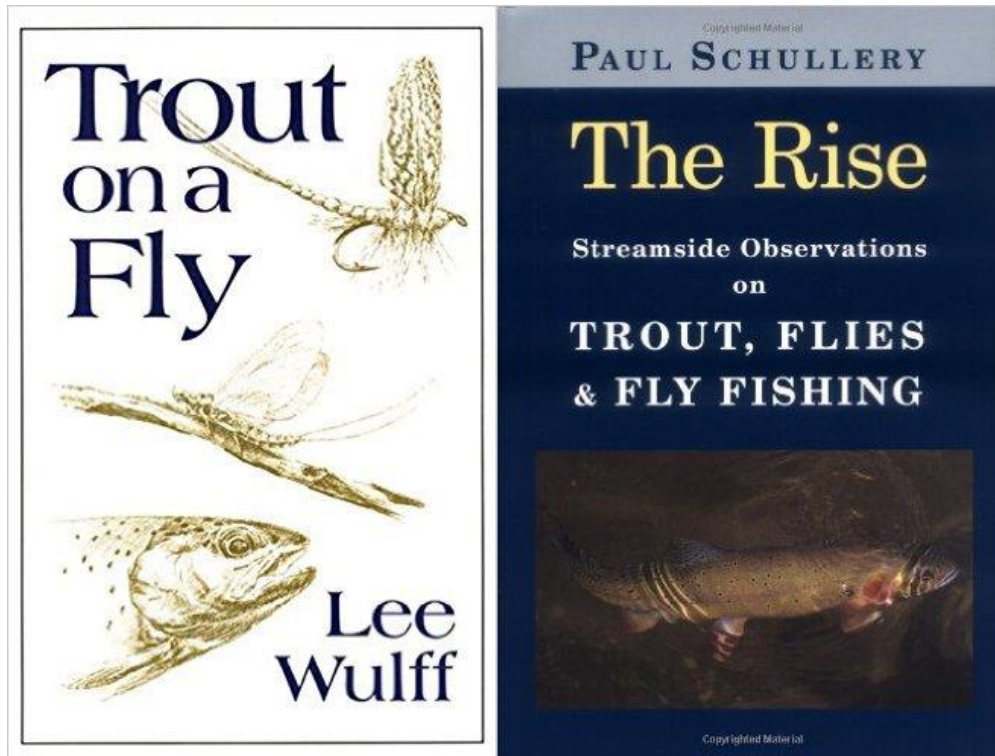


## More on Books

By Ian Cox



The news that Eddie was sending me a book unleashed a buying spree that saw the expenditure of a R380.00 and the addition of two gems to my fly fishing library. The first is the Paul Schullery's *The Rise* and the second Lee Wulff's *Trout on a Fly*. Neither is new which may explain the bargain prices I paid for them. *The Rise* was published in 2006 and *Trout on a Fly* 20 years before that.

Both books are in the how to genre in a sense but are made special by the unique perspectives of the authors.

I have been a fan of Schullery ever since his magnificent *American Fly Fishing*. I particularly like him because while he is a thoroughly modern fly fisher, he recognises the importance of looking back in order to find the way forward. Thus his approach to how to catch fish is a scholarly one that starts with an intense analysis (backed by superb photographs) of what actually happens when a trout takes a fly and moves on to a detailed deconstruction of many of the shibboleths that clutter our perceptions on how one should fish for trout while of course adding a few of his own. \

A word of warning though, Schullery is a fan of Swisher and Richards and thus the idea that fishing dry using exact imitations to rising but educated trout is somehow the epitome of the sport. Happily he is also a disciplined and competent academic so this "preference" is placed in its proper context but there can be no doubt that is where his heart lies.

Lee Wulff's book is an entirely different kettle of fish. Much more obviously in the "how to" mould, it boasts chapters on tackle and how to cast as well as fly selection, it is a much more practical book intended for the practical fisherman. However you must not dismiss this book as just another fishing

guide. It like Schullery's book offers much that is profound but written from the perspective of a keen observer of the world fish live in and master in of the art of catching them.

Lee Wulf is one of fly fishing's legends. He was a very clever bloke, top varsity football player, artist engineer, fly fishing pioneer inventor and god. The break the mould when they make the likes of him. He is in a way to American fly fishing what Frank Sawyer was to Great Britain.

It is worth therefore quoting an anecdote he relates of him meeting Frank Sawyer. The story goes that they two were seated next to one another at a dinner in New York hoisted by Charles Ritz.

"What do you think I catch most of my fish on", Sawyer asks Wulf?

"A grey nymph, Wulf replies", at which Sawyer fetches out of his pocket a box of nondescript grey bodied nymphs tied on a #12 hook.

The point of the story is what happens next.

Out of his other pocket he pulls another box of "grey nymphs" ribbed in gold with dark heads.

"This", said Frank Sawyer, "is how I have to tie them in order to sell them."



**The Grey Wulff and Sawyer's Grey Goose tied as people catchers. The real fish catching Wulff had a single post and the Grey Goose was not ribbed in copper wire but looked more like sawyer's Killer Bug.**

And that in a way sets the tone of what in a very unassuming way laid down what made Bob Wyatt's What Trout want so famous. You see there is not much in "What trout want" that Wulff had not said before.

This kind of makes Wyatt a pussy, which I'm sure Lee Wulf would have had a quiet chuckle about. Because let's face it such was his command of the art that all of us are.

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