

# THE BOBBIN

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AUGUST 2018

## CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

Since last month I have really busy with the Southern African Flyfishing magazine. But it seems I had time to get drafted into the KZN regional FOSAF committee to support Dr. Bill Bainbridge in a review of FOSAF policies. I will of course be better placed to provide feedback to members about the activities of FOSAF. As you may know its crunch time for the Alien Invasive Species gazette call for comments. Time will tell...

On the club front I'm concerned about the viability of the Bobbin. Under Ian's hand he produced almost all the content, perhaps we have all become lazy because of this? Stelios has been trying to get content in from members because this is YOUR newsletter. The Bobbin cannot be a one sided affair. Stelios has had limited success in getting cooperation for his last two editions. Do members want this newsletter? Should we discontinue the Bobbin? Members need to decide.....



## FROM THE EDITOR

After much whingeing, whining, cajoling and coaxing, I managed to get sufficient content to produce this issue of the Bobbin. I am sure that members must now be rather weary of me at this stage!

When I was asked to edit the Bobbin, I felt that it should be a club newsletter with content produced by members – and this is what I have endeavoured to achieve. For a change, this edition has only one article NOT produced by a member. For that I want to thank David Weaver who sent a treasure trove of information mainly pertinent to Sterkfontein - which will be fed into the Bobbin monthly.



However, the Chairman has raised a valid issue in his Chirp above namely whether we want the Bobbin or not. Maybe the Bobbin has possibly outlived its usefulness and has been overtaken by the masses of easily accessible information on the Internet and through various social media sites.

So now it is up to members to send in your comments on what we (as members) can do to make the Bobbin our newsletter – or discontinue it. As the chairman said.....members must decide! Send your comments to [dftcbobbin@gmail.com](mailto:dftcbobbin@gmail.com) and I will compile a summary and send to members.



**NEXT MEETING**  
**6 August 2018 /19.00 for 19.30/ Room G1**  
**Westville Library**

Graeme Neary will be tying the Finger Mullet fly. See his top six (or is it seven) salt water flies listed in his article below



## JULY TIE OF THE MONTH THE TIGGER – TOM GIFFORD

### ORIGINATOR:

Bill Hansford Steel developed this fly as a tiger fish fly but I have found it to be effective in estuaries and harbours in the appropriate colours – any gamefish will take it. Being a generic style of fly you can adjust the colour of the wings to suit your requirements.

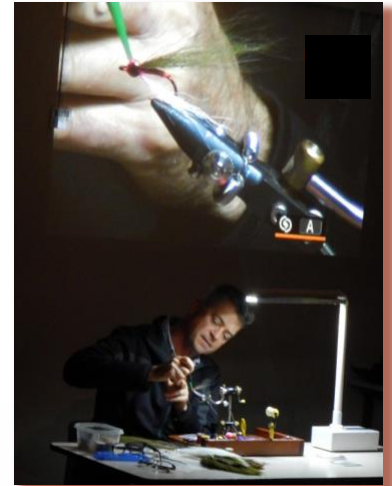
The original had a short wire trace tied in and used liberal amounts of epoxy for durability. I don't find the wire trace to be necessary in the Durban Harbour and have omitted it.

### HOOK:

#6 to #2 Standard Shank

### METHOD:

1. Dress the shank of the hook with tying thread.
2. Coat with varnish or superglue.
3. Wind 10 wraps of soft braided copper wire (we used lead) stopping 5mm from hook eye.
4. Coat with varnish or superglue.
5. Build up the head to the level of the wire.
6. Tie in 6 - 8 strands of buck tail under the hook, no longer than the bend.
7. Tie in 12 - 15 strands of darker buck tail on top of the hook, no more than 50mm.
8. Build up a thread head.
9. Coat with varnish or superglue and allow to dry.
10. Apply 3D prism eyes to the thread head using epoxy or UV resin.
11. Ensure that the head is uniformly shaped.
12. Allow to dry



**SOME SERIOUS TIGGER FOCUS GOING ON!!!!**



## MEMBER PROFILES

### ANDREW MATHER

Born and raised in Malawi where he was exposed to fishing at an early age. His father was a professional crocodile hunter in his youth and remained an avid outdoorsman mainly fishing and shooting. Andrew had the benefit of spending his school holidays at Cape Maclear on Lake Malawi with fishing/sailing/waterskiing as daily activities. After leaving Malawi he moved to Durban and qualified as a Civil Engineer specializing in the coastal engineering field. As a young man he was a keen dam fisherman but once his two daughters Lara and Samantha arrived, fishing took a back seat for 20 years. Around 2015 he joined DFT and NFFC and started fishing rivers which became his passion. Dusting off his old rods and equipment he soon got into river fishing and fly tying, competing with his other hobbies, oil painting, veteran and vintage motorcycle restoration and writing. He currently has the oldest motorcycle in SA, an 1898 DE Dion Bouton motorized tricycle as well as the oldest running Triumph in the country, at 110 years old. He has written for Africa's Original Flyfishing Magazine in recent times and is now one of the owners/editors of this magazine. He's happiest wading in his favourite rivers casting his own hand made dry flies to trout and yellowfish. Andrew also photographs his flies with stunning results. Here are some of his flies. (See his article below on how to make a light box for fly photography)



### GORDON GOVE

I was born in 1946. My favourite fly is the Walkers Killer and my favourite rod is the Garrison 206. My first trout rod was a Chinese made 2 piece split cane rod purchased in 1960. It came in a balsa wood box, also included were a number of highly coloured, ridiculous looking flies. I used this rod on the Mooi River with little success, later I converted it to a light surf rod by fitting a cheap coffee grinder reel. It caught many black tail and stone bream before it got broken by a rather large galjoen at Storms River.

In 1969 I found myself stationed at Graskop near Mac Mac falls. So on my next trip to Nelspruit I bought a new trout rod, actually the only trout rod available in Nelspruit at the time. A white True



Temper 9 ft. 9 wt with a 9 wt WF line, which I used in the little local rivers, again with my usual lack of success. Flies used there were Connemara Blacks and March Browns - being all that were available in Nelspruit.

In 1971 I was transferred to Highmoor and I arrived with my shiny white True Temper 9 wt. fitted with a line that hit the water like a breaching whale. Luckily, before I could make an absolute fool of myself in front of some of Natal's fly fishing greats, John Beam took me under his experienced wing and taught me the basics of fly fishing, casting and fly tying. So, off to Kings in Pietermaritzburg to buy one of the new brown/red Hardy fibreglass rods that had just been launched and everybody was using at the time. Mr. Vic King, who I knew from fishing at Umzumbe, recommended that I would be better off with a Hardy's split cane which I, somewhat reluctantly, bought. In hind sight, I now believe that his recommendation was based on the fact that the rod had been lying in the store for a number of years. I used this Hardy 9ft 6wt until 2004 when the stripping eye ring fell off and I decided to retire the rod.

This is the course of events that led me, many years later, to start making my own split cane rods, a hobby I recommend to all fly fishermen as there is nothing quite so satisfying as catching a fish with a fly rod you have made.

## A FISHING STORY FROM THE AUCTION HOUSE - CLIVE WATSON

Some years ago, my father Don Watson, a keen fly fisherman, spotted something interesting at an auction in Johannesburg. He was an inveterate auction "hunter" and had a keen eye for interesting things.

He was late for the start of this particular auction and had not been able to have a look at the job lots on offer, but he noticed a parcel stuck away in the rear of the auction room, consisting of a few sealed cardboard boxes, and a couple of one and a half metre tubes included in the parcel. Being a fisherman, he had a suspicion that these were rod tubes.

Nobody showed any interest in this parcel. It was the last parcel on the floor, and it had no reserve on it. My dad bid R10.00 for the parcel and his bid was uncontested.

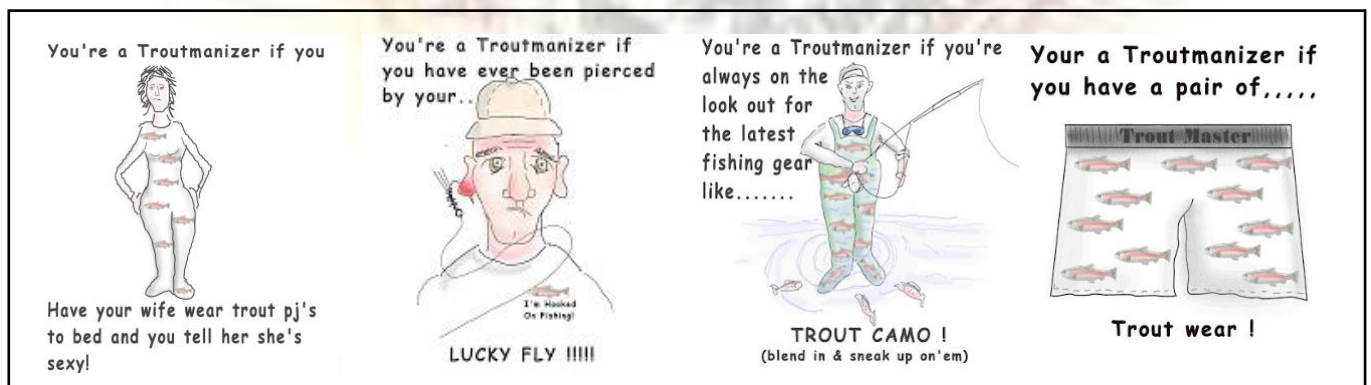
He loaded it up and brought it home – great excitement!

The goods in the parcel had belonged to a retired and wealthy gent from Scotland, who had been touring the world fly fishing. He passed away in Johannesburg. His goods were packed and carted off for auction.

The boxes contained all of 1500 flies, all tied for him by a specialist fly tier in Scotland. His labels were on the fly packets. His name..... E. Watson! Amazing coincidence! He had clearly been commissioned to tie all these flies for the travelling fisherman. Several hundred of these flies were salmon flies, the rest were clearly trout flies. Many of the flies were old classics like Invictas and Mrs. Simpsons, but there others I had not seen before. The salmon flies were spectacular, of course. They were large and colourful, but not that useful here in South Africa. He had either been in New Zealand or was going that way after his time in South Africa.

In addition, there were two sets of waders, various nets, a number of reels, and then several rods in the tubes. Two of the rods were three piece French-made bamboo rods. They carry the name "C.C. de France" and "Registered trade mark: Palakona" (or similar). There were several Fenwick rods, including a beautiful short river rod. I kept many of the flies, one bamboo rod (although it is rather heavy), and one of the reels, a Hardy, "The Perfect Fly Reel".

This really was a lucky strike for my dad. If you are an auction hunter, look out for the giveaway tubes which will reveal the secret regarding the contents of parcel.





## MAKING A LIGHT BOX FOR FLY PHOTOGRAPHY - ANDREW MATHER

*I've always wonder how some fly tyers can produce the most extraordinary pictures of their finely tied flies while others post pictures that really don't do the fly any favours. I thought that chaps were using fancy cameras with macro lenses and ring flashes and other fancy tricks. Until JP Gouws let me into his secret. So here's a step by step of how to make your own home light box that with your cell phone camera will make your flies pop!*

### STEP 1



You will need a suitable box. Any shoe sized box, will do. JP uses a cut down photocopy box. Here a Woolies milk box is being used. You will also need a few sheets of non-reflective black paper, tape and glue.

### STEP 2



The box must have the front face open to facilitate the lining of the internal as well as the camera mount - so make this the size of the end. Line all the internal faces of the box with the non-reflective black paper.

### STEP 3



Cut holes to allow light in on your subject. JP cuts three holes (on top and either side) but one hole centered on top works fine. The holes should be about 2 by 4 cm and positioned centrally. The light source will be positioned direct above this hole and this will create a beam of light directly downward on your fly without shining onto the backdrop. This is important as any scattered light will lighten the backdrop and reduce contrast between fly and backdrop.

### STEP 4



Pop into your local electrical shop and buy the electrical test leads that have a hook shaped tang which is extendable. Cut off leads and mount this on a solid base. Check the height so that the top of this tang is slight below half way up from floor to light hole opening.

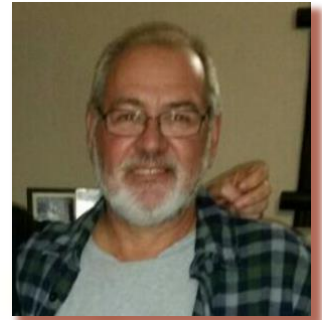
***You are now ready to shoot your first pic.***

Set up light source directly over the light hole so that light shines directly downwards into box. Place fly in tang and place directly under light hole. The light effect is better if you move the fly towards the back of the box BUT staying within the light beam. Effectively taking advantage of some of the light scatter to shine not only on the top of the fly but also the side facing the camera. Jiggle until you are happy. Set up camera or cellphone with the flash OFF at its minimum focal length or until it fills the frame. With autofocus cameras you may need to take a few shots as I find sometimes the camera doesn't focus on the right area on the fly. Once you have a couple of images snapped import into a photo editor and cut/enhance to your liking. Save and publish!

## MY TOP SIX (OR IS IT SEVEN) SALT WATER FLIES - GRAEME NEARY

*I wrote this article on my favourite saltwater flies for the Bobbin a number of years ago – and they still stand. This is my go to list and my opinions only. I am sure this will change with time, and as tyers come up with new ideas. How times have already changed. When I started fly fishing twenty two years ago we fished predominantly with Lefty's Deceivers, Half and Halfs, Bend backs, Tarpon Fly and Crazy Charlies. I don't know when last I saw these flies in use. The question is though, how many of today's flies were spawned by some of these great creations?*

*It will be interesting to see if anyone else shares their list of favourite flies - or at least one of their favourite flies.*



### 1. EVIL EYE



I have to start with this fly as I caught my first salt water (fly caught) fish with one of these. The original fly, no longer commercially available, was called "Beady Eye". After a while I dropped off the wing for it to become known as Evil Eye, son of Beady Eye. The fish I landed was a Wave Garrick of about 30 cm. Left me jelly legged for a while. I hooked it at the mouth of the Mzamba River just south of the Wild Coast Casino. This fly has come to my rescue countless times, and has accounted for many species of fish, both in the salt as well as the odd bass. A very simple fly to tie in that you need a pinch of white marabou about the length of the shank. Optional is a strand or two of flash of your choice. The body is chartreuse chenille and attach a pair of bead chain eyes all on a #4 salt water hook. I don't have a clue who the originator of this fly was but all credit to him. If my fishing buddies value our friendship they will confirm this fly's credentials.

### 2. CLOUSER MINNOW.



A Clouser is a very good choice in your fly box. I use mainly chartreuse, plain or with a touch of white for the belly of the fly. A light grey or light grey with a bit of dark grey on top also works well. Again a relatively easy tie, I use stainless steel (34007) or Gamakatsu BS10 hooks, from #1 to 3/0. With these flies you use dumbbell eyes to ensure a bit of weight. Again a small amount of flash or none at all. Over the last few years I have used mainly SF fibre which is quite sparkly on its own. Natural or synthetic fibre, the body should be about twice the length of the hook shank. This fly is tied in the hook up position. Bob Clouser is the originator of this beauty as well as quite a few other flies. A good age now he still runs his "Clouser Fly Shop" together with his son Bob junior. He is credited with salt and fresh water flies, and they offer guiding services, hosted trips, seminars and presentations.

### 3. SURF CANDY



This is a good fly to have around if there are shad, kingies or springer in the vicinity. Bob Popovics is the originator but again over the years folk have added their own nuances. I tie mine mainly on a standard #2 stainless steel 34007 or occasionally a long shank 34011. The material I like to use mostly is supreme hair in any colour you like. Supreme hair is a type of nylon so it is tough and durable and also easier to work with epoxy than other materials.

Again a bit of flash can be added. Working with epoxy is not easy but with a bit of practice it gets better. Dress the hook and work a pinch of the hair neatly onto the top of the hook. It should be tied down from just behind the eye to above the point of the hook and extend about 2.5/3 times the length of the shank. Work the epoxy into and around the hair and rotate the hook to get an even finish. It is easier to control two or three thin coats of epoxy than one big blob. This is a time when a J Vice brings out the patient side of tyers. I find that I like to tie up ten or twelve at a time as this saves hassles with the gooey part. Add some stick on eyes and cover with a coat or two of Sally Hansen or the last coat of epoxy. The epoxy protects the fly from toothy critters and you can often see tooth marks from shad in the epoxy. I also hooked some tigers on this fly at Jozini dam a few years back. Bob Popovics is credited with mainly salt water fly fishing and the flies to go with it. He has been involved for more than 40 years and was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in 1992. He has been referred to as "The most innovative fly tyer I have ever met", this from Lefty Kreh no less.



#### 4. CRAZY CHARLIE



This fly is the basis of many of the smaller gulley/surf flies we use. Very simple but oh so effective. The original fly was made famous from the vice of Bob Nauheim in the early seventies. Also very involved in fly fishing in many ways including guiding and hosting trips, he was inducted posthumously into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame after his death in 2005. These are simple and inexpensive flies to tie. I tie them on a #4 stainless steel or Gamakatsu SC15. Once again a pair of bead chain eyes about 5mm behind the eye. Dress the hook and put a layer of flashabou of whichever colour takes your fancy. Tie over this a layer of about 15 to 18 kg clear monofilament. Tie in a wing of colour to match or contrast the body material (entirely up to you). The wing should only protrude past the bend by about 5 mm. The wing can be of calf tail, squirrel tail or SF fibre and a touch of flash if required.

#### 5. ABC



The ABC is generally credited to my nephew Wayne Hall. Again a derivative of the Crazy Charlie, It is a very effective fly for small fish. Wayne conjured up this fly a good few years back on one of our Cape Vidal trips. The original fly was tied with a good winding of lead on the shank and covered with a layer of red flashabou or slinky fibre. Give this a coat or two of Sally Hansen to protect it. A pair of bead chain eyes attaché about 5 mm behind the eye of the hook and tie in a wing of dark orange or red either SF fibre or similar. This wing is also trimmed about 5 to 10 mm past the hook bend. This fly can be tied up in any colour really but we mostly do it in red. This fly is not used by Dave Smith as the ABC stands for Anything But Chartreuse. Bruce Curry uses this fly extensively.

#### 6. SALTY BUGGER



I have to ask which planet you have been fishing on if you have not heard of, tied up or used a salty bugger. This is without doubt most fly fishers go to fly. This fly was originally tied by Hoosen Bobat who was the first editor of the Bobbin. Again so easy to tie and inexpensive. Once again the hook used is a #4 34007. Dress the hook and slip on a brass bead up against the hook eye. A tail of white marabou about the length of the shank. Add flash if required. The body of cactus or tinsel chenille is wound on in tight turns and tied off behind the bead. No weight is needed as the bead will suffice. I also tie these on a long shank hook and add a small collar of red behind the bead to imitate the gills of a small bait fish. This fly has caught many different species of fish along our coast line and I have also had success in East London and Port Elizabeth.

#### 7. THE FLIPPER



As with fresh water, a necessity being a DDD, salt water needs the same, a popping device of some sort. The flipper does it for me. The originator of this fly is Hoosen Bobat. I think most of us would need another lifetime of fishing to catch up the number of hours this man has spent on the water. Last time I discussed in depth things with him, his salt water tally was just over 60 species. Use a standard or long shank stainless steel hook from #4 up to 2/0. The dressing on the hook should be quite bulky starting at the eye and finishing at the bend. I prefer to add a tail to this fly but it is not essential. I find it balances the fly on the surface. This tail should be about the length of the shank and of natural or synthetic fibre. Cut a piece of foam about 6 to 8 mm thick and 8 to 10 mm wide. The length of course will depend on the size of the hook. Tie the foam on top of the hook above the barb area. Now lift the foam and run the thread forward to right behind the eye and tie down the foam. The foam should protrude over both ends of the hook by about 10 mm. You will notice that as you tie down, the ends of the foam will lift up. As a bit of safety turn the fly over and run a thin bead if epoxy the length of the cotton. This will hopefully keep it all together.

## MIDGE AWAKENING – MIKE BACKHOUSE

One September morning I found myself in the company of my brother and nephew, both whom at the time were relatively new converts to the sport of fly-fishing for Trout, fishing the small lakes in the Kamberg Nature Reserve. This venue will always hold a special place in my heart, as it is here where I was introduced to fly-fishing a few years earlier. Now some years later, having on many occasions been thoroughly beaten by my own ineptness to read the conditions properly, I find myself being able to employ a moderate range of strategies and tactics, that not too infrequently fool these fickle, yet beautiful fish to take my fly as if it were the real thing.

On this calm early spring morning, I managed to release three fish around the two-pound mark while fishing a floating line with a lightly weighted Olive Flashback Nymph tied on a size 14 hook. The wind began to strengthen around 09h00. At first it was a gentle variable breeze punctuated by long lapses of perfect stillness, later becoming a moderate but steady northeasterly wind. The air that up until this point had been pleasantly warm developed a distinct chill about it indicating perhaps that winter was not quite ready to surrender to spring. The water, for the most part, was like a mirror making it easy to spot fish cruising near the surface in search of food. The strengthening wind however broke up the water's surface into a rippling fringe with small flat patches, the diameter of a beach ball, being the only detectable sign of the now infrequent surface feeding fish. Casting with the short full-flex 4-weight rod was already a chore. With the fish now becoming less visible I decided that it would be an idea to change my tactics slightly. So I shortened my leader from twelve to nine foot and tied on a heavily weighted size 12 Olive Brown Kamberg Nymph Variant, as this fly regularly produces fish for me under these conditions. I managed to take a further fish before the strengthening wind made it virtually impossible for me to continue using this rod thus forcing me to take a break and have a complete change of strategy.



Mid-morning found me back at the hut where fish catches are recorded and fish destined for the pan are cleaned. Both my brother and nephew were indulging in their other favourite pastime – eating and drinking, or more aptly put, the other way around. The table was strewn with numerous packets and plastic containers with a wide variety of foods. I almost tripped over their cooler bag holding their liquid lunch mainly consisting of beers, as I put the only fish that I had retained, in the drain to be gutted later. They seemed to be enjoying themselves despite reporting little in the way of success with the rod. My brother inquired as to whether I had any more DDD flies for him as he had parted company, with what he believed to be two decent fish, while fishing at the top end of Eland Dam, and this seemed to be the only fly that was working for him. Unfortunately I was out of DDD's and I suggested that he make use of one of the other patterns that I had given him. I explained that the rest of the day was likely to prove difficult as a stiff and cold northeasterly wind seldom produced fish in any significant numbers at this venue. The best we could hope for were periodic lapses in the wind that would aid insect hatches and so peek the fish's interest. I suggested that they be on the alert for these windows of opportunity and make the most of them. Alternatively one could cast a hopper pattern out on a floating line with a long leader and wait patiently for a fish to surface and take it.

Having taken full advantage of the food and drink offered to me, I ate my full before heading off to one of my favourite spots on the Eskine Dam. Before doing so, I dispensed with the 4-weight rod and floating line and rigged up a tip-flex 5-weight rod with a 4 weight intermediate line. The heavier fast action rod would enable me to cope better with a wind that had by this stage virtually become a howling gale. The intermediate line would get the fly down more consistently to levels in the water column where fish might be found feeding than would a floating line with a weighted nymph attached. I started off by employing a size 8 Medium Olive Dragon Fly Nymph in the hope that fish would respond aggressively to this sizable morsel. A strip retrieve consisting of a series of short bursts punctuated by a pause of several seconds allowing the nymph to drift motionlessly through the water column on its descent to the weed bed, before repeating the stripping action, usually proves to be tantalizingly irresistible for fish to pass up. However, I only succeeded in regularly hanging up in the weed, and as a consequence, I found myself stripping the fly back faster and faster merely to avoid the weed, something I don't enjoy, and in fact find quite frustrating. While a fast retrieve has its place as a tactic in itself, and at times invoke savage strikes from the fish, I prefer to keep my retrieve on the slow side. It is just one of those things that work well for me, and as the saying goes, 'if it ain't broken don't go try fixing it'.

I started to become frustrated by the blustery conditions and the all too frequent dredging of the weed bed. Not only was casting becoming difficult and somewhat dangerous, but I found that I was rapidly losing my ability to concentrate on the task at hand. A change of tactics was overdue, and if it did not happen soon and with some degree of success, it was likely that I would end up retiring for the day to the comfort of the hut to forage through all those packets and containers in search of the last of that wonderful food. This might even have been an exercise in futility, knowing my nephew's insatiable appetite.

Some weeks earlier I had shown my brother how to fish a DDD on an intermediate line, a little trick taught to me by my ex-boss who introduced me to fly-fishing. Usually when all else failed I would employ this tactic with the result that I seldom went home



fishless. What was required was the ability to keep the line in the water longer without hanging up on the weed. I searched through my fly boxes for a suitable substitute for the DDD. A fly that would be sufficiently buoyant to ride just a little above the weed bed while the line and most of the nine-foot leader rests gently on it. I scanned the rows of tightly packed flies in one of my boxes and came upon some Olive Suspender Midges tied a few weeks earlier as a result of reading an account of how this fly was successfully fished to Trout feeding in the surface film on midge pupa. The midge pupa is commonly used in both Europe and America and is fished effectively throughout the water column at depths ranging from 0 to 3 metres, though I have subsequently taken fish in deeper water. The fly is tied in two ways to satisfy most requirements; firstly the standard pattern that descends through the water column and is usually fished on a floating line with a greased leader employing a slow figure of eight hand twist retrieve; and secondly, the suspended version fished on the surface only. At this stage I was not bothered with the technicalities of midge fishing per se, as I was only interested in this pattern as a suitable substitute for the DDD because of its ability to float.

The stretch of water between the peninsula from which I was fishing and one of the two islands located in the centre of the dam was approximately 1 to 1,5 metres deep, hence the reason for the numerous hang-ups when using other flies with the intermediate line. I usually fish this area with a floating line to avoid this problem and I believed that the DDD would have given me the buoyancy to effectively resolve the problem. I selected a Medium Olive size 12 Suspender Midge pattern and attached it to the end of my leader using a Texas Twist knot. This knot allows for the fly to have articulated movement somewhat independent of the movement of the rest of the leader and the fly is therefore able to move more like the real nymph. This is the only knot that I use when nymphing on both river and still water.



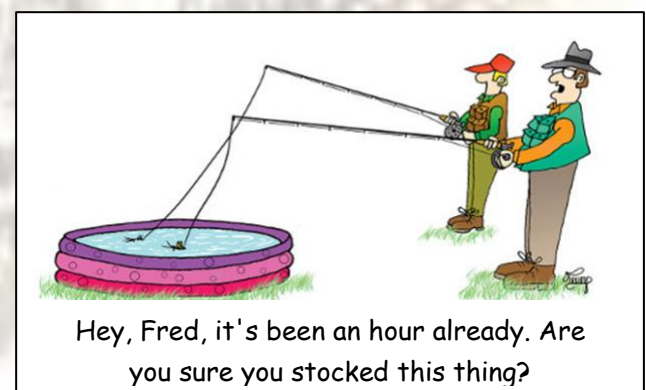
After waiting for what seemed like an eternity there was a momentary lapse in the wind affording me ample opportunity to load the rod by means of a brisk double haul action and pitch the fly out some twenty metres in front of me. I decided that it would be an idea to crouch on one knee to keep the tip of the rod close to the water to limit the effects of the wind. Once the belly of the line had sunk sufficiently I twitched the tip of the rod vigorously until I spotted that the fly was no longer on the surface but was being forced down under the weight of the rest of the line making its way down to the bottom of the lake. Employing a very slow figure of eight hand twist retrieve I felt faint touches, and at first, I thought that the fly or part of the leader was bumping the weed fronds. With approximately five metres of line back in the basket I felt the same faint touches, so instead of striking or speeding up the retrieve, I simply raised the rod, slow but steadily, while continuing the snail pace retrieve. This time the faint touches that were first thought to be the weed progressed to a gentle but assured tightening of the fly line, which immediately confirmed that a fish has taken hold of the fly. I responded intuitively by striking in a swift but controlled manner to have the rod start bucking relentlessly in my hand as the fish ran all the line out of my tray from between my thumb and forefingers like a never ending noodle of spaghetti, and it had me onto the reel in a flash. The fish put up a vigorous struggle before succumbing to the pressure that I applied through the fast action fly rod. It was a beautiful 1, 7 kilogram hen with silvery pink tinged flanks and tiny speckles covering its entire body, including the fins and tail, a fish in good condition with little evidence of having been raised in a hatchery environment. It had inhaled the fly deep into the back of its throat and it was unlikely to survive if released, so I swiftly put it out of its misery with a single blow to the head with a Priest. As I was admiring its wonderful condition, I got to think that perhaps it had escaped from the hatchery as a Fry and found its way into the lake via the network of waterways that connect the hatchery to three of the four dams, thus making it a wild fish. This being a difficult day, I decided that it would be nice to have an extra fish handy to give to my brother if he failed to catch any himself.

After inspecting my leader for abrasion and wind knots, and having tied on a new fly, I pitched another long line in the direction of the island in the centre of the lake. Several casts later and the faint touches start all over again. This time, more out of sheer enthusiasm than anything else, I struck and missed the fish, and admonished myself as I did so. After missing several fish I soon realized that striking every time you feel any sign of a fish, as I was initially taught, is a fallacy, particularly when using this technique. The reason for striking, so it is said, is that the fish will inhale and exhale the fly in literally one movement. Failure to strike is said to be an opportunity lost for hooking a fish. This is not necessarily true, as the fish may mouth the fly several times, and will only stop if it is pricked when doing so. You are more likely to get the fish to feel the business end of the hook prematurely by striking too soon. Once this happens, it is highly unlikely, even despite its three-second memory, that it will pursue the fly any further. I have come to realize that patience and concentration is key to a successful strike rate. It is therefore important to be in the right frame of mind when fishing the Midge in this way. The inability to focus for long periods of time and/or a feeling of boredom with the process is likely to result in restlessness, not a suitable state of mind for fishing successfully.

Several hours later, I was still at it when my nephew came looking for me. At this stage, I had landed and released eleven fish bringing my tally using this newly discovered tactic to twelve; this included the handsome hen fish that I killed because it had swallowed the fly. With the four fish taken during the morning session, sixteen fish was a pleasing tally for the day. He could hardly believe that I had released so many fish as him and his father had found the going tough and only managed to catch three fish between the two of them. It was around 16h00 at that stage and I could not believe how fast the time had gone despite the blustery, cold and trying conditions for fishing. I had been on my feet for the best part of five hours without a break and I had missed more fish during this time than I had hooked - at best a fifty-percent strike rate.

My stripping gloves had become soaking wet from releasing fish without drying my hands properly before putting them back on. My rod hand was beginning to cramp both from the workload and the cold. The sky had become overcast and the fish had enough of my antics for one day and were on the retreat. It was becoming increasingly difficult to get a fish interested in the fly. I most probably had caught and released most of the fish population in the immediate area. My nephew had come to tell me that his dad was ready to go home and he was in fact starting to pack up for the day. Reluctantly, I took the hint that it was time to part company with my 'fishy friends' knowing that it might be sometime before I would have the opportunity to repeat this performance. After ensuring that everything that we brought along on the trip was safely packed, we drank the last of the coffee while we waited patiently for the engine to warm up. The coffee was most welcomed, and for the first time as we climbed into the truck I realized how cold it really was out there. The vehicle's heater warmed us up as we chugged along the dirt road back to the highway leaving a trail of dust in our wake.

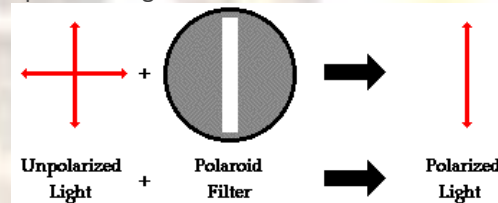
During the earlier part of the journey my brother and I chatted enthusiastically about the fly and method that I had employed during the post brunch session resulting in so many fish. My nephew was dead to the world within ten minutes of bumping along the dirt road. By the time we reached the N3 bound for Durban we were all talked out and my brother had joined my nephew in la la land. This left me with the opportunity to reflect on the day's proceedings as I so often do on the long drive home. The reason for having taken so many fish was nothing short of a mystery given the fact that no detectable evidence of midge emergence was to be found on the water and virtually every form of aquatic life other than midges were found in the stomach contents of the fish that I had gutted. I concluded that the success could be attributed, in part to the slow retrieve, and perhaps in part, to the fish mistaking the midge for a weed caddis, which were found in abundance in their stomachs.





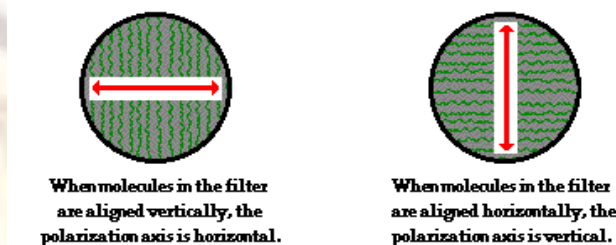
## POLARISED GLASSES FOR STERKFORTEIN DAM - DAVID WEAVER

After the best brand of whisky, waders, fly-rods and lines, Polarized glasses is probably the next most debated issue on the water. Glasses are swapped, heads are tilted side to side, ums and aahs are uttered and each individual declares his or her favourite pair. I have specified Sterkfontein in the title for 2 reasons; the first being that Sterkfontein is a sight fishing venue, where the correct polarized glasses is vital in aiding your fishing enjoyment. Secondly, because I would not profess to know what is best in other circumstances and fishing situations. I spend a fair amount of time on Sterkfontein and therefore can tell you what works best for me at that venue. The first rule is never to cast a fly without a pair of glasses on. A fly in the eye travelling at high speed, hurts a lot. Most quality glasses will provide good protection from a high speed fly. If you are going to put on glasses they may as well be polarised. Let us start out by understanding exactly what is meant when we are talking about polarized sunglasses. It is also important to understand what is meant by polarized light. Here is an extract from [www.physicsclassroom.com](http://www.physicsclassroom.com) that explains the concept of polarization very well. The most common method of polarization involves the use of a Polaroid filter. Polaroid filters are made of a special material which is capable of blocking one of the two planes of vibration of an electromagnetic wave. (Remember, the notion of two planes or directions of vibration is merely a simplification which helps us to visualize the wavelike nature of the electromagnetic wave.) In this sense, a Polaroid serves as a device which filters out one-half of the vibrations upon transmission of the light through the filter. When unpolarized light is transmitted through a Polaroid filter, it emerges with one-half the intensity and with vibrations in a single plane; it emerges as polarized light.



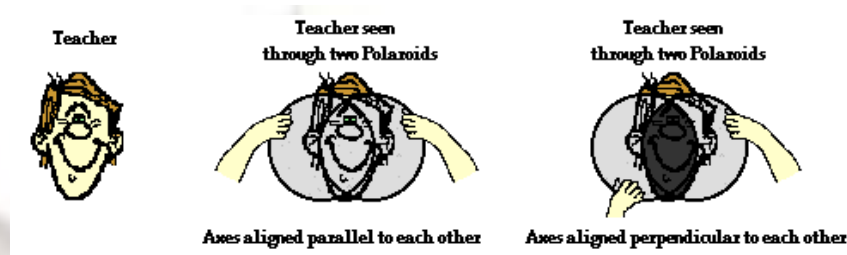
A Polaroid filter is able to polarize light because of the chemical composition of the filter material. The filter can be thought of as having long-chain molecules that are aligned within the filter in the same direction. During the fabrication of the filter, the long-chain molecules are stretched across the filter so that each molecule is (as much as possible) aligned in say the vertical direction. As unpolarized light strikes the filter, the portion of the waves vibrating in the vertical direction are absorbed by the filter. The general rule is that the electromagnetic vibrations which are in a direction parallel to the alignment of the molecules are absorbed. The alignment of these molecules gives the filter a polarization axis. This polarization axis extends across the length of the filter and only allows vibrations of the electromagnetic wave that are parallel to the axis to pass through. Any vibrations which are perpendicular to the polarization axis are blocked by the filter. Thus, a Polaroid filter with its long-chain molecules aligned horizontally will have a polarization axis aligned vertically. Such a filter will block all horizontal vibrations and allow the vertical vibrations to be transmitted (see diagram above). On the other hand, a Polaroid filter with its long-chain molecules aligned vertically will have a polarization axis aligned horizontally; this filter will block all vertical vibrations and allow the horizontal vibrations to be transmitted.

### Relationship Between Long-Chain Molecule Orientation and the Orientation of the Polarization Axis

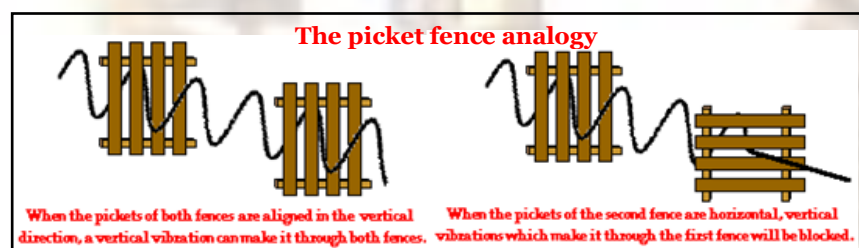


Polarization of light by use of a Polaroid filter was often demonstrated in a Physics class through a variety of demonstrations. Filters are used to look through and view objects. The filter does not distort the shape or dimensions of the object; it merely serves to produce a dimmer image of the object since one-half of the light is blocked as it passed through the filter. A pair of filters is often placed back to back in order to view objects looking through two filters. By slowly rotating the second filter, an orientation can be found in which all the light from an object is blocked and the object can no longer be seen when viewed through two filters. What happened? In this demonstration, the light was polarized upon passage through the first filter; perhaps only vertical vibrations were able to pass through. These vertical vibrations were then blocked by the second filter since its polarization filter is aligned in a horizontal direction. While you are unable to see the axes on the filter, you will know when the axes are aligned perpendicular to each other because with this orientation, all light is blocked. So by use of two filters, one can

completely block all of the light which is incident upon the set; this will only occur if the polarization axes are rotated such that they are perpendicular to each other.



A picket-fence analogy is often used to explain how this dual-filter demonstration works. A picket fence can act as a polarizer by transforming an unpolarized wave in a rope into a wave which vibrates in a single plane. The spaces between the pickets of the fence will allow vibrations which are parallel to the spacing to pass through while blocking any vibrations which are perpendicular to the spacing. Obviously, a vertical vibration would not have the room to make it through a horizontal spacing. If two picket fences are oriented such that the pickets are both aligned vertically, then vertical vibrations will pass through both fences. On the other hand, if the pickets of the second fence are aligned horizontally, then the vertical vibrations which pass through the first fence will be blocked by the second fence. This is depicted in the diagram below.



In the same manner, two Polaroid filters oriented with their polarization axes perpendicular to each other will block all the light. Now that's a pretty cool observation which could never be explained by a particle view of light.

Unpolarized light can also undergo polarization by reflection off of nonmetallic surfaces. The extent to which polarization occurs is dependent upon the angle at which the light approaches the surface and upon the material which the surface is made of. Metallic surfaces reflect light with a variety of vibrational directions; such reflected light is unpolarized. However, nonmetallic surfaces such as asphalt roadways, snow fields and water reflect light such that there is a large concentration of vibrations in a plane parallel to the reflecting surface. A person viewing objects by means of light reflected off of nonmetallic surfaces will often perceive a glare if the extent of polarization is large. Fisherman are familiar with this glare since it prevents them from seeing fish which lie below the water. Light reflected off a lake is partially polarized in a direction parallel to the water's surface. Fisherman know that the use of glare-reducing sunglasses with the proper polarization axis allows for the blocking of this partially polarized light. By blocking the plane-polarized light, the glare is reduced and the fisherman can more easily see fish located under the water.

*"Polaroid film was in its original form an arrangement of many microscopic herapathite crystals. Its later H-sheet form is rather similar to the wire-grid polarizer. It is made from polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) plastic with an iodine doping. Stretching of the sheet during manufacture ensures that the PVA chains are aligned in one particular direction. Electrons from the iodine dopant are able to travel along the chains, ensuring that light polarized parallel to the chains is absorbed by the sheet; light polarized perpendicularly to the chains is transmitted. The durability and practicality of Polaroid makes it the most common type of polarizer in use, for example for sunglasses, photographic filters, and liquid crystal displays. It is also much cheaper than other types of polarizer."*

Be warned that polarizers are also used in LED displays. So you won't be able to admire that pic of your big fish and you won't be able to read the barometric pressure on your fancy new Casio Protrec without removing your glasses.

**Tints** Spending a lot of time in the sun one would think that the darker the glasses the better. This is in fact incorrect. When wearing very dark glasses you cause the pupil to dilate, thus allowing more harmful rays into the eye. I used to come off the dam after a day's fishing with very red and very sore eyes. An optometrist friend of mine said that I should try wearing lighter glasses, I tried this and the problem was all but solved. The second problem that occurs is that your eyes get very dry. This can also cause severe irritation. Your eyes get scratchy and dry and can be very sore by day 2 on the water. Sterkfontein is renowned for its wind. (You think the guys at [www.windguru.cz](http://www.windguru.cz) have included it on their website because they like fly-fishing naaah.) The wind tends to blow in the sides of the glasses, and seems to concentrate on the eye ball. This is also made worse when you are skipper as the wind blowing in your eyes really hammers them. Cycling glasses would be ideal but off course you can't get polarized cycling glasses because the LED display on the cycling computers can't be read, so cyclists don't do polarized glasses.



I now carry three pairs of glasses on the dam. I put on a pair of cycling glasses when driving the boat, I wear my amber tints for most of the day and then I have a pair of low light yellow glasses for early morning and late evening. Don't let anybody tell you that their yellow glasses are used on cloudy days. With no sun on the water, there is no glare and thus no use for polarized glasses. So the ideal pair of glasses for Sterkies would be polychromatic (respond to light conditions) wrap around glasses that grade from a light yellow through to a mellow amber.



Dark lenses vs amber lenses, both catch fish



Why we wear polaroid's

Like with all things these days, the higher the price the better the quality, and being your eyes you don't want to skimp on sunglasses. The sun can do a lot of damage over a period of time so rather invest in a good pair of glasses. While you are at it make sure that they are attached to something. I have seen many a pair of expensive glasses disappearing into the depths of Sterkfontein Dam. A good pair of light colored, polarized glasses is a vital part of your tackle. You might not catch more fish but at least you will see more fish.

## FLY TYING AND OTHER TIPS

### TIPS FOR MAINTAINING A FLY FISHING REEL

There's no such thing as a "maintenance-free" fly reel. The fully-sealed drags of modern fly reels do an amazing job keeping saltwater, sand, and other contaminants out, but even these high-end fish-fighting tools need a bit of upkeep to stay running smooth. Here are 11 tips to make maintaining a fly fishing reel as easy as possible by building it into your regular fishing routine.

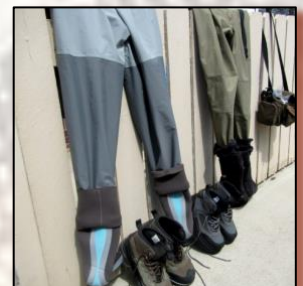
For that drag to stay silky smooth, some proactive measures must be taken — especially if you fish in saltwater, silty or muddy rivers, or under other conditions that put your gear at risk. Spending a few minutes tending to your fly reel will help you avoid long-term damage that will crush your dreams when you least expect it. See <https://guiderecommended.com/11-tips-for-maintaining-a-fly-fishing-reel/>



### HOW TO CARE FOR AND REPAIR FLY FISHING WADERS

Frequent and thorough washing goes a long way toward keeping your waders in top condition. But there's more to wader maintenance than a little soap and water. Use the tips and advice in the click though below to get the most life out of your waders and learn how to fix them if they bust on you.

<https://guiderecommended.com/care-repair-fly-fishing-waders/>



### BE SAFE AND USE A WADING STAFF WHILE FLY FISHING

Every angler who fishes streams, whether wobbly or sure-footed, should use a wading staff when fly fishing—and not only to stay dry-side up. In addition to the safety benefits of wading staffs, these handy tools help you cover water more efficiently and give you confidence to get into that prime position for a perfect cast. Let's look at a few more reasons why you should use a wading staff while fly fishing.

See these sites for more:

<https://theflyfishingbasics.com/wading-basics-tips/>

<https://guiderecommended.com/why-use-a-wading-staff-while-fly-fishing/>



## ICONIC FLIES: THE KLINKHÅMER SPECIAL

The Klinkhåmer is a popular emerger fly originally named LT Caddis (light tan), now officially named Klinkhåmer Special, and was devised by a Dutch angler Hans van Klinken in the early 1980's to imitate an emerging caddis fly to catch grayling and trout which feed from them as they float in the surface film. This pattern has proven to be an extremely effective fly.

Klinkhåmers are different from many other parachute dry flies in that the thorax of the fly is designed to hang down 'through' the surface of the water to imitate an emerging insect.

The abdomen serves as a trigger point which penetrates the surface film, which gets noticed by trout from great distances, even before any resulting surface footprint features.

In all variations of this fly, the abdomen of the fly float is underneath the surface of the water to attract the fish and improve hook ups, while the parachute hackle and foam or wing is on or above the surface of the water for visibility and flotation.

Hans explains in detail how the Klinkhåmer Special arose in this article <http://www.rackelhanen.se/eng/10029.htm>

### TYING THE KLINKHÅMER

You can watch Hans tie the Klinkhåmer in this video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=9&v=SBHQ1riBiMk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=SBHQ1riBiMk)

The Featherbender has an excellent step-by-step tutorial on how to tie the fly. Click through here: <https://thefeatherbender.com/tag/klinkhamer/>

Tom Sutcliffe on his website *The Spirit of Flyfishing* provides an excellent and full discussion of the Klinkhåmer and a good tutorial at the end. See it here <http://www.tomsutcliffe.co.za/fly-fishing/fly-tying/item/248-hans-van-klinken-on-his-klinkhamer-special.html>

Any advanced-beginner and intermediate level tier can make this pattern, and it does not require unusual or expensive materials. The Klinkhåmer Special is what we think of as a good "fishing fly." Make a few Klinkhåmer Specials for yourself and try them on your favorite trout stream.



## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and payable. At the AGM the subscription was raised marginally. Subscriptions are now as follows

<b>Joining Fee</b>	R220 senior R120 Junior
<b>Senior Member</b>	R240
<b>Junior Member</b>	R140
<b>Family Member</b>	R240 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member

Cash will only be accepted by Dave Smith at meetings of the DFT. All other payment to be made by EFT into the club bank account. No direct cash deposits.

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Branch: Westville  
Branch Code: 045 426  
Account Number: 053 189 647

#### Note:

If you pay by EFT, please e-mail Dave Smith [smiffam@absamail.co.za](mailto:smiffam@absamail.co.za) with your proof of payment stating the type of members and the member(s) names.



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## QUICK LINKS

### DURBAN SHOPS THAT STOCK FLY TYING MATERIAL

The Complete Angler	Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof, 3610, Tel 031 764 1488 <i>Superb freshwater selection of fly tying materials. Salty stuff too</i>
Kingfisher	<a href="http://www.kingfisher.co.za/">http://www.kingfisher.co.za/</a> <i>A wide selection of fly tying materials balanced more towards the salt</i>
The Fish Eagle	105 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal <a href="https://www.facebook.com/KingfisherPMB/">https://www.facebook.com/KingfisherPMB/</a> <i>Jan Korrubel runs this shop. Say no more!!!</i>

### SOUTH AFRICAN ONLINE SHOPS

Frontier Fly Fishing	<a href="http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za">http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za</a> Situated at Coachman's Crossing, Centre, Peter Place, Bryanston, and Johannesburg.
Netbooks	<a href="http://www.netbooks.co.za">http://www.netbooks.co.za</a> The Home of Craig Thom
Stream X	<a href="http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za">http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za</a>
The African Fly Fisher	<a href="http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za">http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za</a>

### KZN FLY FISHING GUIDES/CASTING INSTRUCTORS

Jan Korrubel	083 99 33 870 <a href="mailto:jkorrubel@gmail.com">jkorrubel@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jan@wildfly.co.za">jan@wildfly.co.za</a> Small streams and custom fly tying, casting
Grevin Price	082 896 3688 <a href="mailto:grevin@wildfly.co.za">grevin@wildfly.co.za</a> River and still water (including yellowfish)
Juan-Pierre Rossouw	076 208 5602 <a href="mailto:juan@wildfly.co.za">juan@wildfly.co.za</a> River and still water (including yellowfish)
Leon Vermeulen	082 442 4846 / <a href="mailto:leon@wildbrowns.co.za">leon@wildbrowns.co.za</a> River fishing
Graham McCall	793 033 735 Casting Instructor
David Weaver	083 303 4230 / <a href="mailto:eff@ohs.dorea.co.za">eff@ohs.dorea.co.za</a> All things about Sterkfontein: local knowledge, boat and or accommodation.
Jeremy Rochester	083 607 6100 Casting Instructor

### KZN FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

The Fly Fishers Association (FFA)	<a href="mailto:flyfishersassociation@gmail.com">flyfishersassociation@gmail.com</a>
The KZN Fly Fishing Association (KZNFFA)	<a href="http://www.kznffa.org/">http://www.kznffa.org/</a>
The Natal Fly Fishing Club	<a href="http://www.nffc.co.za">http://www.nffc.co.za</a>
Federation of Southern African Flyfishers (FOSAF)	<a href="http://www.fosaf.org.za">http://www.fosaf.org.za</a>
The Underberg and Himeville Trout Club (UHTFC)	<a href="http://www.uhtfc.co.za">http://www.uhtfc.co.za</a>
Wildfly	<a href="http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=282&amp;Itemid=451">http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=282&amp;Itemid=451</a>

### WEATHER AND TIDES

Durban tides	<a href="http://www.swell.co.za/durban/tides">http://www.swell.co.za/durban/tides</a>
Wind guru	<a href="http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php?sc=4865">http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php?sc=4865</a>
Real time Durban wind (esp. for Harbour)	<a href="http://fred.csir.co.za/windnet">http://fred.csir.co.za/windnet</a>
Overall fishing conditions including tides and weather	<a href="http://www.tides4fishing.com/af/south-africa/durban">http://www.tides4fishing.com/af/south-africa/durban</a>

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