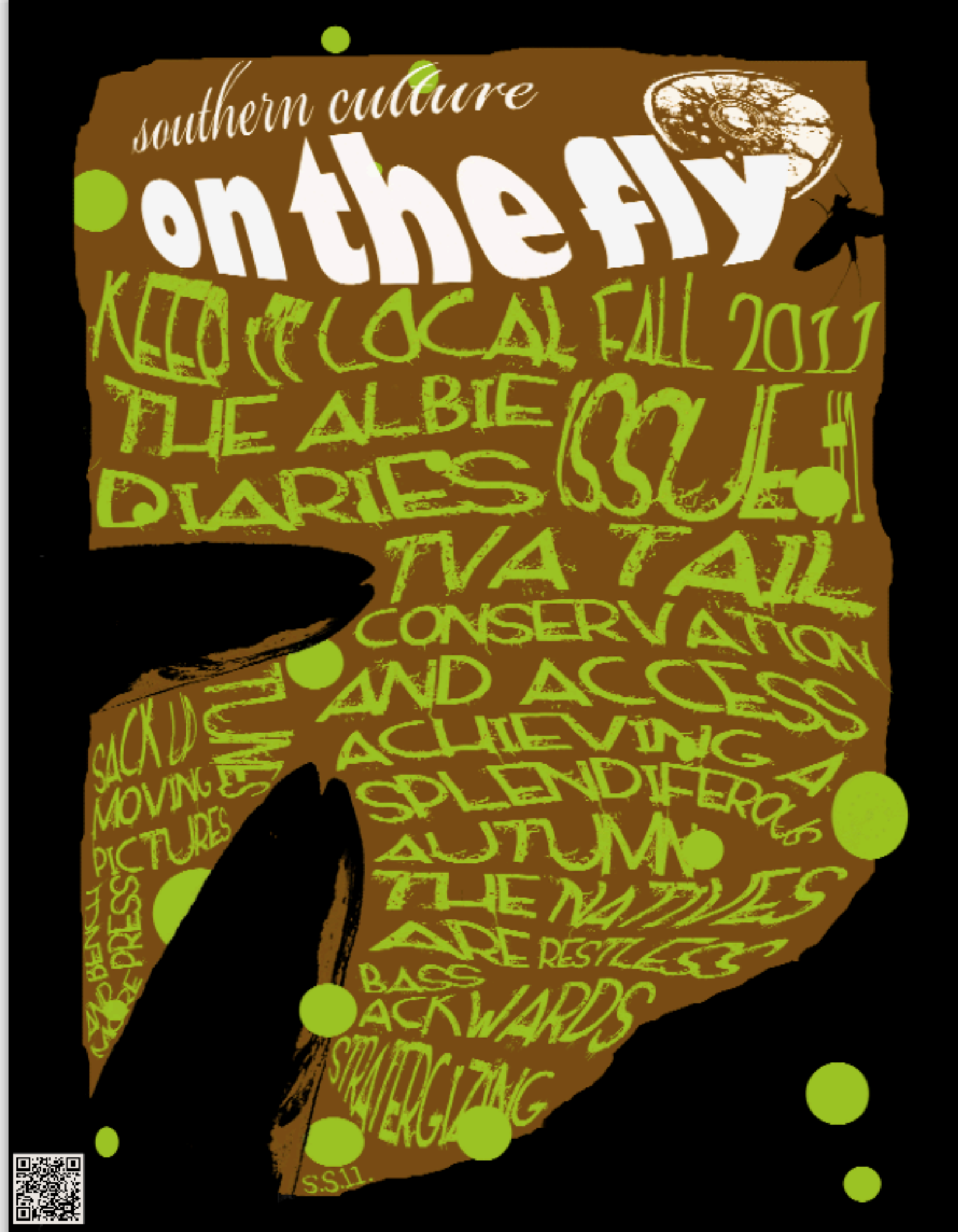


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S.C.O.F

KEEP IT LOCAL

ISSUE NO. 1

FALL 2011

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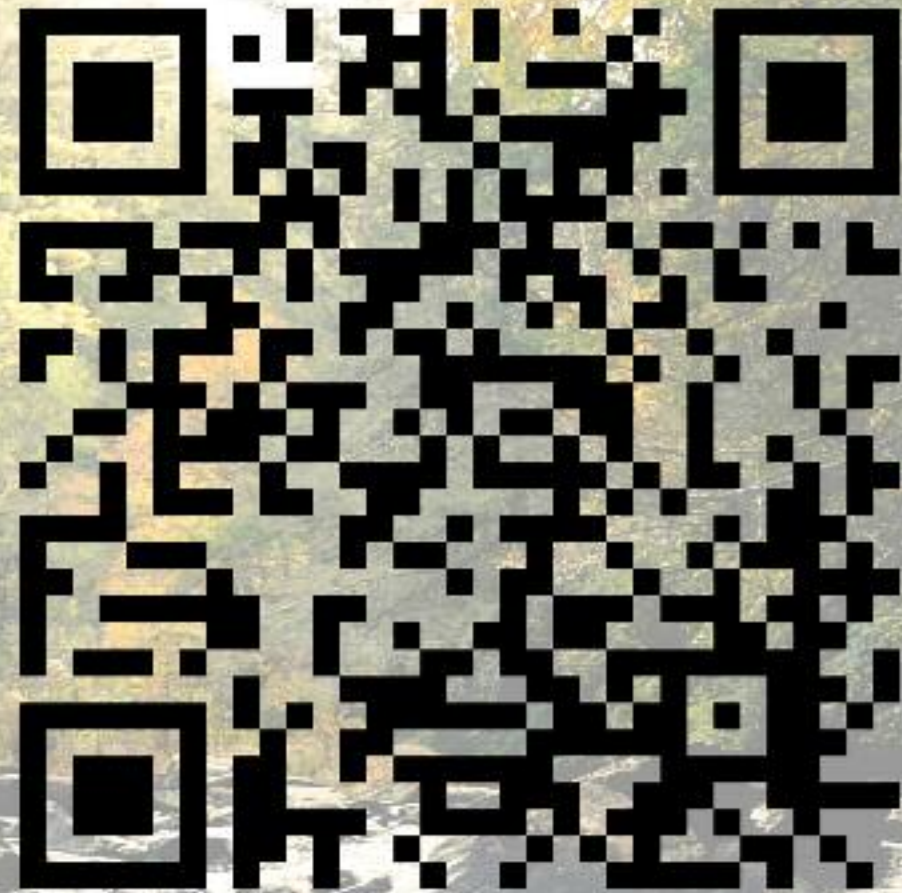
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take it with you

These QR (quick response) codes spread throughout the fall issue are for mobile interactive media. With a QR reader on your smartphone (which are free in app stores everywhere), you can jump to a website, the current issue of SCOF, or even this issue's MP3s. Try it, you might even like it.



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STEVEN VORKAPICH

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From the Editor's desk to Your Bathroom

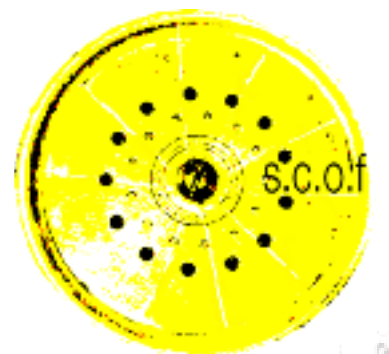
Fall 2011 ... written in Fall 2010

So I might be jumping the gun a little writing this letter from the editor due to the fact that as I write this, the first issue is a little less than a year from being released, but I wanted to write this before all the mundane details of putting a magazine together have overwhelmed me and driven me to a state of nothing less than full-blown psychosis. (Although right now, as I sit in my basement banging away on the keyboard, it appears just attempting to put this thing together might be the product of a little everyday crazy.) I've often been asked (mostly by Yankees and Californians...no offense to either) why I would want to start a fly fishing magazine about the South. My response has always simply been, "Because that's where I fish." We here in the South have it pretty good—fried chicken, sweet tea, cheese grits and enough opportunities to chase fish with fly that we will all stay fat, happy and in fish for the rest of our days. There aren't many places around you can start a trip in the mountains fishing for wild native trout, drive down the hill and chase some topwater bronze and finish up your trip at the beach stalking almost any saltwater species you can think of while sipping on a well-deserved boat drink.

It's hard to believe that if you ask anyone else in the country about Southern fly fishing you get a puzzled look followed by, "There's fly fishing in the South?" For too long all the good stories and all the pretty pictures have been about other places. These far-flung destinations are great in their own right, but by nature, out of most of our reaches. Let me be the first to say that the grass is not always greener, and the grass in your own backyard is the greenest on the block. So we have created this magazine to showcase our backyard and everything and everyone that makes it one of the most unique places to fish in the United States. In this issue you will find photo essays, fishing techniques, gear reviews and a ton of other content created for and about the South. So sit back and enjoy a publication that is about where you fish. We feel like it's about time.

Keep It Local,

David Grossman
Editor/Publisher
Southern Culture on the Fly



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HAIKU

with JEB Hall

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so hastily enjoyed
road soda



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TUNES FOR THE DRIVE THERE

Galen Kipar Project

Music and fly fishing are tied together for us like PB and R. Whether it's the song stuck in your head while you're working that run, or blasting high speed German death metal with the windows rolled down traveling at breakneck speed on your way to the water, one doesn't exist without the other. Galen Kipar of the Galen Kipar Project shares our sentiment. He's a full-time guide based out of Asheville, NC, and spends the rest of his time touring with his band and putting out albums that have found a permanent home in our rotation. Listen to our interview with Galen by clicking below and then listen to his music. This is actual fishing music, not just a clever compilation put together to sell in fly shops.



click to listen to the
interview with Galen Kipar



MP3

scan to your mobile



rushing over my bones



click to listen

river song



A man wearing a cap and sunglasses is fishing in a river. He is holding a fishing rod with both hands. The river is flowing rapidly, and there are trees on the banks. The text 'TVA TAIL' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

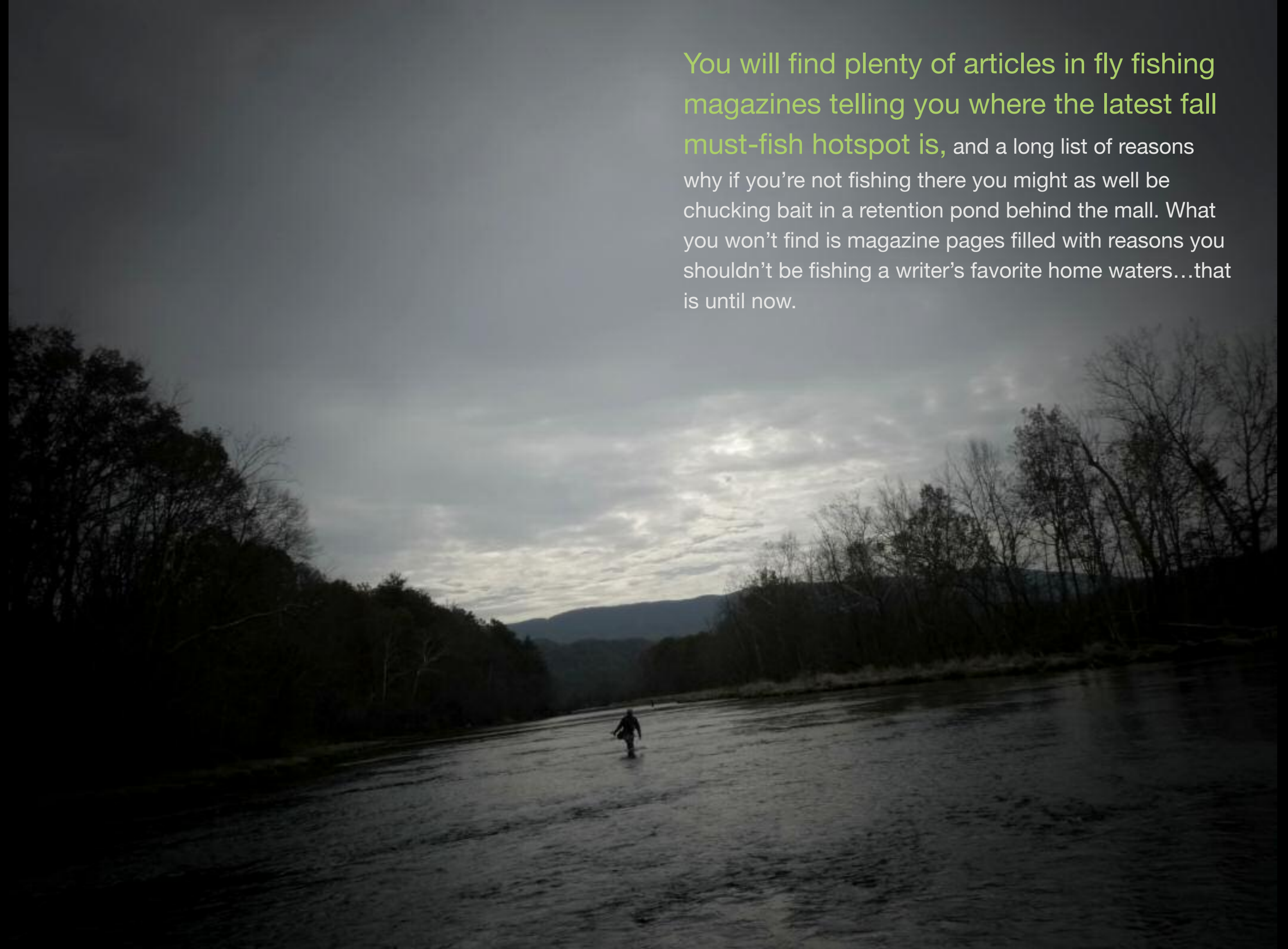
TVA TAIL

why you shouldn't fish here

By David Grossman

Photos by Steve Seinberg

You will find plenty of articles in fly fishing magazines telling you where the latest fall **must-fish hotspot is**, and a long list of reasons why if you're not fishing there you might as well be chucking bait in a retention pond behind the mall. What you won't find is magazine pages filled with reasons you shouldn't be fishing a writer's favorite home waters...that is until now.





photos by David Grossman

I live just over the mountain from two of Tennessee's most talked about tailwaters—the South Holston and Watauga rivers. You've probably heard the rumors of giant wild fish, great dry fly fishing all year long and the warm welcoming nature of the locals...all lies my friends. I'm here to shed a little light on what might be the greatest lie perpetrated on the fly fishing community as a whole since the idea that Tilley hats were cool. So let's break this down for the unenlightened.

The Fish: There are none. Well, maybe I'm exaggerating a little here. From a very reliable anonymous source within the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, I have learned there are exactly seven fish between the S. Holston and Watauga rivers. These fish are stockers and were put in the river somewhere around the early nineties. It has been reported that they remain finless and stupid. So to summarize, you don't even need your toes to count all the fish in these rivers and there are absolutely no wild fish to be had.





The Tactics: For some reason, flies have historically been ineffective on these rivers. We recommend spin fishing using dough balls. Admittedly this isn't the most sporting way to pursue trout, but you're probably not going to catch anything anyway, so it's cool. Many a fly angler has traveled long and far to this corner of East Tennessee with dreams of summer hatches of sulfurs and winter emergences of blue wing olives that have every fish in the river looking up. Well don't fall into the trap these suckers did. There are no bugs, and there is no dry fly fishing. Dough balls people, dough balls.

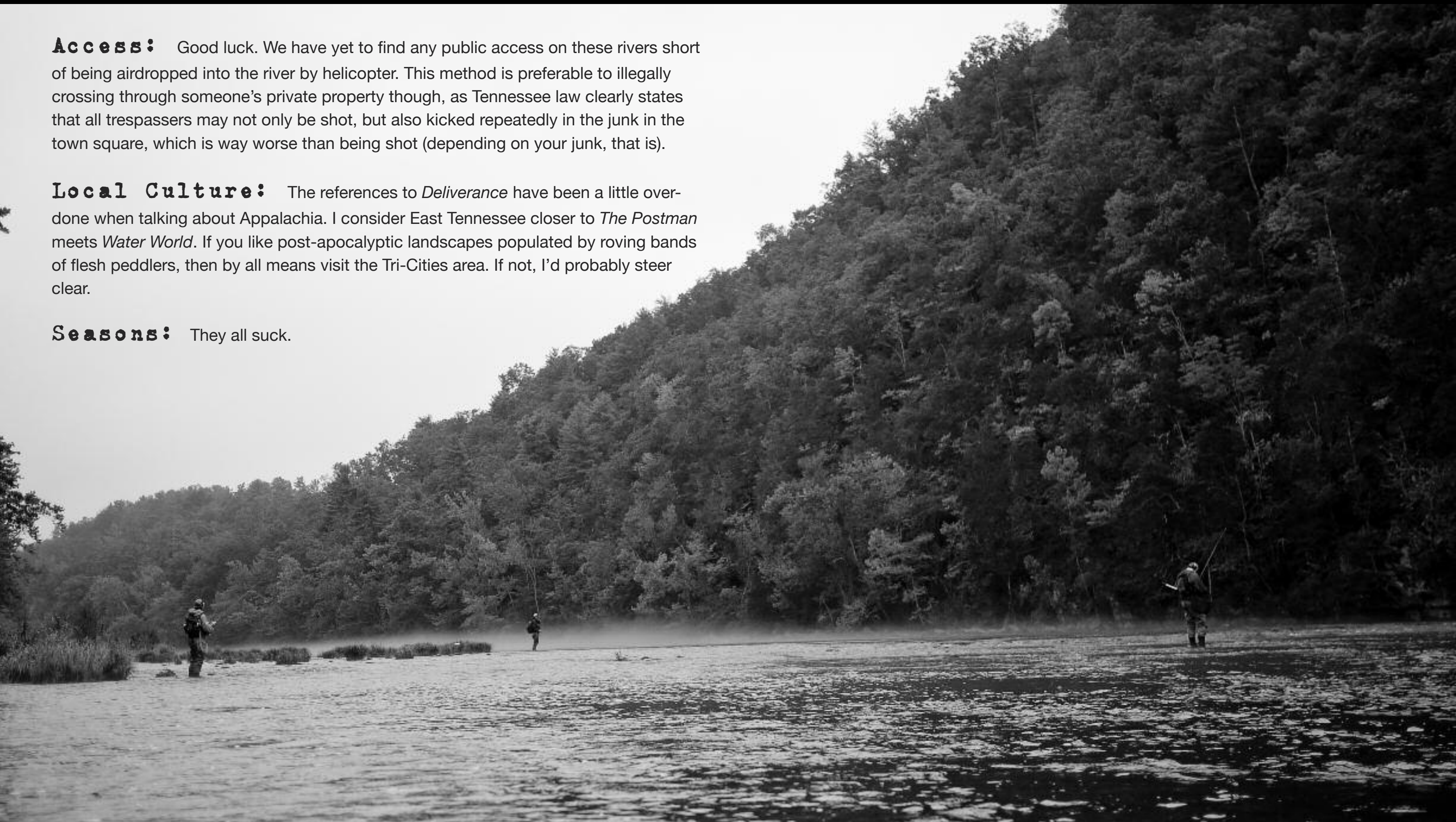




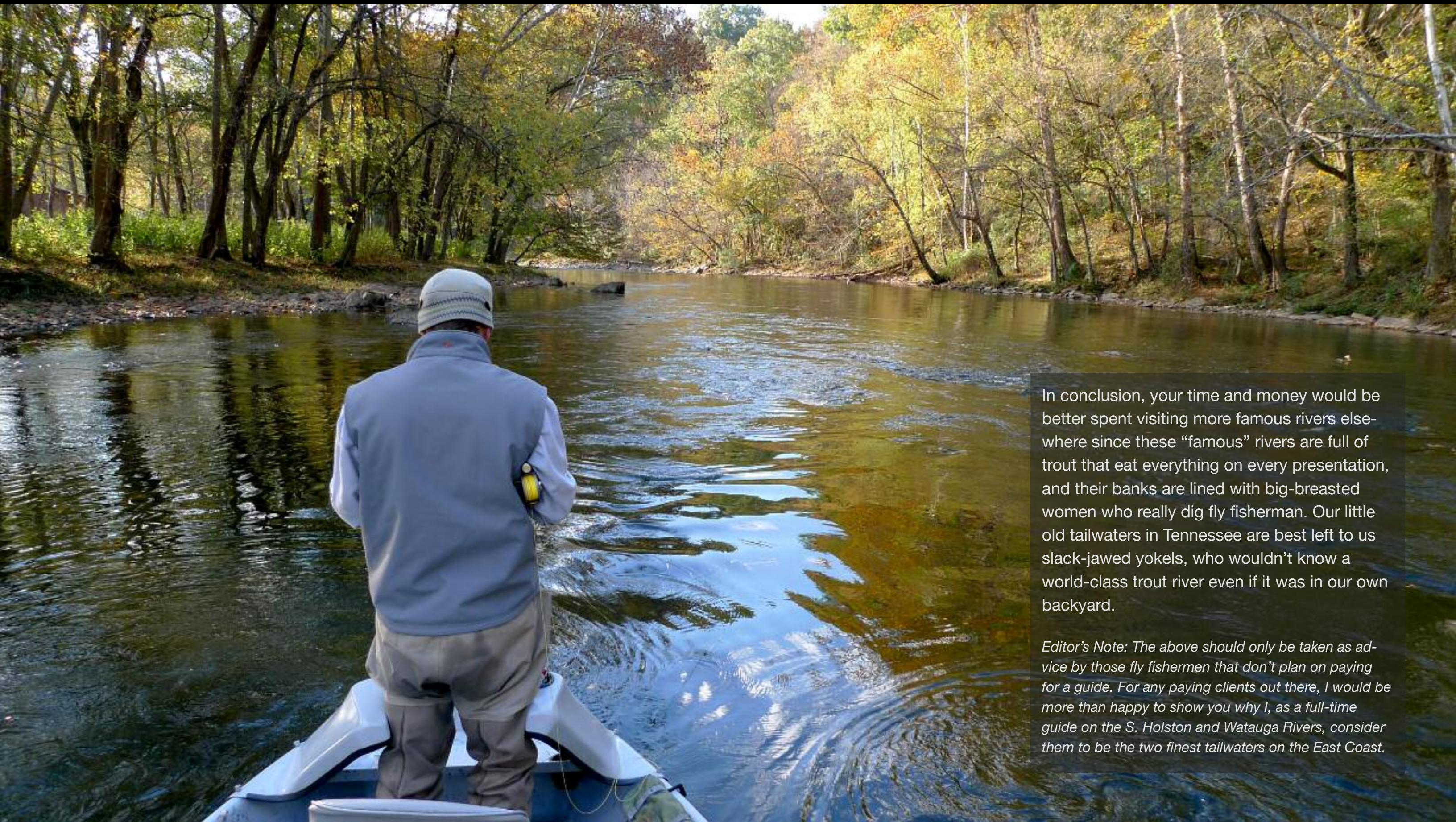
Access: Good luck. We have yet to find any public access on these rivers short of being airdropped into the river by helicopter. This method is preferable to illegally crossing through someone's private property though, as Tennessee law clearly states that all trespassers may not only be shot, but also kicked repeatedly in the junk in the town square, which is way worse than being shot (depending on your junk, that is).

Local Culture: The references to *Deliverance* have been a little overdone when talking about Appalachia. I consider East Tennessee closer to *The Postman* meets *Water World*. If you like post-apocalyptic landscapes populated by roving bands of flesh peddlers, then by all means visit the Tri-Cities area. If not, I'd probably steer clear.

Seasons: They all suck.







In conclusion, your time and money would be better spent visiting more famous rivers elsewhere since these “famous” rivers are full of trout that eat everything on every presentation, and their banks are lined with big-breasted women who really dig fly fisherman. Our little old tailwaters in Tennessee are best left to us slack-jawed yokels, who wouldn’t know a world-class trout river even if it was in our own backyard.

Editor’s Note: The above should only be taken as advice by those fly fishermen that don’t plan on paying for a guide. For any paying clients out there, I would be more than happy to show you why I, as a full-time guide on the S. Holston and Watauga Rivers, consider them to be the two finest tailwaters on the East Coast.



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BENCH PRESS

Thomas Harvey



Sexy Silverside

Hook: Gamakatsu SL11-3H (sizes 2-6)
Thread: Fine Monofilament
Tail: SF Blend – Off White
Body: E-Z Body covered in Clear Cure Goo
Flash: Ice Wing Fiber – Silver
Eyes: 3D Stick On

Sexy Silverside

**NOTE: These materials are what I used. Do not limit yourself. Use the techniques demonstrated with other materials in order to create a fly you have confidence in fishing.*

The SIMPLIFY Movement.

sim·plic·i·ty
: the state of being simple, uncomplicated, or uncompounded

Filling the box for this year’s migration to the North Carolina coast started where most fly tying starts... at the computer reading, researching and reviewing popular salt-water patterns. Being relatively new to the salt, I was struck by a single thread that seemed to run through most of the patterns: simplicity. From Bob Popovic’s “Surf Candy” to Bob Clouser’s “Clouser Minnow”, most patterns used a few staple materials, utilized elementary tying techniques and took little to no time to tie. This pattern, a close relative to Henry Cowen’s “Albie Anchovie”, follows these basic pillars of saltwater fly tying and will prove an effective fly for your box.



Step 1: Place your hook in the vise and start your Mono tying thread behind the hook eye.



Step 2: Attach a small bundle of SF Flash Blend on top of the hook shank. Use your fingers to pick the fiber out and form a taper.



Step 3: Next, add your silver flash. Remember to keep all of your materials on the top of the hook shank. Whip finish and remove your thread.



Step 4: Cut a piece of E-Z Body to length. Slide the body over the hook eye and restart your tying thread. Capturing the front edge, bind down the tubing and continue wrapping to form a tapered mono thread head.



Step 5: Using permanent markers you may add lateral lines or other colors to mimic the baitfish in your area.



Step 6: Apply 3D eyes to the head. The sticky backing on most eyes is weak so I opt for a little super glue.



Step 7: Next, using a bodkin, apply Clear Cure Goo, thick over the body of the fly. Rotate your vise and let the product even itself out before curing with the UV light.



Step 8: Finally, add a thin top-coat of Clear Cure Goo—Hydro or Sally Hansen's.



Thomas is a riddle, wrapped in an enigma, smothered, covered and chunked with talent. At press time, the best tier of flies we know has yet to even catch a trout...oh yeah, did I mention he's just barely old enough to buy beer.

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southern culture
on the fly



It's Going to Be a Spectacular Fall!

Read the great article in this issue by Beau Beasley

About the Author

Beau Beasley is a frequent contributor to the *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*, a contributing editor for *Fly Fish America*, and the Mid-Atlantic states field editor for *Eastern Fly Fishing*. His work has appeared in *Fly Fisherman*, *American Angler*, *Fly Tyer*, *Flyfisher*, and *Fly Rod & Reel*. Beau also serves as the Director of the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival.

Fly Fishing the Mid-Atlantic

The guidebook you'll want for planning your fly-fishing year. Beau Beasley's new book covers 45 prime waters in seven mid-Atlantic states.

Pennsylvania / New Jersey / Maryland / Delaware
Virginia / West Virginia / North Carolina

Whether you are fishing cold water, warm water, or saltwater, you will find great destinations to enjoy on the fly.



"Beasley has done an incredible job of supplying information for both salt- and freshwater anglers in the Mid-Atlantic region, with details so complete—maps and suggestions for guides, tackle, fly shops, and even accommodations—that you will know where, when, and how to fish any one of these locations."

—Lefty Kreh

Fly Fishing Virginia

Beau Beasley had one simple goal in mind in writing *Fly Fishing Virginia*: to write a book that the average fly angler could learn from and use right away. Also the maps had to be readable, sensible, and accurate. The chapters about each river would be helpful as well as interesting. Fly selections had to be clear and innovative. In short a book the regular angler—the guy or gal just like you—would be able to pick up and, with little or no additional assistance, stand a reasonably good chance of having a successful day on the top waters of Virginia.

"Warm or cold, salt or fresh, Beau Beasley describes the waters of Virginia where fly fishing is best. And, he does so in terms easily understood by anglers new to the sport. Buy two copies—one for the car and the other for the nightstand."

—John Ross, Author

TU's Guide to America's 100 Best Trout Streams

Kayak Fishing

The Complete Guide

Kayak Fishing

In this new 2nd Edition Cory Routh covers everything you will need to know for safe, fun, and successful kayak fishing. *Kayak Fishing* gives you a quick, clear understanding of the essential information you'll need to get started in the growing sport of kayak fishing. Learn how to choose the right kayak for fishing, which PFDs and paddles to select, kayak safety and self-rescues, basic paddle strokes and maneuvering, kayak rigging and transporting, choosing the right fishing gear, tides and currents, stealth and presentation, fighting and landing fish, fresh water and saltwater fishing, fly-fishing techniques, and fishing unfamiliar places.

Fly Fishing Georgia

The first and only guide to cover the full variety of Georgia's top fly-fishing waters. Details cold-water streams, warm-water rivers and impoundments, and coastal saltwater fishing. You'll gain a quick, clear understanding of the essential information you'll need to fly fish Georgia's best waters. Outstandingly clear maps provide access points to waters. Find everything you need to know to fish a particular water from hatch charts to flies to essential gear. Includes full-color photos of fishing destinations and flies to use. You'll find this to be a great book for the beginner or expert.

Fly Fishing Montana

With & Jenny Grossenbacher

Fly Fishing Montana

From the Yellowstone River to the Boulder River, Brian and Jenny Grossenbacher guide you through their beautiful home state. Learn where and how to fish Montana—a fly angler's mecca. *Fly Fishing Montana* gives you a quick, clear understanding of the essential information you'll need to fly fish Montana's most outstanding waters. Detailed maps accompany each water. You'll find full-color photographs throughout. Learn where and how to fish and which flies to use where. Also included is a helpful resource section of fly shops, guides, and organizations.

Fly Fishing Georgia



Fly Fishing North Carolina

Coming in 2012



Conservation: The Death of the Toccoa?

By Kent Klewein
Photos by Louis Cahill



There's nothing worse than watching year after year while your favorite trout river dies a slow death.

Particularly when you know deep down that if proper actions were taken to protect the river in the first place, fishing could be as good or even better than it was ten year ago. That's the case with the Toccoa River tailwater that I've been guiding on since 2001.

The lowdown.

Located in North Georgia in the small town of Blue Ridge, the Toccoa flows for 16 miles before crossing state lines into Tennessee and becoming the Ocoee River. Before 2003, when the Toccoa River was in its prime and before the real estate boom had begun to damage the river's habitat on the tailwater and its tributaries, it wasn't uncommon for anglers to witness significant aquatic insect hatches and rising trout as far as the eye could see. The Toccoa River was a dry dropper paradise for fly anglers back then. It was the perfect river to introduce new anglers to the sport of fly fishing. The majority of our catches were 10-12" trout, but we regularly landed trophy class fish in the 18-24" range. Things have changed a lot since those glory days.

Down, down again, but not out.

Since 2001, the Toccoa River's ecosystem and its trout fishing have steadily declined, dropping its prior status as one of the best tailwaters in the Southeast. Environmental misconduct on multiple levels combined with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' unwillingness to improve on an outdated trout management plan have resulted in the river's imminent demise. Most recently, the Toccoa River was dealt a huge environmental blow by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), when a dam repair project resulted in a trout fish kill of 84% according to a Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) shocking survey conducted in late October 2010.

In the summer of 2010, despite numerous recommendations by the Trout Unlimited Blue Ridge chapter to postpone, the TVA moved forward with their planned dam repair schedule. By doing so, the TVA basically drained all the available cold water supply out of the Blue Ridge Lake, which was needed to consistently provide cold water flows on the Toccoa River to sustain trout life. The result of the TVA's actions created over a month of water temperatures on the Toccoa River exceeding seventy-five degrees. These water temperatures are well above the trout's acceptable thresholds for survival.



The current fishing regulations on the river are about as bad as it gets from a conservation standpoint. There's no size limit on trout and each angler is allowed to harvest eight fish per day. If that doesn't sound bad enough, the Toccoa River has to put up with excessive poaching due to the GA DNR's lack of funding to adequately enforce and patrol the Toccoa River. Furthermore, this year the state has decided to drop its funding for stocking the Toccoa River.

Despite the many hardships, the Toccoa River has managed to stay in the fight and maintain above average trout fishing over the years... until this latest TVA dam repair project disaster.



The Toccoa River has had to overcome many hardships this past decade. Fishing pressure has increased ten fold on the Toccoa River from the booming city of Atlanta and its suburbs. Significant sedimentation and erosion problems were created on the Toccoa River and its tributaries, from local builders breaking the fifty-foot building buffer and riverfront property owners clear cutting the banks to create picturesque riverfront views. I'm not sure if the EPA has written one ticket to guilty parties involved and I've heard personally from more than one builder saying it's worth risking a \$500 fine to sell a cabin on riverfront. Other hardships include a trout management plan developed by the GA DNR that's been out of date and needing revision for the past 20 years.

If this disaster would have happened outside of Georgia, perhaps on another popular western or northeastern trout stream, I'm sure there would be significant national publicity being dedicated to the disaster, and the negligent parties involved would be catching serious flack and would be held liable. There's no doubt in my mind, there would already be multiple lawsuits filed by now. Here's the problem: Georgia politics and other sectors don't understand that our cold-water fisheries contribute significant tourism revenues and drive our local economies just like other trout streams have proven to do so throughout history in the United States. It's important that Georgia changes its current stance and moves forward to better protect and manage its cold-water fisheries accordingly. Otherwise, we'll risk losing them in the near future.



The silver lining.

All the tragedies the Toccoa River has experienced over the past several years may well end up being its own saving grace. It's finally turned enough heads and pissed off enough people that there are consistent phone calls and emails being made to our state representatives, senators and GA DNR. The Toccoa River Watershed Coalition has been created, which is dedicated to protecting and fighting for better conservation and management practices on the Toccoa River. They're successfully pushing a petition to get special regulations on the Toccoa River as we speak. Please support the coalition by becoming a member and signing the petition.



*Kent and Louis, individually, are titans in the fly fishing industry, but have now combined their super powers to bring the world **Gink and Gasoline**, the blog that will change the world...one fish at a time.*

TAKE ACTION

For more information on how you can support this worthy cause:

Toccoa River Watershed Coalition
toccoariverwatershedcoalition.org/membership.html

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Mark Williams, Commissioner
Commissioner's Office
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1252
East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3500
Email: dnrboard@dnr.state.ga.us -

Fannin County Contacts:

Fannin County Chamber of Commerce
Jan Hackett, President
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Blue Ridge, GA 30513
1-800-899-6867
Email: jahackett@tds.net

Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Bill Simonds, Chairman
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Suite 100
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-2203
Email: BSim@fannincountyga.org

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Post Office Box 188
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-6193
Email: Dralston1@etcmail.com

Senator Steve Gooch
Post Office Box 600
Dahlonega, GA 30633
404-656-9221
Email: steve.gooch@senate.ga.gov

Access: The Fight Over Virginia's Jackson River

By Beau Beasley



Nestled in the western end of the Commonwealth in bucolic Alleghany County, Virginia's **Jackson River**, famous for its outstanding trout fishery, is now the unlikely focus of a lawsuit that could have far-reaching implications for various sportsmen. In truth, access and usage issues are nothing new to the Jackson: In 1996, the Virginia Supreme Court's *Kraft v Burr* decision found that plaintiffs who held a Crown Grant did have exclusive fishing rights on the section of the Jackson that was included in the original grant from King George III. The Crown Grant decision has been in effect ever since. So although anyone may float through the Jackson River because it is navigable, no one may fish this Crown Grant section without the express consent of the property owners.

According to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), the *Kraft v Burr* decision only affects the section directly below the Gathright Dam through Johnson Springs. All other parts of the river downstream from Johnson Springs are open to the public. About two years ago, however, river enthusiasts began to notice signs warning them not to fish, wade, or otherwise get out of their kayaks or canoes for any reason from Smith Bridge to Indian Draft. Confusion has reigned ever since, because some of these "no trespassing" signs are within sight of the public put-in at Smith Bridge and appear to contradict VDGIF signs along the same stretch of river that state this section of the river is open to the public.

Sued for Fishing?

In February 2011, William "Dargan" Coggeshall, his brother-in-law Charles Crawford and a pastor were sued in Alleghany County Court by owners of North South Development for trespassing. (North South Development owns River's Edge.) Matt Sponaule, the owner of North South argued that the anglers fished in the Jackson River in front of his private property on a number of occasions and refused to stop fishing and moved along when encouraged to do so.

The defendants responded that they had no reason to leave. Sure, they saw the "no trespassing, no fishing" signs posted on-shore, but they stayed in the river, well below the high-water mark. They also knew that VDGIF maps posted at the public access points stated clearly that they could fish anywhere outside the *Kraft v Burr* area, which was well upstream of where they were fishing. Since the river is public prop-

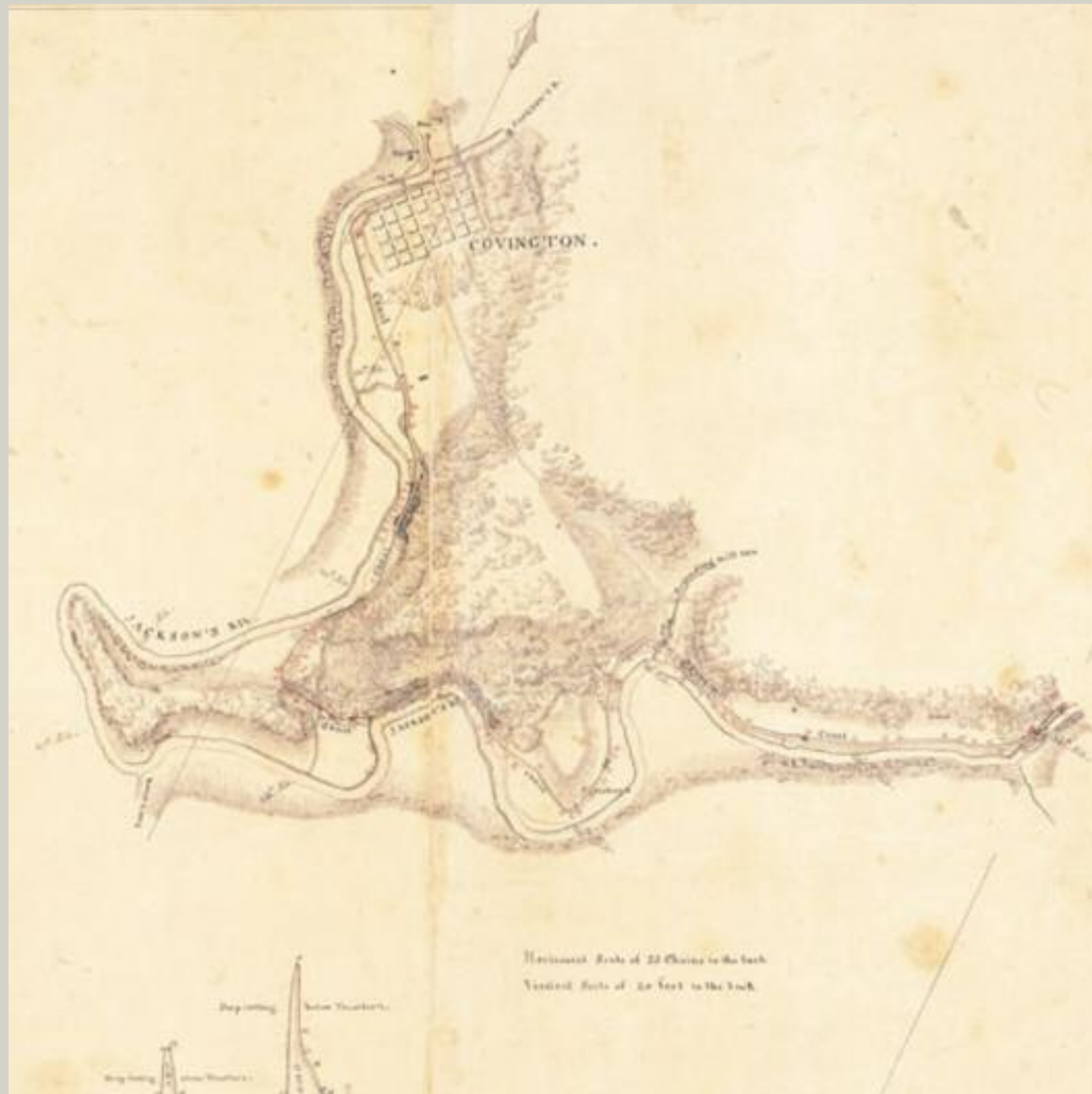
erty, they argued, they had no reason to leave. Now these anglers are being sued \$10,000 apiece for trespassing while fishing.

Who Cares About the King?

For many Americans, the very words "Crown Grant" just don't sit well. Who cares what some old king granted to some old crony? Didn't we fight a War of Independence to get out from under such capriciousness? We're Americans, and we should fish anywhere we choose! When we approach the issue rationally, however, we can see that property rights are foundational to our common law. The fact that King George was eventually interred with his forefathers, the fact that we gained our independence from Great Britain—none of this changes the fact that certain tracts of land were entailed to individuals. We've traditionally honored those deeds on principle. So the question is not whether or not a Crown Grant to private property should be upheld. Rather, the question in this case is whether or not a legitimate Crown Grant exists that supersedes state law in this particular case. And therein lies the problem.

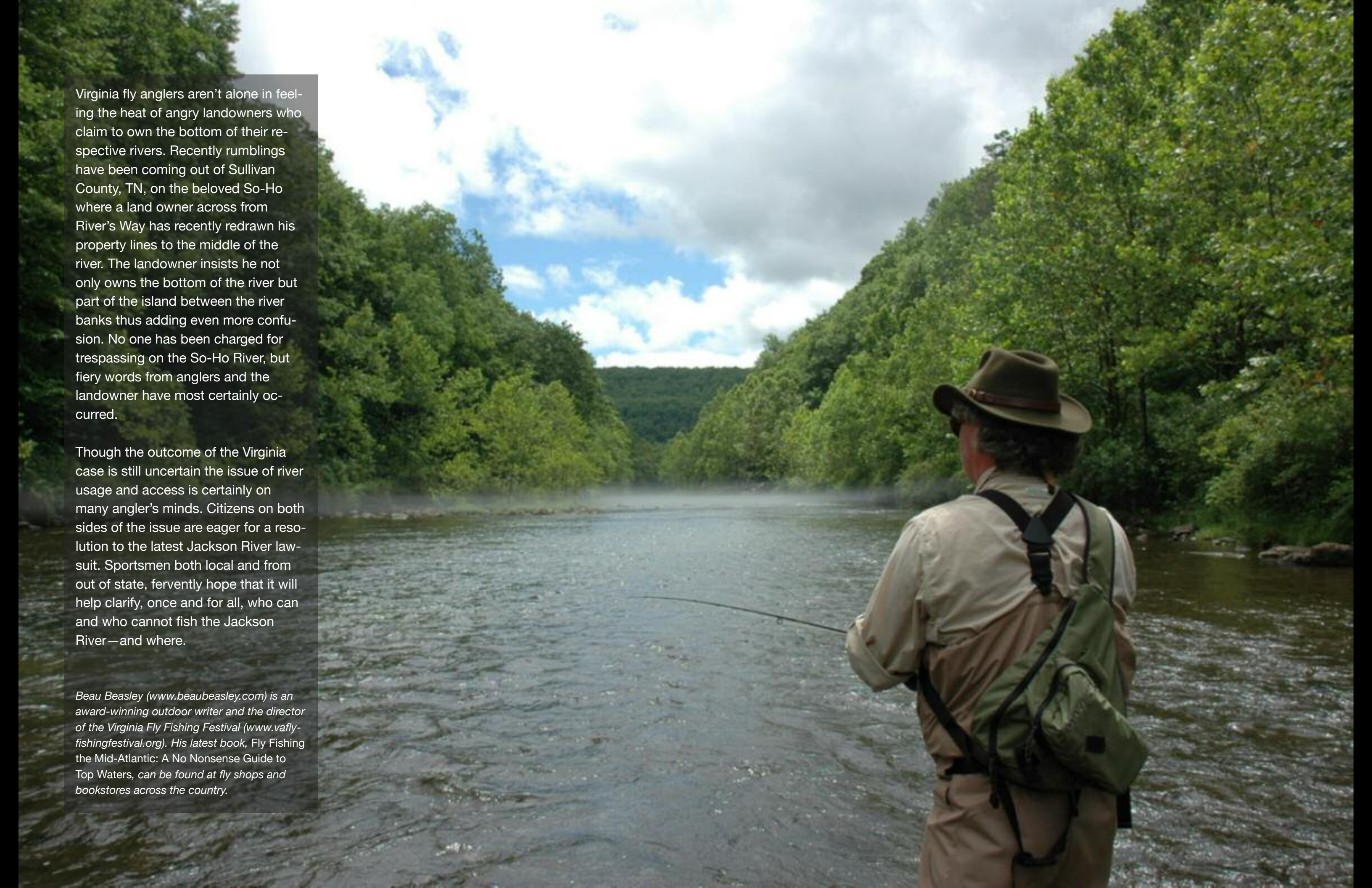
Whose River Is It?

The VDGIF got an earful from sportsmen about the Jackson River posting, and in June 2009, the department sent a letter to North South Development to let them know that their signs were not enforceable because the state didn't recognize their ownership of the river bottom. Furthermore, the signs might be construed as limiting the public's right to fish, which in itself is a violation of state game laws. Nevertheless, as of this writing, the River's Edge signs are still posted alongside the Jackson.



The plaintiffs in this new case argue that they own the land on both sides of the river and pay taxes on the river bottom—that they, in fact, have the same exclusive claim to that section of the river that the Court recognized in the *Kraft v Burr* decision. Because the state refuses to uphold their property rights and bring criminal charges against trespassers, they are forced to sue anglers in civil court. James Jennings, attorney for North South Development, says that “this is a clear-cut case of trespassing—pure and simple. The anglers were asked to leave, and they didn’t. My client has little recourse since the state won’t recognize his property rights.” Property owners also complain that Jackson River anglers leave trash behind and get out of the river onto their property, which is certainly illegal.

Unfortunately, the Virginia Attorney General’s office has declined to involve itself in what it says is a civil matter. But the problem is that the three hapless anglers were obeying VDGIF licensure and access guidelines in determining where to fish—and still found themselves under fire. Naturally, they feel betrayed. The anglers claim that they have already spent thousands of dollars defending themselves; concerned sportsmen have set up a website (www.virginiariversdefensefund.org) to keep sportsmen updated on the case.



Virginia fly anglers aren't alone in feeling the heat of angry landowners who claim to own the bottom of their respective rivers. Recently rumblings have been coming out of Sullivan County, TN, on the beloved So-Ho where a land owner across from River's Way has recently redrawn his property lines to the middle of the river. The landowner insists he not only owns the bottom of the river but part of the island between the river banks thus adding even more confusion. No one has been charged for trespassing on the So-Ho River, but fiery words from anglers and the landowner have most certainly occurred.

Though the outcome of the Virginia case is still uncertain the issue of river usage and access is certainly on many angler's minds. Citizens on both sides of the issue are eager for a resolution to the latest Jackson River lawsuit. Sportsmen both local and from out of state, fervently hope that it will help clarify, once and for all, who can and who cannot fish the Jackson River—and where.

Beau Beasley (www.beaubeasley.com) is an award-winning outdoor writer and the director of the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival (www.vafly-fishingfestival.org). His latest book, Fly Fishing the Mid-Atlantic: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters, can be found at fly shops and bookstores across the country.

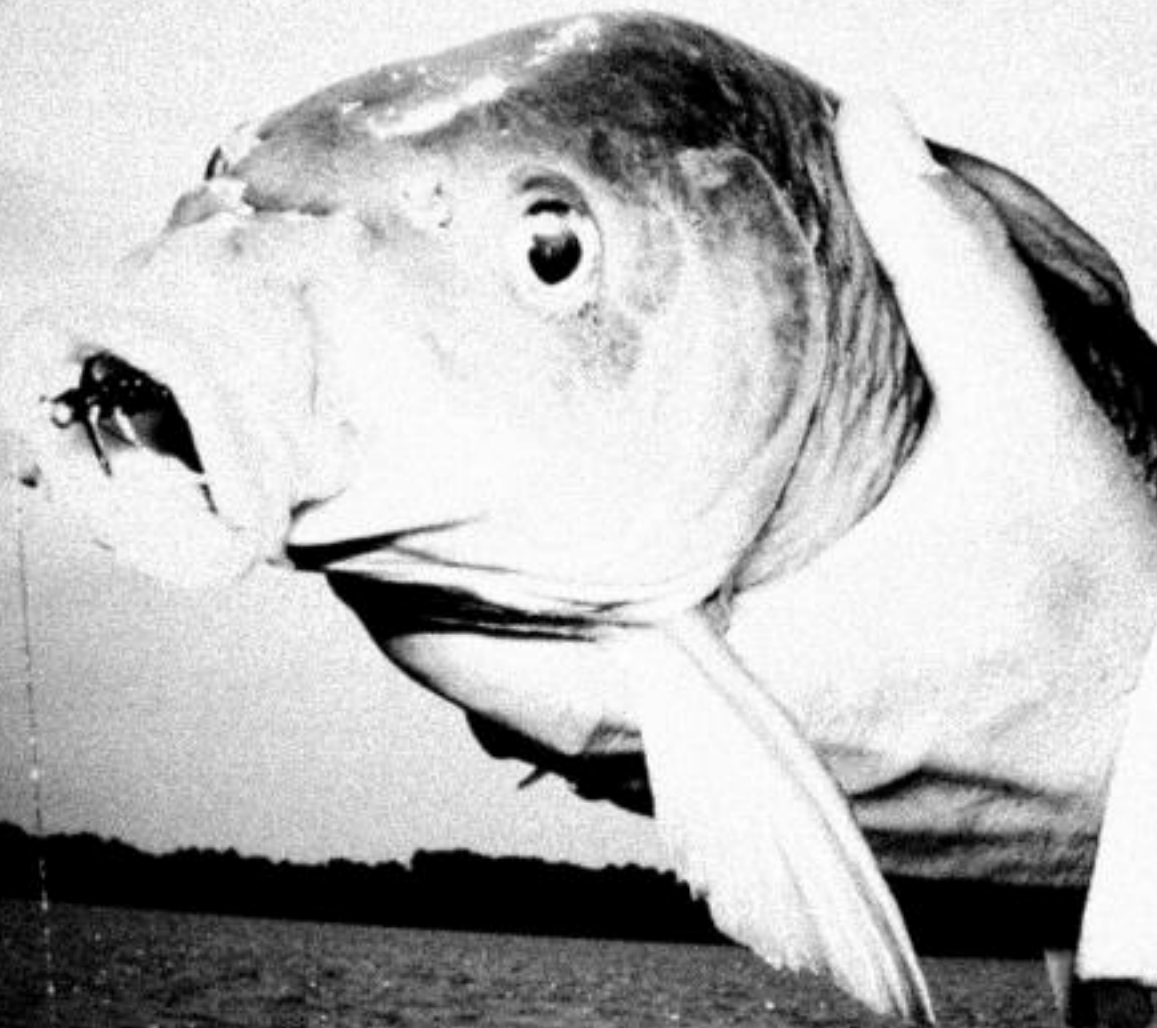
MOVING PICTURES

Bent Rod Media

Ryan Dunne

Ryan Dunne and Heath Cartee team up for some fall carp action.

Carp fishing isn't easy by any stretch of the imagination. So when we set out to shoot this video for the first issue of *Southern Culture on the Fly*, we figured we would wrap it up in one outing. Well we were wrong. Cold fronts, wind, boat issues and spooky carp made it a several day endeavor. Not to mention our main HD cam took a swim on the last day. Look for more carp video down the road.



Carp...It's what's for dinner



click to begin film experience

**"Of the thousands of
fly fishing sites on
the internet, yours is
the one I come to
every day."**

— a G+G fan



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

WWW.GINKANDGASOLINE.COM



Carolina Fly Company





The Albie Diaries



Every fall the not so rich, and semi-famous of the fly fishing world gather on North Carolina's crystal coast to play an annual game of whack-a-mole with the fastest fish on the planet, the False Albacore. This October it seems that the albies have been getting the better of the fleet, but for a couple of days we tossed our hats into the ring, and saw why this migration inspires a McRib like devotion in those that live and die by the 'core.



DAY ONE



"I'm on a
boat mother
f#@kr!"



I think we
might just
have something
for that.





Why won't he
stop?

You want me to
grab him where?



That's the
most muscle
I've felt in
years

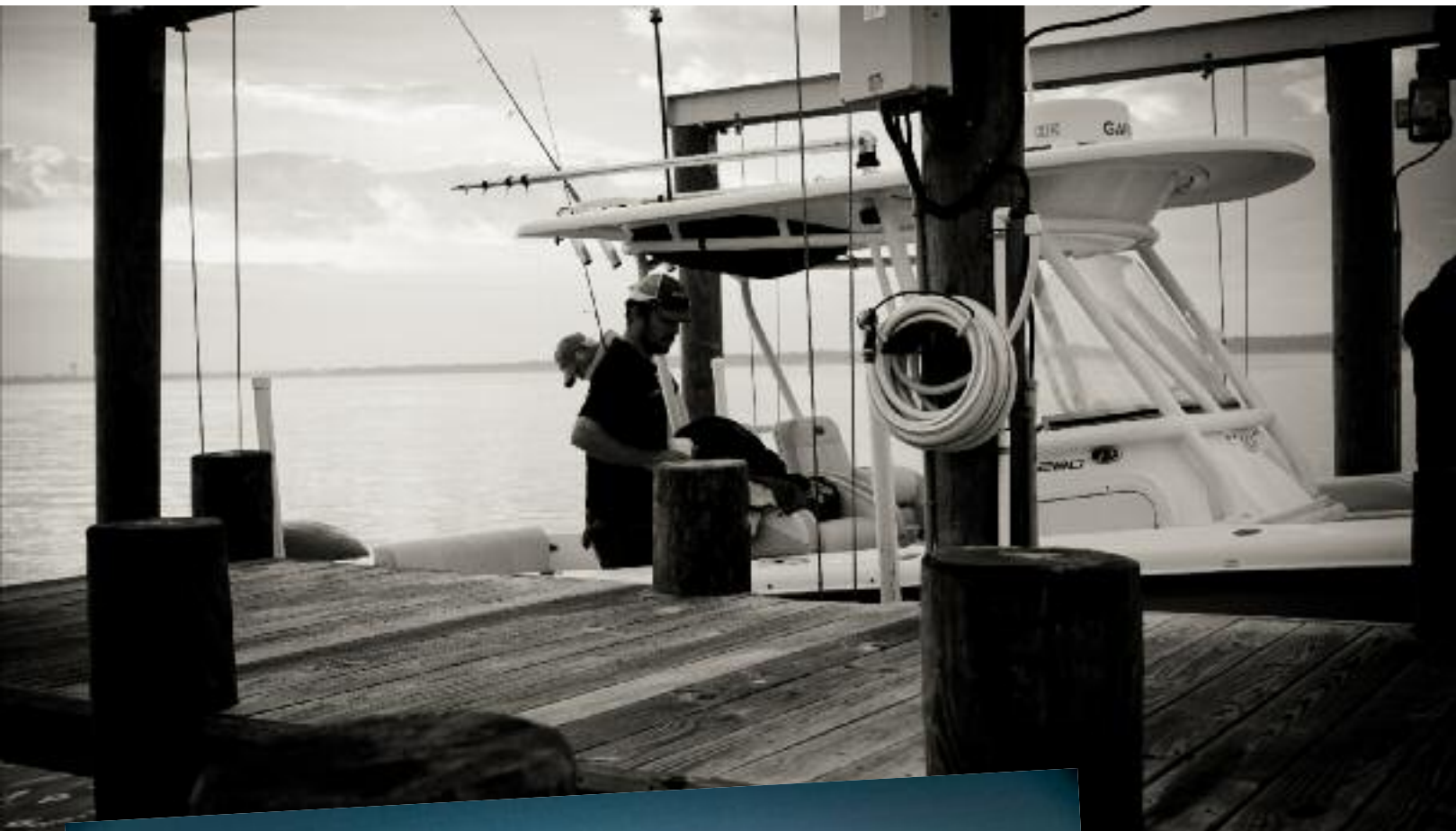
I ♥ Albies



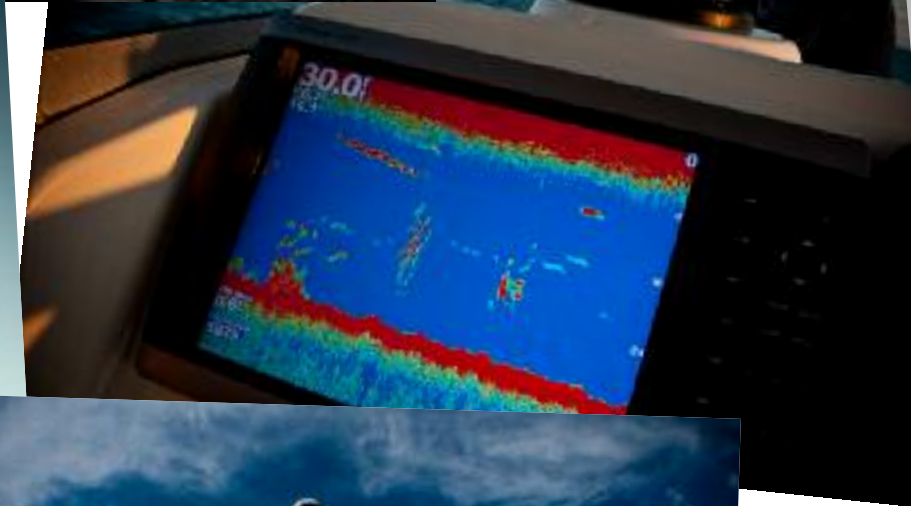
I swear this is
how the book
said to do it.



DAY TWO



Hope springs eternal...the
sun is bound to shine on
every dog's ass one
day...one more time into
the breach young
man...anything I forgot?

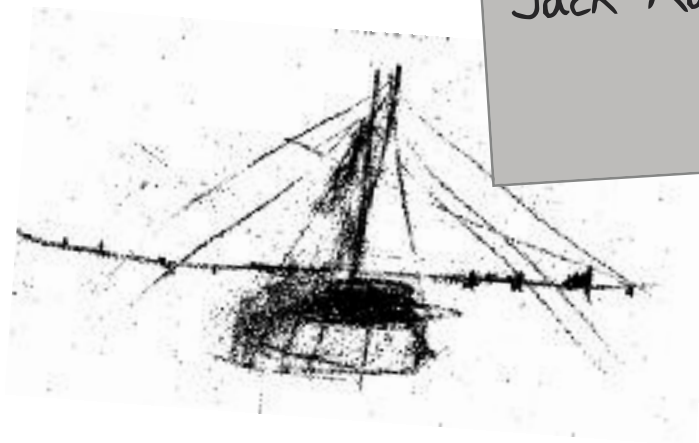




Broken things....



How much for
the shrimp and
the women?



"You got your
ears on
Jack Rabbit?"

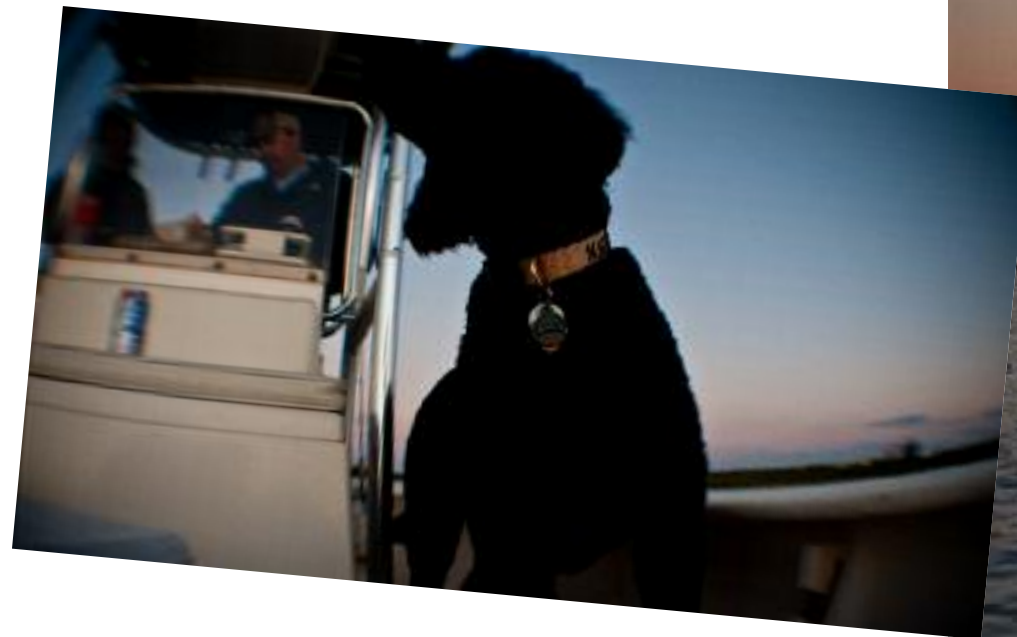
I'm glad somebody
knows what
they're doing out
here.





Another shitty day in Paradise.....

We would like to thank the whole Harker family for housing a couple of degenerates like us, and also for treating us to some whiteknuckle boat rides chasing green and blue ghosts. Sam Sellars (You should absolutely buy your next beach home from this man) also deserves his own fair share of thanks, for showing a couple of river rats how much the fly game changes when you marry horsepower to open water.





strategizing

The Best of Both Worlds

By Josh Garris

No I am not talking about a Miley Cyrus song. Yeah it's bad that I even know that, but with an eight-year-old daughter it is inevitable. What I am really talking about is giving fish opportunities to eat how they want to. We have all heard the saying, "Fish eat 80% below the surface." Although this is very true, most of us would rather be dry fly fishing or just don't have confidence in nymph fishing in general. Setting up a dry dropper rig can help solve these problems by allowing us to fish our dries, but at the same time fish with a fly where most of the fish are feeding. Dry fly strikes are visible and with the dry fly serving as an indicator, the nymph strikes are very visible as well.



Set Up

Dry dropper rigs are nothing new, but there are several newer ways to set up your rig. The most tried and true set up is to choose your favorite dry fly (hopefully one that floats well and is easy to see) and tie a 12-18" (can be adjusted for depth of water) piece of tippet to the bend of the hook. Then attach your nymph to the tippet. For all knots, I find the clinch or improved clinch is the easiest to deal with. With the line connecting directly to both flies, this set up is the easiest to use and the most functional. Your nymph strikes will be relayed quicker, and the opportunity to have alternates pre-rigged makes this a great stepping stone in your fly fishing skill set.

With fly fishing competitions becoming more common, a set up technique taken from them can really add more dimensions to the dry dropper game. Getting rigged up for this version starts a little differently. You begin with an 18-20" piece of tippet and attach it to your leader. After tying and before trimming, you want to leave one of the tags attached and you attach your dry fly there. The nymph of choice is then attached to the bottom of the tippet. The nice thing about this rig is you tie one less knot, and you will get more movement off your dry fly. The drawback here is this rig will be slightly more likely to tangle up unless you minimize your casting.

Although both set ups are fairly easy, there are other things to consider when getting ready to hit the water. One: the average depth of the water that you will be fishing. This affects the depth of the dropper. Just as when fishing straight nymphs, you want them to be as close to the bottom as possible. While actually being able to make the dropper go as deep as you want, remember the longer dropper offers more opportunities for tangles. Two: the amount of weight on the fly or how much you add. Always start off smaller, weight-wise, and add more if needed. Too much weight will pull your dry fly under and make it unrealistic, not to mention you won't be able to see nymph strikes.



Equipment

A lot of the equipment and tools needed for fishing a dry dropper set up are ones that you likely already have, such as dry flies, nymphs, nylon tippet and floatant. The ones that might not be on the radar are fly dryer, fumed silica, fluorocarbon tippet, and one that can be very helpful, a lindy rigger. The fly dryer is a huge help but not mandatory. Using your sleeve or blowing the dry fly off can help the situation, but does not work quite as well. Dry shake or brush on powder is a necessity in order to keep your dry fly riding high on the water so you can keep track of it. There is a difference between the liquid floatant (Gink, Aquel, and Dry Magic) and the fumed silica (Frog's Fanny, Shimazaki). The liquid is used before the dry fly gets wet, and the silica is for after. Fluorocarbon tippet, although more expensive, can really help



your nymph sink quicker because the line is much denser than nylon tippet. The one tool that might be the most foreign is the lindy rigger. The lindy rigger is a foam cylinder that allows you to pre-tie rigs at home when there is plenty of light, and magnifying glasses if necessary. This allows you to switch your flies out quicker, which allows for more fishing time.

Fly Selection

In the Southeast, we have some of the oldest mountains, which means a lot of the minerals were leached out long ago. This in turn means less of a bug population in most of our streams. What that means for our fly selection is we have a bigger window of opportunity. Most times we don't have to match the hatch exactly. Our fish eat good drifts with approximate flies. When I say "approximate" I mean something in the ballpark of what the fish are seeing that time of year. When choosing the dry flies for my rigs, I am looking for bugs that float high and stay dry. Wulff flies are great options in all the varieties that are out there, as well as Elk Hairs, and one of my favorites in the spring time, the Thunderhead. As for nymphs, the first factor to consider has to be weight compared to fly buoyancy. Too heavy a nymph will pull your dry right under and defeat the whole purpose of the rig. My favorite droppers range from small emergers during a hatch, soft hackles, and probably the one that finds the end of my line the most, a small golden stone.

How to Fish It

Dry dropper fishing is approached the same as most other styles. You are casting upstream looking for slow drag-free drifts. (The keyword is “slow”.) Look for the areas that will allow you the slowest drifts in the fishy areas and set the hook any time the dry disappears. The dry fly will be one of the most sensitive indicators you can use and even the smallest takes will drop the dry. A lot of time, I will mentally grid the water out in my head to make sure that I make several casts to each section, with the really fishy ones getting even more attention. Making shorter casts will allow you to get slower drag free drifts, not to mention your hook set will be much quicker the less line that’s involved. Typically, it is better to fish an area and then take a step out as opposed to pulling more line out. The further you cast, the more likely your line will come in contact with the water, which allows chance for drag. High sticking, or keeping as much of the line as possible off the water, is another great way to ensure great slow drifts. This is much harder to achieve the more line you have out. One of the seldom practiced techniques that can make a huge difference is slowly transitioning from your drift into your cast. A slow lift will make the dry skitter on the surface look like an adult trying to escape the surface film, and it will make the nymph swing up just like an emerging insect. When you get strikes in either instance, a lot of times the fish will often hook themselves. This is a truly effective technique on tailwaters.

Josh Garris spends his days guiding the mountains of Western North Carolina, and his nights yearning for the days when he still had a ponytail.





Bass Ackwards

Fall Smallmouth on the Holston Proper

By David Grossman
Photos by Steve Seinberg



Smallie fishing in the mountains can be a “hit or miss” affair.

When it's good it's every-other cast, and when it's bad...well, you know what it's like when it's bad. Freestone smallie rivers blow out every time someone spills a cup of water, and mid-summer temperatures can make even really good rivers resemble a desert. Thus, the nature of mountain smallie streams. However, there are exceptions to every rule.

The Holston proper in Kingsport, TN, is a product of some crazy ingredients that somehow in the end have created one of the most consistently bronze- friendly 20 miles of floatable river in the Southeast. Let's go ahead and take a look at the recipe:

Ingredients:

- 1 TVA dam
- 1 Eastman Chemical plant
- 70 degree discharge year-round from said chemical plant

Method:

Mix it all up and throw in a dash of unfinished nuclear plant for weirdness, and you get a smallmouth bass fishery that produces consistent 14" bass with shots at 18-22" on a lot of days, and when I

say a lot of days I mean a lot of days. The season is year-round on the upper 10 miles, and May through November on the lower ten.

This may just give the Holston Proper the crown of "Most Fishable Smallie River in the Universe" (I'm basing this on my laziness to fact check and your unwillingness to call me on it).

While the upper river will fish all year, floating over a gnarly low water diversion dam with rebar at the bottom usually scares off everyone but the most brain cell-averse.

We hit the lower half of the river in late November with friend of SCOF and owner of Troutfishers Guide Service, Randy Ratliff. Timing is the name of the game this late in the season on the lower end. Three or four days with daytime highs of 70 degrees or warmer will usually spell active fish, and your last chance to feel the ridiculous pull of a pissed off smallie for at least five months. It pays to go with someone who knows the river because 10 miles is a lot of water to cover blind, and fluctuating water levels will do a pretty good job of moving fish around. Lucky for us, Randy runs the Holston more than any guide in the area and has the whole deal pretty dialed in as far as we're concerned.



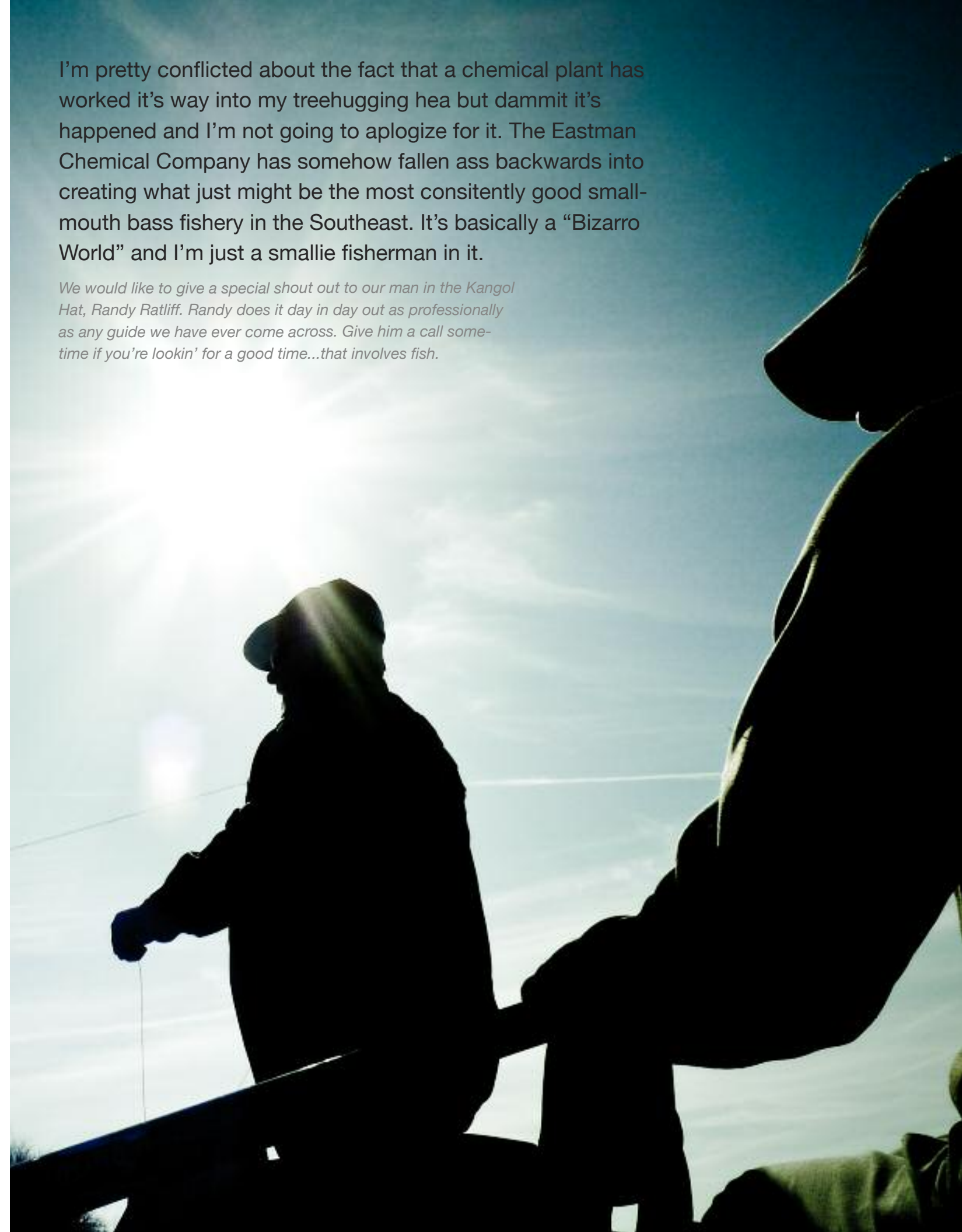
The usual smallie subsurface suspects will get you a lot more action this time of year, but if you absolutely must play the top water game, there will probably be a few bronzebacks that will be willing to play along. The best part of this river might be the complete

lack of pressure it receives. The spinning boys tend to run and gun through it like wildfire and the fly crowd is few and far between. The day we were out, we had the entire river to ourselves with only a couple of civilization sightings along the entire length.



I'm pretty conflicted about the fact that a chemical plant has worked its way into my treehugging heaven but dammit it's happened and I'm not going to apologize for it. The Eastman Chemical Company has somehow fallen ass backwards into creating what just might be the most consistently good smallmouth bass fishery in the Southeast. It's basically a "Bizarro World" and I'm just a smallie fisherman in it.

We would like to give a special shout out to our man in the Kangol Hat, Randy Ratliff. Randy does it day in day out as professionally as any guide we have ever come across. Give him a call sometime if you're lookin' for a good time...that involves fish.



www.TheFiberglassManifesto.com



GET YOUR DAILY DOSE

sack up

a bag for every Southern situation

By David Grossman

Fly fisherman and their bags are about as close as most of us will ever come to truly understanding the female persuasion. So, we searched low and high for the best bags for all the situations we fish here in the South. Once we found what we were looking for, we abused the shit out of them, and these are the ones that rose to the top of the heap.



minimalism

FISHPOND PINEY CREEK TECH PACK

Volume: 1220 cubic inches (backpack)

Retail: \$169.00

On some rivers in the South, having enough room for a rain jacket, water and food is infinitely more important than being able to carry every flybox you own. For these backcountry venues, the Fishpond Piney Creek Tech Pack makes a hell of a lot more sense than your Granddaddy's 50 lb. vest. Holding true to Fishpond innovative designs, the Piney Creek Tech Pack is loaded with features that make the "Tech" part of Tech Pack more than just a clever marketing tool. The modular design of the pack allows the Tundra chest pack to be attached in the front for fishing situations, or moved to rear when you're on the go. The two components can also be used on their own. The backpack is loaded with pockets for rod tubes, hydration systems and a sweet quick access outside compartment. The pack does more than just eat gear though, it actually allows you to carry a full load without having to visit the chiropractor the next day. Durability has never been a question when dealing with Fishpond and this pack is no different. With beefy zippers, waterproof material, and heavily stitched wear points this bag will take any abuse the backcountry can throw at it.



everything and the kitchen sink

TYPHOON WAISTPACK (LARGE)

Volume: 671 Cubic Inches

Retail: \$225.00

Guiding requires a lot of files, which in turn requires a lot of boxes. Sage's initial foray into the world of waterproof gear bags has resulted in a waist pack that will gobble up eight extra large boxes as well as all the accoutrements that go with that unseemly amount of flies. Now anyone can whip out a big sack, but where the Typhoon pack really shines is in its design and functionality. The bag has three



main compartments: submersible, semi-dry and wet. The submersible pocket will hold your phone, wallet, keys and a picture of your sweetie (in case you get lonely) in an envelope of dryness that will allow you to avoid leaving your stuff in the car at the mercy of marauding savages that have been known to frequent popular pull-offs. The semi-dry compartment is the

workhorse here, and it closely resembles that bottomless trunk on your dad's Buick you could fit three kegs and two of your slower witted friends into. The wet pocket gives you easy access to all the accessories that get pulled out and put back far too frequently to be buried in the main compartment. The Typhoon waist pack proves that Sage can no longer be labeled as just a great rod company.



maritime exploits

PATAGONIA GREAT DIVIDER

Volume: 1220 cubic inches

Retail: \$229.00

All I have ever wanted in a boat bag is a waterproof bucket with burly zippers that don't blow out after a season. Into my life walked the Patagonia Great Divider, and I have been a satisfied man ever since. This iconic boat bag has essentially remained the same since it first came out in 2003, and is the poster child for the theory of, why mess with perfection? Customizable dividers allow for any interior configuration your pretty little head can come up with and the three floating clear pockets keeps handy items, well, handy. The outside skin and welded seams inspires enough confidence, in a deluge, to leave me worry-free with my camera, iPhone and unmentionables inside her warm and dry belly. The zipper is as beefy as they get, and Patagonia even included a rip chord attached to the zipper for ease of opening (inspired, I brought this same technology to my pants quite successfully). Hopefully the Great Divide won't go changing anytime soon because we love it just the way it is.



THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN BROOK TROUT: A SPECIES IN TROUBLE

By Tyler Legg

Southern Appalachia.

Rich with culture, diversity, and beauty. High in these timeworn peaks lies one of Appalachia's many jewels. They are relics from the last ice age and have called these ragged mountains home for thousands of years. Although physically identical to their northern strain cousins, they possess different genes and are only found in the Southeast. They truly are unique to the region. The state of North Carolina thought so as well, as they officially dubbed the Southern Appalachian brook trout the state freshwater trout back in 2005. Misconceived as a trout, the brook “trout” is in fact a species of char. Brookies are more closely related to Dolly Varden, bull trout and Arctic Char than rainbow trout and brown trout—all the more reason why these fish are so special.

The Southern Appalachian brook trout, or “speckled trout” as some folks call them, have endured their fair share of stress and pressure. Deforestation, erosion, the introduction of the non-native rainbow and brown trout, climate change and acid rain—among other things—have forced these tiny, but vibrantly colored fish to take refuge in small, rhododendron-choked, high elevation headwaters. In order to catch these fish, long, strenuous hikes across rugged terrain are required in most cases. Catching northern strains—which can easily be considered Southern Appalachian strains—is easy enough. Finding and then catching true Southern Appalachian strains is a whole different story. It's like finding a needle in a haystack; a haystack of pesky northern strain brookies. You may find that needle (in this case the Southern Appalachian brook trout) if you are determined.



An angler may not catch a true Southern strain throughout the span of his/her lifetime. Unless you tote around a DNA testing kit on all of your fishing trips, or just happen to know that the fish in the stream were DNA tested, you won't know which strain you're holding in your hands. When you are absolutely sure that the squirming, myriad of colors in your hands is a true Southern strain, it's a bit overwhelming. At least it is for me. Knowing that this fish is the only native salmonid in the South, the fact that they are North Carolina's state freshwater trout, and reminding yourself about the tribulations these vulnerable fish have endured, makes hiking long distances, climbing over car-sized boulders, and fishing in areas miles away from civilization worth it all.



Although they are still present in particular streams, the Southern Appalachian brook trout is uncommon and non-renewable. Once they are gone, they are gone for good. If we don't extend a helping hand, Southern Appalachia's only native salmonid species could vanish before our very eyes. We didn't think much about the Passenger Pigeon or

the eastern cougar back when they were alive and well. Now they are forever gone from the face of the Earth. "Devastating" only partially describes what the potential loss of the Southern Appalachian brook trout. Get the word out and take a stand. The species will thank you!

Tyler runs tarheelflyfishing.com with the iron fist of a Mongol warlord. He also knows way too much about weather for someone whose last name isn't Sprinkle.

SHOAL BASS

WORLD'S BEST UNKNOWN FLY FISHING

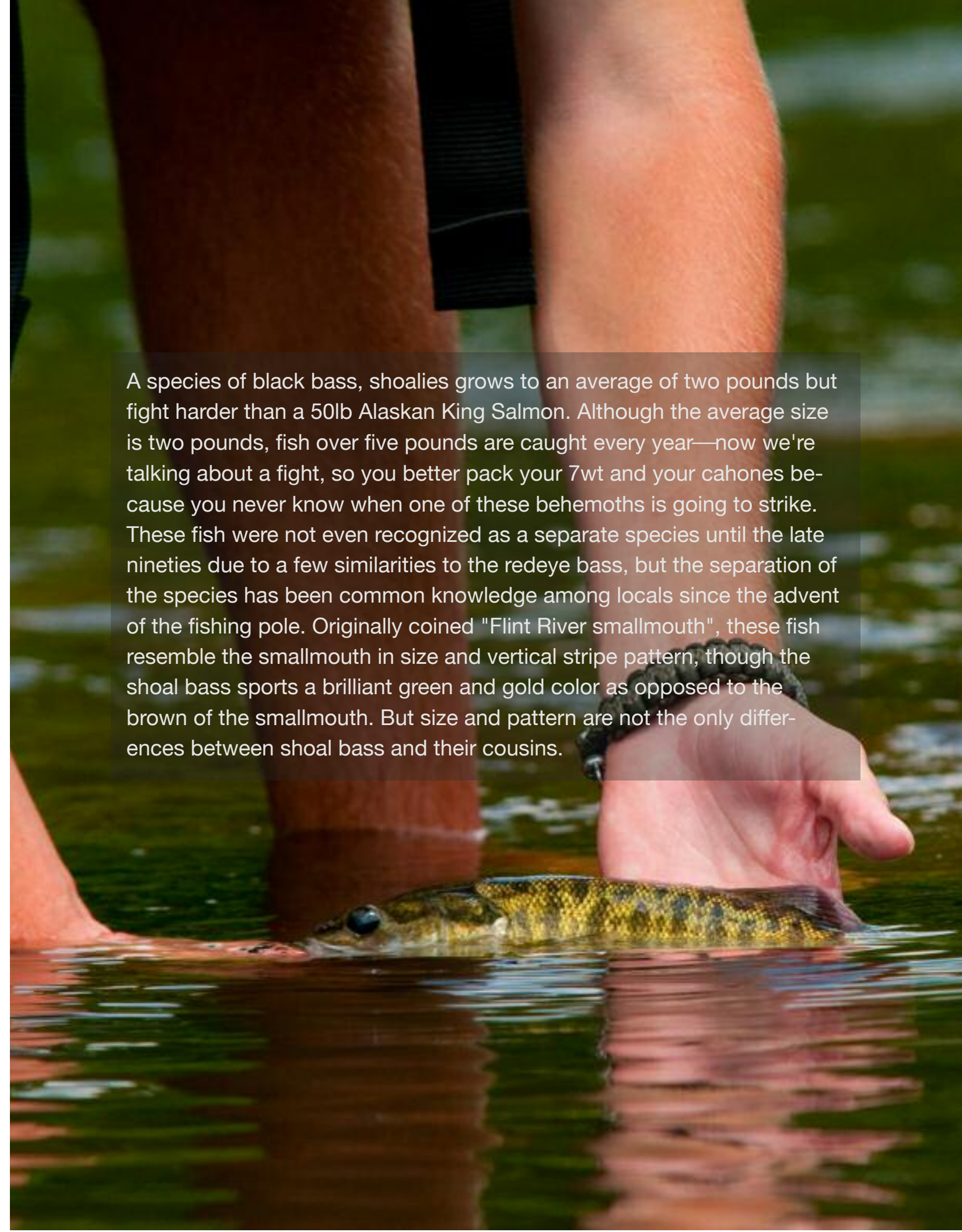
By Henry Jackson


How does a state with few trout and even fewer fly fisherman produce some of the world's best unknown fly fishing?



The answer is easy but probably unknown to most and that answer is shoal bass. Some of you have heard of it, most of you probably haven't. Georgia's shoal bass is sort of the unclaimed claim to fame of Georgia fly fishing. Sure, there's trout in the northern part of the state and all manner of salt drinking species out on the coast, but the rest of the state's waters are too warm for trout and not everybody lives on the coast, so that leaves Georgia fly anglers with the shoal bass.

A species of black bass, shoalies grows to an average of two pounds but fight harder than a 50lb Alaskan King Salmon. Although the average size is two pounds, fish over five pounds are caught every year—now we're talking about a fight, so you better pack your 7wt and your cahones because you never know when one of these behemoths is going to strike. These fish were not even recognized as a separate species until the late nineties due to a few similarities to the redeye bass, but the separation of the species has been common knowledge among locals since the advent of the fishing pole. Originally coined "Flint River smallmouth", these fish resemble the smallmouth in size and vertical stripe pattern, though the shoal bass sports a brilliant green and gold color as opposed to the brown of the smallmouth. But size and pattern are not the only differences between shoal bass and their cousins.





Trout anglers, upon first observing shoal bass behavior, will notice many similarities in ambush points and feeding habits. But what makes them special? Rarity and beauty. Found only in the South and native only to the Appalachicola-Chattahooche-Flint River Basin, the shoalie is one of the rarest black bass in the country and their unmistakable tiger-stripe pattern is breathtaking as it flashes from underwater in the Georgia sun. Out of the three rivers the shoal bass calls its native home, I prefer the upper half of the Flint. A fishing trip on Georgia's Flint River is almost unmatched as you can go for hours with seeing only a few rundown fish camps or other anglers. No hustle and bustle of the city to be found, just pure and untouched wilderness. The Upper Flint is one among a handful of rivers that flow unimpeded for more than 200 miles, something no other shoal bass river can claim. Conservationists are fighting hard to ensure the river remains able to make this claim as attempts at dam construction are repeatedly defeated. For seasoned veterans searching for a rare trophy or new fly anglers testing the waters in a land void of trout, the shoal bass provides a quarry as hard-fighting and crafty as any fish in the world. The rivers this bass calls home transport anglers away from a world of fancy gear, expensive boats, and boxes loaded with numerous patterns of flies and takes you back to something simpler where a few poppers, a couple of droppers and a streamer or two are all you need for a day filled with world-class fishing.

Henry has a lot to say about Shoal Bass. Judging by the smiles on their faces, his clients don't seem to mind. We here at SCOF are planning on catching the next midnight train to Georgia.

Achieving A Splendiferous Autumn

Tips and Tactics for Southern Delayed Harvest

By J.E.B. Hall



Delayed Harvest
season has come
to the Southeast
once again.

This is a magical time of year when the rivers are low, the water is clear, and state wildlife agencies pour writhing buckets of "mountain trout" into pools thought deep enough to sustain life. The month of October can make for some hectic moments throughout Southern Appalachia and anglers wanting to get the most out of Delayed Harvest should definitely have a solid game plan.



Photo by Steve Seiberg

Location

Choosing the right spot is key to mastering Delayed Harvest. There are several indicators that mark a particular stretch of river as good holding water for mountain trout and the best way to access this water is by parking in the right gravel pull-out. The most obvious pullouts are near bridges. Bridges seem to have a magnetic attraction for trout and fishing the pools directly under them will almost always end in success. Another key feature to look for is easy access. Choosing water within a 20-yard walk from the car will ensure that anglers get the maximum amount of fishing time and allow those driving along the road to see them in action. Finally, the most assured sign of good fishing are other vehicles parked in a pullout. Parking near prime water can be complicated, but anglers shouldn't let a full parking area discourage them. Delayed Harvest parking should be approached like a game of Tetris and with some flipping, flopping and 12-point turns, everyone can enjoy access to the best pools.

Presentation

It has been said that in fly fishing, presentation is everything. This couldn't be more true when it comes to fishing Delayed Harvest. One of the most common techniques is referred to as the "mid-stream down stream." The concept here is to wade into the the exact middle of the river, face directly downstream, and rhythmically strip Wooly Buggers through the run until they come to rest at the tip of the fly rod. At one time, this style of fishing was so popular that Wooly Buggers became scarce in the fly bins of local shops and any shop guy with a bobbin and vise could double their salary by tying custom "boogers". As effective as the "M.S.D.S." technique is, today's Delayed Harvest anglers need to have a few more arrows in their quiver when faced with adverse conditions. One of those arrows should be the ability to water haul. Water hauling is important for some of the extreme distances anglers face while casting to mountain trout. To throw the long bomb, the line should be allowed to make contact with the water on each casting stroke and then violently ripped back into the air again. When properly executed the fly will make a distinct "bloop" with each stroke. There is no better way to get a fly out into those magical 30's than water hauling.

For more the more advanced angler, studying some of the cutting edge tactics that local experts have developed to entice fish will certainly enhance their game. The most radical of these is the "dance of death". This downstream presentation involves adding yards of slack to the line and waving the rod side to side to make the fly dance enticingly as it drops down to the fish. Hook sets in this situation can seem impossible, but leaving hooks armed with a barb helps to seal the deal. The "dance" should only be attempted by experts as it requires a Jedi-like sense of awareness to be effective.

Appearance

Let's be honest, the reason most of us fish is to be seen doing so. That being said, an angler's appearance needs to be spot on from the clothes on their back to the stickers on their bumper. First off, one shouldn't set foot out of the house without a wide brimmed hat. A circumference of 38" is a minimum and there is no maximum. Style is up to the individual and groups of anglers look best when all hats correspond. Another essential piece of attire is a vest. Nothing screams "I'm a trout fisherman" to the civilian populace more than wearing a vest. Vests come in a variety of styles and colors that can suit the tastes of almost any fly angler. For maximum show, vests should have the appearance of a well-decorated Christmas tree. A fly patch full of flies, an assortment of trinkets that belong in a physics lab, and plenty of patches to show one's loyalty to organizations, manufacturers and favorite destinations are great ways to make a vest look even more "fishy". More rebellious anglers forgo vests all together, and

instead, choose to wear chest packs and gear bags. Like potato chips, one gear bag is never enough. A combination of a backpack, a chest pack and a waist pack is sure to get heads turning and fellow anglers wondering if they should ask for an autograph. All of these bags should be color coordinated and stuffed full for more stunning visual effect.

As mentioned above, choosing the right parking spot is important, and in doing so, anglers inadvertently leave their vehicle as a roadside billboard to the world. A collage of fishing stickers on the back glass of a luxury SUV is akin to the tattoos one displays while in prison. Each one has its own story and the collective narrative tells other anglers who's truly a bad ass. The amount of surface area on a vehicle that can be covered in stickers is seemingly endless, but there are five rules to follow to make sure a vehicle is legit:

1. You must display a TU sticker. Preferably one that spells out the words "Trout Unlimited". Membership is optional.
2. Stickers from manufacturers may only be displayed if there are more than three separate companies represented. Anglers are not required to own any of these brands of gear.
3. There must be sufficient sticker coverage as to render the vehicle's rear view mirror useless.
4. Some stickers must be placed on areas forward of the taillights.
5. Vehicle must always be parked to allow maximum sticker visibility.





Photo by Steve Seiberg



J.E.B. Hall is a guide, author, kayaker, and an all-around Western North Carolina weirdo....which is truley a special brand of weird.

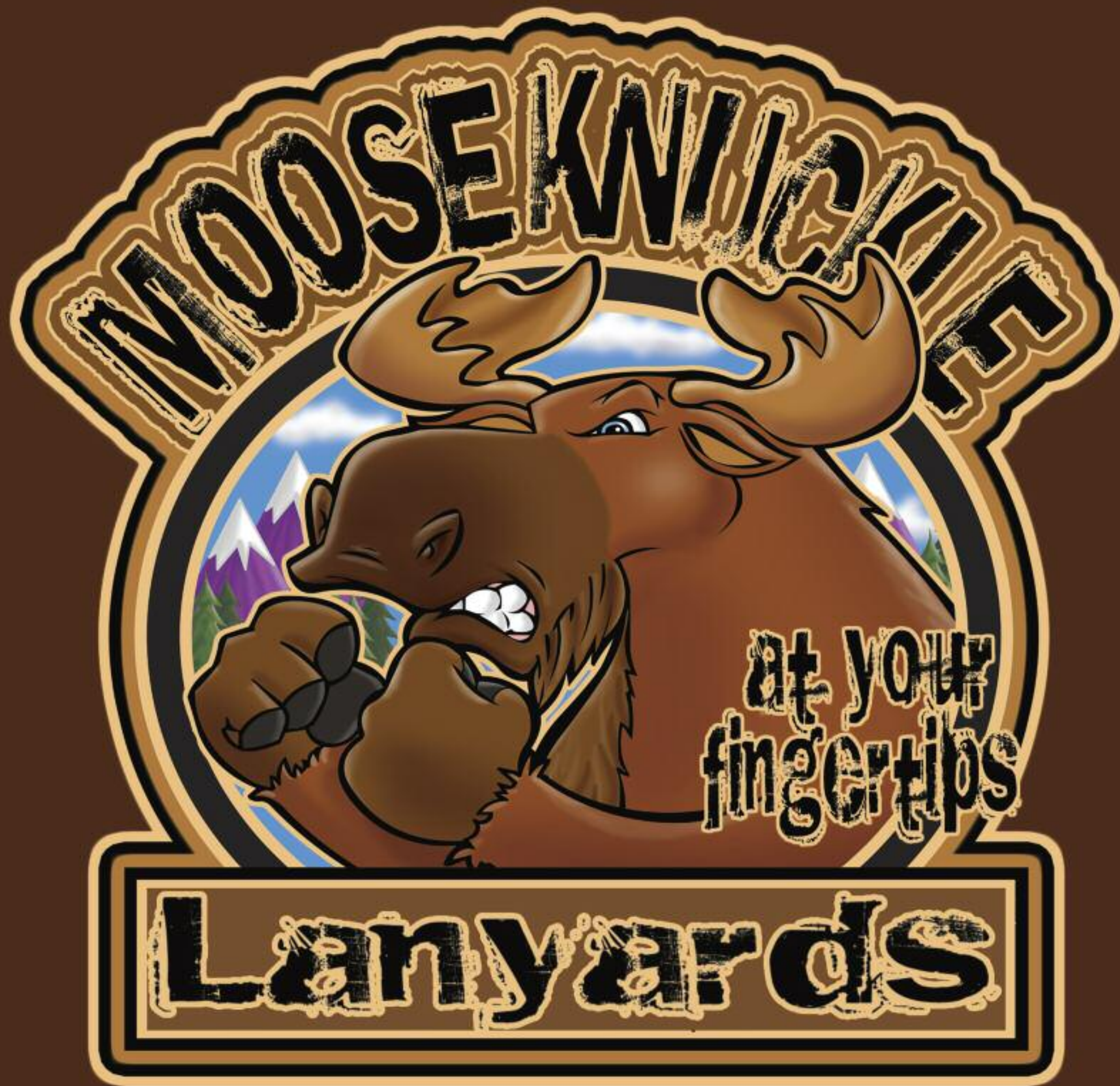
Etiquette

Fly fishing is, and always has been, considered a "gentleman's sport." Proper etiquette is the dignified bond that ties all fly anglers together. Delayed Harvest streams often come with their own set of behavioral guidelines based on location and the local fishing population. There are some common themes among all DH anglers that should be referred to when on the water. The first thing to remember is there is no such thing as too crowded. The more people in a stretch, the better the water is being covered. More than five anglers fishing in a run establishes what is known as a "Wall of Pain." Establishing a "Wall" creates a great opportunity for anglers to watch other anglers catch fish, and at the same time, deftly blocks boat traffic from making its way downstream. Anglers should also keep in mind that "fishing through" is their God given right, and they should never let some bogged down duffer stop them from reaching their desired water. Most important rule in DH etiquette addresses the issue of guides. Fishing guides should always be regarded as second class citizens. Anyone who refers to going fishing all day as "work" is clearly a noncontributing citizen and has not earned the same rights to use the water as someone who is fishing to feed their soul. Actions such as blocking guides' access to boat ramps or casting into their sports' runs is not only acceptable, but should be encouraged. The fewer the guides, the better the fishing.

Delayed Harvest fishing is tough, but the dedicated Southern fly angler is tougher. Following the advice given above is a good baseline to having a successful season on the water. Those looking to take their fishing even further should follow this article up with fly angling research basics such as fly shop employee interrogation, Internet chat board discussions and intensive magazine studies.

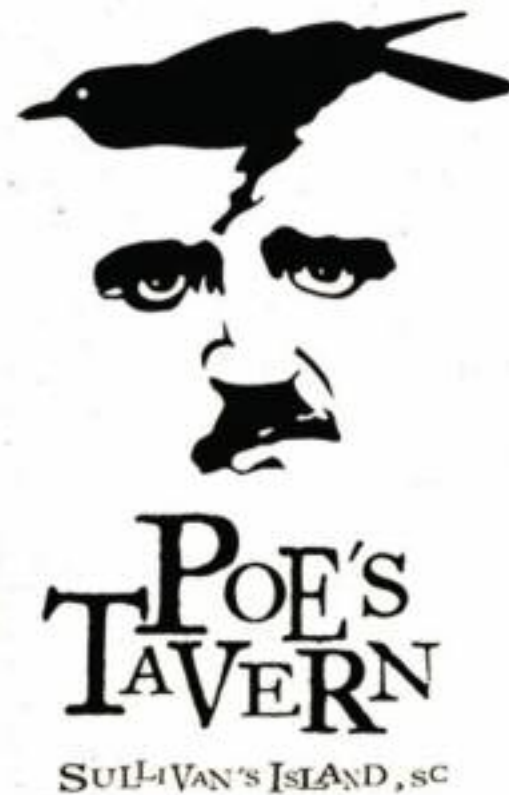
Hook em' in the guts,

The Hamster



Get yourself some drink ...and fixin's

By Cameron Mortenson



As a Midwest expat, I was completely unaware of the small islands that are just minutes and a couple bridge hops away from downtown Charleston until our move almost a dozen years ago to the mid-lands area of South Carolina. My wife and I spent many of our days off and weekends exploring the “Holy City” and then venturing out to the islands as well. My Lowcountry education had begun and I quickly realized that there is still quite a bit of “Old South” influence mixed with the new.

I can't remember who tipped us off about Poe's Tavern, and we may have found it all on our own, but on a warm spring afternoon we ended up on Sullivan's Island looking for something to eat before driving back home to Columbia. An old weathered but well-kept beach bungalow complete with covered porch bar and an artful sign with the familiar grimace of Edgar Allen Poe beckoned us in.



On that first visit, Poe's was more or less empty besides a couple of friendly wait and kitchen staff, and we sat outside enjoying a drink and then an excellent lunch wondering how we had this place all to ourselves. That was the last time that we ever had that wonder, since no matter the season or time of day, our frequent return visits have found the place overflowing with locals and weekenders mixing it up over drinks while they wait for a table to free up. In short, Poe's is popular and well worth the wait.

The menu is straight forward with a short list of tasty appetizers and then choices of salads, gourmet burgers and sandwiches and fish tacos as entrees. All the gourmet sandwiches can be made as a half-pound freshly ground burger or with a six-ounce chicken breast and each sandwich has been dubbed with a reference to Poe's work such as the Hop Frog, Annabelle Lee, Tell-Tale Heart and others. Toppings include the standards such as various cheeses and applewood bacon, but other add-ons of a crab cake, pimento cheese, a fried egg or buffalo shrimp give these sandwiches a unique, Lowcountry flavor. Hand-cut fries are my recommended side and the onion straws are well worth the extra dollar.

The fish tacos are not to be missed and include choices of yellowfin tuna, mahi-mahi or buffalo shrimp on a flour tortilla, with a bit of cabbage and a spoon of fresh salsa or sour cream. Order three if you're really hungry—otherwise two is quite enough for lunch or dinner.

If you're going to eat, then you're likely going to drink as well and Poe's Tavern has a full service bar with a mix of beers on draft and in bottles (including local and seasonal brews), a small but workable wine list, and of course fine spirits.

Poe's Tavern took its name and inspiration from the thirteen-month stint that Edgar Allen Poe spent on Sullivan's Island in 1827 while stationed at Fort Moultrie, which is located on the west end of the island just minutes from the restaurant. Poe penned "The Gold Bug" while living there and his residence certainly adds to the lore and history of the area.

While ol' Edgar may have never thought of dropping a crab fly in front of a tailing redfish in the nearby marsh, if you find yourself in the Charleston area with an appetite or thirst, then a visit to Poe's Tavern should certainly be in your plans.



*Poe's Tavern, 2210 Middle St., Sullivan's Island, SC. Open: 11am-2am seven days a week.
www.poestavern.com*

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

By Craig Holeman



In the true spirit of Southern hospitality the Fish Hawk welcomes all its customers as if you were a part of the family. With a staff that can service any of your fishing needs from fly tying advice to custom rod building, there is nothing that the Fish Hawk can't do for its customers.

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also help anglers travel to their ideal destination and operate a fly fishing school. No matter what or whom you are shopping for, when it comes to fishing, the Fish Hawk has what you need.

The next time you are in the capital of the South, stop on by and meet Gary and the boys. They will treat you right, and most importantly, help you get on some fish.

Snuggled amidst high rises and highways, sits one of the Southeast's premier fly angling destinations: the Fish Hawk. The Fish Hawk has been helping fly anglers with all their needs from gear to traveling for almost 40 years. Gary Merriman, owner of the Fish Hawk, has knowledgeable and friendly staff who are able to help customers of all experience levels. The Fish Hawk embodies what Southern fly fishing is about. Whether you are in town for business or a resident, if you want to get on some fish, it is your best bet

to get the information you need and the fly patterns that are hot.

Though the location of the shop has changed through the years, it's currently located right in the heart of Buckhead where Roswell Road meets Peachtree Street. The Fish Hawk carries a wide variety of premier brands such as Scott, Simms, Fishpond, Rio, Able, Hardy and many more. They also have every fly you need, whether you are stalking trout in the North Georgia Mountains or hunting snook in the mangroves.



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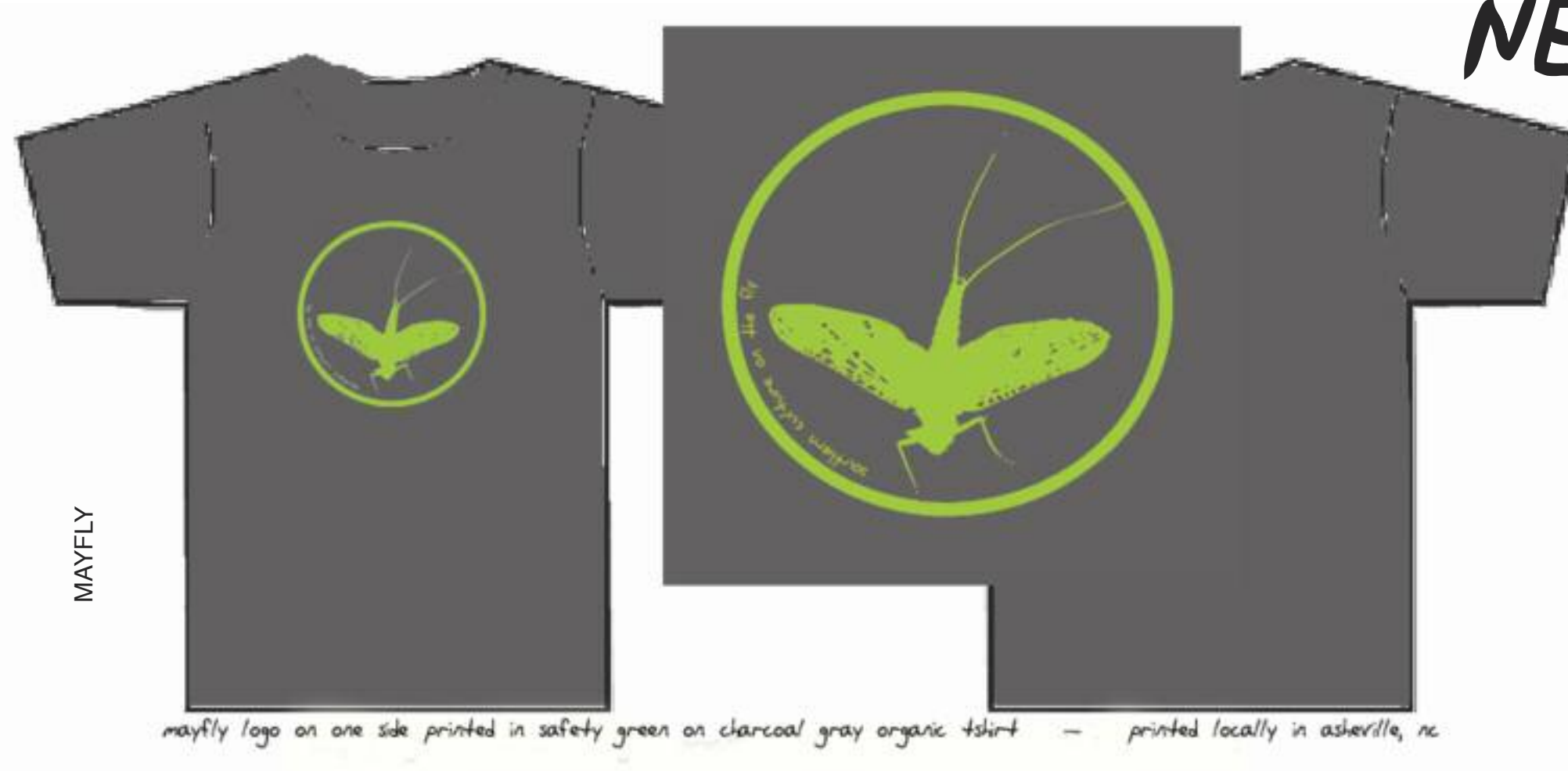
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