



Newsletter February 2025

President's Message

Well, as my predecessor said, it is a bittersweet moment as I am retiring from the Presidency of this great club and moving on to an advisory role on the Board. Looking back there were many good times: from great meetings, presentations, outings, BBQ's and fishing together, along with sad moments like losing founding members Armand Courchaine and Howie DeBeck, along with the difficult times through Covid. While some clubs have folded, we are still meeting and gaining new members—continuing traditions of 35 years.

You all should have received the Ballot email. Think about filling in your name or nominate someone you feel would be a great fit for the Presidency or a Board position. Continue the tradition! This is a Great Club! It is Your Club! Get involved! Join the Board! Make Crossroads Greater Still!!

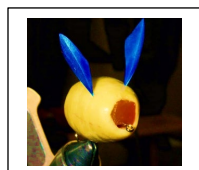
I also want to thank the board: Steve Dewar, Sumner Levine, Izzy Bettencourt, Rob Dewar, Dan Deneault, Joel Kessler, Russell Glen, Gary Johnson, and Doug Carver for their support through the years.

Also, in earlier newsletters we highlighted tying the Woolly Bugger. Now we're including how to fish it.

For those that missed our last meeting, you missed an excellent and highly enjoyable presentation on **Fishing Cape Cod in 2025** with Ryan Collins from **My Fishing Cape Cod**.

We are always looking for ideas and new members. Invite someone you know or don't know who might be interested in fly fishing to a meeting. At the meetings voice your opinions. We need your input. This is your club. Even if you cannot make the meetings, we are very interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas as well.

I was thinking of spending some time perfecting the combination of the Blue Winged Olive and the best liquid to use it in.....



As always tightlines,
Ed "O'Fishally Retired"

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday February 25, 2025

**South Foxboro Community Center
382 South St. Foxboro, MA 02035
Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm**

Calendar

- **February 25th** **30th Anniversary Party and Elections and Fly Tying**
- **March 25th** **Steve Voit presentation on Fly Fishing Collectibles and Treasures**
- **April 29th** **Captain Brian Kelly**
- **May 27th** **Annual BBQ**

Events

- **March 5, 11, 18** **Rod Building Workshop**
- **May 9-11** **Annual Spring Deerfield Outing**

P.S.--> Paleeze make your Club Dues payment at the Membership table this month. Thanks!!

Fishing The Woolly Bugger

By [Louis Cahill](#)



There are a lot of “right ways” to fish a Woolly Bugger.

I know, I know, this is super basic but after we published the article “The Woolly Bugger Isn’t all that, Or is it?,” I got emails asking how to fish the Bugger. I’ve joked about writing this article plenty of times and now I think I was being a jerk. We obviously have readers who want the info, so here it is.

One of the emails I got asked specifically if the Bugger should be fished on a nine foot tapered leader or a five foot level leader. My immediate reaction was, “It depends on how you’re fishing it.”

The reason the Woolly Bugger is possibly the greatest fly pattern ever tied is that there is almost no wrong way to fish it. It’s one of those rare patterns that looks like so many different types of food, it’s hard to make it unappealing. And not just for trout, I firmly believe you can catch anything that swims with a Woolly Bugger. I regularly wear out bonefish on a tan bugger. For the purpose of this article I’m going to focus on techniques for trout fishing. The Bugger can be fished as a nymph or a streamer and even an emerger. If you figure out how to tie one that will float, I guarantee it will work as a dry under the right conditions.

Let’s look at some techniques for fishing the Woolly Bugger in some of these different roles.

Fishing the Woolly Bugger as a nymph

It’s hard to beat a dead drifted Bugger for catching trout. Sink it with a split shot or build weight into the fly to get it down to the strike zone. Fish it under an indicator or high stuck on a tight line. Whatever approach you prefer, with the right amount of weight, a dead drifted bugger will produce.

Some of the food items a bugger can pass for, when fished in this way, are stonefly nymphs, helgermites, cranefly, damsel and dragon flies, mayfly nymphs (in appropriate sizes), crawfish, leaches, baitfish, and tadpoles. The dead drift will almost always work but if you think about that list some other techniques become obvious. Remember I mentioned emergers? Stoneflies emerge by swimming or crawling from deeper water to the edge of the stream, where they crawl onto the bank and into stream side brush where they can shed their shuck and dry their wings. A Bugger, quartered downstream and swung toward the bank imitates this behavior perfectly. Swung with a twitch it makes a convincing crawfish. Strip it back upstream and it will pass for a small baitfish.

Fishing the Woolly Bugger as a streamer

Huge streamers are all the rage these days, but a Woolly Bugger often imitates the small baitfish and the like available to trout more accurately. Even when I am throwing big streamers, which is often, I'll tie a Bugger off the back. It often out produces its big brother. Fishing this way with a sinking line, usually from a boat, is the only time I use a short level leader.

On smaller streams a Bugger can be fished effectively as a streamer with a lot of different approaches. Cast it across the current and strip it back, or swing it downstream, or a combination of the two. I like to do this with a floating line so I can mend the line to change the direction the fly swims. I'll work it through every piece of tasty looking water I can on a single cast. Don't be afraid to cast directly up or down stream and retrieve at an appropriate speed. Both work well on small streams.

The Woolly Bugger is dynamite on stillwater fisheries. Especially when damsel flies are active. An olive Bugger can make for some very memorable days. Tied with heavy lead eyes and rubber legs, it can be bounced along the bottom like a crawfish. Mix up your retrieve until you figure out what the fish respond to. Fished in this way, the Bugger is the ultimate searching pattern.

The only wrong way to fish a Woolly Bugger is not to fish it.

For that reason, it's a real friend to the beginning angler. If your presentation is less than perfect, the Bugger is a very forgiving pattern. Just get it in the water and the fish will do the rest.



Tie them in every color and size you can think of. Tie them with different amounts of weight and try some with bead chain and lead eyes. Rubber legs are almost always a great addition. I have buddies who tie Buggers so fancy they become completely different patterns, but the simplest Buggers are often the best. Brown, black and, above all, olive are classics for a reason. Two-tone versions are great attractors as well. I tie them as small as #16 and as large as #2 extra long. I usually dress them sparsely but bushy patterns will work too.

I hope this helps you think of the Woolly Bugger in new ways, and catch some fish you might have missed before. When my eyes get a little better I'll shoot a video on how I tie my 60 second Woolly Bugger. It's dead simple, incredibly effective and you can fill your box in a hurry.

Since Woolly Buggers are also considered streamers.....:

Fly Fishing: 3 Great Times to Fish Streamers

by [Kent Klewein](#)

When conditions are right, streamers can be your best bet.

I fell in love with streamer fishing the very first time I cast one. All it took was me bringing one trout to the net on a size 6 white Zonker, and I was hooked. I'll never forget that beautiful 15" wild rainbow trout, that I caught and released on a ten foot wide Southern Appalachian blue liner up in North Georgia back in the 90s. I remember the tiny stream being too overgrown and tight for me to make traditional fly casts so I crawled down on a flat boulder, stripped out some fly line and dead drifted the streamer downstream into a pool. Nothing happened at first but I didn't give up. Instead of retrieving the fly all the way in, like most anglers regularly do, I instead made a few strips in and then let the streamer drift back down into the pool. On my third attempt, that gorgeous wild rainbow trout hammered my streamer and I brought it into my net. I still use that downstream stripping and drift back technique quite a bit when it's called for. It works equally well with nymphs and dries.

The thing about streamer fishing that anglers need to understand is there's always going to be hot days and cold days fishing with them. When the streamer bite is hot, they can out fish every other type of fly rig on the water. When it's cold, it can be a whole lot of work with very little reward. Then again, you'll never find out what the streamer reward is going to be if you don't take a few minutes to fish one. Over the years, I've found three situations where streamers tend to fish really well for trout.

1. Overcast Days

Cloudy days seem to improve streamer fishing significantly for trout and many other species of fish. If I had a choice, I'd much rather spend my time fishing streamers over fishing them during blue sky days. If you find the fishing slow on a cloudy day, tie on a streamer and fish it for a while, because you might find yourself with a big increase in hookups. Cloudy days have provided my clients some of my best days of fly fishing over the years.

2. High Water

When the water is high, it makes trout feel more comfortable. You can smack a heavy streamer on the water and it won't faze most trout in the water you're fly fishing. The bigger profile fly of a streamer works in the anglers favor because it does a good job of catching the eyes and attention of the trout. The high water is also perfect conditions for trout to ambush and catch the prey of trout off guard. When you've got high flows, I highly recommend you giving streamers some fishing time.

3. Low Light

This past week, I was fortunate enough to spend some time streamer fishing some gorgeous trout rivers in Wyoming and Idaho. Louis and I found that the first couple hours of the day during low light to provide exceptional streamer fishing. We caught our biggest trout of the trip with them. Streamers works exceptionally well in locations where the air and water temperatures are cold and the dry fly bite takes a while to warm up. Spending the first couple miles of river fishing streamers can pay big dividends.

Freshwater Fly Drive



We all have flies. Flies everywhere. We all have flies. Big ones, small ones and itsy-bitsy ones. Flies we tied way too many of. Flies that look great but we might never use, etc, etc, etc ...

So now there is something that you can do with them

We are continuing our

“Freshwater Fly Drive”

for some great causes

For Example:

Casting for Recovery & Project Healing Waters

I would like to get at least a dozen or more freshwater flies from each of you
(members/non-members)

With or without fly boxes

Bring them to a meeting or send them to me:

Ed Rosenbloom / 62 Cabral Cir. / Stoughton, MA 02072

Guided Charter Trip Raffle with Captain Ray Stachelek or Captain Brian Kelly

Are you still dreaming of catching that fish of a lifetime?

Now is your chance!

You could be the winner of a trip with
Captain Ray Stachelek or Captain Brian Kelly

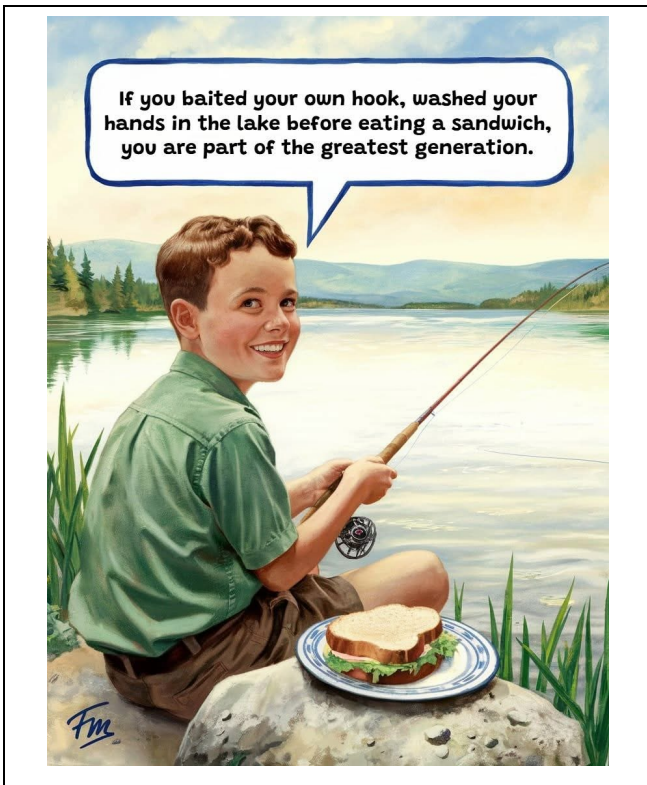
Tickets for the Guided Trip Raffle are Available. Ask any board member. They are \$20.00 a ticket. Or 2 tickets for \$30.00.

Drawing will be for 1 raffle winner with 1 or 2 guests.

Don't forget to ask your fishing buddies
if they'd like to purchase tickets too!

**THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE
MAY 2025 BBQ MEETING!!**

The Trip includes 8 hours of fly and/or spin fishing with
Captain Ray Stachelek in Rhode Island
or
Captain Brian Kelly in the Plymouth MA / South Shore region



If you baited your own hook, washed your hands in the lake before eating a sandwich, you are part of the greatest generation.



2024 Crossroads Anglers Officers

- Ed Rosenbloom President
- Steve Dewar Vice President/Webmaster
- Izzy Bettencourt Membership Co-Chair
- Doug Carver..... Membership Co-Chair
- Sumner Levine..... Treasurer
- Russell Glen..... Advising Board Member
- Gary Johnson..... Advising Board Member
- Dan Deneault Newsletter
- Bob Dewar. RaffleMaster

Please visit our website:
www.crossroadsanglers.com
For contact info on any Club Officer

This is our monthly newsletter for the 2024-2025 season.
Best Wishes to All to Continue to Stay Safe and Stay Well!
See you Soon!!