



American Fly Fishing Literature

The Twentieth Century

2008 Exhibit

Paul and Mary Ann Ford
Fly Fishing Collection

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This year's books are examples of story-telling, fishing art and fishing club histories that enlarge and enrich our understanding and appreciation of American fly fishing. Sometimes we find inventiveness unique to the American experience. But beware! We encounter, too, crafty, seemingly aloof and purist fly fishers who slip angleworms into their otherwise pristine vests—or worse yet, villains who bury lively bait-minnows in the recesses of their fern-lined creels!

A Few Storytellers

One of the most interesting characters in American fly fishing history never lived at all! His name was Dud Dean. His winter work was logging in Maine's vast, mysterious and brutal Upper Kennebec region. During fishing season he was a fly fishing guide of wit, wisdom and of a philosophical bent and kindly mien who would set straight any wise guy, no matter the man's wealth or station in life. Dud fished for blue-backed, gorgeously bespeckled Eastern brook trout known locally as "squaretails" and for landlocked salmon. Dud spoke in a vernacular peculiar to his people—people who had settled the region before 1700 and since had lived in relative isolation.

Dud was a composite figure created from the experience and imagination of Congregationalist Pastor Arthur R. MacDougall, Jr., D.D., of Greenville, Maine. The Reverend Doctor lived close by the Kennebec River and fished frequently with Maine guides. Here is how he captured Dud's vernacular as they tried to land a huge landlocked salmon:

"It's the best non-migratory salmon I ever saw," I said.

"I w'dn't go that far," drawled Dud, "but if I sh'ud happen to git him near to the boat, draw a pitcher of him, Mak, becuz I'm beginnin' to be a little a-feared that we ain't never goin'—Thar! What did I tell ye? By crotch a-mighty—!"

Dud Dean stories began to appear in *Field & Stream* magazine in the late 1920s. MacDougall was greeted with praise by most readers. A few malcontents objected to Dud's use of "crude" language. They did not understand, for example, that the word, "crotch," could mean, "Oh darn," or "wonderful," or whatever—and most often served as the end punctuation for a sentence—a period! The Pastor was a great story-teller and, based on the numbers of stories he published, must have earned fine wages! Here are some of his books.

1 MACDOUGALL, JR., ARTHUR J. **The Sun Stood Still and other Dud Dean Stories.** Bingham, Maine. 1939. Pp. 179. First edition. #529/1400. Inscribed and signed. Condition: Fine. This book's first chapter tells us about Dud's

people, their heritage, their language and living in Maine's vast wilderness. The other chapters are Dud Dean stories in which the author, known as Mak, and Dud pursue native brook trout and Maine's famed landlocked salmon. There is some hunting, an odd character here and there and the sweet scent of whiskey and pipe tobacco.

_____. **If It Returns With Scars.** Bingham, Maine. 1942. Pp. 240. First edition. 207/750. Inscribed and signed. Condition: Fine. Introduction by Bliss Perry. (Harvard Professor of English Literature and author of the classic *Fishing With A Worm.*) Illustrated by Stanley W. Greene. Green inked imprint of a fish rising to a fly on the book's linen cover. While guiding the Kennebec for Mak, Dud renews acquaintances with a lovely lady. Too, we hear about catching salmon with a live mouse and worse yet a worm—not just the dry and wet fly!

2

_____. **Dud Dean and His Country.** Coward-McCann, Inc. New York. 1946. Pp. 171. First edition. Illustrated by Milton C. Weiler. Signed by George Grant. Condition: Fine. The same introductory essay also appears in *The Sun Stood Still.* We learn that in addition to the Eastern brook trout and landlocked salmon, Dud and Mak pursue the lake trout, called a "togue" in Moosehead Lake. Lots of fun here with the likes of "The Man from Athens" and "Crazy Stiller."

3

_____. **Dud Dean and His Country.** This is the deluxe limited edition. 244/450. Signed. Condition: Fine. Frontispiece is a river fishing scene by Weiler. Cover is quarter bound in red linen and the boards are light gray linen. Gold fish imprint on the cover. It appears that the same "block" was used for the internals of this book as that used in the trade edition.

4

_____. **Under A Willow Tree.** Coward-McCann, Inc. New York. 1946. Pp. 200. First edition. Illustrated by Milton C. Weiler. Very fine in fine dust jacket. Women fly fishers enter these Dud Dean stories. Their appearance broadens scope of Dud Dean's adventures—not always to his pleasure!

5

_____. **Where Flows the Kennebec.** Coward-McCann, Inc., New York. 1947. Pp. 180. First edition. Illustrated by Milton C. Weiler. Condition: Fine in fine dust jacket. More Dud Dean adventures filled with humor and that undercurrent of seriousness that causes us to ponder this guide-philosopher's Yankee wisdom.

6

_____. **The Trout Fisherman's Bedside Book.** Hodder and Stoughton. London. 1964. Pp. 224. (First U.S. edition was published by Simon and Schuster in 1963.) Illustrated by John Pimlot. Condition: Fine in good dust jacket. These short stories, each of which includes "how to do it" elements of fishing or hunting, do not include Dud Dean. We find an overt seriousness not

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seen in the Dud Dean stories.

8 WILLIAMS, BEN AMES. **The Happy End.** The Derrydale Press. New York. 1939. Pp. 240. Foreword by Kenneth Roberts; illustrated by Churchill Ettinger. 506/1250. Condition: Fine. Gold print on green leather patch on spine. Quarter bound in heavy gray linen with green fabric boards. In clear acetate. This volume was produced during the legendary Derrydale Press's greatest days. Its author was born into wealth, educated in private school and at Dartmouth College, and was immensely successful in his career in non-fiction and fiction writing. He was an avid fly fisher and gunner. This book is famous for its Atlantic salmon fishing fiction piece called, "The Fog Blew Over the Mountain." The book is considered a classic in Americana sports fiction writing.

9 _____ . **The Happy End.** The "new" Derrydale Press. Lyon, Mississippi. 1991. Pp. 240. Facsimile edition. Condition: New. Bound in blue leather with gold imprinted title on the spine, gold imprinted angler on the cover and gilt-edged pages. Endpapers are of peacock hued designs. Fonts and page designs used in the facsimile production are exactly the same as those in the original (see above). A beautiful production.

Corey Ford invented the "Lower Forty Shooting, Angling and Inside Straight Club." He wrote numerous short stories, constructed as the club's meeting minutes, and published them in *Field & Stream* magazine. The club's characters, who lived in the mythical town of Hardscrabble (New Hampshire) are irresponsible, irrepressible reprobates who abandon their familial and occupational obligations for field, stream and cards. They are, to the man, unadulterated liars, who punctuate hilarious utterances with slugs of "Old Stump Blower" from Uncle Perk's jug kept handy at their meeting place, Uncle Perk's store. Most trout and salmon are safe from their misplaced casts—and so, too, grouse and woodcock from their errant shotgun aim. Born in Manhattan in 1902, Corey Ford was educated at Columbia University and was an immensely successful Hollywood screenwriter and one of America's most popular humorists. His "Road to Tinkhamtown" is regarded by many as one of the finest sporting short stories ever written. He lived the life of a country squire in Hanover, New Hampshire and patterned the Lower Forty's characters after his sporting cronies. Here are four books that evoke laughter and nostalgia.

10 FORD, COREY. **You Can Always Tell a Fisherman But You Can't Tell Him Much.** Henry Holt and Company. New York. 1958. Pp. 159. Illustrated by Walter Dower. First edition. Condition: Fine in fine dust jacket. The Lower Forty Shooting, Angling and Inside Straight Club's disorganized members are trying to concoct their Constitution, figure out whether or not they will ever take in new members, learn to catch a horn pout and outwit the Widow Libbey

who they suspect may kick them off their favorite woodcock cover. They debate weighty issues--such as "going on the wagon."

_____. **Minutes of the Lower Forty.** Holt, Rinehart and Winston. New York. 1962. Pp. 159. First edition. Illustrated by Walter Dower. Fine in fine dust jacket. Mr. MacNab's hearse has disappeared. Stolen? Borrowed? Who knows? This is no ordinary hearse—for it has been especially tricked out as a fishing vehicle. Too, we learn that the club's Constitution has been completed and contains just three "Artickles". To wit: "No Rules." "Everybody's President." "If ennybody else wants to join this club go ahead, but don't bother us about it. We've went fishing."

11

_____. **Uncle Perk's Jug.** Holt, Rinehart and Winston. New York 1964. Pp. 150. First edition. Illustrated by Walter Dower. Condition: Very fine in very fine dust jacket. The "juice" flows in this one as Deacon Godfrey sues the club for defamation of character—with opening arguments in the suit held on opening day of trout fishing season. We hear of a flying fish house and more about the words, "You can't get there from here." The self-righteous Deacon Godfrey, villain of Hardscrabble, is nabbed stealing trees. Uncle Perk's Jug never seems to run dry.

12

_____. Ed. by Laurie Morrow. **Trout Tales and Other Angling Stories.** Wilderness Adventures Press. Bozeman, Montana. 1995. Pp. 185. Inscribed and signed by the editor. Condition: New in new dust jacket. "Men Are Fish" or "How to Live with A Fisherman" are among these entertaining stories. But more important, Morrow's few comments on Ford's personal life are enlightening. He lived alone, but with a gun dog or two at his feet, a pipe close at hand and the finest of spirits in his liquor cabinet. His housekeeper managed his brick colonial home on the edge of the Dartmouth College campus. He was mentor and friend to Dartmouth students. A cosmopolite—he traveled the worlds of Manhattan and Hollywood and Chile and back to Hardscrabble. Yet, he had no funeral and his forgotten gravesite was discovered by the editor years after his death. As Corey might have asked with that grin and uplifted brow of his, "Was he what he was?"

13

LAMB, DANA S. **On Trout Streams and Salmon Rivers.** Barre Publishers. Barre, Massachusetts. 1963. Pp. 97. First edition of fifteen hundred copies. Condition: Fine. Green cloth boards with a gold fly imprinted cover and spine titled in gold. In glassine cover. Born in 1900, Lamb studied European literature at Dartmouth and Princeton and became a very successful New York City investment broker as well as President of the Anglers' Club of New York. He was especially fond of Canadian Atlantic salmon fishing, but loved his New England trout and grouse, too. The money he earned from his many books went to conservation groups. The language of his books is lyric, the chapters brief, the experience and wisdom compelling. This was his first book.

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15 _____ . **On Trout Streams and Salmon Rivers.** Biographical introduction by Faith, Lawton and Gordon Lamb. Meadow Run Press, Far Hills, New Jersey. 1996. Pp. 97. Edition of 1500. Added artwork by Gordon Allen. New. Reprint of the 1963 edition, using the same copper plates. Elegant art on slipcase.

16 _____ . **Bright Salmon and Brown Trout.** Barre Publishers, Barre, Massachusetts. 1964. Pp. 111. Limited first edition. 58/350. Signed. Condition: Very fine in fine slipcase. Tan board slipcase has landing net imprinted in gold on its face. Book is quarter-bound in brown leather with tan boards and imprinted landing net. Heavy endpapers are decorated with fly images. Lamb loved the dry fly and those browns and salmon he might lure with it. Too, he loved campfire smoke and camp life as well as the companionship of good guides and polite fishing company in the Northeast's fishing and hunting haunts. Lamb wrote in another place, "The fishing is only part of it."

17 _____ . **Bright Salmon and Brown Trout.** Meadow Run Press, Far Hills, New Jersey. 1996. Pp. 111. Edition of 1500. Added artwork by Gordon Allen. Condition: New in new slipcase. Reprint of the 1963 edition. using the same copper plates. Elegant art on slipcase.

18 LYONS, NICK. **The Seasonable Angler: Journeys through a Fisherman's Year.** Funk & Wagnalls, New York. 1970. Pp. 177. First edition, first printing. Condition: Very fine in new dust jacket. Nick Lyons is the dean of America's living fishing writers. A Columbia University Professor of English, Lyons not only has written brilliantly about fly fishing, but he has been an editor, and publisher-underwriter of what became America's "golden age" of fly fishing publishing from about 1980-2000. This book ranges from very funny opening days to deeper contemplative moments in the life of a guy who was born with a "stick" in his "paw." Great storytelling.

19 _____ . **Fishing Widows.** Crown Publishers, Inc. New York. 1974. Pp. 154. First edition. Fine in fine dust jacket. The question Nick poses is whether addiction to fly fishing is comparable in some way to adultery? Read the book and learn how various personalities deal with an imminent threat to their moral integrity!

20 A. RUSTY RAT. **Summer's Salmon.** Meadow Run Press. Far Hills, New Jersey. 1997. Pp. 70. First edition. Edition of 1500. Condition: New in new slipcase. Blue paper slipcase with a John Swan painting of "Summer" on its face. The book is quarter bound in burgundy linen with buckram boards and gold title on its spine. This somewhat erotic spoof about a gorgeous young woman's impact on an Atlantic salmon fishing camp roused a few "hackles" within the elitist crowd. Rusty Rat is a well-known Atlantic salmon fly. So who wrote the book?

Artist-Fly Fishers

Winslow Homer, proper Bostonian, artist-laureate of American fly fishing during the late 19th and early 20th century, was precursor to an illustrious group of artist-fly fishers who captured the sport with pencil, pen and ink, water-color, oil and acrylic in the 20th century. His art takes us cross-stream from one century to the next, though there was precious little fly fishing art before his time. His work ranges from a quality of stark detail to one of illusiveness. He loved fly fishing and he caught its fullness especially in watercolor over graphite on paper and oil on canvas.

William J. Schaldach, a Midwest transplant to New York City and Vermont and eventually to Tubac, Arizona, was born in 1896. Though he studied art formally, he was his own genius, mastering oil painting, water color, dry point, aquatint on copper plate, pen and ink and pencil. He wrote beautifully of fly fishing and hunting—his two beloved sports. He was editor at New York-based *Forest & Stream* magazine until it became *Field & Stream* where he was fishing editor. But Bill Schaldach's heart was in his art and writing and he lived long and highly productive years in Tubac, where we have walked his footsteps so often. His art graces museums such as the "Met," libraries, and universities and our Library of Congress. Schladach was a master fly fisher, hunter, writer and artist. His only American peer as artist-writer-sportsman was Roland Clark.

Peter Stockton Corbin was born in 1945 in New Jersey, a son of wealth who attended private schools where his instinctive interests in creating sculpture and in painting were nurtured. Corbin is a master of acrylic on canvas and oil on canvas, watercolor and pencil. He has illustrated fishing classics such as Reiger's *The Silver King* and *The Bonefish*. But his reputation has grown so that now most of his works sell as individual pieces. Critics say that there is a universality caught in the subtly of his work. That is, the viewer almost never sees a full human face in his paintings or drawings. Rather these features are subsumed in universality of setting.

JUNKER, PATRICIA, WITH SARAH BURNS. **Winslow Homer: Artist and Angler.** Thames & Hudson. New York. 2002. Pp. 238. First edition. Condition: New in new dust jacket. Much of this publication is based on exhibitions by the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The Adirondacks, Florida and Quebec were Homer's favorite locales. No written words can do justice to the wonders reprinted in this book. It is enough to say, "Look through it. Read the well-wrought chapters written by fine scholars. Appreciate America's first major fly fishing artist."

22 SCHALDACH, WILLIAM J. **Fish: Collected Etchings, Drawings and Water Colors of Trout, Salmon and Other Game Fish.** J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. 1937. Unnumbered pages. 1471/1560. First printing. Oversized. Condition: Fine. Leaping trout impressed in gold on book's board cover. Schaldach's introduction explains how he creates drypoints and etchings and comments on water color and other techniques he used to create this book's wonderful fish. The book's main body has just a bit of prose explanation--otherwise, just fish!

23 _____ . **Coverts and Casts.** A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc. New York. 1943. Pp. 138. First Printing. Oversized. Condition: Fine in chipped dust jacket. Here are eight autobiographical essays about fishing and hunting by one of America's best known writers of that day. Much of the art is in black and white. Be sure to see color plate, "Brook Trout Feeding." (p. 91).

24 _____ . **Coverts and Casts.** 1943. Author's Autograph Edition 77/160. Condition: Fine. Quarter bound in dark tan fabric with light tan hard-board covers.

25 _____ . **Currents and Eddies: Chips from the Log of an Artist-Angler.** A.S. Barnes and Company. New York. 1944. Pp. 138. First printing. Oversized. Condition: Fine. Maroon boards with rising trout imprinted in black on cover. "Stream fishing is a most satisfying and comforting occupation, a never-ending source of joy to those who follow it with the right spirit. It stirs the imagination and keeps alive the feeling of wonderment, without which life means little. It leads to reverence and respect." With that, the author introduces eight stories about his fishing and hunting life. See the color plate "Brownie Somersaulting."(p. 51).

26 DAVIS, TOM. **Peter Corbin: An Artist's Creel.** Hudson Hills Press. New York and Manchester. 2005. Pp. 195. First edition. Oversized. Signed by Davis. Condition: New in new dust jacket. This is a large collection of Corbin's fishing and hunting paintings as well as some other subjects. Corbin says that his fishing and hunting paintings are divided into three scenes. The first is called ***anticipation—casting to a tailing permit or rising trout.*** The second is ***the moment—the tarpon's gill-rattling leap.*** The third is ***reflection—the mellow, contemplative afterglow when images, sensations and emotions coalesce into living memories.*** (p. 19.) How do we talk about such art? Perhaps it is best just to look and consider Corbin's three scenes.

Clubs

Special Collections now holds the oldest of American fishing club histories—that published in 1830 of the Schuylkill Fishing Company. This year we add

four other volumes—all written in the 20th century. These present us with a paradox. Often the wealthy men of high social status who founded the clubs to preserve and protect streams, ponds and woodlands they purchased to be pristine refuges for wildlife available only to them, were the same people whose manufacturing mills dumped toxins into their hometown waters. Mills—sawdust mills, mills that refined ores, leather and textiles—polluted rivers and ponds wherever those mills were operated. The problem spread throughout the northeast—and so did the clubs. Membership tended to depend on “social “status, which most often was a function of inherited wealth. To be wealthy was not enough. Old wealth—that provided the privilege of “legacy”.

BELL, RICHARD G. **WHOOPS: For the Wind!** Tantivity Press. North Haven, Connecticut. 1999. Pp. 129. Paper. Signed. First edition. Four hundred unnumbered copies. Condition: New in new dust jacket. Brook trout in color imprinted on tan cover. This history of the Walton Fishing Club of Cornwall Bridge in Connecticut’s southern Berkshires, and abreast the fabled Housatanic River reaches back into the early 19th century. It resounds with chuckles, good fish tales, good booze and good times. Its humor is quite different from other club histories.

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Three hundred years ago iron ore was discovered in this region. Local economies were based in iron ore reduction. Towns prospered. Some streams were contaminated and died—others were not touched. (See George Black’s *The Trout Pool Paradox* (2004)) for a stunning report on how industry-based contamination impacted waters close by the club’s front porch. The club and its waters live on.

AUSTIN, REED. **The Old and Dear Tihonet Club.** Rip Cunningham. 1997. Pp. 113. First edition. Inscribed by the publisher to Paul Ford. Condition: New. Gold title imprinted on Harvard crimson leatherette. This club was founded by wealthy Boston area anglers in 1891 near Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts near the head of Cape Cod. It leased or owned brooks and small ponds that served the area’s cranberry bogs. Its first home was near the Tihonet Iron Works and leased from the Tremont Nail Company. By 1828 the Tihonet Iron works had become one of the largest and best rolling mills in the country—the land’s plentiful bog iron ore was smelted to steel—and, of course, stream pollution occurred. But the club’s water lay above contamination points. Club membership tended to be passed, by legacy, from father to son. Presidents and diplomats were among guests invited to fish. The anglers arrived from Boston by train and were given lavish service by staff. As years passed men invited family to partake of the club’s facilities. To this day, the club has maintained a socially elite status.

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But the record shows that some of these Boston elitists stooped to using

herring roe, lures and the forbidden worm—and worse yet, live-bait such as minnows. Alas, even the elite were (are!) fallible. Parker Perry, Tihonet’s long-time Secretary-Treasurer, often declared, “Ours is a club of gentlemen first, and fisherman second.” (p. 95). But Sparse Gray Hackle would respond, “No gentleman fishes with bait; nothing but the dry fly.” Woe to the unwary Tihonet brook trout or brown!

The club’s history is reflected in personalized essays by club members—certainly not a formal history—but fine reading. Original art and club photos.

- 29 KNADE, JR., OSCAR, JOHN A. BONYA, DONALD S. MILLER. **The History and Highlights of the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club, 1904 to 2003.** Published for the club by Meadow Run Press. Far Hills, New Jersey. 2004. Pp. 216. First edition. Illustrated by Gordon Allen. 288/300. Numbered and signed. Ornate slipcase. Condition: New. The club was founded in Pennsylvania’s rich limestone creek Spruce Creek Valley region by men of social position and wealth. They purchased and leased waters they believed should be protected. “They recognized that private control of Spruce Creek would allow for better protection of and improvements to the stream.” (p. xiv). The club stocked brook trout and browns. As late as 1990 certain members of the club were observed using worms. A battle royal ensued with no resolution reached. This is a professionally written and illustrated fishing and social history and is not available in the national marketplace.

- 30 SCHWIEBERT, ERNEST. **The Henryville Flyfishers.** Meadow Run Press. Far Hills, New Jersey, 1998. Pp. 206. 750 copies. Illustrated by Taylor Kane. Marvelous Kane art on the slipcase. Condition: New, signed in slipcase,. It appears that this was Schwiebert’s last book before his death in 2005. The book is practically impossible to find in the national marketplace.

This lyric history takes us to the Brodhead River located only eighty miles north of Philadelphia and to the mid-19th century when Henryville House served as one of America’s first fishing hotels. Fishing celebrities from Bethune to LaBranche to Hewitt to “Sparse” and Lamb fished the river. To protect its waters and their sources, well-heeled fly fishers formed an association and began the purchase and lease of prized waters. This is a brilliant wide-ranging historical essay.

A Bibliography

- 31 THACHER, CHARLES. **Angling Books: A Guide for Collectors.** Meadow Run Press. Far Hills, New Jersey. 2006. Pp. 600. (2006). Edition of 600. First edition. New in new gray slipcase with a salmon fly, “The Major,” on its face-board. Quarter bound in red leather with gray fabric boards. Frontispiece is a photograph of the title page of **A Booke of Angling** by

Samuel Gardiner (1606). This is an annotated bibliography of 15,000 collectible angling books sold during the period from 1998 to 2006. The book is of enormous value to collectors and libraries. No comparable bibliography has been published in this country. *(Note that this title was presented to Special Collections on April 9, 2007 for inclusion in the 2008 year donation.)*



All annotations by Paul Ford

who found these sources useful in assembling the Americana Twentieth Century Fly Fishing book display.

- Black, George. **The Trout Pool Paradox.** (2004). Paul and Mary Ann Ford-Fly Fishing Collection QH105.C8B57 2004
- Thacher, Charles. **Angling Books: A Guide for Collectors** (2006). Paul and Mary Ann Ford Fly Fishing Collection SH441.T483 2006



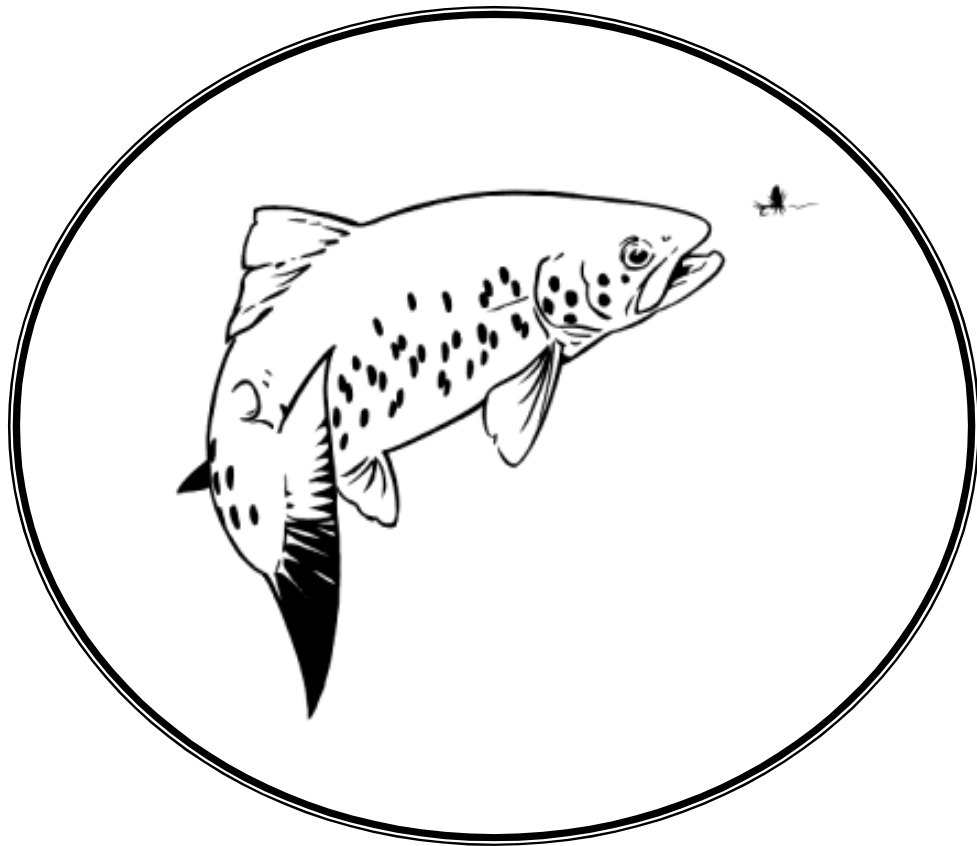
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