

# Hickory, Table Rock, High Country Trout Unlimited

## October 2025 Newsletter



October starts the beginning of the fall delayed harvest season. When was the last time you took care of your fly line? When was the last time you replaced your fly line? Does your line still float? Do you have the right type of fly line for your style of fishing.

I grew up without any thought about my fly line. Way back I would treat it with silicone on occasion and would stretch it out each time before fishing to straighten it. Do you really need to do all of that with modern lines.

This month we'll discuss all the aspects of fly lines, which style to buy, what color to buy, and how to take care of them.

### HICKORY TU MEETING

**When:** Tuesday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 PM

**Where:** Old Hickory Station  
232 Government Ave SW, Hickory

**What:** Fly fish better with special gear

**Who:** The Audience

Is there a special piece of gear you have found that makes fly fishing a lot easier or better. Come to the meeting and tell everyone about it.

Do you have fly fishing gear you no longer use that is still in good condition? Bring it to the meeting to help support our monthly raffle.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Rocky River TU Alarka 2025 Trip, October 16-19.** To see the details and sign up for the trip visit [Fall 2025-Alarka Trip](#)  
**Tie-a-Thon, Patterson School Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-3PM.** This Tie-a-Thon is for the benefit of Casting Carolinas and Casting for Hope. We will again be tying Walts worm, squirmy, Y2K, and egg fly. Materials provided, bring your own equipment but a few are available. Lunch

provided. 4646 Patterson School Drive, Lenoir, NC 28645. If you can attend RSVP to [theflyfishingsanta@gmail.com](mailto:theflyfishingsanta@gmail.com)  
**The Catawba Riversweep, October 4<sup>th</sup>.** Many locations along the length of the river. View the website to find the one you want to attend. [Riversweep](#)

**Ashe County Youth Trout Tournament, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 7AM-Noon.** Age groups 1-4, 5-10, & 11-15. Biggest catch in each age group wins a prize. Bring the kids or grandkids out for a day of family fun! [Youth Trout Derby](#)

**Casting Carolinas Tie-One-On Tournament, October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.** To enter the tournament or to sponsor, visit [Tie One On for Casting Carolinas](#).

**2026 Southeast Regional Rendezvous, March 13-15.** YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. They are now taking reservations for limited rooms at the conference. If you live within driving distance, sale of daily attendance at a modest fee will be available in the coming months. [2026 Southeast Regional Rendezvous](#)

*Note: If your organization has an upcoming event and would like it in the newsletter, send it to [HkyNCTU@gmail.org](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.org).*

### NCWRC FISHING CLASSES

<a href="#">10/8/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience</a>
<a href="#">10/9/2025 - Intermediate Fly-tying Workshop - Morganton</a>
<a href="#">10/11/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics - Lenoir - Patterson School</a>
<a href="#">10/15/2025 - Catfishing Basics - Virtual</a>
<a href="#">10/16/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience</a>
<a href="#">10/22/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience</a>
<a href="#">10/29/2025 - On the Water Fly-fishing Experience</a>
<a href="#">11/1/2025 - Family Fishing Workshop - Marion</a>
<a href="#">11/5/2025 - Catfishing Basics - Virtual</a>
<a href="#">11/8/2025 - Entomology for Anglers Workshop - Lenoir</a>
<a href="#">11/19/2025 - Fly-fishing Basics: Understanding and Selecting Fly-fishing Equipment - Virtual</a>

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The greatest challenge of autumn fly fishing is landing the fly between all the leaves floating on the river."*

*...Chick Woodward*

You are receiving this newsletter either as a member or prospective member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please respond by email to [HkyNCTU@gmail.com](mailto:HkyNCTU@gmail.com) and let us know.

## IN MEMORIUM: FLIP PALLET

A beloved outdoorsman and pioneering figure in American sportfishing



Flip Pallot, beloved outdoorsman and pioneering figure in American sportfishing, has passed away. Known to many as the total outdoorsman, Flip's lifelong love affair with the waters of the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys began in his youth, often in the company of close friends John Emery, Norman Duncan, and Chico Fernandez.

After graduating from the University of Miami, Flip served as a linguist in the U.S. Army, stationed in Panama from 1962 to 1967, where he discovered the thrill of fishing in exotic destinations. Following his honorable discharge, he pursued a career in banking before turning his passion for guiding into a full-time vocation in the Florida Keys and Everglades. His guiding career, rich with adventure, spanned more than a decade before Hurricane Andrew in 1992 forced him and his wife, Diane, to relocate to Central Florida, beginning yet another chapter of discovery and reinvention.

Flip became a household name through his work in outdoor television. After early appearances on programs such as *The American Sportsman* and *Outdoor Life*, he launched *The Saltwater Angler* before hosting the groundbreaking *Walker's Cay Chronicles* for 15 seasons. The series is remembered as one of the most visually stunning and influential fishing programs ever produced, especially within the fly-fishing community. In addition to his work on screen, Flip wrote extensively for leading fishing publications and authored the book *Mangroves, Memories and Magic*. His friendship and collaborations with fellow legend Lefty Kreh are immortalized in the celebrated two-disc set *All the Best: A Conversation with Flip & Lefty*.

Beyond media, Flip shaped the fishing industry through his work with leading tackle and boat manufacturers. In 1998, he co-founded Hell's Bay Boatworks, revolutionizing technical poling skiffs and setting a standard for performance that endures today. He also consulted for brands including Sage, G.Loomis, Temple Fork, Simms, Tibor, Costa, and others. Even in later years, Flip continued to inspire anglers through conservation, philanthropy, and new media ventures such as *Ford's Fishing Frontier* on the Outdoor Channel. His legacy is not only defined by innovation and adventure but also by his tireless commitment to preserving the waters and fisheries he so deeply loved.

Flip Pallot's contributions to the world of fishing—through guiding, writing, broadcasting, boat and tackle design, and conservation—are immeasurable. For his unparalleled passion and influence, the International Game Fish Association celebrates him as one of the greatest stewards of our sport.

"Flip Pallot's impact on the sport of fishing is truly immeasurable," stated IGFA President Jason Schratwieser. "Through his guiding, writing, television work, and innovations in boat and tackle design, he inspired countless anglers while elevating the culture of our sport. Beyond his influence in media and industry, Flip was a steadfast voice for conservation, ensuring

that the waters he loved would be protected for generations to come. The IGFA proudly honors him as one of the greatest stewards of sportfishing we have ever known."

## The Fly Fishing Basics

### FLY LINES 101

[Fly Lines 101 | The Fly Fishing Basics](#)

by [Clint Losee](#)

**Fly lines** are confusing. You may have browsed through your local fly shop and noticed a wall of all sorts of different lines hanging nicely in their little boxes. Weight forward, double taper, sink-tip, and so on and so forth. What does all of that mean and which one of those fly lines will work best for you when learning the fly fishing basics and how to fly fish? I'll try to shed some light on that topic for you.

### What Does The Fly Line Do?



The **fly line** is one of the most important pieces of gear in fly fishing. That line is where the whole concept of fly casting and presenting your fly to the fish all comes together. In my previous article, [What is Fly Fishing](#), I explained how fly casting is the process of transferring energy through the fly line to cast your fly out ahead of you. That article detailed the difference in traditional casting where the lure contains the weight to be cast out. In fly fishing, that weight is the fly line that carries your light-weight fly.

So you can see the importance of the fly line. Without this you wouldn't be able to effectively present your fly to a fish. Try casting a fly attached to a regular piece of monofilament and you'll see just how difficult it can be.

Each different type of **fly line** has specific characteristics to help you with casting and also help with effectively fishing in different situations. This is primarily done with the taper of the fly line and where exactly the weight is placed along the length of the fly line. Think of it as a string that starts out thin and tapers to a thicker portion at the end. The main point to understand here is that the fly line is what makes it possible for you to transfer the energy from the fly rod during the cast down to the fly and get it to the fish.

### Fly Line Length



A typical commercial **fly line** that you can purchase today falls in the length range of 80'-90'. This length, in combination with your fly line backing, will cover you in any situation you find yourself. There are some specialty lines on the market over 100 feet, but they are geared more towards distance casting situations.

You may be thinking, only 90 feet, that's kind of short isn't it? I thought the same thing when learning the **fly fishing basics**. What you will come to find out with fly fishing and fly casting is that most of your fishing will be done in the 30'-40' range, if not even closer than that. Very rarely will you need to make an 80 foot cast to a fish. The only circumstances I know of necessitating such casts is saltwater flats fishing. Learning to cast your entire fly line is a feat that takes



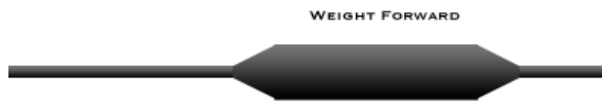
practice. Starting out though, lean towards perfecting your casting in that sweet spot and you'll go far.

## Fly Line Tapers

There are fly line tapers applied to every type of line on the market today. These will usually consist of one of three different types of tapers. Those are weight forward, double taper. These specific tapers to the fly line help facilitate the fly cast and help make your fly fishing life just a little bit easier. Want to cast further? There's a taper for that. Plan on casting to spooky trout in a small spring creek? There's a taper for that. These tapers combine with other specific fly line characteristics to allow you to target pretty much any type of fish in any condition. Here is a [great resource from Scientific Anglers](#) to help explain this.

### Weight Forward

This fly line is probably the most common taper on a fly line today. As mentioned earlier, imagine a piece of string that slowly tapers to a thicker portion at the end. With a weight forward fly line, you will have the end attached to your backing. From there the first 50'-60' of line is pretty much a consistent diameter with no taper at all and is called your running line. In the last 30 feet is where the taper starts and contains the bulk of the weight of the fly line, called the belly. This will then taper back to a thin line in the last 5'-7' feet to allow you to attach your leader more easily, called the tip.



Many different varieties and tapers of weight forward fly lines exist and fly line companies are always trying to hit the sweet spot with them. You can have very aggressive weight forward lines where the bulk is in the last 20 feet or even more moderate tapers that extend past further than that 30 foot mark. Each taper design allows for different situations. The more aggressive taper gives you more power and thus helps make further distances easier. More moderate tapers allow more delicate presentations but less distance.

### Double Taper

The Double Taper fly line is another common option you'll find. Take that string from the earlier example and now imagine it starting out attached to the backing as being a consistent diameter, like the weight forward taper. However, instead of that lasting the majority of the fly line, the double taper will begin its taper after the first few feet of line. The bulk of the weight is pretty much centered in the middle of the line. This will then taper back to the original starting diameter to allow you to attach your leader. The beginning taper on the end of the fly line will mirror the ending taper.

DOUBLE TAPER



There are two advantages to this type of fly line taper. One is that you can easily reverse your line if one of the ends gets damaged. The second, and biggest, advantage is that this taper allows for a more subtle presentation. You won't get the same distance from this fly line, but if you are targeting spooking fish, then this is the line for you.

### Level



Level fly lines are an interesting type and not very commonly used. Imagine that same string again. Now attached that string to your backing. This time you have no taper on the line and that is all. It's a pretty boring line in comparison. These lines are budget fly lines and don't provide any significant advantage other than they are usually less expensive.

Here's a short video explaining fly line tapers more visually: [Fly Line Tapers](#)

## Types of Fly Line

There are three main types of fly lines with sub-categories of those: Floating, Sinking, and Sink-Tip. Within those types you have specific fly lines such as weight forward tapered floating lines with a special taper to allow more distance in your cast, sink-tip lines that only allow the front portion to sink below the surface, and sinking lines with a super fast sinking rate to reach those fish down deep in lakes and rivers.

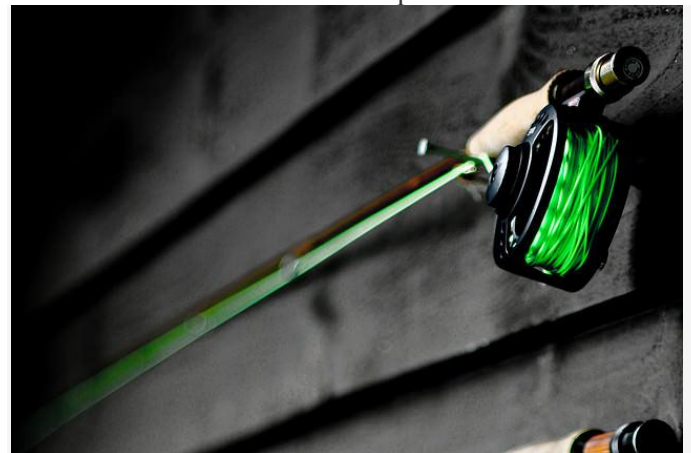


Image courtesy of James J. Jenkins

### Floating Fly Lines

Floating fly lines do just that...they float. These are the most versatile type of fly line allowing you to fish dry flies, nymphs, streamers, rivers, lakes and everything in between. You can get either a weight forward or double taper on these lines as well. This is the type of fly line I would recommend when **learning how to fly fish**.

## Sinking Fly Lines

The sinking fly line differs from the floating lines by the rate at which it sinks. The tapers on these will typically be of the weight forward variety. You can get a sinking line with specific types assigned to them. They range from intermediate all the way through a Type 7. These different types associated with them pertain to a specific rate at which the line will sink. This is useful for when you determine the fish are feeding at a specific depth and need to target them in just the right area. Lake fishing is your most common area in which you'll use a sinking fly line. The typical sink rates are as follows but will vary depending on the fly line manufacturer (*NOTE: ips = inches per second*):

- Intermediate = 1.5-2.0 ips (2-4')
- Type I = 1.5-2.5 ips (2-4')
- Type II = 1.75-2.75 ips (3-6')
- Type III = 2.5-3.5 ips (5-10')
- Type IV = 4.0-5.0 ips (10-20')
- Type V = 4.5-6.0 ips (10-20')
- Type VI = 6.0-7.0 ips (15-25')
- Type 7 = 7.0-8.0 ips (20-30')

## Sink-Tip Fly Lines

The sink-tip line is a combination of the floating fly line and sinking fly line. What you get is the tip section of the fly line, usually the first 8' to 16' feet (approximately), is the sinking portion and the remainder is the floating line. These types of fly lines are useful when fishing streamers in rivers or also when fishing lakes with the same patterns. The benefit they add is in casting.

When fishing a full sinking fly line, the entire line sinks under the water...even the extra line at your feet. As you retrieve the line and go to make a cast, you have considerable surface tension as you try to pull that line that is sunk in the water out and into the air. The floating lines do not have this problem as the surface tension is greatly decreased with the line floating on top of the water. You also don't have the excess fly line sinking beneath you and getting tangled below the surface of the water. This may sound like a minor thing, but the more and more you deal with it, the thought of line that floats sounds even better. Ideally, these are your perfect streamer fishing fly lines.

## Conclusion

Hopefully this shed a bit of light on all of those fly lines hanging on the fly shop walls. Each manufacturer has specific processes and tapers that they apply to each different fly line and each has its place. Companies such as [Scientific Anglers](#) and [Rio](#) produce phenomenal fly lines and you can't go wrong with any of those. You can find these at any local fly shop or even online. Here are a couple from [Scientific Anglers](#) and [Rio](#) found on Amazon.

With this basic understanding of fly lines it will hopefully help you determine the best one for your situation. My recommendation...start out with a weight forward floating line. It will cover almost every scenario you would need when learning the fly fishing basics. As usual, be sure to leave a comment

or [contact me](#) with any questions and sign up for the newsletter for future updates and news.



### Related posts:

[How to Choose a Fly Line for Trout](#)

### About Clint Losee



Clint Losee is an avid fly angler of 30+ years, web developer, and Utah Landscape & Nature Photographer. You can connect with him on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#).

## ROBERT REDFORD, DIRECTOR OF A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT PASSES AWAY AT 89

by Max Inchausti



Robert Redford, actor turned director, played a pivotal role in shaping the modern fly fishing scene. In 1992, Redford adapted the book *A River Runs Through It*, by Norman Maclean, into the film

by the same name. At the time, it was a groundbreaking project, and even today, it is widely considered the best fly fishing movie of all time. His work inspired generations of anglers and is even responsible for the fly fishing boom of the 90s. Countless anglers were drawn to the pursuit of fly fishing from this compelling story; so much so that it paved the way for modern fly fishing as we know it. The influx of anglers, advancements in fly fishing gear, and the angling community as a whole can all be traced to the 90s boom of fly fishing.

Unfortunately, Robert Redford passed away on September 16, 2025, at the age of 89. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in Hollywood and in fly fishing. Without Redford and his work portraying fly fishing on the big screen, there is a good chance the industry would not be where it is today. To that, we thank Robert Redford for inspiring a generation of anglers and take time to remember his work and legacy.

*Editors note: Due to the crowds on the river today I am taking donations to make a movie called "A Golf Course Runs Through It" to attract people off the river. 😊*



If you are a saltwater fisherman you might want a few of these for your next Spanish mackerel trip.

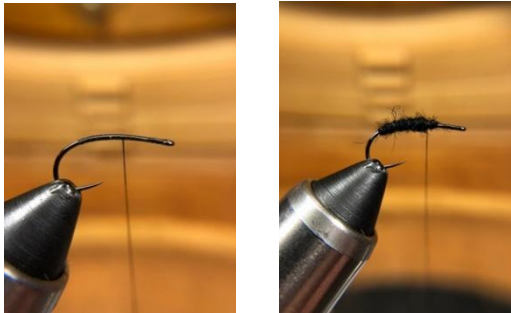
## ADVICE FROM THE VISE

Welcome to fall, or at least its finally starting to feel that way. There are still plenty of bugs on the water, so the fall dry game is in full swing. This month we still have some terrestrials out there and the small black caddies are starting to hatch so I love to pull out an old fly that does double duty for me this time of the year, the LeTort Cricket.

This fly was the creation of Ed Shenk, a Pennsylvania fly fishing icon and a guy that could be occasionally found at the old Yellow Breechs Fly shop when I was just a kid. For this version, I am leaving off the turkey tail wing case to give it that caddis profile.

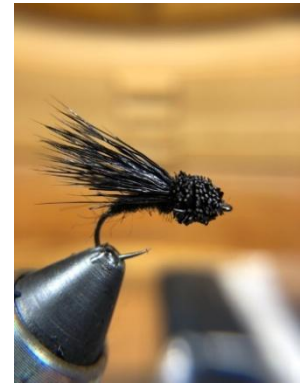
For the hook, I'm using a TMC2312, it has a long enough shank with just enough of a hump to let it ride lower in the back end-increasing (hopefully) the hook up percentage. I am using Veevus 50D GSP thread- and if you are not using GSP for any hair patterns, I'd recommend giving it a try. It's crazy strong for really cinching those wraps to flare hair down. I also use a retired pair of scissors especially for this thread as it's pretty rough on your best pair of razors. Because GSP is very slick, I hit it with the wax to give it some tack to get it wrapping without slipping.

Some black dry fly dubbing of your choice and dyed black elk hair rounds things out for the recipe.



This is a pretty straight forward tie and gives you some opportunity to work on your deer hair game. Dress the hook from the eye to the bend and build the dubbing body up to about 2/3's of the way. Take some snug wraps on the end of the dubbing and use a touch of wax to build a bench for the initial hair wraps to rest on.

Next, take a clump of hair and stack it so that the tips are aligned. Align the clump so that the tips are just a tad behind the bend and hold the pinch. Tie that in with two light wraps then snug that tight to flare the hair.



Take a couple more tight wraps, and push the butt ends away from the eye toward the tie in point. Trim all these butt ends down just so you can get them out of your way for the next stack.

Cut another clump of hair, but don't worry about stacking it. This one will spin as we tie it in to form the head

Push that hair back from the eye, and whip finish the fly.



Now, we trim the head. I start off with getting everything uniform before shaping it, as shown below.

Sharp scissors are a must at this point, some tyer's prefer a razor blade to trim hair, it's up to you as to what works for you best. I'm ok with a little rustic look, so for these, I use scissors. Trim the hair fibers so that there is definition between the head and the wing and the head is nicely compact. These things float really well with a bit of a big head, and again, that leaves that hook point just under the film for the eat.



Pretty uncomplicated tie as hair wings go. I have a 2 weight I toss these on in a size #16 for even more fun.

As always, I'm honored to answer questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly tying and fishing. Don't hesitate to contact me at [jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com](mailto:jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com) or check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

Dave Everhart



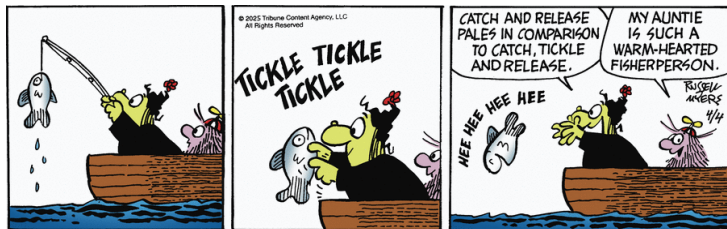
## 2025 DELAYED HARVEST STOCKING WEEKS

COUNTY	STREAM	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Ashe	Helton Creek	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	3-7
	Trout Lake	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	10-14
	Big Horse Creek	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	3-7
	South Fork New River		7-17	5-9	6-10	10-14
Burke	Jacobs Fork		7-11	5-9	6-10	3-7
Caldwell	Wilson Creek	3-7	1-4	5-9	13-17	10-14
Clay	Fires Creek	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	3-7
Graham	Big Snowbird	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	10-14
Haywood	West Fork Pigeon River	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	10-14
Henderson	North Fork Mills River	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	3-7
Jackson	Tuckasegee River	3-7	1-4	1-2, 5-9	6-10	3-7
Macon	Nantahala	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	10-14
Madison	Big Laurel Creek	3-7	7-11	1-2	6-10	3-7
	Shelton Laurel Creek	3-7	7-11	1-2	6-10	3-7
	Spring Creek	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	10-14
McDowell	Curtis Creek	3-7	7-11	5-9	6-10	3-7
	Catawba River Mill Creek	3-7	7-11	5-9	6-10	3-7
Mitchell	Cane Creek	3-7	7-11	5-9	6-10	3-7
	North Toe River				6-10	3-7
Polk	Green River				13-17	10-14
Surry	Ararat River	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	3-7
	Mitchell River	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	3-7
Swain	Tuckasegee River	3-7	7-11	5-9	6-10	3-7
Transylvania	East Fork French Broad River	3-7	1-4	5-9	6-10	10-14
	Little River	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	3-7
Watauga	Watauga River	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	10-14
	Lake Coffey	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	10-14
Wilkes	East Prong Roaring River	3-7	1-4	1-2	1-3	3-7
	Stone Mountain Creek	3-7	1-4	1-2	1-3	3-7
	Reddies River	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	3-7
	Elk Creek	3-7	1-4	1-2	6-10	3-7
Yancey	Cane River				6-10	3-7

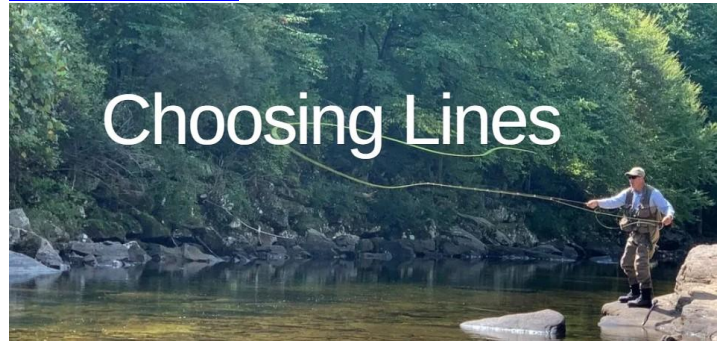
## DEQ-Bottomley Executed Settlement Agreement

"In September, DEQ settled litigation over a monetary penalty issued to the Bottomleys related to destruction of a trout stream at Ramey Creek. You might recall that DEQ initially required Bottomley to take various remedial actions to try to mitigate harm to several trout streams. WRC also rescued a population of southern-strain brook trout and moved them to another location. DEQ then fined Bottomley around \$260,000—one of the highest fines in DEQ history. Bottomley appealed the fine to the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings where it was reduced to \$180,000. Bottomley then appealed that decision to the North Carolina Superior Court. The case settled for a total fine of \$92,500. Bottomley raised very aggressive arguments in the litigation which, had they been successful, would have undermined DEQ's ability to protect trout streams moving forward. The settlement is likely a reflection of DEQ's concern that those arguments would be embraced by the courts, putting even more trout streams at jeopardy. Hopefully, the fine plus several years of litigation will encourage other actors to be abide by our laws intended to protect trout populations."

*Note: For details of the Bottomley issue see [North Carolina Cattle Farmer to Pay \\$92,000 for Damaging Mountain Streams - Inside Climate News](#)*



## ON THE FLY SOUTH



The Casting Connection

May 2025

By Capt. Scott Swartz

**Q. I just got a new reel and I'm shopping lines. How do I choose the best one?**

**A. Carefully!**

Marketing promotes lines by the fish we seek. There are trout lines, steelhead lines, bass lines, pike lines, and saltwater has its tarpon, permit and bonefish lines too. Many choose "species" lines for convenience and do not search deeper, but there are things to consider.

First, do you already have rods set up for the fishing you do most frequently? Are you duplicating efforts or can you create a rig for alternative fishing?

Over 85 percent of fly lines sold today are weight-forward, floating. If those lines are on your other rods, perhaps you can change things up with a shooting-head, a double-taper, an intermediate or a sinking line. Even if you choose another weight-forward, floating line, there are vast differences in head lengths and taper designs to choose from.



Here are some things to consider in choosing your new line:

- (1) The length of casts and how much line you carry. For short to medium casts most any line will work. For longer casts a DT (double-taper) or a WF (weight forward) with a long belly and a long rear taper can help carry a long loop.
- (2) The flies you typically throw. A long, fine, front taper works for delicate presentations and smaller flies, but a short heavier head will carry big wind-resistant bugs better.
- (3) Water temperature. Cold, hot or just right? The stiffness or limpness of a line greatly affects performance. Tropic lines with braided monofilament cores handle warm waters, but take it to your trout stream and it will be too stiff to cast well. Likewise, braided-multifilament cold water line will wilt in the summer on a southern pond.

- (4) Depth to fish. A line for every depth and every sink rate is available, and there are a lot of fish deep in the water column.
- (5) How stealthy. Do you fish educated, catch-and-release waters, or stalk skinny flats? A single-strand, monofilament core, “clear” tip line, might help.
- (6) Distance mending or roll casting. Distance mending and distance roll casting benefit from double-taper or a long, weight-forward head just as long casts do. It is difficult to get the small running line behind the fly line’s head to effectively transfer energy to the heavier belly of the line.
- (7) Quick casts. Do you sight fish to cruising fish or fish that break the surface and go back down quickly? A one-half heavy, short-head, quick shooter line can load your rod faster with less false casts.

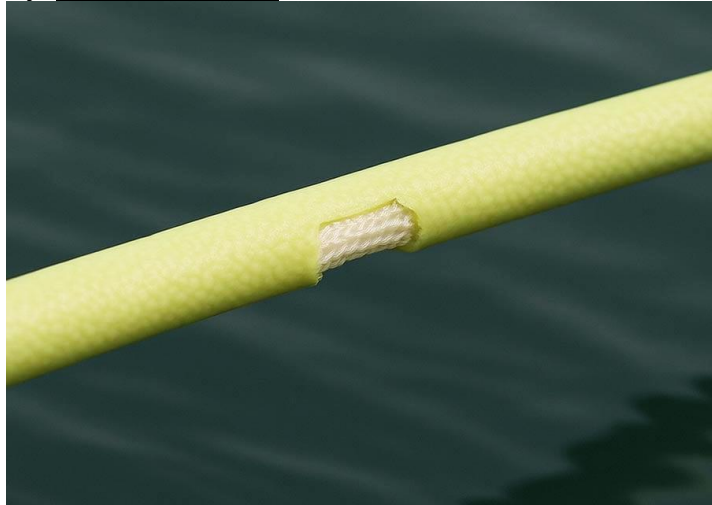
There are a lot of variables to consider. Purchase your first line for the fishing you do most often. For all the rest of your fishing, choose carefully. That’s why reel manufacturers sell extra spools!

Scott Swartz founded the Atlanta Fly Fishing School, which began in 1999. It is the largest such operation in the Southeast and the only Trout Unlimited “Gold Endorsed” school in the United States. His Florida Fly Fishing Schools started in 2008, helping anglers learn to successfully fly fish in saltwater.



### Ask MidCurrent: How Do I Repair My Floating Fly Line?

By: **MidCurrent Staff**



*A gap in your fly line’s coating is a problem, but there are ways to remedy the situation. (Illustration)*

**Question:** I have an old Rio 4-weight fly line that has a spot where about 1/8-inch of the coating is gone. What’s the best way to repair this?

—Mel Jones, via email

**Answer:** Minor damage to a fly line’s coating—such as a 1/8-inch gap exposing the core—should be repaired to prevent water from soaking into the core, which would cause the line to sink or cast poorly. Below are two approaches: a quick, temporary fix to keep you fishing in the short term, and a long-term repair to restore functionality and durability. We also list some recommended products and kits for these repairs.

### Temporary Fix

For a fast fix, you can seal the exposed section with a quick-setting adhesive. This will waterproof the core and hold the coating together long enough for a day’s fishing (though it is ultimately a temporary solution). Flexible adhesives or glues—UV-cure resin like Loon UV Knot Sense, or a gel-type flexible super glue like Zap-A-Gap or Loctite 414—can patch a small nick in the coating. The UV resin has the advantage of curing in seconds under sunlight/UV light. Here’s how to apply a quick fix:

**1. Clean and Dry the Area:** Rinse the damaged section of line with fresh water and dry it thoroughly. Removing dirt ensures better glue adhesion.

**2. Expose the Gap:** Gently flex or fold the line at the gap so that the coating opens up and the core is exposed. (This makes it easier to get adhesive inside.)

**3. Apply Adhesive:** Using a toothpick or needle, apply a small drop of adhesive into the gap. Make sure to coat the ends of the plastic coating and the core itself. For example, put a drop of UV resin or flexible super glue on the tip of the toothpick and smear it into the crack.

**4. Close and Secure:** Straighten the line to close the gap, squeezing the coating back together. Wipe off any excess glue that oozes out, and use a damp finger or the toothpick to smooth it along the line. Rotate the line 90° and repeat the process if the gap wasn’t fully filled on all sides. The goal is a thin, even coat of adhesive sealing the break all around.

**5. Cure the Patch:** If using UV resin, expose it to a UV flashlight or direct sunlight until it hardens (usually 10–20 seconds). If using super glue or Aquaseal, hold the line ends together for a minute or two so it bonds. (Super glue sets in a few minutes; Aquaseal will take longer, so it’s less ideal for immediate use).

**6. Let it Set:** Give the repair a little extra time to fully cure before putting strain on it. With UV resin or CA glue this may be just a few minutes. Ensure the section doesn’t stick to anything while drying.

**7. Go Fishing:** The line should now be fishable. *Keep in mind this fix is not permanent.* The glued section may become stiff or crack again after repeated casting. However, it will get you through the day by keeping water out of the core and allowing you to continue fishing. Plan to do a more durable repair (or replace the line) later.

It pays to carry a small tube of UV-cure resin or glue in your kit for on-stream line repairs. UV Knot Sense is a popular choice to seal small nicks on the spot. Just be aware that any glue patch will create a slight stiff spot or “bump” that you might feel when casting through the guides.



*Shrink tubing for fly lines makes the process easier.*



## Durable Permanent Repair

For a more robust repair that restores durability, it's better to weld the fly-line coating using heat-shrink tubing. This approach is often used by fly line manufacturers (like RIO) to create welded loops, and it can re-form the plastic coating over the exposed core for a strong, permanent fix. Unlike a simple glue patch, a heat-welded repair replaces the missing coating and bonds it around the core.

This method works best for PVC-coated lines, which includes most floating lines like your Rio 4-weight; if the line had a polyurethane coating, a different heat-resistant sleeve technique would be used.

You'll need some clear heat-shrink tubing—available in fly line loop kits or electrical supply stores—and a safe heat source. Here are the step-by-step instructions:

**1. Gather the Materials:** You'll need a piece of clear heat-shrink tubing with an inner diameter just big enough to slide over your fly line. For a 4-weight line, tubing about 1/16"–3/32" (1.5–2mm) diameter works well. RIO Products sells "Level T" heat-shrink welding tubing for fly lines, or you can use clear electrical shrink tube of similar size. Also have a heat source—such as a 60-watt incandescent light bulb or heat gun on low—ready. Don't use an open flame, like a lighter, because it can easily overheat and scorch the line.

**2. Prep the Line:** Clean the damaged section of any debris. If any loose coating remains around the gap, you can trim away frayed bits with a sharp blade. Ensure the core strands are aligned straight and not frayed.

**3. Position the Tubing:** Cut a length of shrink tubing about 2 inches longer than the damaged area, so it covers at least an inch past the gap on both sides. Slide this tubing onto the line and center it over the gap. The extra length will protect the surrounding line from heat and ensure a good seal past the damage.

**4. Apply Gentle Heat:** Slowly heat the tubing so that it shrinks down around the line and the damaged section. Hold the line about 1–2 inches above a warm light bulb (or use a heat gun at a distance), and rotate the line continuously. The tubing will contract and press the softened coating around the core. *Do not overheat it.* The goal is to melt the line's PVC coating just enough that it flows and fills the gap under the tubing. Heating gradually and evenly is key. Stop heating once the tubing has fully tightened and you see the line's coating becoming glossy under the sleeve.

**5. Cool and Remove Sleeve:** Take the line away from the heat and let it cool completely (several minutes) so the re-melted coating solidifies. Do not pull off the shrink tube while it's hot. Once it's cool, use a sharp hobby knife (X-Acto) to carefully slit and peel away the shrink tubing sleeve. The fly line's PVC coating should now be fused across the formerly damaged gap. The core will be encased again in plastic.

**6. Smooth the Repair:** The "welded" area may have a slight raised line or edge where the tubing was cut. To ensure a smooth finish (so it slides through guides and doesn't peel up), coat the repaired section with a flexible adhesive sealer. Products like Aquaseal or Pliobond work well because they dry to a flexible, rubbery finish. Apply a thin layer over and beyond the patched spot, feathering the edges. This seals any tiny gaps

and tacks down the edges of the new coating. Let this coating cure fully (overnight for Aquaseal).

**7. Inspect and Test:** Once the adhesive topcoat is dry, run the line through your fingers or rod guides to ensure the patch is smooth. The repaired section should be waterproof and strong, with the core securely bonded to new coating material. You can now fish with confidence that the line will hold up under strain.

The repaired line might have a slight bump or stiffer feel at that spot, but it will cast and float close to normal.



*There are various flexible glues that can help you fix a fly line without creating a stiff spot.*

## Repair Kits and Products

When performing the above repairs, a few specialized products can make the job easier and ensure a reliable fix. These items are recommended by major fly-fishing gear companies and experienced anglers:

**RIO Heat-Shrink Welding Tubing:** RIO Products sells heat-shrink tubing specifically designed for fly-line repairs (used for making welded loops). It comes in small diameters (1/16" to 3/32") ideal for 4- to 8-weight lines. This tubing is used in the long-term fix to melt and reform the line's coating.

**Loon UV Knot Sense (UV Repair Resin):** A UV-curing adhesive gel that's perfect for quick fly-line fixes. It stays slightly flexible when cured and sets in seconds under UV light, making it great for stream-side repairs of small cracks. Apply a drop, expose it to sunlight or a UV lamp, and you have an instant patch.

**Aquaseal® or Aquaseal FD (Urethane Adhesive):** A flexible, waterproof adhesive commonly used for wader repairs, it is also recommended for fly line coating repairs. It cures more slowly (several hours) but forms a durable, rubbery seal over the damaged area. Aquaseal is excellent for smoothing and reinforcing a repaired spot in the long-term fix (Step 6). It remains flexible and won't crack easily during casting.

**Flexible CA\*Glue (e.g. Loctite 414 or Zap Flex-Zap):** These are cyanoacrylate superglues formulated to stay a bit flexible. A tiny drop will quickly seal a cut in the coating.

**Fly Line Repair/Loop Kits:** Some tackle suppliers offer kits for DIY fly line repairs.





## CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CHALLENGE



Last year I tied up several fly fishing Christmas ornaments. I took them to the November meeting and made them part of the monthly raffle and they were a great hit. For those of you who love fly tying, you might enjoy tying up an ornament for your own tree or to give to some of your fly fishing friends.

You should be able to find clear glass globes in any craft store. They came in two sizes, but I found the larger (2.5") to be best for the task. From that point onward, it's up to you where you want to go with the ornament.



I purchased a jar of coarse sand to put into the bottom of the ornament to represent the river bottom, but you can find many different materials in many colors at a tropical fish store. If you go this route, you will need to secure it. Most glues have some opacity to them and don't look natural or are too thick to spread evenly through the material. I searched and found Beacon 3-in-1 that is crystal clear and thin enough to spread throughout the material for a great bond.

While the glue is setting you can tie up any fly you would like, a Christmas tree, or anything else you want to use in the ornament. I even saw one ornament with nothing but pieces of marabou feathers. That one was done without the sand.

If you are tying a fly for suspension in the globe, the tricky part will be getting the thread around the fly in the right position that it hangs horizontally. The best way to do this is to just loop your thread under the fly and then adjust it until you have it right. Then tie it in that position.

The fly will be suspended from globe cap. Remove the wire hoop from the cap and run the thread up one of the holes. Set the cap onto the globe and adjust the thread up or down until you have it in the right position and then thread the thread back down through the other hole. Apply a drop of glue to the thread on the top of the cap being careful not to fill the holes. A hot glue gun is your best bet as it will harden quickly. When the glue has hardened, put the wire hoop back in and secure the thread on the underside. I do this by doing a couple raps around the wire hoop, a quick cinch knot, and then a dab of glue. Then slide the cap back onto the globe.

At that point you have a completed ornament if you wish, but I like to decorate the cap. I make a wrap of ribbon of the same width as the cap height and then decorate it with a very

small bow that can be found at the craft store. My wife is a lot more "crafty" than I am, so I let her do this fine work for me.

The tied fly in the clear globe is the traditional ornament, but if you explore on-line you'll find a lot of options. I mentioned the marabou feathers which is very simple. Another I've seen is a Christmas tree tied out of elk hair. Beyond those, it's just a matter of how fancy and elaborate you want to make it. I hope you'll have fun making this up and if you get good enough make up some for a chapter raffle in November.

## TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM EGGS DELIVERED SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

Thank you to all of our teachers who will be hosting another great year for the kids.

Krystal Luce River Bend Middle School  
Kasady Carroll Hickory High School  
Candace Styers Tuttle Elementary School  
Jonathan Carpenter North Lincoln High School  
And new this year  
Joe Hord Burns Middle School



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