

“Ten Habits for Still Water Success”

So what constitutes a definition of “habit”: A settled or regular tendency or practice, especially one that is hard to give up.

➤ **Equipment**

- Kit Bag (Organized for each species of fish you are after.... Makes life easier!)
- Rods
 - 5 to 7 weight ; Length 9’6” to 10’
 - Always rig 2 rods
- Lines
 - Floating
 - Hover
 - Clear intermediate
 - Midge tip
 - Slow sinking
 - Sinking ... 3 to 8 ips
- Landing Nets (A good net reduces stress on angler and fish)
 - Soft cotton mesh
 - Buoyant construction
- Sun Glasses - Polarized (bring 2 pair)
- Water Craft
 - John Boat (i.e. square type bow)
 - Pontoon boat
 - Fitted with scotty type anchor system
 - Need 2 anchors to lock the front and rear of boat
 - Steer fish away from anchor lines when landing fish

➤ **Electronics (i.e. bottom sounders)**

- Used for locating under water structure/features
- Must learn the electronic device’s features before going out
- Don’t use the fish finder features

➤ **Observation (when on the lake)**

- Research local knowledge
- Note weather conditions
- Check shoreline vegetation
- Check shore spider webs for bugs
- Turn over rocks or logs

Phil Rowley Presentation (5/16/14) Personal Notes by Steve Hofmann

- Check surrounding structure
 - Study water surface
 - Pay attention to shucks on water surface
 - Watch other anglers
 - Keep notes or a diary
 - Observe water conditions
 - Wind, weather transitions
 - Water temperature
 - Water conditions affect
 - Retrieve
 - Line choice
 - Fly pattern selection (clear water vs algae)
 - Presentation depth
 - Water Temperature at surface and at depth affects
 - Fish and aquatic activity
 - Determines fish location
 - Dictates line retrieval speed
- Approach
- Stealth is key
 - Lower anchors gently
 - Keep noise to a minimum
 - Approach fishing location from deeper water
 - Drift down wind or row slowly
 - Approach/Presentation
 - Stretch line and leader
 - Rod position ... lower tip to lake surface
 - Strip out slack
 - Straight line presentation
 - No slap casting .. i.e. when recasting
 - Use count down method to get fly's to depth
 - Slow retrieves
 - Watch floating line for fish "takes"
 - Learn to fish the "hang" (i.e. the period just before one recasts)
- Droppers (flies) and Loop Knots
- Vary size and color of flies
 - Suggest (i.e. tie on) different fly life cycle stages simultaneously
 - Droppers add weight during windy conditions
 - Cover different depth when rigging

- Attract or draw fish to team
- Knots: use blood, improved clinch, or perfection loop for dropper flies
- Terminal solutions
 - Non slip loop knot is best.....
 - provides a loop to the eye for added fly animation
 - Simple to tie and is strong
 - Blood knot
 - Triple surgeons knot
 - Improved clinch
- Entomology
 - Provides a base understanding of key food sources
 - Locomotion ... i.e. how the real food sources moves through water
 - Emergence behaviors
 - Seasonal availability
 - Staples for lakes:
 - Chironomids
 - Dragon flies
 - Damsels
 - Scuds
 - Leaches
- Throat pumps help understand local entomology/fish food sources
 - Helps find out if fish are eating actively i.e. at the moment
 - Isolates feed location in the water column
 - Welfare of the fish is paramount... i.e. don't pump every fish
 - Pump correctly
- Versatility
 - Avoid being one dimensional
 - Learn to use every still water fly
 - Double anchor
 - Vary retrieves and retrieve patterns
 - Know both imitation and attractor techniques
- Attitude / Belief / Patience
 - Quite Confidence Breeds Stillwater success
 - Positive fishing attitude
 - BE PATIENT !!!!