

**HOW TO FISH THE DRY  
FLY: DESCRIBING  
THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE  
NECESSARY TACKLE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649227198

How to Fish the Dry Fly: Describing the Latest Up-to-date Necessary Tackle by Louis Rhead

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

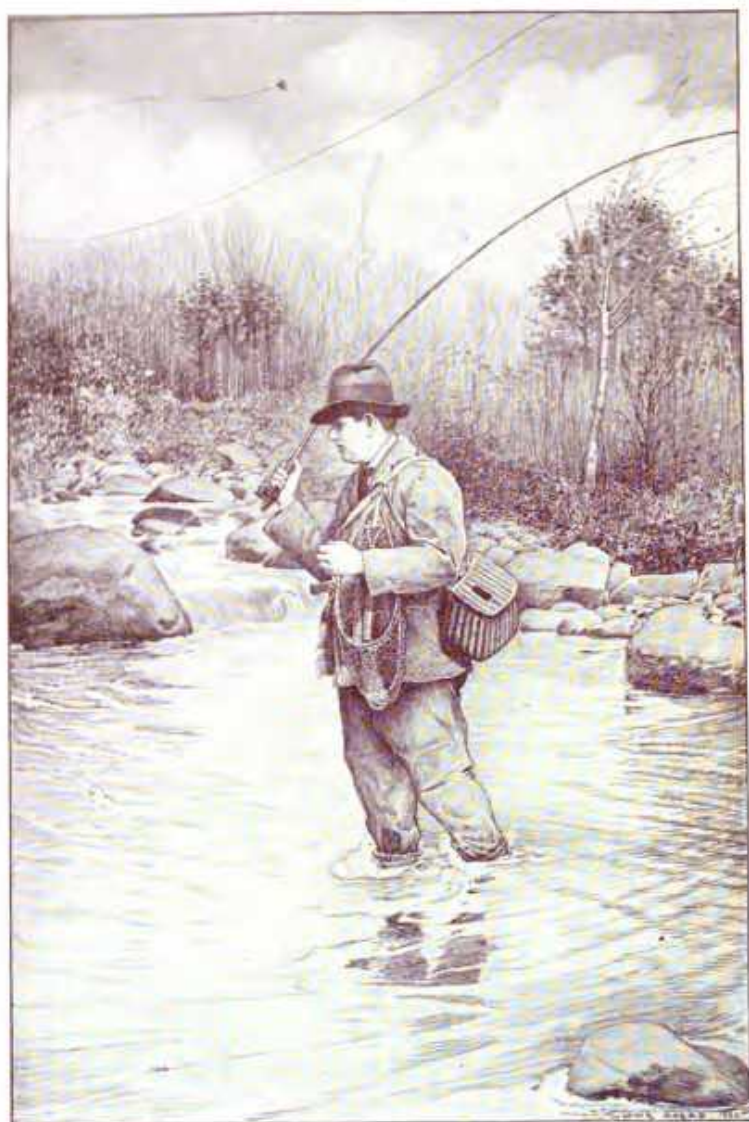
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**LOUIS RHEAD**

**HOW TO FISH THE DRY  
FLY: DESCRIBING  
THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE  
NECESSARY TACKLE**





Edward J. Mills Ex-Champion Dry Fly Caster on the Stream

# **HOW TO FISH THE DRY FLY**

DESCRIBING THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE NECESSARY  
TACKLE, ITS COST, AND WHERE TO GET IT  
AND THE PROPER METHOD OF USING IT.  
A DESCRIPTION OF THE AMERICAN  
AND ENGLISH DRY FLIES

ALSO

# **HOW TO FISH VARIOUS NYMPHS**

FROM THE BOTTOM UPWARDS IN PLACE OF  
WORMS IF TROUT DO NOT RESPOND TO FLIES  
EARLY IN THE SEASON OR  
DURING THE LATE  
SUMMER

*By*

**LOUIS  
RHEAD**

AUTHOR OF

TROUT STREAM INSECTS :: BOOK OF FISH AND FISHING  
FISHERMAN'S LURES AND GAME FISH FOOD



PRIVATELY PRINTED AND ISSUED BY

LOUIS RHEAD, 217 OCEAN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N. Y., U.S.A.



## CONTENTS

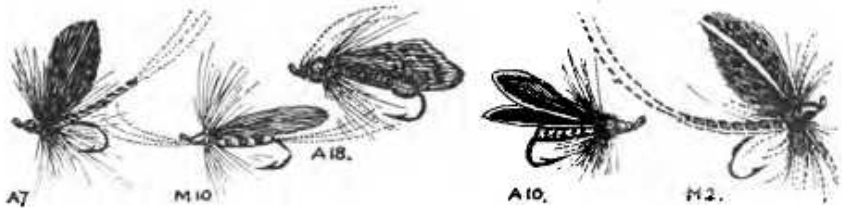
HOW TO FISH DRY FLY.....	5
DRY FLY TACKLE.....	8
The Rod .....	8
Some "Don'ts" Regarding Rods.....	8
The Reel .....	9
The Line .....	10
Points on the Care of Line.....	11
The Leader .....	12
Points on Care of Leaders.....	12
THE DRY FLY ITSELF.....	13
Fly Attachment to Leader.....	14
Flies Most Suitable for Surface Fishing.....	14
What Fly Shall We Choose?.....	14
Dry Fly Methods—Casting.....	15
Casting Up Stream and Across.....	16
Fishing the Rising Trout.....	17
Fishing Where Trout Are Not Rising.....	18
Cross Currents—Line Dragging.....	18
Dry and Wet Fishing Compared.....	19
HOW TO FISH THE NYMPH.....	21
Bottom Lures for Trout.....	27

*Copyright, 1921, by Louis Rhead*



SH456  
R55

## HOW TO FISH DRY FLY



*How to Fish Dry Flies that Imitate American Trout Stream Insects*

### *The Floating Fly is More Widely Known*

The dry fly has made rapid strides in the estimation of American trout fishermen during the last ten years, so that the new art is now widely known all over the continent, although it is not, as yet, practiced to any great extent, for the reason that method and special tools have not been fully described in a simple manner. I believe every thoughtful trout angler wants to acquire the latest and best up-to-date information about dry fly fishing so that he may learn to test his skill in this most satisfying branch in the art of angling.

The object of this little booklet is to give a detailed, easily understood definition of the dry fly in compact form as a handy guide, to describe exclusively how the art may be practised on American streams with dry flies copied from native insects without any reference whatever to methods used on British streams; this field has been so well covered, not only by eminent English writers, Halford and others, but also by two expert American anglers, Emlyn M. Gill and George M. L. La Branche, who have described their views with great detail and compared the difference in the method pursued in England, as well as by themselves on our own streams. If it is the readers' desire to go further, and study the art more thoroughly from the British standpoint, they should get Halford's books from England, and read "Practical Dry Fly Fishing," by Emlyn M. Gill,

5  
M846514



"The Dry Fly and Fast Water," by George M. L. La Branche, both will be found valuable to the angler in showing the adaptability of the dry-fly method to American streams. Both books are published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. However, to be just with my readers, it is only right they should know that these two books were issued in 1914, two years before any classified list of American trout insects had been made, or my book on American trout stream insects had been published. So that their books exclusively refer to their use of English type dry flies. On page 41, in "Practical Dry Fly Fishing," the author says: "Whether English dry flies tied to resemble English insects, imitate exactly in all points similar insects common to American streams is a mooted question." This mooted question has been settled by the writer who has proved that English dry flies do not resemble in size, color, or form any of the American trout stream insects. Some English insects are similar to American, but there is always a difference in size or color of the artificial flies.

The strictly consistent rule laid down both by American and British dry fly experts is, whatever dry fly is used, it must exactly imitate the species of insect that trout are then taking as food, or at least the insects visible at the time on the water. If the reader has studied the "charts" in Trout Stream Insects, he will, to a certain extent, know at any time what kind of insects are likely to be rising by the period, temperature and time of day. The writer has practised dry fly fishing more or less for twenty-five years past, but not exclusively—his views being too broad to entirely ignore the great advantages of wet fishing, or even live bait and artificial lures on American streams.

There is no question whatever that the English dry fly will seduce American trout, especially Fontinalis, fario and irridius, but the same can be said of the old wet style favorites, and the new style nature flies. It is left entirely to the angler's judgment whether he prefers to fish with English dry flies that do not imitate our insects, or remains loyal to the old American favorites which do not imitate

insects, although now tied as floating flies for dry fly fishing, or, that he prefers to make a trial of those new nature flies tied expressly from careful pictures of living American insects. All three of these classes of flies are sold by Wm. Mills & Son, Park Place, New York City.

## DRY FLY TACKLE—THE ROD

*Casting the Fly is so Extremely Delicate*

The method of fishing with dry flies is so extremely delicate, artistic and precise, that it is almost compulsory to use the special tools now made for it. These special tools—rod, reel, line and leader are somewhat more expensive than what is used for wet fishing, yet, if reasonable care is bestowed on them, they will last so much longer as to be cheapest in the end.

When you buy a new rod, have it made to fit yourself. The length and weight all depends upon a man's physical power and build. Generally speaking, the short man requires a three to four ounce, eight and a half foot rod. Medium size man fits to a four ounce, nine foot rod. The large, heavy man can use—if so desired—a heavier weight, but anglers, big and little, buy their rods no longer than nine feet, four and a half to five and a half in weight. You cannot cast the dry fly accurately, or far, or properly handle a heavy fish with a very limber rod along with a heavy weight line.

It is conceded by many experts that Leonard rods are unapproached for dry fly fishing. They have no competitors in lightness, strength, or flexibility, and regular patterns of any weight or length are made suitable for both dry and wet fishing. If the amateur buys a Leonard, he should order the mountings oxidized and an additional agate guide in place of bottom guide on the butt of rod, and also agate guides on the two tips which greatly facilitates casting. The price of these rods is about fifty dollars.

### SOME "DON'TS" REGARDING RODS

Never lay your expensive rod on the ground while exchanging leader or flies; if you don't step on it, an obliging companion will. Place the rod upright against bush or tree.

Always keep joints well oiled at end of season; if they stick, pull out without twisting.