

# INTRODUCTION

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**M**ost fly fishers broke into the sport under very similar instructions. When fish weren't rising, you attached the strike indicator and sank a nymph; and more recently, you used a streamer. Rising fish on many bodies of water is not a common occurrence so that newbie to fly fishing really became a nymph. When the hatch arrived, the complexity of the insects and the selectivity of the fish created challenges that the newbie couldn't solve. So dry fly fishing from the outset was complicated, frustrating, and oftentimes intimidating. When you don't have the right bug and you have no idea how to deliver it, you reset to the default. You go back to what you know and start sinking something under a strike indicator, even when there are rising fish. The results are you never get better at dry fly fishing because you are under the belief that the skillset is just too overwhelming.

I would ask you now to erase from your memory banks all of those frustrating moments. I am truly under the belief that dry fly is not that complicated of an operation as long as you understand four basic essential skills. If you want to catch a lot of fish on a dry fly, you must be proficient at these four skills:

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- 1) You must fish within the framework of APPROACHES, the art of getting close enough to a big fish to deliver a fly without the fish recognizing your presence.
  - 2) You need to UNDERSTAND A DRY FLY. Every time I sit at the vice to spin a bug, I already know the exact scenario I would use this fly and the precise water conditions I would deliver it. Dry flies do not come with instructions. But when you complete this book, you will be able to pick up a dry fly, any dry fly, and know the exact intention of the designer and the proper water conditions that will make that bug most productive.
  - 3) You must know WHERE FISH LIVE in specific runs of water so your fly has brains. It must land in zones of water where you can perpetually have the bug in front of fish.
  - 4) Finally you have to learn the art of DELIVERY—casting the fly to a fish wherever it may live.
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I will admit there is a lot to know about these four disciplines. The first portion of this book will describe in detail how you jump each of these hurdles. The second you have absorbed the knowledge, you will immediately start hooking fish on a dry fly. From there, the sky is the limit. I often say, "I dry fly fish because I can" and you can too, but you must incorporate the four basic principles of dry fly expressed above.

After digesting the four principles, you will have a solid foundation in which to build. I will immediately start adding layers of knowledge to your core and this essential information will be delivered down to the finest detail. An entire chapter is dedicated to FINE DETAILS which hones the edges of the four basic principles.

Then we will go further into the nuances of dry fly. You will learn how to read a RISE FORM and equate it to the perfect fly that will normally hook that specific fish. I will show you how to design the four perfect DRY FLY BOXES that would enable you to fish a dry fly anywhere on earth. We will

TROUBLESHOOT together and learn tendencies and weaknesses of certain trout species so you can exploit their deficiencies. In “Brum’s Top 12 Dry Flies,” I introduce some of my really good friends. They are the 12 most productive dry flies I fish. If you are a fly tier, all of the recipes are included.

I will show you how to hunt trout rises over large bodies of water and train your peripheral vision to see the rise at angles. I will share strategies, teach you where to find the hatch, and share secrets that flat-out catch big fish on a dry fly. It is my full intention to give you all the tools to successfully rule the surface of the water on a dry fly!

Illustrated throughout this book are dry flies designed and created by my company, Dry Fly Innovations. The same fly collection we offer our customers are the identical dry flies I fish. You might say I believe in the product. In order to provide instruction, I must show you dry flies. I have no other flies to show you other than our collection. Please view our flies as an example to clarify a concept, not as an ad. Should you encounter a fly that you wish to analyze more closely, you can always find that bug on our website.

Blended into the fabric of this book you will be introduced to our **Fishing Report Blog**. Since the inception of Dry Fly Innovations in 2008, every fishing trip that my son or I experienced is captured in our blogs. To date, we have logged over 700 fishing days. It’s an 8-year history of fishing a dry fly exclusively. They are written in great detail in an effort to put you “in the moment” with us. We invite



Hard copies of blogs written over the last 8 years

you into the thought process that puts big fish into the net. There’s a large audience who read our blogs for many different reasons, but our objective is simply to help you become a better dry fly fisherman. We don’t tell fish stories, inflate the facts, or distort the events. Nearly all of these blogs are accompanied with photos of the fish landed and the flies that caught them in the fishes’ mouths. There are hundreds of photos attached to these blogs that we cannot provide within *Addicted to the Rise*; there is just not enough room.

With the purchase of this book, you automatically qualify for a 1-year subscription to our entire collection of blogs, a \$20 value. For current subscribers to the **Fishing Report Blog**, a 1-year extension will be added to your current subscription. Contact us at [www.dryflyinnovations.com](http://www.dryflyinnovations.com).

By obtaining the subscription, you will have free access to our blogs along with all the photos that accompany them. I would recommend initiating the subscription immediately so you can use the blog as an extended learning tool as you read the book. Many of the blog entries are a single day of fishing within a multiple-day fishing trip. That single day of fishing is much more educational if read in context with the entire fishing trip. At times fishing strategies are developed through several successive days of fishing. By reading the entire trip, you experience the progression of one day’s knowledge and how that carries over to the next.

Please note. The blogs are the field notes of the author, written hastily so the learning experiences and details reached paper. They are unaltered and unedited from their original state so you might relive the experiences exactly as the writer saw them.

Along with our blogs, we have filmed hundreds of hours dry fly fishing. Our **Video Library** may be the largest of its kind in existence. For eight years we have filmed a dry fly floating on lakes, spring creeks, free stone rivers, and tail waters. Many hours of footage was extracted from both large and small rivers out of a boat. We utilize these archives in many ways such as:

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- 1) Stocking our YouTube channel with over 70 current videos
  - 2) Creating music videos
  - 3) Introducing video blogs
  - 4) Adding new episodes to our "Dry Fly Adventures" YouTube series
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All of these are important to an online fishing company but the real reason behind our video library is to EDUCATE. We have enthralled audiences across this country with our PowerPoint presentations rich in knowledge and brought to life with video. It's my intention to teach, and I use video to make the concepts stick.

Get ready! I'm coming at you bringing a coordinated agenda with all available tools on the table. My objective is to create a unique learning experience that goes well beyond just reading this book. Conceptual text and still photos becomes reality when it's flanked on both sides with blogs and video. Whichever learning technique you may excel in, I'm out to stimulate that brain cell. *Addicted to the Rise* is a no-holds barred effort not only to teach you dry fly but to live it as well.