

THE FLY FISHERMAN



GEAR LIST FOR Wilderness North Adventures Sample for one week trip

CLOTHING

Please contact us to discuss your clothing needs as early as possible before your trip. Finding good functional and comfortable clothing is a must and we will help you in every way we can. We stock a large variety of cool/cold weather clothing probably the largest inventory in Florida.

We have experience with three major clothing manufacturers, Simms (waderwick), Exofficio (Exo Dri) and Patagonia (capilene). Other good manufacturers are Columbia and Orvis. All five offer quality clothing that is functional, comfortable and durable. The Fly Fisherman carries mostly Simms and Exofficio. In the following list the brand names are listed in a number of areas to help you identify with the appropriate products.

- 3 *WADERWICK/EXO DRI/CAPILENE LIGHT OR MIDWEIGHT BOTTOMS
- 3 *WADERWICK/EXO DRI CAPILENE/ LIGHT OR MIDWEIGHT T/V/ZIP-NECK TOPS
- 1 *SIMMS RIVERTEK/CAPILENE EXPEDITION FLEECE WEIGHT TOP & BOTTOM
- 2 *WINDSTOPPER/SYNCHILLA VEST (2nd is optional for use in camp)
- 1 *BALAKLAVA (for face and neck) – If it's cool, riding in a boat is cold!
- 1 *PAIR FINGERLESS GLOVES (2 needed to insure you have a dry pair for the next day)
- 3 *SHIRTS FOR FISHING/LAYERING – The breathable type are best
- 3 *FISHING PANTS – 1 PAIR FOR EVERY TWO DAYS OF FISHING (see notes)
- 3 *MID WEIGHT SOCKS - For camp wear, etc.
- 3 *WADERWICK/CAPILENE UNDERWEAR (briefs)
- 2 *HATS, 1 CAN BE FOR RAINY DAYS ONLY – Simms and Tilly
- 1 *MEDIUM JACKET (travel, evening wear around camp)
- 1 *GOOD RAIN JACKET W/HOOD – also used as a wind breaker while cruising in the boat – such as a Simms Guide Jacket
- 1 PAIR DECK, TENNIS SHOES OR HIKING BOOTS (for travel/camp)
- 1 PAIR BOAT/FISHING SHOE (preferably water proof/resistant)
- 1 *BAGGIE PANTS – e.g. SIMMS POLARTEC POWER STRETCH (optional for camp)
- 1 WATER BOTTLE
- 1 *STOCKING HAT OR A HAT FOR COLD WEATHER (OPTIONAL)
- 1 MOSQUITO NETTED HAT (OPTIONAL) – COLUMBIA MAKES A GOOD HAT

***NOTES ON RAINGEAR:**

Good rain gear (jacket and pants) is an investment that can save your life. Remember, if you're wet you could freeze and when you're dry you stay warm. Even a little water coming through a leaky seam or zipper can chill enough to be very uncomfortable on a cold day. The new breathable materials can keep you dry from outside rain and inside condensation. Keeping your "core" warm is of major importance. Hypothermia is a very real danger on a cool, rainy and windy day. Simms, Exofficio, Patagonia and Columbia all make top quality gear in several price levels. Choose an earth tone color, tan, khaki, or various shades of green for your outer layers. **P.S. Don't forget the rain pants!**

CLOTHING NOTES:

Depending on the time of the year in Canada the weather can run from cold with frost to upper 80's during the day. It can rain for hours or even days, be foggy so that you can't see the water or be a totally clear "Blue Bird" day. That's why the clothing is so varied. Good rain gear is an absolute must and can literally be a life- saver! **Carry it with you always!** By layering with waderwick/Exo dri/capilene underwear and keeping your skin dry you can stay drier and warmer. Use a light/medium weight shirt (breathable type preferred), a fleece type vest and you can layer up or down to meet the changing weather. Wear the mid-weight underwear beneath your pants used for fishing with the medium weight socks and you should be comfortable on a "normal" day. If the weather turns cold, go to the heavier weight underwear and a mid-weight top with a shell (Rivertek or Windstopper) over it. If you are cold natured go to heavy/fleece weight bottoms instead of mid weight.

To minimize the amount of clothing that you take, you can wash out the waderwick/Exo dri/capilene with the camp soap, wring it out, hang it up and it'll be dry enough to put on in the morning (use your cord as a clothes line). Waders are not advisable within the lake as holes and drop-offs are a real concern.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF:

- **PERSONAL TOILET KIT/MEDICATIONS**
- 1 **HAND LOTION**
- 1 ***30+ SUN BLOCK - WE CARRY SOL, IT DOESN'T BURN YOUR EYES**
- 2 ***15+ LIP SUN BLOCK –WE CARRY SOL**
- 1 **CAMERA W/EXTRA FILM OR MEMORY AND BATTERIES(DIGITAL BUFFS)**
- 1 **SMALL PAIR OF GOOD QUALITY BINOCULARS - (OPTIONAL)**
- 2 ***BUG REPELLANTS WITH DEET, SPRAY OR LOTION – WE CARRY ULTRATHON BY 3M (CHECK OUT EXOFFICIO BUZZ OFF CLOTHING ALSO).**
- 1 ***ELBOW BRACE (OPTIONAL) - BLIND CASTING ALL DAY CAN TAKE IT'S TOLL**
- 1 **SMALL FLASHLIGHT**
- 1 **15' LENGTH OF CORD, 3/8" IN DIAMETER (FOR CLOTHES LINE)**
- 12 **SMALL WOODEN CLOTHES PINS**
- **CAMP SOAP FOR WASHING OUT CLOTHES**

- 1 ***ALARM CLOCK**
- 2 **PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS (FOR STORING WET GEAR ON THE WAY BACK)**
- 6 **ZIP LOCK BAGS – VARIOUS SIZES FOR “STUFF”**
- 1 **SMALL FIRST AID KIT**

DUFFELS/SUITCASES

Soft duffel bags are excellent for “adventure” traveling. That means your bags may end up on a trailer, exposed deck of a boat, tied to the roof of a land rover, (remember the rope in your gear list?) in a wheelbarrow or on a gravel beach. Soft duffels tend to stay where they are put and you always seem to be able to get just one more thing stuffed in. You may want to look at waterproof duffel for camera gear and an extra set of clothing. Sage and Simms make a good bag as well as Patagonia. Some of the newer hard shell bottom/soft top suitcases are also very good. They have compartments for organizing and compacting your clothing. Some have areas to pack rods/reels. Simms and Sage are two good suppliers.

TACKLE AND GEAR

RODS:

Rods by **SCOTT, SAGE, THOMAS & THOMAS, WINSTON, LOOMIS, TFO** and **ST. CROIX** are just a few of the top rods that are available today. They all have a slightly different feel and will do all of what you will ask and need.

An ideal choice of rods for Canada or related destinations would probably be one each (if you are from the camp of even rods), 8-10 weight rods or (the odd camp) 7-9 weight rods. They would most likely cover 98% of the fish encountered and one could always be a back up for the other in case of a broken rod (of course use what you have, but 2 rods of either group would suffice).

The best choice for traveling is the multi-piece rod. We have done a lot of traveling lately and have found a variety of situations for bringing rods on the airplane with you. We have generally been able to get on the plane with 3, 4, or 5 piece rods in a separate rod case. They do not like the aluminum tubes that the rods come in, although we have carried them on when affixed to our backpack. On our last trip I loaded up a cordura covered plastic 3-piece rod case (Sage/Abel type) with 5 fly rods and 2 spinning rods and carried it on the plane with me. However, it varies with the airline used so please check with the airline.

***ROD CASES:**

By using a 4" round or square rod case and leaving the nice aluminum tubes at home, you can carry 6 to 8 rods in their cloth "sacks". **ABEL, SAGE, WINSTON** and several others make great cases.

***TACKLE BAGS:**

Use your tackle bag to store all the necessary gear. There are a variety of bags that work great, **ABLE, SAGE, ORVIS**, ETC. all have excellent bags. If you can get one that's waterproof – it's a bonus (remember you can also use your plastic bags). Check out the newer "Rafter Bags" they are waterproof and they float! These are great bags for tackle organization at the lodge and on the boat.

REELS:

Reels with a smooth drag, and backing capacity of 200 yds. will be the best choice. The smooth drag helps prevent a break-off with lighter tippets, and puts steady pressure on the fish. The 200-yard backing capacity may be a bit overkill. Most pike won't run anywhere close to that, more likely 10-30 yards is the normal. But, there may be times when your position can't stop the fish from running and more backing will allow you a larger pick up diameter for faster line retrieval when the pike run at you. A spare spool for extra line, running line and shooting heads is also a good idea. Top brands such as **ABEL, TIBOR, VAN STAAL, OLD FLORIDA, ROSS, TFO** and **REDINGTON** and others are just some of the reel brands that will meet the demands of pike.

***FLY LINES:**

WEIGHT FORWARD FLOATING lines by Scientific Angler Mastery (SA) and RIO that are ideal are:

SA Cold Water Lines - Bass Bug and Saltwater Tapers, GPX line and a specialty fly line that is particularly good is the SA Pike line. It has that special taper for pick up and shoot needed for blind casting. The Bass Bug and Pike are also designed for casting and turning large flies over into the wind.

Rio Cold Water Lines - Rio Grand for general purpose and their specialty lines are Clouser taper (cold water) for the "Big Nasties" and the Rio Pike line. As above the specialty tapers are extremely good for blind casting and windy conditions.

SHOOTING HEADS (also known as shooting tapers) is a system that allows you, in conjunction with a level running line, to change out the front 30 to 40 feet with floating or various densities of sinking sections. This is not meant to attach to or replace your existing floating line, but rather become another system to let you get your fly to the fish. Sinking Heads come in various degrees of density and sink rates. Shooting heads are handy to have. I always keep a spare spool rigged with a running line and carry an

assortment of shooting heads in a wallet type case. This allows you to quickly change the front section of the system to one best suited to the current situation. The running lines are in various diameters from .031" to 038". Some fisherman use straight 40# mono for the running line. **RIO** and **Scientific Anglers** have shooting head systems with quick interchangeable heads that work very well.

WET OR SINKING TIP LINES are a good alternative to shooting heads. This is a full line where the running line and shooting head are integrated into a single line. You lose the quick-change option, however. The integrated lines run smoother through the guides and, in conjunction with using a spare spool of a different line density, it will allow you enough flexibility to get your fly down in the water column to whatever species of fish is available. Choice of systems is strictly your preference. **TEENY, RIO, and SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS** make exceptional lines. They come in different densities to match your rod weight. The new **RIO Outbound lines** I believe will also work very well and I will be trying them on our next trip to Canada. These lines are thinner in diameter and are very effective in windy conditions. We used them on the Zambezi in Namibia, Africa and they were excellent and very effective (we caught near record tiger fish) in the cold (40 F) and wind (15 to 20 knots) that existed during our stay.

***LEADERS:**

Leaders for floating line should be tapered, 6'-9' feet in length. Use the six footer on windy and cloudy days and the longer leaders on clear calm days. You can use the same leaders for your sinking tip lines or, some people, use straight mono 4'-5' feet long. We used 10-16 pound class tippets and 20 pound in the real weedy mat areas where we cast well up into the weed line.

All leaders should have a wire bite tippet. We used **Scientific Anglers Barracuda** wire bites tied to the mono leader with an Albright knot. The tippets have a finger re-twistable haywire twist for the fly end with a locking plastic sleeve. They also come with an optional metal snap for "quick change" on the fly. They come in 4" and 8" lengths – we used the 4" without a single cut-off.

BARBLESS HOOKS:

We haven't found that using a barbless hook loses fish. We have found that they hook easier because the smaller diameter of the hook, less the barb, goes all the way through and doesn't hang up. You can just squash the barb on your fly and see for yourself.

***MISCELLANEOUS TACKLE AND GEAR:**

- 1 OF EACH TIPPET SPOOLS, 10#, 12#, 16#, 20#
IN CLEAR MONO, FLUOROCARBON OPTIONAL.
- 8 TAPERED LEADERS, A MIX OF SIZES 6'- 9' 10#, 12#, 16# AND 20#.
- 4 PACKAGES OF THE WIRE BITE TIPPETS (2 PER PACKAGE, THE BITES BEND AFTER
NUMEROUS CATCHES AND BECOME DIFFICULT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT)
- 2 NIPPERS (1 FOR A SPARE)
- 1 HOOK SHARPENER AND/OR FILE
- 1 FORCEPS OR HOOK DEGORGER
- 1 30# BOGA GRIP (OPTIONAL)
- 1 PLIERS
- 2 DRY FLY FLOATANT AND STREAMER SINK AIDS (2 IN CASE YOU
LOSE 1)
- SPOOL OF FLY WEIGHTING MATERIAL/SHOT WEIGHTS/SINKING AIDS
- ZINGERS FOR NIPPERS/FLOATANT ETC.
- 1 POLARIZED SUNGLASSES (BRING A SPARE PAIR IF YOU HAVE THEM)
- 1 TOOL LANYARD (OPTIONAL)
- 1 TUBE OF SUPER GLUE FOR FLY REPAIR

***FLIES:**

We used a variety of flies and found that most worked, but a couple were exceptional. We need to remember that different times of the year (we were there in June) could mean a different "Best Fly" condition in the way of color, size and style (we were like surgeons at night repairing our deer hair diving flies. You **will** need super glue). See the list of flies at the end of the gear list.

GENERAL:

In traveling to any remote location the one single thing that will make a trip easier is to have patience and be flexible! Expect the unexpected and go with the flow, however slow it may be. If the rivers are up and dirty, suck it up and make the best of it. Wind howling? With practice, you will be amazed at what can be done in a high wind. Rain? That's why you have good raingear. Cold? That's why you have the right layered clothing.

If the plane or helicopter can't fly because of bad weather it's not the fault of the camp or lodge owners. They want you out of the lodge as much as you want to go. Don't berate the pilot if he thinks you shouldn't fly. He's the professional and if he doesn't think it's safe you're not going to get me on that plane!

ADDITIONAL THINGS I NEED TO GET/BRING:

DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT

***FLIES FOR CANADIAN PIKE**

Streamers – suspending and sinking

Fly Name	Color		#Hook Sizes
Barrs Bouface	red/white		2-1/0
Barrs Meat Whistle	chart/white	1	
Cowens Coyote	chart/white		1-1/0
Puglisi Flies			
Bait fish	shad		1/0
	yellow perch		1/0
	ghost		1/0 weed guard (wg)
Hot Minnow	red/white		2/0

Peanut Butter	black/red	2/0 (wg)
	chart	2/0 (wg)
Pike Killer	chart/chart	3/0
	red/yellow	3/0
	red/black	3/0
Clouser Deep Minnow	black	1-1/0 (wg)
	chart/white	1-1/0 (wg)
	chart/yellow	1-1/0 (wg)
	red/white	1-1/0 (wg)
Big Eye Deceiver	red/white	1/0-2/0
	chart/white	1/0-2/0
Whistler	variety of colors	2-2/0
Deep (Silo) Silhouette	variety of colors	2-2/0

Surface and Divers

Puglisi Flies		
Flex Popper	white/polar	1/0 (wg)
	chart/yellow	1/0 (wg)
	Pepper/pink	1/0 (wg)
Floating	red/yellow	2/0
	chart/white	2/0
The Crease Fly	black/black	1/0
	silver	1/0
Rabbit Strip (Umpqua)	red/white	1/0 (wg)
	chart/white	1/0 (wg)
	frog	1/0-3/0 (wg)
Dahlberg Divers	black	2-3/0 (wg)
	olive	2-3/0 (wg)
	yellow	2-3/0 (wg)
	red/white	2-3/0 (wg)
	chart/white	2-3/0 (wg)
	frog	2-3/0 (wg)
Swimming Baitfish (Umpqua)	red/white	1/0 (wg)
	red/yellow	1/0 (wg)
	shad	1/0 (wg)
Mirro-Lure (Fly H20)	red/white	1/0-2/0 (wg)
	red/yellow	1/0-2/0 (wg)
Swimminer Fast (Joe Smith)	black	2/0 Diver w/(wg)
	white/red	2/0 Diver w/(wg)
	chart/white	2/0 Diver w/(wg)

In general the deer hair diving flies far out-performed all others in the surface category, as did the Puglisi bait fish flies for the sinking variations. A fly I will try on my next visit is

the Puglisi Pike series, all the colors look great and they are large, 8" streamers with 4/0 hooks. I believe they might produce the new camp record.

Wherever possible try to get your flies with weed guards, even your streamers – as there are a lot of submerged logs and weed beds that you will be fishing in. Remember if you don't get snagged occasionally, your not fishing tight enough to the cover.

If you want you can e-mail us at the Fly Fisherman, and we will give you the name of the fly that caught almost 50% of our pike. This includes Peggy's 45" Northern and Gary's 3, 44" fish. Friends with us on the trip, Julie and George Milligan' caught two 42" pike! Peggy and I caught close to 150 pike with our group of 4 catching 279 fish for the week