

# George Daniel

Article by Jim Brady



As a young boy, George Daniel had an enviable problem. He lived in a rural area in northcentral Pennsylvania where there was little to do except explore the local trout stream. The stream had a section reserved for children so George had three miles of water virtually to himself. He developed a love of dry fly fishing and the willing wild brook trout that greedily accepted his offerings.

His angling life abruptly changed at the age of fourteen when his family moved to central Pennsylvania, famous for its spring-fed limestone streams. The brown trout in these waters spend most of their time feeding on the stream bottom. To be successful, George had to learn how to coax fish, sight unseen, to artificial nymphs, flies that mimic aquatic insects living amid the rubble on stream beds. George quickly adapted his approach to these new conditions. He soon became a very efficient nymph fisherman.

In 2003 he competed in regional qualifying events for selecting members of the US fly fishing team. He made the team and spent the next six years traveling the world meeting and competing against the world's most skilled fly fisherman.

Various styles of nymph fishing are named after the countries in which the techniques originated, such as Polish, Czech and French nymphing. George fished alongside the most highly skilled practitioners of these methods and successfully incorporated their techniques into his skill set. His long list of accomplishments include individual and US team gold medals at the US nationals in 2009 and twice earning the title of US fly fishing champion. He has served as head coach of the US youth fly fishing team and presently coaches the North Carolina fly fishing team.

On Saturday, March 2, the Nat Greene Fly Fishers will host George as the featured speaker at its annual banquet and seminar. He will offer a technically oriented seminar during the day directed at helping fishermen improve their skills. He will emphasize how to cover the water for the highest return, leader design and how to fish your flies at the desired depth. George's visit marks a rare opportunity for the average fly fisherman to learn from someone at the pinnacle of the sport. On Saturday evening, he will present a family-oriented presentation during the banquet on the beauty of fly fishing.

George has maintained his perspective while achieving mastery of his craft. When asked what advice he would give a beginner, he said concentrate on developing good technique, tie and fish patterns that are roughly impressionistic of food forms and finally, "keep it simple." Hearing someone at the top of their game reiterate what most fishermen learn after years of trial and error is refreshing, indeed. It means there's hope for the rest of us.