Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing
Topic: : Carp!
Re: Carp!
Author: : tocar
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URL:

Ah, the Cyprinidae! How I do love thee!

Carp are one of my favorite targets on lake and ponds. They may be just lowly carp to some, but to the fly rodder, they are magnificent. Very difficult to get hook ups if they're not actively feeding and even then they can be moody.

Stealth seems to be the key for me. I use a kayak to drift slowly within casting range and then toss a nymph (my favorite is just a marabou tail, dubbed body, a turn or two of soft-hackle). I usually try to cast a few feet in front of the direction the fish is heading, letting the fly drop to the bottom. When the fish gets close to the fly, I'll give it a twitch to entice. If I see the carp move toward the fly, I hold my breath and wait for a take. Set the hook and HOLD ON TIGHT! I've had monsters drag me around the lake before I landed them (well, I don't really land them, just pop out the hook when I can reach it).

Shallow backwaters always hold pods of carp. But caution is needed as if you spook one, the rest vanish like ghosts. Don't worry though, they usually come back in a few minutes and you can try again. In moving water, I look for the slowest spots. It isn't easy to drift a nymph past carp in moving water and get them to take.

I've found that fly patterns don't have to be specific, just general forage food types work best. There are exceptions however. When mulberry trees overhang water, carp often gather for a free meal as the berries fall into the water. Carp on dry flies (deer hair spun into a mulberry shape) is the ultimate fun for me. When those big lips suck the fly in, it's hard not to set the hook too soon. Wait for the tug is my suggestion.

A heavy rod (I use a 7wt) makes landing them easier, but a 5wt can be fun too.

Sorry this post is so long. The warm weather we're experiencing has me pumped for a day on the lake

peace-tony c.