

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Polish Nymphing

Re: Polish Nymphing

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I can't hold back on this one. Based on my limited experience (dating back to the mid-70's) I find it impossible to refer to the no attached indicator nymphing techniques as Czech, Polish, French or whatever. I learned this style of nymphing long before I ever knew about competitive fly fishing.

I was fortunate to be around some of the most innovative/effective nymph fishermen I will have ever known in the Lehigh Valley area back in the day and these folks were constantly experimenting with leaders and set-ups to make strike detection more effective. That's when someone came up with including a section or two of highly visible mono into the leader. That was somewhere around the mid-70's and, back then, we referred to it as a built-in strike indicator. Today we call this a sighter.

I'm not up on the history of Euro nymphing so I don't know when someone over there came up with the idea of a sighter; however, I wonder if perhaps we may have been the first.

You may ask why it hadn't become so well known in the U.S. earlier and that's a question I can answer with a bit of experience. Back in the 70's and 80's there wasn't much interest in nymph fishing. I was an advocate and would encourage folks I encountered to fish nymphs. I would offer to introduce them to this style of fishing and only a couple of folks took me up on my offer. Most of what I said fell on deaf ears. I could never understand why folks wouldn't have a burning desire to become more effective in their pursuit of trout but that's how it was.

I firmly believe that, to be the most effective nymph fisher today, one should become proficient using sighters and attached indicators. Believe me, there is no end-all, catch-all here.

Dave R.