

# Bankberg Troutfishers Club

Newsletter

February 2010

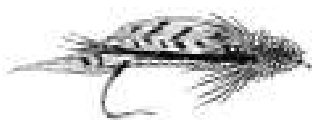
Compliments everyone!

Inspirational what a green landscape, blue skies and the effects of rain can do to motivate. Yes, we've had little relief of rain at town level  $\pm$  50mm over the month, and 180mm on top of the mountain.

Bestershoek has a little dirty brown water in  $\pm$ 15%, so doubtful if there are any fish still alive.

The Glen Avon dams, which are a vital cog to their farming operation, have also had a little boost. What is deceptive, is the fact that the water looks dirty brown as if there is no visibility, meanwhile the clarity is not bad, so the trout do survive.

Mountain dam is finally moving forward, the level has increased to about 40% and two of the three fountains are feeding the dam, albeit slowly.



Buffelshoek is full of surprises. The dam is  $\pm$  10% full, which verifies why it would have been fruitless stocking last year, although the fountain is now flowing moderately again. At the end of last year, the Buffelshoek pools were looking quite desperate, the Causeway pool was completely covered by decaying algae, as was the Long pool. The Krantz pool was fishable, but the water level had dropped about two feet and amazingly, it was still producing fish of 2.2 and 2.6 kg. One of the club members boasted that he'd hooked huge Hughy and that

he'd fought so hard that he had line burn marks on his fingers—the legend of Hughy lives on as he was never landed.

We also had an Azolla bloom (water fern) [pic1] where pools were completely covered. We took samples to Grahamstown to Rhodes University, who confirmed that the Azolla beetle was present. Apparently, each female lays a few thousand eggs, which



hatch after about 10 days, literally a month later, the pools were clear with remnant evidence caught in the debris on the edge of the pools. Nature is truly incredible. Now, in January, the Causeway pool presented a 61 cm fish weighing in at 3 kg.

The Naude's river is not flowing fast at all, despite the rains. However, if you wanted to escape the blazing heat of summer, this definitely is the water to fish, as one can find a patch of shade to stand under and present your fly throughout the day to rising fish. Sounds easy, but shows your skill levels in a flash. These pisces with pea sized brains humiliate the best of us. The Glen Avon falls produced a lively slab of 2.4 kg over the holiday period.

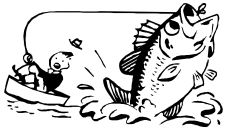
Mountain dam remained mysterious. At times she was very productive, alternatively with the drought wind of summer, when the crisp cold South Easter rose,



you'd swear there were no fish in Mountain dam—magically they vanish.

Other magic that has left us is Oom Jan Jordaan, the true gentleman and long standing member who passed away late last year. Our condolences and thoughts go out to Anne and the rest of her family. We were privileged to have known such a gem.

We hosted a very enjoyable Redcliffe / Thrift Club outing in December, well attended by fishermen and better halves. Riaan Ledoux won the floating trophy for being the most consistent angler over the weekend. Gift vouchers from the Angler & Antelope Fly shop for winning the various sessions were won by Riaan Ledoux, Guy Thompson, Gary McLeod & Shaun Hayes, and Frikkie Coetzee. The biggest fish of the weekend—3 kg—landed by Shaun Hayes and caught at Redcliffe, meant Shaun could enjoy a leg of lam donated by the hosts, Johnny and Carol Morgan. Redcliffe is an outstanding venue, well worth visiting. The weekend delivered 51 fish for 9 anglers. The 2010 event will be held over



the weekend 26—28 November, and this year we will just fish the Redcliffe dams over this weekend, as the drive to Thrift is quite tenuous. So, spoil your spouse and book this weekend in your diary. The Thrift outing will be a weekend of its own for 2010, and this year it will be February 19—21. Please contact Alan if you will be coming, so we can confirm space / payment. Martin Davies is again very generously sponsoring on of the days fishing, so Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday morning will only cost R 200 per person for the fishing, instead of R 400—Thanks Martin! Hobson’s Original Tadpole, “the HOT fly” will truly be



tested, as this is taddy month. So come on the harshest critics, let put the fly to the test.

Over the festive season, two issues struck home that are very relevant. The first is that of releasing your catch correctly. For those of you who know what to do, help your fellow anglers to ensure longevity of your catch. Here are a few tips (reference: *The Complete Fly Fisherman—Fishing nymphs, wet flies & streamers*, by Dick Sternberg, David L Tieszen & John van Vliet:

- Land a fish as quickly as you can
- “Handle the trout as little as possible. The best technique is to grasp the hook with forceps and back it out of the fish’s mouth; this way, the trout remains in the water and you do not have to touch it and risk removing its protective slime.”

- Always wet your hands before handling the fish.
- “Never squeeze the fish, hold it by the gills, drop it on the rocks, beach it or keep it out of the water for more than a few seconds.”
- When releasing the fish, support it in the water holding it by the tail, rock it back and forth gently, allowing water to move gently over the gills. Only release the fish when it is strong enough to release itself.

The second issue is far greater. We had visitors from all over the country who wanted to sample fly fishing in the Eastern Cape. They battled and so did I, to contact the other clubs to access areas of ECFF (East Cape Fly Fishers) where you, the fly fishing public have user friendly access to other club waters. The logic is that the hosting club receives a day ticket / rod fee which can bolster their coffers to buy more fish, stock more, better fishing, more visitors, a positive spiral for everyone. ECFF will endeavor to communicate with all its members, if



you do not receive any correspondence over the next few months, contact Alan via [bankberg@gmail.com](mailto:bankberg@gmail.com) to ensure you’re in the loop.

There is now a Bankberg Troutfishers Club e-mail address: [bankberg@gmail.com](mailto:bankberg@gmail.com), so let’s hear from you.

Intriguing to say the least, that rumour has it that a Welshman, Martin Davies, is secretly providing Murray Pedder of Fly Fishers Unlimited with the recipe to Thrift’s deadliest fly “the HOT fly”,



Hobson’s Original Tadpole—amazing what the promise of malt whisky can achieve. We are very privileged to have access to the volume and variety of waters in the Eastern Cape, especially if you read PJ Jacobs’ editorial of the February issue of the *Complete Flyfisherman*, about how increasingly fly shy the fish are becoming because of rod pressure. We have access to so much and it’s wild, so conserve it and enjoy.

#### CALENDAR FOR 2010:

19—21 Feb: Bankberg Club outing to Thrift

5 March: Friday, Bankberg Club AGM @ 19h00 at the Angler & Antelope.

6 March: Bankberg Club day @ Mountain dam.

26—27 March: Fly fishing & Wing shooting weekend. Fly fish Saturday morning & shoot birds Saturday afternoon.

14—15 May: Fly tying evening / trout fishing clinic; cost R 400 per person

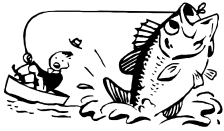
4—5 June: Macnab Festival

16—18 July: Biltong festival Tagged Trout Competition

6—9 August: Fly fishing special long weekend

24—26 September: Fly fishing special long weekend

22—24 October: Hobson’s Choice



festival

26—28 November: Bankberg Club Redcliffe getaway

January 2011: Bankberg trip to Sterkfontein dam to sight fish yellowfish—limited space, book now.

For more details on events, read future newsletters or speak to Alan 082 44 22 884 or e-mail him at [bankberg@gmail.com](mailto:bankberg@gmail.com).

NOTE: The AGM will be held at the Angler & Antelope—Nigel's Pub, starting at 19h00, on Friday March 5th. A meal will be served on the night @ R 75 per head, cash bar available. Please confirm your attendance so that we can cater for you. Annabelle 082 375 4720 or Alan 082 44 22 884.

The Angler & Antelope is offering an AGM special: bed & breakfast @ R 300 per person per night for this weekend.

Please confirm your space with Alan for the club outing to Thrift 19—21 February.

Wishing you all the best for 2010 and may your line e taught, your

reel screaming, and your smile beaming. God bless.

Committee contact details:

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Reg Playdon

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Buffelshoek

Johan & Annabè Schoeman

042 243 3592

Bestershoek / Mountain dam

Alan Hobson

082 44 22 884



**Before**



**After**



Other there ...



Take that!