

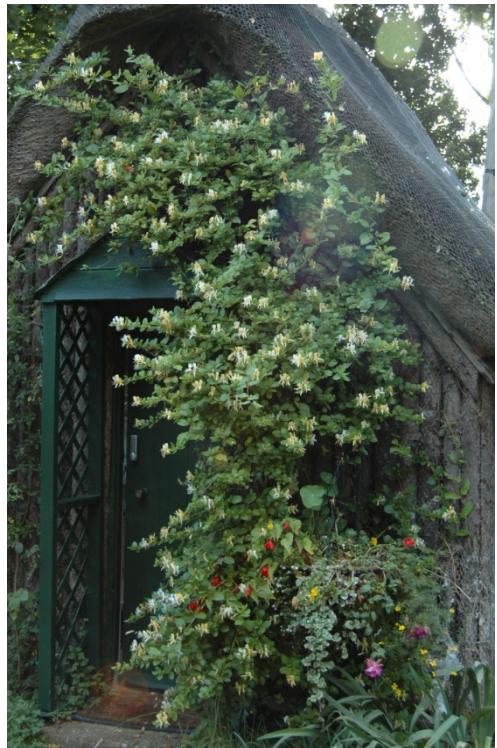
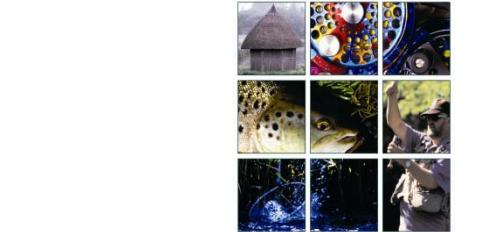
AUGUST FISHING ADVICE

TACTICS

August tends to be one of those months that gets mistakenly ‘written off’ by some fly fishermen as too hot, too sunny and too hard. But in truth if you are looking at a time when the rivers are at their most uncrowded and the English countryside splendid, I can’t think you will do much better.

My first tip is to pare down your kit; dress for the summer on the river. If you like shorts, wear them. Get rid of that heavy waistcoat for a few essentials hung around your neck. Ditch your wellingtons for something cooler and lighter. Secondly be prepared to fish in short bursts retreating to the shade at regular intervals. Thirdly watch the sun, keeping it to your face to prevent your shadows and your line spooking the fish.

As for fly presentation this is the month I most assiduously pay attention to my tippet. If a fish comes up for a fly, but turns away this is one of the few times of the year that I will consider reducing the thickness of the tippet rather than changing the fly. Likewise I will always apply Gunk, Fullers Earth or sinkent to the final 6 inches of my tippet every time I change or re-tie my fly.



TACKLE TIPS

The two items of kit that I feel most lost without are my Polaroid's and baseball cap; I know not everyone approves of caps but the long bill multiplies the effectiveness of your sunglasses and makes fish spotting far easier. If you are not sure whether your sunglasses are polarised here is a tip to check: hold two pairs at right angles to each other up to the light. If you cannot see anything both pairs are polarised because they block out all horizontal light.



HATCHES

Olives, sedges and midges are the three main hatches for August. All beats now allow the nymph option, so I have added a section for the non-hatching times when you will need to turn to your nymph box.

Blue Winged Olive

The definitive chalkstream fly that is the most widespread of the summer olives. The three stages in the lifecycle are all attractive to trout.



Emerger	Parachute Adams	size 14
Dun	Blue Winged Olive	14-18
Spinner	Sherry Spinner	16

Blue Winged Olive

Medium Olive

If it is not a Blue Winged then it will be one of any of the prolific summer olive hatches covering a variety of species.

Parachute Adams	16
Greenwell's Glory	16
Lunn's Particular	14-16



Lunn's Particular

Midges

Midges or 'buzzers' are incredibly prolific and the staple for stillwater anglers, but are equally effective on rivers where they are less commonly used. Fish the bloodworm close to the river bed, but try the buzzers at varying depths.

Deep Nymph	Bloodworm	12
Common Nymph	Buzzer/Midge Pupa	14-18
Emerger	CDC Shuttlecock	14
Adult	Knotted Midge	16



Red Buzzer

Sedges

There are over 30 British caddis species, but they are all fairly similar from an angler's viewpoint. A few different patterns will cover them all.

Cinnamon Sedge	12
Elk Hair Caddis	14
Silver Sedge	12-14
Klinkhammer	14-16 (Emerger)



Klinkhammer

Terrestrials

Ants and Daddy-Long Legs are some of the most fun patterns to fish. Ants are the less common of the two, but always carry a few because on the rare occasions a swarm gets blown onto the water the trout will go mad for them. Daddy-Long Legs are far more common (there are 300 species native to Britain) and trout view them as easy pickings. Fish this fly in the surface film rather than cocked on the surface.

Daddy-Long Legs	12
Black Ant	16



Daddy-Long Legs

Nymphs

When nothing much is moving on the surface observe the fly life and match with the nymph.

Damselfly Nymph	12	Damselflies
Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear	12	Sedges
Pheasant Tail Nymph	14-16	Olives
Pink or Olive Shrimp	14	Freshwater shrimp



Green Shrimp



Bloodworm



Black Ant



Olive Nymph



Black Sedge