

“Movement Is More Important Than You Think”

Sam Potter Tightline.Biz

In an earlier article I talked about the color of a fishermen’s clothing making a difference when you fish for wild trout. Movement in the water is just as important.

Most of the people today are always in a hurry. Computers that take 10 seconds to load a site are too slow, the speed limit on the highways is a joke and always too slow. If the limit is 70 MPH, most of the traffic is traveling 80, especially in Missouri. Meals are consumed in 10 minutes, the boss needs the plans on his desk yesterday.... you know what I am talking about. This hurry up mentality is carried over to the stream.

Getting in a hurry on a stream will cost you a lot of fish, especially big fish. I have watched guys wade out into the middle of the stream at Bennett Spring and almost step on 4 and 5 pound fish and never even know that they were there. I have watched the same thing happen at Taneycomo. It seems like these guys are more interested in getting to a location than they are in catching fish. The same guys complain that there aren’t any fish, or that the fish are not biting, or they can’t seem to catch anything other than small ones.

I know that it probably doesn’t matter at Bennett Spring or Taneycomo, because there are plenty of other fish to catch. BUT it does matter if you are interested in fishing for wild trout.

First of all think about the environment where the fish live. There are NO clocks, no dead lines to meet, no place to go, no one to visit, nothing to do but survive and reproduce; the only two major things that drive these fish.

Survival depends on a lot of factors, some being: Food, water temperature, oxygen content, breeding habitat, and hiding from predators. The only three that the fish can control is catching food, breeding and hiding from predators. If a fish needs to hide from predators, then they must be in tune with their immediate surroundings. The better a fish is with this behavior the bigger and older they get. Hence, if you want to catch fish and especially big fish, then you must very adept at concealing your presence.

If I see fishermen wading, and they are creating a wake in front of them as they move through the hole where they are fishing, then I know that every fish in that hole knows that there is a dangerous presence where they live. The movement of water by a fisherman does not fit within the “natural” condition of the stream. If you sit on the bank and look at the water, is there a wake? You may catch some of the smaller fish, because they are still in kindergarten and they have not figured out that the water displacement is dangerous. Just like the trout that follow you around in Taneycomo or Bennett Spring. Man means food not danger.....In the wild man means death.

I have actually heard fishermen wading in a stream 200 yards away... don’t you think the fish know they are there. These same 3 guys walked past me a few minutes later and complained that they had not caught a fish all day. I wonder why?

The next time you are out on one of our wonderful wild streams take a few minutes to look, listen, smell and feel what is going on around you. I promise that you will become a better fisherman and a better person for it.

I try to get clients to slowwwww down and not miss the events of the day. The sight of mink, or otter swimming along the bank, the sounds of the eagles as they circle overhead, the sounds of the Kingfisher flying by, and if they listen very carefully the sounds of the trout slurping spinners off the water. This is what I enjoy when I am out on the water and what I want to expose to my clients.

Slowwwww down, move without a wake, be careful what color you wear and you will be rewarded.

“A Bad Day Fishing is Still a Great Day”