

Does Color Matter?

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I am not talking about the color of your truck, your girl friend's hair or the color of the fly you are using. I am talking about the color of your fly line, and the color of your clothes.

If you don't think color matters, try fishing on the Current River or the wild trout creeks in this area with a white hat or a white T-shirt and yes those bright red fly lines. You will swear that there isn't a fish in the stream. Unlike most of the fish in Taneycomo, especially up by the hatchery, or in any of the trout parks, the trout in the Current river, and the wild trout in the creeks, are very aware of their environment and the dangers they face every day, most notably fishermen. Yes we have lots of otters, and we see eagles and osprey all the time, but the #1 threat to the fish are fishermen. If your favorite hat is white, or better yet one of those florescent orange jobs, you might get lucky enough to catch some of the smaller fish, especially the rainbows that come down out of Montauk Park, but you will have a difficult time catching anything of size especially the stream born rainbows and the browns that have lived there for several years. They will get lockjaw and look for a place to hide at the first site of anything resembling a fisherman. If there isn't a place to hide, I have watched them lie on the bottom of the stream and not move, just trying to "blend in" and they will not hit anything you throw at them. Bright colors against a dull background stand out like a deer hunter in a tree stand. If you start waving one of those bright red fly lines over the trout down here, don't expect to catch very many fish, especially over shallow flat water.

The next time you are out on the water take a look up or down the stream sometime, and notice what you see first, the bright colors some of the fishermen wear especially white or bright red. Those are the first colors the fish see when you are wading, and especially walking the banks. My advice for clients is to wear colors that match the background colors where they are fishing. Because the upper Current River and the creeks are narrow, and totally surrounded by trees most of the colors are green and turn to browns in the fall and winter.

Color may not make a difference where you fish, but if you are planning a trip to the Current River, or the wild trout creeks in this area, match the background colors for more success. Should you wear camouflage? Have you noticed some of the newest fishing shirts on the market?

"A Bad Day Fishing is Still a Great Day"