

Scott Brooks: Designing Gameplans for Success



A former starting lineman for the Colorado State University Rams, Scott Brooks values a winning game plan. Whether charting the financial plays for clients in the wealth management field or seeing the open routes to help his Wambolt & Associates teammates succeed, Scott optimizes opportunities to excel. As his Wealth Management Advisor role continues to grow, Scott remains focused on creating an optimal client experience.

“I love working with our clients, from facilitating their introduction to the firm to researching strategies that can help them achieve their financial goals,” Scott says. “I have the chance to work with so many smart, accomplished clients and provide value as they make wealth management decisions.”

To enhance the client experience and support the firm’s commitment to innovation, Scott investigates and integrates recent technologies. “By using cutting edge, customized, financial planning software, we can save time and devote even more attention to our clients,” Scott explains. “We also can provide state of the art presentations to our clients so that their financial picture and options are easier to understand.”

Taking a proactive approach to client service is a Wambolt & Associates priority that Scott embraces. “Each client household is different and that’s why it’s so important for us to do our homework, have good instincts and be proactive,” he says. “This is especially true during challenging economic times. When there’s turbulence, it’s so much better to have a pilot talking you through it than a pilot whose silence creates anxiety.”

Scott has stayed on top of his game through continued professional education, including the attainment of his Series 65 and Certified Financial Planner® designation. He also emphasizes the crucial mentoring he has received from his firm colleagues. “I appreciate and trust our entire team for their talents and leadership,” he says. “Our focus is on collaboration and making every team member better and more confident. I’ve certainly benefited from the wisdom of our senior advisors and the examples they’ve set.”

As he looks at the field in front of him, Scott sees exciting potential on both the professional and personal fronts. With his growing day-to-day responsibilities, Scott hopes to be part of the team to “carry the ball and run with it,” as the firm moves into the future. On the personal front, he is happily anticipating his upcoming marriage to Paige. They look forward to spending time with both families in addition to enjoying an active Colorado lifestyle of travel, being outdoors and skiing.

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Fly of the Month · February 2024

3 Tips for Extending the Life of Your Fly Line

By: Peter Stitcher

A fly rod with a neglected fly line is a lot like a car with bald tires—neither will perform their intended function well. Without proper care, you’ll experience a lack of control, and your time outdoors is going to be more frustrating than fun. Considering that a quality fly line typically costs on average between \$90-\$140, it’s a vital fly-fishing asset that needs to be cared for if it’s going to perform well. Over time, failure to care for your fly line will begin to wreak havoc on your accuracy, fly presentation, drift, and ultimately your ability to catch fish.

In this article I’m going to discuss the three most common ways that fly lines break down, provide solutions for addressing each issue, and discuss when it is time to purchase a new line.



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Fly of the Month Pattern: Ray Charles

Size: 20



The Ray Charles pattern is the guide's number one choice when attempting to imitate sow bugs. Cousins of scud and freshwater shrimp, these crustaceans are best described as underwater roly polys. While these tasty trout treats are common in a number of lakes and rivers across the country, their numbers can reach epic proportions in waters such as the Big Horn River in Montana, the Wind River in Wyoming, and the White River in Arkansas, making them a must-have pattern in every angler's fly box.

Dry/Wet: Wet **Fly Category:** Attractor Pattern, True-Fly Pattern
Family: Scud, Shrimp, & Sowbugs **Species:** NA **Life Stage:** NA

A Dirty Line is a Dead Line

The gradual accumulation of dirt, oil, and dust over time can ultimately lead to the demise of a fly line. Fly lines are infused with micro air-filled beads which give them their buoyancy. The accumulation of dirt and grime adds a seemingly significant amount of weight that can tip the buoyancy balance and cause your line to sink. Dirt and oil also act as a surfactant, reducing the surface tension of the fly line, and causing it to quickly drop through the surface of the water. Over time, if dirt and grime are allowed to sit on the line, it will dry out the plastic, causing it to crack and exposing the core of the line. Once a fly line begins to crack, the core of the line will suck up water like a straw and the line will need to be replaced.

To prevent your fly line from sinking or cracking, get into the habit of regularly cleaning your line after every couple of trips to the river. While several companies sell line cleaning pads and special soaps, the most cost-effective way to clean your line is as follows:

1. In a bucket, add a small amount of Dawn dish soap, fill the bucket with warm water.
2. Strip your soiled fly line into the bucket of soapy water and allow it to soak for 15-20 minutes.
3. With a clean rag, tightly gripped in your hand and draw the fly line from the soapy water through the rag.
4. Continue to run the line through the rag, moving to clean patches as needed, until the entire length of the line has been wiped clean.

Dealing with Bad (Line) Memory

Over time, if your fly line remains tightly wound on the reel, those loops will persist as you strip out line for fishing. The resulting memory of the time spent coiled on the reel is a slinky-like presentation where only a fraction of your line contacts the water. This causes the line to sink rapidly and drag through the current. To correct this, you will need to stretch out the memory.

Here is how you remove memory from your line:

1. On your front lawn or floor of your house, strip out the first 50 feet of fly line.
2. Starting with the section of line closest to your backing, begin to apply a firm, steady stretching pressure to 2-3 feet of line, moving towards the leader.
3. Hold the stretching pressure on each section of the line for several seconds until the line lays straight once the pressure is released. Continue and repeat towards the end of the fly line.

Fixing a Twist

A twist in your fly line can accumulate over time for a number of reasons, whether it is due to your casting arch, casting across wind that can cause your fly and line to repeatedly roll over or retrieving a streamer through the current. The result of an accumulated twist in your line will look and behave very similarly to memory in a line. Here is how you remove twist from your fly line.

1. On your front lawn or floor of your house, strip out all of your fly line until you reach the backing.
2. Pinch the line closest to your backing and vigorously whip the 3-4 feet of line above your hand up and down as you slide your hand up the line.
3. Don't release your grip on the line as you whip up its length towards the loop.

Cuts, Cracks, and Broken Loops

Nothing lasts forever. When your fly line shows cuts, cracks exposing the core, missing pieces of plastic sheathing, or a broken loop, it will take on water like a sieve—a clear sign that it's time for a new line!

We hope that this helps you prepare for a great fishing year in 2024, and if you end up needing a new line, the team at Ascent Fly Fishing is here to help you out!