

After Dark Predators: Fly Fishing with Mouse Patterns for Trophy Brown Trout

With Tommy Lynch

D. Roger Maves: [00:00:00] Welcome to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, your source for learning more about fly fishing in cold water, warm water, and salt water. Hello, I'm Roger Maves , your host for tonight's show. On this broadcast, we'll be featuring Tommy Lynch and he'll be answering your questions on Fly Fishing with Mouse Patterns for Trophy Brown Trout.

This show will be 90 minutes in length and we're broadcasting live over the internet. If you'd like to ask Tommy a question, just go to our homepage at askaboutflyfishing.com and use the Q and A text box to send us your question. We'll receive your question immediately and we'll try to answer as many of them as possible on the show tonight.

And while you're there, make sure you sign up to receive our announcements so you don't miss out on any of our future broadcasts. Just fill out the form on the right side of our homepage and we'll let you know when the next live show will be. This broadcast is being recorded and will be available for playback on our website about 48 hours after the show ends.

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When we return, we'll be talking with Tommy Lynch about Fly Fishing with Mouse Patterns for Trophy Brown Trout.

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Before we introduce Tommy, we'd like to let you know about the great prizes we have to give away tonight for our drawing tonight we'll be giving away a one year membership, to fly Fishers International. And a one year membership to Trout Unlimited. Now, if you haven't registered yet for

the drawing, you can do so now, just go to our homepage at askaboutflyfishing.com and look for the link under tonight's section that says, register for our free drawing.

Click on that link and fill out the form, and we'll announce the winners at the end of the show. We'll also be giving away a book courtesy of Stackpole Books. So I've got a bunch of books here that I can give away from Stackpole and whoever wins, well, I'll be sending that list out and then you'll be able to pick a [00:03:00] book from that list.

So here's how you win. You've got to be the first person to answer the question I ask at the end of the show. The question will be about something that Tommy and I talk about during the show. You must submit your answer along with your name and location using that text box on our homepage. So listen closely, it takes lots of notes, type fast when the moment comes and maybe you'll be, the proud winner of a Stackpole book.

Tonight our guest is Tommy Lynch. Tommy is a fly fishing guide based in northwest lower Michigan guiding anglers in a variety of rivers and waters in pursuit of wild brown trout and steelhead.

Often referred to as locally as Lake Run Rainbows. The fishing, has been a central part of life for as long as he can remember. He began fishing these streams as a kid alongside his father, and his obsession only deepened once he earned his driver's license and gained full freedom to chase fish.

With decades of time spent on these waters, [00:04:00] Tommy brings a season presentation driven approach to guiding. His style, emphasizes streamers, mouse patterns, and thoughtfully activated dry flies, all delivered with an understanding that comes from countless days on the river. That experience has given him a deep appreciation for the subtle and most mystical elements of fly fishing insights that clients benefit from every day, every time they step into the water with him.

When he stopped fishing or tying flies Tommy is most proud of being a father to his two sons, Thomas and Alexander, and a husband to a remarkable wife. Who graciously tolerates his lifelong habit of staring at moving water. Tommy describes himself as something of a one trick pony, but only but one who is constantly refining that trick, for him that's the true beauty of fly fishing. There is no ceiling, growth, awareness and skill are limited only by the time and attention one is willing to invest in the craft.

Well, Tommy, welcome to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio.

Tommy Lynch: Sir, how are you? Thank you for having [00:05:00] me. Can you hear me okay?

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, you're a little, little, uh, soft. Can you,

Tommy Lynch: lemme go.

D. Roger Maves: Are on the speakerphone.

Tommy Lynch: How's that? A little bit better.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, that's better. That's better. Okay, good.

Tommy Lynch: Very good, sir.

D. Roger Maves: All right, Tom. Yeah. I hear you're in a, you briefly told me you're in the middle of a snowstorm, huh?

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. We haven't really quit snowing for a better part of two or three weeks now.

D. Roger Maves: Oh my gosh,

Tommy Lynch: Two months. Yeah, we've, I think we're at like 46 inches and counting for the season and you know, winter just sized up about a month ago, so we got still a couple months of this left.

D. Roger Maves: Oh my goodness. Well send some out to the Rockies. Would you? We, don't have any snow.

Tommy Lynch: I've heard a little dry out there. Yeah, we've had a couple of brown winters around here, which I have been very gracious for. 'cause we can carry that streamer thing all the way through winter. But this is not one of those. They are, they just dropped a big old snow globe right on Michigan this year. And I think it's,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Tommy Lynch: It's snows maybe nine out of 10 days right now.

D. Roger Maves: Okay. [00:06:00] Tommy, are you on a speaker phone?

Tommy Lynch: No, I took it off the speaker phone.

D. Roger Maves: Oh. Oh, okay. Okay. Because you're kind of coming in and out on me there, so I just wanna make sure we're getting a good recording here. So.

Tommy Lynch: How's that? Is that better? I could talk into the bottom of the phone. Is that better?

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, that's good. Okay. Alright, good. Well, lots of questions tonight, Tommy. Everybody's interested in this, in fishing with at night with mouse patterns. So, let's get at it. And, of course, the goal of the show is to share information and, teach people about, you know, fishing for big browns, trophy browns at night, with mouse patterns and anything else, that you might have in your arsenal. Yeah. So, what is it about mouse patterns that triggers such an aggressive strike from big Browns at night?

Tommy Lynch: Well, I think it's, your answers in the question it's brown trout and it's at night, you know? During daylight hours, a big trout can consider, [00:07:00] you know, a hopper or a streamer, you've been nymphing, uh, assorted hatches, whatnot.

But it's always a consideration when something hits the water at night. It's his, pardon my French, sir. It's kind of, its fucking job, you know what I mean? It's, it's what a brown trout's supposed to do

as a, a nocturnal predator. As it isn't a nocturnal trout. It is a nocturnal trout. And therefore, when you go out and fish him at night, his resolve is much more, um, pure.

You don't have to tease and your window of presentation is cut in half. You don't need the 40 foot cast, the 20 footer does play. I mean, there's just a lot of benefits to fishing the dark side.

D. Roger Maves: Okay. Okay. Are they actually keying in on real mice or is it more about the sound, the silhouette, the disturbance?

Tommy Lynch: So, you know, I would definitely say that anything that hits the water at night is going to get audience. I mean, I've tied up some creepy stuff at night and to some end, you know, everything gets swatted or kissed or actually hoovered up. Um, [00:08:00] but I also would say in the same sentence that it, as you get into a more pressured fishery, or even those fisheries that do have a tremendous amount of, high grass near the bank edge, that kind of, you know, that's the big thing, on the pier Marquette, we have a lot of woods and conifers and our forests are very dense, so there's no real grass to speak of growing out in the forest.

But at the river edge, this stuff grows like seven feet tall and it's got an oak that looks like a corn cob to a trout or to a mouse at night. If you're sitting on the bank for more than five minutes, you'll have mice crawl across your legs. So it is a match to hatch in certain scenarios, just like I would say on the upper man of sea where, there is less grass but more cattail that's gonna promote more frog activity.

So therein where your question is what does and doesn't work well, everything to some end gets that audience. But as you fish that more natural kind of happening for them, you will get more kind of hookup. [00:09:00] Or if nothing else, the baseline for good hookup to, to roll ratio is the presentation of it.

And that consideration, I think a lot of people miss that. We'll come back to that at some point. You can ask me about that, but

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah,

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. Sorry, go ahead.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah, I noticed, you know, I have a little lake down the hill from me here that I fish in all the time. And, I've got some little mouse patterns and I tell you when nothing else is happening on that lake.

I put that little mouse pattern on and something will come up and take a hit. I mean, it's never failed, so.

Tommy Lynch: That's right.

D. Roger Maves: I hear what you're saying. Yeah. We have a question from Jay Rios. He's down in New Mexico, he says why the anglers target nighttime browns with mouse patterns when subsurface streamers can really be effective at night and have, much higher hookup percentages.

Is it just for the top water blowup action? If so, the mouse patterns are only audible and have, zero visual effect. I fish at [00:10:00] night, but I have. I've given up on mouse patterns simply because big articulated subsurface streamers are much more effective for me. I also find it hard, the hard takes on the streamers are much more stimulating to me than the audible mouse blowups.

I've always tried to understand this, so your wisdom would be greatly appreciated, so.

Tommy Lynch: You know what? I love this pot. These are some awesome questions. Geez, I love this. This. Okay, so this is a guy that's definitely got the onion and he's peeling it apart a little bit, and I know right where he is at and I don't want him to think.

I don't want him to think for one second that we're all stuck in a rod here fishing just mice. We are not, if you look up a fly that I've come up with, it's called the beetlejuice. And the Beetlejuice is right what he's, it's like a muddler on steroids, that's on acid. You know what I mean?

It's just a crazy looking bug. It has rubber legs, it has a tail, a little flanking with Guinea foul and then a wedge head that allows you to fish a long leader and penetrate on a [00:11:00] mend. It'll get a dig and you can penetrate that surface column upwards of two or three feet. So that's surface take. We love the sound of it, but I will say for clients that have what we call the pucker. And let me refer to the pucker as just that excitement that builds up in a client. And I call it the pucker. 'cause you know, from a guide standpoint, I can always see their waders tighten up when they get in a bike.

You know what I mean? They can get their butt cheeks kind of tightened up there a little bit. So, I called the pucker and I tell people, if you can learn to control your pucker, when a fish comes up and sets up the flock, you can actually convert more of those, what he's calling that lower ratio of hookups on the surface.

It's because of that presentation angle. Many people throw the mouse to one side of the river and just simply let it draw across as if you were swinging. Like for steelhead, this is not that. What you truly wanna do here is set this up in any way, maybe like a winner steelhead presentation, where you stack men and instead of having [00:12:00] any type of broadside presentation of the fly, the fly then is turned upstream.

And you stack it because no matter what, the fly's gonna retreat to your side of the river based upon that 45 degree or nine o'clock cast from your person. Now, as you stack men, that hook is now downstream where the head of the fly is upstream, and that forces the fish from the downstream looking up. That baggage of line from the tip of the rod to the water that belly, as it were.

Is that slack allowance to allow that fish when he comes up and depresses that water. It caviates it simply sucks under and allows that fish to not just kiss and bump that fly, but also take the fly in. 'cause one thing people fail to remember is when you throw a broadside cast across the river, there's a water tension on your line that that fish is not factoring in. 'Cause he thinks he's chasing something natural.

So when he goes to depress that fly or your presentation or his idea of what a mouse or a [00:13:00] frog might be, it's already being pulled out of that wash of suction because of that tension of line. So when you stack the men, that baggage of line from the tip of the lot allows that slack and response. If, and I, emphasize if and as you get better and kind of control your ways around the dark side at

night, you will learn to control your pucker and you will convert more of those surface stakes. So where he says that. It is easier to convert more fish when I have clients that are puckering too much and I'm getting to the bottom of the night of my night and I need that guy to touch something kind of cool.

What I'll do is I will take off that mouse because he can't control his excitement, which is great. I mean, it's like buck fever with a fly rod, right? And when he's all spent and just all bucked up like that, but he's, he's upset that he can't convert. I'll give him a Beetlejuice and he can't hear the take.

The take is taunt just like a steelhead where the fish hooks themselves and you simply lift through that happening nice and easy without slamming it. [00:14:00] And therein lies that kind of difference for him, where if that presentation on the surfacely is mended correctly. Now, I, on the same breath, I will say that when there's any type of moon or extra light in the scenarios, I have a tendency to wanna go to that subsurface. When I say subsurface, I throw nothing let. I don't want to be anywhere near the bottom.

When I'm fishing subsurface, I'm within two or three feet of the surface because I realize most sharks like to come from underneath. This is like fishing. You know, you ever watch those videos where they're, where you got the seal and they're dragging it behind the boat and they've got that camera and they, that shark is looking from up and under.

That visual, they kind of come up, they test it, they come up again, they set it up and they need to come around and they gotta get it set up. And that visual, that idea that he's coming, this is the same thing. We're fishing a mammal to a fish. Same church, different pew. So, sorry [00:15:00] sir. I kind of started rambling there. My bad.

D. Roger Maves: You got excited Tommy, I'm wondering if you can control your pucker when you're out on the river there.

Tommy Lynch: Oh no. I, my, I the fourth, I mean, there has been so much trial and error and if you don't think that 90% of my first, you know, you gotta remember when I started mousing, it really wasn't, you know, when I started taking trips, I tell people I'm taking people mousing. They look at me sideways like a dog.

It wasn't a word, you know, it wasn't as trendy as it's now. Nowadays it's fuck everybody's doing it, which is cool. I think it's great 'cause they really see a, if you really want to see a brown trout be all he can be. You don't know a brown trout until you know him in the dark.

I wouldn't do

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Half the things I do in daylight if I didn't know what he's willing to do in the dark.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Interesting. So you're saying there's a place for both, mouse patterns, fish properly and streamer patterns? Just depends on the situation and the skill of the, uh, fly fisher. Right?

Tommy Lynch: [00:16:00] That's very true, sir. Yes.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. I mean, what you're describing is that the first time that I almost got a hook up with a tarpon, I cast into the, uh, into some mangroves. I'm stripping it in. I can see the water's crystal clear. I can see my minnow coming at me and I see this big old bucket mouth right behind it.

And I thought he closed it, but he didn't. And I pulled it right out of his mouth and the guide was like, no, no, no, no, no.

Tommy Lynch: You know, it's no different than a, a good two-handed, guide out west or out here, whatever, when you're two hand fishing, we always beg that client not to set, let the fish kind of, you know, button himself up, let 'em get to that drag before you come up with that rod at all.

And it is hard because it feels like somebody's dropping a dog on cinder block on that fly rod, so, you know, and it's cold out. So any excitement kind of makes them jolt with a little bit of electricity. So, yeah.

D. Roger Maves: Oh yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Sorry about, we pulled down on the same question there for a bit.[00:17:00]

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Is there any time, well, other than right now, because it's freezing cold where you are, but is there a particular time of year that mouse fishing is more productive in your neck of the woods up in Michigan or,

Tommy Lynch: I can tell you I used to run these hosted trips and, you know, sooner or later when my boys get back in, and I'm not that cool, my boys are, 16 and 14 right now, so I'm still pretty cool , and eventually I'm not gonna be cool and the girls are gonna be a lot cuter than, you know, hanging out at home.

And I welcome that, but I want to grab all I can, but I'll be hosting those trips. We used to fish mice all night long in the middle of the winter down there on the White in Arkansas and

D. Roger Maves: Oh, wow.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah, some of the applications we got into and two handed, we were using spey rods with full scandi lines running like 12, 14 foot leaders and Beetlejuice.

Oh my gosh. What Beetlejuice did to those brown trouts should be outlawed. My single best night of, brown trout or day for that matter of trout fishing in my career was 34 browns over 20 inches, me and a buddy. And we broke, uh, [00:18:00] 24 inches seven times and we did it in six and a half hours. Um, which is

D. Roger Maves: Oh my goodness.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah, that's, I mean, I fish a lot of nights and we've had some good nights here in Michigan, but you know, 34 browns over, I mean, seven over 24., That's, we just, you know, that place

D. Roger Maves: You killed it

Tommy Lynch: Is a bit of a,

D. Roger Maves: You killed it

Tommy Lynch: A lot. A lot of southern tail waters are like that as far as the best time of year, you're always gonna want to be considering that grass scenario. You know, when that oat is prime, and I usually say around the end of May. Through, I'd say about middle later, July is the highlight that said you could fish a mouse right now in the middle of winter. And if you were willing to go out there and break our river's, actually an ice cube, you can't do it. We're going through an our, the coldest air in seven years is coming in here right now, so,

D. Roger Maves: Right.

Tommy Lynch: Um, and all that considered, but I mean, if the water was open right now and you went out at night with a mouse, you could get a fish to come up for 'em. It's kind of in their, it's somewhere in their DNA, you know, would I say that water temperature dictate much better hit, [00:19:00] of course.

You know what I mean? The warmer the water gets play round trout period. So, um, but that high,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Tommy Lynch: That prime is, yeah, that's a big one.

D. Roger Maves: So Don, in Bozeman, Montana asks, are there any particular geographic locations where nighttime mouse pattern fishing is most productive? And you basically answered that, uh, pretty much anywhere, right?

That there are mice and there are brown trout. It's gonna work right?

Tommy Lynch: You don't even really need mice. Again, we were fish in the White in Arkansas. There was concrete and docks in every direction, but say there was wilderness on either side, but they'd still, again, what wouldn't they give audience to at night? You know what I mean?

D. Roger Maves: Right.

Tommy Lynch: Out west, they're much more likely to see a mouse out there. Do you know what I mean? So, and snakes are not out the, I know guys up north at fish snake patterns in certain swamp areas. You can get creative, brown trout at night, the reason we go out at night, again, fishing in daylight and seeing a fish come to a grasshopper in the middle of the day, there's something glorious about that.

And to say that you lose a little of that visual candy as it [00:20:00] were because you can't see what's going on. I say, you know, as you get to know the force a little bit more, your, awareness of what's actually happening at night because you stop using your, your direct line of sight you use what little vision you're trying to get from your peripheral.

But to be honest, you don't use a lot of vision. You're kind of using like that off corner where you find the bank and you use a lot of memory. I always tell people, if you want to get good at mousing, learn two or three bends of river exceptionally well. Exceptionally well. Like that stick. Oh, I know it's behind that stick. Is it a gravel bar or is it a pool? Is there a fish that lives near that wood? If you get to know a section to a point where you've seen a couple of big browns here or there, if you wanna know his achilles heel, throw him a mouse in the middle of the night, he will smoke it. That is his job.

You are trying to win a popularity contest in the middle of the day. And it's tough. It's, you gotta do a lot of things right. Which I encourage, but it's, it's tougher in daylight.

D. Roger Maves: [00:21:00] Yeah. Yeah. Tommy, I want you to hold tight for just, 30 seconds while we do a quick break, and then when we come back we'll talk more about mousing at night for big Browns.

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You are listening to Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio, and we're talking with Tommy Lynch about Fly Fishing with Mouse Patterns for Trophy Brown Trout. If you'd like to ask Tommy a questions, go to our homepage at [00:22:00] askaboutflyfishing.com and use the Q and A text box to send us your question.

We'll receive your question immediately and we'll try to answer as many of them as possible on the show tonight.

I know you're not doing much fishing right now up there, but when you do and I know you do guide service up there, how, what's the best way for people if they're interested in your services to get ahold of you?

Tommy Lynch: Well, and I will say right now we're really locked up, but I did about a dozen trips over, I don't know, like a two and a half week period when we were up in the, the steelhead run kind of came in a little bit. We got on that swing part, we swing a lot of 200 rods in the.

D. Roger Maves: Oh, okay.

Tommy Lynch: Late fall.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. So, but yeah, now this weather has come in and that's probably the end of that. But yeah, as far as getting in touch, thefishwhisperer.com, is probably the best way, or, you know,

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Tommy Lynch: Obviously there's a phone number that'll be attached maybe to this in some way. Um, but yeah, I'm pretty old school. I don't have, I'm not real tech, you know, so.

D. Roger Maves: Okay, so thefishwhisperer.com is [00:23:00] the website.

Tommy Lynch: Yes, sir.

D. Roger Maves: Okay, great. Great. Good. We did get, uh, we're getting some questions in online here, Tommy, and I'll just tell you when I pick one off, the web here. Well, first one, Phil McCartney, a long time listener, he says, tell us about catching the trout that's shown in the picture associated with tonight's show.

Tommy Lynch: Which one did we do for tonight?

D. Roger Maves: Which one did we do? You've got so many. This one's got a big pink mouth with a red tie.

Tommy Lynch: Oh, did not. In fact, that is a Oh, yes, yes. No. Yes I do. Uh, we got that, that was my last year down in Arkansas. That just was, I don't think it, it wasn't 30, I think it was 29 or 28 and three quarters, I think.

Anyways, that was on a Beetlejuice, that's on a two-handed rod doing exactly what I was talking about. If every, you know, I know a lot of the big tailwaters down there have gotten a little expressed with the streamer fishing because it's become very popular over the last decade or so, versus, you know, 15 years ago it was not a thing. It was rainbows and [nip \[00:24:00\]](#) frogs, and you'd eventually hook one of those nicer brown whatever the case but they've been throwing that big fly pretty hard nowadays. And as I understand, you know, a friend of mine, a guy just got back from down there. He was down there for upwards of a week. and he couldn't really get that big one.

And I do remember when we first started going down, it was very easy with a streamer in the daylight to expect at least the boat would get something at or over two foot each path. And that's really changed now. I mean, you gotta put your quarters in. And I'm not saying there are a wild gigantic roundout, I'm just saying that they've seen it a few times.

However, down there at night, if you know what's going on and you understand the pressures, not just from fly fishermen, but the absolute army of conventional anglers that are engaging a lot of these tail waters. If you fish them at night, you're kind of, you're bowing to their feeding window versus daytime when a lot of those fish that we talk about or want to kind of cross paths with, they're not even in the game.

They're up [00:25:00] under some clay one cave, they're like a bridge troll, and they're not coming out until it's dark. And that's just, that's how it is, and if you understand that the busier section of river is less likely, you're gonna come across its biggest apex. That's just, that's how it works. And that goes for any river, it's just based upon pressure, like if you go into the middle of some mountain creek that gets limited fishing pressure, you're gonna throw a mouse in the middle of the day and it's gonna work because one, the growing season is short. Just like in Alaska where I got it up there, those rainbows would smash those mice all day long. And, that's the difference.

I mean, pressure makes fish go nocturnal, but that also makes 'em smarter. And they get a feeding program that allows them to age and grow to, you know, they get thumper status, but if you wanna shake his hand, you gotta go dark side a little. So, I mean, with any freak.

D. Roger Maves: Phil had another, question here. He says, 'cause this kind of stems off of what you're talking about. I think he says, in your [00:26:00] experience, do trout become nocturnal feeders after they attain a certain size and then eat whatever food sources available and sufficiently large to be of interest? Mice, frogs, minnow, smaller fish. Are they all on the menu? We already talked about that, but is that as they grow larger, do they tend to feed more nocturnally is as that?

Tommy Lynch: Well, it's kind of like this, it's like brown trout gets to a certain size. He can either go out all day long and try nipping away and put the cheezits and, you know, trying to turn it into a cheeseburger. Or he looks at the small rainbow doing it all day and go eat the rainbow after he is done.

I mean, it's basically, it's a lot less work for a bigger brown trout. As they get to the, that top of the food chain, they can pull that, you know, I'm, I'm done eating french fries. I want a cheeseburger and I want to go sit on my couch and just go, just melt it off.

And that's what they do. And they gorge. And that's the thing about a bigger fish is they've got a big trap. So, they're very op. You ever notice how good a streamer bite is when the water blows up and [00:27:00] gets all muddy and

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: It's like all those big trout that you couldn't get to you wouldn't even know. They, you'd swear their river was sterilized when it's in clear. But when that water goes muddy, those wolves come out of the wood, and when they do, they will take, because the hunt is on as soon as a trout, it thinks that it can sneak up on its prey. That's when he's in the, that's when this is a go.

You know, if he feels like he can efficiently kill stuff without expending five attempts to get the big payoff pitch, and that's no different at night. Everybody wonders why the full moons don't fish as good as the new moons. It's the same. It's a shadow. They've got a shadow. They can see, but under a new moon, there's no light. And they can just, oh, they're like Jack the Ripper out there. They're just,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: You know, and they own it. They're the dawn of the dark. They really are. And if you've ever noticed, if you, I don't care where you fish, when you turn your light on, whether you

gotta do a knot or whatever, and you're in that ankle deep water and you look down, you can [00:28:00] see all the minnows and extremely small fish in no less than a couple inches of water. 'Cause they know if they go out a little deeper, they're in trouble because these problems just telling you, they patrol these workers and everybody thinks, oh, it's a big deep hole that night. It's not the big deep hole. The big deep hole is where they hold and they kinda lu, you know, lumber and just kind of, stay off the beaten path under some tree at night.

At night, they come out on those bars and anything that gets is dead. They just,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. They feel totally safe. Right. Totally safe out there. Yeah. Yeah.

Let's talk about mouse pattern design and selection here for a few minutes. Um, what features do you look at for a great mouse pattern?

The materials buoyancy, tail, legs.

Tommy Lynch: Well, and, and that one question where that fellow was kind of drawing between, you know, the subsurface versus the surface. You know, if you look,

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: I've got this Lynch's white belly mouth that I kind [00:29:00] of modified a long time ago. It was, it's basically just a rabbit gurgler with a rubber band tail and rubber leg.

And we use this stuff called bunny boot, which when you do it on the rear hook gives this nice little plump, perfect little snow white belly. We've got two mice in Michigan. We've got a deer mouse and a white-footed deer mouse. Now the deer mouse looks like this miniature rat kind of evil, and they rarely actually hit the water 'cause they chew the bottom of the stock and then they bring the oak down.

The white footed deer mouth is this cute little silver set dollar sized mouth. It's not that big. It's so cute. Snow white belly on it. Right? And they can't, they don't have the jaws to, you know, that's a seven foot blade of grass. But what they do is they run out on the ends and they tip 'em over and then they chew the ends off at, sometimes they don't hit the ground because it has the waters lift.

Not those mice hit the water. And when those mice hit the water, who, you know, and a lot of people think that they're just coming off that grass. 'cause I've seen as many as five mice on one bar at one [00:30:00] point here in a couple of spots in Michigan. I mean, that's how many mice we've got. These are, you know, it's Mickey Mouse all night long.

Sometimes you can hear 'em in the grass all around you. And when you're fishing these mice, you can hear shit just get blown up in the dark. And your client's like, is that a fucking beaver? And I'm like, that's not a beaver. You know what I mean? And what that is that's a, you know, a brown trout unalive a rodent that was trying to make it to the other side, it just didn't work out for the road.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. So, do you prefer foam deer hair? Um,

Tommy Lynch: Uh, not a big guy. The deer, yeah. The deer hair is an overflow. So when you have that fish come up, they have this tendency to, when they come up under it, deer hair is like a buoy. It's almost like a bobber gets pushed out the way. So I like these

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Articulated. So half of my white belly mouse is on the top forward because I cut the forward hooks. 'cause I don't wanna follow on number two. I know which way that fish is coming up. I want 'em from back and behind like we were talking about on the present. In which case we use this [00:31:00] s wide gap. It's made by Gamakatsu.

Gama got your ass, is what those hooks should be called anyways, and the rear of the hook is like, it's in the film, it's not on the surface. So even though the foam ski is up on the top gurgler, that's what's creating the wake when the fish comes up. And if you ever watch my swim in the water, half their ass is down in it.

They're not like

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: They're not bobbers, you know what I mean? They are still swimming and you know, the reason I stopped using deer, 'cause when I was in my teens, we were, you know, doing the deer stuff just 'cause that's what the old timers talked about around here was deer mouthing.

They just take these huge balls of deer mice and they wig 'em around like tennis balls out there and hope they get a whistle. And we had the same problem. We would get to like the Moorish mouse, where it was still that buoy, that single hook knock away when we dropped that rear hook off of this strong Kevlar or very, very 20 pound light wire.

It was fascinating, the hookup to kiss ratio, as long as the [00:32:00] presentation was kept in mind. I mean, we went from, you know, two or three fish out of 10 to seven or eight fish out of 10. It was a huge jump. And the Beetlejuice is no different. So it's just, you know.

D. Roger Maves: So are you, am I hearing you correctly? Are you saying you have like a stinger hook? You know,

Tommy Lynch: It's only, it's a st single hook fly, but with a stinger hook? Yes.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay.

Tommy Lynch: And it's very light. It's very small too. This is a bug that you can, you throw it in a size one or a two and it can be thrown on a five weight. There's no weight to it whatsoever.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: And the rubber band is fascinating because everybody thinks the rubber band's there just to make it look like a mouse. 'cause it really does at the end. I mean, look it up. But the tail acts

as like a little rudder. At night. And it's a very slow present. When you're in good mouse waters, it's greasy water. It's not choppy typically, and choppy is daytime, nighttime is on the grease. And when you're fishing

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: That slow little rubber band tail gives it a fantastic little rudder and [00:33:00] sliver so that when you do your stack mends, there's a whole lot of life going on there in the relax.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Okay, good. And it sounds like, you need to match the hatch, so to speak too. 'cause in your situation, you talk about two different kinds of mice, I suppose, out here in the rocky, I don't know, you know, how many different kinds of mice we have or what are in or not in the water. But, sounds like we need to do our homework wherever we're at, right?

Tommy Lynch: Well feed 'em the size they want. You don't, you know, it's like, I don't want to throw a deer mouse, even though, I mean, you could probably throw a small cat pattern out there at some point. It would get some audience.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Again, what doesn't work at night? You don't have to.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Tommy Lynch: We're not, it doesn't have to be the right hook size or anything like that, but you do want to keep it in that realm of Scooby snack. You don't want 'em to have to try and, you know, kill a dog. So,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Does color matter, dark versus light or natural tones?

Tommy Lynch: You know, I [00:34:00] will say that, if it's really dark and you're fishing some really deep water, you could argue black. It has a huge amount of penetration. I will say that.

After. So, you know, a lot of times when we're wade fishing at night and I just walk the river down is if you know your water, like we're talking about well enough, you can do that within anyway. But often you have to take a bathroom break and it's a long way back to that bank. So you just drop that little z zip thing and you have your weight, but your rods between your legs and the mouse is still in place. If I had a doubt for every time that mouse is just sitting down there and I gotta take, I mean, to a point where I've grabbed that rod outta the water two, three times 'cause it's pulled it right out of there.

Those mice see that wake and I think it brings them in from a distance. They find that wake, it's unnatural. They stare at that surface like a hawk. And when they find that v that doesn't fit, they'll kind of follow it up like an arrowhead. But when they get there. I think having some of those right colors matters. 'cause again, they've got those big dough, night eyes. They're seeing [00:35:00] those hues that we can't pick up.

Even when we use that peripheral side eye where you look just away from something, you can still pick it up. They're looking directly at, they have that night vision. We don't have it. And their ability to discern that movement or those little rubber legs or that disturbance. I think we don't fully understand how aware they are.

And I believe they're much more aware than we give 'em credit for. Even though we are hunting with Ray Charles out there, I mean, we're blind as a bat. You know, we all want to, I hate turning on a light. If you turn on your light, you lose your eyes for light. It's 40 minutes. I don't know if you know, it takes the human eye 40 minutes to fully adjust to its night capacity.

And every time you flip that white light on red green, everybody says, oh, the red and the green is, well, it's not as bad. It's just tinted white light. But light is light and the darker you let your eyes get the better point of reference. But I tell people, don't. Don't try and stare at what you're fishing at. If you do, you'll just hurt your eyes. You'll get headaches, relax, use the force a little, know your water. Understand that that fish is willing to come a great distance. It doesn't [00:36:00] have to be perfect, it just has to be presented correctly.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Um, couple questions in coming in here on the internet. One, from Jim, Fisher in San Luis Obispo. He says are there, uh, do you have any instructions or are there any videos on the mouse pattern or mouse patterns that you like out there?

Tommy Lynch: Uh, again, I'm, you know, I've been mouse fishing long enough to know that, it's as much being in the right place at the right time and knowing your adversary.

As far as the techniques and all, I'm tickled that you guys think I'm that tech, that I would have a video out maybe Dan White from 1884 Fly Shop, that's our local fly shop, but his semi tech one of these days I'll get with him and maybe we will do a video on, what was it on How to present 'em, is that the question or

D. Roger Maves: No, no?

Tommy Lynch: You wanna know the best

D. Roger Maves: On the mouse pattern? On

Tommy Lynch: Oh the pattern itself.

D. Roger Maves: On the mouse pattern.

Tommy Lynch: Very good. Um, Lynch's White Bellied Mouse, Montana Fly will be carrying that [00:37:00] as well as the Beetlejuice. Both of them, Montana Fly will be carrying, I think this next come around. So those are all, patterns I've been banging away on for, the white belly I've been whacking away on for a couple of decades now, you know, so,

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Tommy Lynch: You know.

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. I mean,

D. Roger Maves: So Montana Fly gonna start carry. If Montana fly is gonna start carrying those two flies of yours.

Tommy Lynch: That's correct.

D. Roger Maves: Isn't there another fly that you're famous for?

Tommy Lynch: Yeah, I just got, you know, in between my snow blowing, fetishes lately, all I do is tie flies. I just got done doing two dozen for a guy, drunken disorderly. The, it's a very high action fly. A lot of, , dahlberg, muddler, little bit of cougar in there. It's a very high swim fly. It's my answer to, why the hell rappel kick our ass all the dog on time, you know, because

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: You know, it's just, you know, I fished him when I was a kid and it's not like a repellent smells or tastes like a fish. It just look, there's some bite [00:38:00] triggers that we just, we never fully understood. And I just, I wanted a high movement fly that didn't involve weight. I think that weight gives us a great jigging action versus. You know, a lot of these streamers that we use these days in these watersheds that are being fished like they are, I mean, let's face it, the guides that are getting on the water these days are smarter, they're better, stronger, faster.

I mean, the internet has made these guides aware of the water before they even step into it. And as they get into it, the wealth of knowledge out there is fab. I mean, listen to this podcast, it's a full download.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: And, in that respect, these fish make us as guides, as fishermen bump our bars. We have to continually improve that sales pitch to, you know, get that Kirby vacuum sold, not just in the house doing shampoos.

You wanna make sure it's a full sale. And I do believe that movement, trumps any type of, jigged material. And I'm not saying, I mean, I, you know, over the years I fished, strip leach to sex [00:39:00] dungeons and they're all very productive. But the one thing I found about streamers that I really loved the best was, was seeing the hatred unfold something I was not afforded in the dark.

You know what I mean? I could hear it and I could sense that angst for the mouse and the setups and all that. But when you're getting that type of activity in the daytime, we would sit there and switch flies as if it was like a, you know,

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Some type of nail po you know, and you can't get confidence fishing.

So many flies without, this idea that it's the individual fish and our ability to sail, sell to it. Again, even when we think we're doing very well, we, oh, we got 15, 20 good browns to hand today when we're stripping in the spring, we understand that there are 2,500 trout per acre through the section of river we just floated seven miles through.

So as good as we think we're doing, we're just scratching that surface.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: And our ability to sell to more of these fish, to make more of those fish dip over into that predation versus just [00:40:00] let that, new material, gets swung or jed by, I mean, that bite trigger is based upon the idea that something's injured. Like it's an opportunity for the predator to kind of spring the trap. And, if you can spring his trap more, you're just gonna see more. And that's something movement does that lead never gave me.

D. Roger Maves: Right. Yeah. Time to take another break here. Tommy, so hang tight we'll be right back and talk more about, Fishing at Night for Trophy Browns. So, back in just a moment.

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Tommy, you know, I'm hearing what you're saying, but I'm gonna ask you these questions 'cause I kind of know what the answer may be.

But. Is there any time that you would downsize or upsize a mouse pattern based upon conditions or, or strikes you're getting, [00:42:00] uh, in any conditions at all?

Tommy Lynch: Well, I could say this, if you were fishing a river that you were on and you wanted to mouse fish it, and you gotta remember, I'm a very conditional dude. So like when the water blows out, gets muddy, as much as I want to go mousing, you know, I'm grabbing my streamer route, that's just what the river tells me to do. It's no different than when it gets low and clear. We kind of go to that hopper dry fly. And if things get really rough for some of the clients, I'll even drop a nymph if need be.

But you know, for the most part, the river con tells you how to play it. So if you were on a river and you said, geez, I just really wanna mouse this river, and the water's got a little bit of color, you could

upsized throw 'em the big rat. Often if you fish colored water at night, the biggest dawns in the, I mean seriously, those anybody still hunting in high water at night is a severe trout. And that's the one you wanna cross back. You may not roll 25 or three because you know, when we have a decent night of mouse in here. We're rolling 25, 30 brown trout night. And depending on the [00:43:00] client, it's maybe a third to three quarters of those fish get handled or at least netted and put back or just de hoked, whatever the case in point.

Um, pun intended, when you fall, I'm sorry, I just lost where I was at. I just looked out the window and I think I just saw a deer right out. Sorry, go ahead. What was that last question?

D. Roger Maves: We were talking about, uh, upsizing or downsizing your mouse patterns.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. So, you know, if I were fishing a Spring Creek or something very small, you could get into some of that tiny, tiny stuff because again, you're fishing to, a brown trout that, you know, the upsize in that kind of water's gonna be a 20, 21 inch, you know, if you're on the pi Marquette, if we upsize here, we go to a one up, you know, just because we're throwing in the lower river and we expect to roll maybe seven or eight fish all night long instead of 25 or 30 as we do in the upper end.

But we understand that as you go lower in the river, bigger fish, but fewer fish is common just about anywhere you go. And if that's true and you're throwing the road, yeah, you're not gonna roll as many fish, but you might roll Neil, you know, the [00:44:00] one. So it, you just kind of, you play your conditions, you fish your water, and every river's got, its own little.

Every river gives it away. It every, I mean it, I don't care where from a tail water as big as the white, all the way down to stuff that, like the tag elders are in your ear loop there's a place for any type of mouse fishing that you'd like. So I mean, that's, you just add water with a mouse. So.

D. Roger Maves: All right. All right. And, you had mentioned earlier, a Don in Bozeman, Montana asked what's the single easiest to cast mouse pattern? But you were, I think you said earlier, you're not creating most of the time, not huge patterns. Uh, so they're, pretty easy to cast then?

Tommy Lynch: Very, yes. No, I mean, cast ability is huge. I mean, in a perfect world, all my clients are throwing gigantic, you know, cats or something. But really, I have to be realistic. They're throwing a seven weight. We don't throw fives and sixes at night because we expect that, our average fish is between 19 and 21 inches at night. [00:45:00] And when that's happening, we don't necessarily wanna show up to the gunfight with a knife.

And on occasion too, especially in the late summer, we'll be getting into some of these, summer run steelhead from time to time that come up for the mice. Man, you want to see a train wreck in the door. You know, a lot of the clients don't land those fish, but it is sure fun watching 'em try and, uh.

Yeah, that's no doubt. I would definitely say, um. I'm sorry, I lost that I ran away on that question too there, boss. Sorry about that.

D. Roger Maves: That's alright. We were talking about easability of, casting, uh, the mouse.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. The deer mites are very easy to cast. Like if you just throw like a marsh mouse made of the original stuff, which is like a deer, you kind of butt wheat that thing with a little black stripe and a leather tail.

I would stay, away from, the leather tails. I've had problems with those dry rotting and falling apart. If you want your mouse to laugh, I mean, I usually fish my mice until the foam back breaks from the teeth marks. Use a really good evazote. Don't stay with that general, [00:46:00] um, foam. Use a nice evazote foam.

And a thicker one too. 'cause you wanna be able to float that, you know, size one or two depending on where you're fishing. And if you're fishing, really swat maybe a four. But you don't always wanna be throwing anything smaller than a four because if you start catching a bunch of little fish, they'll gulp it too deep.

I like those big hooks. 'cause the little fish don't get stung, you know what I mean?

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Tommy Lynch: And uh,

D. Roger Maves: gotcha.

Tommy Lynch: It's, I mean, if you're out there at night with a seven weight, you shouldn't be excited about catching 16, 18 inch fish. I mean, you showed up in the middle of the night, you're throwing a mammal. I mean, you might as well get excited about the one that, you know, takes some line outta your hand.

We're running tippets too. I mean, even light is 16. If I'm on muddler, you know, if I have like somebody that wants to run a five weight and just steal something at night, at the end of the night, I'll throw like a couple of muddler on with some 12 pound or something. Always fluorocarbon if I'm using a Beetlejuice or a muddler pattern, just 'cause it is a subsurface.

And I'll take that in visibility. And that hookup, the fluorocarbon [00:47:00] doesn't stretch. So it's really great when it's near your fly 'cause you can run that mono leader all the way down the butt section, all the way down. You can make your own, you can splice a couple or whatever. You always want that heavy turnover off of. And we use these old school Lumalux, my made by Rio. So we light up a glow line instead of glowing up the fly. I wanna know what the line's doing in the presentation speed more than I wanna know where the mouse is. 'cause you're not gonna need to know where the mouse is or the Beetlejuice when he goes for it. There's no wondering.

The best way to fish is to fish that presentation of the line. Let the line present the fly the way you're, you know, prescribing it to that scenario where you think that fish might be and when you set it up. Um, with a glow line, you can see that speed, that idea of the stack mend and then slack that feeds them.

Yeah, I mean there's just so many great, ways to kind of,

D. Roger Maves: Let's dig into that a little deeper. When you're saying glow line, what are you talking [00:48:00] about specifically?

Tommy Lynch: So, uh, they may,

D. Roger Maves: I'm not familiar with it.

Tommy Lynch: It's called the Lumalux and Rio made it years ago, and they still make it in a real gold.

And I'm not a big fan of the extreme weight forwards, only because you limit yourself on the presentation when you throw a weight forward with a mouse. Because if you're chucking out anything beyond 25 feet, the head is out on the water and therefore your running line is on the tip of the rod. And when you go for a stackman in that position that we were discussing about, you know, making that fly turn upstream instead of, swinging across as a broadside, steelhead, swing, fly wood, we're trying to stack it up and force that fish from to come up from, under and behind it.

So if you have these, , old school Lumalux, they were like a fat and nymph, almost like a, like a big belly triangle, if you will. And you could stack that because the head was closer to the tip and you had that potential. We're not using it for roll casting in any way. We're using it for that presentation.

And also the [00:49:00] long pickup. I've always noticed with those weight forwards at the end of a presentation, you have to make several strips to get to that head, to pick it up, to shoot it. Never a fan of shooting a line so much as folding one. You know, if you fold a line, you control it. If you shoot a line, you hope it gets there and you have the distance, but you don't have that fold control.

And that's one thing that you'll appreciate when you can make a mouse hit off the bank and sound like a peanut butter and jelly hitting the fucking water. You wanna know what brings the fish out. Seven feet of water. That's what Bri, I'm sorry about that. I dropped a f bomb there. But, uh, that's what brings a fish outta deep water. When they hear that splash, you know, again, it's their job. Anything out on that flat thing in that deeper bar, they're gonna look up and, you know, a percentage is always gonna say no, but at night a higher percentage is saying yes. So factor that.

D. Roger Maves: So you're generally, uh, casting and your presentations, 90 degrees across the straight ahead across the water [00:50:00] and letting it swing down and then retrieving it up?

Tommy Lynch: There are, that is my general startup, if you will, is I'll start at that nine o'clock and then I'll down the bank. And what I'll do is I'll consider that cushion of water from the seam to the wall, because everybody's thinking about that and this is the big mistake, why they forget the stack is what's needed.

So when a mouse hits the water. Unlikely that mouse is gonna hit out in the middle of the river, or even two or three yards off the bank gonna hit right

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Next to the river. And at night, the big do, they're patrolling that bank as much as anything. 'cause that's where big stuff falls in.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Doesn't matter if it's big old bug. Doesn't matter if it's a frog, it just, uh, I mean, we lose ducklings in the upper end of the river in May up here. No kidding. Little mileage distance from these little, you know, I'm not kidding. Um, in that respect, if you throw to that cushion without a stack, your fly hits the water and [00:51:00] before you know it's going on, it's across the seam and on our side of it.

However, if you throw to that wall and then stack. The mouse stalls, those rubber legs that kind of open up the tail rudders around you get the bend of body, the, the bunny booze, undulating, et cetera, et cetera. And then you stack it again like a mouse that's kind of disorientated hitting the water. And then you slowly work it into the seam.

That mouse has now just seen that thing three, four seconds, move a dozen different ways, and then it got to the seat. You wanna talk about sale? I mean, streamers, mice, it's all got sale. And I think a lot of people just throw it out there and believe that we're fishing night crawl. Our stuff doesn't smell real.

We gotta make it look real. And that's the difference in the casting presentation, especially if you got the cushion. I mean, that little boil cushion, every dog on trout's leaning up against that and just waiting for stuff to dimple and they don't even,

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: They're not about stuff at night.

Like when [00:52:00] something hits the water, they'll move five yards to investigate. And people don't appreciate like this idea that you have to fish 'em as if you have to be all delicate as you do in the daylight when there's like a dry fly and you gotta, you know, be on your Ps and Qs there. But

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. So there's no real skating or wacking or subtle twitching going on.

Tommy Lynch: The whole back nine. You're just simply when you do that sale, you're getting him to turn his pecs. As soon as his pecs lean towards your fly, he's setting it up from them. It's your fish to lose. 'cause now he's gotta go, lose calories out in that current, keeping up with your fly to, he wants to get paid at that point.

So you may get that fish that's tailing out just like a steelhead would nine out of 10 times though the stack mending through the top and middle. But again, don't forget, I've been going to the bathroom before and they've ripped it between my legs.

D. Roger Maves: Right?

Tommy Lynch: So mouse on the water, it's in play. We've had rods go off the front of the boat too, guides just, you know, pouring [00:53:00] themselves a little scotch and boom, there goes a rod off the front.

Their job is not,

D. Roger Maves: That brings up the fact off the front of the boat. So you're fishing from both the shore and the boat. You're wading and doing both?

Tommy Lynch: Uh, yes. Yes, very much so. Especially with clients, I don't, I mean I have a few, you know, icy clients that I can mouse with and they're very prescribed areas. We'll single out. 'cause if you know how many, here's the creepy thing.

So even when we streamer fish in the daylight, let's say you can cover maybe a mile, mile and a half really well on foot because there's so much holding water in these bendy rivers full of wood here. And as a result, you can only cover so much on foot.

If you're in a boat, you're covering like six to eight miles, typically, maybe a little bit more if you're, you know, kind of reaching at night, at night, we fish a couple few bends of river where it's 50 to 75 yards is the next bend. That's it because. Yeah, I, you know how like, like the first streamer cast, the first hopper cast, that's the big one, you [00:54:00] know, 'cause of the surprise of it all and the visibility of it all.

If I had a dollar for like, me and my buddies, we would walk down the river at night just kind of shooting the shit. Third guy back gets the, the 24 after three guys or two guys that fish that in a river that's a couple of rod lengths, the crop that humming gets their interest. They don't spook at night, they're, it's,

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: It's, they're just, again, a brown trout is really not fully understood until you understand his limitations at night, 'cause he doesn't have a lot of limitations at night. It makes you do things in the daylight. Probably not considered too, because you've seen what they do at night, you know, so,

D. Roger Maves: So, um, you know, the waters you guide in like the back of your hand, if not better. Um. But let's say somebody like me goes out, uh, into a stream I know or kind of know, but, but not like you do. How do you [00:55:00] map? Do you map that out during the day on where you want to fish it, um, and then come back at night to effectively fish it?

Tommy Lynch: Peter, that's exactly what I mean when everybody asks me that question.

So like, I'm in town for a couple more nights after I show 'em how to, do the mousing, you know, how should I do this? And I said, what I would do is I would go out for the last three, four hours of daylight and I would go through two or three bends of river downstream because you'll fish it downstream versus, you know, a lot of times we'll fish upstream during the daylight to kind of take that visibility awareness from them. You know what I mean? Fish 'em in the blind spot.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: And uh, at night you have to come down and identify this stick or that stick and say, man, there's a really good pocket behind that. Or that bump in the water that boil. You'll notice things, things that you can find in the dark. You don't need to know a lot because again, it doesn't have to be perfect, but it does have to be solid.

And as you're coming down river, you will, you'll remember where you're at, but don't try and get to know like a mile or two miles river. I mean, when I take a [00:56:00] client out, we're usually doing three miles river for the whole night and I'm cherry picking it. And it's, and the only reason we're cherry picking it is 'cause I wade through all of this river at night on foot to such a level that I know we're not just, the fishing is good, like where you've got a high number corner, but you'll get some, I mean, we've got names for a few, like Jorge, you know, like Cindy Joe, we have names for these fish that are over 24 and your address book allows you to go and knock on all these doors and you know, they're not coming out everything.

D. Roger Maves: Yep.

Tommy Lynch: But if you've got 15 addresses, three or five of 'em are gonna come out. You know what I mean? And that's something you can bet on as you get to know your water more so, and it pays.

D. Roger Maves: Okay.

Tommy Lynch: Everybody wants. Yep. Go. Sorry.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Um, we got another question from, Gregory Goff in, South Carolina.

He says the Watuga, Watauga, I guess it's Watauga River in East Tennessee, is well known for its monster Browns. [00:57:00] I was mouse fishing with a fly rod, on the Watauga, back in the summer I hired a guide. We were fishing from his drift boat. He said the less ambient light, the better, the darker, the better.

Moonlight was an enemy. Nightlights from residence yards were also bad. The guide said, night fishing, a mouse pattern is about sound and feel not sight. He told me to pretend I was blindfolded. I do not know how well I cast because I couldn't even see my cast. For the retrieve I did as he instructed, I simply lifted the rod slowly to create this V-shaped wake.

I did get some strikes. I heard the big splashes, but never felt the tug. Is this technique a low percentage method? Did I fail to properly retrieve? I must have done something right because I excited some strikes, although I never saw them. I simply never hooked a trout.

Tommy Lynch: I got you covered. Um. Yeah, [00:58:00] that sounds like bow tension and, or a combination of pucker. It's probably one of the two we were talking about that stackman. Uh, again, if your line is caught up in the current of a river, whether you're in a boat, depending on the flow on either side of the river and you are stripping or over stripping, like when people are stripping a mouse at night, they think twitching and popping like a bass popper and you really just don't wanna do that unless you're doing like some high speed moving boat tail water stuff where you're trying to go for that, you know, three ripped and then you let it sit for several seconds and see, and then cast again.

You know, typically boat tension is the killer. So if a fish comes for your fly, it has this idea that, that thing on the surface isn't attached to a line that's being dragged through the current. So when he sucks it. You'll feel 'em bumper nip it or, or prick it, but you won't hook up with it, and that's usually the result of that.

Um, pucker is also like if you hear the fish go and you lift, that's [00:59:00] incorrect. You should hear the fish go and then wait for the tension of that line to verify. The fish has not only come up with it, but also gone down and closed on it. So, and you don't wanna wait three or four seconds while they're gulping it down 'cause that's fur.

It's gonna feel like a real mouse when it hits their lips. At least the white belly, you know, I don't know about the deer mouse is probably a little less foreign, or a little bit more foreign. Um, but yeah, I would say the bow tension and that is a big one. Rod position can be a huge part of that.

I mean, we use a terrible amount of high sticking in the first half of the presentation where the bottom is limited. You don't have to, in fact, in the bottom sometimes the water slows down so much you drop your rod in, just to finish out that little bit of wake and stack, you know what I mean? Versus the outside where all that current is.

And you have to limit that waken stack. So you kind of lift up and over, drop in, up and over drop in and that undulation of material on the drop, on a slow drop. And I do mean like [01:00:00] molasses in the winter. So you don't wanna like jig it. You're stacking, it creates a wake, you hold for two seconds and then you drop, and each step it goes down the run.

And that's fish who's under and behind it has to move up with it as you stack 'cause of that weight and then you drop it to 'em. Now that forces that fish to either, you know, put up or shut up. Now it's not just above and been considered. It's not like they have brakes. You know that fly is not just in front of 'em, it's on 'em now, and it forces those reactions that you're looking for.

But again, unlike a streamer, they will take the mouse from the rear. They'll just come up from behind it and just hoover it. The biggest trout we catch, we rarely hear because they never break the surface. They come up within about a foot of that mouse and they just depress and take like a Dixie cup full of water and the mouse down, like a toilet bowl.

And our line just got, this is on a [01:01:00] surface fly. We don't even hear the biggest ones. Don't break the surface. They don't have to kill them out. You wanna know the splashy, noisy ones. Those are usually little ones. A lot of 'em are practicing, you know what I mean? It's kind of genetic response for them.

If something's waking across and they're 15 six, we better get used to doing this boys. You know what I mean? This is what we, we're brown trout. A lethal pressure is all about the setup. He just comes up under and behind. It waits for a certain amount of slack, and he just hoovers with those gills. He just flares 'em and takes it in.

And that's really, and I, this, I like the barb scene now. I mean, the amount of fish you start catching at night is ludicrous. By comparison to the day, you can go out and have a great hopper day, get four or five fish over 18 inches, and you're knocking the cover off the ball. You get four or five fish over 18 in a corner, sometimes miles sake, different.

Everything, everything's different. You know what I mean?

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Just gotta

D. Roger Maves: [01:02:00] Mark Graham in Pembroke Mass. He says, how do you address visibility and casting accuracy in the dark clearing bath cast, knowing where to land the fly, et cetera. And he also asked, do you wear a headlamp? Does the headlamp, light impact fish behavior?

Tommy Lynch: I got a great answer for that. No, I'm gonna start with steeple. I mean, any good mouth angler's probably in the water, so you gotta figure, he's probably ankle the ball's deep. Pardon my French. So if you're fishing summertime, which you probably are, and if you're summertime, you got grass and foliage behind you in some amount.

So typically you wanna keep your cast short. That whole idea that you need the 50 footer that you did in the daylight, you don't need that. It's the game, everything, you know, you can't see, but he, you don't have a shadow either. So it's a win, you know, so it's a trade off here. Yeah. You can't see as good. They can't find you as good, but they can sure find that mouse just fine. You know what I mean? [01:03:00] So just remember that it doesn't have to be the perfect cast. And if I had a dollar for most of the late season that I love, like if I have a grassy bank and I throw a one out or a size one hook into the grass and I pull it in, you get bits of that grass in when your mouse, that's big sales, I mean chip clear water, they see pieces of that grass hit with your mouse.

That's el natural you know,

D. Roger Maves: Uhhuh.

Tommy Lynch: So don't always be, you know, you're fishing 16 and 20 pound tests. It's not like you're walking on eggshells here, you know?

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Fish your game and also, I'm sorry, what was that original question? There was a point in there I think I missed. What was the,

D. Roger Maves: Talking about uh, casting accuracy in the dark, clearing back cast, knowing where to land to fly. And then he asked about headlamps.

Tommy Lynch: Okay, so number one, we don't fish with the lamps on. The only time we use the lamps are if it's the end of the night and he wants to get outta there. So the lamp comes on and I can just, instead of just getting down, 'cause I even navigate the river without the [01:04:00] lamp because I don't wanna lose my night eyes.

Your peripheral is your best weapon at night. If you're trying to see like the stump that you're trying to remember to cast behind, et cetera, what you do is you don't look directly at the thing, you look

just away from it just left or right and then it shows up. I shit you not, I mean, somebody told me about this and I tried it and I was like, no kidding.

And I've been using it ever since. Number two, stop staring and straining when you're trying to find something with a direct eye look. 'cause you'll just burn your brain up. Your eyes will get fatigued. You'll be done in an hour and say, oh, it's too cold. This is dumb. Or out of if you want to be a night guy.

You gotta give into the dark side a little bit and use the force. You don't have to make the perfect cast if you're within a yard of the bank. It's as good as six inches in the daylight. That's how this works Now.

So your leader doesn't have to be 10 feet anymore. It can be six to eight. I prefer an eight to nine just 'cause I can get better presentation points, but I don't think it's [01:05:00] needed.

You know what I mean? They will hit some stuff at night that they don't hit in the daylight. And as long as you kind of factor that into your, I think a lot of people when they go mouse fishing, there's this idea that everything they heard behind them in the grass is a fucking bear. And all it's not, it's not a, it's not a bear.

And that brown trout, you're probably stepping on it. So if you're out there, just, understand that all those brown trout, when they go down with a shocking. And the DNR puts that electric current under the bank and that river that you catch three or four good brown trout every summer, like 200 browns slip out from, and you wonder when those fish are available.

Well, now, you know. Now you know, then a brown trout, by definition is a nocturnal one. And it isn't a brown trout. It is the brown trout. Let's be honest here. It's not a fucking,

D. Roger Maves: What about so we've been talking almost solely, you made mention at the beginning of the show about rainbows in [01:06:00] Alaska, but, or is there anything to doing this with, you know, a heavily, populated rainbow fishery at night?

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. Well, you, I'm not gonna say, I mean, again, at night it's gonna work, and I can tell you that on the PM you can go down in the middle of the daylight sometimes throwing hopper. And the brown trout race, you catch like three or four brown trout to every one rainbow, which is really absurd considering our river has no resident.

We have steelhead runs, but we don't have resident rainbows. So all the browns eat 'em when they're young. That's the problem. So our resident rainbows,

D. Roger Maves: Uhhuh,

Tommy Lynch: We Just usually escape these from club anyway at night. I've caught maybe 10 rainbows over my whole career.

D. Roger Maves: Wow.

Tommy Lynch: My whole career I mean it's just, it's the browns, you can just really see why browns are knocked out. Now. Do we catch the occasional steelhead? Sure. But they would eat a shoe in the middle of the night. They're so curious and they don't know how to, they see something on the, [01:07:00] oh, that looks like something to do. That's a steelhead. They don't know how to be critiquing in any way, nor do they have any reason to be wary.

'Cause they were in a lake, you know, a week before, so.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Um, and these lake bow, steelhead, we don't really have an ocean run steelhead. They come from the stock of 'em, but we don't have an ocean that makes these fish meaner, pound for pound, but they're shoulder and you hook one of those things in the dark. It is a special kind of ass whooping. And you'll like it. It's neat. I mean, the fish is outta the water six, eight times the water's, you know, 62 degrees when these steelhead get hooked on a driveway. Do the math on a single hander, you know?

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. I got another question in here from Phil, in Kentucky. He said, what's the biggest hurdle your clients should prepare to overcome prior to going after these meat eating trout with mouse flies.

Tommy Lynch: So here's the truth from guiding and daylight for as many years. I can tell you a lot of guys that really struggle with load awareness, which is, you know, the idea [01:08:00] that you let the line load onto the rod before you move through it, whether it's a sink tip, a dry line display, it doesn't matter.

And a lot of those guys tend to find their way home at night. 'cause they can't, I won't even light up the glow line, I'll say cast when you feel it load. And because they can't see it, it forces that brain to click the right of, you'd be fascinated to know how many guys improve their casting timing in the dark because they can't see what they're doing.

This idea that it's hard to cast at night is only the idea of what you don't know is around you. But if your load awareness is your only kind of cast indicator, hallelujah. I mean, isn't that what we're supposed to be doing anyway? You'd be surprised. I mean, casting at night for me has taught me more about timing finesse and the, the limited.

You know, the faster you push a forward, the less control you have of it. The more you, get to that slowest point of fold, the more you control that finality of it's landing. [01:09:00] And I think people fishing wade forwards or, or extra, extra fast short rods kind of, they miss that. They miss that.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Accuracy to me is bigger than any distance I can achieve. Not to say I don't like to spread my wings when I go to a tailwater, but, you know, most of us are fishing rivers and streams and we should have a, we should have a more prescribed cast. So at night, I would say your casting is enhanced by your load awareness or the reality that you can't cast without, it brings that to a head for a lot of guys, it really makes 'em better. So, no, I don't think casting, I mean, these are, seven

weight rods with eight. Lines on 'em, and, and they load up nicely with a mouse. So it's not like you know, casting a double taper with a midge, you know, it's not that.

D. Roger Maves: No. So his question was, what's the biggest hurdle your clients should prepare to overcome? So is that the casting, the idea of casting being hard, is that the biggest hurdle rather than low visibility or, uh, that kind of thing?

Tommy Lynch: No, I think it's more of the mindset, the [01:10:00] whole, you know, we're monkeys. We're not supposed to be out there in the middle of the night staring into the black. It's just not, we're not built for that. It's an acquired, like the first couple of times a guy goes mousing fishing in the boat. You can see there's an uncomfortableness. Even when he's catching fish, he still, it's just, it's different for him and it's so different because of that lack of vision.

That's the biggest hurdle is getting yourself in that frame of mind that, you know, something's watching your fly, not something's watching you, you know?

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. Yeah. And that's a big one for guys. And the boat helps.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Because we're out there in the middle of the river, but, you know,

D. Roger Maves: Got some protection in the boat. Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Well you should, you should see these guys. They hear a Turkey, you know, a heron falls off a tree above 'em, and those guys just about fall into the river. They're so spooked. You feel, you can feel that tension, you know what I mean?

D. Roger Maves: I wanna, go back to something, about headlamps and light. So you said you try not to turn on a headlamp until you leave. What do you do if you have to [01:11:00] change flies or something like that? Uh,

Tommy Lynch: Absolutely. If we need to change a fly or if you get a thumper, like typically the light doesn't come on unless we feel like it's like 20 or something better. You know what I mean? Because we don't wanna lose the eye.

D. Roger Maves: Oh yeah.

Tommy Lynch: We just don't, you know. 'cause as soon as that light comes on, you can, you know, shit, sit down and, just chill out. 'cause you got blue dots running all over the sky on you.

D. Roger Maves: And then only taking photos of really large fish when you get something off as well, because you're gonna,

Tommy Lynch: If you're throwing a rod and you don't wanna be taking pictures of 18, 20 inch, you know, usually you're waiting for

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: You know, oh my God, we gotta go get that. He's going down, that's the one you're looking for at night, not the one that, you stripped in, you know? So.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. What about, uh, we're running out of time, we're almost done here. What safety considerations should anglers think about before fishing at night?

Tommy Lynch: Always safety, always. Like, I've got spares in the boat. Like there's, we do, do not cast. Something I had happened to me, I think I was like 16 or 17 when I first started mouse. And I was out there [01:12:00] without my safety glasses on, and I think it was on one particular night I was just pulling off this tree and that, you know, that every once in a while, that moment where you, you think it's still hung, so you're still popping the rods, so you pull it back to you, but it's already loose.

I did that once and in the daylight. We'll look away from that. We see that the fly is coming. We duck, we get our eyes away. In the dark you won't, you'll stare it right in the eye and the moment you get stung in the eye, that's the one place you can't take that hook out of. And, and everywhere else is just fine.

The safety aspects, I would say, if you're gonna wade your river, you should know it very well before you consider, you know, hunting with Ray Charles. I mean it's like braille with sim. It seriously is you feel your way down. Never commit to the forward step until it's there. I always keep my weight on the established step, and then I step down and you kind of feel your way down for that next step in the gravel or on top of a whatever the case in point.

But you can move slow like that. Again, that chum up value in a corner allows you to, uh, realize that that fish [01:13:00] might be on the fifth cast as well as the first.

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: So,

D. Roger Maves: Mm-hmm.

Tommy Lynch: Keep that all in mind when you're wading, keep your leg weights in mind. Don't think it's just the V of that bug they find. You don't want to be standing out in the middle when you could be standing right or left and pinching that cast behind you.

Try and stay away from roll cast. They typically fold on themselves, especially if you want to use that good articulated, uh, variation that just gets that better hookup. Stay away from small hooks.

Go with big tippet. Shorten the battle. Don't fish over 68 degrees. There's a special place from Trout out for you. So,

D. Roger Maves: Okay. Okay. Yeah. Um, one last question. Can you share a memorable nighttime mouse eat that changed how you fish these patterns?

Tommy Lynch: Um, so let's say there's a place in Michigan, or several places in Michigan, point of fact. We have these access, not the per se, the Lake Michigan or Great Lakes Lake run brown trout, but these, we'll call it lake or [01:14:00] pond enhanced fish, where some of these trout have access to ponds or lake and it gives these fish a shoulder that a river brown could only, you know, it's the Arnold Schwarzenegger of the.

And they age like stream trout, but they can get absurdly big in some of these rivers that they run up though are not so very big. They're very, very small and a lot of them have, you know, like Dr. Seuss's bad dreams for bottoms. Just root wad undercuts. I mean, if you let 'em go down there, you might as well just, you know, cut the fly off or he is taking it anyways.

And that's really how you have to learn how to fight these fish on these just heavier rods and beefier tippet in certain scenarios. It's an absolute rodeo. So there was a period in my trout younger days where we kind walk on eggshells of tippets and, and four weights and whatnot. This is a different animal. Don't forget you are throwing a mammal. You are not throwing an insect anymore, and you should get with that. And the fish that you're encouraging to come up for that. You know, you may not even have access to [01:15:00] that fish because he is in set, undercut, log jam, deep pool, whatever, wherever he's not feeding and just relaxing. But at night he is not relaxed. He's out there killing stuff. So, yeah, I think that's one thing you learn about fishing at night is, and I don't always need to catch the biggest trout like I used to when I was a kid. I did that for a long time. But when you go out at night, um, you have to understand that that next level fish is more likely then than any other time than you're going.

And there is, so you get, it's dark, it's hard, , there's gonna be some curse words at the dark and then all of a sudden when you least expect it, somebody's gonna drop a tree on your fly and you're on. And that's,

D. Roger Maves: Yeah,

Tommy Lynch: That's

D. Roger Maves: Makes me, uh. Where, my son and I are going down to Chile in March for Brown. And, uh,

Tommy Lynch: They'll eat 'em in the, they're growing season short, just like Alaska rainbow growing seasons make 'em daylight feeders, by the way, on mice. Shorter growing seasons.

D. Roger Maves: Oh, really?

Tommy Lynch: For, yeah, that's what, you know, [01:16:00] want to know why rainbows in Alaska and those Chilean brown trout take that stuff in the daylight. 'Cause their growing season is very, they get three, four months to stack it all, you know, in Michigan here, they're eating 12 months of the year. Well, maybe not this year. They're eating about 11 months this year.

D. Roger Maves: You're they're eating snow cones right now.

Tommy Lynch: Yeah, yeah. Snow cones, right? Most of the, you know, the last five winters, we've been pretty mild. So they're eating all winter long, 12 months a year. They got to stack it, they don't have those options in Alaska and stuff.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: So, yeah, you go to those southern and northern hemispheres where those, yeah, those winters are long. Those fish are so uneducated though. You gotta remember, nobody's fishing them.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. We're excited. We're excited. Well, we've gotta wrap this. Go ahead. One last comment.

Tommy Lynch: I just want high flies doing that stuff.

D. Roger Maves: I'm sorry, You kind of cut out. What'd you say?

Tommy Lynch: My bad. Uh, I usually just, you know, when I'm tying over here, I just watch those Chilean and New Zealand videos and just kind of Yeah, yeah. These lowly fishing guides. We don't get to [01:17:00] go. Yeah. But we get to watch cool videos.

D. Roger Maves: They don't, it's hard as do, huh?

Tommy Lynch: Yeah. Right.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Well we gotta wrap it up here. But hang with me here till the end, Tommy. 'cause we're gonna give away. Some prizes and one of the prizes is based on a question I'm gonna ask. It's something we talked about, and I wanna make sure I get the right answer. And I'll look to you to, to help me with that. So hang with me here. And, we're gonna give away a one year membership to Fly Fisheries International, a one year membership to Trout Unlimited, and then a book courtesy of Stackpole Books. And that's where the question comes into play. So hang tight and we'll do that in just a moment.

The Bonefish and Tarpon Trust works very hard to safeguard the future of our beloved, flats fisheries from protecting spawning sites threatened by unsustainable fishing pressure to securing historic funding to restore Florida's Everglades and estuaries.

Thanks to their members, they've expanded their conservation to the Bahamas, Belize, and Mexico. There's still much more work to be done, and they need your help with your support, they [01:18:00] can ensure that the Flats fishery is healthy. And sustainable now and for generations to

come. Visit btt.org and become a member of the Bonefish and Tarpon Trusts today. Again, that's btt.org.

Just a reminder to everyone before you leave the website tonight, please take a minute and give us your feedback about the show.

You can find a link on our homepage in the section under tonight's show that says, what did you think of the show? Just click on the link and leave your comments. We'd really appreciate it.

Now it's time to give away our prizes and the winners for our drawings are randomly selected from the show's registration database. If you didn't register for tonight's show, it's too late now, but make sure you do so for the next show so you don't miss out on a chance to win one of these great prizes.

If you're one of the lucky winners, we will contact you after the show to collect your information so that we can deliver your prize to you.

So first, we'll be giving away a one year membership to Fly Fishers International. And to learn more about FFI go to flyfishersinternational.org. [01:19:00] flyfishersinternational.org. And our winner for that is Gary Soden, in Colorado. So, Gary, congratulations and, you're now gonna become a member of Fly Fishers International. I know you'll enjoy it.

Now, we'll, give away a one year membership to Trout Unlimited. And to learn more about Trout Unlimited, go to tu.org and, our winner for that is Gary Kaufman in North Carolina, Gary Kaufman in North Carolina. So congratulations, Gary, and I know you both enjoy your prizes tonight.

And folks, if you're not a member of these organizations, go join anywhere even if you didn't win. They're great to support and they sure support us. So, please support them.

Now, we'll give away a book courtesy of Stackpole books. And like I said, I have a list of books that I'll send you if you're the winner, and then you can choose from one of those books and we'll send that out to you.

So the question is, I hope this question will work. Um. When Tommy was talking about, fly design, [01:20:00] he did add something, at some point in time, to get better hookups. What did he add to his mouse flies?

So,, I hope that's clear enough. We'll be able to tell by the answers here. So, Tommy, we have to wait a little bit 'cause there's a delay before they hear the question. And then of course they have to type in the answer. And I think you know what I'm looking for, but we'll just see what kind of answers we get here and, yeah, so we're still waiting and let's see here. Get any answers yet? Oh, I think we have it. Uh, looks like Kevin in Norman. I don't know where Norman is, but that's, oh, maybe that's Oklahoma. I'm not sure. You can let us know Kevin. He said his answer is a trail hook. Do you think that'll work for us?

Tommy Lynch: I was gonna say articulation, but yeah. That's one of the same, isn't it? [01:21:00] Yeah.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, 'cause you've got that extra stinger hook kind of, uh, affair.

Yeah, that's what I was looking for. Yeah.

Tommy Lynch: Allows that hook point to move freely with the fishes turn away. Yeah.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yep. Okay, good. Well then we've got a winner on the first one in, and that's Kevin. Uh, Kevin, I don't know if Norman was your last name or that was where you are, but, uh, what I need you to do is in that same box, send me. Your full name, your shipping address, and your phone number as well. I do have your email address here. And then we'll get, that list sent over to you. And then you can pick and choose and pick a book of your choice there. So, thanks for playing. Thanks for paying attention. And let's just see, we got other ones movement. Uh, uh, another one with a Stinger hook, uh, rubber band. That was a tail. Uh, he also dropped the butt. Okay. Rear end. Below the surface.

Tommy Lynch: It's kinda right too. A lot of That's right. You know, it's not like any of that.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah, yeah. No, a lot of that's right. But the one we got was [01:22:00] the first one, so he was close enough and, uh,

Tommy Lynch: That's good. Yeah, no, that would probably be a primary, yeah.

D. Roger Maves: Yeah. Yeah. Good. Good. Well,, Tommy, thank you so much for being with us again, it is a pleasure to talk with you and, you're just a wealth of information and I'm sure just scary as hell at night too. But thanks for sharing your knowledge.

Tommy Lynch: It's quite to say it's scary in the daylight too.

D. Roger Maves: And the daylight too. Okay. Okay.

Yeah. Well take care and have a safe season out there and we'll talk again soon.

Hopefully you all have found the podcast archive on our website. If you haven't, just look for the link on the top line of our menu. In that archive, you'll find all of our past shows over 400 and some shows, which you can search by keyword, a keyword phrase like trout, tarpon and brown trout, whatever you want. And you'll find lots of shows that I'm sure we'll please you and educate you.

Our next broadcast will be on February 4th, 7:00 PM Mountain Time, 9:00 PM Eastern. On that show, we'll interview Drew Price and our show will be Bowfin, Gar, Pike, Trout & More: Cracking the Code [01:23:00] on Lake Champlain's Fly Fishing Giants.

We tried to do this show, back in December and I lost power, for two days. And, anyway, we're gonna do it. Give it another try here. So here's what the show's about, step into one of North America's most diverse and underrated fisheries as we explore the wild multi-species world of Lake Champlain with expert guide Drew Price from explosive bowfin and prehistoric long nose gar to the powerhouse pike world class bass, carp drum, and even salmonids. Champlain offers unmatched opportunity for adventurous fly anglers.

Drew breaks down the seasonal movements site fishing tactics, fly patterns, and habitat secrets that unlock this fast ecosystem full potential. So join us for this show. I'm sure it'll be a good one. And, you can add it to your calendar by just clicking that add to calendar button below Drew's photo and you'll be all set.

We'd like to thank the Fly Fishers International, Trout Unlimited, [01:24:00] Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, Olympic Peninsula Skagit Tactics, The Ugly Bug Fly Shop and Water Master for sponsoring our show tonight.

Don't forget to visit our website at askaboutflyfishing.com and make sure you signed up to receive our announcements so you don't miss out on any of our feature live broadcasts.

Thanks for listening Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio. We hope you enjoyed the show. That's it. Goodnight everyone and good fishing.