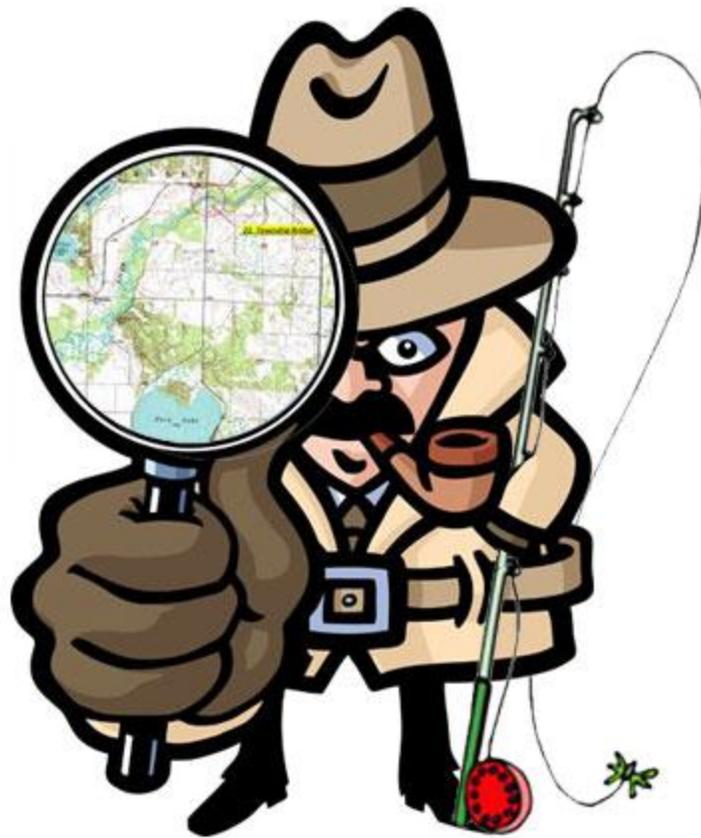


# Backyard Fly Fishing

Think Globally, Fish Locally

Explore and discover the bounty of fly fishing opportunities close to home.



By

Brad Miller

## Forward

In an era of high travel costs and a struggling economy, it seems only prudent to explore less expensive and more logistically practical ways to partake of one's favorite pastimes.

I happen to live in an area with a wealth of lakes and rivers available to explore and enjoy. Not everyone has this luxury, but I have lived elsewhere and know there are always opportunities for those with an inquiring mind.

Whether you live in the city or country, I'll bet you are only familiar with a select few fishing spots. To grow as an angler (and a person) one must break out of sedentary ruts and explore new water.

Yes, as in all things, you will strike out more often than you score. But when you find a great new fishing spot on your own, you will have moved up a notch on the character meter.



**Brad Miller**

This book is for those who want to catch more fish - period.  
This book is for those with the willingness to spend some time as a "sleuth," uncovering new and exciting fishing opportunities as close as a bicycle ride from their homes.

In our time of online resources, there has never been better opportunity to explore without ever leaving your chair. Use these tools to plan your next move.

Then, get out of your easy chair and get into some new water.

Keep this handbook with you as a reference, wherever you go, and you will catch more fish.

Thank you for purchasing this book and remember: **Fun Waits for No One!**

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brad Miller'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brad Miller  
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## **Backyard Fly Fishing - by Brad Miller**

*Discover the fly fishing bounty awaiting those who explore their home waters.*

What if you could explore and uncover local fishing resources to enjoy your sport only a short drive (or bike ride) from you home? You will learn how to do just that and much more in ***Backyard Fly Fishing!***

*A swelling in the water rose up near the deadfall as a wake arrowed from the shallows toward the fly. The popper vanished in a roiled vortex. I hesitated briefly (remembering countless premature hook sets of yesteryear) to wait until I felt the fish. The line tightened - I felt the surge. I reared back and put the metal to her.*

*The largemouth exploded from the depths, tail-danced and surged for the heavy timber. I leaned back hard to avoid the potential disaster waiting in the tangled wood.*

*My trusty eight weight fly rod with fifteen pound test tippet, kept me in the fray as I frantically stripped line and steered the bass to my boat.*

*After a spirited fight, I brought the beautiful largemouth to the boat, unhooked the popper and admired the fine four pound fish. I gently slipped her into welcoming waters and smiled as she slowly headed back home.*

*I beheld my thumb, appreciating the sandpaper texture roughed up from “lipping” largemouth that day.*

*Best of all, I was only twenty minutes from home and had the lake to myself.*

**This book focuses on fishing waters near your home that are often overlooked and underappreciated.** Most of us have great fishing opportunities close to home - rarely explored or enjoyed. This is a comprehensive warm water fly fishing handbook designed to quickly acquaint you with the fish, seasonal movements, methods, fly patterns, and water selection to help you enjoy your local fisheries close to home.

**Why not take the time to learn your own waters more intimately?** In an era of high gas prices, you can save time and money while availing yourself to great fly fishing adventures within minutes of your home. We will discuss methods to catch warm water species often bypassed and ignored. We will discuss how to find the best local waters based upon the species you wish to pursue.

We will discuss both river and lake fishing and concentrate on the most universally accessible species to be found near your home. Each section describes several different criteria to help aid in your success.

Pay attention to each of the following criteria:

- Equipment
- Flies
- Seasonal Movements
- Fishing Strategies

## **Fish Species**

We provide information on the following species.

- Sunfish
- Crappie
- Largemouth Bass
- Smallmouth Bass
- Northern Pike

While there are a number of other fish that can be taken with a fly rod, these are the most accessible warmwater species throughout the country.

### **Finding the Hotspots**

To become a local fishing deity, you must catch fish - in size and numbers. To do this, you need to have a sound game plan including great places to fish. It all starts with the mindset of an explorer. You must be inquisitive and willing to try different strategies and locations, knowing many times you will come up empty.

If you must fish only a select few waters constantly and have no desire to explore, skip down to the next section on fish species (as the following “how-to-find” hot spots information will do you no good ;-).

Finding places to fish is the most important and valuable section of this entire book, in my view. After all, who wants to pound local waters *ad nauseum* when the best fishing spots are unknown and under fished by most?

This information will put you into little known fishing opportunities enabling you to have your very own “secret lake.”

*Excerpt from DNR Full Report Section – one of several resources covered.*

### **Full Report Sample Graphic Three**

This next table is an example of fish abundance and relative size. Samples are usually based on sections or reaches of rivers, in this case. I can quickly visualize the fish populations and determine which section I want to float!

Table 4. Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) for gamefish captured at each site during spring sampling on the Crow Wing River from Staples, MN to Pillager, MN.

|                 | Station |         |          |
|-----------------|---------|---------|----------|
|                 | Spr_EF1 | Spr_EF2 | Combined |
| River Mile      | 21-25   | 14-17   | 14-25    |
| Effort (hrs)    | 1.70    | 1.86    | 3.56     |
| Species         | CPUE    |         |          |
| Bluegill        | 0.0     | 0.5     | 0.3      |
| Northern pike   | 7.1     | 11.8    | 9.6      |
| Smallmouth bass | 2.4     | 23.7    | 13.5     |
| Walleye         | 24.1    | 12.9    | 18.3     |

Table 5. Number caught and minimum, maximum and mean length of all gamefish captured during spring sampling on the Crow Wing River from Staples, MN to Pillager, MN.

| Species         | Number Caught | Minimum Length | Maximum Length | Mean Length |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Bluegill        | 1             | 0.5            | 0.3            | 8.0         |
| Northern pike   | 34            | 11.8           | 9.6            | 15.5        |
| Smallmouth bass | 48            | 23.7           | 13.5           | 14.2        |
| Walleye         | 65            | 12.9           | 18.3           | 15.0        |

For example, if I am after smallmouth bass, I'll target the section titles Spr\_EF2, which happens to be a lower reach of this tributary to the Mississippi. Upriver in section Spr\_EF1, I may switch to a jig and minnow or troll plugs for some tasty walleyes.

### Excerpt from Fish Species Section

## Crappies

In most areas of the country both black and white crappie are most accessible in the early spring. The first reliable action of the spring is crappie fishing.

As the water warms through the 40 degree level in the northern tier states into the 50s, the crappies will move into very shallow water for a feeding binge as a harbinger of spring. This is perhaps one of the most popular fishing spectacles of the entire year.



Wondering where to start fishing for spring crappies? Look for concentrations of boats on some of your area lakes, especially in the backwaters and channels. Chances are - folks have been hammering crappies for years in the same spots.

### Equipment

Crappies are seldom pursued with the fly rod, rather a minnow, hook and bobber takes center stage as the preferred methodology. The very same #3 - #5 weight outfits one uses for trout or sunfish works great for crappies. Crappies do like flies, but seem to prefer sub-surface offerings. Stick to the tried and true trout streamers and even small

saltwater flies and you'll catch crappies.

### **Crappie Flies**

Small streamers, nymphs, and tiny Clouser Deep Minnows can be deadly for these beautiful fish. If minnow patterns do not produce, quickly switch to leech or nymph patterns, experimenting with colors until you score.



### **Baby Clouser Deep Minnows**



### **Woolly Bugger**

*Four flies omitted*

Excerpt from Conclusion

### **Final Thoughts - Becoming the Sleuth**

We all dream about exotic fishing destinations and for good reason. But the realities of life dictate much of our fishing will be done close to home.

Rather than beat up the same water over and over again, make a pact with yourself to become an explorer - in your own backyard. There are always new places to be found. There are developing fisheries and forgotten ones that make a comeback.

By taking a more aggressive approach...

End of Sample

[Click here to purchase the complete eBook: "Backyard Fly Fisherman"](#)