

SAMPLE STORY FOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

HEADER: Same Sport, One Played Dry, One Played Wet The Similarities Between Golf and Fly Fishing

QUESTION: What do Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Mark O'Meara, Padraig Harrington, Nick Faldo, Nick Price, Davis Love III, Justin Leonard, and David Feherty all have in common?

ANSWER: They are all avid fly fishermen...and they've been known to play a bit of golf.

A pure coincidence? Maybe. Then again, probably not.

Both golf and fly fishing can be pinpointed to 15th century Great Britain. But the sports share much more than a historic and geographic kinship. In both cases, it's what happens "between the ears" (in the words of the immortal Bobby Jones) that separates success and failure.

Both golf and fly fishing are sporting cultures perfectly suited for the type-A personality. Think about it. In an average four-hour round of golf, the time you actually spend swinging a club and putting amounts to about three minutes. The rest of the time you're gauging distances, checking the wind, selecting clubs, reading greens, and enjoying the scenery. When you're fly fishing a river, the best day involves minutes, not hours, of actually fighting fish. The rest of the time is spent gauging currents, checking for rises, selecting flies, reading the water...and enjoying the scenery.

"For me, the shared appeal of golf and fly fishing is the chance to be outside in a beautiful place," said Russ Miller, Director of Golf at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "The river or lake is your golf course. Or vice versa." (Some wag once said that trout don't live

in ugly places. Neither do roosterfish, nor striped bass, nor snook.)

“There are so many similarities between golf and fly fishing,” said Spencer Schaub, General Manager of Pronghorn Club & Resort, a high-end golf community in Bend, Oregon. “Both a golf swing and a fly cast can evolve into an art form. Practitioners want to make that swing or cast into a thing of beauty. The feeling you get when a trout takes a dry fly is the same feeling you get when a long putt falls in. You feel like you’ve made a good execution, you anticipate the result, and then you get to enjoy the rush of success.”

If you’ve never picked up a fly rod and made a cast, I encourage you to give it a try. Many of the mechanics – and satisfactions – are quite the same. Someone with good hand-to-eye coordination can pick up the basics with an hour of practice. When you feel the pull of a fish on that willowy rod, you’ll understand why so many of the pros love to fly fish.

Who knows – a few hours on the river now and then might even shave a few strokes off your game!

_____ (SHOP OWNER/MANAGER) operates _____ (FLY
SHOP NAME) in _____ (TOWN). If you have any questions, drop him
a line at _____ EMAIL or call _____ (PHONE).