

FLY FISHING FOR CARP

By Paul Sharman

Surprising though it may seem, it looks like all over the country, carp are finally gaining more respect every day in the world of fly-fishing. With exposure from national television and media celebrities like Al Lindner, Flip Pallot and Davy Whitlock, more and more fly-anglers are being tempted into giving the "buglemouth bass" or "golden bonefish" as our beloved cyprinids are being affectionately called a try. For goodness sake, fly-fishing for carp even graced the hallowed pages of *Field and Stream* in the June issue. Mainstream acceptance – not yet, but this does prove a growing interest exists and therefore more converts to the cause which can only be a good thing for carp in this country as we all know.

For my part, as a part-time outdoor writer & photographer, I am trying to get some stories into the local and national media to help create even more interest and this is how I came to send in a picture of a small fly-caught carp to Wayne a month or so back which you may have seen in a recent newsletter. This in turn opened a discussion between us about the growth of this branch of the sport and how the ACS was already thinking about incorporating fly-fishing into the fold. The exact details have yet to be worked out but you can expect to see more in this area in future on the website and in the newsletters as we hope to share how you too can give this a try should you feel the urge. Watch this space!

Who am I? Well, yet another displaced Brit' of course! Reaching the big 4-0 later this year, I have been in the US about 7 years and live in "America's finest city" – San Diego. I grew up as a freshwater fisherman in the south of England (near Brighton for those who know where that is) but had many holiday trips to the highlands of Scotland as a kid thanks to a mad-keen fly-fishing father. I'd definitely tag myself as a jack of all trades rather than a master at any one in particular and this continues in the US where I love to fish for as many different species in as many different ways as possible. I was happy to find a couple of local lakes with a large population of hungry carp a couple of years back who were

happy to jump on flies I was using for trout and now target the carp instead with the trout being an afterthought. I've managed to drag a few friends along so far and they have become hooked which is great to see as they were all pretty skeptical initially. Anyway, I hope this whets your appetite to learn a little more and look forward to helping share what I have learned so far. The education continues.....

If you want to check out some of what I have been up to so far you can check out some pictures and feature stories at www.paulsharmanoutdoors.com .

Tight lines, Paul.

A lovely fly-caught common!

