



Woody's World

3rd August 2023



Fishing Floats - Wagglers

Tonight's session was given by Andy Smith who shared his passion for angling and particularly his expertise in making fishing floats. As a boy Andy made floats from goose or swan quills but a YouTube video encouraged him to try Norfolk Reed. Despite his East Anglian heritage, the Norfolk reed used in tonight's demonstration came from Ryton Pools.

It is best to use dead or dry reed to make floats. Strip back leaves and clean up green stock before drying in the roof of a shed or garage.

Reeds have a natural cellulose coating that should be sanded off to take a finish eg Acrylic paint or yacht varnish over a base coat of thinned down PVA. To shorten the reed, cut on joints.



Insert Wagglers

The thin tip 'Insert' is made from a bamboo BBQ skewer inserted in to the reed. This will normally be too thin so use masking tape to thicken accordingly and superglue into place. Similarly, the other end will need plugging either with bamboo or a balsa wood cap. If the reed splits whilst inserting at either end then glue up and whip with thread.

Eyes can be whipped on to the bottom of the float for line attachment although they are





inconvenient for a quick change. Silicon float adaptors are available for around £2 for 5 and simply plug

onto the end of the float allowing for a quick change. If eyes are preferred, small brass safety pins from haberdashers also work well.



To finish, sand to 150G, round ends of pegs, chamfer reed near peg and sand to 600G. Start coating with diluted PVA, flatten off to 1000G, prime and finish with acrylic paint.

To calibrate, put on float adaptor and add shot until the float sinks just below the lines. Mark up with weights required and varnish.



Boddied Wagglers

This float includes a balsa body turned on the lathe using piece of knitting needle as the mandrel. Best to take corners off the balsa (keep to use as plugs mentioned earlier) and round and shape using 40G then 80G abrasive. Decide on tip and bottom lengths and finish.

Pike Float

Balsa rounded off and shaped with abrasive. BBQ skewer in one end cut to length. Off cut of balsa glued in opposite end to fill hole.

Thanks to Mick, Jan and others who brought in great pieces of work to display on the evening.

It would be lovely if members could do the same each month



Treasurer's request regarding payments

Most members are paying by card each week and less cash is available for change, Andy has asked that those preferring to pay by cash please bring the exact amount – usually £6. Thanks in advance.

Forthcoming Meetings

The club depends upon members volunteering to do demonstrations.
Please let Dave know what you can do for the club.

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm**.

Subject	Demonstrator	Date
Open evening		7 th September
TBC		5 th October
Back to basics	Roger Gilbert	2 nd November
Christmas items		7 th December
Segmented Turning	TBD	TBD
Pole Lathe turning (tbc)		

***If you have any requests or ideas for future meetings,
please mention it to Dave Simms.***

Committee

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