

Jason Haslam

My fly fishing days began in 1989 with an old DiamondBack rod casting Renegades and Black Ants to eager Brookies in the Uintas, and nymphing on the Provo River with Pheasant Tails and a fly called a “scud”....which I thought was named after a Scud Missile. My early years also took my journey into the world of Stillwater fishing on Minersville Reservoir, which sparked my interest in learning more about entomology. I read every book I could get my hands on that related to aquatic entomology and how it related to fly fishing, including Gary La Fontaine’s book, “Caddisflies.” Over the years, I’ve been able to share my experiences and knowledge about local entomology through classes and presentations at various events and gatherings.



Having fallen in love with entomology I created a website called Utahonthefly.com, and it quickly became one of the most popular fly fishing websites in Utah and across the U.S. Utahonthefly.com allowed me to share my knowledge of entomology, fly tying, and local water fishing reports. Many of my best friends today were discovered through Utahonthefly. During the Utahonthefly years I organized about 20 fishing trips to such places as Henry’s Fork, Uinta Mountains, Strawberry Reservoir, Yellowstone, the Green River, and many others. This really sparked a lot of local interest in fly fishing which got many novices and veterans to come together and go fly fishing. Many friends were created through these trips and get together.

In my early fly fishing years, I took up the hobby of tying and creating my own flies. With collaboration from friends and mentors I was able to create and develop my own flies for local waters that I still use today. This opened up many doors, including sharing dozens of my fly tying creations on Utahonthefly.com, teaching community education fly tying classes in South Jordan, and having my flies featured in a few fly fishing magazines. I was also honored to be accepted as a Rainy’s Flies innovator for the last 12 years, featuring many of my fly creations in their catalogs.

During the Utahonthefly years, I started the UtahOnTheFly Fly Tying Club that allowed dozens of individuals to meet up once a month at Western Rivers Fly Fisher shop and tie flies.

My fly fishing community involvement eventually led me to the Stonefly Society Chapter of Trout Unlimited. I held leadership roles over the years, eventually I becoming President for about five years. During this time, I was able to help organize many conservation projects, including the Lake Canyon Colorado Cutthroat brood stock egg collection with the DWR, Millcreek restoration project with the DWR, numerous river clean ups, Utah’s youth judicial volunteer program teaching fly fishing to at-risk youth, Mountain Dell egg collection project with the DWR, Willow tree planting on the Strawberry River, and many more.

While I was heavily involved in the Stonefly Society, I co-created the idea of the Wasatch Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo, a fundraising event for local Utah chapters of Trout Unlimited. I ran and organized the Expo for seven years. The Expo grew from 12 vendor booths and 300 attendees to over 60 vendors and 2,300+ attendees and raised \$1,000's for local conservation and educational projects.

Growing up in Utah, fly fishing has been a great passion of mine, and I hope to continue to be involved in fly fishing in Utah for years to come.

Highlights:

- Creator and Administrator of Utahonthefly.com for 15 years
- Taught community education fly tying classes for 4 years
- Started the UtahOnTheFly Fly Tying Club which last about 4 years
- Fly innovator for Rainy's Flies for the last 12 years
- Provided dozens of entomology classes and presentations to various events
- Gave many fly tying demos for various events over the years
- President of the Stonefly Society Chapter - Trout Unlimited for 5 years
- Co-created the Wasatch Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo and was the Chairman for 7 years which raised \$1,000's for local conservation and educational projects for Trout Unlimited
- Recipient of the Service to the Courts Award for my contribution to Utah's youth judicial system teaching at-risk youth fly tying and fly fishing
- Recipient of the Utah Trout Unlimited Bob Trowbridge Award for outstanding volunteer service