

Thoughts from the Professor Vol. 2 Chapter 9

This month's review is much slimmer than my usual with only one book being read and reviewed. Now I would note that it was a most interesting book especially if you are interested in moving water fishing.

The book is "**Reading Waters**" by **Gary Borger** who reputation is well known to fly fishers all over the world. After reading this book I would have to say it is one of the most complete books on reading moving water that I have read.

This book is about cold water game fish, not to say that many of the practice will not work on warm water species. Gary goes into a great amount of detail and continues throughout the book to focus on the main features of reading waters. The focus areas are feeding lies, sheltering lies and prime lies. Let's look at the definition of each. Prime lies are those that provide both food and shelter from predators and make the fish feel safe and secure. Sheltering lies provide the safety a fish needs but may not provide a good food source and finally a feeding lie provides a source for food but may not provide the safety the fish needs. He goes on further to point out all these lies in relation to the water you find in a stream. Whether you are fishing Pools, rapids or riffles each area is covered as to how to read the water and find fish.

If you have been fishing for a while, as I have, you will recognize much of this from every little brook and stream that you fished. In fact as I read the book and looked at pictures it brought to mind a number of brooks and streams and lies on those streams. There is a certain amount of overload related to the descriptiveness of the "lies". You might feel, as I felt, that almost everything was a "lie" of one type or another. The realization that all water has potential but that learning those prime lies which should always have fish

as opposed to the other lies that may occasionally have fish is the important part of the book. What Gary does in this book is to try and get us to slow down look at the water and see the potential and which has the greatest potential. He helps you retain this information by continually showing more and more potential fish holding areas. Now I will note that he spends a fair amount of time on places he has fished and people he has fished within an effort to demonstrate his effectiveness. I guess you could say he is definitely not self-deprecating but rather quite the self-promoter. There are times when the book seemed to me to be a bit dry but the information and the insight make it worthwhile. If you have not spent time on moving water or if you want to refresh or increase your knowledge of moving water then I think you would find it worthwhile. This will be the last review for me until the September meeting as the newsletter is not published again until then. So I am wishing you a summer filled with.....

Tight Lines
Professor Ernie