

Member Profile Mike Corrigan

I remember 1970 I was attending Saint Mary's High School and was in grade 10 trying to stay away from the seniors; it seemed so long ago because it was. One member though in 1970 was honing his craft of fly fishing and tying. Mike Corrigan started what would be the love of his life, ok one of his loves.

His love of fly fishing has lead Mike on many fishing journeys and countless fish. I am sure when he bought his first fiber glass beauty from Canadian Tire with a Norris Shakespeare Reel he had no idea the many adventures they would lead him to. Like most members not including myself Mike is a collector of rods. I find it very interesting that club members have so many rods; I have a hard time using my 4 rods His collection starts with a prized cane rod of which he built form Bamboo Culm with the help of a former member Craig Naldrett. Now I have two boys that are pretty good and dear to me at times but Mike has nine (Winston Rods) which he says "I treat them like my children".

Mike in his travels had caught well over 30 species of fish that include Snook, Ladyfish and Barracuda and of course our favorite rainbow and brown, he has fished in 5 provinces, 2 states and 6 countries. Though his biggest fish was a 45lb Tarpon that he hooked while in Belize, it was his first saltwater fish.



I asked Mike "who has been the most influential person in his life" and his answer was simple his wife, good answer Mike. His wife Teri as he explained "kept me on track" and supported him in all his fly fishing and tying addictions. Teri also ran a shuttle service for 9 years while Mike built his guiding business on the Elk River out of Ferine.

I ask Mike if he was reincarnated what would you like to come back as? His reply was simple and truthful "myself"; life has been pretty good to me so no need to change.

I asked Mike another question "is there one club member you know that is more lucky than skilled"? He wasted no time pointing a finger at Dan Rassmussen," he is certainly luckier than me but luck and experience are interchangeable at his age".

No matter what you are looking for when you join a club or association, members themselves are a wealth of knowledge and I have not found anyone in the Hook and Hackle club that has not helped out another member or person and if you walk around and listen closely you will pick up some kind of fishing tidbit to help you out. Now remember to write this down, when I asked Mike for a helpful tip his response was this." Over my years as a guide the one thing I learned was that if a spot on the river looked like it should hold fish then it does hold fish. It is a matter of continuing to offer up different patterns or different sizes. Or..... Just show em the BART, that fly seems to work everywhere. Now you might see a pattern happening here but maybe Mike can ty me up a BART someday.

Mike has told me that the club has been very good for him over the years and yes Mike you have been good for the club also. "I have often told people that I thought I would likely stop coming to meetings after our son lost interest, but the camaraderie and friendships I have built up were too strong to walk away from". He also added that the club offers a wealth of knowledge and some very very good people. I have stated before just like Mike has that new members have to take time and get to know the veterans and try to put as much into the club as you take out of it.

I want to thank Mike for the information he supplied to me for this article and the fun we have had with it. I only have another 80 or so members to go so please feel free to when asked to submit only what you are comfortable with I will work in the other stuff.

By: Daniel Young