

Olive, the Little Woolly Bugger and Olive and the Big Stream
by Kirk Werner



It was with great interest that I read Kirk Werner's new children's books *Olive, the Little Woolly Bugger* and *Olive and the Big Stream*, mainly because getting young people interested in the future of wild fish is one of the most significant ways to sustain our mission. It is certainly refreshing to see that there is a concerted effort out there to incite an interest in conservation for young people. After all, the "Future" in our motto refers to our children and all the generations to follow. Giving children a colorful and fun story that they can relate to is one of the best ways to begin appreciation for the environment. With the *Olive* stories, Werner takes that appreciation a step further by drawing children into the world of fly-fishing with characters they can relate to, pictures that are fun and a story where lessons are learned without being preachy or pedantic.

"Fly fishing is an adventure" says 9-year old Tyler Befus in his Forward to these colorfully illustrated stories, and Werner takes on Olive's adventures from a child's point of view. Olive's journey begins as she makes her way to Camp Tightloops where she is to learn how to catch fish. Feeling somewhat drab compared to the dry flies, who think they're better than everyone else, Olive joins the class feeling like an outcast. With determination and the guidance of a sympathetic teacher named Mr. Muddler Minnow, Olive soon enjoys her lessons and goes home only to dream of floating on the Big Stream with lots of big trout jumping and munching on flies. Along the way, Olive learns about the different types of flies, equipment and what 'presentation' means. Olive's ultimate goal is to gain a place in the Fly Box, and after setbacks, disappointments and diligence, she not only gets a place in the Fly Box, but also has an adventure on the Big Stream.

Werner supplies plenty of fly-fishing vocabulary and techniques to Olive and her readers, but always with joy and wonder. By presenting Olive's lessons in a visually charming manner and easy-to-understand language, Werner latches onto children's imaginations, and carries them into a new and exciting world. Both parents and children will enjoy these books and it will not be surprising if your kids come up to you in the morning and tell you that "Last night I dreamt that I was on the Big Stream with Olive."

Mr. Werner is donating several copies of both books to Native Fish Society's 2008 Auction and Banquet, "Wild is the Future." For further information or to purchase advance copies, contact Kirk Werner at www.itchydogproductions.com.