

HANS VAN KLINKEN DAVE BRANDT STEVE THORNTON MAURO RASPINI BOB MEAD MICK HALL
CHUCK FURIMSKY FABRIZIO GAJARDONI ROMAN MOSER JOHAN KLINGBERG PHIL WHITE
TED PATLEN GIGI PIRONI HARRISON STEEVES KEITH WALLINGTON AGOSTINO RONCALLO
AL & GRETCHEN BEATTY ANDRÉ BRUN IGOR & NADICA STANCEV PAUL WHILLOCK

Flytters OF THE WORLD

Volume One

Compiled by
Steve Thornton





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In Norway there's a saying associated with André, "You don't choose the fly, the fish does". That humble approach to fly fishing has made him well known for his observations along the riverside; taking time to study Trout, rise forms and the insect life even before deciding which fly to put on. For him this saying is also the inspiration and guideline at the vice. It has resulted in some pretty radical fly designs, but his observational approach has now resulted in three successful fly fishing films, numerous articles and most of his fly designs are now tied and sold commercially.

The early days, and now...

André has lived all his life in the eastern region of Norway, except for 6 years when he went to the University of Oslo. He lives close to well known rivers like the Rena, Glomma and Ottaelva and has the legendary Hunnselva river right on his doorstep. These rivers have moulded him as a fisher, with their abundant hatches of numerous caddis species, mayflies and midges.

André was taught to fish by his father at about the age of six. He still remembers the day when his father gave him his old 7-weight rod. It had a broken tip and a glued on top ring. "I can still hear him saying, "Now we should head for the river. That summer, we fished a lot, dad and me, that was the best summer of my life."

Those days, nearly thirty years ago now, have inspired André ever since. He says, "I stood there and knew nothing, I tried my best to pick a suitable fly (yes my father also gave me one of his worn out fly boxes), a fly that vaguely in some way could resemble some of those bugs out there on the waters surface. It's the same these days. Now armed with a lot more knowledge and experience I still use the same approach... observation first and foremost"

In his teenage years, André was still fly fishing, but the competition was hard, between being a football player, the girls and other stuff. "After a great time growing up, I found Hege, the girl of my dreams, I dropped the football and concentrated back on the fly fishing. In the town of Gjovik, you have three main choices in life:

André Brun

Norway

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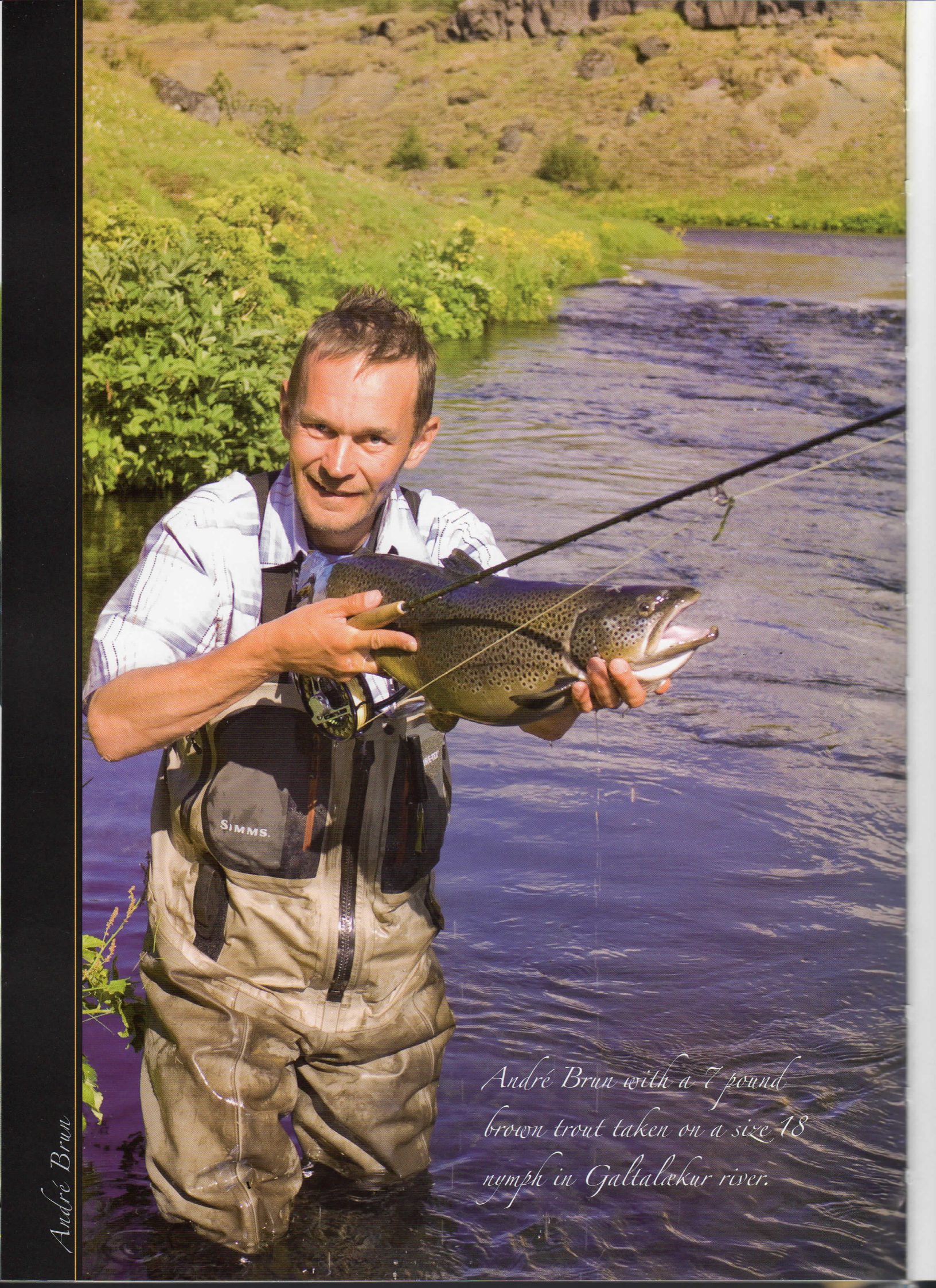
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"I Still remember that solemn moment when my father gave me his old 7-weight rod with a broken tip and a glued on top ring. He said, lets head for the river".



André Brun

*André Brun with a 7 pound
brown trout taken on a size 18
nymph in Galtalækur river.*

“You either become an asphalt cowboy, hunter and fisher or a Saturday night fighter. Well at least I didn’t become an asphalt cowboy.”

Flytying

When André was 10 years old, his father asked him to attend a fly tying class. The plan behind it was to get a good supply of cheap home made flies. We all know that’s a “non starter” as the cheapest by far are mass produced “on sale today” at most tackle dealers. For a whole winter he went to the classes, tied flies and learned the best way a 10 years old could. André says, “The fly tying class consisted of nine men between forty and fifty years old and me. During that winter I sometimes thought the others must think I was an unfocused slow learner, when I constantly switched from telling them about Winnie the Pooh to tying Spinner patterns. I guess the old guys had learnt a lot about that bear and I had learned to tie decent spinners by springtime”.

Mentors

For André, the most stunning and interesting moments always come when he gets the opportunity to sight fish for trout. Standing there for half a day, just observing the Trout, not spoiling the moment by casting, but just watching. This was the inspiration from the early days. To observe feeding periods, how far different Trout will move from one side to another depending on the number of drifting insects and the speed of the current etc. “You probably learn more from not casting at fish you spot, than having a go,” as he says.

My favourite location

Norway has a lot of very interesting streams and lakes, but the one that stands out the most for André is the river Hemsila. “It has the most intense hatches, glass clear water, very spooky large Trout and some really difficult and hard places to fish. At the very end of the Baetis rhodani hatch, when the Ephemerella aurivillii hatch has just started, just before the fish have started to focus on the latter, is the best time to test your nerves. Before and after that, the fishing is a lot easier.

This is a river to fall in love with. Not because you catch a lot of trout here, but because of the ambience”.

My Favourite patterns

“The Brun’s Caddis almost never fails me. When the different Caddis species are abundant, this one’s for imitating the egg layers. I do find it a bit irritating, in a funny way. I’ve sort of lost my creativity when it comes to designing dry Caddis imitations, because I’m so used to tying this one on for egg laying situations. I do have some Elk Hair Caddis, which work well in certain situations. I have Brun’s Caddis tied up in all sizes and colours. (In my world that means 5 colours). And that’s it. The solid wing silhouette and the clipped palmer hackle seems to convince even the easily spooked Trout that this really is an egg layer. Fished dead drift or with some subtle moves just prior to entering the window of the fish is the way to fish this imitation”.

“My Hvitvinge pattern, works under special conditions, so it will never enter the top ten list during a season. It actually imitates a Moth and if you live long enough or are lucky enough to encounter such a situation, it’s like having a good Ant imitation when Ants are landing on the water. You just have to have it, to really get things going”.

Designing trout flies

“In my opinion simple things aren’t always the best, but the best things are always simple, especially when it comes to fly tying. Simple things always prove something: That the fly design in itself is either good or bad. If an imitation fishes really, really well, it’s not because of all the details, but because of the primary design. To make a comparison: A rifle with a lot of beautiful carvings on the wooden stock won’t shoot well if the barrel is no good, yet it still looks beautiful. This is not a good thing, with either flies or rifles. The beauty is proportional to the practicality and simplicity of the fly. If we take a glance at the classic Flymphs, we’ll find the best example of flies that are stunningly beautiful in their simplicity, yet stunningly effective as fish catchers”.

Brun's Tipula

Hook - Mustad R48, size 12.

Thread - UNI 8/0, camel.

Abdomen - AB's Polychenille, medium brown.

Thorax - Fly-Rite number 6 (50%) / number 29 (50%).

Wings - CDC, natural grey.

Wing case - A slice of brown Polycelon.

Legs - Dark gray / brown Micro Round Rubber Legs.



Brun's Vulgata Dun

Hook - R48, size 12.

Thread - UNI 8/0, rusty dun/tan.

Tails - Fibetts, dun coloured.

Body - AB's Polychenille, tan.

Thorax - Fly-Rite number 19 (80%)/ number 30 (20%).

Hackle - Whiting's Barred Ginger.

Wings - CDC, 2 natural brown feathers.

Brun's Hvitvinge

Hook - Mustad R72, size 10 and 14 (2x heavy, 2x long).

Thread - UNI-Cord 12/0, white.

Body - Fly-Rite, number 22. (Cahill tan).

Wings - White translucent foam strips.

Head - Spun natural deer hair.

Brun's Caddis

Hook - Mustad R30, size 10-16.

Thread - Brown Uni 8/0.

Body - Fly-Rite, Number 20. (Dark tan).

Back wing - Dark brown poly yarn.

Wing - Dark brown poly yarn.

Hackle - Grizzly Whiting saddle.

Brun's Bibio Marci

Hook - R48, size 12.

Thread - UNI 8/0, iron gray/ black.

Extended body - AB's Polychenille, dark grey.

Thorax - Fly-Rite, 80% number 2 and 20% number 7. (Blended).

Wings - Poly yarn, light grey.

Wing case - Black Flyfoam or similar.

Legs - Micro Round Rubber Legs, black.

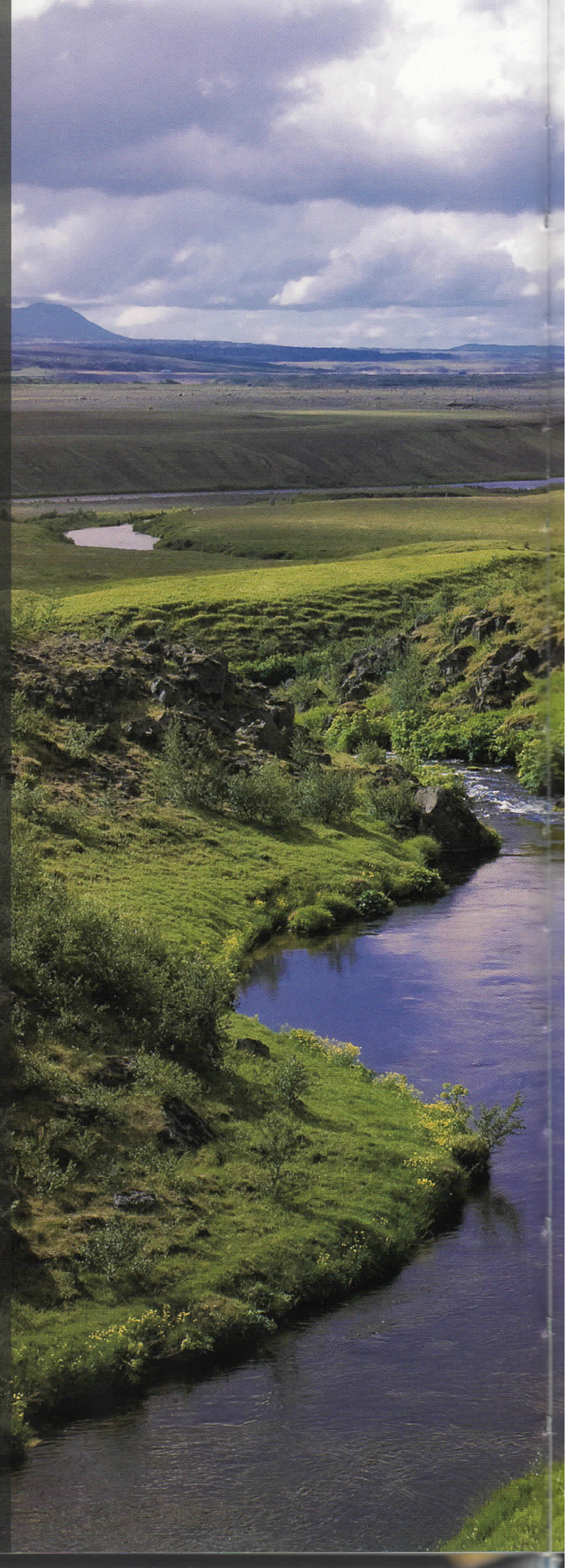


Fly fishing fashion

André is sponsored by Simms for clothing and Loop Tackle Design for rods and reels. Those that know him truly, know that he loves his Opti Creek #2 rod. André is pretty emotional about his gear. "I have to live with it all the season, so it better be good. The 2 weight is my second life long love, the first one being my wife. I still haven't decided which one of them is the most sensitive and the best listener." André often uses his 2 weight for trout, both for micro nymphing and dries. But his everyday favourite is a 4 weight for general use. For streamers it's a 7 weight. With this rod he uses the Norwegian Streamer Series. "A popular series of streamers, which consists of five flies that are simple, dull and full of life. Just like he wants them".

Video filming for "Trout Bum".

These days, the crew behind the successful Trout Bum films are finishing their third film after the original from 2001. This time from the highlands of Iceland. André went there twice in the summer of 2007. This was with his film photographers and his Icelandic friend and fly fisher, Birgir Örn Arnarson. This series is going on national television in Norway. As André says "I am just a fly fisher, but I understand that making television programmes allows you to fish places you don't normally get to." There is one dream he still has and that's to catch one of the "big brutes" that live in Mjøsa lake just a hundred yards from his home. "I don't know of anyone fishing for them on fly fishing tackle. These brutes are 'few and far between.' But one day just maybe....."



A scene from the third "Trout Bum" film shot in Iceland.

