

August 9, 1593 – Izaak Walton, “the Fly Fisherman”

8/9/1593 was an important date to me,
Izaak Walton was born on that day you see.
A different kind of fishing would soon take place,
Casting a lure that had no weight,

Izaak Walton was the father of modern day fly fishing,
A different way was needed to get out your presentation
Before fly fishing you had heavy lures and baits,
Pulled out by skinny lines hoping fish would take.

Now your bait was a few tiny feathers,
Which didn't weigh practically anything.
So now you had a heavy line,
Pull out your weightless lure.

Of course, if a trout saw that fly with the heavy
line,
It would know in an instant that it was fake.
How could you get a heavy line to get out the fly,
And at the same time tied to a small line.

A leader had to be invented,
To remedy this situation.
The large end of the leader tied to the fat line,
Small thin part of the leader to the hook and fly.

A tapered leader which unrolled just right,
Or the fish would be full of fright.
Walton fished the chalk streams of England
Such as Dove River,
Almost like USA,
People would fish the limestone streams in Pa.

I was a itching and a wishing,
So, 'I left my business behind me,'
And took to fishing' Izaak Walton
That started my life's true mission.

By Mark B. Rockefeller
“B. for Barrecudda” ;-)



Figure 1 This is a Brown Trout, native to Europe, but now stocked all over the place, including Connecticut and Pennsylvania, in the US as well as New Zealand and South America!

