

Flirting with fish

Fishing is not something to be taken lightly, particularly not fly-fishing. To trout stalker Peter Brigg, it's an art form, an act of passion that connects the mind and spirit to the river and its life force. By Holly Meadows.





LEFT: Find a good spot

High-sticking a fast, full run following heavy rains over the Mkhomazi catchment area.

BELOW: Select the right fly

A fly-fisher takes time out to mull over his choice of dry fly or nymph to suit the conditions.



Haunted by the captivating waterways of the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg, northeastern Cape and Lesotho, Peter Brigg offers up a nostalgic celebration of one man's devotion to fly-fishing in his book, *Call of the Stream*.

Being something of a piscatorial philosopher, Brigg frames his work around a collection of musings. A collage of thought-provoking memories is peppered with an array of eye-catching photographs.

His book is an ode to fly-fishing, as well as an enlightening read on the history and tactical patterns involved in the sport. A sprinkling of illustrations, memoirs and souvenirs lures the eye to the intricacies of the craft and tricks of the trade.

One thing is certain – if you invest this much time in romancing trout, you become a feature of the

landscape yourself. Brigg's diary is a testament to this, an avid appreciation of South Africa's undulating mountains and the rivulets that meander its folds.

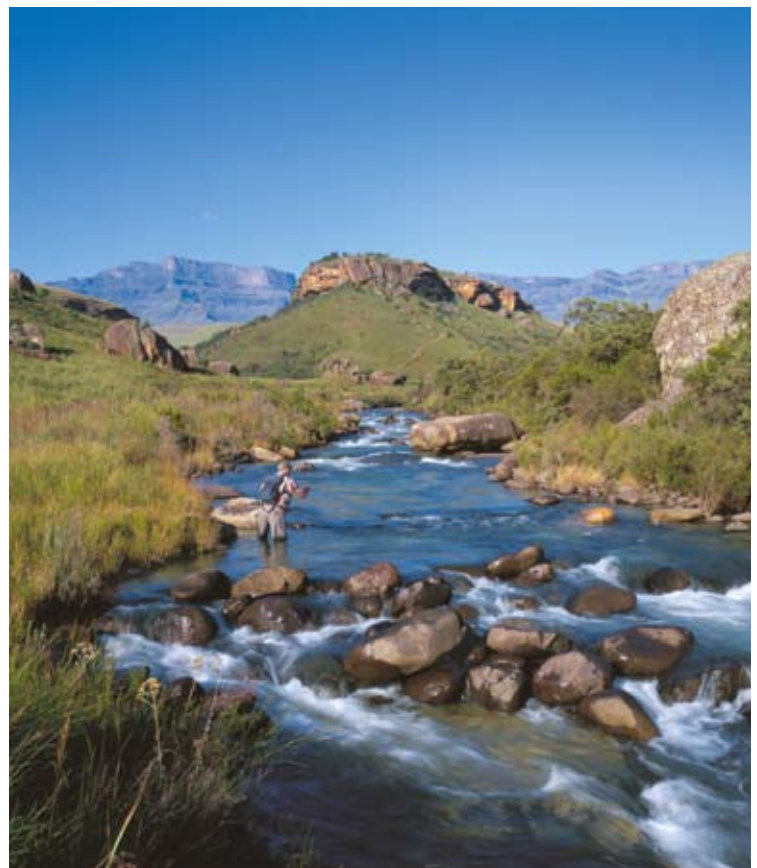
Tracing tributaries, forming friendships with the elements and learning to listen to the 'call of the stream' is the fly-fisher's art. Brigg doesn't call it 'stalking trout' without reason – success is measured by your skill at listening to and having a dialogue with nature.

The seasoned hunter must take care in presenting himself and be as elusive as possible to the sensitive trout. He must be a master in dancing the fly; he must know whether it should skate and skim across the surface of the water, or whether to submerge it periodically, teasing the trout. Above all, he must be an expert at flirting with fish. >



ABOVE: Use stealth and keep a low profile for success
Stalking trout on a small tributary of the Mhlwazini.

RIGHT: Make the journey, you won't be disappointed
The Bushmans River is one of the most well-known brown trout waters in the Drakensberg.



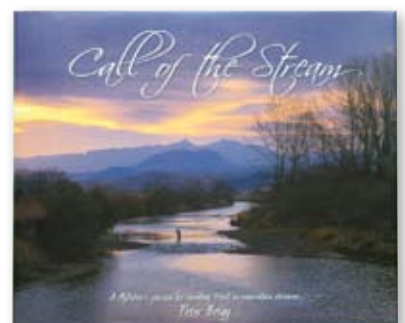
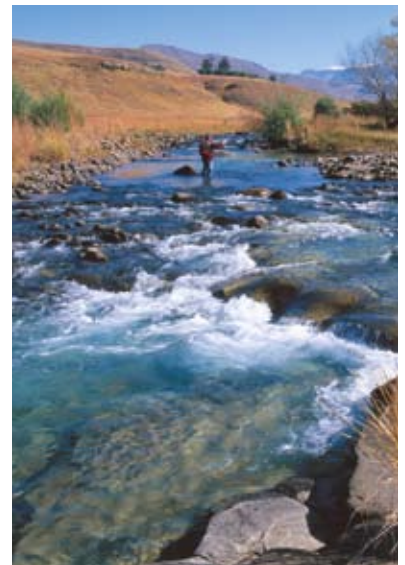


LEFT: An early start brings rewards

A pretty stretch of the Bokspruit winds its way through a stand of poplar trees.

BELOW: Enjoy the solitude

The Lotheni meanders below soaring, snow-capped berg peaks.



□ *Call of the Stream: A flyfisher's passion for hunting trout in mountain streams* by Peter Brigg (Art Publishers, R380). Special limited edition copies can be ordered from 031-209-5161 or e-mail pbrigg@iafrica.co.za.

