

## Flyfishing for Backcountry Tarpon



Tarpon are widely regarded as one of flyfishing's most exciting and rewarding targets. They can be a tough to hook requiring a good presentation of specialized flies. Once hooked tarpon can also be a challenge to land - fighting hard, and jumping wildly to throw the hook. Nicknamed the silver king, tarpon have bright, chrome sides darker backs that range from black to green. They grow to immense size, but unlike some salt water game fish, even the biggest tarpon tend to eat flies well and are realistic targets for fly fishermen.

Most of the literature and media coverage of tarpon shows fishing in the clear, open water of the ocean. Instead of that, this presentation focuses on fly fishing for tarpon in the backcountry. These areas are more protected estuaries or tributaries which often flow with dark, tannic water. Tarpon behavior is different in dark water and requires different tactics than ocean-side fish. I will discuss aspects of backcountry tarpon behavior and highlight tactics that will improve your odds in this summit experience of fly fishing.

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## About the speaker:



John McMinn is a lifelong fly fisherman who enjoys the challenge of tough fish, the exhilaration of adventure travel and the company of good friends. His first fish on fly was an 11" stocked brown trout from Ridley Creek in 1969. Since then he has visited a variety of fresh and saltwater destinations favoring opportunities to sight fish. John is also committed to conservation and education serving as President of the Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited for 11 years and a boy scout leader in several capacities for 15 years.