

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 273

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Equipment. I like to paint and draw, and I own enough art supplies to start my own store. And for every hobby there are lots of supplies that seem essential. In this poem we get a whole tackle box full of equipment from Michael Sowder, who lives and fishes in Utah.

### Fishing, His Birthday

With adams, caddis, tricos, light cahills,  
blue-wing olives, royal coachmen, chartreuse trudes,  
green drakes, blue duns, black gnats, Nancy quills,  
Joe's hoppers, yellow humpies, purple chutes,  
prince nymphs, pheasant tails, Eileen's hare's ears,  
telicos, flashbacks, Jennifer's muddlers,  
Frank bugs, sow bugs, zug bugs, autumn splendors,  
woolly worms, black buggers, Kay's gold zuddlers,  
clippers, tippet, floatant, spools of leader,  
tin shot, lead shot, hemostats, needle nose,  
rod, reel, vest, net, boots, cap, shades and waders,  
gortex shell and one bent Macanudo—  
I wade in a swirl of May-colored water,  
cast a fine gray quill, the last tie of my father.

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