

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



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The Fly Tier's Corner

Teaching Fly Tying – First in a series

by Don Van Buren

This is the first in a series of columns that will address teaching “Fly Tying”. With this and future columns I will lay out my concerns, objectives and the approach that I recommend when teaching fly tying.

Education has always been an important contribution that each of us can make! Teaching is just one part of the educational process, but a very important part. Teaching Fly Tying to further our sport is a wonderful tool that we can take advantage of as a club or as individual members.

Whether we teach a class, a friend or demonstrate our abilities with an educational program like our NCFE Favorite Fly, we are in fact teaching. On the market today there are many books addressing this subject. My approach will be to address from the students perspective and what they need to know, from an instructor, to be successful at tying flies.

One of my favorite truisms is that “not all teachers/instructors are good fly tiers, not all fly tiers are good teachers/instructors if you get a combination of both, you are very fortunate”. A second truism is: “It is not about the teacher/instructor, it is about the student”. With this comment I stress that we need to address the student's concerns and needs. Lets start by addressing some of the common fears a person faces as he begins to learn how to tie flies.

Self-Conscientiousness

Just imagine sitting down and attempting to tie your first fly and you're unfamiliar with the fly tying jargon or language, tools, materials or the

techniques involved with tying a fly. The weak instructor begins talking and demonstrating how to tie a fly, using some strange terms, hands flying as he/she ties the fly far too quickly for you to follow and then says “see it's not difficult” while swiftly moving on to telling you how successful the fly is and how he/she used it, etc., etc. Oh! We're here to learn how to tie flies not listen to war stories about the instructor and the lesson moves on leaving you perhaps confused and behind!

The good instructor will start by explaining some of the fly tying terms, basic equipment, identification of materials, and basic fly tying techniques. He will next demonstrate the sequence, which the fly is tied, and explain the logic behind the tying sequence, etc. He or she may have handouts to pass out at this time, which helps to reinforce the lesson just taught. The thoughtful instructor will also answer questions as they arise to address any immediate concerns. Basically the instructor has a plan and follows that plan.

Dexterity

Not all students exhibit the same level of dexterity and the instructions should be geared at a pace that the student with the least dexterity can easily follow and keep up with the rest of the class.

Familiarity

Never forget that the student may be new to the world of fly tying and is unfamiliar with the tool, materials and techniques. Reinforce the terms as



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Attn: Dir. Of Communications

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) is a 100% Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Its purpose is to promote fly fishing as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing. We are committed to provide education in the best practices and techniques of the sport, including fly tying, fly casting and fish and water conservation. Our members are committed to maintaining a current membership in the FFF



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Clip art courtesy Dave Whitlock,
www.davewhitlock.com.

October Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 6th 2004
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio

Beginner Fly Tying, Favorite Fly
6:30 - 7:45 PM

Guest Speaker
Jeff Schmitt

So Many Rivers, So Little Time
8:00 - 10:00 PM

NCFF Cloisonné Pins

The Board of Directors had commissioned a cloisonne NCFF lapel pin as an ongoing fundraiser project and for a way for members to display their affiliation with the club. These four-color pins are 1" round and are now available at the monthly meetings for \$5 each, or by mail order for an additional \$1.50 to cover shipping and handling. The pins are pictured on the website home page at www.ncff.net, and there is a link to the Order Form that anyone can print out and mail with their check to the club's P.O. Box. Delivery is expected to take 1-2 weeks from when we receive your check.

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October's Speaker: Jeff Schmitt

Our October program will be "So Many Rivers, So Little Time", which will be presented by Jeff Schmitt. In 1995 Jeff & his wife Cyndie quit their jobs, moved into a RV and took a 4-year mid-life break to fish the great rivers of the Western US, Canada and Alaska. "So Many Rivers" features the photographs and stories from their adventures. This presentation is designed to both entertain and educate the audience on western fly-fishing opportunities. This is the perfect if you're just planning your next summer vacation.

Featured rivers will include the Gunnison, Green, Big Horn, Colorado, Yellowstone, White, Mountain Fork, Middle Fork

of the Salmon, Skeena River system in British Columbia and several Alaskan Rivers. Self-outfitted adventures on over 20 rivers will be covered.

Jeff and Cyndie Schmitt live in Austin, Texas. Jeff is the past President of the Guadalupe River Chapter for Trout Unlimited, the largest TU chapter in the US. A special set of slides on the Guadalupe River in Central Texas, possibly one of the best winter trout fisheries in the US, will be presented. Jeff and Cyndie have appeared on ESPN's Flyfishing America and Texas Parks and Wildlife TV. Their photographs have been featured in several outdoor magazines.

Monthly Membership Meeting Raffle Survey

by Doug Crouch, President, NCFE

In order to improve our monthly raffles, we are looking for your input. Please feel free to let us know what types of items you would like to see. These could be fly tying, as well as fly fishing supplies. New materials for tying that recently came on the market, a book you think would be insightful, or maybe some new gadget that would be useful on the water.

Please remember to keep your suggestion within reason. \$2,000 bamboo rods or tricked-out SUVs will be discounted outright. Use your common sense and we will try to improve our offerings.

Either stop by the raffle table at our next membership meeting or email me at: president@ncff.net.

The Sixth Annual Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Induction & Dinner

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum is proud to recognize the following individuals to be inducted into the prestigious Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, on Saturday October 23, 2004 at a reception and induction ceremony at the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum at 4:00 PM.

Living: Bob Jacklin, Helen Shaw, Don Zahner

Deceased: Gary LaFontaine, James Leisenring, Joan Stoliar

For more information contact: Jim Krul at 845-439-4810 or flyfish@catskill.net

The Fly Tiers Corner

continued from front

they relate to tying a fly by repetitive explanations of the tools, materials, and techniques.

Ability to absorb detail

Each student has a different level and ability to absorb instructions and details, pace the instructions accordingly. Don't lose a student because they couldn't understand or keep up with the lesson.

Enjoyment

Our sport, and fly tying in particular, should be enjoyed! It should not be tedious, difficult or drudgery. Help the student understand the joy of tying flies and the satisfaction that comes with being successful on the water with a fly or flies that they have tied.

I have tried to address some of the concerns that a person may experience when they decide to learn to tie flies. It is our responsibility to help this process along and making it easy and enjoyable. Being a conscientious instructor/teacher, making the lessons enjoyable and easily followed, will only help to further our sport.

With future columns in this series I will dwell more on details and take the fly tying process in flow sequence from start to finish, addressing the fly tying process including equipment, materials and fly tying techniques. I will also incorporate additional sources for fly tying information.

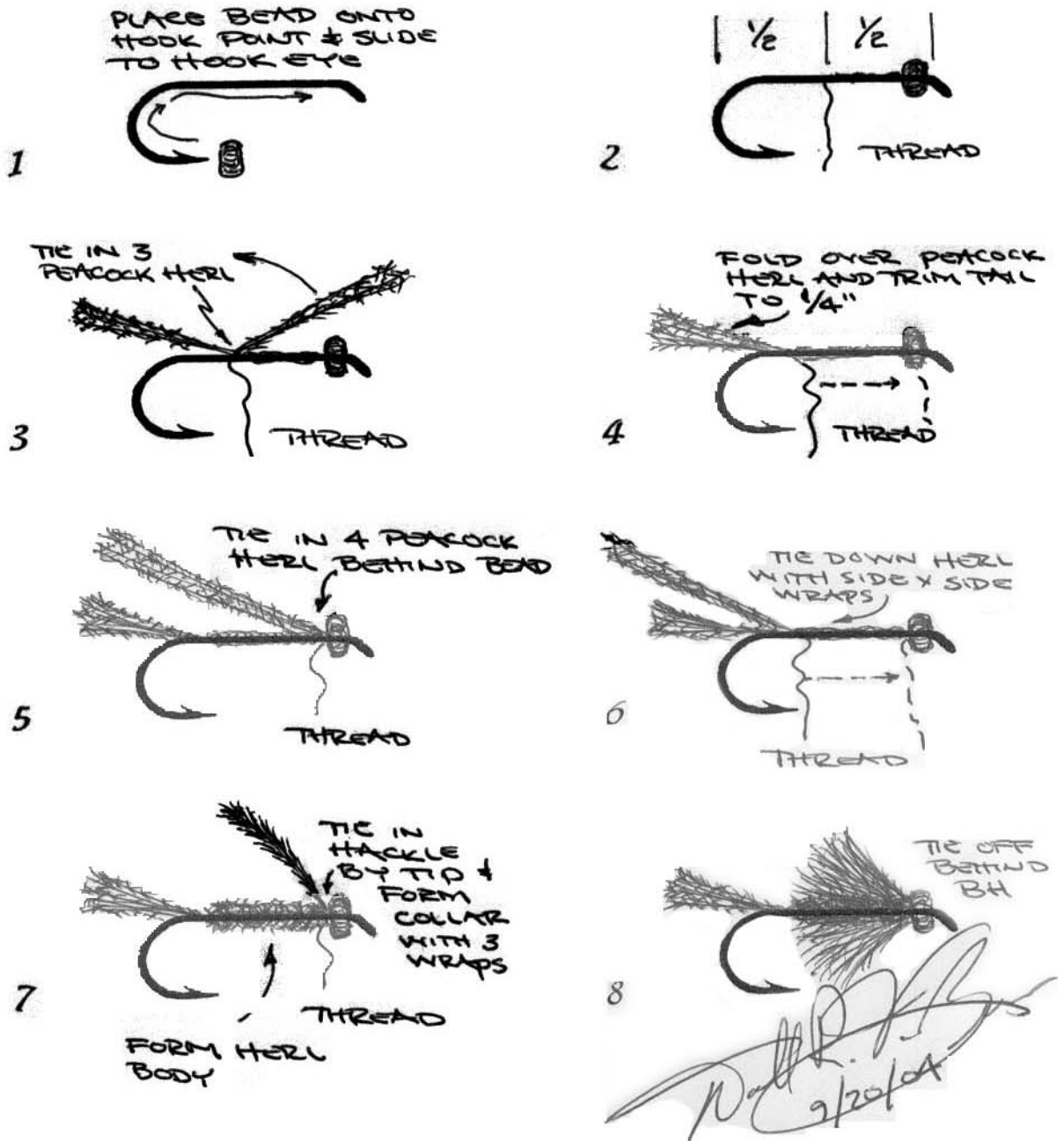
Next month "What you need in tools and materials to get started with fly tying"



NCFE Favorite Fly

The Simple BH Zug Bug Tied by Jim Howell

Hook	Daiichi 1530 Size 14	Thread	Black 6/0
Head	1/8 Gold Bead	Tail	Peacock Herl
Body	Peacock Herl	Collar	Brown or Brown Grizzly Hackle



North Coast Fly Fishers

Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 1, 2004, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Croatian Lodge Party Center, 34900 Lake Shore Blvd., Eastlake

Featured fly tier and guest speaker: Jack Gartside

Plus a Holiday Raffle, NCFE 5th Annual Favorite Fly Plate Raffle (members only), 50/50 and our popular Fly Exchange.

Since this event is our regular monthly meeting, there is no admission charge for current NCFE members. There will not be Beginner Fly Tying at this event, but we will have our Favorite Fly Tying Program lead by Robert Prescott for all who wish to tie that evening. The lighting is much better for tying here than our past facility, and there is seating for 280 people in this ballroom.

Dinner will be served buffet style. You can choose from Chicken Marsala or Wiener Schnitzel for your entree. Side dishes will be Home Fried Potatoes and Green Beans. Dinner also comes with a mixed salad, bread & butter, coffee & tea for beverage and home made strudel for dessert. A cash bar will be available inside the ballroom. The food is excellent at this facility. If you like home style cooking, you'll love their food. Dinner reservations must be paid in full by November 10, 2004 ... no exceptions! We are required to turn in our final count, with payment, on November 15th. Sorry, but no refunds will be issued after November 3rd for any reason, and member purchased dinner reservations cannot be transferred to non-members without paying the additional \$10. Reserved tables are available

for groups of 8. Full payment for all parties must accompany your table request.

We will begin taking reservations (with payment) on October 6th at the monthly meeting. You can also mail in your reservation form and payment if you wish. Dinner reservations are \$20 per person for NCFE members in good standing, and \$30 for non-members. Non-members wishing to attend this event without purchasing a dinner can do so for \$15. (\$10 of the non-member fees can be applied to a NEW NCFE & FFF membership purchased thru the January 2005 monthly meeting.) The Croatian Lodge is a private venue not affiliated with Lake Metro-parks, and all walk-ins will be charged \$15 to defray the cost of our speaker.

This event will be promoted to other fishing clubs, fly shops and outdoor groups. If you know of a group that may wish to attend, please contact George Shuffert at (440) 272-5449 or Joe Valencic at (440) 463-0571. George or Joe will contact the group and provide information to them.



NCFE Holiday Dinner Reservation Form

Cost are \$20 for each NCFE member and \$30 for each non-member

Contact Information

Member Name _____

Phone Number _____

Non-Member Name _____

Phone Number _____

Total Number of Members @ \$20 ea. = \$ _____

Total Number of Non-Members @ \$30 ea. = \$ _____

Grand Total = \$ _____

Please make all check s payable to North Coast Fly Fishers.

Send completed form and your check to:

North Coast Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 312
Painesville, Ohio 44077
Attn: Holiday Dinner

Book Reviews

Reviewed by Bruce E Harang, courtesy FFF ClubWire

How to Fly-Fish

By Cliff Hauptman

This book presents a beginner's fly fishing course in an innovative manner. One might say it is the Suzuki method of fly fishing.

The book composed of ten chapters covering; what is needed to get started, rods, reels, lines, leaders, flies, knots, types of fishing waters, waders, and accessories. Each chapter has two separate parts. Each chapter's first section contains just enough information to allow the beginner to fish, and the second section contains additional information and greater detail. The beginner needs only to read the first section of each chapter and then go fishing. It will take less than two hours to complete this basic course and then get out to the water and actually go fishing. Then once the beginner has actually gotten to fish for a time he can come back to the book and read the second portion of each chapter to gain a better understanding of "why it works" to compliment the earlier read of "how it works".

The book is nicely written and easy to read. The line drawings are a good compliment to the text without distracting the reader from the main goal of getting him out and fly fishing. For the most part the book is a solid teaching tool. Unfortunately, a number of old wives tales have been included which should have been weeded out. However, at the price of admission this book is one fine beginner's fly fishing course.

River Journal – Kispiox River

By Arthur J Lingren

This is another excellent volume in the River Journal series of books. Written by a Kispiox River steelheader of 30 years this book gives the reader the tools and insights necessary to fish successfully this magnificent part of the mighty Skeena River system.

The Kispiox River is a river of large steelhead, beautiful water, and wonderful scenery. The Kispiox is also a river producing steelhead that placed in the top ten spots in the Field & Stream Fishing Contest for twenty-one consecutive years. It is also a river that made many of the Pacific Northwest steelhead fly patterns famous worldwide.

The author provides the reader with a book containing information on the rivers history, gear selection, fly patterns and tying recipes, available accommodations, fishing outfitters, access points, and an excellent overview map of the river with its named pools. All of this information is presented in an easy read writing style accompanied by top rate color photographs of fish, scenery, historical points of interest, and the popular flies for use on the river. In addition, the book is well edited and very nicely laid out. For anyone interested in fly fishing for large steelhead on the Kispiox River this is a must have work.

Tying Better Flies

By Art Scheck

This book is directed to teaching fly tiers how to tie better flies by providing techniques that improve durability and simplify tying procedures. The author's description of this book in the introduction says it best: "My emphasis is on how to tie flies; on techniques, components, and little tricks that produce fake insects and ersatz minnows that act as you want them to and stay in one piece; on construction methods that solve problems and yield practical fishing lures. For "better", then, you can read "practical, predictable, consistent, durable, and versatile".

The book starts with a short chapter on tools and how to pick them so that the

tier does not have to overcome the deficiencies of the tools he uses. The next chapter is an exceptionally lucid, practical, and compelling discussion of hooks, threads, and head cements. This chapter is one of the best of its kind in print today. The following twelve chapters are broken down into how to tie specific flies or styles of flies which result in "better" flies. Each chapter starts with a general background about the fly or style of fly to be discussed. Next is detailed the various parts of the fly and what types of materials will produce the fly having desired characteristics. This is followed by a section of tying tips for realizing the desired fly. Finally, each chapter concludes with step-by-step tying instructions with superb photographs and lucid text.

This book is directed to practical and popular fish catching flies. Thus, it covers buggers, hair-wing streamers to represent minnows; muddlers; a general purpose nymph; wet flies, both classic and contemporary; classic dry flies, some with innovative new materials; parachute dry flies; a pair of hair-wing caddis flies; creative dry flies with added buoyancy built-in; tiny flies; Clouser's Deep Minnows; and weed less flies including bend-backs.

This book is extremely well written in an easy to read style that provides excellent instruction. It is complimented by superb photographs and first rate editing and layout. If you are looking for a book to get you tying very productive patterns very well this is the book. This book makes a great addition to any fly tying library.

Fly of The Month: Bead-head Wiggle Bugger

by John Van Derhoof, Editor of Target Talk – Newsletter of the Long Beach Casting Club, courtesy FFF ClubWire

As we make our way into the heart of the fall and winter season the Bead-head Wiggle Bugger is a great pattern to work the cut-banks of the Owen's River with in search of your next lunger. It also serves as a great introduction into the world of flies with articulated bodies.

Articulated-bodied flies offer one huge advantage to flies with a conventional body and that is – movement. The additional joint adds a natural motion and undulation the really helps induce a strike by the fish. Not only does it help a standard streamer pattern such as the Wooly Bugger, like we are doing here, but also with slow water swimming mayfly nymph imitations such as Callibaetis (Speckled Wing Dun), Hexigenia (Yellow Drake) and Siphonurus (Gray Drake).

The Bead-head Wiggle Bugger can be tied in a wide assortment of sizes and colors. Because you are using two hooks be careful of what size it is you are trying to tie. To help out, just place a conventional hook of the size you want on the table and use this as a guide. As far as color is concerned there are four that I would recommend: 1) olive body with black tail and hackle 2) peacock herl and black tail and hackle 3) all black and 4) all purple. There are of course many other options but these are the colors I have had the greatest success with over the years. So next time you need to add a few more streamers to your box, then take a little extra time it takes to tie up some Bead-head Wiggle Buggers and go out after your next lunger.

Materials:

Hook: Main-Mustad 9671, Tiemco 5262 or equivalent in sizes #8 to #2, Rear-any ring-eyed hook (Mustad 9674)

Thread: 3/0 or 6/0 in a color to match the fly

Head: Appropriate sized brass bead or tungsten cone

Loop: 3" piece of 20 pound monofilament

Tail: Marabou blood plumes (with pearl Krystal Flash – optional)

Body: Medium to large chenille depending on the overall size of the fly

Hackle: Large, poor quality dry fly or saddle

Instructions:

1) Place the rear hook in your vise. Determine how much of the hook will be used. This amount should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ length of the main hook shank. Attach your thread to the shank and wind down to where the point would be and whip finish. Select a good quality marabou plume and tie it so that its length is the same as the shank of the main hook.

2) Select a hackle for the rear portion keeping in mind that this is the rear of the fly and the fibers should be shorter than the one you use for the main part of the fly. I prefer a poor quality dry fly neck instead of a saddle. The reason is 1) a greater selection of sizes and 2) the barbs on each feather taper from short at the tip to long at the base, which creates a much nicer, tapered body hackle when wound. A saddle feather offers neither of these qualities. Tie in your hackle by the tip and tie in your chenille. Wind the chenille forward to the headspace and tie it off. Wind your hackle forward 3 to 4 turns to the headspace plus one complete turn at the headspace and tie it off. Form a

small head and whip finish. Remove the rear hook from the vise and with a pair of cutters carefully remove the left over shank and bend. Be Careful of Flying Hooks!

3) Slide the bead over the point of the hook, place the main hook in your vise and attach your thread behind the bead and wind a jam of thread to keep the bead in place against the eye of the hook.

4) Thread the 20lb mono through the eye of the rear hook and align the ends of mono. Measure the length needed to attach the mono to the main hook plus an inch and cut off the excess. Melt the ends (the extra inch) of the mono to create a small ball or jam that will help keep the mono from being pulled out. Tie the mono onto the main hook shank being careful to keep well away of the bead. Apply some head cement or Zap-A-Gap to the thread before continuing.

Tie in the main hook's hackle by the tip. Next, tie in the chenille and wind it forward to a point just ahead of the bead. Wind the hackle forward about 4 to 5 turns to the bead plus about 2 to 3 turns at the bead and tie off forming a very small head. Whip finish the fly and apply head cement to both heads as well as the end of the rear portion of the fly.



Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

October 6	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Jeff Schmitt	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
October 13	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
November 3	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Dennis Potter	Lake Farm Parks 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
November 10	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
December 1	Holiday Dinner & Membership Meeting Favorite Fly, Raffles, Dinner and Guest Speaker: Jack Gartside	Croatian Lodge Party Center, Eastlake 6:00 - 10:00 PM
December 8	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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