Oscar Feliu was awarded the Buz Buszek Award at the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair. Presenting the award to Oscar was Philip Greenlee, President of the IFFF and Tom Logan, Chairman of the IFFF Fly Tiers Group. The award is the most prestigious in the world of fly tying. The award was named after the world renowned angler, premier tier, and dedicated teacher, Buz Buszek. Read more about Oscar on page 3.
Message from the Chairman

Chairman – Tom H. Logan

Fall 2014

The coming year promises to be a very active one for the IFFF and especially for members of its Fly Tying Group (FTG). You elected new members to the Board of Governors (BOG), and you will soon see the BOG is already well engaged in several ongoing projects. Many of these have been in planning or discussion certainly during the past year, but we plan to implement them as something of value and interest to you our members this year. Clearly, our emphasis is to give as much as we can back to our members for their support of these activities and our purpose, which generally is to preserve the historic art form of fly tying for all fly fishers.

Communication with you is a high priority for me and you are reading one of our most important tools ...our first issue of Tying Times. This will be the first issue under its new name that you the members selected. The newsletter will be published quarterly and made available for members of the FTG first and then for all members of the IFFF. You’ll see updates by our BOG members on our activities and new programs, but some of the more important articles will be those we solicit from you on your fly tying specialties. Our objective is for Tying Times to provide information on materials, techniques, patterns, teaching fundamentals and methods and other aspects of fly tying that you can use for your own enjoyment, tying, teaching and local Council and Club events. So, please consider this an invitation for you to submit articles you have written or suggestions for those you would like to read in Tying Times.

The Fly Tying Skills Award Program is another activity that is already in implementation. This is a program we hope you will find both fun and educational. You will see when you review the program documents that a great deal of information is provided for all tiers to assist their learning of new skills for using materials and tying flies they might not otherwise attempt. The program is designed with three levels of participation that are increasingly more challenging and with each providing an award for successful participation. We anticipate a lot of interest in this program that likely will encourage new membership and certainly speak to our purpose. You may want to check out the new “Fly of the Month” on our IFFF webpage. The featured fly pattern is the Grey Goose Midge Emerger, which is one of the required patterns you will be tying for your Bronze Skill Award.

Planning is already underway to make demonstrations of fly tying, tying workshops and other FTG activities memorable events at the 50th Anniversary IFFF International Fly Fishing Fair next August in Bend, Oregon. Be assured that our best tiers and teachers will be representing fly tying, as typical for the event, but additional focus is being placed on providing a diverse representation of flies and techniques from all geographic areas and fly fishing interests. We want every attending member to see something in these activities they can take home and use in their fly tying classes, personal tying and fishing interests. We also hope that what we do in Bend may serve as an example and model that may be useful to Councils and Clubs for planning their more local events that involve fly tying. Let us know what you think by sending suggestions to Gene Kaczmarek at Flyingties@aol.com. This will help us all play a role towards furthering and preserving fly tying as an art form.

Please read on and you’ll learn more of what the FTG and its members are doing...
Oscar Feliu, a native of Chile, grew up fishing for trout in the Andes Mountains. He immigrated to Mt. Pleasant, MI. in 1969 and attended Central Michigan University majoring in music with a minor in biology. He volunteered while in college for a Michigan DNR Brook Trout study program (tagging, measuring & weighting) on several small streams in Isabella & Clare Counties under Howard Rowe. He became interested in entomology after watching Carl Richards & Doug Switcher on a Michigan Out-of-Doors TV Show. Oscar did several aquatic studies in several of the state’s rivers. His innovative patterns became well known throughout the Great Lakes region and were
published in several newspapers and magazine article. Oscar then relocated to Bellaire, MI. where Tom Naumes and Oscar developed some great fly patterns. He moved to Clare, MI. where Bruce Richards instructed him in fly casting. He joined Trout Unlimited in 1972 & the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) in 1974.

Oscar and his wife Bobbye have lived at The Villages in Central Florida since 1989. Oscar and Bobbye have five children, Scott, Kristye, Danny, Christina and Nikole and three grandchildren; Madisyn Olivia, Macy, and Dawson. Oscar is president of the Sunshine Fly Anglers and has continued to produce new fly patterns for trout, bass and salt water fish and teach youth fly-fishing.

Oscar has started two fly fishing clubs: Tri County Fly Fishers and now Sunshine Fly Anglers both Charter IFFF clubs. He is President of the Sunshine Fly Anglers. In1986 he met outdoor writer Ralph P. Queen and teamed up with him to collaborate on a series of 8 articles that were publish in American Angler, Field & Stream & Scientific Angler’s Quarterly. His innovative fly patterns became well known throughout the Great Lakes region, and were the subject of several newspapers and magazines articles in such publications as the Lansing State Journal, FFF Magazine, Trout Canada, Fly-fishing Magazine, Scientific Anglers Quarterly, American Angler, Field & Stream, Fly-fish America, Michigan Out-Of-Doors, and many others.

He has been a member of Whiting Pro Team since 2006
He won the Wisconsin Red Badger’s Fly Tying Competition in 2008.
Oscar was the FFF South Eastern Council Fly Tier of the Year in 2008 & 2012
He has a DVD on the Mayfly & Caddis, The Life Cycles.

Oscar is a very accomplished fly tier and is very humble about his talents. He has in depth knowledge of entomology and fly tying. Communication and interpersonal relations are two other talents of Oscar’s. He conducts his fly tying classes in a very professional and respectful manner. Over the past 40 years he has instructed hundreds of youths and adults. He teaches by praising and always has a kind word. He adapts very well to various personalities and treats everyone with great respect. A combination of verbal description and hands on demonstration is a technique he has mastered. He does not become frustrated with less skilled youths and adults. He is very giving with his time and makes that extra effort. He can coach a shy youth through tying a fly and give him confidence. No question is a bad question for Oscar. He is able to teach without being impatient or a condescending attitude. He is a true gentleman and a real asset to fly tying and fishing. He is a real ambassador for the sport of fly -fishing. We need more like Oscar. He characterizes what IFFF and fly tying and fishing are all about.
Coming Soon!
Beautiful New Logo’s for the Tying Group

Membership pins with the new Fly Tying Logo

Life time member pins with the new Fly Tying Logo.
Board of Governors
2014-2015

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David Nelson
Tom H. Logan was elected Chairman of the Fly Tyers Group at the annual meeting in Livingston, Montana. Tom is a retired certified wildlife biologist from Tallahassee, Florida who specialized for more than 45 professional years in the research, recovery and management of threatened and endangered wildlife species. He enjoys tying classic trout patterns and fishing them for southern bream and bass in his home waters, as well as for trout in the Smoky Mountains, Sierras and other streams of the western United States. He also ties Atlantic salmon flies, but has a special interest in tying historic and modern soft-hackles and other wet patterns. Tom teaches fly tying classes in Tallahassee, has taught tying workshops at shows and conclaves of the International Federation of Fly fishers (IFFF) and demonstrates fly tying at several IFFF Council events each year. He also has presented programs on the Laws Pertaining to the Possession and Transportation of Natural Fly Tying Materials. The Southeast Council of the IFFF awarded him as the “2004 Tyer of the Year”, and he received the “Silver King Award” from the IFFF in September 2013. Tom is a life member of the IFFF and an IFFF Certified Casting Instructor. He serves as Vice President of Conservation for the Florida Council of the IFFF and is a Senior Advisor to the Conservation Committee of the IFFF and serves as Chairman of the IFFF Fly Tying Group Board of Governors. Tom also is a member of the Whiting Farms Pro Team and the Angler’s Sport Group Pro Team for Daiichi Hooks. He is the creator and manager of North Florida Fly Fishing Adventures and School dedicated to teach fly tying, casting and fishing activities that enhance the fly-fishing experience for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. His website is www.northfloridaflyfishing.com.
In saying “simplify,” I am not talking about something simple to do. In fact, it is one of the hardest tasks to accomplish. I am asking you to do one of the hardest jobs of teaching - making learning simple. There are two basic areas of any teaching job, deciding what to teach (curriculum) and how to teach it (methods). Here we are talking about what we teach, and how it should be set up.

I am most concerned about beginning tying courses and how they start. Tiers who have learned the basics well can learn from anyone or any medium; demonstrations, videos, books and magazines. Beginners should start with the easiest, most basic processes, and teachers of beginners must be those who can do the best job of teaching. The best tiers should teach more advanced classes.

The basic educational principle we are discussing is simple to complex. For the best learning, we must start with what is simplest (in processes, or techniques if you prefer), and when that is learned, we add what is slightly more complex. So, we are emphasizing what we start teaching and what we follow it with – sequence. Almost every beginning class I am familiar with starts with a median difficulty pattern, and therefore, violates this basic principle, setting up students for frustration, rather than success. Then, this is followed with a fly that doesn’t even use the processes required by the first. Usually, we inherit a program, or set one up as we were taught. We just need to rethink our practices and improve our courses.
Let me be as simple as I can. **Start with a simple fly** (no more than 2-4 processes), then follow it with a second fly which **repeats the processes** of the first and adds two to three more. The third fly does the same with the processes of the first and second. This sequence should continue as close and as long as possible. By the time it breaks down, students have become proficient enough to deal with changes. As you can see, the sequence **reinforces** the learning by **repetition** close in time. You also see how easy applying this principle is **not**! Yet it is essential.

The region you teach in will impact your choice of the first flies, but let me use my club’s course as example. Our first fly pattern, the Stick or Stick bug, is quite regional, but a favorite for fishing Oregon’s Mann Lake. In its most basic form, it is nothing but a peacock herl rope and formed head, but it is also tied using a rib and short Krystal Flash wing. The first tie is the herl rope and head only [keeping it simple, we have students finish the fly with 3 or 4 half-hitches], then immediately after, the second tie is the same but with copper wire rib, the third tie is herl rope, rib, and Krystal Flash wing. (The value of this is that every student has experienced success in tying three good fish catching flies.) The next pattern (the following session) is the Peacock Carey Special. This tie reinforces tying herl rope and rib and adds a feather fiber tail and wet hackle collar. The third pattern is a steelhead fly, the Burlap. It reinforces tying in tail, strand body and wet hackle collar. It adds deer hair for tail and tightly twisted rope of burlap. This example should help you see how many times the same (or similar) processes are reinforced, and, perhaps help you do a better job building curriculum.
Special Report by Frank Johnson

ANNOUNCING

IFFF FLY TYING SKILLS AWARDS PROGRAM

TWO CLICKS ON THE IFFF WEB SITE AND YOU CAN BE ON YOUR WAY TO RECEIVING YOUR IFFF BRONZE FLY TYING SKILLS AWARD.

Visit the IFFF web site. Click on the ‘Tying’ tab and then on the ‘Fly Tying Skills Awards Program’ and you will find everything you need to know to take part in this fun and educational activity. The Bronze Award Handbook is found there. The handbook contains all the information regarding the program. In addition to the handbook the web site has how-to videos for each of the required fly patterns. This program is designed for individual participation as well as a basis for organized tying classes. Get your club involved and have some fun with this tying and learning process.
This International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) Fly Tying Skills Awards Program is an educational program for all IFFF members who care to take part. The Awards Program is managed by the Fly Tying Group of the IFFF. Three awards (i.e. Bronze, Silver and Gold) are offered for demonstrated skill in fly tying that require submittal of fly collections for evaluation and review. Each collection is of increasing diversity and complexity of tying methods. At this time the Bronze Award Program is fully implemented. The Silver and Gold programs dealing with more advanced tying techniques are now being developed.

In the process of this Bronze Award Program a tier will learn and use many important fly tying techniques and learn a number of effective fly patterns. Upon successful completion of the Bronze Award program tiers will receive an IFFF Bronze Fly Tying Award Certificate, an IFFF Bronze Award Pin, and the accomplishment will be recognized in the IFFF Fly Tying Group Newsletter and on the IFFF Website.

All Fly Tying Group Members are encouraged to take part in the program not only as tiers but to become Evaluators as well. This is a great opportunity for FTG members to become an important part of our organization. Program Evaluators are those people who will not only evaluate the flies of the Bronze Award applicants but will fill the role of mentor/instructor to help tiers thru the program. For more information on becoming a Bronze Award Evaluator please contact any member of the Tying Awards Committee listed on the web site.

Participation is entirely voluntary. No IFFF member or Club is under any obligation to take part.
Shown below are the five required evaluation flies. Tiers are asked to submit three flies of each required pattern as well as three flies each of three patterns of the tiers choice. Both the handbook and videos offer detailed tying instructions for the flies.

Grey Goose Emerger                                  Dry Pheasant Tail Variant
Orange and Partridge Soft Hackle                             Woolly Bugger
Gold Ribbed Hare’s Ear Nymph

The FTG Board of Governors heartily encourages all members to take part in the program. Have some fun and be rewarded for your tying skills.

Additionally, all FTG members are encouraged to act as instructors and evaluators for this program. To become a program instructor simply organize a class or tying group. Use the Bronze Award handbook as a text and go for it. To become a Club Evaluator complete and submit the Bronze Evaluator Registration Form found on the web site. It will be wonderful to see FTG member names on the web site listing of Bronze Award recipients.
Pictured here is a group of flies recently submitted for evaluation. The photo shows three examples each of the five required patterns as well as three examples of the three tiers choice flies. These could be your flies.....

Visit the web site for complete program details.

http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyTyingSkillsAwardsProgram.aspx
I got a phone call from a fellow fly tier the other day. He had added a solvent to his fly tying glues and it had curdled. I had told him to use one solvent, he used what he had.

There are a huge number of different glues available on the market for fly fisherman today. Some will be gone tomorrow. I have a core group of these which I personally use and recommend. Each of these has a different base solvent. I will be covering all of the different types of glues I use, for what purpose, and what they can be thinned with.

*Fly Tying Cements:*

First of all “tying cement” and “head cement” are not the same animal. Being a saltwater tier, I used different glues to “tie” and “finish” my flies. This is where all tiers have preferences. I have mine and will defend them.
Dave’s Fleximent is great “tying” cement. If this stuff is kept water-thin and used throughout the tying process, you almost don’t need to whip finish. Fleximent is simply Household Goop (in the toothpaste tube) thinned with either Toluene or Xylene (Xylene is less toxic). If you have used Softex, it’s just a thick version of Fleximent and uses the same solvent. Put a big toothbrush’s worth of Goop in a glue jar, add enough solvent to cover it plus a bit, and let it sit overnight. Thin the glue until it just holds onto the bodkin. A tube of Goop and a can of solvent and you’re set for a lifetime.

*Head Cement:*

This class of cements, both solvent and water based, which includes everything put on top of the thread to finish the fly. One of the standards here is Sally Hansen’s Hard as Nails (thins with Acetone). Loon Hard Head water based polyester fly finish is another friendlier product. That one thins best with Denatured Alcohol or Vodka as odd as it sounds.

Epoxy’s are also included in “head” cements. I use a great deal of Flexcoat Rod Wrap Epoxy. This takes two hours to set and requires the use of a fly turner (modified BBQ rotisserie) to get a smooth professional finish. If that’s too thin (feather collared on Tarpon flies) use Flexcoat Rod Building Epoxy. That sets in 20 minutes and has a thicker body. Five-Minute Epoxy has a place on every fly tiers bench. I don’t like it much as it yellows quickly. The longer the epoxy set time, the less yellowing over time. To thin Epoxy, use a drop or two of either acetone or alcohol.

The new kid on the block is the UV Light Cure Epoxies. They come in thick, thin, and flexible (like silicone). Brush them on, hit them with a UV flashlight of the correct spectrum for 30 seconds and its set for good. It doesn’t yellow. There is a residue from the curing process which can be wiped off with a soft cloth and alcohol. Nail Salons have been using (clear and colored) UV nail gels as long as fly tiers. Same stuff. Dentists have been using a similar material for decades (not clear and a different UV frequency). I’ve made M.O.E.’s bonefish flies out of that.
Other Glues:

The most important glue I haven't covered is Cyanoacrylate (Crazy or Super) glue. There are many different manufacturers of this, both thin and “fill in the gaps”. Zap A Gap Thick comes to mind. The newer glues with the brush tops should be on everyone’s bench. This dries a bit slower and doesn’t crystalize in the tubes like many in the past. If you use mono tying thread, absolutely use this in lieu of Fleximent.

3D eyes won't stick on their own. Fletch-Tite glue (for fletching arrows) is just right. It has a long nozzle to work it down into the materials, thick syrupy consistency, and dries in 20 minutes-fish it in an hour.

Ever heard of someone losing all the guides on their rod when a Tarpon or Tuna takes off? The transition between the fly line and the backing is the cause. To smooth the transition over the knots, try using Pliobond. Pliobond is similar to the rubber cement you had as a kid. Building layers of this glue in the shape of an elongated football over your knots will save your guides from extraction. It remains flexible and crack free.

Bench Solvents

Find a local Compounding Pharmacy and purchase several dropper bottles (plastic works but glass is better). Get a bottle for each solvent and label them. I keep one of each: Xylene or Toluene, Denatured Alcohol or Vodka, Acetone, and Lacquer Thinner (I still paint my lead eyes with Wapsi Lacquer paint). Using a dropper in any case is a smart way to control the amount of solvent you add to your glue/paint. These solvents are dangerous, flammable, and can be toxic. Use some common sense.

Please note that I am not saying I don’t like any manufacturers’ product. There are an abundance of products I have not used. I am speaking only to the ones I do use.
It is official now! Tom Logan, chair of the FTG BOG, was notified about the approval of the Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award by IFFF Executive Board.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE OFFICIAL CRITERIA FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES.
DARWIN ATKIN MEMORIAL
FLY TYING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Presented by International Federation of Fly Fishers
FLY TYING GROUP

This is an award created to recognize an IFFF member whose long-term contribution to fly tying is widely recognized and respected. This award is for outstanding achievement and demonstrated commitment of the person in significantly advancing the craft and art of fly tying.

To preserve the integrity and prestige of this award, it is recommended that it be awarded judiciously and infrequently, but it is not intended that the frequency stipulation deprive a truly deserving individual.

Any member or Governor of the IFFF Fly Tying Group may nominate an IFFF member for this award. Nominations shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Fly Tying Group Board of Governors. Selection shall be by the entire Fly Tying Group Board of Governors. A successful nomination shall require a 2/3 majority vote by the IFFF Fly Tying Group Board of Governors. Successful nominations will be forwarded to the IFFF Awards Committee for review and final approval.

Recipient will receive a special engraved plaque and a Life Membership in the IFFF. If they already have a life membership in the IFFF they will receive a Life FTG Membership. Their name will also be engraved on a master plaque on display at the IFFF office.
Criteria for Submitting a Candidate for the Award

1. Complete the cover sheet titled "FTG Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award Nomination."

2. Criteria Guidelines:

   a. Candidate must be an IFFF member in good standing.
   b. The nomination document should identify specific reasons why the person is being nominated.

As written in the award description, "long-term contribution to fly tying" should be identified. "Long term" may be interpreted differently by BOG evaluators. We are not putting a specific minimum number of years on this as the interpreted value of the contribution may also be considered in the evaluation. Contributions might be inter-connected, related in a progression, or consist of many stand-alone contributions.

"Contribution to fly tying" may also take on many different aspects. Examples to consider might include:

- Books written on fly tying patterns, techniques, related entomology of importance to tiers, river journals identifying information important to fly tiers, and material handling
- Development of materials having long term usage by tiers, i.e. synthetics, genetic hackles, worthy substitutes.
- Development of techniques or products to produce results considered important to tiers, i.e. special tools and how to use them.
- Providing a venue or opportunities for fly tiers to display their work. An example might be a person providing extensive long-term leadership in organizing fly tying venues, or direction on displaying the art of fly tying.

It is not a requirement that the person being nominated be a fly tier.

"Widely recognized and respected" adds more aspects to be considered. These terms are open to individual BOG interpretations. Think in terms of widely recognized as opposed to a very local or regional application. The "widely respected" refers to the
contributions being considered as worthwhile by, and is used by a large portion of the fly tying community. Letters of support from other persons could help in providing additional information about a nominee's impact on the total fly tying community. These supportive documents are encouraged to verify the widely recognized and respected contributions of the nominee. Essentially, you need to convince 2/3 of the BOGs these contributions by the nominee fit the widely recognized and respected requirement.

A key part of the nomination document should address the "outstanding achievement and demonstrated commitment" in "significantly advancing the craft and art of fly tying." Again, what may be outstanding to one person may be mediocre to another.

Your job as a nominator is to justify to 2/3 of the FTG BOGs the achievement as outstanding. When we use the term demonstrated commitment we are talking about actually producing an entity to evaluate. Some people are full of great ideas but they do nothing with them. We are looking for those individuals that "walk the talk" in advancing the craft and art of fly tying.

This award will be presented at the annual meeting of the IFFF and the deadline for nominations is April 1st each year.

Nominations should be submitted by e-mail or mail to:

E-mail: membership@fedflyfishers.org
Mail: International Federation of Fly Fishers
    Attn: FTG Awards/Membership Coordinator
    5237 US Highway 89, Suite 11
    Livingston, MT  59047
    406-222-9369
FTG Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying
Achievement Award Nomination

Name of nominee: _______________________________________

Name of nominator: _______________________________________

Date submitted to FTG Chair: _____________

Attach this cover sheet to the supporting document you are submitting to the FTG to justify this nomination.

Nominations and supporting documentation deadline is April 1st unless otherwise stated.

.........................................................................................................................................................

Space below is to be filled in by the FTG BOG Chair prior to distribution to the FTG BOG.

Date received by FTG BOG Chair _________________

Date distributed to FTG BOG by Chair _________________

Result of FTG BOG action:

______ IFFF FTG BOGs approved the nomination by at least a 2/3 majority vote

______ IFFF FTG BOGs did not approve the nomination by at least a 2/3 majority vote

Nominations should be submitted by e-mail or mail to:

E-mail: membership@fedflyfishers.org

Mail: International Federation of Fly Fishers
Attn: FTG Awards/Membership Coordinator
5237 US Highway 89, Suite 11
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-9369
Voting for Newsletter Name

There was a tremendous response to the voting for a new newsletter name! “Tying Times” won out with some 33% of the vote. Thanks to everyone who participated, especially those who submitted names.
Scenes from Fly Fishing Fair
Livingston, Montana

Fly Tying Group Membership
1 Year Membership - $20.00
3 Year Membership - $48.50
Lifetime Membership - $285.00

Click Here to Join!