The International Fly Fishing Fair will be held in 2016 in Livingston, Montana, August 2-6! The Fly Tying Group will begin their activities on Tuesday and continue through the Fair.

Check out our FTG Merchandise Page 19

Click here to join www.fedflyfishers.org/signup.aspx
Message from the Chairman

Chairman – Tom H. Logan
November 2015

It is very sad for me to begin this message by letting those of you who haven’t already heard know that our 2014 Buz Buszek Memorial Award recipient, Oscar Feliu, died suddenly this past Monday, November 9. It is my understanding that he was on his annual hunting trip in New York. He was telling me only three week ago at our Florida Council Fly Fishing Expo how he was looking forward to retirement in the next few months and continuing his activities representing the fly fishing community. Oscar was a great fly tier, teacher especially of youth, musician and entertainer. But he was most of all a good person. He contributed positively to many of our lives and will continue to serve as a model for us all in many respects. Best to you, Oscar; we’ll miss you!

This is the first issue of Timing Times to be published since our International Fly Fair this past August in Bend, Oregon and it will not surprise you to know that work is already under way in preparation for the next Fair in Livingston, Montana during the first week of August 2016. Invitations will be mailed very soon to candidates for participation as Demonstration Fly Tiers at the event. Please know that the Board of Governors (BOG) has developed draft guidelines or protocol for how invitations will be managed, starting with the forthcoming invitations. Important features of the protocol include incorporation of the invitation list into the electronic membership database. This will make it much easier to keep the invitation database current with respect to contact information, additions and deletions and mailing of invitations both electronically and by standard mail. It specifies procedures for adding candidates to the list based upon recommendations from peers who consider you a fly tier and communicator of high standard. Candidates who receive invitations to tie next year need to be aware that you must respond to the invitation prior to the deadline and assignments to tie will be made on a first response/first assignment basis. Livingston staff has already received requests to use the list for invitations to local events. The list will not be available for distribution, but procedures also are being developed to handle those local invitations for you once the data are part of the electronic database.
Our new Fly Tying Group brochure is now in its second printing and supplies are available to all you upon request for use during your local events. A bold note is made in the brochure that “We consider our young members and veterans of most importance.” We talk often of both and you will be pleased to know that the BOG has begun efforts towards development of two new projects in these areas. Jere Anderson, one of our members within the Texas Council, has agreed to take lead on development of an approach for working with the Boy Scouts of America to assist them in their merit badge program. He has been working with boy scouts and other young people and will be bringing a proposal for our consideration in the near future. It is our hope and intent for formalizing an approach that could serve as a model for working with young fly fishers in a variety of venues. Mike George, one of our BOG members from Kansas, has a special interest and inexperience in working with veterans and is developing a program for working with veterans in a variety of venues in a formal way. Once we have a better idea where these two new programs may lead, there will be opportunities for you to volunteer to serve on their respective committees.

In Memorium

Oscar Feliu
Jessica Atherton has been named Staff Assistant in Livingston to the Fly Tying Group!

Thanks in advance for your help. We are looking forward to working with you!

IFFF headquarters office has a new email for FTG: ftg@fedflyfishers.org

International Federation of Fly Fishers
The Fly Tying Group
Board of Governors Annual Meeting, Bend, Oregon
Tuesday 11 August 2015

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the meeting was to hold an annual meeting in Bend, OR at the International Federation of Fly Fishers Fair.

Treasurer's Report
A balance of $28,307.55 as of 23 July 2015 was reported.
The FTG finished 2014 with a net income of $5400. Most of our income is generated in the second half of the year due to the Fair and membership.
The proposed 2016 FTG Budget will be prepared. This will be the first time the FTG will have a budget. The proposed budget currently has $15,200 for income and $2000 net income.

Video Library
A need for $1200 had been identified for the software to manage the database. Funds and pledges have been received to cover 100% of the $1200.

Rendezvous Summary
The only task remaining is to set-up the raffle.

Fly Plates
The plates "Patterns of the Masters" were built by Steve Jensen. The flies for these plates were sent to David Nelson in response to a 1988 request. The large plates will be sold for $400 and the small plates for $300. There are eight plates to sell.

Legal Update
The Conflict of Interest Policy, which addresses IRS requirements, was reviewed. All BOG members were reminded that they need to sign the COI Statement. Only one statement is needed to be signed in the role as IFFF volunteers.
Newsletter
The BOG expressed appreciation and an "Attaboy" to Bob Clay for the newsletter efforts. The newsletter will continue on a quarterly basis.

Fly of the Month
This feature is being brought into the FTG folder on the IFFF website.

Facebook
Currently there are 1600 following.

Fly Tying Skills Award Program Update
The 2nd Edition of the Bronze Award Program is on the website.
The Silver Award Program will be on the website soon.
Work is in progress to define the gold program level.
The Fair Bronze Workshop instructors, materials, and locations are being finalized.

FTG Fair Booth
The booth is being fully staffed by BOG volunteers.

Gay Penney Retirement
Gay, the IFFF Staff Assistant to the FTG, will retire on 31 Aug 2015. The BOG's desire is to keep Gay involved with the FTG. NOTE: Subsequent to the annual BOG meeting, Jessica Atherton was assigned as IFFF Staff Assistant to the FTG.

Board of Governors
The results of membership voting on candidates for the FTG BOG was presented. The following elected governors were seated on the board:

Gene Barrington  Peggy Brenner  Jim Crisilip  Jerry Coviello
Tom Logan       Dave Roberts  Mike Stewart

BOG Officers
A slate of officers was presented to the BOG by the Nominating Committee. The new officers are:

President:              Tom Logan
Vice President:         Gene Barrington
Treasurer:              Fred DuPre'
Secretary:              Mike Stewart

Boy Scouts of America/Fly Tying
A brief background was presented. The program has been in place for about 10 years. There are approximately 1.4 million scouts (9 - 17 years old). There are 190 lakes in scout camps across the US. These lakes are being stocked with pumpkinseed sunfish. The IFFF has agreed to provide fly tyers and instructors wherever possible. Boys Life, the BSA magazine, has a circulation of about 400,000 per month. The current editor is a fly fisher. They are looking for stories of interest to boys. Fly tying and fly fishing articles would be appropriate.

IFFF Strategic Planning
The IFFF Co-Chairman of the Board presented via "Go to Meeting" the outcome of the Denver Strategic Planning Meeting. The vision from that meeting was presented to the IFFF BOD on 10 Aug 2015. Some of the items of this vision include:
- strategic plan needs to align with the budget
- need more women in the IFFF and leadership (30% of fly fishers are women)
- a challenge is the unrealized market potential.
- a key driver is source of revenue - where are the dollars generated?
- increase the conservation focus
- address the negative perception of the IFFF
- need to recognize the founders and history of the IFFF
- the IFFF is set apart by quality of education and range (scope) of education delivery
- Fly Fishing Academy

Membership
The Chair emphasized that every BOG is a membership chair whether for the FTG or IFFF.

Committee Assignments
Executive Committee: Tom Logan - Chair, Gene Barrington, Fred DuPre', Mike Stewart, Carl Ronk, Jim Ferguson

Awards Coordinator: Gene Barrington

Communication/Social Media/Website: Kit Seaton - Chair, Jerry Coviello

Fair 2016 Fly Tying: Dave Roberts - Chair

Fly of the Month: Kit Seaton - Chair, Jerry Coviello

Fly Plate Project: Steve Jensen - Chair

Fly Tying Skills Award: Frank Johnson - Chair, Dave Roberts, Jim Ferguson, Paul Beckmann, Al and Gretchen Beatty, Leslie Wrixon, Gene Kaczmarek, Tom Logan, Chuck Collins

Fly Tying Workshop Planning Handbook Project: Ed Morphis - Chair, Jim Ferguson, Jerry Coviello, Peggy Brenner, Mike Stewart

FTG Booth 2016: Chuck Collins - Chair

International: Ed Berg - Ambassador, Jim Ferguson, Gene Barrington

Membership: Carl Ronk - Chair, Gene Kaczmarek

Newsletter: Bob Clay - Editor

Nominating: Mike Stewart - Chair, Kit Seaton

Rendezvous: Chuck Collins - Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Mike Stewart
FTG BOG Secretary
28 October 2015
Major Awards Presented in Bend

The International Federation of Fly Fishers Recognizes Three Outstanding Members for Their Contributions towards Preservation of the Historic Art Form of Fly Tying

Passion is not an unusual characteristic of fly tiers and most are more than willing to share and demonstrate innovation in the skills they develop for applying materials to hooks for fly fishing. Others are very good teachers, but they all contribute in many ways towards preserving the art form of fly tying as an important element of the fly fishing experience. The International Federation of Fly Fishers (Federation) and its Fly Tying Group (FTG) hold three cherished awards that are presented periodically as special recognition to fly tiers who are recognized by their peers as having made unique outstanding contributions to fly tying. Three such members were recognized during the annual awards banquet of the Federation at the International Fly Fair in Bend, Oregon this past August.

The Buz Buszek Memorial Award is presented each year to an individual who has made significant contributions to the arts of fly tying. Mike George of Olathe, Kansas is considered at the pinnacle of those fly tiers who stack and trim deer hair and exemplifies creativity and innovation in the works of art he creates and shares for the enjoyment and benefit of others. Take one of Mike’s classes or sit across the table and watch him tie and you will see why he is the 2015 recipient of the Buz Buszek Memorial Award.

The Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award is presented to one who excels in teaching the art of fly tying to all skill levels. The nomination for Fred DuPre of Flippin, Arkansas to receive this award spoke extensively of his fly tying skills, organizational involvement on behalf of fly tying, but most of all of his teaching history and commitment at both Texas and Southern Council events. It stated that “Fred will help anyone and has for many, many years.” Thanks Fred for your contributions.
The Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award is a new award that is specifically provided by the FTG to recognize a Federation member whose long-term contribution to fly tying is widely recognized and respected. We were very pleased to present this award to Dr. Steve Jensen this year as its first recipient. Steve is, in fact, widely respected as an educator, fly tier, innovator and artist in all regards. A special contribution of Steve, though, stems from his collaboration with Darwin Atkin since 1996 in what Darwin began as the International Fly Tyers Fly Plate Project. The project became the Legends of Fly Tying when Steve assume full responsibility in 2000 and the two projects combined have now raised over $200,000 through auctions to support Federation programs. If you own one of these beautiful fly plates, you have a work of art and history and will agree that Steve is a worthy first recipient of this award.

Please remember to thank each of these outstanding fly tiers the next time you see them!

NEWS FLASH!!!! SILVER FLY TYING AWARD DOCUMENTS ARE BEING LOADED ON THE WEBSITE NOW AND WILL BE READY TO DOWNLOAD SOON!!

The IFFF Fly Tying Skills Awards Program provides IFFF members with the opportunity to develop or reinforce their fly tying skills and test their progress against a consistent standard at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.
INTRODUCTION

I have no idea who coined the term “fly plate.” Certainly to those who are uninitiated in the arts of fly tying and fly fishing, the term “fly plate” can stimulate a variety of images, not all of which are favorable. When I saw what I recall as my first museum grade collection of framed flies in 1985, I was told that it was a fly plate, and that’s what I’ve called them ever since.

Nor do I know when and by whom the first fly plate was constructed. Undoubtedly, someone found a collection of one or more fishing flies to be appealing and decided to preserve the collection under glass for the enjoyment of others. Greg Pitts, former International Federation of Fly Fishers President, once told me that he believed that the concept of fly plates was vested in the Federation. Although the earliest fly plates certainly predated the Federation, I know of no other organization that has used them as extensively to raise money to fund their programs.

Thus, for our purposes we will define a fly plate as a framed collection of one or more flies which may have been inspired by the art of fly fishing but are, by themselves, miniature works of art and, as such, will never be fished. Like other works of art, fly plates are framed displays that should be viewed and enjoyed for generations.

As indicated above, the first well constructed fly plate that I remember seeing was donated as a fund raiser for the Southern Council Conclave held in Mountain Home, Arkansas, in 1985. That fly plate, constructed by master craftsman Darwin Atkin, was one of the early fly plates of the Federation’s Phrozen Phantom Phlytyers Series. I was so totally enthralled by the beauty of the flies and the craftsmanship of the framing that I told my wife that we needed to start saving our money because sooner or later we were going to own one of those fly plates. And, in fact, the following year we purchased Phrozen Phantom Phlytyer plate PPP-A-16 which, after almost 30 years, is still proudly displayed in our family room.
In 1986, I was invited to join the Phrozen Phantom Phlytyers as a contributor of my small, hand-crafted fly tying bobbins, and this was my initial exposure to the fly plate arena. I continued in that capacity until 1990 when the Phrozen Phantom Phlytyers group disbanded.

In 1994, having the desire to become more involved in fly plates and fly plate construction, I attended a two-day workshop conducted by Darwin Atkin in conjunction with the National Conclave (now called Fly Fishing Fair) held in Livingston, Montana. I came out of that workshop with a strong fundamental understanding of fly plate construction and with a desire to begin building plates for display.

Following the disbanding of the Phrozen Phantom Phlytyers group in 1990, Darwin Atkin initiated a new fly plate project for the Federation entitled the International Fly Tyers Fly Plate Project. From its inception in 1992 until 1996, Darwin was solely responsible for all aspects of the project: soliciting flies from tiers throughout the world, designing and constructing about 14 plates annually, shipping the plates, and keeping records. At the 1996 Board of Directors meeting of the Federation, Darwin announced that he wanted to step down, and was seeking a volunteer to chair the program. After some serious negotiations, Darwin agreed to remain on the project as co-chair provided there was a reduction in his responsibilities. I spent a week with Darwin at his home in Porterville, California, refining my skills and gaining valuable experience. Then, for the next four years, Darwin solicited the flies and handled all correspondence while I constructed and shipped the plates. At the end of 2000, due primarily to health issues, Darwin completely retired from the project. He passed away in Bozeman, Montana, on January 7, 2014, at age 76.

Beginning in 2001, I initiated a new fly plate project entitled the Legends of Fly Tying. Like the earlier project, this project was approved by the Federation’s Board of Directors, giving it official status. The Legends of Fly Tying project is similar in many respects to the International Fly Tyers Fly Plate Project, and is essentially a continuation of that very successful project. Initially, the Legends of Fly Tying fly plate project was scheduled to run for a period of five years, ending in 2006. Because of demand, however, I agreed to continue the project on a limited basis indefinitely. I think it is important to note that from 1992 to the present, the International Fly Tyers Fly Plate Project and the Legends of Fly Tying fly plate series combined have raised over $200,000 in support of Federation programs.

FRAMING AND PHILANTHROPY

In the paragraph directly above, I provided what I consider to be a pretty impressive number in terms of dollars raised for the Federation. In order for that to have been possible, it is important to recognize an important consideration: The Federation is an organization of volunteers. Certainly there are a few key individuals in the national office who receive a small salary but by far the majority of the individuals involved in Federation activities are unpaid. This includes the local club officers, the Council officers, the Board of Directors, and many others who donate their time because they believe in what the Federation does.
From the outset, both Darwin and I viewed our framing projects to be part of the volunteer effort. As such, although we expected to be reimbursed for the actual costs of our materials (including shipping expenses), we have never asked to be compensated for our time.

To illustrate the significance of this, consider that the Legends of Fly Tying fly plate sold for about $2,400 at the 2015 Fly Fishing Fair in Bend, Oregon. From start to finish I had very close to 20 hours invested in the design and construction of the fly plate but my invoice to the Federation was only for the cost of materials.

There is another aspect to consider as well: I very much enjoy the designing and creativity involved in constructing fly plates. And, frankly, I enjoy the positive comments and the indications of pleasure that my efforts bring from others. In other words, for me fly plate framing is a great hobby. Even better, it is a hobby that pays for itself. Ideally, those who follow Darwin and me in framing for worthy not-for-profit organizations will have a similar philosophy.

MAT CUTTERS

With one major exception, most of the equipment required for framing is reasonably inexpensive and readily obtainable. The one exception turns out to be a major deterrent for most people interested in framing: one or two professional quality mat cutters are essential to produce professional quality results.

Professional quality mat cutters are expensive. New ones generally cost in excess of $1,000 while used ones are generally about half of that amount. The good news is that once you make the investment, a quality mat cutter will last a lifetime. I have used a Fletcher-Terry model 2100 straight mat cutter since 1995 and it performs as well now as it did when it was new (Figure 1)

![Figure 1. My Fletcher-Terry model 2100 straight mat cutter. This cutter has provided me with 20 years of dependable service.](image)

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1 In citing the brand name Fletcher-Terry is not to imply that it is superior to other professional grade cutters. It just happens to be the mat cutter that I own and the only one with which I have experienced.
The temptation is to invest in a much less expensive cutter to get started. And that works for many, depending upon how they plan to use it. If you are content with single or double matted fly plates, inexpensive mat cutters may work for you; however, I am unable to achieve the desired degree of accuracy with such cutters or the visual effects that I desire. For example, for the Legends of Fly Tying fly plates, I stack mats of five different colors on top of one another; each cut to allow a desired width of color to show. Nevertheless, I have several friends who produce very presentable fly plates using relatively inexpensive cutters.

If you purchase only one mat cutter, it should be a straight cutter. But if you want greater flexibility in your designs, invest in a professional grade circle/oval cutter. Like the straight cutters, a new circle/oval cutter will cost around $1,000. All of my experience is on a Fletcher-Terry model 1100 (Figure 2).² I sincerely believe that the most significant difference between the fly plates that I construct and the fly plates others produce is my ability to incorporate circles or ovals in the design.

Purchasing mat cutters is very similar in concept to purchasing fly tying vises. Most of us started out with a Thompson model A vise (or a similar foreign-produced copy). But as we got more proficient, we invested in increasingly more sophisticated (and expensive) equipment. Why? Because we found that The model A vise, as good as it was, simply didn’t perform to our skill level. The same thing is true with mat cutters. If you get serious about constructing fly

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² This model is discontinued as a mat cutter but used for cutting glass. To my knowledge, it is only available in used condition.
plates, you will find that the easiest and most proficient way of achieving the desired results is by using professional equipment.

GETTING STARTED

Before you cut your first mat, it is essential to have a plan. It can be as simple as a sketch with listed parameters on a piece of scrap paper to as complex as an accurate scale drawing of the project.

For every fly plate that is constructed, four decisions must be made:

**First Decision.** What category of frame will be used: a custom frame or a commercially available frame? Because they are mass produced, commercially available frames have an advantage of being less expensive. But they are generally available only in limited sizes (such as 8 x 10 inches; 11 x 14 inches; 16 x 20 inches; etc.). That means that the fly plate must be designed to fit a predetermined size. Conversely, custom frames, while more expensive, have a major advantage in that they can be made any size desired. That means that the fly plate can be designed from the inside out and then the frame ordered to fit those parameters. Finished custom frames may be ordered from a frame shop or, with a fairly minimum investment, the frame components (called chops) can be ordered and assembled by yourself. Frame construction will be discussed in more detail later in this series.

**Second Decision.** How many flies will be included in the fly plate? The plate may feature a single fly or up to a relatively large number of flies (I generally try to limit that number to a maximum of 25). A fixed, dictated number of flies is much more difficult to work with than a flexible number. As often as possible, I try to prioritize the flies into three groups: (1) must be included, (2) should be included, and (3) include only if space permits. That gives me some latitude in the overall design of the fly plate.

**Third Decision.** In addition to the flies, what else, if anything, should be incorporated within the fly plate? This may include:

- Art work.
- A main plaque. This briefly describes the nature or purpose of the plate.
- Fly legends. These may convey the name of the fly, name of the tier, and other data.
- Anything else that adds interest to the plate (such as signature cards, photos, etc.).

**Fourth Decision.** For fly plates featuring multiple flies, how will the flies be arranged? For example, large dominant flies may occupy their own box; nymphs or dry flies may be grouped together in the same box; etc. Ultimately, this will not only determine the size of the fly plate but also how many openings will be cut in the main mat.

NEXT IN THE SERIES

The next installment of this series will focus on a photographic presentation of the design strategies listed above.
Mike’s Last Wraps

by Jim Ferguson

For months Mike Keithley had planned to go to the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair/Event in Bend, Oregon, this last August. He and his good friend Jeff Sirbu had made their air travel reservations and were assured they could stay with our group in Sun River if they made it.

About a week or so prior to the show, Mike had a seizure while fishing on a river in his home state of Colorado and was airlifted to the hospital. On Monday he basically told his doctor he needed to get released or he was walking out to make the flight the next day to Portland and then on to Bend. He did get released along with an oxygen generator, and arrived in Portland on Wednesday, rented a car so Jeff could drive them to Bend, and made it to the Awards Banquet. You could see the excitement in his face. He was ready to tie.
Ever since the Fly Tying Group (FTG) released the information for the Bronze Award program, Mike had been getting his set of flies ready to submit. Mike has been involved with teaching fly tying at various levels - Beginning, Irish Classic Trout, Early American Classic Trout, Atlantic Salmon. He wanted, for personal satisfaction, to get the "Bronze" and help others in his Rocky Mountain Council area to participate in the program.

Wednesday night he gave me a set of flies to evaluate. The plan was to evaluate them the next day and give them to a reviewer to complete the process. Getting to the IFFF Event, turning in his flies, and tying on Thursday afternoon were on Mike's "bucket list."

Health issues had been taking it toll on Mike. He loved fly tying and enjoyed the historical aspect of the craft. He had some roots in Oregon and wanted to participate in celebrating the 50th IFFF Anniversary Event.

Mike had a special place in my heart as well as the hearts of a lot of Oregonians. He was my Fly Tier Assistant when I was the Fly Tier Chair for the Oregon Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Expo. Over the 7 or 8 years we created a tier base of about 500 tiers. The show had 70 tables of tiers during 5 sessions over the two day event. We would have 175 to 200 tiers to keep track of and schedule during the show. I did the scheduling but Mike did the data crunching. Our tier response forms would come in to him during the first 3 years and he developed a spread sheet for all the data asked for on the sheets. Those data included shirt, dinner ticket, tying preferred dates and times, types of flies to be tied, and contact info. After Mike moved to Colorado, he still did the spreadsheets for us. However, I felt we should not have the tiers mail the response sheets directly to him in Colorado for an Oregon show. The forms came to me. I made duplicate copies and forwarded a copy to him and one to our Treasurer. The system worked. We had a valuable and large database with updated information at our fingertips. Mike was a very precise and accurate data records man.

Mike's occupation involved computers and computer programs. His forte involved developing software security programs for banks and businesses - big businesses. He would go into a company and analyze how their record keeping systems could be cyber attacked and showed them weaknesses in their security systems. He would then design a safer program. This he did very well. Not sure of all the intermediate events, but Mike did start to have some strokes or heart seizure events. He informed me on a few occasions that these seizures slowed up his thinking process. He could still get the work done but was taking longer to do it, and it was getting difficult to compete with faster working younger computer geeks. He had a very difficult time with his diabetes too. Mike was really feeling the age discrimination in the job market. After several heart, brain seizures, etc., he did get a disability and essentially retired early. He had moved to the Denver area for the work and now he really wanted to come back to Oregon but was unable to do so on a permanent basis.
Another area of overlap between Mike and my interests evolved from our participation in the Salmon Fly Saturday classes taught at the Creekside Flyshop in Salem, Oregon. Creekside was owned and operated by Rich and Kathy Youngers. Mike was a good customer. Rich started the classes and taught most to start with but eventually I ended up teaching some of them. Mike was always there to learn if he was in the state. We have spent many hours on the phone discussing how to work out a tying technique, or how to improve our skill in accomplishing a difficult feather treatment. When the IFFF events came about, Mike and I often found ourselves either in my pop-up tent trailer outside West Yellowstone, or sharing a room.

It was Mike's dream to tie at this last IFFF show in Bend, Oregon. He had volunteered to help me during my Salmon Fly classes on Saturday if I needed him. He did make it to the event but sadly, on his way to tie during his first session on Thursday, he had a seizure(?) or heart attack(?), passed out, was taken to the hospital, and passed away shortly after his brother and son's came to be with him. Mike did not wake up after the seizure.

Mike! You will be missed by many but you will always be with us each time we wrap the thread around the shank of a hook. Your flies have been evaluated and designated well tied. They passed the review process and paper work has been submitted to the IFFF office with the direction to award you the Bronze Award for your demonstrated skill in applying the required techniques in tying the submitted flies. Thank you for your friendship and contributions to our fly tying community.

Article by

Jim Ferguson
The “Milk Gravy”

Tom H. Logan

The “Milk Gravy” pattern is intended to imitate the emerging life form of a sedge or caddisfly, of which there are more than 200 species that occur in Florida waters. The pattern also imitates various local species of Diptera and mayflies when they emerge. This is a simple pattern to tie, as each fly is tied with one bobwhite quail feather. I first designed and tied this pattern from feathers of birds I shot on Pleasant Hill Plantation near Spring Island, South Carolina. The hunts were traditional Old South Plantation style where each day of hunting was interrupted with a lunch of fried chicken and all trimmings. Most memorable, though, was the personal serving of milk gravy the Huntmaster’s wife made me from the chicken drippings each visit. Thus the name I gave the pattern, “Milk Gravy.” I typically apply a little floatant to the top hackles and fish the pattern on and in the surface. It is a very good pattern for taking bream in the Tallahassee area when sedges, Diptera and mayflies are emerging; as well as, trout in the Sierras and Rocky Mountains.

Materials:

- **Hook**: Daiichi 1550, Size 14
- **Thread**: Black Danville 6/0 or Gudebrod 8/0
- **Tail**: Three Barbs from Bobwhite Quail Breast Feather
- **Body**: Webbing Trimmed from Each Side of Bobwhite Quail Feather Shaft
- **Hackle**: Bobwhite Quail Breast Feather
- **Thread**: Black Thread and Cement of Choice.
Tie the “Milk Gravy” as follows:

**Step 1.** Bend the barb down as hook is placed in the vise and start the thread with a jam knot behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread to hook bend and leave the thread hanging at bend, between hook barb and point. Thread should be counter spun to flatten and wrapped in side-by-side or touching turns to maintain a flat thread base.

**Step 2.** Select a breast feather of size to match hook size. Clip with scissors all webbing from each side of feather shaft outward to first barbs without web and set aside to use for dubbing. Remove three barbs for tail. Tie the three barbs in on top of hook shank as tail. Return thread to tie in point of tail and rear of body, make one thread wrap behind and under tail to hold up and finish with one wrap in front of tail at tie-in point.

**Step 3.** Wax the thread, apply the webbing material to the thread and dub body/abdomen on approximately ¾ of shank forward of the tie-in point of tail to ¼ of shank behind hook eye.

**Step 4.** Prepare quail feather to tie in by tip, leaving sufficient barbs for 3-4 hackle wraps. Tie in feather by tip on underside of shank in front of dubbed body with top facing forward. Wrap thread to hook eye and back three thread wraps and leave hanging at rear of head. Wrap hackle forward in touching wraps and tie off shaft under hook shank. Wrap to hook eye and back to front tie in point of hackle and rear of head. Hold thread up and snap remaining feather shaft towards hook point to remove excess. Shaft will break at thread, leaving no butt to cover. Whip finish head from rear to hook eye and seal with cement of choice.

tomlogan@comcast.net – www.northfloridaflyfishing.com
Check out our newest line of Patagonia Sol-Patrol II shirts with long-sleeves or short-sleeves that can be embroidered with the Fly Tying Group Lifetime logo or the regular Fly Tying Group logo (your membership will be checked).

Fly Tying Group hats are also available in 3 different styles and several colors.

And be sure to check out ALL the merchandise available on the web site store—all the books have a 50% discount!