The Chair’s Riach

First, I would like to thank all FTGBOG members for their past participation and contributions to the FTG goals. Congratulations go to Peggy Brenner, Mike Stewart, and Sister Anne Corley for their re-election to the BOG and a big welcome to the new BOG members, Jim Crislip, Dave Roberts, Tom Logan, and Gene Barrington.

A major accomplishment of the FTGBOG was the revision and acceptance of the By Laws as presented at the annual meeting in Spokane. They should soon be posted on our website. If we all read Article II - Purpose, we should get a good idea about how we should direct our efforts within the FTG. Many thanks to Frank Johnson for his work in getting us this document. He and several others met in Ellensburg to finalize the document for our Spokane meeting.

As Chair, I hope to increase the effectiveness of the FTG in working on those listed goals. There are several areas needing immediate and constant attention, due mostly to the nature of our group having only one face-to-face BOG meeting a year. Communications, membership, participation, and a measurable product from our efforts are topics I see as focal points for our energy.

The following committee chair appointments have been made by the Chair:

- Communications and Newsletter - Peggy Brenner
- Membership - Sherry Steele
- International Tiers - Scott Erickson
- Digital Archive - Leslie Wrixon
- Fly Art Framing - Steve Jensen
- Evergreen Hand - Dean Childs
- Nominating - Kit Seaton
- Promotional Materials - Carl Ronk
- Executive Committee - Jim Ferguson (chair), Al Ritt (secretary), Steve Jensen (treasurer), Dean Childs, Leslie Wrixon, Carl Ronk

FTG BBQ Committee - Duties have been split up as follows;
- Event Chair - David Nelson
- Publicity Chair - Carl Ronk
- Registration and Payment - Steve Jensen
- Raffle/Auction chair - (to be determined)

Tiers’ & Liars’ BBQ
The Fly Tying Group's annual Tiers' and Liars' BBQ at the International Fly Fishing Fair was a great success. The BBQ, our fourth, was held at the Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute. The feast was located outside on the lawn, under the shade of several pines.

The weather was unseasonably hot, with the thermometer hovering around 100 degrees. Whenever the sun would sneak around one of the trees, we just moved the tables into the shade and poured ourselves more lemonade! The food was incredible, with as much steak and BBQ chicken as you could eat, plus lots of side dishes: potato salad, green salad, fruit salad, garlic bread, and corn on the cob. We feasted, with the company of fellow fly tiers. Friendships were reinforced or formed for the first time, and all had a great afternoon. Here are two photographs of the serving line:
Then we went on to the entertainment! Gene Kaczmarek was the organizer. Here are Dave Roberts and Jerry Criss trying their best in the Team Tying: Dave was the left hand and Jerry was the right, and n’er the two did meet!

Kit (left) and Zack Seton tried the team tying, doing an elk-hair caddis. They won!

Next up was the Fly Switch, run by Bill Nelson. Every tier who entered a fly box got to pick a fly box. The order of picking was first determined by a draw from a hat, and from then on, whoever got their box picked, got next choice. Jim Ferguson, our esteemed Chair, had his flies picked
first, and our past Chair, David Nelson, was picked second. See Bill Nelson’s report for the full details, elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Then on to the Main Event: the Auction. Al Ritt and his assistant, Frank Johnson, did an incredible job assembling a great variety of items. We had over 135 items featured in the bucket raffle, including a bamboo rod made by Hiro Takahashi, necks donated by Frank Johnson, and many, many more. There were six items in the silent auction, including Buszek flies framed by Steve Jensen. Anyone who bought a ticket went home with prizes, and we all went home with stronger friendships with our fellow tiers. Please be on the lookout for our next BBQ and put it down now in your calendar. It will be held on Tuesday of the International Fly Fishing Fair, to be held in West Yellowstone, Montana. Please join your fellow Fly Tying Group members!

### 2012 SECOND ANNUAL MYSTERY MATERIALS FLY TYING COMPETITION

Photographed and posted by Bob Bates

Give some scraps of odd materials to many of the Federation of Fly Fishers fly tiers, ask them to tie beautiful flies, and they will do it. This was proven again after the Fly Tiers Group BBQ. Some excellent fly patterns came out of the unlikely materials they were given: Pieces of a **nightie, a fuzzy slipper and broken strands from a violin bow**. The winner of the contest was Gordon Rose who received $100 at the FFF BBQ. One of his flies is below:
All of the patterns are posted:

http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/MysteryMaterial2.htm

Enjoy.

This is what fly tying education is all about! Taila Oulton with Brown Trout she caught using a fly she tied that morning while taking part in the Bighorn River Youth Adventure sponsored by the Big Horn River Alliance and International Federation of Fly Fishers.

FTG STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT FOR MEMBERS

WORK TO DATE:

We started the process of gathering names in September 2011. Detailed emails were sent to all FTG Governors as well as Council Presidents and others asking for help in gathering contact information for tying instructors and demonstration tiers. A few stepped forward.
Thanks to Al Beatty, Al Ritt, Steve Jensen, Ben Furimsky, Jim Ferguson, Gene Kaczmarek, Jessica Atherton, Bruce Staples and others we gathered lists of primarily demonstration tiers totaling some 5,500 names. Scott Erickson has collected International Tiers. His contacts will be the next to receive questionnaires. A few International Tiers have received questionnaires and most of them have been completed and returned. We expect a high percentage from the International tying community.

Those 5,500 names were culled to a total of about 2,250 names which have or will receive our questionnaire. Some 1,650 questionnaires have been distributed.

To date there have been roughly 250 completed questionnaires returned. Those responses have been entered into our spreadsheet which will be developed into a database and ultimately the Directory of Tying Instructors and Demonstration Tiers.

A good number of respondents have given us material for inclusion in the Tying Instructor’s Resource. Jim Ferguson is working that segment of the project. Much of the material is really good stuff and will be a meaningful addition to the Resource Site. As time goes by we will attract a lot more material to our archives.

WHERE WE ARE NOW:

It is now the time to fully develop this list from being a spreadsheet into a database and get the 'Directory' on the FFF web site. We can now provide an opportunity for individuals to go to the FFF home page and see a click button for "Find a Fly Tying Instructor" and "Find a Demonstration Tier".

We have more than enough respondents to develop an initial ‘Directory of Instructors/Demo Tiers’. We have had many very excellent and encouraging returns. We have a good start. It is the hope that over the next several months the ‘Directory’ will take shape. It is our feeling that once this “Directory” is posted and circulating others will see it and want to become involved.

We are learning a lot about what flies are being taught in Basic Fly Tying Classes across America. The uniformity of pattern selections is amazing. Border to border, coast to coast instructors are teaching the same set of patterns. As soon as the data is studied we will announce the statistics on what is being taught. Let me say that Jim Ferguson was spot on when he developed his lesson plan for a Beginning Fly Tying Class.

FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:

We now need to continue work with individual clubs in gathering information about tying instructors. We have, for the most part, communicated with Demonstration Tiers. Tying Instructors, those out there working in the trenches, are a little more difficult to find. These teachers are not on all of these Demo Tier lists — they need to be found. We need a push to the clubs.

Questionnaires will soon be sent to all of the International tiers that Scott Erickson has found. At this time we have collectively some 150 to 200 International contacts.

FLY TYING GROUP MEMBERS INVOLVEMENT AND HELP IS REQUESTED

We would ask you as FTG members to help us find and communicate with any tying instructors or demonstration tiers in your clubs or councils. There are so many dedicated tying instructors who can help to educate us about the teaching of fly tying. Let us know about those in your area are the real teachers of fly tying. Send contact information to: Frank Johnson at bighornjohnsons@gmail.com We will then send them a questionnaire to learn about their teaching activities.

To the Board of Governors I say thank you for the opportunity you’ve given me to work on this project. More and more I am convinced that this is the right thing for the FTG to do. We have had more than a few very positive comments from the questionnaire respondents. In general these folks are saying: This is a good thing – sign me up!

Frank Johnson, FTG Member - Project Chairman
To be awarded the Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award the recipient must meet certain established criteria. The criteria for this award are demanding: “.....embody the spirit of the Federation, imparting both only a love of fly tying, but also of fly-fishing and the conservation of the resource.” As well as “.... demonstrate and teach the varied skills of fly tying.....to tiers of all skill levels.

Jim Ferguson of Salem, Oregon meets and exceeds the criteria on every level. As a professional educator and a life-long fly tier Jim’s skills and training have come together in a man who is truly “the teacher’s teacher.”

Jim joins some of this writer’s heroes of tying instruction like Buck Goodrich, Bob Lay, and Andre’ Puyans. These are the people who are out there in the trenches teaching fly tying on an ongoing and regular basis. Jim more than qualifies to step forward and proudly join these great teachers. At the 2012 International Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane Jim not only received this prestigious award but was Elected Chairman of the Board of the IFFF Fly Tying Group. Jim has some big shoes to fill and he will fill them well.

Congratulations Jim.
In 2011 a new pin and logo were created for The Fly Tying Group. The new pins were a big hit at the International Fly Fishing Festival in West Yellowstone this past year. If you haven't purchased one, they are available from the national office. The cost is $12. If you would like to purchase a pin contact Gay Penney at the FFF office. Her number is 406-222-9369 – Ext. 104, e-mail: Gay Penney <Gay@fedflyfishers.org>
FLY OF THE MONTH NOW ON NEW FFF WEBSITE
By Bob Bates

The Fly of the Month, FOM, pages on the Federation of Fly Fishers website are the most often visited part of the website. Early records of website activity showed that individual fly pattern pages accounted for much of the activity. Then when the patterns were combined into a database it turned out to be the third most frequented part of the website after the Main Page and another section. So when I heard about moving to a new server I requested that the FOM articles be protected. In the past they had been lost, ignored or otherwise neglected during server moves. I made so much noise that -- Guess What! ---- I got the job of moving them. There is a lot of information in them since Jim Abbs started in December of 1997, and I continued in December 2001. I try to highlight tiers at conclaves and shows who were demonstrating good ways of tying a fly, using new or different materials or even doing something “wrong” because it made the fly better for their fishing. There is no one way to tie a fly that catches fish. Protecting the FOM articles involved the following.

First, all of the articles were collected from the old site and converted to Microsoft Word. Then they were checked for publication date, FFF copyright and e-mail address for more information. The published format and text were not changed. I did find a few typos which I fixed. Then they were converted to PDF, Public Document Format, which can be opened by Adobe Reader on almost any computer. This makes them suitable for printing, which is an improvement over the old system. The single picture articles were converted as is (if they met the criteria). The step articles since August 2005 were treated differently. No text or pictures were changed, but margins and page breaks were adjusted so steps were not split between pages. Within a step, the picture is first then the text. As many steps as possible were put on each page to make them more convenient. If you don't have Adobe Reader go to http://get.adobe.com/reader/ to download it.

In the new FFF website FOM articles are under the "Fly Tying" button and click on "Fly of the Month" on the drop down menu. The current article is first. All of the previous issues are below it, just scroll down and click on the one you want. The previous issues are in chronological order with the most recent first. If you have any questions or comments, you can always send an e-mail message to me through flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org. Currently, there are 158 articles on the website, and another one is added each month. They are there for FFF member use, and not for any commercial use. I hope you continue to use them. Just give the FFF credit for any use in fly tying classes, etc.
Dave’s election to the Board of Governors was announced at the 2012 Annual meeting held in Spokane, Washington

Dave has provided us with the biographical information seen below. It should also be noted that his delightful sense of humor and easy going manner make it easy to say that Dave is a really nice guy. He is fun to be with and is more than willing to share with others. Additionally, it should be noted that Dave’s tying is very much directed toward tricking the fish.

“I started tying in 1953, learning from my Irish grandfather... He believed you master one step at a time: tails, wings, hackle, etc. I am still learning at every show I attend and every class I teach.

I have been active as an instructor & demo tier for over 45 years. I demo at 6 to 10 FFF shows and 4 to 5 FFF clubs each year. I teach at my club (Southern Oregon Fly Tyers) 4 to 5 times a year. I also have a tying school where I teach all winter.

I enjoy teaching basic classes to get folks started on the right path. I think every instructor should be able to tie a whip finish by hand, both right & left. Yes, I use a whip finish tool also. I also like to do classes doing bugs from top to bottom, i.e. nymphs, emerger, cripples, dun, spinner, simple soft hackles and married wing wets.

I am Lifetime member FFF; Fly Tyers group FFF; Southern Oregon Fly Tyers; Northwest Atlantic Salmon Guild; United Fly Tyers; Fly Dresser's Guild UK and N.Ireland; Catskill Fly Tyers Guild; Rogue Flyfishers Club.”
MEET BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBER
GENE BARRINGTON OF CUMMING, GEORGIA

Gene’s election to the Board of Governors was announced at the 2012 Annual meeting held in Spokane, Washington. He has provided us with the information below.

“I am a life member of the FFF, a member of the FTG, a past president of the Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, a past president of the Southeastern Council of the FFF and a current board member, a past member of the FFF National BOD, a past member of the Georgia Council of TU. I'm also a current board member of Project Healing Waters - Georgia.

My current fly tying project is the development of a fly tying program and associated written manual for Project Healing Waters for wounded service members and veterans. Most of them have traumatic brain injury or other nerve related issues as well as other combat injuries.

I began tying in the early 70's without any instruction available. I took advantage of what I could find in books and magazines at the time. Being self-taught, much of my early efforts were wrong and I learned by trial and error. Not having tying instructors available has given me an appreciation for how valuable they can be and has led me to make myself available to anyone wanting to learn to tie. I have also developed a method for teaching based on my experience. I have taught and demonstrated tying around the southeast with the FFF, TU and other conservation organizations. I have traveled to the national conclave on several occasions and have also tied at those functions.”

Contact Gene at: gbarrington@bcbarchitects.com Phone: home 770-781-8180 cell 404-372-8792

Tom Logan and Jim Crislip are our two other new BOD members and they will be featured in the next issue.
Fly Tying Group Board of Governors  
July 2012 through July 2013  

To contact any of the FTG board members Email ffflytyinggroup@gmail.com

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Next issue articles are due December 15 for delivery to members January 1, 2013  
Send to ffflytyinggroup@gmail.com

Tight lines, see you at the shows this winter.

Newsletter Committee  
Peggy Brenner  
Frank Johnson