Fly Tying Group of the International Federation of Fly Fishers

Notice: Election of Board of Governors
of the Fly Tying Group. Our by-laws provide that the Nominating Committee notify members and council presidents 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the election and vacancies to be filled on the Board of Governors. See page three of this newsletter for details and nominations.

Newsletter Needs a Name

We are excited about our new newsletter! Plans are to publish quarterly with special editions from time to time. We need your help with articles and photos of your favorite flies. Right now we need your ideas for the newsletter’s name! Here are some names that have been suggested:

“Feathers and Fur”
“Stem Winder”
“Birds of a Feather”
“Vise Verses”
“Winging It”

Send your suggestion to: bkclay@bkclay.com

Who are we?

The IFFF leadership at the 2007 Conclave in Livingston, Montana started the Fly Tying Group. It is a group of, by and for fly tiers. The goals of the group are to develop fly tying at the local, regional, council, national, and international levels. See page 2 to read our Purpose and Goals.
The FTG is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly-fishing experience. Archiving of historic documents, development of educational and instructional materials, teaching and demonstration are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly.

Our Goals Are:

- To provide an organization to represent tiers at the local, regional, national, and international level.

- To develop and disseminate instructional material to enhance the teaching skills of all fly tiers, but especially for those who demonstrate or teach fly tying at all levels.

- To develop and disseminate instructional material to enhance the art of fly tying.

- To develop and disseminate instructional material to enhance the art of framing and displaying of flies.

- To develop an archive of flies for the I FFF.

- To enhance communication among fly tiers, especially demonstration tiers and fly tying teachers.

- To be the organization of reference for expertise in the art of fly tying.

- To educate the fly fishing public in the art of excellent fly tying.

Want to join our group? Click on [www.fedflyfishers.org/Ty#772B3E](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Ty#772B3E)
Nominations for the Board of Governors

This is the official notice for nominations for the Board of Governors of the Fly Tying Group of the International Federation of Fly Fishers. The By-laws state that the Nominating Committee will notify FTBOG members, FTG membership and all FFF Council Presidents of the election and number of vacancies to be filled. Nominations will be received for thirty (30) days from May 5, 2014. All nominees shall present to the nominating committee an “Introduction Statement” limited to 100 words reflecting the nominee’s background, desire to serve, qualifications and the contribution they intend to make during their term. There are a total of 21 members on the FTBOG. There are ten (10) vacancies to be filled.

Ballots will be sent to the membership sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting. Members will be given thirty days to return the ballots to the Nominating Committee for counting and notifications to those elected to serve. The nominee’s names and their “Introduction Statement” shall be on the ballot.

Nominations should be sent to Mike Stewart of the Nominating Committee at the following address: tellicofly@yahoo.com

Current Nominations
For the Board of Governors

Mike Huffman
Ed Berg
Bill Heckel

There are 10 positions open

Seeking an Additional Term

Gene Kaczmarek
Jim Ferguson
Leslie Wrixen
Fred DuPre
Al Ritt
Kit Seaton
Election of Officers of the Board

The Board of Governors will elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at the Annual Meeting, August 5th, 2014 in Livingston, Montana. Nominations for these offices are the following:

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<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Tom Logan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Gene Barrington</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mike Stewart</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Fred DuPre</td>
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The Nominating Committee will accept further nomination until August 5th, 2014 at the Annual Meeting.

Nominations should be sent to Mike Stewart of the Nominating Committee at the following address: tellicofly@yahoo.com
Are you coming to this year’s Fly Fishing Fair?

Gene Kaczmarek, Standing Fly Tying Chair

If not, you’ll miss a great show! The list of fly tyers for this year’s show is just incredible! Not only will some of the best in the US be there, but an array of international tiers will be demonstrating their skills. This is your chance to learn from some of the best tiers in the world.

We have classes from Michael Meyers, on how to tie Effective Yellowstone Country Flies. Then there’s the ever popular Todd Collins, and his George Grant Hair Hackle Flies. From across the big pond we have Phil Geneix, Palladuc France. Showing you how the French use CDC and you may want to also check out Frank Johnson’s class on "It floats like a duck".

Again we are pleased to have Wayne Luallen present his “Thread Control” class. As a tier you don’t want to miss this class. Henry Hoffman will be there with a class on “New tools for tying”. Larry Nicholas and Dutch Baughman will be presenting a class on “Laws Pertaining to Possession and Transportation of Natural Fly Tying Materials.” The FTG has prepared “Minimum Skills Recommended For Students Of Intermediate Fly Tying Classes” that can be found on the FTG website, Fly Fair website or in E-News. This document is intended to assist you learn the most from classes that may interest you. We also are bringing back by popular demand the Fly Tying Video Theater. As you can see this year will be another star studded and fun event with over 100 of the best tiers anywhere.

To learn more about the fair and to register click on:

www.fedflyfishers.org/Fl#7712E8
Fly Tier’s Rendezvous

What an opportunity to rub elbows with some of the finest fly tiers in the world! Enjoy a great Southern-Style barbeque and perhaps win some great prizes!

This year the BBQ will be held Tuesday, August 5 at the Sacagawee Park in Livingston at our Fly Fishing Fair. It will be a celebration of the life of Federation legend, Darwin Atkin. All proceeds of the auction/raffle will be used to fund the recently established Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award (information concerning that award is also included in this newsletter). In addition, Darwin’s widow, Anna, has packaged some of Darwin’s fly tying supplies and will offer them for a nominal donation to the memorial fund.

One of the highlights of the BBQ is the annual mystery material fly tying contest. Mister “Mystery Material” himself, Frank Johnson, will coordinate this year’s event. Using a mystery material selected by Frank, each tier will submit their innovative fly tied using that material. The winner will receive a certificate professionally framed with their winning fly.

Another fun event is the fly swap, under the direction of Dave Roberts. To be eligible to participate, each tier must submit a suitable entry (for example: one nicely dressed salmon fly, 4-6 bass bugs, a dozen nymphs or dry flies, etc.). Participating tiers will be given a raffle ticket and the raffle tickets will be drawn one at a time. As each number is drawn, the holder of that ticket will select the entry of a different tier. The drawing will continue until all participants have received flies tied by someone else. A special prize will be presented to the tier whose flies are selected first, and a prize will be presented to the tier whose flies are selected last. Be sure to show up with your box of flies!

Aside from annual dues and donations, the auction/raffle at the BBQ is the Fly Tying Group’s major source of income. This past year the Fly Tying Group approved funding to establish to life membership awards: one in memory of Darwin Atkin and the other in the memory of Dick Nelson. Both of these awards promote excellence in fly tying. To continue such programs, we really need your help; please support our auction/raffle with the donation of gifts. A box of flies, an art print, a fly line, are examples needed, everything has value to us. It doesn’t have to be fly fishing/tying related. Several years ago Jim Ferguson gave us several sketches that he had made of a nude model named Justine. You can’t imagine how much fun we had with that particular item. Ask your friends, ask the people who you do business with, and anyone else you can think of to donate something for our auction/raffle. Items can be brought to the BBQ or, for those who want to contribute but may not be able to attend, they can be sent to:

Fly Tying Group BBQ – ATTEN: Steve Jensen
International Federation of Fly Fishers
5237 U.S. Highway 89 South, Ste. 11
Livingston, MT 59047-9176
Oh yes, and the food: the Southern Style BBQ will include a choice of pulled pork or chicken, baked beans and potato salad. The cost is $20 per person. Registration for the BBQ will be included in the registration materials for the Fly Fishing Fair. We hope to see you there.
The Fly Tying Group, International Federation of Fly Fishers, is pleased to announce the establishment of a new award for fly tying named in the honor of Darwin Atkin. Darwin passed away January 7, 2014 in a Bozeman, Montana hospital. The new award is named The Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award.

It is anticipated that the award will be initially presented at the 2015 Fly Fishing Fair. Although the criterion for the award is still under discussion, the award was created to recognize an IFFF member whose long-term contribution to fly tying is widely recognized and respected. The award is for outstanding achievement and demonstrated commitment of the person in significantly advancing the craft and art of fly tying. The award will be bestowed judiciously and infrequent.

The award is not limited to fly tying per se. Contribution to fly tying may include books written on fly tying, techniques, related entomology, development of fly tying materials, development of techniques and tools, or providing venues or opportunities for fly tiers to display their work.

In addition to an engraved plaque, the recipient of this award will be awarded a life membership in the IFFF. If the recipient is already an IFFF life member, they will be awarded a life membership in the Fly Tying Group.

When the details of the award are finalized, the nomination requirements will be announced in the newsletter and listed on the IFFF’s web site.
The Chair's 

Riach!

At last it happened while I was there. It was all around me. I had all the equipment - waders, flippers, life vest, float tube, net, rods, reels, floating lines, sinking lines, intermediate lines, floater with sink tip, hat, license, polar sun glasses, all the possible patterns, floatant, but not the one ingredient!........

Let me back up. I had just set up our pop up trailer at the RV camp at East Lake, a lake formed by one of the larger volcanic explosions that occurred forming Newbury Crater in central Oregon just east of the town of Lapine. A recent volcanic outpouring separated one lake into two competing lakes, Paulina and East. Competing in the sense that these two lakes often traded the state record for some of the larger trout. Hot springs continue to heat the Southeast corner of East Lake, resulting in phenomenal plant growth and insect habitat. This is the home of the East Lake Callibaetis as well as various caddis varieties, damsels, and midges. East Lake has healthy populations of Rainbow and Brown trout, Kokanee, Atlantic Salmon, and Tui chub. Two populations, Eastern Brook and Mackinaw, have been reduced and are rarely caught now.

The Tui chub are a non-native species brought to the lake when live bait was allowed. The chub population needs to be controlled and in an effort to accomplish the control without use of poison, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has imported a "Blackwater" variety of a rainbow trout from Canada. Blackwater trout really like to eat smaller fish. Regulations are simple if you go with catch and release. Otherwise, five fish a day, all Brown Trout over 16" must be released unharmed, all non-clipped Rainbow Trout must be released unharmed, one fish over 20" may be kept, and minimum length is 8 inches.

As I said, we had just set up camp. I had the float tube blown up and in the jeep. About 8 years previous, I had fished East lake over the large weed beds created by the hot springs. Casting out a tied down caddis, letting it sink to about 12 feet and twitching it back had worked to produce strikes from nice fat Browns. To get to the launch site I had planned to drive to the camp site about a half mile West. A pull out near the "Hot Springs Boat Launch and Dock" site called to me and I pulled in to check out the lake. And there it was. Five to ten water craft of various styles from float tubes, to pontoon boats, to power boats were working the water back and forth.
At any moment, you could see up to a dozen fish in the air with three or four times as many rings from rising fish. My wife said, "Why don't you put in here and just hold the net out. You will have your limit in no time." I told her to be quiet, this was a "sacred moment" in flyfishing, a SPINNER FALL!

The famous East Lake Callibaetis hatch was on! Not only could you see the May fly on the water, but they were on your hand, arm, float tube, rod, line, and in the air hovering over the water. On the water you could see two stages, one with the wings upright and the other with their wings flat out to the side in the spinner fall position. What really surprised me was what happened when I reached out to touch the spinners with their wings flat out. They took off. I thought they died and landed in the water and took that position but they were very much alive. Yes, some were dead but they looked like they had just started to get below the surface film. Two and a half hours later, my score was, 4 strikes, one fly ripped off, and one fish on for about 4 seconds. I experienced that event of fish keying in on naturals and not liking what I had to offer. That missing one ingredient......luck.

The next day I did get two solid hits mid morning. One was a 14 inch Blackwater. Later in the afternoon the clouds rolled in and darkened up. With the first rumble of thunder, I headed to shore. That night we were treated to a major thunder and lightning show with the booms following the light flash by only a second or two. Copters were flying the next day to check for spot fires. The West is really dry and Oregon is experiencing very serious fire conditions. The next day was filled with brief showers and more thunder and lightning. Two days later I did get into three of the Blackwater rainbows over 16 inches. They were real fighters, lots of acrobatics, going for the depths, and testing your line management at all times.

Looking forward to the IFFF Fly Fishing Event in West Yellowstone towards the end of September. The FTG will again host a BBQ called the “FTG Rendezvous” on Tuesday afternoon. You can purchase a ticket on the website for the event. David Nelson will have some great stuff for silent auctions. Be sure to bring your dozen flies for the fly exchange. Our membership is going up in numbers with about twice the number we had in 2011. We have a list of members willing to be teachers of fly tying on our website. You can locate instructors in your geographic area easily using the search questions. This list is one of the products resulting from the questionnaire Frank Johnson developed to help us evaluate the state of fly tying instruction nationally and internationally. Our Bylaws Committee Chair, Tom Logan, should have some revisions in goals and purpose statements for us to consider.

Looking forward to tying with many of you.
If you finished a beginners tying class recently and are excited about tying flies, then you probably want to learn how to tie more proficiently and explore a broader range of patterns. Maybe you want to bump up your tying tempo and fill several fly boxes over the weekend. Or perhaps you want to experiment with new materials and techniques. Regardless of your motivation, once started at the vise you want to tie better flies - the kind other anglers try to steal off your drying patch.

If you are honing your tying skills and want to advance along the continuum of tying talent, here is the first in a series of tying tips to help you along the path from novice tier to a prolific master of the bobbin.

**Find a well-lit tying place**

When learning to tie flies, it helps to have a place to tie - a familiar setting helps develop habitual patterns and good tying habits. You might not have the luxury of a dedicated tying room, but carve out some space where you can set up your gear and get comfortable. Even if you use the kitchen table and put everything away when you finish, it does make a difference when you have a comfortable place to tie.

If you are setting up a dedicated tying bench, be sure to have plenty of light. Few things are as frustrating as dim light when tying; straining your eyes to pick up faintly lit details is guaranteed to reduce your tying time and enjoyment. Good lighting and an ergonomically designed work area will help you establish a steady rhythm and extend your tying sessions without undue stress on your eyes, back, or behind.
Lighting is critically important for detailed tasks and many tiers for its natural appearance and realistic color rendition prefer white light. The proliferation of fluorescent and LED lamps with full-spectrum illumination has greatly aided tiers and reduces the glare and heat of incandescent lighting. If space allows, consider using multiple lamps above your tying area, positioning lights to eliminate shadows and provide even illumination. Over the years (and there have been many), I increased the amount of lighting I use when tying smaller flies. With size 18 and smaller hooks in the vise jaws, I use at least three overhead lights, one primary source over the vise and two addition lamps to the sides to supplement the main light and keep my hands from shading the tying area. If the trend continues, my tying room will be lit up like a football stadium in another 10 years.

Regardless of where you tie, keep your background clear. An uncluttered backdrop or table covering reduces eyestrain and keep things (hooks, beads, tools) from hiding beneath the strata that tends to occupy tying space. As you look at a hook in the vise, you should see a clean, non-reflective background, without shadows or glare.

If you are serious about tying flies, or would like to be, find a spot to tie and make it your tying place. Keep the visual backdrop clean, use plenty of lighting, and adopt good ergonomic habits of posture, table height, and supportive seating.

**Value the well-placed wrap**

Even as the first word you read at the top of this page contributes to a sentence and, ultimately, an entire article, so, too, does a single thread wrap contribute to the base upon which a fly is built. And as a reader might tolerate an occasional misplaced word within the text of an article, a misplaced thread wrap might not detract from the overall appearance or utility of a fly. But an accumulation of misused, unnecessary, or ill-placed thread wraps can detract significantly from the character of a fly, disguising the intended silhouette and altering the proportions of a pattern.

Thread wraps generally fall into the less-is-more category, use only enough (but enough) to achieve the intended purpose. If you need to secure a wing segment and 3 wraps work, then only use 3 wraps. Developing tiers often have to overcome a tendency to use too much thread, placing additional wraps at every step in a tying sequence.
The resulting fly will be bulky and the added mass can interfere with wing placement, crowd the head, or force appendages like legs and tails into odd positions and angles. The effects are even more pronounced on small hooks where space is at a premium.

It takes practice and confidence to eliminate unnecessary thread wraps. Be conscious of reducing thread build up and place firm wraps exactly where needed - every wrap should have a specific purpose.

Tying thread tends to twist with each revolution around the hook shank. The accumulated twists will kink the thread adding to its bulk or, worse yet, cause it to break under modest tension. The easiest countemeasures for tying-induced thread twisting is too simply release the bobbin and let it hang freely from the hook - the thread twist will slowly unwind. Tiers that wrap in a clockwise fashion can add a quick counterclockwise spin to the bobbin to hasten the unwinding process. Yes, it is possible to overdo the spinning and actually twist the thread in the opposite rotation. If you develop a habit of adding a few short counterclockwise spins between tying steps, you can reduce tension and make for smoother, flatter thread wraps.

You might have learned that “sawing” the thread back and forth on the hook shank when laying down the first thread wrap helps flatten those initial wraps and makes a smooth base for adding materials. The back-and-forth sawing technique is particular effective with floss-type and monochord threads as the strands can be significantly flattened as you wrap a base along the hook shank.

Wrap wisely and keep the thread base smooth and flat. Use thread appropriate for the hook size and material you will be tying; there is a large selection of tying threads on the market, experiment with as many as possible and find your favorites.
Officers of the Fly Tying Group
2013-2014

Chairman
Carl Ronk
Vice Chairman
Tom Logan
Treasure
Steve Jensen
Secretary
Russ Forney
Newsletter Editor
Bob Clay

It is an honor to work with the Fly Tying Group and serve in the capacity of Newsletter Editor. My tying skills are limited but I have always enjoyed those winter weekend marathon ties as I dreamed of trout season right around the corner.

My love of fishing first got me involved in fly-fishing and casting. That is the beauty of this sport, something for everyone!

As newsletter editor we would like for you to put on another hat and write and article or two, along with a picture, and send it to me for publication. The document should be in Word as PDF’s are not editable. We want to share your fun times and experiences.

And don’t forget to email me with your newsletter name idea!! bkclay@bkclay.com

Looking forward to hearing from you!!!