The International Fly Fishing Fair will be held this year in Bend, Oregon. Home of the Deschutes—famed for its steelhead and trout fishing. An exciting adventure awaits you in the fantastic northwest!

The Fly Tying Group of the International Federation of Fly Fishers 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 demonstrations are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please join us today. Please Note: You must be a member of the International Federation Fly Fishers to join the Fly Tying Group.

Click here to join  www.fedflyfishers.org/Si#9EDE95
Welcome to the spring issue of *Tying Times*. I hope you find this issue consistent with our intent to share with you still yet more information on methods you can use at your own vise for tying flies. Al and Gretchen Beatty have provided instructions for another interesting and versatile fly pattern they refer to as “a heck of a good fish catcher”, and I think you will find Wayne Luallen’s article extremely helpful to those of you who may need a few pointers on tying split tails on your mayfly patterns.

Information sharing is an important focus of the Fly Tying Group (FTG), as is excellence in teaching the art of fly tying. Both Ed Morphis and Fishy Fullum provide helpful articles in this issue on planning your next fly tying workshop. Many of our FTG members are very good teachers and conduct workshops for their home Clubs. So, please know that we are available and most willing to provide any assistance that could be helpful to you in planning fly tying workshops for your own Clubs and Councils. Just let us know and we’ll be glad to find the closest member with teaching experience who may even be available to attend and assist with your event.

You should be well aware by now that the International Federation of Fly Fishers is hosting its next International Fly Fishing Fair (Fly Fair) this August 13-15 in Bend, Oregon. This will be a 50th Anniversary celebration of the organization. We hope many of you will be attending, as the FTG will be very active throughout the event planning our programs for the upcoming year and spending a lot of one-on-one time with those of you who can attend. We’ll be tying flies, answering questions about techniques and materials and talking about the FTG to anyone who is interested. We realize that many of you will not be able to attend; therefore, our goal will be to share something of value with everyone who attends, that they can take home to share with our other members in their home clubs. So, you may want to ask these folks beforehand to plan a program or workshop for your local Club to share what they learn.
The FTG holds its Annual Meeting each year on Tuesday morning before the Fly Fair and although this business meeting is conducted by the Board of Governors (BOG) it is open to all members of the FTG. New officers of the BOG will be elected and seated during the meeting, but perhaps of more interest to you will be the discussions and decisions regarding continuing and new member programs that will occur during the next year. This is your meeting; so, attend, ask questions and tell the BOG what you would like to see us do for you.

Our Rendezvous will follow the Annual Meeting on Tuesday afternoon and you will not want to miss this event. This is a social where many of the fly tiers attending the Fly Fair will come together at one time and place to enjoy good food and fellowship. It also is the most important event of the year where we raise the funds to support our programs that are intended to give something back to our membership.

Many of our members are already soliciting items from local fly shops and other related vendors that will be put in the bucket raffles and silent auctions. Such items will range from unusual tying materials to out of print books, other fly-fishing equipment and perhaps even a bottle or two of fine wine. The auctions will also be followed by the “Fly Swap” where many of our tiers will share their favorite flies. So, do plan to attend, but most importantly bring or send donations for the auctions to help our fundraising.

**Donations for the Rendezvous may be mailed to: David Roberts at 1234 Hammel Road, Eagle Point, Oregon 97524.**

And then the Fly Fair begins where more than a hundred of the most knowledgeable fly tiers from all over the world will be demonstrating their personal interests and tying skills. Nowhere will as much fly tying information be available in one place from the best of the best. The FTG will also be hosting our FTG Booth during the three days of the event where the Fly Tying Skills Awards Program will be promoted and other information will be shared with anyone who stops by to visit. And be sure to check the extensive schedule of fly tying classes that will be offered during the Fly fair and sign up for those of interest to you when you pre-register. Lastly, both Buszek recipients and international fly tiers will be specially featured in the Tying Theater to provide you a more one-on-one opportunity to observe and discuss their tying with you. So please do take full advantage of the FTG activities available to our members during this 50th Anniversary Event.
ANNOUNCING
IFFF FLY TYING SKILLS PROGRAM
BRONZE AWARD RECIPIENTS

In the short few months since the IFFF Fly Tying Skills Awards Program has been available interest and participation in the program have been outstanding. To date the following tiers have achieved the designation of IFFF Bronze Fly Tying Award Recipient.

Our congratulations go out to these tiers who have taken part in our educational, rewarding and fun program. The comments we've received from participants have been very positive.

Earl Arnold – Oxnard, CA       Al Beatty – Boise, ID
Gretchen Beatty – Boise, ID       Paul Beckman – Mendota Heights, MN
Ed Berg – Parker, CO       Scott Biron – Bradford, NH
William Byrne – Harrisburg, PA       Chuck Collins – Pocatello, ID
William Copren – Sattley, CA       Jerry Coviello – Chalfont, PA
Fred DuPre’ – Colleyville, TX       Jim Ferguson – Salem, OR
Bill Hammons – Carson City, NV       Rockwell Hammond – Fall City, WA
Frank Johnson – Sheridan, WY       Gene Kaczmarek – Fremont, CA
Dan Kellog – White City, OR       Kerry C. Kimball – Billings, MT
Jason Koop – Carson City, NV       Tom Logan – Tallahassee, FL
Linda Miller – Valley Center, CA       Ed Morphis – Grants Pass, OR
Frank Mueller – Muench, Bayern Germany       Scott Murdock – Fairbanks, AK
Howard Palmer – Salem, OR       Al Ritt – Loveland, CO
Dave Roberts – Eagle Point, OR       Mike Swederska Sr – Sullivan, MO
Ray Sissell – Mandeville, LA       Paul Tidroski – New Port Richey, FL
Barry Webster – Farmers Branch, TX       Robert Eagleston – Calgary, AB Canada

Leslie Wrixon – Beverly, MA

We are looking forward to their participation in the more challenging Silver Award Program which will be available by mid-summer 2015.

All IFFF members are welcome and encouraged to take part in the Fly Tying Skills Awards Program. For full details visit the IFFF web site at:
Come Join the Fun

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS
Fly Tying Group
Fly Tying Skills Award Program

"dedicated to preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly fishing experience"

For individuals who want to improve as tiers; They need to be able to measure their progress. The program provides an opportunity to develop or reinforce their fly tying skills and test their progress against a consistent standard at three levels: 
**Bronze, Silver, and Gold**

The goal is to encourage IFFF members to develop and improve their tying skills at their own pace through a structured learning plan with progressive goals.

It can also assist Clubs and tying instructors in planning and delivering of fly tying courses.

Participation is entirely voluntary.

For more information visit the IFFF web site
www.fedflyfishers.org/tying/flytyingskillsawardsprogram

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.
Fly Tying Group Shirts & Caps
Now Available!

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!
A few years ago I had a wonderful trip to Oregon and fished the Deschutes for steelhead. There are so many great things to do and see in the great northwest you must plan now! Here are a few personal suggestions for you to think about.

Fly into Portland and perhaps stay in downtown for a night or two. There are some terrific downtown hotels and the shopping is sales tax free. The farm-to-fork dining is a must do experience. The Ace Hotel’s Clyde Common has an incredible farm-driven menu. Another restaurant to try is Higgins by James Beard Award winning chef Greg Higgins. I guess by now you know I am a “foody”!

Plan on driving over to Bend on one route and returning another. There is so much to see and do in Oregon and this will maximize the experience. Driving south from Portland toward Eugene you will experience the pinot noir wine capital of the world. There are literally hundreds of wineries in the Willamette Valley producing some of the world’s greatest pinot. To get a good idea of how great the wine is, consider overnighting in McMinnville and tasting many wonderful wines in this little town.

The southern route will take you to Eugene where you will turn east toward Bend. This is a beautiful, mountainous drive where you will see the majesty of the Cascade Range.
Once in Bend you can settle back and relax for the start of the IFFF Annual Fair or after the Fair you can try out some of the great fishing opportunities around Bend.

On my trip we tackled The Deschutes River on a float trip from Madres to Maulpin, an overnight camping trip. The Warm Springs Indian Reservation is on your left for almost the entire trip. The scenery is breathtaking as the cold water of the Deschutes run miles through the treeless desert. This was the closest I have ever come to meeting my maker on a fishing trip. While casting for steelhead in the swift water I lost my footing and went down! I could not get my feet back under me as I bobbed up and down only seeing blue sky then water, over and over. I finally found my wits and floated down toward our guide as the ice-cold water went down my back. Fortunately, the guided righted me up with only a broken fly rod and a broken pride. I will never wade that kind of water without a personal floatation device again. We all caught steelhead on that amazing trip.

The Deschutes is the primary waterway in Central Oregon. Originating from its spring-fed headwaters in the Cascade Mountains west of Bend and ending its northward journey at the Columbia River, the Deschutes River offers an astonishing 252 miles of fishable waters. The Deschutes River offers everything from small stream fishing for Oregon’s native Redside Rainbow Trout to epic multi-day float trips for trophy trout and Pacific Steelhead.

While the Deschutes River is Bend’s most renowned river, the Metolius River is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful and challenging fishing destinations in the West. The crystal clear water of the Metolius River bubbles up from springs deep within Earth and provides perfect habitat for trophy Redside Rainbow Trout and the coveted trophy Bull Trout that call the Metolius home.

If a cozy spring creek is more your speed, the Fall River should be your destination. Offering year-round angling opportunities, the Fall River will reward the patient angler with beautiful trout and equally as beautiful scenery.

If you’re looking for a pure tailwater fishing experience, the Crooked River cuts a deep gorge into the surrounding countryside and provides exciting tailwater fishing for native Redside Rainbow Trout. And when you’ve had enough of Bend’s world class rivers, you’ll find a lifetime of gold medal fishing opportunities in the dozens of pristine lakes and reservoirs that surround Bend.

After the Fair, I suggest returning back to Portland by traveling north to Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. They actually advertise year round skiing! This historical lodge is well worth visiting if only for lunch. The incredible Columbia River Valley with its sights and sounds will take you back to Portland. There are many places to pull off I-84 on your way back.

Well, that was my trip. By the way, the guy in the forefront of the picture on the cover is me. Our trip was a little cooler than what you can expect in August. Of course, you can plan your own itinerary but I would encourage you to plan now for the trip of your lifetime!
Scenes from the Deschutes
Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center (RHCC)

Tuesday, August 11 (Pre-Fair events – exhibit hall not open)

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fair Registration Desk Open, RHCC

Meetings at Riverhouse:

8 a.m. to 11 a.m. IFFF Tying Board of Directors meeting, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. IFFF Casting BOG meeting, RHCC
12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tying Rendezvous, IFFF Fly Tying Group, RHCC

Wednesday, August 12 (Pre-Fair events – exhibit hall not open)

1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Conservation Committee Meeting, RHCC

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Awards Banquet, RHCC

Tying Awards to be presented:
Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement
Buz Buszek Fly Tying
Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching

Thursday, August 13

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fly Tying Demonstrations, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fly Tying Booth, Fly Tying Group RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fly Tying Theatre, RHCC
Friday, August 14

Meetings at Riverhouse:

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fly Tying Demonstrations, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fly Tying Booth, Fly Tying Group, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fly Tying Theatre, RHCC

Saturday, August 15

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fair Registration Desk Open, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fly Tying Demonstrations, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fly Tying Booth, Fly Tying Group, RHCC
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Fly Tying Theatre, RHCC

Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center (RHCC): 3075 U.S. 97 Business

Pine Nursery Park (PNP): 3750 NE Purcell Blvd

Old Mill District Casting Course (OMDCC): from the Parkway take exit 139 or exit 138 and follow the signs to the Old Mill District
Tying Class Choices at IFFF Fly Fishing Event in Bend

by Jim Ferguson

The listing for the fly tying classes for the upcoming Fair in Bend reflects several offerings to meet the purpose of the FTG. The Bend area has lots of fly-fishing available from streams, to rivers, to small and large lakes. There is a high interest in the area for fly tying classes to match these fishing venues. Although many classes will be offered on diverse topics, an effort has been made to coordinate scheduling of class offerings to reduce similar and sequential classes from being taught simultaneously. Finally, we have high caliber instructors participating in the fly tying events at the Fair.

One set of classes I have been involved with is centered around tying the Classic Atlantic Salmon Patterns. A large number of tiers have shown interest in taking a class in tying Atlantics but they are also hesitant due to their perception of the difficulty of the techniques. Rather than approaching the class as one fly done in one class, the concept of breaking up the process into three classes was considered. Hopefully the class could be given in several smaller bites.

There are three classes involved;

1) Tying the Classic Salmon Fly Part 1 - Tip, Tag, & Tail Treatments (will also include a few butts)
2) Tying the Classic Salmon Fly Part 2 - Bodies, Underbodies, Collars & Throats (maybe underwing)
3) Tying the Classic Salmon Fly Part 3 - Wing Treatments, Cheeks, Sides, Horns, and Heads

Part 1 has been field tested last year in Livingston and this year at the Oregon Fly Tying and Casting Expo in Albany, OR. Part 1 will be offered at the Bend show this summer. Part 2 will also be offered for the first time at the Bend show. All materials will be provided along with workbooks for the students to take with them.

If you have ever thought about tying the Classic Atlantic Salmon Fly I hope you will be able to register for the class or classes.
Al & Gretchen Beatty

It’s kind of funny as we look back on the year we spent writing/editing the *Fly Pattern Encyclopedia*. Our publisher, Frank Amato, had given us the goal that most (ninety percent) of the sixteen hundred patterns in the book would be flies never before published. With that expectation in mind we sent out request letters from the many good fly tiers we know who are scattered across the United States and Canada. Over two hundred tiers decided to participate; each day’s mail would bring several “new” flies to our post box. It was really a lot of fun reviewing each looking for that “something” we had not seen before. In a few instances we got a real surprise and in fact not long after you read this piece our next book *Innovative Flies & Techniques* based on some of those ideas will be on the market through Frank Amato Publications. We can almost hear you telling us this is just an article to plug a new book and quite frankly it is somewhat. But also it is chance to share one of the funny (humbling) things that happened to us while we were writing the *Encyclopedia*.

Over the years we’ve usually taken the position that there is really not many new techniques in fly tying. If a tier thinks he/she has come up with an original idea the chances are good someone thought of it long before they did. You would think with that kind of attitude we wouldn’t let ourselves get sucked it to thinking we had made a discovery on the fly we are sharing with you today. Yes, we know that Jon Cave is credited with developing the spoon style of fly or at least he was one of the early pioneers. But as far as we could figure out no one had glued split shot to such a pattern to make it sink faster. We were pretty darned sure we had made a discovery and the fly you see here today is the result of “our” idea.

We were in for a rude awakening. Not long after we put the Wobbler in the book we got a fly from Gale Doudy who only lived about ten miles from us. It was called the Buckshot Bonefish and his “new” pattern was built on the same general design as ours. We had never shown our fly to anyone. How could he have copied it? He didn’t. Like a lot of people, we allowed ourselves to believe we had developed something. In the end we got a chance to eat a little “humble pie.” Now you know “the rest of the story” as radio commentator Paul Harvey would say.
We are not sharing the Wobbler with you today because we wanted to embarrass ourselves instead we’ve discovered over the past several years it is a heck of a good fish catcher; in other words it produces “All Fish In All Waters.” We’ve successfully used it in salt, warm, and coldwater environments. The side-to-side action as it falls in the water column during the paused period of a standard streamer retrieve seems to drive fish crazy.

We tie it in a range of sizes from 2/0 to 10. Even though we are presenting a saltwater version here today don’t let that keep you from using a freshwater hook to construct an “in-land” pattern. We’re confident you’ll like it no matter where you use it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hook:</strong> Size 2/0 to 10, salt or freshwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thread:</strong> Red or color of choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tail:</strong> Pearl Krystal Flash, long and sparse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Under body:</strong> Square of plastic milk carton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eyes:</strong> Split shot, black paint, Zap-a-Gap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body coating:</strong> Glitter Glue, Aqua Flex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wing:</strong> Two white Chickabou feathers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hackle:</strong> Dyed red saddle feather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Head:</strong> Thread</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Tying Steps on the following page
**Tying Steps for the Bird Shot Wobbler**

**Step 1:** Place a hook in the vise and use it as a gage to cut the plastic milk bottle square. First cut a strip that is about as wide as three-fourths the length of the hook shank. Then cut the strip into squares.

**Step 2:** Hold one of the squares on top of the shank so it lays diagonal along the hook. If the diagonal measurement is longer than the hook shank, use a pair of scissors to trim the plastic to that size. Cut the point off two opposite corners and knick the other two corners so the thread won’t slip off the plastic. We’ve illustrated a trimmed square (in the tweezers) and another attached to the hook.

**Step 3:** Whip-finish and temporarily trim the thread from the hook. Place a drop of super glue on one of the trimmed corners then press a split shot over the plastic/glue. Repeat the process on the other corner forming the eyes. Allow the glue to dry before continuing to the next step.
Step 4: Paint the body with Glitter Glue and the eyes with any black craft paint if you think it’s needed; we didn’t paint the eyes on the illustrated fly to help you decide if it’s important. Allow the application to dry then coat the whole unit with Aqua Flex. Place it in a rotating dryer to cure. Glitter Glue is available at many craft stores or a two-part epoxy would work as well. Also different colored plastic could easily be used for the body; a plastic orange juice container is one source that comes to mine.

Step 5: Hold one of the squares on top of the shank so it lays diagonal along the hook. If the diagonal measurement is longer than the hook shank, use a pair of scissors to trim the plastic to that size. Cut the point off two opposite corners and knick the other two corners so the thread won’t slip off the plastic. We’ve illustrated a trimmed square (in the tweezers) and another attached to the hook.

Step 6: Strip the fuzzy material from the stem of a saddle hackle feather. Tie it to the hook in front of the wings and wrap a several turns to form a collar. Tie off the feather and trim the waste end. Construct a whip-finish, trim the thread from the hook, and apply Aqua Head to complete the fly.
From about the age of four, a human asks why. (Remember the four year old’s theme “W-h-y?”) We are beings who seek meaning in everything. We must have reasons for what we do. Therefore, we remember what is meaningful. We must make order of the world to be able to survive in it. Developmental psychologists say that in the preschool years (4-5), our primary task is finding purpose. To illustrate how important meaning is to survival, just think of how well you remember the exact spots on your favorite stream or lake where you caught the big ones. There is real survival purpose for these memories, as well as their being pleasurable. Both are reasons for remembering, so make learning as meaningful and as enjoyable as you can. When I have run into former H.S. students years later, there are two things they mention about my classes; how much they learned and how much fun they had doing it (that is, the ones who will still speak to me).

Let’s talk about what we all know from practical experience. We remember what we view as useful (meaningful) and reject what we see as useless (chaotic). (This is not to deny something may be so ridiculously nonsensical that it gets set in our minds, but it is an exception.) The rule is, we remember what we have a reason for and forget what we see of no purpose.
Because meaning is so essential to learning and memory, you should try to impart meaning to any process you teach. For example, why do we counter wrap ribbing? **Reasons**: So it does not sink into the material, and so it reinforces the material, making the fly more durable. Or, why do we tie in a collar of soft hackle by the tip and wrap forward? **Reasons**: Because soft hackle feathers tend to have large butt quills, and also it is preferable to have the shorter barbs underneath, supporting the longer ones in the water. Or, why (e.g., tying a streamer) do we tie in material behind the headspace and continue all the way to the bend of the hook? **Reason**: So we will leave no lumps in the body. When we see the reason/purpose/meaning, we get it, and we remember it.

At the beginning of each session I teach, I review the former lesson by asking some student to explain how to do each process, and then ask another to explain why we do it that way, thereby reinforcing the reasons as well as the processes.

One of our biggest problems as teachers is that so many of the techniques we teach have become automatic to us, therefore we do them thoughtlessly, rather than clearly demonstrating them. It is hard for us to think like a new learner, but we need to try and do so. Remember to do this as you prepare; practicing your tying for demonstration in the coming lesson and reviewing your lesson plan. Think through every move you make and why you do it, **writing the reason on your lesson plan**, so you remember to emphasize it. Recently, a friend who is a retired professional tier, was demonstrating for the fly tying group, and as I watched, I thought I saw him use a technique that would be important to his watchers, but it was so quick, I wasn’t even sure he had done it. The next meeting I asked him about it, “Did I see you reverse the thread on the wire rib to tie it off, and then reverse it again?” He answered that he had done so, and it was so automatic, he didn’t think to explain it. I told him that was probably the best thing he could have taught that night, as most intermediate level tiers don’t know the technique. And, of course, he would have told them, the reason he did it was to tie off the rib in the same direction so as to keep it tight.

When we do our demonstrations (especially for class) we must remember to do them slowly, intentionally teaching every step, giving the reason we do the technique the way we do. When we do a process “automatically,” it looks so easy, but when the students try to imitate it, they often have no clue, and are frustrated by the effort. Many times, as teachers, we do whatever we have observed or inherited from teachers before us, and do not improve what we have received. Yet, all courses can be improved, and we need to add our own creativity to what we teach, so that what we pass on to the next teacher can be improved further by him/her. In the first article I emphasized how important it is to improve your course content and process, in the second I encouraged you to improve and use your lesson plans and procedures, and in this one I am seeking to help you refine some of your methods of teaching.

Why do I tell you this? Because, if you see how meaningful it is to give reasons, it is more likely you will remember to do so, and in so doing, you will facilitate your students’ learning, doing a better job of teaching. Also, I want you to be more gratified by your teaching. I believe teaching is the most enjoyable hard work anyone can do.
Instructors can improve their efforts by doing a better job of preparing materials used in class. Most of the classes that I have attended as a guest do a poor job of distributing materials to students. They bring a deertail, a package of this and that, a box of hooks and some tinsel. After the fly has been demonstrated it begins. “Does anyone have the deertail?” “I don’t have a hook.” “Where’s the tinsel?” The instructor walks around and around the table handing out single items to each student, during the time he or she should be working with the students at the vise. By the time everyone has acquired the necessary materials, few remember what they are supposed to do with them.
The instructor should start organizing materials as soon as the class flies have been chosen. The items required to tie a single fly should then be selected. Using these items each fly is then tied. After the instructor determines that the bunch of stuff makes it possible to complete the fly, a list of the items is written down.

At this point an adequate supply of materials are dumped into a box, ready for class. Wrong. Using the list, the materials required to tie each fly should be packaged in plastic bags. Tiny items such as eyes or small hooks are packaged in smaller bags so they don’t get lost among the hair, fur and feathers. Make up a pack of class materials for each student and several extras just in case someone brings a friend. After the packs are completed write the name of the fly on the bag.

If you are teaching a beginners class I recommend that you make up packs with enough materials for 3 or 4 flies. Beginners usually don’t have a vise and tools at this time, consequently all they will need is materials used during the class. If you expect students with some experience I suggest that you supply enough materials for at least a half-dozen flies. I explain that the extra materials are to be used for “homework.” Including a completed fly in the pack will give the student an example of what the pattern should look like when they begin their homework.

Before you begin to demonstrate the first fly have one of the students pass out all of the packs. As you tie the flies your students can then get a first hand look at what the instructor is actually wrapping around the hook.

Tying the class flies and determining what materials will be needed takes awhile, but it beats finding out that you forgot to bring an item. Putting the packs together also takes time, but doing so gives you more time with your students when it is needed most, minutes after you have completed tying each class fly.
Forking Tails with Scrap Thread

Wayne Luallen

The following method of forking tails on a dry fly was shown to Al Beatty at the Federation of Fly Fishers 1989 Conclave. While Al was demonstrating fly tying at the event, an observer told him about a way to use a scrap piece of thread to achieve what I believe is the simplest method I have ever seen.

When initially applying thread to the hook, make sure to save the waste piece of thread trimmed after the “Jam Hitch” is secure. This piece should be about ten centimeters (4”) long. Proceed with the fly as usual. When applying the fibers of material making up the tail, wind the thread over them from the direction of the hook eye toward the hook bend. Once the tail material is anchored in the correct position, wind back toward the hook eye a very few (2-4) wraps. (Be sure that all thread wraps over and under the tailing material are flat and smooth. A rough surface of twisted and/or randomly placed thread may not allow the tails to separate evenly.) Take the piece of waste thread and loop it around the inside of the hook bend (see drawing “A.”) Separate the tail fibers right and left with your fingers just enough to make an opening that will accept the two strands of thread. (Marvin Nolte suggests pressing down on the tails with a fingernail to separate them. The pressure of the nail against the bend causes the fibers to separate.) Lift the thread strands up between the tails and lay them on top of the hook shank toward the hook eye. Secure the strands in place with two snug (not tight) wraps of thread (see drawing “B.”) Now pull each of the thread ends toward the hook eye. As the pressure of the thread loop pulls up between the tails, the fibers will begin to separate. The degree of split can be adjusted by the amount of pull on the thread ends. Once the proper amount of split is achieved, secure the waste ends with firm wraps of thread winding toward the hook eye before trimming the waste. This method works equally well with 3 tails. The difference being simply that the middle tail has a thread on either side of it. As the thread ends are pulled toward the hook eye, the middle tail is not effected.

Materials of choice for using this method of tailing include any hard material (i.e., Microfibetts, spade hackle barbs, guard hairs, etc.) Softer materials (i.e., duck body feathers, neck hackle barbs from a hen or cock, etc.) are a poor choice for tailing on dry flies. They do not have the strength to function properly when the thread ends are pulled to the hook eye. If intended to support the fly on the water, they lack the rigidity necessary to do the job. Some materials can be bolstered in strength by tying in more than one fiber for each tail member, then coating each group of fibers with Dave’s Fleximent or thinned (with Toluene or Toluol) Goop®.
The Fly Tying Group of the International Federation of Fly Fishers 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.

These goals are:

- 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.
- Develop and disseminate instructional material to enhance the art of fly tying.
- Develop and disseminate instructional material to enhance the art of framing and displaying of flies.
- 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.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, join today!

The Fly Tying Group has implemented a Fly Tying Skills Awards Program to encourage and assist members improve and expand their fly tying skills. Informational materials are being developed for sharing with IFFF Clubs, Councils and members in their fly tying and teaching events. Many of these materials are available on the IFFF website. We continue to develop programs for assisting all members with their fly tying interests. We consider our young members and veterans of most importance.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, join today!