The Fly Tying Group of the Fly Fishers International 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 Fly Fishers International to join the Fly Tying Group.

Click here to join the Fly Tying Group

Fly Tying Group Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/ifff.ftg
Another Fly Fishing Fair in the Book

Now that the Boise Fly Fishing Fair is behind us, I would like to thank the different committees for their volunteer work in making the fair a success. Peggy Brenner for organizing the Fly Tying Demonstrators for the Fair, Chuck Collins and his committee for the Rendezvous, and Fly Tying Group Booth. And Steve Jensen for the wonderful Fly Plate(s), Jessica Atherton for keeping us in line helping us with anything we needed, and Kit Seaton for running the whole Fly Swap at the Rendezvous. Many old and new friends reacquainted and made. I also liked being able to walk from the Grove Hotel and catch Rainbows in the Boise River, but my favorite was my trip to the Owyhee River in Oregon and catching a 22 inch Brown Trout on a size 22 BWO Nymph.

This is the time for getting the Fly Tying Group moving forward, we officially report to the Board of Directors as a committee. What does this mean to us? Nothing other than status reports to the Board on a Monthly basis, but this has been going on since the FTG was started.

The Fly Tying Skill Award Program under Gene Kaczmarek and his committee are working on upgrading the Bronze Fly Tying Skill Award Handbook. They had their first meeting on September 6th and I am confident they will have this completed by December 31st 2018. I personally invite everyone to participate in the Fly Tying Skill Award Program.

Here is something everyone will be hearing about soon, The Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Challenge. This will be big, and the committee is almost done. I am hoping to unveil this very soon, but for now this is just a teaser. Did I mention Fly Tyer Magazine is on board with this as a sponsor?

Next year’s Fly Fishing Fair is scheduled for July 22 through July 27 2019 at Montana State University. We would like to have Fly Tying Demonstrators be the showcase of the Show. Each year we make a request to the Council Presidents and/or Council Fly Tying Chairs each fall to recommend up to 5 fly tiers from within their respective Councils as candidates for invitation. The recommended tier must, in the opinion of the recommendation must be an FFI member in good standing and, in the opinion of peers, a skilled and experienced fly tier, teacher and communicator who would represent a high level of fly tying skill as a demonstrator at the Fly Fishing Fair. If you feel you qualify or know a person that qualifies please contact your Council President and/or Fly Tying Chair. Next we will ask for Fly Tying Demonstrators from the Women’s Connect and Project Healing Waters, both of these groups have many talented tyers that fit the recommendation of being a demo fly tyer.

For those that are on Facebook, please check the FTG Facebook page. There is always something posted to keep everyone update on what the FTG is doing.

Thank you.
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
FFI WOMEN CONNECT

By Patty Lueken

Women Connect blossomed into existence in 2017 as the Federation of Fly Fishers recognized this subgroup. Women teaching women while making friends and having fun together encompasses our goal. The program consists of fly fishing and tying workshops, social outreach to all FFI women, and an Ambassador program at Fair events to help provide answers to women, or actually anyone.

Working with the Learning Center LLC, Workshops provide women with the ability to learn in a non-threatening environment that is fun and non-judgmental. This environment starts with women teaching women and involves women encouraging each other and helping each other. At the same time, the students and instructors connect on a personal level, becoming friends well beyond the classroom setting. These friendships have evolved into fishing together, meeting for lunch, answering questions about fishing and tying flies, and social activities.

When discussing Women Connect, the word “social” dominates the conversation. Traditionally, the FFI involved mostly men. Women took “female” classes if they took any classes at all. It is great that these classes are/were offered, but many women love fly fishing and tying flies. Hence the need to offer a non-judgmental learning experience with a social component so that all women can feel a part of FFI.

This year at the FFI Fair, Women Connect offered an actual Social. Women, and a couple of men, enjoyed the experience. Sandy Carpenter, chair of the Outreach program, contacted the local fly fishing club, Women Fly Fishers of Idaho, to help find a location for the Social and to connect FFI participants with the local women fly fishers. Patti Bantan stepped up to help, recruiting the local fly fishers to help with the Women Connect booth, speak at the Social event and attend various FFI events. This win-win relationship resulted in multiple new memberships in FFI, including Patti Bantan.

Women Connect also had a booth in the exhibit hall at the 2018 FFI Fair. The booth represented a gathering place for women and generated buzz for next year’s workshops as multiple beginning tiers created flies to give away. Yes, beginning level tiers felt confident enough to show others the skills they learned in the two day tying workshop. Hopefully, further training and encouragement of these new tiers with be the incubator to generate some great tiers in a few years. In fact, some of the intermediate workshop participants began working on their FFI Bronze Award after taking the workshop.

Let’s be clear, Women Connect is a part of FFI, and not a separate entity. In fact, Women Connect supported multiple events at the Fair this year including the Fly Tiers BBQ, Project Healing Waters, and the Auction and Dinner to raise money for conservation projects. A number of Women Connect leaders worked outside the Women Connect setting including Molly Semenik, Mary Ann Dozer, Patty Lueken, Gretchen Beatty, Patty Gruse, Joy Knickrehm and Peggy Brenner.

Calling all women fly fishers and tiers. FFI provides some unique opportunities for women through Women Connect. Come experience this inclusive, non-judgmental learning experience. Plans for next year include four fly tying classes, the fly fishing workshop for beginners and intermediate anglers AND lots of social interaction. If you need more information or want to be a part of this wonderful experience, contact FFI, Molly Semenik at mollysemenik@tietheknotflyfishing.com, Sandy Carpenter at sandracrpntr@gmail.com, or Patty Lueken at plueken@luekenlaw.com. Membership in FFI automatically qualifies you as a Women Connect member. Join the fun!! 🦀
Most flies are impressionistic, meaning in appearance, (size and color) they will somewhat resemble the insect they are intended to mimic. A wooly bugger is a good example of an impressionistic fly and because it doesn't mimic any one insect in every detail it can be modified to resemble several. Tied black on black a wooly bugger can be used to imitate a leech. A brown and orange may work well when fish are feeding on crawfish and a gray and silver can be used where you would fish a minnow pattern. Many of the fly patterns we use whether they are dry flies or nymphs will have only one or two attributes of the insect they are to mimic. Most times those attributes are size and color. There is no getting around the importance of matching the naturals in these key identifying features. Like most predators, fish rely on their senses to identify prey from nonfood items. I study the stomach contents of the fish I clean to better understand what they are feeding on besides what I can see from my vantage point above the surface (I highly recommend this). It is rare to find any non food items among the stomach contents. What I do commonly find is the size and color of the most abundant insect or minnow that they are feeding on. With this information you can better prepare your fly offerings for the next time. Knowing that the fish are feeding on tan crawfish that are a half an inch long gives you a big advantage over simply prospecting with an olive streamer. But we can do better. Beyond size and color what other attributes does a crawfish have? If you were to close your eyes and picture a crawfish in your mind what features make it a crawfish and not a shrimp? What makes it a crawfish and not a dragonfly nymph? Adding key identifiers or realism to your fly patterns may help you to get more strikes and ultimately catch more fish. So how do we do this?

It all starts with the hook. What size, type and gauge wire will depend on what you will tie and how it is meant to be fished. The gauge wire can be heavier on sinking flies like nymphs and lighter on surface flies. There are a few other variables like stainless for salt or special shaped hooks for terrestrials and nymphs. The one key factor in choosing a hook for a realistic looking fly is often the length of the shank from the eye to the bend. The fly must fit the hook and have proper gap exposure at the very least. A live specimen is ideal to measure not only to chose a hook but for other aspects as well. The main body of the insect must sit upon the hook shank if it is to be a surface fly and claws and or legs can extend beyond. Once you have selected a hook you must choose the materials to make the fly float or sink. I use a system of deer hair, thread and monofilament for surface flies as opposed to foam. For sinking flies such as shrimp or nymphs I use monofilament and thread. I use white or clear thread almost exclusively and color them with markers instead of looking for materials of a particular color.

Proportions are critical when adding realism. Measurements of body parts such as thorax, abdomen and legs will help ensure your proportions are correct. When a live specimen is not available you can obtain measurements by extrapolating body part sizes from photos.
Here is the example I used in my book “Fly Tying with Monofilament” 2015. You can see the average length of an adult paper wasp is 18mm. I did an image search of this paper wasp and measured the length of the wasp on the screen in centimeters. The overall length was 13 CM, the head was 2 CM, the thorax was 4 CM and the abdomen was 7CM. To get the actual measurements for the fly we must first change the values to millimeters. There are 10 mm for every cm so 13 cm (the length of the image) becomes 130mm. Now we divide the 130 mm by 18mm the length we want the fly to be and we get 7.22 mm. Now each screen measurement can be transferred to keep the proportions correct for the insect. The head which measured 2 cm now becomes 20mm divided by 7.22 for a length of 2.77 mm. We do this for the head, thorax and abdomen and we get 2.77 +5.54 +9.69 =18. So if you tie a wasp using these measurements it will be correctly proportioned. This formula will work with any aspect of the insect including legs and antennae.

Adding color has traditionally been done with natural or dyed materials. To simplify my tying process and the clutter I have found it easier to use white thread over natural deer hair and then color both with markers. Copic markers offer 385 color markers to choose from. These colors can be combined or overlaid to create some amazing lifelike affects.

I’ll demonstrate this in a step by step tying a crawfish fly to mimic its live counterpart.

To start I must measure this live crawfish I wish to mimic for proportions and to select a proper hook.

This crawfish measures roughly 25mm or one inch. I have two choices in my current hook cache, a 2X size #6 or a 2X size #8. If I chose to I could also order a 3X length size #10 that would be comparable. But for the size of the crawfish and the fish I hope to target with this fly I chose the # 8. The #6 would have too large of a hook gap and would exclude most bluegills and red ears. The size #8 should allow me to take bass and crappie as well as larger panfish.

We start with making the two claws out of thread and monofilament. The claws will be tied first and then later tied to the fly. Begin by placing a 15 mm length of 25 lb mono into the vise with 10mm protruding out of the vise jaws. Tie on to the mono against the vise and cover 5mm of the mono with thread.

Next tie on a 5mm piece of 25 lb mono over the thread to double its thickness, this will be the forearm of the claw.
Covers the remaining 5mm of mono with thread, and to it tie a 10mm piece of mono. This will be one of the pinchers.

Tie an additional piece of 25 lb mono 10 mm long to the opposite side for the second pincher. Whip finish and apply flexible head cement. When the head cement dries you can add marker color to match your specimen. By add a second coat of head cement and additional colors you can add depth to your color for a more realistic appearance. Repeat.

Set you claws aside as we tie the body of the fly. Before setting your hook in the vise fit it with a black medium cone head or bead. Then tie on as you would with thread in bobbin.

To the top of the hook tie in four pieces of 25 lb mono from the cone to the bend in the hook.

To each side of the hook tie on two additional pieces of 25 lb mono to increase the width of the body.

Add eight pieces of 25 lb mono (7 mm long) to the top of the mono starting at the bend of the hook. This will make the thorax of the crawfish.
Four pieces of smaller mono such as 15 lb are tied in from the cone head to the bend of the hook to smooth the transition of abdomen to thorax.

Trim the mono to a point and coat with head cement and when dry add a little color. Adding color as we go will add depth to the color and will appear more lifelike. The two eyes are made by heating two pieces of 25 lb mono with a lighter until they ball up on the ends. Color the balled up ends with a dark marker and allow them to dry a bit before tying them to the sides of the thorax.

The claws and walking legs are tied to the underneath of the thorax. The walking legs are made by flattening and bending segments of four pieces of 25 lb mono.

Rubber legs can be substituted for the mono walking legs to add movement but mono legs have the added benefit of being able to be used as a weed guard.

Antennae are tied in on top of the thorax using lengths of 6 lb mono.

Finally coat all exposed thread with head cement between layers of colors starting with light to dark in progression until you achieve the desired look to match your specimen.
These techniques can be used with mono thread as well to create translucent flies to mimic grass shrimp and minnows.

Here you can see the techniques applied over deer hair for a surface fly.

I realize that impressionistic flies are easier to tie and are proven to be effective but adding more attributes to at least some of your flies might give an edge one day on the water. After all “matching the hatch” should be taken literally in my humble opinion.

Be sure to follow my page on Facebook “the Flies of Fred Hannie” and check out my videos on YouTube. My book Fly Tying with Monofilament can be found anywhere books are sold and as an ebook through Kindle direct.
Finally a book on the dark side of Fly Tying. I started to read the book an enjoyed how the author, Kirk Wallace Johnson, informs the reader on how the bird skins were collected and housed in the British Museum. Then how the birds ended up becoming extinct or close to the brink of extinction.

The Victorian style of Full Dress Salmon Fly Tying, how that alone can be an obsession for another group of fly tyers. Then how Edwin Rist got his start in Fly Tying and moving onto the dark side. Then getting caught, and trying to track down anyone who might have purchased the bird skins.

I must say, I enjoyed reading this as I might have run into Edwin while tying at the Northeast Fly Tying Contest in Mass, or the time someone came up to me at the Fly Tying Symposium in New Jersey asking me if I need some feathers to tie “Real Salmon Flies” and no I did not even follow him to his car, Knowing that those items would be on the CITES list. Also many references of website forums, well know publishers, magazines and fly shops.

I would recommend every fly tyer to read this book, maybe you might know some of the names in the book. I sure did.
Tying and Fishing the Ultra Shrimp
by Jerry Coviello

Here is a pattern I fell in love with the first day I tied it, the Ultra Shrimp, created by Bob Popovics. This pattern has been very successful for me, both with stripers in the Northeast and bonefish in Aruba. I tie them on a size 4 saltwater hook, my favorite color has been tan.

I used a 6 to 8 inch slow strip to catch both of these species. For the Bonefish I tried to fish the outside of the turtle grass and sandy spot. For the Striper I fished towards the shore and striped it towards the kayak.

Tying the Ultra Shrimp is easy.

This is a very simple and effective pattern for Sea Trout (in Jersey we call them Weakfish), Redfish (drum), Stripers (Rockfish) and Blues. With the UV Resins that came on the market now make tying epoxy type flies easier to tie. You do not have to place your fly on a rotating drying rack and wait 5 to 10 minutes for them to dry. You can change the color of the materials to match the shrimp in your area.

Materials

- **Hook:** Size 4 to 8 Saltwater Hook (Daiichi 2546)
- **Thread:** Tan monocord or clear mono
- **Mouth:** EP Fibers or Super Hair (color to match your shrimp) Green, White, Clear, Tan, Pink
- **Eyes:** I am melting 30 lb mono and adding a drop of UV Resin.
- **Flash:** Pearl Krystal Flash
- **Underbody:** two strips of .030 lead free wire
- **Body:** UV dubbing color to match shrimp. (Pearl, Green, Tan, Pink)
- **Back:** EP Fibers or Super Hair
- **Shellback:** Thick UV Resin Solarez (I like the Glow in the Dark for muddy waters or for night fishing)
- **Legs:** Brown or tan hackle
Step 1
Please hook in the vise and attach the tying thread, bring your thread to the bend of the hook.

Step 2
Tie in the mouth, I am using Super Hair Tan color. The mouth should extend past the bend of the hood. The length of the mouth is half the shank of the hook. Also the ends should not be even.

Step 3
Leave some long and short fibers past the bend. Wrap your thread towards the middle of the shank of the hook.

Step 4
Trim off the fibers and secure with wraps of thread and bring your thread back to the bend of the hook.

Step 5
From fishing this a few times the weight of the epoxy would turn the fly sideways. So to correct that I added lead free wire to the bottom of the hook shank.
Step 6
First strip of wire added to the bottom of the shank of the hook

Step 7
Here is the second strip of lead free wire secured to the bottom of the shank of the hook

Step 8
Add a few fibers of Pearl Krystal flash for flash

Step 9:
I like to have the flash longer than the mouth. These are used to look like feelers

Step 10
Make two mono eyes or buy EP Crab eyes. Take 30 pound mono and use a lighter to melt balls at the end of the mono, then add a drop of Solarez and cure. Use a Black Sharpie and color the eyes and add more Solarez to make the eyes bigger

Step 11
Tie the eyes on each side of the body. Eyes should extend past the bend of the hook
Step 12
Tie in a brown or tan hackle for legs at the bend of the hook.

Step 13
Dub a reverse taper body. I am using Shrimp UV Ice Dubbing.

Step 14
Wrap the hackle through the body using even spacing.

Step 15
Trim hackle on the top of the body.

Step 16
Tie the back of the shrimp using either EP Fibers, I am using Super Hair. Extend part of it past the eye of the hook for the tail.

Step 17
Whip Finish and cut the thread.
Step 18
Add a coat of UV Resin to the back of the body.

Step 19
Once you have a coat of UV Resin on the top of the body, pull the back of the shrimp and lay it down on top of the Solarez. Add a layer of Solarez to the top of the fly to create the shellback.

Step 20
Once you have the desired shape and thickness of your shellback, use the UV lamp and cure the Solarez.

Step 21
Now trim the Super Hair for the length you want. Usually the length is 1½ to 2 times the shank of the hook.
FFI Calendar of Events

September 2018
September 29, 2018 FFI Eastern Rocky Mountain Council Regional Expo at the Montrose County Fairgrounds in Montrose, CO. Email colo.bruce@gmail.com for more information.

September 29, 2018 FFI Chesapeake Council Fall on the Fly at Susquehanna State Park, Havre De Grace, MD. Free Fly Fishing Classes, classes on water with the pro’s, used equipment sale, and silent auction. Lunch is included with registration. Click here to register or go to CCFFI.org for more info.

October 2018
October 5-6, 2018 FFI Southern Council Fly Fishing Fair at Arkansas State University campus in Mountain Home, AR. For more information click here.

October 19-21, 2018 Fredericksburg Fly Fishers Oktoberfisch will be held in Junction, TX on the Llano River. Activities at the event include: casting instruction, fly tying demos, nightly fly fishing movies, lots of vendor booths, raffles, fellowship with flyfishers from around the state and the Saturday night dinner. Event info, location and registration available here.

October 20-21, 2018 FFI Southwest Council will be holding its 6th Fly Fishing Faire at the Glendale Civic Auditorium in Glendale, CA. Featuring special guest Brian O’Keefe, 30+ vendors, an indoor casting area, over 30 fly tying demonstrations, free presentations on fishing destinations and methods, as well as tying and casting classes. We’ll also have a kids tying and casting area. Click here for more information or call 818.619.3939

January 2019
January 4-6, 2019 Eastern Rocky Mountain Council Fly Fishing Expo, Denver, CO. The event will be held at the Pavilion Building of Denver Mart. Click here for more information.

January 11-12, 2019 Boise Valley Fly Fishers 15th Annual Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (WIFFE). The event will be held at Expo Idaho in Garden City, ID, with two indoor casting ponds, single handed casting and of two handed Spey casting. Current EXPO details can be found at BVFFExpo.com or for more information click here.

January 18-20, 2019 FFI North East Council Fly Fishing Expo, Marlborough, MA. This event will be held at the Royal Plaza. Click here for more information.

January 19, 2019 North Coast Fly Fishers annual Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo in Richfield, OH. The 2019 Expo will feature four seminar series (Masters, Fishing Locations, Fly Tying, and Getting Started), fly tying demonstrations by celebrity and club tiers, many vendors, and non-profit organizations related to the sport of fly fishing. Click here or visit North Coast Fly Fishers for more information.

January 25-27, 2019 FFI Eastern Waters Council Fly Fishing Expo, Edison, NJ. This event will be held at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center. For more information click here.

February 2019
February 1-2, 2019 FFI South East Council Fly Fishing Expo, Atlanta, GA. This event will be held at the Infinite Energy Center. For more information click here.

February 16-17, 2019 FFI Washington State Council Fly Fishing Expo, Lynnwood, WA. This event will be held at the Lynnwood Convention Center. Click here for more information.

February 22-24, 2019 FFI Northern California Council Fly Fishing Expo, Pleasanton, CA. This event will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Click here for more information.

March 2019
March 9-10, 2019 FFI Chesapeake Council Fly Fishing Expo, Lancaster, PA. This event will be held at the Lancaster County Convention Center. For more information click here.

April 2019
April 6, 2019 New Orleans Fly Fishing Expo at The Deutsches Haus, New Orleans on Bayou St John. Click here for the event flyer and more information.

July 2019
July 23-27, 2019 FFI Annual Fly Fishing Fair will be held at Montana State University campus in Bozeman, MT. More information to come.
*Tying Times* is the official newsletter of the Fly Tying Group of Fly Fishers International (FFI). It is published quarterly as a major venue for informing members of projects and upcoming events of interest to them.

Each issue also contains articles that include planning and teaching tying workshops, helpful tying techniques and descriptions of tying materials and their unique characteristics that make them especially suitable for specific tying applications.

It is intended that members may learn something new from each issue that will help them expand their fly tying skills and thus contribute to our mission, which generally is to preserve the art form of fly tying for all fly fishers.

If you are not a member and would like to receive the benefit of *Tying Times*, please join the Federation by using the following URL: [http://flyfishersinternational.org/Membership/MembershipOverview/tabid/779/Default.aspx](http://flyfishersinternational.org/Membership/MembershipOverview/tabid/779/Default.aspx).

Are you interested in contributing to the newsletter? For assistance or to send articles, send them to ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.