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
Change is exciting! I’m sure you noticed when you accessed this issue of Tying Times that our organizational website has a much different appearance, and the name of our organization is now Fly Fishers International. The new name, logos and website were announced officially on April 11 to signify to our members and other fly fishers that Fly Fishers International has just begun a significant evolution in how we represent the fly fishing community. Our mission and strategic vision has not changed. We still serve as a strong advocate to support, enhance and preserve fly fishing opportunities. And we still consider environmental stewardship and education as fundamental to how we represent our members and their enjoyment of fly fish.

So, what are the changes and why are they needed? The answers to these questions emerged two years ago when we asked our members and other fly fishers for information we needed to develop a new strategic plan for our organization. We started by surveying approximately 14,000 fly fishers in three sample populations, some members but others not, and the first discoveries were that close to 90 percent of those who purchase fly fishing equipment don’t even know we exist as an organization. Those who are members knew little about what we do. So, we asked them what we should be doing to better represent fly fishers and the answers were consistent across the three sample populations, regardless of membership, age or gender. They told us that we should be a strong advocate for fly fishers to make sure their opportunities to fly fish continue, and they identified conservation of natural resources and education on all aspects of fly fishing as very important to them.

Well, we think we do those things, but it was obvious that changes were needed to improve what we do and to grow our organization. The next step involved hiring, Brickhouse Creative, a company that specializes in branding and solving problems such as those we discovered. They recommended that we needed to improve our visibility so that fly fishers, including our members, know and remember who we are and what we do, and we need to improve the methods and effectiveness of how we deliver conservation and education value to members. Their recommendations for how to do that included changing and simplifying our name and logos, redesigning our website to deliver meaningful information to members and those we hope to encourage as members and posting current information on what we’re doing in press releases and other public media outlets. Public announcement of the new website is first
step in our announcement of change. But wait till you see the next issue of Flyfisher magazine in May. You’ll be very impressed. Just one more thing for now...we also have developed a professional Fundraising Plan that will be implemented this summer to fund the new changes and support our expanding conservation activities and grants and design of a comprehensive education curriculum for the new Fly Fishing Learning Center.

**Plan to attend the 2017 Fly Fishing Fair.** Yes, planning also is well underway for the 2017 Fair that will be hosted again the first week of this August in Livingston, Montana. Activities of the Fly Tying Group will be featured prominently, beginning with our Annual Meeting on Tuesday morning of the Fair. All members are invited to attend, participate in seating of new officers and Board of Governor members, learn of new program activities and provide input on what you would like to see us doing to teach and preserve the art form of fly tying. That meeting will be followed by our annual Rendezvous, BBQ and raffles, and you will not want to miss this event. This often is the only opportunity for many members to see and visit with one another each year, and it’s always fun to see what items have been donated for the raffles and “fly swap”.

The raffles are our very important way of raising funds to support development, printing and delivery of our many educational materials, certificates, pins, patches, etc. during the year. But it also is a fun event because of the many interesting and sometimes unusual items our members bring for the raffle. So, please do bring any donations you’re able to acquire around your home waters for the event, or send them to headquarters in Livingston by mid-July, marked for the Fly Tying Group Rendezvous. Chuck Collings chairs our Rendezvous Planning Committee; so, don’t hesitate to give him a call if you have any questions regarding what may be appropriate raffle items.

Demonstration fly tying will be prominent on Friday and Saturday of the Fair. Some of our most innovative fly tiers and teachers in the United States will be demonstrating and discussing their methods, as will our featured international fly tiers. You truly will have the opportunity to watch and visit first hand with some of the best fly tiers from around the world.

The Fly Tying Group Booth will also be featured during the fair where members of our Board of Governors will look forward to answering any questions you may have on fly tying and the many exciting changes that are taking place within Fly Fishers International to make your membership a valuable part of your fly fishing experience. Please visit our new website at [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org) to learn much more about the 2017 Fly Fishing Fair and of what Fly Fishers International is doing for you.
INTRODUCTION
To this point in the series, the individual flies have been mounted in their fly boxes and the mats have been cut. What remains is to attach the fly boxes to the mat boards, build the back cover, and assemble the frame. This article will focus on attaching the fly boxes and constructing the back cover.

ATTACHING THE FLY BOXES
In the previous article, I identified the bottom most mat as the “main mat” and stated that it is the mat to which the fly boxes are attached. Recall that the fly boxes were constructed to be ¼ inch wider on each side than the opening cut for that box in the main mat. Pencil guidelines are thus drawn on the non-color side of the main mat ¼ inch outside of each opening.

Using a round toothpick and Elmer’s wood glue (or a similar product), I run a small bead of glue along the edge of each fly box (figure 1).

Attach the box to the main mat using the guidelines for proper alignment. CAUTION: Make certain that you attach the fly box under the correct opening and that the flies are correctly oriented. I have experienced disasters in both areas and can assure you that it is quite humbling to flip the main mat over after the fly boxes have dried only to find one of them mounted upside down.

Continue this process until all of the fly boxes have been attached (figure 2). Set the main mat aside and allow the glue to fully dry.

BUILDING THE BACK COVER
One of the advantages of using this style of fly plate construction is that it allows you to use a wide variety of frames. You aren’t restricted to using only those frames designed for shadow box mountings. However, it becomes necessary to construct a back cover to protect the fly boxes as well as making the back of the fly plate more aesthetically pleasing.

Unfortunately, it is much easier to build the back cover than it is to describe the process. As follows are five simple...
diagrams which, if used in conjunction with the instructions and examples, should guide you through the process. Please be patient and read the information carefully.

The first step is to select and cut a mat board for the back cover. It can be any color; my personal preference is antique white. The size of the mat board is determined by three parameters: the size of the main mat board + 2 times the depth of the fly boxes + 2 times the thickness of the foam core lining. For example: assume that the main mat is 16 x 20 inches, the fly boxes are 1 inch deep, and that we will use \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch thick foam core for the lining.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Width} & = 16 + 2(1) + 2(\frac{1}{4}) = 18\frac{1}{2} \text{ inches} \\
\text{Height} & = 20 + 2(1) + 2 (\frac{1}{4}) = 22\frac{1}{2} \text{ inches}
\end{align*}
\]

Why didn't I just tell you to increase the size of the main mat by 2½ inches for both width and length? Because the depth of the fly boxes is a variable.

Once the mat board for the back cover has been cut to the correct size, lay it color side down. On the main mat, measure the distance from the sides of the fly boxes to the edge of the mat board. Record these measurements for the sides, the top, and the bottom. Depending upon your placement of the fly boxes, those measurements may all be the same, the top may be different than the sides and bottom, the bottom may be different than the top and sides, or the top and bottom may be different than the sides. The sides should be the same. From each of the values, subtract \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch (thickness of the foam core lining plus some “wiggle room”).

For our example, assume that the measurements are 3 inches for the top, 3 inches for the sides, and 4 inches for the bottom. Subtracting \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch from each of those measurements gives us 2½ inches top and sides, and 3½ inches for the bottom.

Adjust the blade on the mat cutter so that it cuts almost but not quite through the mat board so that it can be easily folded later (this was more fully discussed earlier in conjunction with constructing the fly boxes). Using diagram 1 as a reference, make the first two side cuts (indicated as A in the diagram) in the non-color side of the mat board. In our example, those two cuts would be made 2½ inches from the side edges.

In a similar manner, make the cut for the top and bottom using diagram 2 as a reference (indicated as B in the diagram). As above, these cuts are made in the non-color side of the mat board. Note that neither cut is made across the full width of the mat board. They are made between the cuts (cut A) made above. In our example the top cut would be made 2½ inches from the top edge and the bottom cut made 3½ inches from the bottom edge.
At this point, all of the cuts have been made in the non-color side of the mat board. The remaining cuts are to be made in the color side. As before, the blade on the mat cutter cuts almost but not quite through the mat board so that it can be easily folded later.

The distance from the edge of the mat board of the cuts in the color side is based upon the earlier measurements + the depth of the fly boxes + the thickness of the foam core lining the cover. The cuts for the sides are parallel to the side cuts made earlier except in the color side of the mat. In diagram 3, those cuts are represented by the dash lines designated cut C. In our example, those cuts will be made 3¾ inches from the side edges of the mat board (2½ + 1 + ¼ = 3¾ inches).

Likewise, make the cut for the top and bottom using diagram 4 as a reference (indicated as D in the diagram). As above, these cuts are made in the color side of the mat board and are represented by a dashed line on the diagram. Note that neither cut is made across the full width of the mat board. As above, they are made between the cuts (cut A) made above. In our example the top cut would be made 3¾ inches from the top edge and the bottom cut made 4¼ inches from the bottom edge.

Using an Exacto knife (or similar), carefully cut out the four pieces near the corners as shown in diagram 5. Removal of those pieces will facilitate the folding of the top, bottom, and sides to form the protective cover.

Before folding and taping the box, I usually cut a small opening in the back cover to permit inclusion of additional information concerning the fly plate. This is a good place to include information that is important to be associated with the plate but which, if included on the front, may detract from the flies.
The back cover is folded and all seams are taped. I generally use two layers of tape; the initial taping is done using Scotch brand Magic Tape. I then use a heavier tape (3M Transpore) with a waffle-patterned surface over the Scotch Magic Tape, mostly for aesthetic reasons. Once the back cover is folded, the sides will extend beyond the top and bottom margins. These extensions should be trimmed off so that the top and bottom margins are straight.

The last step is to line the box with ¼ inch thick foam core. The foam core is cut to size and glued to the inside of the cover using Elmer’s wood glue or a similar product.

**NEXT IN THE SERIES**

The last article in the series will include a discussion on frames and their construction, the use of acrylic lites (in framing jargon, the lite is the glass or acrylic used in the frame), lint removal, sealing the finished frame, and the installation of the hanging hardware.

**Who Are We?**

The Fly Tying Group of Fly Fishers International (FFI) 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 the use of materials and tying techniques are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly.

The Fly Tying Group publishes a quarterly newsletter, Tying Times, that is intended to inform members of its most current activities; as well as share information with our members that may be useful to them in their fly tying activities. Important functions are those that are open to all members at the annual meeting, rendezvous, workshops and fly tying demonstrations during Annual Fly Fishing Fairs. A Fly Tying Skills Awards Program has been implemented to encourage and assist members to improve and expand their fly tying skills. The Video Library shares information from some of the best fly tiers in the world tying their favorite fly patterns in a visual format. We continue to develop Informational materials for sharing with FFI Clubs, Councils and members for use in their fly tying and teaching events. Many of these materials are available on the FFI website. Much of what the Fly Tying Group does revolves around sharing and teaching so that all members may help us achieve our purpose of preserving the art of fly tying and the fly fishing experience.
Learn to tie the Bitch Creek Nymph then make a Lanyard

Author - Jerry Coviello
Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors Fly Tying Group
FFI Fly Tying Field Editor of FlyFishers Magazine
Dyna-King Pro Team Member

I like when you can take something you learned and use it for another project. I was looking for a better lanyard because I did not like the one that I had since it hung around my neck and got in the way when I went to pull my sling pack from my back to my front. The lanyard always got in the way. I went online and saw a lanyard made from parachute cord and it attached to the suspenders of the waders. So I figured that I could now take that idea and do the same thing or try to attach it to the sling pack's shoulder strap. The lanyard was made from two colors of 550 parachute cord and the weave was exactly like how I tie the Bitch Creek Nymph. So I figured here is a two for one article on how to tie the Bitch Creek and then make your own lanyard.

Bitch Creek Nymph

Materials

- **Hook:** 4XL Nymph Hook (size I am using is an 8)
- **Thread:** Black 6/0
- **UnderBody:** 0.030 round lead-free wire
- **Tail & Antenna:** Round rubber leg material
- **Abdomen:** Black and Orange Chenille woven so the black is on top
- **Legs:** Brown Hackle
- **Thorax:** Black Chenille

Step 1: Wrap the shank of the hook with your thread.

Step 2: Tie a strip of 0.030 wire on the far side of the shank and secure it along the shank.

Step 3: Once you tie the wire onto the shank of the hook, stop at the bend and just wiggle it back and forth so it breaks off.
Step 4: Tie in a second piece of wire along the near side on the shank of the hook and bring your thread to the bend of the hook. Then wiggle it so it breaks at the bend of the hook.

Step 5: Here is the top to show how the wire should be tied onto the hook.

Step 6: Cover the wire with wraps of thread. This will secure the wire in place. You can also add a coat of head cement after you finish wrapping the wire with your thread.

Step 7: Tie in the rubber legs behind the eye to form the antenna, then tie the rubber leg along the shank towards the bend of the hook.

Step 8: Secure the rubber leg material to the bend of the hook for form the tail. Bring your thread back to the eye.

Step 9: Secure the second rubber leg material to form the antenna, then bring your thread to the bend of the hook. Securing the second rubber leg material to the hook shank.
Step 10: The tail and the antenna are complete.

Step 11: Another view of the tail and antenna from the top.

Step 12: Tie in the orange and Black Chenille at the bend of the hook. Orange under the shank and Black on top of the shank.

Step 13: This is the weaving process. The first knot is always the hardest. Also you can cut off the thread but first put a few half hitches in. The trick to this process is always remember that the black chenille will always be on top of the shank of the hook while the orange chenille is on the bottom of the shank of the hook.

Step 14: Pull the knot tight. And repeat again.

Step 15: Keep weaving the thorax.
Step 16: A few more knots.

Step 17: Once we get two thirds of the hook shank tied, we will tie off the orange chenille on the bottom of the hook shank.

Step 18: Once the Orange chenille is secured then trim the excess.

Step 19: Tie in a brown hackle for the legs.

Step 20: Wrap the black chenille to from the thorax. Make the thorax fuller.

Step 21: Tie off the Black Chenille and cut the excess off.
Step 22: Wrap the Brown hackle through the thorax black chenille.

Step 23: Tie off the Brown Hackle and cut the excess.

Step 24: Whip finish.

Step 25: Complete

Top of the fly

Bottom of the fly. This fly works for all kinds of fish, Trout, Bass, and panfish. Give it a shot.
Making the Lanyard

Parachute cords are a great survival item to carry on you. You can make or buy a parachute cord bracelet. When you need a rope for any situation all you need to do is unravel the bracelet and use the cord. As an Eagle Scout I knew the value of tying knots, guess the saying is true once an Eagle Scout always and Eagle Scout. So not only is this Parachute Lanyard holding your small fishing items, it also can be used for an emergency.

Materials
Green 550 Parachute Cord
Orange 550 Parachute Cord
16 Gauge Copper Wire (jewelry Making wire)
2 Cord Locks for double strands
Black 4mm Parachute Cord for the loops
Swivel Snaps to hold items

Step 1: Making the loops that will hold your fishing items. This is Black 4mm Parachute cord, 10 inches long. Make a loop by tying a Surgeon’s Loop Knot.

Step 2: Cut the ends, but leave a small tag sticking out of the knot.

Step 3: These are the tags sticking out of the knot.

Step 4: With a lighter melt the tag ends. This will prevent the tags from fraying and slipping out of the knot.
Step 5: Make 6 loops for your lanyard.

Step 6: Depending on how long you want to make your lanyard is the amount of 550 Parachute cord you will need for the middle. This loop will connect/attach to your waders or even a jacket. I am making an 18 inch lanyard, so I need to cut a length of 36 inches. I then slip on the two Cord Locks.

Step 7: I am going to fuse the two ends together to form a continuous loop. Use a lighter and melt both ends.

Step 8: While they are hot push tip to tip and the plastic fibers will cool and be fused together.

Step 9: Cut Five feet of Orange 550 Parachute Cord and Five feet of Green Parachute Cord. You can use what every colors you like, but for this demonstration having 2 different colors. This will show how to keep the Green on top and the Orange on the bottom. Just like the Bitch Creek Nymph. Fusing the Orange and Green strands together to make one strand. Using your lighter melt both ends.

Step 10: The two cords fused together.
Step 11: I just took a piece of wood and hammered 2 nails to hold the ends tight. Nails for this lanyard are 12 inches apart.

Step 12: Lay the Orange and Green cord behind the center loop. Make sure the fused ends are in the middle of the loop.

Step 13: Close up of where the starting point will be.

Step 14: The starting knot. The green cord goes over the middle center loop, while the orange cord goes under the middle center loop.

Step 15: Pull tight.

Step 16: The next knot. Still keeping the Green Cord on the top of the middle center loop and the Orange Cord goes underneath the middle center loop. These are just simple overhand knots. Also known as a cobra weave.

Step 17: Showing the third knot.
Step 18: This is the weave for the whole lanyard.

Step 19: Add the 16 gauge copper wire to the middle center loop. The copper wire is used to shape the lanyard and it will hold that shape for you, you can change the shape any way you want.

Step 20: While you are weaving, you can add the loops that will hold your fly fishing tools. I also added the Swivel Snaps to the loops. This also can be done after the weave is complete. You just would have to sneak the loop under one of the wraps of the weave.

Step 21: As you can see each loop was added during the weave. I am now at the end of the lanyard. I will cut the ends off and with a lighter melt the tag ends.

Step 22: Close up of the final knot. Make sure the last few knots are very tight.

Step 23: Melt the tag ends of the orange and green cords.

Final – this is how the Lanyard attaches to the waders. Simple and it isn’t around my neck.
Fly Fishing in the Red Hills Region of South Georgia and North Florida

BY TOM H. LOGAN

Reprinted by permission from Tall Timbers eJournal, Winter 2017

I have the opportunity to visit with many fishermen at our local lakes and find that most know a little about fly fishing. A few even tell me they own a fly rod they intend to use some day. But many of those fly rods are left at home, in part, because of the perception that fly fishing is for trout in the mountains or on an expensive trip to the Florida Keys to catch world-class tarpon or bonefish. What few realize is that we have some of the best warm water fly fishing that can be found right here in the Red Hills and Big Bend area of south Georgia and north Florida. You would be hard pressed to find another region with the variety of waters, diversity of fish species and fishing opportunities that occur during every month of the year in our area.

Willow flies (Hexagenia limbata) emerge from Lake Talquin.
Photo by Tom Logan.

The waters that occur in the Red Hills around Thomasville, Georgia and extend all the way through the Big Bend area to the Gulf of Mexico host natural wetlands that generally comprise lakes, marshes, rivers and streams. Many natural lakes of sizes that range from a few acres to thousands are scattered throughout the Red Hills. Lake Talquin that was constructed on the Ochlockonee River in 1927, for hydroelectric power, is one of the two large impoundments constructed in the area. The other is Lake Seminole that was completed in 1952, where the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers come together to form the Apalachicola River. Those are the larger rivers of note, but somewhat unique to the area are the many smaller streams that flow from springs and seeps below the Red Hills into the Gulf of Mexico, each with their individual differences and fish species. And of course, small ponds have been constructed and stocked with fish throughout the Red Hills. The growing season is long in these biologically rich systems and they support fisheries and fly fishing opportunities that are as diverse as the systems themselves.

Locals typically use crickets and worms or “crank baits” to catch their share of fish in these warm waters, but it may surprise you to find that many of the dry and especially wet flies that have caught trout around the world for hundreds of years are remarkably effective patterns for taking southern bream, black bass and other fish. A little knowledge of the biological factors that govern the lives of these fish, their growth and reproduction, may suggest why.

The lakes and streams of the area do have similarities because they generally are of the same geographic region and rainfall. But factors that include size, depth, bottom shape, and width; whether they are shaded by local forests, are still water (lake) or flowing (stream); spring fed or laterally flow through a forested watershed; and whether they are tidally influenced, as is the case of the freshwater streams that flow into the Gulf, do affect the abundance and diversity of plant and animal life these systems support.

The bream species that live in the natural lakes predominantly include bluegill and fliers (the locals call them flyer bream) with warmouth and shellcrackers occasionally...
taken. They also support an abundance of largemouth bass. These species are members of the sunfish family *Centrarchidae*. Black crappie also are a favorite fish to catch, especially during winter months, and don’t underestimate the challenge of landing the primitive bowfin on a small baitfish pattern and light fly rod. Species of bream typical in the area stream and river systems are the spotted and redbreast sunfish with an occasional bluegill taken from deeper waters. Redbreasts are called “river bream”, and the spotted sunfish a “stumpknocker” by locals. Stumpknockers often hold near stumps and knees of the cypress trees that dominate the forest edge along these flowing streams; they are voracious little fighters on the fly, thus the name. Although largemouth black bass do occur in these streams, most interesting is the fact that locally distinct species of bass, that include Suwannee and shoal bass, occur somewhat exclusively in the respective stream systems where they apparently evolved. This is likely because many of these relatively short streams originate distinctly from unique water sources near the Florida/Georgia state lines and terminate at the Gulf with little or no natural opportunity for fish to interact among these individual systems. Any interaction that has occurred is likely due to fishermen carrying and releasing live fish from one system to another for various reasons.

Obviously, water temperatures and clarity are important to the fish that are endemic to each of these systems. Temperatures do cool in area lakes from November through March during our temperate winters. The bream and bass spend more time in the depths during this period and are not as responsive to flies at or near the surface.

But winter is when take of crappie can get exciting on small baitfish patterns, such as Deceivers predominantly in white. Interestingly though, most of our small streams or rivers are heavily influenced by the springs that feed them. The spring waters come out of the ground relatively warm throughout the year, and some of these streams never cool below 65 degrees during winter. Therefore, the fish and the foods they eat remain active so that these spring fed streams and rivers are fishable throughout the winter months. I’ve caught stumpknockers in the Wacissa River during winter under the water surface — as though it was summer — while the air
temperature was freezing and ice formed in the guides on my rod.

The plant communities in these aquatic systems, though, are key to their fish abundance and the diversity they support. We as fishermen generally understand that plants and other structure provide habitat for fish to hide from predators and feed, and where young fish survive to eventually become breeders. So, this is where we usually fish for them. Those of us who have ever fished over a bream bed also know that sunfish, both bream and bass, require shallow sandy or gravely bottoms for spawning in open areas of vegetation.

**Biological Perspective**

Just as plants provide habitat for fish, plant communities are perhaps even more important as habitat for the natural foods fish depend upon for survival, growth and reproduction. Freshwater fish generally eat aquatic insects, small crustaceans, macroinvertebrates and smaller fish throughout the world. This is as true for a brown trout in an Irish stream, or a golden trout in the Sierras, as for a bluegill or bass in our local warm waters. Many species of aquatic insects are specific in the plant species, woody structure or bottom type they occupy as habitat, just as are the many species of birds and mammals that occur in the different cover types where we find them. Those of us who hunt or watch birds learn where to look for certain species and where not to look, because we have some understanding of their habitat relationships. This also applies to aquatic insects; so, wetland systems that support abundant and diverse plant communities likewise will support insect populations of high numbers and species diversity as food for fish. Aquatic insects, in their respective life forms, are especially important in the diets of fish, and the mayflies and caddisflies are just as important to fish in Florida as they are to trout in Rocky Mountain streams.

The fact that mayflies and caddisflies occur and are important food items for fish in this area may be surprising to some, but true. More than 80 species of mayflies and 200 species of caddisflies have been documented to occur in Florida waters, but we seldom see them emerging as dramatically in the Southeastern United States as is typical of
the western rivers and streams. This probably is because our wetland systems are vast and our growing seasons long and the ecological need to emerge in a hurried way is not necessary for insect survival in our temperate climate. More typical in our area is to see a tiny baetis occasionally rise as a single individual, a cinnamon sedge skitter across the water in fall, or notice a single caddis out of the corner of our eye on the brim of our cap. A few exceptions exist though, that include two of the larger species of mayflies that occur in the Red Hills and Big Bend area. These are the willow fly (Hexagenia limbata) and a large white mayfly (Tortopsis puella). Both do emerge in impressive numbers at specific times during the summer months. Emerging is when an immature insect rises generally from the water bottom, up through the open water column to the surface, where it then molts as an adult with wings, to fly away from the water to breed. The Hexagenia emerges at first light through morning hours, while the Tortopsis emerges at the very last light of day, usually to have bred, returned to the water to lay eggs and died by next morning. These species are burrowers in their immature forms, their body lengths alone can exceed one inch; fishing fly pattern imitations that include the White Wulff or Western Coachman, when the adults are emerging and drying their wings on the surface, can be very exciting. The Hexagenia typically occurs in still waters along the shorelines of Lakes Talquin and Seminole. The Tortopsis occurs where water is moving and clay banks are present for burrowing of immatures like along the Wacissa, Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers; although, I have observed one Tortopsis individual on Lake Talquin, likely from a clay-banked feeder stream.

So how does all this apply to our fly selection and the way we fish them for bream and bass? Clearly, we could do as most locals would and fish a cricket, or a minnow struggling under a cork, or even fish a Mepps spinner and catch plenty of fish. We also could fish a popping bug effectively with a fly rod. But, we think more biologically when we fish for trout; so, why wouldn’t we prepare in the same way for bream and black bass? We approach the trout stream, analyze where a fish is likely holding and then tie on a fly that we anticipate will mimic the natural insect the fish is waiting to eat. Perhaps we’ve seen an insect on the water. Logic would suggest a similar approach could be productive for our warm water fish, and I can assure you that it is. I’ve worked a career as a professional wildlife biologist, and generally think of this as a biological approach to fly fishing, regardless of whether fishing cold or warm water.

I always think of water, and more importantly the plants and other structure under the surface, as fish habitat and I put my fly where I think a big bluegill probably is waiting for an easy meal. But I select the flies I fish from an understanding of predator prey relationships. All animals, whether fish, mammal or bird, must eat for survival and successful reproduction. This is fundamental to perpetuation of their species. While some are grazers and others predators, game fish around the world generally are predators, which means they eat other vertebrate and invertebrate animals to survive. This reality certainly applies to our southern bream and bass. The importance of this to fly selection is that there are two selection criteria that are very important to predator survival. Their prey must be abundant and it must be readily available in those numbers for the fish to not expend more energy foraging than it consumes. And when you apply this concept to the most abundant and available forms of aquatic insects, which are important prey of fish around the world — whether cold or warm water — it is the emerging insect life forms and adults, while on the water surface, which most fulfill these two criteria. Whether we think about it in this context or not, this is why we fish the popular dry patterns, in addition to the fact that it is exciting when a nice fish explodes on the surface fly. But, it is the historic wet patterns that are even more effective, because they more so mimic the perfect prey form that is essential to fish survival.
Few fly fishermen tie or fish the wet patterns any more, but I can assure you that I catch my share of the bream and bass that occur in the Big Bend waters on wet patterns. These include the Irish Invicta, Fiery Brown and Green Peter, the Welch Coch-a-bon-ddu, Iron Blue Dun, Partridge, and Orange and other soft-hackle patterns; and of course the Old Gray Mare and Western Coachman. This is why a Partridge and Orange that was first tied for taking brown trout in the North Country of England perhaps 400 years ago is also an excellent pattern for taking big bluegill in our natural local lakes. The pattern is a perfect imitation of an abundant and available prey form rising up through the open water column, as are the others I mention. The White Wulff and Talquin Sedge; although not as historic, are very good surface patterns, and the Deceiver and Wacissa are streamer patterns on which I take largemouth, Suwannee and other species of black bass.

I’m often asked whether I “match the hatch” — I don’t. I’ve also been asked if insects actually occur around Tallahassee that look like the Irish Invicta or Old Gray Mare — they don’t. I fish patterns that more generally mimic insect life forms, color tones and behavior, rather than imitate exact species-specific details. I often wonder what a fish thinks when it sees some of the flies I fish, but let a big bass take a size 14 Invicta and turn like a wild horse, or watch a big bluegill push a wake from under a lily pad to take an Old Gray Mare and the excitement of the moment makes the question somewhat unimportant.

Lakes Jackson, Hall, Iamonia, Carr, Talquin and Seminole are all very good fly fishing venues, but my favorite is Lake Miccosukee, just to the east of Tallahassee. Miccosukee is a natural lake named after the Native American tribe of the Seminole Nation that once occupied the area. The lake is shallow, highly organic with floating islands and dark water; much of its surface is covered with the large leaves of water lilies and lotus the locals call “bonnets.” Lake Miccosukee, although larger than some, is typical of the many natural lakes in Florida. It is rich with aquatic life and fly fishing can be spectacular.

Fishing on Miccosukee and other similar area lakes is most productive during the early and late hours of the day, but my preference is to be on the lake before first light of morning. That’s a good time to be on the water, when the only sounds are pig frogs visiting with one another, an occasional alligator can be heard taking a big bowfin and a bluegill sucking an insect off the surface. The birds soon begin singing, and I sometimes enjoy seeing them as much as catching another fish. Although I fish all the patterns I’ve mentioned, my fly of choice is often the Western Coachman. I make my first cast to the edge of a lily at the first hint of light, and I let the fly sit on the surface for a few seconds. I twitch it a bit and if it hasn’t disappeared down the mouth of a bream, I start stripping it in short strips sub-surface for six to eight feet. The retrieve ends with a gentle lift of the fly through the water column to make my next cast. It is during this lift when the fly is often taken if not before. So, I fish the Coachman during each cast as a dry, stripe it as an insect or small fish moving laterally in the water column, and then...
lift it as an emerging immature insect rising to the surface. I usually apply a small amount of silicon dressing in the wing, so the fly will stay dry, and on or in the surface film, until it gets wet enough to sink 8 to 12 inches below the surface with gentle strips. This gives me a better perspective for how fish are responding the fly. They seem to take the fly on the surface some days, while sub-surface on others.

I generally fish all patterns the way I describe for the Western Coachman. However, I fish the White Wulff only dry on the surface, and if fish appear to be taking the Western mostly on the surface, I will add floatant as needed to keep it floating. I fish the Talquin Sedge and Coch-a-bon-ddu, with just a little floatant in the wing to keep them in the film. The Old Gray Mare is fished identically to the Western, but I fish wet patterns like the Invicta and Fiery Brown by stripping them purposefully under the surface and then lifting them as an emerger. The Deceiver and Wacissa are stripped to imitate a bait fish swimming laterally under the surface. I often fish soft-hackles like the Partridge and Orange by themselves or as a dropper under a Western Coachman. I typically let a soft-hackle sink a few feet when fished as a single fly and then lift it as an emerger for the take. Each pattern is fished on our rivers and streams similar to that on lakes, except that stream currents provide movement of the fly.

I’ve fished other similar dry and wet patterns with success, but the patterns I mention above are those that seem to best satisfy the predator feeding criteria I describe. Weighted nymph patterns that sink deeper will be taken when fish are staying deep, and small poppers are always productive for bream, as are larger surface patterns for bass when they come to the surface. But, I enjoy fishing the patterns I do and perhaps most importantly, I have confidence that I’ll usually catch fish when I fish them. There also is something satisfying about catching a big, copper-headed bluegill on a pattern that was designed several hundred years ago for taking trout in another part of the world. So, add a little biological perspective to your fly fishing for bream and bass and give some of the historic patterns a try. Logic would suggest that if they’re still around after 400 years, they are probably still a good choice for catching your next fish.

---

**Referenced Fly Patterns**

Photos, details and recipes included for the following: Deceiver, Partridge and Orange, Irish Invicta, Western Coachman, The Talquin Sedge and The Wacissa. Photos only included for the following: Old Grey Mare, Irish Fiery Brown, White Wulff, Iron Blue Dun and The Welch Coch-a-bon-ddu. All photo credits to Tom Logan.

---

**Deceiver**

by Tom Logan

The Deceiver is a very versatile streamer pattern that is intended to imitate a small bait fish that will be attractive as prey for larger predatory fish. It typically is tied with lighter colors of feathers and buck tail with a little flash, but it can be tied with any combination of colors and in any size from on size 10 bronze hooks for bream to 2/0 stainless steel hooks and larger for saltwater species. The techniques for tying this pattern are generally those that are used for tying many of the other saltwater patterns. Weight can be added with dumbbell and bead-chain eyes or other weights to fish the pattern deep or it can be fished shallow with no weight other than the hook.

---

**Materials List:**

**Hook:** Daiichi 472, Size 10 – 2/0

**Thread:** Black Danville's Fly-Master Waxed, 6/0 or 3/0

**Wing:** Two Whiting Farms White or Grizzly Rooster Feathers, two strands of Crystal Flash Doubled, White and Chartreuse Buck Tail and Brown Buck Tail or Peacock Herl on Top
**Body:** Silver Mylar Tinsel, Medium with Wire Rib - Optional

**Head:** Black Thread/Head Cement

**Tie the Deceiver as Follows:**

1. Bend the barb down as the hook is placed in the vise and start the thread directly behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread towards rear in side by side or touching wraps, counter spinning the thread to flatten. Wrap thread to approximately 2 eye widths behind the eye and leave thread hanging. This becomes the tie-in point for all materials and is where the back of the head begins.

2. (Optional) Tie-in 6 inch length of Mylar tinsel where thread hangs with three touching thread wraps towards hook bend. Wrap Mylar rearward in touching wraps to approximately mid-way on shank between the barb and point of hook. Reverse and wrap Mylar forward in touching wraps back to where the thread hangs and tie-off Mylar under shank with three forward and touching wraps. Cut Mylar tag under shank and leave thread hanging.

3. Select two hackle feathers and hold them in fingers of left hand with tips matching and top to top. Remove barbs from both sides of both feather shafts while holding the matched feather tips by left fingers. Leave barbs on the tips of the hackles at a length that is approximately 1.5 the length of the hook shank (eye to barb or hook bend). Hold paired feathers between left fingers at the point where the barbs remain and others have been removed. Tips should be even and the two hackle feathers should be top to top with tips flaring. The point where the barbs begin becomes the tie-in point for the hackles. Hold the paired hackles between the left thumb and middle finger with hackles horizontal to hook shank and barbs vertical. Place the paired hackles on top of the hook shank with the tie-in point of the hackles on top of where the thread is hanging. Make one soft thread wrap over the hackle shafts and pull upward to tighten slightly and make two more wraps forward and touching in the same manner. Leave the thread hanging and release hold on the hackles to see if they lay horizontal and with barbs vertical. The hackles may be adjusted for position by holding them by the tips and ends of the bare shafts and changing their position by shifting the tips and shafts slightly for side to side. Make three more forward and touching thread wraps when satisfied with position, cut remaining stubs of shafts, wrap thread to hook eye and then wrap in touching wraps rearward to original tie-in point. Do not wrap past or behind the original thread wrap.

4. Tie two strands of Crystal Flash with three forward and touching thread wraps, double over and wrap thread rearward in three touching wraps to tie-in point. Crystal Flash ends should be cup at approximately one half inch beyond hackle tips.

5. Cut sparse bunch of white buck tail and generally even tips by holding butts in right fingers and grasping the longer tips in fingers of left hand. Pull long tips from bunch and then overlap both bunches to generally even tips. The tips do not need to match perfectly. Hold bunch in left fingers and cut butts, leaving bunch approximately the length from eye to bend of hook. Hold bunch in left fingers with tips just showing, hold under shank where thread hangs with butts short of eye, make three forward gentle wraps by pulling thread downward with each wrap, continue touching thread wraps to eye and then back to tie-in point.

6. Cut a second sparse bunch of white buck tail, generally even tips as in Step 5, cut to a length that will extend to approximately half way between hook bend and tips of hackles. Hold bunch in left fingers at tie-in point and wrap thread forward in touching turns to eye and back to tie-in point as in Step 5.

7. Cut sparse bunch of chartreuse buck tail, even, cut to length and tie in on top of white buck tail as in Step 6.

8. Cut sparse bunch of dark buck tail or two peacock herl barbs, cut to length and tie in on top of chartreuse buck tail as in Step 7.

9. Wrap thread in touching turns forward and rearward over the head until all hair butts are covered, finish with wraps to back of head, whip finish forward and seal with head cement.
The Partridge and Orange is “Spider” or soft-hackle pattern that originated more than 400 years ago in the North Country of England. It may be fished alone or as a dropper below a dry pattern across to drift downstream. It often is during the rise upward at the end of a drift when it is most attractive to fish. The pattern is intended to imitate immature life forms of mayflies and caddisflies that are emerging to the surface to molt as adults. Although the pattern was originally fished for brown trout and grayling in waters of the United Kingdom, the Partridge and Orange is a very good pattern for taking bluegill and other southern species of bream in the lakes and streams of the Big Bend. The pattern may be tied in other colors (i.e. green, yellow, purple, etc.) and Whiting Farms hen Coq-de-Leon saddle or cape may be substituted for Hungarian partridge.

**Materials List:**

**Hook:** Daiichi 1550, Size 10-14  
**Thread:** Black Danville 6/0 or Gudebrod 8/0, or Color to Match Floss  
**Abdomen:** Orange Danville’s 4 Strand Rayon Floss, or Other Color of Choice  
**Thorax:** Absent, Peacock Herl, Fiery Brown SLF, or Other Similar Material  
**Hackle:** Hungarian Partridge or Whiting Farms Hen Coq-de-Leon Saddle or Cape  
**Head:** Black Thread or Color to Match Floss

**Tying the Partridge and Orange:**

1. Bend the barb down as the hook is placed in the vise and start the thread 1/3 of shank from hook eye with reverse jam knot. Counter spin thread to flatten, wrap thread in side-by-side, touching, wraps to hook eye then back three wraps and leave thread hanging at rear tie-in point of back of head.

2. Select a Hungarian partridge or hen Coq-de-Leon saddle feather with barbs of length approximately twice the hook gap width. Remove webby barbs from feather shaft and hold very tip of feather in fingers of right hand (if right-handed) with top/shiny side downward and remove barbs from far side of shaft. Hold feather shaft between thumb and opposing finger of left hand and place on top of hook shank with top of feather down, barbs facing towards you and tip of feather forward. The first barb from where barbs were removed should lay directly behind the thread wrap where the thread is hanging in step 1. All barbs and feather tip will be forward of this point and extending over hook eye. Make one thread wrap over shaft and around hook shank and pull upward to force feather shaft down on top of the hook shank and thread base. Make five more side-by-side thread wraps towards hook bend and cut off remaining stub of feather shaft. Leave thread hanging.

3. Tie-in small gold wire under shank with one thread wrap and continue side-by-side flattened thread wraps to point above hook point holding wire down to guide each thread wrap into place. Wrap forward to tie-in point of wire. Tie-in one strand of orange floss under shank with two forward loose thread wraps, leaving 1 inch tag of floss. Pull floss to shorten tag to 1/8 inch. Tighten thread wrap by pulling upward and make two more forward thread wraps. Wrap floss to rear tie-in point above hook point and then wrap forward to forward tie-in point of floss. Hold floss firmly downward in left fingers, unwrap two thread wraps and tie-in floss under shank with two forward thread wraps. Counter wrap wire rib with five forward wraps and tie-in floss under shank where thread is hanging. Continue forward thread wraps to hook eye, reverse and make three thread wraps to tie-in point of soft hackle (rear of head) forcing hackle to 90 degree angle from shaft. Make five thread wraps rearward.
from soft hackle and let thread hang.

4. Select sparse amount of SLF or other dubbing material sufficient for two thread wraps. Dub SLF loosely on thread and make two dubbed thread wraps forward, forming the thorax and leave thread hanging.

5. Grasp tip of soft hackle in teardrop hackle pliers and wrap hackle rearward in three wraps to tie-in point of thorax. Tie-in hackle on underside of hook shank with two thread wraps, then palmer two thread wraps forward through soft hackle to rear of head. Whip finish three wraps forward to hook eye, cut thread tag with one scissor blade and finish head with water-base cement or Sally Hansen “Hard as Nails” to secure.

Materials List:

- **Hook**: Daiichi 1550 in size 10-14
- **Thread**: Black Danville 6/0 or Gudebrod 8/0
- **Tail**: Golden Pheasant Crest
- **Body**: Yellow Davy Wotton SLF with Fine Gold Wire Rib
- **1st Hackle**: Brown Indian Rooster Neck
- **2nd Hackle**: Whiting American Hen Cape dyed Kingfisher Blue
- **Wing**: Hen or Cock Ring-necked Pheasant Secondary Flight Feather
- **Head**: Yellow Thread with Sally Hansen Hard as Nails or Cement of Choice

Tying the Irish Invicta as follows:

1. Bend the barb down as hook is placed in the vise and start the thread with a jam knot behind the hook eye. Wrap the thread to center point of hook shank, counter spinning the thread to flatten and lay each thread wrap side-by-side or touching; to maintain a flat thread base. Tie in gold wire rib on underside of shank and continue touching thread wraps to rear tie-in point, approximately mid-way between hook point and barb. Place wire rib in keeper and leave thread hanging at rear tie-in point.

2. Select golden pheasant crest feather for tail and tie in on top of shank with tail curved upward. Tail length should approximate shank length. Tie in with two forward thread wraps and adjust tail for alignment. Continue touching thread wraps forward, cut stub at mid-point of shank, and then wrap thread back to rear tie-in point.

3. Pull sparse pinch of SLF from packet and apply to thread as a loose noodle. Amount should be sufficient to wrap the body or abdomen to a point at 1/3 shank length behind hook eye. Sparse dubbing is better; more SLF can be added if needed. Twist far end of SLF onto thread by twisting thumb over thread towards rear of hook, approximately 1/2 inch from shank. Place finger along bottom of thread and far end of SLF and slide to underside of hook shank at rear tie-in point. Make two wraps of dubbed thread to trap far ends of SLF on hook. Twist remaining SLF on thread by twisting between thumb and finger in opposite direction of far end of dubbing. Wrap dubbed thread in touching
turns to forward tie-in point of body/abdomen at 1/3 shank length behind hook eye. Do not allow dubbing to extend beyond this tie-in point; remove extra dubbing from thread and make one thread wrap rearward over front of body and then back to forward tie-in point of body if necessary to assure a clean and flat thread base in front of body.

4. Tie in brown hackle by butt end with top forward in front of body by wrapping thread in touching turns to eye and back to tie-in point of hackle. Make three touching wraps of hackle towards rear in front of body and then continue palmered wraps (spaced wraps) of hackle to rear tie-in point of body. Hold last wrap of hackle on underside of shank and tie in with two firm forward wraps of gold wire. Leave hackle tip hanging and counter-wrap wire forward through palmered hackle and tie in under hook shank in front of hackle. Wrap thread forward in touching turns to eye, wiggle wire to break and return thread in touching turns to front of hackle. Clip hanging tip of brown hackle at rear tie-in point.

5. Tie in Kingfisher Blue hackle by butt end with top forward in front of brown hackle and wrap forward in 3-4 touching turns (half way between brown hackle and eye). Tie in blue hackle on bottom of shank, wrapping thread forward in touching turns to eye and then back to tie-in point of blue hackle. Hold thread upward, grasp hackle tip with thumb and finger and break tip of hackle at thread with snap towards hook point. Feather stub will break cleanly at thread surface, leaving no stub; remaining single barbs can be removed with pillars. Thread will be hanging at rear tie-in point of wing.

6. Prepare paired wings by cutting two 1/4 inch slips each from leading edges of right and left secondary flight feathers. Wing slips should be placed together with undersides together and distal barbs on top. Hold wing between left thumb and opposing middle finger on top of hook shank and directly in front of hackles. Wing should extend to approximately over bend of hook. Make two soft touching loops of thread between thumb and finger over wing slips. Hold slips in place while pulling thread upward and allow slips to compress between thumb and finger on top of shank. Allow thread to hang, remove hold on wing slip to examine position of wing. Wing should be vertical and if not, can be re-positioned by holding slip between thumb and finger while gripping wing stubs with right thumb and mid-finger and adjusting position of wing. Hold wing in place with left thumb and finger, make two more touching thread turns forward and clip wing stubs. Continue touching thread wraps over stubs to hook eye and return to rear tie-in point of wing and rear of head. Apply touching thread wraps to eye and return to rear of head if necessary for complete coverage of wing stubs. Be sure to make all thread wraps forward of first tie-in thread wrap for wing. Whip finish from rear of head to eye in touching wraps, cut hanging thread under shank by holding thread firmly and touching with one scissor. Apply selected finish to seal head.

Western Coachman
by Tom Logan

The Western Coachman is without question my favorite fly pattern, and I never fish without a few size 14 Westerns in my fly box. I’ve caught many species of bream and black bass; five species of trout; black crappie; and even golden shiners, chain pickerel and bowfins on the pattern. Although the Western is not as old as some of the other historic patterns I also favor, like the Partridge and Orange or Irish Invicta, it is of some historic significance.

The Western Coachman was designed by Buz Buszek of Visalia, California in either 1939 or 1940 originally as a local pattern for taking rainbow and brown trout in the Kings River of the Sierras to the east of Fresno. Mr. Buszek owned Buz’s Fly Shop for many years in Visalia, and the Buz Buszek Memorial Award that is presented each year by the International Federation of Fly Fishers to the person who has made significant contributions to the arts of fly tying was named for him. He patterned the Western Coachman after the wet version of the Orvis Company’s Royal Coachman, which was designed in 1878. The various Coachman designs, including the Royal Wulff, Royal Stimulator and others, are ancestors of the original Coachman that was designed in the 1830s by the driver or coachman for the Royal Family of England. Not only was the first of these patterns named after the coachman but the color of brown hackle used in the pattern also remains referred to as coachman brown.
Buz first used white African impala hair for the wing in the fly, but had difficulty getting supplies of the material and changed to hair from white calf tails he acquired from local dairies. This source of material apparently was also not dependable, and he settled on white hair from the side of mule deer as the wing in the pattern by the early 1940s. His purpose was to market the fly and the pattern received a boost in 1949 when the Pacific Coast Olive Company purchased 2,000 Western Coachmans from Buz to use in a company promotion. They offered a coupon with purchase of olives that could be mailed into the company to receive one of Buz's Western Coachman in a special small metal box. He later began providing the pattern to the Orvis Company to carry in their stock of fly patterns. The most reliable source of the Western Coachman today is at your own vise.

Material List:

- **Hook:** Daiichi 1550, #12 - 20
- **Thread:** Black Danville's 6/0 or Gudebrod 8/0
- **Tail:** Golden pheasant tippet
- **Body:** Peacock herl with gold wire rib
- **Wing:** White deer hair
- **Hackle:** Coachman brown Indian rooster neck or Whiting coachman brown hen saddle
- **Head:** Black thread

**Tying the Western Coachman as follows:**

1. Tie thread in with a jam knot behind the hook eye and wrap to mid-point of the shank, making sure to counter-spin the thread to flatten and lay each wrap side by side for a flat thread base. Tie gold wire in on bottom side of shank and wrap thread to rear tie-in point, approximately mid-way between hook point and barb.

2. Tie tippet barbs cut from one third of cape feather in for tail. Barb tips should be even and tied in on top of hook shank at rear tie-in point. The black band on tippet barbs should show behind first thread wrap. Stubs should extend forward to approximately the 50% point of shank. Wrap thread forward to tie in tippet barbs and then wrap thread back to rear tie-in point, holding barb tips up with middle finger and thumb of left hand to keep tail on top of shank. Make one thread wrap under and behind barb tips and one wrap over barbs at rear tie-in point.

3. Tie 1 to 5 barbs of peacock herl (depending on fullness of herl and hook size) in on bottom side of shank at rear tie-in point and wrap forward to approximately the 75% point of shank. Tie the herl in on bottom side of shank with two thread wraps. Wrap gold wire rib forward in five wraps in same direction as herl to front of herl and finish tying down both rib and herl on bottom of shank to hook eye. Hold herl ends between middle finger and thumb of right hand while holding thread up with left hand and snap rearward to break herl at thread and without leaving stubs. Wiggle wire rib till it breaks at thread in similar manner. Wrap thread back to front tie-in point of herl; thread should hang at 25% point of shank behind eye.

4. Tie hackle in with barbs stripped from stub of shaft on bottom side of shank at herl front tie-in point. Top side of hackle should face forward; bare feather shaft should extend to just behind eye when tied in. Wrap hackle forward four wraps, each wrap in front of the last, and tie off under shank by wrapping thread forward to hook eye and back to front tie-in point of hackle. Hold tip of hackle between middle finger and thumb to snap rearward and snap feather shaft at thread without leaving shaft stub. Remove remaining feather barbs at thread (behind eye) with needle nose pliers.

5. Stack wing of white deer hair and tie in at front tie in point of the hackle. Tips of the hair wing should extend to rear of hook bend and stubs of hair should be cut evenly to terminate behind eye. Hold wing between middle finger and thumb of left hand on top of shank until completely tied in.
Counter spin the thread to extreme so that the thread will lie back over the wing base. Make two loose thread wraps over base of wing and tighten by pulling thread up to compress hair wing down between fingers on top of shank. This will form the rear of the head. Thread should be flattened and wrapped to eye and rearward until all white hair stubs are covered, forming a flattened thread base and finished head.

6. Complete head with five whip finish thread wraps from rear of head to eye and cement.

**The Talquin Sedge**
by Tom Logan

The Talquin Sedge is a pattern I designed to imitate the Cinnamon Sedge which is one of more than 200 species of caddisflies that occur in Florida waters. It typically emerges during fall months and is a particularly noticeable species when emerging, as it is relatively large (hook size 14 or larger) and cinnamon colored; hence the name Cinnamon Sedge. Design of the pattern did not occur until a sample of uniquely colored hen capes were received from Whiting Farms for experimentation. These feathers are a combination of cinnamon, cream and black barring with an overall cinnamon appearance that is especially suited for the Talquin Sedge. Tom Whiting referred to these variant pelts as the closest to a hen Cree as he has seen. I fish the pattern both dry and as an emerger. It is a very good pattern for taking bream in the Tallahassee area; as well as, trout in the Sierras and Rocky Mountains.

**Material List:**

**Hook:** Daiichi 1550, Size 10-13

**Thread:** Olive or Tan Danville 6/0 or Gudebrod 8/0

**Tail:** Three Barbs of Whiting Farms Cree Variant Hen Cape

**Body:** Olive Super Fine or Zelon Dubbing

**Wing:** Olive Deer Hair

**Hackle:** Whiting Farms Cree Variant Hen Cape

**Head:** Olive or Tan Thread and Cement of Choice.

---

**Tying the Talquin Sedge as follows:**

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

2. Select a feather from cape of size to match hook size. Strip all webbing from shaft of feather and remove three barbs for tail. Tie the three barbs in on top of hook shank as tail. Return thread to tie in point of tail and rear of body.

3. Dub body/abdomen on approximately ¾ of shank forward of the tie-in point of tail to ¼ of shank behind hook eye.

4. Stack sparse clump of deer hair and tie in on top of hook shank with tips extending to approximately half way between hook point and bend.

5. Prepare feather to tie in by tip, leaving sufficient barbs for 3-4 hackle wraps. Tie in feather by tip on underside of shank in front of wing with top facing forward. Wrap hackle forward in touching wraps and tie off shaft under hook shank. Wrap to hook eye and back to front tie in point of hackle and rear of head. Whip finish head and seal with cement of choice.
The Wacissa
by Tom Logan

The Wacissa is one of the first fly patterns I designed specifically for application of the supple Coq-de-Leon rooster hackle. The pattern is an easy to tie streamer pattern that is intended to imitate a small bait fish for taking of bass species. I originally designed the fly to fish for Suwannee bass in the Wacissa River southeast of Tallahassee, Florida. The Wacissa River is one of the clear rivers that originates from clear springs in the Big Bend area of Florida and flows eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. It is the type habitat for the Suwannee bass, a species that is limited in distribution to this area of the North Florida Bend area. Although, it was originally intended and I have taken many Suwannee bass on this fly, I also have taken largemouth, shoal and smallmouth bass with comparable success. Materials for the pattern are as follows:

Material List:

Hook: Daiichi 2340, size 10
Thread: Danville’s 6/0 Flymaster, Black
Wing: Two Whiting Farms Coq-de-Leon Rooster Hackles, 2X Length of Hook Shank
Body: Medium Mylar Tinsel, Silver, Double Wrapped from Front and Return
Ribbing: Small Round Mylar Tinsel, Silver, 5 Counter Wraps
Hackle: Blue Rump Feather of Ring-necked Pheasant, Wrapped as Soft-hackle
Head: Black Thread Finished with Sally Hansen Hard as Nails for Glossy Finish

Tying the Wacissa as follows:

1. Bend the barb down as the hook is placed in the vise and start the thread at the hook bend (above the barb) with a reverse jam knot. Make two thread wraps and tie-in small round tinsel on underside of shank with tag end extending to just behind the eye. Counter spin thread to flatten and wrap forward in side-by-side wraps to hook eye with tinsel on underside of shank. Do not overlap thread wraps to maintain a flat thread base. Wrap thread in side-by-side wraps rearward approximately 4 eye widths and leave thread hanging.

2. Cut approximately a 10 inch strip of small flat silver tinsel from spool and tie-in on underside of hook shank with three thread wraps where thread is hanging from step 1. Wrap tinsel to hook bend and back to forward tie-in point in side-by-side wraps. Hold tinsel, unwrap two turns of thread and tie-in tinsel with two thread wraps. Make five counter wraps of small round tinsel to forward tie-in point. Wrap thread ½ distance to hook eye to trap flat and round tinsel ends on underside of shank, cut off tag ends of tinsel, continue side-by-side thread wraps to hook eye and back to tie-in point of tinsel. Leave thread hanging.

3. Select two matching Whiting Coq-de-Leon hackles for wings and strip barbs from shaft, leaving feathers approximately twice the shank length. Cut bare shafts, leaving ends to extend beyond front of hook eye. Place hackles back to back with tips matching, hold vertical to hook shank between thumb and opposing middle finger to tie-in on top of shank where thread is hanging. Make two soft thread wraps over bare feather shafts and tighten by pulling up, then lay one loose thread wrap over shafts and leave thread hanging. Wings should be horizontal to hook shank with barbs vertical. Hold wings between thumb and opposing finger again and use extended shaft ends to adjust alignment of wings if needed. Continue holding wings and wrap flattened thread side-by-side to eye once wings are properly aligned. Wrap thread back to tie-in point of wing being careful to keep last
rearward thread wrap in front of original tie-in thread wrap. This will prevent shifting of wing. Leave thread hanging in front of wings; this will be the tie-in point for the soft hackle.

4. Prepare on ring-necked rooster rump feather as you would a smaller hen feather as a soft hackle. Strip webby barbs from feather shaft, hold tip of feather by tip barbs and gently stroke remaining barbs rearward between thumb and opposing middle finger to separate them from barbs at tip and hold feather between thumb and opposing finger just behind the tip barbs. Cut barbs at tip approximately 1/8 inch long and tie-in tip under hook shank with barbs 90 degrees to shank and top of feather forward. Hold end of feather shaft in right hand, if right-handed, and stroke barbs gently rearward as you wrap the feather one wrap in front of the other as you would a smaller soft hackle. Do not overlap hackle wraps. Feather should wrap approximately half way to hook eye. Make one thread wrap to tie-in soft hackle shaft, wrap thread to hook eye and rearward to finish tie-in point of soft hackle and rear of head. Hold thread firmly with left hand and twist feather shaft to break off behind hook eye and even with thread wraps.

5. Wrap flat thread wraps to form head as desired, cut thread tab with on scissor blade and coat head with Sally Hansen Hard as Nails to form a glossy finish on head.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom H. Logan is a retired certified wildlife biologist from Tallahassee, Florida who specialized for more than 47 professional years in the research, recovery and management of threatened and endangered wildlife species. He enjoys tying classic trout patterns and fishing them for southern bream and bass in his home waters, as well as for trout in the Smoky Mountains, Sierras and other streams of the western U.S. Tom teaches fly tying classes in Tallahassee. He is the creator and manager of North Florida Flyfishing Adventures and School dedicated to teach fly tying, casting and fishing activities that enhance the fly-fishing experience for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. His website is www.northfloridaflyfishing.com. Contact him at tomlogan@comcast.net.
Fly of the Month: Muddler Minnow
Written and Photographed by: Kevin Erickson, Guest Tier
Creator: Don Gapen

Ask most anglers this infamous question: “If you could have only one fly to use to catch fish anywhere, anytime and under any conditions, which fly would you choose?”

Many will come up with the same answer: the Muddler Minnow. Whether used in warm or cold, fresh or saltwater; no matter if you are out to catch trout, salmon, steelhead, bass, panfish, bonefish and any other species – you name it – the Muddler will catch them all.

Originated in 1937 by Don Gapen, the Muddler Minnow was intended to imitate the ubiquitous Sculpin, and was popularized by Montana fisherman and fly tier Dan Bailey. Designed to suggest the large, blocky head and tapered body and tail of the Sculpin, the Muddler has accounted for many fish in most waters around the globe.

The Muddler incorporates matched turkey quill strips for the wing and deer hair for the head of the fly. Matched turkey quill strips provide a nice tall silhouette for the tapered body and tail of a Sculpin, yet are thin in profile and easy to cast. Deer hair is a material with unique properties allowing it to be “spun” - rolled around the hook, and “flared” – the fibers bending sharply and creating a large volume of material in a relatively small space. Another unique property of deer hair is that each fiber is hollow, thus providing buoyancy. This can be a problem when you want to sink a fly made with deer hair, necessitating weight in the fly or a fast sinking line to counteract the hairs lifting effect. But the hollow makeup of deer hair can be an advantage too. Dry flies suggesting grasshoppers or stoneflies including the Letort Hopper and Steelhead Caddis are cousins to the Muddler. Deer is also used in flies for Bass as “Bugs” - big dry flies suggesting frogs, mice, and whatever else the fish can imagine in the sometimes wild color combinations.

And variations of the original abound - including the Matuka Muddler, Spuddler, Marabou Muddler and others

The Muddler will always be a favorite pattern with its universal appeal to almost all game fish. We’ll focus on the techniques of tying the Muddler and some tricks for tying the turkey quill wing and spinning and flaring the deer hair head. From there, you’re encouraged to see what you can come up with for your own variation of what is soon to surely become your new favorite fly.

Materials list
Hook: 2X to 4X long Sizes 12 to 1/0
Thread: Red
Tail: Matched slips of Turkey Wing or Tail Quill.
Body: Gold Tinsel – flat or braided
Underwing: Fox Squirrel Tail
Main Wing: Matched slips of Turkey Quill – to match tail
Collar/Head: Deer Hair – spun and flared – trimmed to desired shape

Tying Steps
Step 1: For a deeper-sinking version, a conehead or metal bead can be added first or wire for weighting wrapped around the shank. In modern times, the fly is often tied without any added weight and the depth controlled through the fishing approach or line style. Mount the hook in your vise securely with the shank level. After attaching the thread, wrap back to a position above the point.
Step 2: Match a pair of slips (strips) of selected turkey quill material that are about half the hook gape in width. Place back-to-back. Hold the tapered tips of the strips TIGHTLY in your left hand (for right-handed tyers) above the hook shank, but rotated slightly toward you. Allow the strips to then roll into the final position on top of the hook instead of trying to keep them from rolling beyond the vertical. Wrap the thread around the strips and hook and back up on top again. Most importantly, bring the middle finger of your left hand up behind the base end of the quills in front of the thread. Keep the butts from rolling with this finger – the butts should only be allowed to compress vertically. PULL UP on the thread while holding the strips tightly to secure them to the hook. After a few more tight wraps, continue forward securing the excess along the length of the shank. Be careful to NOT let the quill spin around the shank while securing it. Don't crowd the front – leave at least ¼ of the shank bare for the head of the fly.

Step 3: Attach the braided body material at the front of the body space. Secure it as you wrap the thread back to the tail (above the point) and then wrap the thread back to the front of the body space. Wrap the braid forward in one continuous smooth layer. Tie off and trim the excess.

Step 4: Select a small clump (two dozen fibers or so) of Fox Squirrel Tail for the underwing. Clean out the shorter fibers by holding the tips of the fibers in your left hand and removing the shorter fibers from the base with your right hand. Clean the hair well, as any extra fibers make securing the hair all the more difficult. Tie in tightly on top of the shank with the tips extending back just past the tip of the tail. Trim off the excess and wrap over the butt ends.

Step 5: Select either a symmetrical turkey quill with even length fibers on both sides or a matched pair of quills with similar length fibers on opposite sides of each quill – one has long fibers on the left side and the other has long fibers
on the right side. Open your scissors to where the points are the same width as the hook gape. Slide them into the quill to separate out a strip that is then the same width as the hook gape. Cut the strip out as close to the base of the quill as possible. Match the strips and place back-to-back the same as the tail. Follow the same steps to secure the wing as used to tie in the tail. When viewed from above, you should have a narrow knife-edge view of the strips. Trim the excess and secure the butt ends.

Step 6: Select deer hair that is on a GOOD QUALITY TANNED SKIN. It is imperative to get good quality hair that is soft and hollow and therefore will spin and flare correctly. Avoid hair that is on a hard, stiff dried skin. If the skin is dried and hard enough to drive nails with, the hair will be thin, brittle and have lost its’ hollowness – all factors you want to avoid. Cut out a clump about the size of a pencil or pen in diameter. Clean out the short fibers and underfur thoroughly. Place the hair against the fly and measure the tips back to the middle of the wing. Transfer the hair to your left hand. Trim the butts about ¼” beyond where the tie in point is. Place the hair on the BACK side of the wing and take three loose wraps around the hair and the hook. Placing the hair behind the wing allows it to spin freely before encountering the wing.

Step 7: Follow the techniques description – “Spin and Flare.” Roll the hair and spin it around the hook completely, then tighten the thread and flare the hair. Often the hair will tend to clump and not distribute evenly, leaving a large amount on one side and not much on the other. If you have this happen, SLOWLY unwrap first one wrap, then another. As you undo the second wrap, a point will come where the hair springs loose from the hook. DON’T UNWRAP ANY FURTHER! When this happens, the hair is now loose and can be spun further to even out the distribution. As long as you are slow and careful this process can be repeated until the hair is nicely spread around the hook. Make a few more
tight wraps, pull the thread forward through the hair add a few more wraps and then finish the head.

Step 8: Trim the head to the desired shape. A standard “bullet” shaped head will be bulky and buoyant. A shallow, wide “wedge” shape is effective to make the fly dive and dart with an enticing swimming motion. Experiment and see what you like best for your fishing. One option is to leave the head larger and simply carry a pair of scissors with you when fishing. This way a quick trim can modify the head and therefore the way the fly fishes to suit your needs at the time.

Conclusion
Give the Muddler Minnow a try – in any color or style it is an effective fly for anything that swims!

If you need help or have any questions, feel welcome to email me anytime at info@modernclassicsflytying.com

Material Sources:
River City Fly Shop – Beaverton, Oregon – (503) 579-5176
Deschutes Angler – Maupin, Oregon – (541) 395-0995
Authors Web Site: www.modernclassicsflytying.com
Authors email: info@modernclassicsflytying.com

Author Bio: Kevin W. Erickson worked in the flyfishing business as a full-time professional, lastly at Kaufmann’s Streamborn, Inc. in Tigard Oregon for over 15 years. He worked in mail-order, retail, and phone sales, and instructing fly fishing and fly tying classes were just some of the many hats he wore. He has traveled extensively hosting angling groups to many of the top fresh and saltwater destinations around the globe.

Watch for his soon-to-be-released book titled “Feather Craft – The Amazing Birds and Feathers used in Classic Salmon Flies” by Stackpole Books. He currently has a “real” job in the software industry in Beaverton, Oregon.

Kevin W. Erickson © December 2016
**FFI Editor’s Notes: Comments from the Editor**

*Fly of the Month:*

Do you know someone who deserves to be featured in the Fly of the Month? If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact Jerry Coviello at ftg@flyfishersinternatinoal.org.

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly.

This is the guest tyer’s version of this fly and it may differ from the creator’s or other versions and variations.

Please Credit IFFF Website with any use of the pattern.

You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at ftg@flyfishersinternatinoal.org.

---

**FFI Calendar of Events**

**May 2017**

May 5-6, 2017, Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, Washington, flyfishalso@frontier.com

**June 2017**

June 16-18, 2017 GLC Fly Fishing School & Conclave, Roscommon, MI www.fffglc.org

**July 2017**

July 29, 2017 Puget Sound Fly Fishers, Pierce County's Environmental Services Building located at Chambers Creek Regional Park, www.psff.org

**August 2017**


---

**Please Notice - Important Website Changes:**

The International Federation of Fly Fishers’ domain name has changed recently. It is now known as Fly Fishers International. Please add a bookmark or favorite with the new website link to replace any older versions. The old URL www.fedflyfishers.org will automatically redirect to the new:

http://www.flyfishersinternational.org
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.

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