The Fly Tying Group of the International Federation of Fly Fishers is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly fishing experience. Archiving of historic documents, development of educational and instructional materials, teaching, and demonstrations are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please join us today. Please Note: You must be a member of the International Federation Fly Fishers to join the Fly Tying Group.

Click here to join the Fly Tying Group
http://www.fedflyfishers.org/#Si9EDE95

Fly Tying Group Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/ifff.ftg
You may notice a subtle difference in the presentation of this issue of *Tying Times*. Certainly no change in its quality, but the fact is that our Editor of the past two years, Bob Clay, has turned the responsibility over to another set of very capable hands. Bob, as you may recall, became our Editor when we upgraded our Fly Tying Group (FTG) Newsletter to a greatly improved format, committed to a quarterly publication and gave the newsletter its name of *Tying Times*. We extend a sincere “Thanks!” to you, Bob for setting a high bar for our newsletter and most of all for the quality of information on fly tying and teaching you’ve made available to our members through this publication the past two years.

That said…I am delighted to welcome Larry Murphy as our new Editor of *Tying Times*. He comes to us from the Southern Council where he has served as that Council’s Communication Director and Newsletter Editor for many years. I think it will be obvious when you read this issue that Larry brings impressive skills to the responsibility and will only take the standard set by Bob Clay to a higher level. Please note that while *Tying Times* is an important tool for sharing fly tying and teaching information with our members, we also are dependent upon you for the content and information we share. Larry has already begun sending messages and posts asking for articles from you. So, please do consider writing even a brief article regarding flies, materials and other fly tying subjects of interest to you. Suggestions of topics for which articles may be solicited are also helpful.

Some of us are just now returning to normal from our summer travels and attendance of the Fly Fair in Livingston, but fact is that plans are already underway for the next Fair that will be held again next summer in Livingston, Montana. The dates have not yet been firmed; however, some major changes are being undertaken in the Fair to increase attendance and provide a time when better fishing opportunities are available. It is anticipated that dates will be confirmed by mid-November.

One of the major roles the FTG plays in planning the Fair is our invitation of skilled fly tiers to serve as Demonstration Fly Tiers at the center of the Fair. We have a *Protocol for Management of Demonstration Fly Tier Invitations* (Protocol) that we use for maintaining and managing a dynamic list for preparing those invitations. An important step in how we add new fly tiers to the list as candidates for invitations is to invite Council Presidents each October to recommend up to 5 fly tiers from their respective Councils as candidates for invitation to attend the next Fair. Additions to the list are by Council recommendation and that invitation has been extended to the Presidents. We asked that they provide their recommendations by October 28, as invitations are mailed no later than December 1, each year. The only criteria that must be met by tiers for invitation is that they must be a member of the International Federation of Fly Fishers in good standing and they must, in the opinion of peers, be a skilled and experienced fly tier,
teacher and communicator who would represent a high level of fly tying skill as a demonstrator at the Fair. The Protocol is also provided with each invitation to explain that assignments to tie at the Fair are based upon timely response to the invitation and until available times for tying are filled.

I hope most of you are aware that leaders within Headquarters, the Board of Directors and our Councils are working on a new Strategic Plan that, for the most part, is already in its first steps of implementation. That Plan is based in a Mission Statement, which is “to support, enhance and preserve fly fishing opportunities”, and we propose to accomplish this through our practice and advocacy of “environmental stewardship and education.” Most of us think of ourselves as tiers and perhaps teachers of the art form and therefore play more of an educational role towards achievement of the Mission. But, we also bend the barbs down on our hooks in order to safely release the fish we catch in good health and we use only those natural materials that are legal to possess from birds and mammals to tie our flies. So, do we not also practice conservation of the fish and wild animals that are of fundamental importance to our continuing enjoyment of fly fishing? Think about who we are and what we do. Share this with a young person and invite them to become a fly fisher, a member of the Federation and a conservationist of tomorrow. Lee Wulff proposed this would happen decades ago, and it is even more important today that we embrace this message!

Fly tying memories
by Larry Murphy, Editor

Sitting in front of a skilled fly tier is the first order of business. Strike up a friendly conversation, listen as the fly tier informs (or ask) what the fly pattern is and how it is constructed. Next discuss helpful tips on reasons some of the materials are used over others. I always ask permission to photograph the step-by-step procedures. And I will sketch a quick illustration of the fly pattern adding important notes. Lastly, I ask the fly tier to sign my illustration. Marc Pinsel, Hammond LA, is a very skilled fly tier.

“The Morning After” tied by Marc Pinsel, named by Chris Helm.
INTRODUCTION

In the previous article of this series, we looked at the steps in building the boxes (hereafter referred to as “fly boxes”) that will contain the flies mounted in the fly plate. One concept that I really want to stress here: It is important that you design and cut the fly boxes, and then mount the flies in those boxes prior to cutting the main mats. It is much better to make adjustments in sizes of the boxes and then cut the main mats accordingly, than it is to cut the main mats first with the possibility that they may have to be discarded because the size of the fly boxes change.

PREPARATION OF THE DOWELS

I have seen a variety of materials used to mount the flies: pieces of cork, heavy cardboard, glass tubing, steel tubing, and wooden dowels. I use extruded acrylic rod for at least three reasons. First, it is transparent so it doesn’t detract significantly from the fly; second, it is rigid enough to support the largest flies but flexible enough that it can withstand sudden shock such as accidentally dropping the finished fly plate; and third, it can be easily drilled and shaped to better hold the fly.

Extruded acrylic rod is readily available from most plastics stores or it may be purchased on the internet. The problem with ordering from the internet is that it is generally available only in 6-foot lengths and the shipping costs are much higher than the actual cost of the material.

Although acrylic rod is available in a variety of different diameters, only two sizes are useful for framing of flies: 1/16th inch diameter and 1/8th inch diameter. It would be extremely useful to have a third intermediate size, 3/32nd inch diameter, but if that size exists, I have been unable to locate it.

I begin by cutting the rod into 1½ inch lengths. This is easily accomplished by laying the rod on a flat surface next to a ruler. Placing a single edge razor blade at the point of the desired length, the rod is rolled back and forth several times, scoring the rod with the razor blade. Once it is scored, the rod can be easily broken and it generally results in a very clean break (see figure 1).

![Figure 1. All that is needed to prepare the acrylic rods to their desired length of 1½ inches: a ruler, sharp, single edge razor blade, and a supply of acrylic rod.](image)

The next step is to drill a hole near one end of the rod (approximately 1/8 inch from the end) to accommodate the spear of the hook. I use a drill bit mounted in a pin vise that is held by a rotary tool (I use a Dremel). For 1/8th inch diameter acrylic rod, I use a size #66 high speed twist drill; and for 1/16th diameter acrylic rod, I use a size #75 high speed twist drill. Drill bits of those sizes are usually carried in hobby shops, especially those shops carrying model trains. Because of the slick curved nature of the acrylic rod, I use very light pressure until the drill bit “bites,” and then drill a hole completely through the rod. In the past I have designed several types of jigs to hold the rod while I drill...
the hole; none of them with success. I get my best results simply holding the rod in my fingers while it is being drilled (see figures 2 and 3). It is quite easy to drill the 1/8th inch rod; the 16th inch rod requires a very steady hand. Because the drill is turning at such a high RPM, it generates heat and will melt a bit of the acrylic. The bit can be easily cleaned when this occurs by running it through a wooden toothpick.

Figure 2. Rotary tool, pin vise, and drill bit used to drill a small hole near the tip of the rod.

Figure 3. Drilling the small hole near the tip of the acrylic rod. Note that the drill bit is perpendicular to the axis of the rod.

Once the holes are drilled, the opposite end is tapered so that it more easily passes through the holes that were previously punched in the bottom of the fly boxes. A file may be used to taper the end of each rod although I find it much faster to taper them using a disc sander (see figure 4).

Figure 4. Using a disc sander to taper the end of each acrylic rod.

Because I use a large number of these acrylic rods over the course of a year, often I will devote a full weekend to the cutting, drilling, and tapering a supply of rods. At a minimum, it is necessary to prepare enough rods for the number of flies to be included in the fly plate (see figure 6). As a rule, I use the 1/16th inch diameter rods only for small flies tied on fine wire hooks. Most of the flies can be best mounted on the 1/8th inch diameter rod.

Figure 5. A collection of acrylic rods ready for the mounting of the flies. The two pin vises have drill bits the same size as those used to drill the holes initially. They are used to clean the holes prior to inserting the spear of the hook. Note that each acrylic rod has a hole drilled near one end and that the other end is tapered.

MOUNTING THE FLIES

Historically, I have mounted the flies on the acrylic rod by adding a small drop of Zap-A-Gap to the spear of the hook and then pushing the spear into the hole drilled in the acrylic rod. The fly is held in that position while the
Zap-A-Gap dries by a small alligator clip mounted on a large needle (see figure 6).

Figure 6. Needle mounted alligator clip, acrylic rod, fly to be mounted, label, and acrylic rod.

The flies should be mounted on the acrylic rod in the configuration in which they will be displayed. As a general rule, flies that are displayed to show the lateral profile are mounted with the hook eye to the right. Flies can also be mounted displaying a dorsal profile or even a profile in between dorsal and lateral. Ideally, the fly will be mounted displaying its most interesting characteristics.

Recently I have been using UV cure resin to attach the flies to the acrylic rod. The advantage is that the resin hardens immediately upon exposure to ultraviolet light which eliminates the need of needle mounted alligator clips. The disadvantage is that the UV cured resin lacks the strength of Zap-A-Gap. However, since many of the fly plates that I build require shipping, I always apply a small amount of 24-hour epoxy to each hook-to-rod connection.

Figure 7. This shows the four flies that will be included in the same box. The acrylic rods are held by the alligator clips while the Zap-A-Gap dries. The needles, in this case, are stuck into a piece of foam core but cardboard or soft wood would work equally well. Note that below each fly is a label that corresponds to the label that was previously taped to the fly box. I can’t stress this strongly enough: Always keep a corresponding label with the fly. It is very awkward and embarrassing to build a fly plate for someone only to find that the names of a couple of flies are incorrect because the labels and flies became separated.

Figure 8. UV cure resin and an ultraviolet light used to attach the fly to the rod.

**SECURING THE FLIES TO THE FLY BOXES**

In part 3 of this series, I discussed how the fly boxes are designed and cut; the fly labels added; the holes to accept the acrylic rods punched; and how the boxes are folded. At this point we are ready to place the flies in the fly boxes.

Initially, I do nothing more than verify that the fly and the label correspond, and then push the acrylic rod through the hole punched in the box. Then, using a small template, I push all laterally oriented flies into the fly box so that they are at a uniform height (see figure 9). Flies having a dorsal orientation are visually adjusted relative to height.
Once all of the flies are secured in the box and their height adjusted, I visually inspect each box to make certain that the flies are in a desired position. I next flip the box over and add Zap-A-Gap to the rod where it passes through the mat board (the torn mat board resulting from the punched holes provides a good surface to secure the rod to the fly box). After the Zap-A-Gap has dried, the excess acrylic rod can be cut off using a flush cutter (Note: Cut the rod close to but not flush with the bottom of the box).

**NEXT IN THE SERIES**

The processes outlined above are repeated for each fly box required for the fly plate. In the fly plate that I am building for this series of articles, six fly boxes have been constructed and the flies mounted in each. Assuming that we are satisfied with the appearance of the mounted flies and fly boxes, we can begin cutting the main mats.

The next article in the series will treat the steps involved in the cutting of the main mats.

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Fly Tying Group Board of Governors (BOG) and other important members, it is with sincere pleasure to inform you that the BOG has unanimously endorsed by ballot my appointment of Mr. Steve Jensen to the BOG. Steve will serve during the unexpired year of the term that was vacated by resignation. This appointment will allow us to retain a minimum of 21 BOG positions, as required by our bylaws. Please join me in welcoming Steve to the BOG. Steve...thank you very much for accepting this responsibility.

Sincerely,

Tom H. Logan, Chairman FTG-BOG
When I would do a fly tying demonstration at a club meeting, fly fishing show, or fly shop, there were times I would get a crowd around my vise to watch how I tied the fly. Even when I was teaching a fly tying class; the students would stand in front and back of me and they would not see the clear process of all the steps as I tied the fly.

One way to present your demonstration or fly tying instructions to a large group is to project the demonstration onto a monitor or a large screen. It takes a few pieces of equipment; a video camera, tripod, extension cord, a surge protector, and a monitor, or video projector and screen. Also having a friend to help you set up the equipment is a big help, but you can set this up alone.

Make sure your video camera has the cables for output; make sure your cables can be used for your monitor or video projector you are using. Compatibility is the key. There are so many options now, and this could be confusing. Some monitors take an HDMI cable, USB or the old RCA AV jacks (yellow, red, white). Make sure your video camcorder can “talk” to your monitor or video projector. Also make sure that the cables are long enough so you can space out the equipment and that it doesn’t interfere with your demo. My rule when I go out to do a demo is to know the layout of the venue and tying space.

Better check your video camera, sometimes just having the camera on for a while and it is not recording, the camera will automatically turn off. Check the menu settings on your camera, if there isn’t a setting to leave it on while not recording then you will have to have the camera record your demo and then the camera will not turn off automatically. With my video camera I can leave it on and it won’t turn off as long as I do not put a tape in the video camera.

Now that I have the equipment and I know they are compatible to each other the next step is; how do I place the equipment for my demo? For the placement of the video camera and tripod; I prefer the video camera behind me and over my right shoulder. This gives the audience the view from my perspective, on how I see the fly and how I add the materials. You may ask why not in the front of the vice? My answer to that is if I put the tripod is on the other side of the table, that is the side the audience is standing on, the chance of the tripod being knocked over by accident is great and I do not want to take a chance of my camera hitting the floor and breaking. My second answer is my fingers and hands hide what I am doing when I add materials to the fly.

Placement of monitor, if possible, is to have it placed in a location that is above so the audience can see it without crowding around the monitor. Also make sure you have a bright lamp on your fly, I find using 2 lamps is better so the camera can focus on the fly and that the image is bright when it is projected onto a screen. Make sure your tying area is not cluttered. Have all your materials ready to use so that there isn’t any delays as you are doing your demonstration.
Make sure you have a light colored shirt so that the audience can see your fly against your shirt. If your shirt is dark, they can’t see your fly. I would also put a light colored table cloth or mat under my vise, this will make your fly pop out and be seen on the screen.

I always test my equipment a few days before I am doing my demonstration. It is embarrassing to travel all the way to do your demonstration and find out that your equipment doesn’t work. I also carry a spear bulb for my video projector. Borrowing equipment can be an adventure, so if you can see if you can play with it a few days before your presentation. I have seen on the day of the demonstration the different components were not compatible with each other. That was a lesson learned.

Go ahead and start doing a live video presentation at your meetings or at fly fishing fairs, they make you look professional and it is a great way to show a large audience your skills.

The Fly of the Month is located on the International Fly Fishers Federation webpage, and we the Fly Tying Group are responsible for the content of the page. This is one of our ways we teach new and existing fly patterns to our membership. We also keep a library of the past months flies so anybody can go back and print off a pattern they would like to tie. Each pattern on the Fly of the Month (FOM) has a detailed description and step by step directions on how to tie the fly.

Anyone can do a write up for the Fly of the Month; all we need are photos and detailed descriptions of how to tie your favorite pattern. Just email me, Jerry Coviello, either at jerry_coviello@verizon.net or ftg@fedflyfishers.org. I will send you a Google Drive invite so the photos and directions can be stored on the drive. I will then create the document for the webpage for the world to see.

For the month of October, Jonathan Kiley of Flyskinz has submitted his own pattern called a “Kiley’s Hot Head Minnow”. The month of November we will have Fred Hannie tying a realistic style pattern call “Hannie’s Damselfly”. I was very excited to see both of these patterns and how they were tied. I hope you enjoy them too.

Now I am asking all our fly tiers to share their favorite fly with everyone. How about if we had a fly a month for different fish or insects?

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So if there is a month you would like to cover or you have a unique fly you would like to share with everyone, please feel free to contact me and lets present it to everyone through our Fly of the Month Page.

October Fly of the Month – Kiley's Hot Head Minnow created by Jonathon Kiley, tied by Jonathon Kiley. Photo credit to Jonathon Kiley.
The historic fly patterns of the British Isles, especially the wets, have held my special interest for quite some time. I enjoy tying them and I fish them in virtually all the warm and cold waters I fish from Florida to the Rockies and Sierras. They’re elegant but generally simple in terms of materials used and not at all difficult to tie. Many of these patterns have existed for up to 400 years and there is a very good reason why they’re still around and being fished…they imitate the very important emerging life stages of aquatic insects that fish eat throughout the world and they catch a lot of fish!

The pattern most responsible for my interest and study of the historic patterns is the Western Coachman that has existed for just over 70 years and is of new world origin…a youngster in comparison to the 400-year old Partridge and Orange of the north country of England. Wayne Luallen, a friend and fellow fly tyer from Visalia, California introduced me to the Western several years ago as a pattern that had been designed and made famous by Buz Buszek who owned Buz’s Fly Shop also in Visalia. You may recognize Buz as the namesake for the Federation of Fly Fishers’ Buz Buszek Memorial Award that is presented annually to individuals that have contributed significantly to the arts of fly tying.

Mr. Buszek designed the Western about 1940 as a pattern for rainbows and browns in the Kings River just northeast of Visalia, California introduced me to the Western several years ago as a pattern that had been designed and made famous by Buz Buszek who owned Buz’s Fly Shop also in Visalia. You may recognize Buz as the namesake for the Federation of Fly Fishers’ Buz Buszek Memorial Award that is presented annually to individuals that have contributed significantly to the arts of fly tying.

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Although the white wing is the first thing you notice in the pattern it was the term “Coachman” in the name and the pattern’s brown hackle that caused me to research the lineage of the Western Coachman and historic fly patterns in general. The question that nagged at me when I first started tying the Western was “Why is Coachman brown called Coachman brown and how is Coachman brown different from other colors of brown?” Coachman brown was brown to me, so why call it Coachman brown. Well, the answer turned out simpler than I anticipated, but it took going back to the original Coachman pattern to find the answer.

The first Coachman pattern from which a number of variations, including the Western, eventually evolved was designed probably in the early 1820’s in England, first appearing in British angling literature in 1825. The designer of the pattern was Tom Bosworth who just happened to be the coachman for the British Royal Family of the time. This wet pattern became a mainstay in that part of the world through the remainder of the century, and the brown feather that Tom selected as hackle for his pattern became known as Coachman brown after his profession. It’s as simple as that, but makes perfect sense.

The next variation of the Coachman that surfaced during that century was the Lead-wing Coachman. The wing of the Lead-wing simply replaced the white wing of the original Coachman with grey mallard slips and a gold tag was added. I can tell you that both are very effective patterns whether for trout or local bream, but you seldom see them fished these days.

The first variation of the Coachman and possibly the most famous pattern to début in the United States is the Royal Coachman. The pattern was first tied commercially in 1878 by Mr. John Haily who tied for Charles Orvis of the Orvis Company. Although Mr. Haily was the first to tie the pattern commercially, he actually received the original pattern from another unnamed commercial tyer who had
tied an early prototype for a friend. He told Mr. Haily “I have just been tying some flies to order for a gentleman. He says he likes the coachman better than any other fly, but he finds it very frail, and he wants me to tie some with red silk in the middle, to make them stronger, and he also wants a little sprig of wood duck for a jib (tail). I will send you a fly to see. I think it quite handsome.” Yes, the first Royal Coachman was tied with barred wood duck for tail, rather than with golden pheasant tippet as we know the pattern. Mr. Haily later replaced the wood duck tail with golden pheasant tippet and it apparently was then that the pattern was given the name of Royal Coachman. I think it worthy to note that while the pattern likely was tied wet, it also became a part of the evolving Catskill style of tying dry flies in that part of our country.

The band of silk floss in the middle of the body of the Royal Coachman sets it apart from almost all modern patterns, but it is interesting to find that Mary Orvis Marbury subsequently described up to 30 patterns that included floss and herl in their bodies in her 1892 book *Favorite Flies and Their Histories*. The Orvis Company later designed a pattern for a fellow in Wagon Wheel Gap, Colorado who requested an order of Royal Coachman tied for him with “all the gilt (floss) possible”. The pattern had a body of red floss with only a neck of herl at the front of the body. It was then marketed as the Gilt Coachman. Mr. J.W. Fricke of San Francisco also designed the California Coachman in the early 1900’s. It was a similar pattern to the Gilt Coachman but the red floss was replaced with yellow. There are other variations on the Coachman of which we all are aware that include the well known Royal Wulff and its variations in grey and white. And this all brings us to the subject of this article, the Western Coachman.

This exploration into how many of the variations on the original Coachman came to be, naturally led to wondering how Buz came to design the Western Coachman. Buz, as you may know, designed a number of original patterns for catching trout in the King’s River and Sierra streams to the east of the Valley, and many of these were marketed widely. The fact is I suspect the pattern just occurred to him and its development began. I also suspect that if anything influenced its design, other than the Coachman variations in general, the Western could have been a natural progression from his Old Gray Mare that preceded the Western. The Old Grey Mare is another very good pattern, by the way.

I had the fortune during the summer of 2003 to visit with Dr. Gene Mathias about his memories of Buz and his Western. Gene, brother of the Olympic medalist Bob Mathias, was a friend and fly-tying peer of Buz and was tying Westerns right along with Buz during those days.

It was Gene’s recollection that Buz may have designed the pattern after the Royal Coachman and his prototype began with using African impala as the white hair wing. However, he couldn’t acquire enough impala for what he needed and changed to white tails of stillborn calves for the wing. Gene apparently helped Buz gather tails locally from the many dairies in the Valley. Buz finally settled on a wing of white deer hair and that is how the pattern remained with one exception. Buz used white mule deer hair from the top of the belly along each side of the body. I suspect that most Westerns are tied today with white-tailed deer hair rather than mule deer.

I enjoy tying the historic fly patterns but I especially enjoy thinking about all the fish the patterns have caught through the decades and centuries as I catch another big bluegill, cutthroat or Sierra golden. So, you can see why tying a Western without knowing how it came to be was not quite enough for me. The Western Coachman, usually in size 14, is a pattern I’m never without, regardless of where I fish. Yes, I fish the same Western and other historic patterns for everything from bream to bass to trout. Probably my next favorite patterns are the Old Gray Mare and Royal Wulff, and I find the White Wulff a particularly effective pattern when the big Hexagenias are emerging from the lakes around Tallahassee.

You might want to give the Western or one of the other historic patterns a try. You might catch fish when others are wondering why the fish aren’t biting. I can assure you that anytime I have a fly rod in my hand, I’ll have a few Westerns in my pocket.
Have you ever pursued an impulse on a Facebook (FB) post about tying techniques or fly patterns? I had the pleasure and opportunity to FB message with Cristian Mammi, a group member of FB's Classic Wet Fly and Streamer Tyers Page. Cristian posted an interesting series of photographs highlighting how he used silkworms to make leader line for a blind eye hook and classic wet pattern called Tomah Jo (see attached photos). He considers this a work-in-progress because originally he had little information to go on for methods used in the manufacture of silkworm gut. Although he did not include textual detail initially, he did add short notes later after my request, to help me understand the step-by-step process. Cristian is a talented classic wet fly and Salmon fly tier from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tomah Jo, a classic wet fly pattern tied by Cristian Mammi

Being intrigued with the techniques Cristian used, I did some research examining medical papers covering the use of silkworm gut as suture material. I am fairly certain that several of our fly fishing generation have never used or even been around someone who used silkworm gut as a leader material. Therefore I wanted to educate myself a little more. I have several bamboo rods and fly tin boxes that contain the felt pads for keeping the silkworm gut moist before, during and after a fly fishing trip. But no experience using this type of setup. If you lived in the 1900-1940s, you probably had exposure to this methodology. All types of material were used for suturing wounds or injuries in those days. Silkworm gut, horsehair, kangaroo catgut (treated to render it tough and strong, the middle coat of the intestines of sheep was cut into threads), even untanned buckskin was used. All of this seemingly basic materials were used because they could be absorbed into the body at different rates.1

Woven silkworm gut and horsehair are very strong and almost unbreakable against the fiercest struggles of fighting fish. It has been documented that George Washington had used horsehair leader with blind eye fishing hooks along with silk thread. It was documented that he never was a fly fisher but rather a basic fisherman. There is actually interesting information available on early American fishing methods dating back to 1770s. Horsehair was primarily harvested from white gelding horses and woven from three strands then tied together as snoods to make 9-12 foot leader materials. The knots used were the same ones we have experience with today.

Probably the biggest discovery I realized after a little research was the silkworm gut leaders were attached to the classic wet fly or Salmon fly, then stored in a tin box or wool lined leather pouches. Of course, the leader needed advanced preparation to make sure it was flexible. Otherwise, unprepared leader was bound to break with first resistance given.

There a couple of interesting YouTube videos about hand spinning ferled leaders that resemble the methods Cristian used when weaving his strands. William Hay is the gentleman responsible for introducing silkworm gut for fishing in this country.

According to Dave Cammiss, there were eight stages in the actual production of the gut sac to make the silkworm gut.

1. Each female moth lays approximately 200 eggs.
2. The tiny grubs were fed daily with freshly sliced mulberry leaves which were scattered over the grubs for three days, after which the grubs became dormant.
3. After a further four days the grubs came to life and were now called ‘worms’. Once again the worms were

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1. According to medical history, silkworm gut was used because it could be absorbed into the body at different rates, making it ideal for suturing wounds or injuries. Silkworm gut, horsehair, kangaroo catgut, and even untanned buckskin were used due to their strength and absorbency.
fed abundantly on the sliced mulberry leaves, before becoming dormant again.

4. At fourteen days old they emerged again and were fed whole mulberry leaves which they devoured voraciously before becoming dormant again.

5. After twenty one days they took their fourth and final sleep, following a final voracious period of eating after which they shed their skin and sought shelter for the purpose of spinning.

6. At the exact time of being ready to spin the worms were picked out and thrown into a tub containing a strong mixture of vinegar and water. They died instantly and were left to pickle for twelve hours.

7. After the twelve hours the worms were removed and the two gut sacs removed.

8. The gut was then ‘pulled out’ simple by taking hold of each end and stretching as far as it would go. It was then thrown on the floor to dry. This was basically the end of the ‘manufacturing process’.

At this stage each of the strands had a thin coating of carn which had to be removed before it could be used for fishing gut. This process must have been a trade secret as the information on it can at best be described as scant. After the ‘carn’ had been eliminated the bundles were sorted again and graded on the basis of roundness and thickness. At this stage the bundles were graded again into hanks of hundreds depending on the basis of roundness and thickness. The quality of the crop could vary from year to year and consistency was impossible. A 30cm. Length of gut was considered very good. Quality was determined by its freshness, colour and roundness. Before knotting the strands of gut had to be immersed in soft water for eight to ten hours.

Next time you break your nylon, when tying a knot, just think how our predecessors had to manage. We have much to be thankful for some of the by-products of WW2. and nylon monofilament was one of them. 2

Silkworm eat on mulberry tree leaves exclusively.

The adult worm is placed in water and vinegar for several hours. Then a cut back of his head is to remove the organ that produces silk.

Place in water and vinegar
Raw silk gut

It is very fragile. Carefully stretch.

Its appearance is similar to nylon monofilament

Its maximum length depends on the size of the worm

Let dry stretched. The strands are softened with hot water
Take three strands and torque in each of them in the same direction.

Gather the ends and then with his fingers twisting in the opposite direction of the strands.

Pressure to tighten the strands.

Apply varnish on the ends so that the tips are not separated.

Ready to use!
Silk thread is used to wrap the loop securely.

A coat or two of varnish finishes the leader loop wrap.

The blind eye hook wrap is then given a varnish coat as a final step.

The blind eye hook and silkworm gut leader are prepared. Next step is the classic wet fly pattern tied.

The blind eye hook is wrapped using silk thread, multiple times.

Finished classic wet fly.

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2 “Days before monofiliament” by Dave Cammiss. URL: http://learnflytying.co.uk/monofiliament.html
Part 3: THREAD INFORMATION CHART
by Jim Ferguson

I came across the following information in a chart form. I am not sure of the source but many of us would find it useful to review if we are tying a variety of patterns, or teaching a class on thread usage. If someone knows the source, please let me know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANUFACTURER</th>
<th>THREAD NAME</th>
<th>AUGHT SIZE</th>
<th>DENIER</th>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>COLORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Very Small Flies Size 20 And Smaller</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Danville</td>
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<td>UNI-Trico</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Polyester</td>
<td>White Only</td>
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<td>Veevus 14/0</td>
<td>14/0</td>
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<td>Polyester</td>
<td>19 colors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veevus</td>
<td>Veevus 16/0</td>
<td>16/0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyester</td>
<td>16 colors</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Low Bulk Thread For Size 10 To 20 Flies</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wapsi</td>
<td>UTC Ultra Thread 70</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>Nylon</td>
<td>34 Colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veevus</td>
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<td>10/0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyester</td>
<td>24 Colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veevus</td>
<td>Veevus 12/0</td>
<td>12/0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyester</td>
<td>17 Colors</td>
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<tr>
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<td>79</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>Nylon</td>
<td>25 Colors</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Polyester</td>
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<td>UNI</td>
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<td>12/0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Gel Spun Polyethylene</td>
<td>6 Colors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veevus</td>
<td>Veevus GSP 100</td>
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<td>Gel Spun Polyethylene</td>
<td>White &amp; Black</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8/0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyester</td>
<td>17 Colors</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Monocord Unwaxed</td>
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<td>Nylon</td>
<td>9+ Colors</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Monocord Waxed</td>
<td>3/0</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Nylon</td>
<td>9+ Colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNI</td>
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<td>7 Colors</td>
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<td>UNI</td>
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<td>Nylon</td>
<td>White &amp; Black</td>
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<td>Gel Spun Polyethylene</td>
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Call for Articles
by Larry Murphy, Editor

The Fly Tying Group (FTG) has a history of having specialized experiences in a diverse range of fly tying. Our members are involved in some of the most sophisticated and challenging fly tying techniques, as well as simple and basic techniques.

FTG publishes Tying Times on a quarterly basis. Its purpose is to serve 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 FTG 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.

We are calling for articles that cover the practice of fly tying as well as specific concepts, materials and methodology. If you have questions about the suitability of your topic to the Tying Times, please send your inquiries to ftg@fedflyfishers.org.

Submittal Requirements:

Each article needs to be provided as follows:

Electronic form using Microsoft Word (or plain text editor).

Send your completed articles to ftg@fedflyfishers.org. For assistance, please call the office at 406.222.9369 or email ftg@fedflyfishers.org.

Include a cover letter with the author’s name, complete mailing address, telephone and email contacts.

Brief biography of author with present contact information, designations, digital photograph(s) and availability for follow-up contact.

Article - The article should be between 750-1500 words. If the author believes the article needs to be of a different length, then they should communicate with the editor prior to submission.

The article should contain an overview paragraph of 2-3 sentences, an introduction and a conclusion paragraph.

If your topic is best suited for a series of articles, please breakdown the subject’s sections and provide the publishing interval for planning purposes.

Sources referenced must be cited using proper endnotes.

Photo credits must be attributed, if anyone other than the author is the creator. Photos must have an appropriate release, if not the creation of the author.

All articles must be the author’s original work, and must not include any assignment-specific confidential information, unless authorization for release of the information is simultaneously provided within the article.

Publication Date: Submission Deadline:
January 1, 2017 December 15, 2017
April 1, 2017 March 15, 2017
July 1, 2017 June 15, 2017
October 1, 2017 September 15, 2017

Suggested articles:
Selection of natural hair for various applications, including wings and tails
Hooks for beginners
Photographing flies — macro studies — best presentation practices.
Natural materials — a legal and ethical selection process
Wings — A better understanding of wing types.
Saddles and Capes — Custom dyeing processes
How to develop interests in youth fly tying and education


Calendar of events of interest to IFFF, IFFF Councils, IFFF Fly Tying Group or FTG members

The International Federation of Fly Fishers provides quality fly casting and tying instruction at events across the country. The events are produced by the international organization, the councils and clubs that are affiliated with the organization. You are welcome to attend any of the events and take advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

October 2016


October 8, 2016 NCC Festival of Fly Fishing during the day (9-4:30PM) and the Hall of Fame Dinner at the Marin Rod & Gun Club in San Rafael, CA, http://www.nccfff.org

October 14-16, 2016 Oktoberfisch Fly Fishing Festival, Junction, TX, www.fredericksburgflyfishers.org


November 2016


November 4-6, 2016, 28th Annual North Toledo Bend Rendezvous, http://pages.suddenlink.net/w/Rendez/indexR.html

November 5, 2016, SWCIFFF Inter-Club Tournament, Kernville, California, www.swcifff.org

If your IFFF Council, IFFF Charter Club or IFFF Affiliate Club would like to post an event on the National Calendar please e-mail operations@fedflyfishers.org. Please allow 3-5 days for posting requests to appear.

Thanks Bob Clay
by Larry Murphy, Tying Times Editor

IFFF Fly Tying Group owes a debt of gratitude to Bob Clay. Mr. Clay was the newsletter editor of Tying Times since 2013. However, Bob has decided to step down. It is with profound respect that we wish Bob Clay the best in his life ahead.

Mr. Clay took on the newsletter editor's role and brought with it his newspaper publishing background and expertise. It is not always an easy task to bring together the many articles that become the basis for educating and informing members of the Fly Tying Group. Sometimes it takes writing and creating them too, a task which was handled expertly.

I am hopeful that Bob Clay will enjoy his FTG connections and continue his role as fly fisher/tier, certified casting instructor and Southern gentleman. And just maybe he will have an opportunity to write more for the Tying Times in the future. ✶
**Spotlight on Youth Fly Tier**  
by Larry Wegmann, IFFF Southern Council

Jake Unterriener and his Springfield fan club at last weekends’ Fly Fishing Fair in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Jake won last year’s Southern Council bass bug fly tying contest. Jake is a freshman at Perryville High School. The past year he has been mentored by Pat Cohen, Michael George and Ed Lusk, seasoned deer hair tiers. Jake uses different colored clumps of deer hair stacked on the hook in a progression to create the fly. This was his first attempt to create a Nemo, based on Mike Geroge’s fly.

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**2016 IFFF Fly Tying Awards**

**Buz Buszek Memorial Award** - Awarded to Jim Ferguson, nominated by Al Beatty and others.

**Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award** - Awarded to Ray Ramirez, nominated by Dutch Baughman

**Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement** - Awarded to James Schollmeyer, nominated by Jim Ferguson

**Charles E. Brooks Memorial Life Award** - Awarded to Fred Hannie, nominated by Dutch Baughman