

# Crossroads Anglers

FLYFISHING CLUB SINCE 1994

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 19, 2013 • 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

## From the President



I can't believe it's December – 2014 is just around the corner!

I was very happy to have Dan Trela speak about the Swift River last month. Members I talked to felt he gave a very interesting and enlightening presentation on how to fish this difficult stream.

I hope the Club can support us in having a Swift River outing this coming year.

Since our regular meeting falls on Christmas eve we have changed it to Thursday, December 19. *Mark your calendars!* The Club will sponsor pizza and soda so come early! The doors will open at 5 p.m. **Bring your vises so we can do some group tying.** We are also planning on having some reels to raffle plus our regular line up.

Steve will do a short presentation for those of you who are having trouble navigating the web site. Please thank him for doing the site when you see him – we get accolades for his hard work all the time.

This coming year we celebrate a milestone. It is our 20th anniversary and we are planning a big event. More information will be available in the monthly newsletter and on the web site.

Sumner has asked if anyone would like to write a story of their 2013 fishing adventures for the newsletter. He would be happy to include member stories and photos. Hopefully, he will get more than he has room for and we can include them in future issues.

I hope everyone can come to the meeting. More members are attending each month. Bring a friend and let's "tie one on!" Hope to see you on the 19th!

—Joel

NO MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

## Pizza Party!

Thursday, December 19  
Pizza and soda – Come early!  
The doors will open at 5 p.m.



## Fresh Water Fish Weight Calculator

<http://www.csgnetwork.com/fishfreshwtcalc.html>

# FISH!

You'll feel better.

A MESSAGE FROM ARMAND ON PAGE 6. ►

## Step by Step



# FLIES - GARTSIDE BLUE CRAB

including the Gartside Calico Crab, Gartside White Sand Crab, and the Sassy Dab Flounder Fly

by Jack Gartside



Jack Gartside

The cold, snowy weather the north-east has been experiencing has put me in a “crabby” mood. It’s time to think of warmer places, warmer waters, anyplace but here; a good time also to share with you some simple and effective crab patterns I’ve been experimenting with lately.

Crab species are numerous but these three patterns represent some of the more common species. You can, of course, tie some up in colors more suited to specific areas and species. All three employ the same simple technique, so rather than repeating the instructions for each pattern, I’ll give the tying steps for only the Blue Crab and you can follow the steps to tie the other two crab patterns (as well as the Sassy Dab baby flounder).

The body material I use for these flies is my Crab n’ Dab Fur, available through [www.jackgartside.com](http://www.jackgartside.com). It’s a very soft yarn made mostly of viscose and polyester which is woven into a string on one side only. This one-sided strung yarn is very easy to work with, allowing the tyer to quickly form a body by simply winding it along the hook shank until the desired fullness is attained. It can sometimes be found in craft stores under the generic name of eyelash yarn. Or if you prefer you can substitute wound hackle.

### Tying Materials

- Hook:** Daiichi 2546 or Mustad 34007, # 4-1/0
- Eyes:** “Presentation” or Krystal eyes (any color), or plain barbell lead or tungsten eyes.
- Thread:** Danville’s 3/0 or Flat Waxed Nylon, white.
- Tail:** Blue-dyed grizzly marabou rump feather (or blue and green-dyed grizzly marabou rump feathers tied on together).
- Body:** One strand each of blue and green Crab ‘n Dab Fur tied on and wound together and then trimmed to shape. If you don’t have Crab ‘n Dab fur, you can use an eyelash yarn, sometimes obtainable in craft stores, or wound hackle.
- Overlay:** Two blue-dyed mottled pheasant back feathers tied on flat over body. If you don’t have blue-dyed pheasant feathers, you may use the naturally bluish back feathers found on many pheasants. For a really stunning look, you may place a blue-dyed pheasant feather over a blue-green iridescent natural peacock breast feather, tying them both in together.
- Legs:** Optional: “sili-legs” or rubber legs.

**Step 1** Tie in eyes on top of the hook shank approximately one eye-length back from the eye of the hook.

**Step 2** Tie in tail of approximately 1" long at bend of shank. Trim excess.

**Step 3** Just in front of the tail, tie in two strands of Crab 'n Dab Fur (one of blue, the other of green) with "hackle" standing up along the shank and the bare side of the yarn down, for ease of winding and better distribution of fibers.

**Step 4** Wind both strands of "hackle" around the shank – both at the same time – working forward, until you reach the back of the eyes. Tie down and trim off excess. (Tip: As you wind, brush each turn of "hackle" to the rear with your fingers so that you're not winding over material.) With an eyelash groomer or similar tool, comb out strands to free up any tied-down fibers and also to better blend the fibers

**Step 5** Trim material flat on top and bottom and round it out on its edges to give it a crab-like form. (Top view shown here).

**Step 6** Invert the hook in your vise (remember, this pattern and the other three given here are tied in an inverted style so that the hook point rides up as it's fished) and wind your thread forward so that it's now in front of the eyes. Tie in two matched blue-dyed pheasant back feathers (concave side down) just in front of eyes. I like the tips of these feathers to reach back to a point roughly half way between the point of the hook and the rise of the barb. Trim excess and form a neat thread head. If desired, color the white thread head blue or olive with a waterproof marking pen before applying head cement.

Optional: If you desire legs on these crabs, simply tie in one set of legs on the topside of the shank after taking approximately two turns of "hackle" or, if more legs are desired, evenly space out three sets of legs along the shank between turns of material.

You can tie these additional patterns using the same steps you used to create the Gartside Blue Crab: Gartside Calico Crab, Gartside White Sand Crab, and the Sassy Dab Flounder Fly. See details of these at [http://www.jackgartside.com/step\\_three\\_crabs\\_and\\_dab.htm](http://www.jackgartside.com/step_three_crabs_and_dab.htm).

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**Jack Gartside** is counted as one the most innovative and prolifically inventive fly tyers of the modern era. He got his first fly tying lesson in 1956 from Ted Williams, the great Boston Red Sox outfielder. That served as the beginning of a professional tying and angling career that spanned more than 50 years. Jack was one of the first fly tyers profiled in Sports Illustrated magazine (Oct. 12, 1982). His best-known original patterns include the Gurgler, the Sparrow, the Soft Hackle Streamer, and the Gartside Pheasant Hopper. His designs have been featured in Eric Leiser's *Book of Fly Patterns*, Judith Dunham's *The Art of the Trout Fly*, Lefty Kreh's *Salt Water Fly Patterns*, Dick Stewart's *Salt Water Flies*, and Dick Brown's *Flyfishing for Bonefish*.

#### What Some of the Experts Say About Jack

*Kenney Abrames: "A rare angler of substance."*

*Judith Dunham: "Jack had talent for many things—fishing, tying flies, telling stories, dancing to any music the band played, exchanging ideas about any subject—and an unmatched passion for life."*

*A.K. Best: "One of the reasons I enjoyed working the Fly Fishing Shows was to spend some time between show gigs gassing with Jack. He always had some bit of humor to share. It helped all those listening be aware that fly fishing and fly tying is supposed to be fun."*

*Gary Borger: "One of only a few who have ventured outside the ordinary...We first met many years ago at a campground just outside West Yellowstone. Jack had just taken a 25-inch brown on his Sparrow from the Madison, and when I saw the fly, I knew I was talking to a guy that understood big fish. "*

*Eric Leiser: "Exceptionally gifted."*

*Gary LaFontaine: "Few can match him for creativity in pattern innovation."*

*Bud Lily: "Jack's flies are superb. He has a lot of integrity, a lot of principle and a lot of feeling for what the sport is."*

*Robert Rifchin: "I've never seen anyone who has consistently produced better flies."*

*Dick Talleur: "As creative an angler as he is a tyer, with a great instinct for coming up with things that work when nothing else seems to."*

*Lefty Kreh: "His paint don't dry."*



# ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

Publication of United Fly Tyers Volume 54, Issue 9, December 2013

## Bill Catherwood

Bill Catherwood, life-long member of United Fly Tyers, passed away on November 19, 2013, at the age of 88. He died peacefully at Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington.

Bill was born in Lowell, January 22, 1925, the only child of Robert and Alice May (Barbour) Catherwood, and was raised on the Catherwood Dairy farm in South Lowell.

He was a WWII Army veteran who served under General George Patten as a demolitions expert, rifle sharpshooter and machine gun marksman. He earned six Bronze Stars with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Bill remained a proud veteran throughout his life.

Bill enjoyed vegetable gardening, and raised livestock and poultry. He was an avid hunter, trapper and fisherman. He wrote many articles for UFT's Roundtable magazine on using partridge, duck, grouse, and long saddle hackles for tying trout flies. Bill was known for bringing live roosters to UFT meetings or annual sportsman shows for customers.

Some of the large patterns that he created were from wool that Bill got from the black faced sheep that he raised. These large patterns were recognized by outdoor writer Tom McNally in an Outdoor Life article from the early sixties called "The Giant Killers".

In the fly tying community, many paid attention to Bill's Giant Killers because of the exact details of his flies to imitate mackerel, herring, menhaden, squid etc. in color, size and shape. He was responsible for many new tying creations using deer body hair for fresh and saltwater fish. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Federation of Fly Fishermen for his contribution to the sport of fly fishing.

He will be missed by family and friends, especially his United Fly Tyers family.  
It's not good bye Bill, until we meet again..... Armand Courchaine



Bill Catherwood tying one of his "Giant Killer" patterns.



Catherwood stamp.

# Special *Savings* for Crossroads Members

Discounts will be offered to members of the Crossroads Anglers who show their Club membership card to the following businesses when they reserve their date out on the water:

**Captain David Porecca, River & Riptide Anglers**  
 Fly & Light Tackle Charter and Guide Service  
**10 percent discount** for Crossroads Anglers Members  
 401-392-1919, [www.riverandriptide.com](http://www.riverandriptide.com)

**Captain Gary Swanson, Striper-Charters**  
 13 Harbour Hill Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
 508-353-4009, [CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com](mailto:CaptSwanson@Striper-Charters.com)

**Captain Vern (Rob) Robinson & Son, Rock N Reel 24**  
 85 Seymour Street, Berkley, MA 02779, 508-822-6756

**Capt. Tom W.**  
 Private Charters for both Fresh & Saltwater Guide Service  
 Conventional & Fly-fishing  
**15 percent discount** for Crossroads Anglers Members  
 781-408-1215



## THE FUTURE OF CA

Armand's new Grandson  
 Armand, born 12-3-2013



## Crossroads Anglers 2013 Officers

Joel Kessler  
*President*

Howie DeBeck  
*Vice President*

Russ Glenn  
*Membership Chair*

Sumner Levine  
*Newsletter*

George Forte  
*Treasurer*

Steve Dewar  
*Webmaster*

Armand Courchaine  
*CA Founder and  
 Past President Advisor*

David Ferretti  
*Past President Advisor*

Bob Mills  
*Advisor*

John Ramirez  
*Advisor*

~ December 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting 6:30pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm <b>MEETING DATE CHANGE</b>	20	21
22	23	24 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm <b>SEE CHANGE</b>	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31	Notes:			

~ January 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting 6:30pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 <a href="#">Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm</a> <a href="#">Click for directions</a>	29	30	31	Notes:

# Bad Times Never Last

PEOPLE SAY THAT WHEN LIFE gives you lemons make lemonade. Forget the lemonade and make a lemon daiquiri!

In the early nineties I went through a divorce and the following week lost my job as a General Foreman in a major shipyard (went out of business). Your world comes to an end, what do you do? I started getting phone calls from my fly-tying friends to join them tying flies at various meetings and fishing trips. I have to say this kept me from going insane. I mention this because I see the same things happening today with different situations – the economy, lack of security, lost jobs, etc. It's in the headlines every day.

Let me tell you of the spring of 1991. At my tying desk I had a jar that I kept scrap clippings of egg glow yarn in to make steelhead egg patterns. I had every color – chartreuse, red, orange, pink, yellow, etc. It was mixed. At the desk I tied a creation using the clipping dubbed for the body.

I decided to fish all the streams I fished as a kid with my new pattern. This was going to be my mental health cure. Some streams were no longer on the stocking list, some were. In one such place the tree covered the water. It was like a roof that was seven feet high. It was easier to walk in the pasture. I managed to get in the stream.

It didn't matter what time of day. It didn't matter if there was a hatch going on or not. You see, I was just glad to feel the water against my waders. The feel of warm sunshine, the gentle cool rain. I didn't care about what flies were hatching. I was glad to be with nature. It wasn't important if I caught fish or not. I was trying to heal the wounds of my soul.

I fished two rods. I would alternate days fishing with 6 1/2 ft Shakespeare glass or 6 1/2 ft Orvis. What was strange – the fly that I had no faith in – worked miracles for me. Everywhere I went I caught brookies, rainbows, brown, and one tiger trout. Cool days I fished Wet Tip and nice days a floater weight forward six.

I really don't know what to call this fly. Here is the pattern. I guess I'll call it...

## **New Beginnings**

Hook: Mustad #9672 size 12

Thread: Uni-cord 12/0 black or substitute

Tail: Fibers from mottled turkey, pheasant or partridge

Body: egg glow yarn dubbing – mixed colors orange, red, chartreuse

Wing: Mottled turkey, pheasant or partridge

Head: Fine deer body hair then clipped muddler style.

***Fished on the surface, or deep. Life is good – enjoy!***