

Crossroads Anglers

FLYFISHING CLUB SINCE 1994

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

From the President



I want to thank Ron Lasko for a very informative meeting in September. For those who missed it, ask someone who purchased his book and read it. I for one want to try fishing the sea-run rivers of Cape Cod.

We have not scheduled a speaker for this month. Just come early for a pizza night starting at 5pm and ordering the pizza by 5:30 – cost is \$5.00.

We are, however, planning for our Web master to give a demonstration on how to use the web site to its full potential. When you see Steve – thank him – he has done a fantastic job as web master.

I hope everyone is able to attend this month's meeting. A lot of summer talk and winter tying will be going on. There is still some good fishing this fall so ask someone who has gone out where they are going.

I know that there are a few members who are planning a trip to upstate New York for Steelhead (I am one of them). If you have not gone before put it on your bucket list – they are a great fish to catch.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting!

—Joel

Please go to page 8 for a tribute to Al Brewster.

“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”

—Henry David Thoreau

12 Things I Wish I Knew About Fly Tying When I First Started



Unless you have an experienced teacher constantly at your side, certain aspects of fly tying are often learned only through the school of hard knocks. It doesn't have to be that way. Collected here are twelve important tips for fly tying, which too often go untold. Knowing these up front can make the difference between fly tying becoming an enjoyable lifetime hobby instead of a short lived and frustrating venture.

Skip The Pitfalls And Make Fly Tying Fun

Most fly tiers start out with a passion for making flies of their own imagination that will catch fish but not all that start stay at it, many beginners give up on fly tying too soon. The frustration of breaking thread, the feeling of being all thumbs or a myriad of other reasons wins out. Yet there are legions of fly tyers who have been at it for decades, and those legions enjoy their craft. What's the difference between these two groups? The ones still at it gleaned information that makes fly tying easier, more fun, and more satisfying. That's the difference. The tips below can help any beginner develop an edge in their quest to learn. With that edge, beginners can go on to join the legion of fly tying elders.

1. Fingernails Help But Hangnails Hinder

Fingernail maintenance is imperative, but that doesn't mean a professional manicure is necessary. The frustration that results from rough skin or a hangnail catching on hooks and hackles is considerable. It has caused more than one beginner to assume they're clumsy or that their hands are just too large for the task. Truth be told, it's more often their lack of care for their hands that is holding them back. Guitarists like

Continued on page 3. ►



IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU SEE IT

BY HUGH BOUCHARD

WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE to know the ways of a trout than to be a trout? Well, maybe, but just for a short while be a trout. Divorce yourself from that warm, ordered, mostly predictable life and place yourself through your mind's eye into that unceasingly noisy, violently unpredictable, highly competitive watery world beneath the surface of an ice cold stream. Now you have certain requirements that you actively seek to fulfill. These needs can be summed up under the general heading of survival. You have no supermarkets to supply you with food and no social customs, such as marriage, to supply you with members of the opposite sex. Should the latter statement be incorrect, it would explain why you are so finicky and unpredictable.

Of special interest to me as a fisherman is your constant search for food. That is not to say that your food is the most important thing. However, I feel that I have a better chance of tying an artificial that you would like to eat, than I would tying one with which you would like to mate.

That being the case, I would like to describe to you a controversy among my fellow fisherman that is centered around your eating habits. Very briefly, it goes like this; on one side are those who say that artificial flies really should be tied to antagonize you and thus induce you to strike the lure. This side further contends that it is not possible to tie an exact replica of your food - not to mention make it react on the water as your customary food reacts. These well-read and highly experienced folks will only go so far as to contend that flies are a slight suggestion of your customary food. The thought being that such a hint may draw a strike, or given that you are more intelligent (or less hungry), the presence of such a ridiculous fraud may irk you to do away with it in your usual manner. It is only fair to say that many of your closest scaly friends and relatives have fallen for this ruse for whatever the reason.

On the other side of the controversy, I have many friends, creative ones, who are in a never-ending search for materials with which to tie exact replicas of the food that you grow fat and sassy on. These innovative individuals tend to do more first-hand investigation of your habitat to find out what your food really looks like.

One notable standout in the area of imitation (as opposed to antagonism or mere suggestion) is a fisherman named Fulsher. He has probably the most well known imitative artificial in the area of what us fisherman call streamers (you probably call them live filets). It is my own humble feeling that there is room for improvement even in light of Mr. Fulsher's achievement. Although you, Mr. Trout are the final judge, I feel that more could be done with regard to streamer bodies.

It is my contention that the largest mylar piping (both silver and gold) makes the most exact bodies for streamers. As far as remainder of the streamer is concerned, Mr. Trout, it is my considered opinion that the overriding factor must be in how you view the organism that the fly is intended to imitate.

As you know only too well, there are innumerable creatures that are waiting to use you and other genera of fish for food, especially when you were very young. In order to reduce the number of critical encounters to a minimum, you do very well by taking advantage of your protective coloration, which comes to you via many epochs of evolutionary adaptation.

I have been noticing the coloration on you and others like you. It appears to me that you're dark on the dorsal side to blend in with the stream bottom when one of your enemies views you from above. On the ventral side you are very light so that when viewed from the bottom, your light belly blends well with the sky. These traits have allowed you to survive and it is these very traits that us fisherman try to imitate with our streamers. I have lots of favorite streamers and most of them have about the same general coloration patterns that I've told you about. Here is a typical one:

Hook: 5x long streamer, size 10

Thread: Black or dark gray

Tag: Red thread

Body: No sub-body, at least 3/16 diameter gold or silver mylar piping tied down at anterior and posterior. Leave enough slack to be able to pull it down to create a deep belly about 1/3 of the way down the shank.

Wing: A thin layer of white marabou topped with a heavier layer of darker colored gray, green, back or blue marabou.

Head: Clear lacquer with painted on eye - black on yellow.

The color of the wing can be chosen to imitate stream baitfish indigenous to your area. The important features of this streamer are the dark dorsal with marabou, the light ventral with mylar and the depth of the body caused by the bellying of the mylar. this is not a new artificial, but the rationalization for its style may be.

Well Mr. Trout, how do you feel about this controversy? Do you prefer an antagonistic, slightly suggestive artificial or an imitation posing as the real thing. Don't I wish you could answer! But if you did, that would remove some of the pleasure that goes with the effort. I may speak to you again - probably after my foolproof, scientifically oriented streamer fails to work. ■

12 Things I Wish I Knew About Fly Tying When I First Started continued from page 1.

fly tiers depend on their hands for success and taking care of them is top priority. A good guitarist will keep certain nails short, while others are kept slightly longer and regardless of nail length, all skin and nails are kept smooth. Deal with ragged nails and skin before picking up your tools. Consider keeping thumbnails just a tad longer, since they are useful in finessing materials into place.

2. Hook Choice Matters

The brand of hook chosen isn't as critical as type. Hooks for dry flies tend to be lighter, with a curved or straight shank. These hooks tend to be longer to accommodate mimicking a number of insects. Hooks for wet flies are heavier as a rule, but they vary considerably in the bend of the hook and length of shank. Rather than getting overwhelmed with choice, first whittle down the list of flies that you're most interested in making. Get the hooks appropriate to those designs. Make sure the fly tying hooks you buy are close enough to the recommended hook's characteristics, but don't let brand weigh you down unnecessarily. No matter which hook you're working with, make sure it's secured well by the vice. Simply hold the shank in your fingers and move it up or down to make sure it isn't going to give way. If the hook moves when doing this or any time during tying, reposition the hook if necessary and tighten the grip.

3. The Hook as a Ruler

Speaking of hooks, remember that the hook becomes a ruler when you start tying on it. Most materials are measured to some portion of the hook. Learn the parts of a hook, the hook eye, shank, gape, etc. so that you can measure your materials to the right part of the hook when required by a recipe. Also, you can use different parts of the hook on your own. For instance, to prevent crowding the hook eye when finishing the fly, start your thread approximately one hook eye length back from the hook eye and do not let any materials trespass into that space between those thread wraps and the hook eye. That will ensure you have a space between your materials and the hook eye where you can tie a thread head.

4. Your Flies Are Only As Good As Your Eyesight

The very young might have adequate near vision to tie flies well. Those who are in their forties, or even in their thirties, usually begin to find it challenging to focus on close objects. You can help your focus by putting up a solid background such as cardboard behind your vise so that the fly in your vise doesn't get lost in the clutter on your desk that is the

background for your fly. However, changing the background isn't going to cure your aging eyesight, you really should do something about this. This change comes on gradually and some don't realize how much they no longer see, until their eye doctor prescribes precision reading glasses. Reading glasses let a person work at much closer distances and resolve finer detail than computer glasses. Those with less complicated vision issues might find that non-prescription reading glasses from a local store make suitable alternatives. Another solution might be to purchase a magnifier. Magnifiers are sometimes built into circular lamps, which are often designed for artists. Who's more of an artist than a fly tyer?

5. Let There Be Good Lamp Light

Standard room lighting just isn't adequate for fly tying. Invest in a good lamp or two. As noted above, circular lamps are popular for the detailed work of fly tyers and other artists. Circulars are often the clamp on variety, which can be secured to tabletops, desks, or benches. These are bendable and can be posed in any number of ways to best illuminate the fly that's in progress. Some circulars have a built in magnifier, which makes them doubly useful. These designs normally use fluorescent bulbs, which can be obtained in daylight, cool, full spectrum, or other light spectrum designations. There are very good positionable lamps that take incandescent bulbs, although those aren't usually circular lamps. No matter which type of lamp is chosen, make sure that the lighting is comfortable to the eye for hours of work. Fluorescent light can be irritating to some, especially in close proximity. To be more accurate in color selection, try placing a light and neutral gray piece of poster board behind your work.

6. Good Containers Lead To Better Organization

The secret to being neat and tidy is to have a place for everything. Fly tying is more enjoyable when there's no need to hunt down missing bits. If money is no object, then the fly fishing department often holds all the boxes, drawers, and cabinets a fly tyer could ever want. However, it's possible to save money by looking elsewhere. Organizers with multiple drawers, some of which are stackable, come in sizes from minuscule to dresser sized. Look for these among houseware offerings, in sewing supplies, or at general craft stores. Compartment boxes can be pricey in sporting goods departments, but are a better buy at dollar stores or big box merchants, even if you factor in adding a piece of foam board for backing. Cheaper still, empty food containers can be repurposed into spiffy organizers. Try to avoid cardboard, since pests can easily get through it.

7. Snap Clothes Pins Are Like Having Another Set of Hands

Inevitably, a thread will break. In a pinch, a simple clothes pin can hold onto it while you sort out the repair. Use them to hold flies that have been varnished, glued, or cemented. Loose strands of material need not blow around, snap them into a clothes pin. They're cheap and nearly ubiquitous. Look for them in houseware departments, usually near the clothes hangers, or in your own closet. Cheap clothes pins work as well as expensive ones in fly tying endeavors. Just make sure they're the spring or snap variety.

8. Magnets Keep Hooks Out Of Harm's Way

Small and sharp, a lost hook presents a problem for those in your house that travel bare footed. Magnetic pads can save the day. Specially designed magnetic pads have built in stands. Some have Velcro and are repositionable. Stick one right to the base of the vice. Place them around the bench. Commercial ones sometimes incorporate hackle gauges. Creative types, reminiscent of MacGyver, might create their own magnetic pad set up from less expensive components. Whether commercial or not, magnets are indispensable in fly tying. Even with magnetic pads to hold your hooks, one might jump out of your hand when putting it in the vise, having a mechanics magnetic tipped extendable pen is good for searching the floor for lost hooks. If you have carpet, you may want to get a larger block magnet to sweep the rug with.

9. Paper Towels For Fast Clean Up

When tying flies, there's inevitably debris. An easy way to keep this in check is to invest in a roll of cheap paper towels. Keep a sheet off to the side of your work. Deposit the waste on it while you're working. When your fly is finished and ready to be admired, there's no clean up needed. Just fold the debris into the paper towel and throw it away. Also, it is good to have a paper towel folded down to about four inches and kept to the other side where you can grab it to sop up excess super glue or head cement from your fly's head or the tying desk.

10. Buy More Bobbins

Your biggest bobbin investment should be in a couple of ceramic bobbins, which will hold the thread that you use most often, usually black and white threads. A regular metal tube bobbin will develop microscopic grooves and burrs over time that will cut your thread leading to much frustration! You'll want to pick up some extra bobbins, but these don't have to be the very best or the most expensive. Use these less expensive bobbins to hold threads you use less often. You won't have to change threads on your bobbins often, and you'll always have thread ready to go.

11. Good Scissors Are Worth The Money

Every fly tyer needs at least one well made scissors. Your most important scissors is for cutting fine materials and threads, never wires or coarse materials. This little gem should be designed expressly for fly tying. Don't skimp on this. Whether it's curved or straight is left to personal preference. Be sure that your thumb and fingers fit the loops comfortably, or you'll end up miserable while using it, no matter how nicely it's made. Quality isn't as important for heavier scissors used for cutting larger materials or wires. Just make sure the heavies are durable enough to handle the job you put before them and that they fit your fingers. Its even best if you get a pair of mini wire cutters for wire and heavy monofilament cutting, Harbor Freight is a good place to get a pair of these for a buck or two.

Some of these tips might seem small, but they add up. These tips can let the beginner hit the ground running, while keeping the endeavor from becoming an unholy mess. In the course of a lifetime of fly tying, these tips can mean the difference between whether tying is a daunting necessity or an enjoyable experience. ■

12. Consider Other Sources for Materials

New fly tyers don't always realize the variety of places where feathers and other materials can be found. Take a look in local craft stores. Venture into floral shops. Peacock and ostrich feathers are only some of the things you'll find. One retired fly tyer made his life work from carefully breeding chickens for the ultimate hackle, cape, and saddle source. More than one ingenious fly tyer has snipped segments from their significant other's fur coat. That might be going a little too far for the average fly tyer, but remember that feathers and fur don't only come from the fly tying shops. Be inventive but be observant and don't over buy because something is cheap, test it out first and make sure it resists water and holds up.

2013 Annual Crossroads Anglers Fishing Tournament

Categories will be based on species including but not limited to:

Striped bass	Sea trout	Fluke	Atlantic Salmon	Peacock bass
Largemouth bass	Pickrel	Rainbow trout	Tiger trout	
Albie	Bluefish	Redfish	Salmon	
Smallmouth bass	Brook trout	Steelhead	Brown trout	

Contest will end November 30, 2013. Certificates will be presented at the December Crossroads meeting.

This is a very simple contest with the winners enjoying perpetual bragging rights.

- It is open to all Club members.
- Fish must be caught using a flyrod.
- Results must be measured, photographed, and hopefully released.
- Each winner will be determined based on the entire length of the fish.
- All reported results will be based on the honor of the contestant.

Results will be regularly posted right here as they come in. The results you see are merely current entries.

Submit your entries by:

1. posting on the message board
2. e-mailing Steve Dewar at dewar1028@gmail.com
3. mailing the old-fashioned way: 10 Colleen Dr, Lakeville, MA 02347

The Mongoose Clouser

A Sand Ill Imitation

Originated By Dick Empie

MATERIALS:

1. EYES – #3 OR #4 Stu Dickens Krystal Eyes (Pearl) OR Real Eyes 5/32 With Silver Prism Eye Inserts
2. HOOK – #34007 Mustard OR #254 Eagle Claw Size #1 – 1/0
3. THREAD – Danvills “A” White (Body) and Danvills “A” Chartreuse (Head)
4. TAIL/ BODY – Nylon Synthetic Material (Supreme Hair, Ultra Hair, or Super Hair)
Colors: White, Polar Bear, Pink, And Olive

Tail/ Wing tying sequence from the bottom up (using white thread). Start trimming ends of nylon in front of Krystal Eyes. 2 – 3 turns of thread, run over top of the eyes, sparsely wrap body to bend of hook 4 – 5 wraps. Then wrap forward to and under eyes 5 – 6 wraps ending between Krystal Eyes and hook eye. Repeat for each layer of the wing/tail. Stacking them neatly one on top of the other. Applying slight up pressure when holding wing material, followed by sparse wraps of thread, keeps all layers neatly on top of each other in layers. Tied from the bottom up, in sparse amounts, 4” – 6” long:

1. White Nylon
2. 6 – 8 Fibers of Ice Blue Pearl Flashabou
3. Polar Bear Nylon
4. 2 – 4 Strands of Holographic Silver Flashabou (1/64 Diameter)
5. 4 – 6 Strands of Rainbow Krystal Flash
6. Pink Nylon (Really Sparse)
7. 6 – 8 Fibers of Olive Fly Flash
8. Olive Nylon
9. 8 – 10 Fibers of Black or Peacock Fly Flash

Whip finish head and coat body with a thin coat of 5 min epoxy. Allow 10 – 15 min to set. I do 4 – 5 flies at a time to save epoxy and time. Throat: invert hook in vise. Start chartreuse thread, 4 – 5 wraps. Tie in sparse amounts of chartreuse calf tail with butt ends trimmed, tips should extend 1/4” – 3/8” past the bend of the hook. Build head, whip finish, and coat top of eyes from body forward and head with epoxy.

* An Excellent Fly All Year For Striped Bass, Blue Fish, False Albacore, And Bonito!

Fish It High, Fish It Low
Fish It Everywhere You Go!
It takes fish! They don't just nip this fly, they eat it!
95% of takes are swallowed!!!!

Tight Lines!
Dick Empie
Dick Empie

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

Captain Gary Swanson, Striper-Charters
13 Harbour Hill Run, South Yarmouth, MA 02664
508-353-4009, 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



CA founder Armand Courchaine and September meeting speaker Ron Lasko.

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~ October 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting 6:30pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18 	19
20	21	22 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	Notes:	

~ November 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting 6:30pm ELECTION DAY	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Regular Meeting at Foxboro Community Center 6:30-9pm	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

A RECOLLECTION



AL BREWSTER

Sept. 25, 2013 96 years young

I FIRST MET AL, AT CORCORAN'S in Stoughton, MA in the winter of 1955. I was nine years old. It was a nice time growing up. Life was easy, people fished and hunted. The big places such as Orvis, LL Bean and Ambercrombie & Fitch were around but not nearby.

On a Friday night, I showed the salesman John Moriarity my crude attempt at tying trout flies. John called, Mr. Brewster over and showed him my flies. He gave me his thoughts. Kid, keep on tying and you will get better. For over sixty years he always called me the KID. I have to tell you I was honored and blessed to know Al Brewster.

In 1963, he formed Rhody Fly Rodders with Harold Gibbs. It was this night we were invited to Al's home in Riverside, RI for the first meeting. Entering the basement I couldn't believe what I was seeing. He had long row of tables with five fly tying vises. I ask "how come so many vises". His answer a vise for tying dry flies, another for streamers, wets, bass bugs and saltwater. I learned he was a commercial fly tyer for Orvis, LL Bean, Corcoran's. He had boxes with jungle cock, bucktails, feathers – you name it he had it. I don't know how many bamboo rods and a pipe collection. I thought I was in the Disneyland of Fly Tying and fishing.

Al Brewster was a lovable guy. He was personal friends with Art Flick, famous Catskill fly tyer and Rube Cross, who fished with Theodore Gordon, father of American dry fly fishing in the Catskills. He showed me how to tie Flick's nymphs, his signature Catskill dries, famous Gibbs Striper fly, etc. He was always sharing places to fish such as Sandy Point, Portsmouth, Bristol Narrows, and Palmer River for shad and trout. It goes on.

When the Saltwater Fly Rodders of America was formed in 1965, a group of area fly fishers joined Al and Harold in their trip to New Jersey. Through their efforts we became Chapter Three. Al Brewster was a household name with the greats, such as Lee Wulff, Lefty Kreh, Stu Apte, Mark Sosin, Joan Wulff, Ken Bay, and others.

Al was a humble man. One day I started rumbling about how I met Charles Ritz, Lee Wulff, Ernie Schwiebert, Lee Wulff etc. through United Fly Tyers. He let me go on and on about famous people. He looked at me and said. Kid, never never forget people in your back yard, the people who you tie flies with and fish with. It just might be they are greater than all your idols. It was a lesson I always treasured. He was responsible for the phrase "always give back what you learned." The tradition is alive and well – it will go on and on.

Al Brewster, you were like a dad to me. You will never be forgotten. It's not good bye, it's until we meet again.

God bless you,

The kid

Armand Courchaine

October 1, 2013