

The Tyer's Wise

"All the news that's fit to be tied"



UNITED FLY TYERS OF RHODE ISLAND
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

April 2006

Vol. 11 No. 8



Stealth High Tie
by Ed Lombardo

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OUR NEXT MEETING IS

Wednesday night, April 5th at 6:30

E. GREENWICH, RI

SOLOMON'S MASON HALL

AGENDA: TYING

UNITED FLY TYERS OF RHODE ISLAND
P. O. Box 8986
Cranston, RI 02920

OUR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday April 5th at 6:30

AT THE EAST GREENWICH MASONIC HALL

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Scene on a Catskill Creek
Frederic Edwin Church

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Norbert Morin



Who says that fly tying materials and fly fishing equipment are expensive? I've been shown a number of unique ways to cut costs and I'd like to share a few of them with you.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Cat whiskers make great tails for Mayflies – long, slender, light weight and resistant to water for the most part. Cats don't like water I'm told. If you know a good vet ask them to save you a few – you only need 3 to make a good Mayfly.

Cat fur from the underbelly makes great dubbing – I suggest you use a cordless electric trimmer – you can get quite a bit before the cat bolts on you. This fur is thick and long fibered for those who have trouble dubbing and it sinks like a rock – great for nymphs and wets – and it comes in a variety of colors.

Porcupine quills are great for making extended bodies – they float extremely well because they are hollow and for those of you who pinch your barbs there is an added bonus in that there is a hidden barb in each quill – just don't tell Ed Lombardo he'll have you pinching them as well.

Looking for that great reel cover – no problem – go to the Thrift Store and find one of those old Marlboro jackets – if you cut the external pockets out you will have 2 of the finest leather reel cases for cheap money. (I have 2 and I've had them for a long time.) That Marlboro jacket is also lined with sheepskin the same material you use to dry your flies – cut one up and sell 2 inch squares to guys you don't know on the river – tell them it came from Abercrombie and Fitch – they'll pay up to \$5.00 for a drying patch. You can get a lot of patches out of one jacket.

Looking for that special formula of dry fly floatant that doesn't cost much – see Bob Greco – I'm told he brought back a truck load of all natural dry Arizona desert air and he is preparing to bottle it real soon.

Too cheap to purchase a half hitch tool – no problem – take apart any ball point pen and use the bottom half – pens come in fine, Pres. Message continued on page 13.

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MEETING INFORMATION

Each monthly meeting of UFTRI (generally the first Wednesday of the month) will begin with "doors opening" at the Meeting Hall, at 6:00 P.M. A short discussion of business begins at 6:30 P.M. Tying follows. The function room is set with tying tables and chairs. You might bring a small lamp. We will supply extension cords. At each table there will be a tying instructor who has volunteered to provide specific tying instructions on either a fresh or salt water fly. Files to be tied each meeting will be outlined in this newsletter which is sent to all members. Each will include a description and, where possible, a picture. Each month there will be instruction for Beginner and Intermediate tyers with Advanced tying classes occasionally. For all Beginner classes, tying tools and materials will be provided by UFTRI. Intermediate and Advanced tyers should plan to bring their own tools. The club and/or its instructors will provide materials. On nights where there is a speaker fly tying instruction will typically end at approximately 8:00 P.M., followed by our guest speaker. Each monthly meeting of UFTRI is open to members only; non-member guests can attend two meetings. Many meetings will have a door raffle and several "bucket raffles". Annual Memberships- \$25. Children age 15 and under are always admitted free

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING: MASONIC LODGE

Directions from Providence: Go South on 95. Watch for the big fork left on to route 4 south which is exit 9. Get off route 4 at Exit 8A East Green- which which takes you on to 401 East/Division St. In 1.3 miles there is a fork. Bear left to stay on Division Street. Another 0.7 miles is the Lodge on the left.

Directions from South County: Route 4 North to Exit 8A. This is 401/ Division Street East. Continue East for 1.3 miles where you fork left to stay on Division Street. Another 0.7 miles is the Lodge on the left.

YOUTH PROGRAM NEWS

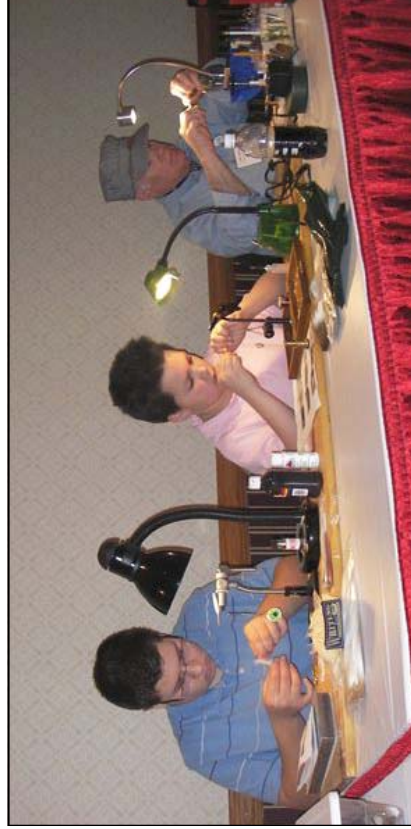
On Saturday, March 11, our own **Bill Russo** took a first place in the Northeast Fly Tying Competition held at the Fly Fishing Expo in Wilmington, Mass. Bill beat his competition by tying the best "White Lefty's Deceiver."

Bill's brother **Nick Russo**, although not a prize-winner, made us proud by tying some beautiful "Western Coachmen".

Having seen these two young men under the pressure of the competition, I want to tell you how proud I am of both of them. I believe this says a lot about our youth program. Bill and Nick are two examples of a lot of good work we have accomplished with our Youth Program. I believe this is just the start of lots of our kids not only tying in that competition but in enjoying the benefits of tying for many years to come.

I'd like to thank three of our hardest working members for all their help over the past few years. Without their help, we would never have been able to achieve this. Thanks to **Lenny Lake, John McCall, and Peter Burgess**.

UFTRI is proud of all its educational programs and this one in particular.
John O'Meara



EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE Dick Pearce, Mike Maddalena



Hello everyone! It's early springtime and lots of mother nature's phenomena are taking place! Robins are back with other birds singing to celebrate their return. Buds are beginning to sprout, rivers & streams should be in full flow, and insects shall be making a presence.

We all know that birds eat bugs and all waterways are a nursery for them. Trout and other game species, we pursue are also feasting on this smorgasbord of insect activity.

Ladies & gentlemen grab your rods & gear! Yes its time! The madness is starting: fishing season is upon us. I've already noticed small black stoneflies and dark & blue quills will follow soon. Quill Gordons & Hendricksons are bigger hatches and we should look for them about mid to late April.

We all love dry flies but nymphs & streamers will bring us far more success in the early season. On the salt, besides the hold-over areas for stripers we await this year's migration. When the forsythias are in bloom, its a good indication they are on their way back to us. Before you head out, please check the weather, wind, water conditions, as well as tides. Early Spring conditions can fluctuate quickly and drastically. Be safe. **Mike**

Volunteers needed to run the club.

The following positions are open and need to be filled by August. We need a Secretary, Vice President and President. There are also 2 positions on the Board that should also be filled. If you are interested in helping us out please see any of the board members at one of the meetings or functions. Your help is very much needed at this time.

"The Tyer's Vise" is the magazine of the United Fly Tyers of Rhode Island. It is published monthly, usually from September through May. No portion of this magazine may be copied, sold or eaten without the expressed consent of UFTRI.

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flyfish@mcmfg.com

Last Month's Meeting



Club founder Bob Greco (L) came back to RI and hopped in as an instructor at the March meeting. John Fisher is at his left. Bob spent over a year in Phoenix. He says that the saltwater fishing there was not too good but that there are trout in Arizona! Just like cactus in Cranston.



Note the peculiar direction of Dave Pollack's vise with the jaws facing up! Dave is working on learning to tie while lying on his side.

All pictures taken by Gus Pregel. Gus does receive remedial treatment after each meeting.

George Tillotson will be tying this **Advanced Beginner to Intermediate Fresh Water** pattern. For those who want a fly whose effectiveness has been proven often and widely, this nymph is perfect. It incorporates flash and weight and imitates all nymphs depending on the size you tie it and the presentation used. If your fly box does not contain this one it has a gaping hole!

Bead Head Pheasant Tail Nymph

Hook: nymph hook, 3x long

Head: copper bead

Thread: brown

Tail: pheasant tail

Body: pheasant tail

Rib: fine copper wire

Thorax: peacock herl

Wingcase: pheasant tail



President's message continued:

medium and bold just like the eyes of a hook – you can usually get them for free at any sporting show (pens that is).

Want that buggy look on your dubbed nymph body – use Velcro – it comes in a myriad of different sizes and you can usually find some excess pieces on a pair of kids sneakers being thrown out in the trash. They don't fasten their sneakers anyway so the material is like brand new.

Got leaders that are stiff and tend to stay curled: soak them in a pan of warm water with ¼ cup of fabric softener – it works like a charm, no joke.

There are a lot more inexpensive items out there. Just ask one of your fishing buddies and I'm sure they will share some of their secrets. Share them with us as well.

In the meantime, remember, "if you can't keep a tight line at least tie a nice fly."

Norbert

Followers of **Deb Duran**, a recognized tying scholar, know that she brings thoroughly researched and artistic techniques to the table. This month's elegant fly is no exception. It is the **Lady Caroline**, an **Intermediate** tie for **fresh water or saltwater**.

"This fly is one of the most popular original spey patterns. It is still widely used for Atlantic-salmon and steelhead fishing. Spey patterns originated in Scotland and are among the oldest salmon flies. In recent years they have come back in popularity with a vengeance. They are especially popular with west coast tyers. The original patterns are very drab in color but their history is very rich. I will be teaching you the Lady Caroline with some more modern alternatives to the original dressings. The flies were originally tied using Heron feathers which are no longer an option for the modern tyers. If you've always wanted to try your hand at Atlantic salmon flies but the expense and time kept you from attempting them I think you will really enjoy the spey flies. They're a beautiful alternative for a creative tyer and they don't require the time of a classic salmon fly. This will be a good introduction to setting those difficult wings. I will be using the method in Bob Veverka's book Spey Flies and I will teach you how to set them one side at a time and get a beautiful tented wing.

I will bring along some books on spey flies as well as some vintage and modern flies tied by some very talented friends that I have collected over the years to share with you."

The Lady Caroline

Hook: Size 2, 1 or 1/0 low-water salmon or Alec Jackson spey hook

Tag: Medium flat gold tinsel

Tail: Red Golden Pheasant body feather fibers

Body: Olive wool

Ribs: Fine oval gold tinsel,

counter wrapped with fine oval

silver tinsel

Body Hackle: Grey spey hackle

Throat: Red Golden Pheasant

body feather

Wings: Bronze Mallard



Look at this group of Rhode Island's most notorious fly fishermen. The DEM apologizes that they are powerless to keep these guys off the water.

APRIL TYING

T. S. Eliot said "April is the cruellest month." He should have turned aside the writing to spend more time outdoors. In April the clinger nymphs start to rise. In April we begin to fish in earnest. And in April we think hard about the flies we didn't tie in time for the season and really buckle down. April is not cruel. It is kind and welcome.

Ed Lombardo will be conducting a class on the "High Tie" techniques, concentrating on this approach to tying salt water streamers. It is an **Intermediate Salt Water** table. The fly he chose exemplifies a technique that Ed is a proponent of for streamer tying. Ed will be sure to include some fishing background as to why he likes this family of flies so much:

"Back in the 40's and 50's, when saltwater fly fishing was in its infancy there were a number of flies that appeared at about the same time that were very similar to each other. I'm going to concentrate on three of those flies, all of which use bucktail and a "high tie style" that is now classic.

Bart Forth, of Islamorada, Florida, converted the ideas in the Ozark Weedless Minnow to a fly he tied at the top of the shank of the hook. According to Joseph D. Bates in his book Streamers and Bucktails, this "type affords a much longer wing than conventional bucktails, with a very narrow bait-fish-like silhouette, and avoids tying too much hair at one time, which would make the head too bulky and insecure. The secret is in tying in small bunches of hair, one after the other, starting at the end of the shank and continuing to the eye with about 5 separate bunches." Five applications were typical, although it could be varied according to the length of the hook's shank. The Bart Forth Bucktail fits this description and can be dressed in any number of combinations.

The original "Blonde Bucktail" was tied by Homer Rhodes Jr. in the late 40's and was used in fishing for tarpon. It was originally called the Homer Rhodes Jr. Tarpon Fly. Later on, in the 50's and 60's, Joe Bates and Joe Brooks fished this pattern extensively. "Joe became so entranced with its success that he renamed the type and wrote about it extensively under names such as the Strawberry Blonde,

Glen Northup will be tying a classic streamer that **Beginners** can master. It is the **Mickey Finn**. "Flat-wing flies have become a staple pattern in many local saltwater angler's fly boxes. Their silhouette & action make them very effective fish takers. Three years ago, I started tying them in freshwater sizes. Trout find them as appealing as stripers do! The Mickey Finn is a time proven pattern that is not complicated to tie. If time allows, we will use our imaginations and create another flat-wing pattern."

Micky Finn

Hook: Mustad 34007 or other short shank hook.
sizes # 6,7,8

Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0

Tail/Support: Yellow buck-tail or calf-tail

Wing: Red saddle hackle

Body: Silver tinsel

Throat/Sides: Yellow & red buck-tail or calf-tail mixed

Eyes: Optional, stick-on painted, or jungle cock



Below: Nick Russo, Bill Russo and John O'Meara after the Wilmington Fly Fishing Show Tying competition. All of these talented tyers have a bright and creative future in the world of tying.....More on p.14.



Bob Greco will be hosting a **Techniques Table**. He will demonstrate ways materials such as CDC, animal hair and synthetics can be used in tying. He will discuss spinner wings, tailing, upright wings, etc. in a general overview of established methods. It will be geared for the intermediate tyer but beginners can derive benefit as well.

Mike Maddalena will instruct the **Slim Jim** an **Advanced Beginner to Intermediate Salt Water** tie. "The **Slim Jim** was created by Page Rogers. I had the pleasure of tying this pattern when Page first began giving classes over a decade ago. The **Slim-Jim** is an excellent imitation of the **Atlantic Silversides**. Its slider style body give it a natural buoyancy in the water. It can be fished either on the surface or just below. Use either a floating or intermediate type line. It can be fished with a variety of retrieves: dead-drifting, twitching, long slow strips or fast skittering across the surface.

The Slim Jim

Hook: Mustad 34011 size 2
Thread: White Flat waxed nylon
Tail: Polar white Mystic Bay or Craft fly fur, topped with 3 strands of silver flashabou & 3 strands of pearl olive flashabou, topped with olive fur.
Body: 1/4" white foam cylinder
Dorsal color: Olive prismatic
Side color: Yellow chartreuse
Lateral line: Wide pearl mylar tinsel
Eyes: Stick-on silver
Epoxy: Cover entire body



The web site is now
www.uftri.org
 We apologize for the site being "off the air" for a while.

Platinum Blonde, and his famous **High Tie**. They were sometimes referred to as the **Brooks Blondes**, but **Joe** disclaimed that because, while he popularized the series, he did not originate it."

In 1977 I viewed a video produced by Scientific Anglers featuring, **Hal Ganson**, a well known fly fishing authority from California. Hal modified one of the **Brooks patterns** (Joe **Brooks High Tie**) in which **Brooks** used **bucktail**. In Hal's fly, the **Hal Ganson Stripped Leach**, Hal substituted **marabou** for **bucktail**. The fly became one of the best leech imitations ever used! (One of my best worm flies is fashioned after the **Hal Ganson stripped leach**.)

After tying and fishing these wonderful high tie patterns in both fresh and saltwater I became a true believer. They catch fish almost always!

The pattern I will conduct my class on is one I call **The Stealth High Tie**. It is very similar to the **Rhody Flat Wing** but tied in the high tie design. This pattern will not foul as much as the standard flat wings. Those who know me have frequently heard one of my favorite words: "sparse." That's how I tie it (what a surprise!)."

The Stealth High Tie
Hook: Eagle Claw 254, 2/0, 1/0
Thread: Black or Olive
Body: Small white bunches of buck tail
Wing: Three to Five small bunches of long hackles tied in series along the top of the hook's shank. The first 2 are white, 3rd olive, gold, and pink, 4th blue, dark green, and black, and 5th a bunch of peacock hurt or black bucktail. Varnish each tie with head cement as you go.
 (The fly can be tied in an endless variety of colors.)



Steve Weltoff will be tying the **Parmachene Belle** at his **Intermediate to Advanced Fresh Water** table. "I am pleased to be able to show this very special fly this month for a couple of reasons. First, I believe that many tyers shy away from married-wing flies. They think they're too complicated, require obscure/expensive materials, or reserved only for the full-dressed "fancies"—not so, and we'll prove each of those assertions wrong. The second reason that I'm pleased to present this pattern is that it was created by a native Rhode Islander: Henry P. Wells (1842-1904).

Henry Parkhurst Wells, was born to Dr. Phineas P., and Catherine J. (French) in the city of Providence, 1842. After graduating from Amherst College in 1862, he served in New York's 13th Heavy Artillery for the last two years of the Civil War (1863-65). From there, Wells studied law under C. E. Soule, attended Columbia Law School, and was admitted to the NY Bar Association in 1869. Records show that Wells practiced law in NYC from 1869 to 1904—the year he passed. Wells was a rather prolific writer with no less than 8 major publications to his name, including "Fly Rod & Fly Tackle", and "The American Salmon Fisherman."

The Parmachene Belle is named after the Parmachenee Lake (par-muh-chee-nee) in the NW corner of Maine's Rangeley region, close to the NH border. Made to represent the colorful fins of the Brookie, this fly is well suited to Northern Brook Trout, though it also effective on Browns, Steelhead, and other species. In his book "Trout," Bergman suggests fishing this fly when the water is high and/or discolored.

This is one of my favorite patterns to tie, as it looks sharp, and lends itself well to variation. The body can be tied with wraps of wool thread, embroidery thread, silk, or dubbed with wool, seal, goat, angora, or SLF. Wings can be fashioned from duck, goose, swan, or turkey. The ostrich herl tip can be left out, or sub with tinsel (oval w/silk body looks nice). The Belle can be tied as a traditional wet, a streamer, a hairwing, or a Rangeley. If time permits, we'll examine the differences between the P Belle and her cousin, the Parmachene Beau. We'll also try to tie the Belle in a streamer configuration, to work with longer wings, where we'll discuss "humping," "pre-humping," and "butt-sucking"—get your mind out of the gutter! (All real tying techniques, I swear).

One last note: Less than half mile north of Parmachenee Lake is a small, 7 acre pond—Wells Pond. If you should visit, get that mojo workin' and tie on a Belle."

The Parmachene Belle

Hook: Size 2-10, (2X Heavy, 2X Long)

Body: Yellow wool

Rib: Silver tinsel

Tip: Black ostrich, or chenille

Tail: White and scarlet

Wing: White with scarlet stripe

Hackle (throat): White and scarlet

*as listed in Ray Berman's Trout, 1938, 1966, 2000, parentheses mine.



The Parmachene Belle and the Parmachene Beau

Gary Soares will instruct **The Little Stripper Slayer** at his **Intermediate Salt Water** table. "Much of what stripers eat is actually small prey, not huge baits like many striper flies. This fly does not mimic any specific prey fish, but rather suggests form, color and motion to entice a strike. The fly is allowed to sink a bit and then retrieved in short bursts with moderate pauses to allow the hackle to breathe and the fly to see saw up and down in the strike zone. When stripers are wary of larger flies pull this little slayer out. It often gets taken where before larger flies either were ignored or spooked the fish."



Little Stripper Slayer

HOOK: Any salt hook

TAIL: white neck hackle, grizzly hen back, pearl crystal flash

BODY: grizzly hen back and red neck hackle

EYES: small 3-d eyes

HEAD: red thread