

# The Tyer's Vise

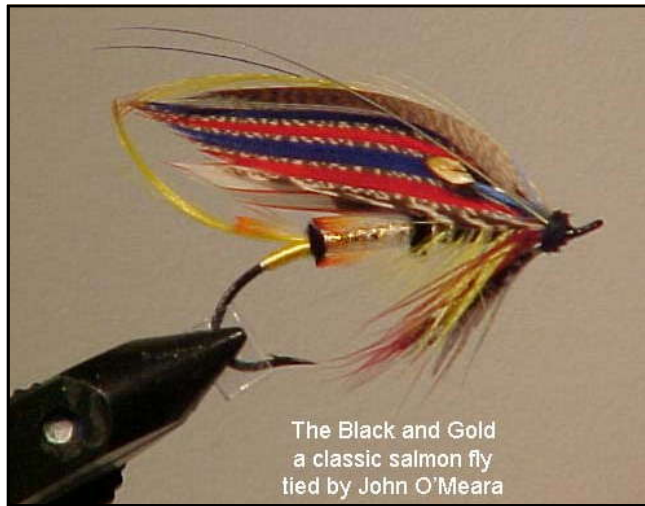
"All the news that's fit to be tied"



UNITED FLY TYERS OF RHODE ISLAND  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

June 2007

Vol. 12 No. 10



The Black and Gold  
a classic salmon fly  
tied by John O'Meara

## OUR NEXT MEETING IS

The annual cookout.

It will be a social, fishing, eating experience  
at the fish and game preserve

Deer Creek Farm

Saturday June 2 9am to sunset

*(directions on page 5)*

**FAMILY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO COME.**

OUR CLUB WEB SITE IS

**[www.uftri.org](http://www.uftri.org)**

also available is an email discussion group at  
[uftri-list@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uftri-list@yahoogroups.com)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### George Tillotson

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**George**

**W**e are looking forward to seeing you all at the club annual cookout on Saturday, June 2.

The next day on Sunday, June 3, is the Healing Coop event, also at Deer Creek Farm. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who will be assisting Ed Lombardo to conduct a fishing and tying seminar for the admirable ladies of the Healing Coop.

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### Healing Coop Event

Lawson Cary and Ed Lombardo have announced our second fly fishing clinic with this women cancer survivors' network. Those of you who volunteered at our last event with the Healing Coop know what an extraordinary experience it will be.

Ed Lombardo is the emcee and he will reprise the superb presentation he gave at this event two years ago. Ed will preside over the tying, casting, and other classes that are part of this experience. We and TU will participate, thanks to our volunteers.

The seminar is one of the teaching and outreach events that our club and the Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited conduct. The idea for this particular event was TU President Lawson Cary's. Lawson and Ed hope that fly fishing becomes an enduring part of the lives of the cancer survivors of the Healing Coop and that we can be a part of future on the water classes that leads to that.

The event will be at Deer Creek Farm, Sunday June 3rd beginning at 9am. Directions to Deer Creek Farm are on page 5.

*"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.*

*Editor: Burt Strom*

*Please send submissions to: Burt Strom 418 Pond Street Wakefield, RI 02879*  
**swim@mtmfg.com**

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## EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dick Pearce, Mike Maddalena

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Our last meeting will be on Saturday, June 2nd. This is our Annual Spring Picnic, at Deer Creek Farm in Foster, RI. Directions to the venue are on page 4 and 5. Bring your appetites, gear (if you want to fish the stocked pond) and mingle with other club members. After the

picnic we will see you on the water, and next tying season at the club. Thanks for being with us. **Dick and Mike**

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### Yarn

Synthetic yarns are available in various colors and textures. There are: polyesters, acrylics and nylon yarns that float like cork and come smooth or coarse. There is a color to match any natural insect.

Yarn can be combed out, if the skein is not tightly woven, and separated into strands for fly bodies.

Yarn can be combed out into fine dubbing. Use a metal comb.

Yarn strands can be combed and tied in as wings and lifted upright or figure-eighted into spinner wings that are gossamer.

Upright yarn wings or posts can be coated with fingertips dipped into Loon Hard Head clear cement. This will help them stay stiff and afloat forever. (This cement is non-toxic and rubs right off fingers.)

Yarn wings and Loon Hard head wings can be shaped and cut to mayfly, caddis or stonefly shapes.

One visit to a craft store will yield enough yarn for dubbing, bodies and wings for a lifetime of tying at very little cost!

## The Mystery Mayfly

*Siphloplecton basale*

All of us who fish the Wood know about the widespread mayfly hatch beginning in mid April. This is a large (#12 usually) two tailed mayfly that is seen fluttering about in the afternoon when the egg laying females begin their ovipositing.



Unfortunately the recently stocked trout are not as turned on to these mayflies as they might be if they were fully acclimated. Anyway, this genus hatches by crawling out of the water so the fish would not see the duns emerging vertically nor hanging in the film; but possibly they would take the spinners late in the afternoon.

This beautiful mayfly is therefore not important to the fisherman; nevertheless we should know about it and try it as a late day spinner presentation. Its size (dun) is 12 and 14. Very dark upper body with cream underbody (by the time they are flying over the river.) Banding is light. Sheer wings are spotted with black. There are two large tails. Faint traces of blue green are on the cream belly especially in the thorax area.

For those who want to know: this mayfly is the *siphloplecton basale* and it is a member of the Metretopodidae family, sometimes referred to as "pseudo gray drakes." The nymph is an extremely strong swimmer. If we had educated early season trout we might try a swimming nymph. A size 12 pheasant tail fished as a quick swimmer, or slowly at the shoreline (pre-emergent crawl out) is the theory. But in practice if the nymph works it is probably because the trout took it for a hatchery pellet.

**Burt Strom**

### Directions to Deer Creek Farm

Get on Route 6 from 295. You are heading west, towards Connecticut. You will cross routes 102 and 94 and then just before the Connecticut border you will make a left on Boswell Trail. You will then cross past Salisbury road on your left and the next turn is a right on to North Road. Look for the entrance to Deer Creek Farm.

[www.deercreekri.com](http://www.deercreekri.com)



When you said an early season float trip I thought, perhaps, in a canoe or johnboat on a quiet trout stream in North Carolina or Virginia, rather than on a block of ice in the Kokolik River in northern Alaska.



**Salmon flies** are mentioned in the early literature of fishing and tying. In the 1700s salmon fishing was fairly popular in Scotland. But the early Scottish patterns were bland compared to the exotic patterns that were developed during the Victorian era. Colorful materials and complex patterns evolved. This was in keeping with the bustling economies of western Europe and new fashions in furniture, clothing and design in general. Then pragmatism arose in salmon fly tying and competed with exoticism. More basic salmon flies were developed whose purpose was to attract migrating salmon perhaps more practically. But the demanding techniques and the hunt for materials to fulfill the requirements of “fully dressed” salmon flies never left. And the fully dressed salmon fly became an art form. Its adherents will spend hours and hours on a single tie. John O’Meara is such a practitioner, and also a teacher, of the art of the fully dressed salmon fly. He encourages tyers to face the challenges of obtaining materials and of mastering the craft involved. He has contributed the following article. In it he describes the anatomy of a classic fully dressed salmon fly, using *The Black and Gold* as his example.

**The Anatomy of a Classic Salmon Fly,  
The Black and Gold  
By John O'Meara**

**Black & Gold Recipe**

Tag: Silver twist and gold floss

Tail: A topping and Indian Crow

Butt: Black Ostrich herl

Body: In two equal sections, First half: Gold tinsel ribbed with silver oval tinsel with Indian crow above and below, and butted with black Ostrich herl. Second half: Black silk ribbed with silver oval tinsel

Hackle: Gold hackle over the black silk from second turn

Throat: Claret hackle and Jay

Wings: Dark turkey with white tips, bustard, red macaw, light mottled turkey, mallard, swan died red and blue, and two toppings

Sides: Jungle cock

Cheeks: Chatterer

Horns: Blue Macaw

Head: Black Berlin wool

As tiers, we can certainly appreciate what goes into a classic salmon fly. – or do we? I'd like to mention a few things about classic salmon flies that may help increase your appreciation of a classic that is done well. From selecting the hook, to finishing the head, every step in constructing a classic should be well thought out well in advance if we are to end up with a properly tied classic fully dressed salmon fly.

In their order of appearance in the tying procedure, the materials are:

The **hook**. Most salmon hooks are handsome devices. In this particular example, the Black & Gold is tied on a Bartleet CS 10/1, size 2. The hook has a slight curve to the shank, which enhances the grace and flow of the fly. It is a loop eyed hook, (as opposed to a blind eyed hook which requires a gut eye to be fashioned.)

The **tag**, which is the first thing that we tie on consists of two parts. First there are very brief tinsel wraps, (usually four wraps maximum). This is usually very fine and shiny silver or gold. Second is a silk floss which is wound up to, but not past, the point of the hook. It should have a gradually increasing taper.

Next, we add the **tail**, usually a short golden pheasant topping with various “veilings.” In this case we use an Indian crow substitute. ( A veiling is any feather placed over another major component.) It is important to notice the location of the tip of the tail. In most cases, it will be slightly behind the bend of the hook, and between one, to one and one half times the hook gap high. This is probably the most important measurement to be made in tying any salmon fly. The point where the tail ends is the same point where the tip of the wing and the tip of the topping meet. This point sets the attitude of the entire fly.

To hide the bulk created by the stems of the tail and its veiling, we use a herl **butt**. The herl butt consists of no more than four turns of very fine herl, (from near the top of the plume.) The fibers should point toward the rear. This allows each wrap to be placed closely to the preceding wrap, and ultimately the rib and silk of the body to be placed right up against the edge of the herl, making for a very tidy transition.

The majority of classics have tinsel **ribbing** on the **body**. Usually it's a simple oval silver or gold. This is tied in so that the first wrap will come from the bottom of the fly. Traditionally the tinsel is wrapped forward in five turns.

Before tying in the material for the body, the tier might want to taper the body to a cigar shape. This is done with inexpensive rayon floss which will become completely hidden. The taper adds considerably to the overall appearance of the fly, (a touch of class if you will.)

In this fly the first half of the body is a flat gold tinsel, ribbed with a silver oval tinsel, and a veiled top and bottom with Indian crow substitute. Once again: the lumps created by the stems of the veiling are hidden by a herl butt.

The second half of the body, in this case, consists of black silk ribbed with silver oval tinsel. Again, the herl should point toward the rear, and the oval tinsel should be tied in right up to the edge of the herl so it can begin from the bottom and wrap forward for five turns.

Whenever a **hackle** is wrapped over a silk, or dubbed body, the hackle usually starts from the bottom with the second wrap of the tinsel ribbing.

The body is finished with the **beard, or throat**. In this case, a claret hackle, followed by a guinea fowl body feather. The beard should sweep back toward, but not reach the point of the hook.

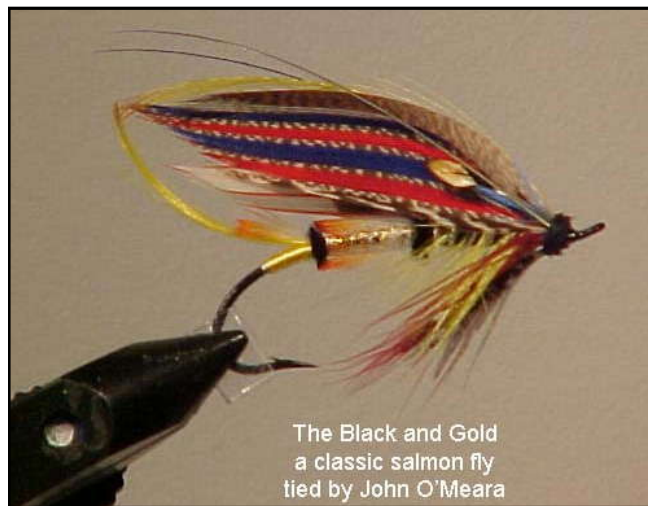
Now we're ready to tie in the **wings**. Most classic salmon flies have an **underwing**, in this case, white tipped turkey. This white tipped turkey is used on several classics. (More popular is the golden pheasant tippet underwing.)

Our **overwing** consists of fibers of several different birds and colors. The recipe dictates the colors and the sequence of color.

. A typical overwing consists of approximately 24 to 30 fibers of the various feathers dictated by the recipe. Although the recipe dictates the order of the materials, the tier is allowed a certain artistic license. In this case, I've chosen to use more red than blue and placed the bulk of it nearer the bottom of the wing where it has more visibility. I've also chosen to use the light mottled turkey

on the bottom of the wing. Since the majority of the fibers in these wings are goose, (more vibrant in color and softer than turkey) the heavier turkey fibers would crush the goose when tied in place if they were on the top.

The finishing touches on this fly consist of a golden pheasant **topping** over all, jungle cock **cheeks**, veiled with blue chatterer. At this point it might be good to mention that any fibers on the left (or near) side of the fly should come from the left side of the feather, and vice versa. Also, any small feather like jungle cock or chatterer on the left side (or near side) should come from the left side of the pelt. This will allow the



feathers to sweep back and downward slightly, adding to the grace of the fly.

The mallard **roof** is a simple looking little feature. However, nothing that comes from a mallard is easy to work with. Again, the long fibers from the left side of one feather should be joined with the long fibers from the right side of another, to form a tent, or roof, to sit on top of the entire wing, left fibers on the left, (or near side) of the fly.

The **horns** are single fibers of the Macaw tail feathers, (left on left side etc.) They should extend from the head and angle upwards toward the topping, crossing the topping just before the base of the tail.

Finally, rather than a glossy black **head** as seen on many other classics, the heads of Irish flies are usually made of dubbed Berlin wool, or black Ostrich herl.

In closing, a good rule of thumb in identifying any classic salmon fly is to look closely at the body, not the wings. In this case, "Black and Gold" refers to the colors of the body not the wings. The Black and Gold is one of a family of old Irish patterns. The other members of the family are the Black and Orange, and the Black and Claret.

Other good examples are the Doctor series. The Silver Doctor has a silver body. The Black Doctor has a black body, etc. Their wings are very much alike, and all have red heads.

Most Irish flies are rather drab in color compared to their Welsh and British counterparts. Although drab, they produced great results on the Irish rivers. This fly was originated in the late 1800's when Lincoln was president. An Irish gentleman by the name of O'Fee is credited with its origin

The flies of the Black & Gold family are some of the earliest classic Irish flies using the colors and flash of the British and Welsh flies. It was around this time that some of the more colorful and flashy materials available elsewhere were beginning to make their way into this poverty stricken part of the world.

I hope this little exercise will allow each of you to view Classic Salmon Flies from a new perspective in the future.

**John J. O'Meara**

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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
AND NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
(membership application for the coming season  
is on page 14)

- 1 The 2006/2007 end-of-season cookout and Family Day will be on June 2, 2007, from 9 am until sunset at the Deer Creek Farm, 59 North Road, Foster, RI 02825-1619 (Telephone No: 1-401-397-6616) and WEB site: [www.deercreekri.com](http://www.deercreekri.com).
- 2 **MEMBERSHIP:** This is the only membership application you will receive from UFTRI for the upcoming year. Please complete the form and return it with your payment as soon as possible to keep your membership current. Additional applications can be found on our website if you want to sign up a friend. Remittance may be mailed to the P O Box given at the top of the membership form which is on page 14. Also, returning members may renew and new members may join at meetings by completing a membership application and paying their dues at the membership meeting.
- 3 2007/2008 UFTRI Season Membership cards will be issued to all paid members for admittance to regular membership meetings and special events.
- 4 The first meeting for the 2007/2008 UFTRI Season will be on September 5, 2007.
- 5 Membership cards will be required at the door for admittance to membership meetings beginning with the November 7, 2007 meeting and any special UFTRI events so

noted thereafter.

- 6 Those who are in arrears after the November 7, 2007 meeting will not receive further newsletters.
  - 7 Those past members who have not paid their dues by November 7, 2007 will not be admitted to the Holiday Dinner in December 2007.
  - 8 Please check out the UFTRI WEB site at [www.uftri.org](http://www.uftri.org) for more information on UFTRI.
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#### **More Fishing Definitions from Dave Boisvert**

**casting** The art of propelling a lure towards a target using a forward, backward, sidearm or underhand motion of the rod depending on whether you want your fly, plug, or bait to end up in the tree in front of you, a tree behind you, a tree to the left or right of you, or a tree above you.

**charter boat** Large, twin-engine ocean going rented fishing boat fully equipped to take up to four saltwater anglers to the cleaners.

**dawn** Magical time of day when the only thing an angler has to do to absolutely guarantee that the fish will be biting like crazy is simply to stay home in bed.

**double-haul** Powerful but tricky-to-execute fly-casting technique that makes it possible to snag a fly in two trees at one time or higher up in a taller tree twice as far away.

**false cast** Backward-and-forward whipping motion with a fly-casting line that usually results in a true test of patience, a genuine predicament, an honest-to-God mess, a veritable disaster, or a real pain in the ass.

United Fly Tyers of RI, Inc.  
PO Box 8986  
Cranston, RI 02920

**Membership Application / Renewal Dues are \$25.00**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**  Renewal  First-time member

*We welcome you to volunteer for any of the areas below.*

*Please circle your choices:.*

**Regular Membership Meeting help:**

Set-up before meeting(s)

Demonstrate special tying technique(s)

Clean-up after meeting(s)

Instruct Fly Tying:

Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced

Instruct special tying technique(s), tool  
and material use/I.D., etc.

Presentation on Fly Tying

**Fishing Show(s) assistance:**

Setup  Breakdown UFTRI area

Speak with visitors

Instruct/Demonstrate Fly Tying

**Special Events** (i.e. Holiday Dinner, Auction, Symposium, Cookout):

Set-up  Cooking  Serving

Teaching/Demonstrate Fly Tying

Cleaning up at special events

**Miscellaneous jobs:**

Manage Club materials

Newsletter work

Telephone work

Photography

Working with/at the Junior's Program

Club Computer work

Other

### Board of Directors

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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. Flies 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:

#### SANTA MARIA di PRATA SOCIETY

**Directions:** Get on I-295 and take to exit 4 (Plainfield Pike/Route 14 East.) Go 1.2 miles and make a right on to Curry Rd. Continue 0.4 miles and make a left on to Cannon Street. Continue 0.3 miles and bear right on to Walnut Grove for under 0.1 miles to the Santa Maria di Prata Society . #29 Walnut Grove. It is a 2 story brick front bldg.

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

**OUR NEXT MEETING**

*Saturday June 2nd at*  
**DEER CREEK FARM IN FOSTER, RI**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

