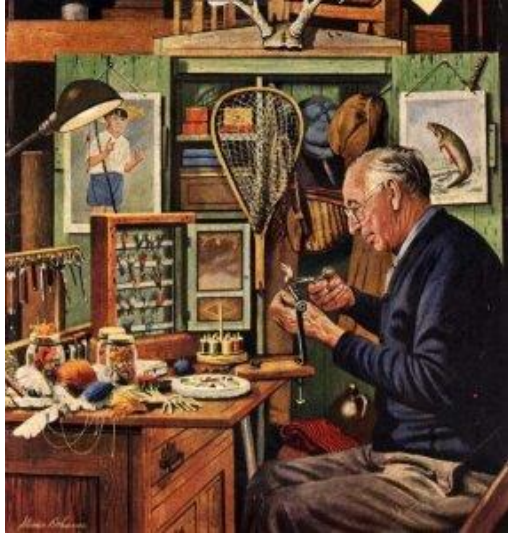


Blue Ridge NC Trout Unlimited



August 2023 Newsletter

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlueRidgeTU/>



This month we dedicate the newsletter to beginning fly tying. It's something that may be hard to get started in, but after starting is hard to quit and can often become an obsession as you can see by the amount of materials scattered over the desk in the painting. I haven't been able to discover who painted this, but it is from the cover of a Saturday Evening Post magazine and sure looks to me like a Norman Rockwell. You can get a framed copy of this painting from [Marmont Hill](#). If you haven't begun tying your own flies, read on and attend a BRTU fly tying class.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, vacations, family gatherings, fishing and good air-conditioning. Unfortunately, this is a tough time for trout. The water is low, the air temperature is in the 90's every day and the water is warm. Most of the streams are getting close to 70 degrees or more now which are critical temperatures for survival of trout. Please carry a thermometer with you and check the temperature of the water. If it is above 70 degrees consider fishing for bass and panfish that are very active this time of the year and will give you a good fight. If you do fish for trout, don't play them long and release them as quickly as you can. A stressed fish in warm water may not be able to recover and will die. So please protect this wonderful resource.

We are still on summer break and the next meeting will be in September. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

Robbie Abou-Rizk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fly Tying Classes

At 9 AM on Wednesdays Project Healing Waters will host fly tying classes and at 6 PM on Wednesday evenings Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited will host classes. The classes will be held at the South Fork Community Center at 4403 Country Club Road in Winston Salem. The classes are free and all are welcome - from beginners to advanced. No need to sign up, just come join us. If you have specific questions about the evening classes, you can contact, Rusty Berrier at rustyberrier@outlook.com.

BRYSON CITY: October 12 – 15, 2023.

Registration Link will be provided soon.

Alarka (Bryson City area) Trip with Rocky River Chapter
<https://www.smokymtnretreat.com/>

- **Costs** Food/Tent Camping: \$90 for 3 nights
- Cabin: \$190 for 3 nights, beds are first come first serve, each cabin sleeps 8
- Prices include 3 dinners (Thur/Fri/Sat), 3 breakfasts (Fri/Sat/Sun) and use of the campground.

The Smoky Mountain Outings are held twice a year, Spring and Fall. The event is a 4 day camping/fishing trip to the DH and Wild Western North Carolina streams. We stay at the Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground (hot showers, laundry room, ice on site). The chapter provides most of the meals for the trip for a FEE. The meals range from pizza, catered pulled pork barbecue, and catered fried chicken dinners over the three nights, and continental breakfasts in the mornings.

- Hot Showers, Sheltered Mess Area for Tent Campers
- Meals: Thursday dinner (some early arrivals) Friday breakfast & dinner (many arrive late Friday afternoon due to work schedules) Saturday breakfast & dinner Sunday breakfast (pack up to leave by mid-morning to fish and travel home)
- 2 truckloads of firewood for campfires, tall tales, guide talk from a local fly shop, occasionally a fundraiser raffle, casting competition, One Fly Competition – we always come up with something.
- Countless DH and Wild fishing opportunities within 45 minutes of camp.
- Typically the Weekend following the early-April and early Fall NCWRC stockings on the Nantahala, Fires Creek, Tuckaseegee and Big Snowbird.

You are receiving this newsletter either as a member or prospective member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please respond by email to BRNCNews@gmail.com and let us know.

Helton Creek Nov 2-5: We will also have a camping / fishing trip on Helton creek . We will be staying at the campground on the river, however we will also have an option for cabin lodging in the area. Look for more details and sign ups to open soon.

MITCHELL RIVER UPDATE

This has been a tough summer for the Mitchell River as it keeps getting pounded by heavy rainstorms dumping many inches of water in a short period. This has caused flooding at the top end of the DH through the River House area, eroded the banks severely at some spots, washed out the road 2-3 times and poured tons of sediment from the big field above the DH section that is commercially farmed. In our last sediment collection we had over 12lbs of sediment that filled our sediment tube in one month compared to about 4lbs of sediment above the fields. Our sediment tubes are 4 inches wide. So if you do the math how many four inches fit in the width and depth of the Mitchell river will give you a good prospective on how much sediment is going into it.

If you drive up from Kapp Mills Road up along the river the sediment level is shocking. We have set up a meeting with DEQ in August to provide our results from our sediment research with Wake Forest University to press them to take action. People living along the Mitchell have noted they have never seen so much sediment filling the stream that you cannot see the rocks anymore.

Also, landowners have complained of their bees dying after those commercial fields got sprayed with pesticide this summer. All this sediment goes into the Yadkin River which is already full of sediment and muddy all the time.

The Mitchell is not the only stream seeing such issues. The little Fisher and others in the local areas have had the same fate due to commercial growing of crops with no regards to any buffers, sediment or erosion. Our Mitchell River will most likely change from an outstanding resource water stream to an impaired classification soon. See photos three photos below, of bank collapse and sediment run off into the Mitchell.



CASTING CAROLINAS TOURNAMENT

SAVE the DATE!! Sponsor, Fish, or Volunteer for Casting Carolinas' Tie One On Tournament October 21 and 22



8th Annual FLY FISHING TOURNAMENT

SEEKING SPONSORS!
OCTOBER 21 & 22, 2023, CHEROKEE NC

MULTIPLE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AVAILABLE



Benefits Include:

- LOGO/NAME on banner, t-shirt, & on-site
- Extensive multi-month social/digital media impressions & crossover coverage from other sponsors
- Free Shirts & Caps for sponsors
- Go to castingcarolinas.com/tournament for more details

HELP WOMEN THRIVE AFTER CANCER
Be a Tie One On Sponsor
100% of proceeds support Casting Carolinas.

Casting Carolinas provides free fly fishing retreats for women living life after a cancer diagnosis or treatment in NC and SC

Helping Women Thrive After Cancer

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www.castingcarolinas.com

[Click to Sponsor our Tournament!](#)

BEGINNING FLY TYING

One of the first thrills when you start fly fishing is to catch that first fish, especially if you cast just right and watch it come up to grab the fly. Catching a fish for the first time on a fly that you tied can be just as exciting. You've taken the time to create something that appeals to the fish. I still remember vividly during the mayfly hatch on the Manistee River in Michigan over 60 years ago when we were having little luck with artificial mayflies. I created a big white miller moth and had a fantastic night catching trout.

I started tying as a teenager back in the late 50s. I have no idea what prompted it, perhaps an article in *Field & Stream* which was one of the few sources of fishing education back before the internet. I discovered Herter's catalog and ordered the materials to get started. At that time most materials were a pricey \$0.50 where today most materials will cost about \$5.00. That's not all due to



inflation. Breeding the sources of our feathers and artificial materials have greatly improved tying. Back then I had a small box of materials and sat at the kitchen table to tie, but today I have a large roll top desk.

There was a rather long gap in time when I stopped tying to raise a family, but with the kids grown I got started in earnest again about 20 years ago. The internet was now there with a huge source of information. I bought a basic tying kit that came with all I needed to get started and a video demonstrating a few basic flies. I then discovered a website called www.flyangersonline.com that was a great resource. They had pages on beginning, intermediate, and advanced fly tying with each having detailed instructions for several flies. I started anew by tying every fly in the beginning section and then advancing to select flies on the next two web pages. There was a Bass Pro Shop nearby so I had access to all the materials I needed. It was a great learning experience.

My son has become a fanatical fly fisherman, so since that time he and I have begun annual trips at first to fresh water and then to saltwater. Before each trip I research the best flies and then sit down and tie up a hundred flies for the species we were after. What started many years before as a few materials in a box evolved to drawers full of materials.

Now before you progress that far you need to understand that the guides don't always agree with the information out there on the internet. About half the time they don't use what I have tied up because they have their own favorites or because part of the trip is paying for the flies that they provide. But when they do use my flies and I catch a fish on them, the thrill of having caught the fish on a fly I tied is still there.



If you are a serious fly fisherman, you are likely to learn over the years that certain features are more likely to attract fish. One thing I have discovered is that trout seem to be attracted to the color red. Whenever I tie a pheasant tail I put a red collar on it and it never fails to attract more bites. I also have found that a black dry fly works much better with a red tail. You can learn to incorporate these things into the flies that you tie and have more success on the river.

So how do you get started?



You can get started just by buying a basic fly tying kit. It will provide you with the basic tools, instructions on how to tie a couple flies and the materials to tie them. You can get kits starting at about \$50. These

are not the highest quality with the best features, but they will give you ability to tie almost any fly. Many of the tools I use today came with that original basic kit. However, if fly tying becomes a serious hobby to you there are a few items that you will probably want to upgrade like switching to a rotary rather than a fixed vise and perhaps, like me, a different type of scissor.

There is a better way to get started if it is available to you. Blue Ridge TU is fortunate to have volunteers like Rusty Berrier to teach you fly tying. Information about fly tying classes is earlier in this newsletter and you can just show up at the class to begin learning or if you have some questions about it you can contact Rusty at the email address shown. Starting in a class is a great way to get started to learn the tools and materials of fly tying. Knowing that information you can make a one-time purchase of the things that can make fly tying easier and last you a lifetime.

With that prelude that hopefully piques your interest to get started, let's introduce the tools and materials that you will be working with when you start. As time goes on, today you have the internet that can provide you with more information than you can use in a lifetime.

Have fun!!!

Basic Fly Tying Kit for a Christmas Gift (or any other neat opportunity)

By Al Campbell

[Fly Anglers OnLine, Your Complete Internet
Flyfishing Resource.](http://www.flyangersonline.com)



I've been getting a lot of requests for information on what to include in a basic kit to begin fly tying. Several of the inquiries were for Christmas gift ideas. Hmm, let me see, what would I want in a kit? It isn't that hard, I already designed the kit the company I work for sells. I'll only have to modify it a little to accommodate the [fly tying series](#) I'm doing here on FAOL. I'd like to thank Bob Fairchild, the tying instructor for the [Alaska Fly Fishers](#) for his input and help with this.

Since most of the requests ask me to name the brands to buy, I'll include suggested brands in the following list. This doesn't mean other brands won't work, just that these are the brands I'd include in any kit I designed.

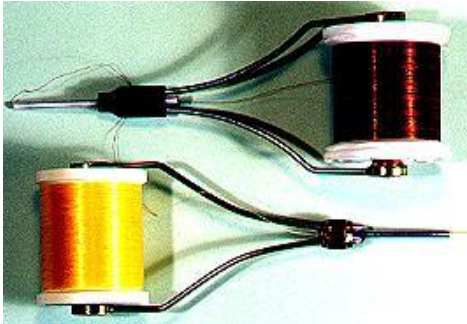
So, here goes, the basic kit to begin fly tying.

Tools:

- Vise - Griffin Superior 2A (about \$42) or if you can afford it, a Griffin 3ARP (about \$80).



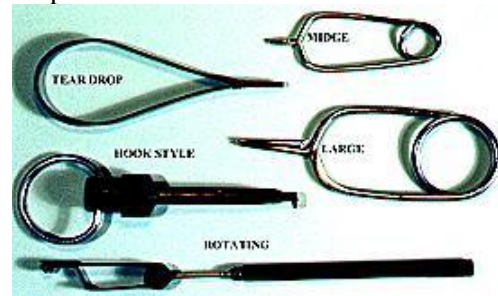
- Several bobbins, ceramic bobbins from Griffin or Tiemco would be nice (about \$17 each)



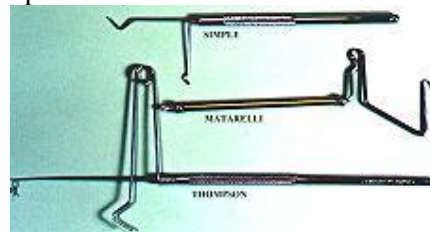
- At least one, hopefully two pair of good scissors, Griffin or Dr. Slick.



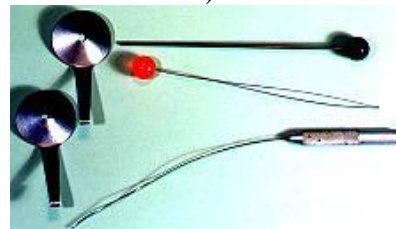
- At least one, two is better, hackle pliers. First would be a midge style; second, a Griffin rotating hackle plier.



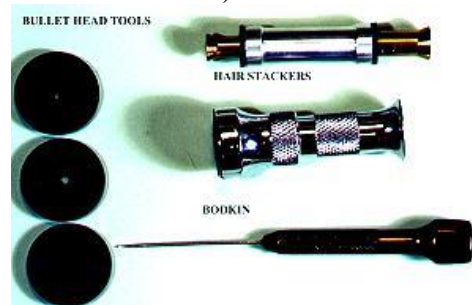
- A Matarelli style whip finisher (about \$12). If you can afford it, add a Thompson style one as soon as possible.



- Bobbin threader and a set of hackle guards (Griffin makes these too.).



- Griffin Hair stacker and bodkin. (Griffin bullet head tools are nice too.)



Editor's notes: A fixed vise is standard in most inexpensive kits, but almost every fly tyer I know has later advanced to a rotary vise. It gives you much more flexibility and speed to wrap your threads and I find even more important is that I can turn the fly to an angle that makes it easier and more accurate to tie on things like wings.



One thing I have learned to love is a pair of pinch scissors. I find it cumbersome putting my fingers through the handles on a regular tying scissor and they often get stuck when I take them back out. With the pinch scissor you just grab and pinch to cut. These scissors also have sharp tapered points that allow me to get closer with a cut than most standard scissors.



Dave Everhart who does our monthly column on fly tying suggests that you purchase a ceramic bobbin. These feed the thread more smoothly and can help prevent it from breaking which is more common on the cheaper steel bobbins. I have never owned a bobbin threader or hackle guards.

And even if you have young eyes, be sure to have a bright light and strong reading glasses to help you tie those flies. I have two lights, one on each side of the fly to avoid shadows and for my old eyes I find 3.0 reading glasses allow me to tie those tiny flies.

REEL RECOVERY RETREAT



I wanted to let everyone know that the 2023 retreat has been scheduled for October 6th-8th at Springmaid Mountain in Spruce Pine North Carolina. Because of some health issues of my own I am getting a late start on getting this information out to you and starting to raise funds for the upcoming retreat.

First and foremost I am looking to find some people that live in the western part of the state to help me out. As most of you know I live in Wilmington which makes it very difficult to get out and present our organization to Trout Unlimited and other fly fishing clubs. Secondly, if you live in Raleigh, Charlotte, Charleston, Columbia or any other major city or area I am looking for people to visit cancer centers, fly shops, outdoor stores, medical offices and hand out flyers and brochures and look for donations and just spread the word about how great our organization is. Please let me know if you are interested in doing this and I will get you some brochures and flyers to hand out.

Secondly, I am looking for volunteers for the October retreat. We currently have a full retreat with a waiting list of men who would like to attend. Therefore, we need 14 fishing buddies and several other support people. If you would like to volunteer, please send me a message.

Thirdly, I would like everyone to know that this year's fundraiser will be held at Wrightsville Beach Brewery in Wilmington North Carolina On August the 17th. I am looking for items to go in our silent auction and also items to go in the raffles. Specifically anything that I can put in a Mountain Getaway raffle or a Beach Getaway raffle. These two raffles will have online access to buy tickets and will be marketed throughout the south and other parts of the country.

Please let me know if you can help.

“Be Well, Fish On”

Doug Turner

Reel Recovery

573-480-1950

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“I don't really know how to tie a fly until I've tied a hundred dozen of them.”

.....John Gierrach

Editor's Note: Much of the information in this newsletter was extracted from the website www.flyangleronline.com. If you love fly fishing I encourage you to log on and check out this website. There is a massive amount of information for beginners through very experienced fly fishers about fishing techniques, fly tying, stories, and even sections on jigsaw puzzles and cartoons. Next time you have a rainy day check it out.

ADVICE FROM THE VISE



My old friend Monty Harris always says “if they won't take an olive bugger, time to head for the house”. Here's a great pattern that I love to fish in the summer, it's a cross between a nymph and a wet fly and fishing it either just below the surface or up off the bottom is right where summer fish are feeding. Master tier, Jack Gartside, first tied the Sparrow to imitate so hint between a nymph or a streamer or even a

drowned hopper. It's been one of my favorites in the summer as it is as effective on trout as it is on smallmouth.

Gartside was notable for his use of the ring neck pheasant as a source of material, and indeed this fly is no exception. The pheasant rump is the primary material in this fly. I'm using a dyed olive one for this pattern, but it looks great in natural too.



For the hook, a 3x1 streamer hook. If you wanted to stay lighter a dry fly hook would be appropriate, as would some turns of weight wire to fish deeper. Thread is olive and I'm using olive squirrel dubbing to get that buggy spikey look.

Dress the hook from eye to bend and from the edge of the rump find two chickabout type feathers for the tail. Strip off the shaft and tie these in on either side so that the natural curve is inwards and touching each other.



Wrap those to the front of the hook just below the eye, and to the bend and that will add a bit of bulk to the body. Trim out the butt ends at the front.



Dub a noodle and wrap the body from bend to just behind the eye. Use your bodkin or brush to pick out the body so it has a good buggy look.



Tie in one of the rump feathers about a quarter of the hook shank distance from the eye. This fly gets a big head, so we want to leave room for that.



Sweep the fibers rearward as you wind the hackle and tie that off.

With a little dubbing, create a solid bed for the head to rest on.



The aftershaft is a small feather found behind of the main feather on game birds.



You could use quail, partridge, or grouse as a variant for this fly apart from pheasant. These aftershaft feathers provide the bird with an air trapping feather that insulates it from water and keeps it warm. They have great undulating movement in the water, but they are very delicate to tie in conventionally as a wrap. I like to use a couple of them in a dubbing loop, and that gives the tier a little extra strength without losing the action that the feather provides.



Form a dubbing loop with your spinner of choice. A little tack from wax makes this a bit easier to place so I use a light swipe of that on my loop. Place the aftershaft feathers in the loop, with the shaft aligning them with the thread.



Once you have the feathers arranged, give a few spins to get the fibers to form a nice noodle and wrap the head from the front of the hackle to the eye.



I touch a very sparse coat of ultra thin UV resin to my thread, and wrap the head, whip finish, and light it with the UV torch. That gives it a good stable finish without getting any head varnish on the delicate aftershaft head.



That's it, a pretty simple tie but a great fly for this time of the year and into the fall. I tie these down to a #14 for the blue lines, and they are happily munched by wild fish when they plop down or are given a strip.

As always, I'm honored to answer questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly tying and fishing. Don't hesitate to contact me at Jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com or check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

Dave Everheart

MATCH THE HATCH

Do you think you're a good fly tyer and can tie up a fly that looks like the insect you're imitating? You might think so until you take a look at the flies that Grahm Owen creates. If you want to truly match the hatch, he shows on his website how to tie realistic flies. Check it out at [Realistic Fly Tying](http://RealisticFlyTying.com).

We'd love to hear your input. If there is a topic you'd like addressed or if you have something to share in the newsletter, please contact us at BRNCNewsletter@gmail.com.

BASIC MATERIALS FOR FLY TYING

- • Materials:

- Hooks - An assortment of dry (size 12 to 16),



- wet (size 12 to 16),



- streamer (1x and 2x long, size 6 to 12),



- scud (size 12 to 16),



- nymph (size 8 to 16),



Mustad, Eagle Claw, or Tiemco.



- Hackle - At least brown and grizzly dry fly hackle. You can buy Metz and Hoffman necks as half and half, brown and grizzly. If you can, dun, black and cream are good colors too. (Approx \$35 per neck, #3)



- Dubbing - Anglers Choice silk dubbing or a good dry fly dubbing selection for dry flies,



- and some coarse dubbing for nymphs (any good nymph blend dubbing box would work.)



- Pheasant tail feathers, peacock herl, turkey flats and tail feathers, and several colors of marabou (especially black, brown and olive).



- Thread - Gudebrod selection, especially black, brown, red, olive, cream and orange, 6/0 and 3/0.



- Ribbing wire - copper, silver and gold.
- Floss - Angler's Choice super floss in assorted colors, especially red, yellow and black.



- Head cement - Anglers Choice thin soft body, or Griffin thin coat.
- Deer, elk and moose body hair.
- Some brand of body lace, Anglers Choice body stuff, v-rib, Larva-Lace, etc.



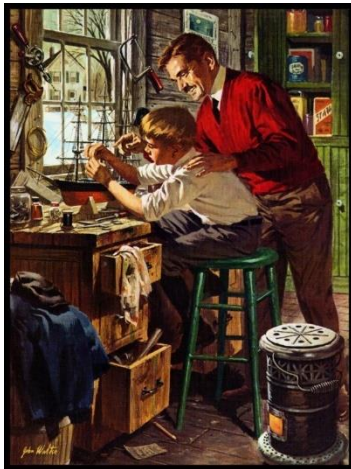
- Pearl, gold and silver tinsel. (You can get this stuff as a tree decoration and use it for tying after you take the tree down.)
- Gold, silver and/or black beads, assorted sizes.
- A string of craft beads in pearl and black plastic for nymph eyes. Gold bead chain for light switches is good too.
- Rabbit fur strips (zonker strips) in assorted colors.
- Calf tail and body hair, assorted colors, especially white.
- Squirrel tail, especially fox or red squirrel. (For tying my famous SHWAPF.)
- If you can find some, a variety of punch embroidery yarn. This you will have to look in craft stores for. (Also a prime ingredient for the SHWAPF.)

There will be other things to buy, and I know you can't get all of this stuff at one time, but this should be a good start. The tools are of primary concern and need to be in any basic kit. If you need to limit it, just buy the tools and let the person receiving the kit buy the materials as needed. If you need to

trim the materials to a few "must have" items, be sure to include hooks, thread, hackle, herl, dubbing and a squirrel tail. You should be able to get these items at your local fly shop if you have one near by. For those of you who need or want to shop by mail, you will find all you need at [Hook and Hackle](#) or [Angler's Supply House](#) (E. Hille).

If you want to add one more thing to the list, a coffee grinder or blender for dubbing would be a nice touch. ~ *Al Campbell*

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO TIE FLIES



You should not only teach your children to fly fish, you should include them in fly tying as well. If they are old enough to throw a fly they are old enough to tie one as well. Fishing and tying flies can create a wonderful bond that can last a lifetime. I speak from experience that my son and I have bonded over the sport and spend a great time together on the rivers. I even have a gift from him hanging on the wall by my fly tying desk that he created.



FLY FISHING TIPS

The Dip and Switch

When your leader comes into the fly rod or the line get's wrapped around the tip it can be difficult to reach and correct it. Watch this video and see an easy solution to the problem. [The Dip and Swish](#)

BRTU BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Board members needed for the fall election: In October, 3 of our board members will finish their terms. If you have enjoyed all that Blue Ridge offers you, then it is time for you to step up and join the board. If you are interested, just talk to a board member at our chapter meetings or contact us at our website www.blueridgetu.org.

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