

Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXV No. 11

November, 2025



President's Riffle

How to Become a Better Fly Tyer

Danferd Henke, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club



How does one become a better fly tyer? That random question popped into my head this past week while I was standing on a bridge over Rock Creek, watching a size 26 midge hatch come off and wishing I had different flies and better eyeballs with me. I can tell you what won't make you a better tyer, and that's buying a really fancy vise or the \$75 tweezers that can hold the eyebrow hair of a unicorn without damaging it. (I've been taught that lesson countless times and have yet to learn it, so if there is a particular brand of vise you'd like to try before you buy, give me a call.). That being said, good quality tools will make your tying less frustrating and more enjoyable. That, in turn, will help you improve your tying by encouraging you to spend more hours at the vise. And it all boils down to hours.

- Hours spent at the vise
- Hours spent fishing
- Hours spent in observation of and reading about not only the appearance of trout prey, but the behavior of trout prey
- Hours spent thinking about what you want to accomplish with your tie
- Hours spent tying flies with people better at it than you are
- Hours spent teaching others to tie

1. *Hours Spent at the Vise.* There is no substitute for or short cut away from actually tying flies, tying a lot of flies. Sit down and tie a dozen flies. After the first one,
(Continued on page 3)

November Program

John Shewey Fly Fishing Steelhead

John Shewey has been accused of being a deadbeat slacker, but he steadfastly refutes such charges and insists instead that he is a life-long fly-fishing addict. He usually admits to being the editor-in-chief of *American Fly Fishing*, unless you are mad at the magazine, in which case John is likely to deny any involvement. His long career as a writer and photographer has produced countless magazine articles and about 20 books.

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A couple of his books are pretty good. John's most recent titles are *Spey Flies, Their History and Construction*, *Classic Steelhead Flies*, and *The Hummingbird Handbook*. When not plunging into a cold river over his wader tops in pursuit of summer-run steelhead or wearing out boot leather exploring tiny trout streams in the desert, John spends considerable time on the verge of cardiac arrest following his Weimaraner around Oregon's chukar country.

So, come together for John's presentation on fly fishing for steelhead!

Meeting Location

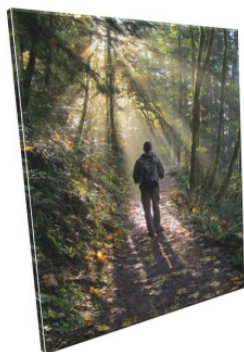
October's meeting will be held at **The Hall on Occidental 589 Occidental Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134**

Wet Fly and fly tying commence at 5:30, dinner 6:15, with a program commencing at 7:00.

Please sign up early on the website.



In Memoriam



William Roberts Redman

WFFC Member since 1964

May 25, 1932 - October 22, 2025

Bill Redman, 93, of Mercer Island, WA died on October 22, 2025. He was born in Philadelphia PA.

Bill was a graduate of Queen Anne High School, attended Whitman College, graduated from Williams College, and got his MBA from Stanford

University. He was a proud Eagle Scout and loved outdoors, especially camping and fly fishing. One of his favorite accomplishments was summiting Mount Rainier. Bill was a Lieutenant in the Army Finance Corps, stationed in Munich, Germany. In 1959, IBM hired Bill in Seattle. He was later transferred to several East Coast offices, returning to Seattle at the end of his career with IBM. Bill was a long-time member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club where he served as president. He was active in the Washington Environmental Council and a volunteer in salmon and steelhead conservation. He received numerous awards for his contributions to the environment. He was a member of Mercer Island Presby-



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Creel Notes

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Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others—particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

(Continued from page 2) - Redmond

rian Church where he served as an elder.

Bill is survived by his wife, Margaret, children Rich Redman (JoAnna) of Kent, WA, Dr. M.J. Redman of Fort Collins, CO, Martha Redman of Moorpark, CA, and Margaret E Redman of West Palm Beach, FL; brother, Peter Redman (Julie) of Wichita, KS, 4 nieces, and numerous grand and great nieces.

Bill will be remembered as the consummate gentleman and a man of great integrity. Services will be held at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 2:00 pm.

Memorials may be made to the Washington Fly Fishing Club or Mercer Island Presbyterian Church.

(Continued from page 1) - Riffle

take it out of the vise and after you ask yourself, "Who was the bozo who tied this?", ask, "What one thing would I change about this tie?" Then tie another fly, making that change. Do the same again. If you're like me, it will take you at least six flies before you find the tie acceptable, let alone good. After you've tied a dozen or so, stop. Let it all sink in and come back another day.

2. *Hours Spent Fishing.* If you want to become a truly good tyer, you have to fish your own flies. Sure, you can become a good tyer by watching videos, reading books, and tying established patterns. But you won't be tying for your own water until the trout teach you what works in the morning but not in the evening, what works on overcast days but not on sunny ones, what works early in the hatch but not later, what variation of the classic works better than the original. Whatever you do, don't start the day with those established patterns. Start the day with your flies and fish them in a wide variety of circumstances. Make notes of what works and what doesn't. In the future, tie accordingly.
3. *Hours Spent Observing and Reading about the Behavior of Trout Prey.* This one is overlooked by nearly every beginner but arguably

is the most important. How can you know how and what to tie without watching the bugs? The next time you're in the middle of a hatch, stop casting for a few minutes and just watch. Watch the bugs, watch how they behave, watch the trout take the bugs and note what those bugs were doing or what they looked like when taken. Tie accordingly. (I guarantee that 95% of the time, the trout were not taking beautifully formed duns similar to some of the classic patterns you've been tying.)

4. *Hours Spent Thinking about what You Want to Accomplish with Your Tying.* Pull together your observations and your reading. Design and tie flies that resemble and behave as the prey you have observed. This requires a lot of time and experimentation, sometimes failed experimentation, with technique, materials, pattern, and presentation. Above all else, incorporate motion into your ties. Almost every bug a trout eats is moving some how or other. Even if it's dead and only the current is pushing its parts around.
5. *Hours Spent Tying Flies with People Better at It than You Are.* If you have the opportunity to take a class from an accomplished tyer or even just to tie with or watch that tyer, take it. Ask a ton of questions. Most tyers will be only too happy to expound on their own brilliance, I mean, share their knowledge and experience with you. Here's where I'll lump in a couple of meaningful programs. The first is our own upcoming Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition. If you enter, you will have the opportunity to tie three different flies and have the Club's membership judge them. But don't enter this event with the idea of winning it, unless you want to. Instead, use the competition as an opportunity to learn new patterns, hone your techniques, experiment with new materials, and above all else, stretch your imagination to improve the selected pattern or even change it radically. Have fun with it. The other program is the FFI's ranking system for tyers. Under that program, you would tie and submit six patterns to be critiqued by an expert. If your flies pass, the FFI will rank

you first as a “bronze” tyer, and if you continue successfully, eventually as a silver’ or ‘gold” tyer. This is another way of improving your skills by taking advantage of the expertise of accomplished tyers,

6. *Hours Spent Teaching Others to Tie.* You wouldn’t believe how many hours go into preparing to teach a session on tying flies. You have to anticipate what a tyer less experienced than you needs to know and to be sure you know that yourself! In the preparation and the teaching, your own skills will improve drastically.

So there’s a tying nerd’s view of how to improve. Above all, though, sit down at the vise and have some fun creating.

Boyd Aigner Competition Is On!

2026 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition

From Bill Neal Awards Chair



The Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2026 is underway. We are again starting earlier to allow tying when the fishing is slower and judging and award presentation before members are off fishing.

The Competition is open to all Club members and to other individuals participating in programs sponsored or supported by the Club, such as Project Healing Waters.

These are the patterns for the 2026 Competition:

- 1) Rubber-legged stonefly nymph, size 8, see Randall Kaufman version for suggested features, although inclusion is up to the individual tier
- 2) Jonny King's Splitsville caddis, size 14, tied per recipe
- 3) Green Drake dun, size 12.

Flies will be due by the January members’ meeting. Judging will occur at the February members’ meeting, and the award will be presented at the March members’ meeting. I will be at the November meeting to distribute information and display boxes.

Bob Burdick and I will be the Coordinators for the Competition.

Thank you for participating and good luck!

Bill Neal



Holiday Gala Is Approaching

Holiday Gala Set for December 16th

From Suzanne Johnston, Event Chair

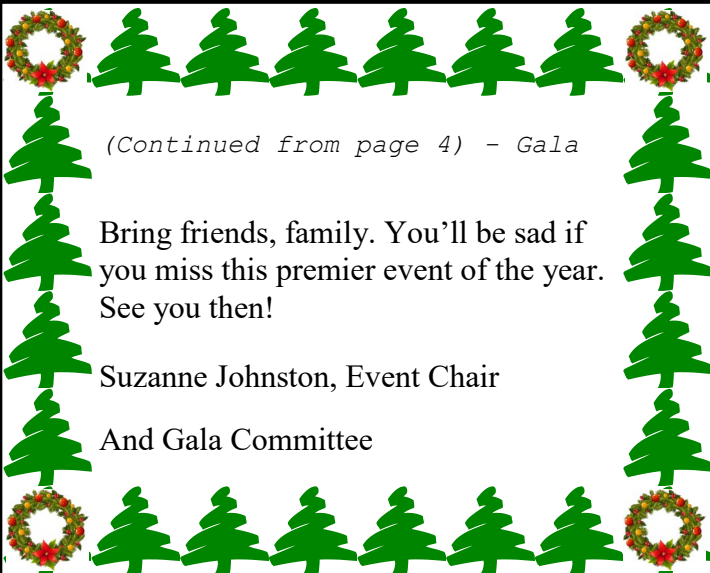
Don’t miss the annual holiday gala will be held Tuesday, December 16 at Women’s University Club, 1105 6th Ave, Seattle.

Cost \$125 per person for a spectacular evening. Registration is on WFFC for members and non members.

Auction items this year will EXCEED what you’ve ever seen. Sneak previews on our web page. Raffle items are sorted and ready to go.

Parking at the club for folks who have mobility limitations for 20 attendees (carpool suggested) is FIRST COME FIRST SERVED when you register. Everyone else will park nearby at Coast Hotel Downtown Seattle, 1301 6th Ave. Parking ticket validation is inside club for only \$12. **Do NOT pay when you enter that garage.**

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(Continued from page 4) - Gala

Bring friends, family. You'll be sad if you miss this premier event of the year. See you then!

Suzanne Johnston, Event Chair

And Gala Committee



Little Twin Brown

From Chuck Ballard

The last report on eastern Washington lakes is not so great . The water was low and I once again tried Big Twin . Not a good day there . I didn't get a single strike let alone catch anything . My thought is that it is really void of many fish now . Lots of improper catching and releasing may have contributed to this if

my theory is correct . Just as I was packing up a friend texted me and said I should fish little twin.

Well I kept one rod strung up with a mayfly nymph on it and walked down the very steep boat launch . It is too steep for me personally to launch and retrieve my boat.

It was late afternoon and low sun angle but I saw a fish in the shallow gravel about one rod length away so I flipped the fly over the fish and it ignored it . I decided to make one more cast and the fish took the fly and to my surprise it was a 17" brown trout !

Beautiful way to end my season in eastern Washington .



Chuck's Brownie

November 1, 2025 Wet Buns Outing

by Mike Nolan Outdoor Chairperson

On November 1, 2025, the Club had its Wet Buns Outing at Penrose State Park. Although 12 people had originally signed up for the event, only 6 attended the actual gathering. Those present were myself, Chuck Ballard, Ben Davidson, Bill Neal, Tom Neu, and Mark Pratt. Additionally, Jim Goedhart and Jim Young were seen at the boat launch at Home, but unfavorable weather conditions led them

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to leave early.

The forecast for the day predicted a 50% chance of rain and strong winds. Many participants experienced heavy rain and breezy winds during the morning hours. However, by the late afternoon, the weather improved significantly as the rain stopped and the sun emerged. Despite the sunshine, the wind persisted, which continued to make fishing challenging and most of us quit fishing around 1pm.

Due to the difficult weather, only a few fish were caught. Tom Neu caught a small salmon, while Ben Davidson landed several Chum salmon. Mark Pratt managed to catch a couple of small Searuns and a bullhead. Chuck Ballard also caught a small bullhead, successfully avoiding a skunk for the day.

We arrived at the Group campsite early and dinner preparations commenced in the chopping of fish and cracking crabs. I prepared the cioppino seafood bouillabaisse for dinner, which turned out to be delicious. Ben Davidson contributed crabs and bread to enhance the meal, while others brought appetizers and desserts. Mark Pratt tended to a roaring campfire that likely lasted well into the late evening, providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone present.



Wet Buns For Sure!



Mike Nolan's – Rainbow Shot (Photo) at Wet Buns Outing



*And.....
Chuck Ballard's Contribution To The Bouillabaisse
(A Super "Miniature" Bullhead)*

Fall Fly Fishing Eastern Sierra California



Photo's From Neal Hoffberg

Healthy Fishing



Hypothermia

From www.nhs.uk

The symptoms of hypothermia can vary depending on how low your body temperature has become. The early symptoms of hypothermia are often recognized by a parent or care giver. This is because it can cause confusion, poor judgment and changes in behavior, which means the affected person may not realize they have it.

Mild hypothermia:

If someone has mild hypothermia (generally with a body temperature of 32-35C), the symptoms aren't always obvious, but they can include: constant shivering, tiredness, low energy, cold or pale skin, fast breathing (hyperventilation)

Moderate hypothermia:

Moderate cases of hypothermia (generally with a body temperature of 82-89 F) can include symptoms such as: being unable to think or pay attention, confusion, loss of judgment and reasoning (someone with hypothermia may decide to remove clothing despite being very cold), difficulty moving around, loss of co-ordination, drowsiness, slurred speech, slow, shallow breathing (hypoventilation).

People with a body temperature of 89F or lower will usually stop shivering completely. This is a sign that their condition is deteriorating and emergency medical help is required.

Severe hypothermia:

The symptoms of severe hypothermia (a body temperature of below 82F) can include: unconsciousness, shallow or no breathing, a weak, irregular pulse, or no pulse, dilated pupils.

Someone with severe hypothermia may appear to be dead. However, under these circumstances they must be taken

to a hospital to determine whether they've died or if they're in a state of severe hypothermia. Medical treatment can still be used to resuscitate people with severe hypothermia, although it's not always successful.

Hypothermia is treated by preventing further heat being lost and by gently warming the patient. You should seek immediate medical attention if you suspect someone has hypothermia as it can be life threatening.

Treating mild or moderate hypothermia:

If you're waiting for medical treatment to arrive, the advice below will help prevent further heat loss. Move the person indoors or somewhere warm as soon as possible. Once the person is in a warm environment, carefully remove any wet clothing and dry them.

Wrap them in warm blankets, towels, or coats (whatever you have available), protecting their head and torso first. Encourage the person to shiver if they're capable of doing so.

If possible, give the person warm drinks (not alcohol) or high-energy foods, such as chocolate, to help warm them up. But only do this if they can swallow normally - ask them to cough to see if they can swallow. Once the person's body temperature has increased, keep them warm and dry. It's important to handle a person with hypothermia gently and carefully.

Things to avoid:

There are certain things you shouldn't do when helping someone with hypothermia because it may make the condition worse: don't put the cold person into a hot bath, don't massage their limbs, don't use heating lamps, don't give them alcohol to drink.

Trying to warm someone up yourself with hot water, massages, heat pads and heat lamps can cause the blood vessels in the arms and legs to open up too quickly. If this happens, it can lead to a dramatic fall in blood pressure to the vital organs such as the brain, heart, lungs and kidneys, potentially resulting in cardiac arrest and death.

Severe hypothermia:

If someone you know has been exposed to the cold and they're distressed or confused, they have slow, shallow breathing or they're unconscious, they may have severe hypothermia. Their skin may look healthy but feel cold. Babies may also be limp, unusually quiet and refuse to feed.

Cases of severe hypothermia require urgent medical treatment in hospital. You should call 911 to request an ambulance if you suspect someone has severe hypo-

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thermia.

As the body temperature drops, shivering will stop completely. The heart rate will slow and a person will gradually lose consciousness. They won't appear to have a pulse or be breathing. If you know how to do it, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be given while you wait for help to arrive.

Medical treatment:

If someone is admitted to the hospital with severe hypothermia, advanced medical treatment can be used to warm them up. This can be done by temporarily withdrawing blood from the body, warming it and then returning it to the body. These techniques are cardiopulmonary bypass (sometimes called heart-lung bypass) and extra corporeal membranous oxygenation (ECMO).

However, these techniques are only available in major hospitals that have specialist emergency services or units that regularly perform heart surgery.

A person with severe hypothermia often stands a better chance of surviving if they're taken directly by ambulance to one of these hospitals, even if it means bypassing a smaller hospital along the way.

Meeting Venue Search

Our Search for a Venue Continues

From President Danferd Henke

As you all know, we held our October meeting at The Hall on Occidental. As does any venue, it has advantages and disadvantages. Principal among its advantages are its central location, multiple modes of transportation to get to and from, ample parking, and last but not least, its no-host bar. We'll give The Hall another couple of meetings as a test, but even if we decide it is a long term solution to our lack of a home, we will need alternatives. The Mariners plat at home on the third Tuesday in April, May, June, and July. That will turn the advantages of The Hall into disadvantages. I can't imagine we would wish to be near T-Mobile Park on the evening of an Ms game.



We continue to search for a venue and to solicit suggestions for one that can meet our needs and we can afford. If we wish to continue our current format of Happy Hour, dinner, and program, an essential component is the no-host bar. The Club cannot afford to

hire an insured bartender and buy the alcohol itself. Affordability, both for our current members and potential new members is another critical element. How much are you willing to pay to attend one of our meetings? There are many venues who would be thrilled to host us if we were willing to pay \$80-\$100 per person per meeting. Even if you are willing to pay that, would that price discourage potential members from joining? Adequate parking is another requirement.

If you have a suggestion, let us know.

The Interesting



Mackenzie Hydro-Twitzel Canals South Island New Zealand

The Twizel Canals in New Zealand's Mackenzie Country are world-famous for producing trophy trout and salmon, with fish weighing over 40 lb caught every season. become one of the country's most popular freshwater fishing destinations.



"Clear waters, clear mind."
Streams wash away more than just physical dirt.

Low Water at Chopaka

From Methow Valley Fly Fishers
From Pete Speer



On Wednesday September 17, 2025 representatives of the Methow Valley and Okanogan fly clubs attended a meeting with WDFW officials at Chopaka Lake to discuss the condition of the water diversion on Chopaka Creek and to get an idea of when repairs could take place and water restored to the lake. The landowner of the diversion site was also present.

One key observation came out of the meeting: it appears that the diversion dam was purposely sabotaged by an unknown person(s). It looked like someone had packed dirt into the culvert opening and bent the stoplog guides to prevent diversion of water to Chopaka Lake.

On October 14th Pete Speer (MVFF) had a phone conversation with Brian Gaston, the new Regional Habitat Program Manager out of Ephrata. Brian called to give Pete an update on the Chopaka diversion after a recent meeting with WDFW management in Ephrata. They are actively working on solutions to the problem, including:

- Working on design solutions to repair the dam, prevent tampering and reduce chances of future vandalism
- Revising relevant agreements to bring them up to date with current realities
- Redoing the HPA to address the entire system, including 9 Mile creek
- WDFW is pleased to have a good relationship with the landowner

The solution may not get fully implemented until the next work window □ (spring 2026)

Chad Jackson reported 11/04 that WDFW staff had a window of opportunity to clean out and repair the Chopaka Lake diversion structure last week and again this past Monday Nov. 3rd. He reported that the pipe leading to the lake needs a little more work. That work will probably be done sometime early next year. Justin Hauge and Chad Jackson will be working on the water rights this fall to make sure all is squared away with that. So, good things are happening before the snow flies!

The Methow Valley Fly Fishers and Okanogan Fly Fishers clubs would welcome your club's expression of appreciation of WDFW's work on Chopaka. We recommend contacting WDFW in writing by snail mail to express your support of their work to ensure the level of the lake is restored ASAP.

Mailing address: Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 1550 Alder Street NW, Ephrata, WA 98823-9699

Key contacts: Chad Jackson, Justin Hauge and Brian Gaston.

Phone: (509) 431-0339

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Pete Speer, Jim King

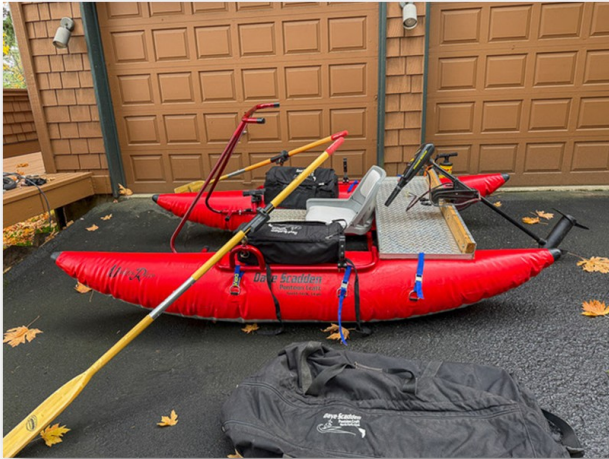
Methow Valley Fly Fishers

Okanogan County Fly Fishing Club

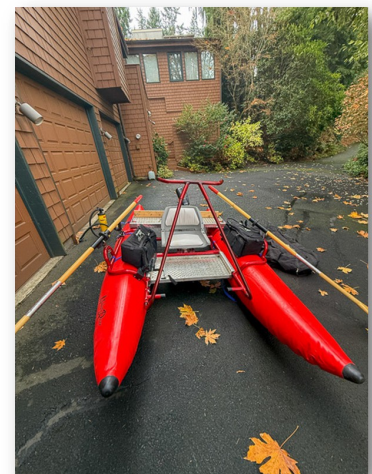
If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, feel free to email me or give me a call on my mobile 206-605-4008.

Pete Speer

9 foot Dave Scadden Madison River Pontoon Boat (with standing platform) available For Sale!



- Minn Kota Maxxum 40 T is included. *(Note: (I haven't taken it out on the water recently and I haven't tested the Minn Kota motor.)*
- This Scadden has a 2-piece frame, diamond plate decking, padded seat with swivel, 2 Scadden tackle bags, 7 foot Caviness Feather Brand oars, through frame anchor system with anchor.
- This pontoon is rated for Class IV-V whitewater with a 450 lb. Capacity.
- The pontoons are bladderless and bulletproof. The craft is in good shape and appears airtight. It has removable front and rear decks made of high grade diamond plate aluminum and removable stand up railing
- Price is \$600. I have pledged 50% of the proceeds to the WFFC.
- Contact Bob Schor at e-mail: bobschor@comcast.net





Fly of the Month

The Mop Fly

It is made from fuzzy strands of a cheap mop.

It first appeared in the U.S. National Fly Fishing Championships in June of this 2016.

A top competitor, Lance Egan uses it, says he “When it works, you roll with it.” Competitor Sam Flyer says the Mop Fly is great at catching trout, eliciting un-trout like aggressive behavior, but says “I am almost too proud to fish it. It is too good. Michael Cooper, English manager of miles of Britain’s chalk streams, skeptically tried it on local brown trout, immediately reeled one in and concluded, “ the mop fly is a magnificent invention. He then asked where to buy the mops?”



MATERIALS:

Hook: Size 10 Caddis/curved shank hook.

Bead: 1/8 bead of your choice of color. I typically stick with the standard gold bead.

Body: One piece of microfiber mop material about an inch and a half in length

- **Collar:** Dubbing of choice. I tie these with two different types, one flashy and one not. The flashy works well in high off-color water while the more drab one will work in lower and clear water. Also, I don’t think the color of dubbing matters all that much. The biggest “trigger” is that you use contrasting colors. For instance, if you’re using a dark body, then use a light-colored dubbing, and if you’re using a light-colored body, use a dark-colored dubbing..



Variations

Recipe of the Month

Oven-Roasted Cod Crusted with Herbs

Recipe courtesy of Rachel Ray, www.foodnetwork.com

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups plain bread crumbs 1 handful fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 large cloves garlic 1 lemon, zested
Coarse salt 4 (6 to 8-ounce) cod fillets
Extra-virgin olive oil

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Place bread crumbs in a shallow dish. Pile parsley, garlic, lemon zest, and a little coarse salt on the cutting board. Finely chop the lemon-garlic mixture, then combine with plain bread crumbs.

Brush the top of each fillet with olive oil and dip in to the bread crumb herb mixture.

Brush a little bit of olive oil in the bottom of a baking pan then place fillet in the pan, crust side up. Roast fillets in oven until firm to the touch, about 12 to 15 minutes.

