



The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild GAZETTE



Volume 21, number 2

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

March 2018

The March 2018 meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will be held on Saturday, March 17, at 1:00 P.M. in the Wulff Gallery at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY. We will be trying flies to donate to Project Healing Waters. Project Healing Waters is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities, including education and outings. Bring your vise, tools, and materials to tie flies for anglers learning to fly fish and to enjoy the rewards, physical and spiritual, of the sport. This is the sort of meeting on which the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild was founded twenty-five years ago—members tying together and sharing stories, tips, and fun. It's a good time and for a good cause. However, if you can't attend to meeting, but want to donate flies, you can send them to Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, P.O. Box 663, Roscoe, NY 12776-0663

The February Annual Meeting: Changes

At the annual meeting and election of officers of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild on February 17, 2018, Nicole March was elected secretary and Nick Mango was elected treasurer. The guild's thanks to Judie DV Smith for her years of devoted and faithful service can never equal her contributions to the organization as secretary. And our thanks also go to Bill Leuszler for his careful work as treasurer, a vital job that too often goes without the appreciation it deserves.

There were several other changes. Pending adoption of revisions to the bylaws, an expanded executive committee was constituted with the addition of John Kavanaugh as show chair, Bob Hopken as outreach officer, and Bud Bynack as editor, formalizing functions already in existence. Other alterations to the bylaws also have been proposed, and members will be asked to vote on all changes in due course.

It also was decided to phase out distribution of the *Gazette* by hard copies and to distribute it exclusively by e-mail. However, if you receive the *Gazette* via U.S. Mail and renewed for 2018 prior to February 17, 2018, with the understanding that you would be receiving hard copies, we will continue to honor that commitment for the coming year.

While dues have remained the same since the founding of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild twenty-five years ago, the costs of printing, mailing materials, and postage have increased drastically. Also, because the illustrations in the hard-copy version must be printed in grayscale, while those in the electronic version are in vivid color, and there is very little control over the quality of the photocopying process, the hard-copy version is in every way an inferior product, in addition to being an expensive one. By a large majority, most guild members receive the *Gazette* by e-mail. If you don't, and you want to anticipate the change, send your e-mail address to Nicole March at catskillflytyersguild@gmail.com or to Bud Bynack at budbynack@verizon.net.

If you have not yet renewed for 2018 or know someone who wants to join the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, dues (\$10.00) now should be sent to Nick Mango, CFTG, 57 Hess Road, Callicoon, NY 12723. And check in with the guild on the web at <https://catskillflytyersguild.wordpress.com>.

ANGLERS REUNION DINNER MARCH 31, 2018, at the Rockland House

Social hour at 6:00 P.M. Dinner at 7:00 P.M. \$26.00 per person. Call the Rockland House at (607) 498-4240 now to reserve your seat for a great night out with friends before the season opener!

The 2018 Fly Tyers Rendezvous

The 2018 Fly Tyers Rendezvous, sponsored by the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., in the Wulff Gallery at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY. If you would like to tie at the Rendezvous, I contact John Kavanaugh at flymank@optonline.net, call his cell at (973) 219-7696 and leave a message with your contact information, or contact him via his Facebook page.



Phases of a Fly Tyer's Education, Part 1

By John Merola

Who's your fly-tying hero? The path to learning fly tying is different for every person, since every person learns things in his or her own unique way. As Sylvester Nemes writes in *The Soft-Hackled Fly Addict*, "We all take a hero in fly fishing. He may be a literary figure who thinks as you do and who writes in the high, low, or middle-brow level which appeals to you. He may be the friendly old neighbor, who, having no boys of his own, adopts you as his piscatorial offspring, and from whom you inherit the desire knowledge, and tradition." That was in 1981. More lately, you may have found your hero via other media, such as video tapes, DVDs, and most recently, Internet videos posted on YouTube and other sites.

On my path to learning fly tying over a period of the last five decades, starting roughly around 1968, I have come to be acquainted with some great fly tyers. A few of these were heroes to me as I progressed along that path. Some of them you might know from the literature and other instructional resources of fly tying. Others are friends made right here in the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild.

In a recent blog post on Joe Fox's great site *Sparse Grey Matter*, guild member Tim Didas summed up the progression we have seen in fly-tying instruction nicely as "the transition from the traditional secrecy associated with the craft/art of fly tying, to relying on printed books to 'teach' fly tying (frustrating), to the popularity of formal classes and now the internet." I didn't experience the era of secrecy first-hand, though I've read about it in books. And with books is where I started.

Phase one on my fly-tying education began when I was a kid. Fifty years has a way of making the memory of some things a little hazy, but my best recollection is that the *Noll Guide to Trout Flies* was my first fly-tying book. Ted Patlen has described a family called the "Noll children," so I guess I'm a member of it. But I also learned from elders. My first "official" group fly tying class was at Camp DeBruce environmental education camp. During the early to mid-1970s I was able to get the reprints of a number of great books by joining the *Field and Stream* book club. Eric Peper at *Field and Stream* and, with his republications of American angling classics, Nick Lyons, brought great fly-tying and fly-fishing literature to a much larger audience and in a much more affordable way.

Some of the books I got through the clubs that formed the beginning of my fly-tying and fly-fishing library were *A Book of Trout Flies*, by Preston Jennings, *Matching the Hatch*, by Ernest Schwiebert, *A Modern Dry Fly Code*, by Vincent Marinaro, and *Art Flick's New Streamside Guide*. I still have my mutilated copy of Flick's book, in which I cut out the mayfly pictures and laminated them to carry with me on early journeys to the stream—in my case, the Amawalk Outlet. There is a certain pool on the Amawalk that in the 1970s held a visible group of trout I ultimately figured out how to fool through the process of going small, learned compliments of Ed Koch's *Fishing the Midge*. The simple ostrich herl nymph I tied would lead me to a brief relationship with the Fly Fisherman's Bookcase and Tackle Service. I still have the basic Veniard midge vise I used to tie all those little flies back then—certainly an economical fly to tie from a materials standpoint. We were still several decades out from Whiting Midge hackle.

Many of the earlier great fly-tying manuals of the mid-twentieth century relied on diagrams to illustrate the techniques of fly tying. Two that immediately come to mind are William Blades's *Fishing*

Flies and Fly Tying and Herter's *Professional Fly Tying and Tackle Making*. I found that the transition to books that showed pictures of the tying process from the tyer's point of view to be most helpful. Three great books I got through the clubs were *How to Tie Freshwater Flies*, by Ken Bay, *Dressing Flies for Fresh and Salt Water*, by Poul Jorgensen, and Art Flick's *Master Fly Tying Guide*. I really enjoyed (and still do) seeing the different tyers in Flick's book show their specialties. Of note are the chapters by Helen Shaw on streamer tying, the Swisher and Richards flies, and Art Flick himself tying an absolutely bulletproof Light Hendrickson, my favorite. Helen Shaw's *Fly-Tying: Materials, Tools, Technique* was one of the first books, if not *the* first, to take this approach to showing fly tying. As the preface of the 1987 edition points out, "When *Fly-Tying* appeared more than two decades ago, it was the first book on the subject to show the tyer's hands at work from the fly tier's side of the vise." Herman Kessler is credited with this advance. Ken Bay's *How to Tie Freshwater Flies* continued this trend in 1974 with excellent photographs by guild cofounder Matthew M. Vinciguerra. Jorgensen's book, published in 1973, also followed this trend with excellent photographs by Irv Swope. A video of guild cofounder, Floyd Franke, credits Jorgensen as his own fly-tying mentor.

The fly-tying hero of my youth was Eric Leiser. In 1973, I got a copy of *Fly Tying Materials: Their Procurement, Use, and Protection* from him. This important book laid the foundation for me to know how to obtain and properly store whatever materials I could get my hands on. Forty-five years later, Eric's advice remains as solid as ever. A lot of my time back then was spent thumbing through various fly-tying materials catalogs. Reed Tackle, from Caldwell, New Jersey, and the Fireside Angler were my two primary suppliers at this point. It was by traveling out to the Fireside Angler in Melville, New York, that I finally got to meet Eric Leiser..

Up to this point, the majority of my learning was through the tying manuals and an occasional visit to Eric Leiser or a sportsman's show. I joined United Fly Tiers and the Southern New York Sportsman's Association, who were nice enough to send me to Camp DeBruce. Fly-fishing clubs and other organizations such as the Boy Scouts and 4H were providing classes, but none were close enough for me to attend without having to grab one of my parents as a driver. Some people took the bus to fly-tying Mecca, as we know from Mike Valla's articles and books on fly tying.

Phase two of my fly-tying education was provided by clubs, friends, shows, and classes. Going to school had slowed me down on fly tying for a while, but I returned full force when I moved to Connecticut in 1986. I now was able to attend club meetings, go to fly shops, and occasionally attend a sportsman's show. At this stage, there was something fun about all the mystery and subsequent discoveries as I progressed through the craft.

During phase two, my fly-tying hero was Dick Talleur. In the late 1970s, Talleur had published what I believe was one of the most significant and thorough intermediate fly-tying manuals up to that point, *Mastering the Art of Fly Tying*. I bought a copy and then got the chance to take intermediate classes with him at one of the local stores, the Mill River Fly Shop.

In phase two, I also got "adopted" by some of the older Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association (HFFA) members, who helped with some coaching on my fly tying. Most importantly, I was getting a fair amount of time on the water to try out the various patterns on some selective fish on the Farmington and Housatonic Rivers. Tying and fishing with others who know what they're doing can lead to great progress. At this point, I had become a life member of the HFFA, the Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA), and the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF, now the IFFF).

And that led to friendships and bonds with others that have brought both joy and knowledge to my fly tying. During my visits to the Farmington River, I became friends with Dave Goulet (now a guild member), but it wasn't until later in life that we really developed the ongoing phone calls about fly-tying theory that we have from time to time. Dave at that time was running the Classic and Custom Fly Shop and is one of the best commercial tyers I know. Another good friend and fellow guild member, Mark Lewchik, also exchanges lots of fly-tying ideas with me. Mark currently works in the fishing industry at River's End Tackle in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. And good friend and fellow guild member Doc Katz loves to discuss fly patterns with me and shares the love of the literature of fly tying and fly fishing.

These days, clubs, friends, shows, and classes still offer fly-tying instruction, but now we are in the Internet age. That's phase three, and the place where many younger tyers look first for instruction—older ones, too: I do, though with age, I'm less inclined to regard anyone as more heroic than my earlier heroes.

In 2018, everything is out there. On YouTube, you can dial up a tying video of almost any fly you want to tie. I actually enjoy some of the Internet stars. I really like Tim Cammisa of Trout and Feather. He does an excellent job showing how to tie patterns and more importantly has very thorough videos on materials selection. Blue Ribbon Flies has excellent videos available on their site; I especially like watching Bucky McCormick.

The other part of the Internet age is the ascendancy of fly-tying forums and blogs. Around ten years ago, I got into participating in the *Fly Tying Forum* for a while. The greatest part of being a member was the ability to participate in their many fly swaps. These swaps motivated me to tie and also allowed me to see the work of other tyers from across the country. The other fun element of that forum was the "Timely Tips" section, in which I participated fairly regularly. During my membership (I am no longer active), I saw the roster grow from roughly two thousand members to tens of thousands. I currently like to take a peek at Joe Fox's *Sparse Grey Matter* from time to time, an excellent blog with participation by many guild members. My only caveat is that the Internet has no editorial department, so some of the things out there might be of mediocre quality, at best.

Both in hard-copy print and in electronic form, many magazine articles and club newsletter articles have shared excellent fly-tying information. Honorable mention here goes to Paul Dinice of the HFFA, who has been diligently producing the fly of the month step-by-step for thirty years for the club newsletter. The electronic newsletter of Blue Ribbon Flies always has a good pattern or two in it, as well as some interesting materials. The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild *Gazette* has a great group of tyers who share a wealth of information.

Despite all of the variety and ease of access provided by the Internet, I wouldn't trade for a mouse click any of the process of searching and discovery I enjoyed during the earlier phases of my education. Do you have to be tying for fifty years to be a great fly tyer? Absolutely not. I know many great fly tyers who have been tying under ten years that are among the best in the business. But there is a seasoning process that the passage of time can give to any activity, and at some point, what every fly tyer learns is that it is the searching and discovery that matters. Whatever your skill level or place in the education of a fly tyer, remember what Bill Blades says: "Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate."

In Part 2, I'll summarize a few interviews with others in the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild about ways they have learned the craft, their favorite books and other instructional resources, and who their fly-tying heroes might be. You can also, contact Bud at the address listed in the Gazette and tell us some of you on your favorite books, videos, and other ways you learned fly tying.



With "Catskill John" Bonasera

Spring Rituals

Like most of my fellow anglers, I feel as if April 1 can't get here fast enough. With every passing year, the winters seem longer, darker, and more difficult to endure. I still enjoy cutting and splitting firewood, having the wood stove going full tilt, and running around the yard with our new "snow dog," Luna, a husky mix, but everything else winter gives us I can do without.

The shows are a welcome break during the down time of winter, but even those are geared more to destination trips and hip new outdoor wear. They do, however, take your mind off the cold air and rekindle the feeling of rushing water and the soft, swishing sound of aerialized fly line. Some of us get to twist some feathers at the guild's table and maybe sell a hat or two—"representing," my buddy calls it.

But now we are on the fast track to the opener. Over the years, I have been working on the ritual I conduct before Opening Day so I'm ready when the day comes. Obviously, the flies have been tied, since I had all winter to do that, and only minor cleaning and maintenance to the rods and reels is usually needed. All other accessories are accounted for and packed away in the big duffel bag that has been my Catskill travel companion for fifteen years.

In anticipation of every new season, I always do a recollection of the recent years past and rank them by year as to how they turned out over all. Some years, we had high water, some no water at all, but the past three or four, there has been a slight increase in the number of fish I've caught. Some of this I attribute to knowledge gained annually, because in this sport, nothing increases your ability to fish effectively more than actually fishing. But we have had a good run lately, and that I am thankful for.

For the past four years, I have been involved in a small materials exchange with a friend in Narrowsburg. The first year, he was looking for a small piece of pink fox, and since he needed it ASAP, I left it for him at the museum, where he later picked it up. That same weekend, I caught my first Opening Day trout, a seventeen-inch butter-bellied brown, likely the prettiest trout I landed that entire year.

Since that initial exchange, I started to feel as if if I discontinued it, maybe my angling luck would suffer. So the next year, I mailed another small piece of fox to him, and damn if I didn't hook and land another on the opener! It now has become a silly superstition, but an all-important task that I added to the existing ritual.

So as we count down the days to April and enjoy the sun rising a little earlier and setting a little later every day, begin your own rituals—even honor your own superstitions—as the big event approaches. Preparation may be the key to success, but this is fishing. Don't forget to court Lady Luck.

Is There a Royal Coachman Hatch?

By Ed Van Put

Preston J. Jennings authored the first American book to identify accurately the primary mayfly hatches. Previously, he conducted extensive research of aquatic insects, with some collections being made in the Catskills, where he was assisted by Art Flick, Roy Steenrod, and others. Specimens were collected along many of the major trout streams, and the information gathered was recorded and verified by noted entomologists, including Dr. James G. Needham and Dr. Cornelius Betten of Cornell University. Confident of the data he accumulated, Jennings correlated many of the natural flies with the contemporary artificial flies of his era in *A Book of Trout Flies*, published in 1935.

Jennings was an excellent fly tyer, and he was well qualified to match fly patterns with the natural insects he gathered for his book. He was wise enough to incorporate some of the best patterns of the day, including the Quill Gordon, Hendrickson, Light Cahill, and Female Beaverkill.

Curiously, most American fly tyers acknowledged that the Royal Coachman, wet or dry, could not be associated with a natural aquatic insect. The popular pattern had been around since 1878, and the general belief among serious fly fishers was that the Royal Coachman imitated nothing in nature. Jennings agreed, and in *A Book of Trout Flies*, he writes that the Royal Coachman is “a fancy pattern not representative of any particular natural fly,” adding, “it is often a very killing pattern.” Not knowing where to place the fly in his book, he opted for putting it in the chapter on variants, but added that it was not in the strictest sense a variant.

However, many years after the publication of *A Book of Trout Flies*, Jennings, a believer in exact imitation, inexplicably authored an article for *Esquire* magazine in July of 1956 titled “There Is a Royal Coachman.”

Jennings begins the article with a hypothetical scene at Dick Kahil's Rainbow Lodge, a noted rendezvous of Esopus Creek fly fishers in Mt. Tremper. A number of trout fishermen are gathered in the barroom discussing the day's fishing—the trout were not moving, and they all had difficulty getting fish to take their flies. Suddenly, the door opens and in walks a fisherman who obviously has

fished later into the evening. He saunters over to the only empty stool at the bar, and Dick asks the newcomer how he made out; he replies that he had fished the place Kahil suggested and that he picked up a couple of good fish at dark. Both trout took a Fanwing Royal Coachman, he says, and when he displays two large rainbows, he says that “there were quite a few natural Royal Coachman flies in the air tonight,” the most he had seen in a few years.

After having a vermouth or two on the rocks, the successful fisherman leaves, and no sooner has he closed the door when the room is filled with a loud burst of laughter. One fly fisher calls the fisherman a windbag and asks who he is trying to kid with “that story of a hatch of Royal Coachmans.” He adds that the angler must be “just pulling their leg” and that he had “never seen a natural insect that looks like a Royal Coachman.” However, he recalls being at a picnic on the Beaverkill during a power failure and that when they were sitting around in the dark, “I can almost swear I saw a swarm of Royal Coachmans flying around, but when the lights came on the swarm disappeared . . . so I can’t be sure.”

In the *Esquire* article, Preston Jennings explains that both men could have been right and that the natural insect does exist all across the United States in great numbers. He writes that “the Royal Coachman family” is represented in nature by a group of mayflies under the generic name of *Isonychia* and that the Royal Coachman dry fly represents the imago or spinner. He adds that because the spinner is over the water just at dark and is such a strong flier, fly fishers seldom have the opportunity to see it or to collect it to examine the fly closely.



Jennings’s choice of the Royal Coachman for representing the *Isonychia* spinner is conceivable. In *A Book of Trout Flies*, he describes the *Isonychia* spinner as having colorless, transparent wings and a clear, ruby-colored body that in the air looks like “a red hot spark.” It is not difficult to imagine this glow being imitated by the bright red band found between two sections of peacock herl on a Royal Coachman . And in the *Esquire* article, he describes the *Isonychia* spinner as having a green egg mass, similar to the green peacock herl butt section of the Royal Coachman.

He also writes that trout have little control over the amount of light that enters their eyes because they have no eyelids, and the iris or pupil does not have the power of reduction. Therefore, during daylight hours, the trout’s “range of comfortable vision” is away from the source of light, and a trout sees the dun or subimago “by light which is reflected from it.” As daylight fades to twilight, trout have to shift the direction of their range of vision to the source of light, (the sky) and the imagos (egg-laying spinners) are seen as silhouettes and are not as visible.

Jennings goes on to describe the life cycle of the *Isonychia* mayfly and discusses the nymph, dun, and spinner, noting that the nymph usually hatches in late afternoon. He writes that the nymphs migrate toward the shallows and crawl out on the downstream side of a rock or on shoreline gravel. He advises how to fish the artificial nymph, which he names the Coachman Nymph:

Tail: Brown partridge

Body: A mixture of claret and dark-red seal’s fur

Thorax: Peacock herl

Ribbing: Round gold tinsel

Hackle: A few turns of red or furnace cock’s hackle



Jennings informs readers that when *Isonychia* nymphs are hatching, a number of them misjudge the distance to the rocks onto which they are attempting to crawl and instead, they emerge directly

from the stream's surface. He suggests that when it is windy, many of the winged duns "capsize" before getting off the water, and at these times, using a wet Leadwing Coachman is very effective.

To represent the floating dun, he suggests using a Dark Variant, a fly he introduced to the Catskills in the spring of 1932, and he credits Dr. William Baigent, an English fly tyer, with creating the pattern. In *Esquire*, Jennings gives the dressing of the Dark Variant:

Tail: Rusty blue dun cock's hackle
Body: Stripped peacock herl
Hackle: Rusty blue dun cock's hackle

Jennings says that the hackle diameter is the most important part of tying the fly and that it should be about one inch, because this approximates the wingspread of the natural fly. He believes that it suggests "the wings of the natural insect in motion, that rapid fluttering which precedes the actual take-off and poses the problem of now or never, which the trout has a hard time resisting."

Undoubtedly, Preston Jennings must have given a lot of thought to avowing that the Royal Coachman does imitate a natural fly. And who among us hasn't changed their mind about trout theories or the worthiness of a particular fly? One of the joys of fly fishing is that nothing is absolute; we continue to learn, and what we firmly believe to be true one day can be changed on another. Theories are often refuted, even at times by the trout themselves.



The Esopus Wulff and Remembering Bucky

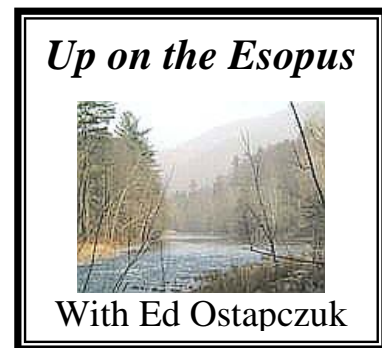
This leisure pursuit we casually call angling has led me to some great friendships. Some have deep roots, including folks I met on the stream, in shops and at shows, through other fishing buddies, maybe even rallying for an environmental cause, and also virtually, through the power of the Internet. Some of my "virtual" folks I may have never actually met face to face, but I still share a deep connecting bond with them.

But I met Bucky Sterns the old-fashioned way. The late Aaron Hirschhorn was a very good friend, a relationship that grew from Trout Unlimited meetings a long time ago, and through Aaron, the late Bucky Sterns introduced himself to me in early 2007 via a letter sent my way. He was seventy-five years old at the time, and he informed me he didn't fish much anymore, but asked if I could keep him "in the loop" with my angling adventures. Well, a friend of Aaron's was a friend of mine, so I did.

The January *Gazette* ended with a short obituary of Bucky, to which I'll add a brief recap. James E. Sterns (April 20, 1932 to November 23, 2017) was a former Catskill Fly Tyers Guild member, ardent fly tyer, proficient angler, long-time member of the DeBruce Club, and an attorney by profession, plus an all-around much-beloved friend of many. The DeBruce Club named a piece of water—Bucky's Run—in his honor.

Though we never met in person, I found Bucky to be an incredible wealth of fly-fishing history and very generous man with the knowledge he imparted to me, along with a few well-tied flies that occasionally found their way to me. I have over forty letters Bucky wrote to me. Several were unsolicited, but many were in response to a simple short e-mail I sent him. In these cases, often a couple days would pass after I sent my e-mail, then the U.S. mail would deliver a well-constructed, two-page-plus typed letter full of information and his fond piscatorial recollections.

One of the unsolicited letters, dated December 3, 2010, introduced me to the Esopus Wulff. In it, Bucky wrote, "Like most fly tyers I collect pattern recipes. This is the Esopus Wulff from an old issue of the UFT *Roundtable*. The fly is on the style of the Ausable Wulff, but I thought you might



appreciate the Esopus connection.” For many years afterward, I unsuccessfully tried to track down additional information about the pattern, but I never was able to. If anyone has any, please let me know. However, before this pattern slips away from us, as Bucky has, let me share the Esopus Wulff with other guild members.

Hook: Mustad 94840, size 8 to 16
Thread: Cream monochord, waxed
Tail: Natural deer hair
Body: Tan fur with a definite pink cast
(more than a Hendrickson)
Wing: White calf tail
Hackle: Brown and grizzly

The photo of this fly depicts Aaron Hirschhorn and Bucky Sterns sitting together on a bench along Anvil Rock Pool at the DeBruce Club.



I also want to pass along another pattern that Bucky shared with me, the Neversink Shiner. In a 2008 letter, Bucky wrote, “The fly was designed as a generic imitation of several forage fish in the Catskill watershed. It resembles a silvery Notropis minnow with hints of blue, lavender and olive but mimics other baitfish like alewives and emerald shiners. I use it in water slightly high and off color or in the low light at dusk and dawn.”

The fly shown was tied by Bucky. The pattern is a slightly involved to construct—I received three separate letters from Bucky with tying details.

Hook: 4XL or 6XL, size 2 to 8
Thread: White Gudebrod GX2
Tail: Tips of two white hackles or white marabou, one-quarter the length of the body
Body: Silver or pearl Mylar
Throat: Sparse white impala or bucktail extending just past the bend; red marabou (short) tied below
Underwing: White bucktail under blue impala under 12 to 20 strands of Krystal Flash in the color desired
Wing: Four white hackles
Overwing: Small bunch Wapsi Pearlescent Wing n’ Flash, same length as the tail
Topping: Peacock herl with three strands of Krystal Flash in the desired color on each side of the wings
Cheeks: Silver pheasant (like a Gray Ghost), prepared by coating with lacquer; when the lacquer dries, paint on a yellow lacquer eye; when that dries, add a pupil of black lacquer.



Bucky added that he used to use Griff’s thin Multi Coat High Gloss for the silver pheasant cheeks, “but any clear lacquer should do.”

I treasure Bucky’s letters and am indebted to Bruce Corwin and Jeff Sanders, personal friends of Bucky and of Aaron, for information and the photo of both at the DeBruce Club.