

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild



GAZETTE

June 2006

The June meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2006, from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center Educational Building in Livingston Manor, NY. Les Maynard will tie a black Bow Tie Caddis. Bring your vise, tools, and materials and tie along.

“This is a simple tie that can be done in seconds and is the most effective caddis pattern I have ever used,” says Maynard. He ties this pattern in sizes from 12 to 24. In addition to black, he ties this pattern with body colors in olive, tan, green, and yellow.



Hook: Mustad 94840 or similar, size 16 and 18
Thread: Black 8/0
Body: Black Antron dubbing or polypropylene
Wing: Natural dark dun
CDC

“Keep the body thin,” Maynard says. “Use extra Antron to make it easy to handle as you dub the body, but then pull off the excess.” For the wing, select two matching CDC feathers, face the curves together, run them between your fingers, and pull them flat like a paintbrush. Tie them upright or on their edge with the tips beyond the bend of the hook, one-third longer than the body of the fly. Then pull the butts of the CDC feathers out at right angles to the shank and figure-eight them. Cut them to hackle length for legs. The flare of the butts now looks like a bow tie.

World Class

Guild member Dr. Leslie Wrixon has been chosen as the official fly tyer for Team USA Fly Fishing. Leslie will be traveling to Portugal in September as a member of Team USA to compete in the Fly Fishing World Championship.

Future Programs

As of September, Paul Murphy will be the new program chairman, as well as our New Jersey show chairman. Paul says: “Programs are being planned for the fall meetings and beyond. Suggestions for those programs will be pursued. Please send your ideas to: pmurphy100@patmedia.net. We will set up programs with your suggestions in mind.”

Memberships

Several guild members have not renewed their memberships and have stopped receiving meeting notices and the *Gazette* as of the May notice. If anyone asks why they haven't gotten one, have them contact Judie DV Smith at darbee1@juno.com or at judiedvsmith@yahoo.com.

The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Clearwater Junction Fly-Tying Event

This year's Clearwater Junction fly-tying benefit for the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Conservation Fund will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. each day at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. Entrance is by donation, and lunch will be served for a nominal fee. On Saturday evening at 7:00 P.M., with cocktails at 6:00 P.M., the TGF Conservation Committee dinner will follow the fly-tying event. Reservations can be made through the Rockland House at (607) 498-4240.

Flies tied by the tyers and a TGF hat with at least one fly from each tyer, along with many other great items, will be auctioned after the dinner, also to help raise money for the TGF Conservation Fund. The Theodore Gordon Flyfishers are always in the midst of many different conservation projects, and they all require funding. If you would like to tie at the show, please contact Mark J. Romero at (607) 498-9944 or by email at markflies99@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Volunteers Needed

Elmer Hopper will work at the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild table at the Roscoe Craft Fair with the help of Joe Fox on July 1 between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. across from the Roscoe Presbyterian Church on Old Route 17. They need two more volunteers to give them a break during the day. Contact Judie DV Smith at darbee1@juno.com or at judiedvsmith@yahoo.com. and she will relay your interest to Elmer.

CFFCM Summerfest to Expand: Danbury Fly-Fishing Shows Are on Hiatus

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum Annual Summerfest and Anglers Market has been moved back from Labor Day Weekend to the weekend before, August 26, 2006. In an expansion plan of activities, the CFFCM will host a consignment auction to benefit the museum and add additional tyers at the museum to coincide with this highly attended event. Hours will be from 9:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M., and the auction will follow at 3:30 P.M., allowing vendors to participate.

To assist in this expansion plan, the CFFCM would like to partner with the Catskill Fly Tying Guild and feature their tyers in the museum. Considering the limited space, a maximum of eight tyers would be adequate. This would be the largest group of tyers the museum has hosted, and it would be a perfect cooperative effort for the guild to participate. If you are interested in tying at the Summerfest, contact Judie DV Smith at darbee1@juno.com or at judiedvsmith@yahoo.com.

The decision to expand the Summerfest activities is a result of the hiatus that Flyfishing University will take for the next twelve months from producing their highly successful shows, The Arts of the Angler in November 2006, and The World of Flyfishing at the O'Neill Center in January 2007. Both shows are scheduled to return in November 2007 and January 2008, respectively.

CFTG Meeting Calendar

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will have regular meetings in November 2006 and January 2007. In the past, there have been two shows competing for members' energies during those months. The hiatus of the Danbury shows means that no longer is the case.

July 2006: No meeting

August 2006: Annual Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Picnic, Saturday, August 19, 2006, 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Elsie and Harry Darbee and Matthew Vinciguerra Memorial Pavilion of the Catskill Fly-Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor, NY. Bring a dish to pass, your own plates and silverware, and your own beverages.

September 2006: Regular meeting, Thursday, September 21, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. at the Rockland house, Route 206, Roscoe, NY.

October 2006: Regular meeting, Saturday, October 21, 2006, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House, Route 206, Roscoe, NY.

November 2006: Regular meeting, Saturday, November 18, 2006, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House, Route 206, Roscoe, NY.

December 2006: Regular meeting, Saturday, December 16, 2006, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House, Route 206, Roscoe, NY.

January 2007: Regular meeting, Saturday, January 20, 2007, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House, Route 206, Roscoe, NY.

February 2007: Materials Swap, Saturday, February 17, 2007, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House, Route 206, Roscoe, NY.

Bill Tobin's Little People

By Terry Hellekson

Photo of Bill Tobin courtesy of Glenn C. Overton

Bill Tobin was an early hackle herder from Cortland, New York. Bill was also a passionate fly fisherman and fly tyer, which inspired him to get into the hackle business along with Charles Willcox and Hank Halstead. Naturally, there was some encouragement and prodding by his friends, Leon Chandler of the Cortland Line Company, Art Flick, and others.

Well before there was the Internet, there was a silent network in place whereby some claimed that if you sneezed on the East Coast in the morning, someone on the West Coast would say, "God bless you" that very afternoon. This silent network, for the most part, existed among the sales representatives and shop owners in the tackle trade, and as always with any group, little stories often became twisted and blown out of proportion as they got passed around, so little attention was ever given to most of what was said.



One such story was about Bill Tobin's Little People. When I first got wind of that one, I asked myself, "Was it possible that he had either kids or some really short people working for him on his farm?" I knew that Bill was a New York chicken farmer, but just how big of an operation he had was certainly questionable. I also knew he wasn't in a position where he could ever sell any of his feathers on the West Coast, where my fly-tying materials business was located. In a good year, Bill never had more than 750 capes available, and these were usually sold in advance.

As it turned out, I never got any answers about who they might have been, but the term "Little People" got stored in my head, and every year or so, brief remembrances would emerge. A few years back, during the course of a conversation with Glenn Overton, Bill Tobin's name got mentioned when he showed me some hackle that he had gotten from Bill. Then, out of nowhere,

Glenn wanted to know if I had ever tied and fished any of Tobin's Little People. Bingo! It just shows you, if you live long enough, everything will become clear.

Bill never tied flies professionally, but he did considerable research and experimentation that later proved to be successful. While fishing for Atlantic salmon on the Miramichi in New Brunswick, Canada, in the 1930s, Bill had an exchange with a Scottish gentleman. When Bill explained that he had been having problems hooking fish on small, size 22 hooks, the Scot suggested that he tie his flies on shorter-shank hooks in larger sizes. He went on to explain that with the shorter-shank hooks, he could still tie his small flies on larger hooks with a wider gap. This had been a practice in Europe for a number of years. Bill was so taken with the idea that he went on and developed a series of ten small wingless dry flies that were well received by everyone who used them. They were worthy of a special name and were christened "Tobin's Little People." They were never really well known because they were not commercially promoted. Bill did publish a series of small cards with patterns on them for several popular flies, which he used for instructional purposes. However, unless you received his personal guidance, you would fall short when trying to understand how to tie any of his Little People.

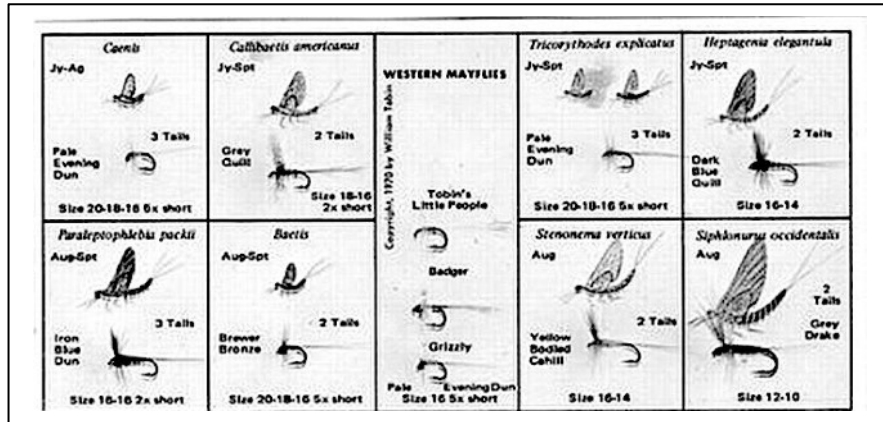
All of the other, better-known flies listed on his cards are available in other books, however, the Little People have been ignored. This is possibly due to the difficulty of interpreting the patterns from his cards. Since Glenn Overton had the opportunity to receive Bill's personal tutelage, then pass it on to me, I offer you the Little People.

These flies were originally tied on size 16, 5X-short-shank hooks. Bill believed in turned-down eyes on his hooks and felt that turned-up eyes on these flies give the fish an unnatural silhouette. The closest hook model available today is the Daiichi 1510, which is 3X-short, but the design is very close. Bill tied all of these flies with extralong tails.

Some may view this small collection of flies as just one more bunch of midge flies. However, one must appreciate the many hours of trial and error that went into this collection. Like Bill Tobin, I, too, find it more than difficult to beach large fish when tied on small hooks with regular shanks.

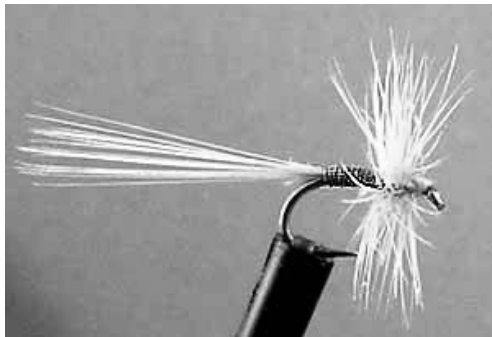
These small, subtle patterns meet a wide range of conditions, and because of their

simplicity, they are worth the effort. There is a small box somewhere in my vest that is home to all of them.

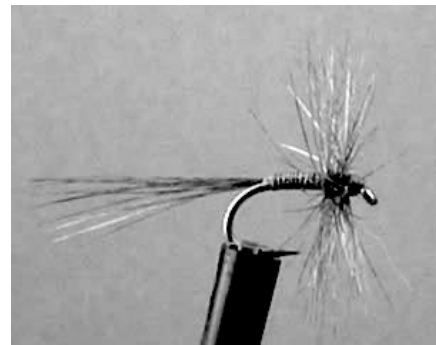


Ginger Quill

Olive Dun

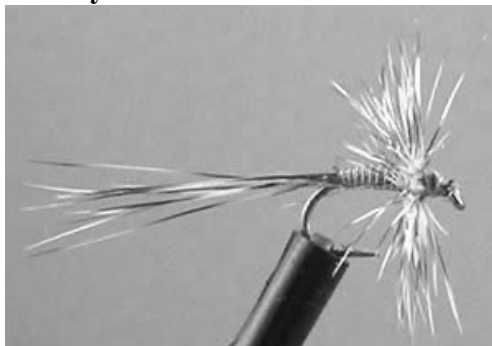


Thread: Tan
Tail: Light ginger hackle barsbs
Body: Stripped peacock quill
Hackle: Light ginger



Thread: Light olive
Tail: Dark blue dun hackle barsbs
Body: Light olive thread
Hackle: Dark blue dun

Grizzly



Thread: Pale yellow
Tail: Medium grizzly hackle barsbs
Body: Dyed yellow hackle stem
Hackle: Medium grizzly

Trico



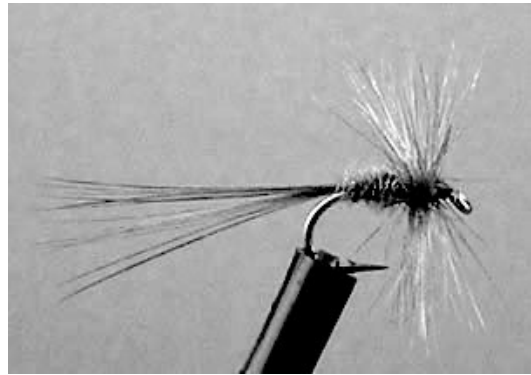
Thread: Black
Tail: Lavender dun hackle barsbs
Body: Black thread
Hackle: Lavender dun

Badger Quill



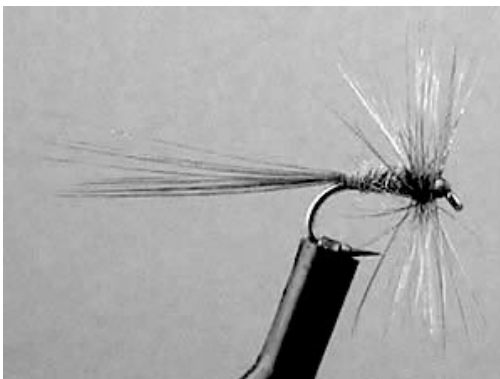
Thread: Black
Tail: Badger hackle barbs
Body: Badger hackle stem
Hackle: Badger

Iron Blue Dun



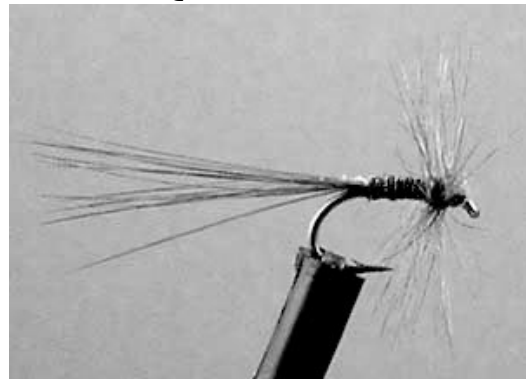
Thread: Dark gray
Tail: Dark blue dun hackle barbs
Body: Dubbed with natural brown beaver
Hackle: Dark blue dun

Brewer Bronze



Thread: Dark gray
Tail: Dark blue dun hackle barbs
Body: Antique-gold yarn
Hackle: Dark blue dun
Named after Bill's best friend and fishing partner, Lee Brewer

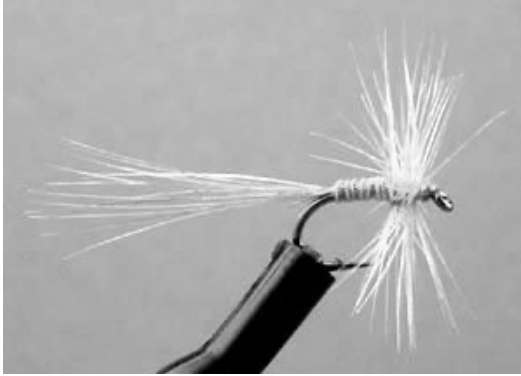
Dark Blue Quill



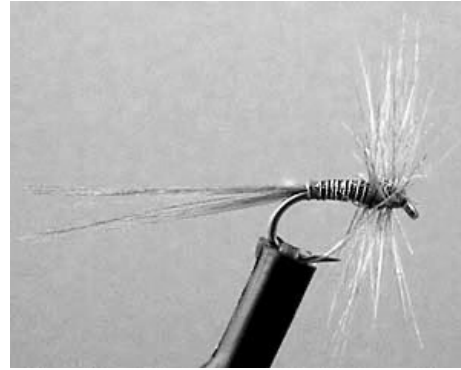
Thread: Dark gray
Tail: Dark dun hackle barbs
Body: Stripped peacock quill
Hackle: Dark dun

Pale Evening Dun

Dun Quill



Thread: Pale yellow
Tail: Light blue dun hackle barbs
Body: Dyed light yellow hackle stem
Hackle: Light blue dun



Thread: Dark gray
Tail: Medium dun hackle barbs
Body: Medium dun hackle stem
Hackle: Medium dun

These flies can be viewed in color on Terry Hellekson's Web site, www.hellekson.com.

Tying the Devaux Dun By Howard R. Bartholomew

An article in the April 2005 issue of *Trout and Salmon* entitled "A Backward Beauty," by Peter Dunne, suggests tying dry flies in the reverse-hackle style. This method of tying in hackle is illustrated in two books by J. Edson Leonard, on the page opposite page 60 in Figure 14 of *Flies* and on page 32, Figure 21, opposite page 122 in *The Essential Fly Tier*. It is also illustrated on pages 355–56 of *The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference*, by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer. The fly that Dunne ties in the *Trout and Salmon* article is called the Devaux Dun. It is a French pattern that Dunne has used effectively in his native Ireland, but it also would seem to be a pattern to try in larger sizes and appropriate colors during a Green Drake hatch.

In reversed-hackle tying, the hackle on a dry fly is wound backward on the hook shank from the eye toward the end of the hook, glossy or shiny side facing back toward the tail. The hackle is then tied off next to where the body will begin. In the Devaux Dun pattern, the thread used in tying in the hackle is also used to make the body. Before the body is formed, the tail is tied in. Then the thread is used to form a funnel-shaped body. When it contacts the hackle, this forces the barbs forward, creating a funnel-like appearance in the hackle, as well.

Hook: dry fly, size 14 to 18. *Tail:* Rather full rusty dun hackle. *Body:* Well-waxed primrose thread. *Rib:* Black thread. *Hackle:* Red gamecock over dyed olive (olive-brown), two sizes larger than hook. (Forcing the hackle forward decreases its diameter.) *Wings:* Optional.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild *Gazette* is issued six times a year to members. Membership is only \$10.00 per year. New, first-time members also get a **FREE** copy of the booklet *Favorite Rivers, Favorite Flies*, as well as discounts on guild patches and pins. **WANT TO JOIN THE GUILD or GIVE A FRIEND a GREAT GIFT?** Just complete this form, then mail it and a check to: **Bob**

Osburn, 3 Good Time Court, Goshen, NY 10924 and indicate if it is a new membership or a renewal.

*******Remember, memberships renew in February. *******

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Would you be willing to accept the *Gazette* via e-mail?

Yes (please provide) _____

No _____



This newsletter depends on all guild members for its content. Items from

nonmembers are welcome at the editor's discretion. Without the articles, information, for-sale or want ads, cartoons, newsworthy information, and whatever else is interesting and fun that members submit, this newsletter simply becomes a meeting announcement. Send submissions to Bud Bynack, BBynack@cs.com or 69 Bronxville Road, Apt. 4G, Bronxville, NY, 10708, (914) 961-3521.

Catskill Fly Tyers Guild
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