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Officers

President-**Bob Maki**
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1st Vice Pres-**Tiffany McPheeters**
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2nd Vice Pres-**Mark Sands**
549-2545
Past President-**Mike Thomas**
549-2473
Secretary-**Lynette Jones**
549-0430
Treasurer-**Mary Thompson**
608-0067

Board Members

Nando Mauldin 549-2883
Frank Thomas 549-0237
Mike Bishop 549-1549
Ken Gissel 642-3944
Tom Dyer 257-4225

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday
of each month at Idaho Pizza,
17 W. Commercial St., Weiser.
Fly tying demo at 6 pm,

Committees

Budget: Mary Thompson, Lynette Jones

Conservation and Youth:
Mark Sands, Nando Mauldin, Rick Walters, Tim Torrel

Education: Perry Kelley, Garry Swindell

Fund Raising: Lynette Jones, Sarah Gulu

Historian: Suzanne Orwig

Library: Rod Jones, Ken Gissel, Dick Garrett

Membership: Mike Bishop, Bill Betts

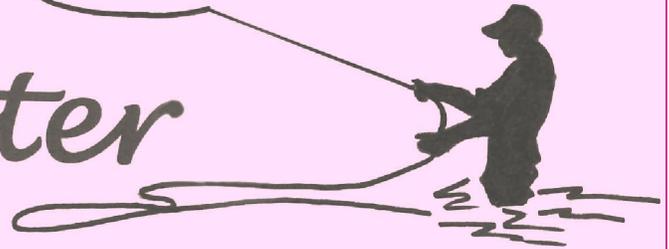
Newsletter: Perry & Sally Kelley, Mary Thompson, Dick Garrett, Ray Perkins

Outings: Mike Bishop, Al Sillonis

Programs: Bob Maki

Publicity: Tiffany McPheeters

News Caster



October 2011

President's Message by Bob Macki

The fall has finally arrived and with it the fishing should improve as this is the time the fish will be putting on fat reserves for the winter.

Catch reports I've heard throughout the summer hadn't been great, but still a few good days were had. What happened to the Crappie this year? Folks have reported the catch was down considerably.

Thanks to those of you who posted notices of weekend outings and day trips. A lot of good times were had.

Our October program will be presented by our own **Marv Orwig**. If you ever desired to build your own fly rod, or simply want to find out what goes into making one, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

A tip of the hat goes to **Mike Thomas** for taking on the President position this past year! What a great job. We all appreciate the time and effort Mike put forth. Thanks again, Mike!

Also many thanks to **Mary Thompson**. We cannot thank her enough for the years of dedication to the club as our Treasurer. Mary has done a great service both as an officer in keeping our finances in order and as a member of the club! She also did a great job of putting out the Newscaster.

I also want to acknowledge our Club Secretary, **Lynette Jones**, for keeping track of the Board and membership meetings. If you want to know what happened or what the club has coming up, she is the info!

Welcome aboard to the new member, **Rob Brown** of Fruitland, who joined us at our September meeting. Also, guests **Jim and Candace Wood** stopped in. Thanks for spending and evening with us as well.

Bob

One day while driving home from his fishing trip in the pouring rain, **Bob & Karen Maki** got a flat tire outside a monastery.

A monk came out and invited them inside to have dinner and spend the night. Bob accepted. That night they had a wonderful dinner of **fish and chips**.

Bob decided to compliment the chef. Entering the kitchen, he asked the cook, "Are you the fish friar?"

"No," the man replied, "I'm the chip monk."

Fly TyersTools of the Trade

or What do you really need?

By Perry Kelley

I will have to admit it—I am a fly-tying tool junkie. Over the almost 48 years at the tying bench, I have accumulated a lot of stuff, some of it very useful and some just a bad idea. Today I would like to sort out what I believe to be essential for the fly tyer and what you could do without and never miss. I will even include some items that you won't find in a catalog or fly shop or can easily make yourself.

Tyer's essential tools

The **vise** is the basis for all tying. Options are many from a basic C-clamp cam action to expensive rotary and lathe designs. There are too many options of style and design to discuss in one article. Two essentials must be considered, (1) Will the jaws securely hold a variety of sizes of hooks, and (2) is the jaw designed to have space to work with materials on hooks of all sizes. Many professional fly tyers still prefer non-rotary vises.

Scissors are close to the vise in priority and a lot less expensive. There are unlimited types, shapes, designs and qualities of scissors. It is quite important to use scissors that are designed for fly tying. A typical fly tying scissors has finger loops large enough for a man's hand and tips fine enough to closely trim stray hackle fibers when finishing the fly. They are sharp but will dull quickly when cutting deer hair, foam, wire and heavy feather quills. My recommendation is to have several scissors on your bench. One option is the small tungsten sewing scissors found in the sewing section of *Bi-Mart*. These are great for cutting marabou, deer hair, and wire. They are quite inexpensive and seem to stay sharp. One problem is they do not have very delicate tips. I take a file and remove metal from the tips leaving enough to not compromise the shape. Use an old tying scissors for cutting wire and then buy a good pair of fly tying scissors. Dr. Slick is a good choice.

Bobbins are next in priority. Most important! Get a bobbin with a ceramic top or tube. A metal tube will eventually groove and cut your thread. One bobbin will work. You will have to change spools but you will save money. The Griffin Supreme Ceramic Bobbin costs about \$13. To change spools buy a pack of dental floss threaders. They work great and are inexpensive. You can spend a lot more money for bobbins and some of them are worth it. A couple of designs are interesting. I use a Nor retractable bobbin and really love it. Just lift up the tip for thread length. Warning: There is a learning curve to use this device. The Rite bobbin (\$20) has a device to adjust the thread tension. The MP "thread through" is touted as the SEXIEST and MOST FUNCTIONAL bobbin yet. For \$50 you will have a life-changing experience.

Hackle pliers come in several designs. If you tie with saddle hackle, you really don't need hackle pliers. I don't know the future of hackle, but at the present it is almost impossible to get saddle hackles. Neck hackles are shorter and almost impossible to tie without pliers. There are three designs—English pliers, rotating pliers and E-Z Mini hackle pliers. Of the three, the latter is the most versatile and by far the cheapest. They can be also found in electronic stores.

Whip Finishers I have heard these called frustration tools. At one time there were several designs but now the Matarelli type is standard. They come in different sizes, small for delicate tying, standard and large for saltwater and bass flies. Prices vary but the Matarelli label is most expensive and probably the best, though the others work great. Half-hitch tools will do about the same thing and are much easier to use. Eventually you should have both.

Hair-stackers These handy tools are designed to even the tips of deer or elk hair. I have several but my "go-to" is the Griffin Standard Hair Evener priced at \$9.



Those are the essential tools for the trade.

The following are others you will eventually want on your tying bench.

Tools for the advanced tyer

Power-Zap burning tool, a handy tool with a battery-operated hot tip to clean out hook eyes, carving eye sockets in deer hair and grooming tied flies .

Tyers comb, steer hair comb for cleaning out fuzzy under-hair in deer or elk hair.

Hackle-Gage for sizing hackles

Wishbone thread cutter for cutting off thread at the tie in point. Can also be found in sewing centers.

Dubbing needle or bodkin to pick out dubbing, hackle and to apply head cement.

Dubbing loop tools—a variety of tools including the “Dubbing-Whirl,” the “triple tip” dubbing spinner, the “turbo dubbing twister” and many others.

Stainless steel fur rake, a tool to remove fur from the hide.

Hair packer, a tool to compress spun hair. Several designs are available. Fender washers found in hardware stores also work for this task.

Fly and jig turner, slow rotating wheel to dry painted and epoxy flies. This is a must for salt water and painted bass flies.

Tools that seemed like a good idea at the time

Dubbing needle & loop combo tool This tool had a dubbing needle at one end and a “W” style loop hook at the other. It was 10 inches long. Problem when used as a loop tool the needle always poked me in the leg. Thank goodness for “Band Aids” and tetanus shots.

Wing divider This was advertised to give you perfect quill wings every time. Every time I used it, it looked like the dog had chewed the duck feather.

Hopper leg knot tool Guaranteed to give you perfect hopper legs—every time. The learning curve was beyond my abilities. It also turned out that it only worked for the right leg. Unless there was an abundance of one legged hoppers that swam in circles the tool was not effective.

Wing burners Brass tweezers-type tool shaped with an “L” at bottom. The “L” was then cut into the shape of a mayfly, caddis or stonefly wing. Each represented insect came in four sizes.

To use one was to put two hen hackles, concave sides together, stems diagonal between the jaws of the tool. Next material showing on the outside with scissors. Then with a candle or lighter burn the feather outside of the jaws. Problems were that the process of trimming the feathers were difficult for several reasons. You had to hold the trimmer very tightly or the feathers would shift when trimming. It seemed like my nose would itch or I would sneeze during this step. Next going from one step to the next, I would always relax my grip and the feathers would shift. The heat would creep up from the wing to the upper handle causing me to drop the tool and yell my favorite word when being unintentionally burned which shall remain unmentioned. Also the burnt feather smell would become offensive to my family. But what the designers never thought of was the stem of the feather kept the outsides of the tool together; thus fire would creep in giving the wing an uneven shape. Not a good idea at any time. I would be glad to sell my collection of wing burners for \$1.50 each.

Forget the fly shop

Here are a few useful items that can be found outside of fly fishing specialties shops

Dubbing blenders Inexpensive coffee bean grinders (blenders) or old blenders for blending fur.

Tool boxes Pliers for de- barbing hooks, files, whetstones, household scissors and many other tools can be used for fly tying.

Bobbin threaders As previously mentioned dental floss threaders work great.

Velcro The hook part of self stick Velcro makes a great dubbing brush when stuck on a fingernail file or a small dowel. You can also use the file part

Foam sanding pad Remove the rough parts of your hands and fingers. There is nothing worse than having material and thread catch on calluses.

Dubbing needle Fly shops sell needles that are great, but sometimes you need finer and shorter needles. Simply get a fine sewing needle and epoxy it to a wine cork.

Pill bottles They make great containers for dubbing needles. Fill the bottle with fine steel wool, place the lid on the bottle, heat the tip of the dubbing needle to put a hole in the top and place the bottle on your bench. The weight of the steel wool will keep the needle upright. The steel wool will clean the needle.

Probably many of you clever fly tyers have great ideas for tools or storage. Who knows, maybe you will come up with a shrewd invention that will give you fame and fortune. If you are truly benevolent you can submit your ideas to the *Newscaster* and share with the rest of us. Good tying.

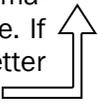
"How To Find Fish on Stillwaters"

By Zack Thurman

Living in the West, we are fortunate to have many good stillwater fisheries that hold large trout. Many anglers, though, shy away from them because of the difficulty to find the trout that reside in them. Fishing stillwaters has always been an interest of mine, as I fish around the West Coast pursuing the benefits of large trout that reside in our lakes. Every year, I venture out and pursue new lakes. When I come to a new lake, there is always that mystery to unravel where the fish are going to be or how deep in the water column they may be. This is the most challenging part to fishing lakes and is why I believe people balk at the thought of fishing them. They are not as easy to read as moving water.

The question that I get asked all the time is, "How do you know where to find the fish without using the advantage of a fish finder? What should I do to find the fish effectively?" When I first get to a lake, whether I am in my boat, pontoon, or float tube, the first the thing I try to look for is some sort of structure to attract the trout. I look for weed beds, springs, inlets, rock ledges, or points. These obstructions all attract trout for different reasons but still don't give you a guarantee that you can find them right away. Obviously, if you can visually see trout in the water or have trout feeding on the surface, you know where to fish; but what do you do when you can't see them? Thus, the difficulty—you have to start searching the water columns.

The best thing to do is have a line (preferably sinking) that you can count down to find what depth the fish are holding. For me the line I use in most of my lake situations is an Intermediate sinking line, and the other being a Type II sinking line. With these lines I am casting and retrieving my flies and not using indicators or trolling. Intermediates fish best from 1 to 8 feet, Type II's 8-15 feet. But why not fish deeper than 15 ft? The reason is that the majority of a trout's feeding activity on lakes is in shallow water, because the majority of the food is located there. If they are deeper than 15 ft, I have found that they are usually sulking down and not eating from factors like better water temps, full moons, cold fronts, drop of barometer, fishing pressure, etc.



Having the right line is the key to finding fish and staying in the depth the fish are feeding the longest. The reason I believe an Intermediate line is the best choice is that it sinks slower than any other line, which keeps you in the zone that the fish are in for the longest period of time. This allows you to present your flies to more fish. Intermediate lines sink roughly about 1.5 inches per second and roughly 1 foot in ten seconds. With this you can use a count-down system to find the depth the fish are holding. With no fish showing, I will cast out and count to 10 (1 ft.) and start retrieving my flies back in, usually slowly, to try to find the fish. If that doesn't work I will then cast out and count to maybe 15 seconds or 20 seconds (2 to 3 ft) before starting my retrieve, and will keep increasing the count until I find where the fish are located. I will do this to about 8 feet deep with an Intermediate and if I am not getting any bites I will then go to a Type II. Many times this has increased my numbers of fish in a day significantly. If I just did the same thing over and over, maybe change a fly or two, but not vary the depths, my results would have been different. In all the situations that I have encountered, the sink rate of the line and searching the water column is far more important than fly pattern.

Another factor that people also overlook is that a line keeps sinking when you are retrieving your flies back in. This means that even though you may have started your retrieve at 1 foot, your fly will sink down past that mark several feet, especially if you make a long cast. What I will do sometimes is keep counting, (in my head), as I retrieve my flies back, so I know exactly what depth the fish are at. If I was at about 50 seconds, when a fish hits, then that fish was about five feet down. This may seem like a lot of work, but if your goal is to catch more and bigger fish, this method has put my numbers far above many of those that I have fished with in the same boat, because I knew exactly what depth fish are located while they were wasting lots of time, casts, and good presentations because they weren't getting their flies to the fish.

There is the misperception that fly pattern is the most important thing to overcome while fishing a lake. I think this comes from many people learning to fly-fish on moving water and trying to match the hatch that they may see. This isn't the case on lakes unless you are fishing dries, which is fun but not the best way to catch more and bigger fish. There are flies, though, that fish a little more consistent at certain depths or situations. When fishing lakes you always want to have all of the food sources covered with your flies, which are usually leeches, baitfish, damsels, dragons, callibaetis, caddis, or midges. This is pretty much the same for all lakes with maybe an exception here or there. Also, trout feed opportunistically on lakes and a lot of times you can use flies that aren't imitating what is hatching and still catch lots of fish. When fishing, know what depths the different food sources are usually found. Leeches or dragons usually fish better deeper. Damsels, callibaetis, caddis, and baitfish are better fished in shallower waters. So, match your patterns to your depths and lines accordingly, but don't forget that you will find situations when you can catch fish at different depths with any fly.

Remember, every day on the water is different. Next time you find yourself on a lake and can't see trout, try this countdown method to search and probe different depths until you find fish. Hopefully this will help you become more successful finding fish on lakes, as it has for me.

Fly of the Month

Unity "Killer" Fly

by Grant Baugh

Hook: Standard nymph, size 8
 Thread: Black 6/0
 Tail: Brown marabou or mohair
 Body: Flash chenille to match color
 Hackle: Black, 2 turns





P.O. Box 734, Weiser, Idaho 83672



Mike Thomas with a Lahontan Cutthroat



Perry with a cutthroat at Brundage Reservoir

Charlie Daniels with an Owhee Brown



I got a new fly rod and reel for my wife.....best trade I ever made.

OCTOBER 2011

- Coming Events**
- Oct. 4—IFF Board, Beehive 7 pm
 - Oct. 11 - IFF Membership Idaho Pizza 6 pm Fly tying Demo 7 pm Program
 - Oct. 18—Fly Tying 7 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 <i>IFF Board</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>IFF Members</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 <i>Fly Tying</i>	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					