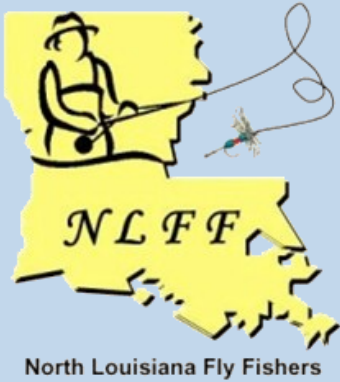


The Fly Line

Monthly Newsletter of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers

March 2017

Volume 3, Issue 3



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March Meeting

Club membership renewals are past due. If you have not renewed, please do so soon as to not lose your club benefits. Be sure and check out the new 3-yr memberships that are available starting this year. Also, we are trying to improve our communications with our membership so please fill out a new mem-

bership form and bring/send with your renewal. Don't forget to sign the release waiver located on the back of the membership form. Details and the form can be found on our website www.northlaflyfishers.org.

At our March meeting, our member, A.L. Higgins, has arranged for the Bayou

Chapter of the Ozark Society to visit with us. Their speaker will talk about their club and what it does in and around the Shreveport-Bossier area.

If you have ever wondered what the Ozark Society is all about, this will be the perfect opportunity to learn. You

might be surprised by the common interest that our two clubs share. In fact, we voted a while back to change our meeting date so that our meeting did not conflict with theirs.

Come see what the Ozark Society, especially the Bayou Chapter, is all about!



"If I fished only to capture fish, my fishing trips would have ended long ago."

~ Zane Grey



February Events Recap

Our monthly meeting gets back on track this month, meeting on the regular day (second Tuesday). Thanks to everyone who showed up at January's meeting that was delayed by a week due to Valentine's Day.

Tom Bullock gave a presentation on nymphing techniques that focused on fishing the entire water column and how to increase hook-ups. Tom's



knowledge of Czech nymphing has significantly increased from his first

presentation that he gave. If you missed this, be sure to attend another event where Tom will be presenting.

Tom also gave a class on Polish nymph fly weaving. The weaving technique was unique in the way that you never had to let go of either strand to do the weave. That allowed for maintaining tight wraps and producing a fly that will hold up longer.



2016 NLFF Executive Board

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
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2017 Membership Dues

NLFF membership dues for the new year have changed but the good news is that they do not include an increase!

Please note that the \$5 discount for being an IFFF member has been discontinued. It has been replaced with a discount for multi-year signup. We now offer a 3 year rate for individual and family memberships.

Here are the new Membership

Classes:

Family - \$35.00

3 Year Family - \$90.00

Individual - \$30.00

3 Year Individual - \$75.00

Student* - \$20.00

Active Military* - \$20.00

* 3 year not available for these already discounted rates.

We request that you fill out a new membership form even if you are a long-standing member. We are updating our membership rolls to better communicate upcoming events and activities to you. A new membership form can be downloaded from our website at www.northlaflyfishers.org or obtained at any meeting. Thanks for your help and continued support of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers.



Fly of the Month - "Bead Head Soft hackle Hare's Ear"

This month Tom Bullock will be demonstrating some features of the Regal vise by tying a bead head version of the Soft Hackle Hare's Ear. Come to our fly tying session at Bass Pro Shops in Bossier City. (Note: A Regal vise is not necessary)

Recipe:

Hook: Size 14 2X-Long nymph hook

Thread: Fluorescent Pink 6/0

Bead: 1/8 or 3.5mm Silver

Body: Light Hare's Mask Dubbing

Rib: Small Silver Wire

Tail: Natural Hare's Mask

Thorax: Strung Peacock Herl

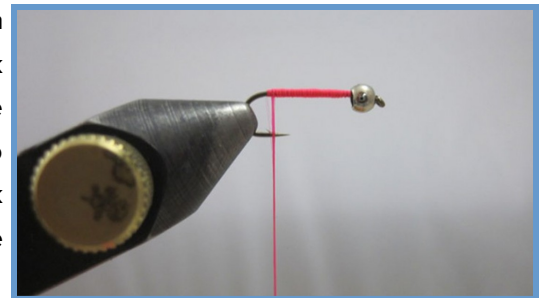
Wingcase: Large Pearl Tinsel

Hackle: Hungarian Partridge Feather

Hot Spot: Thread

Step 1. Slide a 1/8" bead on the hook with the counter sunk end facing the bend of the hook. Start a thread wrap around the shank of the hook and lay down an even base layer of thread (usually about 1 1/2 to two trips from the eye of the hook to the barb).

Step 2. Cut off a pinch of hair from the hare's mask, grabbing the guard hair (tips) pluck out the underfur from the bottom of the hair fibers (where you made the cut). Save the underfur to use as dubbing for the body. Measure the tail by laying the fibers on top of the hook shank with the tips roughly at the bend of the hook and measure up to the back



of the bead. This is the point where you will tie the tail in, make a few wraps around the excess hair and work your way up to the bead and

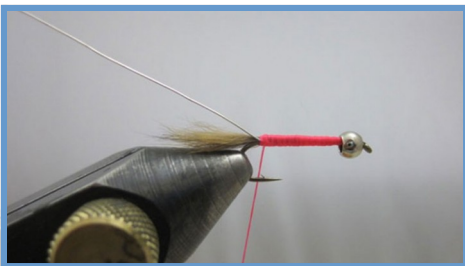


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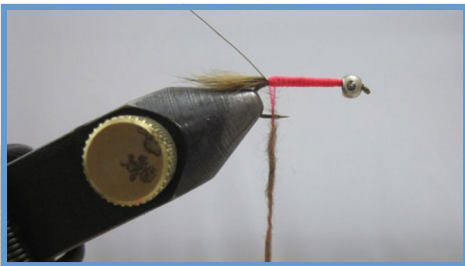
Fly of the Month - "Bead Head Soft hackle Hare's Ear" - Cont.

back down to the bend of the hook.

Step 3. Cut about a half inch piece of wire and tie it in at the same spot as the tail and make thread wraps up to the bead and back down to the bend.



Step 4. Start applying light hare's mask dubbing and the leftover under fur to your thread in small amounts by twisting it between the thread and your fingers covering the expose thread between your bobbin and the hook shank (Dubbing wax or waxed thread will help this process). Once ap-



plied, start wrapping the thread around the shank of the hook creat-

ing a tapered body to about the halfway point of the shank.

Step 5. Start wrapping the wire in even segments up the dubbed body to where the dubbing stops. Tie off the wire with your thread with a few wraps and use an old pair scissor to cut the excess wire free.



Step 6. Cut off a piece of pearl tinsel and tie it in on the top-center



of the shank, next tie in 2 strands of peacock herl in the same place (tie in at the top of the feather, this is the fullest part of the herl and

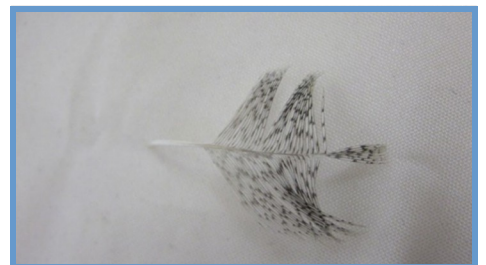
will give the best results) and move your thread up towards the bead.

Step 7. Make 2 to 3 wraps with the peacock herl around the shank of the hook continuing the taper of the body and cut off the excess herl.



Next pull the tinsel overtop the herl and tie it off with a few wraps of thread.

Step 8. Take a single Hungarian Partridge feather and grab it at the tip, strip off the under feather from the base of the stem with your fingers. Once you have this done



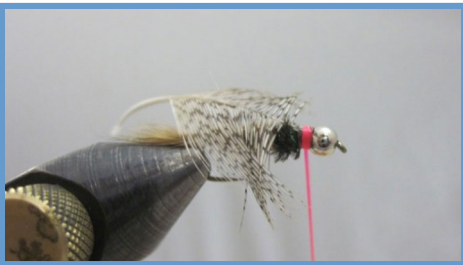
gently separate the barbs of the

(Continued on page 6)

Fly of the Month - "Bead Head Soft hackle Hare's Ear" - Cont.

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feather at the tip of the feather creating a small triangle at the top of the feather, this will be where you tie the feather onto the hook.

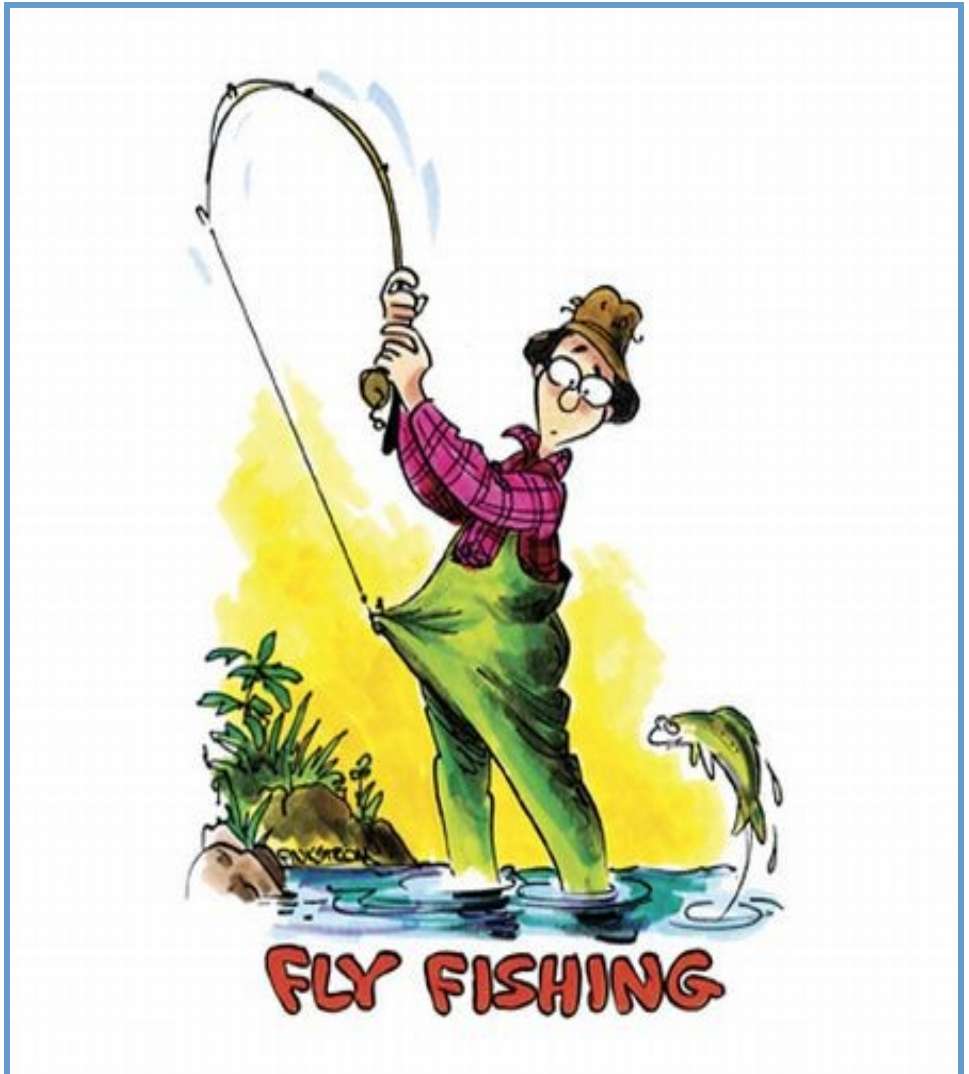


Step 9. Once the feather is securely tied in make a single wrap around



the shank with the partridge feather, tie it off and cut off the stem of the feather. This step may vary with the fullness of the feather, one wrap usually does the trick but I have done as many as two wraps to get the barbs the way I want.

Step 10. Finally create a small collar between the partridge feather and the bead with thread once about even with the bead finish it off with a half hitch or whip finish and add some head cement.



The 5 Best Fly Fishing Destinations In The U.S. by Region

Today, ask almost any non-fly fisherman what one catches on a fly rod and they will say trout. As early as a few decades ago, that was universally true. Now, in addition to trout, almost all species of fish are sought after on a fly rod. From sunfish, striped bass and alligator gar to flounder, redfish and even sharks! If it swims, it can be a rewarding catch on a fly rod.

While every list can be debated, the following are what I consider the top places to fly fish in different regions of the U.S.:

1. West Region - Alagnak River - Bristol Bay, Alaska

The best and most beautiful fly fishing destination of all - bar none! In the Bristol Bay Region of Southwestern Alaska, the fishing season usually only lasts a few short months. But during those months, you'll find salmon, steelhead, resident rainbows, northern pike, gray-

ling, and so much more. The area is true American wilderness and nothing really compares to going off the grid to this cold state for a fly fishing endeavor. The surrounding landscapes will no doubt be some of the most spectacular you'll have ever seen, and you'll be able to reel in a wide array of species.

2. Southeast Region - Jupiter Inlet, Florida



There's no other spot that compares to Florida when it comes to the best saltwater fly fishing in the States. The Keys offer everything from big, wary bonefish and wily permit, to tarpon, redfish, snook, and even largemouth bass.

Experts often say that Florida is

for saltwater fly anglers as what Michigan is for freshwater fly fishermen - it's an absolute mecca of inland waters that are definitely worth checking out, since sizable fish can be found pretty much anywhere - whether in a quiet pond or a city-side canal! Get your hands on a true variety of game fish all along the Atlantic beaches just off the central Florida inlet. Find sharks, jack crevalle, cobia, redfish, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, and pompano. Diversity is the name of the game here.

3. Midwest Region - Glenwood Springs, Colorado

No favorite fly fishing list would be

complete without mentioning Colorado, with attractions from the Platte River, the San Juan River, and the Colorado River, which all offer heavenly spots for fly fishing enthusiasts. The large number of beautiful locales to stop at in the region are also well-known for the high number of trout to be found in their rivers. It's truly difficult to find a better combination of gold-medal waters, blue skies, nice climates, and stunning canyons any-

(Continued on page 8)



The 5 Best Fly Fishing Destinations In The U.S. by Region - Cont.

(Continued from page 7)



where in the world besides Glenwood Springs.

Many say that it's the geographic center of the best fly fishing in the entire state. The Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers merge right in town, and the Eagle, the Frying Pan, and the Gunnison located conveniently nearby for those who want to take a day trip.

4. Northeast Region - Montauk, New York

From the Oceanside fishing of Long Island and Montauk, all the way to traditional river and stream fishing in the Adi-

rondacks or in the Catskills, there's

no doubt that the Empire State is a stellar fishing destination for fly anglers.

There's no need to leave the Big Apple in order to find some world-class fly rod action because come mid-spring to mid-summer on Long Island, guides and anglers alike can be seen stalking the clear shal-

low flats surrounding Gardiner's Island and Peconic Bay for ample amounts of bluefish and stripers. In the late fall, there's even a Montauk craziness that ensues as huge schools of baitfish bring in tons of striped bass, blues, and albacore. Get psyched and get ready!

5. Gulf Coast Region - Coastal Marshes - Louisiana

Want the best inshore fishing in the world? Head on out to Louisiana, where fishing for speckled trout and redfish is a favorite pastime of Louisiana anglers and the thousands of visitors to the area - all of whom adore the vast marshes and saltwater bays of Louisiana's coast.

The state has an amazing complex of creeks, channels, bayous, and ponds that are perfect for any

serious fly fishing enthusiast. The Louisiana Marsh is hands down one of the best Redfish fisheries the world has to offer. So go on out to the outer marshes



(Continued on page 9)

The 5 Best Fly Fishing Destinations In The U.S. by Region - Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

that suggest streamer flies that are fly fishing locales to seek out. Let's



just say that Montana is all about rivers, streams, and creeks that all offer superb fishing any time of the year.

For sizable trout, try the Bighorn River in the eastern portion of the state. There's also the Yellowstone, the Madison, and the Montana portions of rivers in Yellowstone National Park, the Beaverhead, the Mis-

souri, and other various spring creeks, as well as the popular towns of Missoula and Bozeman, which often tie for the best spots in the state for fly fishers.

where you'll wade yourself in 1-4 ft. of water, or paddle a kayak to sneak up on fish as big as 20-50+ lbs. Plenty of records have been caught in Louisiana, that's for sure. incredibly effective in attracting migrating brown trout. Montana's appeal for anglers is that of sprawling, wide open expanses which make for plenty of awesome

missouri, and other various spring creeks, as well as the popular towns of Missoula and Bozeman, which often tie for the best spots in the state for fly fishers.



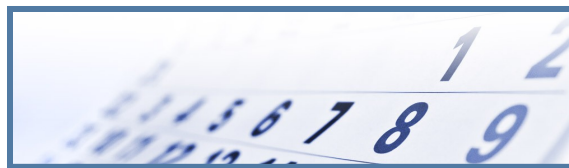
Bonus - Midwest Region Honorable Mention - Bozeman, Montana

While Glenwood Springs, Colorado edges out Bozeman for the Midwest title, Bozeman, Montana deserves mentioning. It would surely beat several others on this list if it wasn't by region.

It's one of North America's prime fly fishing areas for large trout, as the highly productive waters boast copious hatchings of insects year-round, as well as tons of minnows



NLFF Calendar



Mar 14th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm. The Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society will visit to discuss what they do and what they have in common with our club.

Mar 16th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm. Tom Bullock will be tying a Bead Head version of the Soft Hackled Hare's Ear. Since our club has obtained some Regal vises, there will also be some discussion on using unique features of this vise. However, a Regal vise is NOT required to do anything at this tying class.

Mar 28th: NLFF Executive Board meeting. 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Apr 11th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm. John Williams from Pack & Paddle in Lafayette, LA will be discussing fishing from a kayak.

Apr 20th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.

Apr 25th: NLFF Executive Board meeting. 6:00pm at Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA upstairs in the conference room directly across from the elevator.

Apr 29th: NLFF's "Spring Thaw". Our annual spring outing at Judy and Johnny Thomas' place. BBQ and fly fishing - what a great combo! More details will be available shortly.

May 9th: NLFF Monthly Meeting. Red River Wildlife Refuge, 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA. Social gathering at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 6:45pm and presentation will begin at 7:00pm.

May 18th: Fly Tying Workshop. White River Fly Shop in Bass Pro Shop in Bossier City, LA., 6:00-7:30pm.



NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE!
SEND ITEMS TO EDITOR:
STORIES, PHOTOS, ITEMS OF
INTEREST ARE ALL
WELCOME!

Upcoming Events

Mar 11th: "Fly Fish Texas". Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Athens, TX. Admission is \$10. The annual Fly Fish Texas event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is designed to teach everything from tying a fly to catching a fish in one day. All Fly Fish Texas activities are free with regular paid admission to the center. For a seminar and activities schedule, video and speaker biographies, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc and click on the "Fly Fish Texas" link.

Mar 17th - 19th: "KFF March Brown". Kisatchie Fly Fishers' March Brown trip to the Little Missouri River in Arkansas. For more info, go to www.kisatchiefly.org

Mar 23rd - 25th: "Sowbug Roundup". Sponsored by the North Arkansas Fly Fishers. Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home, Arkansas. 9am - 4pm each day. Admission is \$5 for all three days. The foremost gathering of fly tyers from the USA and Europe. There is also seminars, casting instruction, vendors, drawings and auctions. The first \$3000 of revenue is used to fund the NAFF Scholarships.

Apr 1st: "Annual Acadiana Fly Rodders Conclave". Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd, Lafayette, LA. 8:30am - 3:30pm.

Apr 7th - 8th: "3rd Annual Lake Athens Fly Fishing Festival". Come out to beautiful Lake Athens on April 7 and 8 and enjoy the 3rd Annual Lake Athens Fly Fish Festival! There will be activities for the whole family, including a Bluegill Contest, Big Bass Contest, Casting and tying instruction and demonstrations, Casting activities of all kinds and much, much more. On Friday, the hours will be 3 pm - 9 pm and on Saturday, 7 am to 5 pm.

Apr 21st - 23rd: "RSFF Annual Lake Concordia Spring Weekend". Spring fly fishing weekend on Lake Concordia culminating with a fish fry on Saturday evening. See www.rsff.org for more details.

Apr 28th - 29th: "14th Annual Paddlepalooza Kayak Fishing Tournament". One of the first and largest kayak fishing tournaments on the Gulf Coast. \$50 entry fee includes 2 meals, tournament participation, t-shirt, captains bag, and shot a numerous raffle prizes. Partial payout with remainder going to charitable organizations. Sponsored by the Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club.

North Louisiana Fly Fishers

First IFFF Affiliated Club in Louisiana

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Shreveport, LA 71149

email: nlffclub@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

www.northlaflyfishers.org

Founded in 1984

Serving the Ark-La-Tex for over 30 years

It is the charge of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers to afford the general public and our members in particular, a better understanding of Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, and Rod Building. We wish to perpetuate the sport as a most pleasurable and exciting fishing method and provide education, instruction and the opportunities for relaxation to the membership.

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers (NLFF) Club serves the Ark-La-Tex area surrounding Shreveport. As the closest cold water fishery, we consider the Little Missouri (Little' Mo) River near Murfreesboro, AR our home waters. We also fish the local rivers and lakes. We even have a growing group of kayak fishermen that, as well as the local rivers and lakes, will fish the gulf coast marshes for some saltwater action!

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Red River Wildlife Refuge (150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA). Meeting starts at 7pm but come about 6pm to visit, tie flies and practice casting when the weather permits. See you there!