

New England Fly Tyers



NEWS LETTER

April 2018

President's Message

This month is all about the Banquet on April 26 and a highlight of the banquet is our featured speaker which this year will Ray Stachelek.

Captain Ray Stachelek is a recognized, authoritative saltwater guide in Southern New England. He is known for his resourcefulness and canny ways of putting clients on trophy fish with a fly. No matter what the species, Ray has the insight to target them. His knowledge, experience, and performance records are second to none. His clients can attest after catching their personal best. Capt. Ray is also a professional fly tier, another asset that works well on the water. His patterns are featured in fly shops and catalogs around the nation. His innovative flies are time tested, proven; often duplicated.

A licensed U.S.C.G Captain, Ray operates **Cast a Fly Charters** full time since retiring from the educational field. He has seen many changes in the state

of the fishery and environment over the last fifty years. All this accumulated knowledge naturally helps each season with the many changes in migration and fish stock assessments.

As a former teacher, his thirty- three years of presenting information comes across natural and refreshing. His honed classroom skills make learning interesting and fun. The Power Point Presentations hold your attention with captivating photography and pertinent information. The subject matter is presented logically, systematically and easy to understand regardless of skill level.

Capt. Ray also has a reputation as being one of saltwater's leading fly designers. His nationally known "Angel Hair Series" pioneered the use of Angel Hair some thirteen years ago. Glitter flies have become a main staple in blue water fishing. Capt. Ray's newest pattern, the Squid-Sicle is now available in fly shops. He is a member of the Umpqua Feather Mer-

chants Signature Fly Designer Team.

Ray's articles and photography are frequently published in such national magazines as *Saltwater Fly Fishing*, *Fly Fishing Saltwater*, and *Fly Tier Magazine*. He supplies fish reports to newspapers and web sites during the season.

Aside from the great meal, other highlights of the banquet evening are the raffle and auction. If you have a set of flies, books, tying materials equipment or other items of interest you'd like to donate, please bring them on one of the Monday night meetings prior to the banquet and give them to Paul or me. Also, we definitely can use some help that evening setting up, taking down or helping during the event. If you'd like to help out please let us know.

Joe Simone
President

NEFT Calendar

April 2 Open Tying/Adult Classes, Banquet Meeting

April 7 Youth Outreach

April 9 Open Tying, Adult Lessons

April 14 Youth Outreach

April 16 Open Tying, Adult Lessons

April 21 Youth Outreach

April 23 Open Tying, Banquet Meeting

April 26 Banquet Setup

April 27 Annual NEFT Banquet

April 28 Youth Outreach

April 30 Open Tying, Board of Director's Meeting

Events to plan for:

May 12 Club Outing

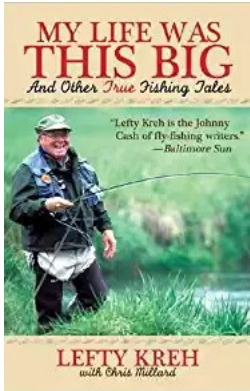
May 21 Business Meeting

April 27 Annual Banquet

June 2 Deerfield Outing

New England Fly Tyers

Book Review: My Life Was This Big, by Lefty Kreh



How do you explain the phenomenon known as Lefty Kreh? I think the only way possible was to have him do it himself, and that's exactly what he did it in "My life was This Big". (Sky Horse Publishing). How is it that at every fly fishing show where he attended the casting pool there was elbow room only when he held court and expounded on his philosophies of fly casting? I believe it was because his knowledge, enthusiasm and willingness to share made him a larger than life icon to fly fishermen across the world and this book explains how it all came to be.

In "My Life Was This Big" Lefty relates his life's story starting with his father's death when he was 6, living on welfare in

what today would be known as a ghetto, his love of the out of doors, WWII and the incredible advancement in fly fishing since WWII. The reader will learn about his introduction to fly fishing, his improbable writing career, his relationship with the fly fishing elite, his principals of fly casting, the fish he fished for and caught and of course the origin of his "Lefty's Deceiver".

For anyone who loves to fly fish this is a great read. Its entertaining, its historic, it's a how to, and sometimes sobering and sometimes funny. But more than that it's a personal look at the building of a man's character and philosophy on life.

Through his experiences, events, relationships, willingness to learn and

share, he provides us with insights we could all use as guides. An example we could all learn from today is as follows: Lefty describes a heated discussion he witnessed between Lee Cuddy and Ed Corlett regarding the Miami Metropolitan Fishing Tournament in which Cuddy stormed out of a room quitting the tournament.

Lefty stated "Well, I learned a valuable life lesson that day. Later on I asked Ed, 'How could you argue so vociferously with Cuddy and then go buy him a drink?' I've never forgotten Ed's answer."

"I wasn't arguing with Lee Cuddy," Ed said smoothly. "I was arguing with his idea."

Great stuff, with plenty more to read.

Favorite Fly **Tandem Streamer**



Spring is here and for many of us, that not only means a trip to our local stream or river but dusting off the boat, heading to the boat ramp and spending a few hours trolling our favorite streamers. Many of the old standards include the 9-3, Grey Ghost, Black Ghost, Supervisor, Joe's Smelt and numerous others. There's a belief that

landlocked salmon and trout have a habit of "hitting short" and avoiding the hook and thus giving rise to the tandem streamer. In this month's issue we're going to demonstrate one of the many ways to tie a tandem hook streamer as taught by recently passed and founding member Joe Cody.

The basic tandem streamer design is one

that can be applied to nearly every streamer pattern used for trolling and thus this is simply the tandem hook method and its left to the reader to select and tie the pattern of their choice.

The front hook is a size 4 standard length and the rear hook is a size 6. The wire used is nylon coated stainless steel leader wire anywhere between 30 and 40 lb.

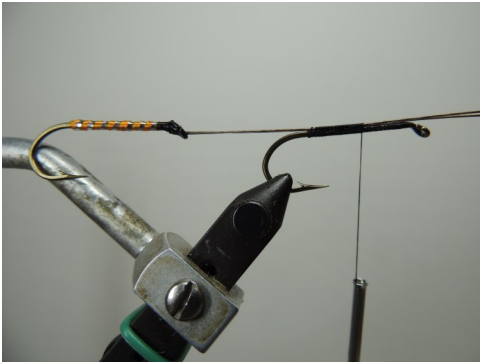


The first step is to put the size 6 hook into your vice and tie a body as is appropriate to the pattern you have chosen to tie. Leave the thread attached once the body is completed. The pattern we'll use here is similar to Carry Steven's Grey Ghost.



Now take approximately seven inches of stainless steel woven wire and insert one end through the eye from the front approximately one half the length of the wire. Bring the inserted end over the shank of the hook and back through the eye. Then carefully pull the wire snug up to the eye of the hook and secure it with the thread and whip finish. Apply head cement.

Tandem Streamer cont.



Place the size 4 hook in the vice and start the thread behind the eye and wind back to the bend. Lay both strands of wire on the top of the shank of the hook and secure with 3 or 4 wraps. Use cutting pliers to trim one of the wires just behind the eye of the hook. The overall length should be approximately 3 inches from the eye to the bend of the hook. Finish wrapping to the eye and apply head cement to the entire length of the wrap.



Bend the remaining wire back over the shank of the hook making sure the bend of the wire is as tight as possible and secure it with wraps all the way to the bend of the hook. Coat the entire length of the shaft of the hook with head cement.



Once the two hooks are completely secured, you can now apply body material the same as you did for the rear hook to complete the tandem process and continue to finish the pattern you've chosen.



The completed flies are usually between 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 inches long. Perhaps the best result in using wire for this process is that you can manipulate the rear hook to perfectly align with the front hook in order to prevent the fly from twisting in the water.

New England Fly Tyers

Save a Fish

"The finest gift you can give to any fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows if the fish that you caught isn't someone else's gift to you?"

-Lee Wulff

Fly fishermen are a unique group that more often than not look at fishing through different colored glasses than most other fishermen. Frequently what the fly fisherman is more about is the fishing more than the catching and more often than not, after hours of effort, they release the fish they worked so hard to catch. And with that in mind they want to do the best they can to assure the survival of the fish they catch.

I think we all know how very sensitive trout are and frequently the mere process of catch and release can be more than the fish can handle. What are the factors involved in catch and release that most effect the survival rate of trout and how can we best modify our tactics to help the fish? In order to come up with some recommendations for best practices when catching and releasing trout I dove into the internet for answers (after all, if its on the internet it has to be true!). There are numerous studies available to peruse if you'd like, but from what I read it really boils down to three primary parts that cause stress or injury to the trout that we can address as we go about our fishing.

The first factor we apply to the fish is angling stress or that stress placed upon the fish during the fight. The longer we fight a fish the greater the

stress and its not unusual that angling stress alone is enough to assure the demise of our catch.

The next hurdle a trout faces during our process is air exposure. Once removed from the water a fish can no longer breathe. Its kind of like a person swimming a mile and then immediately having his or her head held under water. A study by Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) using rainbow trout estimated a survival rate of 64% after only 30 seconds out of the water and only 28% after 60 seconds. (Ferguson and Tufts, 1992)

The third significant factor in the survival of a fish during the catch and release process is injury due to the hook and handling. If the gills are touched in any way, either by hook or fingers, the survival rate is very low. Additionally, damaging the mucus coating on the fish by netting or handling will also significantly contribute to a fish's demise.

So what can we do to maximize the survival rates of the fish we catch and turn back to be caught again? To reduce angling stress we should attempt to land our fish in the shortest possible amount of time. I'm not suggesting pulling it through the water like a water skier but getting them in as soon as you feel the fight is over.

Now that the fish surrendered, how do we get the hook out and let 'em go? Best practice would

be to reach down while the fish is still in the water, pop out the fly and let them swim away. But we know that's not always possible so the next two options would be to wet your hand and place it under the belly of the fish and gently lift it out or net it using a wet rubber net, pop the hook out and get it back into the water as soon as possible. A little CPR for fish is also handy at this time by either facing the fish up stream or gently moving the fish back and forth to get fresh water to pass over the gills.

Reducing injury while handling is also possible with a little TLC. Using barbless hooks makes getting the hook out easier and faster and with less damage. Always wet your net before landing a fish and wet your hands before touching it and take your photos as quickly as possible to get them back into the water. If the hook is too deep to remove safely, cut the line as close to the mouth as possible and release.

Trout are tasty and harvesting some for the table should never be frowned upon. But when the occasion calls for catch and release it would be great if we all could follow these simple guidelines and follow Lee Wulff's suggestion to gift your fish to someone else.



To Promote Fly Fishing and Tying

Our mailing address is:
PO Box 164
Worcester, MA 01613

The NEFT meets every Monday evening at 7 PM from the Monday after Labor Day to the Monday before Memorial day. We meet at the Singletary Rod & Gun , 300 Sutton Ave., Oxford Ma.

NEFT is a non-profit organization of fly fishers and fly tyers. The purpose of the organization is to foster the art of fly tying, to promote the challenge of fly fishing, to encourage conservation and sportsmanship.

NEFT began in Worcester, MA in 1972. Our current membership comes from over 50 cities and towns in Worcester County. We believe that the NEFT is one of the most active clubs of its kind. We meet every Monday night from the Monday after Labor Day to the Monday before Memorial day, a total of 36 meetings in 9 months.

We're on the Web

www.newenglandflytyers.org

New England Fly Tyers

Membership Renewal Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Regular Member: _____ \$30.00 Junior Member: _____ \$15.00 Life Member: _____ Donation

Paid by Cash: _____ Amount: _____ Paid by Check: _____ Check # _____ Amount: _____

Personal Contact Update:

Mailing address: _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Membership Questionnaire:

Please Print all Information so it is legible

___ In an effort to keep NEFT activities current with the interest of membership, please take a minute to fill out the following questionnaire:

What species of fish do you primary fish for? _____

What type of flies do you most often tie? _____

Do you travel to fish and if so where? _____

What's your Favorite Fly Shop? _____

What is your Favorite Style of Fishing? _____

Would you be willing to share your fly fishing knowledge with other members of the
New England Fly Tyers: _____

What fly fishing or fly tying experience would you like to try that you have not yet to experience or
learn: _____

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO SHARE:

As you all know, a club is only as strong as its membership. Please check off any of the following volunteer activities you might be willing to assist in:

Board of Directors _____ Club Greeter at Activities _____ Favorite Fly _____

Favorite Fly setup and take down _____ Banquet Committee _____

Banquet Set Up or Take Down _____ Membership Outreach _____ Youth Outreach Program _____

Monday Night Setup or Take Down _____ Coffee Setup and Take Down _____

Newsletter Contributor _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO US AT OUR MONDAY NIGHT MEETING OR MAIL IT TO THE FOLLOWING CLUB ADDRESS.

NEFT
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WORCESTER, MA 01613