

Brown Owl.... Tom Regina (continued)

6. Rotate or invert the hook in the vise. Tie on the orange thread in front of the thorax and over the brown thread tie off wraps. Select an appropriate size grizzly feather with barbs greater in length than half the length of the hook shank. Stroke the barbs so they stand out perpendicular to the feather quill. As a unit strip away a bunch barbs from about ½- inch of the quill. Tie the stripped barbs to the underside of the hook in front of and adjacent to the thorax. (Note: With the hook inverted, the "underside" is up.) Cut away the barb butts. Rotate or invert the hook in the vise to its upright or normal position.



7. With the orange thread, build a relatively large neatly tapered head. Half hitch or whip finish the thread head. Cut away the thread. For lasting durability, apply epoxy to the thread head, or as an alternative apply several coats of head cement.

Black Herl Midge.... Tom Regina

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad Signature R30, size 22
Thread: 8/0 black
Tail: Black hen saddle feather barbs
Body: Fine black ostrich herl



Tying Instructions



1. Start the thread on the hook one hook eye distance back from the hook eye. Lay down a neat thread base back to a point directly above the hook barb. As a unit, strip about 4 or 5 barbs from the quill of a hen saddle feather. Tie the barbs to the top of the hook directly above the hook barb. The tail should be equal in length to the hook shank. Take the thread forward to the thread tie on point while binding the barb butts to the top of the hook.



2. At the thread hang point tie a single ostrich herl to the top of the hook. Bind the herl to the top of the hook back to the base of the tail. Take the thread forward to the thread tie on point.



3. Palmer the ostrich herl forward in neat touching wraps to the thread tie on point. Tie off and cut away the excess herl. Form a neat tapered thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount head cement to the finish thread wrap.

Library Update... Karen Brand

The Fly Fishers of NW Florida's library recently received generous donations of books and videos from the families of Andy Housand and Maggie Gray. For our newer members who did not have the pleasure of knowing Andy and Maggie, they were long time members of the club and passionate about fly fishing. When John and I first took the PJC class back in the mid-90's Maggie was club president and Andy was the PJC class coordinator. I want to thank Shannon, Maggie's daughter and Cynthia, Andy's wife for their generous donation of tying materials that will be part of the auction on June and books and videos that are now a part of our library.

I hope that the next time you come to the clubhouse you will take a look at our new library. Since I had quite a few new books I thought it would be the perfect time to reorganize! Books have been arranged in different categories to hopefully make it easier to locate books of interest. Categories include Saltwater, warm and cold water fishing, tying, casting and fictional titles. I also decided to move the library out of the back room so it will be more accessible to the members. Right now the only items in the library are the books. I am in the process of going thru the videos and having many of them converted over to DVD. We are missing several books that have been checked out and not returned. I hope all of you will check around and see if you have any of the club's books or videos. If you check out books please enter your name and the date which the book was checked out in the Library Catalog. See you all at the next club meeting. Karen Brand, Librarian

Bamboo Fly Rod Makers... Tom Regina

A fly rod *builder*, so I am told, puts the components; reel seat, guides, tip top, thread wraps, and epoxy on a previously manufactured fly rod blank. A fly rod *maker* on the other hand constructs the blank and assembles all the components onto the blank.

Recently five of our club members; Mitch Abernethy, Bob McKay, Russ Shields, myself, and associate member Norris Heckel from Fountain Hills, AZ along with Mike Stewart from Phoenix, AZ attended Bill Oyster's Bamboo Rod Making Class at his shop in Mineral Bluff, GA.

Under Bills expert guidance and instruction we each crafted a mighty fine bamboo fly rod. We each started with a Culm of Tonkin bamboo six feet long by about 2 ½-inches in diameter. We flamed the bamboo, we split it, filed it with a wood rasp, heated it with fire, squeezed it in a vise, scraped it, sanded it, planed it, and glued the resulting sticks into the familiar hexagon shape of a traditional bamboo fly rod.



The ferrules, hook keeper, stripping guide, snake guides, and the tip top were then applied to the blank. The rod with the hardware attached was dipped three times into a vat of varnish with several hours of dry time between dips. Finally the reel seats were glued to the rods with epoxy.

At each step of the way, Bill gave exact and detailed instruction. Whenever anyone had a problem or question Bill was there to provide guidance and an encouraging word.

Bill's bride Shannen made sure we all ate well. Shannen provided us with a continental breakfast each morning, and a hot lunch and supper each evening. She made snacks and drinks available throughout the day.



The class was six days long... and I don't use the term long lightly. We worked twelve or more hours each day. It was tedious yet very fulfilling and enjoyable work. Russ I and enjoyed it so much we have made arrangements to return to Bill Oyster's shop in March of 2010 to make another bamboo fly rod.

Russ will give a PowerPoint presentation of our bamboo fly rod making experience under instruction from Bill Oyster at the May 5 club meeting. If you have an interest in bamboo fly rods or bamboo fly rod making you may want to view the DVD



"Trout Grass" Karen Brand has added to the club library. Trout Grass takes the viewer from the growing and harvest of Tonkin bamboo in southern China to crafting a bamboo fly rod... with some fly fishing scenes intertwined. Also check out Bill Oyster's web site at www.oysterbamboo.com or call Bill and Shannen at 678-455-9113.