

Susquehanna Chapter Trout Unlimited

BASIC FLY TYING COURSE

Name _____

The original version of this manual was prepared by Ed Blackburn and funds were provided in memory of Paul M. McBride, 50 years a scouter at Troop #14, St. John's - Newberry U. M. Church.

We also thank Don Daughenbaugh for his contributions to the information in this manual.

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CLASS 1

1. Green Weenie

Hook.....	Tiemco 3769 - size 10
Thread.....	6/0 UNI-Thread, Green
Body	Chartreuse ultra-chenille, small or medium

- Tie thread on at index point and attach a 6" piece of chenille.
- Lay the chenille along the hook shank and secure with the thread back to the bend of the hook.
- Make a small loop of chenille behind the hook, then secure the chenille with a few thread wraps and wind the thread back to the index point.
- Wrap the chenille uniformly around the hook to the index point and secure it with a few thread wraps.
- Trim off the chenille, make a few thread wraps toward the eye and whip finish.

2. San Juan Worm

Hook.....	Tiemco 2488 or 3769 - size 12-14
Thread.....	6/0 UNI-thread, bright red
Body.....	Red/hot pink Ultra chenille - standard

- Tie thread on hook at index point, wind back to bend of hook.
- Attach 3" piece of chenille at hook bend with 1" hanging behind, tie down with several wraps, then lift chenille and wrap thread back up to index point.
- Secure chenille down at index point with several thread wraps, then lift front of chenille (1") and finish off with several half hitches and/or whip finish.
- Carefully heat both tips of the chenille by waving Bic lighter flame at a distance to create tapered ends.

3. Zebra Midge

Hook.....	Tiemco 2487 or 2488H - size 16-22
Thread & Body.....	70-denier Ultra Thread, black
Rib.....	Silver Ultra Wire BR
Thorax.....	Black superfine dubbing

- Tie thread on hook at index point, attach 4-6" piece of wire at index point with several wraps and pull back, leaving no exposed end toward eye.
- Wrap thread back smoothly over both the hook shank and wire to the back of the hook bend.
- Wind the thread back to the index point to cover the hook shank again, then wind the wire forward clockwise around the hook shank to make uniform spiral segments (about 6 - 8) up to the index point and secure with 4-5 wraps.
- Break off the wire by holding the thread down tightly and twisting the wire in a spiral motion until it breaks off.
- Dub a small fuzzy thorax hump at the index point and then finish off with several wraps toward the eye and whip finish.

4. Caddis Pupae

Hook.....	Tiemco 2487 or 2488H - size 12-18
Thread	6/0 UNI-Thread, black
Shuck.....	Amber Z-Ion
Body.....	Olive or tan dubbing
Legs.....	Partridge hackles
Head.....	Black superfine dubbing

- Tie in thread at back end of hook shank and then tie in a short trailing small shuck of Z-Ion.
- Dub a length of shaggy olive or tan dubbing and make a body by winding forward to the index point.
- Tie in 4-5 partridge fibers along either side of body to make legs extending back to the point of the hook.
- Dub in a fuzzy head with black dubbing the at the index point, finish off with thread wraps toward the eye and whip finish.

Class 2

1. WOOLY BUGGER

Hook.....9761-9762 size 4 – 10
Thread.....black
Tail.....marabou and 4 strands of krystal flash
Rib.....1 long saddle hackle
Body.....chenille, green or black

- a. Tie in a generous pinch of marabou at the bend of the hook for a tail.
- b. Tie in 4 – 5 strands of krystal flash on top of the tail.
- c. Tie in a long saddle hackle by the tip end.
- d. Tie in a 3 – 4 inch piece of medium or heavy chenille.
- e. Wrap the chenille forward to the eye of the hook.
- f. Wrap the saddle hackle over the chenille forward to the eye of the hook; tie off.
- g. Whip finish and cement.

2. SOFT HACKLE FLY (Sylvester Nemes)

Hook.....tiemco 3761 or equivalent 10-16
Thread.....to match body
Tail.....none
Body.....dubbing or floss
Hackle.....woodcock, grouse, partridge or henback

- a. Thinly dub on body material or wrap floss two-thirds the way to the eye of the hook. Remaining distance to the eye should be dubbed on heavy creating a lump between the body and the eye. This is to keep the soft hackle from compressing to the thin body.
- b. Wrap a hackle of the above-mentioned feathers in the conventional manner.
- c. Whip finish and cement.

Class 3

1. PHEASANT TAIL NYMPH

Hook.....3906B or equivalent size 12 -18

Thread.....brown

Tail.....pheasant tail fibers

Body.....pheasant tail fibers

Rib.....fine copper wire

Thorax.....peacock herl

Wing pac.....pheasant tail fibers

Legs.....pheasant tail fibers

- a. Cut 4 or 5 strands of pheasant quill and tie on as tail.
- b. Tie on about 3" piece of fine copper wire and be sure to tie on full length of shank for weight.
- c. Cut another portion of pheasant tail about 1/8" wide. Attach by the quill end at the rear end of the shank and wrap forward for the body. Stop about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the way to the shank, leaving room for the wing pac.
- d. Wrap the copper wire, in the opposite direction of the feather wrap, the length of the body. Use the remainder of the copper wire as weight between the feather body and the eye, if desired.
- e. Cut another portion of pheasant about 1/8" wide and tie on behind the eye. The approximate length of the last piece should be the distance from the eye to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tail.
- f. Tie on 2 strands of peacock herl in the area forward of the body to form a wing pac and tie off short of the eye.
- g. Pull pheasant feather forward over herl and tie off short of the eye.
- h. Separate herl into 2 portions and try to have equal amounts of strands on each side of the hook. These should be placed about midway between top and bottom. Grasp and pull back away from the eye and tie off. Whip finish and cement.

(class 3 continued)

2. GOLD-RIBBED HARE'S EAR NYMPH

Hook.....	Mustad 3906B size 8 – 16
Thread.....	Tan or brown 6/0
Tail.....	Hare's mask guard hairs or brown hackle fibers
Rib.....	fine gold wire
Body.....	Hare's mask dubbing, thorax thicker than abdomen
Wingcase.....	Mottled turkey or goose wing-quill segment

- a. Tie in hare's mask guard hairs or brown hackle fibers at the bend to form tail.
- b. Tie in a 2" length of fine gold wire.
- c. Apply hare's mask dubbing to thread and wind forward to middle of shank.
- d. Wrap gold wire forward to middle of shank with 4 or 5 open spiral turns. Secure with several turns of thread. Trim off tag end of tinsel.
- e. Snip a $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide quill segment from turkey or goose wing feather.
- f. Tie in quill segment shiny side up with tip toward the bend. Make several turns of thread to secure.
- g. Snip off butt end of segment and wind thread forward over trimmed end to secure. Wind thread back to wing tie-in point.
- h. Apply a generous amount of hare's ear dubbing to thread. Then wind dubbed thread to one hook-eye length behind the eye.
- i. Pull end of quill segment over thorax to form wing case. Secure wingcase with several turns of thread and trim excess. Whip finish and supply head cement to knot and wingcase. Pluck out fibers from thorax to form legs.

CLASS 4

1. DUCK-FLANK WINGS, UPRIGHT-AND-DIVIDED

- a. Select a large flank feather with a naturally squared-off end. Prepare feather by stripping away soft downy fibers near base.
- b. Fold feather lengthwise down the stem, with shiny side out.
- c. Measure folded feather so height of finished wing equals hook-shank length.
- d. Position wing over tie-in point (2/3s of hook-shank) tips facing forward. Tie in feather using several soft loops.
- e. Trim off excess stem and wind thread forward to tie-in point.
- f. Set wings upright by grasping tips between thumb and forefinger. Make several turns of thread around hook-shank in front of wings. This should stand wings upright.
- g. Divide fibers into two equal parts with dubbing needle. Separate by gently pulling them to the sides.
- h. Pass thread between wings from front to back. Bring thread around underside of hook and pass forward between wings in a figure eight pattern.
- i. Make one complete thread turn around base of far wing. Pass bobbin under shank and make one complete turn around near wing.
- j. Make several turns around hook-shank to secure wings.

2. LIGHT CAHILL

Hook.....	TMC 100 or equivalent size 10-20
Thread.....	cream
Tail.....	ginger hackle fibers
Body.....	cream dubbing
Wing.....	wood duck flank fibers
Hackle.....	light ginger

- a. Place wing on hook as described above.
- b. Wind thread to back of hook and tie on a tail of ginger hackle fibers.
- c. Dub a body of cream fur and wrap forward to back of wings.
- d. Place hackle in front of wings, shiny side facing you. Make four wraps behind the wing and four wraps in front of wing. Tie off hackle, whip finish and cement.

CLASS 4 (continued)

3. Quill Gordon (Epeorus pleuralis, dun)

Hook.....	TMC 100 or equivalent, size 12-16
Thread.....	6/0 UNI-Thread, gray or black
Tail.....	Dark blue dun hackle fibers
Body.....	Stripped peacock herl quill (or gray biot)
Wing.....	Wood duck flank fibers
Hackle.....	Dark blue dun

- a. Please wing on hook as described above, just behind index point.
- b. Wind thread to back of hook and tie on a tail of dark blue dun hackle fibers (3-5).
- c. Tie in stripped peacock herl quill at tail point and wrap forward to wing.
- d. Place hackle in front of wings, shiny side facing you. Make four wraps behind the wing and four in front of the wings keeping the fibers close and standing up. Tie off hackle and whip finish.

4. Hendrickson Dun (Ephemerella subvaria) - Art Flick

Hook.....	Mustad 94840 (or TMC 100), size 12-14
Thread.....	6/0 UNI-Thread, primrose (purple-beige)
Tail.....	Light to medium blue dun
Wing.....	Wood duck flank
Body.....	Pinkish gray fur from red fox (urine stained)
Hackle.....	Light to medium blue dun

- a. Please wing on hook as described above, just behind index point.
- b. Wind thread to back of hook and tie on a tail blue dun hackle fibers (3-5).
- c. Dub fur on thread and begin winding at tail point and wrap forward to wing.
- d. Place hackle in front of wings, shiny side facing you. Make four wraps behind the wing and four in front of the wings keeping the fibers close and standing up. Tie off hackle and whip finish.

CLASS 5

1. WINGS

- a. Hackle tip: select two medium size hen hackle feathers.
Align back-to-back so tips flare slightly.
- b. Measure hackles; finished wings should equal hook shank in length.
Trim hackle fibers from stem, leaving just the tips to form wings.
- c. Position hackle tips over hook shank at 2/3s point, tips facing forward. Tie in with several soft loops.
- d. Trim off stems, pull wings upright and divide using figure 8 method previously described.

2. ADAMS

Hook.....	TMC100 or equivalent size 10-20
Thread.....	gray or black
Tail.....	brown and grizzly hackle fibers
Body.....	gray muskrat dubbing
Wing.....	grizzly hackle tips
Hackle.....	grizzly and brown mixed

- a. Place wing on hook as described above.
- b. Wind thread to back of hook and tie on a tail of grizzly and brown hackle fibers mixed.
- c. Dub a body of gray muskrat fur and wrap forward to back of wings.
- d. Tie in two hackles, one grizzly and one brown, shiny sides facing you.
- e. Wrap grizzly feather two wraps behind and two in front of wing. Tie off.
- e. Wrap brown feather two wraps behind and two in front of wing. Tie off hackle. Whip finish and cement.

3. SPINNER WINGS

- a. Wings can be made of poly, hi-vis, krystal flash, zelon or hackle.
- b. Tie on a piece of poly at the 2/3s point of the hook shank with the figure 8 method previously described.
- c. Trim wings to size, approximately one hook gap in length.

Class 5 (continued)

4. RUSTY SPINNER

- a. Tie on a wing of poly as described above.
- b. Take thread to back of hook and tie in a sparse tail of brown hackle fibers.
- c. Dub a body of rusty brown fur forward to wings.
- d. Figure 8 the dubbing over the wings and take forward to eye of hook.
- e. Whip finish and cement.

5. PARACHUTE WINGS

- a. Parachute wings can be made from many materials, including duck flank fibers, calf tail, deer hair, poly and many other synthetic fibers.
- b. Select a small bundle of poly. Measure material so wing height equals hook shank length.
- c. Tie in bundle with tips facing forward as you would in upright and divided wing. Trim butt ends and wrap thread over them to form tapered base for body.
- d. Set wings upright with several turns of thread around hook shank in front of wing.
- e. Wrap thread horizontally around upright wing to form a 1/8" high base for hackle.

6. PARACHUTE ADAMS

- a. Place a wing of poly on at the 2/3s length of shank as described above.
- b. Move thread to back of hook and tie on a tail of mixed grizzly and brown hackle.
- c. Dub a body of gray muskrat fur forward to wing post.
- d. Tie in a grizzly and brown hackle with shiny sides facing you at base of wing post. Wind thread around hackle butts and wing post 1/8th ".
- e. Wrap hackle down the post and tie off.
- f. Wrap second hackle down post and tie off.
- g. Dub on a small amount of body fur and wrap from front of wings to eye. Hackle barbs must be held out of the way during procedure.
- h. Whip finish and cement.

Class 6

DEER/ELK HAIR WINGS

1. ELK HAIR CADDIS

Hook.....TMC100 or equivalent size 10-18
Thread.....tan
Tail.....none
Body.....fur: tan, gray or green
Wing.....bleached elk hair

- a. Position thread at tail position on hook and tie in a brown hackle one size smaller than the hook size.
- b. Dub a body of fur and wind forward 2/3s of hook shank.
- c. Palmer hackle forward and tie off at end of fur body.
- d. Stack a small bundle of elk hair.
- e. Hold a small bundle of stacked hair by the butts. It should equal hook shank in length.
- f. Place hair bundle tips facing back of fly. Make one complete turn of thread around bundle of elk hair only. Then make one around bundle and hook shank.
- g. Cinch bundle on top of shank, make several wraps to secure. Hair should not spin around shank. Flatten hair with thumbnail, whip finish and trim off thread.
- h. Trim butt ends of elk hair at a slight angle to form a small tapered head.

2. BLUE WING OLIVE COMPARA DUN

Hook.....TMC 100 or equivalent size 12-20
Thread.....olive
Tail.....blue dun hackle fibers or z-lon shuck
Body.....olive dubbing
Wing.....deer hair

- a. Wrap tying thread around shank of hook to a position 3/5th the distance from hook bend to eye.

Class 6 (continued)

- b. Separate a clump of deer hair with your thumb and forefinger and cut with scissors.
- c. Stack deer hair with your stacker.
- d. Hold clump with both hands so that the deer hair tips extend beyond the hook eye. Firmly position clump of deer hair with thumb and forefinger on shank of hook and wrap two loose turns of thread.
- e. At completion of second loose wrap apply a firm downward pressure, splaying the deer hair 180 degrees at right angle to the shaft. Maintain firm pressure with thread while continuing five or six tight turns winding towards the rear with each turn.
- f. Trim excess butts of deer hair on a bias.
- g. Grasp deer hair with thumb and forefinger and pull upright winding 8 to 12 tight turns of thread at its base forcing the wing into an upright position.
- h. Wind thread to rear of hook and tie in tails.
- i. Dub thread and wind a neatly tapered body to just short of deer hair wing. This slight space will enable wing to slant backwards during next step.
- j. Wrap dubbed thread forward to wing and tightly wrap dubbing into base of wing at an angle. Continue wrapping dubbing in front of wing to hook eye. Whip finish and cement.

3. STIMULATOR

Hook.....	TMC200R, 5263 or equivalent
	Size 8 – 16
Thread.....	yellow or orange 60
Tail.....	deer hair
Body.....	yellow or cream dubbing
Body hackle.....	brown or ginger
Underwing.....	2 to 6 strands of pearl krystal flash
Overwing.....	deer hair
Thorax.....	orange antron
Forehackle.....	grizzly

Class 6 (Continued)

- a. Lay down a base of thread full shank length. Attach deer hair tail extending one hook gap beyond the bend.
- b. Tie in a saddle hackle shiny side facing you.
- c. Dub a body of cream dubbing and wrap forward 2/3rds of hook shank.
- d. Palmer hackle forward to end of body.
- e. Tie in 2 – 6 strands of krystal flash as an underwing.
- f. Tie in a wing of stacked deer hair 1/3rd back from the eye. Wing extends to mid-tail.
- g. Attach a grizzly hackle at the 1/3rd point. Dub in front of hackle to eye.
- h. Wind hackle through the dubbed thorax. Tie off whip finish and cement.

Class 7

TERRESTRIALS (if time)

1. ANTS

Hook.....	TMC100 or equivalent size 12-20
Thread.....	black
Tail.....	none
Body.....	black fur
Hackle.....	black

- a. Wind thread to bend of hook and dub a lump of fur. This should be streamlined at both ends. It may be necessary to dub on fur several times. Be sure to spin material in same direction each time.
- b. Tie on hackle in front of back lump to represent legs. Three turns is enough.
- c. Dub a front lump in the same manner as before but make it smaller than the lump at the back.
- d. Tie off whip finish and cement.

Class 7 (continued)

2. FOAM ANTS

Hook.....TMC100 or equivalent size 12-20
Thread.....black
Tail.....none
Body.....black closed cell foam
Hackle.....black

- a. Tie in a piece of foam the size of the hook gap at the mid- section of the hook.
- b. Wind thread to rear of hook and then wind thread forward to mid point.
- c. Pull foam forward to mid- point and tie off.
- d. Tie in a black hackle and make 3 wraps and tie off.
- e. Move thread to front of hook. Pull remaining foam forward to eye of hook and tie off.

3. FOAM BEETLE

Hook.....TMC100 size 10-16
Thread.....black 3/0
Beetle back.....black foam
Hackle.....black

- a. Start thread at middle of hook.
- b. Cut a piece of foam approximately width of hook gap and taper at one end.
- c. Tie in foam at bend of hook.
- d. Tie in a black hackle and wind forward to hook eye.
- e. Pull foam forward over hackle to hook eye and tie off.
- f. Trim hackle flat on bottom of beetle.

Class 8

STREAMERS

1. MUDDLER MINNOW

Hook.....	9672 or equivalent size 4-8
Tail.....	small portion of turkey feather 1/8 th inch wide
Body.....	heavy wide gold tinsel
Underwing.....	squirrel tail with white tips
Overwing.....	turkey feather 1/4 th inch wide
Collar.....	spun deer hair
Head.....	clipped deer hair

- a. Select two small portions of turkey feather about an inch wide and match them up shiny side out. Tie in at bend of hook.
- b. Tie in a body of wide gold tinsel and wrap forward to 2/3rds of shank.
- c. Tie in an underwing of gray squirrel tail. Do not stack. Tail should extend almost to the end of tail feathers. Flatten as tied on so as to resemble wings at rest.
- d. Cut out wings from turkey tail about $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and put dull sides together with the curve bending down. They should be about the same length as the underwing.
- e. When attaching the deer hair – point tips toward rear fly and wrap two soft loops around the deer hair and then pull down hard to spin the deer hair around the shank of the hook. Then add two more turns to secure the deer hair.
- f. Take another bundle of deer hair with the tips removed. Wrap on shank as stated above. This may require two or three bundles of hair to complete the head of the fly.
- g. Trim the short hair bundles in a shape which is flat on the bottom and rounded on the sides and top. Whip finish and cement.

Class 8 (continued)

2. CLOUSER DEEP MINNOW

Hook.....3906B or equivalent size 2-6
Thread.....black, white or red
Upper wing.....white bucktail
Under wing.....bucktail color your choice
Krystal wing.....pearl krystal flash

- a. Place hook in vise and tie in a bed of thread at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark of the hook shank.
- b. Tie in the lead barbell eyes at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark on top of the bed of thread. You can if desired glue the eyes to the shank with Zap-a-Gap, etc.
- c. With thread at eye of hook tie in about 20 strands of white bucktail in front of the lead eyes. Then holding the bucktail in position, tie the hair to the hook shank immediately behind the lead eyes in a spiraling pattern.
- d. Bring the thread forward in front of the lead eyes. Turn the hook upside down in the vise.
- e. Tie in 8 or 10 strands of krystal flash extending back to the length of the bucktail.
- f. Tie in the colored bucktail in front of the eye extending back to the length of the previous bucktail. Whip finish and cement.