

Fly of the Month - January 2016 - Tiger Tail Streamer

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2016!

Before I introduce you to the fly of the month, let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Barry Webster and I have the privilege of assuming the position of Fly Tying director, trying to fill the large shoes of Mark Kolanowski. I am a Mechanical Engineer by education and recently retired from thirty plus years working for the IBM Corporation with earlier stints as a practicing engineer for a Houston Engineering firm. I'm married (my wife Teresa also fly fishes with me) and we have two grown daughters plus an eleven year old granddaughter who is my best fly fishing and tying buddy.

I have been fly fishing/tying for about five years (shows you it's never too late to start fly fishing or tying) . I got started with a birthday present of a fly tying kit and have been tying continuously since that point. I tie on a regular basis with the "Grapevine Roadkill Roundtable", the humorous (we hope) name of a group that ties at Basspro Grapevine on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. This group has been getting together to tie and solve world problems for many years, well before there was a Basspro in Grapevine. I've learned lots from these very talented tiers and greatly enjoy their mentorship and camaraderie. I have gone thru the IFFF Tying Awards program and have the Bronze Award level.

If you're unaware of the IFFF Tying Awards program, I'd recommend you take a look. Here's the website (<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyTyingSkillsAwardProgram>). The program has a Bronze and Silver level award (the Silver level is newly published) and will eventually incorporate a Gold level award. To be awarded the levels, you must tie three exact copies of a set of defined flies and some user choice flies (eight total flies tied three time each or 24 flies). These flies are evaluated and scored and you must demonstrate a certain level of proficiency to gain the award. I'm looking at the Silver level currently and plan to submit flies for evaluation for that level as well. The website above contains a document on the flies that are required, instructions, tying videos, evaluation criteria and information on the evaluation process. Look me up at the club meetings if you have questions or just want to understand more about the IFFF Tying Awards program.

Tiger Tail Streamer

I discovered this pattern thru the River Run Outfitters in Branson, Mo. This great shop is owned by Stan and Carolyn Parker and is an Orvis endorsed outfitter. The fly is fished swung as a wet fly, usually with a sinking leader like the Rio Versileader. I was fishing Lake Taneycomo with the culprit who bought me the fly tying kit and found this fly thru a recommendation from Stan Parker. It's easy to tie and worked wonders on the Taneycomo trout.

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Hook: 2x streamer hook, size6-10

Thread: Red Danville 6-0 flat waxed

Ribbing: Small silver wire

Tail: grizzly hackle (I used Whiting bugger pack hackles for tail and hackle)

Body: 4-6 peacock herls, wrapped with continuously touching wraps.

Body hackle: same as tail.

- 1) Tie thread onto the hook in front of the barb and build a small thread body to allow the tail to be attached. Stop the thread where the hook begins its downward slope.
- 2) Select a single hackle feather with a nice broad shape for the tail. Strip barbs from both sides of the hackle to get a clean stem with a tail about 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 the hook length and tie in where the hook begins to slope downward. Tail should be tied in with the tail in the vertical plane of the hook (ie standing up straight).
- 3) Tie a 5-6 inch length of ribbing wire in along the hook, tying back to the tail tie in point (this is more than you'll need, but the extra length makes it easy to wind on the fly). Move the ribbing wire out of the way. I added this modification to the original from River Run Outfitters to add durability to the fly.
- 4) Select a hackle feather with barbs sized for the hook (barbs the length of the hook gape or maybe a little longer). Tie this hackle in by the tip starting at the tail tie in point. Move this hackle out of the way.
- 5) Select 4-6 peacock herls, and tie them in as a bunch, starting with the butts about a hook eye diameter behind the hook eye and bind them down backwards along the hook to the tail tie in point. Palmer the bundle of herl up the hook shank and tie in at the point one hook eye diameter behind the eye. Tie off and clip the excess herl.

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- 6) Palmer the grizzly hackle from step 4 up the body till you reach the point where the herl stopped and tie off and clip the excess hackle.
- 7) Counter wrap the wire up thru the herl and hackle, wiggling the wire so as to not trap the hackle fibers. Tie off at the same point one hook eye diameter behind the eye.
- 8) Form a nice thread head, whip finish and add a drop of head cement.