



February, 2021 Newsletter

The Board of Directors met via ZOOM on **Wednesday, February 3rd**. This newsletter will update you on the results of that meeting as it relates to upcoming club events.

President's Letter

I think I finally figured out what I do.

Organize Chaos.

Not in my professional or personal life, mind you; where it would actually be a beneficial skill. I organize chaos at the vice. I'm particular about how I tie. I know what I want in a fly. I know what I like to tie. That largely consists of a small selection of flies that I know how to manipulate the materials. Not in the loose sense of manipulating that you see in a lot of flies, material generally right and organized. Done well enough to match the hatch.

I want my ostrich and peacock to be perfectly oriented. Barb towards the eye, proximal barbules down, distal barbules up. Wrapped with a slight overlap that gives maximum density, consistency, and (at least in my mind) durability. Hackle is always worked with thought of where it has to lay. I have counted elk hair to add to a pattern before.

I dislike dubbing; it is easy to be inconsistent, and there is always a weird straggly piece sticking out. I dislike using similar hooks for a batch, I want them identical.

Supreme organization out of chaos. Beautiful flies. Some people are jealous. I have sold flies because people like what I tie.

Don't be like me. Don't stress over the twist in a herl, the uneven dubbing, the too thick/too sparse fly. Don't aim to tie the perfect fly. You won't want to fish it. Fast dirty ties that kinda look like something? Fish love those. Learn to leave some chaos. It makes for an easier time when you inevitably lose them on a giant fish that was definitely not just a snag.

Matthew Clements



Plans for the Foreseeable Future

DCFF Eat & Talk - **will not take place** this month due to current Covid-19 restrictions and concerns.

Monthly Members Meetings - will not take place this month due to current Covid-19 restrictions and concerns. Note however, we have a GREAT lineup of speakers for later in 2021, so we look forward to the new year!

Fly Tying Classes - will not take place this month.

Trips

LAKE BARKLEY May 1-2

GREEN RIVER May 19-21

CUMBERLAND RIVER May 21-23

OBEY RIVER / CUMBERLAND RIVER June 9-13

CUMBERLAND RIVER July 9-11

CUMBERLAND RIVER August 13-15

CODY, WY Aug 22 - 28, 2021

CUMBERLAND RIVER September 17-19

NORTH CAROLINA November 11-1

Note: All listed trips are now available for sign ups. Please be sure to visit the web site for links to these trips.

LAKE BARKLEY BLUEGILL TRIP ON AGAIN !

Submitted by John Froelich

The Lake Barkley Bluegill trip in May of each year was always one of my favorite trips. Possibly because I do enjoy camping, but it is more likely because of the 12.5-inch Redear I caught that first trip. While subsequent trips were not as productive, I have always enjoyed them in spite of rain. Well, we are cranking it up again, going to take another shot at it!

Remember the old adage “when all else fails, read the instructions!”. I did. Found out I was doing everything wrong! Been reading about bluegill and redear

fishing and learned some helpful information that I am chomping at the bit to try. I hope some of you join me the first weekend in May. I plan to arrive Thursday and “stake our claim” to several spots close to the launch for those who arrive Friday. Cravens Point camping spots are



on a “first come, first served” basis. I will be in my kayak but I may try to mooch a ride in a motor boat one day.

Even if you are a rank beginner, if you have the water craft, don't hesitate joining us, you will be given whatever help you need to enjoy the fishing. Catching is not guaranteed! However, I can guarantee you will enjoy the camaraderie! Call me, I am happy to take your call, 270-314-0362.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Dave Whitlock's Rubber Legged Bead Head Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph

By David Campbell



I have mentioned before that I am a recovering Bass Fisherman. Actually, my start in fly fishing was to supplement my bass fishing in streams where a bass boat was not practical. Not knowing any thing about the sport, I google searched bass fishing with fly rod and started getting hits about a guy named Dave Whitlock and his flies for Smallmouth. One fly

in particular that caught my attention was the Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph. Dave states that if he only had one fly to use for the rest of his days, it would be the RFSHN. This fly can be tied in several variations and sizes to imitate stone flies, caddis flies, mayflies, crawfish, and some saltwater crustaceans.

One day while browsing in a local fly shop I stumbled across Dave Whitlock's Rubber Legged Bead Head RFSHN. Not knowing any better or that this was a variation of the original famous RFSHN, I purchased a ½ dozen or so. Success was almost immediate. Not only for the smallmouth but for trout also. I have caught almost everything on this fly; from Bluegill to Steelhead. It became my favorite “go-to” fly for years and is still one I would not leave home without today.

So, I thought I would share how to tie the Rubber Legged Bead Head Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph (RLBHRSFN).

Materials:

- **Hook** - #8 2x or 3x long nymph
- **Weight** – lead wire the same diameter as the hook shank and 5/32” brass bead
- **Thread** – 6/0 brown, orange, tan, or black. (I prefer orange)
- **Tail** – Hair from the back of a fox squirrel. Small pinch and use hair stacker to even the tips.
- **Rib** – Pearlescent flash-a-boo
- **Abdomen** – the orange belly hair of the Fox Squirrel skin or Dave Whitlock’s SLF RFSHN abdomen dubbing
- **Legs** – Medium round rubber (Brown, Yellow, or Orange)
- **Thorax** – Dave Whitlock’s SLF RFSHN Thorax dubbing
- **Hackle** – Dark Brown Partridge. One Wrap

For tying instructions, click the following link:

<https://derbycityflyfishers.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Dave-Whitlocks-Rubber-Legged-Bead-Head-Red-Fox.pdf>

Board Members

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 Brian Kaluzny, History

These Board Members can be reached by email by going to the [Derby City Fly Fishers website](#), clicking on **About** in the header menu, then **Board of Directors**. There you will find the list of Board Members, job descriptions, and email addresses. Don't hesitate to contact a Board Member with a question or suggestion - we'd love to hear from you.

Webmaster - Jim Wilmoth continues to update and upgrade our

website. He would very much like to incorporate more pictures from members on the site. You can submit pictures to him at webmaster@derbycityflyfishers.com. He would also welcome any suggestions for improving the site.

Membership

Just a heads up that memberships renew in January for 2021. **Please renew now, online (preferred) or in person at a club meeting (it may be a while before we have one.)** Annual dues are \$20 for individual or \$25 for family. Also available is a Lifetime Individual Membership for \$350 (details at the web link below.) You can easily join or renew online by clicking on the link below.

Click [here](#) to Join or Renew your DCFF Membership



Thanks for taking a look at the newsletter!

I hope you found it to be an enjoyable read.

We appreciate the help we've received with content. Feedback has been very positive and I hope I've done a good job of relaying that to those of you that have contributed. If not, and you ARE one, Thanks again! And keep it coming!

We're looking for more "Fly of the Month" submittals. If you have one you would like to see published, let me know and I'll be happy to assist you with getting it done.

If you fish, send me some pictures. Even better, take a couple of minutes to write a short paragraph or two to tell your friends at DCFF about it. I enjoy hearing about your experiences as do others. I look forward to hearing from you!

And if you have any suggestions for making the newsletter better, please tell me about them.

Thanks in advance!

Steve Cullen

Derby City Fly Fishers

You can reach me at: newsletter@derbycityflyfishers.com