

International Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month April 2013

GREASE LINER



Published by Bob Bates
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Opening Comments

Rockwell Hammond tied the Grease Liner in honor of the late Harry Lemire at the 2013 (25th) Fly Tiers Expo in Albany, Oregon. Harry Lemire was one of the fly fishing/tying leaders in the northwestern U.S. and southwestern Canada. He was noted for tying beautiful flies without a vise. He developed this pattern about 1962.

This is a floating pattern. Rockwell noted that, sometimes Harry would be in the truck messing around with the flies (gooping them up a little with a paste floatant). Other times he would start fishing without gooping the fly. If Harry had a fish miss the fly sometimes he would put on a fly that would sink into the surface film.

Most anglers use a floating line when fishing this pattern.

Rockwell is the curator of much of Harry's flies and equipment. He has

some 500 flies, Atlantic Salmon and steelhead patterns. Some 170 to 200 of the flies are carefully preserved in containers. The Atlantic Salmon patterns will be mounted in plates and donated to the Western Washington University Libraries Special Collections. Their purpose is to collect, preserve, and provide access to diverse materials supporting study of the sport of fly fishing in Washington. The collection includes books, periodicals, manuscripts, photographs, artworks, audio and video personal interviews and histories, and fly fishing artifacts such as rods, reels, flies, and fly tying materials.

To learn more about them check out their website:

<http://library.wvu.edu/specialcollections/flyfishing>

Materials list

Hook: Ken Sawada SL2 Salmon hook size 8

Thread: 6/0 Danvill gray or white

Tail: Deer hair

Body: Musk ox under fur, dyed black can be dyed other colors.

Wing: Caribou

Tying steps



Step 1

Start thread about three eye lengths behind the eye and wind rearward toward the point.



Step 2

Clean out the under fur from a small bunch of deer hair and stack it. Measure about a shank length tail and trim off excess. Hold deer hair firmly on top of hook and start with light thread wraps then go a little harder. Cover any flared deer hair. Bring thread back to where the tail was secured.



Step 3

Make a dubbing loop. Wax it a little. Put the musk ox into the loop and spin it. Musk ox is the best dubbing for dry flies because it is water repellent.



Step 4

Take some grizzly hackle and tie it in by the tip wet fly style. Why? “That was Harry’s way.”



Step 5

Wet the fibers and wind two or three turns stroking the fibers back like a soft hackle. Pull fibers some under the hook for the legs.



Step 6

The curvature in the caribou hair was important to Harry.



Step 7

Harry was a stickler about holding the caribou with the curve toward the fly. Measure the wing so the fibers reach the end of the tail. Trim the excess.



Step 8

Hold the caribou tightly, and tie it in securely. Add a little head cement to the head.

Closing Comments

Musk ox is difficult to find, but it is worth the effort. It can be dyed orange for the October caddis or green for a regular caddis or in most colors you want. The floatability is fantastic. Mix it a blender and make it a little finer.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.

You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at
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