At the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair earlier this month, I had the privilege of hosting Wayne Luallen in the fly tying theater. Wayne tied for us a Western Coachman, a pattern which was developed and made popular by Buz Buszek around 1940. This is one of many patterns that was inspired by the Coachman, a fly rumored to have been created by the coachman or driver for the royal family in the 1820's. The Western Coachman is a versatile fly that can be fished either dry or wet. It was used with great success when used by John Flick to win the Jackson Hole One Fly in 1988. If you have never heard Wayne Luallen speak, you are missing out. I have not heard anyone before who has put so much thought into each wrap. Wayne teaches a four hour class about thread control. I have never taken the class because I felt that knew what I was doing. His presentation demonstrated just how much I still have to learn. I am just going to cover the basics of the Western Coachman, but if you get the chance you need to see Wayne tie this fly. He is a true artist and a great speaker.

Hook: Daiichi 1550 #10-20
Thread: Flymaster Black 6/0
Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet
Rib: Small Gold Wire
Body: Peacock Herl, 2-4 strands
Wing: White Deer Hair
Hackle: Brown Hen or Indian Neck
Tying Steps

Step 1
Place the hook in the vice.

Step 2
Wayne uses a reverse jam hitch at the bend and wraps up 2 thirds of the hook toward the eye. This ensures that there is fewer thread wraps that result in a lighter fly.

Step 3
Tie in 8-12 Golden Pheasant Tippet barbs for a tail. The tail should be the length of the hook shank.
Step 4
Tie in the wire on the near side of the hook.

Step 5
Tie in the peacock herl at the bend of the hook and wrap the thread forward to the same point as before.

Step 6
Wrap the peacock herl forward to the meat the thread, tie it in and cut off the excess.
Step 7
Counter wrap the wire through the peacock herl, tie it down and cut off the excess.

Step 8
Tie the brown or furnace hen hackle in by the tip and make several wraps (5), tie down and cut off excess. To make an extremely clean fly, fold the feather before tying it in.

Step 9
Stack a small clump of deer hair half the diameter of a pencil and trim to a length that when tied in will reach the end of the hook. Tie the butt ends in and wrap through the ends.
Step 10
Whip finish, cut the tread and add head cement.

Fly of the Month:
Do you know someone who deserves to be featured in the Fly of the Month? If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact Kit Seaton at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org.

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly.

This is the guest tyer's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

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You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org.