



"WFI On The Fly"

June 2013

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The first issue of "WFI ON THE FLY" produced some great reviews from dealers, distributors and the Pro Team. We're glad to know you enjoy hearing news from "the farm". We value your feedback about articles as well as product review and use, and we hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter (we think they just get better!)

This quarter we are featuring the green facilities recently added that greatly enhance the overall operations at the farm.

In this issue we also feature a new group photo of the WFI employees. This group of fine people are instru-

mental to the success of Whiting Farms and I sincerely appreciate every one of them.

Together we strive to continue to provide the best hackle available to the many people who enjoy fly tying as a profession, for their own personal use, and as artists. I also want to thank the invaluable dealers and distributors who get the product in the hands of the fly tiers and artists. And of course, a big thanks to the Pro Team for promoting Whiting Farms!

Have a great summer,

Dr. Thomas S. Whiting and the Whiting Team

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SPECIAL DEAL!
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FEATURED PRO TEAM TIER—TOM LOGAN



It was a very nice surprise the other evening to receive an invitation from Carol and Pat Oglesby to submit this write-up as the Featured Pro Team Member for the next Whiting Farms Newsletter. So, it is with pleasure that I share a few of the things I have done as a professional wildlife biologist and about my fly fishing and tying. I'm fortunate that my work and play have always overlapped and, in many respects, even influenced my interests in fly tying.

We all enjoy experimenting and tying with the high quality tying materials we receive from Whiting Farms. But, my opportunity for using these materials started a number of years before I became a member of the Pro Team. Wayne Luallen introduced me to Tom Whiting at a time when I was just beginning to teach fly tying and Tom was more than willing to provide me a variety of his materials to use and share with my students. He always provided what I needed for the classes, but the fun part was that he always included a few surprise materials for me to try. It goes without saying that the Whiting

Rooster Hackles are superb for the dry patterns we tie. But my special interests of tying the historic wet and soft-hackle patterns were and are served well with the hen saddles and capes Tom produces. I must say though that the hen and rooster coq-de-Leon feathers are my favorites. Regardless of what I tie, teach or fish, my personal choice is to tie those patterns that allow me to use natural materials, with only a few exceptions.

I retired this past March after working 47 professional years as a Certified Wildlife Biologist in the research, recovery and management of primarily threatened and endangered wildlife species during the last 40 of those years. I earned Bachelor and Master Degrees in Wildlife Ecology from Oklahoma State University and began my research as a young biologist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation conducting telemetry studies of Rio Grande Turkeys and white-tailed deer fawns and population studies of mallard ducks that wintered in the Great Plains. I also worked for the National Audubon Society prior to accepting a position in 1979 as Bureau Chief of Wildlife Research with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Tallahassee where I supervised the agencies state-wide wildlife research program. Our research focused primarily on

the higher profile endangered and threatened species that occur in Florida, but my special involvement was in the research and recovery of the Florida panther, bald eagle recovery and cross-fostering studies for reintroduction of whooping cranes to the state as a non-migratory component of the otherwise migratory continental population. I spent a lot of time outdoors when I was young a boy, either hunting and fishing with my parents and grandparents or reading about wildlife when I couldn't be out there with them. So, wildlife biology was a career path that didn't take much thought on my part and one that undoubtedly influenced my preference for tying the patterns I do; as well as, my preference for tying with natural materials. I've always enjoyed birds and animals, whether wild or domestic, and I appreciate the natural qualities of the fur and feathers that make them what they are in the world around us.

I'm a wildlife biologist at heart and the selection of the flies I fish naturally stems from an understanding of predator prey relationships. All animals must eat for survival and successful reproduction that is fundamental to perpetuation of their species, and there are two very important variables that are important to predators. Their prey must be both

FEATURED PRO TEAM TIER—TOM LOGAN, CONTINUED

abundant and readily available in those numbers and when you apply this concept to the most abundant and available forms of aquatic insects, which are important prey of all fish around the world, whether cold or warm water, it is the emerging life forms through the adults on the water surface that most fulfills these two criteria. This is why we fish the popular dry patterns, in addition to the fact that it is exciting, but it is the historic wet patterns that are even more effective because of the perfect prey form they represent. Few tie or fish such patterns any more, but I can assure you that I catch my share of trout, bream and bass on patterns that include the Irish Invicta, Fiery Brown and Green Peter; the Welch Coch-a-bon-ddu; Iron Blue Dun, Partridge and Orange and other soft-hackle patterns; and of course, the Western Coachman and Old Gray Mare. This is why a Partridge and Orange that was first tied for brown trout in the North Country of England perhaps 400 years ago is also an excellent pattern for taking big bluegills in our natural lakes around Tallahassee. The pattern is a perfect imitation of an abundant and available prey form. Streamers, such as the Wicissa, I tie with coq-de-leon rooster feathers and a cock ring-necked pheasant rump feather as soft hackle, are great small fish imitations for tempting the species of large and smallmouth bass I have taken, and speckled hen coq-de-leon saddle feather is excellent for tying soft-hackle spider and other wet patterns. The glassy rooster feathers

also are very good for streamers that imitate bait fish for salt water species.

It would be impossible, in my opinion, to not enjoy tying what we might consider classic "trout pattern", especially with the Whiting Farms rooster hackles, and I certainly enjoy fishing them for southern bream and bass in my home waters, as well as, for trout in the Smoky Mountains, Sierras and other streams of the western United States. I also tie Atlantic salmon flies, but my special interests remain in tying historic and modern soft-hackles and other wet patterns. Many of these patterns have existed for hundreds of years and are just as effective for attracting fish today as they were when first fished. They're fun to tie, and I often give a few fish I catch to others on the lake that wish something would come along and take the cricket under their bobber. I fish barbless and generally release the fish I catch, with the exception of those I share with other folks.

Sharing is a good thing, whether it be a fish that you give to someone who may fish to feed their family or simply showing another tier how to tie a favorite pattern or a tying technique. I've been fortunate in that regard. Tom Brodrige was my original tying instructor who not only taught me the funda-

mentals of tying but he also encouraged me to do more and learn what I could from others. Clarence Butzbach is another friend I enjoyed watching and visiting with about how he tied. He unfortunately is now only with us in our thoughts. I took a number of salmon fly tying classes from Judy Lehmborg and Marvin Nolte and learned techniques that I continue to apply in even the simplest of patterns. And, I've spent many days over the years with Wayne Lullien tying, fishing, identifying native plants, exploring streams, turning over rocks to look at bugs and talking about wildlife and the natural systems that support them. I've learned many things from Wayne, but he also introduced me to the Western Coachman and soft-hackles, patterns that are always in my fly box. These are just a few to whom I owe thanks.

I continue to teach fly tying classes in Tallahassee and have taught workshops at shows and conclaves of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF), demonstrate fly tying at events each year and have presented programs on the *Laws Pertaining to the Possession and Transportation of Natural Fly Tying Materials*. The Southeast Council of the FFF

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awarded me as the "2004 Tyer of the Year" and I received the Award of Excellence from the Florida Council in 2007 and 2011. I am a life member of the IFFF and a Certified Casting Instructor. I serve as Vice President of Conservation for the Florida Council of the IFFF and am a member of the Conservation Committee and the Fly Tying Group Board of Governors of the IFFF. I also am a member of the Daiichi Hook Pro Team for the Angler's Sport Group. I created and manage *North Florida Fly-fishing Adventures and School*, dedicated to teaching fly tying, casting and fishing activities for those anglers who fish with the artificial fly in the Tallahassee area.

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Photos courtesy of
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