



# The *BUFFER*

---

---

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH  
Volume 44, Issue 8      Web site: <http://www.buckeyeflyfishers.com>      August 1, 2020

---

---

## Notes from the President

Jim Vota – [vota@zoomtown.com](mailto:vota@zoomtown.com)

It's been one month since I wrote the last letter (as you can see my demeanor hasn't improved). Since then we had a great on-line meeting with a presentation from Rebecca Parry on the Ohio Scenic Rivers Stream Quality Monitoring program. There have been a couple successful on-line auctions as well. The bad news is that VOA contacted us and told us that the Regan Lodge will not reopen for the remainder of the year. Unless something changes in a big way, we will be doing our monthly meetings on-line. For August we will have as our speaker, Matt Parker (or just Parker as many of you know him) from Reel Fly Rod.com (Sugar Creek Fly Shop) near Centerville. He will talk about surface fishing with poppers and others top water flies. This should be a great event. Sign up early so you don't miss out. The ZOOM meeting will accommodate only 100 registered attendees. We will also auction a 6-wt TFO BVK fly rod.



This month I checked out a spot on the East Fork of the Little Miami River, Sycamore Park. Sycamore Park is just outside of Batavia, off Rt 222, and is a nice place with easy access. The river was low and slow but still presented ample locations for fish. Riffles, rocky bottoms, rocky shore lines, submerged vegetation and areas of flats and runs in a compact area. Tim Williamson and I spotted bass (Tim caught a smallmouth, rock bass and pumpkinseed, I had a smallmouth in a riffle that got off and several rises to floating bugs along the rocky shore). The wading was easy. If that doesn't do it for you, try the location of the old low head dam. The work that was done there has provided some very nice water with easy wading to the bridges in Batavia. Another place to access the river is at Roadside Park off Rt 222 north of Batavia near the jail. Get out there and try it.

Several weeks ago (just before the shit hit the fan again), I attended a course for preparing for FFI Certified Casting Instructors in Bryson City North Carolina with Mac Brown. I spent the two days there either at the class with a couple other people and Mac or in my hotel room alone. Maybe I'm a bit paranoid but what I saw in town and on the way down there worried me. From Pidgeon Forge to Gatlinburg to Bryson City, the restaurants, streets, attractions, and park were full. Seemed like everyone was carrying on like there was no pandemic. I had reservations about going. We're all a bit stir crazy

and it's only been 4 months since the shut in began. Be careful about what you do and where you go. By the way, Mac is a great guide. He has a great deal of local knowledge about the area and will help you to be a better fisherman if you listen to him. It appears to be a very lovely area and will be worth heading back to do some actual fishing when things clear up.

What's in store for BUFF for the foreseeable future? We will continue to hold the monthly meetings online. Small group outings could be a possibility but are being postponed for now. Jack Gormley has been contacting the speakers that have been scheduled for the rest of the year to make sure they can do their presentations online. For September we have Ron Lewis with Trophy Trout Hunters to talk about fishing trout on the Mad River. Don't forget about your friends in BUFF. If you need to get out fishing give someone a call to meet at a river. You can fish together safely. It is something to do to help keep the crazies away. There's a contact list on the website. If you are new to the sport and need help, call someone and ask for advice. The board members are listed and are willing to help. We are all part of this community.

Remember, with the time each of us has there will be no excuses for bad casting. Above all, until I see you again stay safe and sane.

Jim Vota, El Prez.

*PS. – Remember the online auctions. Get out there and check them out. Remember, the certificates are good through the end of 2021. There should be plenty of time to take the trip or redeem for merchandise.*

## **BUFF August Meeting on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM –**

### **August Speaker – Matthew Parker from ReelFlyRod Outfitters – “Topwater Fishing for Bass on our Local Streams”**

Many of us know Matt well, most of us as “Parker”, the store manager and head guide at ReelFlyRod Outfitters in Dayton, OH. The shop is one of the premier fly shops in the world, servicing anglers across the US and many countries worldwide. Also, yes, the photo is Parker! He lost the beard back in February.

Parker grew up in the Dayton area, began fly fishing at an early age, and his knowledge of guiding and fishing local waters, including the Mad, Stillwater, Great Miami and Little Miami Rivers and Twin Creek, is second to none. Matt graduated college with a degree in Biology, and has a Masters in Business Administration. Prior to the fly shop, Matt worked for about 10 years as a Biologist for the city



of Dayton. He has traveled extensively, fished in most US states, including a stint as a fishing guide in Big Sky Country, but still loves targeting local fish every week.

Parker will discuss summertime topwater fishing for bass. Due to the COVID situation, many of us have limited our travel to other parts of the country and now focus a significant amount of time on our local waterways. However, I have found through guiding local clients, that knowledge is somewhat limited for the local waterways. He will speak about technique and how to approach summertime bass on the top surface. Parker will start with a foundation of why bass would ever want to eat on the surface, what specific equipment is necessary, and most important, the flies and way to fish these flies.

- Meeting time is from 7 PM – about 8:30 PM. There is a brief business meeting and Parker’s presentation will begin around 7:15.
- Registration deadline is August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- You must register on-line to attend, and provide your e-mail address. Registrants will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to join the Zoom session. If you are not registered, you will not be able to join in.
- All registrants will automatically be entered in the raffle. This month the raffle prize is a 6-wt TFO BVK fly rod which was donated by Cabela’s.

## Super Fly Fishing Auctions for BUFF Members

By: Bob Gustafson ([j.r.gustafson@att.net](mailto:j.r.gustafson@att.net))

BUFF directors recently authorized the **BUFF COVID Relief Program**. This program allows us to use club funds to purchase gift certificates from vendors, providing some income to our friends in the fly fishing industry while they were forced to close their businesses. Needless to say, our industry partners and friend were surprised and very grateful for BUFF’s concern, generosity, and help. BUFF is now auctioning off these gift certificates online on the BUFF website.

Purchasing these gift certificates is a great way for BUFFers to stay connected with the sport and for planning towards better days ahead when things open up again. The gift certificates are available only to active members of BUFF and are good until the end of December of 2021 (next year!), so there’s plenty of time to let things settle and get scheduled. The auctions give you the chance to win world-class fly fishing adventures and supplies at possibly bargain rates and help BUFF recoup our cash outlays. It’s a win-win for our fly shop friends, BUFF, and BUFF members.



**Here is the schedule for the remaining auctions:**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
7/20-7/26	Southeastern Anglers	\$250	Guide Trip Discount
	Gates Au Sable Lodge/Fly Shop	\$400	Store Credit or Guide Service
	Roads, Rivers & Trails Gift Card	\$200	Store Credit
8/3-8/9	Ripple Guide Service	\$450	1 Full Day Guided Trip
	CF River Products	\$375	Full Day Float Trip
	Loveland Canoe & Kayak	\$200	Store Credit or Kayak Rental
8/17-8/23	The Fly Guy Shop	\$125	Steelhead Flies & box
	Fightmaster Fly Fishing	\$350	Full Day Guided Trip for 2
	Delamere & Hopkins Gift Certificate	\$125	Store Credit
	Eggman Flies	\$50	Gift Certificate
8/31-9/6	Fuller's North Branch Outing Club	\$200	Lodging Credit
	Angler's Choice Flies Gift Certificate	\$100	Flies
	Golden Rule Fly Shop Gift Certificate	\$250	Store Credit
9/14-9/20	Lebowski's Tees	\$200	Logo Wear Clothing Gift Certificate
	Elk Springs Resort/Fly Shop Gift Certificate	\$430	Lodging or Store Credit
	Canoe Kentucky	\$100	Store Credit
	Eggman Flies	\$25	Gift Certificate
9/28-10/4	Pere Marquette River Lodge/Fly Shop	\$200	Lodging or Store Credit
	John Schmidt Trout Bum	\$400	Guided Trip + meals, snacks, flies
	Float Master Products Gift Certificate	\$100	Store Credit
10/12-10/18	Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company	\$125	Gift Certificate
	The Northern Angler Fly Shop	\$150	Gift Card
	Semper Fly Rods	\$125	Gift Certificate
10/26-11/2	River Tactical Flies	\$125	Store Credit
	Fly Masters of Indianapolis	\$100	Store Credit
	Eggman Flies	\$50	Gift Certificate
11/16-11/22	Independent Angler	\$125	Gift Certificate
	BlackJaw Tackle	\$125	Gift Certificate
	The Hook & Hackle Company	\$125	Store Credit

So please help BUFF, our partner fly shops and yourself by getting in on the action. Bid "early and often" on one of more of these great fly fishing opportunities!

After providing the article on upcoming auctions, Bob Gustafson shared the photo below, together with a thank you note we received. These are from Ian and Charity Rutter (R and R FlyFishing) in Townsend, TN. Ian painted the watercolor which he and Charity are donating to BUFF as a thank you for our COVID

support. It will be either auctioned or offered as a raffle prize to club members. Another example of how our partner fly shops appreciated our support in a time of need, and continue to support BUFF.



To all members of BUFF,  
Thank you so much for the purchase of a gift certificate for a guided trip during the COVID-19 shutdown last spring. Thanks to great folks like yourselves we weathered the closure and are back out on the water guiding.  
BUFF has always been a special group for us and we have been so fortunate

to call so many members friends.  
I've painted this brook trout in watercolor and we hope the group can use this in future fundraising efforts. We both look forward to seeing you all on the water and guiding wherever ends up with the gift certificate.  
Thanks & Best Wishes  
Ian & Charity

Information about Ian and Charity's guide service and shop in Townsend, TN can be found at their website: <https://randrflyfishing.com/>

## Great American Outdoors Act

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the US House of Representatives approved the Great American Outdoors Act with a resounding, and bipartisan vote of 310 – 107. This finalized this act, which has been passed to the President's desk for signature. President Trump has indicated that he will approve the act.

The act provides full and permanent funding of \$900 million/year for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF). This doubles current funding for effort. Importantly, though the LCWF was created in 1964, it only received its full allocated funding twice in its 56 years of existence. This law changes that. The act also provides \$9.5 billion to be used against a huge backlog of unmet maintenance and repair needs at US National Parks, public lands, and public waters. This will be administered over a 5-year period at approximately \$2 billion/ year. While the funds are not sufficient to address all of the backlogged needs at our National Parks and public lands, it will make a significant improvement.

There are many summaries being published by nature and wildlife organizations, as well as news articles on this act. So, if you are interested, do some searching and reading. For us, as fly fishers and anglers, we can hope that the funds for the LWCF will be used to help maintain and support clean water efforts that are critical to maintaining viable aquatic environments which are vital for our sport.

## Bob Jones

It is sad to report that Bob Jones, an early member and an important figure in the history of BUFF, passed away on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. As many BUFF members were already aware, Bobs, health had been declining for several years, and for the past few months he was in hospice care. While not a “founding member” of BUFF, Bob joined the club early in its existence in 1979. He became club President in 1981. His recognition for his contributions to BUFF included being named Fly Fisher of the Year in 1993, and, being one of the first recipients of the club’s Lifetime Membership Award.



Paul Feldman, a close friend of Bob’s provided the following in Bob’s memory -

I met Bob when he joined BUFF, about a year and a half after the club was started. He was a real estate broker at the time, but I later learned he had done a tour in the Marines as a young man, and then became an Ohio State Trooper. More importantly, Bob was passionate about fly fishing for smallmouth bass and big bluegills. He was a decent fly tyer, but I never saw him tie a standard fly pattern. A table in his basement had piles of tying materials scattered on it, and he would put a hook in the vise, grab some materials, and invent a pattern. He was a strong supporter of BUFF, and in the early days he never missed local club outings.

Bob’s insurance business often required that he travel the rural roads east of Cincinnati, and he always kept an eye out for undiscovered farm ponds. He had a knack for hunkering down with the owner and often got permission to fish. On one occasion, he talked one owner into allowing him to form a small club which had exclusive use of the pond, on the condition that they would keep trespassers away, and pay for chemicals to control the algae. The property changed hands at least three times, but Bob was always able to convince the new owners to continue the agreement. I was a member for years along with 10 or 15 other buffers. Many of you have probably attended outings at this pond, forevermore known as “Jones’ Pond”.

Bob suffered small strokes several years ago, and his health steadily declined to the point that he could no longer walk. He moved to an assisted living facility with his cat where he lived for about 3 years. Bob was a good friend and was always in good spirits and glad to see me whenever I visited him. He had his

90<sup>th</sup> birthday just recently, and I am sure there are many buffers who knew him, considered him a friend, and will miss him.

Paul Feldman

## Mike Arnold Wins FFI 2020 Fly Fishing Skills Education Award

Last week, Fly Fishers International (FFI) announced it had awarded Mike Arnold, Director of Education for Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers (NKFF), the 2020 Fly Fishing Skills Education Award. This is FFI's highest education award. It is not awarded annually, but when given, it is awarded only to a single person in that year.

Mike was an early member of BUFF, and a founding member of NKFF, which was formed in 1987. As a BUFF member, Mike was awarded Fly Fisher of the Year in 1987. Mike has been a member of FFI for 38 years and served on the South Eastern Council of FFI for many years, including 10 years as their VP for Education. From the initial formation of NKFF, Mike has worked to build a very strong education program associated with that organization, including numerous yearly fly fishing classes as outreach programs, kids fishing programs, and fly tying and rod building classes.

There is a very nice write up of Mike's contributions to fly fishing education in the July issue of The Creel, the NKFF newsletter. This is freely accessible on the NKFF website (<https://nkff.org>). You can also send Mike a note of congratulations directly at [mike@nkff.org](mailto:mike@nkff.org).

## Fly Fishing – A Pandemic Activity

Ken Mandel – ([kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com))

I found an interesting article published in early July in the Washington Post discussing a recent and dramatic uptick in interest in fly fishing associated with the Covid pandemic. The article states that fishing as a sport and hobby in general is on the rise. Minnesota and Vermont, as examples has seen a 26% and over 50% increase in sale of resident fishing licenses this year.

Many people however are showing interest and taking up fly fishing as a way to get out-of-doors for activity that one can do, while maintaining social distancing. As most of us know, when we are out fishing, we are not on top of one another. Even with more people beginning to participate in fly fishing however, it is still a small number compared to other sports. The article notes that fly fishing had a peak interest in 2018 when almost 7 million people reported to have participated in the sport. This was data collected from the nonprofit Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. In contrast in the same year, close to 50 million people reported doing hiking as an outdoor activity (data from the Outdoor Foundation, a part of the Outdoor Industry Association).

The interest is having a positive impact on fly fishing shops, which back in March and April were questioning their future. They are selling equipment, and interest in instruction and guide outings is

increasing. Simon Perkins, the newly appointed President of Orvis is quoted as saying that sales of Orvis' Clearwater and Encounter rods kits, their 'entry level' rods, are up almost 100% from a year ago.

Here are a few points from the article which appear to be driving the new interest in fly fishing –

- It is a sport where social distancing is the 'norm'. Even when anglers fish with others, we maintain distance to avoid tangling lines, disturbing the area where we each are casting, and hooking each other.
- It is easy to find places to fish. Streams, rivers, lakes and ponds are everywhere, and travel is not necessary to find decent places to fish.
- It is readily affordable. A simple rod, reel and line can be obtained for less than \$200. Flies are inexpensive, and local resident fishing licenses are also not expensive. One does not necessarily need waders, if one starts by fishing from banks, or in warmer weather one can wade with hiking boots and shorts.
- It is an excellent way to reduce stress. Being outside on a nice stream or at an attractive pond is relaxing on its own.
- It is a learning and bonding opportunity.

The link below accesses the full article which has some nice fishing photos too –

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/casting-about-for-a-pandemic-friendly-pastime-eight-reasons-to-consider-fly-fishing/2020/07/06/ae7e3656-bc75-11ea-bdaf-a129f921026f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/casting-about-for-a-pandemic-friendly-pastime-eight-reasons-to-consider-fly-fishing/2020/07/06/ae7e3656-bc75-11ea-bdaf-a129f921026f_story.html)

## How About an Affordable Bamboo Rod?

By Larry Spiers ([larry\\_spiers@fuse.net](mailto:larry_spiers@fuse.net))

Last year, after building a graphite rod, I thought that with some tools, fixtures, and bamboo blanks, I might try to make my own bamboo rod.

As I searched for materials, I found Headwaters Bamboo (<https://headwatersbamboo.com/>) that has blanks, but who also sell finished bamboo rods of several tapers, line weights, and lengths at very reasonable prices. In my case the bamboo blanks were \$185, but a finished 2-piece rod, which included an extra tip, was \$400! Rods come with a 30-day satisfaction guarantee. If not satisfied the rod can be returned. More importantly, the rod has a lifetime guarantee for the original owner.

They have an online chat line to ask questions, such as what flex would be recommended for a first-time purchaser of a bamboo rod with only prior graphite-rod experience. Also there is a blog where you can refer to questions from others.

I purchased and have enjoyed my Headwaters Bamboo, "Deluxe, Rogue", 7'6", 5-wt, medium-fast action rod for the past year.





Headwaters Bamboo also sells rod kits which include a reel and a line designed to perform with their rods. You can purchase reels and line separately as well.

## **BUFF Members Getting Out to Fish!**

Some more photos from a few of our members who got out to fish this past month and are sharing them.

Tom Britton spent a few days around the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend social distance fly tying, fishing some small lakes, and catching rainbows on the Caney Fork in Western NC –



Here's a couple of photos from Lindsay Leddy fishing the Cumberland tailwaters in mid-July. A couple of really nice trout!



## Summer Bugs and Flies for Summer Fishing

Ken Mandel

The Midcurrent folks published a nice article on summer fishing, highlighting common insects and the flies which mimic them. The site for the articles is: <https://midcurrent.fliesforsale.com/summer-bug-guide/?ffst=6tb4e-dvjd>

I think we all know that summer is a great time to get out and fish. Weather is warm and pleasant. There is a likely opportunity to ditch the waders and wet wade to fish, and fish are generally active, if water temperatures are not too high. There are of course challenges. Water temperature is a major one, especially for fish which do better in cooler water. Hence, early in the day or evening may be best times to get out. Number of people fishing a favorite location can also become an issue, but finding a more secluded or less used location is usually possible. Finally, the number of insects in and on the water, and on which most fish feed, is important to understand and the focus of the article.

**Midges** – Midges are always present and are constant in the diet of our aquatic friends. However, if larger flies are present, fish may pass them up for a ‘bigger’ meal. Typically flies we use for midges are smaller, sizes 14 and smaller. The typical nymph is the Zebra Midge. Some of us may recall Dave Hughes’ presentation at the 2019 Fly Fishing show. When he discussed midge nymphs, he said all one really needs is the Zebra pattern, just have several sizes in your box. Midges also are fished as emerger and dry fly patterns, with a Griffith’s Gnat or a Renegade as examples of a dry.



**Mayflies** – Mayflies are present in all forms, nymphs to spinners, through the summer. The article suggests that it is not as critical to know specific species that are hatching at a given time, but rather to have flies to match sizes and colors. Flies tied to mimic mayflies also encompass a huge range of hook size – from #6 to #24.



**Caddis** – Caddis flies are seemingly always on the menu for summer fishing. All stages, sizes and colors are available to them as continuous hatches create real good success with a standard elk hair caddis as an example of a dry fly version. Soft hackles mimic nymphs. The article notes that fishing a caddis pattern tends to work throughout the day, but hatches tend to occur in late afternoon to evening.



**Scuds** – Scud nymphs are always an important part in a trout’s diet where present. Scuds will be an option on many tailwaters and spring creeks year round. Look for their importance on days when other hatches aren’t as prevalent or early/late in the day. Flies mimic the nymph form and tend to be in range of hook sizes 12 – 18.



**Stoneflies** – Stonefly nymphs and adult dry flies are a staple diet insect. There are times of both major and sporadic hatches throughout the summer, so it’s never a bad idea to try one of these during summer months. A broad range of size, with larger flies being about a size 8 hook. Also work in a range of colors – black, brown, orange, reds, yellows, and greens.

**Worms and Sowbugs** – The article suggests that flies mimicking worms, an example being the classic San Juan Worm pattern, may be a good choice after a rain when waters have muddied a bit. Sowbugs are similar to scuds, and like scuds are nymph forms. They are present year round, but can be a useful pattern when fish are generally ignoring other flies.





**Streamer Patterns** – The streamers the article considers are Woolly Buggers, leech patterns, zonker patterns, etc. They are among the largest flies in this article, with hook sizes ranging from 2 – 14. Also used in a range of colors. The article suggests these patterns are best if fished where there is a transition in the water – muddy to clear, dark to light, deep to shallow, fast to slow flow, etc.

**Hoppers, Ants, Beetles** – This is the final category discussed in the article. Ants and beetles show up first, in early summer. As it gets hotter, the hoppers come into play. Watching along banks can help you to know when these insects are actively getting into the water. One tip is that terrestrial fishing can be a good tactic on windy days, as these insects do not purposely go into the water; they get blown in by the wind. Generally large size flies are hoppers (size 6 – 8 hooks) with beetles and ant patterns starting with size 10 or 12 hooks and going smaller.



## Fly of the Month – “Yellow Sally”

Ken Mandel ([kengmandel@gmail.com](mailto:kengmandel@gmail.com))

This fly is a ‘shout out’ to Phil Pursley. Last month, Phil wrote about a great day fishing for brown trout on the Brookville Tail Waters using this fly. I’d never heard of it before, so looked it up and thought it would be worth sharing as a good fly for local fishing. It is a stone fly nymph and appears similar to an elk hair caddis. Hoping to tie a couple and try them out at Brookville next week perhaps.

I found a couple of videos providing tying instructions – One is from In the Riffle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2nQUuugOIk>. The other is from Postfly, which also seems to sell a kit with all materials for tying this fly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtI5PocOHWs>. Both demonstrate a similar pattern.

- Hook:** Neither video describes the actual hook. Size is 14 – 16 (or smaller). The In-the-Riffle video uses a straight shank hook with a down eye. The Postfly video uses a hook with a slightly curved shank and a straight eye. Any dry fly hook will work.
- Thread:** 6-0 thread in cream or yellow
- Egg Spot:** Red Ice Dubbing (or red floss - used in the Postfly version)
- Body:** Yellow dubbing
- Wing:** Light colored elk hair
- Hackle:** Cream, brown, barred ginger colored rooster cape hackle feather



1. With hook mounted in the vise, start thread about an eye-width back on the hook shank, trim end and take wraps back to the bend of the hook (above barb).

2. Take a tiny bit of red ice dubbing. Dub about ½" length as tight a possible on the thread and build up a small red ball localized at the hook bend. Trim out any shaggy fibers.

An alternative is to use red floss material. If using this, start the thread wraps as in first step and tie in the floss along the top of the hook with thread wraps back to the bend and use floss to build a small red spot at the bend. Tie in and trim excess floss. *This approach seems easier than using dubbing for this step.*



3. The body is formed from pale yellow or light olive dubbing (Super dubbing). Build a narrow tight dubbing noodle, on the thread and begin to wrap the body. The body can be a thicker than that of a Mayfly, but should be of fairly even diameter along its length. Wrap dubbing forward to about 2/3 the length of the hook shank. An alternative is to use ice dubbing, also in a yellow or light olive for the body.



4. The wing is formed from light colored elk hair. Snip a clump from the hide and pull out the fuzzy material at the base. Even the tips in a hair stacker. Position along the top of the hook shank so the tips The wing length is to the back of the hook bend. Use a pinch wrap to secure the fibers to the top of the hook shank immediately in front of the dubbed body. Bind it down tightly so the hair does not spin around the shank, but remains in position on top of the hook shank. Once secured, trim the excess at an angle to allow building a tapered thread head over the cut ends. *The photo shows the end of this step from the Postfly video – they did a nicer job of putting in the wing material than the In-the-Riffle presentation. Also looks like they tied this with a light olive colored dubbing for the body.*



5. Next step is to tie in the hackle in front of the wing. Tie in by the stem with the convex, shiny side facing you on the near side of the hook using thread wraps toward the hook eye. Trim the stem. There are now two alternatives – You can build up a head with additional yellow dubbing (In the Riffle example, left image below), or directly wrap the hackle on the thread head (Postfly example, right image below).



6. Regardless of building or not building a larger head, wrap the hackle forward, starting immediately in front of the wing, toward the eye. 4 – 5 wraps is plenty. Tie in the feather and trim excess. Preen back the hackle fibers and take a few thread wraps to hold them. Trim any stray feathers that could block the hook eye. Finish with a whip finish.

