



March 2018

## Inside This Issue

Chairman's Cast

Next Workshop Material List

Tying instructions for the Maylar Sprat

Of Countries and Feathers

Check out point

DIY Corner

Important Dates

Contact details

## from the Vice



Just returned from a working trip in Port Saint Johns and good news is that all the rivers south thereof are in spate. PSJ river mouth is a well-known fishing destination but due to the water colour alas all my flies returned dry.

Towards the end of February Stuart advised me that he was going in for a back operation and that he would be out of action for 8 – 10 weeks. Since then Lawrence has been to see Stuart and says that Stuart is taking some strain. A request to give him a call and lift his spirit would be most appreciated. Stuart's cell number is 0718644979.

Now for some feedback:

1. Our Guild banner is going into print this coming week and will be ready for our 24<sup>th</sup> March Guild marketing drive. It looks awesome and I know that it will make the members proud to be associated with the Guild. I am trying to get it ready for our next Guild workshop on the 17<sup>th</sup> March for viewing.
2. Jacques from Beck clothing is working flat out to try and complete our shirt order and hopefully we will have them also on the 17<sup>th</sup> to hand out to the members.
3. Brett from Trophy Tackle Den is waiting for his tying material he ordered so we wait in anticipation.
4. Jannie and I are communicating and throwing around ideas of a Guild book carrying our flies tied, once finalized we will advise accordingly.
5. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March before the workshop we will be having a dry run for the 24<sup>th</sup> marketing drive. It is therefore important to attend this upcoming Guild workshop. I will be sending out an email early next week confirming members slotted functions and times for this event.
6. I have received 2 Daiwa fishing caps as a donation. These will be up for grabs in the form of a lucky draw come Saturday.

Lastly Bradley will be the facilitator the 17<sup>th</sup> March and will be demonstrating his own damsel pattern called the "BM" fly. Aka Bradley's beer man damsel.

That's it. See you all on 17<sup>th</sup> March

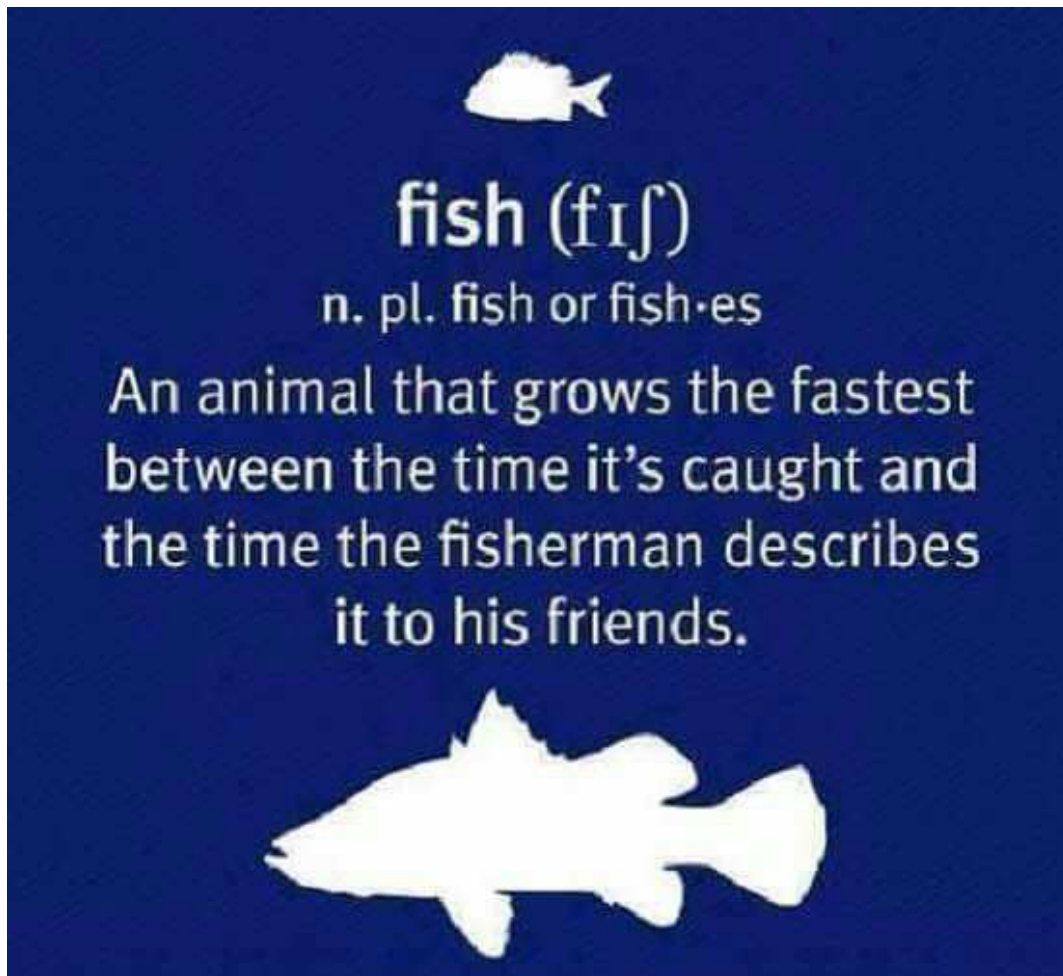
Yours amongst the feathers  
Gary

GUILD WORKSHOP FLY TO BE TIED ON 21/10/2017

NAME OF FLY - Damselfly

FACILITATOR: Bradley Mardon

- Hook size: #6 or 8 straight shank.  
Tail: Olive, tan or brown marabou.  
Body: Olive, tan or brown marabou.  
Thread: 6/0 thread, colour to match.  
Flash: Crystal flash.  
Rib: Flashabou (Colour to match marabou if possible).  
Wing case: Partridge (or similar feather) to match the marabou.  
Eyes: Bead eyes, either plastic or metal. If you don't have eyes, a lighter and 30lb mono will do.
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## TYING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE "MAYLAR SPRAT" TIED ON 17/02/2018

FACILITATOR: Gary Grobler

**TIP 1:** Remember keep the materials for the tail sparse and balanced.

Stage 1: Place hook in vice and lay a foundation of thread onto the shank up to the barb of the hook.



Stage 2: Prepare and tie in the prepared white bucktail with a few strands of flash.

Stage 3: Now form a skirt of white calftail 1/3 the length of the bucktail and secure in place.

**TIP 2:** A drop of superglue at this point will prevent the tail from twisting whilst fishing

Stage 4: Catch in your UV braid and build up an even body along the hook shank and tie off.

Stage 5: Next tie in your dumbbell eyes on top of the hook shank and secure in place. Again a drop of superglue will keep everything in place. (Remove tying thread)

Stage 6: Now take your mother of pearl Maylar tube – (3 times the length of the hook shank) and with your bodkin place a hole at the middle point.

Stage 7: Tie in your tying thread again where you secured your tail in. Now take the Maylar and place over the eye of the hook. 1 Half over the top of the hook shank and the other half under the hook shank. Pull taught backwards and tie off. Now pick out the excess Maylar and trim to about 1 cm beyond the tie off area.

Stage 8: Almost done. Finally glue on your eyes and let dry.

**WELL DONE YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO TIE A MAYLAR SPRAT.**

Key triggers: This pattern is a good mid water searching pattern for Garrick and skipjack. As a baitfish pattern this fly can be used with a floater or intermediate line. Normally a fast retrieve is best with the occasional pause. Best fished over draining inlets or sharp drop offs. As this fly is rather weighty a single piece of 30 lbs 6 foot long is recommended for the leader.

Hope you enjoyed the tie.





## OF COUNTRIES AND FEATHERS

Written and submitted by Gary

When one thinks of fly fishing and our delicate art we seem to conjure in our minds tweed jackets and British chalk streams and upon reading the likes of G.M Skeus we conclude in our minds that it all started with “Kings and Queens”.

As we know the first recorded account of fly fishing was that of the Roman writer Claudius Aelianus, who in 240 AD, wrote about feathered hooks used by people in Macedonia to catch “spotted fish.”

French literature dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century establishes the fact that the French and the Spaniards were wielding “fly rods” long before the Britts were.

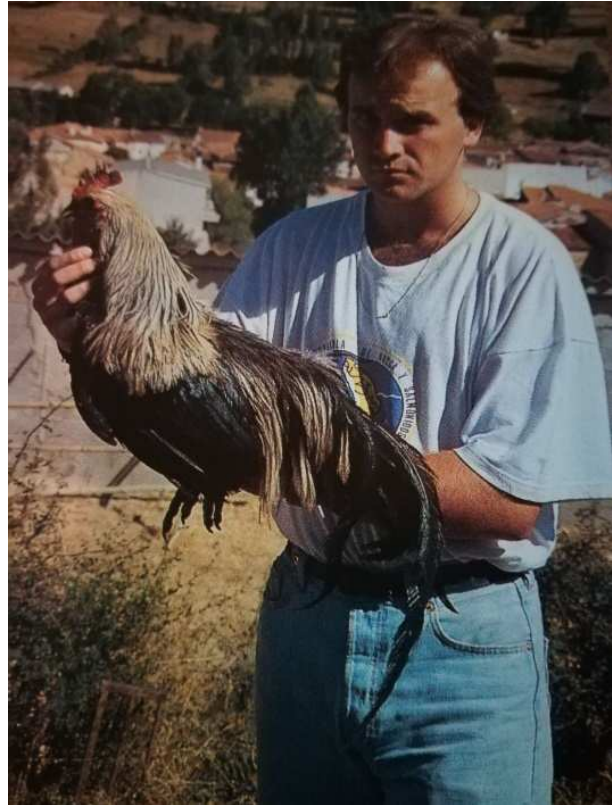
As we take a closer look at Spain the first thing that comes to mind is the Iberian Peninsula, bull fighting, their tapas bars and fine wines. But the Spanish indeed have a century’s old fly fishing legacy and today there are many excellent fly fisherman, one such man is Roman Moser who ranks as one of the top tiers in the world today.

And then there is the international recognised AEMS (Spanish Association for the fly and Salmonoids) Spain happens to be the southernmost limit of the range of the Atlantic Salmon and the country boasts a number of excellent fishing rivers. And it is here that our story begins.

Spain is the home of Coq de Leon. With over 700 years of breeding genetics this very sought after fly tying material is obtained not by culling as most of our feathers are obtained but by harvesting. The Spaniards claim that these birds are bred at altitude where the conditions are right and the natural food source that they forage for, help create their fine plumage. They maintain that moving the birds



to low altitude causes the feathers to lose their sparkle and lustre. The Americans have now obtained this genetic strain of bird and now supply the commercial market. So how then do the Spaniards harvest these feathers – Well the cock birds are regularly plucked; also they do not use the cape hackles – by tradition only the spade hackles are used. There are 2 basic types of feathers: the plain feather called the “Indio”, and the mottled feather called “Pardo”. Some colours include – Pardo flor de escoba – colour of the flower of the mountain



bloom; Pardo corzuno – colour of the hair of a roebuck. Apparently there are over 30 shades of mottled Pardo each with their own description.



The traditional fly used in Spain is the wet fly and take on the various spider patterns. CDC feathers by the way have been used in Spain “long before ducks realised they possessed such feathers.

One of the traditional methods of fishing in the Spanish Pyrenees was to use ultra long rods and a fixed line, with a number of flies attached to the leader. The flies were dappled over and on the riffing water of the river.

This is quite interesting as it is the same method as used in Japan, only there they call this style of fishing “Tenkara” – dancing the fly on the surface. A technique thought to originate in Japan, or a team of flies as previously thought to be a new technique and exclusive to New Zealand. It is believed that fishing a team of flies originated in the mountains of Northern Italy.

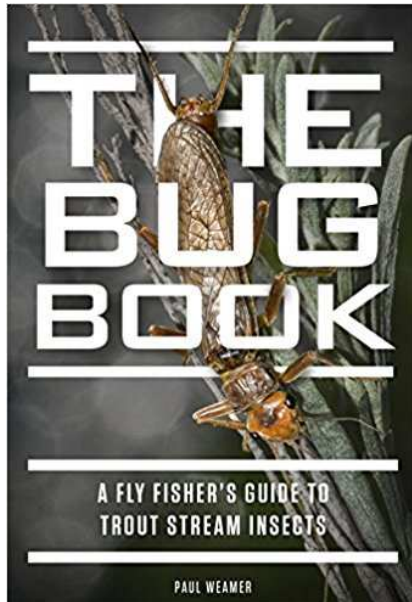
So whether wading out into the Tormes river or fishing in the province of Leon we cast our patterns in the hope of encountering our quarry. The question resounds as to how good Coq de Leon feathers are but that we will leave for another day.



CHECK OUT  
POINT

## Fly-tying Books submitted by Zerilda

### The Bug Book: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Trout Stream Insects



Author:	Paul Weamer
Hardcover:	118 pages
Publisher:	Headwater Books (September 1, 2016)
Language:	English
ISBN-10:	1934753424
ISBN-13:	978-1934753422
Product Dimensions:	5.8 x 0.4 x 8.7 inches

Complete guide to aquatic entomology for fly fishers, covering all the important insects and their imitations for the entire United States. Hatch charts, fly pattern recommendations, and important fishing strategies from Paul Weamer. This is the ideal reference for those just starting out or for those that want to have a more comprehensive view of the important insects.

Understanding aquatic insect hatches is like being able to cast an entire fly line. Do you need to cast that far to catch fish? Of course not. But will being able to cast a long distance inhibit your ability to catch fish? Never. Knowing where, and how, insects live and emerge gives anglers yet another piece of the puzzle. I've never heard a fly fisherman exclaim, "I probably would have caught those rising fish if I just didn't know so much about trout stream insects."

You still need to cast. You still need to present flies in such a manner that fish will accept them. But though no one has ever failed to catch a trout because they knew too much about aquatic insects, plenty of anglers have not caught as



big a fish, or as many fish as they could have caught, because they failed to understand the importance of matching a hatch. This is particularly true when fishing for large, wild, selective trout—the ones we all really want to catch.

In this book, I try to relieve some of the reticence about trout stream insects that makes many anglers feel inadequate and uneasy. Many excellent books provide very detailed information about specific hatches. But that's not this book's goal. This book is written for new anglers who want a basic understanding of aquatic insects or more seasoned fly fishers who want to take their skills to the next level; those who want to know not only if their flies will work but why they'll work as well. I remember when I was first learning to fly fish, and I read about complicated Latin names or confusing stages of aquatic insect development. I was lost. It was as if the whole fly fishing world was born knowing about these things, and I was left out. This book's aim is to provide basic aquatic insect knowledge that will not only help you to understand more about trout stream insects, but it will also help you catch more trout on your next fishing trip. It will help you to understand why you should tie one fly to your leader rather than another to imitate the hatches you encounter.

About the Author: Paul Weamer is a Fly Fisherman magazine contributing editor and the author or co-author of several fly fishing books. He is an accomplished photographer, specializing in aquatic insect macro photography, and has contributed photos to Fly Fisherman, The Catskill Regional Guide, and The Drake, as well as his own and several other writer's books. Paul is a former licensed guide, working the Upper Delaware and Beaverkill Rivers for trout and smallmouth bass, and Cattaraugus, Elk, and Walnut Creeks for steelhead. He has owned or managed three highly regarded fly shops in New York and Pennsylvania and has been a production tier for numerous guides and shops, including the legendary Dette fly shop in Roscoe, New York. Paul is a contract fly designer for the Montana Fly Company and the inventor of the Weamer's Truform, Comparachute, Alewife, Bucktail Body, and the Weamer Streamer series of flies.

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## **Digital magazines** submitted by Zerilda

The South African magazine called "Flyfishing" is no longer available over the counter at shops and media agencies, they have gone digital and the magazine can be downloaded from ISSUU.com

Obviously you have to register on their site and thereafter you can browse and read magazines online.

Some magazines can be downloaded for free in a PDF format.

Register at: <https://issuu.com/>

Editor's note: I checked out the site and registered. Great site Zerilda, thanks for sharing it with the rest of us.



We end the maintenance series by taking a look at backing and flies.

Backing serves two purposes. It fills the spool which allows the fly line to be retrieved faster and the backing provides "back up" for your fly line if a fish really takes off. However, backing tends to be forgotten and is left on the reel without another thought.

This will mostly be fine for freshwater fishing as backing hardly needs any maintenance, but in saltwater it can get affected by salt, UV radiation and mildew. When drying up, salt crystals can cake backing together. Now you will only discover this when that "trophy" fish that you hope to hook on every outing takes your fly and starts heading for the horizon. You either see the dark coloured mildew backing being pulled out or feel the jerky motion or due to the salt crystals on the backing your reel suddenly stop turning. In both cases you may lose the fish due to backing failure. That is not the end of it as an expensive fly line was attached to the backing also disappears. Makes one wonder why the knots and backing are not checked by many fishermen.

Regularly strip the backing from the reel and soak in fresh water for an hour. Remove and once it is dry run it through your fingers to check for any nicks or unevenness that may have been caused by rock or coral. Also check the evenness in colour and replace the backing if there is any sign of damage or mildew. Give any knots from reel to the tippet a good pull to test that they are still strong and holding firm.

The second forgotten item is the flies. Not all fly boxes are waterproof and they do get wet no matter how careful you are and those flies that you use, even if hung on your hat may not be dry when you pack up. The moisture and salt in the case of saltwater flies will be trapped under the feathers and fibres against the hook. This will cause some build-up of rust which may not be easily visible. You will only discover this when you lose that fish when the hook breaks.

Soak saltwater flies in fresh water for an hour then dry them thoroughly before storing them for the next trip. Regularly inspect your flies all your flies, even those that you may have used on the outing.

So, keep a close eye on your equipment! It only takes a little effort, but you will save on tackle and lines and when the big one strikes, it will not get away!

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What do you call a dangerous fish who drinks too much? A beer-a-cuda!

While sports fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft. Spotting an old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?!" "Naw," the man hollered back, "they ain't been around for years!" "Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there he asked the guy, "How'd you get rid of the gators?" "We didn't do nothin," the beachcomber said. "The sharks got em."



### COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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These contact details and info may only be used within the parameters of the Port Elizabeth Fly Tying Guild.

17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 - Freshwater Workshop

24<sup>th</sup> March – Marketing drive at the Homely Farm Fair.

21<sup>st</sup> April – Workshop TBA