

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting  
Will Be Tuesday*

**September 23**

*We will be meeting at the  
Puerto Vallarta  
215 15th St. SE  
Puyallup at 6 PM*



## The Dead Drift - August 2014

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

The IFFF is having their Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston, MT this month, August 6th through the 9th. Should be a good event. They have almost a hundred workshops to pick from, including some great ones on fly tying and casting. Next year they will hold this event doan in the Bend, OR area, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IFFF. Oregon is where the FFF was originally formed. Refer to page 4 for more info.

The mountains in Montana sure received a lot of snow this past winter, some places up to 150% of normal. That means it is taking a while for all the snow to melt allowing the rivers to get down to their normal summer flow. Here we are in the middle of summer and the rivers are just now finally getting down to that level. This fall should be great fishing both in Montana and in Washington due to all the water.

Speaking of fishing, I finally managed to get out and do some fishing. Bill Fox and I hit the Yakima River on a nice warm summers day (94 degrees, winds around 15 to 20 mph, and high water) in the middle of July. John Lease of the Worley Bugger was our guide. Bill out fished me a bit and fishing was tough as the water was flowing very fast and off color. I will be making some other drifts on the Yak over the next couple of months, hope to do a bit better. Fall and winter are my favorite times to fish.

The WSCIFFF held its annual summer board of directors meeting this late July. We are already deep into preparing for next years Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. We will be going back to a Friday-Saturday time period and the main dinner/live auction will be held on Friday night over in the armory. Thursday is for setting up and on Thursday night we will have our annual free dinner for all volunteers and participants along with an auction supporting Project Healing Waters and Casting For Recovery.

Since I had to go to Ellensburg anyway for the board of directors meeting I left a day early and did a drift on the Yakima River. Rich Connely was my guide from the Worley Bugger. We drifted about 11 miles from State launch near Cle Elum down to the Green Bridge. I caught a lot of fish, saw many more. The water wasn't as high as it had been with Bill & I but it was still a little high. The water was very clear hence I was able to see more fish under the water. Best action was on dries even though there was not a hatch and there were no fish feeding on the surface, but they sure were willing to come up for a look and a bite.

Enjoy the summer and get out to do some fishing. See you all in September.

Good fishing.

Larry

## International Federation of Fly Fishers

### Fly of the Month

#### ~ Leslie's Quill Gordon ~

August 2008

By

Bob Bates



.The name Quill Gordon is famous for several reasons. One is that it refers to Theodore Gordon a turn of the century fisherman and prolific writer. Another reason is the original Quill Gordon imitated the earliest hatching large mayflies (*Epeorus pleuralis*) in many Pennsylvania and New York streams. Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen in *Flies for Trout* have a picture of a Quill Gordon tied by J. Edison Leonard in the fashion that Theodore Gordon probably used. It had a long swept back wood duck wing and a stripped peacock herl body. The final reason: It is great for catching fish.

Leslie Wrixon was building on a lot of history when she tied this fly at the 2007 FFF Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT. The main change she made was to substitute porcupine hair for the stripped peacock herl. Porcupine hair is much stronger than peacock herl and doesn't need the gold wire rib or lacquer coating for support. Some mayfly species, like *Epeorus pleuralis*, hatch in faster sections of streams where they have difficulty getting off the water. This is an ideal fly for such situations. It floats fairly well and has a good imitative silhouette. A drag free float is needed to present a fly like this one. If you have trouble with the drag free float talk to some good anglers in your fly club or get a lesson from a certified FFF Fly Casting Instructor. For more information on Theodore Gordon and the Quill Gordon check the FFF website Fly of the Month for January, 2001.

#### Materials List:

**Hook:** Any dry fly hook, sizes 14-18

**Thread:** UNI-Thread 8/0 Black

**Tail:** Mixed grizzly and brown

**Body:** Porcupine hair

**Wing:** Wood duck

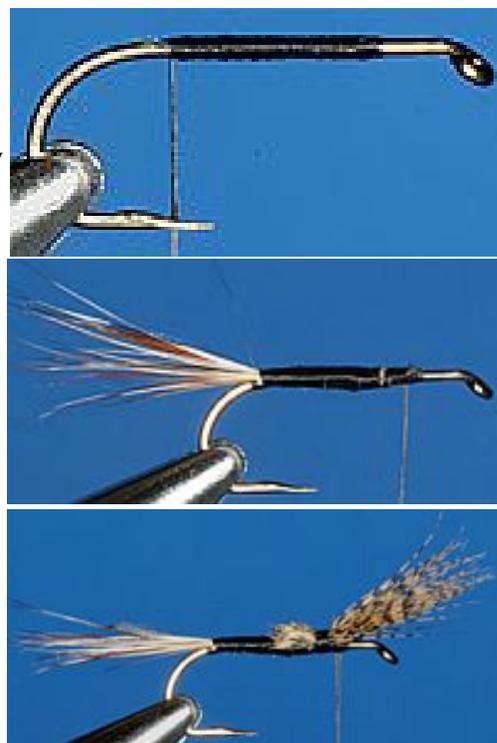
**Hackle:** Dark Badger

#### Tying steps:

1.Start thread at front and wind smoothly to rear. You can use any thread you like, but Leslie prefers 8/0 UNI-Thread.

2.Use hackle that has no webbing to it so the barbs give a shiny appearance. Pull the barbs off the stem, and lay them down so you can pick them up easily. Leslie put them on a little dish. Then repeat with another hackle, and lay the barbs on top of the first bunch. Pick them up so they mix; snip off the bits of shaft that came with the barbs. Make the tail about shank length. Don't be a slave to the exact formula, the idea is to tie something that is pleasing to the tier, angler and fish. Make one wrap under the tail and one above to raise tail up a bit and spread it.

3. Now for the wings. Barred wood duck is preferred, but mallard flank feather will do also. In gathering up a bunch of fibers, make sure there is enough to look good after they are divided. (Can use an entire feather.) Tie it in about the same length as the tail. Put a thread dam in front to hold up the wing a little. Trim butts on a slope to help shape the underbody.



Continued on Page 3 →

4. Divide the fibers, and do a figure 8 with the thread to hold them apart.

5. Then post each wing. Two or three thread wraps will do.

6. Leslie's secret head cement for traveling is CA Glue or generic "Crazy Glue" she gets four for a dollar at Wall Mart. Put it in a puddle on a piece of foil for example, and it will last about 45 minutes. Put a little drop behind the wing with a dipping tool or bodkin. Wrap thread to rear to make a smooth tapered underbody.

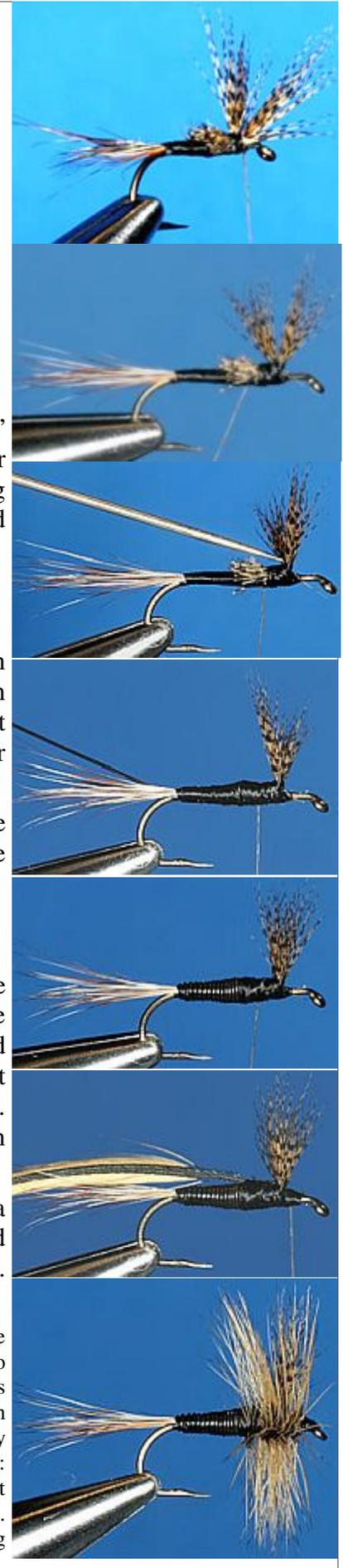
7. Porcupine hair is very durable, shiny, flexible and will not break when wrapped. Tie it in by the small end. The hair comes in different diameters on the animal. Select hair in proportion to hook size. Also some hair will wrap flat rather with nice quill segments. Usually this is lighter color hair at the larger end. Tie hair on top of hook in front of tail.

8. Wrap the hair forward in adjoining turns. Take a little extra effort to wrap the hair in a tidy fashion. Leave a quarter of the hook shank empty. Snip off the excess and bind down the stub. Save the cut off piece for other flies.

9. Select a hackle with barbs about 1-1/2 gap widths long. Trim some of the larger fibers off the stem for a little more holding power. Tie it down, shiny side up, behind the wing leaving space for the hackle. Move the thread forward and bind down the rest of the stem in front of the wing. Tie it in so when you start wrapping the barbs will be perpendicular to the shank and shiny side forward. Trim off any excess that points forward over the eye. (Traditional Quill Gordon recipes say brown and grizzly or medium dun.)

10. Wrap the hackle four times behind the wing and three times in front. Not a hard and fast rule; it depends on what looks good. Mainly it is what looks good and will float. Move the tread out of the way and snip off the excess hackle. Then put on a whip finish and a little head cement.

**Closing comments:** This is an easy fly to tie, catches fish like mad and is very durable. The only problem is getting the porcupine hair. Fly shops generally don't carry it. You need to search the internet for it, or talk to some of your Native American friends. Porcupine hair is used for Roaches, a Native American headdress, so some of the items that show up on an internet search will be completed Roaches up to \$450. Just keep looking. If you know eBay there is some available there. I found three companies that had porcupine hair by the ounce: Centralia Fur & Hide; Claw, Antler & Hide Company and Moscow Hide and Fur. You might want to go together with a few friends, an ounce of porcupine hair will last a life time or three. There is always road kill. I saw a good looking one the other day as I was driving to a meeting at 70 mph, but I didn't stop.





# Head for Montana this Summer

## Great Fishing

## Great Fly Fishing Fair

### August 5 - 9 in Livingston

### A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“The Test, not far from the hotel, ran smoothly and evenly, with long weeds limpid as hair, obscuring the white lime bottom. The river seemed to move as if it were one large mass of glass, with a nearly uniform depth from one bank to the other”*

~ Sylvester Nemes ~  
(1922 - 2011)

*The Soft-Hackled fly and Tiny Soft Hackles (1975)*

### Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2014

August (No Meeting) — **September 23** — October 28  
November 25 — December 16 (Fund Raiser Raffle)

### International Federation of Fly Fishers

The International Federation of Fly Fishers is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. The International Federation of Fly Fishers and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on a regional, national and international level.

The idea to create a national federation of fly fishing clubs by people who also were willing to take action, seems to have sprung up on both coasts in the early 1960's. In June 1965, the first Conclave of the Federation of Fly Fishers took place in Eugene, Oregon and was hosted by the McKenzie Flyfishers. It was immediately a national organization with the inclusion not only of West Coast fly fishing clubs, but also the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers from New York. Twelve clubs had joined the Federation by the end of 1965, and by the second Conclave held at Jackson Hole, Wyoming in September 1966, the number of clubs had risen to 29.

"It occurs to me that a loose federation of fly fishing groups could be of considerable value."  
Letter from Lee Wulff to Bob Wethern of the Flyfishers Club of Oregon May 27, 1964

Lew Bell and Lee Wulff presented the first draft of the Constitution at the 1965 meeting, and Wulff suggested the reel emblem of the Federation. Many other nationally known fly fishers were present, including Ted Trueblood, Ed Zern, Pete Hidy and Polly Rosborough. A new creation, one that would represent the interests of fly fishermen was underway, and as time passed the famous who affiliate with the FFF seems to have included just about anybody who was anyone.

Today the IFFF has grown to 16 councils, approximately 225 clubs and 13,000 individual members. Our goal is to support fisheries conservation and educational programs for all fish and all waters. Anywhere fly fishers have an interest, the IFFF can and does play a role.

## AFF Club Picnic

Stephen and Terry Neal opened their doors and yard to us so we could have a great club picnic. There were at least 22 people there. Lots of room in the back yard for us to spread out and have some serious discussions about fishing as you can tell since Bill is showing us the size of fish he caught up at Leech Lake. Well, not really, but it sounds good. We had lots of very good food to eat and hours of enjoying some great company



Jim Higgins brought in a huge selection of fly fishing gear and supplies for an estate sale sort of event. Many of our club members were really checking it out. Some members bought some much wanted Sage rods and others found all sorts of fly tying materials that they just had to have. Jim donated some flies for our raffles. Thanks Jim.



The front yard, sorry, no photo, was a great place to play a game of Bocce Ball. Bob Alston and I teamed up against Stephen Neal and Bill Aubrey. Guess who won? 😊

Again, thank you Terry and Stephen for allowing us to use your place.

Larry

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

*In Wildness is the Preservation of the World "Henry David Thoreau"*

## Mixed Messages

The gypsies know my future, but the Angels know my past, it is just as well, life has been full of adventure and miss-adventures of late. Cy and his family were up for their annual 4th of July vacation and family extravaganza and while he had planned to work leisurely on the fishing truck and do a tune up on the Jeep it turned into a repair the vehicles marathon. The jeep tune-up, blossomed into a complete replacement of the clutch system, clutch, pressure plate, fly wheel and master and slave cylinder as well; with a week's wait for parts shipped from Ohio. Vehicle number two was down for repairs, vehicle number one was already down, the motorcycle, with un-diagnosable electrical problems, no spark, but the why of no spark would not reveal itself. The Fishing truck was next to go, Cy had planned on replacing the rear lights, but that meant welding, cutting, filling, and drilling, then add on wiring and painting; we also replaced both sending units in both gas tanks, you get the picture no quick fixes.



Vehicle number three was now out of action as well. I had to be driven to and from work and Cy's suburban became the, grocery getter, errand runner, family hauler, wrecking yard visitor and parts retriever for a blended family of 13 depending on time, place and space. Woo wee, not much happened in a timely matter but it all happened. My two days off from work were spent under the truck or under the hood of a wrecking yard truck pulling parts for the fishing truck, not much visiting got done as our conversations were matter of fact and to the point, getting things apart or back together again.

I had planned on taking Cy fishing at Trophy Lakes but that plan was scrapped with so many vehicles down, there was no way to go without leaving everyone else stranded. So family and visiting time officially fell to dinner and after dinner pursuits. Before the plates were cleared for dinner out came the Bows and BB guns, and seven grandchildren would impatiently wait for their time at the firing line, laughter, fun and fidgeting was interspaced with firm commands to pay attention for safety sake. Arrows flew and air powered BB's pierced paper targets till dark filled the sky and targets could no longer be seen. Then grandkids were prepared for bed while they practiced all of their bed avoidance routines, air mattress were placed in the living room, pillows distributed and kids jostled for prime locations. The next day we got up and repeated it all again.

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In the mist of all our wrench turning I received an email from Steve Egge inviting me to join him on Scotch tasting tour of Seattle sponsored by Laphroaig Islay Single Malt Scotch Whiskey. Since it was suppose to be Cy's last night in town and my last chance for some just Father and Son time, I signed us up. Now everything was still up in the air with vehicles and work schedules but bless the Gypsies and Angels it all came together. Randy switched shifts with me at work, the Jeep parts arrived and the lights were back in the truck. On Friday evening the Fishing truck transported Cy and I to Pikes Market and fine Single Malt Scotch.

We rendezvoused at Kell's bar on Post Alley at 6:30 PM, donned our kilts and Laphroaig t-shirts and visited while we waited with 40 or so other revelers for the evening's festivities to begin. Just before 7 we exchanged a drink coupon for our first Scotch of the night, then ascending the stairs to the second floor where Seattle's Police Pipe and Drum Band rearranged our minds and souls and our glass of Scotch worked its magic. In the proper mood we descended the stairs to drink a toast to Edwards defeat "the bastard" our host quoted Robert Burns, then we strode forth out onto the Streets of Seattle led by a piper to sip smoky-peaty Scotch and enjoy the company of the citizens of Seattle and its glomming eventide.

Now 30 or 40 men and women wearing Kilts and being led by a piper from bar to bar is not an everyday occurrence in Seattle and as you might imagine we were quite the sight and many a cell phone and camera were flashed in our direction as we dutifully marched, (it was more of a stroll) to the next sampling of Scotch awaiting our taste test. Scotch whisky is earth and smoke, it is heaving misty seas, bold and fierce mountains, it is deep water that holds reflections of time lost and long ago, it speaks to my gypsy poet soul, to chase the wind and touch the sky. It was a magical and wonderful evening, Cy and I caught up with each other and added to what makes our relationship so wonderful, we just like being with each other. It was our first pub crawl and Laphroaig kept us well fed, and watered as we explored evening Seattle and chased the wind and touched the sky. Steve's group joined us for the last meal and tasting of the evening and we toasted friendship and good Scotch and doing it all again next year.

Continued on Page 7

The following morning opened sunny and warm, car repair resumed and work called, but we carried with us earth, smoky misty mountains and strong seas. Cy and family left Sunday morning with hugs and tears and lots of love and wishes for safe journeys to carry on till next we meet. There is still work to do on the Fishing truck new wheels and tires have been installed, a new distributor, carburetor and assorted parts are in the mail to bring Johnny back to his past glory and to actual fishing this fall. The Jeep still needs a new muffler and water pump and the motorcycle still electrically sick; but we are further along in having strong dependable transportation, all is good. Thank you Cy for all you did and accomplished.

In closing this mixed messages article I have one last story to pass on, last Thursday at work, one of our managers came in early 3 AM to catch up on work; to keep himself awake and motivated he cranked the store amplifier up to max. It blew, when it did it took the sound system and paging system down, down, down. All day long we teased the "to remain nameless manager" Thanking him for the gift of silence. But wait this is a gift that kept on giving because on Friday morning we were greeted with a new over-night-ed amplifier, but in the set up a stray switch was missed so the paging system

sounded just like the ones in airport's; Sportsman's became an international airport and we were all passengers waiting to depart from gates with numbers we could never quite understand. We cringed at having to use the paging system and the customers would cringe and then laugh with us as another garbled and feed backed squealed message was unleashed upon our ears. Yes some mistakes are blessing. The nameless manager received more teasing. Chase the wind and touch the sky.

Our fate is held inside ourselves we just need to be brave enough to see. The gypsy's know our future, but the angels know our past.

Till next we meet, I will ride; I will fly, chase the wind and touch the sky, Stephen

"When the cold wind is a 'calling  
And the sky is clear and bright  
Misty mountains sing and beckon  
Lead me out into the light

I will ride, I will fly  
Chase the wind and touch the sky

Where dark roots hide secrets  
And mountains are fierce and bold  
Deep water hold reflections  
Of times lost long ago  
I will read every story  
Take hold of my own dream  
Be as strong as the seas are stormy  
And proud as an eagle's scream

And touch the sky  
Chase the wind  
Chase the wind  
Touch the sky"

From Disney's Brave

*"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after" Henry David Thoreau*





# August / September 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
An August quote: The ship was named the Bounty: I was appointed to command her on the 16th of August 1787. William Bligh Read more at <a href="http://www.brainyquote.com">http://www.brainyquote.com</a>					<b>1 August</b>	2
3	4	5	<b>6 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair</b>	<b>7 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair</b>	<b>8 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair</b>	<b>9 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair</b>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	<b>26 No Meeting</b>	27	28	29	30

	<b>1 September</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	<b>23 Club Meeting</b>	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Bring your fishing tales about your summer exploits and share them with all of us!!

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Visit our website at [www.alpineflyfishers.org](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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