

THE TYING BENCH

THE SNAKE FLY *...another favorite Snook fly*

Another excellent fly for snook is Lou Tabory's Snake Fly. This fly was developed for striped bass along the New England coast and is nearly as popular as Lefty Kreh's Deceiver. The Snake Fly has proven to be very productive for many other fish from New England to Florida including spotted sea trout and redfish. Depending upon the type, color and quantity of the materials you use, the Snake fly can imitate slim bodied or medium bodied baitfish. It has a rough noisy head and a slinky body with lots of natural movement. The Snake Fly is easy to tie and uses only four common materials.

Materials:

- Hook – size 4 – 2/0 Mustad 3407 or similar
- Thread – 3/0 monochord or flat-waxed nylon
- Tail – six saddle hackles (my preference) or a bunch of ostrich herl and Krystal Flash, color to match
- Wing – two Marabou Blood feathers
- Head – Deer body hair

Directions:

Select six matched saddle hackles and stack them with the curve facing inward (not splayed). The tail is normally 1½ to 4½ inches long depending upon hook size. Ostrich herl will produce a fly with more movement but is not as robust as saddle hackle. Tie the tail in near the hook bend. Four or five strands of Krystal Flash may be added just ahead of the tail tie-in point. Fold the KF in half and tie-in just ahead of the tail and separate the strands equally to each side.

Tie in two marabou blood feathers on top of the hook half way between the bend and the eye of the hook extending half the length of the tail. Be sure to leave the front third of the hook shank bare for the spun deer hair head.



Lou Tabory's Snake Flies.....tied by Paul Sequira

Spin a head of several bunches of deer body hair. Thick hair works best, don't use the very fine hair, which is better suited for use on cadis hair wing flies. Let the points of the first bunch form a collar around the marabou. The second and if necessary, third bunch of hair should be spun to a somewhat loose head. Trim the head flat on the bottom and round off the top and sides to form a bullet shape.

Notes: The action of this fly depends on the size and density of the head, don't pack the hair tight like a bass bug, you don't want to create a floating fly. If you choose long slim hackles, sparse marabou and slim head, you'll create a nice slim profile baitfish imitation. Short wide spade type hackles and full marabou wing with a wide head will produce a fuller medium body shape. Note the two flies in the picture. They are within ¼ inch of each other in length but the choice of materials makes the tan fly appear much longer and slimmer than the white fly. An all white fly is very productive, especially for snook and is one of Mark Hays favorite go-to flies. However, we have found that other colors are also productive; all white with a red or orange head has been a good choice.