

Give careful consideration to these recommendations the next time you go out with the long rod. Concentrate your efforts on trying to understand what your intended target is seeing at the end of your leader. I'm sure that observing these rules will increase the number of strikes and hookups to a level that will pleasantly surprise you.

A FFF certified fly casting instructor, Capt. Pat Damico, guides in lower Tampa Bay as well as surrounding water offering fly and light tackle trips. He can be reached at 727-504-8649, or through his website www.captpat.com where more information is available.

Fly Tying Bench - Ada Potato Fly by Ken Hofmeister

Ken Hofmeister was inspired to craft this fly while watching granddaughter Ada playing with her toy duster that featured fine green and blue 3-inch polyester fibers. Ken is always on the prowl for cheap fly tying material so he talked a three year old out of a toy and went to the vise. The finished fly works great on trout and ladyfish day or night.

Materials

- **Hook:** Mustad 3407 DT Size 4 sharpened
- **Tail:** Blue and green duster polyester fiber material 3 inches long, one strand each of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl. Either white, yellow, or pink 2-inch buck tail or hackle. Metallic braid.
- **Flash:** Orvis blue Flashabou.
- **Thread:** Danville flat-waxed nylon in yellow, white, or pink.
- **Eyes:** Bead chain or 5/32 brass eyes.



Tying Instructions

1. Be sure granddaughter doesn't see the desecration and mutilation of her cherished toy.
2. Pinch down barb and sharpen hook before securing it in vise and attaching thread from eye to bend of hook. Half hitch helps here.
3. Select a *sparse* amount of green and blue polyester fibers and place on top of hook with one end extending up to the eye. Attach to hook at bend. Attach a single strand of fiberglass cloth and peacock herl to top of hook at the bend. Select three strands of flashabou and fold over thread at mid-point and secure to hook with several wraps of thread.
4. Fold excess material from eye of hook over bend of hook and tie securely.
5. Rotate hook and tie *very sparse* 2-inch yellow, white, or pink buck tail or hackle flat against the hook shank on underside of hook.

6. Position bead chain or 5/32-brass eye against material near bend of hook against the folded excess material and tie on.
7. Wrap metallic braid from eye of hook over bead chain eyes and tie securely wrapping thread and tying off ahead of bead chain.
8. Whip finish and apply head cement to thread and a coating of clear nail polish to metallic braid to ensure that the fly will withstand at least 21 trout and a few ladyfish attacks.
9. Field test with intermediate or sink-tip line along edge of flats or under lighted docks.

Everglades Outing by Mark Hays and Tom Gadacz

The weekend of April 25-26 was marked by a fishing and even some catching adventure to Florida's Everglades. We almost caught 100 fish but not individually. The catch included bass, blue gills, oscar, mayan cichlids, and peacock bass. Mark Hays caught the peacock bass in addition to some large bluegills. Annie Hays also pulled in a few. The water was high, the wind strong and catching fish was a challenge. Due to the high water small clousers were the most effective flies. The dining was fine at 84 Cafe and Grumpy Dicks. 84 was better.



Tom Truckenbrod with oscar



Don Manning with mayan cichlid



Joe Dail with oscar cichlid



Dinner at Grumpy Dicks



Ted Rich & Bob Castellano in a Gheenoe



Don Manning with bass

Photos by Joe Dail and Ken Hofmeister

FUTURE OUTINGS BY Richard Oldenski

- June: Floating the Hillsborough River
- July: Anclote River
- August: Alligator Lake
- September: 4th Street North
- October: Carl Hanson Memorial Tournament