

# Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Fly-Tying Classes

## Basic Fly-tying Tools and Materials For Beginners

All materials needed for Beginning Fly Tying courses are provided in class, but students must provide the needed tools. The essential tools for fly tying are:

1. Fly-tying vise
2. Scissors
3. Bobbin and thread
4. Bodkin
5. Hackle pliers
6. Hair stacker
7. Whip finisher, although whip finishes can be tied by hand
8. Dubbing wax
9. Head cement

Although materials needed in class for Beginning Fly Tying are provided, beginning student usually accumulate an inventory of supplies adequate for tying additional copies of the demonstrated flies and for tying a variety of flies not covered in class. The following materials are sufficient for tying many such flies. This list of materials might be considered the "core" or "beginnings" of a fly-tying materials inventory. This inventory will not be sufficient for tying all trout flies, but it will be adequate for many flies known to be effective in local waters.

**Thread:** Black, gray, and olive in sizes 6/0 and 8/0

**Hooks:** Dry fly (fine wire), nymph (heavy wire), and streamer (heavy wire, long shank) hooks. The most common sizes of hooks for Wisconsin's Driftless Area are approximately #14-20 for dry flies, sizes #14-18 for nymphs, and sizes #6-12 for streamers.

### **Feathers and Hair:**

Feathers: pheasant tail, turkey tail, marabou, wood duck or mallard flank, goose biots, peacock herl, duck wing feathers, rooster dry-fly hackle (see below), hen wet-fly hackle (see below)

Hair: natural deer and elk hair, natural or dyed bucktail, white calf tail, moose mane or body

### **Hackles:**

Dry fly hackle: rooster cape (or half cape) in grizzly, brown, and medium dun.

Wet fly hackle: brown or ginger hen cape; medium dun hen cape; Hungarian partridge skin; starling skin

### **Dubbing materials:**

Natural furs in colors to match desired insects: muskrat, beaver, or microfiber dubbing for dry flies; hare's mask, possum, or squirrel for nymphs

Synthetic fibers: antron or antron blends (adds sparkle)

### **Body Materials:**

Chenille: black, brown, and olive, small

Antron or polypropylene yarn, white

Ribbing: medium gold/silver mylar tinsel, medium copper wire, fine silver and gold wire

Non-toxic wire, fine (.015") and medium (.020") (for weight)

Craft foam, 2mm black

Rubber legs, black and white, medium