



## Editor's Eddy

It's been a while since you've seen an issue of this magazine, but obligations – mostly a duty casually referred to as “making a living” – dragged me away from my desk (and home) for a considerable period of time. In fact, while off supervising a small mineral exploration program west of Sudbury, I saw late winter turn into spring and spring turn into blazing summer. In addition to not partaking in the annual trout opener pilgrimage, I missed the Forum for the third year in a row.

Others have told me that this year's very successful Forum was somewhat dampened – and understandably so – by the death of long-time member Ted Knott only a few days prior to the show. Ted was a mainstay and icon of this region's flyfishing community, and the loss of both him and his contributions to club and other local activities will leave a noticeable vacuum. This issue is therefore dedicated to Ted whose memory will live on in the name of Trout Unlimited Canada's new Hamilton – Halton Region chapter.

In addition to his accomplishments outlined in the following articles (page 2), Ted was a co-founder of the successful Grand River Cane Rod Builders gathering in Bellwood. He competed internationally for Canada, was a pro for rod-maker G. Loomis, guided professionally and wrote many articles for outdoor magazines. He was also recognized for his contributions to conservation.

We extend heart-felt condolences to his family.

*Bob Kuehnbaum, July 6, 2005*

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## Quotable / Notable Quotes

I like to think that when we are brought together in a common heritage and language, and brought to think deeply about the problems of an art as complex as fly-fishing, we will inevitably take more time to protect and encourage the sport; that we will respect our quarry and its environment, and respect with our hearts our great rivers and the quality of our pursuit.

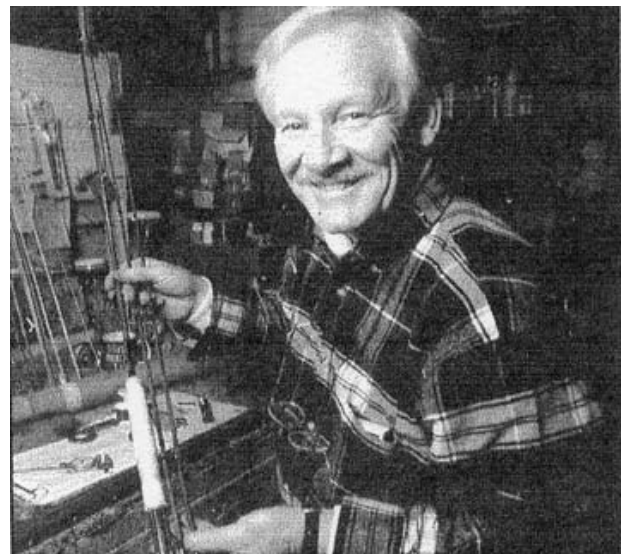
– Nick Lyons, *Fishing Widows*, 1974

Never throw a long line when a short one will serve your purpose.

– Richard Penn, 1833



Ted Knott  
1935-2005



## **Ted Knott: In Remembrance**

Ted was born September 4, 1935 and passed away April 4, 2005. Ted was a very gentle and generous person who never had a bad word to say about anyone. He opened his home to numerous flyfishers and split cane rod builders to teach and help them with their numerous questions and problems. Over the years, Ted generously donated to the *Canadian Fly Fishing Forum* a number of his cane rods that were auctioned off toward the benefit of fisheries conservation. For his many contributions, he was named a life member of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club at the Forum only a year ago.

He will be truly missed by us all.

A new Hamilton-Halton area chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada has been named after him.

*Ted Armstrong, President*

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The following article by Nicole MacIntyre appeared in *The Hamilton Spectator* shortly after the death of Ted Knott. It is reprinted here with the newspaper's permission.

### ***The consummate fly fisher. Ted Knott of Ancaster taught thousands of local anglers the art of fly casting.***

*If any other fly fisher had found the elusive spot on the Grand River where the brown trout bite, they'd likely have kept it to themselves.*

*Not Ted Knott. He told anyone who'd listen about his discovery, guiding them to the now famous "brown spot".*

*"Ted was like the ultimate gentleman," said fishing buddy Rick Whorwood. "Always kind, always giving."*

*Knott, 69, died Monday after a short battle with lung cancer.*

*An icon in the local fishing community, Knott taught thousands of local anglers the art of fly casting. A co-founder of the Hamilton Area Fly Fishers and Tyers, he was also known world-wide for his handcrafted bamboo fly rods.*

*Orders came from Japan, Italy and England for the rods painstakingly created in his basement workshop.*

*Her father's first choice was always fishing, said his eldest daughter, Sandra McMillan. The grass grew a little longer in the summer, as did her mother's to-do list, she recalled. There would be time for painting the house later, Knott would say.*

*His hobby became trendy for his two daughters when they were teens and feather earrings were in style. He fashioned a pair for each with his flies.*

*Family dinners of fish were frequent, of course. Knott would prepare the catch himself, flavouring it with limes and onions before wrapping it with tinfoil for the barbecue. "He wouldn't let any of us near it," she said. "King of the barbecue."*

*The ultimate test for the girls' boyfriends was a fly fishing trip with their dad. It wasn't so much mastering the art, explained McMillan, as it was bearing her father's silence. He wasn't a shy man, just one who only talked when it was necessary.*

*Knott taught fly fishing at Mohawk College for decades. A former co-op education co-ordinator for the Hamilton school board, he was always patient with his pupils, no matter how many rods whizzed by his head, said Whorwood.*

*As opening season approaches, it's hard to believe Knott won't be there, he said quietly.*

*"He was a strong fixture in the fly fishing world."*

*Knott could tell a fish tale as well as the next angler, but it wasn't really the catch that hooked him, said his wife, Jo.*

*"He liked to catch fish, but that wasn't the most important thing to him," she said, explaining his love for nature and the people he met in the water.*

*Even when painkillers left him heavily sedated in hospital in his last weeks, Knott's passion remained. His family watched with smiles as his hands moved, tying imaginary flies.*

*Since his death, numerous friends have called to express their belief that Knott has simply gone to fish bigger rivers. They're confident he'll have the prime spots picked out by the time they join him.*

## Club News & Events

### 2005 Forum Results

Ken O'Brien, Treasurer

I am very pleased to report that the financial results of the 29th Canadian Fly Fishing Forum, under the stewardship of Mike Rowan, were excellent.

Total revenues from all sources were \$42,250, an 18% increase over last year, and total profit was \$19,000, a healthy 320% increase over last year. The Forum itself, namely exhibit hall and seminars, earned a profit of \$8,300 compared to a profit of \$1,300 the previous year. The banquet earned \$1,200 compared to a loss of \$1,400 in 2004. After expenses, the Auction earned \$9,500, similar to last year.

Total Forum paid attendance was 900, made up of 323 Seminar attendants and 577 Exhibit hall attendants.

The success of this year's Forum will make the challenge of financing next year's Forum much easier. And more funds than in recent years can be set aside for conservation and special projects.

### Forum Note: A Happy Customer

*Once in a while, we get a chance to pat ourselves on the back for a job or jobs well done. Members of the Forum Committee can take satisfaction in this year's excellent financial results (see above) and in comments like those below. Must be doing something right! – Ed.*

Gentlemen: I would like to thank all of you for an outstanding weekend! My son and I had an outstanding time and look forward to future events.

Additionally, I would like to express my deepest thanks regarding the degree of hospitality extended from club members, hotel staff and paid participants. While partaking in a number of shows throughout the Northeast, I have to encounter one with such a unique atmosphere as yours.

Great job and keep up the fine work. Tight lines.

Steven C. Wascher  
Greenhurst NY  
April 24, 2005

### 2006 Forum Planning

Although about nine months away, organization for the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum** is well-advanced. You can mark your calendar for **April 8 & 9, 2006** at the same venue as this year's event, the **Burlington Holiday Inn**.

A number of speakers have already been confirmed, including: Jon Bissett, Jack Imhof, Paul Marriner, Thibault Milet, Bob Sheedy and Len Yust.

The 2006 Forum Committee will be co-chaired by Ted Armstrong, Don Moore and Mike Rowan. Several other key committee positions have been filled, but the organizers could use your help for any number of jobs, large and small. If you think it's your time to contribute to this significant event, please contact Ted Armstrong at 905-637-2058.

### Bass Outing



A warm-water excursion is planned for **July 16<sup>th</sup>** at Island Lake (a.k.a. Orangeville Reservoir), a body of water which has a healthy population of smallmouth bass and some pike.

The cost for the day is \$4.25 (\$2.25 for seniors) for entry into CVC's conservation area. There is a \$7.00 charge for the boat ramp, which may be unnecessary for tubes, pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks and the like. You are also responsible for your own safety. So if you bring up any sort of watercraft, please make sure you have an appropriate PFD and other required gear with you at all times.

**Elliott Deighton**, one of the true masters of the craft, will be putting on a warm-water fly-rodging

workshop between 11:00 am and noon. Elliott is bound to teach you something, so BE THERE!

Finding the entrance is easy. Drive north on Hwy 10 (Huronario St.) and turn right on Buena Vista Dr, the first street past Hwy. 9. Take the second left on (a different) Huronario St., and you're there.

For more information, please check the club website.

## Conservation Corner

### Conservation Workday Reports

*Pat Kelly, Conservation Chair*

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** WeCARE Tree planting between Hillsburgh and Erin along the Elora-Cataract Trailway. Trees provided by Erin Garden Club and Erin Scouts as part of Wellington County's Green Legacy Program. The rain and cold on this day was made worse by a nasty wind. Nevertheless, about fifty Guides and Scouts plus local WeCARE Committee members Mike Warrian, Pat Kelly. and CVC staff (Amy Doole, Heather Yates and Dave Beaton), made short work of about 1,200 trees. A barbecue warmed everyone up. The beautifully clear tributary of the West Credit along the trail here bears some investigating.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>:** Clean-up and garbage kiosk installation at The Grange and Sligo bridges. Another cold, wet day. A truck load of garbage was picked up along with the front end of a Jeep! The rather impressive kiosks were built by the Greg Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Afterwards, Roy & Lori DeGiusti hosted a barbecue.

Thanks go to the more than 16 volunteers, including members Dave Beaton (CVC), Mike Warrian, Brian Greck, Ken O'Brien, Ted Armstrong, Scott Wagner, Bob Thomson, Peter Pettos, Dennis Edell, and PK.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** WeCARE Elora-Cataract Trailway maintenance. At last a dry day! Attended by Keith Hibbard of the CVC and two summer students (& PK).

**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Dandelion Festival in Inglewood hosted by the Caledon Countryside Allegiance. A fun day, with rain only in the last hour. The IWFFC mini-booth and brochures were on display. Mike Warrian and PK showed about thirty people how to tie a woolly worm while discussing conservation and

WeCARE. (Dandelion sausages and ice cream are not bad!)

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Tree Planting along the Elora-Cataract Trail east of Erin, sponsored by IWFFC. About 200 cedars were planted along the banks of a tributary to the West Credit.

The project was funded by a grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources, supplemented by IWFFC funds. It's a pretty spot that will look even better in a few years.

The fun was enjoyed by Don Arthurs, David de Verteuil, Pat Kelly, Michael Klaptoce, Hank Kusano, Ken O'Brien, Michael and Erich Zimmer, plus the Zubicek family: David, Norma, and Jaromir. As well as organizing the event, CVC's Amy Doole cooked up some rather tasty burgers and hot dogs.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>:** The Erin Summer Festival. We got soaked in the morning, tied only 25 flies for the public, and did not sell as many tickets for the rod raffle as we would have liked. But the booth was always busy, and I believe we made a good impression on the public. WeCARE is beginning to happen!

**June 11<sup>th</sup>:** WeCARE tree planting in Hillsburg. The eleven people, mostly locals, who showed up planted 130 potted trees. Despite the heat and mugginess, we could have planted more, but there was altogether too much laughing and giggling. We had a good time and ate well. Highlight: watching a shiner trying to dig a redd while being harassed by a brook trout. Lowlight: PK. "Hey, there is a tree hole here with no tree and no fresh dirt. How can that be?" Dave Beaton: "We planted a cedar there last fall and someone yanked it out and threw it in the river". We recovered and replanted three of them.

### 2005 Remaining Workday Schedule

**Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>:** Joint TUC/IWFFC, Rogers Creek fish barrier mitigation.

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>:** IWFFC, Forks of the Credit log revetment #1.

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>:** IWFFC, Forks of the Credit log revetment #2.

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>:** TUC, WeCARE West Credit watershed tour.

**TBA, November:** Credit R. redd surveys.

## 2005 Electrofishing Schedule

This summer, the CVC electro-fishing crew was to monitor 43 sites across the watershed; only eight days remain. At the larger stations (listed below), volunteers are needed to help complete the work. The work is fun, and the reward is to help collect valuable data about the health of the river. All are on weekdays, except the last day – a Saturday. If you'd like to be a volunteer, contact [stewardship@creditvalleycons.com](mailto:stewardship@creditvalleycons.com). The schedule may change due to weather or other circumstances, so please consult the CVC website for any changes at [www.creditvalleycons.com/takingaction/electrofishing.html](http://www.creditvalleycons.com/takingaction/electrofishing.html).

<b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Credit R. at Ferndale (8-11)
<b>July 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Erindale Park at Dundas St. (10-13)
<b>July 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Credit R. at Forks of the Credit Provincial Park (8-11)
<b>Aug 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Credit R., Beech Grove Sideroad (5-7)
<b>Aug 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Credit R. Mississauga Golf and Country Club (11-13)
<b>Aug 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Credit R. at Terra Cotta Inn (9-11)
<b>Aug 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Credit R. up from Old Derry Rd. (10-13)
<b>Sept 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Silver Ck. Up from Hwy 7, Norval (4-7)

## Credit River Green Drake Monitoring

Henry Frania

*This preliminary report is based on data submitted by nine anglers after the Green Drake hatch, with another nine still to be heard from. If you made any observations on this year's hatch, and have yet to report them, please send them as soon as possible to [henryf@rom.on.ca](mailto:henryf@rom.on.ca). – Ed.*

This year, duns were reported between Sunday, June 5, and Wednesday, June 8. The spinner fall activity ended on June 10.

The most emergence activity reported so far was on the West Branch. On June 7 at 9:45 pm, Steve Copeland observed "Green Drake duns pouring off [the first riffle upstream of Belfountain Pond] at approximately 1 dun every two seconds," or about 30 duns every minute. On the same evening, an unidentified angler fishing the West Branch between the Credit Forks and the railway trestle saw "wave after wave" of duns flying off the water.

In contrast, the greatest amount of emergence observed so far on the main above the Credit Forks was between Brimstone Pool and the Forks where an angler reported 11 duns over a 45-minute period beginning at 12:00

noon, or a rate of 0.24 duns per minute. Things were no better downstream of the Forks, except at the pool just below the Dominion Street Bridge (Dominion Pool) where, on the evening of June 6, I observed five duns over a 4-minute period, at an emergence rate of 1.26 duns per minute.

The number of spinners seen on any beat was consistent with the number of duns seen emerging on that beat.

Assuming that a peak emergence rate of 0.24 duns per minute is now typical for the Green Drake section of the main river as a whole, except at Dominion Pool, and 30 duns per minute is typical of the West Branch, it follows that there has been at least a 125-fold reduction in the number of Green Drake nymphs surviving to maturity compared to the West Branch; expressed another way, a reach on the main river that might at one time have produced 10,000 duns during the hatch now yields only about 80 duns. The higher emergence at the Dominion Pool was undoubtedly due to drift of mature or nearly mature nymphs out of the West Branch before and during the hatch.

Last fall, I did some laboratory experiments from which I inferred that the young nymphs are unable to survive in the main river for any length of time owing to the contamination of the river bottom, resulting in poor hatches on the main river since the spring of 2002. It is hoped that studies to be carried out later this summer by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and myself will allow us to identify the nature of the contamination and exactly why the nymphs are dying.

## Fly Tying

### Choosing Good Rabbit

Daryl Crowley, West Michigan Hacklers

I absolutely love tying and fishing flies with rabbit strips, or as it is often called "Zonker Strips". Rabbit patterns have been around a long time and big rabbit flies that move a lot of water have accounted for a lot really big fish over the years. While the effectiveness of rabbit flies is not in doubt, the quality of many commercially prepared rabbit strips certainly are. A lot of commercial zonker strips are poor at best and some are downright worthless. While you can remedy some of the problems by buying rabbit skins, there are also good skins and bad skins.

There are several things you should look for when buying either zonker strips or rabbit skins.

Number one is the quality of the hide. The rabbit hide should be thin, soft, and supple. If it is too thick it will result in a strip that is too stiff and lacks good action or does not "palmer" well. When using longer strips such as in big streamers or strip leeches, some of the best action comes not from the rabbit hair but from the supple action of the hide itself and that requires a thin supple hide. Another thing to consider is the length of the rabbit hair. There is a wide range in the length of the rabbit hair attached to any hide. While the quality of the processed hide is controlled by the person doing the tanning and preparation, the length of the rabbit hair is controlled by the genetics of the rabbit. The longer the hair is, the better the action. The third consideration is the width of the strip being used. While the actual width required will vary depending on the fly pattern, most commercially prepared zonker strips are too thin for most medium to big streamer patterns and many are too thin for any kind of reasonable use. Remember the more strips they cut the more money they make per rabbit, which is hard to understand given the relatively low cost of even premium rabbit hides.

If you can locate a source of good dyed hides that meet the above criteria you can cut strips for all your needs with a good sharp razor blade. You can use a straight edge on the hide side and easily cut strips to the desired length and width you need. Make sure you use a new blade often as an even moderately dull razor blade will make it difficult to cut clean uniform strips while a new blade makes it easy. If you don't want to mess with cutting hides then check out the commercially prepared Magnum Zonker Strips. These are premium strips that meet all the above criteria. They are cut to a generous width which is ideal for nearly all situations. For palmering strips you can just cut the magnum strip length-wise down the middle and get two perfect palmering strips. The hair is long and thick while the hide is supple. The Magnum Zonker Strips truly provide a good measure by which to compare various other strips or to gauge how to cut your own from a premium hide. On a side note: I personally never use cross-cut zonker strips. These are primarily sold for palmering bodies. I find that using straight-cut zonker for palmering is actually easier. If you have a thin supple hide on your straight-cut zonker strip, just slightly overlap each wrap and you will produce a nicely palmered fly. The other problem with cross-cut strips is that they are not much good for anything else.

Hopefully these tips will help you when choosing sources for rabbit strips. Buyer beware! While you can find cheap hides in a craft store, the

hair is often too short. Don't hesitate to contact fly material manufacturers as they will often sell you dyed hides even if they don't advertise them. Except for the Magnum Zonker Strips (which is what I most often buy.), I never buy zonker strips or rabbit hides sight unseen. Be sure to buy zonker strips from a fly-shop where you can take them out of the bag and physically check them out thoroughly for the above criteria and you will find that it's much easier to tie, your flies will look better, and most importantly of all, they will fish better.

*Courtesy FFF's ClubWire email newswire service.*

## Book Reviews

Rod Rage; The Ultimate Guide to Angling Ethics  
 Edited by Rhea Topping  
 The Lyons Press; 2004; 292 pp; Hard cover  
 Suggested Retail \$22.95  
 Reviewed by John Colburn

Much of the present day writings are simply repetitions of the accumulated experiences and thoughts of our forebears, especially writings about fly fishing. Today's writers often restate the knowledge they acquired through reading the older books and articles, never crediting the earlier authors. A book that actually quotes the writings of earlier authors is to be treasured. Rhea Topping's *Rod Rage: The Ultimate Guide to Angling Ethics* is such a one. She had the honesty to quote rather than paraphrase her predecessors' works.

Ms Topping has searched the literature of fly fishing from the 15th Century's Dame Juliana Berners to the 21st Century's Federation of Fly Fishers' Chairman of the Board Gary Grant to find the best thinking about fly fishing ethics and etiquette. She has quoted often lengthy passages and complete articles from writings of more than sixty authors, many of the names well known in fly fishing circles.

In compiling *Rod Rage*, Ms Topping has not just accumulated other writers' work. She has written short insightful introductions to each author and closes the book with a summation of much of the thinking of the quoted authors. The final chapter "Some Dos, Don'ts, and Solutions" cover such problem areas as "Crowding: The Biggest Problem", "Respect for Other Anglers", "Some Options for Fishing in Crowds or With Friends", "On Rights-of-Way", "On the Environment", "On the Law", "On Boats", "The Client's Responsibility to the Guide", and "The Guide's Responsibility to the Client".

The book is illustrated with black and white photos and cartoons of some of the good and bad ethical situations as well as photos of many of the quoted authors.

In her "Afterword" Ms Topping wrote, "In my opinion, etiquette is far more important today than teaching students to cast effectively, to read water, to tie good knots, to catch fish. For in this ever-more-crowded world of fly fishing, if we forget our 'water manners,' it's all lost." *Rod Rage* ought to be required reading for any fly fisher, any angler who goes to a creek, river, lake, pond, estuary, flats, or blue water to enjoy the sport of angling without spoiling the sport of others. Rhea Topping is to be commended for compiling the thinking of these authors as *The Ultimate Guide to Angling Ethics* for us.

Courtesy FFF's ClubWire email newswire service

## Miscellany



IWFFC member Eli Garrett as (we hope!) wizardly flyfishing guru at Cold Creek Fly Fishers banquet, spring 2004. Is that Fishair under the hat, Gandollocks?

Photo courtesy of someone who does not want to be (or cannot afford to be) identified.

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When an un-named club member attended the May 15<sup>th</sup> outing to Humber Springs, a large rainbow grabbed his fly and took his valuable rod overboard. As the fish swam away from the boat, it jumped a few times. The angler spent the rest of the day looking for his rod, hoping that the coloured line would eventually float to the surface.

The next day, he returned with a scuba diver to search the pond. With only a few minutes of air remaining, the diver spotted the rod up against a slope near a bank. The fish was fortunate to have broken off, for had it not, it would have been mounted as a reminder of a very memorable – and costly – catch.

## More About Sutton Watson

Tom Shoniker

The article about Sutton Watson in the February, 2005, issue of this magazine prompted Tom Shoniker, an IWFFC member living in Kitchener, to do some serious archaeology. Here's what he dug up. Tom also pointed out an error in the article: George Uptegrove was the owner of *Angling Specialties* prior to the Chengs who bought the business in 1983. – Ed.

During a recent genealogical research session at the North York Public Library, I reviewed the old Toronto city directories. The firm *Sutton Watson and Co.*, sporting goods, is listed in the 1939 to 1941 issues on Richmond St. E. but not before or after. In fact, in 1938 the occupant was a food outlet, and the premises were vacant in 1942. Other locations before 1938 are excluded; there weren't any listings elsewhere in 1930, and 1935 to 1938, and 1942 to 1945.

I could not find a listing for *Angling Specialties* in the alphabetical listing 1942 to 1946. However, Fred W. Watson was listed in a fishing tackle classified section, the equivalent of today's yellow pages, from 1947 to 1961, the last year of my examination. From 1947 to 1955, the address was DeForest St. and then it changed to Belvale Ave. Again, the name *Angling Specialties* was not used.

The photograph of the pair in the *Single Haul* article evidently was taken during the time of their Richmond St. enterprise. Jack looks much younger than his quite senior years when I met him in 1960, and Fred is also much younger than the

illustration of him which, as I remember, was on the cover of his catalogue.

If George Uptegrove is mentioned in a future article, his devoted wife, Norma, should also be included - she was quite involved in the business and the two of them were a very pleasant pair. They were my main source of materials in those days.

Speaking of Jack Sutton ...

## The Vise Quad

Where members share favourite fly patterns

### Black Jack

Jim Wenger

Hook: TMC 200R 3XL, #8 to #14 ring-eye, extra-strong

Thread: Fluorescent red.

Tag: Fluorescent red thread.

Tail: Black marabou and pearl Krystal Flash.

Body: Black ostrich herl.

Rib: Pearl Krystal Flash.

Throat: Orange hackle.

Head: Fluorescent red thread with Krystal Flash as feelers.

1. Tie in thread and wind to bend and then back to hook point forming the tag.
2. Tie in marabou (length of body) at hook point.
3. Tie two strands of pearl Krystal Flash on each side of the tail, leaving them long. (We will trim them later.)
4. Tie in ostrich herl. Coat the shank of the hook with superglue and palmer the ostrich herl forward to head and tie off.
5. Tie in hackle beard style so the tips of hackle are just short of the hook point.
6. Now take one of the stands of Krystal Flash from the side closest to you and pull it forward along the side. Give it a couple of extra twists before tying it in at the head.
7. Repeat for other side of hook.
8. Trim so the Krystal Flash forms two short horns at front of the fly.
9. Trim the Krystal Flash in the tail to the same length at the marabou.

Fish this fly as a nymph or streamer in lakes, ponds and streams. The Black Jack is named for Jack Sutton, a famous Southern Ontario fly tyer from the 1950s who created the Ducky Darling. The Black Jack, based on the Ducky Darling's colour combination, has worked time and time again for rainbows and smallmouth bass while fishing in streams and from a float tube.



### Contacting IWFFC

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