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MATTI L

PIAN SOUTHALL

MICHAEL FA



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ROGUE HELANDER

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ZACK HARRIS

ROGUE HELANDER



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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLICATION - APRIL 2026 - MIGUEL BLANCO BLANQUEZ

DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLICATION - APRIL 2026 - VILLE TRINI

MIGUEL BLANCO



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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLICATION - APRIL 2026 - KENNETH EINARS

VILLE TRINI



NICK BENIK

DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLICATION - APRIL 2026



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KENNETH EINARS

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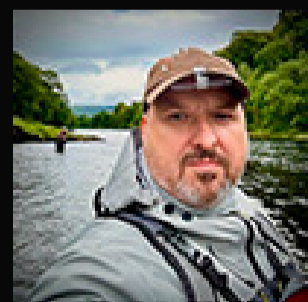
GUESTS

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Guests for this issue of DRAAD magazine are:

Adrian Southall - Fabio Federighi - Kenneth Einars - Mark Roovers - Matti Laakso - Michael Faunkilbury -
Migual Blanco Blazquez - Nick Benik - Ville Teini - Roger Helander - Zack Harris

Adrian Southall



Fabio Federighi



Kenneth Einars



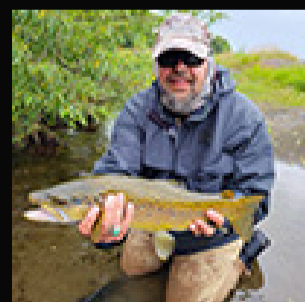
Mark Roovers



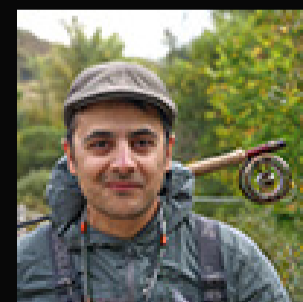
Matti Laakso



Michael Faunkilbury



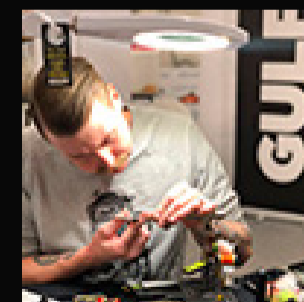
Migual Blazquez



Nick Benik



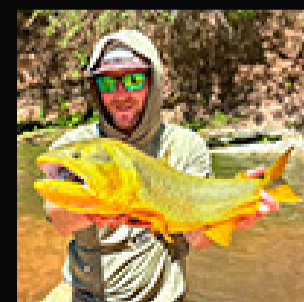
Ville Teini



Roger Helander



Zack Harris



MAGAZINE

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April '26

For this issue of DRAAD Magazine, we decided to give our contributors complete freedom. Meaning this issue has no theme or focus — each contribution reflects its author's own choice. As anticipated, this has resulted in a surprisingly diverse magazine.

DRAAD magazine is part of a platform where flytiers can showcase their work

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ADRIA

ADRIAN SOUTHALL

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ADRIAN SOUTHALL

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HALL



Adrian Southall

Adrian Southall

I'm originally from Chester in the north-west of England, though I now live in Staffordshire, close to the rivers that run along the Staffordshire – Derbyshire borders. These are the waters I fish most often – small, characterful rivers that hold both trout and grayling. In truth, though, I'll happily fish for anything that will take a fly.

Adrian Southall

My tying style leans strongly towards natural materials, often with a subtle twist on classic patterns. I have one philosophy – keep it simple. Most flies don't need to be complicated to work, and some of the most effective patterns ever devised prove exactly that.



Although I've fly fished for as long as I can remember, I didn't begin tying until about six years ago. Like with so many people, my turning point came during the Covid-19 lockdowns. When the rivers were out of reach and fishing wasn't possible, tying became the next best thing – dreaming about fishing while sitting at the vise.



My greatest fishing memories are all of fishing with my father, who passed away a year ago. Many of my early days on the water with him are what still drives my passion for the sport today.



In terms of influence, I've drawn a lot from the Catskills tradition of dry-fly tying. Tiers such as Ivor Simpson, Seth Cavarretta and Tom Mason have had a big impact on how I approach flies. What fascinates me about that style is the precision and elegance – simple materials arranged in a very deliberate way.



At the moment I'm tying a lot of early-season nymphs and emergers in anticipation of the new season. I've also been enjoying experimenting with Wonder-wing dry flies and playing around with moose mane bodies. Like many tiers, I tend to get completely absorbed in one technique or style for a while before moving on to something new.



18#



If I had to choose a favourite pattern of all time, it would be Lunn's Particular. This fly was devised by William Lunn, who later became head keeper for the renowned Houghton Club on the famous River Test in Hampshire. The pattern established itself as an excellent medium olive spinner imitation.

Traditionally it features:

- Wings: tips of cock hackle
- Abdomen: wrapped hackle rachis
- Thorax: hackled around the wings, often clipped underneath so the fly sits flush in the surface film.

It's a beautifully simple design and a fantastic fly whenever spinners are falling on the water.



16# xl

For anyone starting out in fly tying, my advice would be straightforward – practise and master the simple classics first. Those patterns contain nearly every technique you'll ever need. Once you understand them, creativity becomes limitless – the only real restriction is your imagination.

Adrian Southall



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Flyhooks



Ahrex VERY SALT fly tying competition

Always wanted to participate in a fly-tying competition but haven't gotten around to it yet? Then this is your chance. Together with Ahrex Hooks we are organizing a very salty fly-tying competition. This competition is, as the name suggests, about saltwater fly tying

Some additional info:

All hook brands are allowed!

Excluded from this competition are all the Ahrex ambassadors (sorry guys). Saltwater flies in all their diversity are allowed (tropical – cold water).

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Very Salt Fly Tying Competition
Ahrex ApS
Smedevej 24
DK-9500 Hobro
Denmark

Happy fly tying – Team weareflyfishing
&
The Ahrex Team



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"The grey ghost of the flats". Photo: The Fly Fishing Nation

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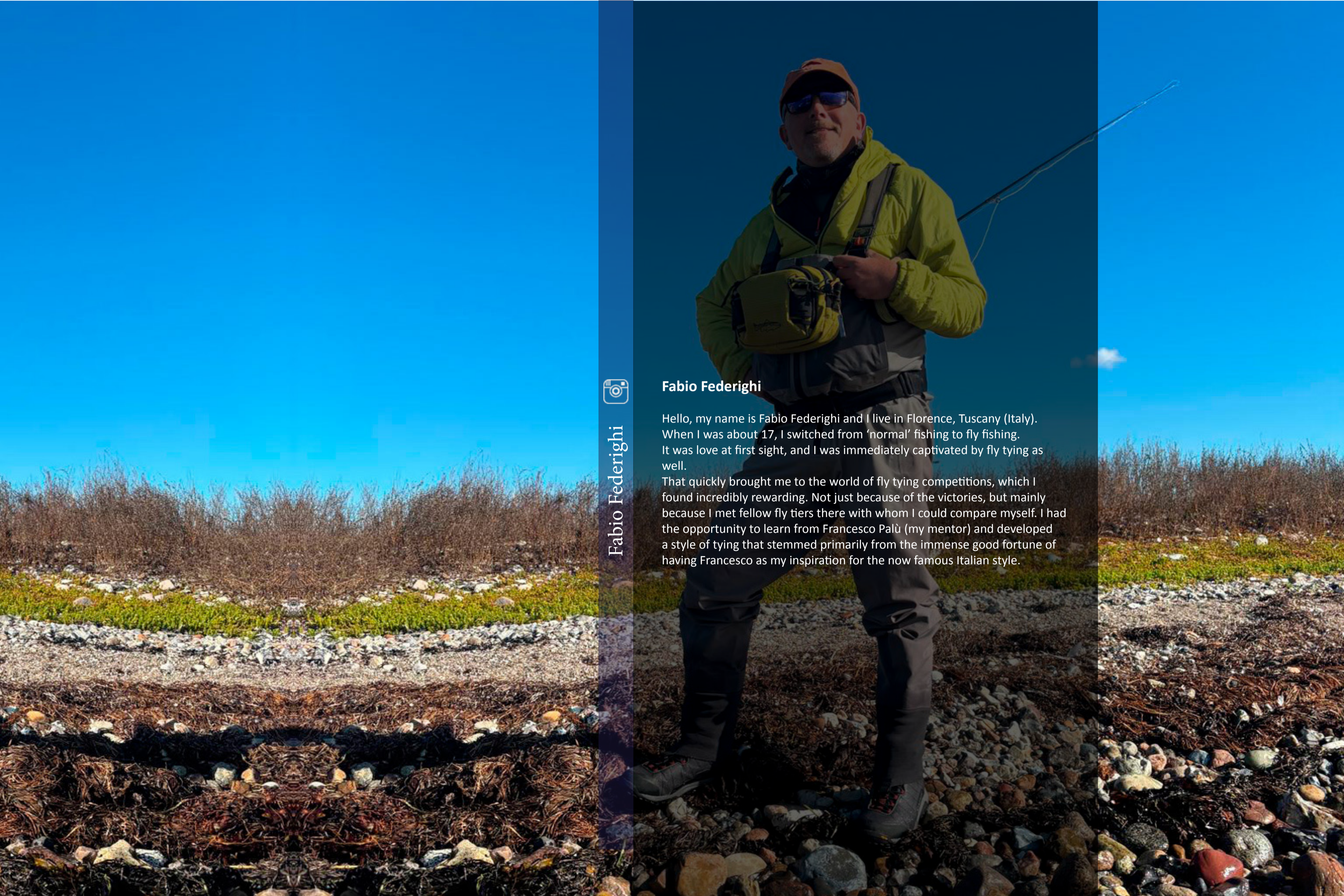


FABIO FEDERIGHI

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FABIO FEDERIGHI



Fabio Federighi

Fabio Federighi

Hello, my name is Fabio Federighi and I live in Florence, Tuscany (Italy). When I was about 17, I switched from 'normal' fishing to fly fishing. It was love at first sight, and I was immediately captivated by fly tying as well.

That quickly brought me to the world of fly tying competitions, which I found incredibly rewarding. Not just because of the victories, but mainly because I met fellow fly tiers there with whom I could compare myself. I had the opportunity to learn from Francesco Palù (my mentor) and developed a style of tying that stemmed primarily from the immense good fortune of having Francesco as my inspiration for the now famous Italian style.

I regularly present myself at international European fly festivals where I am invited to tie flies and sometimes give workshops. I am a pro member of team Ahrex Hooks and FlyFish Europe (and their brands). Gianluca Nocentini and I wrote the 'Manual of the Modern Artificial Fly Tyer'. I have collaborated with fly fishing/fly tying magazines, publishing many articles, and several of my interpretations of flies are included in various international books. With my friend Federico Renzi, after creating the Fly Tying Experience, we moved on to stage the most beautiful corner of Italian and foreign fly tyers that can be seen in Italy, namely the Italian Fly Tying Show.

In this article I have chosen to present *Ephemera danica* and *E. vulgata*, perhaps the mayfly most loved by fly anglers.

In fact, each of us dreams of being able to be present and fish during a Mayfly hatch (as we call them in Italy). The imitations are based on the Italian vision of fly tying, the Italian Style, that is, flies that have overall vitality and movement. I was the first to coin the term Italian Style, but the style was born from the vision of Francesco Palù who, with his inventiveness, created a style of fly tying that, through materials and their arrangement, gives movement and overall vitality to the lure. The exact opposite of the classic styles of fly tying.

Subsequently, a whole generation of Italian fly tyers led by him inserted their own visions into the style, giving it life, a style which, I repeat, would never have been born without Francesco. We're talking about over thirty years ago, and this style in Italy was created and perfected in a conscious and refined manner, not by chance.

In the imitations presented, I have tried to follow the entire life cycle of the danica mayfly, in order to cover different stages of evolution and use in fishing. In future articles we will be able to examine other types of insects such as caddisflies, stoneflies and terrestrials or smaller mayflies, always in the vision of the Italian Style.

With my friend Federico Renzi, after creating the Fly Tying Experience, we moved on to stage the most beautiful corner of Italian and foreign fly tyers that can be seen in Italy, namely the Italian Fly Tying Show.

NYMPH

Slightly weighted with a brass bead to
make it swim in the surface layers.



SURFACE EMERGING NYMPH
The emerging nymph must suggest a
crippled individual in the surface film.



SKATING DANICA WITH EXUVIAE (shuck)
Use it by moving it through the surface.



EMERGING DANICA



EMERGING DANICA





DANICA SPINNER

Fabio Federighi

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"The grey ghost of the flats". Photo: The Fly Fishing Nation

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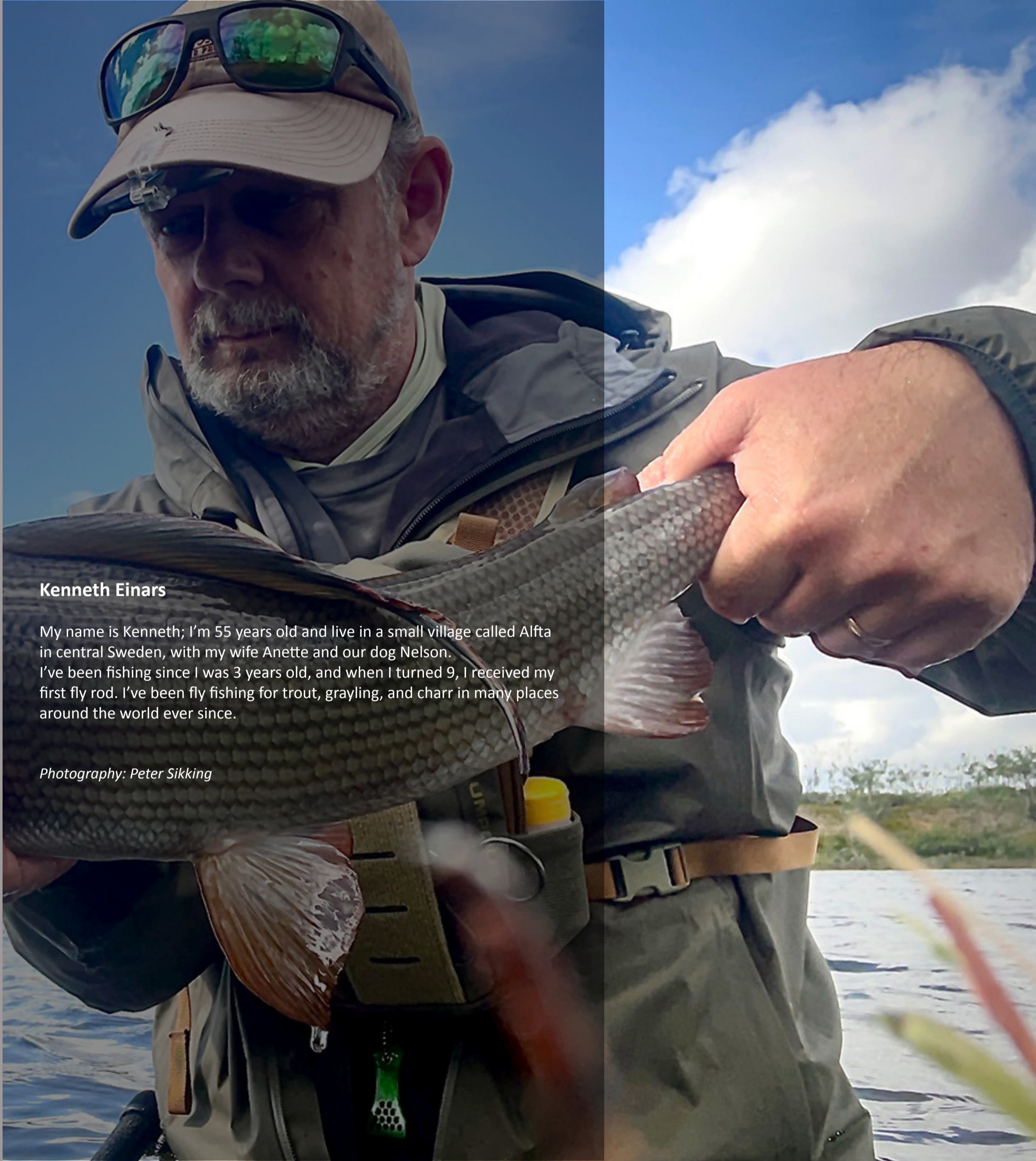
KENNET

KENN

KENNETH EINARS



Kenneth Einars 



Kenneth Einars

My name is Kenneth; I'm 55 years old and live in a small village called Alfa in central Sweden, with my wife Anette and our dog Nelson. I've been fishing since I was 3 years old, and when I turned 9, I received my first fly rod. I've been fly fishing for trout, grayling, and charr in many places around the world ever since.

Photography: Peter Sikking



When I was 12, I started fly tying as an elective course at school. Since then, the amount of time I've spent tying has come and gone in waves, but for the past 15 years I've been tying flies consistently several times a week, especially in the winter when I can combine fly tying with daydreaming about upcoming travel destinations.

Ephemera vulgata

What I like to tie most of all are dry flies, and I like to tie them to look as lifelike and true to their natural counterparts as possible.



The waters near my home are mostly lakes, small ponds, and a few small streams, and they are teeming with mayflies and caddisflies; this has strongly influenced my tying technique and patterns.





Leptophlebia marginata



Caddis pupa (foam)



egg laying caddis

Phryganea grandis (adult)



Kenneth Einars

AHREX GIVEAWAY

staying warm with Ahrex

What is your Ahrex moment?
Let us know, and win this knitted beany.

please send your submission to info@weareflyfishing.com



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MARK ROOVERS

MARK ROOVERS





Mark Roovers

Mark Roovers

My name is Mark Roovers, and I started fly fishing and fly tying about 36 years ago. I'm an all-around fly tier and enjoy fishing in nature areas in the south of the Netherlands (such as the Biesbosch). I also love to fish in Scandinavia — Norway and Sweden — as well as the hill lochs in Scotland.

Mark Roovers

In addition to this fantastic hobby, I work as a Health, Safety, and Environment Manager at Industrial Bakeries. I am married and live in the southern Netherlands (Etten-Leur). In the Netherlands, I enjoy fishing for orfe, rudd, asp, and carp, and in other countries, I enjoy fishing for trout, grayling, and sea trout.





In addition to fishing, I enjoy giving workshops to help beginner fly tiers get started and seeing their first patterns and photos of the first fish they've caught.



What I enjoy most about this hobby is sharing knowledge and supporting one another in a friendly atmosphere. I'm a member of the following pro teams: Ahrexhooks, Deercreek, and Troutline, and I'm always open to experimenting with new materials and tying techniques. After all, this is a hobby where we never stop learning!



I've been attending various fly-fishing shows across Europe, where I enjoy showcasing my fly-tying patterns and skills at their Fly-Tyers Rows, more and more. So I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to come and meet me.

Stay safe,

Mark Roovers





1 MINUTE TIP EASY LEGS

When it comes to elevating your flytying skills, it's the small things that matter. If you already understand and master the basics of thread tension and material manipulation, the devil as we say, is then in the details.

Over the past few years, I have produced a series of fly-tying tips and published them on my Instagram account [@frank.brassard](#). In these tips, I demonstrate techniques that will make your flies more durable, easier to tie, and better proportioned. Some of these tips require a bit of practice, while others are surprisingly simple.

The tip I'm sharing today is one of the latter category. A tip that makes you wonder why you hadn't thought of it before.

So I invite you check out my instagram page and take a look. Leave me a message with your thoughts, and if you find value in it, share it with someone who might benefit as well.

Fly tying is a lifelong learning experience. A skill honed slowly over countless evenings behind the vise. It's a craft developed through practice, research, and sharing.

Frank Brassard



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"The grey ghost of the flats". Photo: The Fly Fishing Nation

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*Matti Laakso
Handsonlyfisker*

MATTI LAAKSO

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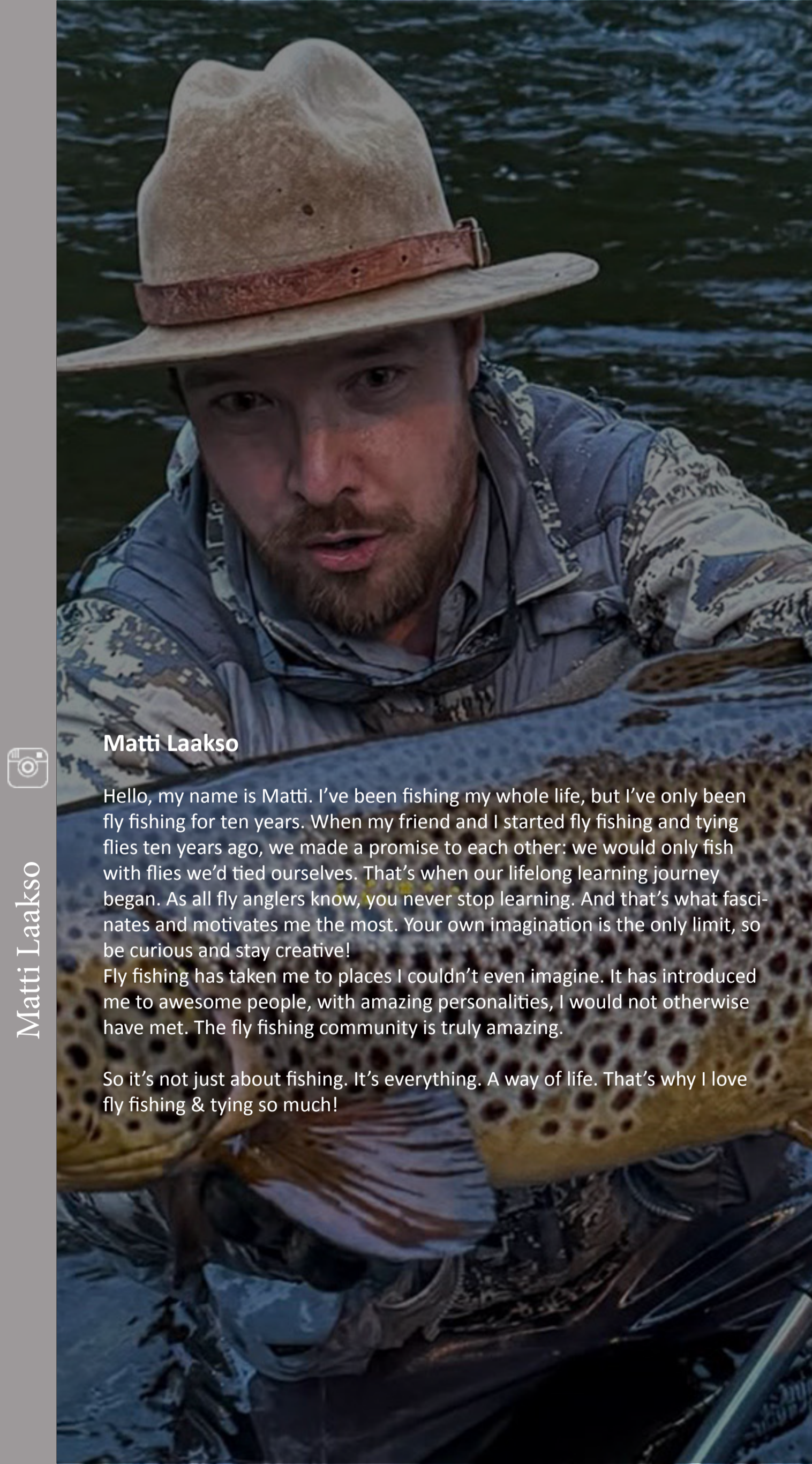
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MATTI LAAKSO



Matti Laakso

Matti Laakso

Hello, my name is Matti. I've been fishing my whole life, but I've only been fly fishing for ten years. When my friend and I started fly fishing and tying flies ten years ago, we made a promise to each other: we would only fish with flies we'd tied ourselves. That's when our lifelong learning journey began. As all fly anglers know, you never stop learning. And that's what fascinates and motivates me the most. Your own imagination is the only limit, so be curious and stay creative!


Fly fishing has taken me to places I couldn't even imagine. It has introduced me to awesome people, with amazing personalities, I would not otherwise have met. The fly fishing community is truly amazing.

So it's not just about fishing. It's everything. A way of life. That's why I love fly fishing & tying so much!



EDITORS NOTE

Because Matti has several tutorial links included, I decided to place them at the end of every selection (dry, streamer, nymph). The video tutorials are more than worth checking out!



DRY FLIES



DRY FLIES

Spring brings with it the promise of summer. Nature is awakening, the days are getting longer, and the warmth is causing the first fish to emerge. After a long winter, the fish are busy replenishing their energy reserves.



For me, the fly fishing season begins in the spring. I fish for pike in my local waters, and then I head to Italy to fish for marble trout and brown trout. Then in late May and early June, it's time to fish for brown trout with streamers in central Finland, when the small baitfish swim into the rapids. After that, it's time to fill the fly boxes for the upcoming fly-fishing expeditions in the summer.





Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher

Being a versatile fly tier, I enjoy tying a variety of patterns—from dry flies and streamers to nymphs, both realistic and simple. Every time I sit down at the fly-tying vise, I strive to learn something new. I'm always on the lookout for new inspiration to improve my craft.

*Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher*





Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher

TUTORIAL

TUTORIAL

Dry flies

- Handsome Caddis

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CinOUBCDdWI/?igsh=MWdhDh6jBpMm1vNA==>

- Mäki Pupa (deer hair pupa)

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DTnNdhRjBtd/?igsh=c2ppNndvOTE4YXQw>

- Streaking Caddis

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DUils3cjOmX/?igsh=M2JvMWhyNDE0cHk1>

- Mayfly Spent Spinner:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CuCVsQgMqZ9/?igsh=MW52YTQ4YjRvOGlsOA==>

STREAMERS



*Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher*

STREAMERS

*Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher*



*Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher*





Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher



Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher

TUTORIAL

TUTORIAL

Streamers

- Realistic Deer Hair Mouse

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CiJ-ZdxApLB/?igsh=ZHJ6azRmODVsNHdk>

- Handsome Shane Sculpin

<https://youtu.be/cgYDYzodm6w?is=06ReiZk86Z0zdw0v>

- Craft Fur Baitfish

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DWH1bvZDBAN/?igsh=MTBiYW50dGFnbzhqbQ==>

NYMPHS

Ultimately, the most important thing is that your fly meets your own standards. If you're happy with the result, you'll enjoy using it more—and hopefully the fish will notice it too!

*Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher*



NYMPHS



Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher



Matti Laakso
Handsomeflyfisher



TUTORIAL

TUTORIAL

Nymphs

- Gammarus - Slovenian Style Scud

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DV_s7UxjMzU/?igsh=NTh2Z3UyaWRydmQ5

Matti Laakso

SEATROUT BIBLE *giveaway*

YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT IT!

Just send us a message including the words **seatrout & Fyn**
and get this book!!



117
**FINE
FISHING
SPOTS**



Win an Ahrex Flexi Stripper

TO GET ONE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW US!
JUST INSPIRE OTHERS WITH YOUR STORIES AND
LIFESTYLE, **AND WE FOLLOW YOU!**

CRISTIANO CESARE DUBBING WAX

100% natural - 100% handmade in Italy

Searching for new gear and new or improved materials is part of the job. It is also something I especially enjoy. All the more so when I discover products that are emerging alongside established brands, or products you might not think of at first, or might have taken for granted forever.

Take for example fly-tying wax. This is not the first product that comes to mind when you search online for new stuff; not by a long shot. Which makes it all the more surprising when you read — and experience for yourself—how much love and passion, as well as research and expertise, has gone into such a product.

Having said that, a few weeks ago I came across a range of fly tying waxes manufactured by Cristiano Cesare. I was, of course, familiar with the fly tier Cristiano Cesare, but I had no idea he was into producing and marketing fly tying wax as well :) plus, his emphasis on properties as handmade and 100% natural, made me want to know more.



Product details

The square solid wax (dubbing wax) is designed to secure hair or dubbing to your tying thread. It is ideal for touch dubbing, and is also a great choice for making large brushes for pike streamers. The jar contains a solid dubbing wax and comes with an applicator stick (so you can easily apply the wax to the thread). The black solid wax, with the orange sticker, is an original cobbler's wax; a mixture of waxes and pitch, or tar. It is the traditional wax used by shoe makers ('cobblers') for tacking and reinforce their heavy sewing thread. This wax helps materials adhere better to your thread, but also strengthens your tying thread and darkens its colour – making it slightly translucent. It is ideal for salmon flies, especially for keeping thread and materials used in making heads remain exactly where you place them. The normal wax (green sticker) is designed to help materials adhere better without darkening the thread. These last two waxes are made according to old recipes.

Cristiano Cesare Cobbler Wax

- 100% natural wax
- Sticky and Precise
- Leather Patch included
- Handmade in Italy



Bottle & adjustment stick

- 100% natural dubbing wax
- Sticky and precise
- Suitable for any kind of dubbing
- Perfect for dubbing loops
- Handmade in Italy

Cristiano Cesare Fly Tying Wax

- 100% natural wax
- Sticky and precise
- Handmade in Italy



Square;

- 100% natural wax
- Sticky and precise
- Handmade in Italy





Cristiano Cesare wax is available at:

Like a River - 54 Dean Street - Bigstreamers - The Fly Store

CRISTIANO CESARE WAX GIVEAWAY

Good news: we get to give away 3 sets of Cristiano's fly tying wax. Just send us a mail message containing the words Cristiano and Wax, and we'll make sure you will be included in a draw for these Cristiano Cesare wax sets.

please send your submission to info@weareflyfishing.com



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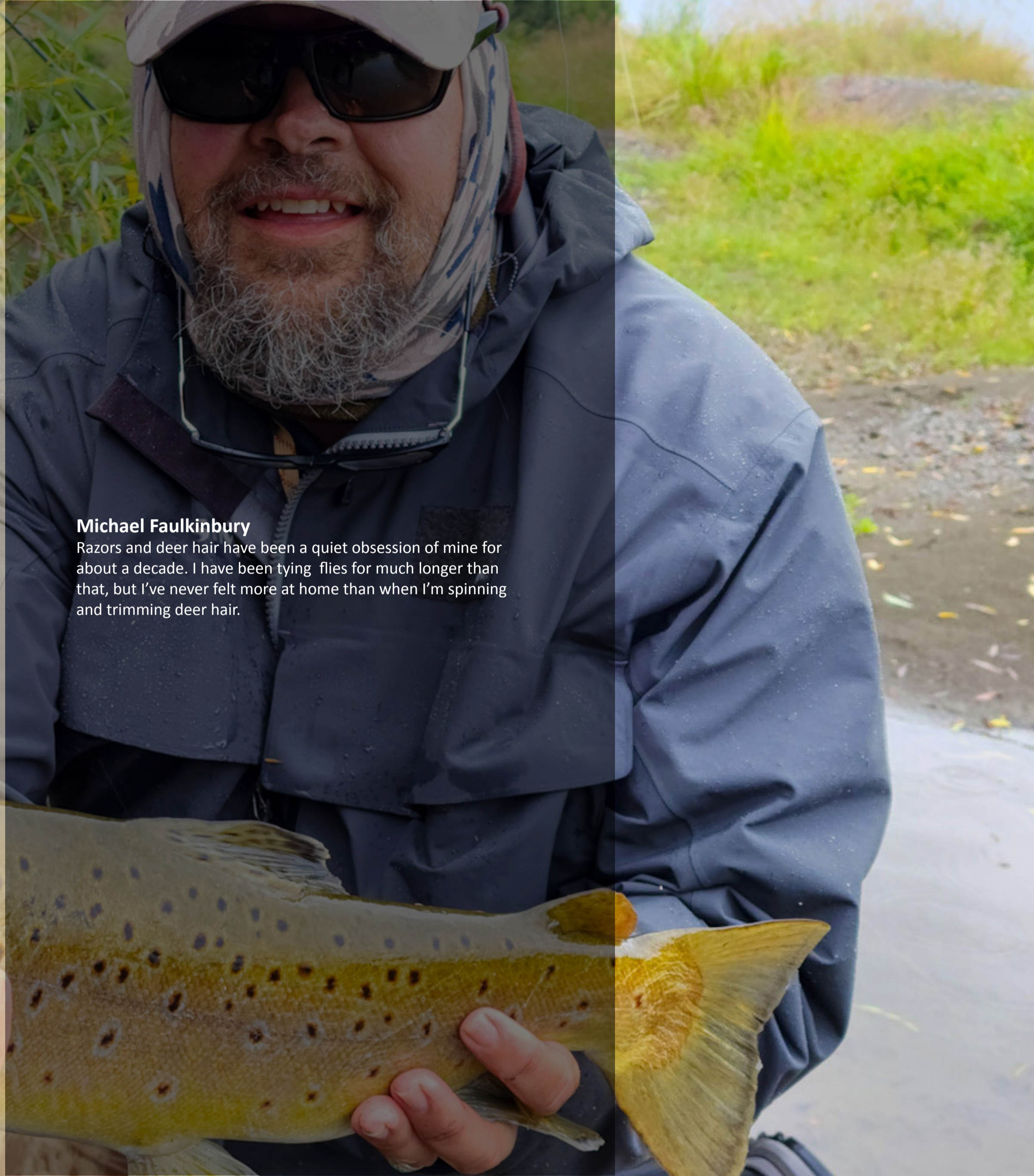
MICHAEL FAULKINBURY

ULKINBURY

ULKINBURY



Michael Faulkinbury



Michael Faulkinbury

Razors and deer hair have been a quiet obsession of mine for about a decade. I have been tying flies for much longer than that, but I've never felt more at home than when I'm spinning and trimming deer hair.

I began with muddler minnows and classic deer hair poppers, then drifted into more trout-centric hair bugs, Goddard & Henry sedges and a deer hair ant of my own design.









My proving grounds are the waters of the western United States, from finicky Arizona trout to warmwater bass and carp. Whether I'm tying for a contest or simply filling a fly box, I try to keep my imagination fully engaged at the vise.



Materials I use most:

Deer hair

CDC

Biots

Saddle hackle

Pheasant tail

Threads:

Semperfli nano silk, and classic waxed.

Hooks:

Barbless; Dohiku, Hanak

Barbed; Daiichi, Partridge, Tiemco.



Michael Faulkinbury



THE WINNER OF THE Ahrex Flexi Stripper IS

Ben Verburgh

please contact us Ben at: info@weareflyfishing.com

Ugly flies that catch fish

If you look at the flies people show on social media you might just get the idea that only perfectly tied flies will catch fish. But nothing could be further from the truth. I would almost go so far as to argue that the opposite is much more likely: the uglier your fly the better it attracts fish.

Nonsense of course, but you will certainly agree with me that now and then we cannot but wonder what it is that lures a fish to a fly that has been chewed to threads. Hence my idea for this section: ugly flies that catch fish.

Ugly

If you like tying and fishing Ugly flies:

Hook: any dry fly hook in size 12 - 18

Body, thorax, wings: brown Polypropylene floating yarn

Text, tying, & photo: Peter Sikking



Rackelhanen

(originated by Kenneth Boström)

Rackelhanen is an unusual fly, originated by the Swedish trout- and grayling legend, Kenneth Boström in 1967. Kenneth Boström is well known in Scandinavia and originator not only of this quite excellent fly, but also the Rackelhanen fly rod, which is/was a three-piece rod with a split cane bottom section and two carbon fiber tip sections.

Lars Chr. Bentsen

For the entire article by Lars Chr. Bentsen:
The Rackelhanen - Ahrex Hooks

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - APRIL 2026 - MIGUEL BLANCO BLAZQUEZ



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Miguel Blanco Blazquez

Miguel Blanco Blazquez

My name is Miguel, I'm 41 years old, and I live in northern Spain, between Asturias and León.

Miguel Blanco Blazquez

I started fishing when I was ten,
and by the time I was fourteen, I
had started tying my own flies. It
was difficult, but incredibly exciting,
and I'll never forget the first trout I
caught with a fly I'd tied myself.







Fly fishing morphed from a hobby to a job when I became a professional fly fishing guide. As a guide, I focus on matching the hatch: the right proportions, the right shape, and the right colour.







Very often, you'll see a fisherman's fly box filled with flies that look absolutely stunning, but it's usually the unassuming ones, tucked away in some corner of the box, that catch the most fish. Therefore, I always tie my flies with the goal of catching fish in mind, rather than the way they look. I love hairy and insect-like flies.

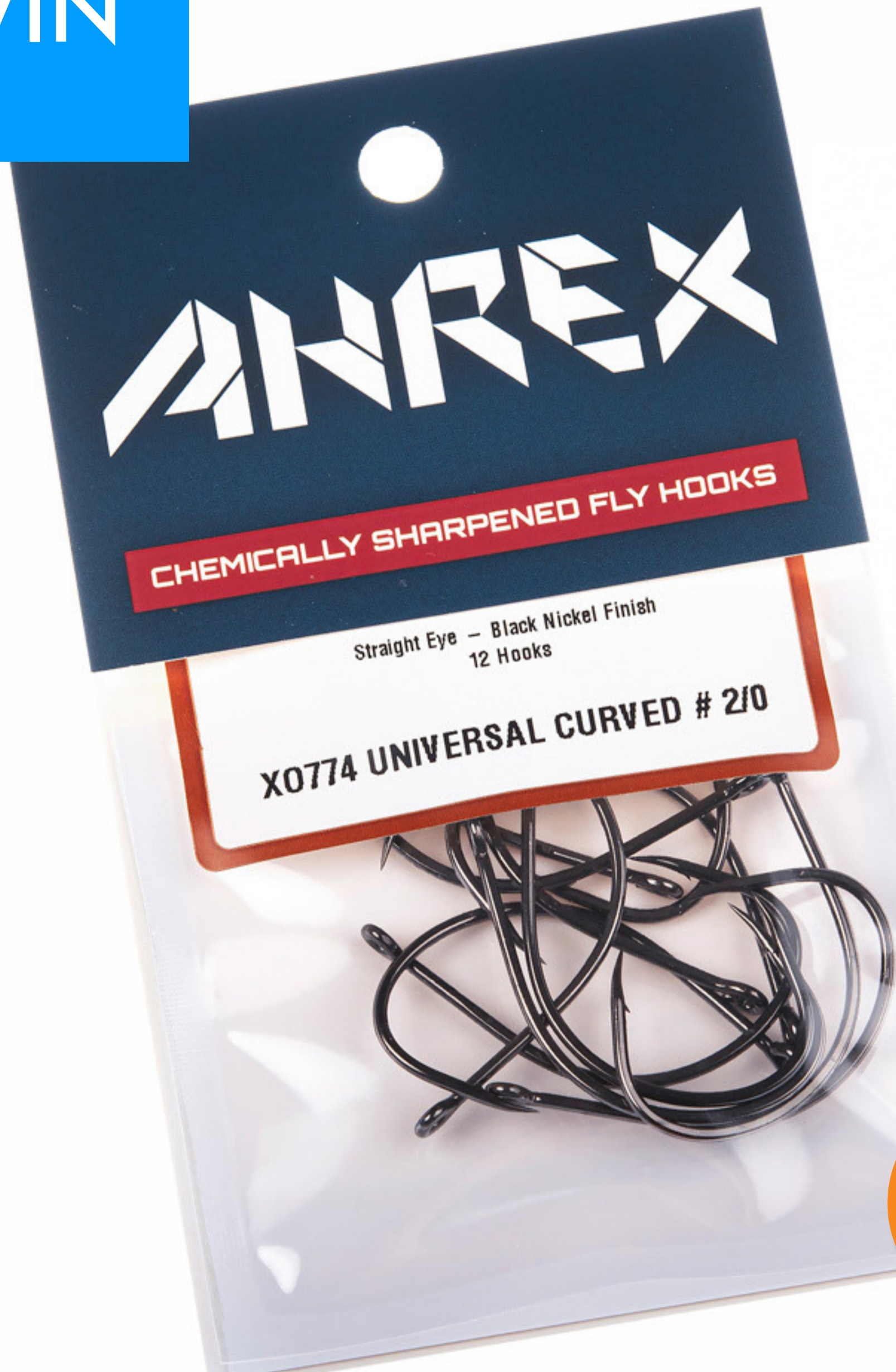






Miguel Blanco Blazques

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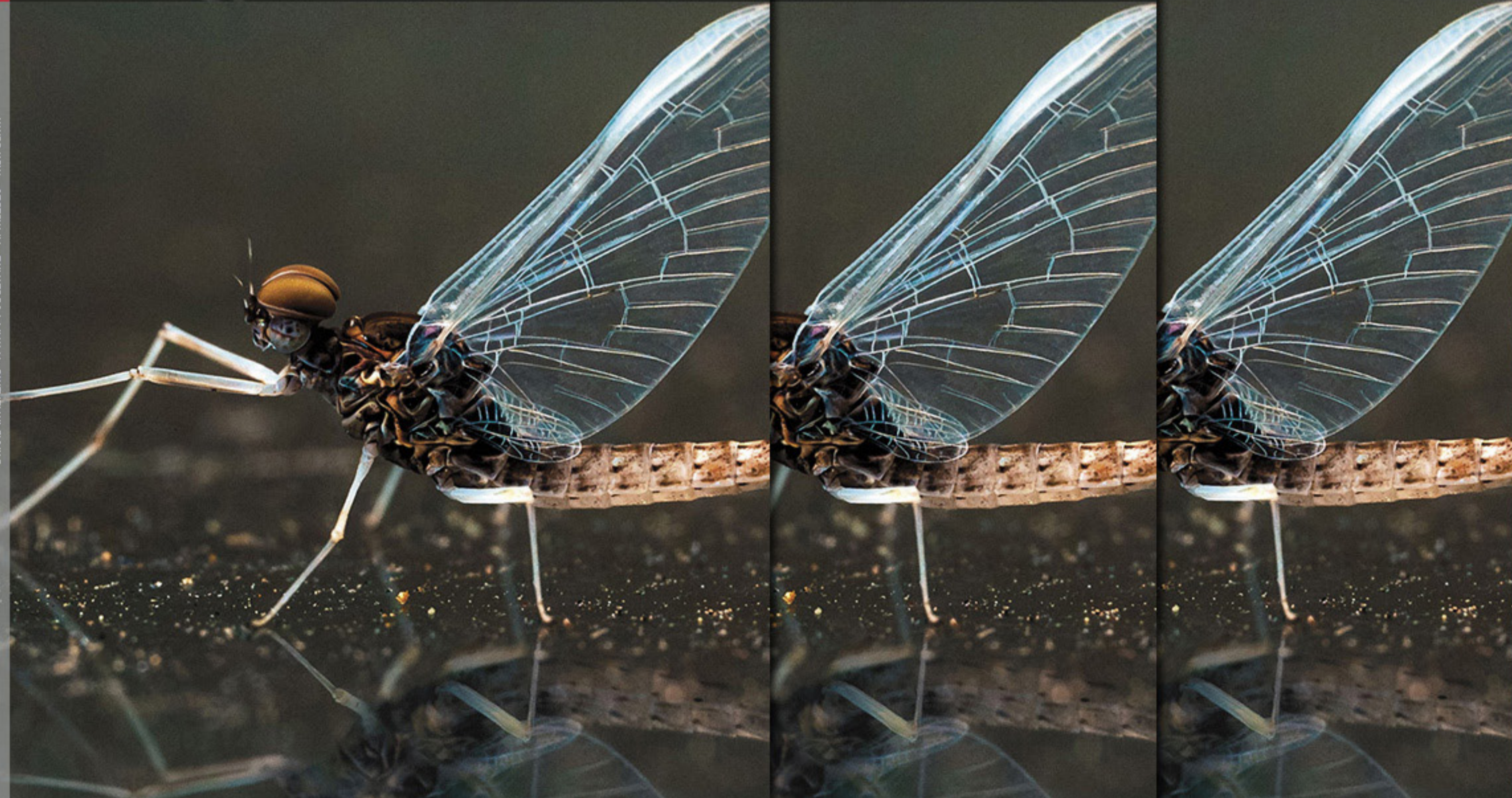
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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - APRIL 2026 - NICK BENIK



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Nick Benik

Nick Benik

My name is Nick Benik, and I've had a long and winding relationship with fly fishing and tying over the years.

I was fortunate enough to have lived in Evergreen Colorado for a couple of years as a kid, where I saw someone fly fishing for the first time, at the local town lake. From that point on, I was captivated. Soon I found myself going on long library visits where I'd check out every book or video I could find on the sport, and quickly became interested in tying as well. None of my family or friends really fished, so this was a solo endeavour, but for some reason it became all I thought about. Eventually I got a small starter fly tying kit and began tying wooly buggers, simple nymphs, and traditional dry flies.

The local lake had a dam, and below it was a small creek that my Mom would drop me off at each weekend to fish, explore, learn, and really start to connect the dots between what I would find under the rocks and what the trout were eating.







A year or two later, we moved to Florida and I fell out of touch with fly fishing. Things like music, surfing, photography, and traditional spin fishing for inshore saltwater species took its place.







Years and years later, I finally bought an 8wt flyrod and dusted off my old fly tying kit to try to target the snook, redfish, and juvenile tarpon found in the lagoons and canals where I lived. Although I found some success, I was very rusty, and this was also short lived.



It wasn't until another move, to Nashville for work, that I finally fell in love with fly fishing again, and tying quickly followed once I realized there were prolific mayfly hatches on a few famous southern tailwaters only a 5 hour drive from my house. This time I was hooked for good.

I met my wife in Nashville, and as luck would have it, we moved back to Colorado just before the pandemic changed the world. With world class trout water only an hour away, and fishing being one of the few activities that were safe at that time, I immersed myself and started tying seriously around 2020.



I already had an Instagram page for my photography, but in 2023 I decided to combine both passions and created my current page: [@photographicflytyer](#). Although it was only meant as an artistic outlet, it quickly took off and became a way for me to connect with so many amazing tyers and fishers in this industry.



These days, I split my time between my job as a creative director for a biotech startup, fly tying, photography/videography, fishing, and most importantly learning how to be a father to my amazing little girl. Saltwater fly fishing is the next frontier for me, and if you look at my content these days, it has definitely shifted in that direction, although I still live and fish in Colorado and absolutely love the pursuit of trout. That's where it all began for me, and you can still find me flipping over rocks and collecting bugs to this day.

Nick Benik



Ahrex Bendback

In collaboration with Australian Chris Adams we developed the Bendback hooks.

'Being able to put the fly where it needs to be and fishing around structure without fear of snags or weed fouling, is worth its weight in gold. The bend back hook design offers the angler a fly that makes this possible without the need for a weed guard.'

AHREX

CHEMICALLY SHARPENED FLY HOOKS

Bendback Hook Design – Micro Barb
Black Nickel Finish – 12 Hooks

PR358 CA Bendback # 1/0



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Ahrex Curved: Ton Krabman

Ahrex beanie: Justin LaRue

Seatrout bible: Wilco Rakhorst

winners, please contact us at info@weareflyfishing.com



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WINNER

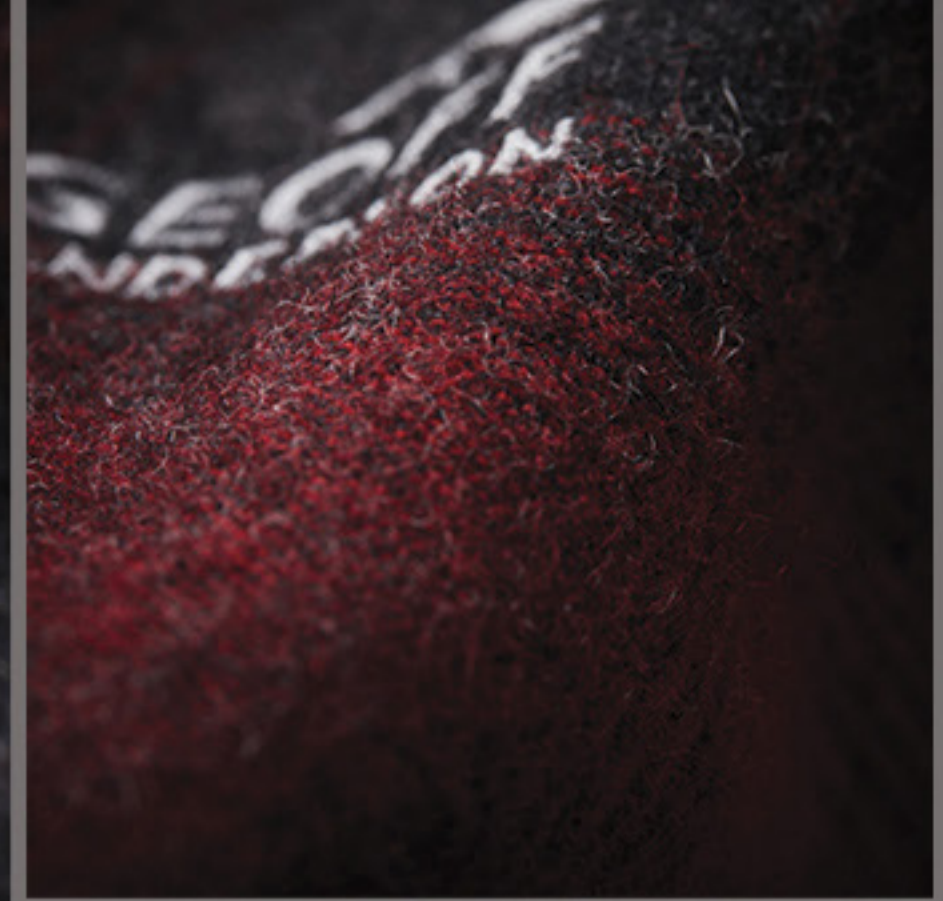
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size XL

IS:

Piotr Wieczorek

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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - APRIL 2026 - ROGER HELANDER

ROGER HELANDER

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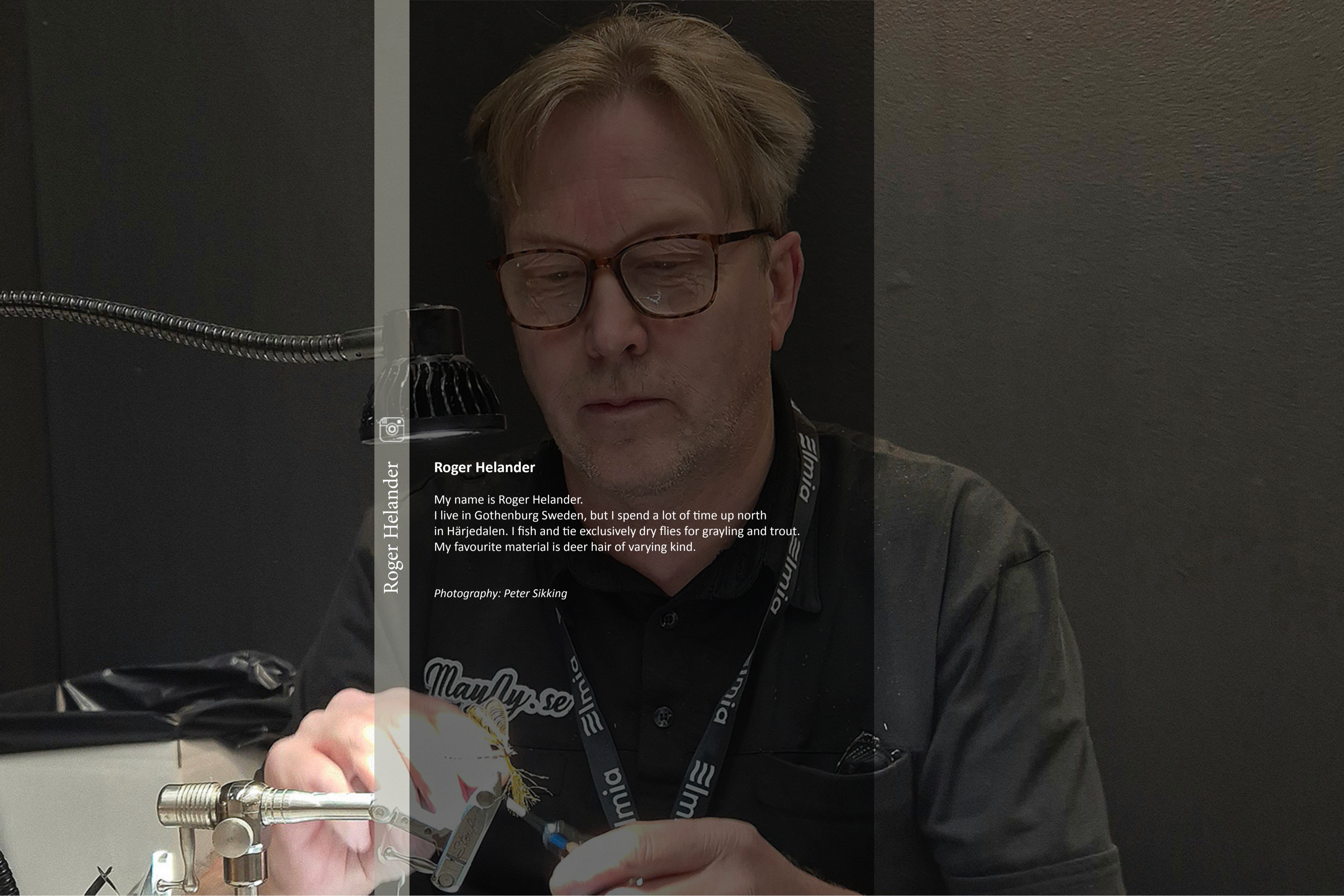
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ROGER HELANDER

ROGER HELANDER



Roger Helander

Roger Helander

My name is Roger Helander.
I live in Gothenburg Sweden, but I spend a lot of time up north
in Härjedalen. I fish and tie exclusively dry flies for grayling and trout.
My favourite material is deer hair of varying kind.

Photography: Peter Sikking









Roger Helander



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VILLE TEINI



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Ville Teini

Ville Teini

As a father of three, living in Finland with its long winters, I don't always get to choose when to go fishing:) In such cases, fly tying is the perfect solution. It is both therapeutic and inspiring at the same time. It lets your mind wander off to the upcoming season and relive the moments of rising trout accepting your fly in the nightless nights of Finnish Lapland.



From time to time I really like to tie realistic flies, though using only the simple materials from the lowly pheasant. On the other hand, as a competitive fly angler, simple nymph patterns tied production style can be as inspirational as tying a realistic stonefly.





I never plan a fly in advance or watch instructional videos; the inspiration comes straight from my head. Often, it comes subconsciously from a few beautiful photos by a fellow fly tier, or even more often, from a memory of a great sunset.





Constant learning equals evolving – I hope – trying to solve the endless mystery of why a fish accepts an artificial fly, or not, is what makes – for me – tying the best way to briefly distance myself from the hectic life as a Sales Manager.



Inspiration is everything to me at the vise. It regularly happens that I very much want to tie a fly, but when it doesn't feel right, it doesn't work.



Materials?

Creativity has no boundaries but it's always wise to respect traditions. Remember that even the most fancy and realistic flies are just series of simple flies tied in a row.

All and all, Hare's mask is my favourite material (to date).

Ville Teini



Ahrex giveaway: hooks



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DRAAD MAGAZINE - A WAFF PUBLISHING - APRIL 2026 - ZACK HARRIS



ZACK HARRIS

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HARRIS



Zack Harris

Zack Harris

My name is Zack Harris and I'm from Texas. I've been fly fishing for 14 or 15 years, and tying for somewhere between 10 and 12. Although I'll fish for anything that swims, common carp have been my main focus for the past several years. They're a wonderful species, and I can't seem to get enough of them.

Shenron

Hardware: Gamakatsu C14s size 6, large bead chain, .030 lead wire lift kit

Tail: Standard size mop, burned to a taper

Body: Dubbing loop of alpaca dubbing

Wing case: 2mm foam

Collar: American Hen Hackle

Head: Dubbing of choice



Crawfish Étouffée

Hardware: Ahrex FW550 size 8, medium Chicone's Stealth Chain, .030 lead wire lift kit

Tail: Two pieces of standard ultra chenille split, tipped with fabric paint by a ball of Awesome Possum dubbing, Hareline Daddy Long Legs

Body: Dubbing loop of alpaca dubbing

Collar: Whiting Farms American Hen Hackle

Head: Awesome Possum dubbing blend



Hare Raiser

Hardware: Daiichi 1760 size 10, medium bead chain, .030 lead wire lift kit

Tail: Rabbit fur cut from the hide

Body: Antron dubbing

Collar: American hen hackle, dubbing loop of rabbit fur, round silicone legs

Head: Antron dubbing



Jack

Hardware: Daiichi 1760 size 10, medium bead chain, .030 Lead wire lift kit

Tail: Barred chickabou

Body: Antron dubbing

Collar: Hareline Daddy Long Legs, American hen hackle

Head: Antron dubbing

Zack Harris





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