



International Federation of  
**FLY FISHERS**

Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing

# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Crackle Back

February 2014

Written and Photographed By: Kit Seaton

Creator: Ed Story

Tyer: Ron Fisher

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you Ron Fisher of Billings Montana. Ron is a long time fly tying instructor and active member of the magic City Fly fishers. I have for years surrounded myself with the most talented tyers around, but Ron holds the distinction of being the artisan who first taught me to tie. I met Ron in the late eighties when he was the instructor of my first fly tying class. Here it is some 25 years later and I am still inspired by Ron's creativity. If I was going to write a Fly of the Month column it only made sense to honor the instructor that got me started.

When I first approached Ron about tying for the article, he had all sorts of elaborate flies that he wanted demonstrate. Most of which were overwhelming for my first project. We discussed several options and settled on one that has become a regular fly in Ron's fly box. Today we will be introducing you to the "Crackle Back". The Crackle Back is a very versatile fly that is a great attractor pattern that can be fished both as a nymph and a dry fly.

We do not see this fly that often in the west, but Ron tells me that it is a popular fly back east. The fly was created by Ed Story of Feather Craft and can still be seen in their logo today.

### Materials

Hook – TMC 200R size 8 to 14

Thread – 8/0 Black

Shell Back - Peacock Herl

Body - Yellow or Light Green Floss

Hackle- Brown

## Tying Steps



### Step 1

**Make a thread base from the eye to the bend of the hook.**



### Step 2

**Select three or four strands of peacock herl and trim the tips. Tie the peacock down the length of the hook leaving the mass of the peacock hanging from the bend of the hook returning the thread back to the eye of the hook.**



### Step 3

**Tie in the brown hackle by the butt end of the hackle at the bend of the hook leaving the mass of the feather hanging from the bend of the hook. The hackle should be dull side out. Return the thread to the eye of the hook.**



#### **Step 4**

**Tie the floss down the length of the hook leaving the mass of the floss hanging off the back and return the thread to the eye of the hook. Then wrap the floss forward and tie the floss down and trim.**



#### **Step 5**

**Pull the peacock forward over the top of the hook shank. Tie down the peacock and trim off the excess peacock.**



#### **Step 6**

**Palmer the hackle forward in even spaced wraps. When palmering the hackle, make the hackle fibers so they are cupped to the head of the fly. Tie off the hackle and trim off the extra. Build a head, whip finish, cut off thread, and apply head cement.**

#### **Closing Comments**

**Ron says that when he fishes this as a nymph he has his best luck when he gives the fly a little action.**

**Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly.**

**This is the guest tyer's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.**

**Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.  
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at  
[flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org).**