

# It's official: the Nova Scotia Fishing Fly

Last fall I was asked to join Don MacLean and Brian Sweeney in March to select the winners of a contest to design a signature fly for Nova Scotia. The contest was the idea of Tony Rodgers, executive director of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters. "I was browsing the Nova Scotia government site and noticed that we had an official dog, bird, flower, rock and a bunch of others, but no fishing fly," Tony told me. Knowing New Brunswick had one, he felt it was time we got in the game. His efforts were supported by the Atlantic Sport and RV Show, Atlantic Fly Fishing School, Fishing Fever, Inland Fisheries, and NovaScotiaFishing.com.

The general concept was to find a fly that recognized Nova Scotian symbols such as our flag, used a reasonable blend of natural and artificial materials, could be tied by the majority of fly tyers, and was suitable in size and shape for promotional purposes. And, while the quality of the tying was not the primary selection criteria, a submission did have to show the kind of care in dressing one would expect from a publicized winner.

We reviewed 76 entries from far and wide and quickly reduced the field to a dozen or so. After some good-natured



figure 1

Classic variation of the Nova Scotia Fly

to-and-fro, the group settled on the top four. Unfortunately that meant that some innovative ideas and fine work was left unrecognized.

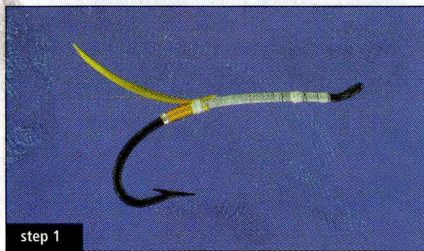
Our consensus winner was created by Bill Carpan of Stillwater, Nova Scotia. Although we (the selectors) were unaware of it at the time, Bill had created a series of patterns based on the same design. In addition to the winning hair-wing salmon design, the series includes a trout wet fly, a saltwater streamer, a muddler-style

pattern, and a couple of classic salmon fly variations.

Bill is a longtime member of the St. Mary's river community, including a stint as president of the association and twenty-two consecutive years on the board. Influenced by several well-known Bluenose tiers, including World Champion Jim McCoul of Brookfield, Bill has spent 30 years developing his skills. As you will see, his entry is more than worthy to be adopted as our provincial fishing fly.

## Nova Scotia Fishing Fly

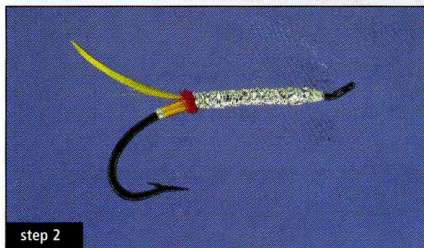
- Hook:** Partridge Bartleet Supreme - sizes 2, 4, & 6.
- Thread:** White 8/0 UNI-thread.
- Tag:** Extra-fine oval silver Lagartun varnished French tinsel and golden yellow silk or rayon floss.
- Tail:** Two golden pheasant crests.
- Butt:** Fluorescent red wool dubbing.
- Body:** Silver Diamond Braid.
- Underwing:** Four strands forest green Krystal Flash.
- Wing:** White calf tail.
- Hackle:** Silver Doctor blue hen hackle folded and tied collar style to lay rearward.
- Head:** Fluorescent red 8/0 UNI-thread finished with two coats of Angler's Corner Glossy Wet Head Cement.



step 1



step 3



step 2



step 4



### Tying Steps

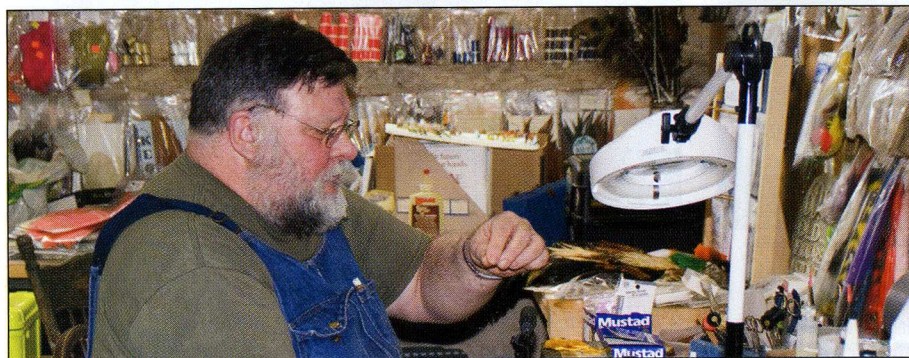
1. Attach the thread behind the eye and wind rearward to a point above where the barb leaves the hook point. Attach the tinsel, wind the thread forward and follow with three wraps of tinsel.

Tie off the tinsel and take the thread forward to rest above the hook point. Tie in the floss, wrap rearward to the tinsel and forward again and tie off. Place two golden pheasant crests together and tie in.

2. Dub a tiny amount of red wool on the thread and create a small butt. Attach the Diamond Braid and, following the thread, wind forward to within an eye-length of the eye.

3. Attach the Krystal Flash underwing and cut to extend rearward to the butt. Add a small bunch of calf tail for the wing - it should extend to end of the tail.

4. Tie in by the tip and fold the hackle, take two winds forward ensuring the barbs lay slanting rearward. Tie off, change threads, then finish the head. The fly in figure 1 was tied by Bill Carpan.



Bill Carpan, creator of the Nova Scotia fishing Fly