

## Saturday, January 8 Free State Fly Fishers' Fly Tying Session 10 AM-12 PM

### Harry Murray's River Smallmouth Bass/Sunfish Patterns<sup>1</sup>

This Fly Tying Session will focus on tying several of Harry Murray's most effective fly patterns when fly fishing on rivers with smallmouth bass and sunfish species. Be sure to bring the following fly tying tools with you if you have them: vise, bobbin, bobbin threader, bodkin, 6" ruler, scissors hackler pliers, sharpening stone (optional), and pliers (optional). The club has vises and many of these fly tying tools available at the clubhouse for use by members so no worries if you don't have access to everything listed above. I will be bringing all the hooks and fly tying materials for tying all four patterns, but please bring your own thread in black, orange, and tan colors.

#### **Murray's Hellgrammite**

**Hook:** Mustad 9672 Sizes 4, 6, 8 and 10

**Thread:** Black 3/0

**Body:** Black large chenille

**Extended Rear Body:** Ostrich herl to match the body color

**Hackle:** Saddle or cape hackle to match the body color

**Pincers:** Black rubber

**Eyes/Weight:** Barbell eyes, small 6/32



This easy to tie fly is a must for your smallmouth bass fly box. Worked along the bottom of your favorite smallmouth bass stream or river, it's one of the best ways to pull out good sized-smallmouth bass. The

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<sup>1</sup> From "Murray's Fly Shop Exclusive Fly Pattern Tying Instructions", a series of excellent fly tying books by Harry Murray available from his fly shop in Edinburg, Virginia or online at [www.murraysflyshop.com](http://www.murraysflyshop.com). My fly tying library includes the 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2018 versions, covering 92 different fly patterns each with color photos, lists of materials and very easy to follow written tying instructions.

pattern can be tied in black, olive and brown colors. Recommend having flies in each of these colors in your fly box as both the light conditions you are fishing in as well as depending on where you are fishing, using these different colors will make a difference in your cast to catch ratios.

### **Murray's Skunk Road Kill Nymph**

**Hook:** Mustad 9672 Sizes 4, 6, and 8

**Thread:** Black 3/0

**Body:** Black large chenille

**Tail:** Black rabbit fur strip

**Hackle:** Saddle hackle to match the body color

**Legs:** Black round rubber

**Eyes/Weight:** Barbell eyes, medium



This unique pattern has an amazing underwater action with all the rubber legs pointing out in all different directions supplemented by hackle. It stimulates a nymph tumbling down a river without attempting to match a specific species. And yes, part of the required fly tying skills for this fly are tying a fly that looks like a hot mess! The messier this fly looks, the more natural it will look! That's great news for us fly tiers.

### Murray's Blond Perch Bucktail

**Hook:** Mustad 9672 Sizes 4, 6, and 8

**Thread:** Orange 3/0

**Body:** Yellow large crystal chenille

**Wing:** Orange and yellow bucktail and red krystal flash

**Tail:** Orange and yellow bucktail and red krystal flash

**Weight:** Lead free medium wire



This is a very effective pattern on a bright sunny day when cast across the current and slightly upstream and allowed to swing through the current and then retrieved with short strips. This fly represents a small to medium sized green sunfish.

### Murray's Crayfish

**Hook:** Mustad 9672 Size 6

**Thread:** Tan 3/0

**Feelers/Pinchers:** Ringneck Pheasant Tail Fibers

**Body:** Medium ginger chenille

**Legs:** Brown saddle hackle

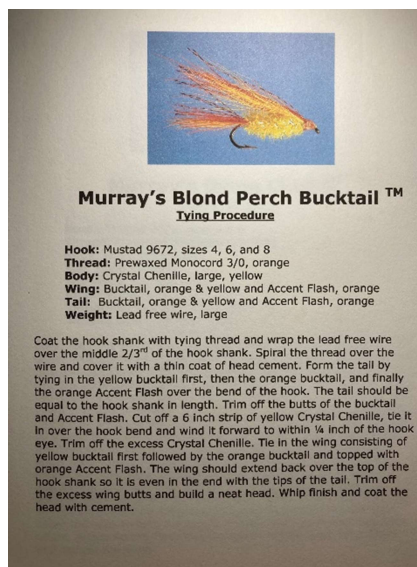
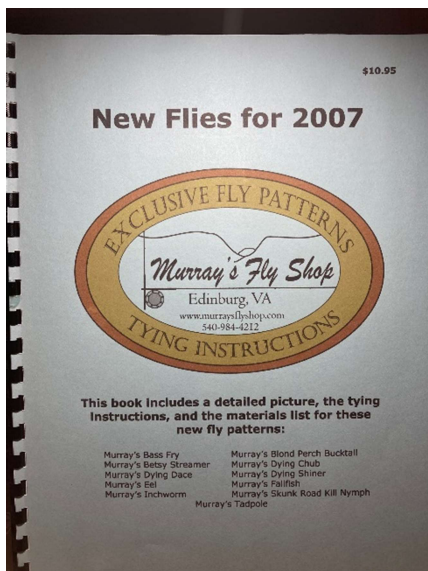
**Shell Back and Tail:** Trimmed olive rabbit skin

**Weight:** Lead free medium 0.020

**Ribbing:** Five to six wraps of 3.0 tan thread to the rear half of the shell back



A relatively straightforward to tie, yet very realistic crayfish pattern that does not rely on very unique materials. If you fly fish for smallmouth, your fly box must include crayfish (or crawdad if you are from the deep south) patterns in colors reflective of the local population.



If you enjoyed tying these Harry Murray patterns, I recommend you check out all his spiral bound fly tying books on his website at [www.murraysflyshop.com](http://www.murraysflyshop.com). You can order fly tying pattern books or individual patterns through his website as well as fly fishing equipment and sign up for on-stream classes and guided trips.