

Organizing Your Fly Fishing Everything...Tackle, Books, Flies and Fly Tying Materials

Rich Batiuk

Free State Fly Fishers Saturday Hands-on Session

Saturday, December 16, 2023



Organizing Your Fly Fishing Everything

- **Set a goal**—mine: know exactly where everything I owned related to fly fishing (and fishing in general) is stored so I don't spend any time searching for what you need for an upcoming fishing trip or for tying a specific fly pattern
- **Start with** finding a common place where you will store all your fly fishing everything....tackle, books, flies, and fly tying materials
- **Then set up your** logic for how you plan to go about organizing your fly fishing everything
- **Finally, use a** host of mechanisms for organizing and storing every single rod, reel, wading boot, hackle neck and popper



**Ideally, devote
a room
somewhere in
your house to
storing and
organizing your
fishing stuff**



This room can still have other functions besides storing fishing stuff



At a minimum, have a closet set aside for storing and helping you organize your fly fishing equipment



**In my closet
devoted to my fly
fishing equipment, I
store my wading
boots, waders, rain
jackets, rain pants
fishing storage
accessories, and
more—everything
is visible and easy
to access**



You can even organize your fly fishing related footwear and other wading related gear so you can find everything you need without searching around!



1. Coldwater wading boots
2. Warmwater wading boots
3. Kayak cold weather boots
4. Kayak warm weather boots
5. Wading boot socks
6. Wading staff
7. Nets



**You can also
organize your fly
fishing related
waders,
raincoats,
storage bags and
more so you can
find what you
need when you
need it!**



1. Coldwater dry pants
2. Waders
3. Neoprene waders
4. Wet waders storage bag
5. Rain jacket
6. Assorted fly gear bags in order of size
7. Kayak fly gear bag
8. Canvas bags
9. Wading boots changing mat



**You can even
organize your fly
fishing hats!**

**I hang my on the
back of my
closet
door...again, I
will always
know where
they are even at
4 AM in the
morning!**



And speaking of organizing your fly fishing related stuff, here's all the fly fishing gear I take when I go kayak fishing besides my fly rods.





LeBeam

Recreational License
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DNrid: 244989 R
RICHARD ANTHONY BATIUK
3123 STARBOARD DRIVE
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403
DL: B320738067584
DOB: 7/25/1962
Sex: Male HT: 5' 6"
Eyes: Blue/Green WT: 150
CRT:
Licensee Signature: *Richard Batiuk*
Last Updated By: richbatiuk@gmail.com 3/13/22
OMNIBERT
CEAT-ALL-USA

The Fisherman's Edge
Baltimore, MD

The Fisherman's Edge



RIO PRODUCTS
Powerflex®
Tippet
High tenacity copolymer with excellent knot strength - ideal for trout
Purchase Date: _____
Made in JAPAN
RIOPRODUCTS.COM
0X .011in / .279mm **15LB** 6.8kg
\$ 5.49
FRESHWATER

RIO PRODUCTS
Powerflex®
Tippet
High tenacity copolymer with excellent knot strength - ideal for trout
Purchase Date: _____
Made in JAPAN
RIOPRODUCTS.COM
1X .010in / .254mm **13LB** 5.9kg
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RIO PRODUCTS
Powerflex®
Tippet
High tenacity copolymer with excellent knot strength - ideal for trout
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2X .009in / .229mm **10LB** 4.5kg
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High tenacity copolymer with excellent knot strength - ideal for trout
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3X .008in / .203mm **8.2LB** 3.7kg
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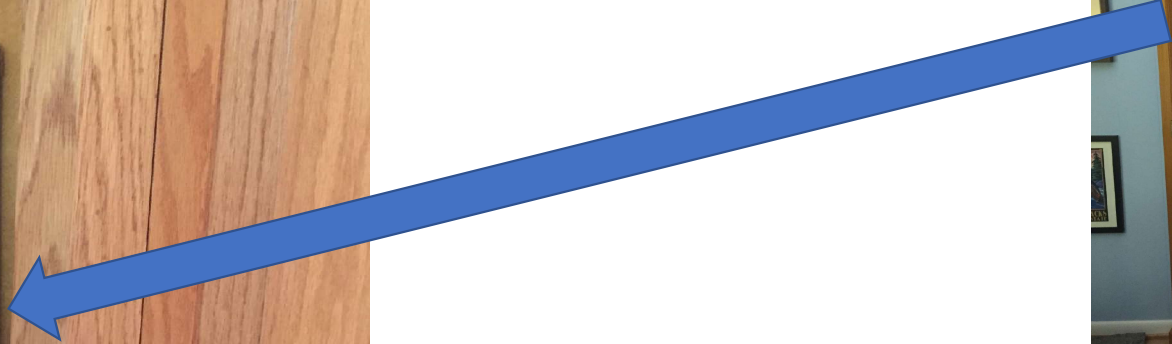
White River

Coleman

SUMMIT



**Consider building a fly tying/
fly fishing desk designed
specifically for storing and
organizing your fly fishing
equipment and fly tying
materials...or something similar
which provides the ability to
store and organize all your fly
fishing related stuff!**



Complete with built-in full length closets to store multiple rod cases of any lengths



**Built-in
bookshelves
provide
multiple
opportunities
for storage and
organization**



The bottom left shelf is where I store all my hooks and related bead heads and barbell eyes, again, for ease of access while tying flies



I use bead storage boxes (available from local fabric and craft stores) for storing and organizing all my hooks for fly tying—note the hook descriptions included in each storage square

Note, all my hooks are organized first by types of hooks followed by increasing sizes



I use the same storage boxes for storing and organizing my bead heads, cone heads, barbell eyes, small jig heads

Note I organize by types and sizes so I know where to look for what very quickly



And I store my fly fishing/fly tying DVDs along with notebooks with handwritten notes on the right bottom bookshelf



**Inside my fly
fishing desk...**



**...I store my
fly tying
equipment and
tools as well as
smaller sized
fly tying
materials**



I store my fly tying thread in two drawers for easy access...



**...and I store
my estaz and
eyes and other
'body parts' in
the next two
drawers for
easy access**



**And my
variegated
chenille are
stored together
as well as all
my rubber legs
materials**



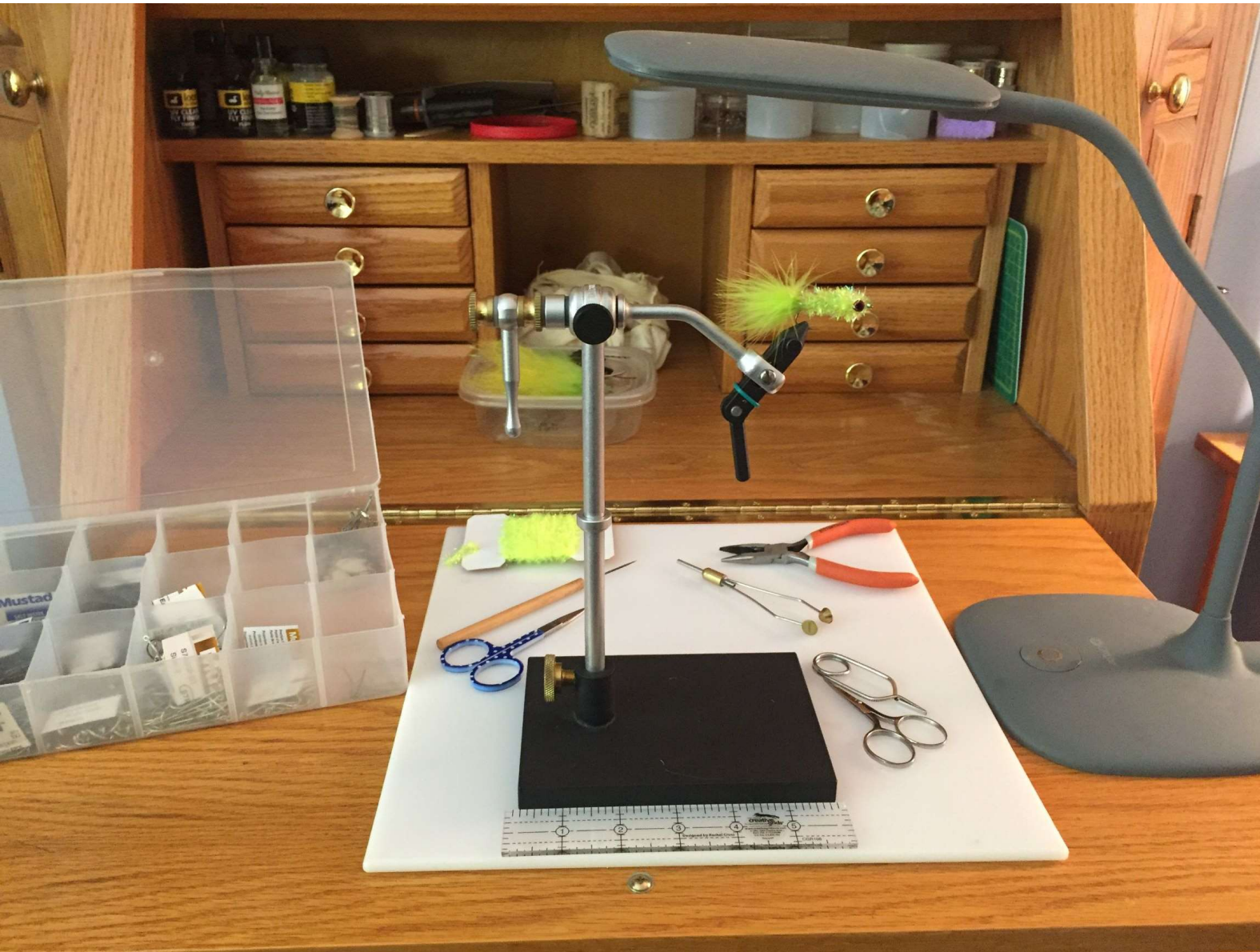
**All my fly tying
tools are stored
together in a
single drawer...
directly
accessible from
where I am
tying flies**



All my head cement, epoxy and other fly tying related accessories are accessible on a shelf right in front of where I tie flies...I know where everything is!



Even my fly tying lamp stores inside my fly tying desk, ready to connect up and plug in (its an Ott Lite which I highly recommend)



I use my fold-down desktop as the surface on which I tie flies



**Helping me
keep organized
when tying
flies are these
little plastic
cups—use
them to store
hooks,
beadheads,
etc.**



This desk drawer is used to organize and store my fly fishing tools—I use a kitchen utensil organizer to divide up more storage areas

Fishing

- Rods
- Reels
- Leaders
- Leader wallet
- Licenses
- Forceps
- Nips
- Leader straightener
- Leader tippet material
- Waders
- Flyboxes
- First aid/TP bag
- Hat
- Glasses soft cloth
- Sunscreen lotion
- Bug spray
- Camera
- Flashlight
- Net
- Wading staff
- Wading shoes
- Fishing vest
- Stripping basket
- Raincoat
- Hook sharpener
- Lip Balm
- Sunglasses

In the front of this same drawer, I keep an index card check list of everything I might need for a specific fishing trip, from rods to waders

Kayaks

- Kayaks
- Paddles
- Life jackets
- Foul/ft time downs
- Straps
- Roof racks
- Sponges
- Waterproof bags
- Watershoes
- Kayak paddle holders
- Cameras
- Binoculars
- Step Stool
- Anchor

I also have a similar checklist for my kayaking related equipment... who hasn't forgotten to take their paddles on a trip!



The left hand side drawer contains other, less often used fly fishing tools and small gear—again, it's all in one place so I know exactly where everything is when I am preparing for a fishing trip, single day or an entire week



The big middle drawer holds all my bucktails within easy reach, so I don't have to search multiple boxes or drawers



**There is a large
storage space
at the bottom
of my fly tying
desk**



There are three separate plastic bins stored here to further organize my fishing tackle



I store a small plastic tackle box for organizing some of my spinning gear



**I also store my
Bay and
saltwater lures
in plastic
boxes, ready to
take out fishing**



One small bin stores a mixture of fishing related materials which I don't need frequently, but I want to know where to find them when I need them



**I store my extra
fly boxes on a
second plastic
bin**



Finally, I store my fly boxes, which contain flies organized by type of fishing/species being targeted, in the third plastic bin



I built a rod case storage rack decades ago—one of the best possible organizers!

It holds the 10 fly rods I use the most, organized by rod weight—#3 to #9 weights—so I could find the right rod in the dark...almost!



...and my other 8 fly rods are stored in the left hand closet of my fly tying desk!

And my spinning and baitcasting rods are in the right hand closet



One of the built-in bookcases is devoted to storing and organizing my fishing books, fishing gear and fly tying materials

Bookshelves are not just for books!

Look at all the ways you can use bookshelves to store and organize fishing stuff



**I use two
canvas holders
for storing my
spinning lures,
each housed in
plastic lure
boxes**

**I pull out the
set of lures
that match
with where I
will be fishing**



**I store and
organize
articles on
places to fish
as well as fly
patterns in a
series of
notebooks**

IDEAS



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species are prolific spawners and grow fast. Both yellowfin and bigeye can reach sizes of 400 pounds and the IGFA all-tackle records are 392 and 398 pounds respectively.
Ordinarily, the twin characteristics of early reproduction and fast growth give fish some resilience when it comes to maintaining healthy stocks in the face of fishing pressure. Historically that had been the case with these tunas in the Atlantic, but beginning nearly 20 years ago the continuing march of high technology in industrial commercial fishing efforts changed all that.

TARGETING JUVENILE FISH

Young bigeye and yellowfin tuna have a strong tendency to aggregate around floating objects. Most anglers have seen this tendency and are aware that a chance encounter with a thick Sargassum weed line, trees or other flotsam or jetsam most often leads to great access to tunas or dolphin and other pelagic predators. In the late 1980s, the commercial fishery for these tunas began to change. Fewer fish were taken at large, post-spawning sizes by longlines and the use of highly efficient purse seine gear began to skyrocket.

The discovery of the huge aggregations of juvenile tuna in the Gulf of Guinea — aggregations that were not really seasonal but persisted year around — brought Spanish and French seiners into the area, and the once-artisanal near-shore fishery rapidly changed into a high-seas shootout with the latest electronic technology replacing small sailing vessels with hand-powered gear. With the purse seiners came fish aggregating devices (FADs).

A modern FAD is a far cry from the occasional bit of floating junk in the water. Today's FADs can cover acres of surface area and deploy vertical netting and other attracting materials down to 100 feet. Each vessel may deploy more than 100 of these FADs and once placed in the water they are not removed. Most FADs are equipped with GPS and satellite-linked sonar that gives them the ability to transmit real time information on the location and density of juvenile tuna aggregating about the device.

A tuna fleet technician can sit at a computer at a dockside office in Marseilles and use the FAD data and algorithms to calculate how to direct each

vessel at sea to move from FAD to FAD in a manner that maximizes catch and minimizes fuel consumption.

"Faced with this ultra-modern technological assault, the fish just don't have a chance, and the small scale coastal African markets have been pushed off the page," observed CCA Government Affairs Committee Chairman Chester Brewer, a frequent member of the U.S. delegation to ICCAT.

ICCAT'S RESPONSE?

The scientific advisers to ICCAT have warned for years that the increasing effort — measured in vessels and technical efficiency — being placed on the juvenile portion of the bigeye and yellowfin stocks were reducing sustainable yield by shifting catches from large fish that had spawned a number of times to immature juveniles. Total closures of the Gulf of Guinea to all high-seas tuna fishing have been suggested.

In the face of this scientific advice, supported by the U.S., Japan, Taiwan and other nations, the European Community (EC) delegation has pushed aside direct efforts to stop the destruction by developing complicated and difficult to implement or enforce long-term plans to reduce the capacity (fleet size and efficiency) of the purse seine nations. An "experimental" closure of a small portion of the Gulf was abandoned following scientists' analysis that the closure was too small to do any real good.

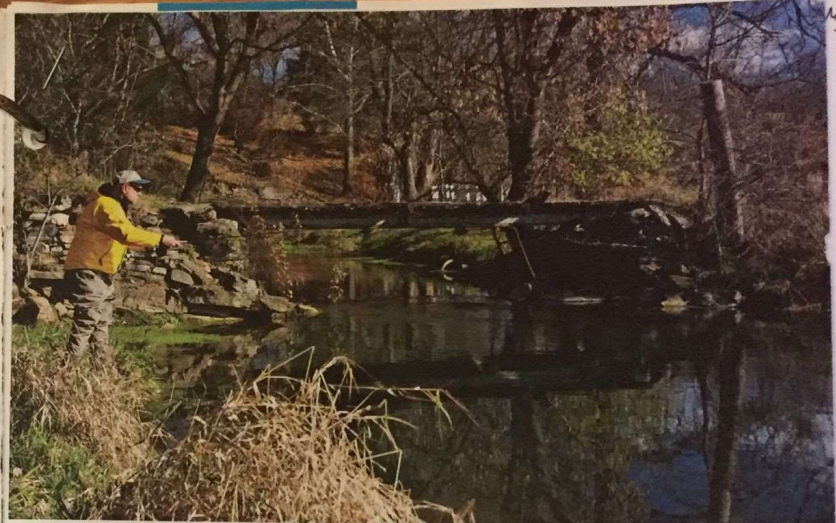
In 2008, Brewer worked closely with delegation members from the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a plan with the support of key African nations to implement a serious reduction in catch in the Gulf. A plan that looked like it might really accomplish something fell apart at the last minute when back room pressure from the EC — hints at reductions in aid — forced most of the African nations to agree to a delay. A commitment to really address the issue at the 2009 meeting was made instead.

PIRATES AND TUNA FISH

With more than 2,000 miles of Indian Ocean coastline set in a productive upwelling region, the East African nation of Somalia was once thought to have real potential for developing national, sustainable fisheries for

www.joincca.org

TIDE



Beaver Creek, MD
Hiding in the Wide Open

By Beau Beasley

"How can I assist you, captain?" asked the Maryland firefighter innocently, the wicked grin on his face belying his helpful tone. Clearly the guy was working hard not to laugh. Here was a fellow firefighter—a captain, no less, and from Virginia!—at his mercy and in distress.

Well, not distress, exactly—more like embarrassment. Larry Coburn and I stood helpless at the intersection of Beaver Creek Pike and Church Road; we'd just wrapped up an excellent day of fishing on Beaver Creek, and he'd stopped at the intersection on the way back to say a final goodbye. Unfortunately, he had accidentally locked his keys in his truck—with the truck running, of course, and in the middle of the road. No doubt our fellow travelers, cautiously making their way around us and glaring at us from their vehicles, assumed that we'd just stopped in the intersection to chat.

Realizing what he'd done, Coburn turned to me in horror and asked, "Now what do we do, Beau?"

"We call the cavalry," I replied coolly. After more than 25 years in the fire department, few things rattle me—and a locked and running vehicle surely isn't one of them. I immediately secured the number of the local fire station (courtesy of my trusty Garmin), made the call, and explained who I

was and what had happened. The voice on the other end of the line said with a chuckle, "We'll be right there, captain." Within 10 minutes, Engine 16 arrived on the scene; a few minutes after that, Coburn's door was open.

"You fellas catch anything?" asked one of the firefighters. I pointed to Coburn and replied, "He might not be good with power door locks, but he's awesome on the river. Yes, we killed 'em."

Before all the fun with locked doors, Coburn and I had kicked off our day with a visit to the Albert M. Powell State Fish Hatchery, whetting our appetites for angling.

From the hatchery we headed to the river, parking alongside the water and taking an easy walk to the bank. We eventually sidled up beside a deep pool that just screamed brown trout to me. I looked at Coburn, who responded, "Be my guest, Beau. I'm sure there are some nice fish down there."

He stood back from the river so as not to cast a shadow as I made a few casts with a streamer—and received nary a bump for my troubles. A few more casts, and I decided to try nymphs. A few more casts—and still nothing. I walked carefully down to the lower end of the stream, about 50 feet

Mayland

I organize the 'places to fish' notebooks in alphabetic order by state and province

Smallmouth Bass
Fly Tying



Tying Steps for the Fowler's Magic Dragon

Hook: 2XL nymph hook, #6 - 10

Thread: 6/0 brown

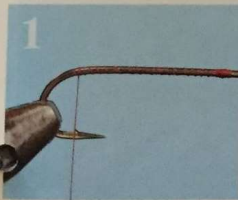
Abdomen: Olive/brown marabou, stacked around hook shank and trimmed in a triangle shape

Legs: Sili Legs (optional)

Wingcase: Brown Swiss straw

Thorax: Olive/brown dubbing

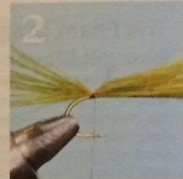
Eyes: Medium mono dumbbell eyes



Secure the hook in the vise and tie in thread behind the eye. Wrap thread to the bend of the hook.



Cut marabou fibers and tie them on the shank of the hook.



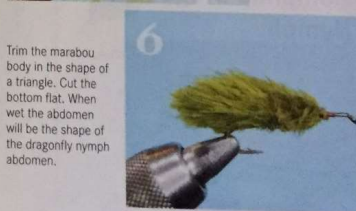
Wrap the marabou butt fibers back over the tips as shown.



Continue stacking the marabou fibers around the shank of the hook.



Cover three quarters of the hook shank with the marabou fibers.



Trim the marabou body in the shape of a triangle. Cut the bottom flat. When wet the abdomen will be the shape of the dragonfly nymph abdomen.

And I organize my fly pattern notebooks by groupings of patterns (e.g., smallmouth bass, panfish, trout)



**I store the most recent versions
of fly fishing related catalogs in
a magazine storage holder**



**I use a series of
bead storage
boxes to store
and organize all
my flies**



My flies are organized by overall categories— bass and panfish pictured here



**...and bass
poppers...**



**...and saltwater
flies...**



**...and dry flies
for trout...**



I use plastic sets of drawers for storing hackle necks and other sets of feathers



These sets of wooden drawers provide excellent storage for fly tying materials—I purchased these from Ikea



I organize my fly tying material so that I get access to the different sets of materials needed for each fly I am tying

For example, all my flashabou and krystal flash are stored in the same drawer



I use this series of narrow plastic drawers to store and organize my chenille by colors



**I store my fly
reels in a series
of reel carriers**



My reels are organized the different line weights and then by floating, intermediate and sink tip, from 3 weight...



**...all the way
up to 10 weight
lines**



There are a wide variety of set of drawers you can use to store and organize your fly tying materials



**My fishing
nook, as my
wife and
daughter call it,
also
contains...a
large red oak
writing desk I
built in my
woodshop,...**



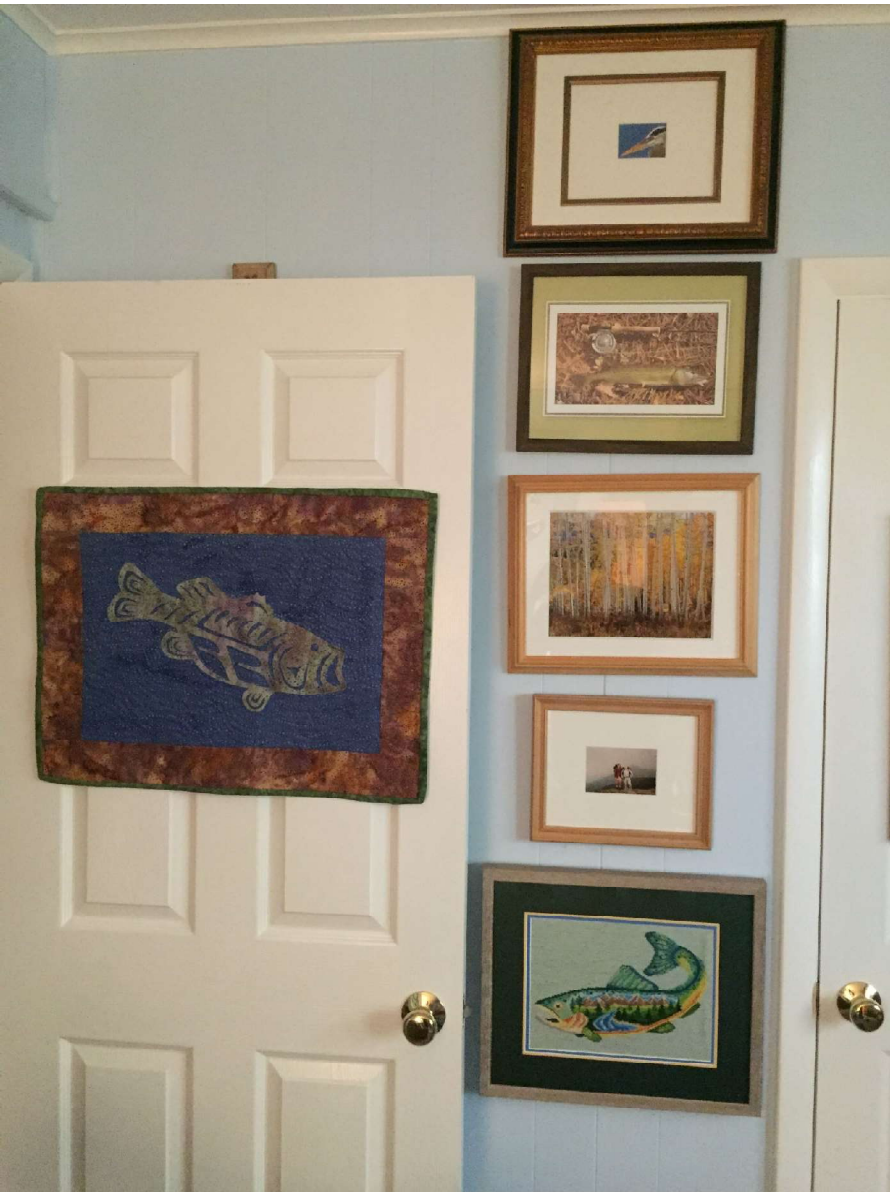
...a Queen Anne's chair with reading lamp for catching up on all my fly fishing books!



**A couch for
naps, of
course...**



...two additional built-in red oak bookcases I built for housing all my travel related books for planning lots of trips...



**...and walls filled with pictures,
photos, and...**



...and Susan's quilts...



**...and more fish
quilts...**

Where to Find Your Sources of Storage and Organization

- Michaels
- Hobby Lobby
- JoAnn Fabrics
- Container Store
- Ikea
- Home Depot
- Tochterman's
- Bass Pro Shops

So Start Re-organizing Your Fly Fishing Everything...

- **Set a clear goal** for your re-organization plans
- **Find a place** where you will store all your fly fishing everything
- **Set up your logic** for how to go about organizing your fly fishing everything
- **Use a host of mechanisms**—boxes, drawers, rod holders—for organizing and storing

And remember the golden rule...if you don't put it back where it belongs, your organization system can't help you organize and find what you are looking for!