



# Contributors

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**M**ost endeavors are the result of many behind-the-scenes contributors, associates, researchers, and support staff. This is especially true of this project, which was only possible because of the generosity and huge contribution of thousands of flies and specifications by the following fly manufacturers and distributors: Craig, Faith, and Josiah Black at Black's Flies, Ltd.; Doug Brutocao at Doug's Bugs; Dennis J. Black at Feather Merchants Ltd.; Eric H. Stevenson, Thomas Leow, C. Manik, and Yu Hock at Highland Flies, Ltd.; Zach Mertens, Chris Conaty, and Patrick Kilby at Idylwilde; Edward Han and Mike Perusse at Pacific Fly Group; Marty Downey at Riverborn Fly Company; Ray Chang at Solitude Fly Company; Bill Black and Ken Menard at Spirit River, Inc.; and Jeff Fryover, Bruce Olson, and Brian Schmidt at Umpqua Feather Merchants.

## *Fly Manufacturers and Distributors*

Providing this information was a tedious and time demanding task. These companies manage and deal with hundreds of fly tyers in far away countries, material procurement and shipping logistics, government agencies throughout the world, contributing fly tyers, sales representatives, and hundreds of wholesale accounts. These behind-the-scenes companies are the unsung heroes that keep the flies and materials stocked in your favorite fly fishing establishment and continue to promote advancement of the sport.

### *Black's Flies, Ltd.*

Black's Flies, Ltd. was founded in 1996 by Craig Black and his wife, Faith. Craig's love of fly tying began at age six, tying flies with his father, Dennis J. Black, and, later, with Randall Kaufmann. He fished for wild steelhead on Oregon's North Umpqua River with his uncle Bill Black. He worked shipping, receiving, and tied specialty flies at Umpqua Feather Merchants. He moved to Thailand to help set up and oversee the first tying operation in Chiang Mai, Thailand for Umpqua Feather Merchants from 1986 to 1992.

Today, Black's Flies, Ltd. is located in Winfield, British Columbia in the Okanagan country, and specializes in Northwest and Canadian patterns, and specific custom work for US, Canadian, and European customers. Craig's production facility is in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he personally directs operations. [www.blackflies.com](http://www.blackflies.com).

### *Doug's Bugs*

Doug Brutocao began Doug's Bugs in 1982 as an outgrowth of his love of fly tying. This was a commercial tying operation with Doug behind the vise. After graduating from Humboldt State University and pursuing other careers, Doug still dreamed of expanding Doug's Bugs and offering other products in addition to his carefully-dressed flies. That opportunity came in 1992 when he purchased The Hackle House, a fly tying materials supplier located in the San Francisco area that dated back to the 1960s.

Today, Doug's comprehensive selection of flies, including those of master tyer Chuck Stranahan, are produced in Thailand at the state-of-the-art Targus Fly and Feather Factory. With assistance from Gary and Jason Borger and Targus Fly and Feather, Doug incorporated the Targus ColorMatch™ System (TCM) of materials into his fly production, and Doug's Bugs offers the complete line of TCM materials, including FoxxFurr™, CealFiber™, SST™, SuperDry™, a series of flash products, and chenille, all accurately color matched.

Doug's packaged material and hook selection is extensive, and he also supplies dealers with a complete line of tying tools, fly lines, leaders, tippet, angling accessories, rod building supplies, books, videos and DVDs. Doug's Bugs has joined with Targus Fly and Feather and is located in Woodland, Washington. [www.dougsbugs.com](http://www.dougsbugs.com).

### ***Feather Merchants, Ltd.***

Feather Merchants, Ltd. is based in Taupo, New Zealand and was founded by Dennis J. Black in 1994. Today Feather Merchants, Ltd. supplies both New Zealand and Australia with the largest selection and the highest quality flies, everything from delicate spring creek dries to offshore billfish patterns. Flies are produced in Dennis' Thailand and Sri Lanka factories to exacting standards set forth by many of the world's leading tyer/anglers and New Zealand royalty tyers Peter Carty, Russell Anderson, Stu Tripney, and Sean Andrews, among many others.

Feather Merchants, Ltd. is the New Zealand and Australian distributor for Umpqua Feather Merchants, Metz®, Tiemco, Lamson, Teeny Fly Lines, and TFO (Temple Fork Outfitters) fly rods. [www.feathermerchants.co.nz](http://www.feathermerchants.co.nz).

### ***Highland Flies, Ltd.***

Highland Flies, Ltd. was founded by Eric H. Stevenson in 1973 in Singapore. One of his objectives was to offer employment to handicapped people, and another was to provide enjoyable working conditions and benefits, so the initial training was conducted at the Society for Aid to the Paralyzed, and some of the original tyers are still with Highland!

Today, Eric, along with Thomas Leow, operates one of the largest fly tying operations in the world. Many anglers unknowingly have Highland Flies in their boxes as they supply many distributors, famous outlets, and specialty shops the world over. Highland does not have a catalog of standard patterns—all the flies they produce are custom tied to each customer's specifications, which makes for a complicated operation but one that is much in demand. They are known for their attention to detail, quality work, personalized service, and timely delivery. Highland operates factories in Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

### ***Idylwilde***

Zach Mertens paired an international childhood in Asia with two years of professional guiding on the South Fork of the Snake River in Idaho to hatch fledgling Idylwilde in 1997. Zach originally trained five tyers in Manila, Philippines, and today employs 125 full-time tyers. Idylwilde flies are tied to exact customer and signature tyer specifications and are distributed throughout the United States and Canada from Idylwilde's base of operations in Portland, Oregon.

Idylwilde specializes in dry, nymph, emerger, steelhead and Pacific salmon patterns, and they are especially proud of their elite group of signature tyers, who create unique patterns to address specific fishing dilemmas. Signature tyers include Joe Aanes, Elden Berrett, Dave Bloom, Bob Borden, Hogan Brown, Chris Conaty, Ed Engle, Tim Fox, Jeff Hickman, Justin Kamopp, Larry Kingrey, Bill Marts, Ken Morrish, Bob Quigley, Brian Silvey, and Vince Wilcox.

The Idylwilde staff is actively involved in Pacific Northwest conservation issues. With so many trout and steelhead fly fishing opportunities located near Portland, Oregon, Zach and his staff make product testing a priority! [www.idylwilde.com](http://www.idylwilde.com).

### ***Pacific Fly Group***

Pacific Fly Group was founded in 1994 and has built its business on quality control, timely deliveries, and custom patterns. Its core business is trout

flies, but Pacific Fly Group also has an excellent selection of unique saltwater patterns. Pacific Fly Group's 40-plus fly designers span the spectrum from Alaska rainbow experts to warmwater junkies and Florida Keys guides, including Mitch Campbell, Bruce Concors, James Ferrin, Kory Kober, Frank Kuhn, Robert Lewis, Bob Linquist, Bob Linsenman, Bruce Marino, Bob Moore, Tony Pagliei, Allen "Swede" Peterson, Masahito Sato, Brent Schlenker, Bill Sherer, and A. Ray Sims.

Pacific Fly Group also manufactures many styles of fishing shirts, fly fishing vests and other functional garments that offer UV protection and are quick wick-drying, waterproof, windproof, and odor resistant. Pacific Fly Group is located in Monrovia, California. [www.pacificfly.com](http://www.pacificfly.com).

### ***Riverborn Fly Company***

Warren Schoth founded Riverborn Fly Co. in 1987. Growing up in Idaho, Warren had a love for the outdoors. During Warren's youth, Ruel Stayner helped him learn the sport, and Warren went to work for Cortland Line Co. Warren left Cortland in 1982 to start his own fly shop in Wendell, Idaho, and he founded Riverborn in 1987. Warren passed away in 2002 and Riverborn is now owned by Cortland Line Co. and managed by former Cortland rep Marty Downey. Marty has fly fished the Rockies (and with his wife, Janet, traveled the fishing world) for 40 years and brings a wealth of knowledge about flies and the fly fishing industry to Riverborn.

Today, Riverborn offers a huge selection of flies, specializing in steelhead, Pacific salmon, western dries, bead head nymphs, and the Delectable series. Riverborn's design team include Bruce Chard, Trey Combs, Dan Deleka, Roger Lowe, John Rohmer, Rod Sayers, John Stenersen, Mike Sturza, and Brett Wedeking, among others.

Riverborn tailors everything to specific customer needs, prides itself on timely deliveries, and would like to thank everyone for their support and business. Riverborn is located in Boise, Idaho. [www.riverbornflies.com](http://www.riverbornflies.com)

### ***Solitude Fly Company***

Solitude Fly Company was founded in 1995 by Ray Chang and John Bonk. They met when Ray attended a Sierra Pacific Flyfishers fly casting seminar where John was one of the instructors. Out of a hundred students, Ray was assigned to John. Both live in South Pasadena, California. Ray traveled to Mammoth Lakes, California with John. They went into the fly shop, where John told Ray he needed four of these flies, six of those, etc. in three sizes and two colors each, and the sales person gleefully told Ray he owed \$80.49. Ray passed out. John paid.

Next stop was Hot Creek. While John was putting on his waders and consuming his third beer, Ray, unsupervised, ran off to the stream and opened his new box of tiny toys. The wind blew all of Ray's flies into the stream. Ray passed out, again. Back to Mammoth for more flies and beer. Ray said, "This fly fishing is expensive. I think it is a good business." The rest is history; the universe works in strange ways.

Today, Solitude Fly Company is a growing supplier of fine quality flies, jackets, vests, nets, and accessories, and is known for unequalled customer service. Ray says that Solitude might never make the Fortune 500 list, but it has been blessed with an opportunity to participate and share with you what we all love, the sport of fly fishing. Their design team includes Bjorn Beech, Bob Brooks, George Cook, Renè Harrop, Alec Jackson, Skip Morris, and Shane Stalcup, among many others. [www.solitudefly.com](http://www.solitudefly.com).

### ***Spirit River, Inc.***

Bill Black grew up in the feather and fly tying business, hanging out with his brother, Dennis J. Black, and friends Dave Inks and the Kaufmann brothers, Randall and Lance. Under the tutelage of Dennis, he started tying flies

professionally at age 14 and was soon helping Dennis collect and grade necks in India. Then he helped set up and operate the Umpqua fly factories in Madras, India; Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Bill, and his wife, Jeannie, started Spirit River in 1990 with a line of CDC feathers. Today, Bill continues his creative fly designs and is a respected authority in the fly fishing business. Spirit River offers an extensive line of unique and innovative flies (many of Bill's design), packaged materials, hooks, tools, and accessories. Designing fly tyers include Will Dornan, Fishy Fullum, Bill Heckel, Dale Hightower, Jon Luke, Ken Menard, Bob Popovics, Steve Probasco, Fox Statler, Eric Stroup, and Lou Tabory, among many others.

Bill's philosophy is that life is similar to a river with its many and varied currents and free spirited moods, hence the name Spirit River and Bill's take-it-as-it-comes, easy-going attitude. Spirit River is located near the banks of the North Umpqua River in Glide, Oregon. [www.spiritriverriverinc.com](http://www.spiritriverriverinc.com).

### ***Umpqua Feather Merchants***

Umpqua Feather Merchants was started by Dennis Black in 1972 and was the first overseas fly tying operation to produce quality flies and to compensate tyers for their creative endeavors. Today, UFM is the world's leading purveyor of fine flies. Their catalog offers over 1,000 patterns (exclusive of variations) that span the fly fishing world. This unique collection of flies is supported by 175 signature tyers, including John Barr, Barry Beck, A.K. Best, Dan Blanton, Andy Burk, Ralph Cutter, Larry Dahlberg, Jack Dennis, Randall Kaufmann, Mike Lawson, Craig Mathews, Mike Mercer, and Lani Waller.

Umpqua's Metz® Feather Division offers an extensive selection of packaged materials, tying kits, tools, Umpqua leaders and tippet, and accessories. It is the exclusive US distributor for Tiemco hooks, which is the hook manufacturer to which all others are compared. Metz® neck and saddle hackles are world famous for their quality and color selection. Umpqua Feather Merchants is located in Louisville, Colorado. [www.umpqua.com](http://www.umpqua.com).

### ***Special Acknowledgments***

The following tyers provided specifications and their personally tied flies: Brian Chan, Charlie Craven, Ralph Cutter, Greg Garcia, Matt Hamilton, Ken Hanley, Alex Hibala, Andrij Horodysky, Bob Jacklin, Jan Johansson, Andrzej Koziel, Joel LaFollette, Darren MacEachern, Mike Mercer, Skip Morris, Rich Murphy, Tracy Peterson, Eric Pettine, Al Quattrocchi, Phil Rowley, Scott Sanchez, Will Sands, Jack Schlotter, Marty Sherman, Shane Stalcup (awesome fly collection), Chuck Stranahan, Rick Takahashi, Jim Teeny, Stu Thompson, and Tim Tollett.

The following provided materials for photographs: Doug Brutocao at Doug's Bugs, Marcos Vergara at Hareline Dubbin, Lance Kaufmann at Kaufmann's Streamborn®, Rick Dailey at Metz Feathers®, Bill Black at Spirit River, Inc., Karl Schmuecker at Wapsi, and Brian Schmidt at Umpqua Feather Merchants.

Special thanks to Joyce Sherman of River Graphics for encouragement, design, copy editing, typesetting, and indexing; John Barna for custom designing and building the photography setup and for digital consulting; Wayne Welch of Oregon Photo and Digital for photographic consulting; Ken Mitchell for arranging the book printing, photo consulting and advice; Bob Rector for attention to detail, encouragement, and editing; Mike Stidham for illustrations and designing the cover; Oda Kaufmann for encouragement, advice, inspiration, and for always being there for us.