

I thought it would be a great idea to do member profiles. We have great people in our club and it would be nice to know them a little better and have some fun with it.

There are many First Ladies such as Lara Bush and Michelle Obama but none that created such a splash as the First Lady of the Hook and Hackle Club Ruth Zinck. Born in Ontario and I didn't ask for her age started fishing when she was 3 years old but did not really start her real craft of fly tying until 42. Her husband Fred who we all know gives such great Christmas blessings bought Ruth her first fly rod. It was a 3 piece 8 ½ weight soft rod with a cheap Japanese reel but does really matter.

I asked Ruth what was her greatest attribute and she said it is her "tenacity" "I pursue what I believe in" and any one that knows Ruth knows what I mean.

Being a member since 1981 Ruth is one of the longest serving club members along with her better half Fred. Ruth is a very accomplished tier; she has won many awards and is the first woman ever to win the John Riezebos Memorial Fly Tying Trophy in 1984 along with that in 1998 the FFF's Rocky Mountain Council named her Fly Tier of the year and that is just to name a few.

I have invented a few patterns just like everyone else and they seem to work and we keep them in our fly box and brag about them every so often but the true test is to have a award winning fly and Ruth has one which she calls the Zink Mink Nymph. I hope maybe if I ask nicely Ruth might ty me one (can you please) and by the way do not leave out the bead head and peacock sword beard. Ruth is a very humble and proud tier noting that there are many members that are better than her.

One of Ruth's favorite spots to fish is the Bow River like so many of us also and the biggest fish was a 23" Brown Trout just down from Policeman's.

I asked Ruth what fly has given her the hardest time to ty and she told me it was Fan Wing Royal Coachman. After winning the Riezebos Trophy she had asked Archie Malcolm to help her. She said she practiced and recorded every lesson and nuisance and would activate the recorder and try to replicate the Fan Wing and not from trying she decided that this fly was not for her maybe a fly for the competition what do you think?

I have watched her ty flies in her favorite spot at the club beside another fly tier Robert Eagleson and they ty great flies. I could on and on but Ed tells me there is only so much room on our web site so the best thing to do is come out to our meetings, pull up a chair and have a chat with Ruth and watch closely you might pick up a tip or two or three as in my case.

Thank you Ruth your leadership and commitment to fly fishing and the Hook and Hackle Club is greatly appreciated.

