

Mending Lines

Page 1

August 2010

Don's Den

By: Don Privett

August
19th
Regular
Monthly meeting

NEW MEETING LOCATION

**If you need further
info please contact
Rick Hinton at**
Cell: (260) 432-4171
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I would like to inform everyone that we will be changing our meeting location from the Legion Post 82 to the St. Joe Athletic club. The location for the club is 817 Anderson Ave. Ft. Wayne this is on the west side of the St. Joe River off of Tennessee Ave at Griswold. A map can be found on the Three Rivers Fly Fishers web site. The meetings will still be on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. The club doesn't have food just snacks but they said that if someone wanted to bring in a sandwich they would not have a problem with it. The move has become necessary do to cut backs at the legion. The board felt that we needed a place to meet that we could be sure will remain open.

The Mottville outing on July 25th was attended by 18 members. Everyone was having a good time in the water fishing, the river was a bit high but you could still wade if you were careful. I would like to thank Rick Hinton for bringing food and cooking, also Curly Hodson (the chip man) for bring the chips again and we also had some great cookies.

Joe Geisler was presented a fly box for the time he spent on the board. Hopefully when things slow down for him he will be able to re-join the board., thanks Joe.

The August meeting will be on the 19th. This is our fly tying and rummage sale. Everyone who would like to tie is welcome, this is a great opportunity to sit with a member and get some one on one instruction. As for the rummage sale bring your unneeded fishing gear, sell it to another member and give the club 10% it a great deal for everyone. I hope to see you all there and remember if you're not fishing your not catching.

Don



Nymphing Tips For First Timers

by: Rex Lengacher

When folks who are not familiar with our sport think of fly fishing they often see only the classic approach as has been put forth by books and movies for hundreds of year, dry flies fished upstream to rising trout. Well as with anything in our times, things have evolved a bit from that approach. Don't get me wrong, there are still plenty of people out there who will only fly fish casting a dry fly to rising trout upstream. Then there are those of us who don't have the luxury of spending unlimited time sitting on the bank of a stream waiting for a hatch to start so that we may begin fishing. And let's face it; we all like to catch fish when we do get to go fishing. it's what keeps us coming back. So let's take a look at one of the many alternatives to casting a dry fly, upstream, to rising trout.

If you've studied Entomology at all, which is sort of important if you're going to fly fish, you understand that Mayflies, Caddis flies, and most others, start the life cycle as eggs, dropped from the adults into the water, which drift to the bottom of the stream where they mature and complete the cycle again. From the egg they transition into larvae, nymph, emerger, and dun. At this stage, and only this stage do the flies reach the surface and dry their wings before flying off to mate and begin the life cycle anew. That means that insects of these classes spend more than 99% of their lives below the surface. This also means that Trout eat a lot more of the insects below the surface in one of the developing stages of life than they do the adult, or dun stage. So matching the subsurface "hatch" or stage of development of the flies can be a very productive way to catch fish. Let's take a look at some approaches that might help those of you who aren't familiar with this tactic for catching Trout.

One of the first things you might notice about the "flies" used to imitate this stage of development is the size. Most nymphs are fished in size 12 and smaller. Some as small as size 22 and 24. The other difference that is easy to see is the materials. There are few nymph or larvae patterns which use hackle, especially palmered hackle like dry flies. Most nymphs have compact bodies of thread and wire, many with bead heads and some with legs. There are so many sources for great and proven nymph and larvae patterns one only needs to choose a recipe and start tying.

The only difference in equipment needed to use this approach comes in the leaders, and the use of weights and "strike indicators". This later is simply a fancy term for a bobber, although the ones used in fly fishing are usually much smaller than what you'd find on your favorite crappie rig. Many times when nymph fishing we will use leaders of considerable length, depending on the depth of the stream we are fishing. I've fished leaders as long as 12 or 13 feet when fishing on tailwaters with large volume generation, or as short as 5 or 6 feet on shallow mountain streams. The key to the equation is getting the fly near the bottom no matter how deep the water is. One thing that can help is using weights, either on the line, or incorporated into the fly recipe in the form of lead wire wrapped around the hook shank, or regular or tungsten beads used as heads. We also might use lead shot on the line above the fly. One can vary the size of the shot to match current speed and water depth.

Another tool used in this technique is the strike indicator. These come in many forms from yarn to foam to balsa wood. Most are easily adjustable while on your leader to allow for changes in water depth. Some of these indicators can only be put into use by sliding the line through a hole in the middle of them before tying on the fly. Others can be placed on the fly line and removed or adjusted with the fly in place. Some use adhesive to stick the indicator to the line while some use a toothpick or small stick to act as a line stopper. I've recently found one that uses a small piece of rubber tubing within a round slot in the foam

indicator. When the ends of the tubing are pulled apart it becomes smaller and allows it to slide up or down the leader to the desired depth. Only experimentation will allow you to choose which sort works best for you. Buy small packs of several different kinds and try them. They are usually not very expensive and once you find the type you like you'll want to have several sizes and colors for different water conditions.

Of course the techniques used in fishing nymph and larvae patterns are a bit different than fishing dries too. First the idea is to get the fly down to where the fish are. If you've ever been on a stream that was truly clear enough for you to watch trout in their natural holding areas for a while it becomes obvious quite quickly that they prefer to hang pretty close to the bottom of the stream rather than mid-level. I'm not an expert on the reasons for this; I suspect that it might have something to do with the current flowing slightly slower along the bottom than it does at mid-level depth. This might give the fish a little extra time to select which tender morsel it wants to devour and which it will let slide. This makes getting the fly down to the proper depth very important. Now if that water isn't clear enough to see bottom, how do you know when you're there? This is an area where only trial and error is going to work. Start with the lightest weight you think might work and set your strike indicator far enough up the leader to have a fair chance of getting to the bottom, then adjust your indicator up the line and add weight to drag the fly on the bottom of the stream. Then back off just a bit. There really is no other way to get in the right zone where the fish are hanging. Once you have a base depth established you can sort of get a feel for how much to move your indicator when you get into deeper or shallower water, or a faster or slower current. But the cardinal rule is that if you don't drag on the bottom to establish where that depth is, then back off just a bit, you are likely not fishing deep enough. It can be rather surprising just how far from the fly your indicator can be to get the fly down deep enough. On a recent trip to one of my favorite rivers I was using a #1 split shot on an unweighted size 14 fly and had the indicator 7-8 feet up the leader from the fly to fish a run that was about 4 feet deep.

Line control is yet another aspect of this technique that we must consider. By line control I mean casting the line and setting the line up for a drift that will allow the fly to float freely along with the current while maintaining contact with the fly. By "maintaining contact" with the fly I mean mending the line upstream if you are fishing across the flow, or mending and stripping line in if you are fishing upstream. You must have the line in such a position that when you detect a strike and raise the rod to set the hook you aren't just taking up slack in the line. You must have enough slack out of the line that when you raise the rod you are immediately affecting the fly. One thing that I see very commonly in fly fishers who aren't familiar with this type of technique is that they don't know how, or when to mend the line, or how much to mend. How to set the line up for a good drift that lets the fly drift through the run you want it to without dragging and without slack in the line.

Quite honestly the very best way to learn to properly mend the line is to fish with someone who is proficient at it. Guides are a perfect resource for teaching this kind of essential basic technique. I always thought I'd never want to hire a guide to take me fishing. I was perfectly capable of finding fish and catching a few totally on my own. Then I broke down and hired a guide one day and found out just what that can do for your fishing. I learned in one day some tips and techniques that have and will serve me for the rest of my fishing days. They have helped me catch many many more fish than I was used to catching before, and the number one thing I learned from the guide I used that day was how to mend the line to put the fly where I want it and have great contact with the fly so that when that fish strike I can strike back effectively.

I hope this little primer will help you experiment and enjoy another technique in fly fishing and help you catch more fish. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask, by e-mail via the club website, or talk to me at the next meeting.

Red Eye Damsel

By Morne Bayman



Materials:

Hook: 8 -12 4X Long

Thread: Colour to match Abdomen

Tail: Marabou tips

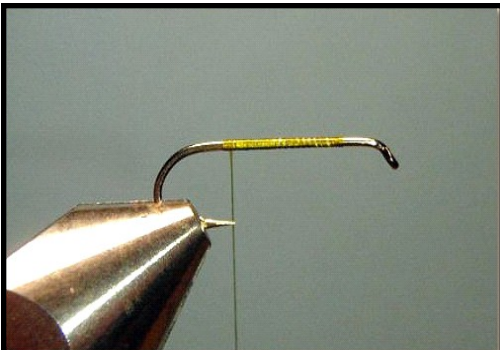
Abdomen: Marabou colour to match tail.

Thorax: Dubbing to match Abdomen

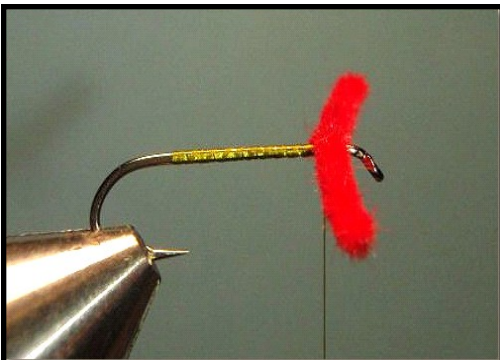
Rib: Fine copper/gold wire

Eyes: Red tuff Chenille

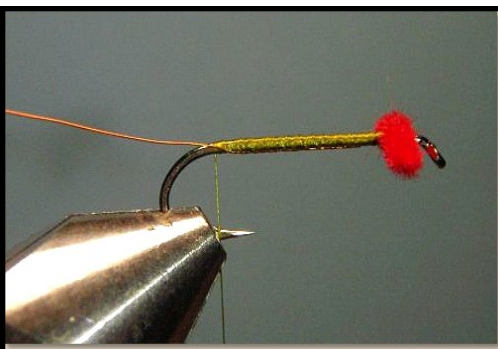
Step 1. Attach thread to hook.



Step 2. Attach chenille to front of hook and secure with figure of eight wraps.



Step 3. Tie in ribbing material



Step 4. Tie in marabou tail with a pinch loop and take thread forward.



Step 5. Wind the Marabou around the hook shank, but do not twist.



Step 6. Tie off Marabou and clip off excess.



Step 7 and 8. Secure the Marabou with the copper wire and to create segmentation. Spin a thin noodle of dubbing.



Step 9. Wrap the dubbing around the eyes with a figure of eight wraps. Form a small head and whip finish. Trim eyes to length.



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Calendar Of Events**August 2010**

3rd Board Meeting 6:45 PM
Richards Restraunt
Getz Rd

19th Regular Meeting
NEW MEETING LOCATION
SEE DON'S DEN

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Lake Michigan Salmon-Steelhead Report as of 8-7-10

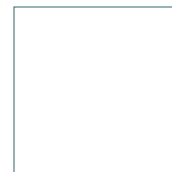
Fishing is good on the pier heads for Skamania Steelhead and King Salmon at the present time. Fish can be seen on the fish-cam at Berrien Springs entering the St. Joe River system.

Good numbers of Kings are in the Little Manistee River with more fish arriving daily.

Some Skamania Steelhead are in the "Flies only" section of the Pere Marquette River

THREE RIVERS FLY FISHERS LLC

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