

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Tungsten Green Soft Hackle

I got this pattern from a guy I met on the Current River last month, and he was kind enough to share it with me. I asked what it was supposed to be, and he really didn't have an answer. Like many great flies, it could look like anything a fish might eat - I think it could look like a caddis emerger, a mayfly emerger, a drowned caddis, or even a small damsel fly. As long as the fish eat it, they can think of it any way they want.



Hook: TMC 3761 Size 14-16
Bead: Copper Tungsten
Thread: 8/0 Olive
Body: Olive Squirrel Dubbing
Rib: Small Chartreuse Wire
Hackle: Brown Speckled India Hen
Collar: SLF Olive Dubbing

- 1) Put bead on hook, secure hook in vise, and start thread behind the bead.
- 2) Advance thread to hook bend and tie in a couple of inches of chartreuse wire
- 3) Dub a tapered body of the olive squirrel to just behind the bead
- 4) Wrap a nice even rib using the chartreuse wire. Tie off and trim excess.
- 5) Prep hen feather to be tied in by the tip. Feather fibers should extend just beyond the hook bend when wrapped on.
- 6) Tie feather in by the tip. While stroking the feather fibers toward the hook bend, make two wraps of the hackle. Tie off and trim excess.
- 7) Dub a small slightly shaggy collar of the SLF Olive material
- 8) Whip finish behind the bead and trim off thread.

I was fishing this fly as the anchor fly with a little BWO nymph as a dropper. The fish seemed to take both flies, but the browns preferred this fly. I started it dead-drifting in the current until it came to the end of the run, then I let it swing like a soft hackle. I love the olive and chartreuse, but I also tried it in hare's ear with a gold rib, red fox belly with a hot orange rib, and fiery brown with an amber rib.