

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Two-Biot BWO Nymph

While putting together February's Members Only fly tying class featuring Blue Wing Olives Top to Bottom, I googled BWOs and got some twenty-five thousand or so hits. After weeding through all the pertinent facts as well as mounds of folklore, one thing became apparent; BWOs are the common thread that binds fly fishermen to trout where ever they come together. These little bugs are active almost year round, and they are like trout candy. In addition, there are as many fly patterns that imitate BWOs as there are rivers that hold them. This pattern comes from Ross Mueller's Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks- A book Lorie picked up for me in anticipation of an upcoming trip to the Driftless Region. It has the three things that define blue-winged olive nymphs: a long fine tail, a thin segmented body, and a pronounced thorax.



Hook: Dai-Riki #060 (1XL nymph hook) Size 18-22

Thread: 12/0 Olive or Dun

Tail: 6-10 fibers of Lemon Wood Duck Flank

Body: 1 Olive Goose Biot

Wing Case: 1 Olive Goose Biot

Thorax: Gray Dubbing

- 1) Secure hook in vise and start thread one eye length behind the eye.
- 2) Wrap thread to end of hook shank to point even with the barb.
- 3) Tie in tail one to one-and-a-half the length of the hook shank and trim.
- 4) Tie in goose biot by the tip across the hook shank so it curves the way it will be wrapped on.
- 5) Move thread half-way up the hook shank where the body will end.
- 6) Put a very small drop of head cement on the underbody.
- 7) Wrap goose biot evenly up to the thread and tie off. Trim excess.
- 8) Tie in other goose biot by the base sticking up and out to the rear that will form the wing case.
- 9) Dub a loose spiky thorax.
- 10) Pull biot over to form the wing case and tie off behind eye. Trim excess and whip finish.
- 11) Pick out thorax and trim off the bottom a bit

BWO nymphs are active swimmers as they emerge. Whenever the mayflies are active, I fish this little nymph as a dropper under a BWO dry or behind a Barr's BWO Emerger (another favorite). I have also fished this behind a bead-head thread midge when I want it deeper.