

## Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

### Frank Sawyer's Killer Bug

Under the heading of super simple fly patterns, this one has been enjoying quite the resurgence. At our December tying meeting, I was asked by at least four members if I had ever heard of the Killer Bug. I had not. So I did some research and came up with Frank Sawyer's old standby pattern. Perhaps best known for the pheasant tail nymph, Sawyer was an innovative fly tier creating mostly nymph patterns during a time when dry flies ruled the trout streams. This painfully simple fly could look like a crane fly, caddis fly, or a scud. This may even be easier than the mop fly. The hardest part of tying this pattern is sourcing the proper wool yarn. Originally tied with Chadwick's #477, this yarn last sold on Ebay for almost \$100 for a 50 yard card. However, there are a number of substitutes packaged by a number of fly shops that will probably work just fine.



Hook: Standard nymph hook #12-14

Thread: Fine Copper Wire

Body: Naturally variegated Wool Yarn

- 1) Secure hook in vise. Attach wire just as you would regular tying thread, and advance to rear of hook.
- 2) Form an underbody of the copper wire ending about mid-hook shank.
- 3) Tie in two strands of the wool yarn. Wrap an even thin body to just behind the hook eye and then back to the bend of the hook.
- 4) Tie off with a couple of turns of the wire. Trim excess yarn. Gently whip-finish the wire at the rear of the fly and break off wire.

When the fly gets wet, the glow of the copper wire should shine through. Fish this fly dead drift either with or without an indicator. This fly has been getting a lot of attention particularly from the Tenkara anglers for both its simplicity and its fish catching ability. If you are looking for material, you may want to start there.