

Fly of the Month

Bob Zagar

Stonefly 4 All Seasons

This month we have another fly from our archives. The pattern was originally provided by Tom Hargrove and published in our newsletter in 1987. Tom has updated the material list for this article.



Bill Armon wrote in 1987 "In keeping this column seasonal, I have asked local tier Tom Hargrove to provide us with one of his favorite winter patterns. With a number of material combinations, Tom has given us a Stonefly for all seasons."

The following is the original article as published in 1987. I have added Tom's material revisions in brackets. [Updated materials]

"One of the most effective flies during the cold months of the year is the stonefly. There are many imitations that can be used, with many variations on each. I like to fish a big, black #6 into a hole with a sink tip line late in the season. You may not get many strikes since the fish are sometimes a little sluggish, but if you keep your fly on the bottom with lead, you might be rewarded with a real monster!

Hook: Mustad 38941, 9672, 79580 or partridge D4A, H1A, Size 2-12
[Dai-riki #700 or #700B and the TMC200R]

Tail: Black Goose Biot Fibers, stripped quill stems or black or white rubber. [Can also use Flexi Floss]

Body: Under body of wool for bulk with an overbody of either more wool, Larva Lace, Swannundaze or Chenille. [Tom has been using vinyl ribbing as a sub for Larva Lace. Tom says Maxima chameleon works too]

WingCase: Turkey Tail, Ringneck tail fibers, Swiss straw, Black Goose.

Hackle: Black Brown/furnace saddle

Thorax: Brown marabou, dubbed, yellow or orange chenille

Antennae: Same as tail Thread: Black or Brown 6/0

Weight: Lead 2/3 of hook shank under thorax, or tied on sides flat body

- 1) To start with, weight the hook and tie in the tail so they fork out. I like to tie in Larva Lace at this point and build up a smooth underbody with the wool to the half way point.
- 2) Now wrap your body material to the point and tie off.
- 3) Tie in the wing case material and hackle by the tip so when wrapped the fibers point toward the rear.
- 4) Dub some marabou on the tread and wrap to head.
- 5) Make 3 Y turns of the hackle and tie off.
- 6) Pull the wing case over and tie down.
- 7) Then tie in antenna and whip finish and cement. I like to have the tail and antenna to be half the shank length or less.

One trick to this fly is to put a 45 degree bend just forward of the mid third of the hook. This makes the fly bent over, and that is just how the naturals look when dislodged. Try them both ways on our favorite spot when nothing else is doing the trick! T. H.