

Fly of the Month

by Chris Seep

Weapon of Mass Destruction

I'd like to introduce you to the Weapon of Mass Destruction. Hey, wait a minute, you say, that's a black deer hair beetle, nothing special. Well, you're right, of course, but in the past three or so years that I have been fishing this fly at Montauk, my success has been so good that I renamed the fly. It's particularly a good choice from mid- summer through fall, especially in the afternoon when the air temperature has warmed up. If the trout are looking up and taking bugs off the surface, try this fly; it's a great hatch buster.



This fly floats forever, especially if you dope it up before fishing it. It can be really hard to see on the water, but so far I've resisted adding any color to the fly, because it fishes so well as is. Try to watch carefully where it lands on the water; then it becomes easier to follow the fly's drift. Sometimes I'll drop it off a more visible dry fly to keep track of it.

Here's the pattern as I tie it. It's a great fly for a beginner fly-tyer, since it uses only three materials.

Hook: #14 standard dry fly hook. It's the only size I use, although, of course, you could tie it in a variety of sizes.

Thread: #6 black Unithread or equivalent

Tail: Fibers from a mallard flank feather. Do not omit the tail.

I'm convinced that it's a large part of the appeal of this fly. Probably represents the beetle's wings poking out of his partially opened shellback.

Underbody: Peacock herl

Overbody: Black deer hair.

Here's how I tie it:

1. Layer thread from just behind the hook eye to the bend of the hook.
2. Tie in a few mallard flank fibers to create a tail.
3. Select a bunch of black deer hair, a little larger than you would use for an Elk Hair Caddis and cut it from the skin.
4. Do not bother to align the tips. Even the cut ends with your scissors and tie onto the hook one-third forward from the bend. Gradually increase your tension on the thread as you tie, and the butts of the deer hair will flare around
5. the hook. Trim these close to the hook with your scissors.
6. Tie in two strands of peacock herl on top of the deer hair butts. Wind the peacock forward to within one-quarter shank's length behind the hook eye and tie off.
7. Gather the deer hair tightly, giving it a slight twist and pull it forward, tying it off at the same point you tied off the peacock.
8. Lift the tips of the deer hair and place thread wraps forward of them and tie off using your whip finisher.
9. Clip the deer hair tips to create a head, as you would do with an Elk Hair Caddis.
10. At the rear of the fly, with your scissor tips tease out two or three hairs from each side of the body to create legs.

Now you're ready to fish the Weapon of Mass

Blue Winged Olive Dry

BWO's are synonymous with trout in Missouri – and almost everywhere else trout are found as well. Day in and day out, I catch a lot of fish on BWO nymphs and emergers, but sometimes the fish just want to chase the duns as they drift on the current. Fishing the upper Current River during the last three days of October, I experienced some of the best dry fly fishing I have seen in a while. It seemed that every fish in the river was looking up and were keyed in on those pretty little mayflies drifting haplessly downstream into their feeding lanes.

My challenge was finding just the right fly to imitate the little bugs and to get just the right drift over just the right fish. After the usual trial and error period, my fly of choice for three days straight was this little parachute dry fly. I like to tie these on the shorter-shank midge/emergent hook to get a little more hook gap – especially in the 20-24 size range.

Hook: Dai-Riki 125 or TMC 101 Size 18-24
Thread: 8/0 or 12/0 Olive
Tail: Medium Dun Micro Fibets
Body: BWO Dry Fly Dubbing
Wing Post: White ParaPost
Hackle: Medium Dun Neck or Saddle Hackle

- 1) Secure hook in vise, start thread behind hook eye and advance to bend of hook.
- 2) Make a small bump of thread at the hook bend.
- 3) Tie in two or three Micro Fibets on each side of hook so that they splay out equally on both sides so that the naturally tapered ends are the same length – about the length of the hook shank.
- 4) Advance thread to just forward of the mid-point of the hook shank.
- 5) Select a ½ inch hank of ParaPost material that is about 4-times the width of the hook shank
- 6) Tie in the hank of Para Post material at its middle on top of the hook.
- 7) Pull the ParaPost material up and make some figure-8 wraps at its base to set it upright.
- 8) Make several wraps of thread up the ParaPost to make it stiff.
- 9) Prepare the appropriately-sized hackle (neck or saddle)
- 10) Tie in the base of the feather at the base of the post extending upward along the post.
- 11) Make several wraps to secure the hackle stem along the post.
- 12) Return the thread to the rear of the hook and dub a tapered body all the way to the hook eye.
- 13) Return the thread to the base of the wing.
- 14) Wrap the hackle down the wing post toward the body.
- 15) Tie the hackle off around the base of the wing post and whip finish thread to the base as well.
- 16) Trim wing post to just above the hackle wraps.

The trick to tying this fly is staying compact and properly proportioned. The splayed tail and the flat parachute hackle make this fly float flat in the surface of the water. I like to use Water Shed permanent floatant to make them float all day without leaving an oil slick. Obviously 7X tippet is in order when fishing these tiny guys, and a light touch keeps you from separating you from your fly. Tied in size 18 or 20, these are beefy enough to suspend a BWO emerger from if you want to cover all your bases. I found it unnecessary.

Note: Obviously, the parachute process is much easier to demonstrate than it is to describe. We'll be doing these in the Member's class this winter.

