

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

John Berry's Turkey Tail Emerger

If you are a fly-geek like I am, the Sowbug Roundup is the place to be. Hosted this past March by North Arkansas Fly Fishers in Mountain Home, Arkansas, this event brings together tyers from all over the country and features numerous of local guides and fly tyers as well. This fly was tied by White River guide John Berry and has proven its worth already this spring for me on the upper Current River producing fish when nothing else would.



Hook: TMC100 Size #18 (or TMC101)
Thread: 12/0 Brown
Body: Turkey Tail Fibers
Rib: Fine Copper Wire
Wing: White Super Fine Dry Fly Dubbing
Head: Bronze-Colored section of Peacock Eye

- 1) Secure hook in vise. Start thread at mid-hook shank and advance thread to the hook bend.
- 2) Tie in a couple inches of copper wire.
- 3) Tie in three or four fibers of turkey tail by the tip.
- 4) Wrap a fine body of turkey tail covering about ¾ of the hook shank and secure.
- 5) Counter-wrap the body with copper wire and secure.
- 6) Tease out a small hank of Super Fine dubbing about the diameter of the body.
- 7) Tie in at the thorax extending toward the hook bend and trim to length.
- 8) From the peacock eye, select only the iridescent bronze portion. Tie in at base of wing and wrap a head using just the bronze portion. (Did I mention he specifically uses only the bronze portion of the peacock eye?)
- 9) Whip finish head and trim excess.

This is a great pattern that is just the right color, size, and shape to imitate any number of emerging aquatic bugs. The Super Fine dubbing comes pretreated with WaterShed so it will drift just in the surface suspended by the wing. John fishes this fly by itself as an emerger, or as a dropper behind his famous Green Butt Soft Hackle. I just fish it in the film behind a parachute dry pattern as an indicator. Either way, it works.