

### Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

#### Boot Pierce's Honey Leech

This past weekend, I was fortunate enough to be a "river helper" for Reeling and Healing's Women's Retreat at Westover Farms; An experience that I highly recommend. Having never fished there, I sought advice from Ozark Member and Westover Farms Fly Fishing Instructor, Boot Pierce. He was kind enough to quickly respond that the fish were taking the assorted scuds, brown midges, and honey leeches during the Reeling & Healing Men's Retreat the week before. Arriving at the retreat, I thought I was well stocked with all manner of midges, scuds, and leeches.



It turned out that all of my leeches were mohair leeches in size 8 or 10. Boot's not-so-secret Honey Leech is a very simple, compact fly in sizes 12 or 14. Whenever Boot was with one of our ladies, he was more than likely tying on one of his honey leeches. We caught fish both stripping and dead-drifting these little leeches in his favorite honey color as well as black and brown. As with most "guide flies" this is a three-material fly that can be churned out in vast quantities, are durable, and catch fish.

Hook: TMC3761 Size 12-14

Thread: 8/0 Brown or Black

Weight: 10-12 wraps of .020 Lead Wire

Tail: Fluffy Marabou – Ginger (the favorite), Brown, Olive, Black or Cream

Body: Ostrich Herl – color to match tail

- 1) Secure hook in vise, and add the lead wire wraps to the front portion of hook shank.
- 2) Start thread just behind hook eye, and secure lead wraps with thread wraps ending at the hook bend.
- 3) Tie in a fluffy tail of marabou no longer than the hook shank, and trim excess.
- 4) Tie in two or three ostrich herl strands at the base of the tail.
- 5) Advance thread to just behind the hook eye.
- 6) Wrap the ostrich herl forward in touching wraps covering the hook shank and lead wraps.
- 7) Tie off just behind the hook eye and trim excess. Whip finish and trim thread.
- 8) Admire the simplicity...

We fished these both dead-drifted under a strike indicator, and stripped after letting it sink for a few seconds. Boot also ties this with a bead head for more weight, but the lead wire is often enough weight. Marabou and ostrich herl both come in a rainbow of colors, so feel free to experiment with colors.