

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Peacock Wooley Bugger

Say what you want about hatchery trout, once Missouri started the Urban Winter Trout Program we can now enjoy trout fishing in many of our own backyards. True, it is not as aesthetically pleasing as a flowing trout stream, but we get to spend a few hours trout fishing within a 20 minute drive versus a 3 hour drive. These trout do are not terribly sophisticated, but can get educated after a while. In addition, it is really tough to stand and watch an indicator if they are not cooperating that day. One of my favorite ways to catch these trout is stripping a leech or wooley bugger, and one of my favorite and best producing flies is this peacock wooley bugger. I usually tie them weighted with lead wire or with a bead, but that's personal preference as to how you want to get down to the fish.



Hook: 3X Streamer hook
Thread: 6/0 Black
Tail: Black Marabou
Flash: Pearl Flashabou or Chrystal Flash
Wire: Small Silver
Body: Peacock Herl
Hackle: appropriately-sized Black Saddle

- 1) Secure hook in vise and add any weight you prefer if any. Start thread behind hook eye and advance to hook bend.
- 2) Select a nice fluffy marabou tail about the length of the hook shank and tie in securely on top of hook shank.
- 3) Add a couple of strands of flash about as long as the marabou to each side of the tail.
- 4) Tie in wire ribbing and 6 or so strands of peacock herl. Make sure to use the tail, wire, and peacock herl butts to form a smooth underbody and leave the thread at the bend of the hook.
- 5) Take the thread and peacock herl and twist them together, then wrap forward to just behind the hook eye. Secure with several thread wraps and trim excess.
- 6) Tie in the saddle hackle by the butt, and wrap toward the hook bend in 5-7 even wraps.
- 7) Using the wire rib, make 2 wraps to secure the hackle tip, then evenly spiral the ribbing through the hackle to the hook eye.
- 8) Tie off with several thread wraps, trim the excess wire, and whip-finish.

As with any of my flies, try it in brown, olive, and even yellow with the peacock body. I just cast it out, let it sink and start stripping it back in 3 or 4 inch pulls. Vary the speed and cadence until you find what the fish like.