

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Purple Prince Nymph

With the upcoming winter season, the change in seasons always prompts a change in flies and fishing tactics. Ask O.F.F. member and Feather-Craft tier, Gary Fernandez, what he will be fishing in the winter, and he will likely give you several suggestions. However, his one constant “go-to” winter pattern is the Purple Prince Nymph. No question the Prince Nymph is a constant producer, but tied in purple gives it a great contrast and something the fish have not seen before. Perhaps it has something to do with the changing light conditions or super-clear water that affect what a trout sees. Whatever the reason, the Purple Prince is worth a try this winter season.



Hook: TMC 2457 size #14 or #16
Thread: 8/0 Black
Bead: Gold Tungsten or Brass 7/64”
Tail: Black Goose Biots
Rib: Small Copper wire
Abdomen: Purple Ice Dub
Legs: Black Hen Hackle
Wings: White Goose Biots

1. Slide bead onto hook and secure hook in vise. Start thread behind bead and advance to hook bend.
2. Build a small bump of thread, and tie in goose biot tail so that they point outward and splay outward.
3. Tie in copper wire rib, and dub a tapered body of the purple Ice Dub to the bead head.
4. Evenly rib the body to the bead, tie off, and trim excess.
5. Tie in hackle by the tip, and make two or three turns forming a beard-style hackle. Pull hackle toward the rear and make a couple of thread turns to make a base for tying in the wings.
6. Tie in white goose biots on top of hook right behind the bead pointing rearward forming a V over the body extending just beyond the end of the body.
7. Apply some cement to about an inch of the thread. Make a few wraps, then whip finish and trim thread.

Fish this like you would any nymph – dead-drift slow and deep then let it rise in the current at the end of your drift before recasting. Try dropping a midge or small scud below it for those sluggish winter fish. Make sure and thank Gary for your winter fishing success.