

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Ed Story's November Peacock

Ed Story is and always will be known as the creator of the Crackleback. However, Ed's impact on the flyfishing world goes much deeper. Always humble and always willing to share, he had no secret flies, secret tactics, or secret fishing holes. Count yourself lucky if you pick up one of his books. They are now in great demand and I would love to have mine back. Sadly, I loaned mine out never to be seen again. However, I still tie and fish many of his fly patterns, and the November Peacock is one of my fall favorites.

I'm not sure why, but this fly is a real killer in the fall and early winter – just as the name implies. And, as with most of Ed's favorite patterns, it is easy to tie, requires only a few materials, and can be fished effectively any way you like.

Hook: TMC 3761 or Mustad 3906B - Sizes #12-14
Thread: 8/0 Red
Weight: 6-10 Wraps .15" or .20" Lead Wire
Tail: Fibers from Gray/Green Cock Pheasant Feather from just above the rump
(see picture – you may have to buy a skin or rump patch to get these)
Body: Peacock Herl
Hackle: Fibers from the same feather as the tail
Head: Red Thread



- 1) Secure the hook in your vise, wrap lead wire in the middle of the hook shank, and secure with thread wraps.
- 2) Wrap thread to a point just above the hook barb. Peel off 6-10 fibers of the pheasant feather and tie in extending back about 2/3 of the hook shank in length.
- 3) Tie in peacock herl and wrap thread to within two eye-lengths of the eye.
- 4) Twist the peacock herl together and wrap to the waiting thread - building a slightly tapered body. (You can rib with copper, gold, or silver wire, but that would make it too fancy.)
- 5) Tie off and trim any excess.
- 6) Clip the very center fibers out of the pheasant feather, and pull the tips together.
- 7) Push the tips around the hook eye so that they extend to the end of the body and tie in soft-hackle-style.
- 8) Trim the feather waste, build a nice even head, and whip finish.

I fish this fly like three different flies in one drift. I will cast upstream and dead-drift it like a nymph until it begins to drag. Then I will let it swing like a soft hackle until it is down stream from me, and then retrieve it like a Crackleback. If you are going to the Bennett Spring Catch and Release Outing, make sure you have several. They always produce there - especially when the weather turns ugly. Also, don't forget to visit Ed's memorial while you're there... and make a few casts with his November Peacock for him.