

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Orange Stimulator

On our recent trip to fish the spring creeks of Wisconsin's Driftless Area, the obvious question was "What flies do I need?" Dave Barrons, former O.F.F. president and now guide for their Jacquish Hollow Anglers B&B, says "Hoppers, beetles, and ants... but we've been throwing an Orange Stimulator with a Copper John dropper." "Really?!" I reply... "Really," he says. Not the answer I was expecting, but you can't argue with the guide... or the fish. A quick stop at Driftless Angler fly shop in Viroqua, WI and we are armed with some traditional Orange "Stimmies" as well as some variations that the owner tied himself. The fish were quite happy with our selections.



Originally a Randall Kauffman stonefly imitation, this fly has become a standard attractor pattern for trout everywhere. The Stimulator floats like a cork, is highly visible, and will hold up a pretty substantial dropper fly. It looks like anything that could emerge from or land on the water, and it is a great trigger for aggressive fish.

Hook: TMC200R Size 10 - 16

Thread: 6/0 Orange

Tail: Elk Hair

Body: Burnt Orange SuperBright Dubbing

Body Hackle: Ginger or Brown Hackle a size or two smaller than normal

Wing: Elk Hair

Thorax: Burnt Orange SuperBright Dubbing

Hackle: Grizzly

- 1) Secure hook in vise, start thread about ¾ up the hook shank, and advance to hook bend
- 2) Stack a small bunch of elk hair for the tail and tie in extending about ¼ the hook shank
- 3) Wrap down the hair butts forward to where you started the thread to form an underbody. Trim butts and advance thread back to the base of the tail.
- 4) Select a hackle feather that is a size or two under-sized and tie in by the tip.
- 5) Dub a slender body of the SuperBright dubbing ending at the end of the underbody.
- 6) Palmer the hackle forward avoiding getting too bushy. Tie off at front of body.
- 7) Stack a clump of elk hair about twice the diameter of the body. Tie in on top of the hook at front of body extending back to the hook bend.
- 8) Trim the hair butts so that they taper toward the eye. Avoid getting too bulky.
- 9) Tie in grizzly hackle feather by the base at the base of the wing.
- 10) Dub a thorax that just covers the hair butts and tapers to the eye.
- 11) Palmer the grizzly hackle forward and tie off behind eye. Whip finish and trim thread.

Matt at Driftless Angler ties his with a little orange flashabou as an underwing and the wing is half elk hair and half orange deer hair – a very spiffy version with or without rubber legs. We did best when making long casts to undercut banks and overhanging bushes. Surprisingly, we used 4X tippet and were not terribly gentle with our presentation. I plan to pack a few of these in both our fly boxes for those occasions when we need something a little different.