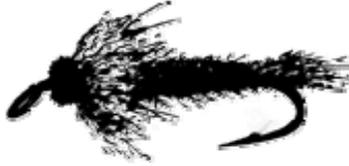


Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month

February 1998 - Polly's Casual Dress



By Jim Abbs

Polly Rosborough has been called the fly tying sorcerer of southern Oregon and in 1979 he was singled out by none other than Ernest Schwiebert as one of the finest professional fly tyers alive. However, just last month came the report that this legendary fly dresser of Oregon had moved to brighter waters, at the ripe old age of 95.

With Polly's passing it only seems appropriate to feature one of the many popular and effective flies he originated, the **Casual Dress nymph**. Polly wrote a book in 1965 entitled ***Tying and fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs***. That book featured many of his patterns, including the Casual Dress nymph. Those who would like to know more about this fly and its fuzzy relatives are encouraged to find a copy of that classic fly tying text.

In the design and tying of this nymph, like a number of his other patterns, Polly emphasized a style that involved a bushy or "fuzzy" appearance that made the fly breath and pulse with life because of the fact that the many hairs extending from the fly would move with the slightest action of either the angler's manipulation or the current. Basically, when these fuzzy flies are fished in moving water, the legs and fuzzy body are said to "pulse and tremble with a living quality." There seems little wonder why this pattern and others that Polly developed are so effective.

MATERIALS:

- **HOOK:** Mustad 9672, 79580 (6-12)
- **THREAD:** Black (6/0 or Monocord 3/0)
- **TAIL:** Muskrat guard hairs with some underfur left in
- **BODY:** Muskrat fur with guard hairs twisted into a dubbing rope (or noodle)
- **COLLAR:** Muskrat fur with guard hairs twisted into a rope and wound as a wet fly collar
- **HEAD:** Black ostrich herl

TYING STEPS:

1. Tie in bushy muskrat fur and guard hairs at bend of hook
2. Form a loop of thread and brush both sides with head cement
3. Hook the crooked end of a dubbing needle at the end of the loop
4. Place muskrat fur with guard hairs on one side of the thread loop and pull tight with the dubbing needle
5. Twist the dubbing needle to the right creating a fur rope or noodle
6. Grasp the fur rope with a hackle pliers and wind forward to form the body of the fly; twist the noodle with the hackle pliers as it is wound forward to maintain tension
7. Tie off the fur noodle about ¹ the length of the hook shank and trim

8. Create a second loop with the tying thread at the tie off point of the first loop and brush with tying cement
9. Line one side of the dubbing loop with muskrat fur with guard hairs, aligning the guard hairs fairly evenly and twist the loop to create a second fur noodle
10. Tie the fur rope collar around the hook shank and with the left hand stroke the guard hairs rearward as each turn is being made; After collar is formed, trim excess.
11. Tie in ostrich herl to behind hook and and tie off.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemoonth@fedflyfishers.org