

FFF Fly of the Month

BEAD BROOKS STONE



By Bob Bates

One of the activities associated with attending an annual Federation of Fly Fishers Show is testing the local waters. In 2001 a friend and I checked out some of the streams around Livingston, MT while our Council President sat all day in a meeting. We tried a small tributary, caught some small fish then went to the Yellowstone river. There were no fish working that we could see; so we tried the usual collection of flies without luck. Then I tied on a Brook's Montana Stonefly. I cast upstream so it would sink as much as possible. An 18-inch brown grabbed it and played with me until I could bring it in for the release. It wasn't a big fish by Montana standards, but rest assured I'll tie a few more Brook's Montana Stoneflies for a trip to the 2002 FFF Show.

One concern was getting the fly down quickly. Lots of options are available, but this one by Matt Minch looks pretty good. He tied the pictured fly at the 31st FFF Conclave and Show (1996) in Livingston, MT. Matt has been fishing with a fly rod for over 55 years and commercial fly tying for about 30 years. He has fished from Pennsylvania to New Zealand, and now lives in Montana. He fishes and guides about 200 days a year and has plenty of opportunity to test fly patterns. This pattern has worked for him and his friends.

He told us this pattern was derived from two other patterns that were given to him by Jack Parker from Idaho Falls, ID. One was a pattern that Zack Parker, Jack's son, had in the Patterns of the Masters, 1995 edition, page B11. Matt revised the patterns taking what he felt were the best features, added new materials, and then used Charlie Brook's

"tying-in-the-round" and came up with the Bead Brooks Stone.

He fishes it and its smaller version, Bead Golden Stone, with a short upstream cast and dead drift. A high rod technique lets him guide the nymph through holding water. Also he tries to get the fly as deep as possible. Matt said in Patterns of the Masters, Vol. 5 (1996) page A21: "The dark colors, the flash of the chenille, and the movement of the tail and hackle make this an extremely effective large stonefly imitation."

Hook: Mustad 9672 or other 3XL hook, 4-8

Bead: 5/32" black brass for hook sizes 6 & 8; 3/16" for size 4

Thread: Black mono 3/0

Tail: Marabou fluff from dyed brown grizzly saddle

Body: Black short flash chenille

Hackle: Brown dyed grizzly saddle

Thorax: Dark hare's ear color squirrel dubbing from Spirit River

1. Pinch down barb, slip bead over point to eye of hook. Start thread behind bead and wind to rear of hook.

2. Tie in dyed brown grizzly marabou-like fluff. Make the tail a gap length long.

3. Tie in flash chenille at bend, wind thread forward about 2/3rds of the shank length, apply head cement liberally on thread wraps, wrap chenille forward to thread, secure and trim excess.

4. Tie in hackle, dub squirrel onto thread loosely and wind it forward to bead. Wrap hackle forward through dubbed thorax three or four turns, burying the hackle stem, and secure behind the bead. Trim excess hackle.

5. Put a little more squirrel dubbing on the thread and wrap it between the hackle and the bead. Whip finish. This secures the bead and covers any visible thread.

A Bead Golden Stone is tied the same way but using a smaller gold bead, yellow 6/0 thread, brown-olive flash chenille, antique gold dubbing on Mustad 9672 or equal hooks, sizes 8-12.

You now have two stonefly nymph patterns that can be fished in many situations. And from the stories Matt told they really work for him, so they should work for you and me also. I'll bring some Bead Brooks Stones with me this August.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.

You can direct any questions or comments to flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org