

FFF Fly of the Month

GOLDEN STONEFLY



By Bob Bates

Elden Berrett tied this high floating pattern at the 38th International Fly Fishing Conclave and Show, Idaho Falls, Idaho, August 2003. Elden is a Guide with South Fork Outfitters in Swan Valley about 45 miles east of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Many western U.S. folks are partial to the Golden stonefly because it is big, up to 1-1/4 inches long, hatches over a period of up to four weeks depending on weather and finally, fish like them. If you are not fortunate enough to have Goldens in your area, check for something similar and change the pattern accordingly.

Depending on where you are the hatches are in early June in the coastal states and late June to early July in the Rocky Mountain States. The nymphs crawl out of the stream bed usually at night. They will travel some distance from the stream side rocks and hatch in nearby vegetation. While the adults stay for several days some might be unfortunate enough to fall into the water and be recycled into fish. Mating takes place in the foliage, and the females when ready will fly back to the water to lay their eggs. The evening egg laying flights are considered inconsistent by some authors. However, when they come the fish are greedy enough to make dry fly fishing most satisfying.

The females fly upstream to lay their eggs, and the eggs drift downstream before lodging in rocks. Use a normal drag free float for most presentations, but it doesn't hurt to jiggle the fly a little to attract attention even in faster water. However, on smooth water giving the fly a little jiggle is a good idea.

Materials

Hook: Dai-riki 270 #4-10

Thread: Tan 6/0

Underbody: White open cell foam, 1/16-inch thick and 1/8-inch wide.
Rainey

Body: Dubbed, Hairline #43 Ginger

Hackle: Brown

Overbody: Tan or brown closed cell foam, 1/8-inch thick by 3/16- to 1/4-inch wide

Legs: Medium round rubber, brown

Posts: Closed cell foam 1/16-inch thick 1/8-inch wide, 1/4-inch long, orange and yellow.

Tying Steps

1. If you want to go barbless, flatten barb with smooth jaw pliers before starting to tie fly.
2. Start thread behind eye, and wind a smooth thread base to rear. If you hold the thread tag out to the side and wind against it, the result will be a smooth thread base.
3. Attach underbody foam above point of hook, and spiral thread forward to about two or three eye widths back from eye.
4. Start wrapping underbody forward overlapping it a little. Tie off underbody about two or three eye widths behind eye, trim excess and spiral thread rearward over underbody to just above the barb.
5. Put dubbing material on thread using your favorite method. Cover underbody with dubbing from bend to the eye. The last couple of wraps, with thin dubbing, should be moved rearward to where the hackle will be secured.
6. Select hackle with barbs that are a gap width long. Attach at front of hook, and spiral rearward with the thread. A long saddle hackle makes this easy. Secure hackle over point of hook and trim excess.
7. Cut a point on back of overbody foam by trimming off the square corners. Also "round off" the head by clipping the corners a little. Tie foam securely on top of hook above the point.
8. Fold two 2-inch pieces of round rubber around the thread and make one

or two thread wraps. Position one lag on each side of body by sliding it under the thread. Hide the thread with a little dubbing on the last wrap.

9. Tie in orange foam on top of hook by the very end of the foam. Tie it tightly so it stands up.

10. Hold up overbody foam, pull back legs and spiral thread forward through the hackle.

11. Fold overbody forward and secure at a point 2 or 3 eye widths back from eye. Tie a 2-inch piece of round rubber on each side of the body for the front legs. Tie in yellow foam so it stands up. Whip finish over thread holding foam and legs.

There you have a fly that most of us can see on the water. With the orange and yellow foam patches you can follow it even in faster water. If you change the body, hackle and overbody colors you might want to keep the bright posts for visibility.

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