

BLACK JUNE



By Bob Bates

The August 2010 FFF Fly Fishing Fair and Conclave was held in West Yellowstone, Montana. It was a great opportunity to meet fly anglers and tiers from all over the world. There were people from South Africa, Ireland, Scotland, Great Britain, Canada, many parts of the United States and other places.

One favorite demonstration fly tier was Ellen Clark from Ft. Washakie, Wyoming. She likes Gary LaFontaine patterns. They are easy to tie and catch fish. Black June is a searching pattern generally for streams, but it can be used in lakes. In streams she usually fishes it like a nymph, down and across. If you feel it is not getting deep enough add a little lead to the leader. Also give it a little action; don't stay with a dead drift. In lakes use a slow retrieve. This pattern is supposed to imitate a beetle.

Materials list:

Hook: Any heavy nymph hook like Dai Riki 280 size 12

Thread: 6/0 black

Tag: Silver tinsel

Rib: French oval tinsel

Body: Peacock herl

Wing: Monga ring tail, black fibers

Collar: Hen hackle, black

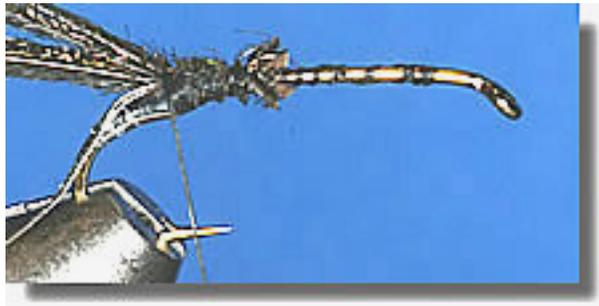
Tying steps:



1. Wrap a thread base on hook, and let thread hang between barb and point of hook.



2. Tie in gold/silver Mylar ribbing so the silver side is up when you wrap. Wrap the tag around the bend, and then back to tie in point. This is longer than it should be because the tinsel is sometimes a little messy when it is tied off and trimmed. It will be partly covered by the body.



3. Tie on a piece of thin silver oval French tinsel where the tag ends, trim any excess and let it hang. Tie in fairly long pieces of peacock herl above the barb so you don't have to cut and paste in the middle of the body. Even if you do it is not the end of the world; the fish don't care. She says that at least the fish haven't told her that they care.



4. Start by wrapping the peacock herl two or three times around the thread. Then hold the thread and peacock herl together as you wrap forward. The thread reinforces the delicate peacock herl as you wrap. Wrap forward to about two eye widths from the eye. Ellen learned years ago to leave one eye width for each material to be tied on. Tie off and trim excess.



5. Counter wrap the oval tinsel forward. This means to wrap in a direction opposite to what the peacock herl was wrapped. By counter wrapping the peacock herl is reinforced and the tinsel is visible on top of the herl. Trim excess with part of scissors back from the points. Keep the tips sharp for trimming hackle.



6. Pick out a small bunch of black hair from a Monga Ring tail, and clean out any under fur. Trim off the butts if needed to make it fit in the hair stacker, and stack with tips down. Tie bunch of hair onto hook with tips at about the end of the hook.



7. Pick a black hen hackle, and trim the barbs where it will be tied in. Since this is a soft hackle pattern make only two turns. Secure and trim excess.



8. With three fingers pull the barbs back, and wind the thread rearward to make the fibers point backward a little. Half hitch or whip finish the head. Finally, put on enough head cement all the way around the head to soak in.

Closing comments: Tie a few Black Junes and go searching for some nice fish. If you are not going to keep them for dinner, be sure to release them carefully so you or a friend can play with them another day. Also keeping the fish in the water as you take out the barbless hook helps survival. If you have to net the fish use a net with a knotless or rubber bag.

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