

On The Fly

February 2009

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: Griffith's Gnat

Hook: Daiichi 1170 or equivalent standard dry, size 16-20.
Thread: Black 8/0.
Body: Peacock herl
Rib: Fine silver wire.
Hackle: Grizzly saddle.
Head: Black thread.



Tying Instructions:

- 1) Start the thread one eye-width back from the eye. Lay down a thread layer covering the shank to the bend of the hook. Let the bobbin hang at this position for Step 2.
- 2) Select a grizzly saddle hackle with barbs the length of the hook gape and tie the hackle in by its tip.
- 3) Tie in the silver wire at this same position, then advance the thread forward to just behind the eye.
- 4) Select two peacock herls. Tie them on top of the shank the length of the hook to the rear tie-in point.
- 5) Wrap the herls over the back of the shank $\frac{1}{2}$ turn, then wrap the herls two turns counterclockwise around the thread to form a herl chenille. Grab the herls and thread and wind it forward in touching turns to just behind the eye. Tie off and trim.
- 6) Wind the silver wire forward in five even turns to form the rib. Tie off and trim.
- 7) Wind the hackle forward in five even turns following the rib. Tie off and trim.
- 8) Form a small, neat head. Whip finish the thread and apply cement.

The Griffith's Gnat was created by George Griffith, one of the founders of Trout Unlimited. This buggy dry fly is very easy to tie, uses common materials, and is rated as one of the best dries for winter trout fishing. The pattern imitates a lot of different insects. This time of year it works great when adult midges skitter across the surface, especially when they form clumps. The fly can be fished several different ways. Try fishing it behind a larger dry fly.

TYING TIPS

Beside the obvious size and hook variations, I've seen the Griffith's Gnat tied with a bright pink poly post to add visibility in lower light conditions or for guys like me who are optically challenged. So tie some up, brave the elements, give them a test flight and let me know how you do.