



BRULE RIVER FLY OF THE MONTH SERIES

BRULE RIVER SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Featuring some member favorites!

Preface

A recurring comment our board hears from Brule “old-timers” is how much they enjoy introducing newcomers to the river. There is a passion to pass their love of the river on to others, especially today’s youth. The hope is that others will enjoy all the Brule has to offer as much as we have and that they will develop a lasting commitment to the river. With all the external pressures on and threats to the environment in today’s world, the Brule will need all the advocates it can get in the future. Club members and friends have offered descriptions of some of their favorite flies to help newcomers get a start. Non-members are welcome to suggest flies too (and join the Club as well!).

If you have a favorite that you’d like to share, send us a message by *clicking on* [Contact Us](#).

The Brule River Sportsmen’s Club Board

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March 2020

Brule River Brown Stone Nymph

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

The Brule River's large brown stonefly (salmon fly) is a big insect! They are a steak dinner to the fish and are available to them all year with the primary mating time the first few weeks of June. Adults average 1 ½ to 1 ¾ inches in length. This is a good steelhead fly as the fish are accustomed to eating them. They are dominant in the early season on the Brule. There are many variations of this fly. I found that I do best with one that is unweighted and dead drifted with weight added to the line about 18 inches above the fly. This allows the fly to move with the currents more naturally. I don't like to overdress the fly.



Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 200R #4.*
2. *Thread: Any 3/0 or 210 in brown, rusty brown, dark brown.*
3. *Tails: Two brown, dark brown goose biots.*
4. *Abdomen: Add brown nymph vinyl rib. Dub with Kaufmann's Pattern SLF brown stonefly blend. Taper the body. Rib for segmentation.*
5. *Make 3 thorax wing case pieces from wild turkey tail feathers. The darker mottled brown the better. Cut a "V" in each to simulate the naturals. I cement the underneath of each with UV glue. ADD legs to each side between each wing case using same biot only larger pieces for legs. ADD dubbing building thorax. Repeat 3 times. The largest wing case will be first, then gradually smaller on the next two.*
6. *Head: The head will form easily from the last wing case. I cover a little bit the hook eye as their heads are large. Optional: add antennae from the same biot, but use smaller pieces. Not sure if antennae make a difference to the fish. I usually don't add them.*

April 2020

Brule River Modified Brown Wooly Bugger

Ken Lundberg, BRSC Vice President – Lake Nebagamon, WI

The fly is not imitating a specific insect but is close to a several found in the Brule. It works well throughout the early spring steelhead season and on into May. As the waters warm into the 40s, it becomes more effective. As an added bonus, many resident and lake-run browns can be taken on the fly. I prefer black and brown patterns in the early season and find olive patterns effective going into May. In the early season the fly is most effectively presented much the same as a steelheader uses a yarn fly. Once the water warms, sinking fly line with a 6 to 8 pound fluorocarbon tippet is effective. When necessary weight is added to the tippet. The most important part of the presentation is getting the fly in the strike zone at the right speed. We have all heard that before. Since the fly is not trying to duplicate a specific insect, I vary body size and colors, Flashabou colors, and marabou tails. I'm not good at fly tying but find off-shoots of the basic wooly bugger pattern easy to tie.



Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 760sp #6 or #8.*
2. *Thread: 260 to 280 in dark brown or black.*
3. *Tail: Strung dark brown marabou with Flashabou Accent Flashing in silver or gold.*
4. *Body: Chenille in dark brown or close to it. (I will vary colors all the way to pink).*
5. *Neck Hackle over Body: Brown in color. (I prefer a longer soft hackle).*
6. *Head: Just wrap tread with a few strands of Flashabou.*

May 2020

Partridge and Orange

Phil Johnson, Superior Fly Angler – Superior, WI

The Partridge and Orange is an old English wet fly dating back about 150 years! Fish it in the surface film. Other colors of floss or dubbing can be used as noted. It is a great caddis pupa imitation.



Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 3761 #12 – #18 or something similar.*
2. *Thread: Black 6/0.*
3. *Body: Orange floss (yellow or green also used as well as different colors of dubbing)*
4. *Collar: Peacock herl.*
5. *Wing: Hungarian partridge. A couple turns in front of the peacock herl. The length of the fibers should extend to about the bend of the hook.*

June 2020

Brule River Burnt Wulff

Damian Wilmot, – Superior, WI

This dry fly is a variation of the Royal Wulff that was developed for brook trout on the upper Brule many decades ago.



Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 101, #10 is a reliable size.*
2. *Thread: Orange 6/0 uni thread.*
3. *Tail: Moose mane.*
4. *Wing: Fluorescent orange calf body hair.*
5. *Body: Peacock herl.*
6. *Hackle: Brown rooster saddle.*

For instructions, click on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl4ql6u_iSo&feature=youtu.be.

July 2020

Hex Para Drake

John Fehnel, Great Lakes Fly Shop, – Duluth, MN

This is an extended body, bullet-style mayfly imitating the largest mayfly that hatches on the Brule River. The body is approximately 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches not including the tails, which are about as long as the body. The hatch usually occurs in the evening the last week of June through the first week of July. Their lifespan is about 24 to 48 hours once they hatch.



Recipe

1. *Hook: Daiichi 1170 #8 standard dry fly or similar type.*
2. *Thread: Dark Brown Danville 210.*
3. *Tail: Tie several fibers of long pheasant tail. Keep them extra-long as they will extend past the body.*
4. *Wing: Tie in light elk hair wing post.*
5. *Tie forward deer hair (light cream or light olive) for bullet head and extended body.*
6. *Reposition thread just forward of the wing post. Grasp deer hair, pull rearward, and wrap thread making extended body. Bring thread back to wing post.*
7. *Tie in cream or light dun hackle parachute style to finish fly.*

August 2020

Olive Woolhead Sculpin

Paul Gausman, BRSC member, – Somerset, WI

The woolhead sculpin has proven for me to be an effective pattern for catching Brule River browns. I fish it on a floating or sinking tip line with a split shot 3 to 4 inches above the fly. When I drift the fly, I like to get a short belly in the tip portion of the line and then feed line into the drift. I use wrist twitches to impart action during the drift and use some panic strips at the end of the drift. Hold on!



Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco 300, size 4, 6XL (I pinch the barb, makes releasing fish easy!).*
2. *Thread: Olive or dark olive Danville Flymaster plus 140 denier.*
3. *Weight: wrap medium to large lead wire, leave ½ inch for head. Secure with thread and coat with super glue.*
4. *Tail and Body: Dark olive rabbit strip. Make the tail about 1 inch long on the hide, secure with a touch of glue after the tying it in. Palmer the rabbit strip for the body stopping ½ inch from eye of hook. Whip finish. Cut thread. Remove fly from vise and trim rabbit fur down to the hide on the underside.*
5. *Pectoral Fins: Add a dark olive grizzly hen hackle to each side at the tie off point of the rabbit.*
6. *Head: Dark Olive Sculpin Wool – 3 clumps. First clump is 2" long secured in the middle. Use 2 wraps to let the thread spin it down on the hook shank (I use clumps that are about ½ inch in diameter and use a comb or fingers to prep the clumps of wool). Fold the forward pointing wool back, push it rearward, and secure in front with a couple of thread wraps. Second and third clumps are 1.5 inches long, tied in same manner as first. Don't make a real dense head. Gently comb out the wool before trimming the head. Trim head to desired shape, trim on bottom to expose the belly of the fly. I find a sparser head holds less water; therefore it casts better, sinks better, and holds its shape in the water nicely.*

September 2020

Warner's "Big White" Streamer

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI

(Dedicated to Dad, 1929 – 2016)

I developed this fly by using a technique for palmering a rabbit strip that I learned from a tier in Washington and applying it to Ed Shenk's White Minnow pattern. It became one of our "go to" streamers for the big smallmouth of Chequamegon Bay. We then started fishing it for steelhead on the Brule, especially in the warmer water of September. Soon it became my Dad's favorite fly. I remember him telling me that he caught his largest Brule steelhead ever on this fly.

He was a master at fishing it. I remember standing on a high bank and watching him fish it through a run, getting the fly to sink down early, while adding a split shot several inches above the fly when needed. He would get the fly to swing broadside as long as possible with a slight twitch when he knew the fly was in the zone, then a pause, then another twitch, longer pause, and then letting it hang at the end of the swing. He loved to fish it in the faster runs early in the season as he loved the vicious strikes of the early "hot fish."



Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco 300 size 2.*
2. *Thread: White Danville 210 Flat waxed nylon.*
3. *Weight: Lead wire 0.020.*
4. *Wrap about 1 inch of lead wire to the middle of the hook.*
5. *Secure the wire with thread, tapering each end of the wire to make a smooth transition. Coat with Hard as Hull or equivalent.*
6. *Add white marabou tail, about 1.5 inches long. Tie in above the barb that is pinched down. Add 2 pieces of pearl Krystal Flash to each side, cut same length as tail. Alternative is to use rabbit strip as the tail.*
7. *Tie 1/8th inch wide white rabbit strip at the rear of the hook and palmer tightly to the eye of the hook, folding the rabbit to the rear with each wrap, tie off and whip finish.*

8. *With your sharpest curved scissors, cut the sides off the fly until you have a sparse top and bottom (Suggestion: you might want to do this outdoors – rabbit fur flies everywhere!). Next trim the top and bottom to form a baitfish look. The fly works best when not overdressed.*

October 2020

Hank's Creation

Rick Goddard, BRSC member – Cleveland, OH

Anyone who spends time on the Brule learns, at least by osmosis if not conscious study, some of the mysteries and lore that surround this extraordinary and storied trout stream. A brief account concerning a monster brown trout captured in the late evening or early night hours somewhere upstream from the Gitche Gumee Lodge on what was cryptically described as a Hank's Creation caught my attention many years ago. That account accompanied the full profile, pine-cutout of a trout hanging on the wall of the lodge. John Holbrook kindly contacted Amy Holbrook Abrams for me who, in turn, graciously shared photographs of her prized collection of vintage Hank's Creations. Guided by those photos and an exceptional piece by Steve Therrein (<https://troutshadows.blogspot.com/2014/04/forgive-me-father-for-i-have-sinned.html>), I tried my hand at replicating this truly unique "pattern."



Recipe

1. *Hook: Size 2 Mustad 33903 straight eyed popper hook with an upward bend in the shank.*
2. *Thread #1: Black Veevus GSP GO1 200D or 250D.*
3. *Thread #2: Black 3/0 Danville monochord.*
4. *Body: # 7- #3 Hobby cork stoppers (Bangor Cork in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania).*
5. *Paint: Krylon Premium Metallic Spray Paint in sterling silver.*
6. *Glue: E6000 Industrial Strength Adhesive in squirt tube.*
7. *Iris: Red acrylic paint.*
8. *Pupils: Black acrylic paint.*
9. *Tail: Red kip tail / calf tail, tied about half shank length.*
10. *Rear of Body: Spun deer hair.*
11. *Topping: Mallard flank feathers.*
12. *Cement: Sally Hansen Hard As Nails or another penetrating head cement.*
13. *Glue: UV Resin.*
14. *Wings: White buck tail fibers with red buck tail fibers tied above.*
15. *Cut a notch along the length of the cork for the hook. I cut the initial notch with a Japanese-style pull saw and finished it to the proper depth (1/8") with a coping saw blade.*

16. *Paint the notched cork. It is obviously easier to paint in a single batch all the corks you need for the number of flies you will tie. I supported the corks for painting by impaling them on brads driven through a 1/8" board. Two coats of paint will increase durability of the finished "fly." Let the paint dry thoroughly.*
17. *Glue the hook in the notch of the cork with the hook eye protruding just beyond the face of the cork. Line the notch with glue and insert the hook. Let the glue dry.*
18. *Paint the irises with red acrylic paint on the face of each cork. Let the paint dry.*
19. *Paint the pupils on the irises with black acrylic paint. Let the paint dry.*
20. *Tie in a tail of red kiptail or calf tail about half the length of the hook shank. Wrap the hook shank from the rear of the cork to the bend and back. Then tie in the tail, wrapping back to the bend, making one wrap between the tail and the hook bend, then wrapping back to the cork. Use the Veevus thread for this. Tie off the thread and cut off. Coat with head cement and let dry.*
21. *Spin deer hair around the hook shank, from the hook bend to the back of the cork, using the monochord thread. About three small clumps of deer hair should be sufficient to fill the space. Tie off the thread behind the back of the cork. Trim deer hair along the lines of the cork to create a tapered body to the tail.*
22. *Tie in 1 to 3 mallard flank feathers on top of the cork extending back nearly to the end of the tail. Use the Veevus thread for this. Fix the feathers in place with a drop or two of UV resin, which you cure with a UV light.*
23. *Tie in a clump of white buck tail on either side of the cork, extending back from the face of the cork nearly to the end of the tail. Two wraps of the Veevus thread will suffice.*
24. *Tie in a clump of red buck tail above each clump of white buck tail, extending back from the face of the cork nearly to the end of the tail. Three wraps of the Veevus thread will do.*
25. *Wrap the thread forward 6 wraps to hold the flank feathers and buck tail in place. Then, carefully trim the stub ends of the buck tail fibers and flank feathers to about 1/2" from the face of the cork. Coat the thread wraps with head cement and continue wrapping the thread forward toward the face of the cork with touching thread wraps.*
26. *Cover the trimmed flank feather and buck tail fiber stubs with thread wraps. Whip finish the thread.*
27. *Coat entire collar of thread with head cement and let dry.*

I understand that the original Hank's Creation had red goose feather sections extending from 3/8" in back of the face of the cork to nearly the tip of the tail. These feathers apparently were destroyed almost immediately by the strike of the first large fish. I decided to go with the red buck tail as a substitute.