

2025 Flies



Spring's Wiggler

Paul's Hairy Hellge

Grouse Caddis Emerger

Dick's Foam Hex Spinner

Mike Lawson's No Hackle Dry Fly

Dark Spruce Streamer

Beaully Snow Fly

Dave Pinzckowski "Hair Series"

March 2025

Spring's Wiggler

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



I was first introduced to this fly in the mid 1970s when fishing the Betsy River in Michigan for spring-run steelhead. The river was clear and a fisherman in a wheel chair was fishing below the barrier and hooking steelhead one after another. The fly he was using was called a Spring's Wiggler. It was developed by Ron Spring, a Muskegon sport shop owner.

Since then, this fly has been a difference-maker many times for me on the Brule. My favorite body colors are cream, olive, and orange. The tail and wing case is fox squirrel tail. The legs are a webby brown, olive brown, or olive saddle hackle. It's an unweighted fly that ties up easily. I like fishing it dead drift as I would using a stonefly nymph. The thought is that it's designed to imitate a *Hexagenia mayfly* nymph.

Spring's Wiggler Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 200R in size 6 is standard for this fly on the Brule.*
2. *Thread: Olive, brown, or black Danville 210 Denier flat waxed. Tie in the thread about ¼ inch behind the hook eye and overwrap to a point on the shank where the thread hangs between the hook point and the barb.*
3. *Tail and Wing Case: A 1/16th inch clump of fox squirrel tail that is more than 2 inches long with the fluff removed from the base of the hair. Tie in the clump of hair on top of the hook shank where your thread is above the hook point, making a tail that is about ¾ inch long. Use a loose wrap, then 3 or 4 tight wraps. Next splay out the tail a bit by making 2 or 3 wraps under the tail hairs. Make another wrap or two on top, then stand up the clump and make 3 or 4 wraps in front and tight against tail hairs. This will stand up the butt ends of the hair that will become the wing case. These will be pulled over the body and legs in step 7 to make a wing case over a large thorax. A sparser squirrel tail clump seems to work better for me, perhaps because I like fishing this fly in clear water.*
4. *Legs: Tie in a webby saddle hackle by the tip. The first fibers at the tie-in point should be a little longer than the hook gap. Those at the last wrap should be 1½ times the hook gap at the head. This usually requires about 2" of the saddle hackle to get 4 or 5 wraps. I separate the fibers on the stem where I want the hackle to be tied in. I then set the hackle on the back side of the hook and secure with 3 or 4 wraps. Trim excess hackle tip and advance the thread to ¼ inch behind the hook eye. The hackle will be palmered up the body in step 6.*
5. *Body: Medium chenille or Antron yarn in the color of choice. Tie in a length of material long enough to make the body and use your thread to overwrap it on the side of the hook shank to the rear, ending at the standing squirrel hair. Wrap the thread back to ¼ inch behind the hook eye. Wrap the body material up to the thread and tie off.*

6. *Legs: Palmer the saddle hackle forward over the body for 4 or 5 evenly spaced turns, leaving a 3/16th inch space for the head.*
7. *Wing case: Wet your fingers a bit and pull the legs evenly down the middle to each side. This should get the top fibers out of the way to pull the Fox squirrel hair over the top to make a wing case. While holding down the hair, make a loose wrap and then 2 tight wraps. Now you can let go of the hair, and pull any loose hairs forward by the tips. Secure with several tighter wraps, trying not to crowd the hook eye. Whip finish and cut the thread. Once satisfied with the position of the hair put a small drop of UV resin on top of the head. Pull up the excess squirrel hair and hit it with the UV light. Then trim the excess hair. This will leave a small head of hair. Finish the remaining head with the UV resin. It is ok to get a little into the hair on top behind the head as the squirrel hair is slippery stuff and can pull out easily on a fish. I like UVcraft UV curable resin the best (<https://uvcraft.com/>).*

April 2025

Paul's Hairy Hellge

Paul Gausman, BRSC member, – Somerset, WI



The hellgrammite (dobsonfly larvae) is the Tyrannosaurus of the aquatic world. It thrives in the cold clean waters of the Brule River. I was inspired to tie this fly back in the 1980s when my friend, Dean Wellman, told me that his dad was catching steelhead on a rubber cast version of a hellgrammite. Not many companies offered them for sale back then, but the market is flooded with

them now. I decided to try tying a couple wiggle-nymph style hellgrammites that would be very hairy and buggy looking and would be about 2 to 2½ inches long.

There were steelhead in the river when I decided to test this fly. I slipped the canoe in for a solo float to try it in some deep gravel runs. On the first drift, I was just getting my presentation set up when the rod bent in half and was almost jerked out of my hand. It was obviously a very heavy fish and caught me off guard. It made a run under the alders and was gone. I was impressed more by how far the fish moved to take the fly than how hard the take was!

I tie this fly unweighted and dead drift it on a mono rig. As nymph fisherman know, sometimes the takes can be a subtle stop. Fish it with your system of choice. You can weight the fly with your preferred method. Be on your toes. You just never know when you might get “freight-trained” as I did.

Abdomen recipe

1. *Hook: Any straight-eyed 4xls with a shank that is ~1¼ inches in length (straighten the bend if needed to get the length).*
2. *Thread: Brown Danville 140 Flymaster Plus.*
3. *Tail: Brown goose biots. Attach the thread in the middle of the shank and wrap to about 1/8th inch of the bend, leaving an area to cut the bend off when completed. Make a small dubbing ball of brown olive goat to help separate the two goose biots. Tie in 2 biots so that the curved sides face each other*
4. *Rib: Attach a 4- or 5-inch piece of brown 4-strand floss. For step 6.*
5. *Abdomen: Brown-olive African goat or Angora goat dubbing. Dub the abdomen to the hook eye with a gradual increase in the taper.*
6. *Rib: Twist the 4-strand floss tight and wrap forward to make the ribs. Space each rib slightly farther apart to make increasingly wider segments. Tie off and whip finish. Put a dab of*

super glue behind the dubbing ball that separates the goose biots in the tail before removing the abdomen from the vise and cutting the bend off the hook shank.

Thorax recipe

1. *Hook: Mustad 3906B or equivalent – size 6.*
2. *Connection loop: 12 lb. test Maxima Chameleon monofilament. Thread the mono through the eye on the abdomen, making a loop back to the thorax hook. Secure the loop to the hook using thread wraps while leaving the loop a little loose so that the abdomen can wiggle around. Cement the line on the shank with the super glue.*
3. *Wing case: Brown Wapsi Thin Skin. Attach a piece that is about 3/16 of an inch wide at the halfway position on the hook shank. This piece is used in step 5.*
4. *Body: Brown-olive African goat or Angora goat dubbing. Dub the body with a taper matching the abdomen. Don't be afraid to use some super glue here to help build up the dubbing to match the taper. You don't want this to come unraveled as this is the business end of the fly.*
5. *Wing case: Pull the wing case forward once you're satisfied with the taper. Tie off the wing case off, making a nice head. Brush out the hair to the sides and add a little more super glue. Lastly, trim the bottom to make a flatter appearance.*

May 2025

Grouse Caddis Emerger

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



I had an experience last May that prompted me to point out the importance of emergers during a hatch. One nice afternoon, I grabbed my 5-wt and the flies that I tied over winter and I drove to the cabin to see if anything was hatching. I could see fish rising and caddis flies coming off the water as I approached the river. I sat on the bench and watched for several minutes. There were 3 or 4 smaller fish rising upstream and 2 or 3 larger fish rising downstream in a seam created by some alders. The rises were splashy and aggressive. A hatching caddis would quickly emerge out of the water. It would take about a 1-foot hop, then a 2-foot

hop, and then a 4-foot hop. After the last hop, it would fly to the trees. No fish were taking the hopping caddis flies after they emerged.

I decided to put on a size 16 CDC caddis, which looked like the right size, and I cast to the smaller fish because I wanted to make sure I had the right fly on before trying the bigger fish. All had refused the fly after a few nice casts. After further observation, I could see the caddis coming out of their shucks. The shuck would appear as a small tube, sometimes at a different angle as it separated from the adult caddis. Fish were eating the caddis and the shuck. Emergence was really fast with the flies most vulnerable during emergence; hence, the quick, splashy rises. Once the caddis started the hopping routine, they were not as vulnerable and the fish didn't make an effort to grab them.

My next move was to try an olive grouse emerger with a trailing shuck that I copied from Mike Lawson's Partridge Caddis Emerger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBZuiBlyBpo>. I substituted our ruffed grouse for the Hungarian partridge and Prism SLF peacock dubbing for the peacock herl Mike uses. I caught 3 of the smaller fish immediately. After celebrating my discovery, and with bigger fish still rising below me, I cast to the biggest fish. A very large drop-back steelhead rolled on the fly on my first cast. I waited for the line to tighten, but nothing! Now what? I decided to change flies, and put on an emerger with a lighter-colored body. On my next cast, the line tightened, I had a bus attached to my 4 lb tippet, and I'm in tennis shoes on the bank! Needless to say, this bus continued downstream towards the lake and broke me off in seconds.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 100 in size 14 or 16.*
2. *Thread: Olive 8/0 UNI-thread. Attach the thread mid-shank and overwrap to the bend and back.*
3. *Rib: Fine gold wire. Attach and overwrap to the hook bend. This will be used in step 6.*
4. *Body: Light olive dun Wapsi Antron Sparkle Dubbing. Dub a body that is a little thicker and stubbier than a mayfly body and a little more than half the length of the hook shank.*

5. *Trailing Shuck: Cream Antron yarn. Position a 2-inch clump of 8 – 12 fibers on top of the hook shank just ahead of the body. Tie it in at the middle of the clump with 1/2 to the rear. This rear piece will be overwrapped in the next step.*
6. *Rib: While holding 1/2 of the Antron yarn to the rear, overwrap the yarn with the wire making segmented wraps. Tie off the wire and trim the excess. Trim the trailing shuck to hook shank length with a slight taper.*
7. *Underwing: Fold back the other 1/2 of the Antron yarn and tie it down. Trim it just past the hook bend.*
8. *Wing: Take 2 feathers from the rump of a ruffed grouse and place them on top of each other. Fold back the fluff (the stems on these feathers are fragile so do not try to remove the fluff) and pinch the two feathers together at the tie-in point. Then, tie them down on top of hook shank. This wing should extend a little past the Antron underwing. The wing can be on the short side as the adult is just emerging. Trim the excess once you're satisfied with the wing position.*
9. *Head: You should have about 1/8th inch of space left to dub a small head of peacock SLF Prism Dubbing. You can pick this out a little for a leggy look. Whip finish.*

June 2025

Dick's Foam Hex Spinner

Mike Zicus, BRSC Board Member – Bemidji, MN



I was introduced to this fly years ago when Dick Berge showed us how to tie it and some of his other Hexagenia patterns at a Club board meeting. It was a few years before I tried to reproduce it from memory. As a consequence, I don't tie it exactly the same way Dick did. It has an extended body, which is tied separately on a sewing needle and then attached to the hook. The fly is durable and floats well even after it's fooled a few fish. A few years ago, I fished the entire hex hatch with the same fly whenever I needed a spinner pattern. By the end, it was trashed. The tails were gone and the body was shredded but still hanging together, which is a testimony to the durability

of Kevlar thread! Best of all, it was still fooling fish! This is definitely a pattern I'd recommend if you intend to fish the "hex hatch."

Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 2312 in size 8 or 6. Dick used a Mustad 94833, but I prefer the longer shanked Tiemco.*
2. *Thread: Natural-colored Kevlar. Dick used Danville Flymaster Plus. A strong thread helps when tying in the wings. I prefer Kevlar because it is unbreakable and lies so flat.*
3. *Tails: Moose mane or porcupine guard hair. Prepare a sewing needle that is 1¼ inches to 1½ inches long by cutting the point off (unless you don't mind finger sticks!). The smaller the diameter the better. Clamp the eye end of the needle in the vise. Start the thread about ¾ of an inch from the vise jaws and tie in 2 tail hairs that are ~3 inches long. Wrap over the hairs while holding them up at a slight angle until you've reached the end point, ~ 1/8th inch from the jaws. The wraps don't need to be touching. You're just moving the thread to the rear of the needle. Make 2 or 3 tight wraps when you've reached the end point. Tuck the tails between the vice jaws. Trim the butt ends.*
4. *Body: Yellow 1/8th inch (3mm) foam. Cut a 1¼ inch long piece that tapers from ¼ inch to ~1/8th inch in width. Next, carefully slice the wide end of the piece in half crosswise with a very sharp blade. The cut will produce two ~1/16th inch thick flaps and should be about 5/8th of an inch long. You can make the cut with sharp scissors if you're careful, but the blade works better for me. Lastly, cut one of the flaps in half. The split-flap side will be the "bottom" of the thorax. Tie the narrow end of the body to the needle with the piece butting against the vice jaws using several tight wraps. These wraps should be at the very end of the foam piece. The foam will have a tendency to twist around on the needle. Just twist it back. Lift the foam piece and advance the thread using 1 or 2 wraps. Lower the foam and make 2 overlapping wraps to create the first segment of the body. Repeat this process for each segment. You will segment ~3/4th inch of the foam with 4 or 5 equal-sized segments, so keep that in mind as you create each segment. The last segment should end at the point where your horizontal slice starts. Use overlapping half hitches*

or a whip finish to complete the body and add a drop of head cement. Pull the body off the needle.

5. *Wings: White calf tail. Set the hook in the vice and wrap a good thread base to the midpoint of the shank. Return the thread to $\sim 3/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch from the eye. Use a pencil-sized bundle of hair that is $\sim 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Calf tail doesn't stack well, so pull out any very long hairs and discard or re-bundle them. Trim the butt ends to square them off. Tie the bundle in using very tight wraps with the butts rearward. You want wings that will be ~ 1 inch long. Calf tail is slippery, so here's where the Kevlar thread shines. It will not break no matter how tight the wraps are. Advance the thread to in front of the hair bundle and make some tight wraps as close in front of and under the hair bundle as you can. Trim the butt ends at an angle. Move the thread to behind the wing and bind down the cut ends. Advance the thread to just behind the wing and begin separating the bundle into equal halves using figure-eight wraps. Pull each wing back and down as you make the figure-eight wraps. You want wings that are horizontal and roughly at right angles to the hook shank. Hex spinners fall with their wings in various positions, so the wings don't need to be at perfect right angles. They should be horizontal though.*
6. *Attaching the Body: This can be a bit fussy. Start by "dry fitting" the body on the hook. When you have it in the right position, the top flap will extend between the wings and end right behind the eye. The 2 bottom flaps will straddle the hook shank and extend under the wings. Position the thread so it aligns with the last set of thread wraps on the body. Pull the thread away from you so that it's in between the top flap and the 2 bottom flaps. This will allow you to attach the body by making a couple firm thread wraps directly overlaying the wraps that finished the body. Peel back the flaps and advance the thread a wrap or two so you can create another body segment behind the wings. Repeat the step, this time advancing the thread to a point in front of the wing. The next segment you create will represent the thorax and will be about twice as long as the previous segments. Repeat the process once more, making a small head segment just behind the eye. Whip finish and cement the thread. If things worked right, the wraps advancing the thread between segments will not show. I use a brown marker to put a light stripe down the back. The fish sure don't care, but I like the look!*

Dick Berge is a well-known fly tier from Iron River, WI. The Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited has published several booklets with some of Dick's patterns.

July 2025

Mike Lawson's No Hackle Dry Fly

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



If you “Google” the No Hackle Dry Fly, you find that it dates back to the early 1800s (probably due to lack of small quality hackle feathers). Samuel Taylor’s Hare’s Ear Dry Fly is described in *Angling in All its Branches* circa 1800, which is cited as the first dry fly tied without a hackle. The oldest book I have that shows how to construct traditional upright wings using mallard quills is *Flies* by J. Edson Leonard (1950). Leonard describes how to set the wings used in traditional upright dry flies, which is close to the method used in the No Hackle Fly, except that the this fly reverses

the leading edge of the wing and secures the butts of the wings forward. This causes the wings to angle back with their rear edge set at the waterline as if emerging. The wings are tied shorter than they would be for a fully emerged fly.

Professional tier Mike Lawson, who grew up on the Henry’s Fork, attributes the idea of the No Hackle from Doug Swisher and Carl Richards’ book *Selective Trout* (1971). Mike says it took a while to perfect how to set the wings. His YouTube video is a must-watch to learn how to set the mallard wings (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woHLqDIBBDg>). Once mastered it will open the door for fishing our smaller dry fly hatches on the Brule, especially on smooth water. This is a great pattern for sizes 14 – 20. The primary body colors are a grey/olive blend and grey/yellow blend of superfine dubbing. The wings will range in color from light grey to dark grey. The tails are any grey to dark dun stiff hackle splayed out to almost 90 degrees of each other. Coq De Leon works really nicely too.

Mike explains in his video that the mallard wings are more durable than other wing material and the natural floatation is better. He says the fly works better once chewed a little and the wings become more frayed. He explains the nicely formed wings catch the fishermen in the fly shop while the frayed wings catch the fish in the river!

Recipe

1. *Hook: Your favorite dry fly hook 14 – 20. Size 16 Tiemco TMC 100 (photo).*
2. *Thread: Olive Dun Uni 8/0.*
3. *Tails: Attach the thread about 2 hook eye widths behind the hook eye. This is where you will set the wings. Wrap to the hook bend and then back to about hook point. Dub a small ball at the end of the shank to help splay the tail fibers using very little of the body blend. Then, wrap forward about half way. Secure 6 – 8 Coq De Leon fibers or tail fibers of your choice on top of the hook shank with the tail length as long as the hook. While wrapping rearward pull half the fibers to your side and slowly wrap to the dubbing ball while splaying the fibers to each side. Try to splay them out to almost 90 degrees to each other. Return the thread to the wing position.*

4. *Wings: This step is the most difficult to master and you might want to watch Mike's video before beginning. Cut out about 3/16th of an inch of fibers (for a size 16) from a matching pair (left and right) of mallard quills. The pieces should be cut from the same location on each quill. Match the tips together with the tips upward and curving away from each other. While holding them together between your thumb and index finger, determine the length of the wings, which will be shorter than the body. Push the wings down on the hook shank with a wing butt on each side of the shank until the desired wing length is above the shank. Before tying them in, give your bobbin a few counterclockwise spins. This will ensure the thread will loop to the rear when making the following loose wrap. The thread should be behind the wings and above the hook shank to start. Make a loose wrap over the hook shank and around the wing closest to you. Continue around the wing furthest from you, returning the thread to your starting position by going behind the far wing and under the hook shank. You have now made a loose loop around the butt ends of both wings and the hook shank. While holding the wings firmly in place, slowly tighten the loop. This will secure the wings in place. Now make 4 or 5 similar, but slightly tighter, wraps to secure the wing. Don't over tighten these loops. You don't want to crimp the wings too much! Use a bodkin and separate the wings after getting them set into position. Trim the excess butt ends and tidy up the head area. I then use a very small drop of UV Craft resin once the wings are in position instead of separating them with more crisscross thread wraps.*
5. *Body: Superfine dubbing in color of your choice. Bring the thread back to the tails and tightly dub the body forward to the head being careful to not trap and wing fibers. Whip finish and you're done!*

August 2021

Dark Spruce Streamer

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



The Spruce Fly was first developed by Oregonians Bert and Milo Godfrey in 1918 using badger hackle. Later, they developed the Dark Spruce using furnace hackle instead. As we move into late July and August, our mindset starts to change to catching “gator” brown trout, including lake-runs with streamers.

In our early days, my brother and I were successful with a variety of streamers such as the Royal Coachman (with a white bucktail wing or a furnace hackle wing), Joe Brooks’ Blonde (tied almost 4 inches long), 3 to 4 inch-long Grizzly Kings, or the Spuddler Minnow (tied with a dyed brown grizzly hackle). One of our favorites was the Dark Spruce Fly, which we modified by replacing the furnace hackle wing with a dyed brown grizzly because we didn’t have much furnace hackle. Swinging these streamers on cloudy days with a little darker water from recent rains almost always moved fish, especially in the evening hours. We would try to fish these streamers broadside and down to the fish as much as possible.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Size 2 Tiemco TMC 9395.*
2. *Threads: Red 140 – 210 denier for the rear part of the body and black 140 – 210 denier for the front of the body. Attach the red thread a little past 1/3 of the hook shank length and wrap back to just above the hook barb. Over wrap back to the starting point. This establishes the length of the rear part of the body.*
3. *Rib: Attach a 5-inch piece of large copper wire to the side of the hook shank and overwrap to the point above the barb and return to the middle. By attaching the wire to the side of the hook shank, you create a platform for the tail. The rib will be used in step 8.*
4. *Tails: Eight to ten peacock sword fibers. Tie them in with the curve up and about ½ inch long. Return the thread to the starting point.*
5. *Body (rear 2/3): Spooled red Antron yarn. The body is easiest to form if the spool of yarn is in a bobbin. Tie the yarn in at the starting point and overwrap the yarn to the tail. Return the thread to the front of the body. Half-hitch the red thread and cut it off. Next, wrap the Antron forward to the start point, making a tight, uniform body. Let the bobbin hang. Attach the black thread behind the hook eye and wrap back to the Antron. Tie off the Antron and remove. Move the thread to the middle of the front part of the body area.*
6. *Body (front 1/3): Attach 3 fibers of peacock herl that are about 5 inches long. You want these all the same length. Trim by the butt ends to adjust the length. Tie them in at the middle of the fore-body area and wrap the thread slightly into the rear-body. Let the thread hang there. Grab the peacock fibers by the tips and wrap them forward to about 3/16 of an inch from the hook eye. You’ll get a nice twist of the herl as you move forward*

- if you don't let go of the herl. Take a few turns of the black thread through the peacock to the 3/16-inch position and tie off the peacock herl. Remove the excess herl.*
- 7. Wings: Two brown streamer-quality grizzly feathers. Use one feather from each side of the patch so that the curves are opposing each other. These should be 2¾ inches long at the tie in point. The feathers I use are 4 inches long with the fluff removed, they allow me to form the collar in step 9. The wing tips should extend at least ½ inch past the tail. Once you've established the length and separated the fibers on the stems at the tie-in point, put a drop of UV Craft at the base of both feathers to secure them together and make the tie-in easier. Next, tie in the feathers on top of the hook shank with 5 – 7 wraps. Use a small drop of UV glue on the wraps once you're happy with their position. Note that the stems are not cut off and that the fibers are not removed from the stems as they will help make the collar. If the hackle feathers are too short to use for the collar, trim them off. You can add another feather for a collar in step 9.*
 - 8. Rib: Wrap the rear body up to the fore body with the copper wire rib, making 5 or 6 even turns and lifting up the wing so as not to trap any fibers. When the wire gets to the front of the body, push the wire between the 2 feathers above the stems and slowly cinch the stems down to the top of the hook shank while keeping the feathers straight. Do this twice. Now that the wire is at the wing tie-in point, take a full wrap of the wire and overwrap tightly with several additional wraps. Move the copper wire in a circular motion (called helicoptering) until it breaks. Move the thread to behind the hook eye.*
 - 9. Collar: I use 2 wraps of the remaining hackle feathers to create the collar. Pull back the fibers as you do this so they will be facing rearward. Tie off, trim, and pick out any trapped fibers. If the remaining feathers are too short to make 2 wraps, cut them off and tie in another feather by the base. Make about 3 or 4 turns while pulling the fibers rearward between turns. I like long hackle fibers that extend almost to the hook point. Once satisfied with the collar trim off the excess and make a nice small head. Finish the head with a drop of UV glue.*

September 2025

Beaully Snow Fly

Harvey Kalweit, BRSC Member – Burnsville, MN



This has been one of my more successful traditional salmon flies for Lake Superior steelheads (and coasters). It has plenty of motion in the materials, a lot of translucency, and great visibility under a variety of conditions. The name is said to come from its intended use for Atlantic salmon in the high and cold early waters of Scotland's River Beaully. I find extra enjoyment in fishing with traditional patterns "on the swing." This one certainly qualifies, dating back to at least the middle of the 19th century.

The tinsel underbody and the loosely dubbed body and head allow the colors to show through even when strongly backlit, something difficult to achieve without the translucency this affords. Solid opaque materials just appear black against the sky, but this fly scatters enough light to allow the colors to show through.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Size 2 – 8 Tiemco TMC 7999. I prefer size 4.*
2. *Threads: White and orange 70 denier. First, tie in the white thread just past the end of the double wire from the hook eye (salmon hooks such as the 7999 don't have a closed eye). This is the starting point.*
3. *Rib 1: Fine or medium silver oval tinsel. Tie in a 4-inch piece of oval tinsel and overwrap it on the side of the hook shank back to the hook point (when the bobbin is hanging). This will be the rear of the body.*
4. *Hackle: Black schlappen feather. Strip off about 2 inches of fibers from one edge of the stem to create a sparse hackle. To determine which edge to strip, place the feather on edge on the hook shank with the tip facing away from you, hold it in place, and make a couple turns of the feather towards the hook eye. If the natural curve of the fibers faces the rear of the fly, remove the fibers from the "bottom" edge of the stem. Otherwise, strip the fibers from the "top" edge. Once you understand which direction you want the natural curve of the fibers to go, you will only have to look at a feather to determine this. Tie the feather in by the butt so that the natural curve of the fibers faces the rear of the hook when the feather is palmered in step 9. You want the longest fibers to be about twice as long as the hook gap width to start. The more gradually the fibers taper the better. Return the thread to the starting point.*
5. *Rib 2 and underbody: Medium flat silver tinsel. Tie in about 5 inches of tinsel and move the thread to the rear of the body. Overwrap the hook shank with the flat silver tinsel to the rear of the body and then just past the tinsel to be used for Rib 1 and the tied-in hackle feather. Next, make a tag that is 2 – 3 tinsel wraps in width. Return the silver tinsel to in front of the oval tinsel and the hackle. Secure with a couple wraps. The remainder of the flat tinsel will be used in step 7.*

6. *Body: Electric blue SLF Prism dubbing. Loosely and sparsely dub the body forward to the starting point and tie off. I like to use a dubbing loop for this.*
7. *Rib 2: Make 3 – 4 open wraps with the flat silver tinsel over the body to just ahead of the starting point and tie off. The number of wraps depends on how much silver you want in the body versus the blue dubbing. You will also make the same of number of hackle wraps.*
8. *Rib 1: Wrap the oval silver tinsel forward placing the wraps at the rear edge of the flat silver tinsel wraps and tie off. This will help protect the hackle stem from damage.*
9. *Hackle: Palmer the hackle forward, laying the stem exactly at the back edge of the oval tinsel. End with 1 or 2 closely spaced wraps in front of the body. Tie off and trim the excess. Change to the orange thread.*
10. *Wing: About 20 peacock herl tips. Tie them in so they're long enough to reach the bend of the hook or just beyond. Secure them on top of the hook shank. Push down the long hackle fibers equally to each side of the hook before tying in the wing. Once secured, trim the excess and make a small head base.*
11. *Head: Fl. orange SLF Prism dubbing. Sparsely dub the thread and make a nice, small head covering the small head base and whip finish. Pick out the head. A dubbing brush or a piece of Velcro glued to a popsicle stick works well for this.*

Note by Dean Wellman

Harv loves to fish for steelhead using his Spey rod. His flies are works of art that catch fish. Thank you Harv for contributing to our Fly of the Month Series.

October 2025

Dave Pinzckowski “Hair Series”

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



The Lake Superior Steelhead Association once again held their annual “Spey Day” at McNeil’s on the Brule. A lot of effort is put into their presentations by some great instructors. Club member Paul Sandstrom, a master spey caster, showed us his casting skill using his 16-foot two-hander. Olympic Peninsula Skagit Tactics (OPST) is a sponsor of the event, and Dave Pinzckowski is an ambassador for OPST. He’s an instructor too, who lives and breathes fishing and is also a master with two-handed fly rods.

I met Dave years ago when we owned the Twin Gables in Brule. He kindly gave me a few of his tube flies. This sent me down the path of tube flies and Intruders for our fishing trips to the Olympic Peninsula. Dave has a series of hair flies he likes. Three of his favorites are Eat a Peach, Bad Hair Day, and Receding Hairline. If you watch Dave’s video for tying the Receding Hairline (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx4pgaY2jMM>), you’ll see his passion for fly tying and fishing. His flies work and are fast to tie!

We’re featuring an offshoot of Dave’s Receding Hairline this month. Use whatever combinations of materials and colors you like and have fun!

Recipe

1. *Tube:* Two millimeters clear (it comes in different sizes and colors). Tying tube flies requires an adapter for your vice to hold the tube. Slide a 1-and-a-half-inch piece onto the adapter.
2. *Thread:* White 210 Danville flat waxed nylon. Attach the thread about 5/16 inch from the end of the tube. Overwrap the thread, securing it and making a 1/8-inch thread base. This leaves 3/16 inch of body tubing to attach the junction tubing (step 5) used to position the hook.
3. *Underbody:* Put a small drop of superglue on top of the thread base and make a few wraps to disperse the glue. Take a clump of Pearl Ice Dub and pull it apart a few times, aligning the fibers. Put the middle of the clump on top of the thread base, gently moving the clump around the tube, and secure with a loose wrap, trying to spin the clump evenly around the tube. Make a couple securing wraps. Pull the fibers facing forward back to the rear and secure the thread in front of the clump. Pull out all the loose fibers.
4. *Wing:* White and chartreuse Extra Select Craft Fur. Take a small bundle of both colors of fur. Remove the under-fur and trim the butt ends square. Put a small drop of superglue on top of the tube. Then tie the fur-bundle wing down with the chartreuse on

- top using a loose wrap and then with securing pinch wraps. Finish with a couple half hitches and coat the head with UV glue. Trim the excess tubing.*
5. *Rigging the fly: Slip a piece of junction tubing over the end of the tubing the fly is tied on. Thread the leader through both pieces of tubing. Snell the hook to the leader (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aoP0iTbZeA>). Snug the leader and hook up until the hook eye seats in the end of the junction tubing. You can also use a double surgeon's loop knot (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYcZLi_akmE). Adjust the distance you want the hook back in the wing by snugging the surgeon's knot forming the loop into the junction tubing. Generally, the hook is set almost back to the end of the wing, but that's up to you. Size 2 – 6 Gamakatsu octopus hooks are a good choice, depending on the size of your fly.*

If two-handed rods and swinging flys interest you, OPST is a good place to start (https://pureskagit.com/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=12942457878&gclid=CjwKCAjw6P3GBhBVEiwAJPjmLIADbKXk6nMV10Ms8YvFQ6LFBVOv6hW-uZDsKXFtbip7t6gw6uBcdxoC8XYQAvD_BwE). Recently, Dave helped me get the right Skagit line for my 11-foot 3-inch Trout Spey. He suggested the line and had me call OPST. They know their stuff! I purchased a 250 grain Commando Smooth Integrated Skagit Head (integrated with a no loop running line) designed by Ed Ward, who also was an instructor at the Spey Day. I also purchased a 7.5-foot 60 grain micro sink tip. This set up is a dream to cast.