

2022 Flies



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March 2022

Big Black Leather Stonefly

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



We featured a stonefly for the March 2020 pattern, but I couldn't resist doing it again – this time with some new material. I've been tying stonefly nymphs with pieces of women's black leather gloves that were heading for the trash for many years now. When my friend Paul Gausman sent me a photo of a fly that a fisherman gave him, I recognized the fly as the old Girdle Bug tied on a jig hook. However, the legs were unfamiliar to me, so I went looking for legs like those on the fly. I found a pattern called Pat's Rubber Legs. This got my wheels turning, and I decided to experiment. I ordered some MFC (Montana Fly Company) Barred Sexi-Floss in a couple different sizes and colors. I was also short on black tungsten beads. While ordering those, I saw Firehole Bug Bands. Knowing that some stoneflies have a distinct band behind their head, I ordered some in radiant orange to check them out. Paul's fly was tied with a medium size variegated chenille made by Hareline in black/coffee, so I ordered some of that too.

One pattern called for a Daiichi 1730 hook, which is a 3XL hook with a slight bend a little more than 1/3rd the length of the shank from the hook eye. I've been bending hooks for a while, so bending my own was no big deal and I didn't need to order any of those!

Combining the old and the new, I went to work using the new materials and a little of the old glove. This pattern maintains the "x-legs" look, which is so effective.

So have fun and enjoy!

Recipe

1. *Hook: Daiichi 1730 – sizes 6 or 8. Or, bend any 3XL – 6XL a little more than 1/3 the distance from the hook eye. A 5 to 10 degree bend is plenty but experimenting is fine.*
2. *Thread: Black Danville 210 denier flat waxed nylon. Flat thread works better when doing legs, antennae, and tails in rubber or spandex.*
3. *Head and collar: Put a 3.8 mm matte black bead in brass or tungsten on the hook before putting it in the vise. Next, put on a 3.7 mm radiant orange bug band. Now put the hook in the vise and push the beads to the rear.*
4. *Antennae: Attach the thread just behind the hook eye taking care not to build up thread. Attach antennae from a piece of the copper brown barred Sexi-floss, splaying them out to each side of the hook eye. Half hitch the thread and cut it off. Trim the antennae, legs, and tails to length after the fly is finished.*
5. *Tails: Push the beads forward to the hook eye, reattach the thread behind the bug band and wrap the thread to the rear of the hook just above the barb. Attach the 2 tails from the Sexi-floss, splaying them slightly to each side.*
6. *Abdomen: Attach a strip of the old glove that is about 2½ inch long (3/16th inch wide tapering slightly to 1/8th inch wide). Wrap the thread forward to the bend in the shank. Wrap with the leather shiny side up. Make nice segmented wraps forward to the bend on the hook shank and tie off the leather.*

Wrap the thread forward to the orange bug band. The abdomen, when finished, should be uniform with a slightly larger forward taper.

- 7. Wing case: The wing case is made from another piece of leather. Tie it in pointing forward and upside down just behind the orange bug band. The shiny side will be up when the wing case is folded over toward the rear. The case is about 5/8th of an inch long. See photo. Secure it with a couple light wraps, fold it over, and make any adjustments to make sure you have the correct length.*
- 8. Legs: Tie in a piece of the Sexi-floss on each side. The legs will stick out in x-legs fashion from just behind the orange bug band to where the abdomen ended at the bend in the shank.*
- 9. Thorax: Tie in a medium black/coffee chenille or dub with Whitlock red squirrel thorax filling the space behind the orange bug band to the beginning of the abdomen. The thread should be at the beginning of the abdomen and the legs should look like the photo.*
- 10. Finishing the fly: Pull the wing case rearward over the chenille and tie off. Done!*

April 2022

Superior X-legs Stonefly

Matt Paulson, Superior Fly Angler – Superior, WI



The original Superior X-legs was created by Jim Pollock of Duluth, MN in the early 2000s. He wanted a fly that could be used to target the Kamloops rainbow trout on the north shore of Lake Superior. The fly was light weight with no bead and could be dead drifted at river mouths or brought back with a slow hand retrieve. It worked well on loopers, and of course, fisherman soon took it to the Brule and started drifting it under an indicator.

The pattern had a sparse marabou tail, dubbed and ribbed abdomen, dubbed thorax, and Sili Legs tied in at the center of the thorax. The fly was whip finished at the center instead of the eye of the hook. As anglers began to drift it under an indicator, some started adding a bead head. Later, the dubbed abdomen was changed to brown stretch flex (basically scud back material), which gave it a more realistic segmented abdomen. I've started using vinyl d-rib for the abdomen, and that has worked well too. I've also switched to medium round rubber for the legs. This material seems tougher and doesn't break as easily the Sili Legs. An all brown nymph with a copper bead is the most popular color, but all black nymphs are a close second. Hot colored beads or tungsten beads can be used as well. This nymph is productive and easily adapted whether you're fishing bluegills or steelhead!

Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 3761 – sizes 6 – 14.*
2. *Bead (optional): Copper, gold, black, or experiment with other colors.*
3. *Thread: Brown or black UNI-Thread 6/0. Start the thread behind the bead and wrap the shank to just above the barb of the hook*
4. *Tail: Mini Marabou. Use a small bunch in brown, dark brown, or black. The tail will be about the length of the shank from behind the bead to the hook bend (keep it on the shorter side). Tie in and wrap forward over the marabou to behind the bead, build up a taper for the abdomen. Thread will be in the thorax area behind the bead.*
5. *Abdomen: Use size medium or nymph Vinyl Rib or D-Rib in color of your choice for size 8 – 10 hooks. Most popular color is brown or black. Tie in the rib to one side of the hook shank, wrap thread over the rib to the tail. Then, and wrap the thread back to the thorax. Wrap the D-Rib to the thorax and tie off.*
6. *Thorax: SLF brown or black stonefly dubbing. Using about 1/3 of the hook shank behind the bead, dub a layer to the bead and back to the middle of the thorax. Building up a larger taper than the abdomen.*
7. *Legs: Round rubber in brown or black. Use medium to fine, depending on hook size. Attach the legs to each side in the middle of the thorax getting the X-Legs look. Add dubbing between the legs, building up the thorax so the front legs angle forward in the perfect X-legs look. Dub tightly under the front legs bringing the thread behind the bead and whip finish. Trim legs. Done!*

May 2022

Grey Ghost Bunny Variant

Damian Wilmot, Past President of the BRSC – Superior, WI



The classic grey ghost streamer was first tied by Carrie Stevens of Madison, Maine in 1924 to imitate smelt. The variant is a classic eastern brook trout fly with a little more “swim” than the traditional pattern. It’s one of my favorite flies to search with on cloudy days, particularly on waters that I know hold some larger fish. Brown trout won’t shy away from this pattern either.

This pattern can be weighted with lead substitute wire or even tied with a cone head, though if you need to get it down a little deeper, I prefer to fish it on a sink tip, as I believe it swims better unweighted.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Sizes 4 to 6 in a 4XL.*
2. *Thread: Black Veevus 140 denier or any stronger thread for larger flies.*
3. *Tag: Start thread behind the hook eye and wrap the shank to before the hook point (If weighting: tie weight in behind hook eye and try to maintain a nice taper with the thickest forward of the half way point towards the eye.). Return the thread to one-fourth inch behind hook eye. Add medium or large oval silver tinsel (flat silver wire works well also) long enough for the tag and a rib. Secure it to the shank wrapping thread over the tinsel into the bend of the hook. Return thread to forward of the hook point. Wrap the silver tinsel to forward of the hook point and tie off. Leave the remaining tinsel for the rib. Return the thread to behind the hook eye.*
4. *Tail: Tie a small clump of orange marabou that extends about one inch past the bend. End the thread before the silver tag. Return the thread to behind the hook eye.*
5. *Tie a length of medium orange chenille and over wrap on the shank to the silver tag. Return the thread to just behind the hook eye.*
6. *Body: Wrap the orange chenille forward to just behind the hook eye, try to have a slight taper that is thickest in front half of the body.*
7. *Wing: Grey rabbit strip or chinchilla (A silver sharpie on white rabbit strip makes a good substitute). The hide will end at the tag. A little long is okay. Tie the wing in one-fourth inch behind the hook eye.*
8. *Rib. While holding the wing to the top of the body, use the silver rib to Matuka-style the wing to the top of body. Four or 5 wide turns will work nicely.*
9. *Over wing: Add a few strands of peacock herl.*
10. *Hackle: Use a silver pheasant feather that has about 1 inch length barbs at the butt end. Tie in the butt at the point of the wing tie in. Wrap the thread forward to the eye, wrap 3 or 4 turns of the silver pheasant to the hook eye. Use progressively tight wraps with the thread and your fingers get the silver pheasant to angle rearward.*
11. *Eye: Jungle cock. Add a jungle cock eye to each side of the shank. Whip finish and add a good head cement that soaks into the thread.*

June 2022

Grocery Bag Caddis

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



I walk the river banks in June, observing the number of trout fry to get an idea about the year's reproduction. I observed some nice browns making slurping rises, an aerobic 12-inch brook trout trying to catch a flying caddis, and a very large fish in the main current that only could have been a steelhead dropping back to Lake Superior the other day. All were taking little black caddis that were hatching prolifically. We're featuring caddisflies this month because they are a diet staple for Brule fish.

There are many books about caddis and their patterns. Most of us have used or knows the elk hair caddis ; probably the most fished fly anywhere a trout swims. I remembered Jim Misiura tying a caddis fly using a piece of plastic grocery bag for the wings as I sat at the vise

thinking about a simple and effective tying approach (See some of Jim's YouTube videos on caddis flies). I found the perfect black and tan bag for the wings after searching our stock of plastic grocery bags that were destined for reuse.

The following pattern has a body made from a small strip of foam, Jim's Misiura's grocery bag wing, and uses of CDC feather for a hackle and a small amount of superfine dubbing (optional) in the thorax. This fly is designed to imitate a caddis that is emerging and caught in the surface film. This fly needs no floatant and it sits perfectly on the water. The colors and size can be changed to match any hatch. Simple and effective!

Recipe

1. *Hook: Daiichi 1130 or Gamakatsu C12. I like the large gap. Size 14 Gamakatsu C12s are pictured.*
2. *Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 to match body. Start the thread and wrap into the bend. You may want to position the hook with the eye pointed slightly down to wrap the body.*
3. *Body: Small strip of 1 mm foam color to match (or any color superfine dry fly dubbing). I like the foam that stretches a little rather than foam that is denser because it wraps nicely. The body will have slight curve to it. Stretch the foam strip a bit at the tie in point and trim to smaller point for tie in. Tie in the foam and wrap the thread to the middle of the hook. Reposition the hook so that it's level and continue to wrap the thread to about 1/8th of an inch from the hook eye. Wrap the foam to the thread making wraps that allows the body to have a slight downward curve at the rear and slight taper to the head. Tie off the foam by wrapping the thread rearward. Thread will be about 3/16th of an inch from the hook eye.*
4. *Thorax: Optional. Dub a very small amount of superfine dubbing to match the body color (about 1/16th inch). This will cover the thread where the foam is tied in and end 1/8th inch short of the hook eye.*
5. *Wing: Cut a piece of the grocery bag (color to match) that is about 5/8th of an inch long that looks like piece of pie with the large end about 5/16th of an inch wide and the small end tapered to 1/16th of an inch. Fold the plastic "pie" in half (like a tent) and tie it in by the small end. It should envelope the body slightly near the front. With the wing folded in half, trim at an angle about 1/8 inch past the body as in the natural. See photo.*

6. *Hackle: Tie in a CDC feather color to match by the tip, don't worry about the length of the fibers as they will likely be too long and will be trimmed later. Wrap the CDC, folding back the fibers as you make the turns, 3 or 4 are enough. Tie off and whip finish the head. The CDC fibers will be too long. Just trim them to length, short of the distance to the bend of the hook.*

July 2022

Dean's Hex Nymph

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



“Matching the Hatch” by Ernest Schwiebert (1955) was the first fly tying book that my brother Mark and I had. It was an excellent resource for beginners like us. We used the book when trying to imitate the large mayfly nymphs whose shucks we had been observing during canoe outings through the Brule “lakes.”

Our first attempts at tying large “Hex Nymphs” used materials that we had available; Grandma’s piles of knitting yarn scraps, Mom’s yellow and brown sewing thread (we used sewing thread to tie large flies because it was stronger than the other thread we had), pheasant and turkey feathers from Uncle Ken, and grouse feathers from Dad and sometimes Mark. I was a terrible shot! We used size 8 6XL Mustad Limerick hooks from Herter’s (Now, I’m dating myself!).

The “recipe” was simple; pheasant tail fibers for the tail, grey yarn wrapped between 3 clumps of dark greyish fluff from the base of the turkey or pheasant feathers, painstakingly tied figure-eight style into the 3 clumps. Then, we tied the brown yarn into a large swollen thorax finished with 4 or 5 pheasant tail fibers tied beard style for legs and slightly underneath each side at the head.

We each tied 2 of them for our first outing. We started at Big Lake around 11 AM, planning to canoe to the cabin. We didn’t know what to expect as beginners or if our flies would work. As usual, I paddled first with Mark casting. No fish in Big Lake from the landing to the boat house. As we canoed past the white boat house on Lucius Lake we started seeing fish rising. Our rudimentary attempt at imitating the “Hex” must have matched the nymphs laying in the surface film ready to emerge because we had no flies left by the time we got to Spring Lake! We either broke them off on very large fish or what was left was some unraveled yarn on a hook.

Ever since, fishing the “Hex” hatch has been very special. It’s what started all our night fishing as well. There are different species of large mayflies on the Brule, but the Hex is one of my favorites.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 300 – size 6 or 8 6XL.*
2. *Thread: Dark Brown 6/0.*
3. *Tail: Several pheasant tail fibers about 3/8th to 1/2 inch long. Splay the fibers by making some thread wraps underneath the tail then back on top. Trim out any unruly fibers.*
4. *Rib: Tie in a piece of yellow silk or natural Kevlar thread to use as a rib for segmentation and to secure the gills. The natural Kevlar is perfect as it’s super strong.*
5. *Body: 1 strand of grey yarn or grey dun poly yarn. Build a taper towards the head covering about 5/8th of the hook shank.*
6. *Attach a 1/2-inch piece of grey to dark grey fluff from the base of a turkey or pheasant feather (see photo) to imitate the nymph’s gills. Trim off fibers at the stem to make a tie in point on the thickest part of the stem so that the fibers will be facing to the rear. Tie the feather in by the stem on top of the hook. The remaining feather will be secured with the ribbing in step 7.*

7. *Wrap the yellow rib forward in increasingly larger wraps to imitate segmentation. Be careful when you go through the "gill fibers" to try and make 3 distinct clumps, using your bodkin here can help guide the thread through the fibers.*
8. *Attach 1 strand of dark brown yarn and make several wraps to make a bulging thorax that imitates the wing case about to open. I think this is a trigger for the fish.*
9. *With thread at the eye of the hook tie in 4 or 5 pheasant tail fibers a little longer than the thorax beard style slightly below each side and angling to the rear. Done!*

This is a simple pattern using simple materials. It can be tied in different colors and materials. You can also tie the thorax using turkey tail for the wing case and the mottled area of the center of a pheasant feather trimmed for legs under the wing case (bottom fly in photo).

This fly is dedicated to my brother Mark. We were the "The River Runs Through Us!"

August 2022

The Muddler Minnow

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



Don Gapen's original pattern in the center middle. The others are simple swing fly variations.

The Muddler Minnow was developed by Don Gapen from Ontario in 1937 to imitate sculpins in the Nipigon River. He used the fly to catch the large Nipigon brook trout. The fly developed universal fame and is still widely used today. Don's original fly has led to many different variations. Two of the more famous variations are the Marabou Muddler by Dan Bailey of Montana and the Whitlock Sculpin by Dave Whitlock of Arkansas. The Muddler Minnow eventually helped lead the way to swinging flies for steelhead.

Sculpins are common in the Brule River, with some adults reaching more than 4 inches in length. If you look closely at the stream bottom in the Brule, usually with some observation you can spot a sculpin. Some maybe less than 1 inch in length, trying to camouflage themselves on the bottom.

Their large head and big pectoral fins with a slender tapering body easily define them. They are an obvious food source for predators.

Today's modern materials open up exciting opportunities for fly tiers to invent their own versions of the Muddler. It's important to not overdress the fly to maintain its movement and translucency in the water.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Daiichi 2050 – size 3 or 5 or any size 2 – 8 3XL hook.*
2. *Thread: Brown 220 denier or 3/0.*
3. *Begin the thread about 1/4 inch behind the hook eye and wrap the shank rearward to a spot above the hook point.*
4. *Tail: Cut a small section from the quill of a mottled brown turkey wing that is about 1/4 inch wide. Hold the feather at the tie in point between your fingers on top of the hook shank, pull the thread up between your fingers, and pull down smoothly so as to stack the fibers on top of the hook shank. You want the tail to be about 1/2 inch long.*
5. *Body: Tie in gold tinsel, move the thread to where you started behind the hook eye. Wrap the tinsel to the starting point and tie off. A protective cover of clear cement or clear glue goo works well over the tinsel at this step.*
6. *Underwing: Tie in a brown deer hair wing that extends to the end of the tail. Some flash can be added here as well. The original pattern had a grey squirrel tail underwing. Our Brule River sculpins are a very mottled brown.*
7. *Over wing: Cut 2 mottled brown pieces from matching feathers from opposite wings so that the colored sides are outward (the dull sides will be to the inside). These should be about 5/16th of an inch*

wide and will extend to the end of the tail. Tie them in on each side of the underwing. The tips of the wings should have a natural downward curve to them.

8. *Head and collar: Spin brown deer hair on the remaining shank. The first spin will have hair that will form the collar and the stub ends the beginning of the head. So you need to start with hair that is as long as the over wing. After the collar is completed, spin smaller lengths of hair to form the head. Whip finish and head outside to trim the head to shape, flat on the bottom and oval on the top. If you don't know how to spin deer hair, there are many instructional online videos, for example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0Wlqwz3iy0>). Cement the thread when you're done trimming the head.*

September 2022

Purple Egg Sucking Leech

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



The Purple (or Black) Egg Sucking Leech came to be when an “egg” was added to the head of a woolly bugger. It has been a staple fly in fly shops for more than 60 years. It’s my wife Pauline’s favorite fly for steelhead on the Brule in normal water conditions because she likes to fish her 7-weight rod with an Orvis mini sink tip. Orvis no longer makes their 5-foot mini sink tip, but Teeny Fly lines has a 5-foot mini sink tip that’s nearly identical. The mini sink tip is great line for swinging flies in the Brule’s pocket water.

Many traditional steelhead flies have some sort of attractor color at the butt of the fly (e.g., the Green Butt Skunk). The egg sucking leech simply reversed this pattern. Now, we have different color plastic cones for Intruders, different color cone heads and bead heads, etc.

I wonder if the egg sucking leech was placed in a “family tree” where it would be. Putting the “egg” at the head of the fly, as was weight, was somewhat controversial for traditionalists at the time. Here is a recipe for the purple and pink pattern. The black leech can be done with either a pink or chartreuse egg.

Recipe

1. *Hook: Tiemco TMC 5263 – size 6. This hook has a nice gap and is 2X strong. Pinch down the barb as the little guys like it as well.*
2. *Thread: Pink (or color to match) 140 denier. Start the thread behind the hook eye and wrap rearward to just above the barb of the hook.*
3. *Tail: Clump of purple marabou as long as the hook shank. Size of the clump of marabou is personal choice. I don’t like to overdress the tail as it seems less effective.*
4. *Flash: One strand of purple Krystal Flash to each side as long as the tail. Be careful on the flash in the tail. Less is better in the clear water.*
5. *Rib: I use large flat Sybai wire in silver or pink. Attach a 5-inch piece at the tail tie-in point. This will be used as rib to add flash and secure the hackle. Wrap the thread back to 5/16th of an inch from the hook eye.*
6. *Body: Medium purple chenille about 4 or 5 inches long. Attach the chenille 5/16th of an inch behind the hook eye and overwrap the chenille on the shank with the tying thread back to the tail. Return the thread back to 1/4 inch from the hook eye. This keeps the body uniform. Wrap the chenille to 1/4 inch from the hook eye and trim off.*
7. *Hackle: Purple saddle that is as webby as you have. I like the first wrap of hackle to have barbs that are about 3/4th – 7/8th of an inch in length for this size fly. Attach the saddle hackle by the base of the stem at the chenille tie off point and wrap the saddle hackle to the tail (about 5 or 6 wraps). You can use a hackle pliers here or just your fingers.*
8. *Rib: While holding the saddle hackle at the rear of the hook, wrap the silver wire forward through the saddle hackle (about 5 wraps). The wire is a necessary step as it prevents the hackle from unraveling*

after your first fish breaks the stem! Tie off the wire at the head. A couple extra wraps of the wire are fine and then overwrap with the thread. Twist the wire in circles to break the wire. Return the thread to 1/4 inch behind the eye.

9. *Egg head: Attach a 3-inch piece of medium/small pink chenille. Wrap the thread to the hook eye. Get two wraps of the pink chenille and tie off. Whip finish.*

October 2022

Pink and Purple Dolly Llama

Dean Wellman, BRSC Financial Secretary – Brule, WI



I recently fished silver (Coho) salmon in Cold Bay Alaska. Cold Bay is in the Aleutian Islands about 785 miles southwest of Anchorage. I wanted to make sure that I had the right flies for the silvers as I prepared for the trip, and I'd read that the Dolly Llama streamer was rated as one of Alaska's better flies. This fly is made of 2 rabbit strips and can be tied in many different color combinations. Pink and white, pink and purple, black and white, and olive and white are among the most popular. The length that worked the best for us was about 4 inches long. The water we fished was about the same as the Brule's and very clear. I used my 9-foot 9-weight with a Mastery Series Redfish weight forward floating fly line. A

heavier head is better for slugging out these flies when they are wet. The leader was a 5-foot piece of 17 lb. Seaguar INVIZX fluorocarbon. We were fishing about 1 mile from the ocean, and not only were the silvers eating the Dolly, but so were steelhead. Two of the six we landed were 12 – 15 pounds!

I am confident this fly will work in the Brule.

Recipe

1. *Trailer hook: Gamakatsu Octopus – size 2. Other hooks can also be used. Lightweight and strong is best. I like a straight pull when the braid is attached.*
2. *Thread: Fluorescent pink Veevus 240 denier. Start the thread 1/8th of an inch past the hook eye and wrap rearward to a point on the shank just before the barb of the hook.*
3. *Top wing: A 4½ inch piece of fluorescent pink zonker that is about 3/16th of an inch wide (zonker cut with the grain of the hair). Tie it down at the rear of the hook with 1/2 inch of hide past the hook bend. Use a bodkin with slightly moistened fingers to divide the rabbit at the tie in point. Secure the wing with about 5 strong wraps. Lift the rabbit strip rearward, bring the thread in front of the rabbit strip, and place 3 or 4 strong wraps around the hook shank tightly up against the rabbit strip. Bring the rabbit strip back down and wrap a couple more tight wraps on top. Lift up the rabbit strip again and wrap the thread to 1/8th inch behind the hook eye. Secure the rabbit to the hook again as done in the rear and whip finish. Do not trim off the rabbit strip. You should have about 3½ inches of the rabbit strip left and 1/16th inch of the shank open behind the hook eye.*
4. *Finishing the trailer hook: Cut a 10-inch piece of 30 lb. braided line, such as white 3M fly line backing. You can color this braid with a marker to match if you're tying a different colored fly. Fold the 10-inch piece in half, even up the ends of the braid and push them through the hook eye from the top (from the bottom for a down-eyed hook). I add a small drop of super glue to the ends of the braid to hold them together, trimming them if needed to get them through the hook eye. Once through the hook eye, pass the ends back through the loop that is now formed above the eye. Slowly pull the ends and*

push the loop down around the hook eye while keeping the rabbit strip out of the way. Set the trailer hook aside.

- 5. Front "hook": Don't use your best hook as you'll only need about 1 inch of the hook shank. You will put the hook in the vise with the hook eye up. I cut the hook shank just behind the barb using a good pair of side cutters. You'll cut the shank again behind the last thread wraps when the fly is done in step 11. Slide your choice of conehead onto the hook. I used a large (6.3 mm) silver conehead for this fly. The extra-large (9.5 mm) size is better suited for deeper or faster situations. You can also add additional weight by wrapping turns of 0.030-inch lead wire behind the conehead at this point. I added 7 wraps for this fly.*
- 6. Attaching the trailer: Start the thread behind the lead on the front hook and overwrap the lead, making a nice taper of the thread rearward to about 1/2 of an inch behind the conehead. Add cement to secure the lead. Pick up the trailer hook from step 3 and tie in the braid on top of the front hook shank, leaving about 1 1/4 inches of space to the trailer hook. Tie the braid down (on top of the hook shank) using tight wraps forward to the conehead. Go back and forth a couple times. Next, with the thread behind the conehead, take the remaining braid and wrap 3 times rearward around the hook shank. Then, overwrap it with the thread and trim off any excess braid. Add cement to secure everything.*
- 7. With the thread 1/2 inch behind the conehead, tie down the rabbit strip from the trailer hook (use the same method as in step 3). Make sure you have a little slack in the rabbit strip. You want a hooked fish to pull on the braid not the rabbit strip. Once you've secured the strip to the rear of the front hook, palmer wrap the strip forward about 3 wraps behind the cone. Secure the strip on top of the hook shank. Trim off the excess. Try to tuck the hide under the cone using a bodkin and make a couple more tight wraps.*
- 8. Turn the fly upside down or rotate your vise. Clean the fur off about 1/8th of an inch of a 2 1/2-inch piece of purple zonker strip to make attaching and securing it easier. Tuck the exposed hide into the conehead and wrap firmly.*
- 9. Flash: Add a 9-inch piece of Lateral Scale (or Flashabou) folded in half to each side. Or, just add one 4 1/2-inch piece to each side.*
- 10. Whip finish. Trim the purple hide to length if necessary. It should end just before the bend in the trailer hook. Trim up the flash as needed. It should be just short of the end of the pink rabbit hair. I found too much flash was a negative in clear water.*
- 11. Remove the fly from the vise. Using the side cutters, cut the hook shank of the front hook about 1/16th inch behind the last thread wraps. Holding the conehead downward in the vertical position carefully add cement so it goes behind the conehead.*
- 12. Very carefully add cement to the exposed thread on the trailer hook as this hook is the business end of the fly. It takes a beating!*