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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Answer to the age old "What flies?"

Re: Answer to the age old "What flies?"

Author: : jayL

Date: : 2010/4/8 22:20:28

URL:

Quote:

jreichel wrote:

Maybe a good addition to the "important topics" for this forum would be a list of "the basic fly box" must haves and why. Just a thought from a used to be newbie. I am now building my arsenal based on input from PAFF and my increasing experience on the water.

That's kind of the thing mkern is discussing. There's no such thing as a "must have", and trying to get a consensus is like herding cats. (I stole that phrase from jerseygeorge, and have used it a few times 😊) Everyone's got their own style. Part of the beauty is developing your own.

Take the recent discussion about fly sizes in one of these threads. Blueheron and shakey weighed in that they prefer larger flies. Shakey seems to go the traditional route, whereas BH's flies looked "buggy" with tons of moving fibers. (I caught a few on that fly the other day, BH). Both guys catch fish. Both do it on their terms. Afish has a few of his own things he does, and admittedly, I tend to emulate some of his style a bit when designing my own stuff. Again... catching fish on our terms. Everyone has very unique fly boxes, and every accomplished fisherman thinks he has a box of "must have" flies. Famous flies got that way because they were either marketed by someone, or because their design is generic/obvious-- not necessarily because they are a "must have".

Fish are in the business of eating food-like stuff that drifts by them. Show them something that resembles fish food, and they'll usually eat it. What is fish food? Any number of millions of insects, larvae, minnows, and even the occasional pebble, twig, or cigarette butt.

Most any named pattern will work. The fun starts when you begin to tie and make changes to known patterns to make them your own. Fly design is about 30% of the game for me, if I had to quantify it.

The point of the original post in this thread, to me, is that there are a million and one ways to skin a cat, and that you shouldn't let worrying about "THE" fly mystify you. Presentation is the mystery. It's the game. The sooner you move away from worrying about what flies other people are throwing, and move toward presenting YOUR flies well, is when you'll realize this stuff... Fly selection is so much less important than other factors. Beginners would do well to realize that early and often. IMO, anyway.