

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : soft hackles

Re: soft hackles

Author: : redietz

Date: : 2013/7/13 1:10:47

URL:

Quote:

McSneek wrote:

What more do these books say than "Cast, mend, let fly swing, retrieve, rinse and repeat?"

Cast upstream with short line and keep tight to the fly. It's the way they're done it for hundreds of years in the north of England, where spiders (soft hackles) were invented.

Suspend from a dry fly and fish dead drift. Or just fish a team of wets upstream or across and dead drift.

Fish like a nymph, under a strike indicator.

Grease well with floatant and fish like a dry fly.

Use the point fly as anchor suspend the hand fly above the water, raising and lowering.

There are many ways to fish soft hackles, and swinging them is often not the best way. (Although sometimes it is.)

I add my vote for Dave Hughes' book.

If you want to go more into the history, find a copy of Pritt's *North Country Flies* or Edmonds and Lee's *Brook and River Troutng*. Or WC Stewart's *The Practical Angler*. You can't go wrong with Leisenring/Hidy, either.

More recently, any of Roger Fogg's wet fly books. Or *Tying and Fishing Soft Hackled Nymphs* by Allen Magee. Or if you're looking for a pattern book *A Guide to North Country Flies and How to Tie Them* by Mike Harding.

And although Neme's deserves a lot of credit for popularizing them in the country, I personally don't think his books have as much to say as the original material.