

MID MISSOURI chapter

Trout Unlimited



May 1989

MONTHLY MEETING, Tuesday, May 2, 1989, 7th Floor Ellis Fischel

Our May meeting will feature Linden Trial, entomologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, giving a program on aquatic entomology. Linden will discuss methods of stream sampling, preservation, basic identification, what to expect, plus a slide presentation of some stream inhabitants. I look forward to seeing you there.

DAY WITH WILDLIFE UPDATE

The Day with Wildlife held at the American Legion Post was attended by about 1100 people. There was a lot of interest shown in trout fishing and fly tying and several new members were signed up. It is a great feeling to meet with fellow Mid-Missourians who all are interested in the great outdoors and have a chance to talk to them about our club, our accomplishments, and the future of the sport of trout fishing and habitat preservation in our state.

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-----CUT-HERE-----

MID-MISSOURI CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
1989 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
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Are you a member of Trout Unlimited (National)? _____
Amount Enclosed: 1989 Chapter dues = \$ 8.00 _____
If we have not received your 1989 dues a star will be affixed to your newsletter. Send this form and your check to: Garry Teeple, 1313 Golf Blvd, Columbia, MO 65202 or George Donovan, Bcx 384, Columbia, MO 65205.

FLY TYING

Blue Winged Olive (Dry)

The blue winged olive is among the most versatile of dry flies. I don't keep count, but I'd guess that over the years in fishing many different areas, I've caught more fish on the blue winged olive than any other dry fly. It's not that it has any magical properties, it's just that it imitates many, many different olive colored mayfly species (most, but not all, of the genus Baetis) that inhabit most areas where trout are found.

Imitations of these flies originated in England and have been around for over a century. Although there are several versions in common usage today, all are similar, effective, and tied in standard dry fly style. Variations among the dressings are in the wings and body material.

Hook: standard length dry fly

Tying Silk: olive

Tail: dark dun hackle fibers

Wings: varies; see below

Body: varies; see below

Hackle: dark dun

The body variations are minor, usually light to dark olive dubbing to match the particular local fly on the water.

Sometimes a little gray muskrat is mixed in. In the Catskills, I've also seen stripped peacock quill dyed olive used. I don't think the fish are very picky about the body color, perhaps because many natural olive colored flies change color while emerging, being dark when they first pop to the surface and lightening before they fly off the water.

The wing variations are more substantive. Art Flick tied blue winged olives with no wings at all, letting the dun hackle represent both the legs and wings of the fly. Simple and effective, but the fly can be hard to see in poor light. Dark dun hackle tips are also used, but tend to disappear in the wound hackle and thus add little to visibility and effectiveness, while wasting good hackle in the process. My own preference is for upright divided wings of dun hen hackle fibers, tied like standard wood duck fiber wings, but using fibers from a large dun hen hackle feather instead of wooduck. For that matter, any suitably sized webby feather will do, such as white duck breast dyed dun. General tying instructions for this type of wing can be found in Eric Leiser's Complete Book of Fly Tying. These wings are durable, relatively easy to tie, and add to the fly's visibility and effectiveness.

The various dark winged olive colored mayflies can be found emerging in spring, summer, and fall. Although I remember encountering some large #14's on the Meramec once in early March, most are in the #16 and smaller range. My favorite blue winged olive fishing is the hatch and spinner fall of #18's on the upper Yellowstone in August, but I wouldn't go fishing anywhere without a good supply of #14's-#20's in my vest.

Incidentally, the spinner of most olive colored mayfly species is rusty brown in color; more on that later.

Good Tying, Terry Finger