

MID MISSOURI chapter

Trout Unlimited



JUNE 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the start of a new fishing season well underway, let's be careful of the image we present on stream. Many of us are proud to wear a Trout Unlimited patch on our fishing vest and in doing so we must make very sure our actions represent the philosophy of T.U. and the ethics we support. Many times as we teach fly tying and fly fishing to a new member or friend, we get so intent on catching of fish we forget to also be teaching conservation and stream etiquette also.

There is little point in increasing our membership if we don't also maintain the quality of the total fishery and fishing experience. This must include educating all new members as well as refreshing current ones as to in (and out) of stream conduct. An organization is judged by its members, let's all strive to present ourselves as true sportsmen and gentlemen or ladies as we also represent our Trout Unlimited organization.

JUNE MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 7:30 p.m., ELLIS FISCHER 7th FLOOR

Fred Grimes will join us for the evening with a presentation on recent T.U. undertakings and also stream etiquette. Fred is our Ozark Council's National Representative and he works extremely hard in our interest as T.U. members. For those who haven't met Fred, come and enjoy a good presentation and meet one of the strong supporters of our organization, a great gentleman and an excellent flyfisher.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Our next highway cleanup will be on Saturday, June 24, 8:00 a.m. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend, the more help the easier and quicker the job will be complete and I hope to get done before it gets hot. We will meet on the southeast outer road. Please let me know if you can make it by calling 474-9781.

TROUT UNLIMITED PHILOSOPHY

We believe that trout and salmon fishing isn't just fishing for trout and salmon. It's fishing for sport rather than for food, where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the lure, and the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel. It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit. It's communing with nature, where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use-not abuse, to enjoy-not destroy, our coldwater fishery. It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout and salmon is good for fisherman and that managing trout and salmon for themselves rather than for the fisherman is fundamental to the solution of our trout and salmon problems. It's appreciating our fishery resource, respecting fellow anglers, and giving serious thought to tomorrow.

May 17, 1989

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY - What do YOU want from Mid-Missouri TU

22/1
7/7/7

1.) Meeting Topics - some suggestions have been:
(please rate, 1,2,etc. with 1 the one you would most like to hear about)

- 1. More on rod building..... 1
- 2. Raising chickens for quality hackle..... 3
- 3. Other types of fishing.....
 - Flyfishing for bass or panfish.....
 - Spin fishing..... 2
 - bass fishing.....
 - Panfish fishing.....
 - Other game fish (type _____).... 4
- 4. Other topics (list , and rate in order of interest)

.....

2.) Level of fly tying at meetings - more.....
less.....
same.....

1. Organized as class.....
(specific 1 or 2 patterns - instructor provides recipe handout and enough hooks and materials for all for that meeting).
Other format _____

2. Free tying time at end of meeting
(as it is now)

3. Other suggestions

.....

3.) Club fishing trip - would you like one(Y or N) Y

1. Where (rank in order preferred, 1 being most preferred)
- Montauk Park..... 4
 - Bennett Springs Park
 - Maramec Springs Park..... 2
 - Current River Trophy Area..... 3
 - Meramec River Trophy Area..... 1

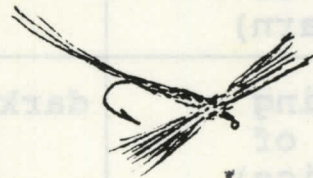
FLY TYING

Rusty (and other) Spinners

I love spinner falls. No, I don't mean the kerplunk of a #2 Mepps hitting the surface, but the very end of the mayfly life cycle, when the mature adults, called spinners (or, technically, imagoes), return to the river and fall spent on the water after their mating flight and egg laying. My earliest learning experiences with spinner falls occurred on Schoharie Creek in the Catskills. During late spring and early summer evenings, fish would quietly feed on spinners of the Light Cahills that had emerged earlier in the day. The best locations were the long, flat, knee-deep pools below riffles. It took some careful wading and casting, but more often than not, the feeding fish were larger and rising more consistently than any seen during the more heralded "hatch" or emergence of duns (subimagoes) during the day. Over the years since, I have found the same to be true for spinner falls of many other mayfly species.

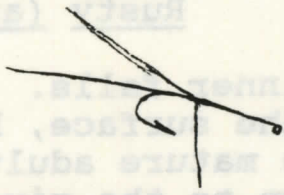
Not only are spinner falls effective times to fish, but the necessary fly patterns are limited in number and easy and inexpensive to tie. Spinner body colors are far less variable among species than dun body colors. Although the spinners of those Schoharie Light Cahills were golden yellow, and I have seen some species with brownish olive bodies, the most common spinner color by far is a fairly dark reddish brown (the Rusty Spinner), and this includes species with duns of olive, brown, tan, gray, and many other body colors. A good selection of Rusty Spinners (in sizes #12-#18 or so), some golden yellow ones, and a few with a dark olive-brown body will thus cover nearly all match-the-spinner situations (exceptions include big Green Drakes and tiny Tricorythodes, but those are other stories).

There are several ways to tie spinner imitations that satisfy the two requirements of having wings in a spent, airplane-like configuration and having the fly float flat in the surface film. All have tails of hackle fibers (or, if you prefer, synthetic microfibrils) and dubbed fur bodies of the appropriate color. The differences are in the wings. Back in the Catskills, we used to wind a pale dun hackle like a standard variant dry fly and clip it top and bottom. The clipped hackle represents the spent glossy wings of the naturals. This fly is effective and easy to tie, but it does use relatively expensive dry fly hackle and can be hard to see on the water at dusk. I have also seen flies with spent hackle tip wings either with or without the clipped wound hackle, a practice I have never thought necessary. A third approach is to use strands of poly or antron yarn for wings. While I am a traditionalist and avoid trendy synthetic gimmicks like the plague, I do believe spinners tied with wings of these synthetic yarns are the most practical way to go. They are easy to tie, durable, effective, easy to see on the water, and inexpensive. A card of yarn will set you back all of 35 to 75 cents or so; if you tie a lot, an entire skein can be had for \$2 to \$3.

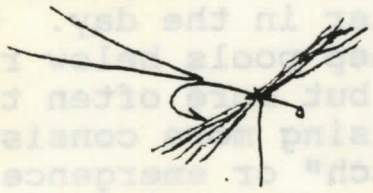


This type of spinner is tied as follows:

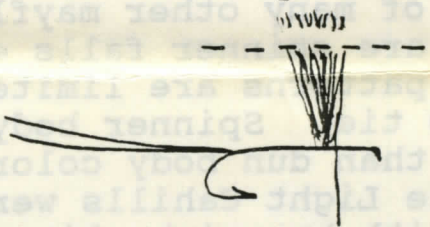
1. Tie in a tail of hackle fibers or microfibbets. If you like, tie them splayed, either by tying in the tail fibers in front of a small ball of dubbing or by using figure-8 turns of thread (for all but the most selective fish a regular dry fly tail works just as well). Do make the tails longer than the standard body length; spinners have long tails.



2. Take the thread about 2/3 of the way up the shank and tie in strands of yarn across the hook with figure-8 turns of thread. Keep it sparse and tie it in a little longer than the 1-1/2 hook gapes you'll eventually wind up with.



3. Pull the two wing ends up together and clip to about 1-1/2 hook gapes; this makes it easy to get both sides the same length.



4. Go back to the tail and dub in a fairly sparse body. Cover the wing bases with figure-8 passes of dubbing and take a turn or two in front of the wings. Whip finish and it's done.



The dressings for the three spinners mentioned above are:

	Rusty	Golden Yellow	Olive-brown
Tying silk	claret	primrose	olive
Tail (hackle fibers or microfibbets)	pale dun	pale dun	dark dun
Wing (poly or antron yarn)	pale gray or cream for all		
Body (dubbing material of your choice)	dark reddish brown	golden yellow	olive-brown

Spinner falls occur during the time of day when the temperature is just right for the particular species. Generally (there are exceptions) this is mid-afternoon in early spring, dusk in late spring/early summer, and mid-morning in late summer/early fall. For more information, see Caucci and Nastasi's Hatches II or a similar book on mayflies. Also, be wary when fishing spinner falls. Because spinners aren't going anywhere, you won't see active, splashy rises. Tiny, delicate rises can conceal large fish.

Good Tying,
Terry Finger