

May 2018 Fly of the Month

Dragon Fly Nymph

By Mike Pettitt

Lake fishing has been most productive for me in and around weed beds with the usual problems of snags and fouled hooks. A new fly I'm going to try is the dragon fly nymph by Phil Rowley. It is designed to float above the weeds when fished with a sink line and 3 to 6 foot leader. The line lays in/on the weeds and the leader lets this fly float just above the weeds. Fished with a slow retrieve with occasional 4 inch quick strips, the sinking line pulls the fly downward and the foam construction lets it float back up.



Recipe:

- Hook: Mustad R74 streamer hook or equivalent in size 6 to 8
- Thread: 6/0 Olive
- Under body: Booby Eye/Body Foam, black, ¼ inch for smaller flies, 3/16 inch for larger sizes
- Body: Olive and Olive Grizzly Marabou
- Wing case: Mottled Turkey Quill
- Legs: Grizzly barred rubber legs
- Eyes: Booby Eye/Body Foam, black, ¼ inch
- Head: Dark olive dubbing

To tie:

- I always pinch the barbs before tying
- Base layer of thread
- Cut a length of foam about the length of the hook shank
- Tie in the foam on top of the hook near the hook bend extending beyond the bend (cut on an angle to make this easier) with several wraps and bring the thread forward toward the eye about 2/3 up the shank
- Bring the foam forward, the end should be where you've brought your thread forward, and tie in with several firm wraps
- Wrap back over the foam with open spirals to hold it to the hook. You don't want to compress it too much or you will lose buoyancy

- Form a 3 to 4 inch dubbing loop at the rear of the foam and then bring the thread forward in open spirals to the front of the foam
- The body dubbing is made using a Mark Petitjean Magic Tool (<https://youtu.be/lz7EYoGGQps> is a video on how to use the Magic Tool) with both the olive and olive grizzly marabou
- Spin the dubbing tight to hold the marabou (larger flies will need two dubbing adds to the loop)
- Wrap the dubbing forward to the front of the foam and tie off
- Trip the top and bottom slightly flat (don't overdo, scruffy is good)
- Prepare a slip turkey quill for the wing case by coating with a flexible cement for durability
- Tie the quill in at its middle just ahead of the body. Fold the forward portion of the quill back over the body and tie in
- Trim the wing case to less than half the body length
- Bring the tread forward just ahead of the wing case
- Tie in three lengths of rubber legs at their middle across the hook with a figure eight wrap
- Pull the far side legs back along the side of the fly and tie in. Repeat on the near side. At this point you can adjust the legs and then tie in firmly
- If you don't have grizzled legs, you can mark with a permanent marker at this point
- Gather and hold loosely all six legs (don't pull and stretch them) at the tail of the fly and trim slightly longer than the hook bend
- Tie in a length of eye foam on top of the hook, half way between the hook eye and the wing case using figure eight wraps
- Dub the head behind the eyes to help hold the legs in place, then in figure eight wraps over the eyes and in front for the eyes to finish the head
- Whip finish
- Trim the eyes slightly narrower than the width of the body
- I've tied both the olive and light brown variants