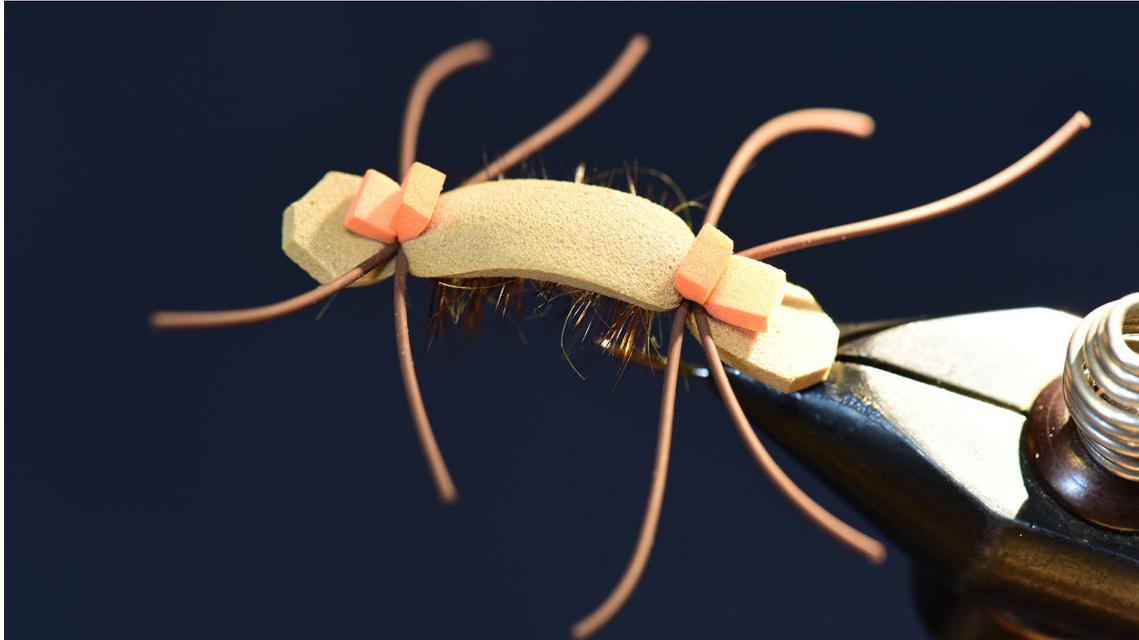


Chernobyl Ant – Golden Stone

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer

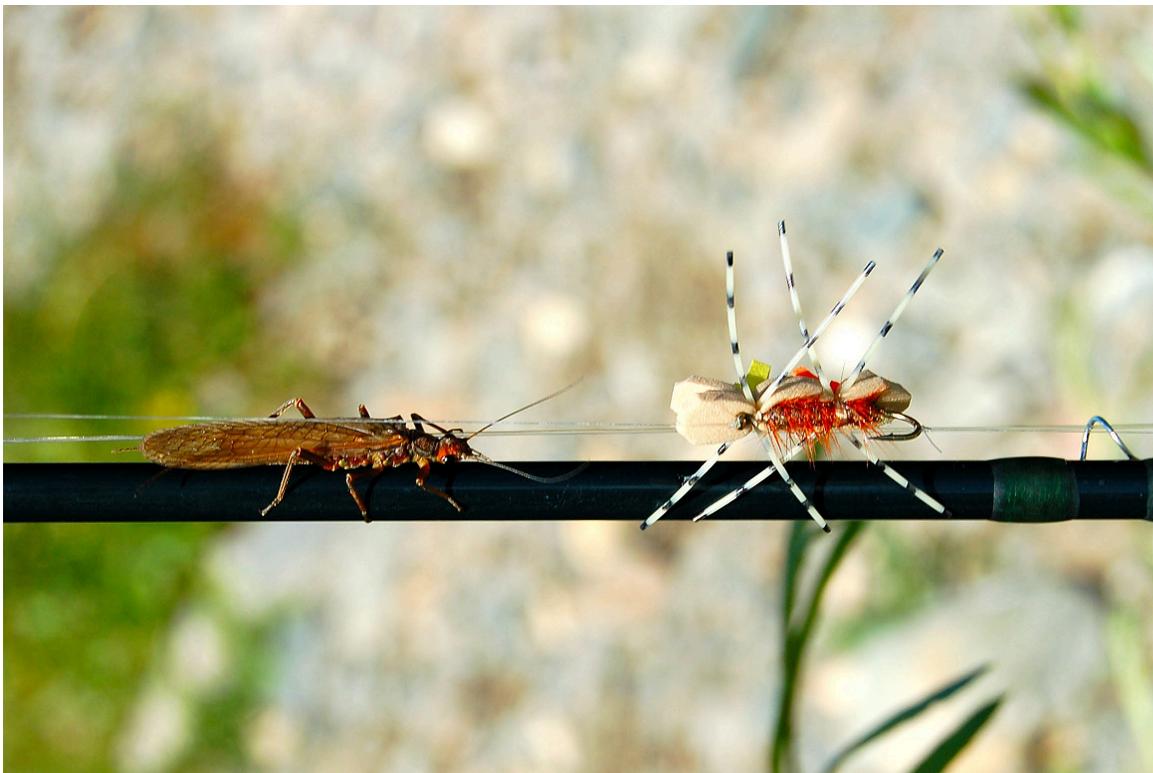


This month's pattern features a Chernobyl Ant. It is a pattern that boasts incredible diversity in the insects it imitates, from Salmon Flies and Golden Stones, to big beetles and grasshoppers. I fish this fly as tied in the example for golden stones on the lower Deschutes, which occur in the latter stages of the Salmon Fly hatch. I've found that those fish get pounded by every salmon fly pattern known to man, and they get immune to many of these over the course of the hatch. I fish a slightly different pattern, such as the Chernobyl Ant – Golden Stone, and they will take this pattern, even though they are passing up the litany of Salmonfly patterns that pound the water during big bug season.

The Chernobyl Ant is a fly that offers surprises when fished, and I don't limit its use to rivers; I often fish in on our local still waters. I had a couple of surprises fishing the Chernobyl Ant last year. I often use the pattern as a strike indicator and run a dropper underneath. It was this exact set-up that was responsible for my largest rainbow of last season. I was fishing Hosmer Lake one day and had tied on a size 2 Chernobyl Ant with a Red Pheasant Tail Dropper. I like to work this

rigging by casting near to the abundant cattails that grow along the edges of the lake. This day I was working the dry dropper set-up, expecting a pull down from a fish eating the nymph. Much to my surprise, a large head appeared above the lake's surface as it enveloped the Chernobyl Ant. It caused my heart to skip several beats before I finally regained my senses and lifted the rod to the pull of a large trout. I didn't see that coming. Honestly, when was the last time you took a trout in a lake on a size 2 dry fly. After a short battle, a nice 23" rainbow came to net. Shortly after, I landed another rainbow on the Chernobyl Ant that was 21". Both fish left me surprised and exhilarated over this technique. The Chernobyl Ant is an excellent imitation for our big bugs in Central Oregon.

Below is a picture of a Golden Stone and a Chernobyl Ant staring at each other. The similarities and differences are obvious. But from the fish's perspective, real or imaginary, it doesn't matter!



Golden Stone and Chernobyl Ant Stare-down

Try tying this easy-to-tie pattern on your vice and fish it during the Golden Stone hatch on the Lower Deschutes and Metolious, use it for hoppers on the Crooked

and Upper Deschutes, or use it in your favorite Stillwater to imitate random big bugs that attract trout's attention. I think you'll like it.

Chernobyl Ant Materials List:

Hook: Firehole Competition Barbless 718, size 6-10

Thread: Danville's 70 Denier Brown

Body: Spirit River UV2 Dubbing in Golden Stonefly

Hackle: Whiting Dry Fly Saddle – Grizzly Dyed Brown

Rib: Fine UTC Ultrawire - Gold

Foam: 3MM Closed Cell Craft Foam – Tan

Tag: 2MM Closed Cell Foam in Orange or Yellow

Legs: Brown Medium Rubber Legs

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers web page at <http://www.sunriveranglers.org/fly-tying-corner>, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: https://youtu.be/v_m74-x0Pqk.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it throughout the season as various big bugs hatch. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Chernobyl Ant fly pattern, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at Philfischer@sbcglobal.net.