

Found Link Callibaetis

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



If you haven't been up to East Lake recently, you're missing out on some fabulous Callibaetis hatches. The hatch has been beginning about 11:00 and running till 2:00 or later. In some areas of the lake, trout have been rising like popcorn popping. It has really been that good. It was an epic Callibaetis hatch a couple weeks ago that caused me to seek additional options for my Callibaetis arsenal. Those of you that have followed this column know I am always tinkering with new Callibaetis patterns. But it wasn't the patterns in my fly box that caused me to stray. It was dumber than that; I forgot my fly floatant, and all the patterns I typically tie require some help keeping their float. So, I spent a marvelous day watching this epic Callibaetis hatch, and watching my patterns sink without floatant, rendering them useless. It was this situation that caused to go in search of a better floating fly. What I discovered was Kelly Galloup's Found Link Mayfly pattern. This pattern can be tied to imitate many different mayflies. The example tied in this article imitates Callibaetis so prevalent in our area lakes.

The Found Link title for this fly conjures up some sort of relationship to the term missing link; I couldn't quite connect the dots on the internet. But suffice to say, the Found Link met my criteria in that it needed to float well and needed to catch fish. Just to make sure, I tied up a few and made a return trip to East Lake a few days after my first debacle. The second trip was much more successful. Once I settled in over some rising fish near the East Lake campground, I quickly had my first Found Link caught rainbow. It was a nice 18" slab that took this pattern



Natural Callibaetis Mayflies

aggressively. Over the next two hours I brought numerous fish to net. Eventually the hatch dwindled, and I quit to head back to the vice and stock my fly boxes with this newfound gem. In the spirit of transparency, I should mention not all the fish that day were on this pattern. I fished two flies in tandem; a Quigley Cripple as the dropper fly, and the Found Link as the top fly. The fish found both appetizing. But the Found Link was also very easy to see on the water, whereas the Quigley Cripple was not, and it acted as my strike indicator every time a fish took the dropper.

Callibaetis mayfly hatches will remain in full swing through the summer and into early fall at East Lake. The Callibaetis hatch is unquestionably the most important mayfly hatch on the Cascade Lakes in Central Oregon. Trout key on the dun stage on the surface, and spinners returning to lay eggs. Often both stages of this insect are on the water at the same time, which is one more benefit to the Found Link Callibaetis. This pattern imitates both the dun and spinner stages very effectively.

The Zelon down-wing sits in the surface film to imitate the spinner, and the deer hair wing sits upright to imitate the dun. So, you can get the best of both stages from one pattern.

Try tying this pattern and fishing it during the Callibaetis hatches this summer. I think you'll like it.

Found Link Callibaetis Materials List:

Hook: Firehole Competition Barbless 419, size 14 -18

Thread: 14/0 Veevus Grey/Brown

Tail: Whiting Coq De Leon Spade Hackle – Natural Pardo

Abdomen: Natural White Tail Deer

Thorax: Blend Light Olive Superfine Callibaetis dubbing (80%), UV Callibaetis (20%)

Down Wing: Xelon - Medium Dun

Wing: Natural White Tail Deer

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/aM-c_KMqQYk.

Learn to tie this fly pattern and fish it during Callibaetis hatches on our local lakes to imitate these mayflies. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Found Link Callibaetis 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.