

Blood Midge Dry Fly

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



Now that our lakes are open for the early season, I am spending a lot of my time fishing Chironomid patterns under an indicator. But recently on Crane Prairie, the Chironomid hatch became profuse and the fish started taking midges on the surface. There were many very large blood midges hatching and the fish seemed to be keyed in on these as they represented a solid meal for hungry trout. I was reminded of profuse blood midge hatches on California's Davis Lake many years ago. I had stopped by the Grizzly Store near Davis Lake and the owner recommended a good blood midge dry fly pattern. It worked then, how about now? Fast forward to Crane Prairie last week, I just happened to have a few of this blood midge pattern in my fly box. Sure enough, on the second cast I was rewarded with a nice 17" Cranebow.

For this month's Fly Tying Corner, I revisit this old Blood Midge dry fly pattern that has served me well for so long. I have fished this fly during Chironomid hatches on a few of our area lakes and it has never let me down when fished in the right situation. This pattern represents an emerging midge as it breaks out of its nymphal shuck to become an adult midge. The fly is very vulnerable to trout at this stage. The fly is tied with orange marabou, with a short wisp of a tail that represents the trailing shuck. It is important when fishing this pattern to apply dry fly floatant to the thorax, hackle, and wing, but not to the marabou. You want the marabou to absorb water and hang in the surface film, much like the trailing shuck of the natural. While the abdomen of the fly looks too full bodied in the picture above, rest assured the marabou slims down significantly when wet and does a particularly good job imitating the trailing shuck on the emerging insect. The naturals range from size 10 in the early season to size 16 as the season progresses. I will often fish two flies dry-dry to give the trout a better opportunity to find the fly on the surface. It can be rewarding and frustrating to have fish rise around your flies, so I try to double the chance of them finding my patterns.

Blood Midge Materials List:

Hook:	Firehole 419 Barbless, Size 12 - 16
Thread:	Danville 6/0 Flat Waxed, Olive Brown
Tail and Abdomen:	Dyed Orange Marabou
Rib:	Ultra Copper Wire, Size BR
Wing:	Natural Deer Hair
Thorax:	Natural Peacock Herl
Hackle:	Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Unique Variant Bronze Dun

Tying instructions and steps are published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/9sSACcoHITs> .

Give the Blood Midge a try next time you are out fishing a favorite stillwater. If you have questions or would like additional information about this pattern, please 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.