

Double Bead Golden Stonefly

Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



I first fished the golden stone hatch period in Montana some 30 years ago. Since then, I have used both dry and nymph golden stone imitations to take some nice fish on this large meal for hungry trout. It is a big bug, typically size 8 – 10. We are blessed to have golden stones in numerous Central Oregon rivers. The most well know is the Metolius, where these stoneflies hatch in prodigious numbers over a long period of time. But also, in all areas of the Deschutes, from the lower sections, through the Middle Deschutes to the Upper Deschutes. In addition, golden stones are common on numerous rivers on the western side of the Cascades in Oregon, a short drive over the pass to the McKenzie and Santiam rivers, amongst others.

The Double Bead Golden Stonefly pattern reminds me of a good friend's nickname for heavily weighted patterns. He called them "Disco Flies", because, in his words, "they got to get down". Such it is with the Double Bead Golden Stonefly pattern. This fly sinks and sinks quickly because it features two 5/32's beads. It is a perfect pattern for deeper holes and tough to reach fish lying in those deep spots on the river. Nowhere is this more important than on the Upper Deschutes, where large brook trout often lie just below a drop-off in some of the deeper holes and runs.



Golden Stone Nymph

Golden stones hatch in early to mid-summer. But nymphs are widely available throughout the year. So, the Double Bead Golden Stone is a good option for a searching pattern throughout the season. I often use this pattern in tandem with a smaller pheasant tail, or other pattern. The double beaded pattern gets down quickly, and the smaller dropper fly gives trout a second option. Often, I catch more fish on the dropper fly, but catch larger fish on the golden stone. The nymphs live in faster riffled highly oxygenated water. Focusing on deeper water below riffles is a good place to target.

Give this pattern a try at your own vice and try it on the water next season.

Double Bead Golden Stone Materials List:

Hook:	Firehole 718, Size 8 - 10
Bead:	Two 5/32's Brass Bead, Gold
Thread:	Danville's 140 Denier, Yellow
Tail and Legs:	Medium Round Rubber Legs, Brown
Rib:	Ultra Wire, Large, Gold
Casing:	Natural Turkey Tail
Abdomen and	
Thorax Dubbing:	Jay Fair Seal Substitute, Burnt Orange (75%), Ice Dub Shrimp Pink (25%)
Secondary Legs:	Whiting Brahma Hen, Dyed Brown

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/Oc4gTx9GQqw>

Experiment with this pattern during Golden Stone time in Spring and early Summer on Central Oregon's Rivers. If you have questions or would like additional information about this 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.