

Wally Wing Blue Wing Olive

Sunriver Angler's Fly Tying Corner

By: Phil Fischer



As the weather has cooled down and become rainy this fall, Blue Wing Olives, or Baetis, have become more prolific in our rivers and streams. The Fall River has been a Blue Wing Olive testing ground for me, and often a source of frustration after being on the receiving end of numerous refusals from feeding trout. The Wally Wing Blue Wing Olive was borne to confront such a challenge. Blue Wings hatch profusely on those cool moist days, and they float for long distances, unless taken by a hungry trout. There are a couple keys to matching this hatch: 1) a notable wing silhouette, and 2) high floating profile that gives a perspective of movement. The Wally Wing Blue Wing Olive checks off both keys. The Wally Wing gives a clear wing signature. And the full hackle floats this pattern very high in the surface film and gives an impression of the subtle movement of the natural.

In tying this pattern, I used a Whiting Hebert Minor Hen Saddle. The stem on the feathers are very delicate, and don't peel to form the Wally Wing very well. I solved this conundrum by using two opposing feathers and preparing them in the same fashion as I would have otherwise prepared one feather for a standard Wally Wing pattern. The result, I think, is a little easier tying technique for most fly tiers. Check out the video for specific tying instruction (link below). Coupled with the very stiff barbs to form the tail from a Whiting Coq De Leon tailing pack, and a good quality hackle, this fly floats well

in the surface film and is a perfect solution to imitating Blue Wing Olives to fool fussy trout.

Give this pattern a try next time you run into Blue Wings on your favorite stream.

Wally Wing Blue Wing Olive Materials List:

Hook: Firehole 419, size 16-18

Thread: Ultra 6/0, Olive

Tail: Whiting Tailing Pack, Dyed Olive

Body: Polish Quill, Dyed Olive

Wing: Whiting Hebert Miner Hen Saddle, Dyed Dun

Hackle: Whiting Dry Fly Saddle, Dyed Dark Dun

Tying instructions and steps are being 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/LaTf-MKnY5A>. Experiment with this pattern during the Baetis hatches on our local rivers throughout the fall. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Wally Wing Blue Wing Olive pattern, please do not 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.