

Wind Knots

June 2007

June Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

The June monthly dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer beginning at 6 pm. The speaker will be Charlie Todd DIF&W biologist, presenting ' Maine's Bald Eagles'.

July Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, July 6, 2007

There is no July dinner meeting per vote at May dinner meeting.

FLY OF THE MONTH

The receipt for this months fly was taken from "The Art of Tying the Dry Fly" by Skip Morris.

I will bring the body material to the June meeting. This fly looks like it was made to catch fish.

THE BUNSE DUN

It does take a while to tie a Bunse Dun, even for someone with some experience tying, and the first few you tie may be unacceptable; but once you get the hang of tying it, and see how well it floats, endures, and deceives trout, you will consider tying the Bunse Dun time well spent. But I want to be honest – this fly is tricky to tie.

The Bunse Dun is durable, buoyant, and exceptionally lifelike. By varying its sizes and colors it can imitate a variety of mayfly species. The body material is called "ethafoam," a foam sheeting that is used mostly for packing. Ethafoam is often found wrapped around such things as fine electronics, camera lenses, picture frames and in the thickest sheeting, appliances. You'll have to hunt it down for now (though a single find will last a long time, and there is lots of it out there).

The finest sheeting is about 3/64" thick, is for Bunse Duns on hooks size 12 and larger. A few guidelines are in order. The dimensions of the cut sheeting will have a lot to do with tying ease-too wide a pattern makes a bulging thorax, and too thin a pattern will make a skimpy thorax that won't reach over the top of the shank. The extension on a Bunse Dun normally four sections, but you can add a section for the largest flies and eliminate one for the smallest-if this doesn't make sense now, it will soon. When sliding the body off the needle, I like to get my thumbnail and fingernail right down against the needle behind the foam-this seems to eliminate the danger of having the inner thread turns slip out of the body. The tightness of the thread turns around the thorax will largely determine its bulk. Regarding all these points: practice, experiment.

The Bunse Dun shown imitates the mayflies *Rhythrogena morrisoni* and *Rhythrogena hageni*, commonly called march browns. These mayflies hatch from morning to midday in early season, disappear in midseason, and then return in fall. The body color of the dun varies between the two species and the location; colors can range from slate to olive to peach to yellow. You can collect samples and match them or use the ochre color which is preferred. Fly size, presentation, and outline are so far ahead of color in importance that I seldom fret over the latter. There are western march browns, and there are eastern march browns. The easterns are a different genus than the westerns and are similar in color, but slightly larger.

BUNSE MARCH BROWN DUN

Hook: Short-shank, dry-fly, sizes 18 to 16

(with the foam extension, these hooks will make a fly comparable in size to a conventional one of size 16 to 14: the hook shown is a Mustad 94838).

Thread Yellow 6/0 or 8/0

Body Ethafoam sheeting colored with an ocher (dark yellow) marking pen.

Tail Two mink-tail, nutria, or beaver guard hairs.

Wing Dark coastal deer hair (brown preferred).

The tying instructions are pretty unique. Try one and bring it to the meeting.

- 1) Color a piece of ethafoam sheeting. Cut out a blunt-ended, diamond-shaped section from the sheeting about 1 ¼ " long by 7/16" wide (slightly over three full hook lengths long by slightly over one hook length wide). Color the edges of the sheeting if you like.
- 2) Mont a beading needle in your vise. Start the thread lightly near the center of the needle. Using a light turn, tie in the tip of the diamond-shape foam section. The foam should be tied on the far side of the needle. Use light thread tension throughout the needle tying-it will help you remove the foam later.
- 3) A small hump of foam should now project behind the thread. Hold one tail hair above and another below this hump, take a light turn of thread around both hairs. Tighten the turn of thread until the tails spread. Leave the butts of the tails long and untrimmed.
- 4) Bend back the foam and advance the thread in two or three turns over the needle and tail butts.
- 5) Bend the foam forward again and take two turns of thread around it. The turns should be tight enough to foam a round foam segment.
- 6) Continue forming segments, each slightly larger than the last, until there are four (the hump behind the tails counts as a segment). Half hitch the thread, trim it and slide the body off the needle.
- 7) Remove the needle from your vise. Mount a hook in your vise, and then start the thread halfway up the shank; comb, stack (stacking is usually optional with coastal deer for all but the smaller hook sizes) and tie in a bunch of coastal deer hair for a wing (the wing should be one-and-a-half times as long as the hook's shank). Trim the wing's butts at an angle and bind them with thread.
- 8) Remove the hook from your vise. Push the point of the hook through the foam body, where the butts of the tails project and out around the bottom of the fourth segment (by "bottom" I mean the side that should end up beneath the fly, seam on top). Slide the foam body up the bend to the end of the shank. Return the hook to your vise. Work the thread back to the foam body and take two thread turns around the end of the last segment, where the half hitch holds the body together.
- 9) Draw the front of the foam down out of the way as you advance the thread to the hook's eye. Catch the tails butts with the thread; trim the butts near the eye. With your thumbnail, crease the hair wing upright, then pull it back and add a few tight thread turns against its front.
- 10) With your right hand, pull the front of the foam forward and up; then support the foam, forward and up around the sides of the shank, with your left hand; take up the bobbin with your right and secure the tip of the foam at the eye with tight thread turns. Stretch the end of the foam and trim it closely.
- 11) Spiral the thread back between the wing and the hook's eye and take one full turn of thread. Then spiral the thread beneath the wing to the rear of the wing. Take two thread turns here, spiral the thread under the thorax to the front of the wing, take a full turn over the previous full turn, and then work the thread back to the eye.
- 12) Snip a tiny slit on each side of the foam at the wing's base, but watch that you don't cut the thread.
- 13) Pull the wing down into the side slits, forming a fan wing. Create a thread head, add a whip finish and trim the thread.
- 14) Touch up the foam with your marking pen if needed. Add a drop of thinned flexament

(three parts thinner to one part flexament) to the body just behind the wing; add another at the base of the tails (the rear tip of the body). Add head cement to the thread head. (usually brush the whole foam body sparingly with the thinned flexament and, rather than adding head cement, dab some on the thread head).

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Conservation Camp runs June 28 to second week of August skipping the week of July 4th. We teach 10 – 2. Camp provides lunch.

Girl Scout Camp Natarswi runs first week of July to second week of August. We teach Tuesdays, 10 – 2. Camp provides lunch.

If you can help on any of the dates at either camp please call Marcus at 843-7405. He says only a willingness to help is needed – training will be provided.

Several club members have volunteered a day or several days to teach fly tying, fly casting, and the equipment and knots of fly fishing.

We still desperately need one or two volunteers the first week of Conservation Camp- Thursday, June 28 and the last two weeks of both camps- the first two weeks of August.

Mike Curtis has read that the Girl Scouts National Office is considering adding a fly fishing badge. New badges are only added once every eight years. Perhaps our involvement at Camp Natarswi will be a positive step in establishing a fly fishing badge.

RUMORS, etc.

Fishing is good at Grand Lake Stream according to reports forwarded by John Holyoke and Mike Curtis.

Fishing is good at East Grand Lake judging from the salmon picture and bass picture from Hank Metcalf and Dave Ferris. That's the biggest bass I've ever seen in Maine – a note from Hank.

See the amazing photo at this month's dinner meeting.

Penobscot Fly Fishers Bass Tournament

Sunday, June 30th from 11 am – 6 pm

This tournament is open to club members and guests only. The date is June 30. Location is the Eddington boat launch.

Cost is \$10.00 per boat. Equipment shall be fly rods and hand tied flies. Decision of the Judges is final for any and all disputes. Fish will be measured and released as caught. Minimum length for fish to count is 12". Total number of fish counted per boat is 5. The length of the five largest fish will be added together to determine the winning team.

Prizes and bragging rights will be awarded to the winning team and for the biggest fish.

We need a minimum of five teams to hold the tournament. There will be a sign up sheet at the June meeting or contact John Lent via e-mail at pbunyan@verizon.net or call 945-3809.

Tournament will be held on June 30 rain or shine.

Come out and participate or heckle at 6 for the totaling of the tape.

A note from the Secretary

John would like anyone with a changed or new e-mail account to send him the address at pbunyan@verizon.net. This reduces our newsletter costs and aids communication. Thank you for your help.