

FLY PATTERN OF THE MONTH

Jeff's Little Shiner

By Tom Tripi

This represents the first of ten articles that will be presented in the *Green Trout Gaze* thru the end of the year. I've been off for a year so, catching up on a lot of tying, designing, and writing, etc. Many of the patterns in the upcoming series were published in the recently published book *FLY PATTERNS, 1,600 OF THE BEST*, published in cooperation with the Federation of Fly Fishers, in November 2000. A few of the patterns are new and will be represented in upcoming FFF publications.

This pattern, dubbed *Jeff's Little Shiner*, is a hybrid of the infamous *Stealth Muddler*, one of the most productive patterns I've used in recent years. It is named after my Ruddock guide, Jeff Sympton. It's tied in many sizes, but the most productive are sizes 2 through 8. This shiner pattern was designed after many of the dark, but "shiny" minnows common in the tannic acid stained backwaters of Ruddock. Although productive in those waters, it has been very productive in the brackish water of Lafitte and of course, the Bonnet Carré Spillway. The largest fish take on it to date is a six pound Bowfish, a.k.a. Cypress Tree among others. This is a "dead still" pattern, i.e. cast the fly to likely cover using a long leader, at least 10'. Then don't move the fly for at least 45 seconds to one minute; then give it a small twitch or two, and repeat the process. If there are no strikes, recast to new cover. Since there is a lot of deer hair in this recipe, the fly is almost unsinkable, but a little weight dressing works wonders for buoyancy. The darker and denser the cover, the better the pattern works. If you think it's necessary, tie in a loop weed guard before you begin tying the fly. If you have questions about the tying instructions or fishing methods, please call me at 504-451-9235, between 5 and 10 PM, I'll try to help out.

RECIPE

Thread – olive 6/0 nylon

Hook – Orvis chemically sharpened 4x long streamer hook; size 2 – 8

Tail – dyed bucktail; three shades of brown stacked from light on the bottom to dark on top; between individual colors place in a few strands of Krystal Flash or holographic tinsel.

Body – olive zonker strip (cross cut)

Wing – copper flashabou or holographic tinsel, over which is placed

10 strands of peacock herl, then a few more strands of the copper tinsel.

Head – spun deer hair, stacked in four bands – rear is dark brown, then a lighter brown, then dark olive, then a dark natural color; spun hair is razor cut flat on the bottom, along the hook shank; then cut the hair above the hook shank into a triangular shape, flat on each side, and pointed on the top, back to the wing.

Eyes - medium size holographic eyes in chartreuse; glue on with 5 minute epoxy.