

The Osprey Fly Box

“Georgi’s Damsel”

Neil and Georgi Abbott who run the Logan Lake Flyshop in downtown Logan Lake bring this month’s fly to you. I’m sure most of us have fished Tunkwa or Leighton Lake more than just occasionally the last few years and have probably stopped in to see what the store has to offer or just to interrogate the gracious owners for the latest fishing conditions in the area. Until this spring the store was located in the indoors mall where Fields used to be, but this spring they have a new location across from the bank and liquor store, kitty corner to the supermarket and in the same building as the Logan Lake Lodge where there’s also a bar, how’s that for a convenient location?

If you have ever stopped in to see them, one thing they’d likely tell you is not to overlook little Logan Lake which can be seen across the road out the shop window, I know Doug will certainly back that up! For the latest fishing leads for the area, call Georgi or Neil at the Logan Lake Flyshop at 250-523-9711, also look for their website to soon be up and running at <http://www.loganlakeflyshop.com>

“This pattern was originally an obscure no name pattern I bought from Michael & Young back in the early 90’s before going to Leighton Lake. It was so effective that trip I couldn’t keep the fish off and lost most of the damsels being snapped off due to the violent hits. I went back to M&Y and bought the remainder of the damsels but no more were ever tied and sold in the bins at the store after that.”

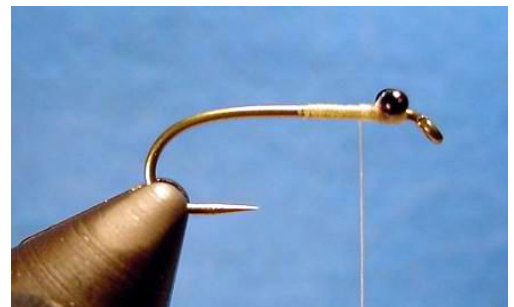
“In 1996 Neil and I left Burnaby and opened the Logan Lake Fly Shop. I asked the boys at M&Y to supply us with some of the damsels I had the great luck with earlier. I was so enthusiastic about the pattern the staff at M&Y dubbed it the “Georgi Damsel” and sold them to us for our shop until we were able to find someone locally to tie them for us. The fly was modified over the next couple of years and became our most popular and productive pattern for the local lakes and it was soon discovered that it was very effective in most B.C. and western U.S. lakes as well.”

“The fly is most effective fished on a sinking line, just off the bottom along the drop offs, stripped slowly with plenty of pauses or trolled dead slow. It can also be fished on a floating line as an emerger by anchoring in the shallows and stripped toward the weed beds where the damsels will climb up the stalks of the lakeside vegetation and emerge as adults.”

“This pattern can be fished throughout the fishing season and is a productive pattern both day and night. When fished as an instar (a freshly molted immature nymph) it is most effective if tied in a ginger colour to match the colour of the soft skinned natural. Damsels will live as nymphs for up to 2 years and during this time they will molt several times as they grow. Trout find freshly moulted damsels to be especially tender and tasty. The fly can also be tied with green, olive and brown coloured materials to match the many different coloured damsel nymphs found in stillwaters.”

Hook: TMC 3761 or 3761BL, sizes 12-14
Thread: Light Cahill 8/0
Eyes: Monofilament eyes
Rib: Fine copper wire
Tail, body and head: Ginger or blonde marabou
Hackle: Hen neck or saddle, ginger/brown

The first step is to make the monofilament eyes by grasping a ¼ inch piece of 40-pound tippet material in a pair of forceps or needle-nose pliers and melting each end by moving it towards a candle flame until two little damsel eye balls are formed. Start your tying thread behind the eye of the hook and tie in the eyes. Colour/paint the eyes with a black, permanent felt pen such as a Sharpie. Add a drop or two of head cement to the thread on the eyes for more durability.



Tie in a small clump of marabou right behind the eyes. The tail should be approximately the same length as that of the hook shank. You can tear the tail to get the right length.



With your tying thread behind the eyes, tie in the fine copper wire on the under-side of the hook. Secure the wire to the back of the hook shank. With your thread still at the end of the shank, tie in the long strands of marabou for the body, be careful not to use too much, you want to have a nice slender body.



Wrap the marabou forward to create the body. Counter-wrap the fine copper wire forward for the rib. Tie off and trim the excess of both materials.



Tie in the hackle right behind the monofilament eyes. Take 2 turns of the hackle, then tie off and trim the rest of the feather.



Tie in another small bundle of long marabou fibers where the hackle is wrapped. Form a nice little head/thorax by wrapping around the monofilament eyes. Tie off and trim the marabou behind the eye of the hook. Whip finish, trim, and apply head cement.

