

The Fly Box by Will Wright

“Bubba’s Chicken”

Hook: Size 12, 79580 Mustad or equivalent
Head: 1/8” brass bead
Thread: Black 6/0
Tail: 6-8 pheasant tail fibres
Body: Pearl black diamond braid
Hackle: Brown, slightly longer than hook length, palmered



This month’s pattern comes to you by way of my old fishing buddy Bob Murphy. I met Bob and his wife Sue up at Plateau Lake about thirteen years ago and we’ve shared some good times together on the high country lakes. Some of my fondest memories of those trips were coming in from an evenings fishing to be greeted with the unmistakable aroma of Sue smoking some fresh trout on her stovetop smoker. Nothing beats warm fresh smoked trout and tasty beverages around the campfire with family and friends.

Lately we’ve had some good times at Tunkwa on the Thanksgiving weekend, and it’s there that Bob witnessed a couple guys from the camp next to his do real well with this pattern a couple years ago. They gave him one of the flies to copy, and when Bob was told it’s name he just had to ask who Bubba was and where the pattern originated. Turns out they didn’t really know anyone named Bubba and couldn’t tell Bob where the pattern came from, it was just a pattern passed on to them by fellow flyfishers. Stew and I were to pull in a couple days later and while I did pretty well that weekend with brown and black Glenn’s Leeches, I was no match for Bob with his chicken!

Bob likes to fish it on a medium slow sink line and targets the open pockets amongst the weeds and says the long palmered hackle helps keep the pattern from snagging up. He also recommends building a tapered underbody and prefers Phentex for this purpose.

After the success of “Bubba’s Chicken” in October 98, Bob had the idea of downsizing the pattern using different materials. Last year’s Thanksgiving weekend was again a success, thanks to the Baby Bubba, proving sometimes smaller is better. Wonder what Bob has in mind this year?

“Baby Bubba”

Hook: Size 12 Mustad 3906or equivalent
Head: Gold bead. (Bob prefers to use a translucent plastic bead)
Thread: Black 6/0
Tail: Brown hackle, hook length
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Fine brown hackle clipped to 1/16 and Palmered (5 turns),
Rib: Fine copper wire, counter wrapped

