

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## BUTLER'S BUG

contributed by

Ed Stefanison

A few years ago I mentioned to Rudy I was going to fish Fawn lake in the Cariboo. Rudy said to use the Butler's Bug as a "go to" pattern.

Well, I never did get to fish Fawn lake but I did try the Butler's Bug. At the time I had no idea what a Butler's Bug was (*a bouyant dragonfly pattern*), but it has become one of my "go to" fly patterns in most trout lakes. All of you know I don't like to spend a lot of time tying complicated patterns but this is one I make an exception for.

The full write up can be found in Phil Rowley's "*Fly Patterns for Stillwaters*" book.

I believe one of the reasons this pattern works so well is the lifelike movement of the legs with the slightest twitch of the line.

The bane of this pattern is also the legs, getting pulled out or the half hitch (*leg joint*) undoing after hooking a few fish. After tying in the legs, place a dab of glue over the figure eight knot and half hitch knot to prevent these problems from happening.

I tie the body in a dark olive or a golden stonefly colored seal fur.

If you haven't tried this pattern yet, add it to your fly box before the next trip.

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### Excerpted from: "Fly Patterns for Stillwaters"

*Stillwater fly-fishers across British Columbia are indebted to Glenn Butler for creating his Butler's Bug. Almost every BC fly-fisher I know has heard of this pattern and most have a few stashed in a corner of their fly box.*

*Glenn developed his bug on the shores of Plateau Lake in the Merrit-Kamloops region in the spring of 1980. It is a pattern aimed at impersonating the large climbing nymphs or darters. Fishing was slow as Glenn put it, "It was during one of these periods when fish weren't biting and a cold beer and some*

*serious fly tying seemed to be in order." Possessing a good knowledge of dragon nymph features and behavior; Glenn set about designing a pattern that highlighted the large abdomen, long stout legs and bulging eyes.*



*Darter Nymph*

*Glenn has a number of ways he likes to fish his bug.*

*If he can see cruising trout, he casts ahead using a sink tip to carry the fly down. When the fish come into range he begins a series of quick strips. If the trout is interested, it will dart over and attack the fly. This is an interesting way to fish.*

*Butler's Bug is a great pattern to fish blind too. Glenn uses a mixed retrieve consisting of a slow hand twist with short snappy strips. The snappy strips imitate the jetting motion of a fleeing or hunting dragon nymph.*

*During the evening, Glenn switches to a dry line and casts his bug into the shallows attracting numerous fish.*

*For many anglers, Butler's Bug is a go to pattern in the absence of other clues. Bumped along the bottom, retrieved up the slope of a steep drop-off or trolled leisurely behind a float tube, Glenn's dragonfly concoction seems magical.*

*Glenn told me that during a sedge hatch, smaller versions of his bug have also worked admirably, another litmus test to this pattern's versatility.*

## MATERIALS



|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Hook:</b>                 | Mustad 9672 or TMC 5263<br>Size #4 - #10  |
| <b>Thread:</b>               | Black 6/0                                 |
| <b>Tail &amp; Underbody:</b> | Natural Deer hair                         |
| <b>Rib:</b>                  | Small Gold Oval Tinsel                    |
| <b>Abdomen:</b>              | Seals Fur - Dark Olive or Golden Stonefly |
| <b>Wingcase:</b>             | Pheasants Tail                            |
| <b>Thorax:</b>               | Seals Fur - same colour as abdomen        |
| <b>Legs:</b>                 | Knotted Pheasant Tail Fibers              |
| <b>Eyes:</b>                 | Pheasant Tail Fibers                      |
| <b>Head:</b>                 | Peacock Herl                              |

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**

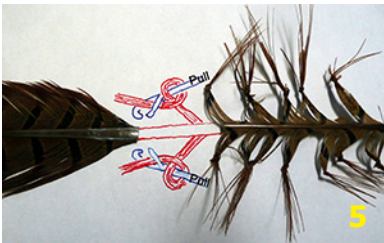
*Photography by Peter Chatt*



- Debarb the hook.
- Put a thread base down along shank of hook.
- Add a bundle of stacked deer hair to the body at the bend of the hook. Tips should extend just beyond the bend of the hook.
- Trim the deer at just above the 1/2 point on the hook.
- **NOTE:** To provide additional bulk and floatation, deer hair can be folded back along rear of the body, and trimmed at the rear tie off point.
- Tie in gold oval tinsel at rear of hook.



- Dub the abdomen with the Seal's fur .
- Wind the oval tinsel forward in well spaced wraps to form the rib. Tie off and clip the excess.



- Tie in a clump of pheasant tail fibers by the tips for the wingcase.
- Tie the knots in the Pheasant tail using a small rug style hook. The knots must be tied on one side and opposite on the other side so that the natural curve of the feather when tied on the hook are both down.
- Clip a matching pair of knotted legs and tie them in place, matching the curve down.
- Add a drop of head cement on the fly at the tie in and on the knee knots (*addressing Ed's concerns of the legs getting pulled off or becoming un-knotted*)
- Dub more seal's fur around the legs to form the thorax.



- Pull the wingcase over the top. Tie down and trim the excess wingcase material.
- Remove several pheasant tail fibers. Bunch them together so they are about the size of a wooden match stick. Tie in with figure eights about two eye widths back from the eye of the hook.
- Trim the eyes slightly wider than the thorax.
- Tie in 2 or 3 strands of peacock herl. Wind the herl in and around the eyes forming the head. Keep the head proportional to the size of the fly. Be careful not to make it too big. Tie off and clip excess.
- Coat your thread with head cement and whipfinish.



*The Finished Fly*

*Butler's Bug*