

Fly of the Month

Royal Trude

Submitted by Greg Chester

While visiting Yellowstone National Park last September Jean and I decided to have a picnic lunch on the Firehole near Biscuit Basin, a spot providing a fabulous view and access to geothermal activity and yes, decent fly-fishing. After a nice stroll along bubbling paint pots and steaming vents I noticed a very senior fly fisher obviously tuned into a good hatch verified by his busy landing net. From a distance I admired the beautiful loops generated by his graceful casting stroke and of course the nice trout that came up to his fly. I was dying to know his secret and anticipated a discussion on his use of a finicky pattern replicating a bug's precise lifecycle since the Firehole is known for its "PHD" fish. Perhaps a size 17 Nectophysche with exactly 4 legs, two antennae perfectly placed and a shimmering trailing shuck? Nope, he was using a #14 Royal Trude! So much for the famed PHD mystique.

I'm sure this fellow's superior presentation techniques with his beautiful cane rod and silk line had something to do with his success, but a Royal Trude - are you kidding me? A quick check of my fly box turned up a scraggly #8 Royal Wulff but no Trude. I promptly tied up a half dozen in the camper giving 3 to my new friend. We exchanged email addresses and parted company with a promise to stay in touch.

His spot was getting crowded so an upstream move yielded some nice water to try my freshly tied Trudes. 3 casts later I netted a nice 14 inch brown followed with several rainbows and a 16" cutthroat over the next hour. All of this happened in the midst of a good mahogany hatch – these fish preferred this colorful attractor over the naturals! A Royal Trude now has a permanent place in my fly box.

There aren't too many tricks to tying up this bug except that, as always, proper proportions are paramount to its success. If you can't find golden pheasant tippet for the tailing you can use calf tail or brown hackle barbs instead. All the remaining materials and techniques are pretty straight forward.

Good luck and have fun tying!

Menu:

Hook -	#12 – 16 standard dry fly hook
Thread -	6/0 Unithread, black
Tail -	Golden Pheasant tippet fibers
Abdomen -	Peacock herl
Waist banding -	Red floss
Wing -	White calf body hair or calf tail
Hackle -	Coachman brown

