

FLY OF THE MONTH

by Denny Westover

STILLWATER NYMPH



Recipe

Hook	TMC 5262 2xl nymph hook, size 10
Thread	UTC 70 denier Olive
Tail	Burnt Orange marabou, sparse
Rib	Fine copper wire
Shellback	Dozen strands olive marabou tied in by the tips
Hackle	Grizzly dyed burnt orange, 3 to 4 turns
Body	Olive marabou wound around the hook or olive seal substitute

TIERS NOTE: Rib the fly before securing the shellback over the top of the fly.

The Stillwater Nymph is a pattern from the creative mind of Denny Rickards. I consider this fly to be my most effective stillwater subsurface pattern when chironomids are not the dominant hatch. It is especially effective in shallow water (1 to 4 feet) but fools fish at any time of the year and at any depth.

The pattern colors can be changed to suit your preference but I have found the above combination to be most effective for me. I fish only size 10 but feel free to experiment with larger and smaller sizes. The fly should be fished in shallow water with a very slow sinking camo intermediate line or a floating line with a seven foot camo intermediate tip. (I prefer one that Rickards sells on his website which sinks 1 to 1 ½ inches per second (www.flyfishingstillwaters.com)). A type II sinking line is effective in water deeper than six feet. At any depth it is important to fish a line and leader combination that will allow the fly to swim at the desired depth for as long as possible. The most effective retrieve is a slow hand twist or slow one foot pulls followed by a 4-5 second pause. I typically fish the fly with a 12 to 14 foot leader tapered to 4x. If you are retrieving properly but still hanging up on the bottom before the end of the retrieve then switch to a slower sinking line rather than speeding up your retrieve.

Tie or buy a few of this pattern and try them on your next lake outing – The Stillwater Nymph might just become your favorite pattern too.....