

# Fly of the Month

Shakey Beeley

By Greg Chester

A fly with such a name must have an interesting story behind it and this is no exception. Rumor has it from the guys at Blue Ribbon Flies that in the 1940's an old National Parks Ranger, Mr. Beeley, used a version of this fly all summer long. His hands shook every time he landed a big fish and the name stuck.

The menu below was adapted from the original by Nick Nicklas of BRF using traditional and modern materials. The pattern works well imitating an emerging stonefly and I use it as a general fall soft hackle. I fish it like any other soft hackle either dropping it off an adult bug or swinging it with a floating or sink tip line. It even works well for Stillwater fishing. Last fall on Georgetown (Sept 9) I stripped it at about 10 feet deep and caught several nice rainbows.

Below is the menu as tied by Nick. The silk and orange herl may be difficult to locate. You may substitute heavy thread for the silk and dubbing for the herl. Also, a Dai Riki #280 hook works fine.



## Recipe:

Hook	#12	Tiemco 2312
Thread		6/0 Orange
Unithread		
Tail		Hungarian partridge fibers
Abdomen		Yellow rabbit dubbing
Rib		Brown Pearsall's silk
Collar/thorax		Ostrich herl dyed orange
Under wing		Gold or yellow crystal flash
Hackle		Hungarian partridge

Attach thread and wind down to the hook point – not the barb.

- Attach tail, about 6-8 fibers, length equal to the hook shank. Try to keep the barbules curved the same way. Trout don't like scruffy tails!

- Tie in ribbing and dub abdomen up to thorax area allowing room for the collar, hackle and head. Use a good amount of dubbing so that once ribbed a very pronounced segmentation remains.
- Tie in 3-4 strands of ostrich herl, twist together, and wrap a full collar, about 3 turns. Again, preserve hackle and head space.
- Tie on 4-5 strands of crystal flash trimmed to about hook length
- Tie in one partridge feather and wrap a sparse collar, about 3 turns with barbules curved toward the rear of the hook. I find it best to strip off barbules from the leading side of the feather shank before wrapping. This prevents trapping barbules as you wrap and results in a nice, evenly spaced sparse collar. Separate barbules as you wrap helps produce an even collar.
- Finish by wrapping a neat head forcing the hackle further toward the back as shown in the photo.
- Lacquer the head and reserve a special place in your box for this beautiful bug!