

# Fly of the Month

## Bloodworm

by Bob Pearcy

### Recipe

Hook: Daiichi 1273, red  
Chironomid hook, size 14  
Thread: Red, 8/0  
Bead: 2 mm red tungsten  
Body: Red flashabou  
rib: Fine red wire  
tail: Red blood marabou



The bloodworm is a pattern that Denny Westover introduced me to. Actually, I was lucky enough to win a box full of Denny's Chironomid patterns in one of our raffles but that is only part of the story. During the Club trip to Georgetown lake in July we fished in the evening in Rainbow Bay just off from the Piney Campground. Our master Georgetown Lake expert, Leon Powell, really did well one evening while the rest of us caught only a few at most. I asked Leon what he was using and he replied Denny Westover's little red worm fished one foot off the bottom. I remembered Denny's flies and found what looked like the fly Leon described. The next evening I used it and also did very well. Denny tells me that it should be even more effective in the spring as this is when the larvae are the most abundant stage

The bloodworm is a Chironomid larvae. Like for many insects, in Chironomids the larvae are the largest stage, the adults are the smallest and the pupae are intermediate in size. the larvae inhabit the vegetation and debris near the lake bottom, a zone where the oxygen concentrations are low due to the decaying vegetation. The red color is due to hemoglobin which functions to capture oxygen in these environments.

The pattern itself is simple to tie. Keep the body uniformly thin except right behind the bead where it should be built up to form a tapered transition. The body itself can be simply red thread, red stretch floss or, as in the pattern above, red flashabou. A brass bead can be substituted for the red tungsten bead and silver or copper wire used for ribbing. for durability coat the body with head cement or Sally Hansen Hard as Nails nail polish. As Leon stated, fish it under an indicator about a foot off the bottom.

For further information on bloodworms and other patterns for them, see Phil Rowley's web page:  
<http://www.flycraftangling.com/index.asp?p=145&szArticleButtonCommand=view&nArticleID=141>