



# TROUT LINES



## President's Message - "The New Season Opener"

by Mike Beachy

When I was a kid the trout fishing season in Indiana ran from the last Saturday in April through the end of the year. That season still exists today for those catch and keep trout fishermen however I no longer keep trout out of the Little Elkhart River so essentially the season is open for trout fishing nearly year round. The Indiana DNR does close the river to trout fishing two weeks prior to the end of April to allow for the stocking of the State raised rainbow trout.

The deer hunting season throws a big wrench into the program for me. Since the majority of the Catch and Release section is on private property where deer hunting is taken very seriously, we trout fishermen voluntarily stay out. This is for two reasons personal safety being a top priority. I prefer to not be mistaken for a creeping Boone and Crocket record buck while wading along the stream. I also do not want to mess up any of the property owners deer hunts. For them the deer season is short and the time they get to spend a field in pursuit of deer is precious. I do not want them to get irritated with trout fishermen being on their land at this time or give them a reason to prevent us future access.

Unfortunately the way the law is written in Indiana if the property owner owns both sides of the river they technically own the dirt under the water. If they do not grant you permission to be there you are trespassing even if you are in the river. LECTU has made great strides to keep the properties in the Catch and Release section available to fishermen. We have an unwritten agreement with the property owners to allow us access and we will in turn "take care" of the river. Every year we revisit those property owners in an effort to remain on good terms with them and ask if they have had any problems with trespassing that we can help them with. So far this arrangement has worked.



The property owners are happy to have responsible conservation minded folks patrolling their property.

They have commented that the people they have utilizing the river are much higher quality than what they had in the past. Years ago prior to the Catch and Release and LECTU property owners would have guys camping out on their property with or without permission leaving trash and building fires for the opening day craziness. For the Catch and Release property owners that has ended and they are grateful.

The "new" season opener to which I referred to in the title comes at the end of the deer hunting season when the river and the trout that it holds are once again accessible. Many times the weather is not always cooperative in early January for fishing but it is always good to get back out to the Little Elkhart River after a three month hiatus. The prospect of catching a winter trout with a fly rod is always exciting but so is just seeing the river again. It is like an old friend. When you have not seen them in a while you notice the changes that have occurred. New holes form and some of the old favorites fill in. It is a river. The water always flows and it constantly changes.

It always surprises me how a change in the river can have a drastic effect way down stream. One fallen tree can create a beautiful hole underneath it. That seems like a good thing but downstream it can create a wide shallow area of newly deposited sand and completely cut off a run that had a long standing history as a good trout spot. The dilemma is: how much natural change is good for the river and how much correction or help do we attempt to implement in order to control what happens to the river. There is no clear cut answer. There are sections of the river that we have not touched and they are doing fine and there are others that were problematic that have greatly improved with our habitat projects. About the time you think you have it under control the spring high waters come shifting what you thought was secure and you are faced with an entire new set of issues to deal with. Oh my old friend the Little Elkhart River.

Winter, 2015

# Winter Trout Fishing

by Mike Beachy

January 16, 2015. The weather forecast for Friday was supposed to be a daytime high temperature of 30 degrees and mostly sunny. After the frigid cold we had since New Year's Day, 30 degree sun was going to feel like Florida...well kind of. I had been thinking "fishing" all week. Deer season was over and I was ready to get back to it.

Winter trout fishing is somewhat different. At the January LECTU meeting some of us were talking about it and I was asked what I use and how do I fish in the winter. I couldn't answer easily. Leonard Gustin our Vice President commented "you either use something pretty small or something kind of big". I thought yeah, that about sums it up.

The trout are lethargic in the winter time. Trout are cold blooded and the river water temperature is as cold as it gets. They generally go to the bottom of the deep holes out of the main flow and sit there waiting for food to come to them. They eat in the winter but they don't have to eat much. They expend very little energy therefore they do not have to take in many calories to sustain. They do not need to eat nearly as often as they do other times of the year and because their metabolism is so slow it takes a long time for the food to digest. They rarely chase after a food source unless it is something easy to get and worthwhile expending the energy to go after it.



I do not work on Fridays but I had to go into my office this day to finish up some paperwork from the week prior. The entire time I was looking out the window wishing the sun would come out in full force like was predicted. On bright sunny days during the winter the water temperature can raise just a fraction and that can sometimes trigger the fish to get active. Some of my best winter fishing has come at midday with bright sunny conditions. When the water temperature goes up ever so slightly the trout really respond to it. In the middle of the winter is the only time trout fishing is better with a midday bright sun. The sun never appeared but I went fishing anyway.

The Little Elkhart River had shelf ice along the banks. The water was clear and clean but due to the cloud cover visibility into the river was tough. I wanted to spot trout in the deeper runs but I could not see to the bottom where I needed to. The water temperature was 38 degrees. I started out with a small size 16 bead head rubber leg stonefly (see Featured Fly). I needed the fly to sink quickly so I weighted the rig with a Czech Nymph caddis about 18 inches in front of the black stonefly. Little black stones classically hatch during February on the Little E. so I figured they may be present in the river now. I fished the two fly rig with a high stick nymph technique, no indicator. I wanted the nymphs to drag the bottom. I generally cast the flies quartering across upstream and immediately throw a mend in the line in order to get the flies to sink right to the bottom. As the flies drift down current I watch for a stoppage in drift or a twitch in the floating fly line.

Fishing this technique it is easy to assume every time the flies stop drifting that you are hung on the bottom because most of the time you are. You need to always get in the habit of setting the hook in a downstream direction every time the flies stop just in case it is a fish. If it is a fish you want to set the hook in a direction that pulls the fly into the corner of the fish's mouth. An upstream hook set will be more likely to pull the fly out of the fish's mouth and the hook set is not nearly as secure.

Sure enough at the second spot I fished I took a nice little 13 inch brown. It was right where it was supposed to be. It was in a deep hole on the inside of the curve where the current was soft yet the depth was there to provide security. The trout did not take on the first drift. It was more like the fifth drift through the same area. I can only assume that either my drift was best on that cast or my fly luckily hit the lethargic trout in the nose.

I continued to work my way upstream hitting all the likely holes with similar layouts as the one had where I had successfully took the first trout. It took awhile but I managed four browns and one rainbow all on the same bug fishing the same way. Many of the likely looking holes did not produce. Maybe I should have experimented with a different pattern but that is tough to abandon a fly that is working in an attempt to find a better one, especially when your hands are cold.

Winter, 2015

After several hours working upstream I decided to head back down river to where I parked. I switched over to a size 6 Clouser type streamer. Sometimes in the winter a very slow presentation with a sizable streamer will produce. Usually that works best when the sun is out but I figured I had nothing to lose. I would cast the streamer against the far bank and let it swing out into the deepest part of the run then out of the fast current yet not into the shallow stuff. I usually let the streamer hang longer than I like then draw the fly back to me in long slow strips. Sometimes I simply stop the streamer and let it hang for a little bit, then start the retrieve once again. Slow, slow, slow is the way to go.

I managed another rainbow on the streamer. I never felt the hit. It just felt like there was weight on the line. I really thought I had a snagged twig so I pulled the rod tip forward and just held it and that is when I felt the tug back of the fish. I like streamer fishing in the spring because it is "run and gun" but in the winter it seems painfully slow. I find it difficult because I want to strip it and recast. That quick approach just will not work in the winter. Winter fishing in general is way slower than any other time of the year. I am referring to the technique not so much the catch rate. I took 6 trout in 4 ½ hours and that is not too bad.

It's like Leonard said use something small or something big. The main thing is, put it on the bottom and go as slow as you can.

## Adopt-A-Trout Fundraising

by Mike Beachy

Every spring LECTU solicits our membership and anyone else we can corner, in an effort to raise funds for stocking brown trout into the catch and release section of the Little Elkhart River. Our methodology involves a fundraising raffle we call Adopt-A-Trout. The raffle prize this year is a Winston Boron III 9 foot 5 weight fly rod and a Lamson Waterworks Force 2X SL fly reel or \$400, winner's choice.

Raffle tickets are priced at \$10 each. Each raffle ticket purchased will equate to around 3 brown trout being stocked. LECTU has been stocking 500 brown trout averaging 9 inches in length every year since 2008. This year we are going to add an additional 100 trout that will be larger. Those trout should be average around 13 to 14 inches. Trout size is dependent on the growth rate of these fish in the hatchery being one year and two year old fish.

This stocking program in association with our habitat improvement project has made a huge improvement in the brown trout population within the protected water section and through natural emigration the entire river. In 2007 the Indiana DNR performed an electro-shocking study to establish a baseline. At that time the DNR estimated the brown trout population in the C&R section to be around 190 trout per mile. Seven years later in 2014 the DNR



repeated the study and estimated our brown trout population to be 469 trout per mile.

Every year we are seeing more evidence of brown trout naturally reproducing. Fall spawning redds are now commonly observed. Tiny brown trout that are smaller than anyone is stocking into the river are being caught with regularity.

What we are attempting to do is working. We are placing brown trout into the C&R section of river in an effort to maintain as high of a population as possible. The stocked trout are protected by regulations to allow everyone the enjoyment of catching these trout yet by releasing them, hold the attrition rate as low as possible. LECTU has spent countless hours improving the habitat. We want to provide the trout good cover so they will set up a permanent residency. As we attain a good concentration of mature trout in this

area, with the proper conditions to support the trout they repay us by reproducing naturally. Our hope is that the catch and release section will function as a "hatchery" for the rest of the river.



We know some of the brown trout will migrate out of the catch and release section to other parts unknown but this is not a bad thing. Our goal is to not only improve the 2 mile catch and release section but rather to improve the entire Little Elkhart River and Rowe Eden Ditch. More trout in the river is always good.

We are asking for your help in this very important project. Each member should receive 5 Adopt-A-Trout Tickets in the mail in the near future along with a solicitation letter and a Spring Outing Flier. Please give what you can in support of LECTU. All monies raised will go for putting trout into the river. We keep our stocking funds completely separate from our normal operational costs to protect these funds from any other usage. More tickets are available if you have the desire to solicit your fishing buddies on our behalf. Contact Mike Beachy at beach@bnin.net if you require more tickets.

Thank you in advance!

## Annual Spring Outing

by Mike Beachy

The Annual Spring Outing for 2015 will be held on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Riverbend Park, 511 Warren Street, Middlebury, Indiana.

This is LECTU's annual meeting of our membership. Plans are taking shape for another stellar event. For those members who have never been to the Annual Spring Outing please make every effort to attend. For those members who have attended in the past you know what a neat event this is so please make the effort to return.

The featured speaker this year is Jay Anglin. Jay is a fishing and hunting guide in Northern Indiana and Southwestern Michigan and owner of Anglin Outdoors. Jay is a lifelong resident of northern Indiana and is well versed in fishing for steelhead, musky and smallmouth bass on the fly. He is also one of the best story tellers I have ever spent time in a drift boat with. Jay is a great conservationist and has given support to our Chapter and our efforts on the Little Elkhart River. He is entertaining to listen to and I am sure will put on program worthy of your attention.

LECTU has been working overtime stockpiling prizes for the silent auction/raffle fundraising effort. There should be plenty of prizes for everyone to walk away with something. We are still taking donations to add to the pile. If you have any item that is in good shape that you wish to donate to our fundraising effort please contact Mike Beachy at beach@bnin.net or (574)596-4929. We can always use more stuff fishing related or not.

More details about the Outing will follow in the 2015 spring edition of the LECTU newsletter. Please reserve Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> on your calendars to attend the tenth Annual LECTU Spring Outing.

## Fly Tying Clinics

by Mike Beachy

What started out as a bunch of LECTU guys getting together and tying flies over the winter has evolved into a regular event. Our next Fly Tying Clinic will be held at the home of Keith Loutezhiser on Saturday, February 28th, 9:00 am -3:00 pm. Generally the way the clinics function is a couple guys will bring materials for a certain fly that they will demo how to tie. Then after the materials are distributed everyone will tie one or two. There is plenty of time for questions.



These Clinics are very social in nature complete with jokes, fishing banter and even education on fly tying. Watch your e-mails for future Fly Tying Clinics general mailings or contact Mike Beachy to get a specific e-mail reminder or phone call. Mike Beachy beach@bnin.net or (574)596-4929.

# Bugger Off!

by Court Walker

Ah, January. A new year, a fresh start, and being the "glass half full" kind of guy that I am, a corner turned toward that most wonderful of all seasons for any serious trout fisherman; Spring! Although I must admit that as of this writing I've got a few blocks to walk before I hit that corner.

There are many wonderful events that take place each year come spring time that not only hold the door open and usher in this glorious time of the rolling year, but they help to set the stage with anticipation and excitement of what is to come. For golfers it is the Master's. Held every year in Augusta, Georgia, just the mere sight of flowers blooming at Amen Corner and the sound of birds singing while all is quiet around the green as someone tries to sink that important birdie putt is enough to start warming your winter bones. We may not have birds singing and flowers blooming up here in April, but seeing that on the television is proof positive that winter is over and warm weather is heading our way. Yet another event that signifies our entrance into some great weather, and more importantly, great trout fishing, is our annual LECTU Spring outing. Held this year on Saturday May 2, 2015 at Riverbend Park in Middlebury, Indiana, it is a time to gather together chapter members, old and new friends alike, and people who just love to fly fish for a day of fun, food, prizes, casting instruction and competition along with a wonderful guest speaker. All with a good cause at heart too: the raising of funds



by our chapter that help contribute to the stocking of brown trout each year into this wonderful fishery. But for me, my kickoff into the Spring fishing season is our first chapter workday of the year. It is the cutting of the trail at what is known affectionately as "The Meadow" by those of us who fish the Little E regularly. Arguably one of the prettiest spots on all of the Little Elkhart River to be standing in late spring, it can be one of the most productive legs of the river to fish too.

With weed whips, limb nippers, hand scythes and a small saw we cut a four to five foot wide path right next to the bank that enables us to cover ground easily and stalk our prey without having to use a machete to cut your way from one end of the woods to the other. A welcome convenience once the rains and warmth have kicked off the weed growing season. Waders

aren't necessary for this application. We're not in the stream on this job. Just a good pair of rubber knee boots to keep your feet dry from all of the mud, a hat, long pants and a long sleeve shirt, and due to the copious amounts of rain that we usually have incurred by this time of year, bug spray. Plenty of bug spray!

I've always been partial to Deep Woods Off myself. Even as a young U.S. Army infantryman, I forsook the pure DEET that Uncle Sam issued to us to keep the bugs away and elected to invest in my own insect prevention methods. It had never failed me before, so naturally when I discovered the night before our trail cut last spring that I was out of repellent, I traipsed down to Walgreen's near my house and perused the aisles until I found what I was looking for. But to my pure delight I found it in an even better container than ever before. It was in a thin, plastic bottle with a spray pump on top. No more aerosol cans for me Baby! I can take this bad boy with me anywhere and fit it right inside my back pocket just like my wallet. Anytime I need it, it's there!



That day last spring was perfect. The sun was shining, mid-seventies for the temperature, zero humidity and a bottle of new bug spray. I'm prepared. And as I said earlier, after applying a generous amount of this elixir to my body I tucked the bottle in my back pocket and went to work that day without a single mosquito pestering me the whole time. When we finished, the only real dirt that any of us had on us was the mud that we waded into as we cut our way along the trail. Not wanting to get my buddy's floor mats dirty on the way back to my car which we had left back at the park, I elected to ride on the tailgate of his pickup truck. But as I sat there for the half mile ride along the road back I began to get a numbing sensation on the left side of my behind. Not a pain or deadening so to speak, but rather a feeling as if I had just

poured ten gallons of Icy Hot in the back of my drawers. Needless to say, by the time we got back to the park I had managed to empty the contents of what I had thought of the night before as that cleverly designed, ergonomic bottle all over my backside. It wasn't so clever then. As I jumped off of the tailgate and trotted around to the driver's side door to thank my friend for the lift back, he gets out of his truck, looks down and says, "What the hell happened to you?" "I sat on my bug spray bottle that I put in my back pocket", I tell him. "What the hell was it doing in there", he says. "I don't know", I say. What else could I say? "Well, you don't want to sit on those nice leather seats of yours with that stuff on your pants on the ride home. That'll eat a hole right through those seats", he says. "Yeah, I know it will. I'll just change my clothes before I head back." We shake hands and he gets in his truck and heads off. Imagine my surprise when I open the trunk door to find nothing in there but my ice scraper that will remain stowed there until the next winter. No pants, no towel, not even a pair of socks. Great! Now what? Well, I have no alternative but to ride home in what the British call Liverpool style and what we here in the states call commando. Just like Porky Pig. Porky had on a jacket, a tie, but never any pants. Did you ever wonder about that? The only thing I had at my disposal to cover myself with was the Rand-McNally road atlas that I had left in the car from my trip to Ohio earlier that week. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase, "God Bless America". However, I only needed Rhode Island to cover my business that day.

Okay, now that I had everything covered (no pun intended) my next task was to get home without any problems. I decided to take the toll road as it was the shortest and most direct route to my home. I thought it through and figured that as long as I drive the speed limit, sit up straight, keep both hands on the steering wheel at the ten and two position just like they teach

you in driver's education and don't have any car trouble, I should be okay. And I was. Until I got to my exit and realized I had to pay my toll. Not a problem though. Since the Indiana toll road has now been automated, all I would have to do is insert some change and I could be on my way. Not that day, however. Oh no, that would've been too easy. Not only were all of the booths attended by actual toll road employees, but on this particular day, the booth that I chose was being manned by our friend Sherry. That's right, I said our friend Sherry. You see, Sherry has come to know my wife and me from our travels along the toll road at the just adjust the map a little, put my elbow up on and speed off. Not that day, however. Oh no, to see how I was doing, how my wife Debbie home from Purdue for the summer. Any other behind me waiting to pay their toll. I've waited however. Oh no, that would've been too easy. uneasy conversation in which I made sure to give her a chance to look anywhere else, a me and stopped to wait their turn. I didn't toward home. "Whew", I say to myself. "I even further as I approached my driveway and there. He must be at work, or his girlfriend's All I knew was that I wouldn't have to listen to inside. Alright now, my luck is changing. I pull have enough sense to shut the garage door behind me before I get out. I made it! Man that was close. But close only counts in horseshoes my friends. As I'm closing the trunk lid with one hand and holding my pants and skivvies in the other, who opens the inside door from the house to the garage but my lovely wife of twenty-four years, Debbie. This woman hasn't greeted me at the door since we were newlyweds. But again, this isn't my day. In mid-sentence she says, "Wow you're home earlier than I thought you'd be. And why are you standing in the garage with no pants on, and who's out here with you?" as she is looking quickly around the garage. "Nobody", I reply. "It's just me out here." "I'll bet it is" she says. "You won't believe what happened to me today Babe," I say. "I'll bet I won't", is her reply. After twenty-four years of marriage, this is not the first time that woman has heard me utter that phrase before. That must be why she tells everyone that the day she realized that her choice to become a special education teacher was never made more prophetic than on our first anniversary. I never understood that. But the overpowering stench of Deep Woods Off and a quick look at my back side told her that there might just be something to this whole thing after all. "You stink", she says. "And why does your behind look like a pound of ground round? You know what? I don't even want to know. Just get inside, get cleaned up and DON'T sit on any of the furniture until you do." Believe me, those were the sweetest words that I had heard all day.



So fast forward to January of 2015 and the fresh start that I mentioned that accompanies a new year. Well, here are my resolutions to help make that fresh start possible: First, no matter what, always take a complete change of clothes and a large beach towel to every LECTU workday whether we are working in the stream that day or not. Second, watch where I keep my bug spray from now on. The third one was to go buy an I-Pass for the toll road, but I did that the following Monday after this ordeal. And in case you're wondering, I never had one mosquito bite the rest of that summer.

## Trout 101 Clinic

by Mike Beachy

Last year LECTU put on a Trout Fishing 101 Clinic. In the course of several hours 5 instructors explained and demonstrated 5 different techniques that we locals utilize to take trout in the Little Elkhart River. Streamers, soft hackle, dry flies, nymphing and jig fishing log jams were the topics covered. Those who attended received a handout that outlined each of the techniques, when to use them and what kind of flies work best.

The Little Elkhart River can be a challenge to fish with a fly rod. Our cover and the holes are somewhat different than those on most classic trout streams. The additional tight casting from overhanging trees can be frustrating for the first time fisherman. Our goal was to give those folks who have not fished the river or who have struggled getting on the learning curve some insight on how, where, when and with what, to have some success on this unique fishery.

The inaugural Trout 101 Clinic was well received having around 30 fishermen in attendance. This told us that there are fishermen willing to learn with the desire to trout fish. It was an easy thing for us to provide so we are going to do it again. **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>** will be the 2015 Trout 101 Clinic. We plan to get started around 9:00am so reserve this date.

There will be more information coming in the 2015 Spring Newsletter but we wanted you to be able to plan for this important event. This clinic is open to members and other interested parties so it is okay to bring a non-member fishing buddy. Possibly we can convert them into joining. Watch for a reservation sign up at the Annual Spring Outing or by e-mail. The clinic is free but an advanced head count is nice for materials. Reservations will start after the Spring Newsletter.

## Fly Fishing Show Schedule

by Mike Beachy

January 10 and 11 was the new Indianapolis Fly Fishing Expo at the Indiana Fair Grounds. LECTU was there with an informational booth. The attendance was great on Saturday but with the Colts in the playoffs and the threat of an ice storm the attendance was lighter on Sunday. We talked to a lot of folks about the Little Elkhart River and our projects. The fact that Indiana has natural cold water streams that have the ability to hold trout was a surprise to many of the fishermen that past by our booth. We gave out a lot of information and also sold Adopt-A-Trout raffle tickets in an effort to raise funds earmarked for stocking brown trout into the Little Elkhart River. \$600 was raised over the two day event. This was a good effort because most of those tickets were sold to people who would not be reached by LECTU any other way.



Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> will be our next show. Three Rivers Fly Fishing/ Fly Tying Show is set at the Classic Café, 4832 Hilegas Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 9:00am-4:30pm. There will be 25 fly tier booths and 16 vendor booths along with raffles and silent auction. This will be the inaugural event sponsored by the Three Rivers Fly Fishers Club. LECTU will have a booth there doing more public relations. If you are in the area come by for a visit and support the Three Rivers Club. For more information, go to [www.3rff.org/flyshow.html](http://www.3rff.org/flyshow.html)

## Three River Fly Fishers Club Program

by Mike Beachy

On February 19 President Mike Beachy will be the speaker at the Three Rivers Fly Fishers Club meeting at the Classic Café, 4832 Hilegas Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana at 7:00 pm. Mike is going to present a program on the growth of LECTU and the advancement of the Little Elkhart River. The slide presentation and talk is expected to last about an hour.

Cross over information between fishing clubs is a good thing. We need to support each other in order to accomplish our goals. When we needed to garner support for the establishment of a section of catch and release on the Little Elkhart River the Three Rivers Club was there for us. Had we had no exposure to each other we would have had to fight it by ourselves. Presenting programs like this lets them know what we are doing and in a way lets them be a part of it too. LECTU has many cross over memberships with the Fort Wayne crowd and this gives us a direct link between the two clubs and some of our own LECTU members.

# Featured Fly - Rubber Leg Little Black Stonefly

by Mike Beachy

In the winter the Little Elkhart River will have a tiny black stonefly hatch. These tiny stoneflies (10-12mm) are actually very dark brown and generally start showing up in February. It is not uncommon to see the bank ice and snow peppered with black specs that when examined closely are crawling stoneflies. The nymphs are generally found in calmer water where leaf and woody debris accumulates and once they emerge they are good swimmers. The stonefly nymph swims to the bank to hatch out on shore. I have observed most of these hatches on bright sunny days in late winter and early spring.

If you have ever seen one of these nymphs swimming they curl their tails side to side creating a C shape to the right and to the left. The legs are extended with a lot of movement as the body wiggles. I wanted a fly that imitates that movement so I used a curved hook and tied the fly around the curve rather than on a straight nymph hook. In the current the fly should swing back and forth in a C shape. The rubber legs should move with the action to make the fly move and catch the current as well. The fly is unstable in the water due to the biot antennae extending out the top of the fly and biot tails that are not in line with the body of the fly. In this case that is a good thing if you want a moving C shape in the water as the fly drifts along in the flow.



Once the stonefly nymph hits the bank they crawl everywhere. I have had them crawling out of the water on my waders up my body and around my neck. They don't bite but it kind of gives you the creeps. After they hatch and take flight the stonefly is an awkward flier and easy targets for swallows. They have two sets of wings and seem to hover like a helicopter and easy to get windswept.



**Hook:** Caddis Curved, straight eye, Size 14  
**Thread:** Black Veevus 12/0  
**Bead:** Black 3.2mm  
**Antennae & tail:** Black goose biots  
**Rib:** Fine copper wire  
**Dubbing:** Black micro-fine  
**Wing case:** Thin skin, molted oak natural  
**Legs:** Black round rubber, small



Early Black Stonefly Nymph



**Step 1:** Slide bead on hook place in vise. Start thread behind eye of hook and attach 2 biot antennae one on each side. Tie off then slide bead all the way up to eye of hook and restart thread behind bead and base wrap half way around bend in hook.

**Step 2:** Place a small ball of dubbing at half way around point and attach a tail biot on each side. Dubbing ball will cause tails to flare and fork. Tie in wire and dub the abdomen to half way between tail and bead in a cone taper. Reverse wrap the wire rib over dubbing.

**Step 3:** Prepare thin skin by cutting a 1/8 inch wide strip cut a wedge fork in one end. Attach the forked wing casing to thorax area allowing it to overlap the abdomen dubbing just placed by a little bit. Attach rubber legs to each side of thorax. Pull front legs and excess wing case forward toward bead and use black dubbing to dub the thorax. Continue the same cone flare from abdomen toward bead.

**Step 4:** Jump thread between the bead and the front legs and wing case material. Dub a small amount of black dubbing between the wing case and legs. Whip finish thread in crack between the dubbing and the bead while pulling the wing case back over the thorax dubbing. Trim thread and front legs. Trim wing casing by cutting a wedge to create a fork in the case to match the back case. Cement thread.

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