

Fly of the Month – June 2021

The Killer Bee

Another summer bluegill favorite, the Killer Bee is a long-forgotten fly from way back. I don't know the origin of this fly. I think I saw it in a fly shop or catalog somewhere back when I was first starting out and it has been in my pond fishing box ever since. What's not to like... It's got good color contrasts, rubber legs, and a little red in it. All things panfish love. It is a simple fly that can be churned out quickly and cheap enough to give out when someone inevitably asks "what are you using?!"

Materials

- Hook: Firehole 839 #10 – 14 or other similar nymph hook
- Weight: .015 lead wire (or non-lead wire)
- Thread: Veevus 8/0 Black
- Tail: Red Hackle Fibers
- Over-Body: Medium Black Chenille
- Body: Small Yellow Chenille
- Legs: Yellow/Black Barred Sili-Legs
- Thorax: Small Black Chenille



Tying Steps

1. Secure hook in vise and add 10-15 wraps .015" lead wire to the rear 2/3rds of the hook.
2. Start thread in front of lead wire wraps and make a couple of spiral wraps back and forth over lead to secure in place leaving thread at the hook bend. There should be enough room between the lead wraps and the hook bend to tie in the tail and body materials for a smooth body.
3. Strip off a bunch of red hackle fibers and tie in the tail on top of the hook extending about the length of the body and trim butt ends.
4. For the over-body, pull the fluff out of the end of the medium black chenille leaving just the bare thread core. Tie in on top of the hook by the threads so that the fluff starts just at the base of the tail.
5. Do the same for the small yellow chenille, then advance the thread to in front of the lead wraps at about the 2/3rd point of the hook shank.
6. Wrap the yellow chenille to the thorax and tie off. Pull the extra fluff out before securing the thread ends to finish neatly.
7. Pull the medium black chenille over the back of the body and tie off at the thorax. Again, pull any extra fluff out to make a neat, smooth transition.
8. Tie in two sections of leg material – one on each side. Double-over the material so they both extend rearward on each side and trim to the end of the tail.
9. Tie in the small black chenille just like before (by just the thread core) and advance the thread to the hook eye. Wrap the chenille to form the thorax and tie off at the hook eye. Whip-finish and trim thread.

I use two sizes of black chenille for the over-body and the thorax because of the coverage. The small chenille does not cover enough of the body, and medium chenille is too fat for a neat thorax. (that could just be me though) I fish this like most other pond flies – by slowly stripping it back in short twitches and pauses. Vary your retrieve and sink times until you find the fish. I also fish them as a dropper under a popper or deer-hair bug. Try changing up the body color too... try chartreuse, orange and purple with legs to match those colors. Keep the red tail, though. I think that's important for some reason.

Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chairperson, Ozark Fly Fishers