

# Fly of the Month – October 2020

## The Red Hot Chili Pepper

For those who scoff at the lowly wooly bugger, this one is special. With the recent passing of Tony Spezio, North Arkansas Fly Fisher, fly tier, rod builder, plane builder, and Sow Bug Roundup mainstay, this fly has special meaning. Not only does it catch fish anywhere, it brings back memories of the limited time I was able to sit with Tony at the annual SowBug Roundups. He was truly an asset to the fly fishing community and just a great human being. He will be missed, but his fly lives on.

### Tying Materials

- Hook: Your Favorite 3X or 4X Streamer hook #6-8
- Bead: Appropriately Sized Brass Bead
- Weight: .020 Lead Wire
- Thread: Florescent Orange Veevus 8/0
- Tail: Burnt Orange Marabou
- Flash: Copper Krystal Flash
- Body: Copper Tinsel Chenille
- Hackle: Brown or Ginger Saddle Hackle



### Tying Steps

1. Place bead on hook and secure in vise. Wrap lead wire over 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the hook shank and slide up against the bead. Start thread behind lead wraps and secure the lead wraps with crossing thread wraps back and forth ending with the thread at the hook bend.
2. Tie in the marabou tail slightly longer than the hook shank. Trim excess.
3. Tie in 3 strands of Krystal Flash at their middles, fold over so there are 3 strands down each side of the tail. Trim to just longer than the tail.
4. Tie in saddle hackle by its tip, then tie in the tinsel chenille by its thread core.
5. Advance thread to just behind the bead.
6. Wrap the tinsel chenille to the bead and secure with thread wraps and trim excess.
7. Spiral wrap the hackle to the bead brushing the fibers rearward as you go. Secure with thread wraps and trim excess. Brush some super glue on a couple of inches of the thread and whip finish thread behind the bead.

Tony said you couldn't fish the Chili Pepper wrong – strip it, swing it, or fish it dead-drift under an indicator. Throw it in warm water for bass, bluegill, crappie, and even catfish. Who knows... It might even be a good carp and redfish fly.

**Mike Ott, Fly-Tying Chair, Ozark Fly Fishers**