



April 2022

FLY OF THE MONTH

"Shakey Bealy"



I hope that everyone has been taking advantage of the warm weather to get out and fly fish. I've been hearing good stories from folks following up on the Trout 101 outing and fishing the Brazos below PK dam. Our group had plans in place for a trip to Beavers Bend as part of the Red River Fly Fishers "Red River Rendezvous" but with the flooding that occurred in the park and its subsequent closure, those plans went haywire. We're still planning to go to the event which has now been relocated to Bonham State Park on January 29-31 (more info here: <http://www.rfff.org/9.html>). Additional info on what's happened at Beavers Bend is available at the Lower Mountain Fork Foundations' website: <http://lmfrfoundation.org/>.

The fly of the month is called the "Shakey Bealy". The fly is named after a Yellowstone park ranger named Frank Beals. Because Beals was enamored with chasing wild trout, he took time

off from a San Diego Furniture store that he operated to be a seasonal park ranger in Yellowstone. Frank Bealy didn't actually create the fly, but he was known to fish the fly avidly and it bears his namesake. Apparently, he received this honor because of his habit of getting up early and shaking with enthusiasm in anticipation of fishing the fly. I believe the fly was originally tied by Nick Nicklas of Blue Ribbon Flies. It is a wet fly which is a variant of an October Caddis, originally designed to be swung with a weighted leader or dead drifted. It was used primarily as a fall pattern on western rivers, but over time the fly spread and was used on eastern streams as well. As our guest fly tier for February, Phil Wheeler, will tell you, it's a pretty darn good bluegill fly as well.

Shakey Bealy Recipe:

Hook: 2x long Nymph hook like a Lightning Strike NH7, TMC 2312, Daiichi 280 in sizes 10-16

Thread: Rusty Brown, 8/0 or 70-denier

Tails/collar: Amber or orange Krystal Flash

Trailing shuck: Mallard flank feather, dyed wood duck

Rib: Rusty Brown tying thread, 3/0 or 210-denier

Abdomen: Amber or Brown Australian Possum

Thorax: Orange ostrich herl or orange wool

Hackle: Natural Hungarian partridge

Head: Tying thread

Instructions:

- 1) Start the thread behind the hook eye and take a few wraps rearward to secure the thread and the cut off the tag.
- 2) Snip three or four strands of orange crystal flash loose from the bundle. Double them over and snip the loop to give you 6-8 strands. Tie them in on the top of the hook where your thread stopped with about an inch and one half of flash facing forward in front of the hook eye. Take thread wraps along the hook to secure the crystal flash to the hook all the way back to the bend. Clip the flash off to yield a short tail.
- 3) Select 10-12 mallard flank barbs, pull them out perpendicular to the shaft (rachis) and snip them free while keeping the ends of the barbs aligned. Place the mallard flank barbs on top of the hook to form a trailing husk, about twice as long as the crystal flash tail. Secure the barbs to the hook shank with several tight, touching wraps and snip the forward facing ends with your scissors.
- 4) Secure a piece of rusty brown 210 denier thread to the hook for the rib with the long piece facing backwards. Snip the front tag off.
- 5) Dub the body of the fly with brown or amber Australian Possum (like Wapsi Awesome Possum) Start the dubbing at the tail tie in point and extended up the body about two thirds of the hook shank length .

- 6) Counter wrap the 210 denier Rusty Brown thread over the dubbing to create segments and tie off at the end of the dubbing and snip off the excess.
- 7) Pull the front facing crystal flash backward over the fly and snip it off halfway between the ends of the crystal flash tail and the back end of the abdomen.
- 8) For the thorax, select an orange ostrich herl or orange wool dubbing and wrap to create a tight thorax, ending one hook eye diameter behind the hook eye.
- 9) Sweep the Crystal Flash back from the head trying to create a collar all around the head and secure with thread wraps.
- 10) Choose a Hungarian Partridge hackle feather and strip the bottom fuzzy barbs. Grab the hackle by the tip and stroke the barbs backwards to allow you to snip off the tip, leaving a triangular section for tying into the hook. Attach the hackle by this triangular section with the curved section of the barbs in toward the hook and tied in front of the crystal flash collar. Palmer the hackle around the hook while sweeping and folding the fiber toward the rear to give you an evenly spaced, sparse hackle. Snip the excess stem off close to the hook.
- 11) Create a small thread head and whip finish, using a small dab of head cement.

Great Fishing!

Barry Webster

Editors Notes:

Do you know someone who you think should be featured in the Fly of the Month? If so, feel free to refer them. If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier, tying their best creation. For details contact the Fly Tying Group at ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly. This is the guest tier's version of this fly, and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

Please Credit FFI Website or FFI Fly Tying Group Fly of the Month with any use of the pattern. You can direct any questions or comments to ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.