

Dave Begley's

Pink Squirrel

By Todd A. Schotts

No, this isn't going to be a remake of the classic Christmas movie *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, so no squirrel in Christmas tree, no dumping waste in the city drain system, no Uncle Eddy, no dog yakking on a bone under the dinner table, no house full of relatives, nor thousands of Christmas lights on the house, but it is the last part of the name of the fly that our 2017 January Featured/Spotlight Tier is bringing us. The tier that will be gracing our front table and camera once again, is master tier Dave Begley. In the past, Dave brought us the Bronze Goddess (a deadly Smallmouth Bass pattern) and the Royal Coachman Trude (a classic fly pattern). Now Dave is bringing us yet another great pattern called the "Pink Squirrel."

If you are unfamiliar with Dave, here is a brief river report on him: Dave has been in the MFFC close to 20 years, and is a very active club member. Dave co-chairs "Kids Fly Tying" at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo with another master tier "Terry Herron." He also volunteers his tying prowess at the Ultimate Fishing Show and Outdoorama tying flies with kids. He chairs the Project Healing Waters Program (working with the

disabled Veterans tying flies). Aside from all of the above, he also volunteers at our other various schools & events.

For the fly Dave is bringing us, it originated from John Bethke in Wisconsin for the persnickety Brown Trout that live in area spring creeks in the driftless area of Wisconsin. The originator of this fly, John Bethke taught fly fishing at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and is on Rainy's Pro Staff as a fly designer. For how this fly was created... it grew from pieces that were on his desk, especially the pink collar. The collar was created from tiny puffs of pink chenille that was stripped from the core while tying other flies. Besides the persnickety Trout and almighty panfish that he has had many tight lines with, the originator also caught: Suckers, Carp, Bass, Steelhead, Perch, Crappie, and Sheepshead with this amazing tiny morsel of a fly.

When tying this fly, Dave mentions he will be doing the tying demo in a size 14, but it can be done in size 16 as well. With the original pattern, the originator actually tied and fished this fly on sizes from 18 to size 6. This fly isn't much different than the famed tying style of Czech Nymphs that utilize a hot spot of bright color to attract fish.

When fishing this pattern, it is best besto dead drift it, then slowly strip the pattern back to you. You can also use a tandem rig when fishing this fly, with either a hopper/dropper or two nymphs instead.

If you want to learn to tie this pattern and sling bobbins with Dave, bring your vise, tools, and note taking materials to our January activity meeting. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.

Pink Squirrel



HOOK: *Scud Hook Sizes 14 & 16 (can be tied on sizes 18, 12, 10, 8, or 6)*

THREAD: *70 Denier or 8/0 Pink or Brown*

BEAD: *1/8" Gold Bead (for sizes 14 & 16)*

TAIL: *2-3 strands of pearl Krystal Flash*

RIB: *Red Copper Wire*

BODY: *Fox Squirrel Fur with Amber Antron blended together*

COLLAR: *Pink Chenille or Yarn or Pink Dub*