

## February Featured Tyer

By *Todd A.Schotts*

I have officially declared February as “Warm Water Month!” First with the Fly of the Month, now with our Featured Tyers fly. With cabin fever, it’s all about warm water February flies.

The February Featured Fly Tyer, Bruce Strachan, will bring back (by popular demand) his cork bodied poppers! If you not familiar with Bruce, he has been a club member for many years. He volunteers for different tying areas within our schools and events. Plus, as I can vouch from personal experience, this guy can really catch smallmouth bass!

When Bruce asked me to be a featured tyer, I was glad because people were asking me about the poppers he featured back in 2009. Naturally, we got to talking.

He mentioned a warm summer evening when the trout had slowed down...it was time to get out the float tube and head for a local lake to chase some bass. He said, his pattern was, “nothing quite like dropping a bright colored popper into a lily pad field and experience an dancing explosion of a largemouth bass on a popper. Everything seems right in the world for that moment.” Yes! A popper! Now I am a warm water junkie, and a popper is one of my most favorite patterns to use. He is certainly correct when he said “dancing explosion.”

Are you wondering what a popper represents? It represents nothing else than a frog, or a mouse, skittering across the water’s surface, depending on what color the fly is painted, or how the the fly is tied. As long as it pops (or makes some kind of noise) when stripped in, it will bring the attention of the inhabitants below. It works well bass, or even a weary Pike. If the popper is tied small enough, it may even entice those pesky panfish.

When casted, as it plops on the water, it catches the attention of any underwater inhabitants. By the time it is being stripped, pausing the fly, it is usually game-on with the “dancing explosion” on your fly rod.

Bruce will show us, at our February’s activities meeting, the shapes, colors, materials, tools and techniques he uses to fashion cork into a popper. He mentions that they are attractive (which is always a must), extremely durable, and of course.....they float like a cork!

So in February, bring your note taking materials! Follow along with Bruce, his awesome presentation, and get CORKED!!!

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