



September Tyer Of The Month

Featured Member Tyer

Deadly To Brookies

Ray Geitka

Our new Featured Tyer organizer is Ray Geitka! He is graciously starting out the season as the first Featured Tyer.

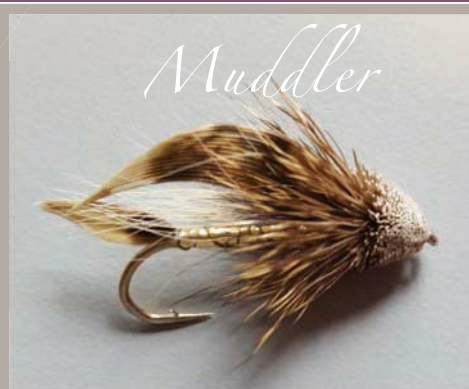
My adventures with the “Muddler” go back many years. A trip to a TU National Convention had Brennan and I spot fishing rivers in both Vermont and New Hampshire. After trying several flies, we switched to Muddlers which proved deadly to Brookies.

On a trip to Alaska, the Guide picked out a Muddler from my fly box and pointed to a shallow riffle. I was amazed that I caught a 20 inch rainbow, completely hidden in scarcely an inch of water.

A humorous modification to the Muddler was presented to me by my friend Hal. He tied his Muddlers with a red yarn tail calling it the “Sore Ass Muddler.” He attributed many fishing successes to this clever creation.

Years ago I found the book *River Fishing* by Dan Gapen in a used bookstore. In the book he describes how his father Don Gapen, of Nipigon River fame, created a fly to simulate a small bait fish somewhat like a Sculpin. Recently, I met Dan Gapen at an Ultimate Fishing Show and he gladly signed my book.

Tying the Muddler presented other challenges. How best to pack deer hair on a hook? How to best weight the fly to sink under water? How to artfully trim the deer hair to form the head? That last one is still a challenge!



The Classic Muddler Pattern:

HOOK: 4x Streamer hook; Mustad 3665A, Mustad 9674, etc. Sizes 2-12

THREAD: Dark Brown

BODY: Flat Gold Tinsel

TAIL: Mottled Turkey Feather, folded

UNDERWING: Squirrel Tail

FLARED WINGS: Mottled Turkey Feather segments

HEAD & COLLAR: Packed Deer Hair, trimmed to taper

*COMMON MODIFICATIONS:

- Weight the body with non-toxic wire to sink the fly
- Use Gold Sparkle Braid for the body
- Tail material can be varied yarns, etc.

TYING TIPS:

- Wind non-toxic wire about 1/3 back from hook eye. Secure with a drop of head cement.
- Tie a small folded section of turkey feather to form the tail, wrapping the body material over the remaining feather section.
- Add on either side of body swept back sections of matching turkey feather to form wings.
- Pack and flare several fingers of deer hair on head.
- Artfully trim deer hair tapered to form head and collar.