

Beels Bearded Wonder

By Todd A.Schotts

HOOKS: 2 Partridge Universal
Predator 1/0

THREAD: 140 or 210 Denier Dark
Brown

HOOK CONNECTION: Beadalon
19 Strand .018" Beadalon

FRONT HOOK:

- Dark Brown Alpaca fiber
- Peacock Herl
- Dark Brown Crosscut Rabbit Strip
- Golden Brown Deer Hair
- Dark Tan Senyo Laser Dub or Frankendub Monster Dub Tan
- Lead Dumbbell Eyes (White with black pupils)

BACK HOOK:

- Tail-White Bucktail with brown Bucktail on top
- Body-Dark Brown Crosscut Rabbit Strip, Golden Brown Deer Hair
- Legs-Hairline black Barred Orange Grizzly Flutter Legs

For this month's featured fly, we are not going too far back in history; we are stepping into the arena of modern day flies. With the scene of articulated, big, bulky flies that have filled many of our fly boxes, there is one that is just totally amazing. This fly has made Bass dance and has tantalized big Brown Trout; this pattern is "Beels Bearded Wonder," tied by none other than Paul Beel.

If you are not familiar with Paul, he has the blog website "Frankenfly," a site dedicated to the art of fly tying and materials. Paul was one of our guest tiers at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo the last few years. Paul's tying specializes in modern streamers and classic Michigan dry flies. Funny thing, about six or seven years ago, I got a call from the esteemed Jerry Regan, who mentioned a gentleman from Indiana was going to be calling me regarding tying questions. Condensing the story, come to find out Jerry took Paul Beel under his wing to teach him about trout flies and for his first experience fishing the Au Sable in his Au Sable River Boat. So when Paul contacted me, he was interested in learning the techniques for some of my warm water flies. Then to my surprise, suddenly he asked me to check out his new blog and website. I was in total awe of what he was doing for the art of fly tying. Winding the clock back a few years, his passion of fishing was from watching his grandfather create homemade lures as a kid. When his grandfather passed away, he stepped out of the fishing arena for about 10 years. Once he

got back into it (about six or seven years ago), he felt he could continue in his grandfather's footsteps a fly tyer. I know from his tying, he has some amazing patterns out on the market and some cool names to go along with them. Like the Pumpkinseed of Doom, Grandpa's Rooster, and the best one? Mama's Cornbread. I asked him how he came up with Mama's Cornbread; he said he was tying flies while his wife made cornbread. You cannot get any simpler than that. Along with his fly tying, he has also got some pretty unique and amazing dubbing out on the market called Frankendub.

Once Orvis was interested in adding this amazing fly to their inventory the name was changed to what it is now, the Bearded Wonder. This fly is an articulated streamer with weighted dumbbell eyes, carrying two Partridge Universal Predator hooks in a size 1/0 and was originally designed for Largemouth Bass (bucket mouths) in the waters around his home. To his surprise, they also work great on huge Brown Trout! He mentioned a call he got one day from Josh at Gates Lodge to inform him how great this fly was working for big browns on the Au Sable. Unlike the tying of our other monthly flies, this one is a bit more time consuming and more advanced. With the articulated spine, it makes a life-like swimming motion, and being a layered body, it creates a nice profile and is very noisy in the water. If you want a step-by-step tutorial for tying this fly, check out "North 40 December 2016" issue of the online magazine. It will help assemble this multi-material fly as unfortunately there isn't enough room to explain the steps in this article.

Fishing this articulated, layered body fly, is actually pretty easy. With the weight of the dumbbell eyes, it has great jigging action in the water. You can fish it with a jigging style, or can strip it in at any pace.

So get your fly boxes ready for some big amazing flies "Beels Bearded Wonders!" Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.

