This month the newsletter is dedicated to the gaining fad of Euronymphing. Euronymphing has become a popular option to the conventional rod, but it has many similarities with Tenkara. Both use long rods while high sticking a short line over the water. The main difference is that the Euronymphing rod has a reel and stiff butt for fighting large fish while still having a very flexible tip to avoid breaking the tippet. The fact that many competitive fishermen have switched to Euronymphing should tell us it has a value for catching more fish.

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM**

*When:* Tuesday, November 15th, 6:00 PM  
*Where:* Sixty Six Grill and Tap House, private room, 3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem This will also  
*Speaker:* Brian Esque, NCTU Council Chair.

TU National has set a list of priority trout waters for each State and asked representatives to follow guidelines to find and name such waters in each state to protect. Brian Esque will talk about the selection of such waters in NC and which ones have been designated as priority waters and what that means for the streams.

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

In October we had our Board elections and the following candidates were elected, Rick Conner, Troy Machamer as board members. Jon Bowman was reelected as Secretary. We want to thank Frank Beasley and Sam Ogburn for their service over the last 3 years on the Board.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Fly Tying Classes**

At 9am on Wednesdays Project Healing Waters will host fly tying classes and at 6pm on Wednesday evenings Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited will host classes. The classes are free and all are welcome - from beginners to advanced. No need to sign up, just come join us. If you have specific questions about the evening classes, you can contact, Rusty Berrier at rustyberrier@outlook.com.

**December Social Event**

A social event will be held at Fiddlin’ Fish on December 11th from 4-7 PM. The winners of the Christmas Ornament contest will be selected at this event. See the contest details below.

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CONTEST**

There will be two categories to enter

**Fly Tying**

1) Fly must be tied by the presenter  
2) Must be in a glass globe  
3) Quality of fly and globe decoration will be considered  
4) It must represent a fly that could be used for fishing

**Decorating - may or may not include a fly**

1) Must be in a glass globe  
2) Does not have to include a fly, but must be trout oriented  
3) Overall quality of ornament will be considered

Will be prizes in each category for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes
Quote of the Month

“It’s that time of the year to head up to the rivers and catch some of those beautiful leaves floating by.”

...Chick Woodward

Delayed Harvest Final Stocking

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Balsam Trip

14 folks gathered at Balsam to enjoy some marvelous weather, beautiful colors (leaves were at their peak), wonderful food and great fishing. On Monday we fished the Private Waters of Headwaters Outfitters and all caught fish but Troy Machamer and Fred Frank took bragging rights for the most fish. Troy even hooked and landed a beautiful Brown Trout that had broken off Joel Shepard’s line and had two hooks embedded in its jaws. Barry Park supposedly caught the biggest fish but only Troy saw it and Troy is Barry’s buddy!? On Tuesday we all ventured off to different locations with mixed results. Everyone seemed to have a great time and vowed to return to land the big one next time. (See photos at end of newsletter)

Don’t Tread on My Redd

Posted on November 16, 2020 / By Louis Cahill

Trout Redd Photo by Dan Flynn

This is the time of year when trout, as well as other cold water fish, put on their Barry White records, open a bottle of Courvoisier and get busy.

Brown trout and brook trout spawn in the fall and rainbow and cutthroats in the spring. Exact spawning times vary a bit from region to region and year to year but that’s the gist of it. Chubs, suckers, shiners, sculpins and other baitfish that make up an important part of the trout’s diet are spawning all through the cooler months as well.

Trout lay their eggs in gravel. This gravel is key to the fry’s survival. They will find a spot where there is a consistent flow of well oxygenated water with a consistent depth of a foot or so, out of direct sun. The female will use her tail to clean the silt from a patch of gravel creating a redd where she will lay her eggs.

Fish do not hatch like birds or reptiles. They sort of pop out on top of the egg which stays attached to their belly and serves as a source of nutrition until the fry is big enough to forage for food. These sack fry are quite vulnerable. They hover over the redd and when predators approach they disappear into the gravel for protection.

Trout will generally move to the headwaters of streams to spawn but redds can be found anywhere the conditions are right. They appear as bright spots of clean gravel from one to three feet in diameter. Some are pronounced when surrounded by silt. In places where the gravel is clean they can be subtle depressions in the stream bed.

As anglers we must be aware of the presence of redds and wade with care. Stepping in redds can spoil eggs or crush sack fry hiding in the gravel and seriously effect trout reproduction. Even baitfish redds should be treated with caution as they are an important part of the food chain that trout depend on.

There is nothing more important to a fishery than the successful reproduction of wild fish. It’s worth taking your time, keeping your eyes open and treading carefully. If you’re lucky, you may even get to see a spawning pair getting about their business. Let them be. Their working for a better fishery.

The other day I was fishing in North Carolina when I spotted these Two Male Brook Trout fighting over a female. These are stocked fish and it is unlikely that they will spawn...
WHAT IS EURONYMPHING?

Like every sport, fly fishing has its innovations. Right now, one of the biggest—and the most productive—is a technique called European Style Nymphing.

Fly fisherman in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and France perfected Euro-nymphing and competitive fly anglers adopted their tactics to win tournament after tournament around the globe. As other fisherman discovered just how productive Euro-nymphing is, this technique showed up online and invaded North America. Today, magazines are filled with articles about Euro-nymphing and companies are building special rods for it.

So, what is European Style Nymphing? And why should you try it out the next time you hit the water?

Simple. Because Euro-nymphing is absolutely the best way to get to know a river in the most intimate of ways. It’s also incredibly effective at breaking down sections of river and allowing you to fish every inch of it. When you’re a Euro-nymphing expert, you’ll notice the small differences on a river’s bottom and, best of all, you’ll hook far, far more fish.

The Right Rod

For Euro-style nymphing, anglers prefer rods in the 9’-11’ range built to toss 2-4WT lines. These days, many rod companies build rods like these. They’re all characterized by thick butt sections and fine, ultra-responsive mid and tip sections.

As you can imagine, these Euro rods will not lay down 60 feet of line like a superfast, 9’ dry fly rod. But that’s OK. With Euro-nymphing, the “cast” is more of an upstream lob, and these rods are perfect for it. Also, these rods are unparalleled when it comes to feeling the bottom and giving you the sensitivity you need for drift control and feeling the subtlest strikes.

Following Their Lead

By definition, fly fishing uses the weight of the line to cast a fly. But with Euro-nymphing, that’s not always the case. Instead, Euro-anglers use the heft of their nymph (usually weighted) to propel the fly to the target. To make this easy to do, they use long leaders made up in different ways.

Czech-style setups: Fly line then 6’-12’ of clear, #15 mono, a 16” section of multi-color sighter as an indicator, and 4’-8’ of level fluorocarbon tippet in 1x to 4x to the fly.

French-style setups: Fly line then 9’ of 0x tapered leader, a section of curly-q sighter acting as indicator, and 4’-6’ of 4x to 5x fluorocarbon tippet to fly.

Both these setups use a long section of colored monofilament as an indicator. Unlike standard indicator nymphing, this mono is not used to show strikes. Instead, Euro-anglers use it to gauge the fly’s depth. This way, they can be sure their nymph is in continuous contact with the bottom of the river.

If you buy a Euro-style rod, rig it up one of these ways, and practice Euro-style nymphing techniques, you’ll notice right away how the hard ticks of rocks your fly encounters through a drift differ from the soft pull of a trout mouthing the fly.

Since your casts are really just lobs, and most drifts are right in front of you and only run as far as your rod reaches, you’ll also notice you aren’t using your fly line much. That’s why some Euro-nymphers don’t use fly lines at all.

Instead, they just use a 20’-30’ thin monofilament leader. A setup like this gives them incredible sensitivity. Not only can they feel strikes in the rod tip, but they can also hold the “leader” in their hand near the handle and pick up on subtle bumps of nudges in the drift.

BTW: Before you gear up with a Euro-rig and hit your favorite river, check your local regulations. Not all states allow Euro-style nymph setups on fly-fishing-only waters.

Trying It For Yourself

Now that you’ve learned how effective Euro-nymphing can be, you’re probably itching to try it how for yourself. When Euro nymphing, there are few key things you want to achieve:

- A tight connection at all times between your line, leader, and fly
- A dead drift that still eliminates slack in the entire length of the system
- Total control over the speed and depth the fly drifts

With these three things in mind, the first thing to do when you arrive at the water is pick a run. But before you get anything wet—feet or fly—visualize the river bottom in a grid-like pattern from bank to bank.

Unlike regular indicator nymphing, Euro-styling requires you to move around constantly to reposition yourself. Before you start fishing, have a plan for attacking the fishiest parts of the river, one after another. If you just wade right in, you may blow out a great spot before you can run a fly through it.

Once you know what you want to do, make your first steps into the water (or begin from the bank) and cast upstream. Gather your line and leader. Then raise the rod tip so your everything is taunt. As the fly drifts downstream, follow its path with the rod tip and maintain a tight, constant connection.

Enjoy the Brook trout cage match!

Louis Cahill
Gink & Gasoline
www.ginkandgasoline.com
hookups@ginkandgasoline.com
You should feel the bumps of the river bottom. If you’re not, lower your rod tip. As mentioned, don’t use the colored monofilament section of your leader as a strike indicator. Instead, use it to gauge your depth and relationship with the rocks and structure along the river’s bottom. Sometimes, you may need to speed up your rod and actually pull your fly through a run in order to stay in contact with the bottom through the entire drift.

After making drifts through the area directly in front of you, take a few steps forward until you’re standing on top of the area you just fished. Then repeat the process. Once you make those first few drifts and have felt the river bottom the entire time, you’ll see how European-style nymphing allows you to sweep the bottom and put your fly in front of fish all over the river. No other method of nymphing lets you break the river bottom down in such a way.

When you realize you can make a drift with Euro rig, all those areas of the river that seemed unfishable with a regular indicator/nymph setup are now open to you. Most rivers have fast, boulder pocket water that is heaven for fish but hell for a fisherman. With water rushing by so fast, regular indicators are swept away before the fly reaches the bottom. This doesn’t happen with Euro nymphing. That’s just one way it opens the door to discovering what lurks beneath. And one good reason why it’s a skill every fly anglers should know.

What Makes European Nymphing so Effective?

January 2, 2020/in Feature /

Overview

The main difference between European Nymphing and traditional setups are simple. There are small changes that make the system more efficient in getting the flies in the right zone quicker. With European Nymphing, there is no indicator (suspension device) that floats on the surface. Your indicator is incorporated into the leader itself (sighter). This serves two purposes. First it provides a visual clue by deviating or pausing during the drift. Secondly this in-line system will tell you what the flies are doing below the surface since the indicator/sighter will always point to where the flies are. For example, you make a cast and hit a faster current that is sweeping away from your position in the stream, the indicator/sighter will point at the opposite bank and the flies will sweep high in the water column instead of sinking.

The next added benefit to fishing the Euro methods is you no longer have to fuss and fight with adding or removing weight (split/tungsten putty) to the leader. You simply use a lighter or heavier fly with changing water conditions. Ideally you will carry the same patterns in several different weights by varying the bead size or adding a small amount of lead wire just behind the bead. To make identifying simple, you can color code the head of the flies with different thread color in the beginning but eventually, you will be able to look at the bead size or feel the weight difference in your hand.

From an equipment standpoint, you will need to consider a longer fly rod, a fly line designed for Euro Nymphing, specialized leaders and flies.

Major Benefits of a Longer Fly Rod:

One of the most important tools you can have is a Euro Specific rod. It is hard to commit those hard earned dollars to such a specific nymphing method but you will soon realize it was worth every penny. There are several options from Sage, Redington, Cortland and Syndicate that will fit your price point.

- Increased sensitivity/strike detection from super supple tips that fish under load (slightly bent) as well as light tippet protection
- Ability to cover more water with added reach of 10’ or longer rods and adjust your drift depth by raising or lowering instead of changing weight or moving indicator
- Improved fish fighting ability and better angles when landing fish (better leverage and angle)

Euro Specific Fly Line:

The next and most overlooked piece of equipment is the fly line itself. Your standard weight forward fly line works well for propelling your traditional nymph rig out into the river but then begins to cause issues during the drift. Because Euro leaders are longer, very little fly line is out of the rod tip and fishing with the rod tip elevated, this traditional type of line wants to slide back toward the fly reel introducing slack into the system. The solution to this in the beginning was spooling the reel with monofilament or fluorocarbon line which was light enough to maintain tension
in the system to better transmit strikes. The one issue with this setup was the line would twist over time from casting and wrap around the tip of the rod which created a multitude of issues including breaking the rod tip when setting the hook. The solution to this was a 4 month collaboration between RIO and Steve Parrott creating the RIO Euro Nymphing Fly Line which is a modified double taper line that is 80’ long with the tip section measuring .023” and the middle of the line .025”. As you can see, there is not a ton of taper to the fly line over 40’ which makes the fly line act like an extension of the leader. Casting this thin diameter line is not as hard as you may think because the weight of the flies will pull the leader/fly line through the guides with ease and there is very little slack in the line/leader system which will drastically increase sensitivity.

Most people get these basics above with the heavier flies and longer rods but really do not understand the actual concept of fishing these methods. Most think you cast the heavily weighted flies upstream and then drag them back down stream at the speed of the current. While this may work occasionally, it is the most common misconception about these techniques. With some instruction or practice, most anglers will have that moment of awakening where they see the surface currents (foam, bubbles or debris) racing by while the sighter is slowly moving downstream.

**What is this? Hydrodynamics!**

What is hydrodynamics you may ask? Hydrodynamics is a branch of physics that deals with the motion of fluids and the forces acting on solid bodies immersed in fluids and in motion relative to them. Wha!?!?! Too much technical information for fly fishing you might say but it is actually a very simple concept. In the image below, you can see that the water in the middle of the river channel is a pretty straight flow with the fastest being at the surface and the slowest at the bottom of the river or stream. Why is this? Simple, the uneven bottom of the river causes the water to deviate around rocks, depressions and other structures which provides cover and food delivery for fish in the heaviest of flows. This is where the thin diameter tippet section of Euro leader slices through the faster flows and allows the flies to tumble in the slower bottom section without drag unlike a traditional tapered leader that is larger in diameter and gets caught up in the faster currents at the surface requiring you to mend.

Here you can see a cross-section diagram of a traditional vs Euro leader and how the hydrodynamics of the stream affect them. This is the real key to why Euro Nymphing is so successful!!!

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**Traditional Nymphing Setup**

**Euro Nymphing Setup**

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There are those that think Euro Nymphing is snagging fish and not really fly fishing. That is simply not true. It is one of the purest forms to effectively deliver flies where the fish are residing in the river. In fact Euro Nymphing is the method used in national fly fishing competitions. The bottom line is having fun on the river and this style of fishing is very interactive as you are not only feeling the takes through the rod but are able to control exactly what the flies are doing throughout the drift which will only make you a better angler as you will have a better understanding of the interaction of your flies in the current.

Give it a shot and decide for yourself!!

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**9 BASIC MISTAKES WHEN LEARNING EURO NYMPHING**

*Category: Fly Fishing Techniques | Author: Pavel Adamovský*

I observed the 9 basic mistakes that beginners usually do when they learn the Euro Nymphing Technique.

During our master-classes of Czech nymphing (or French
nymphing or Euro nymphing) and the subsequent coaching of these masterclass participants, it was not difficult to observe the basic mistakes made most of the fly fishers who have no previous experience with modern nymph techniques before.

For the sake of order, if we used different names of nymphing techniques at the beginning, it is clear that I am talking only about nymphing with a French leader without the use of a fly line - whatever that method is called.

So if you learn modern nymphing method yourself, beware of the following most common mistakes.

1) **Learn where no or little fish is** - this first mistake sounds a bit odd, but try to imagine learning how to recognize the bite of the trout or the grayling when you have only one strike per hour. Try to learn the new technique on the water you know well and with as many fish as possible, then your learning curve will be steeper.

2) **Wrong depth** - in the first attempts do not be afraid to load the nymph set up a little more. Although you will have more snags but you will learn how to distinguish the fish strikes on the French leader and also if your point fly is closer to the bottom, then you have more chance of taking more strikes because you will get to the larger "feed zone".

3) **Ignore strikes** - when you are nymphing, strike everything. You need to learn to strike any suspicious move of the leader, including stopping it. Fish strike is often unrecognizable from snags, and it is worthwhile not to ignore this recommendation.

4) **Bad contact with the flies** - a very common mistake for beginners is that they do not have contact with the flies at the leader. We keep the right contact by eliminating any loops on the fly line or the French leader. Occasionally we can lift the flies a little and let them sink again. It is good to learn to balance the boundary between complete contact with the heaviest fly on the leader (this can be either the point fly or the fly on the dropper) and the natural movement of the fly (the dead drift).

5) **Short length of drift** - a lot of beginners throw the nymphs in front of them and immediately lift them after a moment. Try to maximize the length of the drift, counting that the fly needs some time to sink to the right depth and the end of the drift is interesting because the fish respond to the movement of the flies from the bottom to the surface.

6) **Too short fly fishing rod** - of course, you can learn modern nymph with your usual equipment, but generally, for Euro nymphing, the longer rod (10 feet or more) is the best with softer action that allows better casting of the flies with the French leader. Too short fly rod, you reduce the reach you can fish as well as the length of the drift.

7) **Shrunken hand** - learn to nymph with your outstretched hand. It hurts a lot, especially at the beginning, or when you have too heavy fly fishing equipment. The stretched hand during nymphing will help you to better concentrate and respond faster to the strikes, and by stretching your hand you will slightly enlarge the area to be reached (see previous point).

8) **Poor concentration** - modern nymphing requires more concentration than other fly fishing methods. Without focus, you can miss most of the strikes. Rather, fish for 10 minutes intensely with concentration, and then give yourself a five minute pause before you fish again.

9) **Impatience** - during our masterclasses we observed that the best pupil was not the one who caught the first fish but the one who listened, tried to fix his mistakes and patiently drilled a new technique. The good sign that you already have good command of the method will be that you will not have to think over the above advices.

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**EURO NYMPHING FLIES EXPLAINED (DRIFTING DEEP)**

**How To / By David Humphries**

Euro nymphing has grown in popularity here in North America, because it works. I would even say that with the right river conditions fly fishing with euro nymph flies should be the first technique you use when assessing a river.

Fundamentally, Euro nymph flies are heavily weighted flies with trim bodies to reduce water resistance so the fly sinks quickly. Often the fly will use a jig style hook to reduce snags by keeping the hook point up. The line and fly rod setup further allows the fly to drop into the “fish zone” with a longer fly rod guiding the fly.

**Characteristics of Euro Nymphs**

Like many fly fishing techniques specialized equipment has evolved to make this method more effective. This includes the flies, fly lines, longer fly rods and fly line leaders. Don’t let the specialization stop you from using this technique. Your regular setup can be adapted to add the core principles to use euro flies.

More anglers are joining the euro nymphing bandwagon. The main reason for its growing popularity is simply because it is the easiest fly fishing method that can increase your hook-up rate.

**Some key environmental conditions should be considered when tying on a euro nymph fly.**

- **Water flow** – euro flies can work in stillwaters, but this type of fly works best when the current drifts the fly to the fish.
• **River bottom** – the river bed should be relatively clean of woody debris. Bouncing a euro fly through areas with sunken logs is a sure way to snag and lose flies.

• **Short casts** – the angler needs to be able to guide the fly through the holding water, which requires shorter casting distances. (Hence the use of longer fly rod lengths)

• **Wadable water depths** – casting 15 feet from your rod tip requires the angler to get close to the fish. Wading in a current up to your armpits isn’t safe.

So, in this article, you will learn everything about euro nymphing flies and the best patterns to adopt for your next fishing trip.

**WHAT IS EURO NYMPHING?**

Fly fishing has had many inventions over the years, and currently, the best and most productive one is Euro nymphing. Euro nymphing was perfected by the anglers in France, Poland, and Czechoslovakia before competitive anglers adopted it as their winning technique.

**Guide Tip:** If you’re looking for a little bit more on this confusing technique check out my article -> **Experimenting with Euro Nymphing**

As more anglers discovered this method’s effectiveness, it showed up online. Fly anglers adopted it in North America. Today, Euro Nymphing has featured in many angling magazines, and firms have started producing specialized tools for this technique.

So, I’m sure you’re wondering what this fishing technique is and why you should adopt it. Well, Euro nymphing is quite different from the traditional fishing methods. This technique uses a long leader, a thin tippet, and heavy flies to get the bait down faster.

To do this, you need a different setup, especially since you’re not using the weight of the fly line to cast the fly, but you’re using the weight of the fly and the fly line to cast quicker. (source)

Euro Nymphing allows you to explore the rivers in a unique way. This fly fishing technique lets you split the river into different parts and explore every inch of the river step-by-step. Plus, you can cast it the usual way or just let the flow of the river sink your insect.

When done correctly, you’ll hook more fish within the shortest time, by getting your bait/fly into the “fishy zone” where the fish are holding. (source)

**QUALITIES OF GREAT EURO NYMPHING FLIES**

Go back to the basics – think about matching the hatch, but with a really heavy fly. Pickup a river stone and check the bottom, another place to look is sunken shoreline logs. Strip the bark and inspect. Green caddis? Brown crawlers? Stonefly? Match the size and color, then select a fly with the weight to sink, but still drift.

**Zebra Midge for Euro Nymphing**

Choosing the right fly can be pretty tricky. So here are some of the factors to consider when picking the right Euro nymphing fly include:

1) **Fast Sinking Rate**

What makes euro nymphing successful is that your fly maximizes it’s time in front of the fishes’ nose. I know that sound silly, but a regular nymph flutters down in the water column, getting pulled and redirected by the line and conflicting currents. The heavy weight of a euro nymph (using tungsten beads and lead wire) combined with a thin fly line setup rockets the nymph to the bottom.

Remember, if the fly takes a long time to get to the bottom, it isn’t where the fish are. (source)

**Guide Tip:** Casting nymphs is a little tricky. I’ve got a casting guide to get you pointed in the right direction. (PUN) Read the article here -> **Nymph Casting Techniques**

2) **The Profile of the Fly**

Another feature that will affect its sinking rate is its profile. A buggy and thick fly won’t sink faster than a slender one. So, a considerable percentage of Euro Nymphing flies have slim tapered bodies. The trick is to keep them thin and slender but still realistic. (source)

3) **Trigger Points – Colors and Flash**

Another key feature is the inclusion of some trigger points. In most cases, the trigger points may be the addition of flash materials, brightly colored beads, tail, or fluorescent colors. These trigger points can help attract the fish and make the fly stand out. (source)

**THE BEST EURO NYMPHING FLIES IN THE MARKET:**

1) **Perdigon Nymph**

Perdigon Euro Nymph – photo credit UMPQUA

The Perdigon nymph is an exceptional nymph that has migrated from competition fishing found in most recreational stores. This nymph has all the characteristics of an exceptional nymph.

It has a large tungsten bead, a pronounced wing case, and a slim tapered body. On top of that, it comes with two trigger points.
Its thorax is made from fluorescent materials, and its body is made from some flashy materials. This nymph is available in a wide range of colors, with the most common sizes being from 12 to 18mm. (source)

2) **Jig Head Flashback Hare's Ear**

Flashback Hares Ear Nymph – jighead
– photo credit UMPQUA

Maybe you’ve heard the adage for nymphs. “Use something brown and about 3/8 inch long” What describes that quote better than a Hare’s Ear. Hare’s ear nymphs should be a fly in every fly box.

When the water speed increases and you have a cobble bottom river, reach for a jig head version. I like size 14 with a chrome or black tungsten bead.

3) **The Frenchie**

Frenchie Euro Nymph
– photo credit UMPQUA

The Frenchie is an exceptionally adaptable nymph. It is tied using similar materials as the Gun, but with a few tweaks that make it ideal for Euro Nymphing. The first adaptation is the jig hook which points upwards, resulting in fewer snags at the bottom of the river.

The second adaptation is its fluorescent color right behind the beads. For most Frenchies, the makers prefer using either fluorescent pink or orange, which fish can spot from a distance. (source)

4) **Caddis Nymph**

Caddis Euro Nymph
– heavy beadhead

The caddis nymph is mounted on a curved shank, giving it a more natural appearance. This nymph has a bulkier appearance, which may turn off for some anglers. But what it lacks in sink rate compensates for it in its profile appearance.

This nymph is available in a wide range of sizes and colors, which makes it available for almost every river on the planet. (source)

5) **Beadhead Zebra Midge**

The Zebra Midge is another exceptional nymph that resembles a midge larva. I’d call this nymph an original euro nymph, but when it was developed words like euro nymph weren’t being used. It has all the classic characteristics of a Euro nymph though. The traditional nymph has a black body with silver wire and beadhead.

My favorite size is 14 to 18. I’ve tied this on a jighead hook, but I didn’t see an increase in my hook rate. Mimicking a the larva stage this natural bonces along the bottom making it a perfect bug to imitate.

A favorite color for me is red. The in the below video you get a chance to see how fast this fly is to tie.

Before transforming from larva to the adult stage, some air bubbles form on its exoskeleton. The midge nymph represents this stage of its life. This nymph comes with a heavy bead and a slim profile that allows it to sink fast. It is available in various colors, including olive, black, brown, and red. (source)

6) **Walt’s Sexy Nymph**

Walts Sexy Nymph – classic Euro Nymph Style

If you’re a beginner and are looking for the best nymphs for your fishing arsenal, then you should try Walt’s nymphs. The Walt’s nymph was developed in the 1980s by Walts Young in Pennsylvania, and it imitates a wide range of larva. This unique nymph’s hook is always facing upwards, which allows for fewer snags. You can add a fluorescent color behind the bead to serve as a trigger point. (source)

7) **Rainbow Warrior**

Rainbow Warrior Nymph

Every angler should have another unique euro nymph is the Rainbow Warrior. This nymph is easy to tie and is a “go to” nymph for me when clouds overcast the water. I like the curved hook shank style, my opinion that it increases strikes.

Plus, it is available in a wide range of sizes and colors. However, its sink rate is not as fast as the other options in our
list. But it is an excellent option for fishing in slower water. So, a well-equipped bait box should always include the Rainbow Warrior.

8) **Squirmy Wormy Jigged**

![](image)

Jighead Squirmy Worm – photo credit UMPQUA

I get harped on quite a bit because of my love for “squirmy worms”, I can’t help it though. The jig head version of the squirmy worm has increased its effectiveness for me. Fast to tie and with a tungsten bead, these little beauties sink fast.

I’ll freely admit they aren’t the most durable fly, but if something works you’ve got to go with the flow.

Guide Tip: For fly tiers save those beat up squirmies – especially those tungsten bead versions. Cut off the old material and re-tie with a new body.

**ADVICE FROM THE VISE**

I really like to take some classic patterns and give them a new twist. This month we will revisit the Prince Nymph, that mainstay in all fly boxes as a searching pattern – or go to fly in many cases. It’s often a fly I start out with, especially in new water that I’m still sorting out. The pattern is rooted in the 1930’s and credited to Doug Prince, who tied it originally with ostrich herl rather than peacock we are accustomed to. It’s always sported the goose biot “forked” tail and the defining factor of the white biot wings. I was gifted an entire wild turkey worth of feathers several years back, and wanted to do something with the biots. Add the tail fibers, used much like a pheasant, and the Turkey Prince was born.

Biots are found on the leading flight feathers on all birds. The goose and turkey biots are an excellent size to tie with. Goose biots are a bit smaller and tad thicker while turkey are longer and more transparent than goose.

Hook choice is really up to yourself on this fly. A standard nymph hook, or a curved nymph hook are all suitable. I started using a 2312 hook that has a slight curve and a wider gap. It’s a tad longer and gives it a slight stonefly look, at least I think so. A copper countersunk bead is at the front. You can use brass or heavier tungsten depending on how much weight you want. If I’m fishing a dropper, I will go with brass, double nymph rig that needs to get on the bottom, then I would use tungsten. My Prince box has some of both. Princes are traditionally a weighted pattern, so some lead free wire wraps are indicated, again, up to yourself as to how heavy you want to go or no weight at all. Tying for your needs is half the reason to tie, customize your patterns to best fit the water you are fishing.

The tail on this pattern are biots from the turkey quill. The natural grey/white gives the fly that unique look of the wild turkey, I use the same biots for the wings. A clump of turkey tail feather fibers, quail or grouse soft hackle for the collar and a copper wire for the rib rounds out the recipe. Thread is veevus 14/0, fluorescent orange, and will carry that on to the hotspot.

After getting the bead on, wrap the weight wire, secure it in and dress to the back of the hook.

After cutting the biots out at the base, pitch wrap them in, I do one at a time, with the curve facing out, to make the forked tail.
Tie in the butts to the wire, and trim those out and tie in the wire for the rib. I butt the rib up to the weight wire and take enough wraps to get a nice smooth foundation.

Treat the turkey tail like a pheasant tail and separate 6-8 fibers and line up the tips, and cut the fibers free of the quill. Snip the very end tips to make a uniform edge on them, butt them up to the weight wire and tie them in. Now you should have a very smooth body. Wrap the fibers in touching turns to build the body.

Counter-wrap the wire to create a rib. Counter-wrapping gives the fly a little more protection against those tiny trout teeth that shred flies.

Tie in the soft hackle by the tips to form the collar. Sweep the fibers back and clip any that are in the path of the wing placement near the bead.

Clip a couple more biots from the wing quill and line up the tips. Measure the tip to but by laying the tips where you want them to fall on the back of the body. I tie these in upside down with the curve up, and then flip them over. This really holds the wings in place and goes to a much more sturdy fly.

Clip off the butts and flip the wing biots over on the back of the nymph.

Whip finish to create the hot spot and touch a little UV thin resin on the collar to seal the deal.

As always, I’m honored to answer questions, give a lesson, or just talk fly tying and fishing. Don’t hesitate to contact me at jacobsforkflytying@gmail.com or check out some of my current ties on Facebook and Instagram at Jacobs Fork Fly Tying.

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