

*Northern Lights  
Fly Tiers*

# Broken Threads

A PUBLICATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS FLY TYING CLUB  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 1998

## THE NORTHERN LIGHTS FLY TYING CLUB

*Providing a friendly atmosphere for novice and experienced fly tiers and fly fishers to learn and share information.*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

A final reminder that your 96/97 NLFTC club membership has expired! Fees for the 97/98 season are now due at the first meeting of the new year (see below). All membership payments should be forwarded to Shelly Robertson. She asks that you please try to get your dues in on time so the NEW membership cards can all be printed out in one sitting. Any renewing members choosing to become part of the Fly Dressers Guild may also make the additional payment at the same time. The next batch of new Fly Dressers Guild memberships will be mailed to England at the end of the month.

March may seem to be a long ways away right? Wrong! Once again, The Fishin' Hole has invited us into their booth at the Outdoor Sportsman Show at no charge to the club. To all members who may be interested in tying for the Sportsman Show (March 11-15) we ask that you please consider booking your dates ahead of time this year. This way we can be assured we have enough tiers to cover all four days of the event. Don't be worried if you're not an expert tier! The interaction with other "fly fishers" and "fly tiers" spent between tying flies at the show is what truly makes this a special event to be a part of! To increase the level of interaction with show goers we plan on holding a raffle this year. So we will need even more volunteer participation and prize donations to help make this years event for NLFTC a big success! In exchange for booth space again we would like to have some volunteers also come forward to tie at one of their store locations (after the show). More details on the show and raffle will be published here as details become available. In the interim, please speak to Dennis if you require more information.

Finally, our 1998 NLFTC Annual General meeting will be held this year on January 28th after regular tying demonstrations. Please plan to stay for about an extra hour afterwards. This is your chance to provide your feedback and direction into future club activities. ♪

### MEMBERSHIP RATES/INFORMATION

For the 97/98 season our pricing structure has changed, this was done to make membership into the FLY FISHERS GUILD, more affordable. This restructuring of the membership dues has created two membership options. The NEW pricing structure is as follows:

*Basic 97/98 Membership ( Includes Family Membership - January thru December ) - \$20:00*

*The Fly Dressers Guild ( September thru August ) - \$40:00*

As explained in previous newsletters, membership to the FLY FISHERS GUILD will allow you to receive four Guild Publications each year. We find these publications very informative. Each edition is filled with color fly plates, new materials, and fly tying tips..etc. Please contact Ian Russel if you would like to browse a copy.

Regular weekly meetings and Tying sessions are held every Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m at St. Joseph Catholic High School, second floor cafeteria at 10830 - 109 Street. Everyone is welcome to attend. Don't forget to bring your fly tying kits and materials. ♪

### CLUB CONTACTS

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#### SUBMISSIONS:

*Members please submit your tying dates, pattern info, and all articles to the Editor via e-mail or fax, prior to the 2nd scheduled meeting of each month for publication.*

*NLFTC Newsletter On The Internet.*

<http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/lancet/nl.htm>

## TYING DEMONSTRATIONS FOR JANUARY

January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
<p><b>Michael Dell</b></p> <p><i>Michael will provide required materials. However, please be sure to bring your fly tying tools.</i></p> <p><b><u>Western Coachman</u></b></p> <p>Thread: 8/0 Hook: Dry Fly 2XL (94831) Size: 6-16 Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet Body: Peacock Herl Wing: Calf Tail Hackle: Brown</p> <p><b><u>House &amp; Lot Variant</u></b></p> <p>Thread: 8/0 Hook: Dry Fly, 10-20 Wing: Calf Tail Body: Peacock Quill Thorax: Peacock Herl Hackle: Furnace or Brown</p>  <p><b>HAPPY NEW YEARS FROM NLFTC!</b></p>	<p><b>Lance Taylor</b></p> <p><i>A New Todd Blackwell Pattern from Calgary, AB</i></p> <p><b><u>Crystal Parachute</u></b></p> <p>Thread: 8/0 Black Uni-Thread. Hook: Dry Fly 2XL (94831) 6-16 Tail: Dun or grizzly hackle fibers. Body: Muskrat, gray dubbing or to match hatch. Wing: Krystal Flash Fibers. Hackle: Brown &amp; Grizzly, tied parachute style.</p> <p><i>The second is a freak of nature by my own design that works!</i></p> <p><b><u>Horny Adams</u></b></p> <p>Thread: 8/0 Black Uni-Thread. Hook: Tiemco 200R, Size 12. Tail1: Dun and Brown Micro Fibettes. Body: Muskrat, gray dubbing or to match hatch. Tail2: Dun and Brown Fibettes. Wing1: 2 Grizzly tips. Head1: Black Thread. Hackle: Brown. Wing2: 2 Grizzly tips. Head2: Black Thread.</p>	<p><b>Roman Scharabun</b></p> <p><b>** Special Event Night **</b></p> <p><i>Roman will be demonstrating how to tie up two of his latest patterns for us.</i></p> <p><b><u>The Biot Dun &amp; Sparkle Caddis.</u></b></p> <p><i>Please bring along the materials listed on page 6 of the newsletter, along with your tying equipment.</i></p>  <p><i>Also Roman will be holding a rod-building course at Grant Mackwan sometime in early February.</i></p> <p><i>Details will be made available at the meeting.</i></p>	<p><b>Tom Matsumoto</b></p> <p><b>* Japanese Patterns *</b></p> <p><i>It's been said that this pattern has an outstanding effect on rainbow trout.</i></p> <p><b><u>Love Hunter</u></b></p> <p>Hook: Dry Standard Sz. 14 Thread: Beige 6/0 Body: Gray Goose quill &amp; Red Goose quill Wing: Grizzly Hackle tip Hackle: Grizzly</p> <p><i>This is a distinguished power for "Yaname".</i></p> <p><b><u>Crazy Badger</u></b></p> <p>Hook: Dry Standard Sz. 16 Thread: Red Body: Red Goose quill Wing: Badger Hackle tip or "Magic Spinner Wing", which is a synthetic fiber. Hackle: Badger</p> <p><b>1998 NLFTC ANNUAL MEETING</b></p>  <p>Please remember that we will be holding our annual meeting right after tonight's tying session. The meeting should take approximately one hour.</p>

### NLFTC '98 ICE FISHING KLAVE

*The club's ice-fishing field trip to Gull Lake is still scheduled for January, 17th.*

*Weather permitting as we won't be going out if its under -15 C.*

*All plans to be finalized by January 14th Meeting.*

*Hope to see you on the ice!*

### CONGRATULATIONS!

*To NLFTC member Mike Heemskerck who just had his Mirror Ball pattern published in the December 97 issue of Fly Fishing Magazine.*

*As you recall Mike just shared how to tie this fabulous pattern with us recently. It definitely looks to be a killer pattern this year!*

*Perry Miles also stated he saw a write up on Mike in the Sunday Edition of the Edmonton Journal (?) on January 3rd.*

*Tell us more Mike!*

### KUDOS TO TAK!

*Special thanks go out to club member Takahiko for the donation of his hand tied Salmon Flies and Shadow Boxes.*

*All were recently sold to help raise funds for future NLFTC functions.*

*Thanks again Tak!*



# FLY-TYING/FLY-FISHING ON THE INTERNET

Your portable fly tying kit. What you should really pack.  
<http://www.mwflytyer.com/mft/articles/tiekit.htm>

Dave Murphy's FF@ Fly-Tying Contest Results  
<http://www.jacobco.com/flys/murf/>

Fishing Denmark, A Catalog of Flies  
<http://www.idg.dk/mj/flies/flypic.htm>

The Midwest FlyTyer: Pattern Page  
123 patterns as of December 30, 1997  
<http://www.mwflytyer.com/mft/flies/patterns.htm>

A letter to Ty Lund from Michael Dell on Alberta License Privatization, and the Ministers response.  
<http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/trout/privat2.html>

## \*\* PIKE FLIES & FLY FISHING TECHNIQUES FOR PIKE \*\*



Flyfishing by Elliot Deighton, Pike on the fly."  
<http://www.fishontario.com/flyfishing/pikefly/pikefly.html>

Dan Armitage, "Pike on the Fly"  
<http://www.alloutdoors.com/Alloutdoors/Library/Fishing/Fly/pikefly.html>

**"FLY FISHING FOR PIKE IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA"**  
Featuring the flies of Rolf and Shirley Ann Schwabe (Rolf's Flies),  
Vauxhall, Alberta (See below also)  
<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/cnangler/html/pike1.htm>

# ROLF AND SHIRLEY ANN SCHWABE



Rolf Schwabe of Vauxhall, Alberta has been fly fishing for northern pike for more than ten years. He is an expert pike angler and is regarded as one of the province's authorities on fly fishing for these toothy fish.

Rolf and his wife Shirley Ann operate a commercial fly tying business (Rolf's Flies) specializing in pike flies. Their flies are sold in tackle shops in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. Over the years, they have developed several productive pike streamers including the Cisco, Cyprinid and Moss Zebra.

Rolf and Shirley Ann will also conduct pike fly tying and fishing workshops. Rolf has been a demonstration fly tier at two Federation of Fly Fishers Conclaves. Recently he appeared on Jim McLennan's "Iron Blue Flyfishing" show and taught Jim the in's and outs of hunting pike on the fly at Badger Lake near his home.

**Trout Unlimited Canada (Edmonton Chapter) and Edmonton Trout Club Present:**  
"Fly Fishing for Pike with Rolf and Shirley Ann Schwabe"

**Saturday February 28, 1998 at Grant MacEwan Community College, Rm 7-139.**  
*Rolf and Shirley Ann Schwabe will present two programs:*

*Fly Fishing for Pike (9:00 AM to Noon) will be a lecture and slide show covering all aspects of pursuing pike with a fly rod. Tying Pike Flies (Optional) (1:00 to 4:00 PM) will be a hands-on, tie along demonstration of patterns that incorporate most materials and techniques used for tying pike flies. Flies tied will be the Moss Zebra, the Bunny Bug, the Deceiver, and the Rabbit Strip Diver.*

*Hooks and materials (including steel leaders) will be supplied for tying the patterns. Tiers will have to bring their own vise (something capable of holding a 4.0 hook is preferable), heavy duty scissors (capable of cutting deer hair and Fish Hair), bobbin, and head cement (non-toxic preferred), any other tying tools that tiers want to use.*

**COST:** \$10.00 for the morning section, or \$15.00 for all day.

**NOTE:** Registration is limited to 40 for the morning, and 20 for the afternoon.

To register send your name, address, telephone number, and a cheque payable to Trout Unlimited Canada Edmonton Branch to:

Michael Dell  
303-12015 103 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 0S9

Phone 496-7040 (W) or 488-1966 (H) for more information, or visit <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/trout/special.html>

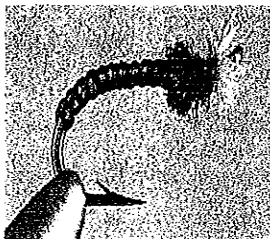


# ROMAN SCHARABUN'S FLY PATTERNS

by Roman Scharabun

With the myriad of fly patterns available to today's flyfisher, it is truly amazing that we bother coming up with new patterns to entice the fish we seek. With the flood of new materials we are continually tempted by, and our own personal desires to create the "perfect" fly, it is very doubtful that the development of new patterns will ever cease. Besides, playing around with new materials and concepts can be a very enjoyable and fulfilling aspect of fly-tying. The following list of patterns are ones that have evolved from my tying vise over the past several years. Some, such as the LVP midge, are modifications of an already existing pattern while others can be considered "unique". All have proven effective throughout North America and have taken up permanent residence in my fly boxes. Some have even found a commercial niche. I do hope you find these patterns of enough interest to tie yourself and maybe they will stimulate some creative juices in you to modify and experiment as you see fit. After all, this is an aspect of fly-tying we should never omit. The patterns are listed in chronological order, with the first having been tied in the early 1990's.

## LVP Midge (modified)

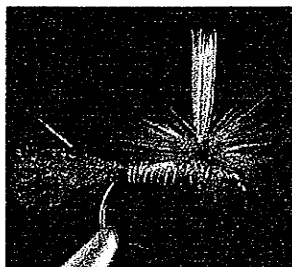


Hook: Mustad 9523 #12-#16.  
Thread: 8/0 black Uni-thread.  
Body: Superloss (color to match natural).  
Thorax: Peacock herl.  
Breathing gills: White Wing-Fiber or polypropylene yarn.  
Head: Tying thread.

The pattern was initially developed by Paul Lasha of Oregon and described in his video on midge fishing. As with most midge patterns, use of small hooks reduces the effective gap to the point where hook-ups can be very difficult to achieve. Thus the use of the 9523 style of hook. This is a 5X short hook that provides the proper shank length to build a midge on, but the hook gap is that of the standard dry fly hook of the same size. For example, a 9523 size #12 has a gap of a standard #12 hook but a shank length comparable to a #16. A 9523 size #16 has a shank length comparable to a #22 hook. The only drawback of the 9523 is that it is an up-eye hook. This forces the angler to hesitate a second or two on the hook-set in order for the fish to turn down with the fly. Setting the hook earlier usually means pulling the hook out of the fish's mouth. The most effective way to fish this pattern is to grease the leader with a paste type floatant to within 2-3 inches of the fly. The fly will then only sink through the surface film leaving the rest of the leader on top that serves as a great strike indicator. The usual approach is to cast across or up and across. By allowing more of the leader to be untreated with floatant the angler can adjust how deeply the pattern will sink. Often a noticeable bulge in the water will signal you that the pattern has been eaten.

## R. S. Quad May

Two significant influences surrounded the development of this fly pattern. The first was that many contemporary authors were stressing several characteristics that they believed were responsible for a trout's decision to accept a fly pattern as edible. These included Gary Lafontaine's wing height and visibility, Rene Harrop's trailing shuck, A. K. Best's quill/segmented body and Vince Marinaro's thorax tie (thus the name "Quad" for four characteristics). A parachute style was incorporated to promote a low body profile and imitate the "dimple" phenomenon produced by natural insects.



Hook: Talon D1310, Mustad 94840.  
Thread: Uni-thread 8/0, color to match body.  
Shuck: Olive Z-lon (antron yarn or CDC may be substituted).  
Body: Turkey biot, color to match natural.  
Wing: White turkey flat fibers.  
Hackle: Medium blue dun saddle hackle.  
Thorax: Antron dubbing, colour a shade darker than body.

The second influence was to incorporate materials that were demonstrated to me by A.K Best in Calgary, Alberta in 1993. These included the use of turkey biots for the quill body and turkey flats for the parachute style wing.

The advantages of turkey biots over goose biots include a more realistic segmentation of the body, their greater durability and greater usable length. The advantages of the turkey flats included a purer white color for increased visibility and availability of colors that more closely match the natural if visibility is not a consideration. In addition, I found both materials were easy to use.

When I first began putting the pattern together I must admit experiencing definite reservations as to its possible effectiveness. My main concern was that too many triggering characteristics were being incorporated into one pattern. Would this possibly cause the trout to have second thoughts about the imitation floating over them? Once testing began it became obvious that this would rarely if ever be a problem. I believe the test results simply reinforced proposed theories that trout do in fact have primary and secondary triggering characteristics that they look for in a fly be it natural or artificial. Their concentration on these triggers may be so absolute that other triggers that may in fact be important at other times are at this time ignored. Hypothetically, this would then make the pattern effective under a variety of conditions and use by numerous experienced anglers over the past several years seems to support this hypothesis.

The R. S. Quad is really a style of tying rather than a particular pattern since any mayfly can be imitated by simply substituting the colors of the materials used. It has shown itself very effective on streams ranging from mountain free-stone rivers and streams to Montana's spring creeks with anglers often commenting that the trout would move 2-3 feet to intercept the artificial during a full blown hatch. Its low-floating characteristic certainly enhances its profile during these times and may in fact be taken for a natural in the process of hatching or a stillborn. Wing height and color definitely help the angler fish this pattern with more confidence under these conditions. If visibility becomes a problem in late evening when the water's surface develops a silvery sheen, then the pattern's wing post can be tied using dark dun or bronze turkey flats. The dark wing post provides the necessary contrast to again make the pattern easily visible.

## B.H. Euro-Caddis Pupae



Hook: Talon C1130.  
Tiemo 2487 #12 - #16.  
Thread: 8/0 camel Uni-thread.  
Abdomen: Olive Crystal Seal  
Dubbing Brush.  
Thorax: Black Crystal Seal  
Dubbing Brush.  
Head: Gold bead.

(Continued on Page 5)

During a trip to Europe in 1992, I stopped in a fly shop in Salzburg, Austria and saw a caddis pupae bead head pattern I had not seen in any of my tying books. It was essentially tied on a curved shank hook with green seal dubbing for the abdomen and brown seal dubbing for the thorax. Not able to resist, I purchased several and put them into my wet fly box on my return home. Since I seldom use wet flies/nymphs during the summer I promptly forgot about them until I made my annual pilgrimage to the Crowsnest River the following March. The fly proved to be incredibly effective.

That spring a new material became available, the Dubbing Brush. It was essentially coarse dubbing twisted with copper wire. This material seemed to be perfect for this pupae pattern. The three major advantages of the dubbing brush were the added weight provided by the copper wire, the automatic ribbing effect it produced and the elimination of trying to dub a difficult, coarse material like seal or seal substitute onto the thread. This made the pattern extremely easy and quick to tie. To fish the fly use a strike indicator 2 to 3 feet above the fly or as the point fly on a 2 fly rig. Cast up and across stream into likely holding lies. Allow the pattern to dead-drift and swing below you. When the line begins to tighten make short 3-4" strips to retrieve the fly imitating the pupae rising to the surface.

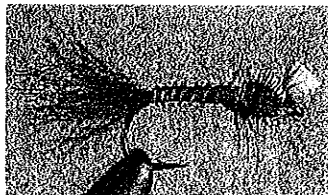
### SA (Southern Alberta) Hopper



Hook: Talon ST163C, Ticomco 200R #10 - 14.  
Thread: 8/0 fire-orange Uni-thread.  
Tail: Deer body hair dyed red.  
Abdomen: Yellow closed-cell foam.  
Rib: Coachman brown hackle.  
Underwing: Pearlescent Krystal Flash.  
Overwing: Natural, dark, mule deer hair.  
Thorax: Pale olive antron dubbing.  
Hackle: Grizzly hackle.  
Head: Fire-orange 8/0 Uni-thread.

Development of this pattern was mainly due to flood conditions in southern Alberta in 1995. Due to the high water conditions, I found myself relying more and more on a #8 Stimulator. However, after hooking several fish, the elk hair wing on my Stimulator would become too soaked to maintain floatation. I wanted something with improved floatation that could still represent the golden stones and hoppers the fish were looking for. Thinking a marriage between hopper and stimulator styles may work, I began to tie. The resulting fly floated like a cork and regularly proved itself on large fish in the Crowsnest River area of southern Alberta. The name was suggested to me by Bill Robertson while floating the Oldman River last fall. I have found it an effective pattern on all types of water particularly in sizes 12 and 14. The pattern has been tried and used successfully down to a size 18. It successfully imitates grasshoppers, golden stones and yellow sallies by simply varying the hook size. Fishing the pattern tight to the banks or near stream structure usually proves very successful. The body colors can be changed to imitate the salmonfly as well. The addition of some Krystal Flash under the elk wing produces a shimmering effect that mimics the movement of the wing and also goes a long way to producing some attraction due to light reflection and refraction. This technique can prove beneficial on a number of established patterns as well.

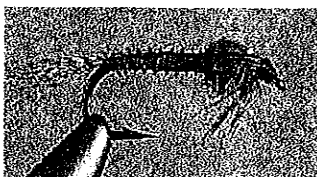
### TB Foam Emerger



Hook: Talon ST163C, #12-18.  
Thread: 8/0 camel Uni-Thread.  
Tail: 6-8 natural mallard flank fibers.  
Underbody: Tying thread (if required).  
Abdomen: Brown dyed turkey biot.  
Thorax: Dark hare's ear dubbing.  
Wingcase: Mottled turkey quill section and 2-3 strands of rainbow Krystal Flash.

The idea surrounding the development of this pattern was seeded in my mind by Michael Dell of Edmonton. At a regular meeting of the Northern Lights Fly Tiers, Michael was demonstrating a deer hair emerger pattern. When I got home I began thinking of some of my favorite materials, tying techniques and how they could be combined into an effective emerger pattern. From this grew the TB Foam Emerger.

### TB Nymph



Hook: Talon 1310, Mustad 94840 (size to match natural).  
Thread: 8/0 Uni-Thread (color to match thorax).  
Tail: Dun CDC puff overlaid with 6-8 strands of olive antron.  
Abdomen: Turkey biot (color to match natural).  
Thorax: Antron dubbing (color a shade darker than abdomen).  
Hackle: Grizzly hackle (clipped top and bottom).  
Wingcase: White closed-cell foam (cut leaving a tuft sticking out over hook eye).

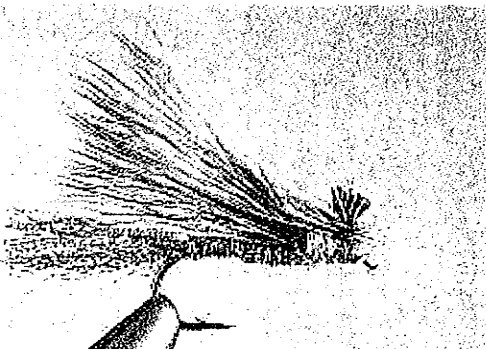
The use of turkey biots has always fascinated me because of the wonderful segmentation it affords a pattern when tied in properly. Until now I had limited its use to dry fly patterns but knew it was only a matter of time before I would apply it to nymph patterns as well. It is just too perfect a material. Used on small hooks (#16 and smaller) the abdomen taper begins at a thickness equivalent to the hook shank thickness and continues on what seems like an ideal taper. On larger hooks the tier should incorporate an underbody before wrapping the biot. The tying thread can serve very nicely as the underbody negating the use of additional materials.

*(Continued on page 6)*



*A photograph of Michael Dell  
(T.U.C. President, Edmonton Chapter, and NLFCTC Member)  
on Stauffer Creek with a huge monster brown trout.  
Say Mike, did he take the TB Foam Emerger?*

**Sparkle Caddis**



Hook: Talon 1310, Mustad 94840 #12 - #18.  
Thread: 8/0 Uni-Thread (color to match body).  
Shuck: Olive antron yarn.  
Body: Antron dubbing (color to match natural).  
Underwing: 6 - 10 strands pearlescent Krystal Flash.  
Wing: Natural elk hair.  
Hackle: Badger (tied parachute style).

**Tying Note:** The butts of the elk hair wing are used to build the post that the hackle is wound around. However, once the hackle has been secured most of the post is cut away and just a stub is left behind. Application of some head cement to the base of the stub helps secure the hackle.

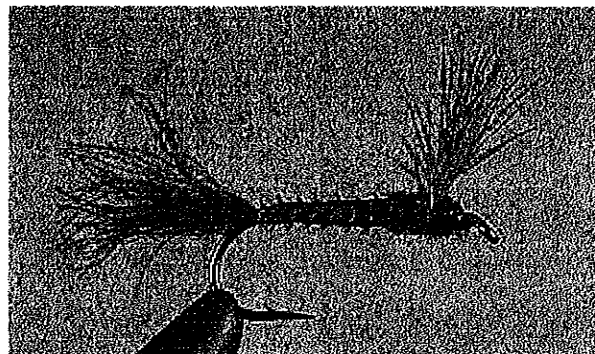
Many of our adult caddis patterns today exhibit high floating characteristics due to the hackling. A few, such as Craig Matthew's X - Caddis, provide a surface impression of an emerging caddis fly. The advantage of the sparkle caddis over the X -Caddis is two fold, both due to the parachute hackle. First, the hackle adds the impression that the insect possesses legs as well as provide a proper surface indentation. Secondly, the parachute tie ensures the fly will land on the water properly every time. An accidental side benefit occurs when posting the wing. Due to pulling up on the butts for posting you will find that a few elk hair fibers will shift to lie along side the body. Although traditionalists may view this with disdain, it in fact enhances the tent-shaped appearance of the wing, a prime characteristic of caddis. This also adds to the lateral stability of the pattern when it lands on the water.

**About the Author:**

Roman Scharabun teaches junior high school in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada. He is also a custom rod-builder, commercial fly tier, product representative, and offers fly tying workshops. His fly patterns have been included in The Alberta Fishing Guide, Trout Streams of Alberta, and Mayflies: An Angler's Study of Trout Water Ephemeroptera, and have also appeared in the 1995 and 1996 FFF Patterns of The Masters.

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**Biot Dun**



Hook: Talon 1310, Mustad 94840 #12 - #20.  
Thread: 8/0 Uni-Thread (color to match abdomen).  
Shuck: Olive or natural CDC Puff.  
Body: Turkey biot (color to match natural).  
Thorax: Antron dubbing (color of abdomen).  
Wing: Natural elk hair (comparadun style).  
Head: Tying thread.

This pattern arose more from the need to use some new materials with old favorites rather than a logical analysis that deemed this pattern necessary. CDC puffs had just come onto the market and the density of the fibers literally cried out to be used as a trailing shuck. Some tiers believe that, to be effective, the shuck should be very sparse. However, in experiments I've conducted this does not seem to hold true. Therefore, this pattern utilizes the entire puff. Of course standard CDC feathers can be used instead but they are more difficult and time consuming to tie in. Essentially a CDC puff is a miniature CDC feather! Once again the turkey biot was used for all the previously stated reasons. A comparadun style wing was chosen to enhance the low floating qualities of the fly. I have become a firm believer in the "low floater" and feel it will out fish traditional dry flies in most situations. Fancy presentation tactics are seldom necessary and the standard up and up and across techniques are very effective in both hatch and non-hatch situations. ♪

