

Ft. Worth Fly Fishers Fly of the Month - May 2017

Matt Bennett's Lunch Money

The May 2017 Fly of the Month comes to us from our planned May guest speaker, Matt Bennett. Here's what Matt has to share with us:

The Lunch Money was created out of need for a bite-sized baitfish streamer for the Texas Hill Country. Most of our baitfish are in the 2-3" range and due to our normally ultra-clear water, our bass can be fairly finicky, which meant it needed to both look realistic and have the right amount of movement to The original iteration was named the "Llano Critter" after the Llano River west of here, where it produced very well. The original variation was based off of Charlie Craven's Gonga streamer and tied hook-down with larger legs, a spun craft fur head, and just a tail (no wrapping for a profile transition) on a TMC 8089. After coming across Laser Dub a few years back thanks to Mike Schmidt's patterns, I incorporated that to give it a nice, translucent profile in the water with just the right amount of sheen. I also flipped the fly to ride hook up at that time, as I'd often get fish following the fly and wanted to be able to retrieve slower without hanging up on the bottom. Originally I trimmed the head to shape but after brushing the Laser Dub back instead, I ended up with a similar shape with more water-pushing bulk. After the TMC 8089 was discontinued in the smaller sizes, I moved to a Gamakatsu B10S, which has allowed me to tie it in a few more sizes.

I continue to refine it a bit as new materials are released, like Hareline's new Double Pupil Eyes, and Senyo's Fusion Dub and Fusion Legs. Many of the available colors listed on my website incorporate special colors of Fusion and Laser dub that I blend myself. Umqua Feather Merchants picked up the rights to this fly early in early 2014, and certain colors are available through them at this time. The full lineup is available through my website, flygeek.net.

Hook: Gamakatsu B10S, Size 2

Eyes: Hareline Double Pupil Lead Eyes, Black/Yellow w/ Black Pupil

Thread: Danville Flat Waxed Nylon, White

Tail: Hareline Black Barred Zonker Strip, Gold Variant

Legs: Hareline Grizzly Flutter Legs, Black Barred Root Beer

Body: Senyo's Laser Dub, Brown, Yellow, Sculpin Olive

Marker: Prismacolor/Copic Red, Black, Back, Yellow

Glue: Loon UV Flow

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Step 1: Attach your thread to the hook and create a bump of thread about 2 hook-eye lengths back from the eye of the hook. Figure-eight on your eyes. I used the medium size for a #2, small for a #4, and x-small for a #6.



Step 2: Wrap back on the hook shank until you're above somewhere between the barb and hook point. Measure out your rabbit strip tail – I typically do 1.25 – 1.5 shank lengths. Invert your vise and poke the hook point through the skin-side of the zonker strip at the point you measured out.



Step 3: Remove the hook from the vise. Slide the zonker up the hook shank to where your thread base ends, then flip it 180 degrees back towards the hook bend. Tie in your tail and move your thread in front of the remaining piece of zonker facing towards the hook eye.



Step 4: Wrap your thread to the midpoint between where the tail and lead eyes are tied in. Grab the remaining zonker piece and wrap a collar with 2-3 wraps, depending on the thickness and length of the zonker. I did 2 here. Tie down and cut the remainder of the zonker strip off.



Step 5: Tie in two Grizzly Flutter Legs at their midpoint on the side of the hook directly in front of your collar.



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Step 6: Pull the two front-facing legs over the top of the fly, stretching them to opposite side of the hook. Wrap backwards with your thread, binding them down securely. Do not stretch them too much as they can break fairly easily.



Step 7: Take two clumps of Yellow Laser Dub. Find the midpoints of each and tie them on the top and bottom of the hook shank.



Step 8: Use your non-bobbin hand to hold these clumps back towards the tail and build a small thread dam in front to keep them laid back.



Step 9: Repeat steps 7 & 8 with a clump of Brown on top, and Yellow on bottom. Remember that the fly rides hook-up.



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Step 10: Move your thread in front of the eyes. Repeat steps 7 & 8 with Sculpin Olive on top, and Yellow on bottom. Whip finish.



Step 11: Brush the fly very well with a dubbing brush. I am partial to Hareline's Ultimate Dubbing Brush for this. I'll brush it forward over the hook eye and then back towards the tail.



Step 12: Finish the fly. I add marker spots and color the thread to match the top and bottom of the fly before coating with Loon Flow and curing.



Barry Webster

Tying Director