

Ft. Worth Fly Fishers
February 2018 Fly of the Month
Hovering Damselfly Nymph

Our February 2018 Fly of the month comes to us from our own Bill Hodges. Bill is a past President of FWFF and a figure that shows up for most FWFF activities. The order Odonata ("toothed ones") includes some of the most ancient and beautiful insects that ever roamed Earth, as well as some of the largest flying invertebrates ever to have lived. Odonata consists of three groups: **Anisoptera** (which includes dragonflies), **Zygoptera** (which includes damselflies), and **Anisozygoptera** (a relic group represented by only two living species). This order is very diverse with about 5000 species, and its members are easy to observe. The damsel and dragon fly are very common in our local waters and as such, are a favorite fish food. Damsel flies emerge from the nymphs who climb out of the water on objects like reeds. The nymphal stage is a favorite food for local fish.



Hook: 3X to 4X long wet fly hook size 12 to 8 (size 12 shown here.)

Thread: Olive 6/0 (140 denier).

Tail: Olive marabou.

Abdomen and Wingcase: 2mm olive closed cell foam;
2mm and 4 mm wide strips, respectively.

Thorax: Olive rabbit dubbing.

Legs: Tan hen or partridge hackle.

Eyes: 2 mm olive or yellow closed cell foam.

1. Start the thread on the hook and tie in an olive marabou tail, about half the length of the shaft.



2. At the base of the tail, tie in a length of 2 mm x 2 mm wide foam (abdomen).



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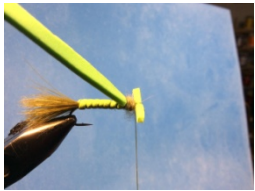
3. Spiral wrap the foam and tie off about a hook gap behind the eye.



4. At the end of the spiral wrapped abdomen tie on a length of 2 mm foam that is 4 mm wide (wing case).



5. Tie in perpendicularly a length of 2 mm foam 2mm behind the eye, using figure 8 wraps (eyes when clipped to size later). Return the thread to the tie in point of the thorax and use a dubbing loop to tie in rabbit dubbing up to the back of the eye foam.



6. Strip off fibers from the stem of brown or grey partridge or hen hackle. Tie in each bunch on both sides behind the eye, extended to the rear as shown.



7. Stretch and pull the foam over the top of the thorax eye foam and tie off behind the eye of the hook, then clip off the excess and whip finish. Clip off the eye roots to extend just past the body and use a black Sharpie to paint the eyes on the end.

