

Class #1-2022-23

Warming up with Soft Hackles – Instructor – Sherry Steele steelefly@msn.com

Welcome to the 2022-23 Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild Winter Series

This class will be a warm-up for the season. We will review color matters when fishing this fly and use the pattern from our well known club member John Kreft
<https://www.facebook.com/riverkeeperflies> (See John's pattern on page 2)

Soft Hackle Fly Color & Sizes

FLY	SIZE	Body	Under Wing	WING
BWO/Baetis	#16 – 24	Grayish-olive or olive brown	Gray or brown	Dark dun
Flav	#14 – 16	Olive	Gray	Dun
Green Drake	#10 – 12	Olive, ribbed w/yellow thread	Gray	Dun
Callibaetis	#14 – 18	Gray or tan	Gray	Hungarian partridge
March Brown	#10 – 12	Brown	Brown	Hungarian partridge
PMD	#14 – 18	Yellowish-olive	Gray	Dun
PMD-E1	#14/15, #16/17, #18/19	Canary Yellow	Olive Brown	Hungarian partridge
PMD-E2	#14/15, #16/17, #18/19	Canary Yellow Biot	Olive Brown	Hungarian partridge

RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple



Materials

Hook:	TMC 102Y #13 – 19 or any standard dry fly hook
Thread:	8/0 brown, tan, (yellow = Slough Creek), yellow PMD, olive dun, march brown or black
Body:	Superfine dubbing to match insect or use turkey biot
Thorax:	Zelon – mayfly brown, olive brown, dun, (Adams Grey = Slough Creek)
Hackle:	Hungarian partridge, Natural, mallard

The RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple is a style of fly that can be used for any mayfly cripple. Coordinate the thread and body color.

Directions:

1. Start thread on hook and advance to barb.
2. Dub slim tapered body forward to a position 2 eye lengths back from eye.
3. Tie in zelon on top of hook at thorax area. Tie in securely with 5 wraps as zelon is slick. Trim about 1/3 length of body.
4. Prepare a soft hackle feather by pulling off the excess fluff. Feather length should be to the hook point, or slightly longer.
5. Tie the feather in by the tips just behind the eye of the hook.
6. After securing the feather on the hook with the shiny side forward, hold the shaft and bend towards eye of hook. This begins to break the shaft. Hold the shaft up, moisten fingers and squeeze or “fold” the barbules so they are perpendicular to the shaft. This action forces the barbs backwards and prevents over-wrapping of barbs.
7. Wrap the feather forward with a wrap in front of a wrap. Over hackle the fly – a typical soft hackle uses 1 ½ turns of hackle. Use 2 or 3 turns of hackle to complete the fly (larger flies may need 3 to 4 turns).
8. Tie off the thick shaft on the side to fill in the space and create a small head. Trim stem.
9. Sweep hackles backward and add a few thread wraps to make small head.
10. Whip finish.

Fishing the fly

Traditional soft hackles are usually swung as a wet fly. I use it as a “dry fly/cripple” and try to fish it with a dead drift. Get the fly wet and apply Frogs Fanny on it so the fly sits in the film. It looks like a cripple at this point. When brushing on the Frogs Fanny, push the hackle back to get the hackle to stand up. Also apply Frogs Fanny to the body. If it sinks, put on more Frogs Fanny. **Thank you to John Kreft**
<http://www.johnkreft.com/> for this great pattern