

## ***Blue Winged Olive Soft Hackles***

When fishing with Michelle Lunebach and D.J. Mathieu at the Timber Coulee during the Lee Wulff Spring Outing, Michelle noticed a BWO hatch that the trout were going after quite actively. Although I had some BWO dries with me, which worked well, I didn't have any BWO soft hackles immediately available.

Based on the BWO dries that I purchased several years ago, I experimented in tying a couple – both with and without wings (too long in the enclosed pic), as follows:



- Hook –** Daiichi 1550 size 14 – 16 (wet fly hook)
- Thread –** Olive Pearsall Gossamer silk
- Body –** Olive colored dyed Heron or Canada goose herl (4 barbs)
- Ribbing –** Gold or olive colored wire
- \* Wings –** Optional) – Light to medium dun colored hen hackle tips
- Hackle –** Light to medium dun colored hen hackle

Although the commercially tied BWO dries that I had were tied without wire ribbing, because the heron or Canada goose herl can break quite easily, I decided to use a wire ribbing on these dressings.

Alternately, a BWO dry fly dubbing from Hareline or Fly Rite (without the wire ribbing) can be used for a closer match to the traditional BWO dries.

\* Note: Top two flies are winged and hackled while the bottom two have only hen hackle wraps.