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The Ubiquitous Woolly Bugger

By Cameron Larsen

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by: **Cameron Larsen**

The ubiquitous Woolly Bugger, never quite spelled correctly to my eyes, appeals to the eyes of every gamefish imaginable. If I had one pattern to fish the rest of my life, no matter what the fish, no matter what the conditions, this would be it. Steelhead, Trout, Salmon, Bass, Shad, Pike, you name it, they will hit this pattern. And the best thing? Usually the fish will be bigger than average, the strikes harder than average, and the action better than average.

The origins of the Woolly Bugger can be traced back to the Old English pattern the Woolly Worm, which is also a very effective pattern. Most credit Russell Blessing with the actual invention of the Woolly Bugger in the early 1970's in Pennsylvania. Although, Jack Dennis claims it is a variation of the Black Martinez popularized in the West. And still others claim it was originally a Bass imitation developed in the late 1800's in Missouri. Whatever the origins the popularity of this pattern cannot be denied.

Besides being used for all game fish, the Bugger's popularity can also be attributed to its versatility. It can be tied in almost every color imaginable. The most popular color's are black, brown and olive, with purple and white right behind. But almost every color has been tied, and different color combinations are often used on the same fly. Another characteristic that makes the bugger so popular, is that you can't fish it wrong. Okay if fish are slurping delicately on #24 Tri-co spinners, you don't want to plunk a #6 Bugger right in the center of them. But if you are searching sub-surface for any kind of fish, in any kind of water, you could do a lot worse than selecting the woolly bugger.

What fish think they are hitting when they hit a Bugger is somewhat a mystery. To human's eyes it could be a bait fish, a leech, a grub, a cricket, a stonefly, a dragonfly nymph, a damselfly nymph, the list is endless. And perhaps that is what makes it such a great all-purpose pattern. It is a nymph, a streamer, and an attractor all in one. We'll let the fish classify it.

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New twists on this pattern have even added to its effectiveness. Now usually tied with krystal flash or flashabou in its tail, for added attraction. A wire rib counter–wrapped through the hackle can also add flash and more importantly durability. It seems the history of the Bugger is still being written and while we all try ways to `improve' this most popular pattern. Fish, that put in a whole lot less thought about this pattern will curse the day Mr. Blessing or whoever first tied one on a hook.

Cameron Larsen is a retired commercial fly tier and fly fishing guide. He now operates The Big Y Fly Co. at

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Working At Home With Bugger And Pesto: A Tale Of Two Kitties

By Glenn Beach

My two cats have taught me many good home office habits. Most of these lessons have been learned the hard way, so maybe I can help you avoid the heartbreak of blank computer screens and other home office disasters by sharing a few tips I have learned along the way.

1. Save your work...again, and again, and again...

There are many ways to lose all your computer work. One of them is if your cat falls off the monitor onto your keyboard. (One for Bugger...)

2. Always treat your cat with the utmost respect (you are allowed to be excessive in this matter; the more subservient you are, and sometimes even downright grovelling, the better).

If you toss your cat off your desk out of anger, her first reaction is to take all paperwork with her. (Two for Bugger...)

3. If anything at all EVER goes wrong with your computer, first check the location of your cat.

One day I suddenly could not keep a window open on my computer. No matter what I did, no window would stay open, one would flicker on for a moment then disappeared again. I rebooted, that didn't help. Finally I moved my cat 1 centimeter to the left, away from the keyboard. Voila, problem solved. The cat was ever–so–slightly leaning on the Esc key. (One for Pesto...)

4. At the end of every work session, file all your paperwork. Do not leave a single scrap of paper on your desktop.

In this case, the excuse "the dog ate my homework" needs to be corrected by exchanging "cat" for

"dog". (Two for Pesto...)

5. Never drink while sitting at your desk.

When your cat tries to drink out of your glass, she may get her head stuck in it and then...you don't want to hear the rest, it's not pretty... (Three for Pesto...)

6. Work when it's time to work, play when it's time to play.

And don't play in your office, or your cats will come to expect it. Once your cat discovers the cursor, or anything else that moves on the computer screen, she will insist on playing. Typical behavior will include planting herself in front of the computer screen, mere millimeters away, for hours.

Or, if you play "offline" in your office with your cat, she may develop the habit of climbing your chest and oh-so-gently pushing your face away from looking at the monitor and towards looking at her. (One

for Pesto, one for Bugger, respectively...)

And of course if you have more than two cats, the lessons multiply exponentially.

If you do find that your furry friends are preventing you from conducting your home business, here is a helpful link, guaranteed to buy you some much-needed alone time:

"Cat Bathing as a Martial Art" by Bud Herron

Even cat bathing teaches valuable lessons to a home business owner, for cat bathing requires perseverance and courage of conviction.

Now that you've learned these valuable lessons, good fortune with your home business (and with your pets). You are now armed withjhgj (The rest of this article has been deleted by Bugger)

Glenn Beach is a self-employed subcontractor and home business entrepreneur at:

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