

The Green Machine - An Atlantic Salmon Wet Fly



For summer Atlantic salmon fishing my first choice is usually a dry fly, but if it fails I'll try a wet fly. Wet salmon flies can be grouped into 8 types: Buck Bugs, Butterflies, hair wing, feather wing, Spey or Dee flies, shrimp flies, slimes and streamers. In summer the most popular wet flies for freshwater angling are Buck Bugs, Butterflies, and small hair wings.

My first choice of a wet fly is usually a Buck Bug such as the Green Machine, a great fly that originated

on New Brunswick's Miramichi River. It's creator is said to be John Lyons, who worked at the WW Doak & Sons fly shop in Doaktown, NB. John tied literally thousands of Green Machines each season for sale at the shop.

The Green Machine has become known as "the people's fly", a fly that works well for all of us. It is one of those flies that seem to appeal to a salmon's playful side, sometimes drawing multiple rises or takes to a single cast.

Green Machine

Hook –	Wet fly hook such as Mustad 3399A or Tiemco TMC7999 in sizes 6 - 12
Thread –	Black
Tag -	Fine oval silver tinsel, 3 – 4 turns
Butt -	A double-butt of chartreuse then fluorescent red floss or Uni-Stretch
Body Hackle -	Fiery brown cock neck or saddle hackle
Body –	Machine green dyed deer hair
Head -	Black thread finished with 2 coats of head cement

Unlike the Bomber dry fly, Buck Bugs require no tail to provide floatation, are tied on heavier wet fly hooks, are sparsely hackled, are generally tied in smaller sizes and have slimmer bodies. In other words, Bombers are tied to float and Buck Bugs are designed to sink. However, many anglers like to fish a salmon fly both wet and dry, so they combine the two designs for energy-saving efficiency, a sign of the times.