

Fly of the Month



Foxy Baitfish

As tied by Logan Valeri

What you need/materials

Hook: Size 1-4 Standard J hook such as Mustad 34007; **thread:** 3/0 Red; **tail:** White Arctic Fox Fur
flash: Pearl Flashabou; **body:** White EP Foxy Brush

1. Begin wrapping the thread around the hook shank towards the bend of the hook. You want this fly to be mostly tied towards the bend of the hook.
2. Select a clump of white arctic fox fur and pull out the "fluff" or shorter fibers. Wrap this onto the hook shank right near the bend and trim the excess. You want the tail to be slightly longer than the shank.
3. Tie in two or three strands of pearl flashabou on each side of the fox tail. Trim them so that they are even with the fox tail.
4. Take the foxy brush and pull out a few of the fibers near the end of the brush wire so that you will only be wrapping the wire onto the hook. Wrap the wire on and begin to wrap the brush from the tail towards the eye of the hook about three or four times. Tie it down and use pliers or wire cutters to cut the brush because it is wire.
5. Make sure you push the wire down with your fingers so that it does not cut the thread.
6. Build a small thread head, whip finish and apply head cement. The majority of the fly should be tied toward the back of the hook, with much of the shank left exposed.

Fishing Report and Forecast

"What a great time to go fishing!"

August 2014

Don't Forget About Structure

What's hot: Early morning and moving water will offer great fly-fishing opportunities.

Most bridges are loaded with baitfish as well as crabs. Predators such as baby tarpon, jack, snook, red and black drum and pompano have never been in larger numbers in these locations. Tarpon can be



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seen rolling and usually give you a location where they are concentrated. Snook make a telltale pop or scatter baitfish as they feed.

Technique: Have one 8- or 9-weight rod rigged with a white surface popper and floating line. The second rod should have a clear sinking tip and a baitfish imitation similar to what you see in the water. Both should have 30- to 40-pound shock tippets to prevent breakoffs and give you some authority to keep hooked fish away from barnacle-encrusted abutments. If fish aren't sighted, cast to abutments allowing the current to swing your offerings to the fish's anticipated location. They will be close to structure.

Tip: Anchoring limits your ability to not only cover more water but also get larger hooked fish into open water to level the playing field. This is where an electric motor is valuable. As the sun comes up, the bridge also offers shade to keep you and the fish cool. **Members' catches/reports:** The beach snook are here. The farther south you go, the better the fishing. Sarasota beaches, in general, produce better than those near Tampa and St. Pete. It's not even close in terms of quantity. Better water clarity and fewer beach walkers make a huge difference. It's worth the drive.

Pat Damico/Mike Hodge