

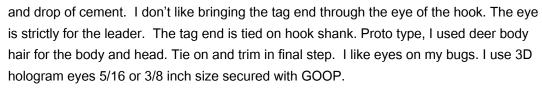
ummer of 2008 did not look good. Gasoline was selling for over \$ 4.gal. Living in Marlborough, MA, the drive was too far for me to fish in the salt. It was clear to me. I had to stay close to home.

I've been a fly tyer and fisherman for over sixty years. I have tied bugs with deer body hair to imitate frogs, mice, dragonflies, damsel flies, etc. It was a warm summer afternoon I watched a snake swimming. I don't like snakes. This was a small snake about seven inches. He was crossing a small sheltered bay. Nearing some lily pads I saw a wake from a nearby pocket in the pads. The snake was too much for the bass to ignore. He came out of the water with the slivering critter in his mouth.



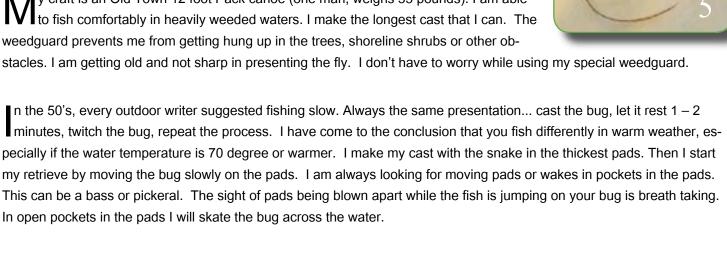
had trouble sleeping thinking about the sight I had witnessed. In bass bugging I love surface strikes. I had tied flies to imitate all kinds of creatures why not tie something that looks like a snake. In the morning I got my fly tying kit out on the patio table. If you have ever used a Sluggo it's amazing to see such lure action. I wanted the same effect in my bug tying. I selected long saddle hackle, the type we use for salt water flat wing flies, for the tail. The bug had to be weedless. I selected 50 pound mono. I have a special way of tying. I secure the end near the bend of the hook with thread





or my equipment, I use an 8 ½ foot fiberglass or bamboo fly rod for 8 wgt line, or a graphite 9 footer for seven wgt. line. I load each rod with 9-weight, floating, weightforward line. To that I add a 5 foot straight piece of 20 lb mono, fluorocarbon, or 25 lb test Berkley Big Game. The purpose of short leader is that I don't want to lose any bass in the weeds or lily pads. I don't worry about knots.

y craft is an Old Town 12 foot Pack canoe (one man, weighs 33 pounds). I am able weedguard prevents me from getting hung up in the trees, shoreline shrubs or other ob-



iving in Marlborough, MA, I look for ponds with heavy milfoil, lily pads and stumps. These are the areas with good populations of water snakes. I don't worry about color combinations in my snake bugs. It's the free action of the tail and movement of the head (actually the deer body hair) that drive the bass wild.











My best largemouth this year on the snake bug is five pounds. The season is not over!

AJC

If you would care to see the video paste this into your browser.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI59wMCU\_gU&list=UUfnOgTbHHkWxlw3iXkoUtsA