Bob Heil, Jr and the ICE DUB MINNOW:

A number of years ago, I was fishing the Yough River for Smallmouth Bass using a Shenk’s Minnow, when an idea begin to develop in my head about an all-around great fly for Smallies.  It took a little while to finally come up with what I call the “Ice Dubbed Minnow”. It is Marabou, Krystal Flash, Acrylic Yarn, and Ice dubbing.  Not a whole lot of sexy materials but it does do one thing very well, it gets many different species of fish to notice it, grab it, and be hooked by it!

Whether you are fishing the Ice Dubbed Minnow on a floating line just below the surface or an intermediate or full sinking line in the deeper depths this sexy fly knows how to turn the fish on! Whether it is the flowing action of the Marabou tail or the erratic side to side kick that the fly produces, it just a fish-catching fly.  It is so cool to watch the fish react to this fly as it darts and dances thru the water and suddenly disappears because a fish has fallen prey to its tantalizing action

It has taken all different kinds of fish: both small and large-mouth bass, trout, walleye, hybrid stripe bass, bluegills, musky, and pike.

On two recent trips this spring, one to the Seven Springs Resort and another to Beaver Creek Trout Club, the Ice Dubbed Minnow was the Fly of the Day.  At Seven Springs it was the Traditional Pearl Ice Dubbed Minnow that made the Day a Success. At Beaver Creek Trout Anglers it was an All-Black Ice Dubbed Minnow that was the Fly of the Day!  In both cases, many fish were brought to hand because of the Ice Dubbed Minnow!

The Ice Dubbed Minnow is well worth a try no matter what type of fish species you are fishing for!  Remember one thing when you are fly fishing, it's all about having fun!

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Hook: Umpqua Stainless Steel U401 in sizes 2,4,6,8

Thread: white, prefer 8/0 but can use 6/0

Tail: White Marabou 2 pieces 2 to 4 times the length of the hook shank

Flash: Pearl Krystal Flash, 2 strands cut a little longer than the tail tied in on each side

Underbody: 100% Acrylic White Yarn wrapped to form an underbody in the shape of a minnow

Body: Pearl Ice Dub put into a dubbing loop and wrapped forward over the underbody.  Tie it off and brush with a tooth brush to pull some of the Ice Dub fibers out and back towards the tail.

Here’s a photo of the real deal: It’s been wet down to show the profile. Very poufy in the water.

