



10-2013

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Recommended Citation

Peterson, Shane (2013) "Mayfly," *Inscape*: Vol. 33 : No. 1 , Article 24.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/inscape/vol33/iss1/24>

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MAYFLY

by **Shane Peterson**

Under the bush leaves
a mayfly lands, its wings
folded and still,

forming a cross with its body,
bowing its head and all six knees
as if in prayer.

There it plants its seed,
dabbing its pregnant tail,
using a dead leaf for support

like a wooden bedpost,
heaving, grinding up and down
into the mud and earth.