

The Fly Tyer's Corner by Jeff Hoelter

Skating Caddis

A couple of months ago I wrote about a fly called the CDC Elk Hair Caddis. This month I will build on that theme with a fly called the Skating Caddis.

Sometimes you will see insects that just can't quite break away from the surface of the water so they skitter and take a couple of jumps before getting airborne. The dry fly hackle in this pattern allows you fish it slowly until you get to the end of the drift, then raise the rod tip and let the fly skip across the surface a few times before you cast again. This extra movement may be just enough to trigger a strike. I believe this method should work equally well with a Tenkara rig.

If you have any questions, bring them to the AFF meeting or take advantage of all the tying talent available at Sportsmans Finest on Tuesday evenings and Living Waters Fly Fishing on Wednesday evenings.

Materials

Hook: TMC 101 size 12 to 18

Thread: GSP 50 or 100

CDC body: olive, tan, yellow, or black. (extra points for a red/yellow "Yellow Sally" combo)

Wing: Elk hair

Hackle: grizzly or barred dry fly hackle in colors to match body

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| TMC | 101 | SIZE | 12 | QTY | 25 |
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STRAIGHT EYE, 1X FINE, WIDE GAPE, FORGED, BRONZE

Step 1: Wrap a thread base down the length of the hook and bring the thread back to the half way point. Tie in one or two CDC feathers by the tip.



Steps 3: Grip the CDC with hackle pliers and twist it a couple of times into a rope. As you wrap forward, you may need to add another twist or two with each wrap. When you get to the 1/4 mark, tie off and trim the excess.



Step 2: Wrap the CDC down to the bend of the hook and return the thread to about 1/4 the length of the shank back from the eye.



Step 4: Trim the CDC that hangs below the hook shank.



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Steps 5: Cut and clean a small bunch of elk hair and even the tips in a stacker. Tie it in, trim the butts at an angle and clean up the wraps. The tips of the hair should not extend far past the hook bend.



Step 6: Select the hackle and tie it in by the butt. Wrap forward 6 or 7 touching wraps (or as many as you can leaving room for a clean head). Trim the excess. You can take a marker and color a couple of inches of the GSP thread before you apply the whip finish.



Step 7: Here I trimmed some of the straggly CDC at the back of the fly. The finished product.....just add water.

