



# SANTIAM FLYCASTERS

SANTIAMFLYCASTERS.COM

April 2022

## April SFC Meeting (Online and In Person)

**Presenter: Rob Perkins: Owner/Operator Connect Outfitters**  
<https://connectoutfitters.com>

Rob was fortunate to have grown up in the Pacific Northwest, spending the majority of the summer in Pacific City pursuing the many fishing opportunities in the region. By the age of 17 was exploring the Pacific Ocean with friends from their classic 1960 double ended dory in search of rockfish and salmon.

Rob's primary focus is on fly fishing for salmon, steelhead, tuna and rockfish on the North Oregon Coast. He has been fly fishing, tying flies, and fishing from a dory for over 30 years.



When not fishing you will find Rob advocating for our wild places, enjoying the outdoors, fly tying, and woodworking. Building wooden boats is a passion, having built drift boats and Pacific City dories. In July of 2021 Rob and his wife Erin completed the latest dory, "Vision," A 23' Pacific City dory.

## Board Meeting By Zoom/ In Person

April 11

6:30 pm

## General Meeting

April 14

7:00 pm

## Zoom and In Person

### New Location:

### Broadway Commons

### Fly Tying Session

April 20 Los Arcos

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## President's Corner By Scott Vaslev

It is getting that time of year where we need to grab campsites for our summer and fall outings. As a matter of fact, it could be too late. If you're new to the camp site sweepstakes let me give you a brief tutorial.

You are allowed by the US Forest Service ([recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)) to reserve campsites 6 months prior to the day of arrival i.e., you can reserve

a spot at say Lava Lake on September 15<sup>th</sup> by getting online and reserving it on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Each individual campground has a minimum or maximum time you can stay. Most around here are a minimum of 2 nights if booking online or a maximum of two weeks. If you want to book for the weekend, it might be wise to book a day or two prior to the weekend to secure a spot. There are penalties for not showing up, most will hold your reservation for one day then the penalties will kick in. Last year at Hosmer, two of the primo campsites at Mallard Marsh were tied up for a week or more and no one showed up the whole time I was there. So what if the people get a fine the campsites were not being used?

There is also pressure from other recreational activities on some of our favorite lakes. Take Hosmer Lake for example. Campsites were plentiful before the paddle boarders and kayakers (and possibly Covid) discovered the place. Again, last year it looked like half the sites were people of that ilk, not fly fishers.

One thing our club is trying to do is give members a six month heads up when an outing is planned so you can get online and book. Then a week or so prior to the event the sponsor will give any info like type of flies, gear, or whether we are sponsoring a lunch.

If for some reason you can't decide 6 months ahead of time whether you're going or not, get on our members website and inquire if someone has room at their site. Our members are generally generous in this regard.

Another choice is to just drive up and hope to get a first come first serve (Fly Fishing) site. As Clint Eastwood said in his Dirty Harry movie, "Do you feel lucky punk!?"

One of our club's favorite outings is Gold Lake. It is all Fly Fishing there with a limited number of sites. As a club sponsor of that event either me or an appointed representative will go up a couple of days prior and grab a spot on the lake. So far, we have been lucky. Normally we will double or even triple up at campsites, so everyone has a place to sleep and launch their boats.

So, there you have it. It is not perfect but works in most cases. If I have one beef it is that out-of-staters are charged the same rate as we are, hopefully that will change.



### Fly Tying Session



If you have been frustrated about not being able to get together, tie some flies, and exchange a bit of fly fishing talk, you're in luck!

Since COVID seems to be on the decline, we are resuming our informal fly tying sessions. The first one will be on Wednesday, April 20, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Los Arcos Mexican Grill at 4120 Commercial Street SE.

Come and enjoy some tasty Mexican food and bring some fly tying stuff to tie flies afterward. We will send an e-mail beforehand to select a fly for that evening or you can tie the fly of your choice. These sessions are for persons with any and all levels of experience. Or, just come to enjoy the camaraderie!

## ***Renew Your Santiam Flycasters Membership***



If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2022, time is running out. Use the form at the back of the newsletter or download the form from the Santiam Flycasters website. Membership fees support those great monthly speaker programs, 20+ outings, casting clinics, newsletters, website, YouTube Channel videos, and everything else we do. Not sure if you have already renewed your membership for 2022? Send a query to [santiamflycasters@yahoo.com](mailto:santiamflycasters@yahoo.com).

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### ***April 13 Cheadle Pond Outing***

On Wednesday, April 13, we will fish Cheadle Pond in Lebanon for bluegill and bass. Although a floating device allows one to fish more water, the hiking trail around the pond allows access to a lot of shoreline.

To get there, drive I-5 south to Exit 228, turn left (east) onto Highway 34, near Lebanon follow the right lane as it turns onto Airport Road, and follow it to Cheadle Park on the right side about a mile past the intersection with Highway 20.

Suggested gear is 3-5 weight rods with floating line. Fly patterns include almost any beadhead pattern in size 8-12 for the bluegill and maybe a bit bigger for bass. Although fish will be found throughout the pond, you will find good fishing along the shore where they should be spawning. Hopefully, the weeds will not hinder us too much.

Ken Karnosh is the outing sponsor. E-mail him at [kenkarnosh@gmail.com](mailto:kenkarnosh@gmail.com) if you have a question.

The club will not provide a meal, so remember your lunch.

### ***April 23 McKenzie River Outing***

We will float and fish the McKenzie River on April 23, river level permitting, from Hayden Bridge to Armitage Park, a distance of about 8 miles. A pontoon or drift boat is needed for this trip.

We will meet at Armitage Park at 8:00 a.m. to combine boats and shuttle up to Hayden Bridge. To get there, drive I-5 south to Exit 99 (Coburg), turn right for about a mile to Coburg, turn left at the signal onto Coburg Road, and drive south across the river to Armitage Park on your right. You will need to buy a \$4 parking pass through the Lane County Parks website.

Suggested gear is 4-6 weight rods with floating line or a Euro-nymphing setup. For nymphing in cold water, a heavy fly, trailed with a nymph, midge pupa, or soft hackle, fished close to the bottom can be productive. For swinging, use a beadhead possie bugger or similar fly trailed by a soft hackle or other wet fly. After mid-day, swinging just a soft hackle can be productive or there may be a hatch.

Hopefully, we will find March Brown mayflies, so bring soft hackles, emergers, etc., as well as normal searching patterns like possie buggers and prince nymphs. Other caddis and stonefly pupa, nymphs, and possibly dries can be successful, as are midge pupa and BWO patterns. Euro-nymph patterns also should be successful.

Kevin Finkenbiner is the outing sponsor. E-mail him at [kfinkenbiner@gmail.com](mailto:kfinkenbiner@gmail.com) if you have a question.

The club will not provide a meal, so remember your lunch as well as PFD, wading staff, etc.

## Annual Club Auction (June 2022)

The Annual Club Auction is rescheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2022 and we are in the process of planning this important event for the club. The money we generate from the Annual Auction provides the funding for many of our activities throughout the year.

**Planning Committee.** Fortunately, most of those on the committee last year have volunteered again to lead the efforts in planning, preparation, and conducting the auction. There are five sub-committees and leads for each sub-committee. We need volunteers to assist in each of these committees. If you are interested in being a part of a particular committee, please contact the committee lead.

Setup/Cleanup Committee: Ken Karnosh

Cashier: Tim Johnson

Silent Auction: Scott Vaslev

Bucket/Live Auction: Dennis Burnett, Kevin Finkenbinder (Auctioneer)

Advertisement: Kent Toomb

FFI Donations: Bob LeClerc

**Auction Item Donations.** Members provide many of the items we offer at the auction. If you have any fly-fishing gear that you no longer need or use, you can donate it to the club for the auction. We also accept various outdoor gear, supplies, etc. The most popular item during these auctions are flies. If you are a good tier and want to tie flies that we can use in the auction we'd appreciate it. The club can provide fly boxes to put your flies in for the auction. A box typically has 20 flies in it with a particular theme (Stillwater flies, moving water, steelhead/salmon flies, euro nymphs, dry flies, etc.) You can bring any items you want to donate to the general meetings or contact one of the officers/board members to arrange pickup.

**Food and Drinks.** Due to current COVID Environment we will not serve any food or drinks during the auction. As we get closer to the event, this could change. We will keep you posted in subsequent newsletters.

### Tentative Timeline.

4:30pm	Doors open for setup
6:00pm – 7:15pm	Silent Auction/View Bucket & Live Auction Items/
7:15pm	Silent Auction Closes
7:30pm – 8:30pm	Live/Bucket Auction

**Location.** We are working out the details but currently plan to have the auction at the Pringle Park Community Building. More info to follow in subsequent newsletters.

If you have any questions, you can contact the lead Auction Planner, Ricky Love, at (253) 320-5699 or [rickylove20@aol.com](mailto:rickylove20@aol.com).

## Welcome New Members in March

Bonnie Briggs, Salem

Tim Hodges, Salem

Wes Craven, Salem

## 2022 SFC Outing Schedule

April 13 (Wed)	Cheadle Pond (bluegill/bass)
April 23	McKenzie River (Hayden-Armitage)
May 11 (Wed)	Silverton Reservoir
May 14	Deschutes River (Warm Springs-Trout Creek)
May 21	Olalla Reservoir
June 1 (Wed)	Crane Prairie Reservoir (Rock Creek)
June 15 (Wed)	Umpqua River (shad)
June 25	East Lake
July 2	North Santiam River
July 6 (Wed)	Gold Lake
July 20 (Wed)	Three Creek Lake
July 30	South Santiam River (Pleasant Valley-Bates Br.)
August 13	Willamette River (Keizer Rapids-Wheatland for (smallmouth bass)
August 20	Diamond Lake <b>CANCELLED</b>
August 31 (Wed)	North Santiam River (Shelburn-Greens Bridge)
September 10	Hosmer Lake
September 21 (Wed)	Walton Lake
October 8	Crooked River
October 12 (Wed)	McKenzie River
October 22	Deschutes River (Warm Springs-Trout Creek)
November 2 (Wed)	Mid. Fk. Willamette River (Below Dexter)
November 12	Detroit Lake

## August 20 Diamond Lake Outing Cancelled

We have decided to cancel our planned August 20 outing to Diamond Lake. It was just not possible to get a campsite at a spot where we could beach our boats near the campsite.

## **March Crooked River Outing Report**

### **By Kevin Finkenbiner**



We had a smaller turnout for this spring's Crooked River outing. Four of us braved high gas prices and snowy mountain passes to make the trip. The weather was great for March – highs in the mid 60's but a little breezy.

Tim Johnson, Jon Stubenvoll and I arrived Friday afternoon. The canyon, as usual was beautiful. The river continues to be on the low side with only about 50 cfs flow from the dam due to the ongoing drought conditions. The water was also turbid, due to the low level in the reservoir, making wading a challenge as rocks were very slick and not visible. A wading staff was a necessity. Water temperature was about 42 F and a few sporadic rising fish were observed. I had the best luck that afternoon and netted five trout before dark on small (size 16-20) Frenchies and Red Darts. Tim and Jon caught a single fish each. We camped at Cobble Rock Campground and had a nice campfire and enjoyed the evening.

The next morning, we each headed different directions and we each came back to camp at noon without a single netted fish. John Barrett joined us while Tim cooked up his famous burgers and we discussed strategy for the afternoon. Tim decided to return to Salem and hopefully miss the snow forecast for Santiam Pass. The rest of us again headed different directions to test our new theories.

I had the best luck and netted 30 fish, mostly trout 9-12 inches long, over the next four hours. The secret sauce was a size 20 Diabaetis nymph fished dead drift with an indicator. The Diabaetis is basically a zebra midge with a tail and small UV ice dub hot spot. Most of the fish came out of the slower water at the tail end of riffles and slower pockets behind boulders. The water temp had risen from 38 F in the morning to about 43 F at 2:30 PM. I did spot a few rising fish but stayed with the nymph pattern as it was producing. Unfortunately, John and Jon did not have the same luck I enjoyed. They each managed to net one fish. Action turned off about 5 PM as the temperature dropped.

Sunday morning was cooler with an overcast sky. It rained some overnight, but the water temp was a bit warmer than the day before at 41 F. I fished the "guide hole" just downstream from the campground for a couple hours before heading home and managed to net 8 whitefish, all on a size 18 Frenchie. Unfortunately, no trout were netted. I again used an indicator and all fish came out of the slower water.

Though the turnout from the club was light it was another good outing. Fishing pressure was very light – we only saw about a half dozen other anglers. The campfires each night were a nice treat as we watched the stars and munched on cookies – a poor substitute for Ricky's cobbler.

This is a very fun, and sometimes challenging, fishery that does not require a drift boat or pontoon. There is another outing planned this fall for the Crooked River and I hope to see more of us on the water in October. And, with any luck, we can get Ricky to make cobbler as a further incentive!

Tight Lines!

Kevin Finkenbiner

### **How to join the April SFC Meeting --**

This month's speaker meeting is a hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting. Participants can join the meeting using either Zoom or by attending in-person.

The Zoom link will be emailed to members twice: one day, and also approximately one hour prior to the start of the meeting. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. If you are not a Santiam Flycasters member, you can request the Zoom link by sending an email to [santiamflycasters@yahoo.com](mailto:santiamflycasters@yahoo.com) at least one day prior to the day of the meeting.

This month, participants can also attend the meeting in-person. The in-person gathering will be held at the Broadway Commons/Coffeehouse, [1300 Broadway Street, NE, Salem](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1300+Broadway+Street,+Salem,+OR). There is parking at the rear of the building. Enter the Coffeehouse through the doors at the southeast corner of the building (facing the parking lot). Follow signs to elevators and up to the Mexico Room on the third floor. There are no stairs to the third floor, Masks and social distancing are required inside the building.

If you have questions, contact Tim Johnson, [santiamflycasters@yahoo.com](mailto:santiamflycasters@yahoo.com), 503-507-8552

## Crooked River Outing Album



Tim Johnson fishing the "Guide Hole" near the campground



Tim Johnson and John Barrett



Tim Johnson and Kevin Finkenbiner



John Stubenvoll wrestling with 6x tippet and a size 20 fly



Photo of Crooked River rainbow - note the cased caddis on the size 20 nymph. A number of drifts snagged cased caddis on the bottom and this fish did not mind

## *My Hexagenia Experience*

### *By Beth Jappay*

It is spring and time to start planning if you want to try for Hexagenia this year. Here is an article I started last summer:



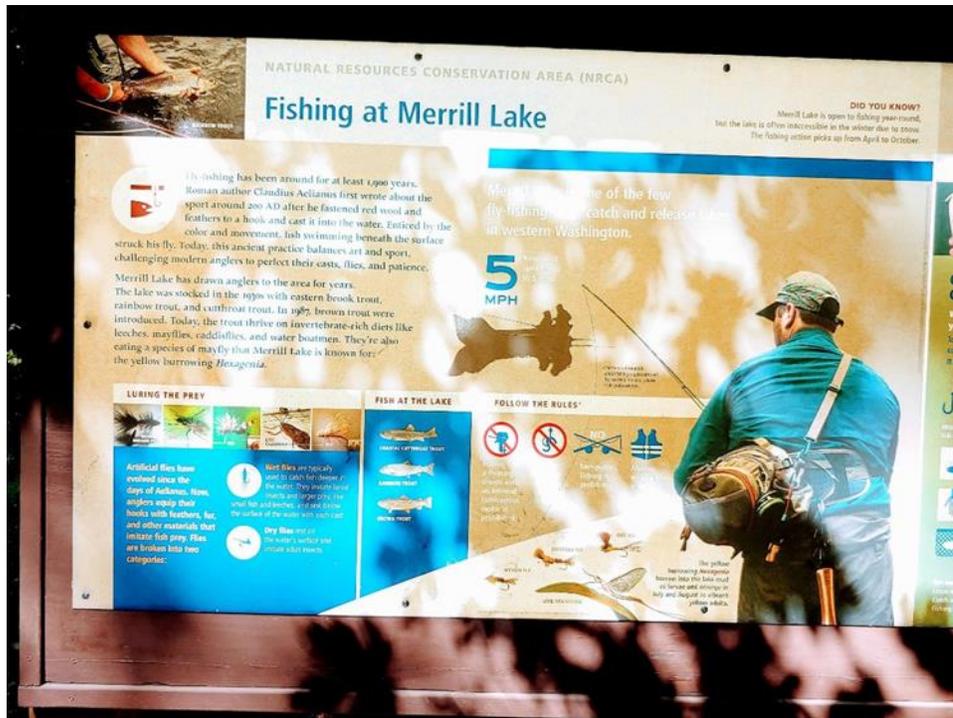
The Hexagenia hatch is one of the most exciting of hatches a fly fisherman can experience. It's a huge fly and quite a big morsel for fish, and the rises can be explosive and wild. There are only a few places on the west coast that have Hexagenia, and the hatch is limited to a few weeks in late spring or early summer, mainly occurring between sunset and full dark. In Oregon the Hex hatch is best known at Timothy Lake and Lost Lake, and to a lesser extent at Clear Lake. There is also a hex hatch on a few areas of the Williamson River. In California there is a famous Hex hatch in late May/early June on the Fall River and on the west shore of Lake Almanor, as well as at the private Henderson Springs Ranch. In Washington Lake Merrill has a Hex hatch during much of late June and early July.

Hexagenia Limbata aka "the giant mayfly" is the largest of the mayfly species, achieving as much as a 3.5 cm length (not including tail or antennae). It is in the category of "burrowing" mayflies requiring a mud-bottomed lake or slow-moving river. During the day it lives in a u-shaped burrow, using its gills to move oxygenated water and its detritus sustenance through its burrow.



At night it leaves its burrow to find other food, and on occasion to molt. After a 2-year lifespan as a nymph it will emerge in mass, usually between sundown and full dark. Like all mayflies the initial insect emerges as a dun or "subimago" form. It flies to a resting spot and molts one more time to become a spinner. In the next 24 hours it mates, lays its eggs on the water, and dies.

My first Hexagenia experience was four years ago, when Shandy invited me to join her at Lake Merrill, WA.



It was the second week of July and I found the local campground was really meant only for tenting. We slept in the parking lot for those 2 nights, me in my RV and she in her van.

The lake is 280 acres and quite deep in the center. It is fly-fishing, catch and release only. It has brook trout, cutthroat, rainbow and some large brown trout. Fortunately, much of the best fishing for this hatch is right near the boat launch. That first year I had tied up some dry fly patterns on 3x long dry fly hooks, and had tied some emergers Shandy had recommended as well. Very frustratingly both nights I had multiple takes but very few hook-ups. I later decided that since most of the fish were in the 8-12" ranges their mouths were just too little for my long hooks. We discovered that daytime fishing was pretty slow on the lake (the fish were probably still digesting flies from the night before). Instead one day we went on a local river in our pontoons, searching (unsuccessfully) for steelhead.

The next year I arrived on my own, bringing my fish finder. I discovered that during the day large fish were hanging out at a 20' depth at the center of the lake, and I ended up catching a 25" brown trout on my version of a hexagenia nymph, trolling with a type 5 full sinking line. That evening Shandy joined me and at sunset there were so many fish splashing on the surface at the peak of the hatch that her dog wouldn't stop barking. I had my newest extended foam body dry pattern and had good success with it, catching as many as 6 fish in one evening.

Last March, while ladder fishing at Pyramid Lake, I overheard one of my neighbors talking about a Hexagenia hatch at Henderson Springs Ranch. Henderson Springs is a fly-fishing retreat located near Burney Falls, east of Redding, CA. When I lived in California I used to book a trip to Henderson Springs almost every year with a group from Kiene's Fly Shop, but 20 years ago there were no Hexagenia. Intrigued, I scheduled a 4 day trip there the second week of May (which was the only opening left). I spoke to Mark Henderson (who remembered me from 20 years earlier) and he warned me I would probably be too early for the hatch, but since the weather was warm I might catch the beginning. Well, turns out he was right but I had a great time anyway, catching big fish on ant and Callibaetis dries.

Last July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend I again traveled to Lake Merrill in my RV, planning on trying new dry and nymph Hex patterns, but my RV broke down 6 miles short of my destination. Due to high volume I had to wait 24 hours for a tow to Vancouver, and I never made it to the lake that weekend.



The next Thursday my son dropped me off at the repair shop in Vancouver, and after picking up my rig I kept going and this time made it to Merrill Lake.



I once again camped in the parking lot. That weekend it was particularly crowded--I found out later there was a concert with a live band on the opposite shore and people were constantly paddling back and forth across the lake.

The surface temp of the lake for this trip was over 70 degrees due to record highs two weeks prior. Probably due to that high surface temp the hatch was sparse and the surface activity was slow. After a disappointing first night the next day I changed to fishing my nymph imitations on my midge tip line with better but not great success.

This year I have already booked a room at Henderson Springs for the third week of May, and plan to travel to Lake Merrill the last week of June and/or the first week of July. Over the winter I came up with new dry and emerger patterns, tying up two boxes—one for me and an extra one for the club auction.



If you are interested in trying for Hexagenia and have questions, feel free to contact me through the club.

**April Fly of the Month**  
**Skimming Caddis**  
**By Jim Ferguson**



### Materials

- Thread:** Dark Brown, Black, Olive, Gray, Tan or your choice to match natural or body color
- Hook:** Dry fly, size 12 to 16 with some 18's thrown in
- Side Wings:** Duck Quill, width equal to about ½ width of gap and reinforced with lacquer or flex seal  
 Be sure to let dry before mounting
- Body:** Hare's Ear dubbing (or other colors to match natural)
- Dubbing Ball:** Same as body or darker shade
- Under-wing:** CDC, White and/or natural
- Over-wing:** Dyed dark gray deer hair (sparse)

This fly is from an article written by Dave McNeese for the Winter 2022 issue of *Fly Fishing and Tying Journal*. The article does give step-by-step directions and also tells you several ways to fish this fly. Dave mentions he likes to fish this fly with a quartered downstream cast. Some drag is needed to create the "V" track in the water surface. Below is my step-by-step directions for tying the Skimming Caddis.

## Step-By-Step Directions

1. Mount de-barbed hook in the vise. Attach tying thread to the shank about 1 eye length back from eye and wrap a thread base to the rear as in Fig. #1. Spin some dubbing for the body onto the tying thread as in Fig.#2.



Fig. #1



Fig. #2

2. Wrap the dubbed body material forward to cover about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the shank as in Fig. #3. Select CDC plumes for the underwing. The number of plumes will depend on the size of the hook. For the size 12 hook I used two plumes. Color can vary. If you are concerned about seeing the fly on the water, you might consider using white or one white and one natural or dun. Mount the CDC on top of the shank at the front of the body. Length can vary. The ends of the CDC on my ties ended around the end of the shank as in Fig. #4. Trim the waste.



Fig. #3



Fig.#4

3. Form a round dubbing ball in front of the body and at the base of the CDC underwing as in Fig.#5. I used a slightly darker shade for this ball. Most thoraxes are darker than body color. Side wings are made from duck quills. The width of the side wing is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the width of the gap distance. These wing slips should be made prior to starting to tie the fly. They need to be reinforced with Flex-Seal or lacquer on the concave side and set aside to dry completely. Fig. #6 shows a pair of prepared wing slips.



Fig. #5



Fig. #6

4. Mount the side-wings one at a time. Start with the wing on the far side as in Fig. #7. The tip of the wing is up and the wing extends past the body and CDC underwing. This wing is mounted along the side of the body. The dubbing ball is there to let the wing splay out a little. Don't let the wing fibers split. A soft loop or two around the wing fibers will help in keeping the fibers from splitting. Slowly tighten the thread and then secure with 2 or 3 wraps of thread. Fig. #8 shows the mounted far side wing. Don't cut the waste yet.



Fig/ #7



Fig.#8

Mount the near side wing making sure the tips of the wings are at the same place and the near wing and far wing are set at same angle as in Fig. #9. Pretend you don't see the slight fold on the bottom of the near wing. Fig. #10 shows a view of the fly from the top showing the slight flare of the wings away from the body. Trim off the quill wing waste.



Fig. #9



Fig.#10

5. Prepare the over-wing mounting site by wrapping a smooth but small thread base in front of the side wing mounting position as in Fig. #11. Prepare the deer hair over-wing material by cleaning out the underfur. Stack the hair to even up the hair tips. This wing will lay on top of the shank and over the CDC. The thickness of the deer wing should be on the sparse side. I pre-glue the deer hair where it is held between my thumb and middle finger. I also place a small drop of lacquer on the shank at the mounting site. This pre-glue step helps in compressing the deer hair with less flair. Mount the deer hair on top of the shank at the front, leaving the waste sticking out over the eye of the hook as in Fig. #12. This wing bundle will often push the side wing down which you might have to fiddle with after securing the deer hair. Lift the deer hair waste and make some wraps under the waste and between the tie down position and the eye of the hook. Make a whip finish behind the eye. Apply head cement on the wraps. By not trimming the deer hair waste, you can lift it up to cement the front wraps. Clean out the eye of the hook.



Fig.# 11



Fig.#12

6. Trim the deer hair waste at an angle that matches the wing set. This is like the head of an elk hair caddis. Fig. #13 shows the completed fly. The quill side wings may have to be adjusted if they got pushed down during the deer wing mounting procedure.



Fig. #13

Think of this fly as a version of an emerging caddis swimming along the surface making a “V” wave on the water. Read McNeese’s article if you can. He describes how he got the idea for the fly and how to fish it.

