Ozark Fly Fishers, Inc.

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Fly of the Month
By Mike Ott

Snowshoe Caddis

Here in Missouri, what we lack in mayflies we more than make up for in caddis. While I really enjoy our little BWOs and PMDs, they do not generate nearly the interest as our prolific caddis emergences draw – for both fish and fly fishermen. Few bugs draw more fish up to feed on the top chasing the emergers swimming to the surface, the fluttering and skittering adults, and the bouncing and diving egg-laying flies. In addition, caddis are kind of chunky, bushy, motley bugs. Not too big, not too small. Not too technical or difficult to tie. This fly can actually imitate all three phases of caddis "hatches". It can be an emerger, an adult, and an egg-laying dun.

Hook: TMC100 or other dry fly hook #14-18
Thread: 8/0 – 12/0 brown or olive
Egg Sack: Caddis Green Z-Lon
Body: Hare's Ear Dubbing – your choice of color
Wing: Natural Snowshoe Hare hair
Head: Natural Hare's Ear Dubbing

1) Secure hook in vise and start thread behind hook eye and cover hook shank with thread.
2) Tie in a small bunch of Caddis Green Z-Lon as a tail and trim to about 1/3rd the hook shank.
3) Dub a full but tapered body of hare's ear dubbing – color of your choice – about 2/3rd the hook shank.
4) Trim out a section of snowshoe hare hair. Pull out any really long guard hairs, and any soft underfur.
5) Tie in showshoe hare hair as a wing on top of hook shank extending to the end of the hook shank.
6) Trim any excess material neatly and secure with a few more thread wraps.
7) Using a dubbing loop or split-thread method, dub a loose head of hare's ear dubbing.
8) Pull dubbing to the rear and form a neat thread head and whip finish.
9) Brush the dubbing head back so it blends into the wing.

This is kind of a do-it-all caddis pattern. Showshoe hare floats very well so it can be fished as a dry with minimum fuss or dressing. It can also be pulled under the surface and swung in the current as an emerger/egg/laying diving caddis. Try it in natural hare's ear, olive, or tan in a couple of different sizes.