

OSPREY FLY BOX

ELK HAIR CADDIS

contributed by

Dianne Wenham

As you recall, last year was a pretty dry year across the province. The Chilcotin area was no exception. I've been going to Anahim Lake every year for over seven years and have never seen the lake as low as it was in 2015. Regardless, I had been raving (bragging) to fellow Osprey, Jacqueline, about how great the fishing is at Anahim Lake and we decided that it was time she saw for herself.

In early August 2015, we headed up to spend a few days fishing primarily on the Upper Dean River. It was the first time either of us had fished that world famous river. Armed with techniques, tactics, advice, and recommended fishing spots generously provided by Tom Johannesen and Sandy McKinlay, we started out on the long drive up to the Escott Bay Resort, our base of operations.

Thanks to Sandy's excellent directions, we found the river access points easily. We tried three of the four river access points he recommended. While the water levels were clearly down from normal, we did locate fish. Each spot produced more and slightly bigger fish. The weather cooperated, the mosquitoes were bearable while on the river, and the fishing was both rewarding and exciting as these naturally producing cuttbows, a hybrid of rainbow and cutthroat trout, put up a good fight regardless of size.

Both Tom and Sandy recommended the Elk Hair Caddis as the "go to" fly. This is a classic dry fly that's been around since the 1950's. I've tied it with a pale yellow floss (Phentex-type yarn) to try to match the colour of the local caddis flies.

MATERIALS



Hook: Dry Fly, Size 10-14

Thread: Tan 8/0

Body: Hare's Mask dubbing OR Pale Yellow "Phentex-type" yarn

Hackle: Brown Saddle

Wing: Bleached Elk Hair

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



- Debarb the hook, place in vise, start the thread about 1/8" behind the eye, wrapping it back to the bend of the hook.
- Prepare the hackle, tie it in and tie in the yarn. Wrap the yarn forward to just behind the eye.
- Palmer the hackle forward, using about 5-6 turns. Tie it off and clip the excess.
- Snip off a small bunch of elk hair from the hide. Holding it by the tips, comb through the hair to remove the short hairs and fuzz. Stack the hair in a hair stacker.
- Measure the hair against the hook, placing the hair ends about 1/8" beyond the bend of the hook.
- Set the hair bunch on top of the hook with the tips towards the bend, tie it in, tightening the thread snugly to hold in the hair and produce a slight flare of the wing.
- Finish with a whip finish.
- Trim off the butt ends of the elk hair to produce a flat head sitting on top of the hook eye.
- Finish off with a drop of head cement.



The Finished Fly



Elk Hair Caddis