

A Trip Worth Taking... Bob Willice

While celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary in August my wife and I toured the Georgia Aquarium. If you fly fish north Georgia or North Carolina or are anywhere near Atlanta take time out to visit this magnificent structure. Built to the tune of 300 million (all private donations) and occupying 9 acres the entire aquarium contains more than 8 million gallons of water and is said to be the largest aquarium in the world. It is filtered through more than 60 miles of pipe and that is longer than the I-285 beltway around the city of Atlanta. It contains approximately 120,000 aquatic animals representing more than 500 species from around the globe. The OCEAN VOYAGER exhibit contains 6.2 million gallons of salt water and is said to be the largest aquarium exhibit in the world. The volume would approximate the size of a football field (284ftx126ft) and be 33ft deep in its deepest part. This exhibit is filtered entirely every 87 minutes. The aquarium creates its own salt water with a salt product called INSTANT OCEAN. They buy it in 2000 lb bags and it took 18 million lbs to just get the OCEAN VOYAGER exhibit up and running. In addition to the more than 86000 fish in this exhibit are four huge whale sharks. They are the largest fish on the planet and can grow to more than 40 feet in length. The TROPICAL DIVER exhibit is an underwater reef with many tropical fish. At present 40% of the coral on the reef is alive, the rest is artificial. When it reaches 100% the exhibit will be the largest coral exhibit in the world.

The exhibits are viewed from a walkthrough acrylic tunnel or by standing in front of giant acrylic viewing windows some of which extend from beneath floor level to the ceiling. It makes you feel like you are part of the exhibit; as if you were a scuba diver looking into the sea with all the fish swimming around you.

Some tips if you visit: Senior admission of \$19 is a bargain. Make reservations for as early in the day as you can get them. It gets you ahead of the crowd which by noon must be in the thousands. Plan four to five hours to see everything and plan on doing some walking. Lunch is fairly expensive but is offset by convenience. The behind the scenes tour I felt was extremely interesting but the \$50 charge was too high. Parking fee \$10 is again worth it for convenience. There a

Jerry's E-Z Beetle... Jerry Giles

Terrestrials are abundant along most trout waters from early summer into autumn. Few anglers recognize just how often land-based bugs end up in the water as a meal for fish. Wind knocks flying insects onto the water and shakes crawling insects from river and stream bank vegetation.

Among the most common terrestrials trout feed on are beetles. Beetles occur in many sizes and colors, but prospecting with a black beetle frequently catches feeding trout. A beetle is big enough to make a fish-attracting splat and commotion when it hits smooth water. Beetles are mostly fished close to stream banks and under or just down stream from overhanging foliage where trout lay in wait in anticipation of a meal.

Materials

Hook	Mustad standard dry fly 94840 size 12 - 18
Thread	6/0 black
Shell back	Black deer or elk hair
Body	Peacock herl or black wool yarn

Tying Steps

1. Start the thread at the center of the hook shank.
2. Snip a small bundle of hair about the size of a pencil from the base of the deer or elk hide.
3. Hold the hair by the tips and comb out the underfur.
4. Tie in the butt ends of the hair at the middle and on top of the hook shank with the hair tips extending back over the rear of the hook. (*Don't worry if the butts flare slightly*). Wrap thread over the butt ends to bind them to the top of the hook shank. Cut away excess hair butt tag ends and return the thread to the hook bend.
5. Tie in several peacock herls and cut away the herl butt tag ends. Twist the herls around the thread to form a herl rope. Palmer the herl rope forward to form the body stopping 1/8" behind the hook eye. Tie off and cut away the herl tag ends.
6. Bring the hair forward over the top of the herl body and tie the hair down just behind the hook eye to form the shellback. Make several firm thread wraps and whip finish the thread wraps. Cut away the excess hair tag ends beyond the front of the hook eye to form a head similar to that of an Elk Hair Caddis fly. Apply head cement to the thread wraps.
7. Using micro tip scissors snip two or three hairs at the rear of each side of the shellback to form the legs. (*The snipped hair will flare out to form the legs*).

