

Caddis Borealis... Tom Regina

Photos by Larry Sisney

The Caddis Borealis was originally designed and tied by Tracy Peterson, a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. Tracy designed the Caddis Borealis to imitate the black caddis hatch on Montana's Bighorn River. According to Tracy, the Caddis Borealis is his go-to-fly as a dry/dropper or two nymph rig on many other rivers, creeks, and streams as well.

I have modified Tracy's original recipe somewhat to take advantage of a more durable material for the abdomen. Tracy's recipe specifies Flashabou for the abdomen. We will use Flex-Floss for the abdomen. Flex-Floss, aside from being more durable than Flashabou, is very easy and quick to work with. This pattern can be tied in various hues or colors by altering the color of the rib wire, abdomen, hackle, and bead.

Tying Materials

Hook:	Mustad C49S, size 12
Bead:	3/32-inch black nickel
Thread:	8/0 olive
Rib:	Black Wapsi Ultra Wire, size brassie
Abdomen:	Olive Flex-Floss
Thorax:	Peacock herl
Collar:	Olive grizzly hen saddle patch feather



Tying Instructions



1. Place a bead on the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Slide the bead forward to the hook eye. Using a jam knot, tie the thread onto the hook directly in back of the bead. In neat touching turns, wrap a thread base back along the hook shank to a position directly over the hook point. In the same manner return the thread forward to the thread tie on point.



2. Wrap the thread 1/16-inch to the rear. At this thread hang point tie on the rib wire to the top of the hook shank with the running part of the wire extending over the back of the hook. Tie the wire on with several semi-tight touching thread wraps. Pull the butt end of wire under the semi-tight thread wraps. Continue binding the wire to the top of the hook shank with tight, neat, touching thread wraps to a point directly over the hook barb. In neat touching wraps return the thread to the 1/16-inch thread hang point.



3. At the 1/16-inch thread hang point, tie the abdomen Flex-Floss to the top of the hook shank with the running part of the floss extending over the back of the hook. Bind the Flex-Floss to the top of the hook shank in the same manner as was the rib wire. However, continue to bind the floss to the top of the hook shank back to a point about half-way around the hook bend. Return the thread forward in neat touching turns to the space between the 1/16-inch thread hang point and the bead. Cut away the floss tag end. *Note: The purpose of wrapping the thread back and forth in neat touching turns to different points along the hook is to build a neat evenly tapered underbody.*



4. Wrap the Flex-Floss forward in neat overlapping turns ending in the space between the 1/16-inch thread hang point and the bead. Tie off and cut away the floss tag end. *Note: Flex-Floss is a very durable and strong material with great elasticity. The fly dresser can skillfully control the bulk, taper, and segmentation of the abdomen by the amount of stretch and overlap applied while wrapping the floss to build the body.*



5. Wrap the rib wire forward in about eight evenly spaced spiral turns with the last turn ending in the space between the front of the abdomen and the bead. Tie off and cut away the wire tag end. Move the thread back to the 1/16-inch thread hang point.

Caddis Borealis... Tom Regina (continued)



6. Select two or three peacock herls and align their tips. As a unit, stroke the herls from tip to butt between your thumb and forefinger to ruffle the barbs. Tie the herls, about one inch back from their tips, onto the hook directly over the 1/16-inch thread hang point. Cut away the herl tag ends. Grip the butt ends of the herls with a Mini Hook Clip* or hackle pliers and twist them into a “rope”. **Caution: Don't twist the rope too tight as this will break the very fragile peacock herls.** Wrap the herls forward several turns to form the thorax. Allow the last wrap of herl to end between the front of the thorax and the bead. Tie off and cut away the herl tag ends.

* Mini Hook Clip is a brand name of an electrical test clip sold by Radio Shack. See the picture included with this recipe. Fly shops also sell “hook clips” ... at a very inflated price.



7. Select and remove an appropriate size feather from the hen saddle patch. Grasp about ¼ to ½-inch of the feather tip between your thumb and forefinger with the convex side facing you. With your thumb and forefinger of the other hand stroke the rest or the barbs down toward the base of the quill. Strip all the barbs below your grasp from the left side of the quill. With the tip of the feather facing forward and the striped side of the quill up, orientate the feather perpendicular to the side of the hook facing you. Directly adjacent to the barbs that are left at the tip of the feather and the striped quill, tie the feather to the side of the hook directly in front of the thorax. Cut away the tip end of the feather. Palmer the feather forward one-and-one-half to

two turns to form the collar. Take several tight thread wraps to start the collar tie off. Cut away the excess feather quill. Stroke the collar toward the rear and lay two or three neat thread wraps up onto the very front of the collar to cause the collar to fan back over, under, and around the fly thorax and abdomen. Take the thread forward and finish the fly with several half-hitch or whip-finish thread wraps between the collar and the bead. Apply a small amount of head cement to the finish thread wraps being careful not to get cement on the collar.

Fishing Report...Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers

To all of our fishing friends we wish a happy new year with this update on current conditions of our local waters. In general, our tailwaters and natural streams are in very good condition with adequate moisture. This is the first time I have been able to say this in a while. Local TVA lakes are 5-10 feet above last year's levels. The next 90 days will offer some excellent opportunities, and with our mostly mild winters, we probably should be drifting more this time of year. I am expecting above average shad kills for all of our tailwaters this winter due to reports of healthy shad populations near the surface late winter on our major southeastern reservoirs.

Hiwassee River – flow schedule perfect for drifting on a daily basis. The fish love the consistent flows. We have some shad coming through the turbines. With intermittent cold snaps I expect more to come. We have recently released an 18" brown trout.

Toccoa River – Irregular flow schedules with weekly windows. Lots of fish throughout. The flows are suitable for some high water streamer fishing (which is becoming more popular) followed by low water angling with smaller nymphs and dries.

Clinch River – Irregular flow schedules with weekly windows. Lots of fish throughout. The brookies are getting bigger, and the new slot limit is definitely making an impact.

Holston River – Irregular flow schedules with weekly windows. Great light nymph fishing on the two upper float stretches. Good holdover populations this year with some large rainbows present.

Cumberland River – For the next few months everything will depend on local rainfall in the watershed. USACE continues to maintain the lake at a constant level. The river has been high for several weeks, but is dropping to fishable levels by week's end. Those lucky enough to drift here at proper levels during or after a shad kill will witness a spectacle. Just send a reply to do so and I will send you weekly updates. Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers 866-55TROUT.