

OSPREY FLY BOX

ANDERSON STONE FLY

by Blair Thomas

I met Earl Anderson in the Woodward's Department Store fishing department in downtown Vancouver in 1964 or 65 . Former member Shaune Dery and myself would usually go to Woodward's downtown 2 or 3 times a month - and we would always go and visit Earl. He would fill us in on his recent fishing trips and tell us a few secrets ??? to catching more fish and where. We would always ask if he would be working the next week so we could plan on coming down. I bought my first Hardy cane rod and reel from Earl in 1967.

Earl gave me several variations on his Stone Fly and I have used this fly succesfully both on the Coast and in the Interior.

My two favourite places to fish this flywere

In the Interior - Redbird Lake - I would cast this fly shorewards and bounce it off of the reeds and bullrushes and wait and watch. If the fish were on, you would see the reeds rustle a little and then the water would bulge. I would count to three and lift the rod tip, feel the weight on the line and set the hook. A great way to fish and this was the fly that made it happen.

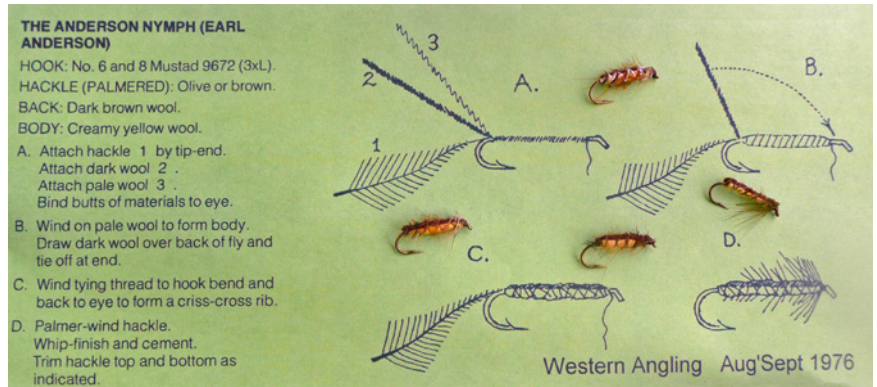
On the Coast - Cowichan River - I fished the river a lot in the 70's - camp at the train trestle below the lake and fish upstream during the day for rainbows (mostly) have a relaxing dinner - and about 9:00 PM get ready for fishing and grab a flashlight for the walk back to camp. I would head down to Robinson's Reach and start fishing through the run and riffle above the pool. Casting quietly and listening for the slurp slurp of the brown trout. I would slowly work my way down river (chest deep) casting to a spot above the slurps, let the fly swing around, feel the weight and strike hard. It was an exciting way to fish but if the trout was really active and jumped a lot, you never saw them except if by chance they were caughtup in the light from the moon. My best evening on the Cowichan was in August of 1972 the Stone fly counted for six fish the smallest was about 2 1/2 pounds; the largest was nearly 4 pounds.

Earl Anderson's Stonefly will always be a fly for sweet fishing dreams.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad 9671 or equivalent - 2X Long
- Thread:** Dark Brown
- Body:** Interior: Pale Yellow & Dark Brown Wool
Coast: Canary Yellow & Dark Brown Wool
- Hackle:** Interior: Olive
Coast: Brown



TYING INSTRUCTIONS



Debarb the hook.
Lay down a thread base.
Tie in the hackle by the tip.
Tie in brown wool and then the yellow wool.



Wrap yellow wool forward forming a smooth body.
- Very thin for the Interior version.
- Cigar shaped for the Coast version.
Tie off and clip.
Tyer's Note: Split the yellow wool to allow it to lay down when applying to make a smooth body.



Pull brown forward over the back.
Spiral wind the brown thread back to the hook bend in a wide spiral then back to the eye forming a cross on each side.
Clip the excess brown yarn.



Palmer the hackle forward to the eye of the hook.
Tie off and clip excess hackle.
Build a thread head, whip finish and add head cement.

Interior Version



Pale Yellow Body, Olive Hackle

Coastal Version

Trim the hackle on the top and bottom and then the sides.
Wider at the eye of the hook tapering to the hook bend.
Note: For the "Interior Version" when clipping the hackle leave a small beard below the eye.



Canary Yellow Body, Brown Hackle

For the "Coastal Version", a brighter Canary Wool is used with a standard brown hackle. Note, also, that this version, the "beard" is trimmed much shorter.