

Fly of the Month – June 2020

Tungsten Swing Caddis

Few bugs excite trout more than a swimming caddis. When the caddis are emerging, trout will pursue them from the bottom all the way to the top and often right out of the water. They may or may not take a dry imitation. They are more likely to grab a drifting caddis pupae or caddis worm imitation. But under the right conditions, a trout will move a long way in a hurry to cut off a swimming caddis. A swinging caddis will imitate both an emerging pupae and a diving adult laying eggs. The tungsten bead gets the fly down in the water column while drifting, but the current will swing the fly to the surface when swinging at the end of the drift. Hold on for savage strikes.

Materials

- Hook: TMC 3761 size 14-16
- Bead: Gold or Copper Tungsten of appropriate size
- Thread: Chartreuse Veevus 14/0
- Tag: Tying Thread
- Body: Caddis Green SLF dubbing
- Hackle: Partridge Feather
- Collar: Hare's Ear SLF Dubbing



Tying Steps

1. Place bead on hook and secure hook in vise. Start thread behind bead and advance to hook bend.
2. Form a chartreuse tag about the length of the bead at the end of the hook shank.
3. Dub a rather full tapered body to just behind the bead leaving room for a collar.
4. Prepare the partridge feather to be tied in by the tip by stroking the fibers toward the base.
5. Tie in by the tip and make 2 wraps stroking fibers toward the rear and tie off. Trim excess.
6. Loosely dub a collar of SLF Hare's Ear, and brush out towards the rear. Then make one wrap of tightly wrapped dubbing up to the bead. Whip-finish and trim excess.

This is one of those versatile patterns that will fish like a nymph and then let swing up in the current like a soft hackle. That's how I fish it. I also fish it in still-water by letting it sink to the bottom or among the weeds, then swim it up toward the surface. Fish patrol the weed beds and just above the bottom debris looking for carelessly swimming prey. An escaping bug will trigger aggressive strikes. I fish this alone or with an unweighted soft hackle trailer. It also works as a point fly in a multi-wetfly rig.

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