

Caulk wing Little Winter Stonefly – Adult

By
Carl Smolka

One of the great winter dry fly patterns, created by Charlie Gelso and pictured in his and Larry Coburn's Guide to Maryland Trout Fishing – The Catch and Release Streams and detailed by Jim Greco for many PPTU fly tying classes and demonstrations, is the Little Winter Stonefly which hatch from late Fall through the end of March on local trout streams. This recipe merely suggests an alternate material for the wing you might want to consider in place of the natural duck quill. My introduction to this alternate wing material came from the Caulk Midge article by Scott Sanchez in Flyfisher Autumn 2010 – Winter 2011.

Early last January on Big Hunting Creek, I photographed some stoneflies and noted that their wings are translucent and have venation. The photo below shows a size #20 natural next to my size #18 fly using the natural duck quill wing.



You can see the venation in the wing below:



The alternate material for the wing is a foam carried by hardware stores that serves as a foundation to fill in cracks before caulking. It comes in large rolls and in different diameters. The foam on the outer edge has a natural curvature which emulates the stonefly wing quite nicely and also provides additional flotation for the fly. 20 feet, will cost you less than \$5.00. Color is medium dun



Cut a sliver of the foam from the outer surface. Make the width of the sliver about one half the gap of the hook. This is a Mustad 94833 in size 14. This fly, in black can be tied from #14 - #22 and in brown from sizes #14 - #18





Mount and offset the hook



Black #6 thread to the barb



Black superfine to the thorax



Tie in foam sliver with loose wraps toward barb to prevent flare



Tie in grizzly hackle



Black superfine to dub thorax



3 ½ turns of hackle, tie off



Thread head, whip finish



can also use black hackle



This material shows venation and how the outer surface has the curvature that simulates the natural wing