

# On The Fly

## January 2012

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

### PATTERN OF THE MONTH: BWO SnoShu Pull-Over

Hook: Daiichi 1130, Curved, down eye, 16-20.  
Thread: 8-0 olive.  
Tail/Shuck: Brown marabou.  
Abdomen: Olive goose or turkey biot.  
Thorax: Olive fine & dry dubbing.  
Wing: Dun Snow Shoe Hare, pulled over thorax.



### Tying Instructions:

**Step 1** Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise.

**Step 2:** Start the thread one eye width behind the eye and lay down an even thread base to a position just past the sharp bend of the hook.

**Step 3:** Select a small bunch of marabou fibers, measure  $\frac{3}{4}$  the body length, and tie in on top of hook at the rear of the thread base. Secure butts with spiral thread wraps on top of the shank the length of the body and trim excess.

**Step 4:** Select a biot from a goose or turkey primary flight feather. Tie it in by the tip and wind it forward in overlapping turns to the  $\frac{2}{3}$  point on the shank. Tie off and trim excess.

**Step 5:** Select a small bunch of long fur from the bottom of a Snow Shoe Hares foot, clean out the under-fur, measure  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  body length, and tie on top of the shank with the tips pointing rearward at the  $\frac{2}{3}$  point. Bind the hair down with several tight thread wraps taking care to keep all the fur on top of the shank. Trim the excess at a taper towards the eye of the hook.

**Step 6:** Spin a small amount of dubbing thinly onto the tying thread and take 3 turns forward forming a thorax. Tie off and trim excess.

**Step 7:** Now pull the Snow Shoe fur forward over the thorax and bind down at the front of the dubbed thorax. The fur fibers should now be pointing forward over the hook eye.

**Step 8:** Lift the fur slightly upward away from the eye and take some thread wraps in front of the wing and still behind the eye, cocking the wing up, forming a neat head. Whip finish and cement.

The BWO SnoShu Pull-Over is a recent pattern but its ancestors go back to the 40's & 50's and a young tier named Fran Betters. He hailed from Wilmington in upstate New York. Fran is well known for the development of the Ausable Wulff, Haystack, and the Usual patterns. The flies that he invented back then are very impressionistic, rough-looking imitations designed to handle the rigors of the fast moving Ausable River. The Haystacks were designed while Fran was still in High School and were a refined version of a pattern tied by trapper Eddie Lawrence. The Usual is an outgrowth of the Haystack series using snowshoe rabbits foot hair instead of deer hair. Today's Pull-Over takes the wing over the thorax, along with a heavier hook, a non-floating body, and a lively tail, to form an emerger.

This remarkable hair is translucent and very waterproof, making the wing buoyant in the surface film. This kink resistant, non absorbent hair floats just as well as CDC and deer hair without some of the disadvantages with durability. The dense curly under fur hold a lot of air bubbles and is easily compressed, so it is tied in without too much bulk.

### Tying tips:

The Snowshoe hair can be used as a substitute for many wing and tail materials. How about a Snowshoe Caddis instead of the elk hair, or a Snowshoe Sparkle Dun, you get the idea. They all are quick ties and very effective patterns. Of course their size and color can be easily adapted to local circumstances.

So, tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.