

# Water Transformation



As a child, I always loved dabbling in water. Even as an adult, I am drawn to water – tide pools, ponds where there might be tadpoles or turtles, and of course the ocean. When I was a child in Salem, Oregon, my family often picnicked at Silver Creek Falls Park, where there was an inviting shallow stream and, of course, a beautiful waterfall.

I must have been about eight when, poking around in the stream, I found something I could not identify. Looking more carefully, I discovered many more. It was truly a work of art – sturdy yet beautifully formed, and shiny.

I don't remember how I found out what it was – maybe from my mother, who had been a biology major. I now know that it was a caddisfly larva case. Caddisflies are terrestrial as adults and much imitated by fly fishermen. But for a water-loving eight-year-old, it was nothing short of magic.

