

RIVER AND STILLWATERS REPORTS

Fishing is slowing with the steady drop in flows over the past month. Most fisheries still offer a fair chance of catching fish, though you better bring your patience. Midges and some BWOs are the primary focus of most river fish right now. Warmer conditions have kept fish metabolisms relatively high for this time of year meaning there is a hungry fish waiting for you in most locations. With the warm days ice is sketchy to say the least, please be extra careful if you plan on testing your luck on frozen still waters.

South Platte- 121 cfs at Deckers

Deckers is probably fishing better than anywhere else on the front range. Mid-day has been the most active time for anglers. Small midge and BWO patterns fished in slow runs and deep pools will likely yield a fish or two.

Information provided by Pat Dorsey of Blue Quill Angler, Evergreen, CO

Arkansas River- ~600 cfs in Middle Basin

Fishing in the middle basin of the Arkansas is slowing but fair. Fish are holding in deep runs and small pools. Be cautious on your approach to the river as it is running clear and fish are spooked easily. Big attractors followed by small flashy midge patterns seems to be working the best.

Information provided by Ark Anglers Buena Vista, CO

Poudre River- ~120 cfs in Fort Collins

The lower half of the Poudre is open and fishing extremely well. The warm weather has kept some fish looking up to small midge dries during the mid-day hatch. Fishing in town is really heating up as there are plenty of spots for fish to hide and an higher than usual prey base from insects washing down in last year's floods.

Information provided by St. Peters Fly Shop Ft. Collins, CO

As outdoorsman, we often leave the house in the morning with hopes of the river, lake, or mountain to ourselves. Competition and pressure from other outdoorsman can be the keystone of your day. On the other hand, these outdoor oriented individuals offer another perspective to the lands we recreate on. Below are some tips on how to improve your outdoor experience by networking with the fellow outdoorsman or outdoor oriented acquaintances.

Weekday Outings:

Most of us work the weekdays meaning we are weekend warriors. Weekdays offer a chance to enjoy your favorite fishery or hunting grounds with limited interactions with other people. Another benefit to pursuing a weekday outing is you increase your chances of meeting a like-minded individual that likely shares the same obsession you do. So next time you reach the parking lot, don't race to your spot. Instead, be open to sharing your experience with a total stranger with the same idea of how a day off should be spent.

Purpose Your Outing:

The outdoors can serve as one of the best locations to facilitate conversation. However, certain hunting and fishing scenarios are not conducive to face time with networking. If you are using your next outdoor excursion to talk shop I recommend planning an outing with a few hours of drive time or an overnight stay as the pursuit of game can be a distraction from the conversation. If a day trip is all you can afford, plan something like a duck hunt where you have down time to talk in the blind.

By Weston Niep

FLY OF THE MONTH



December 2014 Happy Holidays



Wambolt &
Associates

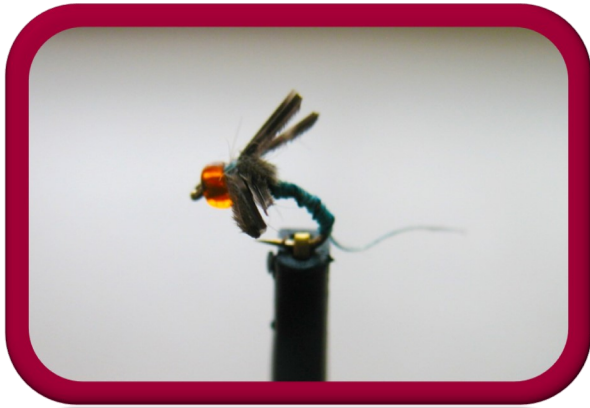
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PATTERN: THE ANSWER

COLOR: BLUE

SIZE: 20



Saying that fishing in the winter is "technical" is being generous. The guides on our fly rods will regularly clog with ice, the invertebrates are small, the fish congregate into deep pools, and their feeding is sporadic and lethargic. "The Answer" to your winter fishing woes are solved in this little pattern! The size and profile are spot-on for the young mayfly nymphs found in your winter waters, while the orange class beadhead and blue wire body add the essential spark to wake up slow moving trout and bring on a strike!

By: Peter Stitcher
www.ascentflyfishing.com

We're looking for more nominees... do you have someone that you'd like to include in the Fly of the Month Club? Please send an email with name, mailing address & number to:
cindy.alvarez@wamboltandassoc.com

A LITTLE OFF THE TOP

No matter how diligently we may tie flies through the winter and pack line after line of our favorite patterns into our fly boxes, inevitably we will find ourselves thigh deep in some river looking blankly at a piece of broken tippet and our last "Hot Fly" swimming downstream in the mouth of a big fish. Now before you do something rash like tossing your rod and diving in after your fly, I encourage you to take a deep breath and remember that at times like these, necessity is the mother of invention. The savvy angler will rise to the occasion, delve into his/her fly box, and with a few simple tools can keep on the hatch and on the fish.

When we run out of a dynamite pattern on the water or don't have an exact match for the invertebrates / life stages that the fish are keyed into, it is important to be able to think outside of the fly box and allow ourselves to take a little creative license with our remaining patterns. Whenever I am on the water, I carry four Sharpie Markers (one each in green, brown, black, and red) and a sharp pair of line nippers. With these simple tools, you can add a spot of color to a drab pattern, turn a simple generalist pattern like a Parachute Adams into a myriad of mayfly species, or change a high flying dry pattern into a nymph or emerger. May the mantra "close in size (profile) and color" guide your creative license! Here are a couple creative "Fly Hacks" that can turn a mediocre morning on the water into one for the books!

BY: PETER STITCHER

Original Pattern: Parachute Adams

Imitates: Adult Mayfly or Large Midge



Tools: Line Nippers and Green Sharpie Marker

Fly Hack: Remove Dry Hackle, Trim Parachute, Color Body

New Pattern: RSII

Imitates: Mayfly Emerger



Original Pattern: Better Buckskin

Imitates: Large Caddis Larva



Tools: Red Sharpie Marker

Fly Hack: Color Abdomen

New Pattern: San Juan Worm (improved), Chironomid Pupa

Imitates: Aquatic Worms, Chironomid Larva & Pupa

