



*Happy Holidays from
Wambolt & Associates*

*Wishing you and yours a bright and merry
holiday season. Here's to a New Year filled
with health and prosperity!*



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Fly of the Month · December 2020



The invertebrates “emerger” life cycle is when an insect leaves the bottom of the lake or river and struggles towards the surface, offering the trout one of its greatest opportunities at a big meal and the angler one of their best chances at catching A LOT of fish! The three families of aquatic insects that offer trout this hardy emerger menu are midges, mayflies, and caddis flies. The savvy fly fisher can learn to interpret these fish feeding cues to help them match the emerging hatch and rig for success!



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FLY OF THE MONTH • Woven Green Caddis • Size 12

The Beadhead Woven Green Caddis Larva is a generalist fly pattern that is intended to match several caddis species across the country. The Black Caddis (Mother's Day Caddis), Rhyacophila (Green Rock Worm), Olive Sedge, and Weedy Water Sedge are just a couple caddis species that this fly matches to perfection! The tightly woven body of this fly makes it extra durable, and it should hold up for days on the water so long as a tree or lunker trout doesn't steal it first!



Dry/Wet: Wet | **Fly Category:** Generalist Pattern

Family: Caddis | **Species:** Multiple | **Life Stage:** Larva

3 Tips for Identifying and Fishing Emergers

By: Ascent Fly Guru, Charlie Lukasiewicz

1. Low Rises = Midge Emergers

A slow or gradual, unhurried rise of feeding trout usually signals a midge hatch. Midge emergers are lazy floaters, not active swimmers. As the midge larva pupates and grows long legs, wings, and antenna of the adult, a gas bubble forms underneath their skin that causing them to slowly drift towards the surface of the water. While they may kick and jerk during their slow ascent, this frantic movement doesn't help them along their way and only acts to draw the attention of hungry trout. With the midge emergers going nowhere fast, trout will rise and fall slowly in the water column as they feed on this hatch. **When you see this lazy feeding behavior it is time to tie on your midge emergers!**



2. Sharp Rises = Mayfly & Caddis Emergers

When trout aggressively rise through the water column and feed in sharp takes and turns, this behavior signals a mayfly or caddis emergence. Unlike midges, mayflies and caddis are adept swimmers and can move quickly from the bottom of the lake

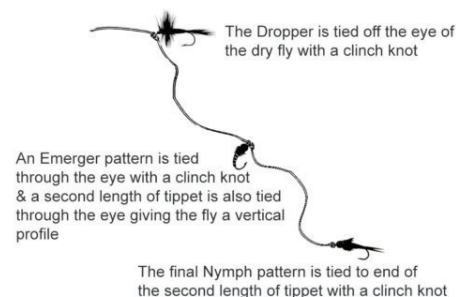


or river to the safety of the surface. Because mayflies and caddis flies are so fast moving, trout need to pick up their game and give chase or miss out on these high calorie meals! **So, when you see trout take and rise quickly through the water before they snap and sink back to the depths, tie on a mayfly or caddis emerger and hold on tight!**

3. Where to fish them in your line and how to rig them on your line

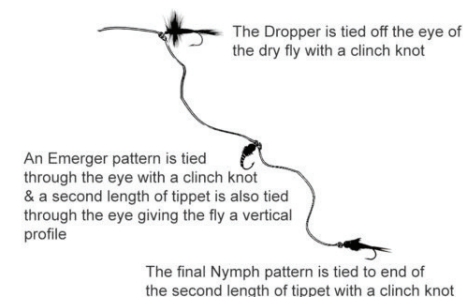
Emergers hatch in fast moving water so target deep runs and pools below riffles for maximum efficiency. When you're looking at what to put on your line, take notice of the first two tips to make sure you have the right life cycle. After that, you must decide whether to put on a wet or dry emerger. If the fish are actively on the surface, this is a sign to go with a dry. If they are not active on the surface, a wet fly is your go-to and this doesn't mean the fish are not feeding on emergers. When nymphing and setting up your line the emerger pattern will be the last fly or "trail fly" in your rig. Your last fly is the furthest from your weight which means it rides highest in the water column. This will match where an emerger will be in the column, which is usually in between the mid-column and the top of the water. Using 18" to 21" between your flies will allow your emerger to be in the right column of the water. Dead drifting is a good place to start, but letting your drift swing at the end gives that last fly a chance to become lifelike and swing towards the surface of the water where a fish will aggressively eat the fly before the fly reaches the surface. Use the two figures below as guides to help set up your rig for success and happy fishing!

How to Tie a Heads-Up or Eye-to-Eye Dry-Dropper Fly Fishing Rig



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