

## Scott Kirkpatrick: An Architect of Innovation



While Controller Scott Kirkpatrick is a Wambolt & Associates team member clients rarely see, his leadership of continuous process improvement enables wealth management advisors/planners, and traders to focus intently on delivering positive outcomes for clients. Scott is dedicated to enhancing the firm's financial, administrative, and compliance arenas and ensuring operations run proficiently.

With more than 20 years of extensive experience in finance and operations from banking and financial institutions, Scott came well prepared to direct Wambolt's financial and accounting functions. For him, it's about the numbers and the importance of recognizing how budgetary decisions impact the trajectory of an organization. "I enjoy creating impactful forecasts with sustainable budgets, along with analyzing trends," he says. "The forecasts that I present to our leaders can assist in determining strategic financial decisions to shape the future of the firm."

During his tenure at Wambolt, Scott has helped reshape and grow the operations team. "We've built a stronger 'back office' to assist in multiple aspects of the business" he said. "The advisors can concentrate on what they're best at knowing the operations team is maintaining a solid foundation to support their work."

Scott's responsibilities also include human resources management – overseeing benefits, payroll, and aspects of the hiring process. He appreciates the firm's collaborative culture and the commitment of his colleagues to foster a positive work environment. "I enjoy working here and the people I work with," he emphasized. "They have a very high drive to assist clients and they possess a general love for what they do. Providing value to the clients is a shared passion."

Scott has always had a drive for success. Scott was a swimmer on the Cornell College Swim Team in Iowa, a liberal arts institution, where he majored in business and economics.

Outside of the office, Scott's favorite pastime is skiing at Vail with his children, a daughter who is a recent University of Colorado graduate and a son who is a CU freshman. He is grateful for his weekend 'bonding time' and his children's continued interest in spending time with their dad.

As for the future of the firm, Scott is excited "to see our organization thriving, and all of us becoming more specialized, growing in the roles where we excel."

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## Fly of the Month · March 2024

### Unlocking the Secrets of Early Season Hatches

By: Kerri Madison

As winter wanes and the first signs of spring begin to emerge, the world of fly fishing comes alive with anticipation. For anglers eager to dust off their gear and hit the water, understanding the intricacies of early season hatches is paramount. These early hatches can be a game-changer, offering some of the first opportunities of the year to engage in exciting and productive fly fishing. In this guide, we'll delve into the captivating world of early season hatches, exploring the insects that emerge, the conditions that trigger their activity, and the strategies anglers can employ to capitalize on these fleeting moments.



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## Fly of the Month Pattern: March Brown

**Size:** 10



Beautifully imitating the adult March Brown mayfly down to the yellow ribbed segments along its abdomen, the March Brown dry fly is tied specifically to match this important trout forage species. While they emerge at dusk, the adult March Brown will be active on and around the water the day after their emergence, with trout actively keying in on the duns and spinners represented by this pattern.

**Dry/Wet:** Dry    **Fly Category:** True-Fly Pattern  
**Family:** Mayfly    **Species:** March Brown    **Life Stage:** Adult

## Understanding Early Season Hatches

Early season hatches typically consist of a variety of aquatic insects awakening from their winter slumber. While the specific insects can vary depending on your location and local ecosystem, some common early season hatches include midges, blue-winged olives, stoneflies, and early caddisflies. These insects play a crucial role in the ecosystem and serve as a vital food source for fish, making them prime targets for fly anglers.

## Factors Influencing Early Season Hatches

Several factors influence the timing and intensity of early season hatches. Temperature, water flow, and daylight hours all play integral roles in triggering insect activity. As temperatures begin to rise and daylight hours lengthen, aquatic insects become more active, signaling the onset of early season hatches. Additionally, changes in water flow, such as snowmelt or spring rains, can also stimulate insect emergence by providing the necessary conditions for hatching.

## Strategies for Success

To effectively target early season hatches, anglers must adapt their strategies to the specific insects present and the conditions at hand. Here are some key tips for success:

- **Observation is Key:** Spend time observing the water and paying close attention to any signs of insect activity. Look for rising fish, emerging insects, or surface disturbances that indicate feeding activity.
- **Match the Hatch:** Select fly patterns that closely mimic the insects present in the water. Carry a variety of sizes and colors to match the natural variations of the insects. Blue and purple fly patterns defy convention with their audacious coloring making them stand out from the hosts of natural-colored invertebrates in the water. Their unconventional color piques the curiosity of trout, enticing them to investigate further.



- **Experiment with Depth:** Early season hatches can occur at various depths within the water column. Be prepared to adjust your fishing depth accordingly, using techniques such as nymphing or dry-dropper rigs to target fish at different levels.
- **Stay Flexible:** Early season conditions can be unpredictable, so be prepared to adapt your tactics on the fly. Keep an open mind and be willing to try new approaches if the fish aren't responding to your initial efforts.

Early season hatches offer fly fishing enthusiasts an exciting opportunity to reconnect with the water after the long winter months. By understanding the insects that emerge, the factors that influence their activity, and the strategies for success, anglers can maximize their chances of a productive day on the water. So, grab your gear, head to your favorite fishing spot, and prepare to witness nature's spectacular show unfold before your eyes. *Happy fishing!*