
Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : San Juan Worms and Wooly Bugger? (How to)

Re: San Juan Worms and Wooly Bugger? (How to)

Author: : PennKev

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URL:

Quote:

Marv_Levy wrote:

General questions here.

Im ending my 4th year of Fly Fishing Trout here in PA and ive had some question on Worms and Buggers...

...Honestly in the time ive been fishing ive never caught a fish on a worm until this year got 3 so far 2 3 with a Bugger. I don't know if im using 2 small of a fly, wrong color or my design im buying just blows. I here people saying how great they are.

There are a lot of factors other than just the style and size of the fly. You say this is your fourth year fishing. You could either be pretty good at it by this point or still pretty green. What kind of success are you having otherwise, with other flies? Also what sort of streams are you fishing?

Personally, SJW of any style don't excite me much. They beat the crap out of stocked fish early in the season and have some usage during off-color or high flows and also some spring creeks, but for the most part I do not think they are a must have fly like a pheasant tail or...

...Wooly Bugger.

I'd be more worried about your lack of success with the WB's. They are much less situation specific IMO. I don't think they are the second coming of Christ like some anglers do, but WB's are a must have. They are one of those flies that seems to always manage a few fish in most places and under a variety of conditions. It's often said that there is no wrong way to fish a bugger, and that is true to a degree, but some ways are a hell of a lot better than others. Good streamer and wet fly techniques make the fly more effective in my experience. A few years back I decided that I needed to learn to fish streamers better and my success increased noticeably. Not just with WB's but with just about every streamer I carry. Two things I focused on were getting deep and controlling the speed of my swing. I also cut back on actively stripping my flies.

These last points bring me back to where I started. A lot depends on your skill level. This applies to the SJW as

well as the bugger. If you are catching fish regularly and in good numbers with other nymphs, it may be just that the SJW is not a good choice for your waters. However, if you struggle to get fish on any fly, your technique probably needs some work.

Kev