
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : A dozen top flies for PA trout streams

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Author: : afishinado

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(notice I didn't say *the* dozen top flies...but if I had to select 12 flies, these would be in my box)

After one acquires an 8 1/2 or 9' 5 wt rod with matching 5wt floating line and a 7 1/2' 3x tapered leader with a spool of 4x and 5x tippet, one can now look at flies.

Sinking flies:

Woolly Bugger – Size 8 in dark olive w/ a black tail is my go-to. Having some black or white ones and a few a little smaller or bigger would be ideal. Fish anytime / anywhere – drift and/or strip.

Hares Ear Nymph – size 10 – 16 w/ and w/o beads. Natural is my favorite, but a few in olive or black would round it out. Fish anytime / anywhere – dead drift

Pheasant Tail Nymph – Size 12 – 16 w/ and w/o beads. Fish anytime / anywhere – dead drift

Green Weenie – Size 12. Fish anytime / anywhere – dead drift

San Juan Worm – Size 12. Fish anytime / anywhere – dead drift

Soft Hackle – Size 12 – 16. Pheasant tail, Partridge and Orange, Partridge and yellow, peacock to name a few popular ones. Dead drift, swing, hang or strip. All will catch fish.

Floating flies:

Blue Wing Olive – Size 14 – 18 (early and late season mayfly hatches)

Adams – Size 10 – 18 (for dark mayflies)

Sulphur – Size 10 – 18 (mid-season light-colored mayfly hatches)

Beetle and/or Ant – Size 14 – 18 (Spring - late summer)

Griffiths Gnat - Size 18 - 22 (For midges - very small insects - all year round)

Elk Hair Caddis – Size 10 – 18 in Tan, Black and Green for caddis hatches and/or stonefly hatches all season.

Note: ~~Mayflies have an upright wing and look like sailboats on the water.~~

Caddis have wings shaped like a tent over their body.

Stoneflies have wings that fold flat over their bodies.