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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : A dozen top flies for PA trout streams

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URL:

(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.