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Volume 3, Issue 7

July, 2011

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Dear Fly Fishing Enthusiasts

For the first time this summer I can say you have some great options for fishing a dry fly. Although many rivers are still unfishable, here are DFI's hot locations right now:

South Fork of the Boise River. The Salmonflies are appearing just below Cow Creek and into the canyon. This is an awesome window to tangle with some big rainbows in fast water. A 6wt. rod is a pretty handy tool right now.

Our hot fly right now is the #4 Salmonfly, but don't overlook the caddis hatch and the leading edge of the PMD's. Make sure you have Emperor Caddis both Green & Black and Black sizes #18-#20. A PMD #18 Upright Wing Mayfly should be in the box also. The Adams Caddis #18 in Green is a high floating producer that can be fished in swifter water with great results.

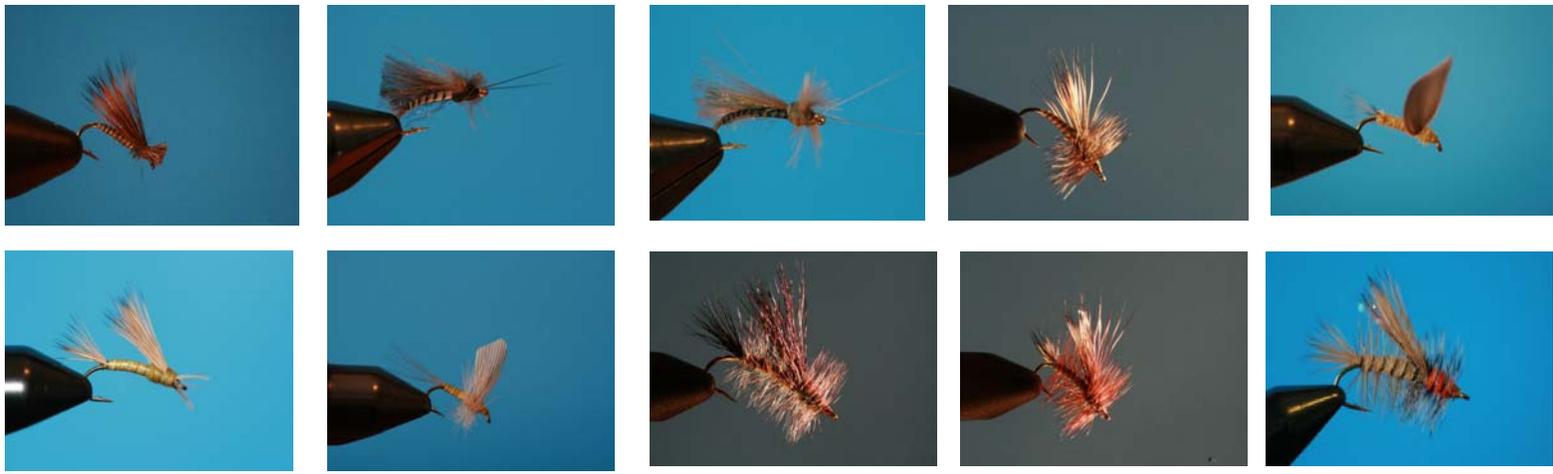


The Owyhee River: The hatches are intensifying and the fish are beginning to look up. Focus on two hatches: caddis and mayflies. Many of the large fish struggled through the high water phase and lost a lot of weight, so land them quickly and revive them for a long time before releasing.

Here are the key fly selections for the "O". For the exact caddis match, go with the Bare Belly Caddis (Green) in a size #18 and support that with Emperor Caddis both Green and Black #20. In the faster water, fish the #18 Adams Caddis in Green.

For Mayflies there's three key bugs you must have to fish the "O." A #16 PMD Searcher should be fished in the riffles at the heads of the large slicks. You are not targeting a nose here; you're casting to holding water to lure a fish out of nowhere. When you're in the hatch, serve the #20 and #18 PMD No Hackle and the PMD Upright Wing. Get above the fish and deliver your bug about 18 inches in front of his nose and let the fly float naturally to the fish's feeding zone.

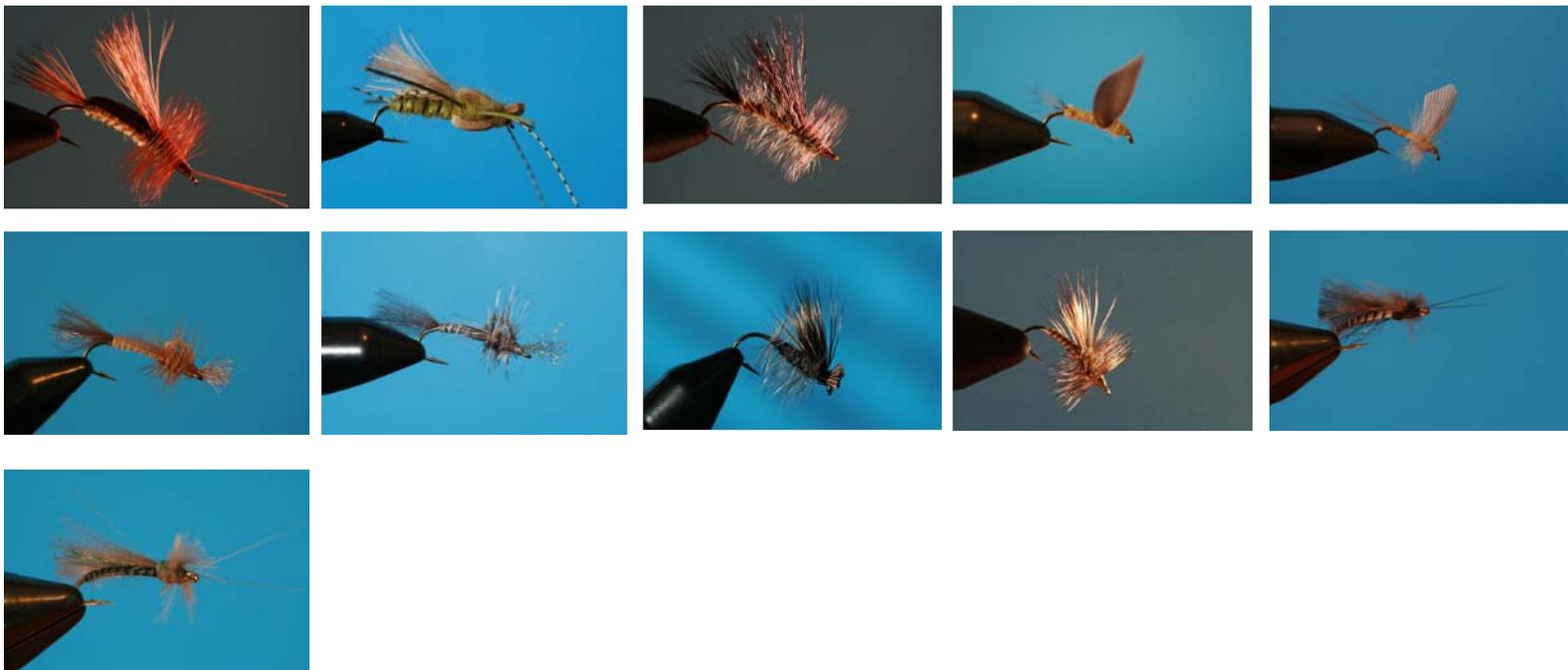
You should also carry small stimulators (#16) in Tan, Black Gold, and Adams.



Henry's Fork of the Snake River. This might be the hottest fishing in Idaho right now on a dry fly. There are numerous large fish keying on both Salmonflies in the upper river and Golden Stones in the lower river around Ashton. There are PMD's, caddis, and drakes popping up also, so you must be prepared to do both on a big bug, then immediately adapt to a specific hatch. I like a three-rod system out of the boat. Rod 1: a 6wt with a #6 Golden Stone hair pattern as the fly. Rod 2: 5wt with a #6 Black Gold stimulator. Both rods 1 & 2 have a 4X tapered leader and both fly patterns are built to fish the edges between wade fishing. Rod 3: A 4wt. is the hatch rod equipped with a 7ft 5X tapered leader and 6 feet of 5X tippet attached. The tie-on bug would be a #16 Gray Drake, and then change to the specific hatch as the river dictates.

The Beauty of fishing DFI patterns is that the fish have not seen them, and you fish right behind strings of boats and catch gigantic fish. Here are the key patterns for the Henry's Fork:

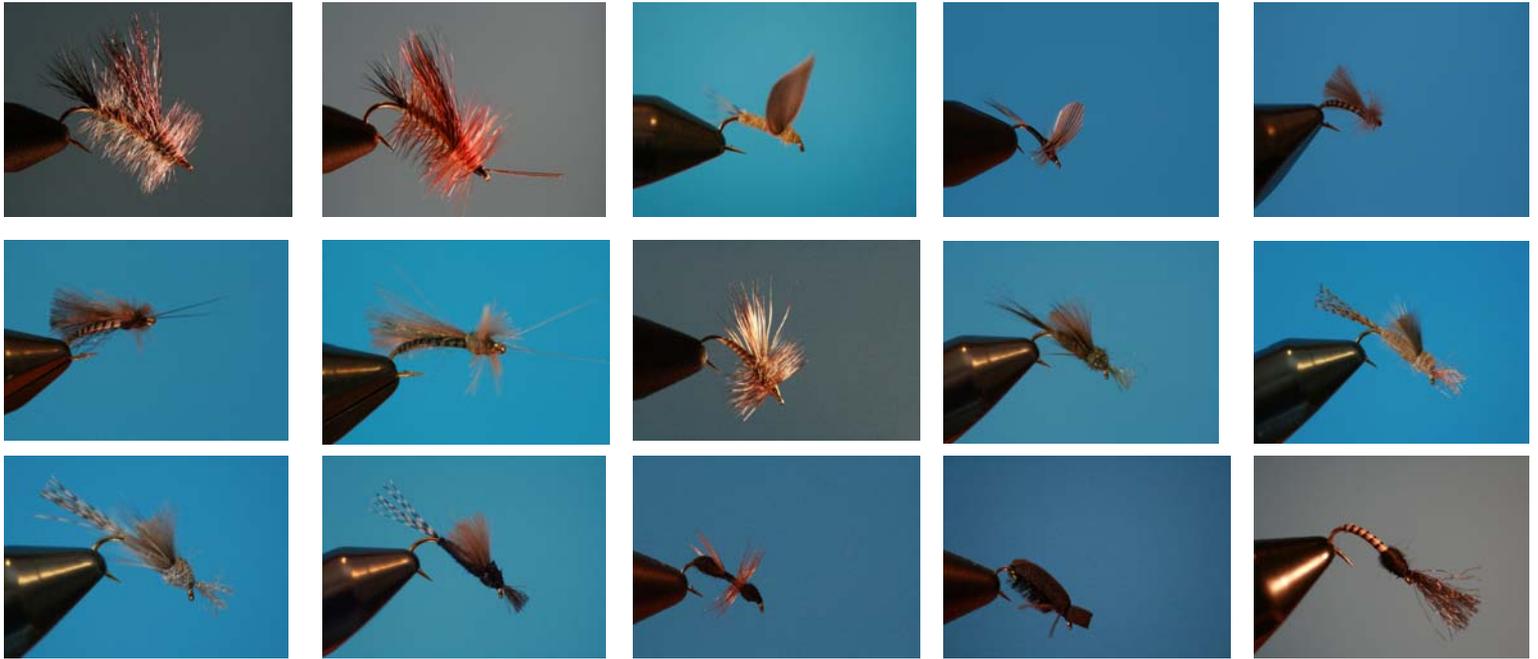
- A. #6 Golden Stone (Hair)
- B. #8 Joes Tiger Stone (Foam)
- C. #6 Black Gold (Don't ask me why big fish eat this bug in a Golden Stone hatch, but they do in a "Big" way!)
- D. #18 PMD in both No Hackles and Upright Wings
- E. #16 & #14 Gray Drakes
- F. #14 Brown Drakes
- G. #16 & #14 Midnight Caddis
- H. #16 Adams Caddis Green and Gray
- #18 Emperor Caddis (Black) and (Green)



Silver Creek: The drakes are tailing out, but the mayflies and caddis are intensifying. Even though your deliveries must be perfect, you can fool some large fish on that creek. Try a large pattern like #8 Black Gold or a #8 Halloween fished tight against the cut banks or one of our humpy patterns in Brown or Gold #12. It's amazing what you can lure out from under the cut banks.

If you're in the hatch, you'll need small mayflies such as PMD's and Black Tricos in size #22. A Caddidge is a great small caddis imitation for Silver Creek along with both Emperor Caddis (Green) and (Black) #18 and #20 and Adams Caddis #20 and #18 (Green and Gray).

The other extremely effective pattern is the Tantalizer Series in Baetis, Tan, Gray, and Black #18. Have a good handful of Colored Emergers also in Black and PMD. DO NOT forget the terrestrials #16 Black Ants and large Beetles #14 and #12.



It's time to chase fish, and the four locations above could prove to be very productive.

As always things have been busy around DFI with all the high water and not much river fishing like normal we've been able to finish our new presentation "Dry Fly Essentials". We're also in production of an entire Soft Hackles DFI style. It's an awesome stand alone pattern or the absolute perfect dropper behind a large dry. We've designed the bug to float on the dead drift and submerge on the swing. It's tested superbly over the last year. We're also working with Dean Crouser an artist out of Gresham Oregon to introduce a line of fish art that is truly exceptional.

We've enjoyed your fishing successes, your photos, and your fishing reports over the past few years. Please keep sending us your fishing photos and we'll continue to submit them to our "Catch of the Day" page.

Dad and I are headed for the Henry's Fork over the 4th of July so we'll have a report for you next week. It's time to pack the gear so we'll catch up to you next month and in between stay tuned to our blogs. It's our goal to keep the right dry fly on your tippet wherever your destinations. Have a great July!!!!

Your fellow Fly Fishing Enthusiast,

Geoff Brumley