



## Cuban Fly Fishing Adventures

Last month, Greg and several members of the Fly of the Month Club enjoyed a fly fishing trip to Cuba. They had the time of their lives and caught a variety of species including tarpon, permit and bonefish. They even caught an alligator and released it! We will be looking to put together more trips like this in the future. Where would you like to see us go? Belize, Patagonia, Montana, Russia? Please contact Matt with your suggestions and if you or your friends would be interested in joining us!



## Fly of the Month • July 2017

The summer fly fishing season is here! I hope you have had a chance to get out on the water. Several members of our Fly of the Month Club recently went on an exciting trip with Greg. They ventured down to fly fish and explore the coast of Cuba. I encourage you to check out the back page for some great photos from the trip and learn about potential upcoming trips.

This month's featured article is written by Peter Sticher with Ascent Fly Fishing. He discusses how to evaluate what you are presenting and how to refine it so you have more success. This is an ideal time to do the same with your finances and see where you are after the first half of the year. Our team of professionals have been busy reviewing many of our client's investments, insurance policies, taxes and estate planning documents the past few weeks. If you need help or a second opinion on your current plan, I encourage you to contact us and see how we can help.

If you are looking for advice or suggestions on where to fish this summer, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would be more than happy to give you some of our recommendations or refer you to a local shop or guide.

*Matt Blake, Senior Wealth Management Advisor*



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## FLY OF THE MONTH • EXTENDED BODY FOAM GREY DRAKE • Size 10

The mayfly genus of Siphonurus, commonly known as Grey Drakes, are an important still water and slow moving water family spanning the US and Canada. Swimming quickly to the surface in a hatch that lasts a number of months, it is the adult Dun and Spinner life stages that will linger around the water for several days after their emergence. This makes the Extended Body Foam Grey Drake a killer pattern during the hottest part of the hatch!

**Dry/Wet:** Dry

**Fly Category:** True-Fly Pattern

**Family:** Mayflies

**Species:** Grey Drake

**Life Stage:** Adult



### How to MATCH the Hatch in 5 Easy Steps

Peter Sticher - Ascent Fly Fishing

As anglers, our role is both detective and hunter. In order to improve the odds of choosing the best fly patterns and hooking more fish, we need to become students of the river. As we hike along the river bank and draw up rocks from its bubbling depths, every spiderweb laden with bugs, the flight pattern of insects startled from streamside willows, and the number of tails on a nameless nymph offer us valuable clues as to what the trout are likely feeding on. Each of these observations is a puzzle piece that should be assembled within the pages of our fly box and inform our choice of fly patterns to give us the best chance of hooking up. So when you are ready to put your seine samples and observation to work, here are five easy points to consider as you MATCH the hatch.

#### **Most Abundant**

It is a logical conclusion that the insect families and life cycles that we observe the most in and on the water, are also those that the trout have the greatest opportunity to feed upon. We will therefore give priority in our fly selection to the insects that are *Most Abundant*.

Did you observe 20 caddisflies skipping over the surface of a river pool and only a solitary mayfly? We will most likely experience more success with an Elk Hair Caddis instead of a dry mayfly pattern.

#### **Approximate Size & Profile**

After years of working as an Aquatic Biologist, and a lifetime as an angler, I am fully convinced that trout do not know the names of the flies in our fly boxes. They don't care that we call a pattern a parachute caddis, and will be just as happy to eat said "caddis pattern" when it is fished during an early brown stonefly hatch, so long as it is the *Approximate Size & Profile* of the majority of the insects sampled in or on the water. "Close enough" fished well is usually good enough to get the job done!

#### **Trout Feeding Behavior**

Trout will follow and focus on the greatest concentration of food in the water column. They may start the day feeding on mayfly nymphs along the bottom of the river, chase those nymphs towards the surface as they begin their hatch, then focus their attention on the fully emerged duns and spinners as they drift across the surface of the water. This migration will most likely occur many times each day, and we will allow the *Trout Feeding Behavior* to inform our fly selection and which insect life cycles we choose to fish.

#### **Color**

Get close in *Color* to the natural insects when choosing a fly pattern, and then add a little flash. Even a slight contrast created by the addition of a metal beadhead, a bright wire wrap, or flashback will help you seduce the attention and aggression of the trout.

#### **Half an Hour**

Matching the hatch and what trout are feeding on throughout the day is a moving target. There is going to be some trial and error to the process, so don't be afraid to change out your flies if you are not getting strikes. If the action has been dry for *Half an Hour*, it is time to change up your flies.

