



We Want to See Your Catch!

Share your Adventures with Us

Send us your photos and tell us your story. Then see them featured right here in our next Fly of the Month issue!



A great day fly fishing at North Fork Ranch



Matt Blake is starting his kids young - fishing the South Platte



Matt Blake with a rainbow trout at North Fork Ranch



FOM member Rob Malone with his Cobia catch of the day off the gulf waters of Florida.



Fly of the Month • November 2017

The season of Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and appreciate how fortunate we are. If you are like me, many of your cherished memories with friends and family involve fishing. Recently, I took advantage of a beautiful autumn day to go fly fishing with my children on the South Platte River. It was an amazing day as we enjoyed spending time together exploring the river. My son ended the day landing the largest rainbow trout he has ever caught. It is a day that I am truly thankful for and will never forget.

This holiday season, we are looking to make a difference in the lives of other nature lovers. If there is a charity or non-profit organization that supports fly fishing or the outdoors that you know of or are associated with, please tell us about them. We will be putting together a list of groups that we know of and that you introduce us to over the next several weeks. Next month, we will share a list of those organizations along with their contact information for you to consider with your charitable giving. In the future we will be supporting these groups at our Wambolt Fly of the Month events. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience either by phone or email. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families, and of course, happy fly fishing and tight lines!

Matt Blake, Senior Wealth Management Advisor



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FLY OF THE MONTH • BH ZEBRA MIDGE PUPA • Size 14

With nearly 17,000 species of midges crowding our North American waters, the Beadhead Zebra Midge Pupa is an amazing generalist pattern that, when fished in several sizes and colors, can be used to effectively match the pupa or emerger life stage of almost every one of our midge species. With the addition of a dense beadhead, you can fish this pattern close to the bottom of the river where fish prefer to lie instead of drifting over their heads!

Dry/Wet: Wet

Fly Category: Generalist Pattern

Family: Midges & Chironomids

Species: Blackfly, Bloodworm, Chironomid

Life Stage: Pupa



Trout Smart Series: Part 1 of Brook Trout

Peter Stichter - Ascent Fly Fishing

It was a beautiful day on the lake. The kids were splashing happily in the shallows while dad lazily cast a dry fly from the dock. Little did they know there was a menace lurking just beneath the surface of the water. Beady little eyes set above rows of sharp teeth, menace coiling in their bodies, a school of dark shapes began to ascend from the deep. Just then a shrill scream echoes out across the lake. In

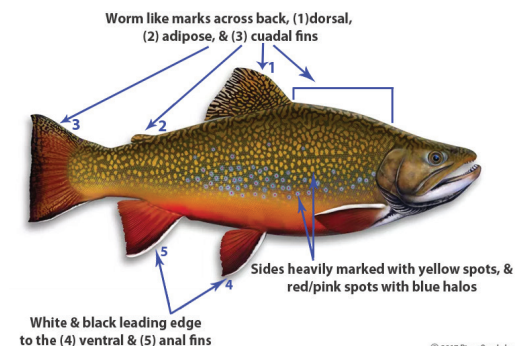
panic, the kids flood for the shore, leaving each to fend for themselves. Perplexed, they look for the source of the scream only to find their father visibly shaken and sitting squarely in the middle of the dock, hand trembling, with frayed tippet clenched in bloodless white fingers. "It all happened so fast," he said in shocked incredulity. "I didn't even see them coming! My dry fly was on the surface of the water, and then it was just gone! (sobbing)." The Brook Trout had struck again! In part II of our Trout Smart series we will be breaking down a familiar adversary to many of us: *Salvelinus fontinalis*, aka the Brook Trout.



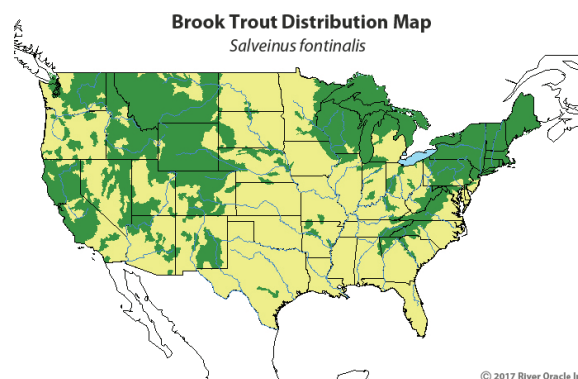
Identifying Characteristics:

Similar in color and pattern to the weeds, roots, and algae-covered rocks from which the brook trout like to hide and ambush their prey, the back, dorsal fin, adipose fin, and caudal fin (tail) are covered in a crosshatch of wormlike markings. The flanks of the brook trout are heavily covered with yellow dots and intermittent crimson to pink dots surrounded by blue halos. The leading edge of the dorsal and anal fins will each have strips of white and black in succession, while the rear portion of those fins will vary in color from a peach to a blaze orange.

Identifying Brook Trout



Range & Habitat:



A member of the salmon family, brook trout are native to the Eastern United States and Canada, where they are still commonly found in cool, clean lakes and rivers at high elevation. In the mid 1800's, brook trout began to be stocked beyond the borders of their native range both by public and private parties, and can today be found in all but a few states. Though

well-intentioned, the introduction of these prolific spawning and aggressive feeding fish has pushed some native trout and fishes to the brink of extinction, causing many to look upon the brook trout as a nuisance or invader.

For all intents and purposes, Brook trout are coldwater piranhas. Ambush predators, and aggressive feeders, brook trout will often travel in schools and push other trout species around in order to claim the best habitat in the river. This preference for cover will oftentimes see brook trout sharing the deep brush snags and undercut banks with brown trout, while their numbers and West Side Story like gang behavior regularly puts them into turf wars in the fast water with rainbow and cutthroat trout. The Brook trout's colonial expansion has been halted primarily by their need for cool, clean water, with the optimal range being between 44° - 58° F.

Stay tuned for Part 2 of Brook Trout in December