

# Wambolt & Associates

## *Holiday Celebration*



The team at Wambolt & Associates gathered in December to celebrate the holiday season. We enjoyed a gift exchange where we bought toys that would be donated to The Action Center. We tried to buy gifts that the 'Child of Ourselves' today would have wanted. It was fun to speculate who bought what for who! In addition, many of our clients contributed to this drive, so it felt great to drive this 'sleigh of toys' in for delivery! We are so grateful to be a part of such a great collective effort, and it brought us joy knowing that we made a difference during the holiday season. We hope your holiday season was filled with joy as well!

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## Fly of the Month • January 2020



One of the most frequent questions I receive from anglers each year is: “When should I use a beadhead fly vs. an unweighted fly?” For most wet fly, nymph, and larva patterns there are both weighted (topped with a brass or tungsten beadhead) and unweighted options. Each variety has its own unique strengths. There are particular tasks and conditions in which each type of fly will perform better. Similar to the tools of a craftsman, they will have a framing hammer for heavy, hard-driving work, and a smaller finish hammer for precise, delicate jobs. Among the tools of the fly fisher’s trade are weighted and unweighted nymphs, and in this month’s Fly of the Month, we’re going to break down when and where to use each type to the maximum effect.

*Continue reading inside...*



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## FLY OF THE MONTH • GT PERFECT EMERGER • Size 16

The GT Perfect Emerger is a well-thought-out midge and chironomid pupa pattern. Before emerging from the silty depths of the lakes and rivers in which they live, the pupae of many midge species will actually form a small air bubble under their skin to assist them upwards as they jerkily swim towards the surface of the water. The GT Perfect Emerger captures this flashing, defining feature of the natural with a glossy glass bead tied near the thorax of the fly. A proven killer in tailwaters, lakes, and freestone rivers, the GT Perfect Emerger is an excellent pattern for any angler looking to flesh out midge emergers in their fly box.

**Color:** Olive | **Dry/Wet:** Wet | **Fly Category:** Attractor Pattern | **Family:** Midges & Chironomids | **Life Stage:** Larva, Pupa, Emerger



by over-hanging cover, tying on a large beadhead or tungsten beadhead pattern will allow you to drop quickly into the head of the pool to drift the entire length of the feeding zone on the bottom of the river.

- **When you need to spark the fish's attention** – Today, beadheads come in every color of the rainbow, from a natural yellow brass to fluorescent orange. A shiny metal or painted beadhead will help increase the visibility of your fly in murky water and help grab the attention of feeding trout.



## To Bead or Not to Bead? When to Fish Weighted vs. Unweighted Flies

By Peter Stitcher - Ascent Fly Fishing

### When to Use Beadhead Fly Patterns:

- **When you are fishing deep water or a strong current** – Beadhead flies are the hard driving, fast diving flies that are akin to the framing hammer in the fly fisher's tool box. Beadhead patterns are perfect for fighting strong currents, and help the angler quickly reach fish hunkered among the rocks on the bottom of a river. While beadheads can be effective on streams of every size throughout the year, they are the best choice when fishing during runoff or after a big rain.

- **When you want to simplify your nymphing rig** – Beadhead fly patterns are a great alternative to line tangling and debris snagging split shot. Whether you are fishing a traditional American Nymphing rig with your heaviest fly tied closest to the leader, or a Euro rig with your heaviest fly on the bottom of the rig, incorporating your weight into the fly pattern will help you clearly detect the subtle bites of fish.

- **When you are fishing short pools and tight habitat** – One of the most common errors of the fly fisher is not getting deep enough and drifting our flies over the fish. When fishing short and deep pools, or when your cast and drift might be constrained

### When to Use Unweighted Fly Patterns:

- **When finesse is needed** – When a light touch is needed and fish are skittish, it is time to tie on an unweighted nymph. Trout become more alert and on-guard in waters where they are heavily pressured by anglers, when water levels are lower (late summer through the winter), and when the sun is high over the water. Under these conditions, trout will often be spooked by the “plop” of a beadhead splashing into the water or be alerted by its flash. When pursuing shy fish, lose the beadhead and tie on an unweighted fly.

- **When fish are feeding on emergers** – Fish follow the food, and when aquatic insects push off the bottom of the lake or river and swim towards the surface, fish will rise in pursuit. When fish start feeding on these insects in the top 12 inches of the water column, using an unweighted fly will keep you in the zone and in the action.

- **When fishing under a bright afternoon sun** – While beadheads can help improve your fly's visibility early in the day, around dusk, and on overcast days, the flash and blink of a metal bead can become too much for trout as the sun beats down directly into the water at midday. If you have been fishing a hot beadhead pattern in the morning and the bite turns off as the sun rises overhead, switch to an unweighted variety and see if that doesn't heat things up again.

### To bead or not to bead, that is the question, and now you have the answer!

Both beadhead and unweighted nymphs are vital tools in the fly fisher's arsenal that when used in the right conditions and scenarios, will allow you to consistently catch more fish!