

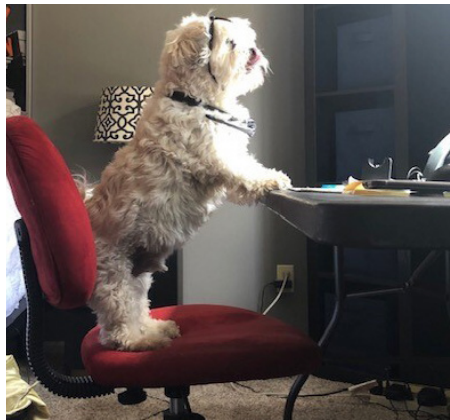


'All Paws on Deck'

Many of us are spending more time with our furry family members as we work from home. Here's how our pets have been contributing to office operations.



Blaze joining in on conference calls



Fred responding to emails



Natasha analyzing data



Harley answering incoming calls

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Fly of the Month · June 2020



Runoff can be a dreaded time of year for some trout fishermen. The muddy water period between spring and summer that many deem “unfishable” is actually extremely important to the overall health of the fishery. Runoff is when the river gets its annual cleaning and despite the increase in river flow and color, fish can still be caught! Depending on where you are in Colorado, runoff typically starts mid-May and lasts into June. In years with large snowpack, rivers can remain high even into July! Here are some pointers to help you get the most out of your fishing time during mud season.

Continue reading inside...



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FLY OF THE MONTH • BH Rockroller • SIZE 14

The most realistic cased caddis larva fly pattern in the shop, the Beadhead Rockroller is a spot-on imitation of a host of caddis species! Tied with a combination of white, brown, black, and tan rubber leg material and finished with a black beadhead and a pinch of gold tinsel, this fly lives up to its name and rolls across the bed of the river in a perfect imitation of a real cased caddis drifting with the current. Plan on fishing this pattern to maximum effect during spring runoff, after a rainstorm, or whenever flows spike in your local tailwater!



Dry/Wet: Wet | **Fly Category:** Generalist Pattern

Family: Caddis | **Species:** Multiple | **Life Stage:** Larva

Fly-Fishing During Runoff

By Danny Frank – Colorado Trout Hunters

- **Fish the Soft Edges** – Before you even step in the river, fish the soft edges along the riverbank. People standing where they should be fishing is a theme I see throughout all periods of the year, not just during runoff. This is especially important to pay attention to during runoff as the added river flows have the fish sitting on the edges, not in the middle of the river.
- **Alter your Fly Selection** – Go bigger, brighter, and pick flies that offer better contrast. You want to be fishing the meat and potato rigs. Black stands out well in stained water, as do bright colors like pink and red. The increased flows also dislodge some of the big bugs from the river bottom. Stoneflies and crane flies are some of my go to patterns.
- **Rope Up** – Fish won't be leader shy during these conditions. You want to be fishing heavy line, this will be helpful turning the fish if they get out in the fast water mid-river.
- **Focus on Tailwaters over Freestones** – Tailwaters are rivers below dams. These stretches may contain high water levels during runoff, but that water will still be clear thanks to it being released from the dam.

- **Monitor Stream Flows** – There is a point where things become unfishable or simply not safe during highwater flows. Don't push your luck, the rivers usually spike pretty good when the first wave of snowmelt starts to release but they will come down soon.
- **Consider Fishing Drop Shot Rigs** – This is a way to rig your set up where you put the weight behind your flies as opposed to in front of them. I will tie some light tippet off the bend of the hook of my last fly. I will then put an overhand knot at the end of that strand of tippet and put my split shot above that knot. During runoff, you must get deep to find fish, but it's also likely that you will encounter many snags in the river causing you to lose flies. Drop shot rigs are a great set up for this style of fishing as they get your flies in the zone, but help keep you from losing them as frequently when you snag on the bottom. You can simply break off the weight at the end versus losing your flies.
- **Don't Forget about Still Waters** – Runoff is a great time to up your game on lakes and reservoirs. These fisheries are often ignored by fly anglers, which is a mistake as the fishing can be fantastic when runoff occurs and the ice melts. Check out the famous big 3 reservoirs of South Park if you are looking for a place to start. Eleven Mile, Spinney, and Antero are all world renowned still waters that will give you shots at trophy trout!

