



Meet our Guest Star Author

My name is Danny Frank and I have been fly-fishing for as long as I can remember. What started as a hobby, quickly turned into a passion that now controls my work life and free time. I grew up in Northeastern Ohio where I worked at my local fly shop throughout high school. Upon graduation I moved to Colorado and began guiding out here in 2008. When not guiding, I also work and host trips for a fly-fishing travel company. I am lucky to travel the world with a fly rod in hand but there is something special about my home waters here in Colorado. I would love the opportunity to share my passion with you by spending some time on the water together. I take great pride in my guiding and creating an experience you won't forget!

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Fly of the Month · May 2020



In my home state of Colorado, the month of May is one I get excited for as that is when the bass fishing starts to turn on. That's right, in a state filled with trout water, I get excited to fly-fish for bass. Both largemouth and smallmouth bass are some of the most popular gamefish in the world with conventional fishermen, but not many fly anglers take advantage of this species. Bass are more resilient than trout and can be found in a range of locations, from warm water rivers to small farm ponds to large reservoirs. Depending on where you live, I am guessing there is a body of water that has some bass in it, not too far away from you. Mix it up and target some bass with your fly rod, you won't be disappointed! Here are some pointers to help you make the most of your time fly-fishing for bass.

Continue reading inside...



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FLY OF THE MONTH • CDC BWO • SIZE 18

Tied with a hackle wrap behind the eye of the hook and a thick tuft of CDC feathers off its back. The BWO CDC Thorax Dun is extra buoyant, keeping your drift dry where your other BWO patterns sink. Great for faster currents or when you want a smaller dry and still trail a dropper below. This unique tie makes it a deadly pattern for the Blue Winged Olive hatch.



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

Family: Mayflies | **Species:** Blue Winged Olive | **Life Stage:** Adult

Fly-Fishing for Bass on Local Waters

By Danny Frank – Colorado Trout Hunters

- **Largemouth vs Smallmouth** - The two behave differently. Know which species you are targeting as that will vary your approach. Largemouth bass can live in warmer water and will eat just about anything. My personal favorite way to target largemouths is with poppers during periods of lower light. Smallmouth bass prefer cooler water with more dissolved oxygen. This allows them to be found in rivers along with deeper reservoirs. I prefer to target smallies with crayfish type patterns. If fishing a reservoir, find some rock piles and don't be afraid to put on a sink tip.
- **Fish during periods of low light** - It is a lot easier to get into a new type of fishing if you are having success. When targeting bass with a fly, you will find the most success early in the morning or late in the day. Periods of low light will have the bass in shallower water, more willing to feed.
- **Find the cover** - Bass love cover. Wood, boat docks, rock piles, weed lines and lily pads are among their favorite types of cover. Fishing a large body of water can be intimidating, start with looking for waters with some cover.
- **Power of the pause** - You want to be moving your fly to get the bass' attention, but I find that I get majority of my takes during the pause between strips. This is the same whether fishing with poppers or on the subsurface. You want to vary your retrieve, but don't lose contact with the fly between strips, this is when you will get your best hits! What's another time you should be ready for a hit? The second your fly lands on the water. If you don't get a hit the moment your fly lands, retrieve it slow with plenty of pauses.

- **Strip set** - You want to keep the rod tip down to really bury that hook home. You can fish heavier line for bass, so don't be shy during the hook set. Bass have a hard mouth compared to other freshwater species so a hard hook set is very important.
- **Don't be afraid to blind fish** - I love to sight fish, but most of the bass I hook up to are times when blind casting. Bass are opportunistic and very curious so they will move a good distance to check out your fly.
- **Fish large flies with plenty of flash** - Again, they are very curious fish and don't have hands. When they want to inspect something, they eat it! You can fish anything from your trout streamers to big deer hair poppers. If you are targeting bass in rivers, large stonefly nymphs can also be effective.

Targeting bass on the fly brings me back to my fishing days as a kid when I was used to asking neighbors if I could fish their ponds and promising to release anything I caught. Simply put, I have fun when fishing for bass. Regardless of what species you are targeting, if you have a rod in your hand, you are becoming a better angler. Pull up Google earth and find some ponds around your house. If you live in Denver, check out Chatfield Reservoir, Cherry Creek Reservoir, or the Denver South Platte. Step outside of your comfort zone and give fly-fishing for bass a try!

