



We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our leader and founder of Wambolt & Associates - Greg Wambolt - for being presented with the 2020 Five Star Wealth Manager Award, which marks the 7th year Greg has acquired this designation. This prestigious award is granted to industry leaders for their deep knowledge, experience, and commitment to client services. Candidates are vetted through an in-depth and objective research methodology that assesses 10 eligibility evaluation criteria such as client retention rates, assets administered, professional designations, and years of experience. While Greg has been pursuing professional excellence for over 30 years, his success is bolstered by his trusted team of advisors. You can find our firm's profile highlight in this November's edition of 5280: *The Denver Magazine* and *ColoradoBiz* magazines. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership with Greg Wambolt and his robust Wambolt team.

2020
FIVE STAR
WEALTH MANAGER



Greg Wambolt

Founder, Senior Wealth Manager

2012 • 2014 • 2015 • 2016 • 2018 • 2019 • 2020

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Fly of the Month • November 2020



When fishing fall through spring, being able to identify and effectively target shelves and drop-offs in the river will give you access to the greatest fish concentrations and some of the hottest action of the season! When the waters are low and food in the river thin, shelves and drop-offs provide trout with vital cover along with easier access to available food in the river. Here are a few tips to help you identify and fish shelves and drop-offs, which are bound to pay off with more fish in your net!



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FLY OF THE MONTH • Manhattan Midge • Size 20

If you are looking for a go-to midge emerger with a proven record of fooling even the most selective trout, look no further than the Manhattan Midge! A true tailwater and spring creek killer, the Manhattan Midge has just the right amount of bling to pull in even the most reluctant fish with its mercury beadhead, thin wire rib, and small tufted wing. When the bite is slow on your next trip to the river, tie on a Manhattan Midge and we promise that you won't regret it!



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

Family: Midges & Chironomids | **Species:** N/A | **Life Stage:** Emerger, Pupa

Tips & Tactics for Fishing Shelves & Drop-offs

By: Ascent Fly Guru, Charlie Lukasiewicz

Finding Shelves & Drop-Offs

Shelves and drop-offs are created when fast-moving water erodes away gravel and small rock from the riverbed, creating sharp, deep depressions or trenches that provide trout with greater depths to hide and slower flows, which enables fish to conserve energy as they feed. These sweet, little fishing collection spots will often be found at river transitions from steep, fast-flowing riffles into slow flat pools, or at bends in the river where the current comes up against a boulder or bedrock. With most of the aquatic insects in the river calling the fast-flowing riffles home, the position of the deep shelves and trenches immediately downstream of the riffle make them points of food collection as drifting nymphs and larva hit the deep, slow currents and lazily drift in front of schooling trout.



How to Fish Shelves & Drop-Offs

There are a couple techniques to help you maximize your fish count when targeting shelves and drops-offs; one being a traditional tandem nymph rig and the other a Czech or euro nymphing setup. Nymphs, larva, pupa, and wet flies are going to be your go-to patterns, especially when fishing in the fall through spring when hatches are few and far between. Whether you prefer using lead split shot, tungsten putty, tungsten weighted nymphs, or a combination of all the above, weighing your rigs to ensure a precipitous, quick descent is essential. It might take a little bit of time to find that sweet spot, using just enough weight to drop your flies into the feeding zone along the bottom of the shelf or trench, but not getting hung up on the bottom. Arguably, the most effective rig for targeting shelves and drop-offs is Czech nymphing with a long 10' – 12' rod. This technique allows you to pinpoint and drop your heavily weighted tungsten beadheaded nymphs right off the shelf while feeling every tip, tap, and take translated directly from fly to fingertip.



From the time the leaves start to fall until the trees bud again in the spring, shelves and drop-offs are going to offer you consistent action on the fly! Cold-water makes for slow fishing, but if you go deep and scrape the bottom of the river, you are almost guaranteed to pick up fish in these off-season hot spots!