

# Dredger's Springtime Dries and Droppers

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**"HAPPY NEW DRY FLY SEASON!"**

- *The Ole Rabunite*

## **Vital Spring Trinkets:**

Floatant (Gink, Aquel, Fly-Agra), dessicant (Frog's Fanny), chamois drying cloth, Dr. Slick scissor-pliers (point cleans hook eyes and also opens split shot slits), tiny Dinsmore shots, paint strainer, TWO flashlights.

<http://midcurrent.com/experts/floatant-vs-desiccant/>

## **Two Main Themes:**

### **A) Temps and Bugs**

Check water temps and study the bugs (size, color, and behavior)

Cheap bug net = Home Depot paint strainer over your landing net

Listen to Rosenbauer's awesome 1/20/12 podcast on ten caddis tips:

<http://www.orvis.com/s/fly-fishing-guide-podcasts/4047>

### **B) Spring's Progression**

Follow Rabun TU newsletter's monthly hatch chart

Spring's Three Chapters:

#### **1) March: "Big, cold, and slow"**

Let's do lunch: midday sun's warmth

Dries:

Parachutes, not Catskill style, so the body lies in the surface film

Color themes: gray or brown

14 adams - great searcher!!!

16, 18 gray caddis

14 quill gordon

14 march brown

18 blue quill

12, 14 yellow stimulator

Wets:

Big hares ear- 12, 14

14-18 soft hackle hares ear, pheasant tail

Euro nymphs- 14 walts worm, frenchie will sink deep due to tungsten head

Two story fishing:

A) Short leader (7ft 4x)

B) Long dropper with shot (4-6 feet of 4 or 5x with one or two #6 dinsmores)

Short Belgian cast- open loop

Dredge the dry (add a big shot above the dropper), then shake it off

End with a swing, so your dropper looks like an emerger

## 2) April: "Prime time!"

Supper: Caddis and Cahills

Small Adams to search

Shake the bushes

Hit the riffles and shadows for early risers

Shrinking bugs (carry 14's to 18's) – lots of tans and yellows

Start with dry and soft hackle or emerger dropper (short leader of 7 ft 5 x, and 3-5 ft dropper of 5x, with a #6 or #8 dinsmore)

Chum them up with a twitch, or downstream cast and skitter upstream (drag, drop, follow back downstream)

The dropper acts as an "anchor" and allows more controlled twitches and skitters

Later: Go double dry with shorter 24 inch dropper, maybe even thicker (4x) tippet

Consider pre-rigs in a dropper box (\$3 foam at chattooga river fly shop)

Pack emergers: x-caddis, iris caddis, and especially cdc mayfly emergers

A cahill with an elk hair caddis dropper to end the trip

"Haircut and shave" your caddis to imitate egg layers and spent bugs in surface film

Catch bonus fish by wet-fly swinging your dries after dark! Hold rod tip at water surface for hookups.

## 3) May: "Dark-thirty"

Evening snacks

Daytime morgue of low, clear water – resurrection at dark!

DON'T LEAVE EARLY!

Search for shadows to find early afternoon risers

Look up for bugs

Picky fish = longer leaders (9ft +)

Get sneaky: 5x to first fly and 6x to dropper

Pack emergers!

Dusk stakeout

Yellow is king- sallies and stimulators

Tiny back flies: 18's

Land assault: ants and beetles

End the month with green drake helicopters on 3x or 4x

Extend spring by driving north:

a) Nantahala DH

Nan tip - histick the boulder pockets with double dries on a short (12-18 inch) tippet between them.

b) Smokies require your A-game

Study the water and hunt your chosen fish.

Always remember a wading staff, a camera, a flashlight, and a friend!

And the Rabunite term for "fish on:"

***Waaaahhhhhh- HOOOO !!!!***

Thanks for buying your licenses and supporting your GAWRD fisheries programs!

Jeff's email list for north GA fishing news: [jeff.durniak@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:jeff.durniak@dnr.ga.gov)

**WRD Fishing Blog: [GeorgiaWildlife.wordpress.com](http://GeorgiaWildlife.wordpress.com)**