

## **Matt's Perch Candy**

Many Montana trout rivers are in the midst of the spring runoff in May, which makes warmwater lakes and ponds good choices at this time. Indeed, because bass and most panfish are spawning, May is arguably the best time to fish warmwater lakes. Tyer Matt Minch's Perch Candy is the only warmwater fly my shop regularly stocks, with good reason. It has taken everything from carp to pike, and is deadly on panfish and bass. Minch himself rarely carries any other flies when fishing for warmwater species, a true vote of confidence in the Perch Candy's fish catching powers.

### How to Fish

The Perch Candy is usually fished using a twitch-pause retrieve, with retrieve speed depending on how aggressive the fish are being. Try it in shallow water near weeds on a floating line, on a sink tip when fishing deeper structure, or even suspended under a strike indicator like a jig when bluegill or crappie are on their beds.

### Tying Challenges

In most respects the Perch Candy is simply an easier version of a Woolly Bugger. Indeed, probably the hardest part of tying the fly is keeping it simple. You should still make sure to tie several versions of the fly, from the sparse version shown here to flies with thick tails and collars. Depending on your target species, water conditions, and how aggressive the fish are, one version will usually outperform another. In general, larger predatory fish will want flies tied more robustly, especially when the water is dirty.

### Perch Candy Pattern

Hook: 3xl streamer, #4-12.

Bead: copper.

Thread: chartreuse 6/0.

Tail: chartreuse marabou with several strands of pearl or lime green Krystal Flash on either side.

Body: small or medium lime green or chartreuse flash chenille. Wrap underbody of yarn on larger flies.

Collar: green-dyed grizzly saddle hackle.

