

They're Coming Back!

By
Jim Greco



This year you may once again be catching trout that have overly distended bellies looking like they have been gorging at Mom's Thanksgiving table. That's right; from as early as late April through May and part of June of 2013 cicada brood II will reappear after lying dormant for 17 years. For the full story go to this site provided by Jay Sheppard:

http://www.magicicada.org/about/brood_pages/broods.php. See the distribution map by clicking on brood II in the table.

Many years ago, Pam and I went to the Green River in Dutch John, Utah and had the best fly fishing trip either of us have ever had. On that trip we only used one pattern, and that was a #10 foam cicada tied to match a local cicada hatch that started a few days before we arrived. We used about a dozen flies apiece each day we floated the river, and we didn't lose any flies. They just got so chewed up by the huge browns that were inhaling them they stopped working. No kidding, it was the trip of a lifetime with so many 16 inch to 23 inch browns, rainbows, and cuttbows taken, by the end of the first day we ran out of Band-Aids for our stripping fingers. That local hatch of cicadas was one of the periodical hatches that take place every year, and its numbers were small in comparison to what a 17 year emergence will be like.

Many people have been asking about it, so here is the pattern we used, and I have since caught fish with it here, too (bass and trout). When brood II emerges, I hope this pattern will work as well here as it did for brood X in 2004.

Hook: 2x long dry fly - Tiemco 2302 - Mustad 94831 - in a size #8 or #10
Thread: 6/0 black Unithread
Body: 1/8" thick black closed cell foam for #10 or 3/16" thick black foam for #8

Thorax: black, ice/crystal chenille, densely wrapped over foam
Hackle: brown neck hackle palmered thickly through the mid section of the fly then clipped short
Legs: barred orange and black Sili Legs
Wing: 12 strands of black Krystal Flash then 8 strands of pearl Krystal Flash
Top: small piece of 1/8" yellow closed cell foam on top so you can spot the fly and make sure it is floating upright

Tying tips: Wrap your thread over bare hook to just over the barb then back to eye. Tie in black foam at head of fly then fold back the foam and begin tying it down about 2/5ths of the way to the bend of the hook. Apply Zap a Gap/super glue to the entire wrapped area to lock the foam in proper position. Just past the point, stop wrapping the foam down leaving enough black foam to extend 3/8 inch past the bend. Trim the black foam to a sharp, narrow triangle to match the cicada abdomen shape. Tie in two sets of legs on each side (two front -- two back, each side). Tie in black then pearl Krystal Flash for the wing, cutting it off about 3/8 inch past tip of abdomen. Tie in a large brown hackle. Tie in black Ice Chenille and wrap mid section. Palmer brown hackle to the back of the head and trim it all around to make the appearance of thicker body, being careful not to clip off any legs. Tie in a small piece of yellow foam on top for easy spotting of fly. If you don't see the yellow dot after the fly lands, give it a tug to right itself and show the yellow. Throw it to a big trout and hang on!

Cicada Dry Fly

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From a pattern used on the Green River in Dutch John, Utah

