

Guide's Angle- Caddisfly Adults Chris Scalley

Last month we discussed the emergence of caddisflies and how trout "key in" on the larvae and pupae stages of their life cycle. Most caddisflies in the South that hatch in the spring time are done emerging by mid May and the adults are able to live from 4to6weeks out of the water. Caddisfly are a distant cousin to the common butterfly and they are capable of drinking nector from flowers just long enough to sustain themselves to mate and eventually lay eggs. The female will actually land on the surface of the river where she will break through the meniscus or surface tension in order to swim to the stream floor where she will attach her egg sack. During and after this process both male and female caddisflies will begin to die and land on the surface of the river which anglers call "spent caddis". If you are at the right place at the right time you may be able to witness a feeding frenzy and experience some of the most exciting dry fly action of the year. Best patterns in calm or flat water are more realistic patterns like the Scalleys Cripple Caddis or Pfitzer's Woodchuck caddis and in faster or riffle water attractor patterns such as the Royal Wolff or Elk-Hair Caddis. If you get frustrated try any of these patterns quartering downstream with a non toxic split shot 18inches above the fly and swing the fly subsurface to mimics egg laying caddisflies.

