



Don't be picky
about fly
patterns, because
brookies aren't.
You don't even
have to match
the hatch.

High Lake Brook Trout *Flies*

BROOK TROUT are not hard to catch. They're a bit like housecats. Dangle something in front of them, make it move – and they'll attack. If you see rises on the lake, creep to within casting distance and toss your fly close by. If there's no hit, twitch the fly. If there's still no action, slowly retrieve the fly (it's okay if the dry goes under) and make it start and stop, as if it's struggling. Curious brookies may follow the bug all the way back to you.

If there are no rises on the lake, use a wet fly or nymph and explore the areas close to shore, especially where there is cover, such as overhanging bushes or submerged logs and rocks. Cast, let the fly sink for 20 seconds, then make the fly move and struggle. Go slow, then faster. Pretend your fly is an insect. Make it struggle all the way back to shore.

Don't be picky about fly patterns, because brookies aren't. You don't even have to match the hatch. Once, I tried unsuccessfully to match a brown mayfly hatch the fish were taking off the surface. After they ignored three or four imitations, I finally tried a weird orange dry fly I'd tied just for fun. The brookies attacked it.

Standbys I use are Adams, Black Gnat, Ant, Spider, March Brown, Woolly Worm, and Hare's Ear Nymph, from sizes 10 to 14. 