



# NOVEMBER – Late Fall Stillwater Secrets: Finishing the Season Strong

The last and best chance to connect with trophy trout before the lakes freeze.



## The Final Feeding Window

When weeds collapse and ice rims the bays, most anglers pack up. But the few who stay find the most aggressive, heavy trout of the entire year. Late fall is when trout feed fast to store energy before winter oxygen stabilizes after turnover, and food is plentiful but slowing. This short guide shows exactly how to approach this window for consistent cold water success. This is often the time that the trophy trout make the mistakes, giving you a sold shot!

# Where Trout Hold

## Depth & Location

- 4-12 ft near steep drops or mud flats.
- Wind-blown shorelines where food piles up.
- Inflow areas that hold slightly warmer water.

## Structure Priorities

- Collapsing weed beds = last big food source.
- Points with current or wind exposure.
- Bays with dying scuds and leeches.



## Flies That Produce

Pattern	Size	Color	Notes	When to Use
Balanced Leech	10–12	Black / Maroon	Anytime light fades	Blob / Booby
Blob / Booby	10	Orange / Coral	Cloudy, low vis	Bloodworm
Bloodworm	12–14	Red / Claret	Bright calm days	Chironomid Pupae
Chironomid Pupae	14–20	Gunmetal / black	Midday hatches	

**Tip:** Rotate color and profile every 30 minutes late season fish key on movement and silhouette more than exact imitation.

# Retrieve & Presentation

## Slow & Suspended

- 6–10 inch strips with 2–3 sec pauses.
- Under indicators, adjust depth in 1-foot increments until takes start.

## Hang & Lift

- On balanced patterns, raise rod slowly 12–18 inches at end of retrieve.

## When to Fish

- 11 AM–3 PM for peak temps (45–50 °F).
- Light south wind = best drift control.

## Late-Fall Checklist

- Confirm lake turnover complete.
- Monitor temps with thermometer (target 45–50 °F).
- Pack double anchor setup.
- Rig one balanced leech, one blob rod.
- Keep retrieve deliberate and slow.

## Next Steps

Cold water precision decides who catches and who blanks. If you want to master suspended and slow water presentations, dive into my complete course **Suspend & Conquer** built for exactly this late fall scenario coming very soon.

