



March Fly Of The Month

A Classic Go To Pattern

Borcher's Drake Parachute

By Todd A. Schotts

For the April opener, I'm talking about nothing but the best, and only a dry will do. Of course this means a Parachute Borcher or Borcher's Drake Parachute.

The original Borcher's Drake was designed by Ernie Borcher back in the 1940's. Ernie was a legendary fishing guide and tyer who resided in the Grayling area. According to history he saw natural flies being taken by rising trout, so he sought to create a fly that worked as well as the real thing. After a few modifications this unique dry fly was "hatched." The pattern worked so well, word spread, and the Borcher's Special became one of the "go to," and most well known, patterns around. Even today this pattern is still one of the most used fly patterns for spring trout fishing in the Midwest.

The Borchers Drake represents a range of dark mayflies depending on the size of hook. The Parachute Borcher and Borcher's Drake Parachute is a relative to the Borchers Drake, but tied in a post pattern. The pattern evolved in the 1960's and its origins are unclear. Credit went to Art Neumann, who was one of the founding fathers of Trout Unlimited and an owner of Wanigas Rod Company. We use the Borchers Drake to represent the Hendrickson hatch, which has a 2 to 3

week life span (depending on how Mother Nature directs the symphony of wind, rain, and temperatures in the spring).

The original pattern was tied more of a Catskill style with the hackle in the up right position using feathers. However, the post pattern makes the fly a lot easier to see while the fly meanders on flowing waters. The recipe below suggests white Hi Viz for the post, but you can also use white Turkey Flats (for the traditional fly tyer). When you fish this pattern at dusk and the evening shadows start appearing on the waters, making your fly difficult to see; use pink in place of the white for the post. Another option for the pattern uses extra fine copper wire for ribbing. (I prefer to skip the wire and use Zap-A-Gap on the hook shank before I wrap the Turkey Tail toward the front. This helps to secure the materials without the extra weight.)

I hope this fly brings you many trout this spring. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Borcher's Drake



HOOK: Dry fly sizes 8-16 (94840)

WING: Hi Vis White, White Turkey Flats, or optional Pink Hi Vis.

TAIL: Moose Body Hair 3 pieces

BODY: 5 strands of turkey tail

HACKLE: Brown & Grizzly mixed, tied parachute

RIB: extra small copper wire (optional)

