



# March Fly Of The Month

A Prize Pattern From England

## Blagdon Buzzer

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly pattern, we are going back in time, back across the pond to England for a unique fly that has spun off a family tree with many diverse styles of relatives. The originator of "March's Fly of The Month," is Dr. Howard Bell and the fly is called the Blagdon Buzzer.

This fly was created back in 1920's in the Blagdon Lake Reservoir in Northern edge of Mendip Hills about 10 miles south of Bristol, England. I couldn't find much written on Dr Howard Bell, but do know he is considered the "father of imitative Stillwater fishing" over in England, which he fished from 1922 to 1969. The writings claim he studied the lake's aquatic invertebrates to produce a range of dressings to represent them. I know this pattern with its huge family of relatives are some of the most effective flies out there for stillwater fishing.

The Blagdon Buzzer is the very first buzzer/chironomidae created to represent the midge pupa. A buzzer is basically an imitation of pupa midge, the non-biting mosquito that in its larva stage, part of the Midge Family. When people tie patterns representing these flies, it is often in the midge pupa stage or adult dry fly stage.

Things to remember when tying this pattern, is that they are very abundant in most stillwaters with hundreds of different

species in the U.S. and across the big pond in Europe. They hatch almost year-round, and they are high on the menu for the species in the stillwaters. When tying buzzer patterns the rule of thumb is to use the sparsest of materials...so, when tying these patterns make sure they are sparse enough for the fly to move and sink freely in the water. A lack of body volume is a way to achieve this. With the newer relatives of this pattern, they use epoxy and other resins, but the original pattern we are talking about does not. Also when tying these patterns, remember the average actual length of buzzers are 1/4" to 1/2" so tie them on size 12 to size 14 hooks. However, some patterns call for size 10 to 8 for larger Buzzer Flies.

The buzzer fly pattern can be fished solo or in tandem with 2 or 3 other flies including dries, other nymphs, or other buzzers. The recommended writings in England mention the "Top Fly" or a dropper be a light buzzer, typically a fluffy one tied on a light hook. The "Dropper" is a buzzer, and then the "Point Fly" a typical heavy buzzer, epoxied to sink fast and tied to a heavy hook.

When picking a line, floating line is recommended, but depending on water conditions, you can also use an intermediate line. You can retrieve your fly with long slow pulls, use a figure 8 retrieve, or short intermittent pulls. One thing mentioned in the he information is that can speed up the drift by either taking one or two steps back or slow it down, or by stepping forward along the bank. Remember that Pupae make up 90% of a trout's diet and are found in different colors and sizes. These colored "Buzzers" will help 365 days out of the year.

So, start slinging those bobbins, and it is time to get your "Buzzer On!" Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

## Blagdon Buzzer



**HOOK:** Curved Nymph Size 10-14 vary the wire thickness to vary the fly weight.

**THREAD:** Black 70 Denier or 8/0

**BODY:** Tying Floss or Wool Black

**RIB:** Flat Gold Tinsel.

**BREATHERS:** White Ply yarn or similar material

