

# On The Fly

## February 2010

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

### PATTERN OF THE MONTH: March Brown Deer Hair Emerger

Hook: Daiichi 1130, heavy wide-gape scud hook.  
Thread: Rusty Orange, 8-0.  
Body: Pale yellowish tan beaver.  
Tail: Brown Z-lon.  
Wing: Coastal Deer hair.



### Tying Instructions

**Step 1:** Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise. Start the tying thread one eye width behind the eye and wrap a thread base back to a point halfway down the bend.

**Step 2:** Select a small bunch of Z-lon fibers and measure them to be one hook-length. Tie the fibers on top of the hook shank halfway down the bend and bind down the butts along the top of the shank back to the thread tie-in point. Trim the butts.

**Step 3:** Dub the thread using a dubbing loop and wind forward forming a tapered body. End the body about 1/4 shank length back from the eye.

**Step 4:** Select a bunch of deer hair and measure to one hook length. Holding the bunch firmly between your thumb and forefinger, tie down the hair on top of the hook shank with firm enough wraps to flair slightly. Trim the butts just behind the eye at an angle.

**Step 5:** Bind the butts of the deer hair with touching thread wraps to form a tapered head. Whip finish and cement.

March Brown mayflies are the year's first hatch of large size insects and can produce excellent fishing. The duns range in size from 10-14, have tan underbellies with mottled brown or gray wings. While most anglers concentrate on the adults, there are many other opportunities. In the early part of March, when the weather is still cool, emerger fishing can be deadly. There are often many cripples that do not get out of the case and literally hundreds of others that are just slow in doing so. There is something about the “helpless” nature of this pattern that makes it irresistible to trout.

### TYING TIPS

The curved hook gives the appearance of a struggling emerger. The Z-lon tail imitates the trailing shuck of a cripple. It should be somewhat sparse. By using a dubbing loop with fine dry fly dubbing you get a tighter, trim body, more like the natural. Coastal deer hair is less hollow than other types, and therefore less apt to flare too much. The wing should angle back towards the tail at about 45 degrees. The March Brown Deer Hair Emerger is a simple tie, using only three materials. By changing color and size it can be used for any hatch you encounter. So tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.