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The March Brown

By Cameron Larsen

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Entomologists classify it differently depending on where they are located. For the excessively curious, if you are in England you are talking about the Rithrogena Germanica, if you are on the Battenkill River in Vermont you are talking about the Stenonema Vicarium and if you are on the Yakima River in Washington you are talking about the Rhithrogena morrisoni. Whatever the entomologists call it, fly fishermen call it the March Brown. Hatching as early as February or as late as June, depending on the location and the severity of the particular winter, it is a big brown mayfly hatch that awakens the senses of trout, and rekindles the trout fly fisher with their passion.

No other mayfly can be quite so anticipated as the March Brown. The first major hatch of the spring season, it signals the end of winter to a fly angler, as much as the coming of a local Hickory Farms signals Christmas. The March Brown is one of the oldest patterns out there, around since the beginning of fly fishing. So it has been that generations of fly angler's have long awaited the dawning of spring, by designing the dry fly pattern to fool the newly awakened trout.

Nymphs:

The March Brown Nymph belongs in the clinger family of mayfly nymphs. They are found in faster riffles, and can make for great sub-surface fishing in the early stages of the hatch. There is a March Brown mayfly, that doubles as a great searching pattern as well. Also popular for the March Brown hatch is the Gold Rib's Hare's Ear, and Soft Hackle's are effective as emerger's in the surface film. As mentioned above the March Brown is fairly good sized, use 12-14 nymphs.

Adults:

March Brown's tend to hatch early afternoon, which is nice, since early spring weather can be the most brutal fishing weather of the year. By afternoon the anxious fly fisherman stands a better chance of not being froze off the water. Spinner falls happen right at dusk, and usually occur over fast water. A popular technique has the fly fisher looking downstream for a back eddy or pool that will hold a congregation of March Brown spinners. This often will result in the best March Brown fishing of the season.

The March Brown

The Fishing:

Despite their winter hiatus from active feeding trout seem to emerge in Spring a little hesitant. And often times they may be uncharacteristically selective. Since March Brown's are in faster water, it might be difficult to get a read on what the trout are actually doing, if anything. If unsure I usually begin with a soft hackle Hare's Ear, right below the surface and see if fish are hitting the emerger. If no action there I will then sink the fly or switch to a Beadhead Hare's Ear. While always looking for some surface action.

When it does start up, be prepared it can be short-lived but well worth the effort. Especially early

afternoon. And then for the intrepid line up your pool or back eddy for the very late spinner fall.

Ahh, at last Spring has arrived!

Cameron Larsen is a retired commercial fly tier and fly fishing guide. He now operates The Big Y Fly Company. [Http://www.bigyflyco.com](http://www.bigyflyco.com). He can be reached at info@bigyflyco.com. This article will appear in the Big Y Fly Fishing E-Zine at [Http://www.bigyflyco.com/Bigyflyfishingezine.html](http://www.bigyflyco.com/Bigyflyfishingezine.html)

Marching Along

By Deanna Mascle

1. In England, until the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752, March was considered what month of the calendar year? A. First B. Fourth C. Eighth D. Last

A. First QQ: In England, until the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752, March was considered the first month with the legal year beginning on March 25.

2. What animal is honored on March 1? A. Pig B. Horse C. Cow D. Chicken

A. Pig QQ: March 1 is National Pig Day. It was started by Texas art teacher Ellen Stanley in 1972 to honor and give thanks to our most intelligent domesticated creature.

3. Also known as St. David's Day, what country holds March 1 as its National Day? A. Ireland B. England C. Wales D. Scotland

C. Wales QQ: March 1, St. David's Day, is the national day of Wales. St. David was the founder and first abbot-bishop of Menevia, now St. David's in Dyfed, South Wales. The day is commemorated by the wearing of daffodils or leeks. Both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems.

4. What organ of the body is honored the third week in March? A. Heart B. Skin C. Lungs D. Brain

D. Brain QQ: The third week of March is Brain Awareness Week in support of brain disease and

research.

5. What favorite food is honored in March? A. Soup B. Eggs C. Steak D. Noodles

D. Noodles QQ: As legend has it, noodles were first made by 13th century German bakers who fashioned dough into symbolic shapes, such as words, birds and stars. These "nudels" were then baked and served as bread. March national noodle month.

6. According to Roman mythology, Mars is the God of War. He was also regarded as what? A. Father of Rome B. Destroyer of Rome C. Founder of Rome D. Builder of Rome

A. Father of Rome QQ: One of the most important Roman deities, Mars was regarded as the father of the Roman people because he was the father of Romulus, the legendary founder of Rome. Although his original nature and functions are obscure, Mars was identified by the Romans with the Greek god of war, Ares. The month of March was named for Mars.

7. The week of March 20–26 is designated to honor what childhood pastime? A. Chewing Gum B. Bubbles C. Slinky D. Yoyo

B. Bubbles QQ: March 20 to 26, 2004, is "National Bubble Week," the week for kids of all ages to celebrate the fun and enchantment of bubbles. The first-ever Bubble Week was in 2000 and was initiated by Oddzon, makers of Koosh Bubbles. The event was created to herald the first day of spring -- the unspoken first day of the bubble-blowing season.

8. March has its own insect, the March _____. What is it? A. Bee B. Moth C. Beetle D. Fly

D. Fly QQ: There are about 119,500 known species of flies and they make up the fourth largest insect order, after the beetles, butterflies and moths, and bees and wasps.

9. What piece of foul weather gear is honored in the month of March? A. Raincoat B. Galoshes C. Rubber boots D. Umbrella

D. Umbrella QQ: March is national umbrella month As a shade from the sun, the umbrella is of great antiquity. It is only more recently we have come to see the umbrella as protection from rain.

10. What favorite snack food is honored in the month of March? A. Corn chips B. Popcorn C. Peanuts D. Cheese curds

C. Peanuts QQ: March is National Peanut Month. National Peanut Month had its beginnings as National Peanut Week in 1941. It was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1974.

You can enjoy more trivia created by Deanna Mascle at

<http://atriviabreak.net>

and

<http://quizqueen.net>



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