

Fly of the Month

By Mike Ott

Bronze Goddess

As the water spring waters warm, aquatic critters come alive and the fish get really active. Spring moves the smallmouth to spawn they are on the prowl. The Bronze Goddess could look like anything from a fleeing crawfish to a cruising baitfish or sucker. This fly is something like a woolly bugger on steroids, while still being its own fly. The bronze mallard is an important feature that cannot be substituted. The coloration, barring, and length of fibers adds a hint of fish scales and lots more movement in the water.



Hook: TMC 200R or Dai-Riki 270 size 6 or 4
Thread: 6/0 or 3/0 Brown
Eyes: Small lead
Tail: Brown Grizzly Marabou and Copper Flashabou
Body: Root beer – pearl Crystal Chenille or Estaz
Hackle: Brown Grizzly soft, webby hackle feather
Collar: Bronze Mallard feather large enough to extend to the end of the body
Head: Root beer – pearl Crystal Chenille or Estaz

1. Secure hook in vise, start thread behind hook eye, and secure lead eyes to top of hook using figure-8 wraps. Advance thread back to bend of hook.
2. Tie in a full tail of brown grizzly marabou about the length of the hook shank. Tie in 3-5 pieces of copper flashabou on both sides of the tail.
3. Tie in the hackle feather by the tip and the crystal chenille or estaz.
4. Wrap the chenille or estaz to just behind the lead eyes and tie off but do not trim off.
5. Palmer the soft, webby hackle to just behind the lead eyes and tie off. Trim any excess.
6. Tie in the bronze mallard feather by the tip and wrap two turns like a soft hackle and tie off. Trim any excess.
7. Wrap the crystal chenille or estaz in figure -8s round the lead eyes to form a head. Tie off, trim any excess, and whip finish.

This has all the look and feel for a great smallmouth fly. Yes, it is kind of “woolly buggery”, but there is more to it than that. Feel free to try olive or brown, but keep the bronze mallard the same. Fish it deep and slow, or strip through the head and tails of pools and runs.