

Swirl Tips



EVERGREEN FLY FISHING CLUB, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 221 • EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98206

(WEBSITE: WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/EFFC2000)

Meeting: August 26th, 2003 - Flying Pig Brewery
Wet Fly Hour – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

August Meeting

by Bruce Swanson

I hope, you hope, we all hope to catch cutthroat! This month's program is going to be a slide show with question and answer about sea-run cutthroat by our own Dale Dennis. Dale's knowledge of stalking these native, pristine trout is matched by few. So if you want to learn or brush up on your "cutt" skills, get to the August meeting. See you there!

Fly Tying Contest

by Ken Lease

The winner of the June contest was Rob Gamage who just started tying flies this year through the clubs tying classes. Congratulations Rob! The fly to tie this month is the Doc Spratley, named after Dr. Donald Spratley of Mt. Vernon, Wa. Originator of this fly was Dick Prankard also of Mt. Vernon. This fly is a very effective wet fly pattern all over the Northwest with a black, brown or green body and represents traveling sedge hatches. Hook size #8-10, Wet Fly, 2-3XL.

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MEETINGS

(website: www.geocities.com/effc2000)

General Meeting

fourth Tuesday of the month, 7pm (6pm Wet Fly)

Flying Pig Brewery

Board Meeting

first Thursday of the month, 7pm (6pm dinner)

Buck's American Café

Conservation Committee Meeting

third Thursday of the month, 7pm

Village Restaurant

President's Message

by Jesse Scott

I just got off the phone with Janet Farler and I'm pleased to report that Neil's condition continues to improve daily. His progress, while slow, is certainly encouraging. It's still a little early for visitors, but perhaps in a month or so that will change. In the mean time we can keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

July was a busy month activity wise. Gordon Swanson volunteered to host both of the events at his property on the river. Gordy, your extra effort really made for some very enjoyable times on the river. Thank you for sharing with all of us.

Speaking of sharing, what are you bringing to the auction? The annual auction is only eight weeks away. It's not too early to start thinking about what you can contribute to our only fundraiser. The really special items are those that reflect the craftsmanship of a fellow club member. I have several, and they mean a lot to me because they came from a friend and not a shop. Now's the time to start saving your pennies, because there are some incredible trips going on the auction block this year. Better yet, bring a friend and share a trip.

This long, hot, summer is getting to me. I can't decide whether to patch my waders or just let them leak. Come on, September!

July Activities

by Jesse Scott

The first event was the July meeting and Summer Steelhead outing. Unfortunately, the picture of

the cake summarizes the fishing, 21 fishermen and 0 fish, but the picnic was great. Ted Lewis grilled the



steaks; Gene Smith and Kyle Kragseth collected the money. Dale Bly ran the trustee raffle board and Mike Benbow ran a short draw prize raffle. Nancy

Messmer took the photos. Actually, she sent a CD with 62 photos on it. Thank's Nancy, and come back next year.

The following week we hosted members of the McKenzie Fly Fishers for the annual Kalama Cup steelhead competition. Three McKenzie's and their wives joined us. Our odds looked good, we had them out numbered and it was our home river. Unfortunately, the gentleman that Sandy Atkinson had been guiding got up before Sandy and went out on his own and

caught the winning, and only, Steelhead. Our congratulations go to James Brown for a



nice 22" steelhead. Overall, it was a great weekend with nice weather, good food, and the chance to spend some quality time with our counterparts from Oregon. Thank you McKenzie's and we'll see you next year on the Umpqua.

EFFC 2003 Schedule of Activities & Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Sept 7 th Sun	Cutthroat Outing Dinner	Haller Park, Arlington
Sept 20 th Sat	NW Fly Casting Exposition	Trophy Lakes, Port Orchard, WA
Sept 26-28 th	Fly Fishing the NW Convention	Seaside, OR
Oct 11-12 th Sat-Sun	Unofficial Dry Falls Fishout Potluck	Sun Lakes State Park
Oct 28 th Tue	Auction (Bring Friends) Dinner	Everett Elks Club
Dec 6 th Sat	Christmas Party Dinner	Gleneagle Country Club

Cutthroat Outing – Sept. 7th

by Jesse Scott

The annual cutthroat outing is set for Sunday, September 7th. The fishing is confined to the Stillaguamish main stem and the North Fork. Remember there is a weighted fly ban in effect on the North Fork. The weigh-in will be at Haller Park in Arlington at 5 PM. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided and the rest will be pot luck. Bring beverages, chips, cookies, or anything that your fellow fishermen may eat. Haller Park is just downstream of the river forks at the old steel bridge.

October Auction

by the Auction Committee

We've got two months left till the October 2003 Auction and boy do we have some good trips and items in store! Fishing trips from the beautiful Methow River to the Peninsula. We are very lucky to have 12 very wonderful fishing trips. Here is a list of trips you can drool over.

- Walt Johnson- on the Clarks Fork
- Ted Lewis- Sauk or Skagit Rivers
- Dale Dennis- Sea-run cutthroat Stilly and saltwater
- Gene Smith- Dry Falls
- Mike Benbow- Skagit River
- Reed Miller- Pack Trip
- Roy Morris- Peninsula River fishing
- Kyle Kragseth- Yakima River
- Maury Travis- Methow River
- Jesse Scott-Twin Lakes Naval Station
Arlington
- Douglas Lake Ranch-Canada
- Don Bayes-Blackwater Canada

Just a reminder to dust off your fly tying benches and tie some of your favorite flies to bring to the auction!!!!

Raffle Items

by Mike Benbow

Gordy Swanson take note: You asked us to get a personal flotation device for the raffle board and we've done it.

It's a nice one, too, by Stearns. It's an inflatable collar that fits around your neck and is appropriate for use while wading a stream, fishing in a tube or pontoon boat or while in a regular boat. It's Coast Guard approved, so you don't need anything else.

Now, Gordy, all you have to do is win it. My advice, spend more than \$1 on tickets.

Other items for August include a Petzl head lamp great for night fishing or just wearing around camp after dark. There's also a great book, "Patent Patterns" by Jim Schollmeyer. This book includes some 1,500 tested fly patterns.

To help you tie some of these patterns, we've included a very nice dry fly neck, grizzly died brown, from Keough. And for those who hate to tie flies, we have a small fly box perfect for slipping into a shirt pocket that also contains a half-dozen flies suitable for pink or chum salmon.

Rounding out the list are some nippers on a reel that you can pin to your vest, some Aqual dry fly floatant and a hook file.

And just to get you salivating a bit - plan on attending the November "Old Timers" meeting. We've purchased another fly rod for November's door prize raffle, a nice 9-foot 6-weight from Scott.

Awards Committee

by Ken Lease

Due to budget constraints classifications in the Trophy Fishing Awards have changed and reduced from 16 categories to 10. The new categories are, Trout (in state), Trout (out of state), Cutthroat-Sea-Run, Brown Trout, Char, Steelhead (summer), Steelhead (winter), Salmon-King, Coho & Pinks, Chum. All qualifying lengths will stay the same. If you have any questions contact me or any Board Member.

Do You Just Belong?

*Are you the active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented,
That your name is on the list?*

*Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the crowd,
Or do you stay home,
And crab both long and loud?*

*Do you ever go to visit,
A member that is sick,
Or leave the work for just a few,
And talk about the clique?*

*There is quite a program scheduled,
That means success, if done,
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.*

*So attend the meetings regularly,
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.*

*Think this over, member,
Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an active member?
Or - Do you just belong?*

We are looking for a few volunteers to fill in next year's Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs. These folks have already volunteered:

Officers

President

Vice President

Secretary Reed Miller

Treasurer Don Mathiesen

Ghillie Gordon McKay

Trustee (2002 – 2004).. Dale Bly

Trustee (2003 – 2005).. Don Korzep

Trustee (2004 - 2006)... George Henry

Past President Jesse Scott

Committee Chairs

Awards Ken Lease

Conservation.....

FFF Rep

History Gordon Swanson

Library Jack Hutchinson

Membership..... Mark Simpson

Publications Eric Nordstrom

Our club still needs your help. If you can find the time to help out, and to participate in shaping the future of our club, please contact :

*Jim Melnick
Jesse Scott*

*(425) 379 – 9681
(425) 745 – 6092*

Past President's Meeting

Tuesday, August 26

at the Flying Pig

6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Topic: Officers for 2004

By-Laws Update

by Jim Melnick

At the last Board of Trustee meeting, the Board unanimously agreed to propose to the general membership that we delete Section 5.2 from our By Laws. This proposal will be discussed and voted upon at the August general meeting.

Section 5.2 reads as follows:

"International Fishout Big-Fish Award. This is an annual award. It will be presented to that member entering the heaviest fish counting towards the club entry in the international contest c1930 creel donated by Ernie Samann, Kamloops, B.C. friend of the club."

*** The following article is from the Autumn 1998 FFF "Flyfisher" magazine and is a perfect reminder of the influences that shaped today's sea-run regulations.*

Washington Sea-run Cutthroat: Washington Protects Cutthroat in Marine Waters

by Robert G. Russell

Fly fishers along the shores of Washington's Puget Sound are reporting better fishing for sea-run cutthroat this year (1998). The improvement is being attributed to new catch-and-release regulations for Washington's marine waters.

Vernon Young of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Washington Council says there seems to be more big fish this year in the near-shore saltwater

(continued from pg. 5)

habitat. The change may be due to a fall 1998 decision by the state's Fish and Wildlife Commission to give sea-runs catch-and-release protection in marine waters. Cutthroat have been protected by catch-and-release regulations in all freshwater habitats since 1996. "With these new saltwater regulations, Washington's Fish and Wildlife Commission is giving uniform protection to all of the state's cutthroat," said Bob Shirley, conservation chairman of the Washington Council. He added, "This was an important step, because cutthroat are common incidental catch of salmon fishermen in the Sound." Shirley and Young, with the support of the FFF Washington Council membership, have fought to restore native cutthroat to South Sound for 15 years. Their voices were largely responsible for the state-wide ban on killing sea-runs. Both men can remember a time, only a couple of decades back, when they could catch several large sea-runs in a few hours' fishing. But by the early '80s, populations had plummeted, and fish of 18 inches or better were rarely seen over the course of a season. "We could see very clearly the bigger fish just weren't there anymore," says Young.

"So we pushed for catch-and-release regulations and, eventually, we got them." As the marine-waters regulations went into effect, there was virtually no resistance to catch-and-release. Biologists were a little surprised at the lack of public resistance, attributing the silence to the cutthroat's lack of popularity among anglers which had plummeted along with their numbers. Bob Leland, of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), says the decision to make sea-run cutthroat catch-and-release was based more on public insistence than on biology, but the results are bound to be favorable. WDFW had first proposed a statewide two-fish limit in marine waters in 1998, believing that Puget Sound sea-runs could handle the pressure. But in the southern end of Puget Sound, sea-runs were still in decline. Many populations were gone, missed only by the few fly fishers who had known them.

Once called "harvest trout" because of their autumn abundance, sea-runs were found in virtually

all coastal rivers and streams from northern California to Alaska. Unfortunately, their habit of spawning in the smallest, highest possible reaches of streams and tributaries made them highly susceptible to human activities. Today the legendary Bill McMillan, now vice president of Washington Trout, fights for Washington's cutthroat trout as part of daily business, along with Nick Gayeski, president of Washington Trout.

By the 1960s populations were low enough that sport harvest became an impediment to the sea-run's survival. By the mid-'80s, WDFW scientists started to take notice. On the Stillaguamish River, a once fabled fishery had declined to near nothing. WDFW experimented with revolutionary new regulations. They reduced the limit to two fish over 14 inches, thereby lowering harvest and increasing the average size of fish. It was an immediate success. Stillaguamish sea-runs showed improved reproduction within two years.

Pat Trotter, a Seattle-based fisheries consultant and author of *Cutthroat - Native Trout of the West* (University Press of Colorado) says the Stillaguamish story shows another important aspect of cutthroat life history that makes them especially vulnerable. He sights a WDFW study by state biologist Jim Johnston which revealed that sea-runs in Puget Sound usually cannot spawn their first time back to freshwater.

Trotter explains; "They generally live for two years in freshwater as juveniles. Then they go out into the saltwater, where they typically live for a year before returning to their natal stream. But most can't spawn yet. They will go back to sea and return a second time to spawn." This means that larger fish are critical to the survival of sea-run populations.

To anyone familiar with the history of catch-and-release, it should not be surprising to hear that the larger cutthroat, beauties of 18 to 20 inches, are already more abundant in South Sound. It is a success story retold around the world. Where angling pressure becomes too much for weakened fisheries, catch-and-release regulations have allowed for the recovery of species while still offering trophy fishing opportunities.

The Magic Number 42

Where Science and Fishing Meet

by Dave Spiller of the South Sound Fly Fishers,
Olympics, WA

Forty-two is a magic number to still water fisherman (those that use metric the magic number is 42). Forty-two degrees is the temperature where water is at its densest. Density is the ratio of mass to volume. Fluids (gasses and liquids) form layers based on density; less dense fluids float on top of denser fluids. The same thing happens in a lake, with temperature determining the density of water. So in the summer, the water is the warmest at the top and decreases in water temperature as you progress to deeper water until the water temperature reaches 42 degrees Fahrenheit (4 centigrade). Moving waters tend to get mixed up and unless they are very big do not form the layers of varying temperature/density.

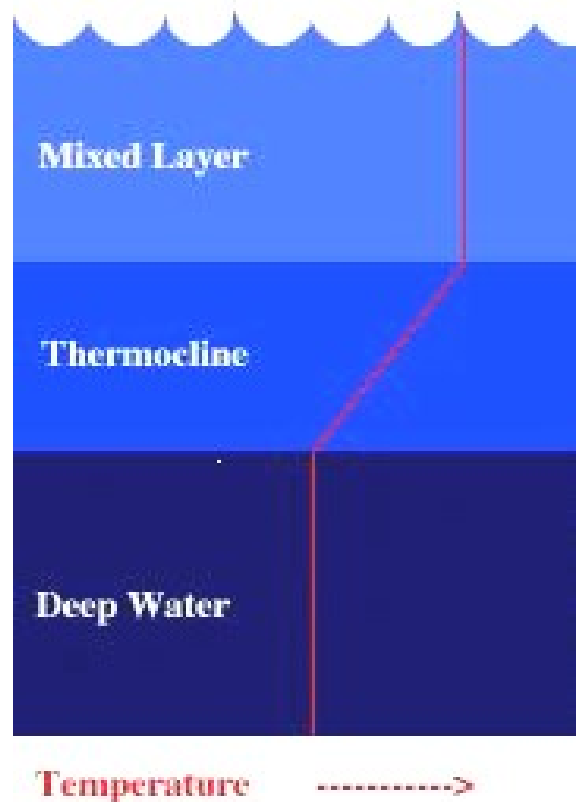
As the water surface cools in the fall, cooler water sinks, filling the lake from the bottom up with water at 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Until the entire lake is at 42 degrees Fahrenheit (4 centigrade), this is called the fall turnover of a lake. At turn over the water at the bottom tends to mix with the water at the surface, the process mixes nutrients and oxygen.

We all know that fish are cold blooded, and seek out their comfort zone (Temperature). But reading a lake is much more than knowing that the temperature changes with depth. Water's viscosity also changes with temperature, and has its lowest viscosity at forty-two degrees. High viscosity fluids are slow moving, like honey. Lower viscosity fluids are faster moving; for example, air has a lower viscosity than water. When the wind blows over a lake, the wind will move the water just a little, pushing the water from one end to the other forming an oval current along the upper layers of a lake, and adding oxygen to the water. Under the water's surface a similar event is occurring at the thermocline. The thermocline is the point where the viscosity changes

enough to prevent the free exchange of current. Just like the lake surface and the wind, the water above the thermocline moves across the surface, at slow pace but faster than the water below the thermocline. This process adds and mixes oxygen above the thermocline and the water below the thermocline has a much less oxygen. Since fish need oxygen, they tend to stay above the thermocline regardless of their preferred temperature range.

In the winter a slightly different sequence occurs, water is at its densest at 42 degrees, so water colder than 42 degrees floats. This is why ice floats. If this did not happen lakes would freeze from the bottom up and many of our lakes would be fishless.

During ice-out the thermocline is very close to the surface, making fishing fabulous after ice-out. The fish are restricted to a small portion of the lake near the surface, and they are usually hungry.



Evergreen Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 221

Everett, WA 98206

***** FLY TYING CONTEST *** BRING YOUR FLY *** FLY TYING CONTEST *****



Doc Spratley

- *Hook:* #8-10, Wet Fly, 2-3XL
- *Thread:* Black 3/0
- *Tail:* Grizzly hackle fibers
- *Rib:* Silver oval tinsel
- *Body:* Black wool
- *Hackle:* Grizzly
- *Wing:* Pheasant tail
- *Head:* Peacock hurl

Originator: Dick Prankard, Mount Vernon, Wash.

*The following is from the book "Flies of the Northwest" by the
Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club

This 1949 pattern, named after the late Dr. Donald A. Spratley of Mount Vernon, Wash., is still one of the most effective wet-fly patterns in British Columbia. In

waters with good traveling sedge hatches many anglers prefer a green body. Another variation is tied with a brown body, gold rib and brown hackle. Some anglers like a slender body, and others a full abdomen. Tie the hackle down into a beard, as shown.