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Swirl Tips

March 2006 Issue

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club
www.geocities.com/EFFC2000



MEETINGS

General Meeting – 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm (6 pm Wet Fly hr.) Flying Pig Brewery
Board Meeting – 1st Thursday of the month, 7 pm (6 pm dinner) Petosa's Restaurant
Conservation Committee Meeting – 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 pm Village Restaurant

Meeting: March 28, 2006 @ Flying Pig Brewery
Wet Fly – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.



March Program "Dances With Sharks" by Eric Nordstrom

Our March presenter will be Dave Ames. Dave is a writer who has spent the last thirty years traveling the world as an itinerant fly-fisherman. Fish have nearly killed him, fish have saved his life, and Ames will be presenting "Dances With Sharks," a slide show based on a life in the wilderness.

Ames' first two books, "True Love and The Woolly Buzzer," and "A Good Life Wasted, or Twenty Years as a Fishing Guide," has been described as "Cult classics," and "Perversely informative looks at fly-fishing in several of its most mutant forms." First editions of True Love have become collector's items selling at ten times their original cost. At our meeting Ames will be signing limited first edition copies of his new book, "Dances With Sharks."



Ames' slide show, like his books, is meant to entertain as well as inform. Fishing is supposed to be fun, and let's face it; fishing is more fun when you catch fish. There's plenty of practical fish-catching information on everything from trout and bonefish to piranha and golden dorado in this compilation of stories, slides and music, and audiences agree this presentation appeals to fishermen and non-fishermen alike.



Fly Tying Contest by Rob Gamage

Jerry Buron was the winner of the fly tying contest last month. Those of us taking the Fly Tying Classes had a rare opportunity to learn

how he ties his winning Dragonfly Nymph, the very next evening. Nice job Jerry!

The fly pattern for the March Fly Tying Contest is a Bloodworm. This is another chance for us to see some different styles and methods of tying this important pattern that many of us fish, in the lakes of our region. Good Luck!

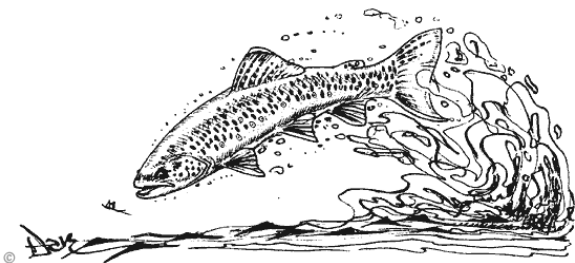


President's Message by Carl Johnson

Spring is that time of the year when I can still feel my feet and hands after a day of fishing. Actually spring is the time of year when I become anxious to fish some of the places and hatches I dreamed about all winter. Now that the days are getting warmer and longer I have my memories of fishing the evening caddis hatch on the Clark Fork when there are so many caddis that the trees look like they are smoking in the evening light start to become dreams. Maybe this year I will actually get to fish more of the places and hatches than in the past, however, I expect the list to be longer at the end of the season than in the spring. One of the joys of fishing there is always some new place, hatch or species to fish.

We are still looking for an Auction Committee Chairman for this year. If you are looking for a way to become more active in the club this would be a good place to start. I'm sure that many of the previous auction committee members would be willing to provide you with advice and assistance. Otherwise be advised the arm-twisting will begin!

Don't forget to get your 2006 fishing license by the first of April.



Activities by Gary Medema

Spring Outing Big Twin May 20 & 21

Everything is set! Big Twin Resort is the place. The weekend of May 20 & 21 is the date. BBQ Steak Dinner is on the menu. The cost for dinner this year will again be \$10.00. There will be sign up sheets for the outing and for dinner at the next meeting. Please pay for dinner in advance of the outing. May 4th will be the cut-off date for ordering dinner. Pay me, Gary Medema, at one of the next two meetings or mail me a check for \$10.00 @ 4903 73rd Dr NE, Marysville WA 98270.

Don't forget the unofficial Lone Lake Outing on April 1st!



Publications by Jerry Buron

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club calendars for 2006-2007 will be ready for distribution at the regular club meeting for March. Those in attendance will receive their calendars at the meeting.

At our January monthly meeting Susan Horton, Island County Noxious Weed Program Coordinator, gave an informative presentation regarding the aquatic weed problem at Lone Lake on South Whidbey Island. The day after her presentation I contacted Susan and asked if she would be willing to share her PowerPoint presentation with Evergreen Fly Fishing Club. She agreed and forwarded me a copy of the presentation on

a CD which I have given Jim Pankiewicz to place in the Club's library. If you'd like to review the presentation again or perhaps missed the meeting and would like to view the presentation it is now available in the EFFC's library.

Several members have contacted me regarding selling items in the Swirl Tips publication. If you have something you'd like to sell, you can place a "**For Sale**" add in Swirl Tips where you'll get good exposure to all members! Just contact me via e-mail (jburon2@msn.com) or call 360.659-2286.

Club Wire by Federation of Fly Fishers

News from the Federation's Club Wire!

Some will be happy to hear that we now have the FFF merchandise / gear back up on our site. Now available for purchase with credit card on-line.
<http://www.fffgear.com/>

41st Annual Conclave & Show is scheduled for July 25 – 29, 2006 in Bozeman, Montana. I wanted to make sure that you inform your club members that they are beginning to post the Conclave items on the following web page
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/conclave2006/begin.php>

The Conclave Show Guide will be inside the Spring Issue of the Flyfisher magazine which should be mailing out around the first week of April to all FFF current members.

Tips: Do not hesitate in signing up for workshops. You should review the show guide immediately and sign up right away. Your pre-registration forms may also be faxed with credit card information to (406) 222-5823. If you are signing up for workshops I strongly urge you to use the credit card payment method vs mailing a check with your form.

It looks like we are gearing up to open up the on-line pre-registration somewhere around the 10th of April. Keep watch on the above web page.

Ever heard the saying "The early bird catches the worm"?

If you have great article that you'd like to share with other clubs please submit to me via e-mail fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org we want to hear from you.

1st Annual FFF International Fly Tying

CompetitionAs a fund raising event in support of its many conservation and education projects, the Federation of Fly Fishers is sponsoring an international fly tying Competition. The Competition will run from February 1, 2006, until midnight April 30, 2006. There are 39 separate categories within which to enter a fly. Judges include such famous fly tyers as David Whitlock of bass fishing fame, Ron Alcott of traditional salmon pattern fame, Bill Blackstone, the master of the "realistic" patterns, Bob Clouser, creator of the famous Clouser Minnow, Stu Apte the saltwater fly fishing legend, and Bob Jacklin, the famous instructor/guide of West Yellowstone, Montana, to name a few. All of the information can be found on the following web page <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/members/ftcomp/flycomp.php> If you have any questions, please contact Ron Cordes at troutbeck@ida.net

DVD & Guest Article by Federation of Fly Fishers

Spey Fishing Steelhead

Cascade Mediaworks, LLC, Portland, OR, 2005,
www.flyfishtv.com
DVD, 70 mins., suggested price \$24.95

Spey casting DVD's have been appearing quite regularly the last few years. However, until now there really hasn't been any instructional DVD's on what to do with your Spey casting skills once you have acquired them. Well Gene Hering, of Cascade Mediaworks, has teamed up with John Hazel, a Spey casting instructor and guide on the Deschutes River, to remedy this situation. The result is a seventy minute DVD clearly explaining and illustrating how to fish for steelhead with a Spey rod and Spey casts. The DVD covers how to read steelhead water allowing you to fish the productive parts of rivers and eliminate the areas unlikely to have steelhead present. Also explained are the habits of steelhead and how these traits help determine how to work the water and what type of fly and presentation to use. John explains and shows how to choose and fish waking flies, skating flies,

subsurface flies, and wet flies. He also shows examples of each type of fly and discusses color selection, how to rig the various types of flies, and what terminal knots he has found most suitable. Fishing with both floating as well as sink tip fly lines is shown.

The cinematography compliments the instruction beautifully. The cameramen clearly are well versed in shooting outdoors over water. The DVD has clear, easy to watch images which allow you to concentrate on John and what he is saying and doing. And the high angle shots give the viewer a clear and sometimes startling view of how a steelhead reacts to the fly. Each steelhead fly fisherman has his pet theory on how steelhead track and attack flies, but this DVD will allow you to hear directly from the steelhead. This information alone is worth the cost of admission.

After mastering the basic casting techniques of John and Amy Hazel's Spey Casting DVD and practicing so you can comfortably cast 90 to 100 feet you need something to do with your new skills. Well John Hazel provides you with the answer and how to attain success. This is definitely a DVD every fly fisherman who chases steelhead with a Spey rod, or dreams of doing so, will want in his personal library to view and review many times.

“Double-Up!”

Submitted By Dave Ramon – Newsletter Editor for the Grand River Fly Tyers Club

Written by Keith P. Skilton

We've all learned that two flies can be better than one. To steelheaders, this means a nymph and egg fly combination separated by 24 inches of fluorocarbon. To trout fisherman, this means a "hopper-dropper" rig where the flies are separated by 18 inches of a lower diameter of monofilament. Too many times, we are just following these "standards" and forget to ask ourselves what we are trying to achieve with the tandem rig? Most answers I hear are to determine what the fish are taking or what I call the trial and error approach. This approach may lead to learning something new for the arsenal but all too many times we just accept that trial and error is good enough which in-turn leads to losing effective fishing time. I'm a big believer in thinking through the approach so then we know the "why" and "how" and just need to apply it to the appropriate "when".

Even though conditions will always dictate the setup, I've learned a few tricks that'll help the two flies interact together to improve the presentation. First, let's look at what to do when the fish are surface feeding on very small midges. For me, it can be very difficult to identify the midge species, especially in low light conditions. In most situations, the caddis or mayfly hatch is about to begin, so what I do is use a two dry fly set-up. The first fly will be say a size 16 Goddard caddis followed by a size 22 Para-midge. As in all surface-subsurface arrangements, the Goddard pattern will act as a strike indicator but will also be taken by the opportunist feeders. I try to pick the front pattern to be larger and very buoyant. Getting the proper drift will depend on the length of separation between the two flies. Always start longer, say 30 inches, and shorten up as necessary.

Secondly, let's look at the dry fly and emerger combination. The fish are mainly feeding right below the surface with the occasional adult fly being seen taken. Fish tend to pick a spot in the water column to pick off the emerging insect and generally get the insect when it gets caught in the surface film. The trick here is to use an indicator parachute style first fly that rides in the surface film and place the dropper at or just above where the fish are holding. It's a very "in your face" approach and is highly effective. The separation between the two flies can only be accurately determined by seeing where the fish is in the water column but it is generally short (6-12 inches). Experience will aid in judging distances underwater.

Thirdly, let's examine the famous of all tandem rigs, the dry and nymph combination. Here the two patterns used will be of the same fly but in different stages and the water depth/flow will dictate the length of separation. Commonly, you are not able to see the fish lower in the water column; hence you're targeting fish at or near the bottom. It's no secret to use a "hang down" technique at the end of the cast to allow the bottom fly to imitate a swimming nymph, but be cautious of when you do this. I have found it's better to dead drift the rig beyond all the feeding fish, then transition to a swing and hold it. Messing with the top fly above the known fish may turn them off. Since fish have now learned to move around there will likely be fish downstream of the risers, waiting lower in the water column for their turn in the active feeding lane.

The fourth combination to look at is the nymph and nymph rig. Here again we must consider how the two flies will interact together and I've found the most effective display will be to use a larger weighted pattern as the first fly and a smaller, more buoyant pattern as the second. The larger pattern gets the second fly down faster and could be a better alternative than loading up the leader with split shot. Twitching the rod tip will also help the second fly rise and dive more naturally. The separation will vary but as a general rule keep them close together for fishing deep and further apart for a more searching approach.

The fifth option is the nymph/streamer combination which is used to emulate a baitfish going after a nymph. The theory here is that bigger fish will go after the larger patterns and I've seen this countless times in nature where I have a smaller fish on the line and a bigger fish shows itself either by a curious follow or an outright attack. I haven't been able to say for sure that this set-up is a sure thing. Whenever I fish for bigger fish using streamers, I only use one fly. I have heard that in lakes or slow rivers that the streamer/nymph set-up is valuable in that the larger pattern will first get a fish's attention who will then take the nymph. Again, I think this is more of a trial and error approach.

Lastly, doubling up on streamers has its place but for me but it has only been in salt water applications where I was casting into large pods of blitzing baitfish. Structure, for the most part, should always be targeted when fishing streamers and losing flies is part of the program. My streamers tend to be somewhat more elaborate patterns and losing two at a time can be frustrating.

Fishing two patterns at once, in theory, will always better your odds. The key is to use your knowledge of fish behavior and reading the water to make your fishing more productive. Beginners will always have the trial and error period of learning, but once experience is gained you'll be able to know when the right time is to double-up. This is a dynamic approach and always requires re-evaluation of the rig. Everything is always changing underwater and to be as successful as you can, it'll necessitate you to change as well. This is the key to being a good fisherman!

Fly Tying Classes have good turnout!



Evergreen Fly Fishing Club

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EFFC February Meeting Program Photos

