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Swirl Tips

April 2006 Issue

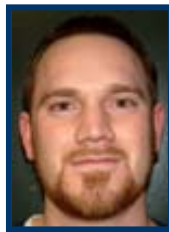
Evergreen Fly Fishing Club
www.evergreenflyclub.org



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: April 25, 2006 @ Flying Pig Brewery
Wet Fly – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.



April Program
by Eric Nordstrom

Cowlitz River
By Member Mike Benbow

Fishing the Cowlitz River - It's not just for gear slingers anymore. Washington's Cowlitz River, a tributary of the Columbia, regularly puts out more winter steelhead than the Skagit River. But few flyfishers participate in the bounty. There are sometimes crowds of gear anglers on the river, but those crowds typically hang near the hatcheries for returning fish, leaving large sections of the productive river uncrowded.

In addition to a strong run of winter steelhead, the river also has a very strong year-round fishery. In spring, there are spring Chinook salmon. If summer, there are summer-run steelhead and large numbers of sea-run cutthroat. In fall, there are still summer-runs and sea-runs. In late fall, there is a spectacular Coho salmon fishery. All the runs are supported by two major hatcheries on the river.

Member Mike Benbow will present a slide program on when to fish the Cowlitz to take advantage of its bounty as well as what flies and techniques to use. You will definitely want to hear this presentation and maybe take some notes if you've ever thought about fishing this stream.



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Fly Tying Contest by Rob Gamage

Mark Simpson was the winner of the March Fly Tying Contest. (I think it was the first time he had entered a contest!) Congratulations Mark!

Your Favorite Chironomid is the pattern for the April Fly Tying Contest. The chironomid is definitely one of the most popular patterns of still water fishermen of our region. These aquatic insects can range in size from #20's to #8's and come in a wide variety of colors, the possibilities are almost endless! Personally, I always look forward to seeing all of the different entries in a chironomid tying contest! Good Luck!

Recipe: Anything you want!



President's Message by Carl Johnson

During one of the earlier Board meetings this year the issue of dues came up. Was it time to raise club dues? During the discussion, it

became clear that we were losing money on new members with the cost of the new member packet (name badge, patch, etc.). The Board considered and voted for a \$20 initiation fee for new members to cover these costs. The initiation fee will be put into effect on June 1 this year. It will also apply to any member who is rejoining the club after an absence of more than 2 years.

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. If you are interested, please see any board member.



Activities by Gary Medema

Spring Outing - May 20 & 21 Big Twin

Sign up for dinner at the next meeting or contact me, Gary Medema at (360)

653-7686 before May 4th. The cost for steak dinner is \$10. Currently about 36 people signed up to attend and 17 have signed up for dinner. The spring outing is always a fun event so be sure to attend. To get there take Hwy 20 (North Cascades) to Winthrop. Turn right in town and follow Hwy 20 approximately 3 miles and turn right on Twin Lakes Road. The lake is about 1.5 miles from the turn. Hope to see you there. The next event will be the N F Stilly Clean up on June 24th. Details will follow.



Publications by Jerry Buron

EFFC calendars for 2006-07 were passed out to members at the March meeting. Calendars will be available to members who didn't receive theirs in March at the

April EFFC meeting. If you don't attend meetings, are a member, and would like an electronic version of the EFFC calendar (in pdf format), e-mail me at jburon2@msn.com and I'll e-mail you a copy of the 2006-07 club calendar.

Ghillie by Mark Edson

The discounts are here! The discounts are here! The old-style fly boxes are on sale at \$1 off normal prices so that we can start selling boxes with the new EFFC logo. This means that while supplies last, prices will be as follows:

Single Ripple:	\$4	(18 at this price)
Double Ripple:	\$6	(18 at this price)
Double Nubby Tack	\$6	(11 at this price)

The new fly boxes will be for sale at the original prices once we have sold out of the old fly boxes for that particular type. Also for sale at the Ghillie's desk each club meeting are new club patches for \$3, inside & outside decals for \$2, and bottles of Scotch Malt Whisky free for the taking if you're willing to share the location of a good fishing hole (while supplies last).

I'd like to offer a special thanks to the club members who donate items to the raffle. So far at every club meeting I've been handed items that have gone straight into the raffle. Also, thanks to the fly shops that discount their goods so we can have a reasonable selection on the table. The Avid Angler in Lake Forest Park was my primary source for the January & February items, and Pacific Fly Fishers in Mill Creek was my source for the March & April items. Next time you're in those shops, make sure you show your appreciation to the folks for helping our club.



Conservation by Jesse Scott

YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

This is the last opportunity to sign a child up for the annual Youth Conservation Camp. The camp is a 7 day event at Moran State Park on Orcas Island. Classes include Wildlife and habitat management, firearm and archery safety, hiking &

outdoor survival, fly tying and casting, ecology and water safety, first aid and CPR, leadership and teamwork skills. The girl's camp is July 16-22 and the boy's camp is July 23-29. There will be brochures on each table at the April meeting and Jesse Scott has the applications. We will need the completed applications returned by May 15th. Thank You.



Librarian's Corner by Jim Pankiewicz

Saltwater Game Fishes of the World: An Illustrated History by Bob Dunn and Peter Goadby is one of our most recent additions to the

club library. It's a fascinating book covering 2,000 years. It's a great "coffee table" kind of book loaded with pictures, history, facts, and background. Okay, it's a "coffee table" book but let's be sure to keep it moving from your coffee table to someone else's coffee table. Then you can both talk about what a great time you had reading it or just browsing it. Particularly interesting to me were some of the early methods used to fish for saltwater species. I also enjoyed the old engravings and pictures. Maybe you're the kind of guy who, "never looks at the pictures, you just read the articles." Well great, there lots of reading for you guys too.

Quoting from the book jacket, "This is a book for all those who love the sea and the great oceanic and inshore fish which inhabit it. It is a book, not only for anglers, but for marine scientists, nature lovers and seafarers of all nations who share a curiosity about these majestic creatures and how our knowledge of them has slowly developed over the past two millennia. For the scientist there is a 2,000 year history of the early naturalists and the fishes they first described, often in hostile and sometimes perilous circumstances. For the lover of wildlife and natural history art there are hundreds of old engravings, many hand colored with great delicacy, depicting the saltwater game fish of the world. These illustrations are intensely evocative of the period and remind us of the skills of yesteryear, now largely lost. Finally, for the angler there is the never told before history of the ancient sport of sea fishing from its origins in the mists of antiquity to

the present day. In this fascinating odyssey the reader will encounter ancient battles with giant sharks including some of the earliest stories involving the great white shark. Meet the French naturalist who examined and described the first marlin and share his sense of wonderment at this unique creature. Read in the angler's own words the account of the giant tuna capture in 1898 which launched the modern-day sport of big game fishing.

Saltwater Game Fishes of the World is a history of fish and fishing related through the eyes of its participants down through the ages but now for the first time, interpreted with the benefit of modern-day hindsight. Commencing with the ancient Greek naturalists, Aristotle, Pliny, Aelian and Oppian, the reader is introduced to their surprisingly diverse knowledge of fish and the ingenious fishing methods employed in the Mediterranean from the very beginnings of Western civilization. Then, the history of human contact with the well known saltwater game fishes is traced, exploring some of the myths which developed around these fish. The origins of the sport of sea fishing are examined. Finally, some of the best sea fishing literature from such classic writers as Charles Holder and Zane Grey is reviewed and through their writings the reader is given a taste of what it must have been like to be there in the golden years of saltwater gamefishing when the fish were prolific, the tackle primitive and the challenge considerable."

Club Wire by Federation of Fly Fishers

Jack Nicklaus, Legendary Golfer and Avid Sportsman, Agrees to Join the Federation of Fly Fishers as a National Spokesperson and Honorary Chairman of the FFF President's Club

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), a fly-fishing conservation and education organization representing over 30,000 fly fishers worldwide, announced today an association with golf legend and sportsman Jack Nicklaus.

Livingston, MT (PRWEB via PR Web Direct) April 13, 2006 –The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), a fly-fishing conservation and education organization representing over 30,000 fly fishers worldwide,

announced today an association with golf legend and sportsman Jack Nicklaus.

Jack Nicklaus has agreed to be a national spokesperson on behalf of the Federation of Fly Fishers, as well as to become Honorary Chairman of the FFF Presidents Club. The members of this charitable arm of the FFF represent those truly dedicated individuals and organizations that have made a 10-year financial commitment to support the mission of the FFF. Mr. Nicklaus is the first to be honored with this position. In addition, he has agreed to become a member of the FFF Board of Directors.

Mr. Nicklaus has been an avid fly fisher for most of his life and has visited many exotic worldwide destinations to pursue this passion. Mr. Nicklaus' philosophy is very consistent with that of the FFF.

"I am an avid outdoorsman and few activities or sports provide me with as much joy as fishing," he said. "If you want to break it down even further, it would be fly fishing. I actually prefer to fly fish because I enjoy the skill, art and challenge of it."

Roger Maler, President of the FFF's Southern Council, stated "The commitment to the FFF by an individual of the caliber and renown of Jack Nicklaus is an acknowledgement of the importance of the Mission of the FFF."



Dr. Ron Cordes, incoming Chairman of the FFF Board of Directors, added, "The participation of Jack Nicklaus in furthering the efforts of a non-profit organization such as the FFF, the success of

which is based upon the support of a vast number of volunteers, cannot be underestimated. His presence alone will send an important message to individuals and corporations alike whose potential support is critical to the FFF.”

Visit www.fedflyfishers.org to learn more about the Federation of Fly Fishers, it’s Mission, and its accomplishments on behalf of the sport of fly fishing and the environment.

Contact Information:
Peter Van GytenbeeFFF CEO
406-222-9369
www.fedflyfishers.org

Chironomids as a Food Source

by Jerry Buron

As most of you long-time fly fishers and club members know chironomids are a major food source for trout in our Pacific Northwest lakes. This would include British Columbia as well. Several years ago well know author, Philip Rowley in his book, *Fly Patterns for Stillwaters* did diet composition studies of what trout eat. His stomach analysis shows that year round diet of Stillwater trout is 39% chironomids and in the spring chironomids make up 50% of their diet (pupa/larva). For those who may not be as familiar with chironomids as some, the common term for chironomid larva is “blood worm.”

It stands to reason then that local trout fly fishers should really learn to target chironomids as a food source for trout fishing in lakes. It is timely that the club’s fly tying contest for the month of April be a chironomid.

As evidence to the fact that trout consume large numbers of chironomids, I’ve been fishing Pass Lake regularly this spring and as a practice I often pump the stomach of netted trout. I have found just about 100% of their stomach contents to be chironomids. The photo “*Pass Lake Chironomid Pupa, April 11, 2006*” is a photo I took of a brown “bomber” pumped from a fish at Pass Lake.

Another reason for the prevalence of chironomids is the fact that it is often about the only food source available early in the spring season for trout. It then



becomes important to understand how to tie and fish these insects.

Perhaps someone in the EFFC would be interested in continuing this article in next months issue on “how to successfully tie and fish this important part of a trout’s diet!”

It also bears mentioning that pumping a trout’s stomach requires doing it in a way that will not injure the fish. Most stomach pumps come with instructions. But remember a few basic facts:

- Gently insert the stomach pump into the trout’s mouth and don’t insert it too far into the trout. Remember we’re after what the fish has recently dined on not what it had yesterday!
- Leave the fish in the water rather than placing it in your boat or other floatation devise!
- One pump is enough; if you don’t get anything don’t continue to shove the pump into the fish.
- Handle the fish as little as possible. The more you handle the fish the greater the chances of damage to the fish!



I used this chironomid pattern, as an imitation, to take a nice 18” rainbow at Pass Lake on April 11, 2006

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club

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Everett, WA 98206



EFFC March Meeting Program Photo

EFFC Coming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 13 th Sat.	Fishing Kids	Silver Lake, Everett
May 20-21 st Sat. Sun.	Spring Fishout	Big Twin Lake
June 24 th Sat.	North Fork Stilly Cleanup	Charlie Rickett's place
July 16 th Sun.	Unofficial Saltwater Searun Fishout	Marysville Launch – Ebby Slough
July 23 rd Sun.	Summer Fishout /Mtg.	Gordy Swanson's place on NF Stilly