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Swirl Tips

July 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: July 23, 2006 @ Gordy Swanson's
Fish for the day! Potluck dinner at 5:00 pm. See Activities article!



Activities

by Gary Medema

The July meeting will be held on the North Fork of the Stilly at Gordon Swanson's place. The date is Sunday July 23rd. Fish for the day and join the crowd for dinner; just come for dinner; or camp for the weekend. If you would like to camp for the weekend you might want to give Gordy a call just to let him know. (425) 337-8246. Dinner will be "Potluck" at 5:00 P.M. Bring a salad, hot dish, or a desert to share. Bring your own choice of meat to BBQ. The club grill will be set up for cooking. You will also need to bring your own drinks, tableware, and a chair would be a good idea. Gordy & Jackie are always gracious hosts, so hope for good weather and hope to see you there. To get there go east on HWY.20, at Deer Creek turn right at the Oso store, Gordy's driveway is the last one on the right before the Stilly bridge.(About one block.) See map on back page.



Fly Tying Program

by Jesse Scott

Wounded Veterans Fly Tying Program

Madigan Army Medical Center at Ft. Lewis has introduced fly tying into their Occupational Therapy Clinic programs. The effort was initiated by Lt. Col. Warren Perry, a Battalion Commander and avid fly fisherman. He, and a few fly fishing friends, donated enough materials and tools to get the program started. It is now in its third month and is being well received by both the hospital staff and, more importantly, the wounded veterans.

The tying sessions are conducted in the Occupational Therapy Clinic every Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Individual instruction is paced to match each unique injury. Normally, we need

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three tiers for each session. So far, the majority of the volunteer instructors have been from the Seattle area. Ideally, if we could recruit volunteers geographically it would facilitate carpooling. The idea is to have enough volunteers so that each individual only goes to Ft. Lewis once a month or less.

The volunteer instructors have all been veterans, and most with combat experience, but this is certainly not a requirement. What we need are people who are interested in helping these young heroes. If you are interested, please contact Jesse Scott at (425) 745-6092 or gardenfly@comcast.net.



Conservation by Jesse Scott

Volunteer Opportunity

Last year our club was invited to participate in the annual Festival of the River celebration at River Meadows Park in Arlington. It was quite an event, with live bands, folk singers, Native American dancing, a pow/wow, conservation exhibits, souvenir stands, and food. There were activities for the entire family including a kids stage and kids booths. Admission and parking are free. This year the Festival is scheduled for the weekend of August 12-13, the hours are 10 am to 4 pm. The location is River Meadows Park on the South Fork of the Stilly about 6 miles out of Arlington.

We are the only fly fishing club involved. We have been asked to demonstrate fly tying and casting. We will have a space for casting and a shelter for the tying. We will provide 6 complete casting outfits so all we need is you. Last year it was more talking with people about fly fishing, and sharing our shade, than actual instruction. This is your opportunity to show folks that all fly fishers are not high rolling egos trying to build a reputation. Some of us are normal folks who actively support conservation of the fishing resources. If you are interested give Jesse Scott a call at (425) 745-6092 or e-mail at "gardenfly@comcast.net". Bring the family and enjoy the day.



Librarian's Corner by Jim Pankiewicz

The Art of Spey Casting A film by Jeffrey Pill Hosted by Lani Waller

In our EFFC collection we have this three and one half hour comprehensive treatment of spey casting. Seventeen international experts demonstrate a range of casting skills meeting the needs of the beginner and the advanced spey rodder. The filming is done from four different angles making the demonstrations easy to see and understand. Of particular note is that the video is not just dedicated to casting 2 handed, 12 weight rods. There is treatment of both two and one handed rods and there is attention given to middle and light weight rods.

Quoting Mel Krieger from the DVD case, "*This exciting technique is significantly more efficient than other types of casting, both for the single-handed and the two-handed rod. And it's fun! I believe this DVD encompasses the most comprehensive array of Spey Casting "Stars" and styles ever shown.*"

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For Sale

Hardy Sunbeam 6/7 reels!

I have two Hardy Sunbeam 6/7 reels and five extra spools for sale.

Each reel is \$150

Each extra spool is \$50

Purchase separately or the entire package for \$499!
Reels are in very good condition (see photo-2 *extra spools not in photo*)

Contact Jerry Buron at (360) 659-2286 or e-mail at:
jburon2@msn.com



journey of trying to learn on my own how to tie and fish these “weird bugs.”

I’m certainly no expert on the history of chironomid fishing but I have done research on its development in the Northwest. What I’ve learned is that probably one of its earliest pioneers was a man named Jack Shaw from Kamloops, B.C. He began fishing chironomids many years ago. Jack Shaw has written several books, which are no longer in print, where he talks of chironomid fishing. Brian Chan credits Jack Shaw with introducing him to chironomid fishing. The Evergreen Fly Fishing Club has had a number of early successful innovators of chironomid fly fishing. Ted Knoblauch and Ed Nivins have been mentioned as two of our early pioneers in the successful fly fishing of chironomids.



More on Chironomids
by Jerry Buron with Jack Gobel

The April issue of Swirl Tips included an article entitled “*Chironomids as a Food Source.*”

In this article I talked about the importance of chironomids as a food source for trout in still waters. Studies by Phil Rowley indicate up to fifty percent of a trout’s diet consisted of chironomids in the spring and year round chironomids amounted to thirty-nine percent. My experiences in the past and this spring fully back up his research! While fishing Pass Lake near Deception Pass, Dragon and Sheridan Lakes in Central British Columbia this spring and summer, a well tied and fished chironomid brought many fish to the net.



About fifteen years ago while fishing Sheridan Lake in British Columbia I observed a fellow fly fishing with two rods, which is legal in B.C. if you’re alone in your boat. After several frustrating days watching him just knocking them dead, I happened to see him one morning on his way to his boat and asked him what he was using. He said, “A small brown chironomid!” At that time I had a vague idea of what a chironomid was. Then I referred to them as “midges.” I had never fished them and frankly distained the thought of using them. Hell, I thought, “No fish of any size would take a tiny little thing like that, would it?” Well we all know the answer to that question! So I began the long and often painful

Ok, so I decided I’m going to learn how to tie and fish these critters! Now, as I quickly learned, this was going to be easier said than done! Most of those who were good at it “were pretty closed mouthed” about sharing what they knew. So I fumbled and bumbled my way along for a number of years. I bought commercial patterns I thought might work and then quickly discovered after pumping a few fish, “these commercial patterns don’t look anything like the real thing!” After joining the EFFC I finally met some folks who were good chironomid fly fishers who eventually were willing to share some of their successes with me. Two who come to mind were Jack Gobel and Fred Moll. Jack’s “hard bodied” chironomids were the final breakthrough for me. His chironomids look like a chironomid pupa! Fred Moll taught me how to use them effectively. I’m indebted to these two gentlemen for their help. Jack has graciously shared his patterns with club members in the past and many of us use his basic design for our chironomids.

For this article, Jack has offered to share some of his successful knowledge with us regarding tying several of his chironomids (*see illustration next page*).

I asked Jack “What makes an effective chironomid pupa pattern?” Here are some tips he shared with me to pass on to club members;

1. Silhouette! The pupa's proportions must be accurate, i.e. finely tapered bodies, small thorax, and prominent gills.
2. Size is critical! If fish are feeding on size 14 chironomids you'll do much better using this size than say a chironomid which is two sizes larger.
3. After years of development, trial and error, Jack came up with his "hard bodied" chironomids. These are finished with two coats of Jack's own coating which is similar to Dave's Flexament and a final coating of Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails with Nylon. This treatment makes your chironomid pupa very durable.
4. Make pupa bodies more on the "slender" side then the bulkier side. This often occurs when you tie your pupa and it looks good before coating and then after coating all of a sudden it looks like its on "steroids!"
5. Don't make the thorax too large in either length or diameter! Remember proportions are important.
6. Pupa body needs to give the appearance of segmentation! This is usually accomplished with some type of rib. Jack says he never uses wire. He'll use thread, flashabou or a combination of both.



Some have questioned Jack, "Why do you go through this much trouble to tie these flies?" The answer is, of course, "because they work!" Jack uses the analogy of "the fish being the professor and he, the professor, tells me whether my flies are any good!" He wants to match wits with the professor. And of course, it's a hellova lot more enjoyable catching fish than the alternative!

While fishing Dragon and Sheridan Lake this spring and summer I took the opportunity to pump many fish and study what the "naturals" look like. Look at the photos on the next page I took of the stomach contents and see if you don't agree that Jack's hard bodied pupas are very close to the "naturals!"

When fish are located, the right pattern is selected, and the correct depth of presentation is made, you're apt to have a really fun experience that day and each day you're able to duplicate this pattern.

In a future issue of Swirl Tips Jack Gobel and I will talk about Jack's formula for successful chironomid fishing. He calls it LDP!

One last thought! Another must for the chironomid fly fisher is an effective bloodworm pattern. When pupa fishing is slow or the lake is rough as a result of high wind I've been successful often using a chironomid larva (bloodworm).

In the event you missed or would like to review the first chironomid article, it was published in the April issue of Swirl Tips. It can also be found on the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club's web site; www.evergreenflyclub.org/.



Questions or comments regarding this article would be appreciated! Send inquiries to jburon2@msn.com



EFFC Coming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 23 rd Sun.	Summer Fishout /Mtg.	Gordy Swanson's place on NF Stilly
Sept. 17 th Sun	Cutthroat Fishout	Haller Park, Arlington
Sept. 29 th -Oct. 1 st	Kalama Cup (McKenzie Fishout)	North Umpqua, Oregon

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club

PO Box 221

Everett, WA 98206

MEET AT SWANSON'S PLACE IN OSO

TO GET TO GORDON'S PLACE
GO TO OSO AND TURN SOUTH AT THE GENERAL STORE
JUST BEFORE THE BRIDGE OVER THE NORTH FORK
THERE WILL BE A GATE ON THE RIGHT

