

2007 OFFICERS

President

Eric Nordstrom
(425) 304-0825
northstream@aol.com

Vice President:

Mark Edson
(425) 397-8097
mark-1@edsons.com

Past President:

Carl Johnson
(425) 308-6161
flyfishalso@verizon.net

Trustees:

Dale Dennis
(360) 435-8735
ddennis@wavecable.com

Reed Miller
(360) 435-9490
geezereed@aol.com

Gordon McKay
(425) 481-1250
gdmckay1@verizon.net

Secretary:

John Silvey
(425) 463-6395
ftrekerjohn@aol.com

Treasurer:

Jim Melnick
(425) 379-9681
wealsofish@aol.com

Ghillie:

Rob Gamage
(360) 691-9997
ragflyguy@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities

Gary Medema
(360) 653-7686
Gary_and_deb@netzero.com

FFF Rep:

Carl Johnson
(425) 308-6161
flyfishalso@verizon.net

Library:

Jim Pankiewicz
(425) 353-1399
jpankiewicz@verizon.net

Publications:

Jerry Buron
(360) 659-2286
jburon2@msn.com

Awards:

Doug Nordstrom
(360) 659-5695
dmordy@aol.com

Conservation:

Jesse Scott
(425) 745-6092
gardenfly@comcast.net

History:

Gordon Swanson
(425) 337-8246

Membership:

Mark Simpson
(425) 258-1149
markbsimpson@yahoo.com



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: February 27, 2007 @ Flying Pig Brewery
Wet Fly – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.



Club Program By Mark Edson

Our February speaker is someone that many of us will recognize from June 2006. Todd Seamons is one of the two doctoral students that the EFFC sponsored with a scholarship as part of our 50th anniversary year. Todd visited us in June of 2006 and discussed his steelhead research, which had been based on a particular population that they had evaluated for a number of years at a stream on the Olympic peninsula.

This month, he will be talking about early maturity in salmon and steelhead. Specifically precocial parr, jacks (and jills) and grilse (Atlantic salmon). He'll review current research on why early maturity occurs and he'll show where some of his research showed evidence of early maturity in the steelhead population that he studied.

It was great fun having Todd at club last year, and a pleasure to have him back.



Fly Tying Contest By Joe Bernstein

The winner of the January fly tying contest was George Richardson. George won with a fabulous black leech with a 2-piece articulating body. Congratulations George!

As most of you already know, I have taken over the Fly Tying Contest duties from Rob Gamage. Rob has done an outstanding job in this role and I will do my best to try and fill his shoes – Thank You Rob!!

The fly pattern for February's contest is the "PT Flashback" or "Pheasant Tail Flashback". Frank Sawyer, Riverkeeper on England's Wiltshire Avon, tied the original Pheasant Tail Nymph. This pattern imitates various *Baetis* Mayfly species. The PT Flashback substitutes pearl mylar for the wingcase in place of pheasant tail fibers.

Recipe:

Hook: #10-20 Nymph

Thread: 8/0 Dark brown (or size/color to suit your fly)

Weight: Small lead wire

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers (8-10)

Rib: Medium copper wire

Abdomen: Pheasant tail fibers (12-18)

Legs: Pheasant tail fibers (about 8-10)

Wingcase/Flash Back: UNI-Mylar 1/16" "Pearl" color (with a drop of 5 minute epoxy)

Thorax: Peacock herl



For tying instructions, go to the following URL: <http://flies.hipwader.com/2004/flash-back-pheasant-tail>



President's Message By Eric Nordstrom

The bitter cold is finally gone and most of us have now lost the excuse to not be out on our local waters. Last weekend the sunshine called me to rejoin the Skagit for some winter steelheading and work the memory out of my spey line from many months of sitting on its reel.

Half of the fun was exploring all of my usual spots to see how they've changed with the recent floods and to witness the ever changing morphology of the river. Some of the good holding areas where there used to be large rocks had now been filled in, logjams had disappeared in some areas and then reappeared in others, and some large sandbars were now unrecognizable. The eagles were still out in force and so were the dolly varden but the steelhead weren't easy to find yet with the water still high.

The other half of the fun was having a friend out on the river with me and then joining up with a couple other buddies back at the boat launch to exchange stories. This part of the day always reminds me of why we belong to a fly fishing club and how much we enjoy being around others that share in this sport.

This last month the club's board had a chance to get together and finalize the budget needed to keep our club in operation. A big **thank you** goes out to Jim Melnick for heading up this effort and making some changes that will hopefully help us keep track of our income and expenditures better. I feel really

good about our club's makeup and direction this year, although I'd feel a whole lot better if a couple people (or even just one) would stand up and be our Auction and Christmas Party chairs. Is it your time to volunteer and be an *active* member?

Look forward to seeing you all on the 27th....



Membership By Mark Simpson

Our club needs some volunteers to help as a greeter for visitors to our general membership meetings. Often a visitor is already sponsored and accompanied by a member they know. We need someone for the other times when a visitor is a "walk-in" and needs someone to help them get acquainted. Please let me know if you can help with this. Not a big commitment but it would really help the club welcome new members.

Club dues are overdue for some members. Did you know, according to our club by-laws, that an individual who is delinquent in the payment of dues may not participate as a member in club sponsored activities! As of this writing most of our members have paid their dues but some have not yet paid. Calendar year 2007 dues are \$30 for members and \$25 for associate members. Dues checks should be made to EFFC and sent directly to the membership chairman. Please do not send them to the treasurer

or to the club's post office box. Please send dues to: Mark Simpson, 2505 5th St, Everett, WA 98201

This is the first notice of delinquency, according to section 4.7 of our by-laws. As of this writing, my records indicate the following members have not paid 2007 dues:

Joel Bell, Joe Bly, Dennis Channing, Alex Dorchak, Brent Flinn, Norm Johnson, Bill McCampbell, Lyle Melton, Michael Morris, Carl Warren, Skinner Wood.

I believe I've kept an accurate list of members I received dues from, both by check and by cash, but please contact me directly by phone (425-258-1149) if you believe your name is included on this list in error.

In the next issue of The Swirl Tips, we are required to publish the names of all members who have still not paid their 2007 dues. That will be the second and final notice of delinquency. Unless your dues are paid your name will be dropped from the member list 30 days after the second notice. Please pay your dues and remain as an EFFC member.



Publications By Jerry Buron

Club calendars for 2007-08 will be passed out at the March club meeting. Be sure to attend that evening to get your new club calendar which has a wealth of information regarding the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club!

**Moving? ... Didn't get your newsletter?
Changing your phone number or e-mail?
Be sure to notify Mark Simpson at:
425-258-1149 or e-mail at:
markbsimpson@yahoo.com**



Activities By Gary Medema

The winter steelhead outing is coming up on March 17th. The last Swirl Tips newsletter had the 24th of March as the date, but the calendar has the 17th. I don't know where the mix-up occurred but as of this newsletter the 17th of March is the day. The Village restaurant in Marysville has been reserved for dinner and the Dub Price Award is the prize for the biggest fish of the day. Weigh in will be at 5:30 p.m. at the restaurant. Participation is encouraged!!! Hopefully the date mix-up hasn't messed up any ones plans. Good luck and enjoy the day.

Freshwater Trout Stocking in BC By Jerry Buron

Because I do most of my freshwater fishing in British Columbia I've developed a keen interest in how they manage their fisheries. Many Evergreen Fly Fishing Club Members make the journey north each year in search of large plentiful kamloops trout. In May of 2006 I took the opportunity to visit the Dragon Lake Egg Collecting station. During May each year the station is busy collecting eggs from kamloops trout which are used to stock about 35% to 40% of all lakes within the province of British Columbia. Last May three million eggs were collected from approximately one thousand, two hundred fifty (1,250) Blackwater kamloops trout. Of this group 1,000 were females.

During my trip last May I talked with several friends while fishing Dragon Lake who said the fisheries people were collecting eggs and probably wouldn't mind if I dropped in for a visit. So one very cold morning in early May I decided to take my camera and drop in for a visit. I'm glad I did. The workers were quite friendly and had no reservations of me visiting. I asked many questions and took a number of photos. I'd like to share with club members what I learned that morning. I was greeted by Kurt Vinge, who ran the station last year. I spent most of my time, however, with Derek Ingram, a Fish Culturist with fisheries. He explained what they were going to do that morning and how they would be doing it. There were about

five or six men working on various tasks associated with the egg gathering. I was impressed by what appeared to be a well organized and dedicated group. The following is a commentary on what I saw;

➤ Fish were already contained within a trap in the creek where the egg station is located. When all was in readiness the youngest member, who probably had the worst job, was using a large landing net to scoop fish out of the holding trap into a temporary pen. Fish were then placed briefly in large containers which contained an anesthetizing solution to temporarily put the fish to “sleep.” (See photo 1) The worker then removed these fish, 80% of which were females, to a small table where they were then “milked” of either their eggs or sperm. I was surprised by the small size of the fish that were spawning. It has always been my impression that “spawners” were large fish.

➤ Once the eggs and sperm were removed these fish were then placed in a temporary holding pen to recover from the anesthesia. They were later trucked to the south end of Dragon Lake where they were released back into the lake. Mortality rate for these fish is surprisingly very high. Many

do not recover and die, providing nutrients back into Dragon Lake. I was told about 25% survive!

➤ After the sperm has been added to the eggs a small amount of fluid, usually water, is added to stimulate the sperm. The



Photo 1 Fish Culture Technician with containers of fish asthenistizing solution



chosen few free swimming sperm cells complete their duty almost immediately and the rest die within seconds. These dead sperm cells and other organics are then washed. Clean water is added, swirled and the surplus is then poured off. This



harvest 3 million eggs for two hatcheries in the province of British Columbia. One-third of fertilized eggs were going to the Clearwater Hatchery in Clearwater, BC and the remaining two-thirds were to be trucked to the Fraser Valley Trout Hatcher in Abbotsford, BC.

After my early morning visit to the egg collection station I returned to my campsite at Robert's Roost and headed out on Dragon Lake for another day's adventure matching wits with the lake's trout. As I fished that day many questions crept into my head. Questions of, "Why was the size of the spawning fish so small?," "Why do so many of these spawning fish perish?," "Why are only the Blackwater

addition, swirling and pouring out of "dirty" or organic laden water usually takes about a minute and may require 3-4 washes depending upon the amount of visible organics.

strain of trout planted in Dragon Lake?" and "Why is the size of the fish continuing to get smaller each year in a lake that appears to be a food factory?". The questions kept popping up with no source for answers!

- ➔ This washing process not only gets rid of the organics but it also gets rid of them in preparation for the disinfection process. A low concentration of iodine is used to disinfect the eggs prior to transfer to a hatchery and any remaining organics can bind with the iodine lowering the efficacy. The disinfectant is used to prevent the formation of *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* ("flavo") bacteria.

- ➔ During the course of the three weeks or so of egg collection, their goal is to



Coupled with my questions were a number of misconceptions I and others have developed. You know all of us “fishing experts” have explanations for everything. Some popular misconceptions include Blackwater trout don’t grow very large, hot weather two summers ago in the province caused an entire years worth of planted fish to die off. Why not plant other strains of kamloops trout in the lake, etc., etc.?



Cory Kahl - Fish Culture Technician washing fertilized egg!

Several years back the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC was created for the *“purpose to conserve and enhance the freshwater fish resources of British Columbia for the benefit of the public...”* I believe this group is beginning to have a real impact on the quality of freshwater fishing in the province. I’ve seen the results of their work along with the Ministry of Fisheries in such places as Sheridan Lake. Last week at the Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue, I had the opportunity for an extended conversation with Ken Scheer, Angler Participation Coordinator, Sport Fishing Division of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. He was gracious enough to answer many of those questions I posed to myself earlier.

“So Ken, what’s up with Dragon Lake?”
“Well Jerry, even though lakes are much smaller than say, the ocean, they are still relatively complex and require continuous management. Regarding the current fishery you can’t argue that the fishing itself on Dragon lake is poor. When seasoned fly fishermen can average a fish an hour or more in the boat I think we would all agree the fishing is pretty good. However, I think most would agree that fishermen traveling to Dragon Lake, located close to the middle of our province, are there to catch the “big one.” To that end, and in response to your observation about fish size in the trap would you believe the average fish size is only down about 2-3 cm or an inch over the past 5 years? However, while the average size reduction of mature fish is small, the size and occurrence of “big fish” in the fishery appears to be significant. Significant enough that between ourselves and the Ministry of Environment biologists, we are looking for ways to improve it. This year we will be stocking about 5,000 or 10-15% less fish into the lake. Dragon Lake is productive but every lake has its limit in regards to fish biomass production. Also, we are going to try both the Pennask stock and the Blackwater stock for the All Female Triploid (AF3N) component.”

“A concern that we have is that the catch and release mortality rate, which increases as the water temperature rises, is much higher than the standard of 5% and Pennask fish might handle the stress better than the Blackwater stock does. Speaking of this, anglers – and I include myself here, need to be

responsible and realize that catching fish in temperatures above 20 degrees Celsius or 70 degrees Fahrenheit is very stressful on the fish. Dragon Lake does not have a summer thermocline or refugia area for the fish to either hide or recover in. Ultimately, if the Pennask do better we would switch to 100% Pennask for the AF3N stocking portion.”

“This is a change from last year in that we are reducing the overall stocking numbers by 10,000 fry, or effectively 5,000 yearlings, and making a switch to 50% Pennask for the 10,000 AF3N yearling stocking component. These changes probably won’t be measurable/quantifiable for a couple of years.”

Ken also cleared up one other popular misconception; “You only plant Blackwater kamloops in Dragon because they produce more eggs per female than other strains of kamloops!” Well the truth is, a five pound Blackwater or Pennask female would each produce approximately 3,000 eggs while a five pound Tzenzaicut female would produce about 2,100 eggs.”

During the past year I have learned a great deal about the fish and fishing in British Columbia. BC is a wonderful place to fish for trout and anadromous strains. If you haven’t tried it, you owe it to yourself to do so! The Cariboo-Chilcotin Region, where I predominately fish, has literally thousands of lakes with well stocked trout waiting for the eager angler. Contrary to what many believe, the more who fish, practice good conservation of the fishery, actually help create awareness and a force for continued care of the management of the fishery we so dearly love!

References:

Interview with Ken W. Scheer, Angler Participation Coordinator, Sport Fishing Division, Bellevue, WA, February 9, 2007.

Conversation with Brian Chan, Vice President of Sportfish Division of Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Bellevue, WA, February 9, 2007.

Interview with Derek Ingram, Fish Culturist, Dragon Lake Egg Collection Station, May 2006

Gofishbc-Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, www.gofishbc.com (excellent website with a wealth of fishing information for the BC angler)

BC Stocking Reports: www.gofishbc.com/stockingreports.htm

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club Coming Events

Date	Event	Location
Saturday, March 17 th	Winter Steelhead Outing	Dinner @ 5:30 Village Inn, Marysville
Saturday, March 31 st	Lone Lake Fishout	Lone Lake, South Whidbey Island, WA

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club
PO Box 221
Everett, WA 98206



EFFC Membership Renewal Form

Membership dues are \$30 for members & \$25 for associate members

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Member's Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Telephone Number including area code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Committee Interests: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to EFFC, fill in the Membership Renewal form, & mail both to the following address:

Mark Simpson
2505-5th Street
Everett, WA 98201