

WAHOO NEWS



MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2014

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00PM

Dinner/General Meeting: 7:00PM

Winter Destinations

Winter seems to last longer and longer every year. How that is possible? Most Pacific Northwest inhabitants get antsy to see the sun after a few months of grey, rain, and cold. Fly anglers are unique in that they want to see the sun, but sun shining on waters where fish will eat a fly. With that in mind, Jon Covich will present some of the finest winter fly fishing destinations in the world, including South America, Christmas Island, Venezuela, and New Zealand.



Jon Covich

Jon Covich has spent the last 25 years immersed in the fly fishing industry and has been one of the Pacific Northwest's most trusted tackle reps for the past 20 years. He currently represents Fly Water Travel, Cortland, Outcast, Fishpond, Oakley, Spirit River and Galvan Reels. In addition to his business as a tackle rep, Jon has traveled to many of the world's best fly fishing destinations, as both an angler and a professional photographer. Jon has made multiple trips to Chile and Argentina, New

Zealand, much of the Bahamas, Belize, Mexico, Christmas Island, British Columbia and Alaska. Photos of his adventures have appeared in Outside Magazine, Grey's Sporting Journal, Fly Fisherman, Fly Rod & Reel, and Catch Magazine. Jon lives in Seattle Washington with his wife and two sons.

Spey Casting Clinic



Fidalgo Fly Fisher and The Confluence Fly Shop gathered along the shore of the Skagit River May 1st. Ed Megill from The Confluence Fly Shop and other experienced spey caster were on the river bar to teach and do demonstration of casting with a spey rod and switch rods.



The turnout was high and many walked away with new skill and maybe a desire to fish with a spey rod. The Skagit Fly Fishing Class students were also on the river bar to practice single hand casting. Members of Fidalgo Fly Fisher were there to help them with their casting.



Thanks to FFF members that came out to help and play with us on the river. A Big Thanks to Ed Megill from The Confluence Fly Shop and the special guest for all the help.

Go Fishing with Phil Rowley

By: Bruce Freet

Our February speaker, Phil Rowley, has two fly fishing schools and four Manitoba lake trips planned for 2014, plus a couple of trips that he recommended:

From April 25, 26, and 27 Phil will be at the Cowichan River Wilderness Lodge near Duncan on Vancouver Island. This river and stream fly fishing school includes all meals, two nights lodging, fly fishing instruction,

and 8 hours of guided fishing on the Cowichan River for \$799 plus CDN taxes per person based upon double occupancy. Only 8 students. The deadline for reservations is March 25th. The Cowichan River is catch and release for rainbow, cutthroat, and brown trout. Get more information at www.flycraftangling.com or www.cowichanriverwildernesslodge.com or by calling the lodge at 250-749-3594.

From July 3 through 6 Phil will teach advanced stillwater fly fishing with Brian Chan at Stoney Lake Lodge on Douglas Lake Ranch near Merritt, BC. This is four days and three nights for \$949 per person, which includes all meals, lodging, instruction, amenities, and boats. Get more information at www.douglaslake.com or by calling 800-663-4838. (You will catch large rainbows, have top-notch lake instruction, and have a great time with this package.)

For catching trophy-sized rainbow, brown, and tiger trout on small Manitoba lakes these trips are the ticket! Consider one of four trips: June 2 to 8 (\$1,249); June 8 to 14 (\$1,249); June 14 to 18 (\$749); and September 22 to 28 (\$1,249). This price includes all meals, lodging, instruction, and boats. Getting a group of Club members together for one of these trips would make for a terrific time. You stay at the Arrow Lake Lodge, just 7 km from Rossburn, MB. To book a 2014 trip contact Phil at flycraft@shaw.ca or bob.vanderwater@rdpsd.ab.ca.

Fly of the Month

The Bonefish “Gotcha” Fly



RECIPE

Hook: #2 SS Eagle Claw L2NG saltwater
Thread: Uni orange, pink or green
Eyes: bead chain, medium
Tail: pearl minnow body
Body: flash pearl diamond braid
Wing: craft fur, tan and crystal flash, olive

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 - With hook in the vice, wrap the thread back from eye to one third the shank.
- 2 - Tie on eyes over top of thread wraps, placed about 5/16 back of the eye.
- 3 - Wrap the thread back to the bend and let it hang.
- 4 - Prepare the pearl minnow body (to become the tail) by removing the core from a piece 1 1/2 hook length. Open the strands for one third the length of the minnow body covering.
- 5 - Place the minnow body covering on top of the hook with the open strands extending the back of the bend by 1/3 the hook length. Tie the minnow cover, over hook top, with thread wraps to the

back of the eyes.

6 - Wrap the thread back to the bend and let it hang.

7 - Cut a piece of flash pearl diamond braid that is three hook lengths. Lay the

braid on the hook top with one end just behind the eyes and start the tie down

at the bend, wrapping forward to the eyes. Thread will hang behind the eyes.

8 - Wrap the braid, close together, from the bend to the eyes and tie down with

three thread wraps. Move thread to the front of the eyes. Wrap the braid over

the gap between the eyes with figure eights. Tie the braid down in front of the

eyes, trim off excess braid, put a thread hitch over the tie down.

9 - Remove hook from vice and replace hook in vice upside-down.

10 - Cut a 1/8" hank of craft fur to be twice the length of the existing fly.

Clean the cut end of fur to remove the short fuzz. Tie the fur to the underside of the hook just in front of the eyes with the fur tips extending one full hook

length beyond the tail. Tie on two pieces of crystal flash on each side of the craft fur wing to extend to the tips of the fur. Trim away excess fur and flash.

11 - Build up the fly head with thread, whip-finish and head cement.

Note: The Bonefish Gotcha is tied in a wide variety of colors and materials –

the idea is to fool the bonefish with something that might look like a shrimp.

Keep the fly sparse, simple and easy to tie.

Pass Lake Census

By: Bruce Freet

The current fish stocking of Pass Lake by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) may not be following the original agreement with the Fidalgo Fly Fishers, but who knows!?! Does anyone have a copy of it?

The Fidalgo Fly Fishers have been stewards of Pass Lake for many years and the lake has a very interesting history, but that is the subject for another article. Thanks to the work of Frank Barcott, our Club maintained catch cards and pencils at the launch ramp and reported the monthly tally in the WAHOO for years. However, it eventually became too much work for the questionable value of the data.

For years Pass Lake has been stocked to maintain 75% rainbow trout and 25% brown trout fishery for catch and release fly fishing only. Then, some in our Club noticed that smaller fish were being stocked, and some years, brown trout were not stocked. Today, large numbers of fingerling-sized fish are being stocked; however, rather than debate the fisheries management techniques, the better question may be “are we getting the outcome or results that we wish?” Stated another way, are fly fishers catching the numbers and sizes of fish that they wish?

In the last couple of years, Jake Jacobson of the Evergreen Fly Fishers and the Island Fly Fishers have been monitoring Lone Lake.

They purchased scales, made fish measuring boards, and held fish measuring or census days. Jake summarized the irrefutable data and gave it to WDFW with suggestions of ways to improve the fishery. The Fidalgo Fly Fishers can do the same thing at Pass Lake, and probably over time, gain the assistance of other clubs in catching, measuring, and releasing fish on certain days.

Those members interested in helping should bring an accurate scale and tape measure to Pass Lake for our Chironomid Capers on March 22nd and April Fools on April 5th from 9am to noon. It is best if your scale has a hook or something to enable you to lift your net and the fish at the same time to minimize handling the fish. You can get the wet weight of your net separately ... or tare weight. The tape measure or fish measuring board can also be placed in the net. We will determine the weight to the nearest ¼ pound and the length to the nearest ¼ inch. If we know how many of us are participating during a set time period (suggest 3 hours), we will know the catch per unit effort. An “R” for rainbow and “B” for brown trout will tell us the species. The Club will provide data sheets for everyone. Bring a clip board and pen or pencil. It is most efficient to have two people per boat or to have two small boats anchor together to share equipment and recording information, but whatever works for you is fine.

This usually the peak of the spring chironomid season and several patterns

that can be productive from bloodworms a few feet off the lake bottom to the “grey ghost” (grey body, pearl KF rib, gunmetal bead, and 200 hook #16 to various black bodied flies with either peacock or pearl KF ribs about 14 ft. down.

Please let Bruce Freet know at the meeting or via email if you wish to do the fish census.



Up Coming Event for All Pass Lake Chironomid Outing

By: Robin La Rue

The first Fidalgo Fly Fishers outing of the year is planned for **March 22nd at Pass Lake.** Coffee, granola bars and other goodies will be available about **7:45 am** for the early risers in the club. Don't forget you will need to pay a fee for using the launch and parking area if you have not purchased your Discovery Pass yet. Talk with Robin La Rue at the meeting if you need further details or have questions.



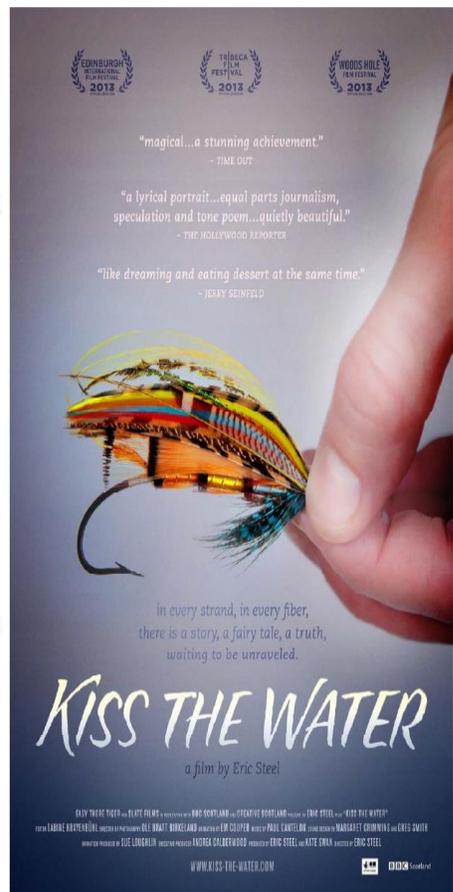
Tuesday, March 18th, 2014, 7:30 pm

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
in cooperation with the Lincoln Theatre presents:



Join us...
Fantastic Fly Fishing
Film,
Great Raffle Prizes,
&
Support Salmon
Restoration

Additional
Sponsorship from:
SKAGIT
WATERSHED
COUNCIL
A Community Partnership for Salmon



Note: All articles for the Wahoo
need to be sent to:
wahoo@fidalgoflyfishers.com

All items / articles to be posted in the Wahoo
must be submitted by the first Monday after the
Board meet each month. Thank you for all your
help to meet this dead line.



See all of you at the meet!