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MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 15, 2014

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00PM

Dinner/General Meeting: 7:00PM

Message from the Pres,

Our May meeting will be the last meeting of the spring, so I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation and enthusiasm.

We passed out a committee roster at our April meeting. I would encourage everyone – especially our new members to get involved with a committee, Help make an impact.

Remember our summer program on July 17th. Loren Elliot will be speaking about fly fishing Puget Sound and Vancouver Island.

I was out of the country the first Week of May, but I hope the Ellensburg event and the Big Twin outing were enjoyable.

Have a great summer, and try to wet a fly line often,

Brian Faber- President

May Meeting:

The May 15th program will focus on what's new and exciting in the world of fly fishing. While modern technology and innovation are seldom the magic bullet to catching more fish, they have certainly carried us a great distance toward furthering our enjoyment of the sport. Few things will sour the fly fishing experience like frustration on the water or at the tying bench. This presentation will focus on a variety of products that have the capacity to change the way we tie flies, the way we fish, the way we enjoy our time on the water and in many cases, simplify a pastime we frequently insist on making increasingly more complicated. Beyond the products, the program will showcase some exciting local

fisheries and the practical applications for some of the newer tying products, rods, reels, lines and other accessories. Bring your questions and curiosity. Items will be on hand to feel and experience in addition to the

presentation. A free raffle for a brand new rod will be held following the presentation. The winner will have their choice of a new Redington single hand, switch or spey rod presented at the meeting.

Speaker of the Month –Scott Willison



Scott grew up in Renton, Washington and began fly fishing and tying flies at age 12. From pestering trout on the Cedar River with crudely tied Royal Wulffs to swinging flies for steelhead on the Snoqualmie as a youth, Scott's life long fish-fueled mania has driven him to the Bahamas, Mexico, Costa Rica, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and British Columbia in pursuit of everything finned. While particularly enamored with swinging flies for steelhead on Northwest rivers, stripping flies for Coho in the sloughs and backwaters of the Fraser and surveying the scenic beaches of Puget Sound with a fast action 6 weight, Scott would probably be content to fly fish for koi should the opportunity ever present itself.

Scott currently owns and operates The Confluence Fly Shop in Bellingham,

Washington and has tied flies commercially through his company, Willy Dog Flies for several years. He worked as a guide for Cascades Fly Fishing Expeditions and has a pronounced fondness for two-handed rods and spey casting. Scott has written several articles for Northwest Fly Fishing and, as a once directionless and jobless English major, relishes the opportunity to write about his passion. What draws him to fly fishing is the unending evolution of learning, comradere, equipment and technique. Fly fishing is a limitless pursuit and, while impossible to ever know everything, it's certainly a lot of fun to try.

Beyond chasing fish and tying flies, Scott serves as a Native Fish Society River Steward for the Stillaguamish River, has worked for the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association as a River Steward and Educator, and is an active member of the Fourth Corner Fly Club.

Fly of the Month Thomas' Silky Sand Lance



Hook: Daichii 2456 #4 or #6

Throat: White bucktail tied on underside of hook and slightly flared to support overwing.

Wing 1: Hank of white or tan angel silk extending well beyond the bucktail

Wing 2: UV minnow body topped with very sparse pink fluoro fiber followed by peacock angel hair or pearl bronze minnow shimmer fringe.

Eyes: 1/8" silver stick on eyes.

Head: Coat with thin or tack free brushable Clear Cure Goo or similar UV resin or epoxy

My pal Thomas, a commercial tier who works for Fish Hunter Enterprises developed this pattern using angel silk, a soft material mixed with angel hair to effectively capture the undulating eel-like movement characteristic of the Pacific Sand Lance commonly found throughout the shores of Puget Sound. I added the pink fluoro fiber midline to suggest the pink side flash that often occurs when hapless sand lance are marauded by frenzied coho salmon. This is my go to pattern during the summer months around Cherry Point.

Swap Meet Time!

It is time for our annual swap meet, so bring your items and sell or trade them during our "Wet Fly" session from 6 to 7pm. I know that it is hard to believe, but I am told that many of us have fly fishing equipment that we never use. If true, bring it to this meeting to swap. Additional tables will be set-up for your use. Let's make it interesting with rods, reels, vises, and even boats. I have heard that a couple of members are contemplating selling their pontoon boat and other small craft.

Bruce Freet

Renzetti Vises Up Date

Students have now had the chance to use the new vises and they love them, the instructors love them to! We have been able to show them some of the benefits of a rotating vise.

To the following Members I need from you an email with your name that you would like on the vise along with your favorite lake name or a fly that you love:

Ellie Wright, Don McKeehen, Oliver Iversen, Pam Church, Dennis Wilson, Carolyn Sutton, Dave Barcott, Dave Cortelyou, John Ballenger, Russ Osenbach, Brian Faber and Carl Hendricks.

Please send email to Carl Hendricks – samishriverrods@gmail.com

Thanks again so much!

Fly Tying Class –Skagit Community College

Tying Course Ends!

Wednesday, May 7th was our last night of Fundamentals of Fly Tying course at Skagit Valley College. Matt Virata, Carl Hendricks, and Bruce Freet were the instructors with Dan Farmer, Dan Ballard, and Dennis Wilson assisting. We continue to make improvements. This year we provided a DVD with step by step photos for tying each of the ten flies, plus written instructions, and tying materials for tying one fly in class and one at home for each fly pattern. We also loaned fly tying tools and the C-clamp vises for home use. With donations from twelve Club members, we had Renzetti Traveler vises for

everyone and spent course funds to upgrade our fly tying tools. We will be well prepared for classes in 2015, and look forward to others getting involved through the Education Committee.

Bruce Freet

Club Items for Sale!

We will have a display of hats, decals and other logo merchandise we now have for sale at our next meeting. We will be asking members what things they may want to purchase with our logo on it for next season. Please let us know, thank you.

More on the Pass Lake Fish Census

Our recent fish census by catch and release gave us 191 fish (177 rainbows and 14 brown trout). The rainbows (66%) were 13 to 15 inches and averaged 14.8 inches with a weight of 17.8 oz. The smallest rainbow was 12.5 inches and the largest was 18 inches. The size of the 14 brown trout was very similar with an average length of 15 inches and average weight of 19 oz. It is interesting that there weren't smaller or larger fish caught. Lone Lake had the same catch rate, but larger fish --- 51% of the rainbows were 16 to 18 inches and 26% were 18 inches and greater.

Since 2010, and perhaps before, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has stocked 10,000 rainbows (200 fish/ lb.) in the May or June; 160+ rainbow triploids in May; and 5,000+ (27 to 60 fish / lb.) in October. To give you some size perspective, 200 fish per pound are rainbow

trout 2 to 2 ½ inches long. If we average the brown trout, they are about 4 inches long, but there has been little consistency; 2,700 to 5,600 fish stocked in the past 10 years with some year with zero brown trout stocked.

While we don't know specific costs, it is far cheaper to stock small fish than the 6,500 to 10,000 legal-sized rainbows into "opening season" lakes. Also, as members that fish in B. C. can attest to who have caught the Pennask "jumpers", not all rainbow strains are alike. Many of the local lowland lakes are stocked with WDFW Goldendale Hatchery rainbows, which originated from the McCloud River, CA, but have been crossed with other strains over the years to produce a generic rainbow. However, at least one commercial hatchery in WA have a "tail walker" strain.

A meeting with WDFW fisheries biologist is scheduled for July in an attempt to improve the fishing at Pass Lake. If you are interested, please contact Bruce Freet.

Thompson River Caddis



A special **Thank You!** to Deene Almvig for tying these Harry Lemire Thompson River Caddis flies for last month's guest speaker, Dave Pflug. Thank you to Dave for an

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excellent program on the complex subject of wild steelhead in the Skagit River watershed. We could have kept him busy for another half hour of questions if time permitted.

July 2014 Speaker!

Fly Fishing Our Saltwater Shorelines



Mark your calendars and plan to attend this unique summer program on Thursday night, July 17th from 6 to 8:30 pm for a fly tying demonstration, buffet dinner, and program by Loren Elliott on fly fishing Puget Sound and Vancouver Island shorelines. Loren is a talented young guy who is a guide, writer, and photographer. This summer he will be working as an intern for the Seattle Magazine. Most importantly, he is an avid fly fisher with a passion for fishing our regional saltwater. This photo shows him with a steelhead, but Elliott's presentation will provide an engaging and informative look at the tactics and techniques necessary for success in catching sea-run cutthroat trout, bull trout, and salmon. His program is heavy on visuals to provide a better understanding of the concepts. Loren

will also be demonstrating how to tie a trailing or "stinger" hook Clouser fly. If you have been thinking of getting more serious about fishing the saltwater shorelines, this will likely be the night that will convince you to jump in!

Great Story!

Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in its mouth.

Frogs are good bass bait.

Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. Its eyes rolled back, and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was that damn snake ... with two more frogs.

Life is good.



Photo of the Month



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