



VOLUME 49

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00PM

Dinner/General Meeting: 7:00PM

## September Presentation:

### Estuary and Saltwater Fly Tying and Fishing for Sea-run Cutthroat Trout and Pacific Salmon with Jeffrey Delia

I've been very fortunate to have learned to tie flies and fly fish on the east coast at an early age with my dad and brother on the famous Housatonic River in the state of Connecticut. In the early 1970's I completed a Masters of Fine Arts Degree in Photography at Ohio University after completing my two year military obligation in the U.S. Army. I have published fly fishing photography in a number of fly fishing magazines and continue to photograph and video my fishing adventures.

I moved to the Pacific Northwest in the mid-1970's my first fly fishing adventures in the West began on the famous Sandy River and the Deschutes River in Oregon. Later in the mid-seventies, I moved to the Olympic Peninsula of Washington and was fortunate to buy property on a beautiful estuary on the Northern end of the Hood Canal. Soon I found some of the best sea-run cutthroat and returning salmon fishing on the Peninsula.

In 1980 I started Delia's Broadspit Oyster Co. that I owned and operated for over 30 years supplying Quilcene oysters for the famous Pike Place Market and numerous other Shellfish companies in Washington before selling my company in 2012. In 2004 I moved to the island of Kauai, Hawaii and opened Castaways Bonefish and Reef fish guiding service. Eventually I returned to the Olympic Peninsula to pursue my love of cutthroat and salmon fishing. The young man I worked with as one of my guides still owns and operates his own Bonefish guiding service on the island of Kauai.

My love of fly tying and fly fishing has grown yearly and I am constantly creating, tying and field testing new sea-run cutthroat and salmon flies in my backyard. My Delia's Ghost series, Delia's Cone-Head Squid, Delia's Christmas Candy, Delia's Chum Fry, and baitfish patterns to name a few patterns, are carried by many Puget Sound fly shops

and recognized and fished by many Puget Sound fishermen. My flies and fly fishing adventures have been written about in a number of fly fishing publications including Doug Rose's books and his wonderful website, and in a number of publications by Skip and Carol Morris. I have been fortunate enough to have caught sea-run cutthroat, steelhead, salmon, trout, and bonefish "trophy" fish of a lifetime on my own fly designs. THE FISH GOD'S HAVE BEEN GOOD TO ME! If I could only fish for one fish and do one kind of fishing for the rest of my life.... hands down it would be estuary and saltwater shoreline fishing for native sea-run cutthroat trout.

This evening program is about the love affair many of us have with fly tying and fly fishing for sea-run cutthroat and salmon in our local waters. There will be a slide presentation on fly fishing our local salt waters with an open discussion, and a question and answer period. Part of the evening is devoted to why and how we choose materials, how to tie certain flies, and how to fish these patterns. We are almost a cult, a trout and salmon cult where rituals of fly design, fly tying, stalking, casting, and sometimes catching cutts and salmon becomes a necessity and that hard yank at the end of your fly line....the take, is as good as or maybe better than anything else you did today...and you want more!

So don't hesitate to ask anything you want to know about sea-run's and salmon, any aspect of the fly tying and the fishery. It is my hope that this evening will open up a new fishery right in your backyard or maybe your neighbor's backyard.

Please visit my website, [www.oysterchannel.com](http://www.oysterchannel.com) and visit Delia's current blog for a weekly update on what's fishing in our local waters. I can be contacted at [deliajeffrey@yahoo.com](mailto:deliajeffrey@yahoo.com)

I do tie custom orders on request.

Jeffrey Delia

## Flies of the Month

Photos and Flies By: Jeffrey Delia



### Delia's Ghost Pattern

Recipe: (I tie this pattern for steelhead on a larger salmon style or saltwater hook using all the above colors.)

Hook: Mustad 9671 or 9672 sizes 10, 12, 14.

I also like the new Mustad S60-3399A

Nymph Sproat Hook sizes 10, 12, 14. Another good hook is the Hayabusa 35573E sizes 10,

12, 14. Any similar nymph hooks from other companies can be used.

Thread: Flat waxed nylon in clear or color to match body. I sometimes use 8/0 thread to match the color of the Lite-Brite dubbing.

Tail: Quality Hungarian Partridge Hackle.

Body: Polar Pearl Lite-Brite dubbing is my favorite color but I tie this fly in yellow, light red, pink, purple, grey, green, chartreuse, brown, black, and polar orange.

Hackle: Quality Hungarian Partridge.

Head: Gold bead, size to match hook.



### **Delia's Cone-Head Squid**

Recipe:

Hook: I like the Mustad R75-79580 Streamer Hook sizes 8 and 10. I also use the Hayabusa 37073E Streamer Hook sizes 8 and 10. Any streamer style hook can be used. It can also be tied on a larger saltwater style hook for salmon fishing.

Thread: Flat waxed nylon in clear or color to match body.

Tail: Quality marabou in dark cream or tan or to match body color.

Body: Rear part of body is New Age Chenille Med./Pearl White. Forward part of body is finished with Cactus Chenille Med. Pearl.

Head: Gold cone bead, size to match hook.

This fly can be tied with numerous colors of your choice with matching tail and body colors.

## **Saltwater Clinic**



On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, after our special Thursday night program on beach fishing by Loren Elliott, Scott Willison of The Confluence Fly Shop hosted a saltwater casting clinic at Ala Spit. Fourteen FFF members attended and stayed for 2 ½ hours. Scott brought shooting head fly lines on single-handed fly rods and some switch rod outfits for all of us to cast. Everyone was amazed at how far they could cast with the shooting head fly lines. The lighter weight switch rods were fun to cast and great for beach fishing. Sea-run cutthroat, bull trout, and a few Coho are along the beaches now, so get out there.



Bruce Freet  
Photos by Richard Raisler

## Fly Rod Auctions

We will begin the silent auction of fly rods at our September meeting with a Winston BL5 790-5, Sage RPL 7100-2, and a Fenwick HMG GFF858. Another twelve fly rods will be auctioned during the ensuing months. At this meeting only, we are offering Club members a chance to cast any fly rod of their choice, one that they may be interested in bidding on. **All you need to bring is a reel and a matching fly line.** The casting session will be before our meeting from **5:00 to 6:00pm** on the lawn west of the Farmhouse Restaurant.

All of these fly rods were donated to our Club by Paul and Mary Ann Ford of Wenatchee, for the purpose of establishing a youth education and conservation fund. We have created an entry on the Fidalgo Fly Fishers

website Bulletin Board that describes the fly rods, their condition, the opening bid, the buy without bidding price, and the auction month. Go to our Club website, <http://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com> for these details.

Some of these fly rods are highly sought after by collectors, so you as Club members have a unique “first choice” opportunity. Examples include the Sage RPL 7100-2, which is reportedly regarded by Dec Hogan as his favorite single-handed fly rod for steelhead. Others regard this fly rod as ideal for beach fishing for sea-run cutthroat trout. Also, the Sage XP 896 is very popular. So, please give these fly rods your serious consideration, look at our website for the details, cast them this month, and come prepared to bid or buy with check in hand.

Fly rods not receiving the minimum bid price will be sold elsewhere. All of the monies received will be deposited in a new youth education and conservation fund.

## Rod List

Descriptions of Fly Rods <small>N=New &amp; Unused; VF= used a couple of times no more or damage F=Used often almost no wear. G=well used, may have scratch or guide wear.</small>	Condition	Opening Bid	Buy Without Bidding	Auction Month
R. L. Winston BL5 990-5: Warrantee, 6/1998, 61832	F	\$275	\$400	Nov
R. L. Winston BL5 890-5: Warrantee, 6/1998, 59056	F	\$300	\$425	Oct
R. L. Winston BL5 790-5: Warrantee, 11/2003, 09812	VF	\$275	\$400	Sept
R. L. Winston Boron IIX 796-4: Warrantee 113293	N	\$350	N/A	Xmas Party
Sage RPL 7100-2: Warrantee 2/1989	G	\$150	\$250	Sept
Sage RPL+ 796-4: Action VF; Warrantee 2/1997	G	\$150	\$250	Feb
Sage RPLXi 1090-3 Warrantee, 12/1995	F	\$200	\$350	Nov
Sage RPLXi 890-5 Warrantee, 11/2000	VF	\$275	\$400	Feb
Sage XP 6110-4 Warrantee, 2/2002, V58887	VF	\$225	\$325	Jan
Sage XP 690-4 Warrantee U20364	VF	\$225	N/A	Xmas Party
Sage XP 796-4 Warrantee, 930441	F	\$250	\$350	Feb
Sage XP 896-4 Warrantee 12/2001, V51019	F	\$275	\$350	Oct
Sage TCR 7100-4 Warrantee, 6/2005, Z14908	VF	\$375	\$500	Jan
Sage TCX 690-4	N	\$450	\$600	Nov
Fenwick HMG Graphite GFF858 8 ½ ft.; 8 wt.; 2-pc.; Seat down-lock; Warrantee N371896	G	\$75	\$110	Sept

## Return of the River

Heritage Resources (Western Washington University) is co-sponsoring the screening of a film entitled *Return of the River* (<http://www.elwhafilm.com/>) at the Pickford Theatre on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. This beautifully shot film documents the decades-long struggle to remove two dams on the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha River and restore 70 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat. It is one of the greatest habitat success stories in recent history.

The film's director, John Gussman, will join us for a reception at 5:30 and will also take questions after the film. The film will start at 6:30, and the format will be similar to what we did at the *Kiss the Water* event we co-hosted last year.

Special Collections will also be hosting an exhibit about the Elwha River on loan to us from the University of Washington's Burke Museum. The display will tentatively open October 6. We will also co-host a series of events with Huxley College of the Environment in conjunction with the exhibit. More information will be forthcoming on these.

We hope you will put the Return of the River screening on your calendar, and join us at for the reception.

Paul Piper, Special Collections Librarian

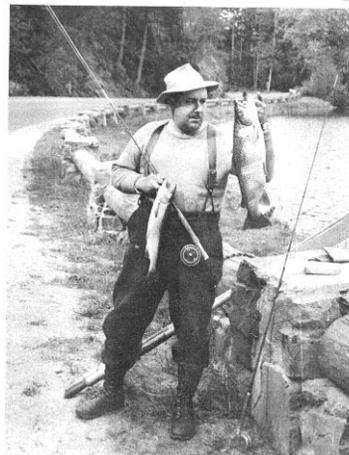
Danny Beatty

## PASS LAKE'S FLY FISHING HISTORY

I have been accumulating Pass Lake History for about forty years. I have books, papers, pictures, conversations and oral histories which should be of interest to fly fishers for years to come. Most of

this is now shared with the Fly Fishing Collection at Western Washington University.

Pass Lake was the first lake in Washington to be designated for fly fishing only when on January 9, 1940 the Washington Game Commission adopted a resolution from the fairly new (1939) Washington Fly Fishing Club (WFFC) of Seattle. Key members of the club who were responsible for pursuing the regulation included Enos Bradner, Ken McLeod and Letcher Lambuth. The regulation also included Fly Fishing Only for fishing steelhead on the NF Stillaguamish. For the next 35 years the WFFC maintained a key interest in continuing the fly only regulation. However the regulations did change in 1955 when other clubs, more interested in returning the lake to general lowland lake seasons, were successful. So for ten years Pass Lake did not have the fly only requirement though some of the local long time fly fishers such as Louie Corbin, Russ Willis and Warren Erholm continued to fish only with flies. I was not aware of this fly only history when I first fished Pass Lake in 1956, my first season after coming to Anacortes in September 1955. During the ten years of standard seasons, fly clubs were being formed in Everett and Seattle that formed a coalition to once again work toward returning to fly fishing only. The 1950 Copyright First Edition of Enos Bradner's book, Northwest Angling, has a picture of Bradner standing by the roadside barrier constructed of logs with rock supports built by the CCC. He is holding two large Pass Lake trout. Bradner is given much of the credit for the original idea to make Pass Lake fly fishing only. I do not have that picture available so will



substitute this picture of Louie Corbin which was taken during the same time frame. Notice the size and the square tail of the larger fish. Brown trout were planted in Pass Lake in the 1930s and, though I have no

**An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishes**

proof, this picture might be one of those Brown trout. The picture is looking south toward the alders near the present day launch area.

Corbin told me that the access to Pass Lake for boats on trailers was a small area at the north end of the logs with rock support highway barrier that you see curving along the lake shore. Remember, the road you see in this picture was not there until Deception Pass Bridge was built in the mid 1930s. The way to Pass Lake from Anacortes was on Rosario Road which ended at Cougar Gap. It was not until after WWII when County commissioner Wallace Sharpe got the support of the other commissioners to extend Rosario Road to the intersection with Highway 20. Yes, Commissioner Sharpe was a member of the family after which there is now Sharpe Road, Sharpe's Corner (Hwy 20 and 20 Spur) and Sharpe County Park. Extending Rosario Road to now Highway 20 proved to be difficult where the Pass lake outlet stream is covered for the launch/parking area and the road bed. Looking south from where the culvert starts you will notice that the amount of fill is significant. Gil Hull, who was interested in the history of Pass Lake and surroundings, wrote that large rocks were dumped in the water's edge and seemed to just sink and disappear. The outlet area was rather "boggy". This culvert and fill did raise the lake level somewhat which proved to be helpful for other lake uses.

Danny Beatty

## SEA-RUN CUTTHROAT OUTING

**When:** October 11, 2014

**Where:** Skagit River - meet at the Edgewater Park boat launch in west Mount Vernon. There is a concrete ramp for launching trailer boats.

**Launch Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Lunch Time:**

1:00 p.m. ish at the boat launch area. The club will provide the chilidogs and soft drinks. Bring other beverages if you desire.

**Equipment:**

6-7 weight fly rod, dry line or sink tip with 7-foot leader, 6-pound tippet.

### **Rain:**

If we get a hard rain on Thursday and/or Friday, the river may go out of shape. I will call the people on the signup sheet on Friday evening if I think the river will be unfishable for Saturday.

### **Boats:**

This is primarily a boat outing. Usually there are people with room in their boat for an extra person, ask around at the September meeting.

**Sign Up Sheet:** A sign up sheet will be sent around at the September meeting. If you can't make the September meeting and you plan on attending, give me a call or send an e-mail so I have an accurate count for lunch.



A Skagit River Cutthroat  
Brad's Brat – A good Cutthroat Fly

## Potential Fish Stocking Changes at Pass Lake

On July 30<sup>th</sup> I met with WDFW Fisheries Biologist, Justin Spinelli to discuss our spring Pass Lake fish census, his analysis of the data, and potential changes in fish stocking to improve our future angling. From March 18 to April 5, 2014, we only caught 14 brown trout compared to 182 rainbows. However, the brown trout were within the national average for their estimated age, while the rainbows were under-sized for both length and weight. As it has been for years, our goal is 25% brown trout and 75% rainbow. Justin suspected a fishing bias ... the browns might not have been feeding on chironomids or not where we were fishing. Given the 10,000 rainbows (200 fish per pound) that WDFW is stocking annually in Pass Lake, Justin agreed that over-stocking could be the problem with their under length and weight. The rainbows should average 16 to 18 inches and 1 ½ to 1 ¾ pounds.

We also discussed silt entering the lake from stormwater run-off, different sites for fish stocking to reduce loss through the outlet, stocking with a “jumper” strain of rainbow trout similar to the Kamloops or Pennask strain, and stocking triploid rainbows. Retired Fisheries Biologist, Jim Johnson, and others have contended for years that triploid rainbows do not survive well in Pass Lake. However, WDFW stocks 160+ triploid rainbows averaging 1 ½ pounds in Pass Lake every mid-May. I suggested that they stop this practice in favor of using these monies to stock fewer and larger rainbows along with 25% of the “jumper” strain to see how fly fishers like them. He told me that the State Legislature controls the stocking of triploids, not WDFW. So, I suggested that they stock them in March rather than May, so that more fly fishers can enjoy them.

Justin Spinelli had several things that the Fidalgo Fly Fishers could do to help him manage the fishery at Pass Lake: (1) each member could keep a Pass Lake diary or log with the date, time, species, length, and weight (if you can do it accurately); (2) conduct a mid-October fish census with the goal of catching 150 fish; (3) continue the mid-March fish census with the same catch goal; and (4) each census angler fish a minimum of 2 ½ hours. Sometime in the future, he would like to net and measure fish, and could use our help with this process.

If anyone is interested in organizing it, I know that there are members of neighboring fly clubs that would like to help in an October fish census. I will be glad to help too.

Bruce Freet

## Up Coming Events:

**Cutts & Dogs, October 11, 2015**

**Return of the River, ( WWU) Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Party, December 18th**

**Lynnwood, WA: February 14 & 15, 2015**

## Donation Needs:

### Project Healing Waters

If you have any items to donate to PHW, please bring to September meeting as I will be going over to the 2 Fly the following day. All fishing related items appreciated.

Any questions, contact Ellie Wright – [christmasparty@fidalgoflyfishers.com](mailto:christmasparty@fidalgoflyfishers.com)

## **Christmas Party Auction**

If you have not found an item to donate for the Christmas Party auction, start thinking. All items must be turned into Ellie by November Meeting. If you need ideas here are a few:

- any fishing related item,
- item with fish on it,
- host a dinner or wine tasting,
- donate a stay at a cabin or resort,
- dinner out,
- bottle of alcohol or 6 pack of beer.
- book fly tying or fishing

I'm sure with a little thought you can come up with a great idea.

Any questions contact Ellie Wright - [christmasparty@fidalgoflyfishers.com](mailto:christmasparty@fidalgoflyfishers.com)

## **Photo of the Month**

