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The Watershed Council supports and endorses:

OCTOBER MEETING

Thursday, October 16, 2014

Farm House Restaurant, La Conner

Wet Fly: 6:00PM

Dinner/General Meeting: 7:00PM

- Voluntary restoration and protection of natural landscape, floodplain, and estuarine processes that form and sustain the habitats to which salmon & trout are adapted.
- Tracking progress of actions necessary to reduce habitat, harvest, hatchery and hydropower impacts on salmon.
- Empowering the general public through information sharing and a call to action.

October Presentation:

"Richard will give us an overview of current restoration projects to be funded by the Salmon Recovery Fund Board. He has interesting photos, maps, and diagrams of projects that will significantly improve habitat for salmon, steelhead, and other anadromous fish."

Formed in February 1997, the Skagit Watershed Council is a community partnership for salmon. It is a non-profit entity with 31 member organizations that support salmon and trout recovery in various forms, including the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. It currently has an 8 member Board of Directors and multiple committees that conduct much of the work of the Council, coordinating voluntary salmon habitat recovery projects.

By means of collaboration, technical assistance and education, we seek to fulfill our mission, which is to understand, protect and restore the productivity of healthy ecosystems in order to support sustainable fisheries. Since 1997, the Council has facilitated development and implementation of at least 130 projects totaling about \$55M in state and federal grants, matched by another roughly \$27M in local funds and volunteer time and materials. These and other projects have measurable outcomes that will significantly improve the productivity of salmonids in the watershed including improving nearly 1000 acres of riparian habitat; protecting about 2500 acres of high quality habitat; restoring nearly 1000 acres of estuarine habitat; and removing about 125 blockages that open up over 65 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.

More work is needed to restore the natural productivity of the Skagit and Samish Watersheds to the point they can sustainably produce salmonids forever. The Council and its members are now working hard on adaptively managing recovery plans and programs and engaging the community on what we can do individually and collectively to be a part of the solution. Please visit the Council's website for more information at www.skagitwatershed.org

The Speaker:

Richard Brocksmith took the Executive Director role at the Skagit Watershed Council about a year ago. He has a Bachelor's degree in zoology from Oklahoma State University and a Master's degree in salmon ecology from the University of Washington. Richard moved to Washington in 1994 to follow his love of fishing and to live large in the great outdoors. He has worked in sockeye salmon research camps in Bristol Bay, Alaska; lake trout research in Yellowstone National Park; Chinook salmon research in north central California; private consulting work for a geotechnical consulting firm in Seattle; and more recently for 13 years at the Hood Canal Coordinating Council as their Director for Habitat Programs. He is married with a two, young children and lives on Mount Vernon Hill. They love to fish, hike and hunt for mushrooms, play soccer, snowboard, and spend time with friends and family.

Flies of the Month

Photos and Flies By: Russ Asbury



October fly of the month is a Coho fly of size and design to be effective in streams - but, by no means would I attempt to convince anyone that any given Coho fly would out perform any other. However it is a fact that effective saltwater Coho flies are larger and tied to look like smolt on a long shank in layered white, blue and green. The fly described in this article is what is known as an attractor, smaller than flies used in the salt and tied in a wide variety of bright colors.

When salmon enter freshwater they stop feeding - so why do they take anything like a lure, fly or even bait? My stock answer is, "HELL IF I KNOW". Perhaps salmon take a lure or fly out of anger and the stop feeding is only partly true.

When you tie flies like this October Coho Fly, tie them in a variety of colors. Coho can be highly fickle about a color they will take and a color drawing strikes for an hour or two

may not draw a strike again for several days. I don't know why. Be prepared to change colors. Often Coho can be seen rolling on a stream surface - in areas of slower moving water and if you have made four or five casts amongst those fish with no strike, it is time to go to a fly of another color. Bright green, dark green, yellow, green and white or red and white tied with materials that will impart movement such as marabou or a soft hair, and don't leave out black. I have taken many Coho from the SKAGIT on a black fly!

OCTOBER COHO FLY

By: Russ Asbury

Hook: size 2/0 Octopus

Thread: UNI 6/0

Underwing: Krystal Flash

Mylar: Medium Gold/Silver

Eyes: Dumbell 7/32"

Over wing: Marabou

- Remove or pinch down the barb then place the Octopus hook in your vice, shank side up.
- Wrap the thread on the shank from the eye to the bend and tie down six to eight strands of Krystal flash on top of the shank extending beyond the bend by the shank length.
- Wrap the thread to the eye then back to the bend and tie in one piece of Mylar - gold or silver side up, your choice.
- Wrap the Mylar to within 1/4" of the eye and tie down.
- Tie the Dumbell eyes on top of the shank, keeping 1/4" between the Dumbell and the hook eye.
- Strip a good size pinch of Marabou fibers and tie down at the back of the Dumbell with four to five wraps and the back tips about one shank length beyond the hook bend.

Do not trim the Marabou at the back of the

Dumbell, move thread in front of the Dumbell, lay the Marabou over the center of the Dumbell and tie down forming the head of the fly.

- Coat well with head cement.

Keep in mind that this fly will ride in the water with the hook point up and Dumbell Eyes down - so, if you tie a multi-color that is normally dark over light you will need to adjust.

Casting a weighted fly with a light weight fly rod can be difficult and painful for beginning fly fishers. This fly will cast easier with a 7wt rod than a 5wt. To avoid a weighted fly from striking the back of your head or your rod, use a nonstop back cast or an open loop forward cast.

Keep the fly described above on the sparse side, make it colorful bright and simple.

New Members:



An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishes



1st – Cathy with Terry
 2nd – Christina with Bruce
 John Freeman Photos

The club initiated new member Cathy Schaeffer and returning member Christina Anderson at the September 2014 meeting. On the left, Terry Abrams is handing new member Cathy her folder of club information and her name badge.

On the right Bruce Freet welcomes back Christina after an absence from membership.

Terry met Cathy and Christina earlier in the summer when he took them fishing at Pass Lake. The women had asked if there was anyone, such as a guide, they could pay to get some hands on fly fishing instruction and experience. Terry agreed to take them fishing if they would furnish the lunch. Cathy and Christian were elated and had wonderful day fishing on Pass Lake in Terry's roomy drift boat. When he introduced Cathy to the club he used terms such as: Enthusiastic, the kind of members we need and what fly fishing is all about to describe his thoughts on both women.

Christina snapped this picture of a fish caught on the Pass Lake outing. Both reported they



learned so much about fly fishing from Terry's careful instruction . Cathy

bought one of the Ford rods which were displayed at the September meeting. You just might see Cathy cast this, new to her rod, for fish from Christina's boat at a future outing. "Terry took Cathy and me out yesterday afternoon and we had such a good time. We were happy with nibbles but low and behold we had fish on and I was even able to net two and photograph them, the 1st being about 20. We were so impressed with Terry's patience and teaching abilities and we can't thank you enough for arranging this meeting for us. So this really has us inspired to learn more and PRACTICE casting. Thank you again for your coordination efforts in hooking us up with Terry."

By: Danny



Meet Tony Ingham who joined FFF at the September meeting. Tony has been an avid fisherman since he was 8 years, thanks to his grandpa. He has lived in Skagit County for the past 12 years. He is a carpenter by trade and a nursery owner. He has a

love of plants, thanks again to his grandpa. He self-taught himself to fly fish about 20 years ago. He took the fly fishing class this year at Skagit Valley College. After meeting so many member of the club he became interested in joining Fidalgo Fly Fishers.

Sponsor: Ellie Wright
Photo: John Freeman

PASS LAKE'S FLY FISHING HISTORY II

The Game Department did a rotenone treatment of Pass Lake in 1946. After the treatment Cutthroat trout were planted. Their growth over the next few years created a trophy fishery for fly fishers.

In 1947 Russ Willis, long time Fidalgo member and his partner Duane Genung, bought 20 cedar rowboats and set up a rental on the then Heilman property. The rowboats were made by a boat builder in the Lyman/Hamilton area and cost between \$35-50 each. Willis and Genung wanted to buy some property close to the highway but Heilman was not interested in selling. Instead they got a three year lease on property east of the Heilman house. They were allowed use of the pump house to store oars etc. and build a dock for the boats. Russ also used the pump house to tie flies which were sold to the fishers. He also learned how to splice fly lines for which he charged a fee. Sink tip or other floating/sinking fly line combinations were not available from the fly line companies. It was a seven step process to meld a sinking section to the floating line.

Duane Genung's business card:

PASS LAKE – A FLY FISHERMAN'S
PARADISE

Pass Lake Boathouse
Boats for Fishermen



This picture of Kathy Heilman, taken about 1949, shows the dock and a string of

cutthroat. Catch limits in those days were large as other pictures in my collection indicate. Russ and Duane ran the "resort" from late April to late September. Total boat rental for the season of 1949 was \$1200. Two hours for \$1.00 and \$2.00 for all day. "On many days early in the season and later in the season, just before deer season, all the boats would be on the lake." According to a page Russ wrote to summarize the season. Largest fish noted was 26". By the end of the season, previous year's plants were already 14"-17" which are shown in the picture. "The great bulk of the fish caught were taken by trolling deep & also quite a few casting & letting the fly sink before retrieving"

The small building Russ referred to as the pump house was for the Heilman's irrigation system pump to water the fields for pasture and hay.

In a story, written by Gil Hull, the "pump house" was originally built in the mid 1800s as a telegraph relay station. It is an interesting story that connects Telegraph Slough (near the Farmhouse), Telegraph Bight (near Biz Point), Telegraph Bay and other telegraph names across the islands and up the B.C. coast. (If there is interest in this story, I may be able to find it in my papers.)

An Active Member Club of the Federation of Fly Fishes

Willis and Genung gave up the boat rental business after three years and turned it over to the Heilman family. It has been many years since I last saw the remaining boat upside down below their (now ranger) house.

For more information about Russ Willis, Gil Hull and Kathleen Heilman Brown you can read their fly fishing oral histories at the WWU Fly Fishing Collection's web site. <http://content.wwu.edu/cdm/search/collection/ffoh>

An even longer and greater use of Pass Lake water was the building of a Department of Fisheries Experimental Station and Hatchery at Bowman Bay. All that remain of the experimental station/hatchery are the dock that extends into Bowman Bay and brick duplex located on the north side of the field. The station was a long, low building situated north of the dock along and parallel to the small creek. Some circular concrete ponds were on the field side of the shoreline which had salt water circulating. These small ponds were for salt water shore creatures and a favorite for visiting families.

Fresh water for the small hatchery associated with the experimental station came from Pass Lake. The large block of concrete you see by the picnic table at the launch site was the base for the pump. A log framework extended into Pass Lake which supported the pipes. This framework and pipe were not removed when the station closed and remain under water to this time. A picture of the framework is shown in the club's web page history section. Look closely next to the concrete support and you will see a section of the large pipe.

The daughter of the last experimental station/hatchery manager was in my science class. I got to know her father and that led to taking my science classes on field trips for the some marine biology.

By: Danny

Fly Rod Auctions

The silent fly rod auction for Club members only at our October meeting will include a R. L. Winston BL5 890-5 and a Sage XP 896-4. The 8 wt. 9 ft. Winston fly rod has 5-pieces and was used often, but shows almost no wear. The Sage is another 8 wt. fly rod, but is 9 ft. 6 inches long for some added clearance on that back cast. It too has been used often, but shows almost no wear. This fly rod is especially popular among fly fishers. Sage will honor the original warrantee.

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.

Monies should be received the night of the auction, so please bring your check book and pay our Treasurer, Pat O'Hearn. 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	Condition	Opening Bid	Buy Without Bidding	Auction Month
<small>N=New & Unused, VF= used a couple of times no marks or damage F=Used often almost no wear, G=well used, may have scratch or guide wear.</small>				
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 1/2 ft.; 8 wt.; 2-pc.; Seat down-lock; Warrantee N371896	G	\$75	\$110	Sept

Members Show and Tell

(November Meeting)

Our November 20th program will be Club members showing photographs and sharing information about their fishing trips in 2014. Yes, another year is coming to a close! If we allow 10 minutes for each presentation (including time for questions and answers), we will have 6 presenters in our allotted program hour. Those wishing to show and tell need to contact Bruce Freet at least a week in advance to help us with our planning for the evening. The membership at large is encouraged to participate, but in respect for everyone's time and effort, last minute requests will not be accepted.

Up Coming Events:

-The Confluence Fly Shop-
Sage/Redington/Rio Free Spey Casting Demo Day on Sunday, October 19th from 10-2 pm at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport.

-Christmas Party, December 18th

-Lynnwood, WA: February 14 & 15, 2015

Note: Please check the Outings and Event page on the web site from time to time. Things get added from time to time.

2015 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

Once again we are preparing for another Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to be held June 21-27, 2015 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The Staff will be contacting over 50 dedicated volunteers to contribute their time for the success of the Academy - **for** the kids. This Academy is all about the girls and boys, 12-16 years old, to teach them the basics of fly fishing and conservation. The event is one full week with the staff and youth living at the Gwinwood Center and boarding in cabins. All meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, i.e., sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots, etc. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided, however, students may bring their own fishing gear.

The event is supported by WCTU and WSCIFFF, and members of South Sound FF, Olympia Chapter TU, WFFC, and Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma.

The cost to each student is still \$275, but sponsorships are available through TU Chapters, FFF fly clubs and private donations. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of money.

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2015 until April 15, 2015. Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.org, via email to

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mtclancy39@comcast.net or call 360-753-1259. Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why THEY want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor. We have a Facebook page listed under our name for viewing pictures from previous events.

We are very proud of The Academy; this has been a life changing experience for many of our youth.

The youth of today are the guardians of the future for our sport of Flyfishing

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

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

Why we Teach:

A letter that was sent to Bruce from a student of the Beginning Fly Fishing Class:

Bruce,

I was in your fly fishing class this spring at Skagit Valley College. I had never really been into fishing. I'd done some spin rod fishing back in high school but not much else. I took the class with my buddy Neal because I knew I was moving to Colorado this summer near some good fly-fishing.

Last week Neal came out to visit and we spent a couple of days at my aunt's cabin just off the Rio Grande west of South Fork, CO. It was really the first time I've casted since the class. I am hooked! We caught a few fish, hooked a few more. I had two huge ones that I lost right before getting them in the net.

I waded out deep in the river and heaved my line out there as far as I could. I saw the fly (irresistible Adam's natural) land just like a bug and watched a trout jump up and take it. It was pretty awesome.

I'm writing to say thank you for having that class. Fly fishing is complicated and the set-up is a bit complex. If it wasn't for your class, I probably wouldn't have known where to start. I appreciate the time and effort you put into it.

Hope things are going well, and your back is healing well.

Thanks again.

Thom Miller

Outings 2015

We are a fishing club and it is time that we start to try and be a fishing club. For 2015 we are going to try something new. We are asking the member to step up and out. We are providing a list of option for outings and are looking for a member to help coordinate an outing. The outings committee will help and work with the person to get the information out to the membership. Along with the list we ask if you are going fishing for the day the weekend or a week and would not mind opening it up to others to go and fish please let the Outings Committee know so we can help get the word out. One more thing the outings committee will be doing some surveys to see what member's would like to attend. Thank you for stepping up and out to make this a fishing club!

2015 Ideas for Outings:

January	-Steelhead on the Skagit
February	-Spey Casting on the Skagit w/ Scott Willson -2015 Fly Fishing Show, Lynnwood
March	-“Chironomid Capers”, Pass Lake (Robin?) Pass Lake Fish Census
April	-“April Fools”, Pass Lake (Frank?) -Dry Falls Lake

-Cutts & Bulls on Whidbey Island
Beaches

May	-Washington Chapter, IFFF, Conclave, Ellensburg -Big Twin Lake -Lenice Lake (Damsely Hatch)
June	-Roche Lake or Big OK Lake, BC (traveling Sedge Hatch)
July	-Missouri River Dry Fly Fishing, Craig, MT (Bruce)
August	-Bomber Hatch, Leighton Lake, BC
September	-Vancouver Island Cutts & Coho (Bruce & Carl) -Pink Salmon Fishing
October	-Howard Miller Steelhead Park (Russ) -SteelHead on the Grand Ronde River -Pass Lake Fish Census
November	-“01’ Chums on the Fly, Upper Skagit River

So please look over the list and concenter
coordinating one of the events listed or come
up with one.

Thanks for your help!

By: Outings Committee

Photo of the Month / Note:



Some pics from today's outing with Scott from Confluence Fly Shop and the Whidbey Island Fly Fishers. We had a great time, lots of rods and reels to try out and nice weather (the fog burned off eventually). Some lies were told, I think!

By: Cathy Schaeffer

2nd Photo of the Month / Note:



REPORT FROM YELLOWSTONE

We had mixed results fishing in Yellowstone with a fantastic finish. Our stay up in the Lamar Valley was closed out due to a big rain/thunder storm which turned all the moving water brown. We then went down to W Yellowstone with campgrounds closing nightly for the winter behind us. Once out of the park, we bumped into Bob Jacklin at his fly shop. I managed to talk him into taking us out for an evening on the Madison. Caught some beautiful Rainbows and browns--see picture. He said to say hi to you.

Dan Farmer and Bobbi Krebs
9/23/14