

# HISTORY

## OF THE

# FIDALGO FLY FISHERS



**T**he idea to form the Fidalgo Fly Fishers was spawned in the late spring of 1974 around a campfire. Dan Coleman, a fly fisher and resident of Anacortes met a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, Oral Dudder, while fishing at Tunkwa Lake in British Columbia. Oral talked about the Washington Fly Club and suggested that Dan form a fly club in Anacortes. Later that summer, Dan talked with some of the local fishers to see if there was any interest in forming a club, while at the same time, he continued to communicate with a few members of the Washington Fly Club.



**I**n December of 1974 Dan Coleman, Danny Beatty, Dale Elliot, Eric Moe, Dave Rice and Ernie Atterberry met with Ed Foss and Bob Strobel of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and Errol Champion, then president of the Northwest Council of The FFF, at Dan's house. Copies of the Washington Fly Fishing Club by-laws, rules, and other items brought to the meeting were used as a guide in drafting the Fidalgo Fly Fishermen by-laws and aims and purposes.



**E**arly in 1975 officers were elected, a club name was adopted and the Fidalgo Fly Fishermen were on their way. In the next couple of months friends and acquaintances that were known fly fishers were contacted and an additional ten charter members were recruited. Three of the sixteen charter members are still active in the club: Danny Beatty, Ken Jacot and Robin LaRue.



**I**n July of 1979, the club was incorporated as a non-profit corporation with the State of Washington. In the mid 1980's the name was changed to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers.



**T**he Fidalgo Fly Fishers have taken part in several projects, such as Bob Smith Creek, to improve salmon runs in the Samish River, and vibert box planting of eyed Steelhead eggs in Parker Creek, a tributary to the Skagit River.



**P**ass Lake has been unofficially adopted by the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. With the support and urging of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers, the fishing regulations on the lake have changed from a "Put and Take" in the mid 1970's to the "Quality Water" that it is today. Many work parties have been held over the years from cleaning up of litter in and around the lake to making improvements to the parking and boat launch areas.



**F**idalgo Fly Fishers can be found fishing in Pass Lake, and the Skagit River, the lakes and rivers both east and west of the Cascades, and in the waters of British Columbia. In the years ahead, members of the club look forward to continuing to improve and enjoy this wonderful fishery.