



The Fly Line

Washington County Fly Fishers

Federation of Fly Fishers

"Cultivating the art of fly fishing through a spirit of fellowship and resource enhancement"

www.wcflyfishers-ore.com

Issue #104

June, 2009

June Chapter Meeting
Westbrook Club House
14255 S.W. 6th Street (one block east of S.W. Murray)
Beaverton, OR 97005

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

7:00 – 7:15	Meeting opens. Business to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of John McMillan • Greeting of new members and guests • Diamond Lake outing, June 20th-21st • Chuck Cooney as club representative on The Oregon Council
7:30 – 8:30	John McMillan: Research on the life history of the male rainbow trout
8:30 – 9:00	Raffle: more good prizes. Support the club and buy a few tickets. Meeting adjourns.

Entertainment

This month our \$2,000 scholarship winner from the Oregon State Graduate School of Fish and Wildlife, John McMillan, will present an overview of his graduate thesis focused on the life history of the rainbow trout. McMillan has discovered that most female steelhead migrate to the ocean because their size directly influences reproductive success. In contrast, male reproductive success is not necessarily tied to size. Consequently males commonly display two strikingly different life histories. Some migrate and return as full-sized fish (20-40"). Others residualize and do not migrate. Their size is much smaller (4-10"). Despite their small size, resident males may mate with steelhead by hiding nearby and sneaking under her to deposit milt as the eggs are released. Evidence from the Hood River and Snow Creek (Washington) indicates that in some years resident males may sire up to 50% of the offspring! All of this is potentially important to the maintenance of our native steelhead.

John McMillan has worked at the Wild Salmon Center as a salmonid biologist, for the Hoh Indian tribe as a water quality biologist, and as a United States Forest Service biological intern. He not only has a wealth of knowledge about our Pacific Northwest fisheries, but is also an accomplished fly angler in his own right. (Check out his article in the summer edition of The Flyfishing and Fly Tying Journal. I am certain his presentation will be very informative as well as entertaining.

Diamond Lake Outing

Word has it that the legendary fishing on Diamond Lake has returned! The club is planning an overnight trip to this lake on June 20th-21st. One of the fishing hosts will secure a camp or two so we can stay together as a group. You will need a float tube or boat. The fish in this lake love to take dry flies, so make certain you have some parachute Adams or Callibaetis patterns. More details and logistics of the trip will be discussed at this month's meeting, or you can contact Dave Wesley, Chuck Cooney, or George Wilson (see list of officers on Page 2 of this newsletter).

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President's Message – June, 2009

The long cool winter is finally over. Now is the time to start thinking about where and how to go fishing. The opportunities at this time of year are almost endless. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Smallmouth bass: The Willamette River is now alive with these scrappy fish. You can find them almost anywhere from Corvallis to the mouth. They are in their pre-spawn mode and can be found around points, drop-offs and rock piles. No fancy flies are needed.: wooly buggers, sculpins, or anything with rubber legs. Sub-surface flies are best this time of year. Dry flies and poppers will work better as the water warms. If you want to go farther, don't forget about the John Day or the Umpqua – they are both great for "smallies."

Salmon Fly Hatch: Right now is the time to travel to the Deschutes or the Rogue for the largest stonefly hatch of the year. Arm yourself with poly stoneflies, Norm Woods Specials, and some stimulators. The fishing can be great.

Coastal Cutts: All of the coast rivers are now open for trout fishing. It is not too early to look for some searuns as well as resident cutthroat. A box of muddlers, spiders, and yellow humpies will be enough to find yourself some feisty and eager trout.

Steelhead: Summer run steelhead are now entering the Clackamas and Sandy rivers. These fish are fresh from the ocean and as mean as junkyard dogs. If you can find one, I am certain you will not forget the strength and agility of these early fish. Standard steelhead patterns and patience is all you need. The reward of these fish is well worth your time and effort.

Lake Fishing: Many of the lakes are still snowbound, but it won't be long before they are ready. Dust off the float tube and get it ready. There is nothing more relaxing than floating lazily in the summer sun on a high mountain lake. Try any of the lakes around Mt. Hood – they are all stocked, and they also have some nice holdover fish.

Chuck Cooney: The Board has selected Chuck Cooney as our club representative to the Oregon Council. He will represent us at the quarterly meetings that are held at various locations throughout the state. Thanks Chuck for your willingness to volunteer. We look forward to your reports back, and hope your presence will firm up our relationship with the Oregon FFF Council.

Upcoming Events

June 3rd ... Monthly Meeting

June 17th ...Clubhouse: 6:30 Board Meeting, 7:00 Fly Tying Roundup

June 20th ...Diamond Lake Outing

July 1st ... Monthly Meeting

July 15th ...Clubhouse: 6:30 Board Meeting 7:00 Fly Tying Roundup

July 18th ...McKenzie/Willamette Outing

August 5th .Monthly Meeting: Annual BBQ

Fly of the Month: Steelhead Caddis
Creator: Bill McMillan



Hook	Light wire up-eyed salmon/steelhead hook, size #4-10-
Thread	Brown or black 6/0 – 8/0
Body	Pale rust to amber-orange dubbing
Wing	Mottled turkey wing rolled and cupped tent-fashion
Head	Sparse deer hair spun as a head and clipped, leaving some long as collar

History: In his 1987 book, Dry Line Steelhead, Bill McMillan wrote: “In the fall of 1971 I began taking steelhead regularly on the surface using a muddler. My steelheading up to that time had primarily been with traditionally bright steelhead patterns fished subsurface. Each year thereafter I began using the muddler more and

more until it was doing 80-90 per cent of my fishing from June through October. However, despite the muddler’s effectiveness, I couldn’t keep it “walking” on top as often as desired. While the muddler is effective at any depth, the surface rise of a 4-20 pound steelhead holds obvious attractions for the angler that no other level of presentation can equal...so I decided to develop a sparse muddler-like fly that would stay up on the surface, creating the illusion of the general shape, color, and fluttering of the larger Northwest caddis fly species. The result was the “Steelhead Caddis.” On the first morning’s fishing in September, 1975 I took a 16-pound steelhead on the “Steelhead Caddis.” Needless to say, this pattern became one of his “go to” patterns from that point on.



How to Fish: This pattern is designed to create a “v-shaped” wake as it travels across the run you are fishing. Cast across or slightly upstream. Dead drift fly until it comes up against the tension of the line. Gently guide the fly across the water until it is directly below you. Mend only as needed to slow the fly down.
Note: John McMillen, our scholarship winner and speaker at this month’s meeting, is the son of Bill McMillen. I’m certain he will have some good advice on how to use this fly.

How To Tie: This is relatively easy to tie and you should be able to crank out a good supply in short order. Be inventive – try different colors of dubbing and deer hair to your liking.

1. Affix thread at mid-shank. Wrap back to just above the barb.
2. Create a dubbing loop. Shape the dubbing loop into a slender tapered body forward, leaving enough room for the wing and head.
3. Attach tent-like wing with mottled turkey wing. Make it no longer than the hook length, preferably a little shorter.
4. Spin deer hair to form head. Keep it sparse.
5. Clip head in rounded fashion. Leave a few trailing deer hair tips in a sweeping fashion around wing and body.. Go fishing. There is no more exciting way to catch a steelhead.



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Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5 pm Sunday
Monday: “Gone Fishing”

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