



TIGHTLINES

“Machismo” prevails at Pass Lake.



“Should I stay or should I go.” Mike considers his options.

Don Summers probably summed it up best when he stepped out of his pick up truck on a gloomy New Year’s Day morning, took a thoughtful look at the dark waters of Pass Lake which, at that moment, were being chopped up by a cold Northeasterly, and commented brightly:

“Well, we sure have a nice wind, now all we need is a drenching rain.”

So began the Club’s 2006 New Year’s Day outing to Pass Lake. Eight intrepid fishermen, bundled in layers of cold weather clothing, braved the elements this year to celebrate what is slowly (*it could be even slower for some*) becoming an annual event.

As we stood in the parking lot studying (*read “stalling around as long as we could before getting on”*) the lake, we discussed the merits of various light watercraft, certain fly patterns and hand warming ...*Continued on Page 2*

Conner’s Corner

Olympic Fly Fishers President Joe Conner



Thanks to everyone who donated, organized and participated in the Christmas Auction. Especially Mike Bunny for his tireless efforts, Steve Murray for all the hours he put in to organize it, Randy Sobczak and Buzz Burgett for setting up the refreshments, Bud Camadona for the center pieces and all of you who donated so generously. The auction was another success and we promise to make it even better this year.

Next, I want to thank the officers who agreed to serve this year: Don Summers, VP; Mike Bunney, Treasurer; Bud Camadona, Secretary; Dick Simmons, Communications Director; Steve Murray, Trustee; Phil Sacks, Gillie; Dan Reynolds, Outings Chair; Fran Fatigati, Conservation Chair and Eric Sauer, Education Chair.*Continued on Page 5*

Calendar

Meetings:

February 8: General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Joe Cummings, guide and owner of A Classic Journey Outfitters, Missoula, Montana.

February 22: Board Meeting

Special Events:

FEB 1, Mar 1, Apr 5: (Last three sessions) Fly Tying Round Table, 7 – 9 p.m. Frances Anderson Center, Edmonds, Room 302.

FEB 7,14,21,28; Mar 7: (Last five sessions) Beginning Fly Tying, 7 - 9 p.m. Edmonds Plaza Room (above Library).

FEB 21: WFFC Letcher Lambuth Award being presented to Ray Gould. Contact Perry Barth if you’d like to attend. 425-774-0762. See related story on Page 3.

Outings:

February 11: Float and/or wade the Skykomish River for Steelhead. Hosted by Eric Sauer 425-776-3811. Meet for breakfast at Petosa’s Restaurant, Monroe, 7 a.m.

March 16: Float and/or wade the Yakima River. Hosted by Joe Conner 425-744-8085. Meet for breakfast at the Cottage Cafe, 911 E. 1st Street, Cle Elum, 8 a.m.

April 26: Blue Lake. Hosted by Mike Truax 425-672-6963.



“Machismo” from Page 1 techniques. Eventually, guilt overcame common sense and we busied ourselves getting the boats on the water.

Norm Primc and Ken Martin inflate their boats while Steve Murray and Denis Kibby head out into the wind.



Mike Bunney decided to stick around the launch site a “little” longer to talk to the guy who comes around to collect parking fees from the metal box. (They must have had a lot to talk about because Mike was pretty late getting launched.)

Around ten o’clock the wind died down a bit. Long enough for Don’s rain squall to show up. And about 1 p.m. seven of us were back at the launch site. Ken Martin was still out catching some of the three fish he had on 13 strikes. A Denny Rickard Seal Bugger pattern did the trick. (You might ask Ken which of the many Rickard variations he was using.)

Norm Primc caught a nice rainbow and broke off a nicer brown that dove under a log. Don had one rainbow. Mike, Dan Wilson and I had strikes. Olive and brown Woolly Buggers and white bait patterns were productive.

After loading the gear back on our trucks, we drove over to the Big Lake area, East of Mount Vernon, to Steve and Rebecca Murray’s home. It’s a beautiful lodge style home with a large barn on 20 acres of scenic country views. Steve has done much of the labor on the homestead, with interior decorating by Rebecca. Their place is open, comfortable and inviting, with high ceilings, a river rock fireplace and dramatic wood staircase.

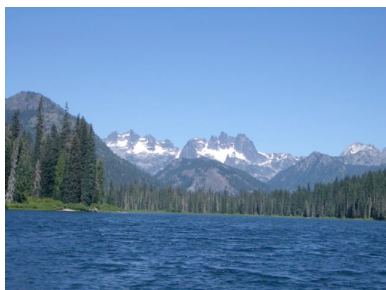
The Murrays plan to launch a B&B once the place is finished. A salmon spawning stream runs out back and the WDFW is planting trees along the banks to help restore habitat. Steve pointed out an area along the stream that’s ideal for a deep, three acre pond he plans to build in the near future.

We all know Steve’s a great cook and were delighted to see a big pot of chili warming on the kitchen stove. (By the way, Steve competes in chili cook-offs and wins.) His chili is awesome! So we had a wonderful afternoon, swapping sea stories, eating chili and watching a little football. All in all, this New Year’s Day outing was a complete and indisputable success. ...DS0



Can you name the lake?

In his book “Central Cascades Fishing Guide” Dave Shorett says this mile long alpine lake contains Brook Trout, Rainbow, Cutthroat, Brown Trout and Kokanee. So far, I haven’t seen any of them. But it’s easy to get to, the views are spectacular, and the stream that feeds it is rarely fished. Can you guess this month’s secret?



If you think you know where this month’s fishin’ hole is, send your answer to news@olympicflyfish.com or to TIGHTLINES, P.O. Box 148, Edmonds, WA 98020. Everyone who guesses right or submits a “Secret” Fishin’ Hole of their own (with photo) will be entered in a special prize drawing to be held in June.



Lambuth Award named for a true pioneer.

On February 14th, Ray Gould will receive the Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award from the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

The award was established in 1974 to recognize "...original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing..." by fly fishermen in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

Its first recipient was Canadian author and conservationist Roderick Haig-Brown. A recent honoree is Norm Norlander, developer of the Nor-vise fly-tying system. Historian Jack Berryman says Lambuth Award recipients are a "virtual who's who of Northwest Fly Fishing."

Lambuth was born in 1890 in Washington, D.C. and moved to Seattle as a child. His career was in real estate but his passion was in fly fishing. A gifted craftsman, he spent many hours researching and designing ways to improve fly fishing equipment.

In the '30s, he developed his own cane rod building techniques including variations on a spiral rod design in which the cane blank was twisted 60 degrees between each guide. A rod with eleven guides would twist nearly 720 degrees from butt to tip.

An interesting coincidence between Ray Gould and Letcher Lambuth is that Ray also designed his own version of a spiral cane rod and then built the forms and other equipment to construct it. He's finished two rods and a partially completed blank still sits in his "twister" machine where it may stay indefinitely.

"They're just too difficult to make," says Ray. "And to tell you the truth, I think a regular cane rod fishes just as well as a twisted cane rod."

Lambuth also designed landing nets, a breathable creel, fishing vests and two of the most effective salt water patterns ever: the Lambuth Candlefish and Lambuth Herring. As an amateur entomologist he compiled a comprehensive collections of Northwest lake and stream hatches with matching fly patterns. In 1940, he organized the campaign to designate Pass Lake and the North Fork of the Stillaguamish as Washington's first fly-fishing only waters. Lambuth died in 1974. For most of his later years he was blind from the effects of diabetes. ...DS

"Mine the thermocline" says expert lake angler Bob Sheedy.



Bob Sheedy has spent 54 years uncovering the secrets to successful lake fishing. He shared many of those secrets with us at our January meeting as he took OFF members through the changes in a typical lake from ice out to ice in

One of the major keys to success is finding and fishing



Ray planes a cane culm in his workshop.

the "thermocline" — the level in a lake where the water temperature abruptly changes from warmer water to cooler water. The thermocline can exist at different levels in the same lake and can shift dramatically with wind and weather action.

"Fishing the thermocline will get you to where the fish are," Bob says. "Knowing what to do when you get there is how you catch them."

To assist all of us in the "catching" department, Bob shared many of his favorite stillwater fly patterns and the most effective ...*Continued on Page 5*



The OFF BEAT

In January the OFF Vise Squad came out in full force. Both the Fly Tying Round Table, under the guidance of Eric Sauer, and the Beginning Fly Tying Classes, led by Don Summers, kicked off at the Frances Anderson/Edmonds Library center in Edmonds. Ten students turned out for the tying class and several inquired about Club meetings and about the Fly Tying Round Table. In addition to Don's guidance, students were helped by Joe Conner, Mike Bunney, Eric Sauer, Barry Hutton, Blair Scarth, and Hal Rowe.

Right: Don Summers demonstrates basic techniques with help of closed circuit television.



Left: Dan Wilson, Terry Zietner at Roundtable.



Blair Scarth helps student in introductory class.

Phil Sacks checks out Barry Hutton's vise.





Conner's Corner

Continued from Page 1

This is a talented group of guys who do the work to make this club what it is. Please say thanks to them when you have a chance.

Because of last year's success, we have a healthy budget to begin this year. Our first objective is to keep a good nest egg for a rainy day fund. We'd also like to improve our technology with a better sound system for dinners, plus our own digital projector and a better screen. We also want to do more conservation funding. Fran Fatigati is doing the screening and we hope to be more aggressive in this part of the club's mission.

This year we have some excellent speakers lined up. You heard Bob Sheedy at the January Meeting. This month it's Joe Cummings, a guide from Missoula, who Dick Hedges thinks walks on water. We hope Joe will give us first hand confirmation about the hog that Dick caught on the Bitterroot. The March meeting will have the folks from the WDFW talking about the upcoming season. In May, STS Guide service will talk about the rivers in lower British Columbia for salmon and sea run cutthroat.

I encourage everyone to take part in the outings we have planned this year. February on the Skykomish, March on the Yakima, April at Blue Lake and the always fun trip to Corbett Lake in BC for Labor Day weekend. I hope to see you on the water at all of these trips.

In closing I want to thank Eric Sauer for his efforts as the past President and will thank him in advance for his assistance this year as I learn what this office is all about.

Tight Lines
Joe Conner

"Mine the thermocline" ...Continued from Page 3
...ways to fish them including the Cased Caddis, Mud Caddis, Canadian Blood Leech, Psychedelic, and his own MacSheedy Bloodworm. Bob calls the ubiquitous Tom Thumb "A religion of it's own in B.C."

Other interesting subjects he covered during his presentation included best places to fish on windy days, where to find the most likely lies along weed beds and how to fish them, and observations he's made on "minnow herding" by large brown trout.

Bob excels at helping anglers understand the science of lake stratification and entomology and how to transform it into successful fish catching strategies.

Sheedy is the author of two books: "Lake Fly Fishing Strategies" and "Top Fifty Stillwater Fly Patterns." He makes his home in Manitoba and conducts seminars throughout North America. He was accompanied by his 15-year-old daughter Brandy who is already an accomplished fly fisher and can cast 85 feet.



Bob's books are available at his website: www.mwflyfishing.net

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General Information

The General meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds, WA. Social hour: 6:00 PM

The Board meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's on 196th Avenue, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 PM

Officers:

- Joe Conner, President, 425-744-8085
- Don Summers, Vice President, 206-935-1194
- Bud Camandona, Secretary, 425-337-5840
- Mike Bunney, Treasurer, 425-672-3345
- Dick Simmons, Communications Dir., 424-778-9804
- Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311
- Steve Murray, Trustee, 360-422-7335
- Dan Reynolds, Outings, 425-673-7028

Chairs:

- Eric Sauer, Education, 425-776-3811
- Fran Fatigati, Conservation, 425-485-1975

E- mail Contacts:

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