



# TIGHTLINES

## *Day dreamin' on the John Day.*



***Dave McCoy, guide and owner of Emerald Water Anglers, points out one of many good reasons to fish Northeast Oregon's John Day River.***

Bud Camandona may have summed it up best when he said "A trip on the John Day would definitely be an experience of a lifetime."

Dave McCoy joined us for dinner on April 12th and whetted our appetites with a presentation on steelhead and bass fishing on one of Oregon's lightly fished and truly remarkable rivers.

Whether you're fishing for steelhead in the mid November to mid March time frame or smallmouth bass from April to August, the John Day offers everything a fly fisherman could ask for:

- **Steelhead to 16 plus pounds.**
- **Up to 4,000 smallmouth per mile, some running to 17 inches.**
- **Hundreds of miles of gorgeous scenery.**
- **Few other fishermen.**
- **Lots of easy wading with room to cast.**

"Most of the river is inaccessible because there aren't any roads, the roads that are there are impassible, or the land along the riverbanks are private property," said McCoy.

But McCoy, who is friendly, unassuming, and innocent looking, has been able to secure permission to access the river through private ranch land.

"Everyone we've guided has caught at least one ...see **DAY** Page 2

### Calendar

#### Meetings:

**May 10:** General Meeting

**Guest Speaker:** STS Guide Service, "Lower B.C. Lakes and streams."

**May 24:** Board Meeting

#### Special Events:

**May 3:** Fly Tying Round Table, 7 – 9 p.m. Frances Anderson Center, Edmonds, Room 206 or 302. Barry demos the "Hutton Scud."

#### Outings:

**May 27, 28, 29:** Corbett Lake, B.C. Two slots left. Call Steve Murray at 360-422-7335.

#### Upcoming Speakers:

**June 14:** Writer, conservationist & respected fly fisherman Les Johnson, author of *Fly Fishing for Coastal Cutthroat Trout*.

**July** — No meeting.

**August 9:** TBD

**September 13:** Dave Ames, author of *True Love and the Woolly Bugger*.



**No fur, feathers, thread, hackle pliers, vice or whip finishers required: Wow! Is this not the perfect Cutthroat fly?**

.....Page 3



....DAY from Page 1

steelhead, for many it's their first." (Editor's note: At this point in McCoy's presentation a few members sitting at a nearby table began giggling.) "Let me correct that," McCoy said. "Actually, in our five years of guiding on the John Day there were three people who couldn't seem to catch anything."

At this point, Dave Claude raised his hand. "Okay. I admit, I fished with Dave and I'm one of them," he said. "I was using the same fly, the same leader, fishing the same holes as the guys who were catching fish and I didn't even get a bump."

This comment prompted another club members at the table to inquire if Claude was wearing the same underwear as the other guys. Which led to a lively discussion about various steelheading techniques.

**Not your typical steelhead stream.**

"The John Day is not your classic looking steelhead water that you see on the Peninsula or Puget Sound rivers," McCoy continued a few minutes later. "It's almost pond like. You think there should be lilly pads growing out there. The same patterns work in both places but you need to fish them differently."



*A hook up on the swing in slow moving water.*

Dave uses floating lines almost exclusively. He agrees that spey rods have an advantage in many situations but a stealthy wader does just as well with short casts, especially if they're the first ones into the hole.

"Fish shallow, fish close, and most of all, be patient," he suggests. "A lot of these fish will take on the swing so let it swing as long as possible."

**Bass are beautiful.**

Dave believes many trout fishermen in the West disregard bass. "It's usually because some jerk planted them in the wrong place and they crowded out the trout." But on the Day, he thinks bass are beautiful.

"Even for die hard trout fishermen, a smallmouth trip can be incredible." says McCoy. "These bass will take PMDs and other favorite trout patterns. You can fish longer leaders, lighter tippet, sight cast to active fish and see the take."

"A 10 inch bass is a good fish on a five weight," says McCoy. "A 15 inch bass can give you trouble and a 17 inch bass will take 15 minutes to land."

A five day float in May, June or July would be the ideal trip, according to Dave. The weather's great, the scenery's beautiful, there are old homesteads and Piute Indian wall art to explore, and the bass fishing is phenomenal. Dave's version of a five day trip goes something like this:

**Day One:** Everyone's gung ho to fish. A 170 fish day in normal. **Day Two:** Catching fish has gotten pretty routine so now it's who can catch the biggest fish. This might be a 200 fish day. **Day Three:** Okay. Let's see who can catch the most fish and then we'll party! The most fish Dave's seen caught in a day last season was 342. **Day Four:** Everyone's hung over from Day Three. **Day Five:** Hey, let's see if we can find a fly-these fish won't take?

In addition to the John Day and other Oregon rivers, Dave has guided in Washington, Hawaii, California, Idaho, Colorado, Alaska, Montana, Belize, Mexico, Bahamas, Chile and Argentina. He was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon.

Emerald Water Anglers and the guides associated with the organization, guide fishermen in nearly 80 international destinations from Colorado to Russia — On all kinds of water, in all kinds of settings and for many different species. Dave can be reached at 206-545-2197

(Office/Home); 206-601-0132 (Cell); or through Avid Angler at 206-362-4030.

*Put yourself in this picture with a John Day Steelie.*



*A chance to meet new friends on the river.*





### It raises eyebrows among “purists” but who cares. The Tape Fry works!

*Editor’s note: the **Tape Fry** first appeared in the May 2006 issue of Osprey, the newsletter of the Osprey Flyfishers of B.C. We’re grateful to its creator, Osprey Club Secretary Peter Caverhill, for letting us present it to OFF members. Conceived and proven on the cutthroat waters of the Bella Coola River on B.C.’s Central Coast, this is the fly’s first venture outside of Canada. Here’s what Pete has to say about his **Tape Fry**:*

“It’s spring! It’s fry time! Cutthroat trout are stalking the riffles in search of pink and chum salmon fry,” says Caverhill. “The Tape Fry may not be the one magic answer, but it does a very passable job of coercing a strike. However, I’ll warn you that this fly will not appeal to those of you who are mired in the traditionalism of fly tying. You may very well consider it an affront to all things that you hold near, dear and holy. However, if you are good at activities involving ‘peel-and-stick’, you can whip up a number of these in no time at all. Why does it work? Perhaps it’s because it is extremely silver and flat like the real ones?”



#### MATERIALS

**Hook:** #8, #6, 2-3 XL

**Body:** Silver muffler or sheet metal tape with peel-off sticky back.

**Eyes:** Stick on mylar eyes in silver or pearlescent.

**Epoxy:** For covering eyes and securing them on the fly. Use two part epoxy or similar clear, hard drying adhesive.

**Tools:** Scissors; bodkin for peeling the backing off tape and stick-on eyes; fly turner (if using two part epoxy).

**Note:** Pattern shown is for pink salmon fry. To make it a chum salmon fry, simply add parr marks with a fine-tipped waterproof marker.



**STEP 1:** Debarb hook; cut thin strip of tape the length of hook shank; peel backing from tape and lay it flat on work surface, sticky side up.



**STEP 2:** Position hook upside down in middle of tape strip and carefully fold tape over hook shank to form flat fry body.



**STEP 3:** Trim flat body so that it duplicates the taper and dimensions of the natural pink salmon fry body.



**STEP 4:** Peel eyes and stick them on fry at the head end. Coat lightly with epoxy or other liquid covering; let dry.



### Lone Lake is not alone.

Lone Lake has a good friend in its battle against the noxious weed Egeria. Susan Horton, (*shown left*) is Director of Noxious Weed Control for Island County. She joined our April meeting and brought members up-to-date on her efforts to stop the weed that has killed nearly every other plant in this trophy trout lake and is threatening the fish population through reduction in habitat.

The State has invested \$170,000 in weed control in Lone Lake, but an April 5th sampling of 29 sites in the lake still revealed Egeria infestation in all but six of the sites. The three primary control techniques used in Washington lakes ...*See EGERIA Page 4*



# The OFF Beat

## It's Official! May is "Bravo for B.C." month at OFF.

At our weekly editorial meeting here at TIGHTLINE Towers we took a look at what was coming up for the Club in May. And right away we noticed that much of what we're doing in May involves our friends to the North in Beautiful British Columbia.

### Corbett Lake

First of all, we're sending a contingent of anglers to the fabled waters of Corbett Lake near Merritt on May 27, 28, & 29. Corbett has become a Club tradition that promises great fishing and the kind of camaraderie that is legendary at OFF outings.

### STS Guiding Services

Secondly, we are welcoming STS Guiding Services as our guest speaker at the May 10th general meeting. STS is a full service outfit that guides throughout the Lower B.C. Mainland area with a focus on the Fraser and Harrison Valleys. They'll be telling us about the lake and stream

opportunities a few hours North of us. If you've ever dreamed of seeing a seven foot sturgeon tail walking with your fly in its mouth, these are the guys to talk to.

### The Tape Fry

This innovative cutthroat fly, on Page 3, also comes to us from B.C. Its creator, Peter Caverhill is secretary of Osprey Fly Fishers of B.C. Will Wright, who edits the Club's newsletter, Osprey, featured the fly in the latest edition, where we found it.

### New Club Brochure

Our new Club brochure, now being reviewed by the Board, also recognizes the importance of B.C. to our fly fishing adventures. The cover text under the Club logo reads:

**DEDICATED TO CAMARADERIE AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS WITH DRY FLIES, WET FLIES, NYMPHS AND STREAMERS. WE CATCH AND RELEASE TROUT, SALMON, STEELHEAD, BASS AND OTHER GAME FISH IN THE FRESH AND SALT WATERS OF WASHINGTON AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

So there you are: "Bravo for B.C." month. It also helps that your editor was born there.

...**EGERIA** from Page 3 herbicides (flouridone); bio-control (grass carp) and benthic barriers (docks and screens that prevent sunlight from reaching the weeds plus good old fashioned hand pulling).

Horton would like to use grass carp in Lone Lake but a State fisheries biologist killed the idea saying it would interfere with spawning, even though the Lake has no natu-

rally occurring fish. They're all planted.

"Makes no sense to me either," she says. "grass carp should be a no brainer."

Horton suggests that more clubs need to contact the state to endorse the use of grass carp. "This is a very tough weed," she added.



### 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 p.m.

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

### 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. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 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:

General:

[contact@olympicflyfish.com](mailto:contact@olympicflyfish.com)

TIGHTLINES:

[news@olympicflyfish.com](mailto:news@olympicflyfish.com)

Olympic Fly Fishers  
P.O. Box 148  
Edmonds, WA 98020