

TIGHTLINES

PASS LAKE by William Scott

Pass Lake was our last minute change up, the rabbit pulled out of the hat after discovering two fly fishing clubs were planning to fish Lone Lake on the same day we were planning to be there, the 14th of April. Nick Wisser gave us the heads up and saved the day. Someone suggested we do Pass Lake, so we got it turned around in time to advise everyone at the membership meeting. Steve Murray, always the cooperative gentleman when it comes to assisting OFF, agreed to the switch and made another one of his legendary hot lunches, this time it was seafood chowder with hot tuna melt sandwiches.

It was a beautiful day as I woke that morning at 6:00 am, took my shower and jumped in the truck to head to Pass Lake. Of course, I had to stop at my favorite Starbucks for my shot of caffeine. I drove up Interstate 5 thinking about the Pass Lake trip I did with my daughter last year. We fished all day and only caught one fish. As we were leaving the lake, two guys told us they did really well using the same flies we used. I was feeling confused when they told me something that helped me figure it out. "We were going deep, as deep as we could without snagging the bottom".

My daughter and I had been using intermediate sink line because I did not want her to snag up all day. Well, this time I'm going to use a number 8 sink, I don't want wear the skunk suit or just catch one fish. Another factor, it was a nice day, and I have learned to go deep when the sun is out.

I had three rods rigged; one with a dual Chironomid setup, another rod set up with a Damsel fly nymph on a sink tip, and the third was my weapon of choice. A number 8 sink line with a white strip leech. I learned about this white strip leech thing at Lake Lenice a couple years back. It was a trip where I wore the skunk suit for two days after missing my only strike before sunset on the second day. I think it was my worst fly fishing experience to date. I stayed on the water until after dark and when I finally gave up, I acme in and heard this guy talking to his buddies. He said, "I couldn't catch a damn thing so I threw on this white strip leech because I read about some guy in a magazine using one on a bad day. After that, I landed four within an hour".

Editors Note: Photo of Dan Reynolds; his report: Beautiful weather, great food - thanks to Steve Murray and pretty good fishing too.

Since that day, I have always had a white leech with me and I can tell you truthfully, it has never failed. I have both Marabou and Bunny leeches and I think they work equally well. However, I always modify the purchased leeches after discovering the tails are way too long and the fish often miss the hook when striking. In addition, it just so happens I was watching the Fishing Network one day and these tournament guys were talking about fishing for all kinds of species. One guy asked the other, "What do you think is the most important color", the other replied "White". Then, the first guy agreed. I logged those statements in my memory.

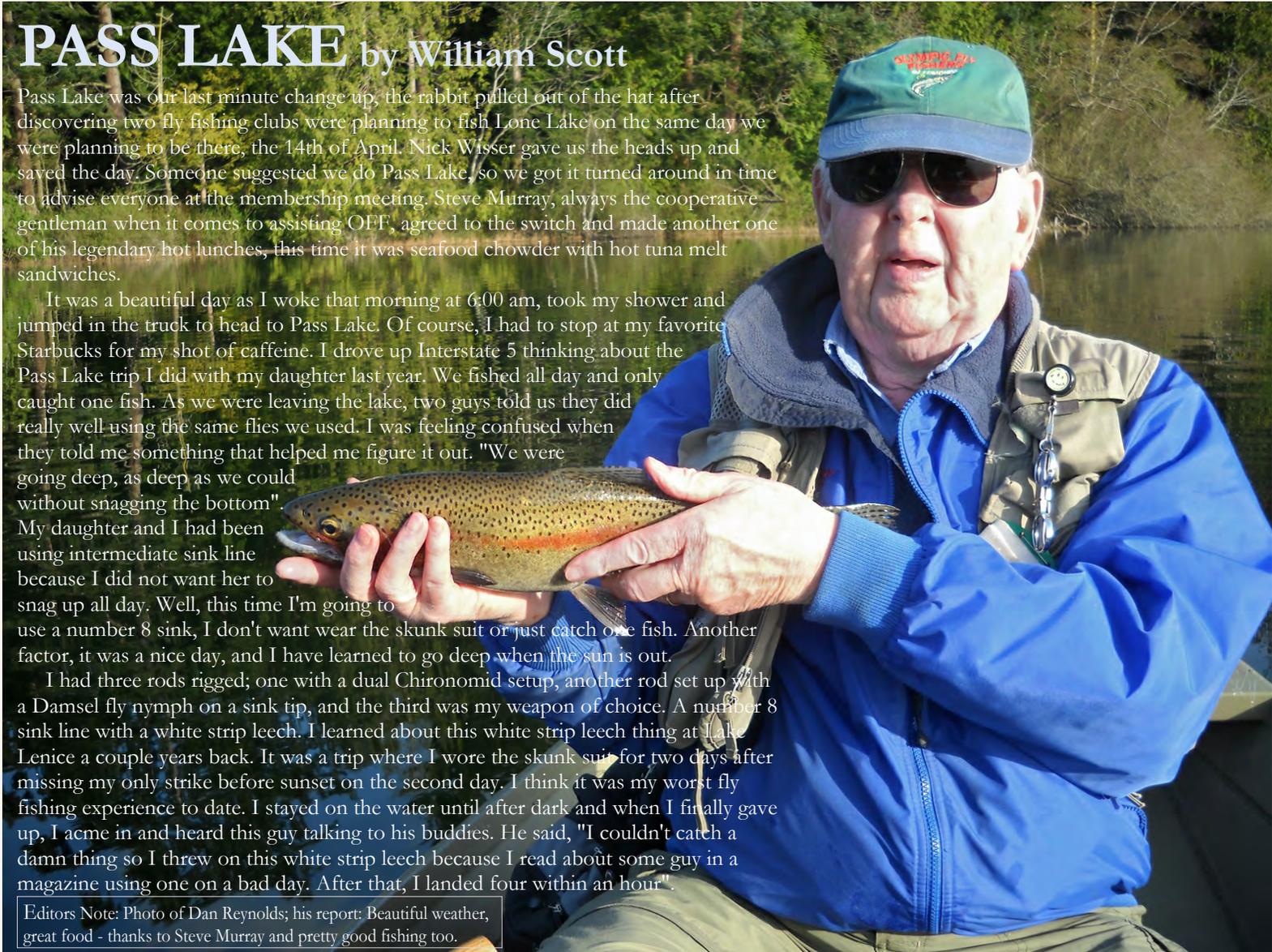
I arrived at Pass Lake, pulled my fishing kayak off the trailer and launched into the water. As I am heading out, I cast my line, and then stripped more line until I am down to the backing. Within one minute, Boom - "alright, no skunk today, the pressure is off for that worry". "Wow- this one seems pretty big", I brought it to the boat and it was a fat hefty nice one. I don't measure every fish nowadays, only the big ones. It measured 18 inches. I'm very happy with that, as I throw the line back out, strip down to the backing and right away - boom, another one. I landed the second fish as I was passing Steve Murray and Don Summers in the raft. This one looked about 15 or 16 inches. It's pretty nice but not a monster, so I didn't measure it. I looked at my watch and realized I landed two fish within 8 minutes of beginning.

Well, things slowed down a little after that but I landed two more fish before lunch. I also lost a couple by letting my line get slack. I lost one 12 or 13 inch fish by my boat while fishing near Bill Macdonald. I was kind of playing around with it and it finally spit the hook. I also lost my first white leech on an underwater log - this one was a marabou leech but I had a white bunny leech too. I get hits on both. I changed to a green marabou leech, caught one and missed a couple solid strikes, as I think the tail was too long. I went in for a fantastic lunch and learned everyone else was having a good day too. I think Barry had caught four or

five at the far end of the lake where I had not caught any. All the club members were having a great day being on an outing and having a great lunch! The weather was beautiful and landing fish was icing on the cake.

After lunch, I went to the far side of the lake where I had not done well during the morning. I fished for a long time with my leeches but no luck. I changed to the Damsel nymph but took it off the sink tip and put it on my heavy sink line. It made a huge difference, four more fish before going in for the day. "Eight for the day isn't bad, I'll take it." This was eight real fish; I had actually missed or lost four or five others. They were running directly at me and I could not keep the line tight. I have noticed this about dedicated fly fishing lakes; I swear the fish have learned techniques for throwing the hooks. I have seen the same thing on Lenice. Now I have learned, don't stop the boat, just keep it moving away from the fish so it can't get slack on you. This appears to work but sometimes I forget. It is a habit that comes from gear fishing with my uncle as a kid. We always stopped the motor, turned it off and pulled it up so those big Northern Pike would not wrap the line around it.

I thought back to my first time fishing Pass Lake, it was with the club. I fished with Tony Koenig and stuck to him like glue. He taught me to be persistent and try everything, even if it seems crazy. He gave me a fly once which amounted to a simple hook with gray thread wrapped around it. It was on Lone Lake and he said it was the only thing he could catch fish with that day. I thought he was playing a prank on a new club member so I wasn't too serious about his fly. After fishing a while with no luck, I tried it. Wow, I finished the day with five nice Rainbows landed. I thought about Tony all day while fishing Pass Lake. I really miss his presence, I hope he comes back and fishes with the club again. There are many people who miss him. I know of many other great fishermen in the club also. I have learned from all of you and I hope we all have many years of fishing together. Hope to see you on the water soon.



TIGHTLINES in the OKANOGAN

The Calibaetis mayfly is a common insect during May in Okanogan Lakes, and the pheasant tail nymph is an effective pattern before and during a hatch. This fly can be trolled, strip retrieved, or even fished under an indicator along with a chironomid pattern. An old standby is the original Sawyer's pattern tied by wrapping 6-8 pheasant tail barbules around copper wire and wrapping forward. (I suggest you put a spool of fine copper wire on your bobbin for this procedure.)

Several effective variations have evolved, and you can come up with your own. You can dub the abdomen with hare's ear dubbing and wrap the pheasant tail over the top with copper wire. You can wrap the abdomen with crystal flash and use the pheasant for the tail and the wing case. Detailed instructions for these patterns are widely available at several websites on the Internet--e.g., www.westfly.com



Flys, Catch and Photography by Keith Stamm

Grass Valley Oregon

by John Bisset Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds New Member
Big Rainbows, April 19-22, 2012, Contact Deschutes Anglers Fly Shop

My 2 fly-fishing buddies, Mike and Al, and I have made an annual spring fly fishing trip for years. Al and I now live in the Seattle area, and Mike lives in Portland. This year it was Mike's turn to pick the destination, and he chose a group of private lakes out of Grass Valley, Oregon. We booked the trip through the Deschutes Anglers Fly Shop (541-395-0995) located in Maupin on the Deschutes River.

It turned out the lakes are on the Justesen Ranch, co-owned by an old college acquaintance, and it was a blast sharing a beer and remembering old friends and exploits with him. But, back to the point, the fishing! The lakes vary in size from about 5 to 30 acres and vary in fishing characteristics, some shallow, some deep, some tree lined, some surrounded by cattails. Big Rainbows, averaging 16 to 20 inches but with a few in the 23 inch range.

In mid-April this year, most of the action was subsurface, with Damsselfly Nymphs very effective. Late Morning and early evening there were midge hatches and some Callibaetis hatch but most of the surface action was on nymphs retrieved just under the surface and not on dries, but still exciting with visual takes. Twenty fish days were not uncommon and I'm sure you could catch 30 if you wanted to fish chironomids. We stayed in the Granary

cabin on the ranch and the accommodations were excellent. All the lakes could be driven to, allowing easy launching of our pontoon boats, but I'd recommend a 4 wheel drive if it rains. We fished different lakes for 3 days and never saw another fisherman on our lake any given day: somewhat different from fishing Lenice. A great trip; old friends, good weather, and lots of fish.





Proven Bonefish Tactics

Okay, so we've all seen the magazine pictures. There's a guy standing on the foredeck of a saltwater flats boat. He's laying out this incredibly beautiful cast to a bonefish we can't even see because the page isn't wide enough. His guide, let's call him "Jesus" (pronounced "hay-zeus" a popular name in the Caribbean, and for good reasons) is poling the boat from his raised platform at the stern. The conversation goes something like this:

Jesus: "Senior Dude, perfeek cast, sixty feet, one o'clock! Bootiful! I have your martini ready as soon as I take your picture with bonefish and put eem back."

Dude: "Excellent plan, Jesus. Just remember to make it dry, stirred, and with a twist of lime."

Now, to be honest, there's nothing wrong with that approach to fishing for bonefish. Actually, it can leave you feeling really satisfied at the end of the day. But if you want to be a bone-e-fied "Flats Rat" you need to go totally technical.

First of all, you need to wade. It's important that you practice tripping and falling over at least twenty of the ten thousand, submerged, coral-covered rocks that infest every few hundred square feet of the flats you're trying to cross. You'll also need to negotiate these rocks while not disappearing into the mogul sized holes in between them.

Once you've mastered that, you need to master the wind. Unless you get some perverse pleasure from removing hooks from your butt, back, head or other sensitive body parts, develop a decent cast with your opposite hand or at least a good cross-shoulder cast. And do it quickly. Because:

Ten to 15 mph, converts to one or two butt hooks per hour; 20 to 25 mph, 5 to 10 butt and/or head hooks per hour; 30 to 35 mph, forget fishing and refer to "martini" above.

Finally, the toughest technical challenge comes when, after your casting has already spooked half of the bonefish schools your guide has stealthily located, you make a perfect presentation ahead of a moving school of 50 to 250 bonefish. Then, as most of the school sails over your carefully stripped fly, laughing all the way, one really dumb bonefish takes it and all hell breaks loose! Keith Stamm

demonstrates the proper technique for landing the fish successfully at this point:

Rod straight up! Let it run. Move toward the fish. Avoid tripping over coral and falling on your face. Don't let the fish wrap around the coral. Reel in when you have slack. Then, just as everything is going beautifully, observe as tip section of your rod disengages from rest of rod and slides blissfully down the line toward bonefish as guide shouts "Holy S—T!" (*obviously he's not related to Dude's guide, Jesus*) and races to intercept rod tip section, slide it back up line, and reattach to lower rod section.

Note: guide is 5' 4" and Keith is 6' 2" and still holding rod straight up. Fellow fishermen, this is an extremely technical bonefishing maneuver and frankly, it's surprising that Lefty Krebs neglected to include it in his excellent book "Fishing for Bonefish, Permit and Tarpon."

Ultimately, Mr. Bone is successfully landed and released to the relief of all.

Now, On To Barracuda Tactics

The truth is, fishing for barracuda is pretty boring. But fishing guides are happy to see you catch them because a nice barracuda means dinner for the family. And for you it means telling your friends that a barracuda has jaws strong enough and teeth sharp enough to remove any number of a person's fingers should they get close enough to its mouth. Implying, of course, that you are a fishing stud.

Catching a barracuda usually involves trolling with a lure. Some fly fishermen may refer to it as a "Cuda Fly" because it resembles a needlefish. But tying a foot-long length of green, semi-transparent aquarium hose wired with treble hooks to your line screams "lure" in my book. Whatever.

You attach this "fly" to your leader with a short length of wire and then strip out your entire fly line plus another ten or fifteen feet of backing, set your drag fairly tight, and then sit back, holding your rod with both hands to wait for a strike as your guide slowly plows the boat across acres of fertile flats that are known to hold barracuda.

The technical part of "cuda" fishing usually begins just about the time you start falling asleep and are awakened suddenly by a violent bend in your rod and an aggressive run by what is clearly a very surprised and pissed-off fish.

Your next step is to get control of the reel. Not easy with the handle spinning like a coffee grinder blade, but eventually you gain control and begin reeling in line.

Here's where it can get technical: As you start reeling you may notice a slight wobbling of the reel handle and think to yourself "WTF is that all about?!" Which you soon find out when the handle falls off and goes bouncing around on the deck.

The appropriate technique at this point is to keep your rod upright and describe the problem to your companions emphasizing its seriousness with a hearty selection of obscenities. Your fishing partner, in this case, Keith Stamm, then springs into action, locates the handle and executes a masterful handle-reattachment maneuver in a matter of seconds!

Now you're back in the fight, reeling at warp speed, only to notice a new issue with the reel. It begins to wobble back and forth and suddenly pops off the rod altogether and also falls on the deck. Now you are totally hosed. But there's one last hope! Hand stripping! You start stripping like a bull semen collector attempting a new world speed record and voila! You bring the fish alongside, your guide gaffs dinner and it's high fives all around.

And of course the guide has the last say, possibly a bit tongue-in-cheek?

"I've never seen it happen that way before. The other guides will be uh, uh . . . impressed! I think so. Si! Impressed!"

Studies Show High Coho Mortality Rate in Urban Streams by Tom Ryan

As a member of our Conservation Committee I was sent three different articles dealing with Coho salmon in urban streams and a higher than normal mortality rate. The articles were published between April and December of 2011. There were more than twenty individuals involved with these studies. The individuals involved work for many different agencies. Included in this list of agencies are: National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Wild Fish Conservancy, Department of Natural Resources and Parks of King County, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, just to name a few.

The information in the articles dealt with the high percentage of Coho salmon that died in urban streams prior to spawning. These urban streams had gone through habitat restoration projects in the 1990's. The study involved seven streams both urban and rural. Elliot Bay and the University of Washington Hatchery were also included in the study.

Fish were seen and video recordings made of unusual behavior. The fish displayed a consistent suite of symptoms. They showed disorientation, lethargy, loss of equilibrium, gaping, (mouths open for

longer than normal lengths of time), splaying, (dorsal fin not riding vertical). These symptoms ultimately progress to death on a time scale of a few hours. Annual rates of prespawn mortality observed over multiple years, across several drainages have ranged from 20% to 90% of the total run within a given watershed. The suspected culprit causing the given mortality rates is based on the research done by the agencies involved. It is suspected that the Coho prespawn mortality rate is caused by toxic urban stormwater runoff. The studies included recordings of the amounts of rainfall in the drainages. Participants also conducted a series of spatial analyses to identify correlations between land use and land cover. This study showed a positive correlation of prespawn mortality and the relative proportion of local roads, impervious surfaces, and commercial property within a basin.

As a side note: I believe I have fished with one of the participants in one of these reports. I am in the process of trying to contact him for more information. Hopefully he will be able to share some updates with us. I also went to the Adopt-A-Stream Foundations film, "The Way of the Trout", on Friday April 20th. I talked to Tom Murdock at the Northwest Stream Center about these articles and he reinforced the need for continuous studies on this problem. For more information you can read any one or all of the articles. The title and lead author are listed below.

Julann A. Spromberg, Estimating the Future Decline of Wild Coho Salmon Populations Resulting from Early Spawner Die-Offs in Urbanized Watersheds of the Pacific Northwest, USA; **Blake E. Feist**, Landscape Ecotoxicology of Coho Salmon Spawner Mortality in Urban Streams; **Nathaniel L. Scholz**, Recurrent Die-Offs of Adult Coho Salmon in Puget Sound Lowland Urban Streams.

Education News "FLY OF THE MONTH" Proposal

John Schwartz, Education Chairman

I propose that we start a "Fly of the Month Archive" for publication in TIGHTLINES.

The Club certainly has numerous very good fly tiers, and this program would provide an opportunity to showcase both flies and tiers as an educational resource for Members and would-be tiers for years to come. Importantly, it would serve to "archive" the Club's knowledge and experience in a manner consistent with the Club's mission and traditions going back to our early history in the 1970's.

Volunteer tiers are invited to contact me with their fly selection for a particular month.

That fly and tier would be featured in the Education Chair's Tightlines article each month. The fly can be anything at all. However, at a minimum, I ask that the tier provide their tied fly, the materials recipe, tying instructions, a photograph if available, and related information such as a fishing anecdote, entomology, etc. (the latter being at the discretion of the tier). It is my suggestion that the actual "Fly of the Month" submitted by the tier be donated to the Club for "archive" or perhaps annual auction uses. The "Fly of the Month" collection will also provide opportunities for other uses of the information in the Club's web site and future publications. To get things started, OFFE tiers who already volunteered to tie in other venues – please contact Education to sign up. Member input is welcome.



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: 6:00pm
Business meetings are 6:00pm on the 4th Wednesday each month at Alf's 4820 196th SW, Lynnwood, WA.

Officers:

Bill MacDonald, President
Wade Nash, Vice President
Jim Traner, Treasurer
Thomas Sawtell, Communications
Dave Gross, Secretary
Phil Sacks, Gillie
Bruce Johnson, Trustee

Chairs:

Mike Truax, Conservation
William Scott, Outings
John Wendt, Auction & Banquet
Terry Zeitner, Membership
John Schwartz, Education
Beverage Meister, Jeff Bandy

Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds
P.O. Box 148

Edmonds, WA 98020
www.olympicflyfish.com

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FLY OF THE MONTH CONVICT DAMSELFLY NYMPH

Author: Moose Peterson



Recipe

Hook: TMC 200R 10-18 **Thread:** Olive 6/0

Tail: Grizzly Marabou Olive **Rib:** Gold Tinsel

Wing Case: Pecoek Herl

Eyes: 3/32 Dazl-eyes Black or similar

Tying instructions: www.flyangleronline.com

GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday May 9, 2012

Invited Guest Speaker: Dr. Andrew Thurman, Edmonds Family Medicine

Presentation title: "Fisherman and First Aid"

Dr. Thurman received his degree from UCLA School of Medicine, his Residency from Sharp Health Care, San Diego, CA. His interest lies with Pediatrics, sports medicine and procedures. He is an avid outdoors man along with his wife and two sons. Hope to see you there.