

TIGHTLINES



Brazdas fly fishing guides

QUEETS STT Murray, Bunney & Brazda

Compliments of JEFF BRAZDA'S generous donation to our 2011 Conservation Auction, the winning bidders, OFF members Mike Bunney & Steve Murray were treated to 15 miles of Queets River drift boat fly fishing, **eight Steelhead averaging 12-15 lbs.** and a treasure chest of good times. Steve reported, "It was our good fortune to be the winning bidders of an Olympic Peninsula trip of our choice. Jeff suggested the Queets River, so the Queets it was for a full day on March 25th 2012."
(Continued page 3)



CANCUN Bunney, Murray & Martin

by Steve Murray Here are a few pictures from the trip Mike, Ken, I, and all of our wives took to Cancun. The boys went fishing for Bone Fish and whatever else they could round up and had a great time, if fishing in 85F weather with a 20 to 40 knot wind is what you like.



Hugh James on the JEINIMENI

.Hugh James reported from Coyhaique, the "city of eternal snow" in the Aysen Region of Chile, on his spring 2012 fly fishing excursions, including this great catch of a **Rio Jeinimeni River Brown Trout, taken on a Double Bunny fly.**

Born in the glaciers of Cerro Jeinemeni, the river flows north for 57 km, forming the border between Chile and Argentina in its lower reaches, where it flows into General Carrera Lake before joining the Baker River (Chile's largest river, by flow).

Oh, did I mention the water was as warm as the air and Gin clear. We had to take a taxi, then ferry ride from hell, then another taxi, then a small flats boat ride from hell to get where we fished the three days we were there. At one point we nearly got swamped by a rogue wave almost 25' high. Well we did actually get swamped but not sunk.
(Continued page 3)

TAKING THE MEASURE OF LONE LAKE

KEITH STAMN

You'll see a lot of Chironomid fishermen at Lone Lake in spring, but that's not the only way to be successful. You don't have to sit and watch an indicator. If you're a more active angler, you can troll, you can cast and retrieve, and get your share of fish. Or you can just show up for the hot lunch. The Steve Murray "catering service" always makes the trip worthwhile.

The fact is very few OFFers possess great enthusiasm for Chironomid fishing, with the possible exception of Keith Stamm.



Burgundy Leeches

Barry Hutton fishes Lone Lake a lot with a #10 maroon leech and does very well, but here's the catch – he uses a full sinking line and searches out the

deepest channels in the lake. Barry says, "You have to get down on the bottom to find the bigger fish." What's a "bigger fish?" Barry has caught them up to 21 inches in the past, but these days he doesn't expect anything over 18 inches although, when 600 triploids are planted in May, who knows?

Barry likes the exercise of rowing and casting, as does Bud Camandona. Bud will tie on a little black leech (#14) and cast and retrieve very slowly. "Most



Assorted Chironomids

people retrieve the fly too fast," Bud says. Bud is not a troller; he likes to feel the strike. For him feeling the strike is the most important part. If the leech isn't working,

he will tie on a chironomid, but he won't fish it under an indicator. Or, he might even tie on a dry fly, for example, a big California blond, as he did one day and took three fine fish in a row.

Norm Primc and Bill Scott prefer to fish the same way as Barry and Bud, some casting and retrieving, a little rowing, some drifting with the breeze, but they'll tie on different flies. Norm's favorite is the Denny Rickards Stillwater nymph, olive, maybe with an orange tail or a little orange hackle. If he fishes Chironomids at all, he'll use them as a dropper behind his nymph or bugger. Norm, like Barry, uses his depth finder to search out the deeper areas on the lake. Bill Scott likes small leeches and damselfly nymphs. He says, "People poo poo damselfly nymphs in early spring, but the fact is damselfly nymphs live for two years before they become the real deal." In other words, during the damselfly migration is not the only time to fish them. If the damselfly doesn't work he ties on just a plain hook wrapped with gray thread that he got from Tony Koenig.



Damselfly nymphs

Stephen Jackson at Ted's Sport Center is a more typical Lone Lake angler who relies mostly on Chironomids. He says most anglers will spend a lot of effort changing patterns, trying to find the right size and color.



Ice Cream Cones



Bloodworms

Not Stephen. He starts with two flies, one a foot off the bottom, another about 18 inches above that. If there is no

action he will start working his way up the water column until he finds the depth fish are feeding. Stephen says anglers are having a lot of success with "chromies," a very effective fly when Chironomids are emerging. He'll start fishing the chromie right of the bottom and work his way up. Often the fish will be feeding six feet down in twelve or fifteen feet of water. He ties his chromies on a nickel hook with monofilament thread, which allows the nickel finish to glow like a mirror. These special hooks come from England, and Ted's is probably the only shop in town (Lynwood) that has them.

So give Lone Lake a try. You'll definitely learn something that will improve your fishing skills and who knows, Steve Murray might show up again with the fillet mignon wrapped in bacon, or something else just as good.

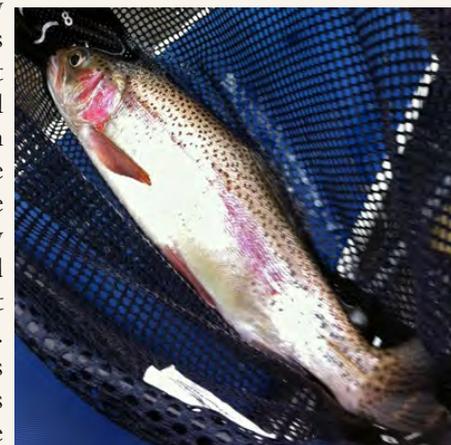
BENCH LEVEL SIDE BAR ABOUT THE CHROMIE

I might add that the purpose of a chromie pattern is to mimic an emerging Chironomid pupa, and the reason a chromie works is that the emerging pupa brings with it a gaseous covering or coating that has a silvery sheen to it. The principal is similar to LaFontaine's caddis pupae pattern in which case he uses a material called "sparkle yarn" to represent the gaseous coating of the emerging caddis pupae. Also, since the chromie imitates an emerging chironomid it may need to be presented at different depths depending where in the water column trout are intercepting the pupae as they rise to the surface.

Lone Lake Report, from Blair Scarth

Barry Hutton and I went to Lone Lake today (March 4, 2012). Thought the Members would like to see the bad photo of the one and only fish caught between the two of us. It was pretty windy and just about blew us off the lake. Water was still on the cold side and the fishing was slow. Only a small handful of anglers on the lake as well. Caught the 17 inch fatty on a seal bugger. Didn't put much of a fight until it got close to the boat, got one nice jump out if it though. Saw a bald eagle swooping and circling the lake but it never dove for any fish. There were a few ducks and a large Blue Heron as well. While packing up, we

visited with the fish and game warden. He asked if we had seen anyone using lures or bait, talked fishing for a bit and drove off. We had talked with another angler before putting in as he was trying to decide weather or not to make the drive to Pass lake or not. After a bit he drove off and went to Pass. Here is a funny little note, the game warden said Pass lake was as smooth a glass today. Guess we made the wrong choice where to fish huh. All and all a fun day, any day fishing is better than a day at work.



CANCUN (continued)

You know its bad when the guide screams “OH SHIIIIITTTT” in Spanish just before the wave hits you, I think Ken could have squirted out a Diamond if we had feed him coal the night before after these trips.

Most of the time we were hunting these “bones” and they are hard to catch when the water is flat and they can see you most likely before you see them. We had one day there were so many in the lagoon feeding they turned a 400 yard wide by 300 yard deep area into total sandy mud in about 2’ of water feeding on the crabs and shrimp. We had a 40 knot wind but we could put the wind at our back and anchor and take turns throwing line up in the air and letting 80’ sail out in a straight line. When it hit the water we just stripped like hell and could not hardly miss hooking nice bone fish.

When we weren’t fishing we were swimming in one of the 5 pools on the 5 star resort we stayed at and had to decide which swim up bar to go to.

We did take a nice trip to the Mayan ruins called Chichen Itza on the day of the spring equinox which was very special. It is the only day in the year where the shadow from the sun at just the right moment casts a shadow on the pyramid that makes it appear to have a Panther headed serpent on the side (in Mayan religion the Panther represented the darkness or night, the serpent represented man because it is attached to the earth, and eagles represented the heavens or sky. (Just a little history lesson there).

We had a blast and what a way to get out of the dreary weather here and get some sun. Steve Murray.



QUEETS STT (Continued)

The Queets is glacier fed and as you can see the color was great, and every aspect of trip was perfect, old growth forest and all, it was just a gorgeous river to float. We plan to go back and fish this river again on our own. What a trip!!!



Out of the Way Lakes by Keith Stamm

We got the inside dope on some out of the way lakes in Okanogan County worth a try in the coming year from F&G biologists Chad Jackson and Robert Jateff. Some of these lakes may be a little hard to find so you will want to pick up BLM and/or Forest Service maps for the areas. Here’s a quick rundown in case you didn’t take notes, or missed the meeting.

1. Big Tiffany is an alpine lake near the end of Boulder Creek Road. A one-mile hike will get you to eastern brook and cutthroat 8-11 inches.
2. Hike another mile to Little Tiffany for cutts up to 13-14 inches.
3. Roger Lake SE of Big Tiffany off USFS Road 37 has cutts 8-10 inches.
4. Boulder Creek in the Chewach drainage off USFS 37 has brooks and cutts, and light fishing pressure. Also try Chewach tributaries Falls and Eight-mile creeks.
5. In the Twisp River basin are three good lakes--Big Black, Aspen & Black Pine. Large holdovers may be found at Big Black in the Methow Wildlife Area on Frost Road. Fish for brook and tiger trout at Aspen by driving to the end of Frost Road and making a one-mile hike. Black Pine has nice cutts and can be accessed on USFS Road 43, which connects to the Twisp River Road.
6. Four more lightly fished lakes can be accessed in the East Okanogan—Summit, Middle Starzman, Upper Starzman, and Shallow Pond. Summit, on Mt. Hall five miles SW of Oroville, has tiger, brook and cutthroat, and a campground. Middle Starzman and Upper Starzman hold tiger and eastern brook. Middle Starzman is 10 miles north of Brewster on N. Star Road. Upper Starzman is adjacent to Middle Starzman. Shallow lake is a good lake to fish in the fall for eastern brook. It lies in the Sinlakein Wildlife Area and requires a half-mile hike from the trailhead at Fish Lake.

RED CHROMIE



BLACK CHROMIE



EDUCATION NEWS FLY TIERS ROUNDTABLE

5:00PM Before General Meeting, Wednesday, April 11, 2012

John Schwartz, Education Chairman

We are looking forward to seeing more participants at the Tiers Roundtable. Join your friends. We had six tiers for our first session. A good start. **Scott McCracken** has volunteered to tie the “**Lone Lake Special**” for the April 11th meeting. You are welcome to observe Scott’s fly tying or continue to tie your own flies.

We are looking for more volunteers to show us a new fly or a new twist on an old fly. For the Tiers roundtable, the fly can be appropriate for the outing but it need not be. Volunteers can send me an email with the name of their fly selection and the month they would like to tie.

I am also soliciting any and all suggestions for the Education Chair to provide future educational offerings on a variety of subjects. Intermediate Casting and Basic Entomology have been suggested. **Please vote** on any item by sending me an email with your suggested subject (s). This will give me an indication of interest and participation. By the way, if you have not checked it out as yet, go to www.youtube.com for helpful fly tying demonstrations.

OFFE Education April Fly Selection: Red or Black Rib Chromie

Tier: Stephen Jackson, Ted’s Sports Center

Materials:

Hook: #15 Alec Jackson’s Covert Nymph

Hook Alt: #15 Alec Jackson’s Chironomid Trout Fly

Thread: Fine/clear Uni-mono thread

Head: 3/32 “Black Tungsten Bead,
Peacock herl,

Gill: White Poly Yarn

Body: Uni-mono thread

Rib: Red or Black Wire

Tying Steps

1. Slide bead on hook. Secure hook in vise and slide bead back toward hook.
2. Tie in small tuft of white Poly (Gill) just past the eye of hook. Tie off. Secure with dab of super glue.
3. While glue is still wet, slide bead forward up to poly yarn. (Note: Fly can also be tied with white bead and no Poly gill).
4. Tie in a piece of fine red (or black) wire at the hook bend with mono thread.
5. Form a skinny tapered body with wraps up to bead.
6. Wrap wire rib forward to suggest body segments and tie off.
7. Tie in a couple wraps of peacock herl behind the bead. Tie off.
8. Whip finish.

Another Nice Chromie



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:

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Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds

P.O. Box 148

Edmonds, WA 98020

www.olympicflyfish.com

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GENERAL MEETING: Wednesday April 11, 2012

Invited Guest Speaker: Jacques White, Executive Director for Long Live the Kings

Presentation title: The Hood Canal Steelhead Project: are hatcheries a legitimate tool to support recovery?”

Jacques White grew up in Olympia, Washington near Puget Sound and has conducted marine research in the deep sea and along three major U.S. coastlines. Jacques started the Habitat Restoration Program at People For Puget Sound in 1995 and The Nature Conservancy of Washington’s Marine Conservation Program in 2003, and have overseen design and management for over 30 restoration and monitoring projects. In both positions he provided support and guidance for the US Army Corps’ Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project and Governor Christine Gregoire’s Puget Sound Partnership. Jacques has worked for 17 years on critical conservation issues in the Pacific Northwest and is focused on being a catalyst for improved salmon management, serving as Executive Director of Long Live the Kings and providing support and guidance for the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council. Mission statement for LLTK: Long Live the Kings (LLTK) is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to restoring wild salmon and steelhead to the waters of the Pacific Northwest.

Note: LLTK is one of the organizations supported by the OFF Conservation Program donations.