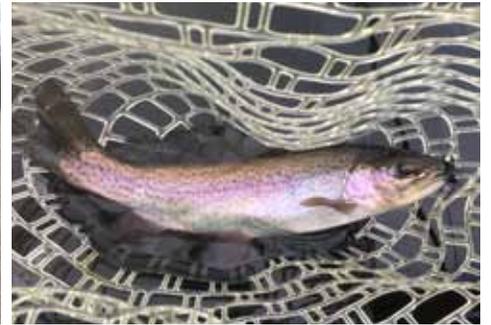




FEB.

# TIGHTLINES

2017



## Club Musings

Happy New Year! I hope that the new year brings you many fish to the net, and many more memories to talk about in future club gatherings.

We have some exciting things planned for 2017. Many great outings are scheduled, and will be announced in this newsletter as we move along. Hopefully, I will be able to include some brief write-ups about each outing, to help members know what to expect and what to bring. There is a new, club-sponsored "beginner's fly tying class" being offered at the Frances Anderson Center in Edmonds. Plans are in the works to start an "intermediate" tying class/bull session soon. Our monthly meetings at the Edmonds Senior Center are growing, and the schedule offers great speakers (and delicious food) in the coming months. The Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds Foundation is also growing, and is contributing to the conservation of our resources and to the education of fishermen in the area.

I would like to take a moment to thank our outgoing Club President, John Wendt. John has put an unbelievable amount of time into the club, and is deserving of all our thanks. Not only in coordinating the monthly meetings, setting up the speakers and caterers, the club's fly tying class, and planning the Christmas party; John has gone beyond that. He also has provided much needed mentorship and instruction to new members, myself included. Thank you, Doc!

Don't plan on going away soon, I am going to keep pestering you for more and more of your wisdom.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new incoming President, Jeff Bandy. And a big thank you to all the club's board members, for donating your time and efforts to making our club a success.

Finally, as I am also serving as the Communications Director, I would like to ask your help in writing the "Tightlines". I would appreciate any ideas or suggestions anyone has, to make this newsletter better. Are there any areas that you would like to see added? Also, the newsletter is a place for your fishing reports and photos. If I don't get them, you won't see them! Please forward them to me for inclusion. Let me know at the next meeting, or feel free to drop me an email at [randallewhite@gmail.com](mailto:randallewhite@gmail.com).

*Randy White, Vice President / Communications Director*

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## Awards – Fisher of the Year

At the January club meeting, members voted and selected Norm Primc as the club's "Fisher of the Year".

Norm has been a member of the OFF since 1994. He saw an advertisement for the club in the "Little Nickel" newspaper, had been wanting to learn how to fly fish and decided this might be the way. His first meeting was an auction, where members were cleaning the junk out of their garage.

Norm started fly fishing with Ken Martin, and enjoyed it so much that he sold all of his other fishing gear. He has been going on the club's



Douglas Ranch outing since 1990. Norm has fished in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and Canada.

Norm has held several positions in the club.

He served as the club's Vice President for several years, as well as Treasurer for seven years. Norm ran the club's auction for six years, and did the raffle procurement for ten years, up to 2016.

Please congratulate Norm the next time you see him.

## Conservation Report

Due to the fish kill in Lone Lake last fall, we are working with the Evergreen, Whidbey, and Fidalgo Fly Fishing clubs to rehabilitate the lake and restock it with some catchable trout. Jake Jacobsen of the Evergreen Club has been leading the way on this project. He has met with the home owners association President to discuss a lake recovery plan, has contacted the conservation district to discuss lake outlet design improvements, contacted Huxley College Lowland Lakes Management program professor to assist with a recovery plan, and reached out to the Island County Commissioner to discuss a long term monitoring plan. In addition, the local archery club has been contacted to assist with carp

removal, and contacted the WDFW to restock the lake. The WDFW will restock the lake in the spring with 3000 "catchable" rainbow trout.

We have discussed adding some more "interesting" fish to make the lake more fun as soon as possible, and have worked with J & D Fisheries to get about 350 about 13" long, plus a surprise lunker or two for good measure. The permit has already been issued and the cost per club will be about \$350 or so. The fish will be delivered by late February, so grease your lines and sharpen your hooks, these fish will be about 15" by mid-June.

– by Bill MacDonald

## Christmas Party Review

The Club Christmas Party and Auction was held on December 14th, and was well attended. Celebrations catered the event, and put on quite the feast. The Club Auction was successful, with the proceeds going to the Foundation. Bidding was fast and furious, with Keith Stamm's beautiful handmade fly box and personally tied flies being the hit of the auction. Thanks, Keith, and to all who donated items for the auction.

A huge thank you to our outgoing Club President, John Wendt, for all his hard work in organizing the party. And to Jim Traner, for all his hard work in collecting the proceeds. They really went above and beyond!

It's not too early to start planning for the next Christmas party. Are there any suggestions for what, if anything, we might do differently? We are in strong need of volunteers to help plan the party. Please let a board member know if you are willing to help!

# Meeting Schedule – Dates and Scheduled Speakers

## February Meeting

The next general meeting of the club will be on Wednesday, February 8, at 6 pm. It will be at the Edmonds Senior Center. Dinner will be served by the Celtic Cowboy. The cost of the dinner is \$20, and you can also purchase raffle tickets for \$5. As a reminder, the \$35 membership dues were due in January



**Guest speaker:** Chad Gillespie, owner of the Fjord Fly Fishing Guide Service, of Poulsbo, Washington. Fjord Fly Fishing specializes in guided salt water fly fishing trips for Sea-Run Cutthroat trout in the waters of Hood Canal and Puget Sound. The name "Fjord Fly Fishing" was chosen since Hood Canal is truly a fjord, similar to many of the Norwegian fjords in Norway.

Chad started pursuing Sea-Run Cutthroat as a youth with his dad on the Kitsap Peninsula. Fly fishing the beaches of Sinclair and Dyes Inlet. Chad specialized in tying saltwater Coho salmon and Sea-Run Cutthroat patterns for the Northwest Angler Fly Shop in Poulsbo.

He attended Central Washington University located in Ellensburg, Washington. It didn't take long before he owned his first drift boat and was guiding on the Yakima River for The Evening Hatch Guide Service. Eventually, he gave up guiding the Yakima to pursue a much closer species – Sea-Run Cutthroat.

Chad's website can be found at:  
[www.fjordflyfishing.com](http://www.fjordflyfishing.com).

## March Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, at 6 pm. Guest speaker will be Greg Bennett, President of the Okanogan Fly Club, and Ryan Fortier, Fisheries Biologist for the Okanogan/Methow area. They will be talking about fishing the Okanogan area. This will be especially beneficial, as the May club outing is to this area.



**Speaker:** Greg Bennett: Fly Tyer and Former Guide.

Greg started Putmbac Guide Service, a fly fishing only service in for winter steelhead on the OP and the upper Puget Sound's Rivers, Skykomish, Stillaguamish, Skagit and Sauk in 1995.

He found out about Omak Lake and the monster Lahontan cutthroat's and decided to make the move away from the dwindling salmon stocks. In 2006 he moved to Omak and became a member of the Okanogan County Fly Fishing Club, and was voted it's President in 2014.

**Speaker:** Ryan Fortier is the District 6 (Methow-Okanogan) Fisheries Biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## April Meeting

The April meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12th. Michael T. Williams, a recognized fly tier and photographer will speak about Washington Wilderness Fly Fishing.

# OFF Outing Schedule

Month	Location	Date
February	Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show, WA	February 18 & 19
March	Lake Lenice/Rocky Ford, WA	March 25 & 26
April	Hole in the Wall/Issacs Ranch, WA	April 9
May	Omak Lake and various Okanogan lakes, WA	May 4 thru the 8th
June	Douglas Lake, British Columbia	June 12 thru the 15th
July	Clark Fork River, St. Regis, Mt	July 20 thru the 23rd
August	New member picnic, location TBD	August 26

## Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show Outing Information

Our February club outing is at the Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show, Saturday, February 18th, and Sunday, February 19th. Saturday's hours are 9:00 to 5:30, Sunday's are 9:00 to 4:30.

Members should arrange to meet there. The address is the Lynnwood Convention Center, 3711 196th Street SW Lynnwood, WA. The website is:

<http://flyfishingshow.com/lynnwood-wa/>

A one day pass is \$15, the two-day pass is \$25. Members should buy tickets online, or remember that tickets can be bought the day of the show with cash only.

The show offers seminars, classes, fly tying expositions, and loads of vendors to sell you things you haven't even imagined yet!



## Lake Lenice/Rocky Ford Outing Information

Our March outing will be to the Lake Lenice and Rocky Ford Creek area, near Ephrata, Washington. The outing will take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Club members should meet at the north parking lot of Rocky Ford at 9 am on March 25<sup>th</sup>. (WDFW Map [http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/water\\_access](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/water_access)).

Contact person for this trip will be Rolf Mogster, phone number: 206-546-2677.

### THERE ARE SEVERAL HOTELS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING:

*Notaras Lodge, Soap Lake*  
509-246-0462 [notaraslodge.com](http://notaraslodge.com)

*Masters Inn, Soap Lake*  
509-246-1831 [mastersinnsoaplake.com](http://mastersinnsoaplake.com)

*Best Western (Rama Inn), Ephrata*  
509-754-7111

For tips on fishing and the hot flies, the Desert Fly Angler, in Ephrata is available. Their phone number is 509-754-4070. The website is: <http://www.desertflyangler.com>.

The following information regarding the area's fishing has been compiled from several sources. I have also included an article written by club member Keith Stamm for the March 2012 Tightlines. It's about Lake Lenice.



## Rocky Ford Creek

**R**ocky Ford Creek is one of the Pacific Northwest's premier spring creeks. Located near Ephrata, in Central Washington's Columbia Basin, Rocky Ford offers Washington's best stream fishing for large Rainbows. Since Rocky Ford is a spring creek, trout food is abundant, water temperatures remain pretty constant year around and trout remain active 365 days a year. Rocky Ford is Fly Fishing only, catch and release, no wading, no floating devices, barbless and no lead.

Source: *YakimaRiverAngler.com*.  
<http://yakimariverangler.com/>

**T**here is really never a bad time to fish Rocky Ford, however weekends during peak periods, especially the warming spring months, can get busy with fly fishermen. There is however plenty of room to fish. The creek offers over 3 miles of accessible fly-fishing water with bridges on both sides of the creek for easy access from one side to another.

February and the first portions of March will begin producing consistent daily hatches of Blue Wing Olives. By April, Callibaetis and spring Caddis will enter the show and fish will have a variety of aquatics to feed on.

Throughout the late spring and summer months of the season, fish forage on a host of terrestrial insects as well. Ants, Beetles and Grasshoppers flourish under the desert sunshine and will present the rainbows of Rocky Ford Creek with a summer time feast during the long dog days of summer. This is especially true when strong desert winds blow across the Columbia Basin. These tiny creatures are hurled into the water and become a favorite forage for fish this time of year. Large Grasshopper patterns twitched and skated along the banks; cattails and weed beds will also prove productive.

This small spring creek is a virtual mayfly factory during the year. The waters of Rocky Ford churn hatches of Blue Wing Olives, Callibaetis, Pale Morning Duns as well as Trico Mayflies throughout the season. Midges are a constant three hundred sixty five days a year. Specific times during the season, when mayfly hatches are scarce, these small Chironomids attract the attentions of Rocky Ford Rainbows as they fin freely, harvesting these minuscule insects from the surface.

Life below the water surface at Rocky Ford is abundant as well. Scuds by the thousands inhabit the muddy bottom and thick plumage of weed growth that blooms throughout the creek. Trout root along the stream bottom, its deeper shelves and of course the weed line, gorging on these fresh water shrimp. Leeches, as you can imagine, are also consistent forage for rainbows. These two constant food sources aid in growing fish to proportionate sizes very quickly.

Source: *Worley-Bugger Fly Co. website*  
<http://www.worleybuggerflyco.com/>

## Lake Lenice

Central Washington's Lenice Lake is a stocked, state-managed fishery with prolific spring and early summer chironomid, Callibaetis, and damselfly hatches. Lenice is home to a healthy population of triploid rainbows, hatchery-bred fish developed with an extra chromosome set that renders them sterile. Because they don't expend energy by breeding, they eat and grow quickly. In Lenice, many of these fish stretch from 16 to 20+ inches.

**Y**ou'll need to be quite intrepid to tackle Lenice Lake in March. There's the wind off the mountain, the cold, and the hike to the lake dragging something to fish out of. So first things first, bring plenty of warm clothes and your lightest pontoon boat. After that you can think about fishing tackle: fly rod, lines, leaders and flies. The wind and the cold can be a game breaker. Small pontoon boats and belly boats are easy to transport to the lake, but you could have a hard time staying warm if half your body is in that cold water. The solution might be extra heavy socks, and doubling up on the long underwear.

When it comes to tackle there are lots of options. Some anglers will think in terms of a 5-weight rod with a sink tip or intermediate sinker to troll woolly buggers and small leech patterns. Then there are guys like Dave Claude who has fished the lake a lot with a 2-weight and a dry line and a fly called the "Crackleback" that most of us have never heard of. You might think a 2-weight is too light for Lenice, but according to Dave he's never had to overplay a fish using the 2-weight and 4x leader. The important

thing to Dave is to "Fish on my own terms," which is good advice for everyone. Fish the way that you like to fish, and be prepared to experiment.

Dave can usually get plenty of fish using only two patterns, the venerable Crackleback and Nyerger nymph. But if those aren't working he's always prepared to switch to Chironomids. Jim Hagy has had success with a variety of patterns, although he is very partial to a small #14 damsel pattern called the "Wilcox Rapunzel." You can get it at the Pacific Fly Fishers (Mill Creek shop), but Jim has begun to tie his own version, which works about as well. Jim says he has seldom if ever had to tie on a Chironomid. Like Dave, he fishes on his own terms. If the damsel isn't working he'll tie on an olive Willy, or one of Tony Koenig's inventions, a black woolly bugger with red crystal flash in the tail. He says that last year some guys were even taking fish with a white bunny leech. There are a couple things to bear in mind if you're going to fish patterns like the damsel or woolly bugger. First, the water is very cold so you'll generally do much better if you move the fly very slowly. At times it can even be more effective to fish flies like damsels and leeches under an indicator rather than trolling or retrieving. Second, the depth of the lake varies considerably. Most of the lake is 8-10 feet deep, but there are also drop-offs to 15 and 20 feet, and a deep 25-30-foot hole in the middle.

Sometimes you might find the fish in that deeper water. That deep hole is a great spot to fish with a #14 Nyerger or hare's ear, according to Brita Fordice at Avid Angler. She also loves to fish a #16 pheasant tail(PT) at Lenice. In fact if you like to fish woolly buggers, you'll get more hookups if you add a PT about 18 inches behind the bugger. Rolf Mogster has





PHOTO: Scott Butner

fished the lake a lot and is very partial to an olive woolly bugger with a red bead fished real slow, but he's always prepared to switch to a Chironomid, especially if he starts to see fish coming up around the edges. Last year he had the most success going all the way down to a #20 Chironomid (black with a silver rib) fished 4-6 feet down under an indicator. Rolf also doesn't hesitate to go down to 5x or even 6x tippet with these smaller bugs. According to John Paine at Avid Angler it's not usually necessary to go that small. He seldom goes smaller than size 16. Brita says the Chironomids in the early season are often good-sized. She usually starts out with a two-fly setup, the bottom fly a size 12 bloodworm pattern such as a Jim Beam, ice cream cone, or San Juan worm, the top fly a size 16 black Chironomid with silver ribbing.

To sum up, Lenice gives you a lot of options in March due to the diversity of the bug life, which includes damselfly nymphs, dragons, leeches, mayflies and Chironomids. Productive patterns include woolly buggers, mini-leeches, small (#14) damselfly nymphs, pheasant tails and hare's ears (#14), and Chironomids from size 12 on down in black, olive and red. Because most of the lake is shallow most anglers use a dry line, but a sink tip or intermediate can be useful in the deeper spots.

*Source: Tightlines, March 2012  
March Outing by Keith Stamm*

**F**or fishing purposes, Lenice's 100 surface acres are best accessed from chief walk-in entry points (a ½-mile hike) near the parking area at the lake's south end. A locked gate crosses the dirt road leading to the shore, and there are paths branching to the left and right.

The main access area provides good nearshore fishing in water from 5 to 8 feet deep, as well as drop-off areas that descend quickly to about 20 feet. The lake's cliffs plunge into cattails; perfect for prospecting with Woolly Buggers, leeches, scuds, and damselfly nymphs. Where there's less vegetation and a mud bottom, savvy anglers fish chironomid patterns, unless something else is hatching.

The middle part of the lake is the deepest area, at 25 to 30 feet. Here anglers catch fish by trolling Woolly Buggers, Zonkers, or Carey Specials with fast, full-sinking lines such as a RIO Deep 6 (6-7 inches per second). The east end of the lake is an inlet area, shallower than 5 feet in most spots, but with a steep drop-off. This is often an excellent area to walk the banks and sight-fish.

Much of Lenice's north side is dotted with small, rocky islands, bays, and channels. Depths average about 10 feet.

When this area gets crowded, head for the lake's west end, which has a mix of characteristics such as channels between islands, a sloping ledge and, due to the outflow to Merry Lake, a slight current. The narrows help concentrate feeding fish, and seem to attract bigger trout. Some resident 5-pounders

call this area home, and you'll find plenty of 2- to 3-pound rainbows during chironomid season.

Early springtime can be cold fishing from a pontoon boat, and worse in a float tube, but trout feed actively on chironomids through the end of April. Use size 16 to 22 pupa and larva imitations such as Chromies, Red and Blacks, Frostbites, Zebra Midges, WD-40s, Disco Midges, Bloodworms, Ice Cream Cones, and Brassies.

Scuds are available to Lenice trout from opening day through much of September. I find scud patterns most effective starting in May, tapering off through the height of summer, with action increasing again from mid-September through October. For best results, fish these diminutive (#14-16) crustacean imitations on intermediate sinking lines with slow, steady retrieves close to underwater vegetation. You'll also do well targeting the islands and stalking cruising trout with a floating line, long leader, light tippet, and beadhead scud patterns.

Leeches are another noteworthy year-rounder on Lenice (#6-10, black, olive, brown, and variegated) that fish particularly well just after ice-off. Fish them on sinking lines with slow and deep retrieves. They are also effective fished chironomid-style, weighted and suspended under a strike indicator. Make your cast, let the fly reach the desired depth, and use a hand-twist retrieve to crawl your fly through the strike zone. Marabou, mohair, rabbit-strip, or goat-hair DC Leech patterns are all good choices.

Use black, olive, and brown Woolly Buggers, Zonkers, Muddler Minnows, and Carey Specials (#6-10) for probing the depths when there is no obvious hatch. They are also the best way to entice one of the lake's notoriously hard to catch big browns, which can tip the scales at better than 5 pounds.

In addition to season specifics, time of day is also important at Lenice. If there's no hatch, early morning and late afternoon are the best times to fish. Although chironomids often hatch throughout the day, the midmorning to early afternoon bite is best. The same goes for Callibaetis. Even then, Lenice trout have their own schedules. I've known a leech to start working at 2 P.M. and quit an hour later, and there are no leech "hatches."

Many anglers carry two rods on Lenice—one with a sinking line, the other with a floater. Use a 9- to 10-foot, 5- or 6-weight rod with a clear intermediate

line for fishing scuds and damsels in the shallows, or with a full-sinking line—4 to 9 inches per second—for working leech patterns and Woolly Buggers in deeper (20 to 30 feet) water. Use a 7-foot or shorter fluorocarbon leader, and tippets in the 3X to 0X range for fishing sinking lines. A heavier tippet also allows you to free your flies from snags in the reeds and shoreline structure with a solid tug.

Rig an additional 5- or 6-weight rod with a floating line and a strike indicator setup for fishing chironomid patterns and nymphs, and for fishing dries when the occasion arises. Going lighter than a 5-weight makes it hard to turn some Lenice Lake fish. A fast-action rod helps you combat the wind, which can be a factor here. (The Saddle Mountains ridge to the east is a favorite with hang gliders.) If you can bring only one rod and one line, you're best off fishing the 5-weight setup, and you can always carry a sinking line on a spare spool if two rods is too cumbersome.

Fish two or three flies spaced from 6 to 12 inches apart, and vary the sizes and colors of the flies. The bottom fly should hang 6 to 12 inches above the lake bottom, with the whole assembly supported by the strike indicator. I've also had success fishing the middle fly nearest to the bottom, leaving the final dropper (unweighted) to drift freely above it.

You can fish chironomid patterns the same way, in a string of up to three flies—state maximum—with a sinking line. Depending on what line you're fishing, vary the countdown until you reach the bottom, then begin a slow retrieve.

As a general rule, use a dry line when you see cruising fish or suspect they're present, or if the area is weedy. Use an intermediate line when you can't see fish, or for trolling back and forth while moving to a new location. When trolling, drag 60 to 90 feet of line behind you to maximize your chance of a strike.

It's a good idea to have a net to release fish. Regulations require a knotless mesh bag. Rubber mesh nets are easiest on the fish. The desert can be scorching hot, so don't forget drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, and polarized sunglasses.

*Source: Fly Fisherman magazine, July 2015*  
— Mark Halperin, author