



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS
May 9th, 2017
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

MAY PROGRAM John McMillan—Trout Unlimited

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Jim Gaddy

Please be alerted to the executive decision (a familiar action these days) I made concerning the May meeting. John McMillan, from *Trout Unlimited* on the Westside will be our speaker, but I've taken executive liberties for other meeting arrangements as well.

John's passion and scientific background concerns eliminating hatchery steelhead from Washington rivers in order to enhance wild steelhead. His model is based on the successful Montana experience, where there has been no stocking program since the 1970's (apples to oranges?). Several of our Club members heard him speak on this topic last year and reported that John was interesting and informed—said he was fantastic! John really would like to get his word out and hence the opportunity for us to hear him speak on the topic.

After discussing our speaker with Club members Randy Shaber, Gordie Olson, and Scott Mayfield, we unanimously agreed this information would be valuable for all our fellow fishermen. Therefore, I made the executive decision to invite both the Spokane Fly Fishers and the Spokane chapter of TU to join us on the 9th. They are welcome to attend the entire meeting and dinner, or just the program. (They have been informed of the dinner cost.) So far, we've had no takers, but we will be using the big room in order to accommodate any extras.

Having other groups join us in listening to John McMillan speak is an opportunity for the Club to be more active and to lead the charge in promoting and supporting local interest in fisheries, as we should! The event will add no additional expense to the Club, and it is an opportunity to avoid any appearance of the "Secret Handshake Society." Besides, hobnobbing with other likeminded folks broadens this important discussion and gets our name out there.

In addition, we will have flyrod demos out on the lawn during *Wet Fly*, so grab a cocktail and come outside. We are also hoping to round up some new microspiny trout rods for those who are curious and want to give this new method a try before dinner and the meeting.

We are looking forward to a very informative presentation this month from Trout Unlimited's John McMillan. We hope to learn a lot about steelhead and what we should be doing to protect them.

John is the Science Director for Trout Unlimited's Wild Steelhead Initiative. He has worked as a biologist and research fishery scientist for the past 19 years, studying steelhead populations from the John Day River in the interior



Columbia River basin to the Hoh River of the Olympic Peninsula rainforest. He has worked for the U.S. Forest Service, Hoh Indian Tribe, Wild Salmon Center, and with NOAA Fisheries on the Elwha River dam removal project. Much of his scientific study has focused on the biology, behavior and ecology of steelhead and rainbow trout, with a particular interest in the mechanisms influencing why individual fish adopt particular life history strategies (e.g. anadromy and residency).

President's message (continued)

Because of our speaker I would like to keep the business meeting abbreviated and start John's presentation around 7:30. This should help me keep my pledge to end by 9:00.

So, whether you're a steelheader or not, please join me and our fellow Club members in welcoming John McMillan and any guests from the other clubs for what should be a great evening. See you there!

Tight Lines, Jim

(Special thanks to Randy Shaber for his input.)

AL CUNNINGHAM

November 15, 1923—April 25, 2017

We lost a very special member this past week when Al Cunningham passed away. Al has been a member of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club since 1962 and he will be missed at club meetings, and at the Tuesday Liar's Club lunches, where he has been a steady participant for many years.

Al is a California transplant, having grown up in the Oakland area. He was an excellent student and was also considered "the best 127 pound pole vaulter around", leading his High School track team to the city championship in his senior year. Although there are few opportunities to fly fish in Oakland, Al had a friend whose dad took him up near Redding where he began a life long love affair with the sport of fly fishing.



Following high school Al attended City College of San Francisco and then the University of Pacific, where he received his doctorate in dentistry. Al practiced for a couple of years prior to entering the Air Force where he spent time in the Spokane area, as he was based at Fairchild. He returned to the East Oakland area following his discharge, but while in Spokane he had met Nel and he had also seen the great fly fishing opportunities the Spokane area offered, so it was no surprise to see Al and Nel marry and move to Spokane.

The demands of his dental practice took up much of his time, but he still found plenty of opportunities to fish in the area lakes and rivers. Time away from his practice was precious indeed, but Al found time to spend fly fishing with the likes of Fenton Roskelly, Mike Runje, Fred Shiosaki, George Potter, Gene Lorenson, Karl Paulson, Pete Pagnutti and many other club members. The places were many, including Belize, Christmas Island, and British Columbia lakes, but also included the area lakes such as Bayley, McDowell, Amber, Medical and many others.

Into his retirement Al's appetite for the sport had never dulled and a wider smile could not be found when Al had a trout on the end of his line. He was a regular attendee at Tuesday's Liar's Club lunches and was a wealth of information.

Al considered himself to be a simple man who derived joy from simple pleasures. Fly fishing was right at the top of the list, but he and Nel also enjoyed golf, which they played a lot when they spent winters in Pismo Beach.

Simple man? Maybe, but he lived a successful life at it's fullest. We will all miss this great man.

At press time arrangements were not as yet made for Al's funeral. We will update the club members when we have those details.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

DID YOU KNOW By Jerry McBride

IEFFC member John Ralston is the owner of 5 Shot Leather, LLC here in Spokane. He crafts and sells custom hand gun leather (holsters) to customers all over the world.

The nickname “5 Shot” was given to John by his friends. It refers to John’s preference for high caliber hand guns that have cylinders holding five cartridges rather than the traditional six. Later on, when he started his company it was an easy choice to name it 5 Shot Leather, LLC.

John grew up in Spokane and is a graduate of WSU in Mechanical Engineering. He made his first holster at age 16 at the urging of his dad, long time IEFFC member Dick Ralston. Dick had made a few holsters himself and had most of a cow hide left over that he gave to John. Making holsters became a hobby, later a part-time business and finally a full-time business for John.

Most of John’s customers are in law enforcement and the holsters they order are of the concealed-carry type. His biggest customer is the Maricopa County Sheriffs Drug Interdiction Task Force in Arizona of Sheriff Joe Arpaio fame. John has made holsters for Hank Williams Jr. and Tom Selleck. Probably his most fancy holster was for a Texas oilman that was made from blue ostrich leather.



John’s holsters have been featured in several handgun magazines and he has received quite a number of awards from the leather industry.

John got critical support from his wife Jonna and daughters Dani and Ruby to make his business a success. On his website John describes the support he got. “Making craftsman quality gunleather has been my passion for the past 10 years, and I could not have done it without the love and support of my wife and family. Having two jobs is not easy on anyone, and without my wife to pick up the slack, this venture would have surely failed. I have spent countless hours taking care of customer’s orders while she takes care of everything else!”

More information on John and his products is available on his website. www.5shotleather.com

KIDS FISHING By Floyd Holmes

The Kids Fishing Days will be at the Clear Lake’s Fairchild Air Force Base Recreational Area this year on **May 5th and 6th**.

The special **Ronald McDonald House** session of kids fishing will be on **Friday, May 5th from about 2:30 pm until 5:00 pm**. We will again be transporting the families to attend.

The **main Kids Fishing** will be on **Saturday May 6th from 8:00 am to about 4:00 pm**.

Volunteers for the Ronald McDonald House should show up at the RMH by **1:30 pm on Friday**. Volunteers for the Kids fishing on **Saturday** should show up by **7:30 am** and Randy Osborne will tell us what is to go on for the day.

The volunteers who show up on Saturday may come and leave at any time as we realize that not every one can spend a whole day. **We do appreciate everyone’s participation in this great event**

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

HARRY CALHOUN SERVICES

Friday May 5th

The family has arranged for Harry's memorial service for Friday, May 5th, at 11:15 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery. There will be a lunch immediately afterward at the Northern Quest Casino. Please share this with any of Harry's friends you know. If you plan to attend the lunch, Sara would like an estimate on how many so either let her know or let Jim Athearn know and he will pass it on. Harry was a dedicated member and will be sorely miss.

For his complete bio please refer to January's edition of *The Fly Leaf*.

MCDOWELL LAKE STATUS

By Jim Athearn

The staff at Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Colville, WA wants to make visitors aware of some changes to fishing opportunities at the refuge this spring. The replacement of the failed water control structures on McDowell Lake and Potter's Pond will cause some inconvenience for refuge anglers this spring and summer.

The water level in McDowell Lake is about 8 feet lower than normal. Fishing is allowed beginning the opening day of fishing season under normal regulations. However, access to the water is difficult due to the lowered lake level. Fishing is also restricted at the south end of the lake to minimize disturbance to an active bald eagle nest. Anglers are required to launch and fish north of the area closed signs. River Camp will be open, but sometime this summer the campground and access to McDowell Lake will be temporarily closed for visitor safety while the water control structure is being replaced.

Potter's Pond has been drained and the fish moved to Bayley Lake in preparation for water control structure replacement. Bayley Lake is full and open to fishing April 22. The south end of Bayley Lake is temporarily closed, as planned, to protect the active bald eagle nest. The campsites at Potter's Pond and Bayley Lake will be available for use. However, the access road and campsites will be closed sometime this summer for visitor safety while the Potter's Pond water control structure is being replaced. For more information and updates please call the Refuge office at 509 684 8384 or visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/little_pend_oreille/

For Additional Information Contact: Jerry Cline (509) 684 8384

Past President Painting Awarded



In appreciation of his hard work, Skip Cavanaugh was awarded a beautiful painting done by Stan Miller. Skip did a wonderful job throughout his ascent through the "chairs" and the club is very appreciative of his dedication.

We wish Skip the best in the future and know he will enjoy Stan's amazing artwork.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Glass House Caddis

May 2017

Scot Sanchez

Here is a pattern from Scot Sanchez, an innovative fly fisher from Livingston, Montana. This fly was featured in *The Fly Leaf* back in 2004. Scot designed this fly to imitate the cased caddis that are so abundant in streams everywhere. They are available to the fish 12 months of the year, which makes this design effective almost any time. The black metal bead represents the head of the caddis and the glass bead part of the body showing from the case. The hackle is tied between the beads which is the correct location of the legs it represents. Give this one a try.

Artwork was done by Gene Lorenson.

Hook: 10 to 16.

Thread: Fine Black.

Beads: Black metal and clear or light green glass.

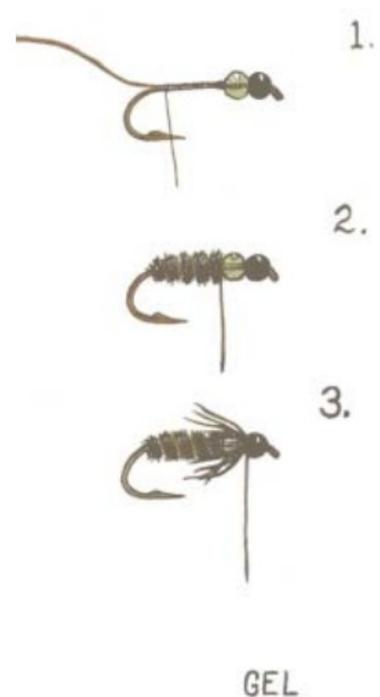
Rib: Copper or brass wire.

Body: Your favorite dubbing in colors to match caddis cases
Dark browns and olives are good.

Hackle: Soft brown or black hen or equivalent



1. Slide the black bead and then the glass bead on the hook up to the eye. Line the exposed hook shank with tying thread and attach the wire rib.
2. Apply the dubbing material to the thread and wind a plump body up to the glass bead. Counterwind the wire rib and secure body and rib with some half hitches. Trim the tying thread.
3. Separate the beads a bit by inserting your thumb nail or other thin object between them. Reattach the thread between the beads and tie in the hackle. Make three turns of the hackle, secure, and trim the excess. Pull the hackle fibers to the rear and tie in place. Whip finish and trim the thread. Cement very sparsely.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

IFFF Report By Chet Allison



NAME CHANGE FOR IFFF

For most of us, fly fishing is more than just a sport. It's been central to our lives in many ways, providing a much-needed break from the daily grind, and giving us time on the water we'll never forget, as well as friendships that will last a lifetime. That's why I'm especially excited to announce that our organization is undergoing a significant evolution that I believe will better reflect the importance fly fishing plays in all our lives. The new name of our organization is Fly Fishers International (FFI), and with it comes a reinvigorated approach to our programs, mission, and purpose.

Read the full article on the FFI website. <http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>

The 2017 Washington Fly Fishing Fair is Less Than Two Weeks Away!

Please Join Us at This Premier Fly Fishing Event on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th in Ellensburg, WA

2017 Washington Fly Fishing Fair

Dates/Times: Friday, May 5, 2017, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday, May 6, 2017, 8:00 - 5:00 PM

The Washington Fly Fishing Fair is presented by the Washington Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCIFFF).

To Join FFF simply go to the website listed:

<http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>

Click Membership, Click join then the blue round button.

Join the FFI today



Fly Fishers International

Conserve, Restore and Educate Through Fly Fishing

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club

FFI Charter Member and McKenzie Plaque Winner

The WSCIFFF through your support can continue our mission to *conserve* and *restore* our resources, and *educate* fly fishers in our sport and grow advocacy for fish and fisheries.

Submissions for publication in the Fly Leaf can be made by contacting Lee Funkhouser at flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following months newsletter.