



**GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS
February 14, 2005
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jerry Cartwright

I met Tom Chapman in 1979 in a law school class called "Workman's Compensation." Tom was the teacher and I was one of the students. I took an instant liking to Tom. His straight forward, witty, sometimes brusque style of imparting his vast knowledge of the law pertinent to workers injured on the job was right up my alley. I was delighted when, about fifteen years later, Tom joined the law firm where I was a partner, having retired from his long held position as Worker's Compensation guru with the Washington Attorney General's Office. I got to know Tom a lot better, and the better I got to know him the better I liked him.

Tom is a brilliant guy and his reputation as an outstanding lawyer is well known. Tom was also the oldest guy at the firm and I think most of the young lawyers (about a dozen of them) thought that he wouldn't make much of a showing at the annual firm retreat that first year Tom came along. You see, the firm retreat, usually held in the fall at a resort in Canada or Montana, had evolved into a three day party where all competed to see who could drink the most (stay on their feet the longest) and win the most at the all night poker games held on Friday and Saturday. Well, suffice it to say, Tom was the last guy to hit the rack each night. He drank the hard stuff shot for shot with the kids and he was still rarin' to go long after most had found their beds. Most importantly, so persuasive and clever was Tom that on Saturday night he convinced these dyed in the wool poker players to forsake the annual money changing ritual for a game of winner take all Charades! Guess who won. . .

When Tom retired for good a few years later, I enviously

JANUARY PROGRAM

By Leonard Gross

The speaker at February's meeting will be A.K. Best. He is recognized nationwide as one of America's leading fly tiers. He is the author of several books on the art of fly tying. He has recently released his newest book, *Fly Fishing With A.K.*, a book that covers his on-stream tactics. A.K. presents a wonderfully entertaining and informative program that I believe the membership will enjoy.

asked him what he really wanted to do in retirement. His immediate answer: "Really learn how to play the piano, fish a lot, and write." Well, as most of you know, Tom and Joann now spend a great deal of time in Arizona. Tom returns to Spokane in the summer and fall to fish. Don't know how much fishing he's done in Arizona and I don't think he's really gotten back to the piano (actually, he's already a pretty good rag time player). He's taken up shuffleboard with a passion. He's a champion, or so I understand, having lost only one match. I hear he has taken the class necessary to become a shuffleboard official. So, when I called him a few months back to inquire about whether he'd been able to do any writing, I wasn't sure what to expect, but wasn't surprised to hear that he hadn't really written much but still aspired to do so.

This worked like a charm for me (and you) because my hope was that I could entice Tom to write the club's history in conjunction with our 50th anniversary this year. To my delight, Tom said he was definitely interested. Tom put his head together with Leon Buckles, our historian who is working tirelessly on the anniversary celebration, and the next thing we knew, Tom had completed chapter one. Now, *Rise Forms From The Past: The First Fifty Years of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club*, is almost complete. The wit, grit and intelligence that have set Tom apart as a lawyer, fisherman, shuffleboard player now make this book something we will all treasure and enjoy. We hope to present each member who attends the 50th Celebration with a copy.

Other plans for the 50th Celebration, May 20, 2006 at the Red Lion Inn at the Park are proceeding. We will need a tentative head count by the end of February and I cannot urge you all strongly enough to make plans to attend. You may bring your spouse or other guest and are strongly encouraged to do so. Cost for a wonderful dinner will be around \$65 per couple, but we are still

considering to what extent, if any, the club treasury might be tapped to subsidize the member's cost to attend this significant event.

Many of your friends (led by the tireless Leon Buckles) are working very hard to make this an event well worth your time and money. So, please, when the sign up sheets come around, say "YES" and make your plans to attend.

2005 FLY FISHERMAN OF THE YEAR

By Jim Turner

Dwight Tipton
presenting the
Fly Fisherman
of the Year
trophy to Bill
McElroy



As we celebrate the fiftieth year of the IEFFC we also recognize our Fly Fisherman of the Year, Bill McElroy.

Bill hails from Pennsylvania. As a small boy he has memories of his dad fly fishing the local waters. Being from a military family, though, meant relocating when and where ordered. As an eight year old, he found himself in Georgia where he acquired his first fishing gear; a cane "pole" with no reel. This is when he mastered the "dip and swing" method. Often he would fish alongside other locals for catfish and give his catch to others. On one occasion the local fishermen decided to give Bill the day's catch to take home. He tells me, "I'm not sure what happened to the catfish, but I think my mother threw them in the garbage."

Towards the end of his father's career the family was stationed in Othello. It was at this duty station where the elder McElroy was assigned to temporary duty at a Yaak, Montana radar installation. Now in high school, Bill grabbed up his first fly rod and spent many a day on the Yaak and Moyie rivers.

Mr. McElroy retired to Spokane in '62 where Bill graduated in '64. He then went on to WSU receiving his degree in mechanical engineering in '69. During these education years and the subsequent early years of his business, opportunities to fish were hard to come by. In the early eighties he competed in triathlons. But, the later eighties found him on the St. Joe with some regularity which, "brought me back to my roots." In the early nineties he met such notables as Fenton Roskelley, Mark Pinch and Jerry McBride. In '95 Bill was sponsored in to the IEFFC by Fenton and Mark. Immediately thereafter, Bill became involved in any club project starting with the three Spokane River fish plants. In '98 he accepted an invitation to go through the chairs and served the club's interests with distinction. Since completing his own tour of duty culminating as president he has, for the past four years, coordinated the annual Morningstar Boys Ranch fish-out.

Thank you for your efforts, Bill. Tight lines.

BACKCAST

By Leon Buckles

Your historical anniversary committee has been working feverishly on the details for the upcoming IEFFC 50th Anniversary Meeting. The following has been firmed up, so mark the calendar and put a little in the piggy bank to buy your tickets. Keep in mind that the function is for members and their wives or significant others.

Place: Red Lion Hotel at the Park
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2006. Leader soaking social hour begins at 5:30 P.M.
Dinner: Prime rib or with advance notice, a vegetarian dish will be served for those who do not eat meat.
Tickets: \$35 per person, a subsidized rate.
Entertainment: Tim Behrens, internationally known humorist, will perform a monologue of outdoor comedy written by Pat McManus.

Dick Odell is putting together a display of fishing memorabilia covering the last fifty years, club awards, etc. Two bars will be available for the leader soaking hour. Tim Behrens will provide plenty of laughs and no one will be poached. The Tim Behrens monologue currently costs \$19 a pop if you see it at Center Stage. More information will be forthcoming as the details firm up. George is putting together a meeting that you will not want to miss.

Here is Tom Chapman's report from the Arizona Satellite Office: (1) The text of the book is completed. (2) Placement of photos and line drawings is on schedule. (3) Sincere thanks to all who contributed stories. About 79 current members are mentioned in the book, which is about 58% of the membership. (4) I am inputting edits as they arrive from Spokane. (5) We have settled on a title. (6) Copyright issues have been addressed. (7) I hope the members enjoy the book as much as I enjoyed writing it. (8) I look forward to a great evening on May 20!

NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL

By Bob Bates

All anglers and yes that includes IEFFC members need to be more aware and careful about this exotic intruder. It was first identified in the Idaho's Snake River country in 1987. By 1997 it had spread through all major waters in Yellowstone National Park. If you want to see how much it has spread, the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers website has links to maps showing the infestations.

<http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/nzms-add.htm> Scroll down page.

Click on the red parts of the maps to find out what streams and lakes are infected. Further clicking will lead you to more details about where on the stream NZMS were found, date, who took the sample and infestation severity.

NZMS have spread to many states, and are in waters that many of us fish: Snake R. near Lewiston upstream into Hells Canyon, WA; Salmon R., ID; Deschutes R., OR; Columbia R. near Portland; Madison R., Firehole R., Gibbon R., Missouri R. (Dearborne, Wolf Cr. Bridge, Holter Dam) and Yellowstone R., in MT and all over southern Idaho. They have not been reported in most of Washington, Northern Idaho or in the Clark Fork R., lets keep it that way.

When NZMS infest a stream they take food from native species, and they are worthless as trout food since they pass through the gut without damage. The worst part: Reports tell us that fish in infected streams are typically smaller than in similar streams without NZMS.



New Zealand Mud Snails on a penny.
Copyright Federation of Fly Fishers



The black spots on the wing are NZMS
Copyright Federation of Fly Fishers

They are so small you can hardly see them. However, with a little effort by anglers the NZMS spread can be stopped or at least slowed. The FFF issued an Angler Warning in 2002 and has recently put a "Recommendation to Anglers" on its website:

<http://fedflyfishers.org/conNZMS.php>

Earlier studies indicated that the snails could be killed by thoroughly cleaning waders and drying them for several days. Or they could be frozen for 3 to 6 hours or more. These new recommendations come from a California study that tested various methods of killing the snails on waders and wading boots. Several chemicals will do the job, but the following is probably the most convenient for anglers.

1. Thoroughly brush gear with a stiff bristled brush to remove all snails. Be sure to brush boot treads, laces and other hiding places.
2. Mix Formula 409 Cleaner Degreaser/Disinfectant and equal parts water in a gear dry sack or other large, sturdy plastic container.
3. Place wading boots or wading gear in the gear dry sack and shake vigorously for 5 minutes, allowing the solution to cover all surfaces.
4. Allow to soak in solution for **at least 5 minutes** and your gear should be NZMS free.



The pepper like black spots on these boot liners are NZMS
Copyright Federation of Fly Fishers

There are other reports and a PDF copy of the California study on the WSCFFF webpage.

STERILE TROUT AT THE SPOKANE HATCHERY

Written by Boyd Matson and translated by his dear secretary

Perhaps many of you are not aware of the sterile fish program that has developed in the Spokane Fish Hatchery over the past few years. It started after Mike Albert retired and Mike Lewis became the Region One hatchery Complex Manager. He quickly developed a strong interest in triploid trout that eventually evolved into a major component of the hatchery program.

He personally designed an egg heating system for shocking eggs that worked very well. The first year he and his crew treated about 20,000 eggs, and each year the number has increased. This winter about 1-1/2 million eggs were treated. The eggs are incubated in the Spokane Hatchery until they develop eye spots. They are then drop shocked and shipped to other hatcheries in Region One. Most of the resulting triploids are raised in net pens on Lake Roosevelt and released.

Some of the fish are planted in area lakes. Last year a group from the club spent part of a day at the Ford Hatchery clipping a pectoral fin on 7,500 of these sterile fish. They were later planted in Coffee Pot Lake. The 7,500 fish planted there in 2004 were also fin clipped so probably nearly all of the fish we catch in that lake this year will be triploids.

Incidentally, the hatchery has received a pressure chamber designed to shock the eggs instead of heat shocking. It will add to the effectiveness of producing triploid trout.

4H CLUB "SUPER SATURDAY" & IEFFC

By Boyd Matson

On Saturday, January 28, Wil Shaw, Frank Faha, Del Coppock, Pat Kendall and Boyd Matson along with Chris Donley braved a snowstorm to represent the club at a 4 H Club "Super Saturday" in Cheney High School. The morning was spent teaching and demonstrating the art and skills of fly tying and casting in which the students actively participated.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Spent Adult Damselfly

February, 2006

Leon Buckles

This month's pattern comes from Al and Gretchen Beatty's book, *Innovative Flies and Techniques*. Leon Buckles demonstrated it at a recent fly tying session. A good adult damselfly is a fly you don't use everyday, but you simply can't be without. I have had a number of very grim fishing days turned into delightful dry fly experiences by putting on a nice adult damselfly. This one looks very good. It is a bit tricky to tie but with a bit of practice it produces a realistic pattern that should work very well

Hook: Size 10 or 12 dry fly

Thread: Fine black or color to match fly

Extended body and tail: Elk or deer hair. Hair dyed to match insect color is good but natural is fine

Thorax: Foam strips, color to match bug

Wing: Deer or elk hair

Eyes: Black commercial eyes or melted mono ones (on smaller sizes I will often omit the eyes)



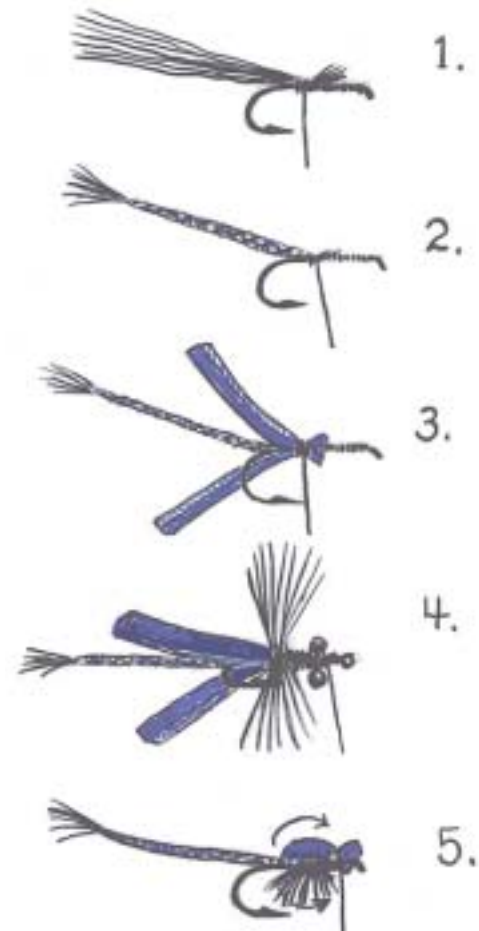
1 Pinch the barb and line the hook shank with tying thread to about halfway back. Tie in a sparse bunch of hair that extends behind the hook bend as long as the body of the damselfly.

2. This is the tricky part! Grip the far tips of the hair with hackle pliers and hold them up. Take the tying thread and spiral wrap up to the top of the hair and back down to the base. Keep the wraps snug enough to stay in place, but not so tight as to cut the hair. The tips that are in the hackle pliers form the tail. Wrap the base of the hair column so it extends as shown. Put a coat of cement on the extended body

3. Tie in two strips of closed-cell foam, one on top and one underneath of the hook shank the strips should be 1/3" to 3/16" wide.

4. Now tie in a couple of very sparse hair wings just in front of the foam strips. The wings should extend out from the fly as shown. Attach the eyes in front as shown.

5. Bring the bottom foam strip tightly forward and tie it off just behind the eye of the hook. Next bring the upper foam strip over the wing and eyes and secure it behind the eye of the hook. The wings can be adjusted during the process to stick out at right angles. Trim the excess foam top and bottom leaving a bit more of a stub extending out on top. Whip finish and cement.



INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



CHARTER MEMBER and McKENZIE PLAQUE WINNER

ROSTER CHANGE

Steve Griffith

New email: slgriffith1@centurytel.net



Allen (Swede) Peterson is telling kids about fly fishing equipment at the free Fly Fishing Class January 7, 2006. Swede's Fly Shop hosted the class.

Leon Buckles, Pat Kendall and Harry Calhoun taught the kids how to cast a fly line.

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES ARE DUE

IEFFC Bylaws

“Article 1, Section 5. Membership dues are due January 1 and shall become delinquent March 1. Delinquent members shall forfeit all privileges of membership after March 1. Membership may be reinstated by payment of dues, plus any additional costs incurred by the Club in arranging and making provision for payment of late dues, not to be less that \$10.00. Membership can only be reinstated if the membership is less than 135 regular members.”



Boys and girls learned to tie flies. Beside the completed flies each youth took home a vise, hackle pliers, scissors and bodkin. Jerry McBride, Bob Bates and Ray Kranches worked on the fly tying.