



GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS
February 13th, 2018
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

FEBRUARY PROGRAM Ed Engle

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Jim Athearn

Here we are in the middle of the winter when talk about weather overshadows that of where the fish are biting. Some of you have traveled to warmer waters and others have found open water closer to home to satisfy your fishing itch. I am among those busy tying flies to stock up for the upcoming spring and summer season. I am also learning a few large streamer patterns in preparation to follow **Leon Buckles** and **Bob Burton** down to the Amazon next week to catch peacock bass and anything else that will bite my "masterpieces". I will be experiencing a new place and new fish species - important reasons that make fly fishing so enjoyable for me.

I am looking forward to returning in time for the February meeting to which the Board of Directors has invited spouses and significant others. This is a unique opportunity to include those special people who support and encourage our fly fishing addiction in a club social event. Please be sure to RSVP Lee's message so we can plan accordingly and give Mukogawa a reasonable estimate of how many people to expect for dinner.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we would explore producing an update to our Flies of the Northwest book. We had about a dozen people show up for a great discussion about what the future holds. Most thought that printed media is now being overshadowed by the digital world and this was confirmed by Amato publishing who declined to undertake any new publication. Our direction for now will be to evaluate what opportunities we have to expand our website to include new flies and tying technology. We also have a large resource in our past flies of the month that could be presented with some detailed cross-referencing to help people focus their attention. Anyone with an interest in participating as we move along is always welcome to join in or at least give us your comments.

Our committee to assemble more Runje releasers is moving forward gathering supplies and will hopefully be in full production before spring. I'm personally interested in this because it is one easy tool to minimize handling affects on fish. I am pleased to see more recognition these days on how to properly handle fish if they are to be released unharmed to live and fight another day. I will continue to encourage everyone in the club to become more aware of how important it is to keep fish in the water and less impacted by physical injury and handling stress. Since our club promotes conservation and preservation of our aquatic resources, then we should show the fish we

CATCHING DIFFICULT TROUT

This program is full of new ideas for catching those trout that leave most fly fishers scratching their heads. These could be the ultra selective, highly educated fish found in heavily fished public waters or they could be the trout in your favorite stream that just



happen to have an "attitude" on a particular afternoon. The program explains the importance of your approach and casting position, slack line casts, the use of small flies, using spent spinners as attractors, terrestrials as attractors, how to match the *riseform* and the hatch, and fishing the zones where trout are feeding. In addition, the program covers crucial equipment checks that will help you land difficult-to-catch trout once you do hook them.

COME EARLY

DEMONSTRATION: 4:30PM

TYING SMALL FLIES: Ed shows you how to tie his favorite small fly patterns in this 1-hour demonstration.

Presidents message (continued) mean it.

We have many members who generously contribute their time and effort to support club activities. Since it is that time of year when we are renewing our memberships, it is appropriate to applaud **Steve Dixon**, Membership Committee Chair, for his tireless efforts throughout the year. Even though he is still working and heavily involved in other outside activities, he still manages to keep us organized and enrolling new members. Thank you Steve for your valuable service to the club.

In closing, it is my pleasure to welcome 2 new members to our club **Leo Harman** and **Mike Schmitz**. The Board of Directors also has recognized **George Potter** and **Boyd Matson** as Honorary Members.

Good luck fishing, whenever you get the chance, and stay safe.

BIG HORN SHOW

By Jim Athearn

IEFFC will be at the Big Horn Show again this March

Mark your calendars to come to the Big Horn Sports Show March 15 – 18 and see our club members in action demonstrating fly tying and teaching kids how to tie flies. We will be back at booth 85 in Bay 1. There are still a couple of volunteer spots available if you want to participate. Everyone had a great time last year and we are looking forward to more of the same this year. Hope to see everyone there. For more information, contact **Jim Athearn** (509-299-5582) jathearn99@aol.com.



Latah Creek Sediment Monitoring Project

By Tom Stralser

On January 20th, five of our members, **Jeff Butler, Jim Gaddy, Bob Schmitt, Dick Thiel and Tom Stralser**, attended the Spokane River Keepers Turbidity (silt) Study training session along the banks of Latah Creek. The members learned how to measure the amount of silt that is flowing into the Spokane River from Latah Creek.



The study, which started in January and will conclude in July, will sample five locations along Latah Creek and the Spokane River.

The data will be shared with the Department of Ecology and will help guide the management of the nonpoint pollution entering the Spokane River from Latah Creek.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

By Jerry McBride

I have reached out to the conservation chairs of the Spokane Fly Fishers (Claude Kistler) and the North Idaho Fly Casters (Ed Lider). They are very interested in collaborating on projects of mutual interest. Discussions with Randy Osborne of WDFW and Jerry Cline of the LPO Wildlife Refuge have been encouraging.

Here are the projects I know of and their status:

2018 For Sure

Latah Creek River Keeper Silt Monitoring – See article by **Tom Stralser**.

2018 Just About for Sure

Clean Out Bayley Lake Spawning Channel – We have done this just about every year since the five low log dams were put in by the IEFEC to create spawning beds for fish in Bayley Lake. Being able to spawn adds a year or two to the life of the fish that would normally die after three years. The project requires eight people for half of a day. We go fishing in Bayley Lake when we are done. This project is done in late September or early October and I will try to plan it for a Saturday so members who work during the week have a chance to participate.

Fin Clip Fish for WDFW – Done over two days with 16 people required each day. We do this project with the Spokane Fly Fishers so we would each supply eight people. WDFW supplies lunch. I have asked WDFW if we can do this on a weekend so members who work during the week have a chance to participate.

2018 Maybe Projects

Put Up New Signs with Current Regulations at Amber and Coffeepot Lakes - The frames are already there so IEFEC would acquire new signs and two people from the club would put them in place. Then they could go fishing for the rest of the day.

Plant Native Shrubs and Trees Along the Upper Reaches of Latah Creek – **Tom Stralser** is working with the Coeur d'Alene tribe on this. Our part of this could be a donation of money to help pay for the materials used. No more details known at this time.

Assist Spokane Fly Fishers in improving natural spawning in creek flowing into Browns Lake (Pend Oreille County). No estimate of cost or manpower at this time.

Participate in a project in the Thompson River, MT drainage. **Leon Buckles** is going to attend a meeting in Thompson Falls, MT January 23, 2018 to find out what the project entails and how the IEFEC might participate.

Randy Osborne of WDFW may have a project for the upper Spokane River. He will get back to us when it is better defined.

Pie-In-The-Sky Like-to-Have

Rework launch at Fourth of July Lake so boats can be launched with the new prevailing lower water level. Boat launching at Fourth of July Lake has become almost impossible for the last seven or eight years. WDFW needs to fix this. Good news! Randy Osborne of WDFW has agreed to take a look at how this situation could be rectified. Our role is mainly to keep reminding WDFW that this is a problem that needs fixing.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

PAST PRESIDENT Jim Gaddy



At the January meeting past President **Jim Gaddy** was honored and received an original painting from the club, done by **Stan Miller**.

Although Jim went through the chairs quite quickly, his service to the IEFEC is appreciated by the membership. His strong leadership has continued our growth towards full membership and we have heightened our efforts to increase the conservation related projects in which we participate.

Jim has also seen a need to continue as a member of the executive committee and will serve 2018 as secretary of the club.

We all thank Jim for his service to the organization.



WDFW DIRECTOR RESIGNS

OLYMPIA — After three years as director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Dr. Jim Unsworth today informed the state Fish and Wildlife Commission that he will resign his position effective Feb. 7.

"This has been a challenging, educational, and often rewarding experience," Unsworth said in a letter to Commission Chairman Brad Smith. "It is now time for me to pursue other professional and personal goals in wildlife and natural resources management."

Smith said the Commission, a citizen panel appointed by the governor to set policy for WDFW, will name an interim director as soon as possible and will initiate a national search for Unsworth's replacement.

"Over the last three years, Jim has done an outstanding job of guiding the department through the complex challenges that come with managing natural resources in Washington," said Smith. "We greatly appreciate his contributions to the department and wish him well in his future endeavors."

Shortly after becoming WDFW director, Unsworth initiated a multi-year initiative to strengthen the department's relationships with communities, increase support for conservation and outdoor recreation, and help ensure WDFW programs and services meet the public's needs.

Those discussions helped launch several efforts to improve the department's customer service and responsiveness, including the simplification of fishing rules, the development of a more user-friendly website, and creation of a fishing regulation application for smartphones and other mobile devices.

Unsworth expressed his appreciation to WDFW staff members in an email message. "I have had some great experiences as director," he told them, "but by far the best part of the job has been getting to know many of you. I appreciate your professionalism, work ethic, and passion for fish and wildlife."

Unsworth joined WDFW in February 2015 after serving more than 30 years in wildlife management with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, including several years as the agency's deputy director.

DUES DUES DUES

Yes, dues are due. Make sure you bring to the February meeting or send in your \$30.00 dues renewal by the end of February.

Mailing address:
IEFFC
P.O. Box 2926
Spokane, WA 99220

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

By Stephen Aspinwall

Raffle Committee chair Gordon Olson put on another great Christmas Raffle and Silent Auction at our December meeting.

Gordon starts collecting items from various sources immediately after each Raffle and finds bargains wherever he can. This year's event netted our Club approximately \$3400. This figure does not count the tickets being sold at each meeting through the March meeting for the Loop Optic 5 wt. fly rod.

Raffle tickets sales were down this year compared to past years. We were down about \$500 in ticket sales from last year and down significantly from the record year of 2015. Gordon's goal is to provide opportunities to our members to obtain items that they need for their tackle inventory and at the same time raise funds for our Club's use. Gordon says that we break even or slightly lose money on the many items that he purchased for the Raffle, but it is the items that members donate or items that cost us no money, such as fishing trips, that actually make up the Raffle profit. So, as you fish into 2018, remember to keep your eyes open for opportunities that could benefit our Christmas Raffle. You might ask a fishing lodge or fishing guide to provide us a discounted, or even free, fly fishing opportunity. Also, if you see a super bargain on fishing equipment, contact Gordon to give him the opportunity to purchase the item for our members' raffle chance at the Christmas meeting event.

Thank you to all of those who helped work and otherwise participated in the Christmas Raffle that provides the funding for our outreach activities and the great meeting programs.

Your Christmas Raffle Committee

DID YOU KNOW?

By Jerry McBride

We have a thespian in our midst. Paul Wham has been involved with the theater since his high school days at Lewis and Clark in the late 1950's. When he was in his 30's he got involved with amateur theater in Richland, WA.

After a long hiatus, in 2017 Paul played the lead role of Willy Loman in 'Death of a Salesman' at the Pend Oreille Playhouse in Newport, WA. This was the role that he had always wanted to play. It took him three months of practice at home to learn the lines before rehearsals even started. He says that he really got into the role of Willy Loman, like no other role he has ever played. At some point, his wife Gail had to remind him that he was Paul Wham, not Willy Loman.

Paul has also played Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol', the heavy in '12 Angry Men', and the lead role of Starbuck in the 'Rainmaker'.



Willy Loman (Paul Wham), center, talks with his sons Happy (Ben Kardos) and Biff (Shea McCormick) in a scene from "Death of a Salesman," opening Sept. 20 at the Pend Oreille Playhouse in Newport.

I think that Paul got into character when he was The Poacher in 2016. He was a top predator preying on IEFEC members who strayed off the regular path and found themselves confronted by The Poacher. It was not a pretty picture.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

BRYAN HARMAN FLY TYING DEMONSTRATION

Northwest outfitters in Coeur D'Alene(orvis) is having a fly tying class from 6-8pm on 2/7 BYOB.

I will be demonstrating how to tie a Wally wing extended body mayfly. Please bring your own tools and materials. You will need micro fibbets, dubbing wax, dry fly dubbing in your favorite color, dry fly hackle, and duck flank feathers. I tie it on a tiemco 2488 but any standard wire scud hook will do.

There will be no cost just good conversation and learning some new techniques.

WDFW FISHING RULE CHANGE Tucannon River steelhead and other gamefish fisheries

January 30, 2018

WDFW makes changes to Tucannon River steelhead and other gamefish fisheries

Actions and locations:

Tucannon River, downstream of the Tucannon Hatchery Bridge

- Extend the fishery for gamefish, including steelhead, through April 15. The fishery previously was scheduled to close Feb. 28.
- Increase the daily limit on hatchery steelhead to three (from two) fish.
- Mandatory hatchery steelhead retention is required.
- Barbless hooks are required while fishing for steelhead and gamefish.
- Release all other species.

Tucannon River, from the Tucannon Hatchery Bridge upstream

- Is closed to fishing.
-

Dates: Feb. 1 through April 15, 2018.

Species affected: Hatchery steelhead (with clipped adipose fin) and all other gamefish.

Reason for action: Lagging steelhead returns during the summer of 2017 led fishery managers to close or reduce bag limits for steelhead fisheries in most of the Columbia River and its tributaries. Increases in the abundance of migrating steelhead over Bonneville Dam and the Snake River Dams allowed for some increases in harvest opportunities during the Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 in the Snake River and select tributaries to the Snake River. Fishery managers now feel it is appropriate to increase limits within tributaries to remove excess hatchery steelhead.

Other Information: Anglers must stop fishing for steelhead for the day once they have retained three hatchery steelhead. Hatchery fish, marked with a clipped adipose fin, must have a healed scar at the location of the missing fin.

All wild steelhead, those with unclipped adipose fins, must be immediately released unharmed.

In addition, anglers cannot remove any steelhead from the water unless they plan to retain the fish as part of the daily bag limit.

Anglers are reminded to refer to the 2017/2018 Fishing in Washington sport fishing rules pamphlet for other regulations, including possession limits, safety closures, etc.

Information contact: Jeremy Trump, District 3 Fish Biologist, (509) 382-1005

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Balanced Silver Nymph

February 2018

Jim Athearn

This fly is a balanced version of the silver nymph described in *Rise Forms of the Past* (p. 9), which was the club's first "fly of the month". The thorax was added to help keep the hackle fibers away from the body. It has been a successful lake fly in the spring and fall when fished under an indicator. It was a really pleasant surprise on a very slow October afternoon at Bayley Lake.

Hook: Mustad 32833 BLN, #10
Thread: White Uni 6/0 or 8/0
Bead: White 1/8" tungsten w/ pin
Tail: White marabou, pearl Krystal flash
Body: Silver mylar
Rib: Silver wire
Thorax: Pearl ice dub
Hackle: Hungarian partridge



1. Attach a bead to the hook, using a short pin (or cut one short) inserted through the concave opening side of the bead.
2. Tie on marabou tail with 1 or 2 strands of krystal flash on each side. Trim the butts of the marabou even with the end of the pin to form a smooth transition for the body.
3. Tie on silver wire and mylar strip at the rear. Wind the mylar forward to form the body and then the wire for a rib. The rib is really optional but adds a little durability.
4. Dub a thorax using pearl ice dub or anything similar.
5. Tie on a Hungarian partridge feather by the tip to form a soft hackle collar. Wrap the hackle between the bead and the eye.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI REPORT

By Chet Allison

I am inviting each of you to the WSCFFI Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg May 4th & 5th, 2018. You may attend as a tyer or just as an interested fly fisher in seeing the latest of equipment, places to fish, or just watch dozens of fly tyers ply their wares.

You may register on line beginning Feb 15, 2018 through our website www.wscffi.org. If you are only signing up to tie flies and will not be making any purchases (i.e. dinners, shirts, workshops etc.) register with me directly at jochetallison@msn.com. I will email back to you the tying registration form. Also please join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wscffi.org>.

Volunteer (FREE) Dinner and Auction for CFR, PHW, OPFI Thursday, May 3rd. Social hour with no host bar 5:00-6:00 PM., and dinner at 6 PM. Please make sure you mark the registration sheet, or if doing on line to mark the volunteer dinner box as we need a head count.

There will be casting demonstrations by the Gazebo, free seminars, and 75-100 tyers to visit with to see how to tie your favorite fly or to see how to use the latest materials.

If you want to test your casting skills, try the Fly Casting Challenge Course with 5 stations available to represent a given casting situation: **HIT THE BULLSEYE, THE OBSTACLE, TIGHTEN UP, GET IT UNDER, DISTANCE.** This challenge course is free. Find out where you may need more practice.

Friday Awards Banquet tickets are available on line only. The banquet is Friday night with a no host bar at 5 PM, dinner at 6 PM, with a live auction to follow. Purchase your tickets for \$40.

There will be a variety of workshops all for **\$40** each and **free** seminars both Friday and Saturday. Private casting lesson are **\$20.00 for ½ hour.**

Seminars – list

Chet Allison– Spokane River

Preston Singletary–What's Bugging You

Bruce Bolding WDFW–Warmwater Opportunities

Marc Williamson–The Art and Science of Reading Still Water

Marc Williamson–Fly Fishing Central Oregon

Chad Gillespie–Sea-Run Cutthroat

Chester Allen–Yellowstone Unlocked

Steve Temple–Secrets of the Clark Fork

Johnny Boitano–Yakima River

Thomas Lamphere–Trophy Trout on Western Washington Rivers

If you have any questions email or call at the info below, I will answer your question as best I can. Hope to see you at the 2018 Washington State Fly Fishing Fair.

Chet Allison

2018 Fly Tyer's Chair

509-362-5320

jochetallison@msn.com

To Join FFI 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.