

The Fly Leaf



Volume 66 No 1

Web Page: <http://www.ieffc.org>

January, 2021

GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Wet Fly Half Hour 6:30pm
Meeting & Presentation 7:00pm
Via ZOOM [Instructions to follow](#)

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

January Meeting Michael Raether

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Jon Bowne

Let me start out this year by looking back and thanking **Bob Schmitt** and his board of directors for guiding us through the horrible year of 2020 and the unbelievable challenges the club faced. I know we will continue to be met with obstacles related to the pandemic, but let's collectively pledge to meet them with a cheerful and positive attitude.

I also want to thank **Rich Semler** for stepping up and agreeing to take on the Vice President's role for the upcoming year. I have already had numerous conversations with him and I know we will be able to work together well and for the good of the club.

A special thanks goes out to **Lee Funkhouser** and the Publications Committee for producing the President's Handbook. That will be an invaluable aid to me and future presidents.

If there's one thing I hated in school, it was being told to write an essay of a certain length, usually at least 200 words. So don't expect my President's Messages to be long and verbose. I embraced the motto TL;DR (Too Long; Didn't Read) long before it became an Internet acronym. I feel the same about board meetings and general membership meetings. We are a fly fishing club, not a business club. I will strive to keep business issues as brief as possible.

I look forward to the time we can meet in person once again. In the meantime, please continue to join me on our Zoom meetings. They have proven to be very productive and interesting. I'll see you all online soon. Stay well. Stay home. Stay safe. And don't pick your nose.

Mike's presentation is entitled "Fly Fishing the Lower Clark Fork and Tributaries"

"Mike lives in rural Western Montana. His interests include all things outdoors. His work has appeared in a wide assortment of national and regional publications including *Bugle, Montana*



Outdoors, and Northwest Fly Fishing magazines. He published his first book in 2018, The Flyfisher's Guide to Northwest Montana's Mountain Lakes through Wilderness Adventures Press. You can reach Mike via his blog, "Life Under a Big Sky," www.mikeraether.com."

We will also be having a short, but very important business meeting prior to the presentation. Zoom instructions will be sent to members prior to the meeting date.

DUES ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1

Your Board of Directors has important dues information that is coming to you as a result of the CoVid-19 pandemic. Every member will be getting a letter that will be mailed on January 2 containing a stamped, addressed envelope for you to send your 2021 dues to the club.

**PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE LETTER
ARRIVES TO PAY YOUR DUES**

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

JANUARY MEETING

By-Laws and Awards

We are hoping to have a large turnout for our January Zoom meeting. We have to vote on several by-law changes and we have our annual awards to be given.

2020 was a difficult year, but there were a number of Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club members who stepped up and kept things going. Join us as we recognize President's Award winners, our 2020 Fly Fisherman of the Year, and welcome a new President Emeritus.

Whether you stay on for the monthly presentation or not, please try to log on for the general meeting. Instructions will be sent to all IEFFC members prior to the meeting date of January 12.

TOYS FOR TOTS

By Jerry McBride

We could not collect toys this year with Covid cancelling our meetings, but that did not stop the IEFFC from coming through for the area children. We were able to collect a total of \$1,665.00 and that money was given to the Toys for Tots representatives in plenty of time for them to buy additional toys.

Marine Jim Brown, the USMC warehouse manager enthusiastically accepted our check and thanked us for our continued support of this valuable program,.



Thanks goes out to all of the IEFFC members who contributed. As I mentioned in my earlier email to you the need is greater this year and we rose to the occasion.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

WDFW RULE CHANGE

WDFW FISHING RULE CHANGE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/>

December 24, 2020

Grande Ronde River steelhead fishery change

Action: Reduce the steelhead daily limit to 2 hatchery fish.

Effective date: Jan. 1, 2021 through April 15, 2021.

Species affected: Steelhead.

Locations: Grand Ronde River, from the mouth to the Washington/Oregon state line.

Reason for action: Through Oct. 22, the Columbia River return of upriver steelhead is at 107,341 with an updated run forecast of 109,500 (77,200 Group A and 32,300 Group B). This is an overall increase within the steelhead return from the preseason forecast of 95,500 (85,900 Group A and 9,600 Group B). The revised forecast includes a decrease to Group A steelhead and large increase in Group B steelhead. Grande Ronde River returns for Washington and Oregon stocks are healthy enough to continue to allow a daily limit of 2 hatchery fish through the end of the season.

Additional information: All steelhead with unclipped adipose fins must be immediately released unharmed. In addition, anglers must observe gear restrictions identified in the 2020-21 Washington Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet such as barbless hook requirements and Selective Gear Rules, and must stop fishing for steelhead once the daily limit has been retained.

Please be sure to identify your catch, as other salmonid species may be present during this fishery and are not open to harvest. Chinook, coho and steelhead may not be removed from the water if not to be retained as part of the daily bag limit.

Refer to the 2020-21 Washington Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet for other regulations, including possession limits, safety closures, etc., and please continue to check emergency rules.

ROSTER CHANGES

Dwight Tipton now lives at 10323 N. Prairie Drive, Spokane 99208. Phone number is 509-818-4477 .

Jim Turner's address is 8515 S. Harmon Ext. Rd.

His first and main number in the roster is his cell phone, 509-995-4076. The second number in the roster, 509-747-9144 is still his work number.

Father David Kuttner's new address is 460 N 5th Street, Cheney, WA. 99004.

If we have missed your information, please send it in to our gmail address.
flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

NEW OFFICERS 2021 Board

Your 2021 Officers have been elected and are now in place to direct us through 2021. We have another strong slate and they are ready to go. Thanks goes out to the 2020 Officers for leading us through a difficult year and setting the standard for our club meeting the demands of Covid-19.

The Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club will be led by President **Jon Bowne**. Jon is well qualified for the leadership position, having spent a number of years going through the chairs. He set up our zoom meetings and is looking forward to continuing our journey.

Our new Vice President is **Rich Semler**. Rich has stepped up when our new three year Treasurer term created a need for a Vice President candidate. He will do an excellent job.

Our Treasurer continues to be **Bob Johnson**. The Treasurer office has become a three year position so that we can have better continuity with our budget committee. This also will help attract members who may have balked at going through the chairs based upon the immense responsibility related to the Treasurer position.

Our new Secretary is **Denny Carson**. We welcome him to the board and look forward to having him as an integral member of our leadership team.

We have two returning Board members in **Matt Andersen** and **Doug Brossoit**. They will be joined by **Jerry Harms**, who is a past President and adds excellent experience to our group.

Contact information is as follows:

Jon Bowne 509-465-1739

Bob Johnson 208-755-4729

Matt Andersen 509-954-5113

Jerry Harms 509-768-6013

Rich Semler 509-430-0152

Denny Carson 509-570-8856

Doug Brossoit 509-991-4466



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

COLLIN HENDRICKS

EWU IEFFC Legacy Committee Scholarship

The recipient of the IEFFC Legacy Committee scholarship for 2020-2021 is Collin Hendricks. Collin is 22 years old and currently a senior at Eastern Washington University and plans on continuing his education to get his masters in fisheries biology following graduation.

Collin is from the small town of Chelan, Washington where he grew up doing just about anything you could think of outdoors. For as long as he can remember his father would take the family camping, hunting, backpacking, and, Collin's favorite, fishing. This is where he grew to love everything about the sport, as well as the animals that he was catching.



Collin fly fishing on the Saint Joe River, ID

His interest and respect for fish started when he was young and being able to work with and help these animals has turned into a passion of his. He had the privilege of working as a research assistant in the EWU fisheries department this past summer and was able to help Craig Wells with his master's thesis as they collected tissue samples from Westslope Cutthroat Trout in north Idaho. This was a great experience and really gave Collin insight into some of the awesome work he hopes to do in the coming years.

Collin wants to thank the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club members and especially the Legacy Committee for helping him along in his endeavors and for awarding him with this scholarship!

He has been invited to a future meeting and we are hoping Covid-19 will allow us an opportunity to meet this fine young man.



Collin electrofishing for work this past summer

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

COHO SALMON DEATHS

Reprinted from LA Times

When officials in Seattle spent millions of dollars restoring the creeks along Puget Sound — tending to the vegetation, making the stream beds less muddy, building better homes for fish — they were thrilled to see coho salmon reappear. But when it rained, more than half, sometimes all, of the coho in a creek would suffer a sudden death.

These mysterious die-offs — an alarming phenomenon that has been reported from Northern California to British Columbia — have stumped biologists and toxicologists for decades. Numerous tests ruled out pesticides, disease and other possible causes, such as hot temperatures and low dissolved oxygen.

Now, after 20 years of investigation, researchers in Washington state, San Francisco and Los Angeles say they have found the culprit: a very poisonous yet little-known chemical related to a preservative used in car tires. This chemical is just one of a vast number of contaminants that washes off roads whenever it rains. This giant soup of pollutants, which includes trillions of microplastics, rushes down drains and into creeks and ultimately into the sea.



"We pretty much figured out that anywhere there's a road and people are driving their car, little bits of tire end up coming off your tire and end up in the stormwater that flows off that road," said Ed Kolodziej, an environmental engineer and chemist at the University of Washington (Tacoma/Seattle), whose lab led a study that was published Thursday in the journal Science. "We were able to get all the way down to this one highly toxic chemical — something that kills large fish quickly and we think is probably found on every single busy road in the world."

Coho salmon, also known as silver salmon, are prized among fishermen and an important indicator species — the canary in the coal mine for coastal watersheds along the northern Pacific Ocean. Their range has historically stretched from the creeks nestled in the redwood forests near Santa Cruz all the way north to the waters of Alaska. The few coho populations that still exist in California are either endangered or threatened.

The fish are born in freshwater streams, where they stay for about a year before making the long journey through rivers and estuaries and into the ocean. They return a year and a half later to lay and fertilize eggs before dying. Many obstacles have made this journey across different environments more difficult: Shrinking estuaries, blocked passages from dams and culverts, as well as drought and a changing climate.

"While we often monitor temperature and dissolved oxygen levels, much more could be done to test for toxicity," said Mariska Obedzinski, a California Sea Grant fisheries biologist who leads monitoring and salmon recovery research on the Russian River and was shocked to see the findings out of Puget Sound.

"With so many chemicals out there," she said, "it is overwhelming to know what to test for, so the results of this study will help us home in on testing for a chemical that we now know causes acute mortality." Peter Moyle, a longtime salmon expert and emeritus professor at UC Davis, recalled the four small streams in San Francisco Bay that once had coho. He has been following the Puget Sound research, which he is also not affiliated with, and now wonders whether all the roads and major freeways that crossed these creeks contributed to their disappearance decades ago, despite all the restoration efforts.

"The challenge when you talk about declines of really sensitive fish like coho salmon, is that there are so many things that are affecting them simultaneously, it's hard to pinpoint one," he said. "That's why it's so interesting that in these Puget Sound streams, they found this one chemical that seems to be the smoking gun."

The scientists in Washington state spent years studying dozens of streams — looking for patterns and comparing samples from pristine creeks, to those in more urban areas. They narrowed the culprit down to stormwater, then to creeks that were near busier roads, and finally to the wear and tear of car tires.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

COHO SALMON DEATHS Continued

Researchers then soaked tire bits in room temperature water for about 24 hours. As many as 1,500 to 2,800 chemicals would leach out and, using high-resolution mass spectrometry, the team methodically identified and analyzed these compounds.

They tried sectioning this tire cocktail into different chemical properties, such as removing all metals from the solution. Then they tested these different sub-mixtures to see which ones were still toxic to the salmon. They repeated this process until only a few chemicals were left — including one mysterious speck of purple that they knew very little about.

"We knew that the chemical that we thought was toxic had 18 carbons, 22 hydrogens, two nitrogens and two oxygens. And we kept trying to figure out what it was," said Zhenyu Tian, the study's lead author and a research scientist at the Center for Urban Waters at University of Washington Tacoma. "Then one day in December, it was just like bing! in my mind. The killer chemical might not be a chemical directly added to the tire, but something related."

The smoking gun turned out to be related to a chemical called 6PPD, which is essentially a preservative to keep car tires from breaking down too quickly. When 6PPD hits the road and reacts with ozone gas, the chemical transforms into multiple new chemicals, including a compound known as 6PPD-quinone.

Not much is known about 6PPD-quinone, but it does appear to be very toxic (at about 1 microgram per liter) and does not degrade as quickly as 6PPD.

It remains unclear how exactly this chemical kills coho salmon, but it may be doing something to the lining of the salmon's vascular system, said Jen McIntyre, an aquatic ecotoxicologist at Washington State University who has been studying this mystery for more than 15 years.

Once coho are exposed to 6PPD-quinone, they begin to breathe erratically — almost like they're gasping for air. They lose equilibrium and start spiraling in circles, unable to stay upright in the water. Eventually they drop to the bottom, where they stop moving and die.

McIntyre has begun testing this toxin on five other Pacific salmon species, which have shown different levels of sensitivity. She's also curious how 6PPD-quinone might affect other organisms, and more studies need to be conducted to understand whether this chemical has any impact on humans.

Worrisome concentrations of 6PPD-quinone were also confirmed in samples from L.A. and San Francisco. Rebecca Sutton, a study co-author who specializes in emerging contaminants, had reached out to the researchers in Puget Sound after coming across a number of tire rubber chemicals in her studies of San Francisco Bay.

These discoveries fit into a growing body of science that illuminates how driving is not just an air pollution and climate change problem, she said. In a separate study last year, Sutton was surprised to find that tire particles were by far the largest source of microplastics in the bay.

Tires containing zinc have also been known to harm wildlife, said Sutton, who works for the San Francisco Estuary Institute, an independent science think tank. "We also know that steelhead trout and Chinook salmon exhibit some sensitivity to tire rubber chemicals."

Across California, water quality regulators, state transportation officials and federal scientists have been learning about these startling connections between stormwater and coho deaths during recent meetings and conferences. The state's coastal highway, some pointed out, crosses numerous streams and estuaries.

"Now that they've gotten it nailed down to one compound — that's amazing. It's also really helpful that something could be done about it," said Joe Dillon, who specializes in water quality and toxicology for NOAA Fisheries. "This means the tire industry can work on figuring out how to replace that compound with something less toxic. It means they can be pushed by the state of California or by nongovernmental organizations to undertake that work."

Matt St. John, executive officer of California's Regional Water Quality Control Board on the north coast, home to most of the remaining coho salmon in California, said he'd like to start monitoring for this chemical in creeks to determine what further action is needed.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Pebble Mine Celebration Trout Unlimited

You Helped Save Bristol Bay

We are excited to celebrate a major win for Bristol Bay with the denial of the permit for the proposed Pebble mine! Thank you to everyone who has taken action over the LONG fight for the biggest wild salmon fishery on the planet. Next, advance permanent protections for Bristol Bay. #NotHereNotEver



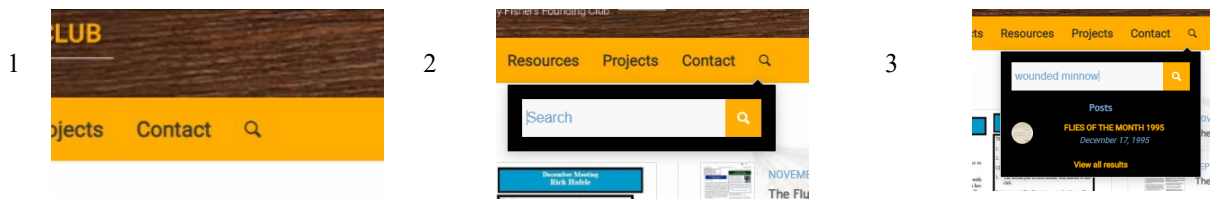
FLIES OF THE MONTH ARCHIVED By Lee Funkhouser

The publications committee is in the process of adding the monthly Flies of the Month from 1990 to 2003 to the club website. These fly patterns were included in newsletters prior to the IEFFC having a website. Thanks to **Jerry McBride** for supplying the copies.

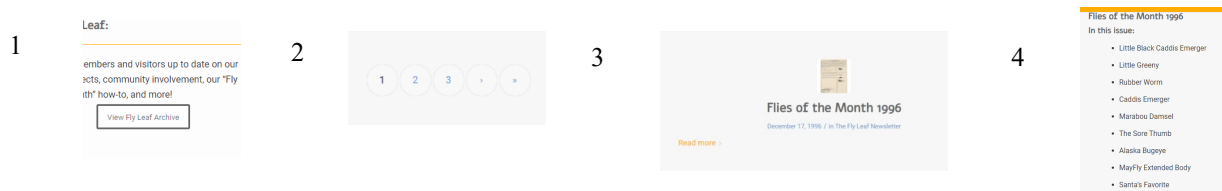
For those who do not know we have already archived all of the copies of our newsletter, The Fly Leaf, from 2003 to the present, with those newsletters containing each Fly of the Month. This new project will give members access to over a hundred patterns used by past members.

The flies can be accessed in two manners.

First, if you are looking for a particular fly and know its name, you can use the search engine on the website. 1. Click on the magnifying glass. 2. Put in the name of the fly. 3. Click on the location.



Second way to locate flies prior to 2003 is to go to 1. The Fly Leaf Archives. 2. Go to the bottom of the first page of archived newsletters and click to go to oldest pages. 3. Click on the year you want. 4. Scan through the patterns.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

A Better Pat's Rubber Legs

January 2021

Bryan Harman

A well known and highly utilized pattern for the area rivers, Pat's Rubber Legs is an essential fly for fishing rivers and streams. This version is straight from the tying vise of our own award winning **Bryan Harman**. Tie it to fill your fly box with a fly that will match the stream conditions that trout find attractive, namely clean, cold, highly oxygenated water. Just the kind of water you will find in the North Fork or the St. Joe. Use it with a dropper and you may even snag a few whitefish to go with your cutthroat catch.

Hook: Size 6 2XL Nymph.

Antennae: Grizzly Micro Rubber Legs.

Bead: Tungsten - 3/16" Black.

Thread: 6/0 Black.

Tail and Legs: Grizzly Micro Rubber Legs.

Body: Brown Leech Yarn.



Step 1 Attach the thread behind the hook eye. Fold a length of rubber legs in half and tie it in behind the hook eye. Add the bead, pushing it to the hook eye, and whip finish.

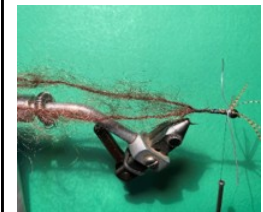
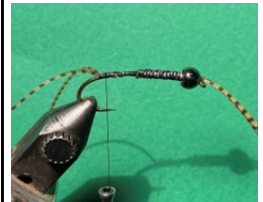
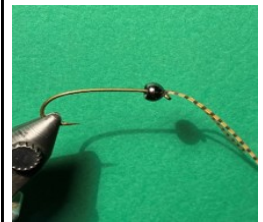
Step 2 15 wraps of .025 lead wire, remount thread and wrap a thread base. Fold a rubber leg in half and mount it at the beginning of the bend of the hook. Advance the thread to about the 2/3 point and mount a rubber leg using figure eight wraps move forward slightly and mount another rubber leg and move forward again until you have 3 rubber legs mounted on top of the hook pointing out each side.

Step 3 Cut about a 10 inch loop of leech yarn tie it in by both ends to form a loop at the start of the bend of the hook. Tip: use a piece of lead wire to hold the rubber legs out of the way.

Step 4 Use a dubbing twister to spin the yarn into a very tight cord.

Step 5 Wrap the corded yarn forward and weave through the rubber legs and tie off behind the bead. Trim the legs to length and go fishing.

FYI on this fly between the 15 wraps of lead and the tungsten bead if you are in a pinch you could tie about 3 or 4 of these on anchor line and hold a small craft still in a stiff breeze. Seriously though this can be a great anchor fly on a euro nymph rig and it will get to the bottom of some deep runs too.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

NEW MARTIN PRODUCT

By Chet Allison

UNI-Products, a world leader in the supply of spooled fly-tying materials, announces the addition of the Axxel-Mini to their very popular Axxel flash line. Axxel-Mini is a narrow strand of sparkling material available on 17 yards spool. With sixteen colors, the Axxel-Mini adds versatility to create attractive fly's body, wing and tail: Aqua, Black, Bronze, Claret, Copper, Gold, Multicolor, Mystic Gold, Mystic Red, Olive, Orange, Peacock, Pearl, Rainbow Black, Rainbow Purple and Silver. Tiers can also take advantage of our popular 20-spool Axxel-Mini combo pack.

Visit our website to learn about all of our products. www.uniproducts.com

WHAT FFI DOES

Fly Fishers International (FFI) is dedicated, through education and conservation, to preserving the fly fishing experience. Conservation of our public waters and connected upland's is essential to our enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of fishes and their habitats and also the health of natural systems.

Lee Wulff, a fly fishing icon and one of the founders of Fly Fishers International once suggested "when you teach a person to fly fish you have just created a conservationist". Today FFI supports the community of fly fisher's worldwide and is dedicated to the promotion of the sport of fly fishing through education and conservation programs.

JOINING FFI

There is no better time to consider joining FFI than now. It's easy and you will be joining a number of IEFEC members already involved in the organization.

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 WSCFFI through your support can continue our mission to *conserve* and *re-store* 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 the IEFEC at flyleaf.iefec@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following months newsletter.