The Fly Leaf

Volume 66 No. 9 | Web Page: http://www.ieffc.org | **September, 2021**

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
SEPTEMBER MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
Wet Fly 5:30 Meeting 6:30 PM
RAMADA INN-AIRPORT
8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
By Jon Bowne

Well it's been and absolutely vapid fishing season thanks to the smoke, heat, and the pandemic. But you knew that. I've been out on the water exactly three times this year and now that the skies have finally cleared up, I have a doctor's orders not to do anything strenuous for the next month (like lifting a boat out of my pickup).

The one bright spot is that our meetings will resume in September. I look forward to seeing everyone again and to hearing some fish lies of the braver members of the club. I will continue to Zoom our meetings for the rest of this year but with most of us vaccinated, in-person interaction should be safe.

I'm excited about our speaker this month, Skip Morris. I grew up a few houses down from him in the 60s. We lived on Mercer Island (when the middle class could afford to live there). We cut our teeth on spin and bait fishing in Lake Washington which was always just a 30 minute walk away. As we became teenagers, Skip discovered fly fishing and we jumped into it with both feet. The Pflueger Medalist rigged with S.A. Air-cell floating fly line that I got for my 13th birthday along with a borrowed cane rod set me up. I still have that reel today. (I wish I had the cane rod.)

Once we got driver's licenses we were in heaven. The lakes and creeks of King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties opened up for us. When we weren't working at the restaurant where we both had jobs, we were on the water somewhere. After we left high school I went to college in Alaska and Skip went to Central. We kept in touch over the next forty years and as soon as I moved back down here, we started fishing together again. It was like we'd been apart for a week.

Reminder: Please let us know if you intend to come to the meeting on the 14th...we need to let the host know an approximate number.

Enjoy what's left of the fishing season. Mask up and don't lick anybody.

-Jon

September Meeting
Skip Morris

Skip Morris is the down-to-earth author of twenty-one books on tying flies and fly fishing (including the best selling beginner's book, "*Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*". His partner and wife is Carol Ann Morris, whose artful photography and detailed watercolors have been published in major fly fishing magazines, including Gray's Sporting Journal, Fly Fisherman, Fly Fishing & Tying Journal, Yale Angler's Journal, and others .

Skip's topic will be one in which we all have interest:

"Make Dry Fly and Emerger Fishing Work"

Join us for an entertaining, informative evening.

Meeting information request

Please reply to the Flyleaf Editor if you intend to come to the September meeting so we can provide a reasonable approximation of the number of meals. Reply by September 9 to flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com if you please.

We're working on a Zoom link. Watch your email for links or other information as the meeting date approaches.

Conservation Project Volunteers Needed!
by
Jerry McBride

We have two projects in September that will require volunteers from our club.

Bayley Lake Spawning Channel Cleanup September 25

Background

Many years ago the IEFFC put in weirs (low dams) and laid down gravel in the ponds formed by the weirs to create spawning beds in the short, channel-like stream that flows out of Potters Pond into Bayley Lake. The idea was to enable rainbow trout to come up in the channel in early spring and spawn with the females getting rid of their eggs enabling them to live a year or two longer than the normal three years. This of course, meant more large fish in Bayley that we could fish for. Normally, the water temperature in the channel gets too high for the fertilized eggs to hatch so there isn't much if any natural reproduction.

Present
During the summer the grass along the channel grows almost chest-high and then droops into the channel tending to restrict the flow. Also, the gravel gets moved around and is sometimes covered with sand.

Just about every year a group of eight to ten members from the IEFFC has gone up in September or October to cut the grass and clean it out of the channel. We also renew the gravel as required. Most years the channel is dry so it is fairly easy to do the work and usually takes about two hours. The Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge provides the gravel.

September 25, 2021

Members of the IEFFC are going to go up on the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge northeast of Chewelah on Saturday, September 25, 2021 to clean up the Bayley Lake spawning channel. We will have five "veterans" who have done this work before that have boats paired up with five other members. The other members will meet up with the "veterans" and ride up to Bayley with them. Once we have completed the work which usually takes about two hours we will go fishing in Bayley Lake which can be very good in the fall. The pairs will meet up at Zips in Chewelah at 8 am with the IEFFC buying our breakfast.

For those of you that have never fished Bayley this is a great opportunity to fish it with someone who knows the lake and how to fish it.

Fin Clipping at WDFW Hatchery September 27 and 28, 2021

Again this year the IEFFC will join other groups at the WDFW Spokane fish hatchery to clip adipose fins from fish that will be planted in Lake Spokane. This project takes two days. The IEFFC has committed to furnish six people each day. At this point it is not clear what if any Covid-19 restrictions will apply. In past years WDFW has furnished lunch to all of the participants. Volunteers need to show up at the hatchery before 8 am.

To volunteer for either or both projects contact Jerry McBride. Jerry will be out of town September 7-13. During that time period contact Jim Athearn.

Jerry McBride
509-590-6372
jerry.r.mcbride@gmail.com

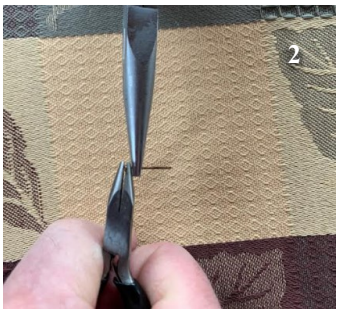
Jim Athearn
509-590-5051
Jathearn99@aol.com

Fun with the Pincher
By
Mark Pinch

You'll never run out of balanced fly hooks again. Yes, they are expensive compared to what we're used to. And many times we can't find the right size when we're sitting down to tie. So let's bend our own!

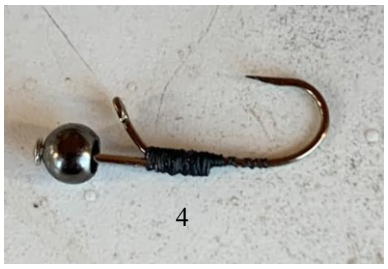
Many of us have hundreds of dollars of hooks that are gathering dust. Let's use them. It is very easy to bend hooks to a 45, 60 or 90° angle.

The first step (1) is to straighten out the little angle at the eye of the hook. Use your pliers along the length of the shank. If it breaks, forget about it. The hook is too brittle. Hooks vary. For me, the Mustard 3906 won't bend. The 94845 bends nicely.



Using a large pair of needle nose pliers (2), hold the hook. Use a smaller needle nose pliers to bend the hook behind the eye. (3) It's easy. You can bend a dozen hooks in five minutes

Although 90° is probably the most popular, 45° will maintain a larger gap in the distance between the eye of the hook and the point. Many strikes cannot be set because the point of the hook never reaches the fishes mouth. Father David will land the fish anyway The rest of us will use naughty words.



Come tie flies for the October Meeting!

Vice President Rich Semler is using our October Meeting as a platform to showcase our club's fly tying artistry and creativity.

Rich will be rounding up the usual suspects, But if you'd like to beat the rush and volunteer, please contact Rich right away at rchrdsemler@gmail.com or at his contact information in the Roster.

This is a great time of year for this meeting, many of us are taking to the fields to gather fresh materials. Volunteer now! We'd love to see your vices, no, ...vises.

Jim Gaddy Assumes Medical Visitation Coordinator Role

Be advised: Dr. Jim Gaddy has taken over the Medical Visitation Coordinator Duties from Dr. Steve Dixon. His contact information is in the Roster, and his cell number is 509-954-5428. Tell him thanks!

Grande Ronde Property Access Complete
WA State Council FFI Awards IEFFC 2021 Club Conservation Award

The final step in preserving the Ebsen Fishing Access on the Grand Ronde closed in mid-July when WDFW took control of the property.

Thanks to the hustle of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club of Spokane, an acquisition plan by Seattle's Wild Steelhead Coalition and the generosity of fly fishers statewide, eight acres of prime river access are permanently in public hands. Credit also goes to landowners Lynn "Radar" Miller and his wife Kay. The couple has admired the rugged Grande Ronde for years and wanted future generations to enjoy it as well.

The area between the north bank of the Grand Ronde and Snake River Road has been public fishing access since the early 1980s when the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife acquired a recreation easement from Miller. It's summer steelhead water about three miles up-stream from the confluence with the Snake River. The main feature of the property is a stony shoreline between two fishing spots known as the Turkey Run on the downstream end and the Shadow Hole on the upstream end of the property. There is a pull off onto the property and a pit toilet installed by WDFW. At its widest, there is only 250 feet between the river and the road.

You know the story. Last year, Miller decided he needed to sell the property and offered it to WDFW, but the agency didn't have money for acquisitions. The agency turned to the Inland Empire Fly Fishers in Spokane for ideas and club member Jim Athearn thought there had to be a way to preserve the fishing access. After a few conversations, Athearn and Miller settled on a price of $25,000. The Wild Steelhead Coalition of Seattle agreed to act as the non-profit transfer agent so private donors could receive tax benefits for their gifts. Now that land is in the hands of WDFW for ongoing management.

The Inland Empire club put up $2,000 in earnest money to secure the land. The Wild Steelhead Coalition pledged another $2,000 to launch fundraising. More than a dozen clubs and individuals –most of them affiliated with the Washington Council of Fly Fishers International—donated $30,000 that covered the purchase price and legal fees surrounding the transfer to state control. Donors included the Spokane Fly Fishers, Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, Puget Sound Fly Fishers, Columbia Basin Fly Fishers, Northwest Fly Anglers, Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, Dry Side Fly Fishing Club and the Kelly Creek Fly Casters of Lewison, Idaho. In addition, the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International donated and two national organizations pitched in, the national board of Fly Fishers International and Back Country Hunters and Anglers.

"There was regional support for this," said Jim Athearn who spearheaded the effort for Inland Empire. "Now it will be a regional asset forever."

Jim says:

"The property on the lower Grande Ronde River has now been transferred to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and we are now developing some monuments to dedicate the site (to Frank Faha) and to acknowledge all the contributors to the project.

This was a great collaborative project with our partner, Wild Steelhead Coalition, and was made possible by the generous donations from individuals and organizations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Thanks to everyone involved this important access site on the Grande Ronde will be managed by the WDFW and will forever remain open to the public. Mark your calendars for October 15 for the dedication ceremony down on the river at the access site – everyone is invited. We will send out a more detailed notice when we have times and logistics worked out. "

Summer Steelhead Closure

On August 27, 2021 —In response to extremely low returns to date of Columbia Basin upriver summer steelhead, ODFW is adopted additional emergency rules to increase protections for wild summer steelhead in certain Oregon Columbia River tributaries.

Passage counts of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through Aug. 26 are the lowest since counts began in 1938. Also, fisheries scientists have downgraded the forecast for A-index summer steelhead from an already low preseason estimate of 89,200 to an in-season estimate of 35,000.

"We're in uncharted territory here" said Shaun Clements, ODFW Deputy Administrator for Fish Division. "The combination of a historically low run on top of multiple years of low runs, and the very poor environmental conditions that seem likely to continue based on the most recent drought forecast, mean this is a regional problem. The rules will close steelhead fishing in the lower Umatilla and in additional areas of the Deschutes and John Day rivers beginning Sept. 1.

WDFW and IDFG are expected to adopt closures or other emergency rules in the immediate future. **Check the Regs before you go!.**

See the passage graphs, next page.

Regional information you can use

- Cooler weather and significant moisture has prompted public, state and tribal land managers to rescind all fire restrictions in the Coeur d'Alene Dispatch Zone on Friday, August 27 at 12:01 a.m. Although several large fires and complexes in the northern panhandle are still under active suppression, the recent precipitation and decreased temperatures have lowered fire danger and other indices that inform the need for restrictions. The average fire danger rating across the zone has also been lowered two levels, from Extreme to High.
- PotlatchDeltic Corporation announced changes to public access to its Idaho timberlands. Due to recent rainfall and lower temperatures in the region, fire risk has declined. As a result, the temporary public access ban announced on July 22 was lifted effective Friday, August 27.
  The reopening allows anglers to access Deer Creek Reservoir in the Clearwater Region. The reservoir was not accessible during the closure, and it closes each season on Sept. 30. Anglers are encouraged to take advantage of fishing opportunity on the reservoir while they still can.

- Idaho's Fish and Game Commission set the fall Chinook Salmon season last July. Roughly, the regulations are as follows:
  - Season starts August 18, 2021
  - The fishery will occur in the Snake River, lower Salmon River, and much of the Clearwater basin
  - The daily limits are three (3) adult fish (adipose clipped or unclipped)
  - Fishing will be allowed seven days a week in all areas that are open

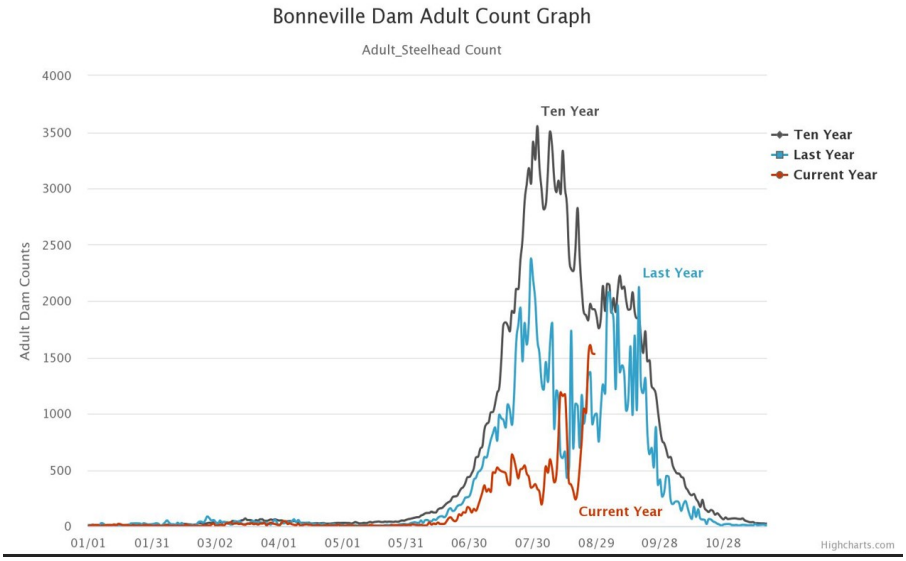
  Be sure to visit the IDFG website for all the details on the 2021 fall Chinook Salmon seasons and limits (fall Chinook regulations).
- Washington opened a fall Chinook season on the Columbia/Snake System August 18. Daily limit is 3 adult Chinook (wild or hatchery), no limit on jack salmon. All other salmon and steelhead to be released.

Fire season is not over: take precautions consistent with the risk. Local roads in fire areas may be closed due to operations or slides.

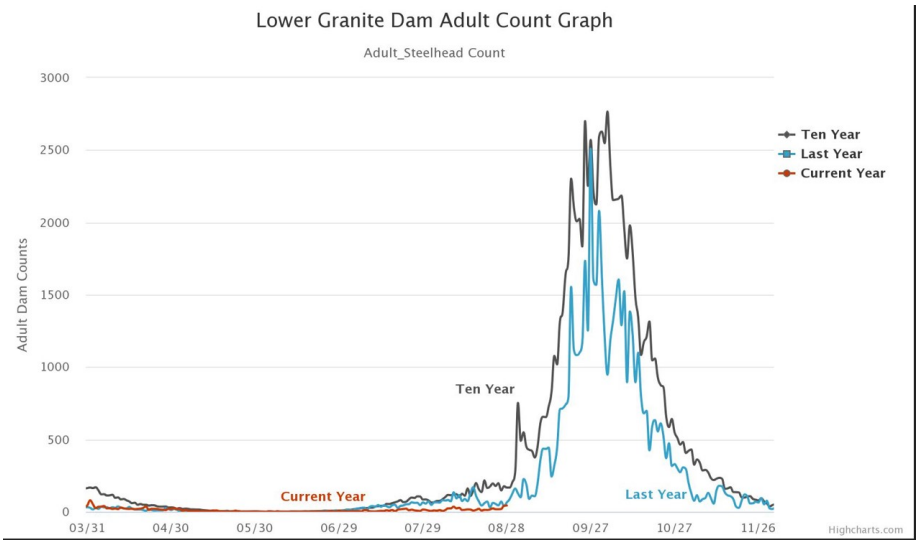
And as always: check your regs before you go!

Steelhead Count Graphs
From
Fish Passage Center

Bonneville:



Lower Granite:



Data as of 8/28/2021. Count is “all steelhead”, including both wild and hatchery fish.
Lower Granite Count 8/27/2021: 43 fish.

Your editor has nothing else to add.

The 1990-2020 Fly of the Month Collection
Dedicated to
Gene Lorenson

Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory, with help and encouragement of many others including Jerry McBride, Doug Brossoit, and Mark Pinch, have compiled all issues of the Fly of the Month between 1990 and 2020 into a single volume.

This volume is dedicated to **Gene Lorenson**, who for 24 years prepared the text and illustrations of this regular column in the Flyleaf. His artistry, wit, and skill are now in one document to delight and educate another generation of fly anglers.

A copy will be circulated at Liars' Club, as well as upcoming regular meetings of the Club and of the Club Board. Once final editing is done and publication details are known, we'll provide a sign-up and price for those who would like a printed copy. A text-searchable PDF file will be posted to the Club website.

Gene accepts the first copy from Guy

Gene enjoyed receiving his copy, and extends greetings to all members and his old friends in the club. "The club is still a big part of my life", he said.

Gene with a very nice fish.

Bob Johnson and Jim Athearn on the Coeur d'Alene

When you catch fish like these guys, you deserve a bit of a rest.

Photo by Jon Bowne

FLY OF THE MONTH

Carp Crack **September, 2021** **Jean Paul Lipton**

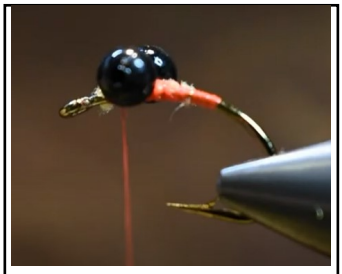
In hot, dry summers, trout are easy to stress. So….Let's go carpin! Carp fishing is hard...they don't take flies readily, they spook really easy, and to be effective, you must sight fish to them. Once hooked, make sure you have solid backing on your outfit. Fish can go to 20 pounds. The good news: They're almost everywhere, and you don't need to worry about less than ideal fish handling, they're gonna make it.

This fly is simple to tie, garish enough to attract a bass maybe, and similar enough to a small crayfish that a feeding carp may not be able to resist. The pattern is the "classic" for this fly, seen in articles from "12 Dependable Carp Flies" to the " Orvis Beginner Guide to Carp Flies". Some believe it to be useful for other species as well, suggesting a crayfish.

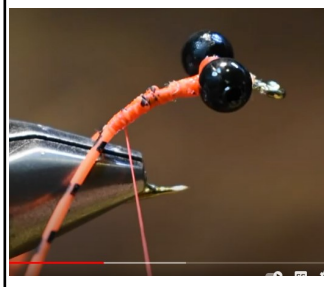
In truth this is a style of fly, the colors seem to vary with the angler. But the beadchain helps the fly sink without splashing and spooking these nervous fish.

Hook: Mustad 34007 or Dai-Riki 135 Size 8
Thread: UNI-Thread 6/0, Red
Tail: Medium Centipede legs, Hot Orange
Body: Roughfisher's custom spectral seal sub dubbing, Burnt Orange, or Cohen's Carp Dub. Substitute fine size chenille in red.
Thorax: Ruffed Grouse or Hungarian Partridge rump feather, dark/brown,
Head: #8 Orange or Black Beadchain

Using red thread, build a good base, then affix bead chain eyes. Remember, it needs some weight to sink, but not so much as to splash too much. Also, a bit of yarn wrapped in helps your beads stay put.



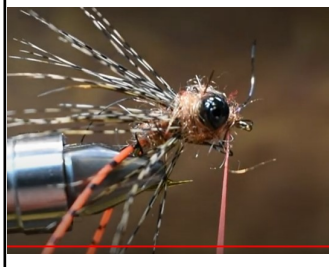
Loop rubber leg material over front of the hook and between the beadchain eyes. Tie off behind the chain. Bind down all the way back to the end of the body. Dub body (or wrap chenille), tapering from a thickish thorax to the tail. Bring thread forward, and figure 8 the bead chain eyes.



Tie in a partridge feather butt first behind the bead chain eyes, wrap 2 or 3 wraps around the thorax for a buggy look.

Add some dubbing (or chenille) and wrap forward, hiding binding of partridge and bead-chain fly wraps. The head may look a bit big...whip finish without forming a thread head, and cement whip finish wraps. Pick out stray fibers from the head. . The fly should ride hook up,

You may add small bits of deer hair or krystal flash in the tail or as a collar, but the carp don't seem to need it.



FFI Happenings

Don't Miss The FFI Virtual Expo!

Our first-ever Virtual Expo is coming up November 5-7. The FFI Virtual Expo brings all the workshops, experiences, knowledge, and community of our annual Expo to a digital platform.

Over the course of the three-day event you'll find casting and fly tying demonstrations, conservation presentations, fly fishing skills workshops, discussions on travel and destinations, and so much more. A $25 registration fee grants you access to the Expo, with some workshops requiring an additional fee.

Virtual Expo attendance will be capped at 1,500, so don't delay in getting your spot reserved. There are also some workshops that start as early as September 6.

Mark your calendars, registration opened Monday, August 16th.

FFI Film Competition

In keeping with the mission of FFI to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters, the objective of the Inaugural FFI Film Competition is to invite and encourage filmmakers of all ages, abilities, and experiences to tell their fly-fishing-related stories through film. Experienced or novice, young or old, close to home or in exotic locations, all are invited to submit their original films. **Submission deadline: October 1, 2021.** This is really cool and you filmmakers could see your stuff in a national film festival!

Rules and more info:
https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Film-Awards

IEFFC Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jon Bowne
Vice President: Rich Semler
Treasurer: Bob Johnson
Secretary: Denny Carson
Matt Anderson (2021)
Doug Brossoit (2022)
Jerry Harms (2023)

Membership Committee Chair: Steve Dixon

Contact information for all Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are in the 2020/2021 Roster. If you've inquiries, email flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com

FLYLEAF CONTRIBUTIONS

Your input is welcome! If you have articles to contribute to the Fly Leaf, make sure you send them to the newsletter email: *flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com* before the last Friday of the Month! Lee and Guy will get your story, your fly of the month, whatever, into the next issue...