

THE FLY LINE

Conserving ,Restoring, Educating, Through Fly Fishing THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RAINLAND FLY CASTERS

website: www.rainlandflycaster.com

February 2018

PRESIDENT'S HACKLES

Greetings Rainlanders,

Although it is still February and technically still winter, this month's column will focus on lake fishing.

Spring is just around the corner and still waters will start to warm, with opportunities to fish for trout in lakes increasing. I have spent much time fishing still waters. This name does not always exactly fit lakes as I have seen a lot of currents in lakes due to wind and incoming streams. They are mostly still in comparison to creeks, streams, or rivers however. Trout usually do not spend a great deal of energy holding their position in moving water and biomass can be very high in still waters. Trout, consequently, can pack on weight and gain good size in a short period of time in lakes that are rich in food sources. If the fish in the lake are triploid, fish can obtain impressive size and girth. Many club members have spent time on Lenore Lake in central Washington and know this.

So called "desert lakes" exist in good abundance in central and eastern Washington and Oregon. March can be a good time to fish such a lake if it is ice free and open. I have spent many days on Columbia basin seep lakes that are nutrient rich with impressive rainbows stripping line off my fly reel. Locally, Lost and Black lakes are fished by several members of the club in April and May. The club program this month will feature Marc Williamson who will speak about flyfishing still waters. The Fly of the Month will be a still water pattern called the Sno Cone Midge.

Hope the weather clears some for those of you who enjoy chasing winter steelhead with the fly. It is a tough game, but success can be had for those willing to put the time in. Hope to see you at the club meeting to listen to Marc Williamson. Tight lines,

Ron Van Fleet



Treasurer's Report

Rick Newton reported that we have about \$7,500 in our money market account and about \$2,500 in our checking account



Conservation

Walt Weber reported on our successful stream enrichment project held Saturday, January 27. About 13,000 pounds of salmon carcasses were distributed to multiple locations along the upper Clatskanie River, in Columbia County. Club members who assisted with this project were: Bill Robinson, Ben Sorenson, Rick Newton, Ron Van Fleet, Bob May, Dick Magathan, Tom Scoggins and Walt Weber. Also assisting were members of the Clatskanie High School fisheries class, led by Jeff Skirvin.

Walt also reminded us that we should plan on doing the Salmonberry River steelhead spawning survey in mid-April.

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Fly of the Month

SNO CONE MIDGE:

This pattern is very easy to tie and many flies can be tied in a short period of time. It is also very effective in lakes that have a population of Chironomids (midges). These are related to mosquitoes, but do not bite. They form the food base for many lakes and usually exist in huge numbers in rich lakes. Going to a lake without some sort of midge pattern is a mistake. Large trout will take this fly. I have landed many fish over 7 pounds on midge pupa imitations. Take the time to give this fly a try.

Hook: 2-3x nymph hook
Body: Thread of varying colors
Rib: Wire rib of varying colors
Thorax: Thread of matching color
Head: White Bead.

I personally prefer a black thread body and thorax with a thin red wire rib. See enclosed picture for variations. The pattern can be fished with a floating line and indicator, a slow sinking line, or even a fast sinking line for deep lakes. I enjoy fishing the pattern with a floating line over weed beds or silty areas. I grease the line and look for twitches or pulls. The take is rarely subtle. In choppy water, an indicator is useful. Fish are easily seen when working a midge hatch.



Outings

President Ron has asked Butch Pinson and Steve Wascher to once again host their popular outing on Lost Lake during April; and he also asked Dave Johnson to organize a fishing day on Black Lake in early May. These members have agreed to plan these outings and dates will be set soon.

February Meeting

Thursday, February 15th

The meeting will be at Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St in Astoria. The entrance door is on Exchange. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

The program for this month's February 15 meeting will feature Marc Williamson, on the topic of "Fishing Still Waters."

Future Events

The March meeting will feature Tom Scoggins on the topic of “European Nymphing.”

NW Fly Fishing Expo in Albany – March 9 and 10

RFC Annual Banquet and Auction – April 21.



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