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# Swirl Tips

## June 2006 Issue

**Evergreen Fly Fishing Club**  
[www.evergreenflyclub.org](http://www.evergreenflyclub.org)



### MEETINGS

General Meeting – 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm (6 pm Wet Fly hr.) Flying Pig Brewery  
Board Meeting – 1st Thursday of the month, 7 pm (6 pm dinner) Petosa's Restaurant  
Conservation Committee Meeting – 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 pm Village Restaurant

**Meeting: June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 @ Flying Pig Brewery**  
**Wet Fly – 6:00 p.m. Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**



## June Program by Eric Nordstrom

You may remember that our club awarded two scholarships last year to two University of Washington graduate students studying fisheries related issues. This month we get to see the results of one of these great projects we helped fund.

June's presentation will be from doctoral student Todd Seamons of the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the UW. The title of Todd's research was "Reproductive Success of Individual Steelhead: The Effects of Relative Size, Timing and Repeat Spawning." His presentation will focus on three interesting and important biological characteristics of steelhead populations: (1) the effect of relative body size and arrival timing on individual steelhead, (2) the lifetime reproductive success of repeat-spawners vs. one time-spawners; and (by accident,) (3) the reproductive success of non- or pre-anadromous males.

The steelhead of Snow Creek, Washington were Todd's study population which provided an ideal place to study variation in reproductive success. Using DNA analysis, returning adult offspring were genetically matched to parents across 19 brood years. This allowed direct inventorying of all offspring and quantification of variation in lifetime reproductive success. Using this data he found some results that were contrary to common expectations.

From what I've read, Todd's project yielded some very interesting findings about how steelhead benefit reproductively from certain traits and behavior. I think it should be a very interesting presentation!



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## Fly Tying Contest by Rob Gamage

First of all, I need to give credit where credit is due; George Richardson was the winner of the April Fly Tying Contest with a beautiful Chironomid. Well done, George! Also, John Townsell is back in town and was the winner of the May Fly tying contest with a fine example of the Humpy. Congratulations John! Both of these guy's were happy to pocket their \$25.00 check in recognition of their winning flies!

The pattern for June's contest is Mikulak's Sedge. Arthur "Mitch" Mikulak of Calgary, Alberta developed this pattern in the mid 1970's as an answer to fool still water trout which, he had seen gorging themselves on adult sedges. It is also reported to work in moving water. Good Luck!

Hook: #8-12 dry 3XL  
Thread: Olive Green  
Tail: Stiff Elk Hair  
Body: Olive or Brown dubbing  
Wing: Stiff Elk Hair



## President's Message by Carl Johnson

The Stilly cleanup is scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>. It is interesting to note that the cleanup is scheduled to start an hour later this year because we have not been picking up as much trash. Let's hope the trend continues.

Please read Jesse's article about the auction, and notice the other articles with the dashed borders. These are the hypothetical things we'd be missing from our club without the auction.

The next two months are going to be busy ones for me. In middle June I leave for Florida to help my parents move back to New Jersey to be close to family. I get back in early July just in time to be elected president of the Washington Council of the FFF. In mid-July I leave for Montana to attend the FFF Conclave in Bozeman and represent Washington in the meetings there. Unfortunately this means that I have to miss all of the clubs events and meetings until August. See you then.

## River Cleanup This Weekend by Jesse Scott

The annual cleanup of the North Fork of the Stilly is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th. We'll meet at Charlie Ricketts for breakfast at 8 a.m. then team up and hit the river. After the trash is picked up, we'll return to Charlie's to consolidate the loads. Charlie has even agreed to have some refreshments on our return. So come on out and meet Mr. Charles and enjoy his hospitality.

Here's a great chance to share fishing stories over breakfast and meet new members. Don't worry if you do not have a truck, you can pair up with someone. Remember we will cover all the drifts so if you are not familiar with the North Fork this is your opportunity to learn. A stick with a nail in it, gloves, and knee boots are recommended. The river is open, so bring a rod and spend the rest of the day fishing. [There is a map to Charlie's on the back of this newsletter.](#) Hope to see you there.





## Auction Action by Jesse Scott

The truth is we haven't had much action. No one wants to be the Committee Chairman and only 4

people attended the meeting on June 8th. Sometimes it makes you wonder if it wouldn't just be easier to raise the dues and forget about the auction.

The club dues pays about 1/3rd of the \$9000 annual expenses and the auction covers the other 2/3rds. The \$6000 shortfall could be divided among the 120 members and dues would only be about \$75 per year. The other alternative would be to cancel the guest speaker program, all conservation activities, and library purchases. Thirdly, we could ask everyone to do something.

If this third alternative sounds good, then what do you want to do? We need people to contact the local merchants, people to donate items, people to help setup, and people to help with the checkout. We need some new people involved in these activities. We tend to wear out the "doer's", the people who "don't" won't, and it leaves the newer members to give it a try. Be thinking about which merchant you can contact, because there will be a sign up sheet at the June meeting. If you plan to donate flies, there will be fly boxes available at the June meeting. If you plan to donate a trip there will also be a sign up sheet for that. We'll keep the light's on for ya.



## Librarian's Corner by Jim Pankiewicz

### *Shrimp and Leeches* *Brian Chan & Don Freschi*

I have a bit of a hard time watching instructional or informational videos which are filmed in settings that are not representative of where the viewer would use the knowledge. Okay, maybe I'm just jealous that these guys seemed to be able to catch a four pound fish on every cast. Heck, I've caught a fish on every cast before, chironomid fishing for instance at Pass Lake. I fish 4 hours, I make two casts, stare at the indicator, and catch a fish on every cast. It's not quite the same as what

these fella's were doing though. I also have a bit of difficulty when "everything works" in a video. Every fly they tried was the perfect fly at that moment. They couldn't keep the fish off.

Getting past my pettiness I was able to learn some things from the video in spite of myself. I enjoyed the information about the life cycles of shrimp and leeches. I learned that our lakes have primarily two kinds of shrimp. Gammarus shrimp get to about 1/2 inch and Hyalella shrimp get to about 1/8 inch. Hyalella live in the marl substrata. I had never heard the word "marl" before. Brian knew I was watching and translated for me immediately by saying its clear shallows. He added that the Gammarus like the weeds. Shrimp are different color in different water. Brian Chan goes on to explain the influencing factors and what the fly angler should be doing to adapt to various situations.

Following the fishing with shrimp the authors show how to tie the "Simple Dubbed Shrimp" and the Parasitic Shrimp. Both are easy patterns to tie.

The leech portion of the video did not suck, just as I learned, most leeches do not. Brian explains that leeches are members of the phylum Annelida. (Segmented Worms) There are 50 different species in North America. Most are not blood suckers; they are primarily meat eaters. They are not in every lake just in the ones where there are food sources for them. I was amazed to learn that some species of leeches eat damsel flies, mayflies, and other aquatic insects. They show how to tie their version of the "Micro Leech" and the "Las Vegas Leech"--also easy patterns to tie.

If you are not a petty and jealous person like me, you may find yourself yelling every time Brian and Don hook up, kind of like they're making a touchdown or something. Of course you'll be hoarse by the end of the video with all the yelling but along the way you might also pick up a bit of useful information about the life cycles of shrimp and leeches, patterns to use, and techniques for fishing.

And remember, reading makes you beautiful. So does watching fishing videos. Returning things will make you drop dead gorgeous.



## Conservation Update by Jesse Scott

Here's an update on our current Conservation Committee projects.

- ❖ Dale Dennis is heading a project to solicit funds from adjoining fly clubs to purchase additional fish for a Fall planting in Lone Lake. We will also contribute \$300 from the conservation budget.
- ❖ The Lone Lake weed debris cleanup went well thanks to Bob Banks and Mike Shutt's assistance.
- ❖ We are planning a Nightshade removal project on Indian Creek in August or September.
- ❖ The Indian Creek culvert removal site is re-vegetating and looking great.
- ❖ Last year we had a booth at the annual Festival of the River at River Meadows Park in Arlington. We plan to do the same this year. The activities will include fly tying and casting, plus lots of conservation talk. The dates are August 12th and 13th. We need volunteers.
- ❖ We are working with the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force to develop a Knotweed survey plan. The idea is to have anyone who sees knotweed report it, and they will compile the data for the Snohomish Noxious Weed Control.

Remember, everyone is invited to the Conservation Committee meetings every third Thursday at the Village Restaurant in Marysville. The fish stories start at 6:30 and the pie is great.

## Membership Update by Mark Simpson

Last month we accidentally omitted James' phone number so here is his contact info one more time:

James Mathiesen  
9224- 47th Dr NE, Marysville, WA 98270  
360-659-6734, [james60@gte.net](mailto:james60@gte.net)

## 2006 Youth Conservation Camp by Jesse Scott

We had a total of 8 youths nominated for this years camp. We usually select 4 applicants to send to the camp. Each sponsorship costs \$250 and the money comes out of the Conservation budget. This year the Conservation Committee voted to send 6 children to the camp. Final selection was based on sending the older children first. This resulted in 3 girls and 3 boys being selected. You may anticipate hearing their after camp experiences at future meetings and thanks again for your support.

## Clubwire from the Federation of Fly Fishers

### Ten Ways To Save On Gas And Not Compromise Fishing Trips This Summer by Tim Cavileer –Clearwater Fly Casters

I was thinking recently about the rising gas prices and decided I needed to figure out some cost cutting measures so that my time on the stream this summer won't be adversely affected. Surely, it really is just a matter of priorities. Here's my list.

1. Fish at destinations that can only be reached by bush planes. This one ties in nicely with No 3. If you're going to risk tree top skimming into a grass strip back in the Frank Church Wilderness, you might as well stay the whole week, plus BOTH weekends. This one is voided if flying with AJ.
2. Take your fishing partner's rig. If you time it right, you can invite your buddy on trips to the local spots while alternating trips further a field in his vehicle.
3. Stay an extra day. Two days on the stream are always better than one. In fact, if a little is good, a lot must be better. Stay the whole week.

EFFC Coming Events		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 24 <sup>th</sup> Sat.	North Fork Stilly Cleanup	Charlie Rickett's place
July 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun.	Unofficial Saltwater Searun Fishout	Marysville Launch – Ebby Slough
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sun.	Summer Fishout /Mtg.	Gordy Swanson's place on NF Stilly
Sept 17 <sup>th</sup> Sun.	Cutthroat Fishout	Haller Park, Arlington
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Kalama Cup (McKenzie Fishout)	North Umpqua River, Oregon

4. Combine trips. Were you planning to fish for cutts on the St. Joe and the rainbows on the Henry's Fork this summer? Shoot, spend the first week on the Joe then swing down to the Henry's Fork for the second. Here again, the rule of multiples applies: it stands to reason that good fishing begets good fishing so common sense says it will be closer to drive to the next fishing spot than it is to drive all the way home. A swing through northern Idaho lends itself to western Montana, Montana is just a skip down to Yellowstone and Yellowstone leads to eastern Idaho. Once there you can leisurely fish your way back to Moscow through the South Fork of the Snake, the Big Wood, Silver Creek and Big Creek.
  5. Always grab two of any fly fishing items when visiting the fly shop. It's better to stock up on two of everything the first time than make two trips duplicating your fly tying needs.
  6. Remove all unnecessary items from the fishing rig. What's that spare tire really costing you? Think in terms of fishing weight equivalent units. One properly inflated spare tire is worth 0.5 fishing weight units. A properly outfitted vest, 3 fishing weight units. Therefore, you don't really need those 6 extra tires in the truck. Take the vest instead. Unassembled rods and reels are like broken cookies – they don't count and fall under the empty calorie rule, or in this case the empty fishing weight units.
  7. Slow down. There's no need to hurry since you'll be staying an extra week. Enjoy the view.
  8. Invest in alternative fuels. Stock up on hay for the goats. The three goats will do nicely for the lawn and the gas saved from the mower can be used to take fishing trips instead.
  9. Buy property closer to prime fishing destinations. If you can't afford the fuel, it makes sense to have that cabin on the lake or near the stream.
  10. Take early retirement. Sell the house and buy an RV. With no house payments you'll have plenty for gas to be a traveling trout bum.
- Well, there you have it. Surely, you can come up with a few of your own gas saving measures.

## Formula for Determining the Weight of Fish by Marty Seldon

The use of formulas to make estimates is common in medical practice and many other fields. They generally use scattered data points and yield approximate results.

In determining the weight of fish, the value of the constant (K) is adjusted dependent on the species of fish and how fat or skinny it is. The formula for fish weight is: The (Girth) squared in inches, times the (Length) in inches, divided by a (Constant = K) is equal to (=) the weight of the fish in either pounds or grams.

### Using inches and pounds:

For slender fish similar to trout: K = 900

For fat bodied fish such as a permit or a fat black bass; K = 800

- Fat Black Bass Example: Girth = 18 in., Length = 17 in.

$$18 \times 18 = 324$$

$$324 \times 17 = 5,508$$

$$5,508/800 = 6.9 \text{ pounds} \rightarrow \text{weight of the fish}$$

- Trout Example: Girth = 13 in., Length = 16 in.

$$13 \times 13 = 169$$

$$169 \times 16 = 2704$$

$$2704/900 = 3 \text{ pounds} \rightarrow \text{weight of the fish}$$

### Using the Metric System in centimeters and grams:

Girth and the Length are in centimeters (1 in = 2.54 cm) and the weight is in grams (1 pound = 453.6 grams). The formula is the same except:

For a slender fish similar to a trout, K = 31.1

For a fat fish such as a largemouth bass or a permit, K = 27.8

- Trout Example: Girth = 32 cm, Length = 41.5 cm:

$$32 \times 32 = 1024$$

$$1024 \times 41.5 = 42,496$$

$$42,496/31.1 = 1366 \text{ gms} = 3 \text{ pounds.}$$

Well known angler, author, and FFF Silver King Awardee Dan Blanton advises that the Constant K= 800 (metric=27.8) should be used for bonefish, tarpon, redbfish, striped bass, and similar species.

Barracuda, pike, and trout that are not excessively fat or girthy are more accurately described, as are Pacific bonefish that have less girth by using K = 900 (metric=31.1).

