



Garden Hackle

Leader's Line

From the Club President

John McKenzie: Nov 2, 1945 – May 4, 2006

John McKenzie, our fine fellow in friendship through fly-fishing, passed away May 4th while enjoying the camaraderie at the Dry Side outing, Blue Lake Washington.

You couldn't help but be touched in a very positive way by knowing John. In plain terms John was an important member of our SSFF club and he epitomized the ideals that make the Club the resource that it is. Members and friends felt an overwhelming sense of being mentored by a sage, of being taken under John's wing for a successful start to a grand experience.

John leaves behind his caring, thoughtful, and sharing ways. Campfires were always courtesy of John's handiwork, for the benefit of his fellow fishers and club members. At outings he shared his food, his fishing expertise, and his flies. Our fishers who received John's flies appreciate them fully. They fish them, they keep them, they treasure them remembering the fisher-friend who so freely gave the files and the stories about tying and fishing them.

A typical remembrance about John starting a fellow member fly-fishing reads:

"This was my first fly fishing outing. I learned so much from John that weekend. He gave me flies, taught me how to set up my rod, and gave me some casting lessons. I was truly over-whelmed with this kind of fishing. It seemed like way too much to learn, but John never left me alone. He took me under



his wing and guided me through every phase of what to do and how to do it. John made fly fishing fun! John was my fishing mentor, and he and I became good fishing partners. He shared his knowledge, his friendship and his soul to anyone who asked – I will miss you John!"

Another member writes,

"On one particular Yakima trip we were discussing CDC emergers over dinner. He got

out his stuff and proceeded to teach us how to tie size 20 CDC emergers. The next day I had fun using the flies that we tied. On another Yakima trip we were floating to Red's and ran into a baetis hatch. John and I shared the riffle for over an hour and were laughing and admiring the catches."

John personified good times with good friends - the black coffee that was always ready when folks pulled out of their sacks, the special flies for the special lakes and rivers: Knight Fighter for Leach and Blue Lakes, John's Matuka for Walupt Lake, and the CDC emergers for the Yakima. Concerned that his fellow fishers could communicate on the water, John coordinated the use of appropriate radio channels. If you didn't have a radio, he loaned you one of his so you weren't left out. John made sure your day was a success.

John volunteered with fly tying and other Club activities. This year John would have led two outings to Walupt

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Programs

Where: Salmon Club

When: Tuesday May 16th, 2006

Time: 6:15 Doors Open
6:30 Fly Tying
7:00 Brief Business
7:20 Program

May Program

Tuesday, May 16, to join Tom Bolander, owner of Fishy Business, as he gives us the scoop on our own famous Deschutes River. This is a great fishery right in our own back yard that doesn't give up its secrets very easily. What an opportunity to hear our own expert on fishing the Deschutes River.

Other programs lined up so far:

June - Member Burt Saver, Coho on a dry fly (Dondas Island, BC)

July – Members Joe Uhlman and Gene Sterbis, fishing Montana rivers

August – Members Myron Saikewicz and Joe Uhlman, fly fishing the Olympic Peninsula for Steelhead.

September – Member Jim Voss, fishing the Yakima River

October – Member Denny Lewis, this summer's fishing trip. (some cool places to go)

November – Member Joe Uhlman, totally Yakitak, Alaska.

Definitions

WADING:

Wading, the most common means through which a dry fly-fisherman is transformed into a wet fly-fisherman.

CANOE:

Long, narrow, sharp-ended boat in which the typical lake fisherman passes through the most dramatic portion of the metamorphosis that began with his emergence from his cocoon like sleeping bag at dawn. At first huddling in the unfamiliar craft as he adjusts to his new environment, he rises unsteadily to his feet, extends his fishing rod, and then goes into a brief flying phase, followed by a long aquatic or swimming stage.

New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS)

We, as anglers, need to be more aware and careful about this exotic intruder. It was first identified in the Idaho's Snake River country in 1987. By 1997 it had spread through all major waters in Yellowstone National Park. Now it has spread, by anglers, to many states, and it is in waters that many of us fish: Snake R. near Lewiston, WA; Columbia R. near Portland, Madison R. and Missouri R in MT. When NZMS infest a stream they take food from native species. Also they are worthless as trout food since they pass through the gut without damage.

The FFF issued an Angler Warning in 2002 and has recently put a "Recommendation to Anglers" on it's website: fedflyfishers.org/conNZMS.php Earlier studies indicated that the snails could be killed by cleaning thoroughly and drying the waders for several days. Or they could be frozen for 3 to 6 hours or more.

These new recommendations come from a California study that tested various methods of killing the

snails on waders and wading boots. Several chemicals will do the job, but the following is probably the most convenient for anglers.

1. Thoroughly brush gear with a stiff bristled brush to remove all snails. Be sure to brush boot treads, laces and other hiding places.
2. Mix Formula 409 Cleaner Degreaser/Disinfectant and equal parts water in a gear dry sack or other large, sturdy plastic container.
3. Place wading boots or wading gear in the gear dry sack and shake vigorously for 5 minutes, allowing the solution to cover all surfaces.
4. Allow to soak in solution for **at least 5 minutes** and your gear should be NZMS free.

See the website:

www.fedflyfishers.org/conNZMS.php for more details



Outtings

Bill Aubrey

Outtings Report—May 2006

There will be a joint outing at Walupt Lake with the Alpine Club on July 21-22. In between, we will have the Deschutes River on May 21st, the Yakima on June 10th, and Coldwater Lake on June 24th.

If you have any ideas on an outing that you think would be fun please contact any of the board members. If you don't want to be in charge of it we may be able to find someone who will. But we will not hold you back if you want to run the show. The success of our outing depends on the membership. The more ideas and involvement we have, the more opportunities there will be for others to learn.

As always, please give me a call or email with any suggestions for outings or to volunteer to ghillie. This is your club; make it work.

Continued from page one John McKenzie

Lake and the Yakima River. But when asked to become a Board member John politely declined. He was not interested in the leadership roles within SSFF, as capable as he might have performed them. Instead, he preferred working with the outings and working his magic one-on-one mentoring, teaching, coaching, and guiding all levels of friends to greater success, surpassed only by the warmth of his friendship, and the camaraderie of the experience.

John – for all you gave, for all you taught, for letting us share in your greatness – thank you seems so inadequate. We miss you, John!

Give a person a fish and they have food for a day.

Teach a person to fish and they have to purchase several graphite rods, matching high-end reels & spools, backing, both float and sink-tip lines, ultra-clear leaders & tippets, rod holding tubes, Gore-tex waders, a wading belt, wading boots with interchangeable soles, gear bags, landing nets, float tubes, a fishing boat and trailer, a creel, tackle boxes, about 300 flies for streams, lakes, salt, and fresh water, barbless hooks and about 300 different kinds of materials for tying flies, a good vice, a magnifying light, and approximately 16 tying tools, a vest with 20 pockets filled with every fly fishing thingy and doodad ever invented including forceps, pliers, a knot-tying tool, nippers, a fly patch, a wading staff, a head lamp, magnifiers, sun screen, bug repellent, a waterproof camera, a personal flotation device, a water purifying water bottle, strike indicators, non-lead sinkers, a hook sharpener, a bug net, a thermometer, and a depth/ fish finder and GPS system, a cool fishing hat, wicking underwear, socks, pants, and shirts, thermal underwear, socks, pants, and shirts, a hooded rain jacket, spin gear for when the flies aren't working, airline tickets to Alaska and other exotic destinations, guide fees, fishing licenses in at least four or five states and/or nations, and two bags full of snacks and beverages strictly prohibited by all cardiac physicians across the world.

Other News

Dues are due!

2006 Calendar year dues of \$30.00 are due effective the first of the year. Our Treasurer, Jim Bush, will be collecting them at the monthly meeting. Or, if you wish, you may send your dues payment to Jim at PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507-2792. If your dues are not paid by the end of this month you will not receive the next newsletter

For Sale—Several rods & Fish Cat float tube. See Denny Lewis at meeting or call 360-791-2620.

WEBSITE

We have a marvelous new resource for the club. Check out the club web site Dave Millard worked so hard to set up. Also, sign up for the yahoo group. Go to Yahoo groups and search for "southsoundflyfishers". These groups are amazing. I joined Puget Sound's group "PSFF" and we got together an outing for steelies on the Kalama

In a day. We had 6 fishermen!. Unfortunately, the fish did not read about the outing, but at least we got together and went fishing!!!!

There are limitless possibilities with the group—from get togethers to fly tying info to fishing reports to—well, you get the idea. The group is limited in membership—Dave is the moderator and has to approve people. In other words, we will not be bothered by spammers or solicitors.



**SOUTH SOUND FLY
FISHERS**

P.O. Box 2792
Olympia, WA 98507

Dedicated to Conservation
Through Fly Fishing



**South Sound
Fly Fishers**

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Member at Large: Jay Johnson 736-0320

2006 Committee Leads

Membership: Chuck Pfeil
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Outings: Bill Aubrey
Education: Jim Voss
Newsletter: Jay Johnson
Political: Myron Saikewicz
Conservation: Myron Saikewicz
Ghillie: Joe Uhlman

General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except December. The meetings are held at the American Legion Hall (Salmon Club), 3201 Boston Harbor Road NE Olympia, WA.

When --- The third Tuesday of every Month.

Where --- American Legion Hall (Salmon Club)

3201 Boston Harbor Road NE

Time ----- 6:15 P.M. Fly Tying Demonstration

7:00 P.M. Meeting and Program

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every other month at Apollo's Pizza & Pasta 2010 Harrison Avenue NW Olympia (phone 754-7444) at 6:00. Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 6th. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to attend.

Website: www.southsoundflyfishers.com

Content: Please contact Jay Johnson (360-736-0320 or e-mail at jjohnso2@localaccess.com) if you wish to put something in the newsletter.