



Stonefly Maidens
Ladies Fly Fishing
Club Newsletter
June 2003

AN OREGON COUNCIL-FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS MEMBER CLUB

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MEETING INFO:

Next meeting: TUESDAY June 10, 2003

Who Song and Larry's, 4850 SW Macadam Ave, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 223-8845.

6 PM, dinner and social hour

7 PM, program

John Smeraglio of Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop in Maupin will be speaking about Bugs of the Deschutes. His talk will cover the insect life of the Deschutes River—the larva, the nymphs, the adults—whatever swims or crawls in the river. John may also talk about the flies that imitate these bugs. This is a great opportunity to get a beginning entomology lesson for the Deschutes that can carry over to other rivers.

This month's fish-a-long:

Saturday, June 14, 2003

Smallmouth Bass Fishing, destination to be announced. With the weather getting warmer, the smallmouth bass will be getting more active. We will decide about where to go. If you have any ideas, bring them to the meeting. Points for consideration include quality of fishery, proximity to Portland and desire of members to fish there.

We have hats, denim shirts and T-shirts with our Stonefly logo on them for sale at the meeting. Hats are \$15.00; denim shirts are \$25.00; T-shirts are \$18.00. What better way to advertise the club?

Fly Lines

The last fish-a-long on the Deschutes was fun. Four of us tried to take advantage of the beginning the famed Deschutes river salmon fly hatch. Alas, the day was cool and windy, and no salmon flies were in evidence. But everyone caught a few fish and learned some new places to fish. Next up is smallmouth bass fishing. Come to the meeting and help decide where we go.

Get ready for carp fishing in July. I have been amazed at how many articles in the fly fishing magazines I have seen recently about carp fishing. There must be something to it. Please keep your ears open for likely places to fish. One place I have heard about is Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie's Island. I'm not wired into that place, just looking for a fishy place.

The next important event coming up is the Casting Clinic. Ramona Davis, Kim Wilcox, Lisa Wassgren, Lisa Greber, Carmen Smith, and I have started our casting instruction. We had a really good session with Katherine Hart and Mark Bachmann last weekend. We all learned something new about the basic casting techniques and have started to get an idea on how to critique other people's casts and how to make helpful hints. Keep advertising the clinic to all the women you know. It is very useful to get anyone who is even slightly interested to fill out the registration form. The place where we were originally going to have the clinic is not suitable, so we are looking for another location. If we have a way to get in touch with the women who are interested in the clinic, we can remind them to attend and confirm the location of the clinic.

The meetings are finally over and the guidelines for the club have been decided! Basically, we decided that this is a women's fly fishing club, which is a member club of the Federation of Fly Fishers. As such, men may join the club only when sponsored by a woman who is a member and as part of a family membership. The fish-a-longs are open to all members with the exception of to be determined events that will be for women only. Guests will be allowed on most fish-a-longs up to twice per year. The meetings are open to all women and their fishing partners. Individual members shall be 18 years of age or older. Family memberships may include family members as young as 16. The board will continue to work out the details of the bylaws through the summer and the fall. Thanks to all who participated in the meetings at Rebecca's house and a special thanks to Rebecca for organizing the meetings and arranging for the facilitators. I think we had some great discussions and made good decisions for the direction of the club.

I am really excited about what's coming up this summer. Hope you are too.

See you on the water and at the meeting,
Tilda

Tentative Program and Fish-a-long Schedule

Month	Program	Fish-a-long
June	John Smeraglio, Salmon Fly Hatch	Smallmouth Bass,
TBA, June 14		
July	No Meeting	Carp Fishing, July 12
August	Casting Clinic, Welches, OR,	August 16
September	Tim Rajeff, Fly Lines Demystified	Float Tube Clinic,
Roslyn Lake, September 13		
October	Donna Teeney, Saltwater Fishing	Sea-run Cutthroats,
October 18		
November	Winter Equipment Storage	Chum Salmon, TBA
December	Christmas Party	None scheduled

All speakers and fish-a-longs are subject to change without notice.

Goings on: Fly Shops and Events

The Fly Fishing Shop at Welches 503.622.4607 www.flyfishusa.com

Call or visit the web site for more info on sales and upcoming events.

Saturday, August 16, 2003, 1:00 to 5:00pm

Women's Fly Casting Clinic. FREE! Beginner, Intermediate, Expert - we will take you to the next level! Held at Mt. Hood Village Casting Pond. Sponsored by: "Stonefly Maidens Fly Club, Portland, OR", "The Fly Fishing Shop, Welches, OR", "R. L. Winston Rod Company", "Mt. Hood Village, Welches, OR". Call for reservations: 1-800-266-3971

Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop – Maupin 541.395.2565

Call or visit the web site for more info. Give the shop a call to find out about their specials and classes.

Intro to Fly Fishing Class. Offering you a private lake side setting for a relaxing way of getting you started. This one day class will teach you the fundamentals of your equipment, tying knots, and casting a fly to a beautiful trout. Class size 4 to 10 people \$ 150.00 per person.

July 19, 2003 or August 16, 2003

Entomology Seminar -- Understanding Western Hatches. Day long classroom/streamside study of aquatic insects with Rick Hafele, co-author of Western Hatches. By reservation only. \$75 per person.

River City Fly Shop – 11429 SW Scholls Ferry Rd, Beaverton 503.579.5176

Fly tying every Tuesday evening starting at 6:30pm. \$50 for 4 sessions; you can join at any time.

Northwest Flyfishing Outfitters – 10910 NE Halsey St., Portland 503.252.1529 or 888.292.1137 www.flyshopnw.com

Call or visit their web site for more information about classes, trips and special events.

Kaufmann's Streamborn – 8861 SW Commercial, Tigard 800-442-4359 or 503-639-6400 www.kman.com

Call or visit their web site for more information about classes, trips and special events.

BOW

August 15-17—Eagle Cap Horse Pack Adventure, La Grande

September 6-7—Kayak/Hike, Cove Palisades State Park, Culver

September 20—Pheasant Hunt, Klamath Wildlife Area, Klamath Falls

September 26-28—Fly Fishing For Steelhead, Troy

October 4—Fly Fishing The Crooked River, Prineville

If you would like to put your name on the mailing list to receive registration materials, please contact [Nancy Smogor](mailto:Nancy.Smogor@dfw.state.or.us), Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program Coordinator, at (503) 872-5264 x 5358 or check out their website at www.dfw.state.or.us/outdoor_skills/bow.html.

Fishing for Bass

Mark Bachmann, The Fly Fishing Shop

Bass love banging top water bugs. You could be taking part in an exciting new fishery. Oregon has many varied opportunities for catching bass with your fly rod. There are the incomparable John Day and South Umpqua Rivers for Small Mouths. The Willamette and Columbia Rivers offer both Small mouth and Largemouth Bass. Central Oregon has myriad bass lakes. Barnes Butte, Crane Prairie, Rock Creek, Pine Hollow Reservoirs & Davis Lake to name a few. Many Oregon bass lakes have clean, clear water. And they offer exciting sight fishing for the stealthy, observant fly angler.

Fishing along a shore line from a pontoon boat or float tube can be very productive. However seeing the bass you are fishing for is always a distinct advantage. The higher stance and longer range of the pontoon boat makes it the perfect craft for bass fly fishing.

Some lakes are best fished from shore. Often the best results can be obtained by two anglers working together. One will hike the shore and gain elevation to direct his buddy who casts from a pontoon boat. This teamwork works with both floating and sinking flies. The shoreline angler can get many shots also.

Bass often lay suspended where they can be coaxed to the surface with a well placed popper or hair bug. Bass-bugging with a fly rod is an explosive, visual sport. It is also a tactical one.

Bass are territorially aggressive ambush fish. Bass society is not a democracy. The big boys get territory of their choosing. They may not wish to share it with a smaller fish or a noisy, splashy, arrogant, fancy painted popping bug. Big bass love to grab and crush things with their big bony, raspy mouths.

Each bass is different. Some are more aggressive than others. Most can be goaded into striking. Many bass that ignore or run from the first presentation, can be harassed into striking with successive presentations. Sometime you can "pump a fish up" by presenting smaller and smaller flies until the fly matches the confidence level of the fish. One time I started on a bass with a #6 hard body popper, but after several fly reductions, took him with a skittered #14 Parachute Adams.

Seeing Is Believing. Sight fishing for bass is an exciting sport. Many Pacific Northwest bass waters are very clear. These are the same waters that until recently, have been inhabited only by native salmonids etc. Bass like warmer water than trout do. During much of the most productive part of the season, bass are active during peak water temperature periods. These are often periods when trout are least active. So fill in the dead time with bass. Peak water temperatures occur with peak sunlight when bass are most visible. If the angler moves quietly, bass can often be fished at ranges of under 30'. These conditions make sight fishing to bass very practical. Obviously decreasing amounts of light or increasing amounts of turbidity or wind chop will limit the effectiveness of sight fishing. Seeing has always been an art. Seeing well takes curiosity, but also takes discipline. The more you look, the more you will see. Seeing can be enhanced optically. In almost every situation, polarized glasses will improve your vision into the water.

Your best presentations appeal to both the predatory and territorial facets of bass nature. Placing the fly where it is most vulnerable or irritating to a bass is very important if you want to catch it. Being able to place the fly in the perfect relation to the fish, demands that the angler be able to see the fish while the presentation is being made. An experienced angler may study a bass for several minutes before the first cast is executed. A pair of precision ground polarized glasses is a priceless asset in this game. Being able to watch your quarry and see its reaction to your presentation is a great advantage. Being able watch your bass is even more important if the angler is fishing subsurface with a slow moving fly. Bass can suck in a fly and eject it so softly

that it can be virtually impossible to feel the strike. If you see the bass take the fly, then you will know when to set the hook.

How To Select Your Next Bass Rod. Bass are ambush fish. Productive bass fishing demands pin-point casting accuracy. Bass often live surrounded by dense cover. Usually the angler is targeting small openings in this cover.

Placing the fly where it is most vulnerable or irritating to a bass is very important if you want to catch it. If the fly lands in exactly the right spot the first cast, it will often get an instant strike. A presentation that takes several casts to get the fly into play is less effective. A fly rod is the perfect weapon for bass sight fishing. It can be a rapid fire instrument rendering pin-point accuracy. Selecting a rod and line combination that performs smoothly in all your normal casting ranges is important. Few casts of over 40' are required. Super fast rods are not an asset. They give a herky-jerky presentation that destroys accuracy.

Bass flies are larger than most trout flies. Casting bulky poppers and hair bugs takes practice. It also takes the right rod and line combination to enable you to perform at your best. Often loading your rod with a heavier fly line can be useful. A heavier line will slow your rod down and provide the energy needed to launch larger, bulkier flies. Bass come in a wide variety of sizes. Most Oregon bass are 1 to 3 pounds. These small to medium size bass seem to prefer poppers and hair bugs in the size #6 and #8 range. A #5 to #6 fly rod is ideal for fish of this size.

A #7 or #8 rod is appropriate where 4 & 8 pound bass might be encountered. Bigger bass often respond quicker to bigger flies. A heavier rod is more comfortable to cast really large flies with and might be needed to pull larger fish out of heavy cover.

It is always handy to have two rods rigged. One rod should be equipped with a floating line and the other should be equipped with a sinking line. That way bass can be fished at a variety of depths without restringing your rod.

Bass love to feed on [Leeches](#). Leeches can be crawled slowly across the bottom with a sinking line. This approach works best early in the season before weeds start to grow. As the water warms and vegetation starts to grow, a floating line is often better. In the spring when bass are on the beds, a leech dropped into a nest will usually bring a strike. After the spawn, cast to drop-offs and let the fly slowly settle and jig it gently. Takes can be very soft. The angler has to be aware of any change of tension on the line.

How Bass Locate Prey. Bass are superbly designed to attack and kill at close range. Their hydrodynamic design and fin arrangement allows them to maneuver silently. They usually stalk their prey and ambush from short range. When a bass makes the final rush it rarely misses unless it changes its mind at the last instant. Refusals can be as dramatic as takes. Most experts agree that sight plays the major role in bass food acquisition. Bass have remarkably well adapted eyes for the environments they inhabit. They see shapes, colors, movement and distance very well at mid and close range. Eye arrangement in the skull allows for binocular and wide peripheral vision. This enables bass to locate and study their prey and assess how to best attack it. Sometimes a bass will study prey and stalk it for a matter of minutes before attacking. However this stalking process can start long before prey could possibly be in visual contact. Often you will see a bass start to edge toward your fly while it is still obscured from direct view by weeds or other obstructions. This is because bass also have a very acute sense of hearing. Sound travels more efficiently through water than through air. Bass use this efficient sound transfer to locate prey in weeds, turbid waters or low light conditions. They hear normal frequency sounds with an inner ear very much like our own. They detect low frequency sounds with special nerves located along the lateral line. It is believed that bass may very well be able to judge the size and kind of prey as well as relative distance through sound. This is why flies and lures that pop, whir, rattle or gurgle are so effective. The sound gets the bass' attention. Bass are always listening for prey that is in distress and vulnerable. When the bass is alerted by sound it will stalk by sound until visual contact is made. Fine tuning the attack is done after the prey has been sighted.