

Stonefly Maidens
Ladies Fly Fishing
Club Newsletter
MARCH 2002

AN OREGON COUNCIL-FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS MEMBER CLUB

PRESIDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tilda Runner 503-658-6394 tmrunner@attbi.com

VICE-PRESIDENT & PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Terry Sanchez 503-356-8212 texasweaver@attbi.com

TREASURER

Laura Coblentz 503-263-4928 Kat5mom@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP & RAFFLE COORDINATOR

Lisa Wassgren 503-590-1050 wassgren@cvk-law.com

MEETING INFO:

Next meeting: TUESDAY, March 12, 2002

Old Spaghetti Factory, 0715 SW Bancroft St, Portland, OR 97201, 503-222-5375

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Make sure you ask at the front desk for the Stonefly Maidens meeting. If for some reason the restaurant books the meeting room out from under us, the meeting will be moved down the street to Who Song and Larry's (4850 SW Macadam Ave, 503-223-8845. The person at the reception desk will know where we are at.

6 PM, dinner and social hour

7 PM, presentation

Don Nelson from River City Fly Shop in Beaverton is coming to teach us how to tie winter steelhead flies. His shop off of Scholls Ferry Road is filled with all the fly tying materials you could ever dream of wanting. Bring your vise if you have one. If you don't, there will be vises to tie on. We will talk about how to fish the flies we tie. Come learn what goes into the flies you fish with. Tying experience is definitely not a requirement.

This month's fish-a-long:

March 16, 2002

Winter steelhead fishing

We will be deciding where we will fish depending upon the number of people to commit to attending the fish-a-long. Rivers we are considering are the Santiam, the Sandy, the Clackamas, or maybe a coastal river.

We will also have the hats and T-shirts ready for sale at the meeting with our new Stonefly logo on them. Hats will be \$15.00 and the heavy weight tees will be \$18.00.

FLY LINES

I am really looking forward to catching my first steelhead of any kind. I know that the only way to do that is to just keep going out and putting in the time and the casts—cast, swing, step, cast, swing, step and so on and so on. That's the way it is for catching a lot of fish. Last month, a few

us went to the Metolius River to try to catch the elusive Bull Trout. Once again, a challenging fish and challenging fishing. We didn't catch anything, but we had a great time learning how to cast really really heavy flies on really fast sinking fly lines (the ole' chuck and duck). The more I fish the more I am reminded that fishing isn't just about catching fish. I think it's even more about the experience, learning the water, learning the casts, learning what flies to use, learning how to fish. I hope that this year, the club can help provide great fishing experiences for all the club members. The things I enjoy about belonging to a club are the fishing friends I meet and the new places I get to fish. Invite a friend to the meeting. I'm sure she'll find something that will bring her back.

I want to thank Lisa Wassgren, Laura Coblenz and Bob Larsell for taking time away from their fishing in February to represent the club and the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers at the Sportsmen's Show. I think that we made some good contacts. Thanks also go to Don Abing of the Oregon Council for asking us to participate.

If you are interested in learning to tie flies, check out this month's article. It talks about the basic tools needed to start tying flies. The Federation of Fly Fishers web site (www.fedflyfishers.org) has other articles for the beginning fly tier and fly recipes for those who want to experiment.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Tilda

FISH-A-LONG SCHEDULE

March 16	Steelhead
April 13	Coastal Rivers
May 18	Trout Fishing Clinic with Rob Crandall
June 15	Deschutes River – Stonefly Hatch (of course)
July 13	Davis Lake Summer Meeting and Camp-Out
August 10	Roslyn Lake
September 14	Umpqua River – Big K Ranch
October 12	Deschutes River – October Caddis Hatch

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.

Sunday, March 10, 2002, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Fly Fisher's Round Table
Mark Meriwether - Quill Wing Dry Flies & March Brown May Fly Patterns

Sunday, March 17, 2002, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Fly Fisher's Round Table
Don Roberts - "The Bahamas on a Budget"

Don Roberts is a professional writer and founder of "Fly Fishing The West Magazine". The Bahamas are a great place to catch bonefish and lay around in the sun. The only problem is the cost of resorts, travel, etc. This Oregonian will tell you how to do the Bahamas and not spend the family fortune while you are there.

May 18 - 19, 2002, Sandy River Spey Clave 2002

At Oxbow Park on the Sandy River

What is the Sandy River Spey Clave? It is a gathering of anglers interested in two-hand fly rod fishing. It is a place to exchange information and fish together. This year there will be (7) fly tackle rep groups to put on a show specifically for the spey casting fraternity.

Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop -- Maupin 541.395.2565

Casting Classes

90 minute streamside individual lesson with John Smeraglio, \$60 per session.

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.

BASIC FLY TYING TOOLS

Adapted from the FFF booklet Introduction to fly tying (by Al Beatty & Bob Lay)

As a general rule, quality tools will allow you to learn faster and tie better flies. As such, you should strive to obtain the best tools your budget will allow. This does not mean that tools must be a costly investment. Your local fly shop owner can be a source of quality tools and materials. As you gain experience, retail catalogs also can be an excellent source.

The tools needed to begin fly tying are a **vise, scissors, bobbin, bobbin threader, bodkin, hackle pliers, hair stacker, whip finisher, and hackle gauge.**

THE VISE: This is your single most important purchase. This tool holds the hook secure while the fly is being constructed. There are many vises with prices ranging from \$35 to several hundred dollars. Some vises are more versatile than others and you need to consider the type of mount (base). A C-clamp mount is usually less expensive and often gives you more control in height while a pedestal mount may cost more but is more flexible for different types of tables or counters where you may want to tie.

The way the hook is secured in the vise also is a consideration. There are rotary and rotary vises. A rotary vise is one that allows the jaws (and fly) to be turned 360 degrees while you are constructing the fly. This feature can be used to your advantage, but is not an absolute necessity. The Thompson "A" vise is an excellent choice for a beginner and is available with either a base or clamp mount for a reasonable price, however it is not a rotary vise. Its cousin, the Thompson 360, is a full rotary vise.

SCISSORS: After a vise, scissors are probably the next most important fly tying tool. Considerations when making your purchase include the quality of the blade, the size of the finger holes and the fineness of the point. Finger holes need to be large enough to facilitate easy manipulation of the scissors and the blade **MUST** be of high enough quality to maintain a good edge. Without a fine point, you cannot get close enough to the body of the fly to cut material. Besides the standard scissor, the spring-loaded clip style of scissor is available in fabric stores and fly shops. It can be an excellent choice for the fly tier with the advantage that replacement blades are available when the blades become dull. No matter which scissors you select, just be sure they are sharp and have fine points.

BOBBIN: Thread is used in the construction of the fly and a bobbin holds a spool of thread as it is applied to the fly. This rather inexpensive item consists of a stainless steel tube that is flared at the end, and heavy spring steel material with beads on the end to hold the spool of thread. Considerations include the length of the tube, its diameter, and whether it includes a ceramic tip.

Some feel that a longer tube is an advantage because it allows more leverage when wrapping the thread and more control in placement of the thread. Either a standard or long length bobbin will function perfectly well for the beginner. Bobbins with a larger diameter are used for floss, not thread. In time thread friction may wear grooves in the flared end of the tube; a ceramic tip will prevent this tendency. A ceramic tip, however is not an absolute necessity for the beginning fly tier.

BOBBIN THREADER: This is a tool used to pull the tying thread through the bobbin tube. It consists of a fine wire loop secured together at one end to a handle or knob. This tool can be purchased, or one can be made with fine guitar string or wire. A dental floss threader, available at any drug store can be used as a substitute.

BODKIN: A bodkin has several uses. It is used to apply head cement to the finished fly and also to "pick" out dubbing on some patterns. It basically consists of a large needle and a handle about the size of a pencil. This is a relatively inexpensive tool that can also be made by inserting the head of a 2-inch pin into the end of a 3-inch piece of quarter inch dowel.

HACKLE PLIERS: The hackle pliers are an absolute necessity when wrapping hackle around the shank of the hook. Many different styles are on the market today; however, pliers with one rubber grip and one serrated brass grip are relatively inexpensive and recommended for the beginner.

HAIR STACKER: Getting the hair tips even is a basic necessity if the fly is to be properly proportioned and balanced. The hair stacker performs this function. Generally available for under \$10.00, this tool consists of two tubes, one that fits inside the other. The larger of the two tubes has a bottom attached to it; the smaller is open on both ends. The hair is inserted into the top end of the smaller tube with the tips pointing downward. The tool is then turned to the vertical position, inserted into the larger tube and tapped on a solid surface. This action "shakes" the hair fibers to the bottom of the stacker, thus evening the natural ends. The tubes are then moved to a horizontal position and separated. The evened hair fibers are then removed to construct a portion of a fly.

WHIP FINISHER: The whip finisher is the tool used to knot the thread at the completion of a fly so the thread can be cut without the fly coming untied. There are two primary types of whip finishers available on the market today, the Thompson or the Matarelli. Each accomplishes the same task in a different manner. Both are good products with the choice of selection up to the tier. It is strongly recommended that the beginner learn to use one of the above tools; however, a good substitute for the whip finisher is the hollow tube of a ball point pen. It will not only provide a whip finish, but can be used to tie a half hitch knot.

HACKLE GAUGE: This inexpensive tool is a must for the beginning fly tier. In the construction of a fly there is a direct correlation between the size of the hook and the size of hackle used. Generally speaking the hackle should be one and one half times the distance of the gap of the hook. Accuracy and ease in obtaining this important measurement is gained by use of a hackle gauge. Several styles of hackle gauges are available and beginning fly tiers should use one to ensure their fly proportions remain consistent from one fly to the next.

As you progress into fly tying and become proficient in the required skills, you may develop a need for more tools. The same theories of purchase should apply. Tools are a life long investment.