



Newsletter

Stonefly Maidens Women's Fly Fishing Club

Alice Deaver, 1928-2003

Mike Schmierer

Alice Deaver passed away in August of 2003. She was a retired PE teacher and avid fly tier and fly fisher in northern Idaho and Spokane, Washington.

For several years after retiring from teaching, Alice worked one day a week for John Propp at his fly shop in Spokane and tied many of the flies he sold in his shop on her off days. She was particularly good at tying small dry flies. She had her tying bench located in her living room in front of her television. She loved to watch sporting events on the television and tie flies. Thousands and thousands of flies. Alice was invited one year to tie at the annual FFF convention.

Alice was an active member of the Inland Empire Flyfishing Club and the Spokane Flyfishing Club. A fly that Alice invented is included in the Inland Empire Flyfishing Club's Flytying Manual named the Don't Ask. There is

an interesting story that is behind the creation of the Don't Ask and therefore the resulting name. .

As president of the Spokane Flyfishing Club, Alice was very concerned about creating and maintaining sustainable fisheries and spreading the joys of fly fishing in general. Before her death, the club presented her with its highest honor, The Conservation Award.

Alice traveled far and wide in pursuit of fish. She was a regular at Brabant Lodges in Northwest Territories, Canada, known for its world class Northern pike fishing. At the time, her friend John Propp held several pike world records. She broke his 8 lb. line record for fly fishing on one of her trips to Brabant with John and kept the IGFA record for several years.

Another trip Alice did on a yearly basis was silver fishing on Kodiak

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Meeting Information

- March 9, 2005
6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Business Meeting and Speaker
- Iron Horse Restaurant
6034 SE Milwaukie Ave
Portland, Oregon
(503) 232-1826
- Speaker: Video Night
John Smeraglio & Rick Hafele—
Summer Fishing on the Deschutes

This Month with the Stonefly Maidens

Come join us in learning a little about a lot of things, well maybe just a few. This is video night. We will be seeing a video by John Smeraglio and Rick Hafele about Summer Fishing on the Deschutes or any other river. We will also be learning a little about Alice Deaver—a famous fly tier and innovator. We may even have a brief video presentation about Casting for Recovery.

This month's trip is to the McKenzie River to hopefully catch a March Brown mayfly hatch. More details will be available at the meeting. If anyone has experience on the McKenzie River, please let us know. We are always looking for someone who is willing to share their experiences

with the others. There will be a trip sheet at the meeting.

Join the Oregon Council of the FFF at the Fly Tyers Expo in Eugene on March 26. You will have any opportunity to see people tying flies up close and personal. The club is assisting with selling raffle tickets for items to be given away at the banquet that evening. More details at the meeting.

Don't forget to pay your dues. They are \$25 for the year. Your dues help the club pay for speakers, trips and projects. Invite a friend to join, the more the merrier.

Fly Lines

This month is soap box time. We have a strong, vibrant and growing club. It thrills me no end to see the growth that we have gone through in the past few years. Now it is time for us to give back to the sport or maybe better yet give the sport to others.

This month we have an opportunity to do both by attending the NW Fly Tyers Expo on March 26. We will be giving back to the sport by supporting the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. The club has committed to helping sell raffle tickets at the Expo, so we need some volunteers to help with that. At the banquet, there will be a silent auction and a live auction. Here's where we can help give the sport to others—there will be at least one fly plate of flies tied by women to auctioned off. There will also be flies tied by women in the raffle. All the of the proceeds from these flies will go towards funding of Casting for Recovery events here in Oregon. Some of our members have contributed flies for this project.

Marti Franc is heading up our effort to put on a Casting for Recovery retreat around the

Tilda Runner

Portland area. She will have more information for us as time goes on. I know that she is looking for volunteers to make medical contacts in the community, to look at possible retreat locations, and to help raise money for the retreat. Please see if you can spend some of your time for this project. Our club is also looking for volunteers to help at the Casting for Recovery retreat at the Big K Ranch in September. We will be assisting Women on the Fly and gaining some experience for our own efforts.

In April, the Oregon Council is putting on two Women's Fly Fishing Seminars at Roaring Springs in Scio. It would sure be nice if we could have a few women help with the instruction. You don't have to do the actual teaching, but assistants are always welcome. I should have more info at the meeting.

Thanks to all of the members who helped at the Sportsman Show. We might not have gotten any members from the show, but we did let people see that women fly fish also.

Please support our service projects. It's to give back to our sport and to others.



Name This Fly Contest

Write the name of this fly on a raffle ticket with your name. The first person drawing with the correct name of the fly wins six of them along with the recipe for tying your own. Hint: This fly might be useful on this month's fish-a-long.

Goings On

BOW



March 5—Fly Tying, Pendleton

March 6—Sporting Clays and Shotgun Clinic, Central Oregon Sporting Clays at Bend Trap Club, Bend

April 2—Clamming, Tugman State Park, Near Reedsport

April 23—Kayaking the South Slough Estuary, Charleston

May 7 - 8—Kayaking and Hiking, Cove Palisades State Park, Culver

May 21 - 22—Fly Fishing Workshop, Wizard Falls Hatchery, Camp Sherman

June 25 - 26—Wild Coastal Edibles, South Slough, Charleston

June 11 - 12—Multi-activity Workshop, La Pine State Park

More Information

If you have questions about BOW, any workshop, or the registration process, do not hesitate to call or e-mail the BOW staff:

Paula Booth, BOW Coordinator, 503-947-6016, paula.p.booth@state.or.us

Colleen Till, BOW Registrar, 503-947-6017, colleen.e.till@state.or.us

Mary Hoverson, North East Regional BOW Coordinator, 541-963-2138, mary.e.hoverson@state.or.us

Nancy Smogor, High Desert Regional BOW Coordinator, 541-388-6365 ext. 234, nancy.e.smogor@state.or.us

Oregon Council FFF

March 26—17th Annual NW Fly Tyer's Expo, Wheeler Pavilion - Lane County Convention Center - Eugene

March 27—Youth Casting Seminar, Alto Bake Park - Eugene

April 16—Women's Seminar, Roaring Springs Trout Camp - Scio

April 30—Women's Seminar, Roaring Springs Trout Camp - Scio

August 8-13—FFF Conclave, Livingston, Montana

August 27—Fly Tying Demonstration, Oregon State Fair

Fly Fishing Shops

Don't forget to check out the links on the Stonefly Maidens website for the fly fishing shops that support the club. Many of them have great classes available.

Alice Deaver

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Island with Dan Busch. She particularly enjoyed fishing for silvers from a float tube or pontoon boat, which is popular on Kodiak Island.

Alice also traveled to Newfoundland for Atlantic salmon, Florida Keys for tarpon, Belize for bonefish, permit and tarpon, the Yukon for lake trout, numerous places in Alaska for salmon and throughout the Northwest for trout. She always encouraged several of her friends to accompany her of her trips.

I met Alice through my brother-in-law, Phil Armstrong. In the early 80s, I took Phil on a fly fishing trip to Montana's Big Hole River. It was a dream trip for me and Phil's first serious attempt at fly fishing. He fell head over heels in love with fly fishing. While I still enjoy drifting eggs for winter steelhead, Phil will only throw flies now. His addiction was caught by his good friend Alice Deaver. When I first knew Alice, she lived on Twin Lakes in northern Idaho and owned a bass boat. When the "disease" caught her, she sold her boat and bought some fly rods and a float tube. As they say, the rest is history.

I fished with Alice off and on over the years and was always impressed with her enthusiasm and willingness to share. We would trade fly patterns over the years and it soon became clear that her tying ability had surpassed mine.

In Alice's honor, her friends are setting up a scholarship fund in her name to be presented to an outdoor-oriented, college-bound student interested in pursuing a degree in teaching. Of course, we are accepting donations to the fund, but I would like to present your club with a win-win situation. Alice left many of her flies at home at the time of her death. I would like to offer a collection of those flies for sale to your membership for \$1 each or \$10 per dozen. As you know, this is a very good price for professionally tied flies. They are all tied on quality hooks and I feel of better quality than many flies offered in fly shops that have been tied overseas.

Alice's Don't Ask

About 15 or 18 years ago Alice Deaver in Rathdrum, Idaho designed this pattern quite by accident. She phoned another fly tier to find out how to tie a certain pattern. Oral descriptions sometimes get a little confused. So when she combined her considerable tying skill with the sketchy notes a new fly emerged. It has everything that a fly should have: a bit of color, a bit of flash and pheasant tail fibers. Pheasant tail fibers are used as wings, legs and beards on proven flies like Doc Spratley, Pheasant Tail Nymph and Halfback; so why not use it for a full hackle. It is a little more tedious to tie, but the results are worth the effort. Alice's Don't Ask has fooled a lot of brook trout and rainbows. It has even interested a few browns.

As for lake fishing techniques, Alice recommends experimenting. She normally uses a full sinking fly line, and depending upon water depth she might dump extra line to reach the fish. Her retrieves are generally an erratic twitch. One or two short pulls might be followed by three short pulls or a long pull. Sometimes a long fast pull (like you were starting another cast) will coax a fish into striking. In a float tube she might move slowly, rapidly, straight line or in curves. (It is called mooching not trolling.) Just don't do the same thing all day, especially when the fish are not biting.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 9672, Dai-Riki 710, Tiemco 5263, 10-12

Thread: Black

Tail: Pheasant tail

Body: Orange or Burnt Orange, dubbed or wool yarn

Rib: Silver tinsel, fine or medium

Hackle: Pheasant tail fibers

Tying Instructions:

1. If you wish, smash the barb with smooth jaw pliers before starting to tie.
2. Select a few fibers from the mottled side of a pheasant tail. Tie them on at the bend to make a gap length tail.
3. Attach a piece of tinsel at the bend and dub some orange material on your tying thread. Wind an even body forward and then spiral the tinsel forward (five wraps are usually enough).
4. Select a few brownish-red fibers from a pheasant tail. Gently attach them on top of the hook, and spread them around the far side. Tie the fibers so they reach past the middle of the tail. Take another bunch, attach them on top and spread them around the near side. Finally, with smaller third and maybe fourth bunches, fill in any large gaps. Alice reminded me a couple of times to make the hackle sparse enough that some orange shows through. You may even leave a gap or two, assuring that some of the orange body is visible.
5. Finish the head and add a little head cement. Alice likes to use a thick head cement.

This has been a very successful pattern for lake fishing. The question usually comes up "What ya usin?" when some guys are catching fish and those around them are not. The answer "Don't Ask" leaves the fellow angler a bit dismayed.

FFF Clubwire





Our mission is to create opportunities, encourage, educate, and mentor women's participation in the sport of fly fishing.

Our goal is to bring women together who share a love of fly fishing and the beauty of nature to create friendships and lasting memories.

Stonefly Maidens Women's Fly Fishing Club

An Oregon Council-Federation of Fly Fishers Member Club

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Calendar

Date	Meeting (Speakers subject to change)	Fish-a-long Date	Location (Locations tentative)
March 9	Video Night	March 12	MacKenzie River, March Brown hatch for trout
April 13	Members Roundtable: Fly-Fishing Skills	April 16	Coastal Lake, Trout
May 11	Marty Shepard, Smallmouth Bass on the John Day River	May 14	John Day River, Smallmouth bass (Women Only)
June 8	Kathryn Hart, Casting Demonstration & Practice	June 11 June 12	Casting Clinic, Blue Lake Park Clackamas River, Trout (Women only)
July 13	Michael T Williams, Backcountry Fly-Fishing	July 16 July 23	Big K Ranch, Smallmouth Bass (Women only) Merrill Lake, Hexegenia Hatch Bonus
August 10	Andy Pibal, Carp Fishing	July 13	Carp Fishing
September 14	Patty Barnes, Saltwater Fishing in Mexico	September 16-19	Skagit River, Pink Salmon (Women only)
October 12	Judith O'Keefe, Float Tube Fly Fishing	October 15	Hosmer Lake (Women only)
November 9	TBA		None scheduled
December 14	Christmas Party		None scheduled