



# Newsletter

## *Stonely Maidens Women's Fly Fishing Club*

### The Right Fly

The chaos of uncertainty: "Which fly to tie on? Which fly is the one fly that a lunker trout just couldn't resist today?" I'm not talking about the times when the choice is a given such as when the Hex hatch is on, or the trout are feeding heavily on salmon eggs. Those are

the easy times when we know we want some sort of a big floating bug or some sort of egg pattern and while we may ponder which particular mayfly or glo-bug color we want, it's fairly certain that most flies fitting the general criteria will work well on that day. But what about those times when there is no hatch, no salmon eggs, or mass migration of lemmings, what then? These are the times that test the mettle of fly-fishermen, separating the chaff from the wheat, and dictating glory or failure. These are the times when legends are made: when we can pull the metaphoric rabbit-out-of-the-

hat, hang tough when the chips are down, scrap the bottom of the barrel, and save the day. Legends are indeed made of these times and this is an opportunity for glory. This could be the day that they will write songs about and stories will be told around the campfires for generations about the day, when against all odds, we caught a giant trout in the face of

adversity. And looming large in our legend-to-be: the right fly. And there in one of our fly boxes, nestled amongst all his brethren is the right fly, shyly hidden alongside a great many... wrong flies.

When the hatch is on, be it mayflies, caddis, or hoppers we typically come prepared. By that I mean we have a great number of just one or two fly patterns carefully crafted to exactly match the hatch. After all if we are here to fish a #18 crippled blue wing olive dun then why burden down the box with a bunch of nymphs, streamers, and other superfluous flies that we undoubtedly will not need. This makes picking the right fly easy. You can do it with your eyes closed. How clever we seem as we confidently pluck the first fly out the box and lay it on the water. A perfect match for today's hatch. Now it's hard to build a legend that way since you're expected to catch fish. "I had a great day, and why not, I had a box full of the right flies; anybody could do it". We pull a nice trout from the hordes of feeding fish, hold it briefly and return it to the water then go for another. But it's a hollow victory, and will not establish your uniqueness or greatness among fly-fishers. However we should note here that the trade-off for easy success often masks the

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### Meeting Information

- November 10, 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: Oregon Council FFF  
Why should I belong to the FFF?

### This Month with the Stonely Maidens

This month members of the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be at our meeting to let us know what the Oregon Council and the FFF are doing and help answer the question, Why should I belong. Anticipated guests are Keith Burkhardt, 2006 Fly Tying Expo Chair and Past Council President; Hillary Votaw, ORCFFF VP of Membership; and Dwight Klemm, ORCFFF VP of Education. The presentation will also include a showing of the video "Never Name the River," about the beginnings of the FFF and

the very first Conclave in Eugene, Oregon.

This will be a good opportunity to find out more about the Federation. If you are not already an FFF member, this will be a good time to join.

There is no fish-a-long this month, but that doesn't mean you can't call someone in the club and go fishing. You never know what you might find in the rivers.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

## Fly Lines

As I write this article, I am getting ready for a trip to the Deschutes for summer steelhead. I know, it's kind of late in the year, but you can never tell... Hopefully, I won't get too wet from the rain.

This time of year, a lot of the rivers on the west side of the Cascades are closed to fishing. This makes it a really good time to do some gear maintenance. Check over your fly lines; clean them with clear water and inspect for cracks and checks. Change out the leaders now so you are ready for next spring. Wipe off your rods and check for nicks and loose guides. You might be able to send the rod back to the manufacturer through your favorite fly shop if you need repairs. Now is a good time as any to be without your favorite rod.

Have you had problems with your waders leaking? If you have Gore-tex or breathable waders, you can turn them inside out and use rubbing alcohol to find

the leaks. Rub it in the areas that you think you have a leak—it will turn gray or black. Now you can use some type of wader repair kit to fix, or with some manufacturers, you can send them back for repair.

Are your boots in good shape? Is the felt coming off the sole? Are the laces frayed? Are the uppers cracked beyond usefulness?

One last place to look at is your fly box. What flies do you need to replace this winter? This might be the winter to learn how to tie flies. Several of the fly shops offer beginning classes on fly tying; some of them are even free. Check out the links on our website to find out more about classes that are offered.

After you have checked your gear, you are prepared to write your letter to Santa for additions or replacements. Don't forget to test out the rods, so you can tell him exactly which one to get.

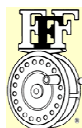
## Tilda Runner



### 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 is my favorite dry fly.

## Goings On



Federation of Fly Fishers

July 25-29, 2006—FFF's 41st Int'l Show & Conclave 2006, Bozeman, MT

Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

January 15—Winter Meeting, Eugene, OR

February 8 to 12—Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show, Portland, OR

February 25—Lower Umpqua Fly Fishers Expo, Reedsport, OR

March 25—18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Tyers Expo, Wheeler Pavilion, Eugene, OR

March 26—Youth Fly Fishing Seminar, Rainbow Trout Farm, Sandy, OR

April 2—Spring Meeting, Eugene, OR

May 13—Adult Beginning Fly Fishing Seminar, Rainbow Trout Farm, Sandy, OR

July 16—Summer Meeting, Eugene, OR

August 26—State Fair Fly Tying Day, Salem, OR

October 8—Fall Meeting, Eugene, OR

November 11—NW Fly Fishers Fly Tyers Expo, Glen Otto Park, Troutdale, OR

### 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.

## The Right Fly

(Continued from page 1)

opportunity for dismal failure. Trout are notorious for doing the unexpected and it is a feeling akin to despair as your perfectly matched fly drifts among the naturals and is steadfastly refused by every trout in the river and you swear even the chubs are snickering. A clammy sick feeling spreads over you as you look into your fly box and see fifty more flies, just exactly like the one the trout are ignoring. Fifty more exact copies of: the wrong fly. At these times it's best to feign sickness or suddenly remember some previous engagement and get off the water as fast as possible since having fifty wrong flies during a great hatch might lead to thoughts of filling your waders with water and walking through the deepest hole you can find.

So when there is no hatch there are no rules for us to follow. Today we make our own rules. Today we are the masters of our fate and we approach the water armed with a plethora of flies; a veritable cornucopia of fur, feathers, and synthetics. And these are not just any flies, oh no, these are the special ones held in reserve for days just like this. They are often flies tied during long winter months when we are obsessed with what John Gierach calls "a senseless act of artistry". Big ugly bunny streamers and rubber legged bugs. Epoxy coated synthetic monsters that resemble a cross between a muskrat and a tarantula. Or we may have dainty #24 wisps of a fly with just a hint of vermilion sparkle floss that a human would need a magnifying glass to see, but of course we know it could hold the power to unlock that uncontrollable urge to attack in a legendary three-foot trout. Maybe the right fly today is a Chernobyl Frog or an elegant emerger made of the rarest musk oxen beard, or an assortment of parts from old flies now reassembled and resurrected like Frankenstein's monster. An army of flies crafted in fits of artistic passion, during which the light of truth illuminated our vice. And in that light we knew, on this cold winter's night that months from now this would be the right fly. And our boxes contain all of these marvels of fly tying science and more.... much more.

Because we knew there would be no easy hatch to match today, we came prepared with every possible incarnation of the right fly. Our vests bulge with two or three or even four boxes filled to overflowing to cover every conceivable situation. But today, at this hour, in this spot, right now, which one of this multitude is the right fly? We stare into each box, hoping the right fly will call out to us; "put me in coach." Our hand moves from fly to fly hoping for some electric tingle that will signal that this is the right fly. We hesitate at the eight-inch wounded smelt pattern, but our hand wanders to the green-butt, bead-headed, rubber-legged, wooly monster. We pass on to the small delicately crafted, highly detailed crawfish pattern tied last January in a fit creative boredom. We almost take the crawfish out of the box but then suddenly move back to the smelt pattern. Did we feel something there? Is this the right fly? Or is the right fly still at home in a box we absentmindedly left behind? How can we know which is the right fly? Perhaps we cannot.

Those of you familiar with basic physics will remember Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principal. In 1927 German physicist

Werner Heisenberg discovered one of the principal mysteries of quantum mechanics, the domain of the sub-atomic world, which states that we cannot know both the location and momentum of an atomic particle such as an electron. Not because we lack the technology to know both the position and momentum, but because it is fundamentally impossible to know both simultaneously. We cannot simultaneously know both of these parameters, even in principal. A sub-atomic particle does not have both a position and momentum at the same time. It remains one of the most bizarre facts of the scientific world. Because everything, including fish and flies are made from sub-atomic particles I would like to extrapolate a corollary to Heisenberg's principal, which I like to call Crowley's Uncertainty Principal, which states; "It is impossible to know the location of a big trout and the right fly at the same time." The more certain we are of one, the less certain we are of the other. While we may put the right fly into the right location it is akin to the domain of particle physics; strictly a matter of probabilities. Luck. We may get lucky, but we can't know for sure. Crowley's Uncertainty Principal forbids you from knowing with certainty, which fly to cast and where to cast it.

Even if by the laws of chance we do select the right fly, how can we know the right location to cast it? If we don't catch a fish in the first three spots we fish, how do we know if we had the right fly in the wrong spot or vice versa? Should we change the fly or keep on fishing it? What would have happened if we had fished the last hole with a different fly, perhaps the right fly? We open our fly box and wait for the Oracle-of-the-Box to speak to us and sometimes we are sure it has told us to change the fly. But then after a few more passes doubt fills our mind and we wonder again; is it the fly or the location? Did I change the fly too soon? Heaven forbid; did I take the right fly off? Again, the Uncertainty Principal maintains you can never know for sure.

At the end of the day we may have had some success, and maybe not. But often it is not the day we made our legend. The Uncertainty Principal has kept the legendary trout from our grasp and has reduced us to the statistical average angler. We've either had good day or a slow day, but there will be no cover shots on national fly-fishing publications for today's effort. Either way we chalk it up to experience and remember that big fish are not the reason we do this. We do it not because it's easy, but because it's hard and we enjoy the challenge and we love the rivers and what we learned today will manifest itself at the fly tying vise tomorrow. At the end of the day, back at the car, you shed your waders and your vest of magic flies and when your rod has been carefully stowed away, your buddies inevitable ask; "Did you catch the big one?" You just smile and reply; "Naw, I didn't have the right fly."



*With the right fly you can catch anything.*



*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)
January 12	Mark Bachmann, The Fly Fishing Shop Winter Steelheading	January 15	East Fork Lewis River, Winter Steelhead
February 9	Fly-Tying Demonstration, Gary Muncy	February 12	Crooked River, Trout
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	Oregon Council Federation of Fly Fishers Officers		None scheduled
December 14	Christmas Party		None scheduled