



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

March 2019

Issue 249

Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Longview Country Club Dining Room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM: Coastal Cutthroat Coalition

Greg Shimek, Executive Director of Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, will present our March program after a too-long absence. CCC is dedicated to the science and management of wild coastal cutthroat trout. Long-time members may remember the CCC was recipient of LCFF donations for a couple years, supporting the valuable research and monitoring these folks are committed to. Sea-Run Cutthroat being the species our club was founded around, this should be a welcome and timely program.

LCFF outing opener - S Fork Toutle is Saturday, March 9

Hoo-boy, how can it already be time for ANOTHER S Fork Toutle outing? It was only a short time ago I got skunked during the last S Fork opener. Guess I shouldn't complain cause it means I also get another shot at Jeff's world-famous chili, which my arse is thankful he has toned the heat down on the last few years. Being finally officially in the "pensioner" age group I'm learning to appreciate the elder caution on one's digestion and where Raymon's use of the term "you haven't got a hair on your ass if....." was born.

So it is that Vance and Jeff will return to sponsor the outing with coffee and donuts in the AM, served up at Harry Gardner Park, followed up by a lunch around noonish of the fore-mentioned chili. Undoubtedly some pickled vegetable or other will accompany the main course. Fermented beverages have been known to be available with a smattering of more benign drink.

Oh yes, to not forget this is an actual fishing outing. Whether you decide to pair up or go it solo, pick your own time to get on the water and practice your casting. It might well pay off as every other year or so we do tag a steelhead or two. S Fork Toutle is a great river to start off the year as, should the river levels be too high for safe wading, it offers generous bank access with wide open room for those first-of-the-year back casts.

If we are lucky enough to get low wind and water you might be able to get away with a 6 weight, but 7-8 weights are more likely to pitch out the bigger bugs that higher water requires. Considering what to sling, my personal preference is brighter colors for spring, leave those darker shades for the fall. Chartreuse, pink, purple, white, bright oranges and reds catch my eye, if not the fish's, especially when contrasted with some black and chrome dressing on your hook.

With Google available on pretty much every phone, directions for the uninitiated should be at your fingertips. S Fork Toutle, Harry Gardner Park. If you don't, directions and a sign-up sheet will undoubtedly be available at March' meeting. Cowlitz Fly Anglers have once again been offered an invite to attend so we should have good company.

Coming events.....

Get the **dates for rest of this year's official LCFF outings** marked on your calendar; **May 18 Swofford Pond Bluegill, August 10 Coldwater Lake, Sept. 28, Cowlitz Cutthroat.**

Also for your calendar is **Longview Park's 'N Rec "Kids Fish-In" at Lake Sacajawea, scheduled for Saturday, April 27.** In addition to our volunteer presence, this year LCFF Board voted to donate \$500 toward purchase of the rods and reels each of the kids gets to take home. Total cost of the hardware required for the event is ~\$3500 and largely supported by donations from service clubs such as ours.

June 23-29 are the dates for this year's **Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy.** LCFF typically sponsors 2 youth aged 12-16 to attend on a "full-ride" scholarship. This year's postings are up at Bob's, Sportsmen's Warehouse, and local middle schools to solicit applications. By all means encourage any of your family or friends to apply, LCFF Board will meet to review applications and select those we will sponsor during March 19 LCFF Board meet.

Calendar year **2020 will bring LCFF's 50th anniversary.** LCFF Board would like to hear from membership on how best to celebrate this milestone. Initial ideas include a dinner with spouses, 50th anniversary logo hats/pins, a speaker of some import.

19th Annual Sandy River Spey Clave May 3 & 4, Friday & Saturday, 2019. Held at Sandy River's Oxbow Regional Park, this has been described as the "Woodstock" of Spey Casting Events. Virtually all of the manufacturers of Spey equipment will have booths there with equipment available to try out at no cost. Numerous casting demonstrations and clinics are offered, many at no cost. Camping is available at Oxbow Park, the event is only 100 mins or so drive away, a little east of Gresham. Copy - paste this link to your web browser to get all the details; <https://flyfishusa.com/sandy-river-spey-clave-2019.aspx>

Saturday, March 16, 8:30 AM - Noon Westmoreland Casting Pond Stewardship Day. This is opportunity to volunteer working with Portland Parks Dept. to clean out the Westmoreland Casting Pond prior to it being filled for the year. This is one of only a couple casting ponds in the country, in fact one of the largest in the world, designed specifically for Fly-casting competitions. Address is corner of SE 22nd Avenue and Rex Street, near McLoughlin Boulevard just east of Sellwood bridge in south Portland. Several of our members have participated in past years, please consider donating your time to this little-known local treasure. Recommend discussing putting together a caravan at March general meeting. Please RSVP Steve Gomez at taurmunki@gmail.com.

Brian Davern is racking up quite a record identifying the mystery waters of the month, nailing **England's River Test** as our February destination. Actually I was surprised Dave Carlson didn't beat him to it as during January meeting Dave had shared with me he'd fished the Test some years ago.

The Test, along with neighboring River Itchen, are stereotypical limestone spring creeks called "chalkstream" in local parlance. About dead-center in the southern coast of England, the Test and Itchen join together in an estuary near Southampton before emptying into the English Channel. Being born of limestone substrate, the higher pH ("basic" vs acidic) chemistry is the most productive for both plant and insect life thus support large trout, in both size and population.

River Test is famous for being birthplace of dry-fly fishing, credit to the prodigious and predictable mayfly populations. Gin-clear with tricky current seams meandering through the watercress, "Upstream, and always dry" is the mantra here and often required.

About 40 miles in length, the Test meanders almost exclusively through private land and thus is exclusively a fee fishing experience. One is assigned a "beat", a well defined stretch of the river, and assigned a "keeper" (guide) for the day who serves not only to instruct you but also ensure the formal rules of the estate are followed. Many beats have a hut along the bank where one takes breaks and is served lunch.

In addition to fly-fishing, River Test is also famous for its role in British literature, perhaps most famous one you might have read being Richard Adams' Watership Down.

We're going to throw in a twist for March mystery water challenge. After wandering about the globe, what say we bring it a little closer to both home and somewhat associated with LCFF's mission, cutthroat. Cutthroat are native throughout western North America. The twist we're exploring is Cutthroat have developed into unique sub-species due to the mountainous terrain creating isolated populations evolving independently of one another. Color, size, markings, and behavior are all unique to the region the respective strains evolved in such that, unlike rainbows which are remarkably similar throughout the globe, they are instantly recognizable to the environment they were born of. So the challenge is....**what water are we looking at and what sub-species of cutthroat are we fishing for?** I'll credit naming either one as a win, bonus if you get both. A hint to get started....this one is not one you've likely had opportunity to catch.



Greased lines

.....Thanks to all of you that have submitted articles.....I really appreciate them and...If you have not seen your submitted articleI will be using them in future issues.....Thanks again and keep them coming.

.....If any of the rest of you have an article, editorial or fishing story for the newsletter, submit it to the Editor at least 10 days before the first of each month:

Phone: 636-2739

E-mail: ronandcindyphl@msn.com

2018/2019 LCFF BOARD

President	Terry Frost	360-423-0145
Vice Pres	Vacant	
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Ghillie	Bob Buchman	360-274-6738

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John Kenagy	617-515-7209
Brian Davern	360-600-7427
Vance Luff	360-577-7299
Dave Johnson	360-425-6350

Newsletter Editor

Ron Pihl	360-957-0636
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PO Box 1495
Longview, WA 98632