



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

December 2018

Issue 246

Meeting: Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Longview Country Club Card Room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM: Retch, Retch, Wretched Gift Exchange

Oh yeah, the time is now for celebrating the holidays. And gift-giving, don't forget about the gifts! Ahhh, but the gifts....so many choices, just what to choose? Well, perhaps we can take a cue from event's title, shall we? Pulling out the ol' Funk and Wagnall and we find "wretched" still recognized as legit in your holiday Scrabble match with the relatives, and quite the tally if you place it right to get a triple score or two.

So, to Funk and Wagnall. Wretched. Lo and behold, bottom of page 429 we find this; "Miserable; unhappy; mean; despicable." Now, Bob Cratchett would ask for some kind of confirmation given the season and all. Bob might well pull out the official Oxford dictionary to double-check. To his dismay one would find thusly; Wretched: "Of poor quality; very bad, to express anger or annoyance ". Ahhh, those understated Brits, wouldn't say shit if they had a mouthful.

There we have it, a veritable consensus. To celebrate a Scrooge holiday, then. And one's reward for embracing your inner scoundrel is competing for the coveted "Most Wretched" gift award.

Now some of you may well not have stomach for said depravity, but fear not! For we also recognize and reward those of a more genteel nature by recognizing same with awards for both "Most Popular" and "Most Creative". "Most Creative" and the esteemed "Most Wretched" awards are by popular vote, the "Most Popular" is earned via the games.

Yes, Wretched Gift also includes the games, which fittingly are of a gambling nature. And the rules for said games are quite simple.

First the gifts are handed out randomly. Should you find yourself in receipt of the gift you brought you are welcome to mention it so and swap for something other. Once gifts are handed out, they are unwrapped one at a time and presented to the group for appreciation. If there is anything worthy but not obvious to the group, either the recipient or contributor of the gift is free to point out special features and attributes before the next gift is revealed.

Once all the gifts are exposed, a single die is chosen and the first of 2 rounds commences. Each member will take turns with a single roll of the die. Should a 1 or 6 turn up, one can trade for any gift in the room. These trades are recorded and the gift most traded for becomes winner of the most popular award.

Fair warning! Woe to whomever dilly-dallies around with their turn on the die, or rolls it to the floor, as those burdened with the more hideous gifts are anxious to find better homes for it. What an exciting time and so fitting for the event as even the most even temperament can become quite carnivorous, yea even wretched, in nature when threatened with loss of fair turn.

Another issue that may be met with a sock-party is if one attempts to hide a desirable gift making it hard to trade for. Bad ju-ju to be one who attempts to cheat the game.

After 15 minutes of bedlam, round one is finished and we move on to round 2. In round 2 the rules remain the same with but a few changes. First is a roll of 1 or 6 on the die gives the lucky soul choice of pulling out of the games and keeping the gift at hand OR swapping for a gift still in play. Once a gift is pulled it no longer is available for trade. Round 2 lapses after 10 minutes at which time the gift in hand is yours to treasure.

At end of the night, a vote is taken for "Most Wretched" and "Most creative" and awards are given.

Happy Holidays to all of you and your families!

Norm's custom-built flyfishing skiff will be auctioned off at December's meeting. Norm gifted his boat to the club prior to his passing with instruction that the club make decision on it's future. Hopefully you've had time to view the boat in action with Norm at the oars during one of the past several year's outings. If not check out the pictures in your email of last week.

This is a beautiful lightweight wooden boat and oars designed and hand-crafted at his Kelso shop. Fair disclosure is Norm did have a seam leak on this boat after several years of use, however he rebuilt and reinforced the seams shortly before his illness became debilitating. His second boat, built prior to repair of this one, remains with his family. The boat does not come with a trailer or accessories other than oars. Minimum bid was set by your LCFF board at \$750 and has been met. You can submit your bid by email to any or all of the board members or in writing at the December meeting. The winning bidder can make arrangements with Jeff Sowders to pick up the boat. It is light enough to be loaded in a pick-up bed by hand.

LCFF Board determined we will be continuing to hold meetings on first Tuesday each month. You may recall last month the prospect of moving meetings to a different night, Wednesdays were proposed, to get to a less busy night at the country club. Speedier service and quieter environment were the benefits. Regrettably we have learned the Country Club closes early Wednesday evenings and can't accommodate such a move.

Upcoming meeting programs; January Program remains the annual club intra-club fundraising auction and held January 8 to avoid conflict with the January 1 holiday. With ;luck Don Harris will return as Auctioneer. This is where we buy stuff from ourselves. Not too early to put some thought into what treasure has outgrown it's place in your closet or garage and could be contributed to the cause. February has a Columbia Land Trust speaker, and March is penciled in with Coastal Cutthroat Coalition.

Brian Davern proposed the club purchase some instructional and/or educational DVDs to be used as alternate programs should a speaker cancel late in any given month.

LCFF annual dues will be officially overdue after this month. Those in arrears will not receive the 2019 LCFF club calendar, which will be handed out at January's meeting. LCFF calendar will be a reprint of the 2013 version again with Ray Green sketches.

Reminder to **bring** one of your favorite **flies** to each meeting for contribution to the **raffle**. LCFF Board approved a recommendation to purchase some infrared thermometers (used to record water temp for those who keep logs of their days afield) to be added to the monthly auctions.

LCFF is putting together an **outing committee** to develop and coordinate future club outings. Doug Stafford raised his hand and volunteered to chair. If you have outing suggestions please contact Doug.

LCFF president Terry Frost submitted a **letter to Governor Inslee in support of reappointing Larry Carpenter to the WDFW commission.** A letter from the governors' office acknowledging receipt of LCFF recommendation was received.

We are conducting a **clean-up of LCFF member roster and contact info.** If you have any change in address, phone number, or email address please send it to Glenn Gee and copy to Terry Frost and Ron Pihl.

Enough of a twist on **last month's mystery water to stump everyone identifying Batten Kill River.** The connection to October's mystery water question is the American Museum of Fly Fishing, where the documentation of first flyfishing in the US being in Florida, is located on the Batten Kill in Manchester, Vermont.

Batten Kill is one of the earliest mentioned fly fishing streams in North America's more familiar beginnings in the NE. At a little more than 59 miles long the Batten Kill is born of Vermont marble bedrock springs and flows as a freestone stream from Vermont through New York before merging with the Hudson. Obviously the fish of the day was Brook trout but early in its history it was planted with Browns and now hosts some trophy sized browns in its upper stretches. Orvis was born and raised in Manchester on the banks of Batten Kill and none other than Lee Wulff lived in its banks for some 20 years just on the New York side of the border.

We're going to move to another of the famous trout streams of early American flyfishing. One also made famous by a renaissance period of the middle part of last century and prolific author who focused on its water.



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:

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