



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

April 2019

Issue 250

Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Longview Country Club

Next board meeting - Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM: Washington State CCA.....and a special performance

Nello Picinich, executive director of the **Washington State Coastal Conservation Association (CCA)** will be **featured speaker** at April LCFF meeting. Plan to hear what's new, both successes and challenges, in CCAs efforts to protect Washington's fish species. CCA is a national organization born to protect coastal fisheries from political and poor management decisions and carries unmatched success for its efforts. Born in 1984 on the East Coast, coastal fish species and the resultant improvement in recreational fishing, has been CCA's focus with emphasis on legal and legislative action. This should prove a good compliment to last months Coastal Cutthroat program.

You won't want to miss a **special feature at this month's meeting by one of LCFF's founding members, Jerry Schroeder**. In the buildup to celebrating LCFF's golden anniversary, Jerry will conduct **readings from his personal diary of events during the LCFFs founding and early years**. What a rare opportunity to share the experiences and history of our merry band of brothers.

It promises to be a special meet, one you won't want to miss. See you there!

Speaking of last month's program, clearly it was well received as evidenced by the membership sticking out a quite long-winded presentation. Full of fascinating data on South Puget Sound Sea-Run Cutthroat genetic research, this appeared to be one of the most effective studies in reaching finite conclusions about coastal cutthroat behavior. I found myself jonesing to get up there and give saltwater cutthroat a wave or two of the rod. Your LCFF board was impressed enough to donate \$500 to the cause, matching contributions we've made to CCC a few years ago.

And keeping with meeting program info, we are pursuing Matt Gardner, District 9 Fish Biologist for WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife as our speaker for May program. This year President Terry and other Board members have really shined in bringing what could arguably be the best program schedule in many years.

In keeping with the program theme, the board would like to hear everyone's suggestions or support for future programs. Some ideas bandied about have been DVDs, Video clips, WDFW Dan Ayres on clamming, Montana Trip, WDFW Tyler Barenberg Enforcement, ?????

Fishing Reports of S Fork Toutle Outing will likely feature some common themes. Beautiful albeit low and clear water, exceptional weather, fine dining, great companionship. Unmatched conditions for limbering up that casting stroke after a long winter. A dearth of actual fish though in the words of the late, great Alfred E Neuman, "What, Me Worry?". I think Alfred would have made a fine LCFF member, in fact I often wondered if our very own Al, God rest his merry soul, was a distant relative.

Well back to the outing: Saturday March 9 it was. Jeff's Chili didn't disappoint. Is amazing how Jeff offers up a distinctly different palate each year, yet each excellent in its own unique way. Well....except for that one year which left us all with flaming arseholes. Come to think of it, that too was exceptional. I think we were pushing 20 headcount with all the comings and goings. What a great group of folks to hang out with. Thanks Vance and Jeff for making the start of each year's fishing season memorable.

Time is running out for **Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy applicants**. LCFF has set a deadline of April 2nd Meeting to make the selection. Regrettably as of March 19th Board meeting no applications have been received. As of Wednesday there are still 11 spots open for this year's June 23-29 Academy. Still time to get someone in under the wire, we'd love to support some kids for this unique opportunity.

LCFF Officer and Board Elections are coming up fast. President Terry initiated the process of selection of a recommended slate, more discussion to come at the April meeting. If you have interest in service, or would like to nominate someone, please contact any LCFF board member. We Like to see a new face or two each year so opportunity is there. Time commitment is minimal with one added meeting each month, likely a few minutes on phone or email communications.

LCFF 50th Anniversary will be upon us before we know it, year 2020 it is. LCFF board is in initial stages of planning for it and would appreciate hearing from you all on how you would like to celebrate this milestone. Some kind of dinner event is a given, questions are whether we open the event to spouses/significant others, what kind of program or entertainment,? Interest in 50th anniversary pins , patches, hats, or ?? Members only or open it to a wider audience? You get the picture - please put some thought in this and share with the group.

FFI Cuttcatch Project Recognizes Species Diversity - a great opportunity?

I "discovered" this program browsing the FFI website and reminded me of a point make by Greg Shimek during last months program, as well as fitting nicely with the latest "mystery water of the month" theme. Greg pointed out their research proving each individual stream had it's own unique mix of genetics that manifested in the physical and behavioral characteristics of Cutthroat.

The Cuttcatch Project is part of an effort by FFI to express the value of species diversity in fisheries. The project is designed to help flyfishers appreciate diversity of native species in general and, in this particular case, value the many subspecies of cutthroat trout. Learning to value these cutthroat in their native range is a critical first step for their recovery.

To accomplish the task, the Cuttcatch Project encourages the flyfisher to collect memories of the different species caught and released. Those FFI members who successfully catch four subspecies of cutthroat trout will receive a patch, pin and certificate in recognition of their accomplishment.

There are some requirements to participating and proving one's accomplishment toward this goal, not the least of which is each fish must be caught (and released) flyfishing with a single, barbless, hook. I would encourage anyone to check out the website for more info, here's the link; <https://flyfishersinternational.org/Conservation/Projects-Programs/Cuttcatch> where all the forms and rules can be found.

With the cutthroat being the species LCFF was founded around, this would seem to have special interest for us. It has been a "bucket-list" goal of mine to catch each of the major sub-species of Cutthroat in their respective native waters. I can't think of a better way to celebrate LCFF's 50th anniversary than to achieve this FFI recognition during the 2020 calendar year and invite anyone interested to join me in committing to doing so.

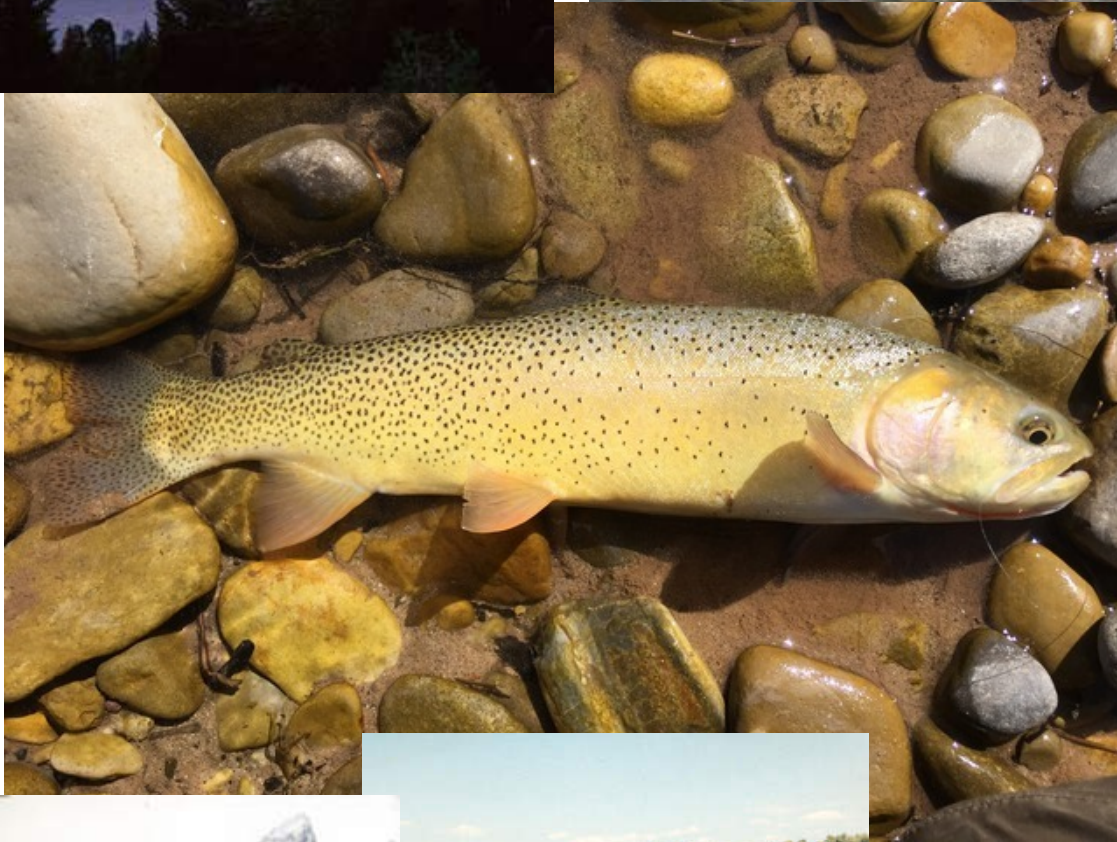
March mystery water.....and sub-species.... Revealed

It shouldn't surprise anyone that Brian Davern threw a dart and nailed the Cutthroat featured in March newsletter as a Rio Grande Cutthroat. Being a Rio Grande, not sure how he didn't identify its namesake river as the water featured, though certainly it would be near impossible to identify it in absence of a recognizable landmark. Gold star to Brian.

Rio Grande River Cutthroat are confined to it's headwaters, basically north-central New Mexico and south-central Colorado. Designated New Mexico's State Fish, the Rio Grande is a smaller variety, with a 12"-13" specimen being quite a prize. Thankfully the population of Rio Grande is not currently threatened despite the seemingly challenging and limited environment. Rivers and streams supporting the Rio Grande are exceptionally high altitude, as in 7-9,000 ft.

I made a stab at catching Rio Grande Cutts fishing the Jemez River with my stepson 5 or 6 years ago. The Jemez River drains the mountain range where Los Alamos is located. While we found a population of Browns willing to play, which also had some very unique coloration and spot patterns, the Rio Grande eluded us. It's still unchecked on my list.

Now that we have our first Cutthroat species in the bag lets skip around a ways and see what we find there. I'm guessing a few of us have landed our next victim. Gold star if you get the correct name for this fish, with bonus points if you nail the specific river.



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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