



# The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

November 2019

Issue 256

**Meeting: Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: Lv Country Club Dining Room**

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

## **PROGRAM: Salmon on the Spey, Trout on the Test**

This summer I had the privilege to sample fly fishing history during my first visit to the UK. Ghillie John King of "You Fish Scotland" not only introduced me to Spey casting for Atlantic Salmon on it's namesake River Spey, but being a lifetime local resident, tutored me on the proper way to appreciate whisky. Going above and beyond, John ended up penciling out some fantastic scenic drives through the Highlands.

Toward end of the trip the crystal-clear Wherwell Priory "Park" beat on River Test didn't disappoint. Simon Cooper, Fishing Breaks owner, hooked me up with Ghillie Steve Batten who not only guides but teaches fly fishing at two local private schools and is Chairman for County Hampshire's River Keeper's Association. Enthusiastic to a fault, even when faced with some grossly faulty casting, Steve's black Klinkhammer proved far too irresistible on both browns and grayling.

I look forward to sharing my adventure, including a surprise or two.....Ron

There **will be a raffle** of all the flies collected through the summer meetings as well as a box of those we got from Lew's collection.

It's none too early to **start planning your offering for the December Wretched Gift Exchange**. We're entering the holiday season after all.

**Hey, finally the fall Coho made an appearance.** Enough so that Hal had a decent few weeks doing **nutrient enhancement** seeding the Toutle watershed with salmon carcasses. Yours truly got to join one day and in addition to pitching dead fish we trapped a few live ones and distributed them in some tiny creeks to see how they do on their own. On the catching front I can report my son has been picking up fish over past several weeks on the Cowlitz.

**Please keep Hal and his family in your prayers, or whatever expression of support you ad-here to.** *Hal's wife Laura lost a brave battle with cancer this past Saturday. I was fortunate to spend a day with Hal a little over a week ago and know that, despite the outcome being known for some time, this remains both shock and heartache.*

**Cowlitz Cutthroat outing;** About a dozen members showed up for the event. Most drifted from Blue Creek to Mission Bar. Doc Houten caught a nice Cutthroat and Jerry Schroeder picked up a couple. Weather cooperated and we had a pleasant afternoon of Taco soup and fellowship.

**Reminder dues are now overdue.** Terry or Doug can help you at the general meeting if you want to pay up or aren't sure if you have yet or not. Being current on your dues gets you a copy of the 2020 LCFF club calendar.

The Board is putting together a **committee to plan the 50th LCFF anniversary celebration**, Doug is spearheading the effort. If you have interest in participating let the board know.

**Selling off the LCFF club library is under discussion** by the board. LCFF property being scattered throughout several member's properties is becoming a burden and tracking problem. We either need to **figure out and fund a single storage location** or divest of the property. Regarding the library there has been no interest in borrowing books from it since we have moved to the Country Club.

**North West Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Academy – 2020:** The program for the NWYCFFA will continue this year, if you have someone in mind it is not too early to think about encouraging them to apply. More to come.

**Northern Pike Suppression Program:** LCFF has sent a letter to the state in favor of suppressing the influx of Northern Pike into the Columbia River system. They are currently showing up in the upper reaches of Roosevelt Lake, behind Grand Coulee Dam, with effort from the WDFW and Local Tribes to eradicate them. They are seeking a grant to help with the effort, thus our letter.

### **October Mystery Cutthroat**

Collectively you all drew a blank identifying Colorado's South Platte River and the Greenback Cutthroat as our October mystery cutthroat and it's home water. The Greenback is the most easterly cutthroat sub-species and was adopted as Colorado's state fish in 1996. It is found in both the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers in NE Colorado and SE Wyoming.

Currently the Greenback is estimated to only occupy 1% of its traditional range earning it "Threatened" status by the Endangered Species Act. At one time it was found all along the Rocky Mountains eastern Front Range from Wyoming to New Mexico. By 1930's it was thought to be extinct until a genetically pure strain was found in 1957 on the Big Thompson River, a couple more populations discovered in 1965 and 1970 as it earned an "Endangered" listing under the ESA.

Pretty much all of the human interventions in it's environment have resulted in its demise. Mining, overfishing, habitat destruction such as irrigation, introduction of invasive trout species.....all have taken their toll. Fortunately stringent protections have been put in place and the Greenback are not only holding their own in the rivers they survived, but are being reintroduced in selected areas. Result of these efforts has been successful enough to de-rate Greenback to "Threatened" from "Endangered".

Greenbacks have the largest average spots of any sub-species, and are considered to compete for the most colorful of the cutthroat. Not particularly large, an 18" Greenback would be considered a trophy.

Hey now, despite the low turnout, we'll continue the cutthroat sub-species challenge until we exhaust our options. So.....here's something a little different than the Greenback. **What variety cutthroat is it and what is its home water you see in the photos?**





## Greased lines

.....Thanks to all of you that have submitted articles.....I really appreciate them and...If you have not seen your submitted article .....I 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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