



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

March 2020

Issue 260

Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Lv Country Club Dining Room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM:

Calendar Memories

This month in celebration of our 50th anniversary we will feature the stories behind the pictures on your 2020 LCFF calendar. Aren't those pictures pretty? So are the stories behind those photos, but then again some are naught. e.

So this month the pages of the calendar will be put on-screen month-by-month and collectively those of us featured in them will tell the story, paint the picture, spill the proverbial beans of what's behind the scenes.

So you know who you are and what month featured, come on down and share your memories.

Great program last month on the clams. I learned, and re-learned a lot on the subject. One has to admire the effort and care folks like Dan in WDFW put into managing and protecting this important resource. Sounds like it should be a productive season and thankfully Bob has made it safe to talk about during fishing reports. Vote Bob!

Speaking of the calendar, the wheels of time are spinning fast, spring just around the corner and summer soon upon us. Look for your Board and the anniversary celebration committee to announce the banquet date and outline of banquet agenda before long. Still time to voice to a board member your ideas of what to include in the event.

Speaking of deadlines, the opportunity to submit applications for LCFF sponsorship to youth flyfishing academy is weeks away, not months. Just sayin'.

Speaking of upcoming events, there are a couple you might want to consider coming up. NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo is March 13 & 14, 2020, 9 am – 5 pm at Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Oregon. General Admission is \$10.00 Fly Fishers International (FFI) Members and Youth 18 & Under: FREE Veterans earned a 50% discount – \$5.00. Parking is also FREE.

Washington State Council of FFI has announced inaugural Fly Casting Fair beginning 9 AM Saturday, May 2, at Mercer Islands' Luther Burbank Park. Great opportunity for instruction to improve your casting.

For those of us interested improving our 2-handed casting game is the annual Sandy River SpeyClave held at Oxbow Regional Park a wee bit east of Gresham. One of the premier events of it's kind, world class spey casters will be putting on demonstrations and classes to improve your game. Personally, I reserved a campsite at the park so I miss none of this badly needed instruction for a skill new to me.

We were successful in disposing of our LCFF library resolving one of our storage dilemmas this past month. All the books were donated to Lewis County's Timberland Library. The cabinet was donated to a private party.

President Terry reported the website is getting an uptick in use with about 700 hits/month. Sounds like a number of them are out-of-country. What with this being a divisive presidential election year with worldwide audience AND the summer Olympics coming, no wonder we've sparked some interest.

The Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's show was a couple weeks ago so, you missed it.

Volunteer sign-up sheet for the annual Kids Fishing Day on Lake Sacajawea, scheduled for Saturday, April 25, was passed around last meeting. If you didn't get on it please consider putting that day on your calendar. Event runs from 7:30 AM through about 3 and help for any or all of it is needed. Guaranteed helping the young 'uns catch maybe their first fish ever is one of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities.

Ghillie Bob Buchman has been nominated as a write-in candidate in the upcoming primary election ballot. Bob's platform includes free fishing weekends for all minorities and immigrants, as long as they strictly adhere to catch-and-release language. Bob figures if it works with trout and dating, why not voters? Also featured is single barbless hook philosophy as Bob has learned it works well with the catching and releasing. His campaign promises free razor clams for all, which have been harvested in a humane, PETA endorsed manner. And guns! Yes, Bob is for them! Especially those clam guns as that's how he got the PETA endorsement, even better than those single barbless hooks. Yessirree Bob, clam guns are the shit! But I digress.

Bob selected Gumby as his running mate because...well....he's Gumby, dammit!

So join me in writing in Bob on the next Primary Ballot, whatever the office is.

LCFF drew a **big goose-egg on February's Cutthroat. Not even a whiff at identifying the Colorado River cutthroat nor any of the Colorado or Green River headwaters** as the fish and water of the month. Boo-hiss, you even had two river systems to choose from. Another reason to write in Bob, he'll fix it.

Colorado River Cutt as you may have now guessed is native to the Green and Colorado River basins. It is believed to only inhabit about 13% of it's traditional range once encompassing areas in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. All the familiar culprits of habitat degradation, invasive species (most notably Brook Trout), and overharvest are credited with their decline. Historically referred to as "speckled" and "mountain" trout, their decline was documented as early as 1850 and over-trapping of beaver as well as mining were cited as cause of habitat degradation.

We continue to learn about these unique sub-species with a unique strain of Colorado River cutthroat being discovered in 2012 in tributaries of San Juan River. Unfortunately the 2018 "416" fire in Southern Colorado burned over most of their prime habitat such that these unique fish were feared extinct. Fortunately some fish survived and biologists retrieved 58 adult fish which are now being propagated in a hatchery for reintroduction.

Reports from 1800s were, while not numerous, it was not uncommon at all to net 5-7 lb. specimens from area rivers. Today that would be a once-in-a-lifetime fish and most likely from a lake. An 8" fish is considered large in much of its fluvial habitat. Typically found above 8000 ft. elevation these fish don't typically spawn until June through mid-July as water at those elevations doesn't warm enough to trigger spawning behavior until then.

The Colorado River cutthroat is one of the most brilliantly colored of the subspecies of cutthroat trout. Their coloration varies from population to population, but they typically have greenish-brassy colored backs, which transition to a orangish-yellow or bronze-gold color along the sides. Some individuals exhibit a pale band of pink or red along their lateral line and an orangish-red color on their gill plates. The bellies on some fish, especially sexually mature males may be a bright orange or red color. Like the coloration the spotting pattern on these fish is highly variable. Populations from the Upper Green River drainage having small to moderate size spots while cutthroat from the Little Snake River in the Yampa drainage may have spots that are nearly as large as those on the greenback cutthroat

BREAKING NEWS...One of Bob's campaign questions is why is the Colorado Cutthroat Trout not the Colorado State Fish? Why the Greenback Cutthroat? There is conspiracy afoot and Bob promises if elected he will direct the AG to investigate. People want to know. Surely the Russians are behind it. If not them, Ukraine. Or China. Unless its some 400 lb. dude sitting on their bed is getting bored with porn.

Alrighty, then. You know the drill; what and where do we have here? Oh, you should know this one.



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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