



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

January 2019

Issue 247

Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

**Place: Longview Country Club
Main Dining Room**

Next board meeting - Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM: Annual LCFF Intraclub Auction

Three cheers for Don Harris returning to donate his skills as auctioneer for our annual club fundraiser. Hopefully everyone has received the message our monthly meeting has been moved back a week to get away from New Year holiday and seen our meeting will be held in the main dining room as there is a pre-existing 2nd Tuesday meeting already claiming the Card Room.

Moneys earned from this event go to support club functions and activities such as our outings and donations in support of conservation, education, or other worthy causes related to flyfishing. Examples of donations in LCFF history include Casting for Recovery, Youth Flyfishing Camp, Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, Cutthroat/Steelhead Fish Rearing ponds, Parks Department Fly Tying classes, Wounded Warriors, etc.

For new club members success for this event depends entirely on donations from each of us and willingness to buy said items via live auction. Lew Metzler flies purchased by the club and a Tommy Breedlove print donated by Kay Green will be featured.

In considering what you might donate, winter is a great time of year to purge old, unused items languishing in our closets and corners of the garage that have value but just aren't being put to good use anymore. These items may not necessarily have an association with flyfishing (though these items are notable treasures), such as tools, camping gear, and other hobby items. Another theme we've seen donated is serving as a guide and taking winning bidder to one of your favorite fishing outings such as a drift boat trip on Kalama or Cowlitz River, even crabbing trips have been seen in past years.

Don does a great job keeping the evening both entertaining and moving along briskly. Look forward to seeing everyone next Tuesday.

Kress Lake work party, Thursday, January 10, 9 AM - LCFF Volunteer Opportunity

This is opportunity to do a clean-up of Kress Lake and improve the access trail around the lake. Meet at the WDFW access site at Kress Lake, 9 AM Thursday, January 10, only a couple days after next week's meeting. Following the work party, there will be a social gathering to celebrate and continue the camaraderie at Ahles Point Cabin (south of Kalama Harbor Lodge) for beer, wine and perhaps pizza.

The day will begin with coffee, water and donuts before LCFF vests are donned and our volunteers are dispatched to various duties including, litter pick up, blackberry trimming, tree pruning and blowdown cut up and removal. The main purpose of the day's activities is to prepare the .7mi lake perimeter trail for gravel spreading by dump truck the following day. The ultimate purpose of this event is to perform a community service, meet some of the lake users, record/post the good deed photographically and hopefully incite some interest in acquiring new members to our club.

You'll want to dress for the winter weather, bring hand pruners, loppers, pole saws, chain saws, machetes, rakes and protective gloves/boots. Litter bags will be provided.

Regrets for the short notice but lets make a good showing and let the local community know what we are about.

Wretched Gift Exchange did prove another raucous and vibrant evening with a decent size crowd of revelers participating. **Congrats to Doug Stafford** for winning the “**Most Popular**” gift of some “vapor-infused botanical Bombay gin”. **Terry Frost** swept home the other two prizes, “**Most Creative**” and the **coveted “Most Wretched”** with his eclectic conglomeration of bottle of NOT Scotch packed ever so gently in gummy worms and adorned with a Ford Fender.....you had to see it.

Also at December meet was resolution of moving the club meeting away from Tuesdays to be a non-starter. The Country Club closes early on the other nights in consideration.

Congrats to Doug Stafford who submitted the winning bid for Norm’s skiff. What a treasure.

2019 LCFF Calendars to be handed out at January meeting to those current on your dues. You should have already received an email notice if you are tardy and can receive your calendar by paying up on Tuesday.

February’s meeting will feature the Columbia Land Trust. To get a heads up check out their website at <https://www.columbialandtrust.org> - sounds like they are doing a lot of good work.

Kudos to Ray Mathes who brought his Mongo Mower to Kress Lake and **mowed down the brush that had taken over the path around Kress Lake.** Ray’s contribution was needed to make ready for the volunteer clean-up day you saw on newsletter first page.

Fly Flyfishing Video Clips

Brian Davern and Bob Layton are working on collecting video clips pertaining to the sport of fly fishing. The thought is that these clips could be shown during our meetings prior to, as part of our general meeting. If you would like to help in their effort, send your video link to lowercolumbiaflyfishers@gmail.com and it will be forwarded along to them.

Club to Purchase a few DVDs

The board is looking into purchasing a few DVDs to have for backup incase a general meeting program cancels last minute. We will be taking suggestions.

Opportunities to save your fishing yearnings this winter

The dark and damp days of winter, along with the declining salmon and steelhead options, often leave us wanting for something to satisfy the soul. While not necessarily fly-fishing - unless your name is Buchman, consider these options to stave off your hunger;

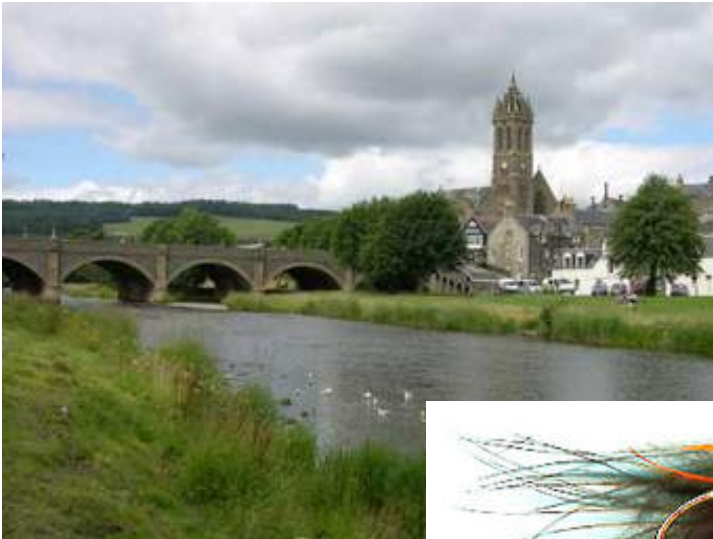
1. Clam digging. We’re but an hour or two from great digging at the ocean beaches and bays.
2. Dungeness Crab - pretty much all of the bays as well as saltwater estuary of the Columbia offer great opportunities for these tasty treats. Docks in the saltwater bays offer land-based access.
3. Pogies. The local name for surf perch, most of the sandy ocean beaches, again just an hour or two away, cough up decent numbers of pogies and boy, are they good eating.
4. Smaller coastal rivers and streams do kick out steelhead and are often overlooked.
5. Catch and release Sturgeon on the Columbia. Oof, hauling in a decent sturgeon is a workout.

As always make sure you check out the local regulations before venturing out as there can be closures in specific areas, but do get out and scratch that itch. No excuses!

December Mystery Water revealed! Oh my goodness, Denny Morgan threw a dart from his memory bank and nailed Pennsylvania’s Letort Spring Run as last month’s mystery water. Denny had read some books many years ago, no doubt by George Harvey or Vince Marinaro, who were prominent East Coast fly-fishers and based much of their writing on the Letort and dry fly fishing for it’s exceptionally challenging browns. Letort, being a true limestone spring creek, what the English would call a “chalk-stream” has exceptionally productive vegetation and insect life with extremely challenging current seams. Grows BIG Browns.

You’ll find the Letort at Carlisle in SE Pennsylvania. A very small creek with gin-clear water, the Letort is only about 9 miles long before joining a larger stream. It’s been a bucket-list destination of mine since I first caught the flyfishing bug reading Harvey and Marinaro’s books. An interesting fact about George Harvey - he was a flyfishing professor at Penn State University, the only person to hold such a title. George also designed formula’s for hand-tied tapered leaders before knotless tapered leaders were developed, each for a different kind of fly. I’ve tied his leaders and they are exceptionally effective turning over the fly and drag free drifts.

This month we are going to venture further back in fly-fishing history than we've gone so far, and further yet afield for your Mystery Water of the month. A name that should be familiar to particular practitioners of our passion, which is.....where?



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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