



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

May 2020

Issue 262

Meeting: Not Yet
Time: Beer-Thirty
Place: Your backyard, weather depending

Next board meeting - Who Knows?

PROGRAM? - What Program?

From El Presidente' T Frost; There will be no LCFF meeting on May 5th or Board meeting May 19th. June meeting is up in the air, but seriously doubt that it will take place.

Bon Voyage' Mr. Gee - been good knowing ya! If you hadn't yet heard Glenn and wife Christina have flown the coop, moving to Washington DC area to live closer to family and experience a little of the urbane lifestyle. It was a privilege to spend many of Glenn's last days here walking the lake (social distancing behind a mask, of course) the last few weeks as well as not enough days on the water with him. Rest assured Glenn has scoped out fly-fishing opportunities in the region. We wish you the very best Glenn, and trust we'll remain in contact.

Dave Houten has volunteered to take over treasury duties and is working on locating the checkbook and why the account balances have mysteriously disappeared.

Which brings us to.....Fishing is re-opening! In the odd chance you had not yet heard - The Guv applied some good common sense to decision that fishing, golf, and hunting can re-open May 5. So instead of going to an LCFF meeting Tuesday I expect you all to go do some physical distancing **OUT ON THE WATER**. To which I say hallelujah!

Swofford Pond Outing Cancelled as far as a club event

This from Terry - "I am afraid we will be cancelling the Swafford Pond, Blue Gill outing as well. Fishing is allowed again, starting May 5th, but social distancing and no social gathering remains in effect."

Now that fishing is open one might find a few of you up there tagging those tasty little buggers while keeping your distance from one another - just not an official club outing, but that's your newsletter editor talkin'.

2020-2021 Election - LCFF Officers and Board

Without objection from the membership, this year's election will be by Executive fiat. This from President Frost;

"As far as election of next years officers I have contacted, Jerry Schroder, Lyle Barker, Hal Mahnke, Bob Buchman, Jim Williams and Dave Johnson all agreeing to serve another term. David Houten has agreed to take over as treasurer, replace Glenn Gee. Doug Stafford will be moving into the Presidents spot. I will be staying on as Past President. Waiting to hear back from John Kenagy, but he is probably a yes as well."

Anyone objecting to said decree will assume responsibility for managing and scheduling all aspects of the election.

Joke page - got a worthy offerings from Brian Davern:

“What's the difference between an epileptic oystershucker and a prostitute with diarrhea?
The epileptic oystershucker *shucks between fits*.

April Fish of the month - No surprise Brian was the first to nail our final cutthroat of the month contest. Nor was it a surprise I am sure that our very own coastal cutthroat, *Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii*, and specifically the sea-run cutthroat brought this series home. We call it the harvest trout.

Was a bit of surprise to not get anyone voicing our own Cowlitz River as the home water, but perhaps everyone is either out working in the yard or home drunk inside during these strange times. OR perhaps everyone recognized the Cowlitz and thought, why surely there have been dozens of members already identifying it so no way will I get the prize, so why bother?

Coastal cutthroat have a recognized range of about 200 miles of coastline, from California's Eel River to Alaska's Prince William Sound. I am certain if you were to make a visit, native Alaskan's can cite locals where cutthroat run wild some distance further up-coast and out in Kodiak Is. but we'll stick with the recognized range for now. Given its our club's "mascot" species I won't bore you with info we already know and get periodic program reports on.

Now that the Cutthroat project has expired.....what's next? Let me know if you have a desire to see any given subject or series to be covered in future newsletters.

Since no-one came up with a recipe, and in honor of our friend Terry Rogers, I offer you this, submitted by Terry in July 2005. It covers both topics.

TERRY ROGERS TIES ONE ON

Greetings and Salutations Fellow Club Members!

As instructed by our Commander-in-Chief (should have read "chef", Terry!) this humble correspondent is happy to report the results of our annual Deschutes River Winter Fishing Extravaganza!

Bright and early on Wednesday we loaded up and began our adventure. The 4+ hours of travel passed all too quickly, as we discussed the many possible fishing strategies and fly patterns we might employ over the next few days of pursuing our quarry, the Feisty Deschutes River Red Band Rainbow Trout! (FDRRT)

Upon arrival at our usual spot, we quickly and efficiently set up our tidy yet comfortable camp on the banks of the Mighty Deschutes, that was to serve as the base of our operations for our adventure. We rigged up our gear and enjoyed an early libation to toast the success of our journey thus far and to the beginning of the hunt for the Cagey and Elusive FDRRT. Alas by this time your humble reporter was all atremble with anticipation!

Regrettably, the confines of this column will not allow me to offer an exciting moment-by-moment account of our expedition, so instead I will offer more of an over view of how we spent our time.

We began each glorious day with a hearty breakfast featuring the house specialty of a variety of light but satisfying omelets prepared by your humble servant. My personal favorite was the bay shrimp omelet, smothered with a lemony hollandaise sauce, and served with freshly baked biscuits, hot coffee, and a cold glass of enhanced tomato juice with which we would offer a toast to the success of the upcoming day.

We spent our days stalking like the Great Blue Heron, the banks of the Mighty Deschutes for the wily FDRRT. As is customary for sporting gentlemen such as ourselves, we cast our feathered offerings only to rising fish that we had spotted from the high banks, which we would play fairly and efficiently so as to release each one unharmed. After a round of congratulations and a toast to our success we would continue upriver in our quest to find art, truth, and beauty in our piscatorial pursuit.

We would return to camp each afternoon for an hour or hors oeuvres and an aperitif followed by an evening repast of exquisite cuisine prepared by President Schroeder AKA Mr. Beans & Wieners. His culinary offerings included bacon wrapped breast of wild goose, spring Chinook salmon nicely crusted with flavorful parmesan and topped with tomatoes, thick beefsteaks seasoned with pepper and garlic, delicately poached petit oysters in a parmesan garlic butter, crisp salads, French bread and of course an appropriate wine befitting each meal.

The remainder of the evenings were spent fireside enjoying fine cigars, libations, lively and sometimes spirited discussions of the arts and sciences, with an occasional amusing anecdote thrown in to add color.

On the final evening, after having raised a toast to our absent comrades, President Schroeder, ever the consummate camp host, performed a modern interpretational dance number depicting the cultural effects of western expansion on the Native Americans of the Great Plains.

I am truly sorry you missed it.

Terry Rogers

Here's another article from the past, submitted by one of our former members

Rogue River Halfpounders

Submitted by club member John Perry, aka the Rogue River Rogue?

On a Friday in the last week of October, I had the pleasure of fishing the lower Rogue River for halfpounder steelhead with two of my former fish & wildlife commission cohorts, Don Denman of Medford and Jeff Feldner, of Newport. Jeff and I sat in the front seats of Don's 16' aluminum driftboat and we fished the stretch from Illahee (Foster Bar) to Agness (Hog Eddy), about an 8-mile drift. It was a very enjoyable and productive day. The weather was cool but bright & sunny and we fished from dawn to about 4pm, stopping for lunch and a siesta along the way.

Jeff and I both fished light outfits...I used my 4-weight 7-foot rod and a dry line...Jeff had a 5-weight rig, also with a dry line. We tried several different flies...I had good luck on a #8 "fall caddis" wet fly fished just below the surface but I think any of the standard Rogue River patterns would have produced that day. Don, who knows the river quite well, had us positioned perfectly as we dropped thru the rapids, riffles and glides. The best fishing was in glides...areas of moderate current, 3 to 7 feet deep with a choppy surface. We fished below the moving boat and the average cast was only about 25 feet out. Water above and below boulders also held fish.

Together we put about 15 halfpounders in the boat...all nice big ones running 13" to 17" and a pound to maybe two pounds. All were carefully unhooked and released although about half were fin-clipped and could have been kept. We lost another 15 or 20 and I lost an adult 6 to 7 pounder when the fly pulled out at the boat. These fish are feisty and hard hitting...real scrappers!

A halfpounder steelhead is an immature summer steelhead that has spent one year in the ocean and, for reasons still unclear to the biologists, makes a run up the river in the late summer and fall. They spend the winter in freshwater then drop back to the salt to mature, returning again as a 5 to 8 pound adult. These fish are found only in the Rogue, Klamath and Smith (Calif.) rivers with a few strays into adjacent smaller streams, too. They were made famous by Zane Gray and are a delight to fish for and catch. People from all over the US...and the world...come to the Rogue to fish halfpounders.

There were only a few other boats fishing that stretch, only one guide boat, and most remarkable of all, no big tourist jet boats. In the summer and on weekends the big tour boats can be plentiful, although the largest ones (like the 80-passenger Rogue Queen, powered by three 454" V-8s) do not run above Agness. Besides the fish, we saw a lot of other wildlife...bald eagles, ducks, a skunk, two black bears, a pair of otters, a covey of mountain quail and several deer. The bears, when they see a boat coming, "charge" down the bank and out into the shallows, apparently hoping for a handout (I've seen tour boat operators dumping sacks of 2-day-old maple bars and doughnuts on the bank behind boulders...to attract bears where the tourists can see them). Some of the bears are sizable...

The 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire of 2002 burned most of the wild country south of the river all the way to California but none of the burned area is visible from the river.

The Rogue River halfpounders have been doing well over the past few years...especially since bait was banned on much of the river and because non-fin-clipped trout and steelhead must be released. Trout over 16" are considered to be steelhead and must be recorded and counted towards the annual limit if retained. Halfpounders begin showing in the river in late summer and fishing is good throughout the fall months as long as the river doesn't rise too much. This year fishing was excellent in October and thru most of November. If you've never experienced fishing the Rogue River for halfpounders, you have missed one of the Northwest's premiere fisheries.

John L. Perry

For you newer club members John is one of our original members who used to be a Biologist with Oregon fisheries. John currently lives in the upper Willamette valley and has fished extensively throughout some of the lesser known rivers and streams of the southern and Central Oregon region. John celebrated south-central Oregon's Chewaucan River in a past LCFF newsletter article. Do I hear road trip???? -editor

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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