



The Lower Columbia Flyfisher

February 2020

Issue 259

Meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Lv Country Club Dining Room

Next board meeting - Tuesday, February 18, 6:30 PM at Longview Country Club

PROGRAM: Update on Clamming in Washington State

Wait, what has clamming to do with flyfishing you might ask?.....Well may I remind you Bob Buchman has answered this question. Last I heard Bob's catch was under review by not only WDFW but FFI and IGFA to be recognized as the world record clam on the fly.

In truth many of us are clam and clamming aficionados who recall Dan Ayers presenting a very well received program a couple short years ago on state of clamming Washington's most favored beaches. And so Dan will return to give us the update on how our preferred bi-valves are doing.

What with all the concerns of acidification and climate change it should be another interesting evening.

January Auction netted a handy sum of \$1032. A hearty thank you to all who contributed.

Looking forward the plan for March meeting program is to have members who were part of the myriad of photos gracing our 50th anniversary calendar give narrative to the experiences and time said photos represent. We will be projecting the calendar pages on screen to spur the commentary.

One should consider this the first phase of celebrating the first 50 years of our existence. Most interesting will be those few of us having memories of earlier years activities and the characters who have sadly left us. Hopefully these comments will spur questions from the general audience about times past and inspire some among us to new adventures of our own.

We believe everyone due a 2020 50th anniversary calendar has received it. If you have not and believe you should contact Glenn Gee to resolve this.

LCFF board was presented with a unique suggestion to enhance hatchery fish recovery efforts by purchasing and donating a "borescope" style camera. The idea is a micro camera could be lowered into the structures capturing adult returning fish to see if there is need to retrieve any before making the effort. You are all old enough codgers to recognize this is the same kind of camera a surgeon uses to see blockages on arteries and place stints for repair. One can imagine there will be many additional uses for such a tool once in hand. WDFW rules allow said donations as long as value remains under \$300 and technology has improved so much simple versions are now marketed under \$100. After some debate motion was made and passed for LCFF to purchase a camera with a maximum spend of 299.99 and donate to the Kalama hatchery.

A new conservation effort was also voted to be supported by LCFF Board at January meeting. Northwest Straits Foundation was formed in 2001 to remove lost and abandoned fishing nets and traps plus derelict and damaged gear from Puget Sound. We've all heard of this threat to fish survival; Instead of talking about it this group is actually doing it. To date they have retrieve over 5600 derelict nets and 3600 crab pots. Over 460,000 were found entangled in their gear. Yep, you heard that right, nearly 1/2 million. You can learn more about them at www.nwstraitsfoundation.org. After discussion LCFF Board voted to donate \$200 to the cause.

LCFF board has made firm decision to divest of our LCFF library and its contents. With the prevalence of all things available online for no cost, the library has not seen use in several years. Expect a box or two of books to be available for cherry-picking at next meeting or two, following which they will be donated in some manner. There are a couple opportunities for giving away the cabinet being explored but it will be gone in one way or another within the next month or two. The cabinet was hand-crafted by one of our deceased and founding members, Lew Metzler, and will be a shame to see it end up junked should that be the final option.

This still leaves us with unresolved long-term storage for several other club possessions. Vests, sign-boards, banner, pop-up shelter, computer, caps & badges/stickers, podium, etc. all depend on the grace of individual members to store and make available when needed.

Washington State Council of FFI has announced inagural Fly Casting Fair beginning 9 AM Saturday, May 2, at Mercer Islands' Luther Burbank Park. All manner of demos, instruction, and casting challenges will be available and should be an enticing opportunity to hone and improve your skill. The day will close with a dinner to close the day's activities. You can learn more and register by going to their website at www.wscffi.org.

Congrats Denny Morgan for nailing the Bonneville Cutthroat and NW Utah rivers, specifically the Provo, as January's cutthroat of the month and it's home water.

It shouldn't surprise that Utah has tagged the Bonneville cutthroat, *Oncorhynchus clarkii Utah*, as it's State Fish, nor a surprise so many Rocky Mountain and West Coast states identify their resident cutthroat subspecies as state fish. Basically the Bonneville is native to all the streams emptying into ancient Lake Boinneville, what is now Great Salt Lake. Nearby Bear Lake and it's drainage are often lumped into Bonneville status but Utah has decided to consider them their own unique strain so that jury is still out among scientists. There are some color and pattern differences in the Bonneville between natal streams due to the isolation Great Salt Lake became once too warm and caustic to support trout.

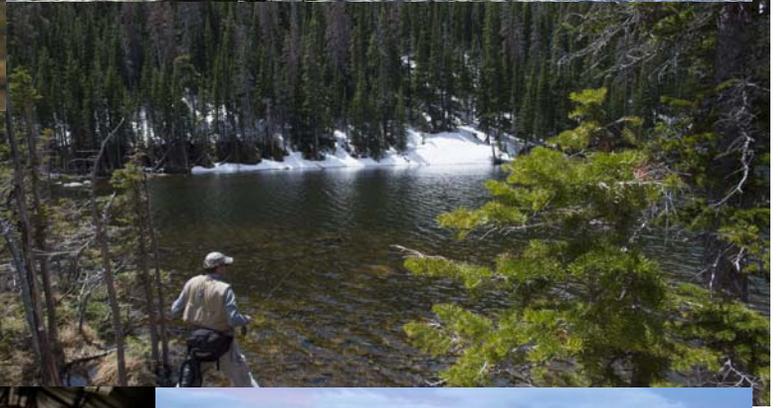
Home water is Provo, Weber, Jordan, Spanish Fork, Sevier Rivers and Wasatch Range front streams.

As with most Cutthroat strains, the Bonneville was decimated, even considered extinct for some time, by overfishing, non-native fish competition, and habitat degradation once European descent settlers came to the area. Utah has an intensive recovery program that has been notably successful, so much so that State of Utah has included them in their "Cutthroat Slam" recognition program. Other Cutthroat strains on the Utah Slam are Colorado River Cutthroat, Yellowstone Cutthroat, and Bear River Cutthroat. Sounds like a challenge worth accepting to me!

Coloration is primarily a subtle light clay/silver-gray through charcoal background with distinctly round sparse spots along the back and tail. A pinking hue along the flanks identifies the Bonneville in its spawning stage. Jaw slash can be more yellowish, even absent on many locations.

Bonnevilles often transition to being predatory to other fish after an insect diet in their juvenile phase (should the water be big enough), a clue that pitching streamers is a productive method for capturing one.

Well that was fun, visiting Utah. How about this month, any guesses where we are and what strain cutthroat we have here?



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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