



TIGHTLINES



OFF to help salmon runs on Lund's Gulch Creek

If you've never heard of Lund's Gulch Creek you're not alone. If you recognize the pedestrian tunnel under the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks in the picture to the left, you'll have a clue.

Lund's Gulch Creek runs through the ravine that forms most of the eastern portion of Meadowdale Beach County Park. Just before the creek empties into the sound, it flows under the boardwalk that forms the floor of the pedestrian tunnel. And that's where our story begins. But first you need to meet Duane Uusitalo.

As a teacher at Meadowdale Middle School, Duane began rearing and stocking the creek with Coho salmon back in 1982. It was a student project then, and fairly primitive. "Bucket and barrel operation," according to Duane.

But over the years, techniques improved and fish returned. He was also able to establish a hatchery on private property next to 23 acres of wetland in the upper part of
See "LUND'S GULCH" next page

CHUM, COHO AND CUTTHROAT HAVE A FRIEND. Meet Friends of Lund's Gulch Creek President Duane Uusitalo. Conservation Chairman Mike Truax has discovered a worthy cause right in our own backyard.

—Dick Simmons Photo

Who will be Man of the Year in 2008?

From time to time in the 43 year history of OFF, the club has honored one of its members as "Man of the Year." In 2005 Norm Primc was chosen for his excellent work as Club Treasurer and his tireless devotion to making the annual auction a major success.

Club President Mike Bunney would like to see the Man of the Year honors presented on a *See "MAN OF THE YEAR" Page 4*

October Calendar

10/8: General meeting. Our guest speaker will be Mike Lawson international fly fishing guide, author, and expert on Idaho's renowned Henry's Fork. Mike will speak on "Nymphing from Top to Bottom."

10/22: Business meeting at Alf's.

10/17-20: Mike Truax will lead an outing to Blue Lake with possible side trips to Green Lake, Rat Lake and Chopaka.

11/7: Dan Reynolds and Norm Primc will lead a trip to Chico Creek for Chums. E-mail or call Dan (425) 673 7028 to sign-up and get the details



“LUND’S GULCH Continued

the ravine. It turned out that the parent of one of his students owned a house on the property and they let Duane use half their greenhouse for his project.

In addition to 500 - 1,000 Coho released each year, Duane began releasing about 10,000 Chum supplied by the Suquamish Tribe in Kitsap County. In the late 90's, between 20 and 100 Coho and 50 to 400 Chum were returning to the creek each year.

But the salmon numbers have dwindled. Both Duane and Park Ranger Doug Dailen, who has lived in the Park since 1991, say the problem is flooding.

The flooding scours the creek and pushes hundreds of pounds of gravel and sand down the stream, plugging the race underneath the boardwalk and blocking fish passage.

"We have a big funnel upstream and we need a delta down stream by the railroad," says Dailen.

But that's easier said than done. Twice this year, the planks in the tunnel have been removed and the raceway cleaned out. The cost is borne by the County. To date, BNSF hasn't shown much interest in building a causeway over the tracks, like the one at Picnic Point. So the County maintains the tunnel for both human and fish passage.

The flooding can be blamed on natural and human activity. Natural because the ravine is steep and wild. Heavy rains and snow melt in 1997 and 2007 caused major scouring and damage to the creek bed. But development is also a culprit.

New homes around the borders of the park are creating more runoff on an everyday basis and could create serious slide problems. Duane, along with residents in the area, are currently fighting a major housing development that could exacerbate the problem significantly.



Old growth stump on trail.

But, on a warm fall afternoon, walking up the path alongside the creek, sun filtering through the alder, it's easy to forget the problems. In the first half of the last century a country club and golf course sat alongside the lower part of the stream.

Duane points to a big chunk of crumbling, vine covered foundation that was part of the country club complex.

"I've heard it was quite the place back in the 40's," he says. He's not sure how big the golf course was or specifically where it was but points to the hundreds of alder on either side of the stream. "Most of these trees are coming to the end of their life cycles and beginning to fall. That timing would coincide with the time the golf course and country club ended and the alder began taking over."



Duane checks gravel build up in raceway bed under planks.

— Dick Simmons Photos

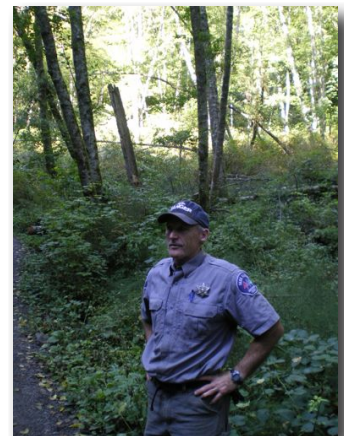
Duane also points out places where a donation from OFF to Friends of Lund's Gulch can make a difference:

Planting new native plants to mitigate erosion.

Helping to remove a culvert that's preventing salmon and cutthroat from getting to the upper reaches of the stream and inhibiting populations above the culvert from getting down the stream.

Helping to replace the planks in the pedestrian tunnel with metal grates that would be easier to remove for clearing the raceway.

Duane has been walking these trails for 30 years and making a major contribution to fish enhancement, environmental education and the preservation of a beautiful place. OFF is delighted to take that walk with him.



Park Ranger Doug Dailen and his wife have lived in park since 1991.

The Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force is hosting a tree planting project along the North Fork Stillaguamish River on Saturday October 25, from 10am – 2pm. Tools and food provided. Meet at Cloverdale County Park in Arlington. Contact Kristen Marshall at 425-252-6686 or kristin@stillysnofish.org to sign up.



The Fly Fishing Life



The Bassmaster Boys from Bend.



In an effort to maintain our "G" rating for this newsletter, we can only share these four photos out of the 1,000 or so that Steve Murray shot on this recent trip to the Bend, Oregon area.

As you can see, the nine day outing included a round up of all the usual suspects. Clockwise from top left: Steve, Norm Prime, Mike Bunney and Ken Martin. The catch contained Rainbows, Browns, Kokanee salmon and Bass.

It was even suggested by one member on the trip that maybe the club should sponsor a bassmaster tournament. However, no one seconded the motion.



Our New Best Friend?

Sea Run Cutts: Emerald Angler's Shannon Carroll shares some tips.

Season: Cutthroat trout are available year round. The best times of the year are in April and May and from late September through November.

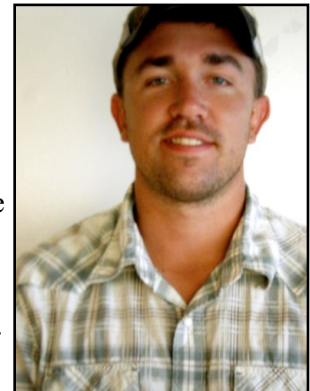
What gear: 5 or 6 weight rods, saltwater reels, with a simple, closed drag systems to help prevent saltwater corrosion. Shannon likes a shooting head and suggests the Jim Teeny T150 or Scientific Angler's new Sharkskin floating lines for late Fall to early Spring and an intermediate line for the warmer months. A stripping basket helps with kelp. In nasty weather, a 6 weight rod with a 7 weight line for bigger flies.

When to fish: Tides are more important than time of day. Tides push the baitfish into the estuaries and coves. Fish the beach on a big tide, two hours before and two hours after the high tide.

Where to fish: Rocky beaches with big exposed boulders are and good place to begin. Look for drop offs, old pilings, piers, boulders, creek mouths estuaries, eel grass, and shellfish beds. Cutts like structure.

Check out DOE Aerial photos, guide books and maps. The Mountaineer's "Afoot and Afloat in Puget Sound" provides good information on access to beaches.

What Flies to use: Early in the season stay small with shrimp and baitfish patterns, as the season progresses, gradually go with larger smelt, herring candlefish and sand lance patterns, small muddler minnows and Foul Creek Herring flies are effective. If you're not getting fish, go bigger. Presentation is more important than pattern. Observe the currents and let the fly swing on the current and retrieve with a slow strip. Fish up high rather than down low because that's where the baitfish are.





The OFF Beat

JIM MELNICK'S AUCTION UPDATE

This December's auction provides much of the funding for our club's activities in 2009. Without your support, some club activities may be limited. We may not be able to help support conservation projects, fisheries enhancement, fly fishing and tying education.

If each of us gives a little, the total effect will be enormous. Many of our members are already working on the event, but we still need about four more people. If you can give us an hour of your time during the auction, please contact any of the Auction Committee members – Phil Sacks, Terry Zietner, Bruce Johnson, Rolf Mogster or Jim Melnick at the next meeting to find out what you can do to help.

We can also use donations - guided trips, artwork, and gift certificates for lunch or dinner from local restaurants. We will be handing out solicitation letters at the October meeting. Use these letters to contact your local merchants to solicit any type of donation. Please let us know when you are able to get a donation so we can include it on the master list.

The ladies part of the Auction Committee has also been very busy, and has found several unusual and enjoyable items. They will be running a separate silent auction (different bidding procedures) as well as providing several regular auction items.

Last but not least, come to the auction and bring a friend. We need as many club members as possible. We also need as many non-members that are interested in enjoying the festivities and bidding on the items.

Jim Gaunt will soon be collecting names for the dinners, so that the catering people will know how much food to supply. More to come on the menus and pricing.

I know that you can help us to help our club..

MAN OF THE YEAR.

Continued from Page 1

more frequent basis. He also believes it should not be tied solely to fly fishing skills.

"This award should be based on the contribution this member has made to the goals and ideals of our club in 2008," says Mike. "A commitment to conservation and enhancing the sport of fly fishing in the Pacific Northwest."

And, as Mike points out: "A dedication to the camaraderie and pursuit of happiness that our hobby and passion for fly fishing provides."

Any club member can submit the name of a person he thinks should be Man of the Year for 2008 along with a brief description of why. Mike will have more details at the October meeting.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Bob Triggs began his guiding career in 1994 and has guided in New England, New York, Alaska, Kamchatka-Russia and on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. His work has appeared in Fly Fisherman Magazine, Fly Fishing in Salt Waters, and many regional outdoors publications and new papers. He



lives in Port Townsend.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome
Dave Albo



—See you on the
river. DS



General Information

The General meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds, WA. Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

The Business meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's 4820 196th SW, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Mike Bunney, President, 425-672-3345

Dick Hedges, Vice President, 425-337-9070

Jim Gauntt, Treasurer, 425-776-1017

Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596

Dick Simmons, Communications. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804

Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

Joe Conner, Trustee, 425-744-8085

Chairs:

Outings, Dan Reynolds, 425-673-7028

Education, Eric Sauer, 425-776-3811, Doug Pendleton 206-282-5366

Conservation, Mike Truax, 425-672-6963

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