

# TIGHTLINES



**OFF WAS WELL REPRESENTED AMONG more than a hundred fly fishermen who descended on Lenice for the season opener. But Steve looks happy. See Story Page 3 — Mike Bunney Photo**

## *Biologists focus on “quality” at recent meeting.*

OFF members welcomed three of the State’s top fisheries biologists to our recent meeting and were well rewarded with an excellent review of top Eastside fishing prospects for the current season.

Bob Jateff, Twisp; Chad Jackson, Ephrata and Chris Donley, Spokane visited with members and shared their inside information on what they considered the top quality selective gear and fly fishing only waters in their respective regions.

In the Okanogan area, Jateff highlighted six catch and release, selective gear lakes with April 1 openers: Campbell, Cougar, Davis, Big and Little Green, and Rat. All lakes have good fishing for Rainbows up to 14 and 15 inches. Cougar fishes See “SEASON UPDATE” Page 2

**OFF will have booth at June Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo in Monroe.**

Save the date: June 19 at Lake Tye in Monroe for the annual Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo.

The event commemorates the pioneering work of Jim Green, International fly casting champion and renowned rod and line designer.

The Fair is open to the public and admittance is free. Its goal is to attract new people to the sport of fly fishing and to connect both new and seasoned anglers with the many resources available to them

**See “EXPO” Page 4**

## Guiding Legend Jack Mitchell to speak at April 14 meeting. Skip Morris booked for Fall.

Jack Mitchell has guided on the Yakima for nearly 25 years. He’s also one of the first US guides to focus on the upper Columbia sports fishery. Anyone who has fished with Jack comes away amazed at his energy and gift for finding fish. Big ones! Don’t miss Jack Mitchell.



On October 13 another legend will join us. Author, guitarist and fly tying maestro Skip Morris will

cross the pond from his home in Port Ludlow to discuss techniques for surface fishing trout lakes (*and hopefully tie a few flies*). To learn more about Skip, here’s the URL for his web page:

<http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com/>

### April Calendar

**4/14, General Meeting:** Guest Speaker Jack Mitchell.

**4/28, Business Meeting:** 6 p.m. At Alf’s. All members are invited.

**Outings:** No outings are scheduled for April, but there’s interest in a Sprague Lake trip.

# Where's the best "Dryside" fishing for 2010?

very well in the summer months. The first three lakes close August 31 and the last three November 30.

Little Green also holds Brook Trout and Rat Lake has Browns. If you plan to fish Cougar in April check with WDFW because the opener may be moved back to May 1st.

Last year, OFF contributed funds for fish plants in Greens and Davis Lakes.

On his Selective Gear Quality Lakes list with openers on the last Saturday in April, Jateff said Little Twin and Chopaka Lakes were looking very good for Rainbows in the 14 to 18 inch range this season. Chopaka is fly fishing only.

Big Twin and Blue (*Sinlahekin*) were looking good for Rainbows 14 to 18 inches and Blue (*Wannacut*) and Grimes Lakes were looking good for Lahontan Cutthroat to 20 inches. The season at Grimes runs from June 1 to August 31.

He felt that Aeneas, a fly fishing only lake near Tonasket, would only be fair this year for Rainbow to 15 inches along with Tiger and Brown Trout. The Lake is scheduled for a rehab in the fall.

Jateff suggested that we might want to take a shot at Buzzard Lake eight miles west of Omak. "It's an up and comer," he said. "And it's being planted in April with catchable Rainbow."

The Chewuch, Methow and Twisp Rivers are all C&R fisheries that will be opening on the first Saturday in June. The Methow gets the most pressure and has the biggest fish — resident Rainbow and Cutthroat to 18 inches. The Chewuch and Twisp get less pressure. Both Rivers will close on August 15 and the Methow will close September 15 this year.

Chad Jackson, who works out of the Ephrata Office, has a number of Quality, Selective Gear waters in his area including Beda, Brookies, Dusty, Lenice, Nunnally, Merry, Lenore, Dry Falls, Homestead and Quail Lakes and Rocky Ford Creek.

Lenice, Nunnally, Dusty and Lenore opened March 1st (*See story on Page 3*). The opener at Lenice was crowded but a creel survey indicated that the average fish per angler was five to seven during the two to four hour time period for the survey. After the survey there were reports of some anglers catching and releasing 20 to 30 fish (*which must be true since we're talking about good, honest fishermen here*). Most fish were in the 19 to 20 and up to 24 inch range Triploids. A few 14 to 16 inch Tiger Trout were also caught.

Jackson said not to bother with Beda or Brookie this season because they're going to be rehabed in September. He suggested sticking with the tried and true: Lenice, Nunnally, Dusty, Dry Falls and Rocky Ford. He also suggested Corral, Blythe and Chukar (*all rehabed in 2007*) and Drains 239/645 and Frenchman Hills Wasteway. Jackson's big news was that Harris, Sedge, Tern and Dune Lakes in the "Dessert Lakes" will be redesignated year-round, selective gear, one fish only lakes and stocked with fry and catchables in the Spring.

"In two to three years the Dessert Lakes should be excellent fly fishing destinations," Jackson said.



*Eastside WDFW Biologists Chad Jackson, Ephrata, Chris Donley, Spokane, and Bob Jateff, Twisp.*

Chris Donley, from the Spokane Office, urged OFF members to drive the extra mile(s) because the fishing in the Spokane area is superior to any other destination in the State (*yes, Chris is also a good, honest angler*).

One of his top picks this season is Amber Lake. "It's fly fishing only and has a consistent chironomid hatch," says Donley. "Plus fewer anglers." It fishes best from March through May and October through November. He recommends using a Jerry McBride in black, brown or green.

Some of Donley's other favorites include Coffee Pot Lake, north of Odessa; Medical Lake, selective gear with populations of Rainbow, Brown and Tiger Trout; Rock Lake, for large mouth bass, and Sprague Lake. He's especially keen on Sprague because it was rehabed in 2007 and currently has some big Rainbow. Best times for Sprague are March-May and October-November.

For more information, here are some phone numbers: Bob Jateff, 509-997-0316; Chad Jackson, 509-754-4624, Chris Donley, 509-892-1001.

## **Jim Traner seeks greater involvement from club members for next Auction.**

At the March Business Meeting, OFF 2010 Auction Chairman Jim Traner outlined a strategy that he hopes will get more members personally committed to making the auction a success.

"The Auction is our primary fund raising event of the year," he said. "It supports our conservation and fish enhancement programs and subsidizes club activities."

Jim would like to organize the auction work into teams. Each team would have a budget and be responsible for acquiring donations and items for the live and silent auctions. He's currently working out details and will present his plan to members soon.

# The Fly Fishing Life



**ON LAKE LENICE:** Mike Truax is clearly enjoying his new lightweight pontoon boat, especially when he's packing it from the parking lot to the Lake. Jim Hagy Photo. Mike Bunney works a midge in close to the shore. Many of the fish caught on opening days we're cruising in shallower water. Steve Murray Photo.

*Editor's Note: Captain Larry Roxby set up his tent lodge again this year at Lenice and invited everyone for dinner. He stayed on and returned home on March 29. He sent along this report the same day.*

I just got home about a half hour ago from taking camp down at Lenice. It was blowing 35kts. while we were there but died down to about 10kts. while we were dropping the tents, thank God!

We had about thirty or thirty-five hungry fishermen and friends for Seafood chowder, soup & Bread...and lots of wine. Their companionship & Laughter are more than repayment for my efforts.

The fishing was tough during that weekend. There were probably about 100 fishermen out there and it shut down, kind of...Picked up again strongly on Monday when 75 of those fishermen fled home!

No vandalism or thefts, that I am aware of and the fish were in great condition! Mostly Rainbows, especially for the Chironomid Crowd, but the leech fishermen and those towing flies were able to pick up quite a few Tigers and a few Big Browns.

Just like the rest of the State, Lake Lenice was about 10 degrees warmer than expected for this time of year. Fish in the shallows already!

## SPRING CHIRONOMID FISHING

By Keith Stamm

*If you're thinking about heading up to Pass Lake or Lone Lake I hope you won't make all the mistakes I did, but just in case your tackle is just as disorganized as mine was after the winter hiatus here are some reminders.*

1. Clean the line and treat it so it will float. A line that sinks in front of your strike indicator will be impossible to mend and you'll miss strikes. *(Yes, you do need to mend line on still water when you cast cross wind.)*

2. Make sure you have strike indicators in your bag. Because of the cold water in spring and because chironomids are the most active insect, indicator fishing is often your best bet. *(Recently, at an E. Wash. Lake I caught more fish under an indicator than all the trollers on the lake combined.)*

3. Check your leader ahead of time. I like to have 12-15 ft. of monofilament tapered down 3x. Depending on depth I can add to that or cut it back before I add tippet, normally no finer than 4x fluorocarbon. *(Yes, a*

*monofilament butt section with fluorocarbon tippet. That's because as you adjust your indicator for different depths you will have some of the leader section on the water above the indicator; if it's a fluorocarbon butt section it will cause the tip of your fly line to sink – not good.)*

4. Make sure you have plenty of *(reasonably)* fresh fluorocarbon tippet material in 3x and 4x for rebuilding the "business" end of the leader.

5. Don't forget your forceps. You'll need it for measuring the

*Continued on Page 4*

# The OFF Beat

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Harry Ostrander

Say hello to Harry Ostrander, Branch Manager at Bank of Washington in Edmonds. Jim Traner swears that "Harry is not a Wall Street crook and did not get a TARP bonus!"



### Spring Chironomid Cont...

depth to set your indicator and, for releasing a few fish.

6. Take along a throat pump for getting stomach samples. This will be invaluable to keying in on the best size and color fly to use on any given day.

7. As a setup for starters, fish a dark red or olive bloodworm six inches off the bottom with a

### "EXPO" from Page 1

in the Northwest.

Last year a number of fly fishing clubs had booths at the Expo and it helped in recruiting new members.

There will also be clinics, gear and fly tying demos, a

small (16-18) olive or black beadhead pupa 12-15 inches above it.

8. Don't be afraid to use some small split shot. If the leader and flies are not tight to the strike indicator, you'll be missing strikes. (I finally did get most of these faux pas, or "fish pas," ironed out at Pass Lake and caught four nice Rainbows.)

casting competition and more. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

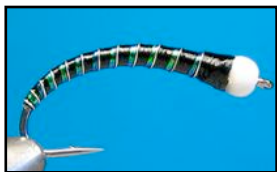
If you'd like to volunteer for booth duty contact Rolf Mogster.

For more information about the events schedule here's a link: [www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com/index.htm](http://www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com/index.htm)

*See you on the river. DS*

## Crazy for Chironomids!

It was all Chironomids at Lenice and all Chironomids at Pass and Lone... Chironomids are everywhere! It's a good thing, too since they're the year-round mainstay of a trout's diet. They're also fun to tie because you can create many innovations with new materials like the Liquid Lace Blood and Rockworm ties above. This May, Chironomid Maven Britta Fordice will be our guest speaker. She's an excellent tyer and a great angler. She's also developed many new patterns, but the original **Ice Cream Cone** created by **Brian Chan** remains one of her favorites.



**Hook:** 18 - 10 2X curved shank hook (TMC 2312 or Partridge 15BN); **Thread:** 3/0 or 6/0 black (gauge to match hook size); **Body:** Tying thread finished with Hard As Nails; **Ribbing:** Pearl Flashabou and silver wire; **Head:** Ceramic or metal bead painted white.

**Tying Instructions:** 1. Place the bead on the hook, then place the hook in the vice as shown. This hook position reduces the chance of thread wraps slipping at either end of the dressing. 2. Start the thread immediately behind the bead. 3. Catch in the pearl ribbing. The butt end should reach to immediately behind the bead. 4. Catch in the silver wire as you continue wrapping the thread toward the rear of the body. The tethered end of the wire should also extend to immediately behind the bead - this helps maintain an even profile when you build up the body later. 5. Hold the rib materials slightly apart as you wrap the thread to the rear of the body, keeping them inline with the shank and bend. This also helps maintain a clean body profile. 6. Wrap the thread to the point indicated in the photo, or dress a shorter or longer body. 7. Build a tapered body with the tying thread (It goes faster if you're using the heavier gauge thread). Allow the thread fibers to flatten and spread slightly to produce a nice smooth result. 8. With the thread hanging at the head, wind the Flashabou rib forward in firm even wraps. Secure with thread making two or three tight wraps and a half hitch. 9. Wrap the silver wire following the leading edge of the Flashabou rib. 10. Cut away the waste rib material. Build the thread up into a cone taking the body profile smoothly onto the back of the bead. Make a whip finish. 11. Apply a good coat of Hard As Nails. Spread the varnish evenly and avoid overloading the fly. 12. After a single layer of varnish you should have something like the above. If you prefer a heavier varnish layer, let the first coat dry completely before adding another.



### 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. at 6:00 p.m.

#### Officers:

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