

TIGHTLINES



THE OFFICIAL "PASSING OF THE BUCK." Mike Bunney (Left) receives a gift certificate of appreciation for his two years of outstanding service as OFF club president. Making the presentation at the Annual Club Banquet is 2010 incoming President Rolf Mogster.

—Photo by Dick Simmons

OFF members say yes to workshops and clinics in 2010.

Results of a recent club survey reveal that many members would like the opportunity to attend club sponsored casting clinics, upper level fly tying classes and fly tying round tables in 2010.

An overwhelming number also said they would pay a modest fee for quality instruction.

Those are just some of the ideas that we'll be exploring as we move ahead this coming year.

The on-going issue with Olympic Fly Fishers, or any non-profit club like ours, is participation. How many members will take the time to spend an evening or afternoon improving their skill levels, or take the lead in setting up a tying round table?

Don't miss our January meeting and help OFF get the new year off to a great start!

Auction grosses \$7,500. Page 2

Surprise! Man of the Year turns out to be Men of the Year.



Conservation Chairman Mike Truax and Auction Chairman Terry Zeitner are both "OFF's Men of the Year."

Two highly deserving members received the club's annual "Man of the Year" award at this year's banquet and auction.

Mike Truax was honored for the time and effort he puts in to research and uncover worthwhile enhancement programs for the club to support — programs that not only enhance fish habitat but have the potential to enhance the fly fishing experience for club members.

Terry Zeitner was honored for stepping up to the difficult and often thankless job of chairing the annual club auction and banquet despite his full time job and health problems.

Terry has frequently volunteered to take on other club projects that needed someone with a "take charge, get it done right" attitude.

Man of the Year nominations are made anonymously by members and kept secret. Winners learn when their names are announced at the banquet.

January Calendar

1/13, General Meeting: There will be plenty of things to talk about at our first meeting of the decade. Our Guest Speaker, Steelhead Guide Joe Ewing, will talk about his favorite rivers including the Skykomish.

1/27, Business Meeting: 6 p.m. At Alfy's on 196th. All are welcome!

OFF 2009 fly fishing Auction & Banquet.



Clockwise from top: Gillie Phil Sacks and outgoing Club Treasurer Jim Gauntt man the front desk; William Scott admires live auction items including Terry Zeitner's Tour de Force of fly tying plates; Phil welcomes Dan McCain, William Scott and guests.



An excellent night for all. An incredible night for one.

David Claude has been an OFF member for nearly 30 years, and admits "I've never won a big prize in one of the raffles."

But that streak ended December 9th when his raffle ticket won the 8' 4 wt. bamboo rod donated by professional builder Terry Zeitner. A similar rod and case might sell for \$5,000.

"I was stunned," said David. "I'm absolutely thrilled to have one of Terry's rods. And I'll use it, too!"

The rod was a special door prize this year that instilled lust in many. But everyone agreed that it went to the right guy.

Everyone was also delighted that Chairman Terry Zeitner's impending kidney transplant did not prevent him from attending the event he'd worked so hard on to make succeed.

The over all turnout was very good this year but, despite Auctioneer Don Bayes notable skill as a wallet levitationist, the bidding "frenzy" was more of a bidding "funk."

However, everyone had a good time, the Club grossed about \$7,500, and we should learn the final net at this month's general meeting.



David Claude's still wears an earlier version of the Club's name tag to meetings. David claims that Ron Sather is the only member still attending meetings who has been around longer. Ron was not available to confirm or deny it.



Above: Incoming Vice President Bruce Johnson sets up. Below: Terry Zeitner gets help from Jack Byrd.

The Fly Fishing Life

URGENT NOTICE!

OFF's annual Beginning Fly Tying Classes start January 12th and we need a Class Instructor, or a group of tyers, who can rotate through the eight class sessions that we've scheduled. Please call Rolf at 206-546-2677 if you can help with this important community outreach program.

Right: Captain Larry Roxby and Jim Traner step up to the bar at the Auction while Steve Murray pours a generous drink.

.....Middle Right: Gene Anthony snapped this shot of Mike Bunney on a lonely lake near Sitka contemplating his lonely future after the thrill of being Club President for two years.

.....Below: Doug Pendleton hoists a nice steelhead buck fresh from the Wenatchee.

Bottom: Nick Wisser caught this NICE steelhead buck on the Skykomish and made sure no one could accuse him of exaggerating its length.



January 2010

If "Martha Lake" won't work try "Lake Martha."

Note: Conservation Chairman Mike Truax has been trying to develop quality fly fishing opportunities within Snohomish County. One of his ideas is to create a split season on a local lake. After the regular season, the lake would begin a selective gear, fly fishing only season. Recently he met with Chad Jackson, WDFW Regional Freshwater Biologist, to discuss the possibility of trying out the idea at Martha Lake. These highlights are from Mike's report. If you would like to read his full 1,450 word report e-mail: mitruax@verizon.net or dick.simmons@comcast.net.

....Jackson believes there is a need for a dedicated fly-fishing or quality lake opportunity in Snohomish County and supports OFF's efforts to establish one.

....he indicated that he is reluctant to endorse a rule change that opens up either Martha Lake (Alderwood Manor) or Lake Serene to off season fishing, even under catch and release rules. These are two of twelve lakes in Snohomish County that are managed primarily for season openers. He believes that there would likely be opposition from other fishermen and department personnel to alter that management strategy by allowing winter time fishing activity.Chad told me that he has given our proposal considerable thought and suggests the club give consideration to evaluating Lake Martha (Warm Beach) as a better fit for expanding fly-fishing opportunities. He indicates this 58 acre lake is relatively deep at 20 feet and has far fewer homes surrounding it than do the two we mentioned.

....He felt that this lake has good potential for supplemental stocking with larger size (rainbow or brown) triploids. The department would be expected to approve a stocking permit request and effort by OFF in getting this lake managed under catch and release/selective gear rules.

....There will be no rule changes considered in 2010. The next cycle of rule changes are projected by Jackson to commence in April, 2011 for adoption at the end of 2012.... It's Chad's opinion that OFF should investigate Lake Martha to determine its suitability in meeting

our members' goal. If we determine it has the potential we seek, the department would approve permits for OFF to purchase stock of historically planted species from approved sources and encourage us to fish, record catch information and measure fish growth and productivity.

.... We could also adopt the lake and perform certain conservation and maintenance projects.

If we like Lake Martha, Jackson suggest that we contact parties living around the lake to indicate what rule change we have in mind so they are not surprised by our actions. If Lake Martha is the lake we target, a rule change should aim for year around fishing season, either catch and release or one fish retention combined with selective gear rules.

....Jackson believes our basic pitch should be, "We need a viable quality lake in Snohomish County". If Lake Martha fits the bill, rally around it and get other clubs to do so as well. He feels that is the easiest sell.

.... I drove to Lake Martha which lies several miles from Lake Goodwin. The drive took about 45 minutes from Lynnwood via I-5 to Smoky Point, then west over Highway 531.

...I found the lake frontage to be much more developed with residences than I had expected from my conversation with Jackson. However, its east-west orientation and narrower width should provide some protection from prevailing southerly and southwesterly

The OFF Beat

winds, while a portion of forested shoreline provides some degrees of solitude. Next step:

.....OFF could purchase fish and plant Lake Martha with supplemental stock in the spring and again in the fall and see how it fishes, record catch information and measure fish growth. This is something we could do in 2010 as part of an investigation into its overall suitability and the total fly fishing experience.

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. at 6:00 p.m.

Officers:

Rolf Mogster, President, 206-546-2677

Bruce Johnson, Vice President,

425-742-2252

Bill MacDonald, Treasurer,

425-774-4469

Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596

Dick Simmons, Communications. &

TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804

Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

Mike Bunney, Trustee, 425-672-3345

Chairs:

Outings, Norm Primc, 425-481-1653

Education, Eric Sauer, 425-776-3811,

Doug Pendleton 206-282-5366

Conservation, Mike Truax, 425-672-6963

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