

# TIGHTLINES



**WHO NEEDS TROUT WHEN THERE'S FILET MINGON?** Lone Lake hosts Steve Murray and Mike Bunney (*shown here*) raised the food standards at outings to new heights with their filet mignon and fettuccine alfredo for 18. See Page 3 — Photo from Hugh James

## *WDFW dodges big merge into mega agency.*

Should the State agency that grants permits for rock, sand and gravel, minerals and mining operations; for oil and gas exploration and extraction; for wind power, communication sites, commercial real estate, and more be the same agency that manages sports fishing in the State of Washington?

That's what almost happened last week when the State Senate's version of the 2010 Supplemental Budget proposed merging the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, the State Parks Department, and the

*See "MEGA MERGE" Page 2*

### Get the inside story on dry side fishing at our March 10th meeting.



Bob Jateff

WDFW Okanogan District Fish Biologists Bob Jateff and Chad Jackson, along with Central District Biologist Chris Donley will speak at our March meeting.

On-the-ground insights from WDFW biologists on what's going to be hot and what's not have helped launch many excellent trips over the years for OFF members.

It will also be interesting to hear how the State's economic troubles have impacted the Department and lake management plans for stocking and rehab in 2010.

## OFF joins with three Eastern Washington clubs to improve large trout stocks in Okanogan lakes.

OFF has combined forces with the Methow, Okanogan Valley and Inland Empire fly clubs to fund large trout planting in Big and Little Green Lakes near Omak and Davis and Cougar Lakes near Winthrop. Each club has donated \$500 for a total of \$2,000.

"Our members fish that area a lot and we've gotten to know fly fishermen from the other clubs," said Conservation Chair Mike Truax. "We felt that giving back was the right thing to do."

Mike reported that OFF has also pledged \$500 each for aerators in Little Twin Lake near Twisp and Ell Lake near Tonasket.

The funds would be released if additional matching funds can be secured from other sources and water conditions improve at the Lakes. Solar powered aerator systems typically cost about \$8,000.

### March Calendar

**3/10, General Meeting:** Guest Speakers WDFW Eastern Washington Fish Biologists Bob Jateff, Chad Jackson and Chris Donley. Please see story to left.

**3/24, Business Meeting:** 6 p.m. At Alfy's.

**3/19, 20, 21, Outing:** Lenice Lake hosted by Mike Bunney and Steve Murray Details and sign up at General Meeting.

# A fishing "problem" becomes a career "choice."

Bob Triggs, who shared his experiences guiding on Russia's Kanchatka River at our February meeting, had a fishing "problem" at an early age.

"I missed a whole lot of school," he says. "Fishing was an addiction."

He started fishing on the small ponds and streams of the sprawling Adirondack Mountain Wilderness Park in his home state of New York.

"As a kid, I was a good bait caster. I could always catch fish. But as I grew older I just felt there was something missing," says Bob. Then one day he had an epiphany.

"I saw this guy in a straw hat behind a gas station and he was fishing on this little stream with a bamboo rod, casting a dry fly and I thought, I need to find out what that's all about." He did, and says: "For me it was like going from a war zone to a Zen Buddhist temple."

He embraced fly fishing and spent many years fishing on the historic waters of the Catskill Mountains of New York; birthplace of American fly fishing. He also studied literature and biology at Rutgers University and at Purchase College, and worked for many years in the restoration and conservation of antiquities.

"But working got in the way of my true love. I was always late to work and getting in trouble," he says.

One day he packed up his Plymouth Voyager and took off on a nine month odyssey catching and releasing along the lower Eastern Seaboard.

"It's amazing how many people there are who live that way. Fishing. Working a little here and there. Living in their vans. But once you catch a big stripper in the surf it's hard to go back."

Eventually, Bob's "problem" became his career. In 1994 he began guiding professionally and earned Fly Casting Instructor Certifications from both FFF and the Wulff School of Fly Fishing. Working from his home in Port Townsend, Bob has guided in New England, New York, Alaska, Kamchatka-Russia and on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

He's also a writer. His work has appeared in numerous fly fishing journals and he's a regular book reviewer on the Washington Fly Fishing Website. Here's an excerpt from a review he wrote on Simon Gawesworth's excellent book *Spey Casting*:

"Perhaps it is most unusual that someone so undeniably expert and accomplished could write a work of this order, and yet maintain a most self-effacing tone throughout. While the author's own voice and sense of presence is immediate throughout the read, never once does the reader sense the kind of ego that drives most masculine competitive endeavors. And in a game rife with big egos and blow-hards, perhaps Simon Gawesworth stands out most for his simple, happy and common sense approach to what more than one casting



*Bob Triggs guided on Russia's Kamchatka River in 2001 and 2002. It was the best fishing he'd ever had, with half-days of 25 to 30 Steelhead and 100 salmon days common. Would he do it again?*

*"No," he says. "Especially if you have a family and responsibilities. It's dangerous. The authorities take your passport for the whole time you're there and have access to all your personal information. There's no medivac available like there was when the Russian military was still there. There's essentially no law enforcement in the region and more corruption and graft than ever. Outfitters are paying thousands of dollars in bribes and not many guides are left. Everyone wants a piece of you."*

student has described as the "daunting" task of learning to cast the two-handed rod."

## **"MEGA MERGE" or "MONSTER MASH?"**

*Continued from Page 1*

Department of Natural Resources to create one large "catch all" Natural Resources Agency.

The budget would have transferred all WDFW employees and all of its \$334 million in revenue (regardless of fund source) to the DNR. This would allow the new DNR to use license fees for other purposes. The proposal also allocated \$10 million just to complete the merger.

"I suspect personnel in all three agencies and their constituents had reservations. It would have reduced the controls and influence that they enjoy in each," says Mike Truax. "I haven't seen any justification given for such a merger but I suspect that certain legislators believed it would have saved money. However, I've seen little evidence that bigger agencies cost less than smaller, focused agencies."

Fortunately, at a hearing Saturday morning, Feb. 27th, The bill was amended to keep WDF&W as a separate entity. The opposition was aided by a campaign headed up by the Pacific Northwest Coastal Conservation Association. Nice work CCA!

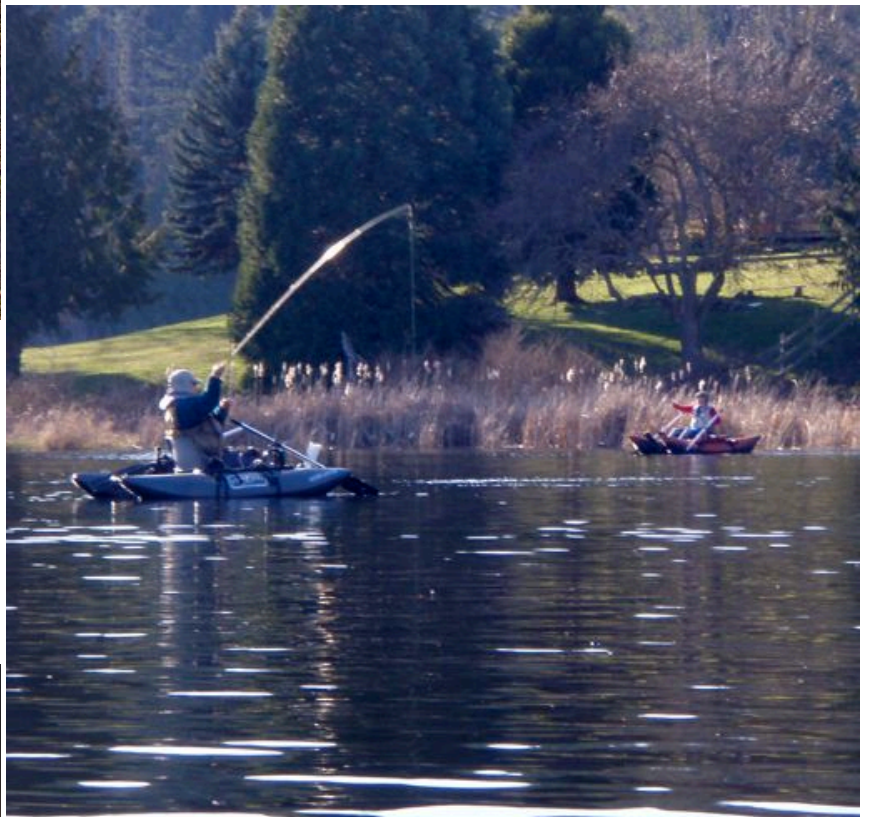
# The Fly Fishing Life



**Above: Executive Chef Steve Murray and Sous-chef de cuisine Norm Primc at work in the executive kitchen of Steve's fifth wheel while the hungry mob dances in anticipation. Right: It's rumored that someone really did catch a fish, as indicated in this photo.**

*—Hugh James Photos*

**Below: Captain Larry will set up his tent lodge at Lake Lenice during the Club outing March 19, 20 & 21**



*As Jeff Bandy said: "The weather was perfect for fishermen, not so good for fishing. I think all the sunshine put down the fish. Saw almost no rises all day. Just five hookups, nothing landed. Some guys managed to land a few. But they were few and far between. Low and slow was the rule of the day. The highlight had to be lunch. The outing hosts went over the top. Filet mignon, shrimp Alfredo, bread w/gotta and zucchini, great wine. And fresh baked brownies. It definitely made the slow fishing worth it!"*



March 2010

## The OFF Beat

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Mark Wall (Right) is returning to the Club and this time his brother Mike decided to join too. Welcome back Mark and welcome aboard Mike!**

## Jim Traner will Chair 2010 Auction.



Jim Traner surprised us all (and possibly himself) at the February meeting when he agreed to take on one of the Club's most challenging jobs, the annual banquet and auction. But if anyone can handle it, Jim can.

He'll be needing some help with the project so please take time to attend some of the early planning sessions and volunteer in any way you can.

## Lake Task Force to present findings.

Conservation Chair Mike Truax has formed a task force to explore lakes in the Snohomish County area for possible WDFW upgrading to year round fly fishing only or selective gear status.

His task force includes Dan Reynolds, David Claude and Tony Koenig. The team recently visited six lakes in the area and has come up with interesting possibilities. Mike will review their findings at the March 10 General Meeting.

*See you on the river. DS*

## It's March. Did you say "Skwala?"



Adult Skwala Stonefly

**Hook:** Daiichi 1260, size 8-12; **Thread:** Olive 8/0 or similar thread; **Tail:** Moose body hair (dark); **Body:** Pale yellow dubbing; **Ribbing:** Black V-rib, midge size; **Egg Sac:** Black dubbing; **Underwing:** Black crystal flash; **Wing:** Same as tail; **Post:** Calf body hair or white synthetic material; **Hackle:** Grizzly saddle dyed brown; **Legs:** Black stretch floss (flex-floss).

1. Press down the barb. Apply a thin layer of Flexament on the hook shank and cover with thread.
2. Just above the back of the barb tie on a small clump of cleaned moose body hair (don't stack it). The tail should be short.
3. At the same point, dub a small but prominent ball of black dubbing to imitate the egg sac.
4. At the same point, tie in a piece of black midge-size V-rib and pull it back out of the way.
5. Dub a medium sized body of pale yellowish dubbing. Mix in a little olive dubbing with the yellow before applying. The body should extend to about 1/3 shank length behind the eye. When dubbing is complete, use an olive Sharpie to carefully color the top of the body, which on the natural insect is olive in color.
6. Stretch the V-rib so that it is ultra-thin, and rib the body in evenly spaced turns; tie off the rib in front of the body.
7. Tie in about 8 strands of black crystal flash at the front of the body for an underwing. Cut and clean a small bunch of moose body hair (don't stack it) and tie it in at the same point. The wing should extend rearward to the end of the tail.
8. At the base of the wing, tie in a clump of cleaned calf body or a small bunch of synthetic white material. Cut the tied-in hair down to about 3/8" in height. This will be the post for the brown hackle.
9. Cut a single strand of flex floss and double it over. Place it over the post and down onto the shank. Tie it down in front of the shank with 3 loose turns of thread, cut the loop, and pull one strand down on each side of the hook so that the legs form an "X" shape. Now wrap tightly and apply a tiny drop of superglue to the bottom of the post. This will hold everything together.
10. Tie in a dry fly quality saddle hackle at the base of the post and apply a bit of dubbing to cover up the tie-in area. Wind the hackle up and back down the post. Tie it off behind the eye of the hook, form a nice small thread head, and whip finish.



### 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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Steve Murray, Outings, 360-422-7335  
Open seat, Education  
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