

TIGHTLINES



CORBETT LAKE

Kamloops by Jim Hagy

Son Dan and I took Les Jones on this first trip to Corbett Lake at the end of June to test his skills with a dry fly on Kamloops trout.

As you can see from the photos, he is a happy fly fisherman. We all caught lots of fish, most all on dry flies, including some very nice size fish for Corbett Lake. Les did break a rod (on a fish) while in the middle of a callibaetis hatch. We also saw lots of damsel adults and some dragon fly adults.



Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds Annual Summer Picnic

**Members, come-one-and-all to the summer picnic
August 20th 2011, at Steve Murray's house.**

Folks are invited to arrive from about 11am on and plan on having lunch at about 2pm. You do not need to bring anything other than your camp chairs (about 15 chairs will be on-site), and a six pack or other such refreshment, plus a little something for Steve and his wife would be cool.

Can people fish in Steve's pond? **Yes, but only a few at a time.**

Spouses are most welcome (or girlfriends or mistresses or whatever). See you at the picnic! Directions to the picnic were sent by email on 3 August, contact any member for a copy or other assistance as needed. See you at the picnic!

September Outing Announcement

ALA SPIT Fly Fishing for Pinks

Dan Reynolds is hosting an Ala Spit fishing event for Pink salmon fishing on September 2. He has arranged for Steve Murray to whip up a lunch, if we get enough participants.

Please contact Dan if you plan to participate:
Tele: 425-673-7028

E-Mail: danr7712@yahoo.com

Dan needs a head count by the picnic date.

WIND



Wind! Oops, we fly fishermen never say that. To us it's only "w," trying not to tempt fate. For wind is the fly fisherman's nemesis, more than a nuisance for sure. Or is it? Actually, that depends.

KEITH STAMM

A little bit of wind might be okay, even an asset. But too much wind and you're flailing, planting your fly between your shoulder blades, swinging back and forth in your pram even if you're anchored at both ends. Kick up the gusts a notch or two and it's white cap city. You're off the water, done for the day.

Take Leighton Lake, B.C., a medium-sized lake with a good wind exposure. On a recent June morning there was a nice little chop as we launched our boats. It was perfect for fishing chironomids under a bobber, "strike indicator" if you prefer. As my strike indicator rose and fell in the chop, so did the chironomid fly at the end of the leader 12 feet down, giving the fly a lively action more tempting to the trout. The strike indicator rose and fell, then suddenly disappeared when grabbed by a bottom cruising trout. Some nice trout were hooked and landed with the help of the morning breeze. Prospects for the day looked good.

Around noon "w" got rambunctious and erratic, switching directions every few minutes with sudden gusts. Our boats began to swing unpredictably in the gusts. Casting the long, awkward leaders became more difficult. Still, we hung in there and managed to dredge up a few more fish, including a heavy set 18-incher, the best of the day. By 3 p.m. our 15-pound anchors no long held on the bottom. We'd be anchored up at 10 feet during a lull in the wind, then a couple strong gusts would hit and the depth sounder would suddenly read 12 feet.....14 feet....16 feet. Conditions were no longer manageable. It was time to pull up the anchors and get off the lake.

The next morning at Dairy Lake a mild breeze was again riffing the lake as we eased our boats out onto the shoal on the north shore. My pram drifted at a stately pace on a perfect course across the six-to-eight-foot deep shoal. God bless the wind. With a damsel nymph trailing 50 feet behind the pram I hooked four nice trout by the time I reached the far end of the shoal. I rowed back upwind for an encore. The second drift produced a strike so vicious the caddis fly was stripped from the leader.



Then the wind picked up force and the ripples became a gentle chop. It was time for me to anchor up, string up the chironomid rod, and fish the drop off at the edge of the shoal, as my companions, Herb and Pat, were already doing. They were already taking advantage of the chop and getting some fast action. I heard the splashing and yelling from their end of the shoal. "This is a really nice fish," cried Pat, and I turned to see it leaping, Pat's rod bent into deep curve. Again, God bless the wind. A gentle chop can be manna from heaven to a chironomid fisherman.

And so the morning went. Lots of nice trout were hooked, some of them even landed. The breeze was so far our friend and ally.

Then along came "W," the unmentionable curse. Casting the 15-foot leaders in the strong gusts produced some maddening tangles, the kind where you have to cut the fly off the leader. The prams, anchored at both ends, still swung wildly to and fro, producing huge bows in the fly lines lying on the water. These lines had to be continually recast and the bobbers repositioned. Typically we fish two fly lines as Canadian regulations allow, which is not a wise thing to do under these conditions, because the wind conspires to drive the two lines together.

You can see what happens. One of the bobbers goes down. The hooked fish immediately leaps over the adjacent line and swims back under it. This creates an unholy mess and normally results in loss of the fish as well. But matters can get worse as Herb found out. A strong fish, already tangled around the second fly line, went on to tangle around his anchor line and then his trolling motor; not an enjoyable way to play a fish. Miraculously, this fish was actually landed, a feat Houdini would have admired.

The wind had become a mixed blessing. Yes, the action of the flies was animated by the swells, and we were still catching fish. But we were working harder and harder to manage the boats and the lines. By 3 p.m. we were frustrated and worn out from resetting anchor lines in the ever shifting wind, and from continuously mending and recasting our fly lines. "W" had become the cause of a torrent of expletives issuing from all the anglers, especially me, the most volatile one among us.

The day ended as it did at Leighton Lake, except for many more fish being caught before "W's" power necessitated an early exit. As we loaded boats and gear, we spotted three other anglers who had found another solution. They had fled to the lee end of the lake out of the wind. For them it was better to fish where there were no fish than to fight the wind. Just not our style.

ELWHA RIVER RESTORATION

In just a few months on November 1, 2011 the Elwha River will be closed to all fishing for the foreseeable future due to the much anticipated and long awaited removal of the two unnecessary and antiquated dams that have been present for some 100 years. This is good news. The work begins next year, again good news, and the habitat will be allowed to return to its pristine natural state allowing runs of all the salmon species, sea run cutts, dolly varden, steelhead, and hopefully a strong resident population of both rainbow and cutthroat trout. The UW claims to still have frozen viable eggs harvested from the river in the fifties from hen king salmon up to 100# that they want to return to the river and the local Indian tribal fisheries management folks are 100% behind the effort. The potential for a truly historic environmental success is unprecedented.

Now for the bad news. Since no one really knows how long it will take for the river to fully recover (estimates of up to 30 years have been speculated) this may well be the final opportunity for many of our members to fish this historic stream in our lifetimes. The National Park Service will take over management when the project begins, restocking native strains and bringing back habitat when it's deemed proper to do so. Hopefully our children and their children in the not too distant future can experience what was once the normal stream ecosystem conditions not the perverted human manipulated changes we've come to accept. The NPS estimates at least 3 years for the dams to be fully removed and up to an additional 7 years at minimum before the ecosystem will be stable enough for sustained recreational activity. A 10 year federal fisheries and environmental impact study is proposed to parallel the ongoing work to better access the effects of our restoration efforts.

Access above the dams currently is quite doable with little grade through lush moss covered climax forest. Campsites are scattered along the river, and other than an occasional encounter with a hungry bear fishing should be uneventful.

I have fished the river twice. The first time was some 25 years ago as a fairly young energetic lad of 37. Along with my fishing partner, we fished and camped for 3 days catching good numbers of both rainbows and cutts to about 14" on dry flies and fairly light wt 4/5 tackle. Ten years ago I returned along with my wife on an overnight hike and again found the fish eager to take my fly but not overly large say up to about 14". While we have record or near record runoff to deal with at the moment that condition will hopefully return to seasonal norms by mid Summer and many of our members could participate in an outing and document our impressions of what it was like the final season before closure and then in the future again go back and complete the story.

There is no doubt in my mind if this experiment in management is allowed to reach its final goals we may well have one of the premier Pacific NW if not national fisheries success stories right in our back yard. I strongly urge the membership and the board to consider such an outing. If my physical condition would allow it I'd gladly volunteer to lead such a trip but alas my spirit is quite willing but my legs and hips probably are not. If there is a way to go though, I'll certainly be the first to sign up. Remember, you will be fishing in the National Park, no WA State license is required. You must check in at the ranger station going in and coming out, and fishing is barbless single hook, catch and release only. It sure sounds like our kind of opportunity.

I strongly suggest we give the outing a serious bit of consideration before it's too late.

Editors Note: Elwha River land owners, regulators, and other stakeholders have done a good job of publishing on-line most of the public records, technical reports, and editorial commentary. We provide here a short list of just three internet links, for interested Members to dive into. First and foremost, start with the fun stuff! Images below are from WDFW: Elwha River Salmonid Assessment: Adult Weir Project 2010 Annual Report. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/pub.php?id=01174> (continue page 4)



OLYMPIC FLY FISHERS OF EDMONDS

Event Schedule

CLUB SUMMER PICNIC: August 20, 2011

Host: Steve Murray
(no August meeting)

SEPTEMBER OUTING: September 2, 2011

Ala Spit - Pink Salmon Fly Fishing

GENERAL MEETING: September 14, 2011

Invited Guest Speaker: Chris Grieve
Guide - Northwest Flyfishing Adventures
Topic: *Fly fishing the Stilly and Sauk rivers*
Information: www.northwestflyfishingadventures.com

GENERAL MEETING: October 12, 2011

Invited Guest Speaker: Mike Bembow
Blog Writer Everett Herald - Fly-Fishing with Mike
Topic: *Fly fishing the Methow and Grande Ronde rivers*
Information: www.heraldnet.com (search Mike Benbow)

GENERAL MEETING: November 9, 2011

Invited Guest Speaker: John Kendall
Guide & owner Black Heron Fly Fishing Shop
Topic: *Fly fishing the Cowlitz River and Merrill Lake*
Information: <http://blackheronflyfishing.com>



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:

Bruce Johnson, V.P., 425-742-2252
Bill MacDonald, Treasurer, 425-774-4769
Thomas Sawtell, Communications & TIGHTLINES, 425-744-0401
Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596
Phil Sacks, Gillie, 425-741-7311
Mike Bunney, Trustee, 425-672-3345

Chairs:

Mike Truax, Conservation, 425-672-6963
William Scott, Outings
Terry Zeitner, Membership
Open seat, Education
Beverage Meister, Jeff Bandy

Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds
P.O. Box 148
Edmonds, WA 98020

www.olympicflyfish.com

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Elwha River Restoration, Editors Notes (continued)

National Park Service Elwha River Information Portal

OFFE Members are encouraged to visit the NPS website portal for its comprehensive content on the status and plans for Elwha River dam removal and habitat restoration. In particular, at the site go to the Special Report section titled "*Northwest Science Special Issue, 2008, Vol.82: Dam removal and Ecosystem Restoration in the Elwha River Watershed, Washington.*" It contains the "full text" pdf's for 18 technical reports on the river, an excellent free read. Start at this link into the portal and explor from there:

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/parknews/elwha-ecosystem-restoration.htm>

Elwha River Science Symposium - September 15-16, 2011

PORT ANGELES, Wash. – Restoration of the Elwha River, including the start of the Nation's largest dam removal to date, is the backdrop for the Elwha River Science Symposium, scheduled to be held at Peninsula College September 15-16, 2011.

"Over the last six years, a flurry of scientific studies has occurred in the Elwha River watershed in anticipation of dam removal," said Jeff Duda, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist co-organizing the symposium. "This information will be used to better understand and document ecosystem responses to dam removal."

The symposium will feature presentations of recent scientific studies, as well as lectures from nationally-recognized scholars in the fields of fisheries biology, geomorphology, ecosystem health and dam removal and river policy.

Thomas E. Lovejoy, biodiversity chair of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, will deliver the symposium's keynote address.

From the University of Washington, featured speakers include Thomas P. Quinn, an expert on Pacific salmon; David Montgomery, an expert on river geomorphology; and James R. Karr, an expert on measuring the health of living systems. Other speakers include Martin Doyle of Duke University, an expert on dam removal and river policy in the United States and Yvon Chouinard, a noted environmentalist and founder of the outdoor clothing and gear company Patagonia.

Information:

<http://www.nps.gov/olym/parknews/elwha-river-science-symposium-planned-for-september-15-16.htm>

