

Alpine Fly Fishers

The club picnic will be on

Saturday

June 26, 2010

We will be meeting at the

Duffy Christy's

place up in Edgewood

From 3pm to 8pm



Charter
Club



The Dead Drift—June 2010

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New Mailing Address

Club's Board
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Presidents Line

By Larry Gibbs

A BIG THANKS to the AFF members who volunteered their time to help run the auctions and raffles at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg last month. PJ Hicks and Bill Fox were over there giving me a hand. I know Nate wanted to be there but he was unable to attend. Maybe next year Nate.

Without volunteers like PJ & Bill and the six volunteers from PSF, I would never be able to put on such a great event. We made money for the WSCFFF and that is what I like to do.

When that was over I headed for Montana for a couple great days of fishing. Bill Fox and his brother followed me a couple of days later and had even better fishing. I am sure we filled your ears at the May meeting.

If you belong to our AFF Yahoo Group site then you read of some of our fishing exploits. If you don't belong to our group, you should join. If anyone picked up on the hint that "Now is the time to hit the Clark Fork" and went, I can guarantee you had a great fishing experience. For all of those who read that and didn't head over there, you missed a real opportunity to slam some great Rainbows, Browns, Cutts and CutBows on big dries. Trust us, when we say you should get over there we are not kidding, that means the fishing is **HOT!~!~!**

NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING IN JUNE!!!!

THE AFF CLUB PICNIC WILL BE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 26

From 3pm to 8pm. Please call Duffy by the 20th to let her know how many are coming.

Our picnic will be at Duffy Christy's place. BYOB and bring a side dish. The club will furnish the pizza and chicken. We may have casting games and instruction, tying demos and whatever else you want to do. Bring the family, have fun. **Directions to Duffy's place will be given out at the May meeting, or call/email me.**

As always, there will be no AFF meetings in July and August. Most of us will be too busy fishing and traveling to attend meetings. September 28 is the date of our next meeting. Be prepared to fill us in on your fishing exploits from the summer. Our meeting will be one big fishing report. Make us drool with stories of your fun and of the big ones that always seem to get away.

Above all, have a safe summer. Wear an inflatable PFD if you are out on the water and be safe. Catch and Release lot of fish, maybe keep a few stockers for the grill.

Good fishing.



Larry

FFF

Fly of the Month

BEAD BROOKS STONE

June 2002 FFF Fly of the month

By Bob Bates



One of the activities associated with attending an annual Federation of Fly Fishers Show is testing the local waters. In 2001 a friend and I checked out some of the streams around Livingston, MT while our Council President sat all day in a meeting. We tried a small tributary, caught some small fish then went to the Yellowstone river. There were no fish working that we could see; so we tried the usual collection of flies without luck. Then I tied on a Brook's Montana Stonefly. I cast upstream so it would sink as much as possible. An 18-inch brown grabbed it and played with me until I could bring it in for the release. It wasn't a big fish by Montana standards, but rest assured I'll tie a few more Brook's Montana Stoneflies for a trip to the 2002 FFF Show.

One concern was getting the fly down quickly. Lots of options are available, but this one by Matt Minch looks pretty good. He tied the pictured fly at the 31st FFF Conclave and Show (1996) in Livingston, MT. Matt has been fishing with a fly rod for over 55 years and commercial fly tying for about 30 years. He has fished from Pennsylvania to New Zealand, and now lives in Montana. He fishes and guides about 200 days a year and has plenty of opportunity to test fly patterns. This pattern has worked for him and his friends.

He told us this pattern was derived from two other patterns that were given to him by Jack Parker from Idaho Falls, ID. One was a pattern that Zack Parker, Jack's son, had in the Patterns of the Masters, 1995 edition, page B11. Matt revised the patterns taking what he felt were the best features, added new materials, and then used Charlie Brook's "tying-in-the-round" and came up with the Bead Brooks Stone.

He fishes it and its smaller version, Bead Golden Stone, with a short upstream cast and dead drift. A high rod technique lets him guide the nymph through holding water. Also he tries to get the fly as deep as possible. Matt said in Patterns of the Masters, Vol. 5 (1996) page A21: "The dark colors, the flash of the chenille, and the movement of the tail and hackle make this an extremely effective large stonefly imitation."

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 9672 or other 3XL hook, 4-8

Bead: 5/32" black brass for hook sizes 6 & 8; 3/16" for size 4

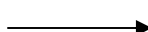
Thread: Black mono 3/0

Tail: Marabou fluff from dyed brown grizzly saddle

Body: Black short flash chenille

Hackle: Brown dyed grizzly saddle

Thorax: Dark hare's ear color squirrel dubbing from Spirit River

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Tying Steps:

1. Pinch down barb, slip bead over point to eye of hook. Start thread behind bead and wind to rear of hook.
2. Tie in dyed brown grizzly marabou-like fluff. Make the tail a gap length long.
3. Tie in flash chenille at bend, wind thread forward about 2/3rds of the shank length, apply head cement liberally on thread wraps, wrap chenille forward to thread, secure and trim excess.
4. Tie in hackle, dub squirrel onto thread loosely and wind it forward to bead. Wrap hackle forward through dubbed thorax three or four turns, burying the hackle stem, and secure behind the bead. Trim excess hackle.
5. Put a little more squirrel dubbing on the thread and wrap it between the hackle and the bead. Whip finish. This secures the bead and covers any visible thread.

A Bead Golden Stone is tied the same way but using a smaller gold bead, yellow 6/0 thread, brown-olive flash chenille, antique gold dubbing on Mustad 9672 or equal hooks, sizes 8-12.

You now have two stonefly nymph patterns that can be fished in many situations. And from the stories Matt told they really work for him, so they should work for you and me also.

TRIPS FOR 2011

As planned by Larry Gibbs

I am starting my planning of trips for 2011.

1. The first week of May, 2011 will be a trip to Montana. I will either be fishing the Clark Fork (if it is low like it was in 2010) or more likely the Missouri River below Holter Dam in Craig. Either place will produce some great fishing. For this trip there can be 2 or 4 or 6 or 8 people going with me. Naturally, over 4 people and we would use two rigs. I can fit 5 in my truck, a little snug in back but not too bad.

Check out Brooks' webpage at: www.clarkforktrout.com

2. At a time as yet undetermined I plan on driving to Summer Lake, Oregon for three days of fishing on the private ranch, Lake In The Dunes. They have a cabin and I figure we would fix our own breakfast and lunch and pay the ranch owners for dinner. I am sure the food will be worth it. There are four private ponds with over 1 1/2 miles of shoreline and all stocked with some HUGE trout. The waters are feed by natural artesian wells so they stay about the same cool temperature year round. The number of people going on this trip will be determined by the number of people we can sleep in the cabin. We would want at least 4 people for sure. Lake In The Dunes is located in the high dessert plateaus of southeastern Oregon.

Check this place out at: www.lakeinthedunes.com

3. Montana, yep you bet, again and again. I will be fishing the Clark Fork River in the summer and again in the fall, an absolutely magical time to be on the river. These will be 2 day drifts out of St. Regis, using the Clark Fork Trout & Tackle shop, Brooks Sanford, owner. As with #1, there can be 2 or 4 or 6 or 8 people with me on this trip.

4. The Yakima River is always a good bet for some good fishing. The upper Yakima River for trout and the lower Yakima River for Smallmouth Bass. I fish with The Worley Bugger Fly Co. out of Ellensburg. Steve Worley has a great fly shop and a number of experienced guides. I like the Yakima River for trout in the fall and winter and early spring. The lower Yakima River is great for Smallmouth Bass in the early summer. As with the Montana trips if you want to come along there can be 2 or 4 people with me on these trips.

Check out the Worley Bugger at: www.worleybuggerflyco.com

Key Dates In The Future

June 26 -Club Picnic at Duffy's Place

July & August - No club meetings until September

August 26/28 FFF Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, MT

September 28—Club Meeting

The National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave 2010

Presented by the



Education Inspiration

Celebration

Fair hours:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. August 26-28

Activities include:
fly tying demonstrations, fly casting
demonstrations, hour-long seminars,
exhibit hall raffles and much more!

Exhibit hall admission:
adults \$5, kids 15 and under free
Saturday is FREE for all

Workshops:
Take one or more workshops on tying,
casting, on the water, and non-angling.
Fees for workshops vary. It is requested
to sign up in advance, however numer-
ous walk-up workshops will be offered
on-site. Workshops are offered August
24-28. See the on-line schedule for
more details.

Visit us at:

FederationConclave.org

Holiday Inn at

West Yellowstone

Montana

August 26-28, 2010

AFF 2010 Club Outings

By Bob Alston

1. **John Day River** Float trip: A 70 mile float unguided 6 days, 5 nights for small mouth bass, all on dry fly. Some white water experience preferred. Need a cat or raft 9 feet long minimum. Time: July 3, 2010 leave, put in July 4th (no fireworks allowed). 5-6 wt rods. Currently filled (13 people), but you could put your name down as alternate. See Bob Alston or Steve Egge for further details. We do all our own cooking, cleanup, etc. Cost: just the food and shuttle.

2. Is anyone up for **Chupaka Lake** near Tonasket? A great lake for fly guys only, recently rehabilitated, with excellent reports. Pat Blackwell knows this lake

3. **Montana and the Clark Fork River.** This spring, summer and fall Larry Gibbs will be going to St. Regis, Montana to do drifts on the Clark Fork River. He will announce the dates at the AFF club meetings and if anyone is interested in coming along, please let him know. We may be able to stay at a house right on the river or if that is not available, then we will stay at the Super 8 Motel in St. Regis. You will use the Clark Fork Trout & Tackle shop for guided drift boat trips. This is owned by Brooks Sanford. Larry would need even numbers of people to go along with him, either 2 or 4 or 6 or 8. Big Browns, Rainbows, Cutthroats and Cuttbows and some large Whitefish, that is what the Clark Fork produces. Most of these drifts will be for two days of drifts but a third day is always an option.

4. **Lone Lake on Whidbey Island.** This will be a winter fishing trip in November, December or January. The best way to fish is to use red San Juan Worms just 6 inches off the bottom. Steve Egge has graciously offered his cabin as a place to stay if he is available to go and if you want to make this an overnigher. This will be a Saturday and or Sunday trip. Due to the traffic through Seattle and up to Everett, the weekend is the best time to fish this lake. You drive to Mukilteo on Saturday morning, take the ferry to Whidbey Island and head for the lake. You can then either head back that afternoon, taking the ferry back to Mukilteo or stay the night at Steve's cabin and fish again on Sunday, then head back Sunday afternoon. The fishing is usually fairly good, sometimes hot, sometimes cold.

5. **Yakima River.** You can wade fish in the lower Canyon or go on drift boat floats had have the best chance of getting into some good fish. I use the Worley Bugger Fly Co. as my guide service when I fish the Yakima. Decent fishing in the summer, good fishing in the fall and winter and early spring.

Quote Of The Month



“Trout are never so hard to catch as when they are hard to put down. It is as though they knew all about you and laughed at your harmlessness. They do not the least mind your casting over them, because they have no intention of mistaking your clumsy artificial for their natural fly. And, on the contrary, when trout are easy to put down they are often easy to catch.”



As taken from 'A Summer On The Test' by John Waller Hills 1924

Setting Up Your Nymph Rig (Plain & Simple)

By Tim Burke

**Copied from the website of The Riverkeeper Fly Shop, Boise, Idaho
With permission by Greg Montemurro of The Trout Lie
www.troutlie.com/content/general-fishing-report**

How, when, and why to fish indicators in nymph fishing situations is a hotly debated topic in fly fishing. Without going into the social, political, and religious ramifications, pros and cons, and what the latest magazine guru says about how nymph fisherman are the undoing of fly fishing, let's cut to the chase: Indicators work!

Indicators are a great tool to aid anglers in detecting strikes while fishing in the invisible world of the sub-surface – and they allow you to catch more fish (period). One of the most frequent questions we receive is from anglers who want to know how to set up their nymph rigs and how to fish them. The following will address some of the most common problems people face when setting up and fishing nymph rigs.

"Where Do I Put My Indicator On The Leader?"

Typically you should put your indicator on the butt section of the leader so that it's at a point that is 2 times the depth of the water you are fishing. In shallow water this distance may be decreased as needed as well as in situations where you may want to suspend a nymph just beneath the surface. If you want to simplify your life, in most fishing situations placing the indicator about 18 inches down the leader butt from the fly line will usually get you fishing.

"How Do I Cast With An Indicator On My Leader?"

Answer, very poorly! Because of the added weight of the indicator, and usually split shot and/or weighted fly, those beautiful "River Runs Through It" casts are out. First, remember to slow down a bit and let the line uncurl in the back cast until you feel the slight jerk of the line stopping.

Then proceed with the cast forward. You will find that this opens the loop up a bit, but that's ok because the added weight should make the cast lay out. Also try to limit your casting distance. Successful nymph fishing is usually about getting into proper position and not about a distance casting contest. Just remember to slow down and don't rush the cast or you will end up with a real tangled mess.

"How Should I Fish The Flies?"

If you are swinging flies through the water (old wet fly style) you are relying on feeling the strike and don't really need an indicator. When you are trying to dead drift a nymph (how most anglers present to fish) you must mend line when you see your indicator drag – just like dry fly fishing.

When you mend your line you take out the slack and can't feel the take, thus the indicator. Typically, casts are made up stream or across stream (just like dry fly fishing) and you must mend line either up or down stream depending on the current and its effect on your fly. Get in the habit of really paying attention to drag and mending constantly as well as following the indicators drift with the rod tip.

"Should I Use Split Shot, And If So How Do I Rig It?"

If you're fishing just beneath the surface or in extremely shallow water chances are you won't need shot. But that leaves the other 98% of the time! This is one of the biggest mistakes that we see anglers make when nymph fishing - not getting their flies deep enough.

Even if you use bead head flies I can assure you that most of the time you are not deep enough - except in really shallow water of course. I've taken anglers who were pretty good fishermen, and time and again simply added a split shot to their nymph rig, and suddenly their strikes increased dramatically.

Remember, nymphs spend the majority of their time on or near the stream bottom and fish are accustomed to see this behavior - so get those flies deep. How to rig them? Simply place a split shot or two (if the flows are really fast) about 12 to 18 inches from the fly and that's it. Needless to say this makes casting stink, but while it ain't pretty it really works best.

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"What Type Of Indicators Work Best?" (Editors Note by Larry Gibbs—I do not use yarn type indicators, but rather a formed foam type by Frog Hair. However, many guides are now using Thingamabobbers and they seem to be very pleased with them).

This is where it gets tricky because now we're in to the area of personal favorites...so I'll give you my take on the issue. I typically use monstrously large poly yarn indicators for most of my nymph fishing. These items are easy on and easy off if you need to change set ups - unlike the stick on varieties.

On small streams I still use the same type of indicator but simply smaller in size. I have come to prefer these indicators because they are the most sensitive to strikes that I have found (not that I have tried nearly all of them over the years) and they are easy to take on and off. The down side is that they are a real bear to cast due to their high wind resistance, but I feel that their sensitivity more than makes up for the ugly casting shortcoming. But, by all means try the other types of indicators on the market and choose for yourself.

The Demise Of Felt Soles By Wayne Dalzell – Taken from the Osprey Flyfishers of BC Newsletter

As taken from the May issue of the FFF ClubWire.

Slippery stream bottoms have always been a fisher's worst nightmare. Those really prolific rivers like the Thompson and this year the Chilliwack, with bountiful bottom life, have dumped many fishers onto their butts or worse. A quick rush of water down your backside really cools down your privates and makes warm socks squishy and cold. Just another day you say, well read on!

Stream cleats have been available for many years but are cumbersome to wear on dry land. On the Thompson River I remove mine as I walk back to my boat unless rain starts. Wet Thompson River rocks are the same above or below water line. Stream cleats are also hell on the bottom of your boat to say nothing of the damage to your fly line if you step on it. What's your alternative then?

Felt soled waders have been in use for eons of time but it has taken until recently to see their pitfalls. Canadian, American and researchers/scientists in many other areas of the world have confirmed the tiny areas between the felt fibers are a perfect holding space for waterborne didymo (rock snot) and whirling disease. Snips and snails and puppy dog tails too! Might be nothing, you say, but consider damage is "afoot" to pristine trout waters worldwide.

"The introduction (by fishers felt soled boots?) of single celled algae called didymo to New Zealand in the early 2000's quickly caused a significant ecological and economic problem." Didymo forms large mats on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams. It is not considered a significant human health risk, but it affects stream habitats and reduces sources of food for fish.

"Native to the boreal forests, didymo was not historically a significant problem. However, the pattern of didymo spread among rivers on Vancouver Island correlates with the activity of fishermen and the commercial introduction and widespread use of felt-soled waders. "Didymo has spread to the Thompson, Columbia, Kettle and Kootenay rivers, other Canadian and many American rivers.

In 2008 Simms introduced Vibram boots and in 2010 said they would no longer sell new felt soled boots. New Zealand has already banned felts as will parts of Alaska in 2011 with other areas to follow. Most wading boot companies have followed the industry leader. The move to eliminate felt will grow quickly although sales of felt replacements may grow temporarily. Keep in mind that other parts of wading boots might actually be of more concern than felt soles.

All science aside, it appears that personal intervention in preventing the spread of water borne diseases is your responsibility. Wash and dry your boots inside and out with soap and water after use, especially before heading to a different river or lake. Buy more than one pair, rotate your fishing boots, buy a new pair every two years or? Easy to say if you have an unlimited budget! I use a different pair of boots lake fishing and river fishing. My lake boots are too old for good river use so fit my budget well. Is this good enough?

New Simms boots (with Vibram soles) are now a wide fit, and difficult to wear without special fitting if you have narrow feet. Vibram soles are slippery on slimy rocks and logs, not suited to our fishing environment and what we walk on. The latest advice from fly shops is "buy screw in cleats" but cleats sound like tap dancing shoes, don't last forever and cost \$10 per boot. Cleats also mark or mar boat bottoms, easily puncture inflatable tubes, cut your fly lines and are difficult to slip into fins when float tubing. The cheapest route may be to remove the cleats when you don't need them but, what a hassle!

You could resole your felt boots but don't plan on fishing in Alaska, many U.S. states, or New Zealand. Maybe cleats and Vibram will be okay. There aren't many solutions but your actions could help reduce the ecological impact of waterborne diseases!

A summary of an article by Bob Wiltshire, The Science of Felt - 2009, with special touches from my own experiences.

June / July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		June 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 No Club Meeting	23	24	25	26 AFF Picnic
27	28	29	30			

No club meetings in July & August, see you in September				July 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 No club Meeting	28	29	30	31

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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NEW MAILING ADDRESS

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If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

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