

Alpine Fly Fishers

*June 26 is the club
Picnic Outing at
Duffy's place. There
will be no regular
meeting in June*



The Dead Drift - June 2012

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By Larry Gibbs

Volunteers, what would be do without them?

I was blessed with some great volunteers over at the WA Fly Fishing Fair in E'Burg. Guy and Mary Magno (broken hip and all); Stephen Neal; Brian & Sherry Miller were there and were a big help. They all worked on the Silent Auction and cataloging the donations. Bill Fox was there, working with a friend of ours from down south, Lowell Pederson, accepting the donations and getting people to sign up for bid numbers. Another friend and fishing partner of ours, Allan Hess and his wife Ellen were also there staffing the Raffle booth. Dave Alberts was there doing his spotters job during the live auction. Without the volunteers, we would never be able to put on this great event like we do. **Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.**

Considering the state of the economy, I think we did fairly well in E'Burg. I base our success, or failure, upon the percentage of retail we bring in from all the donations. Overall we brought in 79.56% of retail. Yep, I call that good.

Now I turn my attention to Spokane for the International Fly Fishing Fair, the main event for FFF. It is shaping up to be a fantastic show, thanks to all the people from the great northwest who will be attending and participating. We are going to have tyers and casters from all over the world at this event. If you have ever thought of attending a national FFF event (formerly known as the Conclave) this is the year to attend. Be there for sure on Thursday through Saturday, July 12 - 14. We have some great silent and live auction items, fly rods, a boat, fly plates, many trips to all over the US. Yes, this is a great year to attend. The raffles will have a nice selection of items as well.

Again, Thank You, Thank You to our volunteers!!!!

Good fishing.

Larry

FFF Fly of the Month, June, 2010

RED BUTT ANT

By Bob Bates



Comments:

Ants are found all over the world. They have been labeled our most abundant terrestrial insect with some 3,000 species worldwide (August 1999 Fly of the Month by Jim Abbs). Ant sizes range from #8 to #32 or smaller, and they come in variety of colors. Where Dave Millard lives in Tumwater, WA he thinks about the larger species of ants, and successfully fishes his ant pattern in many waters. He tied this pattern at the March 2010 N.W. Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo in Albany, Oregon.

Ants hatch on land, and the only way they can get into the water is by falling into it. They drop from overhanging vegetation or crash when trying to fly over a water body. When there is an ant fall fish feed actively on the hapless insects. There is an advantage for the fish because ants have much more food value than mayflies or caddis flies. Also, some people say they have a tangy or spicy flavor, but I have not checked out that claim. Lakes or streams with a predictable ant fall also attract anglers. Some of my friends plan a spring trip to a lake in British Columbia to fish the “ant hatch.” Trout seem to lose their natural wariness and hit flies with abandon.

Sometimes at the beginning of the rise you can't tell what is happening because you don't see anything on the lake surface except rising fish. Usually the angler unsuccessfully offers a variety of dry flies to the wildly rising trout. When I heard a thunk behind me in my aluminum boat, tactics changed. A large black carpenter ant was trying to crawl up the side. I offered a low floating black pattern, and the fish cooperated. I let the fly float a little bit. If a fish didn't hit, a wiggle usually brought a strike.

Ant patterns work in streams also. Usually a drag free float is recommended. Anytime and anywhere be alert for a potential “ant hatch,” and carry a few ants.

Materials List:

Hook: Any dry fly, Eagle Claw, Mustad 94840 or Tiemco 100, size 12

Thread: 6/0 black

Body: Foam, 2mm thick and 3/16 inch wide, red and black

Legs: Grizzly saddle

Tying Steps:

Step 1: Attach thread at back of hook. Attach red foam and fold it over. (Here it stays folded over because Dave was using sticky back foam. It is what he had left from other tying projects.) Regular foam is just fine.



Step 2: Tie down foam and trim excess as shown.



Step 3: Attach the black foam at front of hook as shown.



Step 4: Fold black foam back, tie down securely.



Step 5: Trim excess foam, and wind thread over any pieces of foam that are sticking out.



Step 6: Select a dry fly feather with barbs that are about a gap width long, and tie it over the red foam with the longer part of feather pointing rearward. Leaving some bare shaft helps keep the wrapping neat.



Step 7: Wrap feather from red bulge forward to near black bulge. Tie securely and trim excess.



Step 8: Whip finish thread and trim. Turn hook over and trim bottom fibers even with hook shank. This makes the fly float low in the surface film.



Step 9: Put a drop of head cement on thread winds.



This is not a difficult fly to tie, and at the right time you will be happy you made the effort. Look at the ants around your fishing waters, and tie a few patterns to match them. Especially, have a few black ants, in two or three sizes, in your fly box for emergencies. Then add a few others like the Red Butt to be on the safe side.



**International
Fly Fishing
Fair
July 10 - 14
Spokane**



There are
96
workshops
being offered this
year at this great
event plus over
100 tyers from all
over the country
and the world will
be on hand to
demonstrate their
skill in tying flies.
On-Line
Registration is
now open.

Regarding the dates in Spokane

The main floor and vendors booths are open Thursday thru Saturday, July 12—14. However, there are some workshops being offered that start on Tuesday, July 10. The registration is now open, go on line and check the dates for event you want to take.

Events in 2013



Next year this great show, the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo will be held again in Albany, Oregon , on Friday and Saturday, March 8 & 9, 2013. Plan to attend.



Also next year, the Washington State Council will bring you the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, on Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4, 2013. Don't miss this one it is a great event!!!!



As of right now, I am not sure where or when the Federation of Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fair will be held, but I am sure it will be at a great location sometime during the summer months of 2013.

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

In Wildness is the Preservation of the World
"Henry David Thoreau"

Songs and Lake Time

*"The name she gave was Caroline, daughter of a miner, her ways were free and it seems to me sunshine walked beside her."**

The first line from the song Tecumseh Valley sung by Nanci Griffith rolled around in my head. The haunting lyrics of tough times and the beauty that we carry inside ourselves when the world outside is mired in hard times. Townes Van Zandt words are truly captured in Nanci's rendition. It always amazes me what the mind will chose to focus on, here I was on a blustery day preparing my pontoon boat for a lake outing and my mind kept replaying this song as I put the boat together and rigged my rods.

This was my first trip fishing Washington waters, my fishing companion was a no show; his experience with a fish dinner the night before had derailed his day of piscatorial pursuit. I know he would rather be here, than hugging a white porcelain bowel. I had made the 25 minute drive from home, on tree lined back roads to Lake Kapowsin. To say I was in mellow mood would be understating the laidback attitude I was embracing. It had rained hard the night before and the clouds hung dark over the surrounding hills, but the southwest hinted at clearing skies. I had rigged two rods, my Smallmouth Bass rod and a 5 wt trout rod; the lake was said to hold both species in numbers. I was not alone on the water, the plethora of water craft was entertaining, and they ran the gamut from quite to loud and obnoxious, and smoky to clean. They all had one thing in common they were all guided by people fixated on catching fish.

*"She said she'd come to look for work she was not seeking favors and for a dime a day and a place to stay she'd turn those hands to labor"**

Behind my back to the left from beyond a slight fold in the hills came the sound of rubber matted conveyor belts and heavy equipment transporting sand and gravel from an open pit. In front of me sat the shell of an abandoned concrete slab building. No roof, nor windows nothing left to identify the work or the dreams that had placed it there on the shore. Graffiti and wood smoke smudged marking cover the walls marking the territory of teenage gathering and passing transients. Old pilings marked the transition of a cove from the lake. The labor and dreams of earlier generations now just faint memories in the recess of time.

*"But the times were hard, lord, the jobs were few all through Tecumseh Valley. But she asked around, and a job she found tending bar a gypsy Sally's"**

Continued on Page 6 →

The surface of the lake was busy with boating fisherman and the air above the lake also was not immune to activity, eagles, osprey and Canadian geese graced the air waves and even a WWI biplane made an appearance. While the biplane practiced barrel rolls and loops, the osprey and eagles fished. The osprey showed us duffers how to fish making beautiful productive water penetrating dives on fish and then lifting off in to clearing skies with breakfast or maybe brunch. The geese made graceful water landing to glide over to islands to sit on eggs. I filled the air with unfolding loops and poppers. And the fish obliged by striking, but being crafty they never took. I bet I spent a half hour on one section of the lake casting and trying to set the hook on strike after strike. No luck it was not my day for catching. I covered lots of water perfecting my cast but not my catching. So be it, my fellow anglers were courtesies and forth coming with fishing information but no one was catching. In my half day on the water I heard only one joyful shout.

*"She saved enough to get back home, when spring replaced the winter, but her dreams were denied her pa had died, the word came down from Spencer."**

It was a fishing day filled with masterful aerial displays, thought provoking songs rolling around in my head and casting practice. My first catch of Washington fish is still in the future. My dream is still alive and Lake Kapowsin still holds catching close, I still need to earn the right to know some of the answers.

*"The name she gave was Caroline, daughter of a miner, her ways were free and it seems to me sunshine walked beside her."**

"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after" Henry David Thoreau

*Partial lyrics from Tecumseh Valley by Townes Van Zandt

Headline Tiers 2012 Fly Fishing Fair, Spokane, WA

By Leslie Wrixon, Demo Tier Chair

Come one, come all to the FFF Annual Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane, Washington, July 10-14! With a crowd of over 100 tiers on hand, this year's Fair promises to be filled to the rafters with quality fly tiers from around the country and the globe.



This year Henry Hoffman, Frank Johnson, Bill Heckle and John Newbury will be at the bench. What do these four people have in common? They are all recipients of the distinguished Buz Buszek Memorial Award! Why not learn from the best.

We have international tiers on hand with Chris Reeves from the UK and Hiromasa Takahshi from Japan. Our good neighbors to the north, in Canada, will have representation by a host of tiers: Daniel Erasmus, Tak Shimizu, Stuart Thompson, Robert Eagleson, Richard Mercer, Grant Sapruffoff, Scott Erickson and Rod Zavaduk. Wow! Canadians will be pouring into Spokane!

Come to Spokane, learn some fly craft, have fun and meet cool people. See you in July.

June / July

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI


SAT

Remember, **NO** meeting at the Puerto Vallarta, meet at Duffy's place instead. Emails will be sent out regarding the location

June 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 Club Picnic | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

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|---------------|----|----------------------------------|---|----|----|----|
| July 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | <u>24 NO CLUB MEETING</u> | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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