

# Alpine Fly Fishers

The next meeting will be

on

October 25, 2011 at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE, Puyallup



Charter



The Dead Drift - October / November 2011

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*By Larry Gibbs*

### **Double Your Fun in 2012**

Next year is going to be a fantastic year for fly fishers throughout the Greater Northwest. The Washington State Council FFF is having the Washington Fly Fishing Fair on May 4 & 5, in Ellensburg. This event will be bigger and better than ever, so save those dates and make plans to head for Ellensburg in 2012.

Then we have an unbelievable opportunity for fly fishers from all over the country and from many foreign countries. The FFF is holding the International Fly Fishing Fair in Spokane this year! The classes and workshops will be open from July 10 thru the 14th. The vendors exhibits and silent auctions and raffles will be open July 12—14. You really owe it to yourself to attend this great event.

**Save the dates: May 4 & 5 for Ellensburg. July 10—14 for Spokane.**

I hope everyone had a great summer. Sorry I was not at the meeting last month but I had planned a trip to Montana a year ago to meet up with some friends from back east and the dates conflicted. I trust everyone had a chance to tell their fishy fishing stories and tell their lies, I mean real for life catches.

Make sure you make it to our next meeting, this coming Tuesday, the 25th of October. Skip Morris will be doing a presentation on making nymph fishing work in streams and rivers. This is a very important way to fish, if you want to greatly increase your chances of catching fish.

Catching fish on the dry fly is fun, but, more often than not, fish are not feeding on the surface but are feeding down on the bottom, going after those succulent nymphs. Skip puts on a great class, come and listen.

Good fishing.

Larry



# Alpine Fly Fishers' October Speaker

## Skip Morris

### Making Nymph Fishing Work

An instructional powerpoint presentation on how to fish nymphs in rivers and creeks. Explains the techniques, the rigs (including the dropper system, the suspended nymph, lead on the leader...), reading nymph-water, tackle—the whole ball game, made clear and understandable. Still, there is humor and there are brief anecdotes to flesh out the information and entertain.



So...Who are We?

We are Skip Morris, the down-to-earth author of twelve books on tying flies and fly fishing (including the best-selling beginner's book, *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*), and Carol Ann Morris, whose artful photography and detailed watercolors have been published in major fly fishing magazines (ie, *Gray's Sporting Journal* and *Fly Fishing & Tying Journal*), and also in Skip's books and articles.

We're a husband-and-wife team who've been fishing together for twenty years, and we love sharing our passion for fly fishing. We'll provide you with clear and simple instruction to make your journey into this sport fun and informative.

Skip will be doing some tying of his favorite flies and present an excellent program about nymphing, or fishing with nymphs.

Author, Instructor, and Sportsman's Show Speaker

Skip is the author of twelve books on fly fishing and fly tying (among them, *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*, *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes*, *Trout Flies for Rivers*, and *Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches*), is the host on six instructional videos (*Tying Foam Flies*, *Fly Fishing for Bass & Panfish...*) and has spoken for sportsmen's shows, fly-fishing shows, and fly clubs in Arizona, New Jersey, Toronto, Alabama, Illinois—all over the US, Canada, and overseas.

Recently he and Lefty Kreh were co-headliners at the Great Waters shows in Chicago and Minneapolis.

Check out Skip's webpage at: [www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com](http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com)

## Finding Fish – Part 1

By Walt Alexander –

Taken from the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers Newsletter

Taken from the FFF ClubWire newsletter

I believe in the adage that 90 percent of the fish are FOUND in 10 percent of the water. So if we can eliminate that 90 percent of barren water we can greatly improve our odds of catching fish. Let us consider a scenario where we are visiting a lake for the first time. We arrive and see this large, flat, featureless body of water. What we should do first is look at the contour of the land above the water level. What we see above will probably extend out into the lake for some distance. For instance a slowly sloping meadow will probably mean shallow water, a ridge indicates a point with deeper water on both sides, a steep bank or cliff means deep water, and so forth. If there is a high point available, USE it. From here you can sometimes see submerged islands, drop-offs, and weed beds. These are all HOT spots. As fly fishers we are pretty much limited to shallow water. I personally prefer water that is less than 12 feet deep. If this happens to be a deep lake I have already eliminated most of the water.

The 4 BASIC needs of Trout are **Food, Oxygen, Water Temperature, and Shelter or Cover**. The more of these needs we find in one area the higher the likelihood we have of finding Trout present.

**FOOD:** The Trout must eat to survive, so the first place to look for Trout is where the food is. Most of the food in a lake is found in the shallow or shoal areas. If there are weed-beds present so much the better. Weed-beds are food factories and provide oxygen through photosynthesis; they may or may not provide the other TWO needs. **DROP-OFFS:** Can provide all of a Trout's needs. The water depth can provide the Shelter as well as the cooler; more oxygenated water and gives the Trout easy access to the shallow area for short foraging trips for food. The most productive area is usually right along the lip of the drop-off. The Shallow Area can provide all 4 needs under certain conditions. Low Light periods and Wind can provide the Shelter and as long as the Water Temperature does not exceed 60 degrees Fahrenheit the oxygen content will be acceptable. Another prime spot is **INLETS**. A Creek or River flowing into a lake can provide all 4 of a Trout's needs. The current can bring in Food, Oxygen, Cooler or Warmer Water, depending on the season, and provide Shelter. Another spot is **OUTLETS**. Outlets will concentrate the food and if the water is deep enough they can provide shelter and cool oxygenated water. Submerged springs can be a productive area, especially in the summer when a lake warms up. The springs provide cool oxygenated water and if they are deep enough cover.

The most critical of a Trout's 4 basic needs is **OXYGEN**. The reason is that the oxygen content of the water is already so low that a small change can make a huge difference. To put this into perspective the air we breathe is about 21 percent oxygen. According to a book, written by Ron Cordes and Randall Kaufmann titled —Lake Fishing with a Fly, 1 liter of air contains 210 cubic centimeters of oxygen and 1 liter of completely saturated water contains 9 cubic centimeters of oxygen. This would mean that water would contain less than 1 percent oxygen. There are many things that can influence the oxygen content of water.

**TEMPERATURE:** As water temperature increases it loses some of its ability to retain oxygen. Trout can become stressed when water temperature exceeds 60 degrees Fahrenheit and it can become fatal if it exceeds 70 degrees. When temperatures get up into these ranges Trout will seek cooler water, this usually means depth. When a lake stratifies in the summer it forms a barrier called the thermocline. The coldest water is below the thermocline, but this water is almost void of oxygen, so the Trout will normally drop down to just above the thermocline. **WIND:** Is the most important element in keeping a lake in chemical balance. WIND will add oxygen to the water as well as mixing the water. The WIND will blow the water from one side of the lake to the other. The displaced water is replaced by water flowing along the bottom in the opposite direction of the WIND. If the lake has stratified this mixing, action will remain above the thermocline. In either case this brings cooler more oxygenated water to the surface.

In the fall the water will cool and when the entire lake reaches the same water temperature the thermocline will disappear and the entire lake will mix again. This is called **TURNOVER**. At this time oxygen will again be equally distributed throughout the lake. While on the subject of **TURNOVER** let's look at **Spring TURNOVER**. Water is at its densest at 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit. If the lake freezes over the water just below the ice will be 32 degrees Fahrenheit, this will be the coldest water in the lake. After the ice melts the surface water will start to warm. When the entire lake reaches 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit the lake will again mix causing **Spring TURNOVER**, and once again the oxygen will be equally distributed.

In a frozen lake oxygen depletion can become a problem causing what is referred to as **Winter Kill**. Green vegetation adds oxygen to the water through a process called photosynthesis, but decaying vegetation can rob oxygen from the water. Photosynthesis requires sunlight. If a lake freezes and snow builds up on the ice, light penetration can be reduced to the point that photosynthesis no longer occurs. This reduces the oxygen, the vegetation dies and starts to decay further reducing oxygen. The ice prevents the **WIND** from mixing the water. This snow balling effect can become **FATAL** to the Trout.

Another thing that can cause oxygen depletion is **ALGAE BLOOM**. The **ALGAE** can get thick enough to hamper light penetration. There are a couple of pluses with **ALGAE**: It is plant matter and can add oxygen, and it can also provide cover for the Trout to move into the shallows and feed. The **ALGAE** accumulates near the surface so use a sinking line and fish under it.

During these periods of oxygen depletion, **THREE** areas of a lake become important to the Trout for survival. The **FIRST** is **DEPTH**: The Trout may go to deep for the fly fisher to reach, the other **TWO** are **Inlets** and **Underwater Springs**. Both of these can provide cooler more oxygenated water. The **Inlets** are easy to see the **Springs** are not so easy, look for **Clean, Clear** areas on the **Bottom** with a lot of **Bubbles** rising through the water column, or you can check water temperature. When I used to fish from a **Float Tube** many times I could feel the temperature change on my legs. Sometimes a map of the lake will give you locations of springs. We are entering that time of year when **Stillwater** fishing for Trout is at its **BEST**. The days are getting shorter, the water is cooling down, and the oxygen content is going up. Somehow the Trout seem to read this as lean times are coming and they put on the **FEEDBAG, PORKING-UP** for the long lean **Winter**. Remember most of the **Hatches** are over for this year so I recommend imitating some of the year round food items such as **Leeches, Scuds, Baitfish, or Midges**. So get out there and catch some of those **Obese Stillwater Trout**.

## AFF November Program

### British Columbia, The Yukon & Alaska

This year, Steve, Bob and John took an epic journey up through Canada, into the Yukon and eventually to Alaska. They will present a power point presentation of this forage into the wilds, giving us great scenic shots, wildlife pictures and some fantastic fishing stories.





# FFF Fly of the Month

## RED DUCK LAKE CHIRONOMID

By Bob Bates

November 2006



Our lakes and many streams are filled with chironomids (midges). They are in the water all year and hatch anytime there is open water. They belong to the order Diptera meaning two winged. Other members of this true flies order include crane flies and mosquitoes. Adult chironomids are sometimes confused with mosquitoes because of their size and shape. However, they have one important difference: Without a sharp proboscis they can't bite.

Chironomids have a complete metamorphosis cycle (egg, larva, pupa and adult) fish have many opportunities to feed on them. Over the years midges have been ignored or relegated to the "Lesser Trout Foods" chapter of a book while a great amount of time and verbiage was expended on mayflies. Don't get me wrong, I like mayflies, especially when trout are devouring little sailboats sitting on the surface, but we need to keep our eyes open for the "Lesser Trout Foods" that the fish seem to enjoy.

Philip Rowley in his book *Fly Patterns for Stillwaters* has some eye opening charts. He studied trout diets in British Columbia lakes, Canada, and he found that chironomid larva and pupa were a large part of the fish's diet. In the spring, trout diets consisted 50 percent of chironomids. For the whole year 39 percent of the diet was chironomid larva and pupa.

OK, what about these Red Chironomids? Chironomid larva feed on the detritus at the bottom of our lakes and streams. To compensate for this oxygen deficient environment the larva have extra hemoglobin producing the red color. Anglers, especially fly tiers, see these red worms in the anchor mess and immediately start tying flies. Patterns range in size from 10 or 12 Bionic Worms to 22 chironomids tied on a red hook. Materials used to make the red body include V-Rib, floss, Body Glass, Flashabou and red wire. I have enough different patterns to write a dozen or more Fly of the Month articles on red chironomids. All the patterns catch fish, but for now I'll settle on just this one.

Jerry Smalley, Columbia Falls, Montana demonstrated this pattern at the 2006 FFF Conclave and Show in Bozeman, MT. He said that it was developed for Duck Lake by Bob Arends on the Blackfeet Reservation. The way they use it is with a floating line and a long leader, up to 20 feet if necessary. Put a split-shot a foot above the fly. Most important: Anchor your boat at both ends, and don't retrieve the fly. It has been successful at hooking some monstrous rainbows. How does 15 to 20 fish a day sound?

### Materials & Equipment:

**Hook:** Dai Riki 135, sizes 12 - 16

**Thread:** Fire Orange 8/0

**Body:** Micro-tubing

**Wings:** Pheasant tail fibers, natural

**Head:** Ice Dub UV Red

## DUCK LAKE CHIRONOMID, RED

**Step 1:** Lay a thread base from front to rear ending over barb.

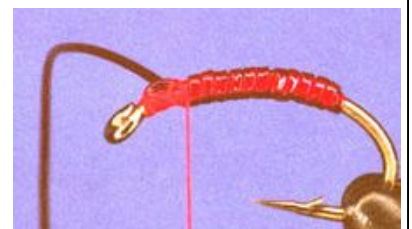
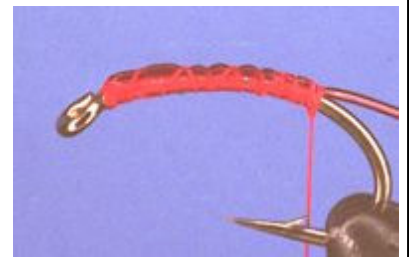
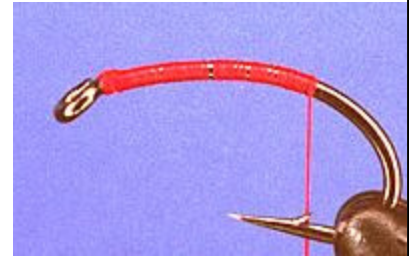
**Step 2:** Move thread to the front, lay a piece of Micro Tubing on the hook and spiral thread over it rearward to a position above the barb.

**Step 3:** Wind thread forward to about two eye widths from the eye, wrap micro tubing forward to thread and secure.

**Step 4:** Trim excess Micro Tubing. On each side attach three pheasant tail fibers with tips to rear, trim excess pheasant tail fibers. Put Ice Dub on thread and wrap a small head. Whip finish or double half hitch behind the eye, and trim excess thread.

**Step 5:** Go fishing if your waters are open.

It doesn't look like much, and it is easy to tie. So tie up a bunch and you'll be ready to do battle with some nice fish. Remember chironomid larva are in the water all the time, and it is just a matter of hanging the fly where the fish usually see them.



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**In The FFF Corner**  
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

**Upcoming FFF Events**



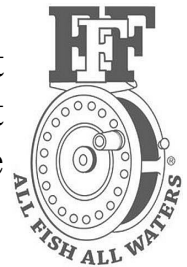
**FFF International Fly Fishing Fair  
July 10 thru July 14, 2012  
Spokane, WA**



**Renew Your FFF Membership**

We have been a FFF Charter Club for over one year. That means that those of you who joined at the end of 2009 or start of 2010 are at or near your expiration date. Please make sure you renew your FFF membership.

Thanks, Larry



**About Our WSCFFF**

Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers  
[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

*By Larry Gibbs*



At many of the events that the Washington State Council FFF attends and has a booth, one of the key things we do is support and promote fly casting. Some of your very own Alpine Fly Fishers & Puget Sound Flyfishers FFF Certified Casting Instructors and Certified Master Instructors attend these events and are there to give casting demonstrations and often will give one-on-one casting tips. Look for them at the below shows.

**WSCFFF Booth Show Schedule**

- o Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show– Sequim, April 2012
- o **2012 Washington Fly Fishing Fair - May 4 - 5, 2012**

# October / November

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

**October 1**

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	<b>25 Club Meeting</b>	26	27	28	29

		<b>November 1</b>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	<b>22 Club Meeting</b>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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