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fishstories.....

Fishing the Wet Fly

by Dan (Grizzly Wolf) Sedergren, HSFC President

Some fifty-five years ago when I started fly fishing, wet flies were pretty common on the waters in the Pacific Northwest. You could buy them two for a quarter or fifteen cents apiece and the wingless, soft-hackles were easy to tie when you were just learning. Back in those days I hadn't heard of Ray Bergman, Pete Hidey, or James Leisenring, and all I knew about fly fishing I had gleaned from the pages of Field and Stream, Outdoor Life or from watching my dad. Now years later I find myself back where I started, swinging wet flies to willing fish.

When I started wet fly fishing I would use a two or three fly rig called a brace, but today I fish a single fly. I rig up as though I was fishing a dry fly. So I use, a 7-1/2 or 9' leader that tapers to 4X, and then two or four feet of 5X tippet material. To that I tie on a traditional wet fly or soft hackle, using a mono loop knot to allow the fly to swing naturally.

I usually tie on a wet fly or soft hackle after moving upstream fishing a dry fly. When I arrive at the head of a pool, riffle or run where the water flow is relatively constant, I tie on the wet and begin fishing back downstream. What you want to do is cover water by swinging the fly through a stretch. Stand in a spot along the bank and cast the line across or slightly downstream. Lower the rod tip so it is pointing at the water and do not hold onto the line with either hand; simply hold the rod on the cork with your rod hand. Follow the drift of the fly by pointing the rod tip at the fly at all times. When done properly a bow will occur on a floating fly line with the fly slightly behind the deepest portion of the bow.

The fly is moving into the fish's feeding lane from above. When the fish takes the fly it will move up to intercept, and then turn down to eat. When this happens you will feel a slight tug, and then the line will begin to pull off the reel as the fish hooks itself and realizes that it has done so. Then, lift the rod slowly and play the fish. If you try to set the hook on the first tug you will pull the fly right out of the fish's mouth.

Start fishing your wet fly close to where you're standing; fish a length of line, and then add two feet or so, then two more feet until you've covered the water making two or three casts with each length of line. Then, pull some line back in, take one or two steps downstream, and start the process again. The idea is to get the fly to sweep through an area again and again, until a hungry, greedy trout sees it.

The interesting thing about this is this: after I've fished through an area with dry flies, and felt I've done a fine job of it, too, I can turn around, tie on a wet and fish back through the area and catch more fish. That is amazing to me. **For many of you, I would imagine this is a new thing. No weight, no bobber, just pure, clean, traditional fly fishing fun. Try it; you'll like it.**

Lost Item at Reel Recovery Retreat Found!!!

by Jim "Eagle Eye" Gronski, HSFC Treasurer

Jim found tippet spools with a holder at Pleasant Valley on July 19th . The person who lost this can call Jim at 775-265-7124 to claim it.

The Internet Fly Fisherman

by Dan (Grizzly Wolf) Sedergren, HSFC President

This month's Web Site of interest is the fly fishing section of Louis Bignami's Fine Fishing Internet Magazine. Louis has been writing and publishing since 1969, and has more than 35 books to his credit along with hundreds of photos, articles and columns. Browsing through the site you will find unique insights, superior images and fly selection, fly casting, fly tying and other skills from experts like Gary Borger, Jack Samson, Captain Peter Kuminsky, the author of *Flyfishing for Dummies* and a host of others. Give it a look at <http://www.finefishing.com/1flyfish/index.htm>.

This month's Blog site is Keith Barton's Singlebarbed. Keith describes himself and his blog as follows:

My folks accidentally handed me a steel Ace Hardware bait casting rod at age 5... I froze immobile for 7 hours. Being smart folks, they kept handing me the rod as it was the best babysitter imaginable.

I spiraled downward from there, in and out of treatment facilities for fly-tying abuse, addiction to guiding, commercial fly-tying, a hellish roller coaster from which I am still recovering. Yep, I did the "Sylvester Nemes Institute for Recovering Wet Fly Addiction" long before it was fashionable.

Singlebarbed., a collection of observations and anecdotes, interspersed with feeble attempts at humor.

Check him out at <http://singlebarbed.com/>

August Meeting Presentation

by Dan (Grizzly Wolf) Sedergren, HSFC President

This month's speaker for the club meeting on August 19th is Bill Nickels. Bill is very familiar with the Mammoth Lakes area, having worked for a number of years as a guide at both the Hot Creek Ranch and the Arculairus Ranch. He will be talking about his experiences and the waters in and around the Owens Valley. Remember to bring money to buy raffle tickets for the drawing at the end of the meeting.

Reel Escape for Women

by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Fish Master

These past few years, the HSFC members have been involved in many programs pairing persons battling cancer and the serenity of fly-fishing. Because the lack of the programs for women who battle other types of cancer other than breast cancer, the club has developed a new program called Reel Escape. This first adventure will be at Pleasant Valley Fly Fishing Preserve on August 15th. It is an all day fly fishing event for local women who are battling or are survivors of cancer. If you should know any women that may be interested in something like this, we encourage you to talk to them and ask them to contact us at the numbers below, so that they can join us. We have room for 12 and right now we have three. We would like to have more women join us. Please have them contact Bonnie at 790-2334, Liz at 782-4734, or Mickey at 265-1349.

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Jim Gronski	Treasurer	775-265-7124
Janet Dexter	Recording Secretary	775-265-1991

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Ron & Linda Sanstrom		775-782-1152
Mike Turnipseed		775-782-4254
Don Stockman	Fund Raising	775-265-7164
Liz Weirauch	Fish Master	775-782-4734
Mike Phillips	Newsletter Editor	775-265-4610

TENTATIVE FISH OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

Feb. 22	Sunday	Hinkson Slough
March 29	Sunday	Rosaschi Ranch
April 26	Sunday	Pyramid Lake
May 31	Sunday	Upper Twin Lake
June 28	Sunday	Frenchmen's Reservoir
July 26	Sunday	West Walker River
August 23	Sunday	Spooner Lake
Sept. 27	Sunday	Heenan Lake
Oct. 25	Sunday	Owens or East Carson River
Nov. 15	Sunday	Indian Creek Reservoir

July Fish Out Results– West Walker River

by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Fish Master

Fish out for July was a pretty nice day. We had eight members try their hands at the West Walker. Reports at lunch time were that everyone got hits, some to hand. Winner for the day was Howard Brown, who found a honey hole and picked up 34 ... on... wait for it... his favorite fly... Prince Nymph! The fish master was a little under the weather and will hopefully do better during our next fish out.

August Fish Out– Spooner Lake– August 23

by Liz Weirauch, HSFC Fish Master

Our next fish out will be held on August 23, Sunday, at Spooner Lake. The club has not fished Spooner for about three or four years now. It is a wonderful place to hang and kick around. Reports right now have been 50 to 100 fish a day! How's that for some decent numbers? Now these reports are from fishermen, so you can read between the lines or not. Bring your float tube, dry line, and intermediate sink line. Fly choice should be buggers in black, brown, or purple, zebra midges, damsel olives or tans, prince nymphs, and zug bugs. Dries would be ants, mosquitoes, adams, and even a small hooper dropper should work well. Lunch will be hotdogs, so if you would like to bring a salad or something to pass, please do. We will meet in the parking lot at 8:30 A.M.; you will need to pay to park. If you would like to come earlier, please do. The Fish Master may be out on the water before then. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Liz at 782-4734.

Reel Recovery 2009 July's Fishing Retreat

by Jim Norton, HSFC Education

"It was though you all had a calling."

This comment from Frank W. of North Hollywood, California, has stuck with me since the retreat. Frank was one of nine courageous guys fighting cancer who joined us for two days of profound enjoyment at Pleasant Valley. No fewer than 19 of our members showed up to be river buddies or to just help out in general. Those nine guys could not have been more appreciative. I have been privileged to participate in 10 Reel Recovery retreats, and this group was the most cohesive. As usual, it turned out to be a life-changing experience for them.

There were too many buddies to thank individually here, but a special thanks to Kevin from Liar's Market for two excellent lunches. Also, as many of you might know, we did have a medical emergency involving one of our members, and we want to extend special gratitude to all the medical and rescue personnel. The system worked and worked well.

Stan Golub, executive director of Reel Recovery, asked us to convey his thanks to the club for our continuing association ("and once again, you did it without adult supervision"). So on behalf of the Board of Directors and Reel Recovery, thank you to all who have given so much to help these valiant men in their fight against cancer.

Be well! Fish on!

A Special Trip to Knott Creek in the fall

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

Many members have asked me if I am planning an unofficial club trip to Knott Creek Reservoir this fall, since I have mentioned it several times last year. It looks like it is on for October. Knott Creek can fish well in the fall. It is a trophy fishery with a limit of one fish a day and that fish has to be at least 18". It has large cutbows, rainbows, and tiger trout. The Knott is one of my favorite stillwater fisheries. Two tentative time periods are– Oct. 15-18 or Oct. 22-25. Our trip will depend on the weather. Precipitation can make the road pretty slippery. It is located northwest of Winnemucca and is a six hour drive from Gardnerville. It is four wheel drive the last six miles and tent or truck camping only. I can take one to two people in my truck. I prefer a pontoon boat to fish it, but a float tube will do the job. I plan on a gathering of interested fisherpersons at my house for specific information on how to get there, a map of the lake and its hot spots, flies to use, and rod setups. Some of you may only be able to fish Saturday and part of Sunday, but that's okay. Thursday and Friday will give me and other early arrivals a chance to dial it in for the rest of you. The Truckee River Fly Club had a successful fish out there this July. Feel free to call me for more details. My phone number is 775-265-4610.

Meeting the Requests of Our Members

by Mike Phillips, HSFC Newsletter Editor

At its last meeting on 8/05/09, your board of directors discussed the results of the membership survey we conducted in June. One of the major requests from members was the desire to improve on their fly fishing skills. One of the changes the board could make to help in partially meeting this request is to make adjustments in our fish outs. The first change would involve a short presentation the day of the fish out by someone experienced in that particular fishery before members hit the water. The presentation could involve how to rig up, flies to use, spots to fish, and how to fish. The second change would be the pairing up of members. We would like to pair up for the day an experienced club member with a member who wants to improve his or her skills. If you have any suggestions to further this education process feel free to contact me, our fish master, or the president of the club. Our phone numbers are listed on the second page of this newsletter.

Eastern Sierra Fishing Report

by CJ Webb. Virginia Lakes Resort

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are hitting black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and spruce flies. Mosquito Flats is still high and the mosquitoes are the pits, I've got my head netting ready. Deet, deet and more deet!

CROWLEY LAKE has had a few windy days and the weed beds have put a damper on the bite and are reported down to 16 feet. Look for algae free creek channels if you want to get into fish. Conditions should improve in the next couple weeks. Try gray zebras, tiger or crystal, try everything and don't give up. Water temps are moving the fish around and up and down, and don't forget the two fly rig is always a good choice. Try the unobvious (is that a word), PT flashback (imperative). Weather has finally turned nice and the wind has subsided for the time being so things will start to change for the better.

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and purple #6 or 8. Also try the Marvel, the wonder fly, be sure and ask what color is working. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head. Hardware is good and gets action. Some standard midges for top water by the south bank where the party boats cruise.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN - Lake Mary has been producing on some small dries. George and Mamie are also doing well on dries, but try some Matukas, black leaches, and black or chocolate wooly buggers.

HOT CREEK (149cfs) is fishing well early and late on dries, scuds, WD40's, stones, mayfly patterns, dry-drop with scuds, and small olive caddis emergers or larva patterns with PT as your nymph. Constant afternoon breezes will make things harder, but if you know your stuff you'll get into some browns (near fence) shhhhh!

SAN JOAQUIN – Access with your own vehicle is before 7am and after 7pm. Water is leveling off with good clarity so try anything dry even a big bright “fluffy” with small bead-head dropper, ants, hoppers, or damselfly.

JUNE LOOP – Silver and Gull have been doing the best on black, and purple woolly's, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Also try some stones, mayflies, ants and caddis near Rush Creek for best results.

LUNDY LAKE has been producing and has continued to see some really nice fish on black woolly buggers #6 or 8, and the Marvel. Ponds behind the resort are fun and hitting small midges and dries. Bugs are also thick and tasty!

VIRGINIA LAKES had been a hot ticket for tubers tugging black woolly buggers with lots of tail flash, but hare's ears are producing along with midges by the trillions. The gnats are like leaving LA at 5pm; wall-to-wall so wear a mask so you can breathe, breathing is good. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-20. Some emergers have worked over the past couple weeks, but will increase with the temps. Of course dragging a streamer always works but rather dull. Try some Rickard's flies and hold on.

EAST WALKER – Flow currently is at 119cfs and the mosquitoes are vicious. Blood transfusions might be required after an outing, so bring the “juice”. Emerging Caddis will buy you the “beast”, so anything resembling this “bug” should put you into poundage. Lots of blood midges going off for the hungry browns, so select your imitation with care.

WEST WALKER – Water is at approx 168cfs, so look for flat water and fish the bottom and curves, and try a two fly rig with large attractor as indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly.

SADDLEBAG RESORT – Opened the 27th, the lakes are doing well on small dries early am and very late pm, there are some nice golden trout back there. Gardisky is also doing well if you know the combination. This lock can be hard to crack on occasion.

See you on the water....cj 9.7

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Upcoming HSFC Events

- HSFC General Meeting August 19
- August Fish Out at Spooner Lake August 23

General meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Carson Valley Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville.

The HSFC Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at The Angler's Edge, 1506 U.S. Hwy. 395 N. in Gardnerville.
HSFC members are welcome to attend.

We welcome contributions, quotes, jokes, stories and articles to *fishstories*.....

Please send to: Mike Phillips, 887 Marion Way, Gardnerville, NV, 89460 or mikephillips61@charter.net