

# The Fly Leaf



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January, 2020

**JANUARY MEETING**  
**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB**  
**MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE**  
**COMMONS**  
January 14, 2020  
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

## JANUARY MEETING Scott Fink and Leon Buckles

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Schmitt

Fellow Members,

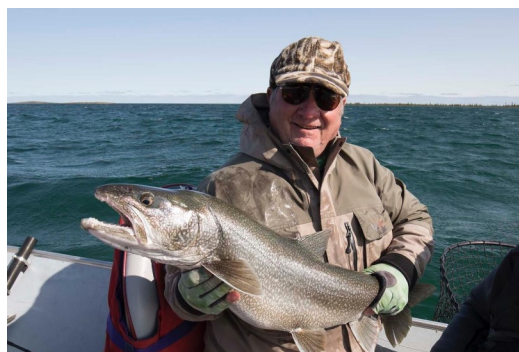
As your new president, I want everyone to know where I'm coming from and why I'm here. In 2015 when I joined our Club, I joined for what I would consider three selfish reasons. I thought since everyone here was a fly fisherman, I would find out where the fish were biting, what they're biting on, and what kind of new patterns were catching fish. And, I have to say that my expectations of membership have been answered in spades. So, in 2017 when Jim Athearn was the Club's treasurer and was looking for a volunteer to help out at the treasurer's table checking people in for the meeting, I decided that since the Club had been good to me that I would volunteer to help out.

At the end of 2017, circumstances conspired such that the treasurer's position was left vacant with nobody with their hand up wanting to volunteer to be our Club's treasurer. Since I had been working with Jim, I was aware that the treasurer function was up to date and squeaky clean, so I volunteered. In 2018 as I interacted with the board, I began to see how diligently these volunteers worked on behalf of our Club, and this prompted me to continue on to be the program director in 2019 and now your Club's president. I feel blessed to have such a strong cadre of board members and committee chair volunteers at my side as we venture forth into 2020.

To a man we all have the same purpose for being here, and that is to see that our Club continues to thrive. Our Club has enjoyed strong leadership over the past few years and in terms of innovation and initiating projects to support fly fishing in general and our Club's mission in particular, I believe that the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club is the premier fly fishing club in the Northwest. That having been said, I predict a profitable and productive year in 2020.

Phil Rowley was to be our presenter at our Jan meeting, but as your new president, I committed my first 'faux pas' in initially giving Phil the wrong date for our Jan meeting. By the time the problem was corrected, Phil already had a commitment for Jan 14th. But not to worry, our own Leon Buckles has come to my rescue with a presentation on his trip to Big Bear Lake up beyond the Arctic Circle. He had a professional photographer along with him in the

On this cold winter night Leon Buckles and Scott Fink will be here to tell us of their adventure to Great Bear Lake last summer. When two Fly Fishermen of the Year get together at a world famous place, there's bound to be some fabulous stories. Join us!



form of Scott Fink, so Leon has some great pics to go with his presentation. I'm looking forward to an entertaining program.

There's not much going on locally fishing wise, so since this 'presidents message' is beginning to get a little lengthy, I end by saying that as the Club's president for 2020, I'm going to make every effort to continue the fine tradition of first class leadership that our Club has enjoyed. I know that I have the cooperation of the new board of directors and committee chairs and will be from time to time asking for the cooperation of you the members at large.

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## December Meeting Club Awards- President's Award



Ladin Langeman and Steve  
Ronholt



Floyd Holmes



Brian Harmon

Not pictured: Mark Pinch



## 2020 IEFFC Board of Directors

2020 Club Board of Directors

Doug Brossoit, Jon Bowne, Bob Schmitt,  
Bob Johnson, Jerry Harms

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**



## Scott Fink, Fly Fisherman of the Year



## Jim Turner, Distinguished Service Award



## Jim Athearn, Ed Wulff Memorial Award



**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## Clearwater Reopens By Brian Pearson, IDFW

Fishing will reopen on the Clearwater and lower Snake rivers January 1, 2020.

Meeting by conference call on Wednesday, Dec. 18, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission reopened steelhead fishing in the Clearwater River and lower Snake River downstream of Couse Creek Boat Ramp, beginning on Jan. 1. Daily bag limit in those sections is limited to one adipose-clipped steelhead per day, none over 28 inches in length.

Anglers should note that the North Fork Clearwater River will be closed to steelhead fishing during the 2020 spring season. The South Fork of the Clearwater River will also reopen on Jan. 1, and all other season dates remain the same as what is printed 2019-21 Idaho Fishing Seasons and Rules brochure.

To see a summary of modifications that have been made to the 2019-21 printed steelhead seasons and rules, specific to the 2020 spring season, visit Idaho Fish and Game's Steelhead Seasons and Rules Page.

The commission closed steelhead fishing entirely on the Clearwater River in September, as well as the Snake River below Couse Creek boat ramp. The closure came amid concerns that returns of hatchery steelhead would not be sufficient to meet broodstock needs for the Clearwater hatcheries.

Fisheries managers implemented additional trapping activities at Dworshak Hatchery and at Lower Granite Dam. Having never implemented these actions before, fisheries managers took a cautionary approach before proposing to reopen the fishery.

After an additional month of trapping steelhead for the Clearwater River hatchery programs, fisheries managers are confident there are enough steelhead for hatcheries and to provide steelhead fishing opportunities. Fisheries managers also plan to continue enlisting anglers to help provide steelhead broodstock in the South Fork of the Clearwater in the spring.

Your editor reminds you to check the latest regulations on the web or at local fly shops before you go, these things change awfully fast.

## Message from Hannah Coles IEFFC Legacy Scholarship Winner

To IEFFC: I am honored to have received the IEFFC Legacy Scholarship as it has helped pay for tuition costs such as fees for my biology classes so that I am able to utilize resources for learning and research in my classes. I was born in Anaconda, MT, moved to Spokane when I was 5-years-old, and have been here ever since. I will be graduating from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with an emphasis in Fisheries this coming Spring.

I have been working in the Fisheries Research Center at EWU under Dr. Paul Spruell and Dr. Allan T Scholz. I am the student president of the eastern Washington sub-unit of the American Fisheries Society WA-BC Chapter. I am planning on attending graduate school to pursue a Master's Degree in Biology either at EWU or WSU. I worked for the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department this past summer as a Fisheries Technician II on the removal of Brook Trout in Sullivan Creek in Pend Oreille County WA. to help the native Westslope Cutthroat Trout populations. I hope to one day work as a bio-statistician, fish biologist, in resource management, or other similar positions in the Pacific NW for a local tribe or state government. I hope work with others to preserve, conserve, and restore our fish populations so there are stable and thriving populations for present and future generations to experience the sport of fishing just as we have.



**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## The 2020 Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

Applications are being accepted until April 15th for the 2020 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why “they” want to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is required from their school counselor or science teacher. The dates for the WCTU and WSCFFI supported event, are June 21-27, 2020. The last full week of June. The week long Academy will be held at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. To learn more about “The Academy”, go to [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com). The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net) or Jim Brosio @ [brosioj@q.com](mailto:brosioj@q.com). This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing. We are also on Facebook. No youth will be turned away because of funding.

### The Day I Matched Jerry McBride By Lee Funkhouser

I fish with Jerry McBride often and, just as often, I am out fished by him. I think everyone is aware of his fishing ability, if not on a first hand basis, very likely through his reputation. Recently we looked to a new fishing location. Neither of us had fished Lake Spokane (Long Lake), but with Fourth of July frozen we decided to give it a try.

We launched high up the lake and fished briefly near the launch with no success, so we decided to head down the lake and look for fish. We ended up at the Suncrest private beach and this is when things started to work. Jerry hooked up, but lost the fish. We moved to another spot and Jerry hooked up again, this time bringing the fish to net. Unfortunately it was a squawfish, which put me ahead in fish count as catching the squawfish was an automatic one fish deduction.

We moved again and this time Jerry hooked into a big sucker. That moved the fish count to minus two for Jerry, zero fish for me.

We decided to move across the lake to a small bay in our search for trout. We were having no luck there so we decided that we should move again. We both proceeded to reel in our lines when Jerry got a take and landed a trout. I gave him credit for the fish, even though he obviously caught it by accident. Fish count now stood at minus one for Jerry, zero for Lee. Wow, I was still ahead.

Jerry then proceeded to legitimately catch two trout in rapid succession. Now I was behind and needed to get moving. I asked Jerry for a fly like the one he was using and he said he had only tied two, so he would be giving me his last fly. I have found that whining with Jerry is very effective, so he let me have the fly. Boom... right away I had a take. I hooked the fish right next to the boat and he surfaced immediately, so I saw I had hooked the fish in the mouth. Then the fish rolled over and threw the fly. Noticing the slackness of the line I expertly re-hooked the fish the only way possible, on the tail. I was able to get the fish to the net. Jerry said that the fish should not count, but I countered that it was clearly hooked in the mouth and very clearly brought to the net. What happened between those two events should not matter. Besides, now we were tied at one fish each.

Suddenly the fish finder went dead. Jerry put his rod down to change the batteries, leaving me to watch both indicators. Almost immediately Jerry's indicator went down. I yelled, “Jerry, you have a fish”, **three** times before he put the batteries down and grabbed his rod. Even with the delay he still had the fish on and was able to bring it to the net. It was obvious to me that he would not have caught the fish without my monitoring of his indicator and alerting him that he had a fish on, so I had no problem taking half credit for the fish. That was our final fish, so we ended the day tied at one and a half fish each.

Jerry complained about my accounting saying I should not have even counted the one fish I skillfully caught, as he called it foul hooked. I will let him think that once again he out fished me, as he has an extremely fragile ego, but you can see that I truly matched him fish for fish. As for me, this is a day I will remember simply as **the day I matched Jerry McBride**.

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**



# ***FLY OF THE MONTH***

**Professor**

**January 2020**

**John Wilson**

In her 1890 survey, Mary Orvis Marbury found most northern Rocky Mountain anglers considered the Professor a favorite. This versatile fly can be tied in many configurations for most species of salmonid, using readily available materials. The pattern was first published in 1820 by Professor John Wilson, under his pseudonym Christopher North, and is thus 200 years old. Still, cutthroat throughout the Rockies love this fly fished wet, though it is somewhat fragile. Fred Klein has a lovely tying video using a gut snelled leader at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gQig\\_Ii250](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gQig_Ii250) along with some advice on swinging wets.

Hook – Wet fly 1X hook, Mustad 3906B or equivalent, size 8-16, most prefer size 12 or 14

Thread – Yellow

Tail – Red goose fibers mixed with Mallard flank

Body – Buttercup yellow silk or floss

Ribbing – Gold tinsel, oval preferred

Collar– Brown hen hackle

Wing – Mallard flank

Head-Black thread

Mix some goose fibers with a few mallard flank barbules, tie in a tail about the length of the body.

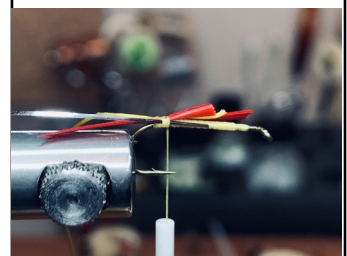
Build a tapered base with the thread, so there is good bulk and thickness forward. Fish like this fly chunky.

Tie in the yellow floss, again thinner near the back and thicker near the abdomen. Rib with tinsel.

Using a brown or furnace hen hackle, tie in a throat. Wing with matching Mallard flank sections. Trim close, and whip finish the yellow thread. Tie in black thread and build a head, finish with your head cement of choice.

Tie a lot of these; the wing is quite fragile and both cutthroat and rainbow slash this fly when fished wet. Larger sizes are effective for anadromous fish, though the gaudy color particularly appeals to searun cutthroat.

There's dozens of variations on this fly, and it's around because it's successful. Happy 200th birthday, Professor!



**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**

## Editor's Suggestions for Winter Diversion

Looking for something inspiring to do, in addition to tying next seasons' flies, during these deep winter evenings?

- Read "Big Two-Hearted River" again.
- Stan Miller never sold his Seagull. Buy it, rebuild it, and find parts.
- **Get thee to the International Fly Fishing Film Festival at the Bing January 7!** Doors open at 6 PM, films start at 7. Hosted by Silver Bow Fly shop, you can pick up tickets early at the shop and get a two buck discount.
- Take a class! Fly tying and rod building classes are beginning at most fly shops in the region...
- Write an article for the next Flyleaf! Submit it by email to [flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com](mailto:flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com). You could win a Pulitzer!

## Late December Rule changes for SW Washington Rivers WDFW

Locations:

Cowlitz River, from the mouth to the posted markers 400 feet below the Barrier Dam.

Kalama River, from the mouth to 1,000 feet below the fishway at the upper salmon hatchery (i.e. Kalama Falls Hatchery).

Lewis River, from the mouth to the overhead power lines below Merwin Dam.

Cedar Creek, from the mouth upstream, including all tributaries.

Washougal River, from the mouth to the bridge at Salmon Falls.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife modified coho salmon rules in several southwest Washington tributaries in late November due to limited returns to hatchery facilities and projected broodstock collection shortfalls. Recent rainfall events increased river flows, resulting in additional fish entering tributary hatcheries. Broodstock collection goals are expected to be met, therefore continued modification of these fisheries is no longer needed. Please see the 2019-2020 Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet for permanent fishing rules.

Information contact: Region 5 Headquarters, 360-696-6211.

Anglers must have a current Washington fishing license, appropriate to the fishery. Check the WDFW "Fishing in Washington" rules pamphlet for details on fishing seasons and regulations. Fishing rules are subject to change. Check the WDFW Fishing hotline for the latest rule information at (360) 902-2500, press 2 for recreational rules.

## FLYLEAF CONTRIBUTIONS

**Your input is welcome! If you have articles to contribute to the Fly Leaf, make sure you send them to the newsletter email: [flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com](mailto:flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com) before the last Friday of the Month! Lee and Guy will get your story, your fly of the month, whatever, into the next issue...**

**Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington**