

The Fly Leaf



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April, 2021

**INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAY April 13
BYOB Wet Fly 6:30 Meeting 7:00 PM
Connection details to follow by email**

Editors: Lee Funkhouser and Guy Gregory

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Jon Bowne

Most of you will be reading the Flyleaf on or around April, 1. Believing as I do, that no one really reads the presidents message, I considered copying an April message from a past president and pasting it in this space. Kind of a sick twisted April Fool's joke.

But then I found that there was news to impart on the membership. In early February, IEFFC was contacted by Washington Wild regarding the U.S. Forest Service's elimination of the Legacy Trails and Roads program and the cessation of watershed restoration projects in Washington state. They asked the IEFFC to be signatory, along with dozens of other clubs and organizations, to a letter asking Congress to reinstate that program for 2022.

In the ten years of its existence, from 2008 to 2018, it accomplished the following. It ensured access to Forest Service lands by maintaining and/or storm proofing 2,300 miles of roads. Rivers and streams were protected by reclaiming 300 miles of unneeded roads preventing sediment from entering waterways. Fish passage was restored by fixing culverts at 55 road/stream crossings and 105 miles of trails were improved by repairing them.

The Legacy Roads and Trails program was subsumed under regular road maintenance but without dedicated funding, critical restoration work has been shelved and not completed. Starting it up again will result in renewed focus on key areas where projects improve salmon and trout habitat, improve water quality, and preserve access to USFS lands in our state.

The board unanimously supported signing on to this effort and I asked Washington Wild to include us on the letter.

In other news, if you're running low on flies, head over to Rocky Ford. I left about a dozen in the cat tails. In addition to getting my fly line so tangled that it took three hours back at home to untangle it, the following day I awoke with one eye swollen shut from no-see-um bites. God, I love fly fishing.

Tight lines,

Jon

April Meeting Randy Osborne, Jolynn Beauchere and Guy Gregory

Our April Meeting features two WDFW Staff: Randy Osborne and Jolynn Beauchere. Randy will discuss angling opportunities and management of trout waters in the Spokane area.

Jolynn will speak of fisheries issues and recent work on the Spokane River.

Guy will give his annual water supply outlook for the region and the west.

Always great discussions for this meeting, be sure to join us!

Zoom links for this meeting will follow by email.

Swanson Lakes needs your help!

Jason Neumiller is the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council wildfire recovery committee chair coordinating volunteer efforts to repair damage at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area.

To get on the volunteer list or for more information, call 487-8552 or email thewildlifecouncil@gmail.com, or sign up at wa.gov/get-involved/ volunteer.

Swanson Reserve is north of Coffeepot Lake, and is home to Z Lake and other lakes known to our club. Volunteers are needed to plant trees, build fence, and otherwise help restore facilities devastated by the wildfires of last summer.

Help IEFFC and partner with our friends and neighbors in the INWC to assist in this effort.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Access Denied to Stoney and Minnie Lakes

Covid has kept us from Canada, but now there's another problem for our neighbors to the north.

American billionaire Stan Kroenke—the real estate and sports mogul who owns more than 2 million acres of ranching land across North America—has just won a decade-long legal battle in Canada to keep the public from two lakes that can only be reached through his property.

Kroenke owns the Douglas Lake Ranch, the single largest ranch in Canada. The ranch owns two private lakes on the same property, which visitors must pay a day rate to access.

In the early 2000's, Douglas Lake Ranch began to block access on the routes to the lakes with locked gates and fences. . So in 2013, the Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club, a local non-profit dedicated to wildlife management in the area, sued the ranch to open the throughways, arguing the trail had historic significance dating back to its use by an indigenous village, and that Canadian citizens have a right to access public land.



In 2018, a British Columbia Supreme Court judge sided with the recreational group, noting that Canadian tax dollars had been used to rehabilitate the historic trail. But Kroenke appealed, and on Friday, a higher court overturned the 2018 ruling, banning Canadians from “trespassing” on the two paths.

The appellate judges confirmed in their decision that the lakes and the fish in them are not owned by Kroenke's ranch, but they determined that one path doesn't reach the “natural boundary” of the waters, and there was insufficient evidence to tie the trail to indigenous roots. The justices wrote that the trial judge had “added his voice to the chorus of those seeking to limit the rights of private property owners.”

“The club invites us to recognize a right to cross private land where it is necessary to do so to access a lake on land reserved to the Crown for the benefit of the public,” Appeal Justice Peter Willcock wrote in the filing. “In my view, while this argument may attract considerable public support, it has no support in our law.”

The ruling comes as quite a blow to the non-profit. “Our entire club and most of the residents of the Nicola Valley can't believe that one court of appeals can, with a stroke of a pen, wipe out a 20-day [British Columbia] Supreme Court trial ruling,” Rick McGowan, director of the Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club said.

Adding additional injury, the judges determined the organization was not a “public-interest litigant,” so it will have to pay the billionaire's legal fees for his appeal, as well as the hundreds of thousands of dollars owed for their own.

The club's attorney implied there is room for another appeal with the Supreme Court of Canada—if the fishing group can afford it. McGowan agreed, noting that the club plans to fundraise to support the effort. “The judges said effectively that water over private land is not navigable for the people of Canada,” McGowan said. “That means they're just giving it to the landowner for free.”

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development in British Columbia said it was too soon to comment on the decision, as the fish and game club may try to get the highest court to weigh in.

The British Columbia Appeal Court's decision is a landmark case with broad implications for public access to land in a region where many Crown-owned waterways are closed off by private property. The case numbers among a broader international movement over public rights to wilderness, known as the “freedom to roam.” There is increasing pressure in British Columbia to establish “right-to-roam” laws. “It makes no sense to me,” Justice Joel Groves wrote in the original 2018 decision, “that the Crown would retain ownership of the lakes, only for there to be no access.”

“This is not a happy judgment for public rights,” Harvey said. “The attorney general has a duty in law to protect public rights, but in this case that has not happened. The club is entirely on its own.”

-adapted from *The Daily Beast* 3/8/2021

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

IEFFC HOSTS FIRST LADY

By Lee Funkhouser

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, an avid fly fisher, will be stopping by Spokane on her upcoming tour of the Pacific Northwest. Her advance team has contacted the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club as Dr. Biden has indicated a desire to fish one of our area lakes.

In the communication sent by her team, she indicated that she frequently fishes lakes utilizing balanced leeches and that she had spotted Jerry McBride's name while viewing a tutorial on tying the balanced leech. Noting that he resides in Spokane, and is a club member, she made a request to meet with him hoping to gain some insight into how to fish the fly. Upon receiving her request Jerry graciously volunteered to fish with Dr. Biden at Amber Lake during her visit.



The Secret Service is working on the final details but has indicated that the lake will be closed to the public the day prior to the outing and the day of the outing for security purposes. They have apologized for any inconvenience this causes area fly fishers.

In talking to Jerry, he plans on utilizing some of his balanced leeches, but is also hoping to encounter a chironomid hatch. I could go on and on with additional details but see a need to remind the IEFFC members that this is our April newsletter, so I am not really expecting Amber Lake to be closed. Oh, and have a happy April Fools Day.

New Member, New Question, and a Program Reminder

New Member:

Steve Dixon introduced Jerome Brotherton to us at a previous meeting as a potential new member. He has filled out the paperwork and attended the requisite three meetings. It was Steve's intent to present him for approval to the board at the last meeting.

However, the fishing was so hot at Brown's that he missed that meeting.

Nonetheless, Jerome is approved as a new club member! Please welcome him, and we all look forward to when we can meet together again. We'll get his contact information to you as soon as possible.

New Question: A blast from the past....Has anyone fished Quail or Beda this spring? Asking for a friend.....

Fishing Buddy Program

If you'd like to go fishing with one of our members, email the Fly Leaf Editor at flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com. On a bi-weekly basis these requests will be forwarded to the coordinator who will contact you to set up a fishing trip.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

March Rule Changes

In **Washington**, several rule changes affected Columbia River anadromous fish angling in March. They include:

- Drano Lake will be closed to salmon and steelhead effective May 6
- Cowlitz River, Cispus River, and Lake Scanewa: Closed to salmon fishing effective March 5
- Wind River; from the mouth to 800 yards downstream of Carson National Fish Hatchery closed to salmon and steelhead angling effective March 16
- Klickitat River, effective April 1 through May 28, the adult salmon daily limit is reduced to one fish, on days and in locations open for salmon retention in the Klickitat River.
- Kalama River, effective March 5, the adult salmon daily limit is reduced to 1 fish in the lower Kalama River.
- Salmon Creek in Clark County, effective March 16-May 28 is open to angling for and retention of hatchery steelhead; selective gear rules in effect, except use of barbed hooks is allowed.

In Idaho, during their meeting on March 18, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission approved spring Chinook fishing on the Snake, Lower Salmon, and Little Salmon rivers to start April 24, and run until August 8 unless closed earlier by the Fish and Game director.

Because returns of Chinook to the Clearwater River are forecasted to be insufficient to meet hatchery brood stock needs, no season was opened on the Clearwater River.

Full rules are available on the Chinook fishing webpage. Printed rules will be available prior to the season opener.

Fisheries managers are forecasting a total run of about 11,500 hatchery spring Chinook Salmon that are bound for either the Clearwater, Snake, Salmon or Little Salmon rivers to return to Lower Granite Dam this year.

Idaho Fish and Game is preparing for season setting for 2022-24 and asking anglers what changes they would like to see for the upcoming seasons. Anglers can go to the fishing seasons webpage and suggest changes for each region.

Each region will have informational videos about season setting, as well as online comment forms. Fish and Game regions will also host a series of online meetings in late March and April to help answer questions for anglers and provide more details. Check idfg.idaho.gov for more information

A Regulation Reminder

By
Ben Cuft

In all states and provinces, before heading out, make sure you have the appropriate recreational fishing license and be sure to take the following steps:

Download and read the annual fishing pamphlet, which details rules and regulations statewide.

Check for any emergency rule changes affecting the species or location you're fishing.

Check and clean your boat and equipment to minimize the spread of invasive species.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

A Latah drainage volunteer opportunity

As you know, Fly Fishers International and Trout Unlimited have entered into a formal conservation partnership, to combine each organization's conservation efforts for greater substantive effect.

Spokane Falls TU is hosting tree planting events in April and Inland Empire Fly Fishers are encouraged to participate. 15-20 volunteers are needed each of the two days.

This project is in cooperation with the Washington Dept. of Ecology. The private ranch along fish-bearing California Creek had allowed livestock to water in the creek, causing extensive erosion and pollution. The livestock has now been fenced away and new watering source set up. The next step is restoring the riparian area.

This April we will have 50 5-gallon potted trees, ~400 willow poles and miscellaneous plugs to plant on SFTU's California Creek Livestock project.

Registered volunteers will receive e-mail updates as we get closer to the event including the physical address, driving directions and updated information. Details and Register here: <https://spokanefallstu.org/event/ca-creek-tree-planting-04102021/>



DETAILS:

On Saturday April 10th and Saturday April 17, 2021 the Spokane Falls Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting a volunteer planting event for to complete the final phase of this Washington State Department of Ecology sponsored project. Hiking boots or mud boots, gloves and a shovel are needed. Times: 10 AM – 2PM, but as always many hands make for short work, so the more the merrier.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Mask should be worn anytime you can't be more than 6 feet from another person.

DIRECTIONS, MEETING POINT, AND START TIME:

We will be meeting at the landowner's property near Mica, WA. The physical address and directions will be e-mailed under separate cover to all registered volunteers.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Using a gas drill with an auger to drill holes and pilot holes

5-gallon tree planting

Willow pole planting

Plug planting (various species)

Installing fencing around potted trees and tree protection

Snacks and soft drinks provided by SFTU

Project Lead: Bruce Kinkead, Fisheries Biologist, Coeur d'Alene Tribe and SFTU Conservation Co-Chair.

4/10/2021 Volunteer Coordinator: SFTU Advisory Board Member, Harvey Morrison.

4/17/2021 Volunteer Coordinator: VP & Co-Owner, Spokane Indians Baseball and SFTU Vice President, Otto Klein.

Contact: info@spokanefallstu.org

WHAT TO BRING?

Check the weather to be sure to properly dress. It could be chilly and/or wet! Boots or hip boots/waders and work gloves are a must. All other tools and materials will be provided. A spare set of clothes is a good thing to bring as well, in the rare event you get really wet, muddy or fall into the creek. This happened once!

While we'll provide snacks, you may want to bring a lunch.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Proposed Boater Law Change HB 1018/SB 5176 2021 Legislature

FYI, after hearing, neither bill has proceeded out of committee. Looks like you won't need a class and a card to kick your way around a pond untrained for at least another year.

North American Fishing Challenge Benefit

Adult and Teen Challenge centers across the US and Canada offers drug and alcohol recovery services to those in our community who are suffering from life controlling issues. One center is here in Spokane.

As a fundraiser, fashioned after a very successful fishing tournament in Minnesota, the North American Fishing Challenge will be held on June 19, 2021, and anglers across the U.S. and Canada can fish in their local fishing hole and designate which Adult and Teen Challenge center will benefit from their fundraising. Four species will be included in the tournament: walleye, largemouth bass, pike, and panfish (bluegills, crappies, perch, rock bass, and other sunfish); species will be determined by the angler before beginning to fish.

Through sponsorships and donations from businesses and individuals, this tournament has the potential to raise more than \$300,000 this first year!

Thousands of dollars in prizes will be awarded, and a special fundraising prize of a Lund boat with a full electronic package from Minn Kota and Humminbird will be won by one team in the tournament.

All ages and skill levels of anglers from across the U.S. and Canada are welcome!

More information can be found at nafishingchallenge.org, or through the local contact, Jana Roberts, at jana.roberts@teenchallengepnw.com

And there's a bounty on Pike....



Break out the 9-weights, let's go get us some pike and save us some salmonids!

Northern Pike pose significant threats to the Columbia River fisheries including predation on native and important game fish species, introductions of parasites and disease, and competition with other spe-

cies for food resources. That's why Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Managers are offering a \$10 reward for every pike head. Drop off locations are: Noisy Waters Gas Station; Kettle Falls and Hunters Campground fish cleaning stations, and the Inchelium CCT Fish and Wildlife Office.

Call Holly McLellan of the Colville Confederated Tribes ((509) 209-2415) for more information

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

Upgrades and increased cost in Yellowstone

By
Chris Hunt, TU Magazine

Beginning this season, fees for fishing and boating permits in Yellowstone National Park will increase. Anglers can now purchase fishing permits online via Recreation.gov. Permits for the upcoming season can also be acquired in-park stores and surrounding communities beginning this spring.

The fee increases are substantial. Fishing permit fees will rise from \$18 to \$40 for a three-day permit; from \$25 to \$50 for a seven-day permit; and from \$40 to \$75. This is the first fishing license fee increase in Yellowstone since 2012.

According to the National Park Service, the new fees were determined by taking the average of resident and non-resident fishing permit fees from Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. There's also a fee for the online service.

Boaters will now pay \$20 for a five-day permit in the park for non-motorized watercraft, up from \$5. Non-motorized boat permits for the season are now \$30, up from \$10. Motorized boat permits for seven days are now \$30, and season permits for motorized boats are now \$40, up from \$10 and \$20 respectively. Boaters can obtain a permit and aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspections (now \$10) only in-person at various locations in the park. Permits are not available online.

“The accomplishments of Yellowstone National Park and its partners to recover the park’s namesake native trout are a cause for celebration. The common-sense fee increases proposed by the park, and its commitment to use the additional revenues to support Yellowstone trout restoration, should be celebrated by anglers across the nation.”
Chris Wood, Trout Unlimited

The new fees are comparable to those of state and other national park permits, and mark the first time the park has increased its boating fees since 1993. The number of boats on Yellowstone Lake increased nearly 10 percent in 2020.

The resulting increase in revenue from the fee increases will guarantee funding and provide a sustained revenue source that will contribute to continued efforts to reduce nonnative lake trout and increase the park’s aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection capacity.

“Too often, we talk about conservation in the context of loss—loss of wildlife, loss of native fish, loss of water quality, and so on,” said TU President and CEO Chris Wood. “The accomplishments of Yellowstone National Park and its partners to recover the park’s namesake native trout are a cause for celebration. The common-sense fee increases proposed by the park, and its commitment to use the additional revenues to support Yellowstone trout restoration, should be celebrated by anglers across the nation. We salute the park, and look forward to working with it on its restoration and recovery goals.”



Last year, the park identified major financial shortfalls in its ability to prevent and reduce AIS affecting fisheries across the park, especially in Yellowstone Lake. Efforts to protect and recover native fish and restore the Yellowstone Lake ecosystem costs the park nearly \$3 million annually. Scientists estimate another five years of sustained effort is needed at that investment level to achieve the park’s goals of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout restoration and AIS prevention, early detection and eradication.

“We continue to make substantial progress in our native fish restoration efforts in Yellowstone Lake and many other areas of the park,” said Superintendent Cam Sholly. “Efforts to restore native fish in Yellowstone Lake remain one of our highest conservation priorities. Our continued success will be largely dependent on a permanent and reliable revenue stream that will not only help us continue our native fish restoration efforts, but also increase our capacity to detect and prevent new nonnative species from entering Yellowstone’s waters.

“We very much appreciate the many partners and supporters, like Trout Unlimited and Yellowstone Forever, who have helped us make substantial progress in this critical area over past years,” he said.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FLY OF THE MONTH

Stacked Blonde

April, 2021

Kelly Galloup

Kelly indicates in his video this fly was adapted from Joe Brooks' famous Platinum Blonde. It's a big streamer, ideal for spring big water fishing, or for predators like pike. Two oddities: The keel hook style is hard to find, (it can be tied on a straight streamer hook) and it's a fly that requires a big ol' head, so fumblefingers like me can tie it and look like a pro. A very simple and big pattern, it can help you warm up the tying fingers before you start a session tying smaller, more complex patterns. It's adaptable to many colors and variations, but Kelly's tying video is instructive and quite entertaining. Catch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exFdB6jqNTU>

Hook: Mustad 79666 keel hook (discontinued) or MFC Belly Bumper, Size 2-8. Other "Texas Rig" Worm hooks will work, but most are sized 2/0 and above: See Ahrek PR378, or several Gamakatsu "Texas Rig" worm hooks.
Thread: 3/0 yellow
Body: Thread and yellow bucktail, tied in 3-4 bunches
Wing: Yellow Marabou
Optional: Eye of your choice, a bit of silver Krystal Flash mixed in the bucktail.



Start the thread just forward of the middle of the hook, wrapping back to ahead of the barb.



Tie in a bundle of bucktail, trimmed at an angle to lie fairly flat along the hook, about 3x the length to the hook bend. Build thread bulk all the way to the middle of the bend.



Tie in another bundle, this time at the middle of the bend, below the hook. An angle cut on the hair helps the hair line up nearly parallel with the hook.



Last bunch, on the bottom below the eye. You can add more to the top or bottom to get a shape you like. Kelly's video describes how and why he does that, and also describes many of the variations of this fly for separate situations. Highly recommended.



Finish with a marabou wing/topping, and build a head with thread and cement.



Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club—Spokane, Washington

FFI Happenings

Following up on February's conservation partnership with Trout Unlimited, in March FFI announced a new partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy.



John Day River, Oregon, where WRC has permanently conserve a total of 38,000 acres, 28 river miles and 16 tributary miles.

"Conservation of the more than 3 million miles of rivers and streams and 29 million acres of freshwater lakes that exist throughout the lower 48 United States is critical to our continuing opportunities to fly fish. These systems of water, plants and soils also provide the essentials for our own enjoyment and qualities of life", said Tom H. Logan, Chairman of FFI's Conservation Committee. Dave Peterson, FFI's Chairman of the Board added "This new partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy represents another significant step forward in collaborating with like-minded conservation groups to expand FFI's impact on our most current conservation issues."

Western Rivers Conservancy is dedicated exclusively to saving the great rivers of the West through land acquisition. "Our approach to river conservation allows us to permanently conserve some of the West's best remaining river habitat for fish and wildlife and to create recreational access so that anglers, boaters, hunters and others can experience these incredible places for generations to come," said Josh Kling, Conservation Director at WRC.

IEFFC Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jon Bowne
Vice President: Rich Semler
Treasurer: Bob Johnson
Secretary: Denny Carson
Matt Anderson (2021)
Doug Brossoit (2022)
Jerry Harms (2023)

Membership Committee Chair: Steve Dixon

Contact information for all Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are in the 2020/2021 Roster. If you've inquiries, email flyleaf.ieffc@gmail.com

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 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