



**GENERAL MEETING
INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB
MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INSTITUTE
COMMONS**

**September 11, 2007
Wet Fly Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Leonard Gross

For me, summer has always been the time of year when I begin to explore new fly patterns and refine my techniques to fish them. I enjoy the research involved in discovering and developing something new that has the potential of bringing increased success streamside. I enjoy scouring the local fly shops for the newest in fly tying material and gear; my wife - less so. Even when my best efforts fall short they still provide a lesson that tends to improve my approach to the sport. This year proved no different.

I'm certain that everyone has similar stories and experiences. To my way of thinking, the sport of fly-fishing incorporates more than just fishing. Much more. It incorporates an intellectual pursuit of which I never tire. That aspect of fly fishing that provides a continual challenge and learning experience. The opportunity to decipher and understand The never-ending refinement of skills The knowledge that this year can be better; that I can improve.

I look forward to the September meeting as a time to get back together as a "fraternity" and share our varied experiences. What, where and how did we fish? I feel fortunate to be able to converse and learn from so many of our accomplished members.

I'll end by reminding everyone that the club will be sponsoring another members-only fish-out at Amber Lake on Saturday, September 29th. The club will be providing hamburgers and chips for lunch courtesy of Alan Peterson. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the September meeting.

APRIL PROGRAM

By Dwight Tipton

Dr. Ross Black and his team from EWU have now completed their research aimed at determining what food sources for trout are most readily available, abundant and provide the best growth rates in about twenty of the area's lakes. The significance of this research is no doubt obvious to all of us fly-flingers, which is why the Club elected to give financial assistance to Ross and his team, and which is also why we've been eagerly awaiting his report on his findings. Ross will show-and-tell at the September meeting, which should be interesting indeed.

In tandem with Ross, fly tier extraordinaire, Gene Lorenson, will be at the bench whipping up patterns which coincide with what Ross has found to be the most important food sources. I suspect we can guess what some of those food sources are but will be surprised by some of them. We'll see.

We also have Harry Calhoun armed and ready to give us an update on the contents of one of our most valuable but grossly underutilized resource, our video library. That library is a treasure trove of fly fishing information, from what to tie to where to fish and how to get there. You need to know more about it so you don't miss out.

Our October guest speaker is very well represented in the aforementioned library. Skip Morris is renowned for his instructional books and video tapes, many of them done in conjunction with Brian Chan and other bright lights in the house of fly fishing. I have zero doubt he will put on an outstanding program, one you won't want to miss.

November? Still a work in progress but I think you'll enjoy it, assuming you like gandering at a plethora of very large Makizha and Kundzha caught in a very exotic location.

Please make the following corrections in your copy of the 2007 Roster

Badge numbers
Tony Gauna 13
Sean Visintainer 46

E-mail addresses
George Potter sulageorge@msn.com
Boyd Matson gmatson@comcast.net

Vegaline

Spokane's Original Bio-Fuel

By Glenn Lerrz

The growing concern over present day petroleum prices and supply and the accompanying interest in bio-fuels are not recent developments in the Spokane area.

Years ago, in the 1920s, the source of petroleum supplies was seen as a troubling issue. This created an interesting attempt to produce an alcohol-based fuel industry right here in Spokane. One area resident still has vivid memories of these efforts. Mike Runje made a career in the service station business after taking over the station started by his parents in the mid 1920s. Runje operated his business, located at Indiana and Washington, until his retirement in the late 1960s.

The current turmoil in gasoline pricing and supplies reminds Mike of a time in the late 1920s, when "Vegaline," a bio-fuel, was produced locally by the Power Oil & Gas Co. This firm was affiliated with the Union Iron Works – a long time Spokane business stalwart. The Union Iron Works and the Power Oil & Gas Co. operated just east of Division Street, near present day Camp Chevrolet and east of Market Street in the Hillyard area.

The projects of securing patents, building the plant and distillation equipment and raising money for operations were all integral parts of a big promotional effort. The cover page of the company's prospectus is a rare and unusual relic from the past.

The statements, "Better than Gasoline for Motors" and "The Most Revolutionary Invention of Recent Times" attest to the high hopes and big plans of the Vegaline promoters.

After predictions that the United States would eventually turn to a dependence on foreign petroleum supplies, Power Oil & Gas Co. introduced Vegaline, an

alcohol-based fuel made from "potatoes, grains, fruit, sawdust, vegetables or coals." As a fuel, it would never be in short supply.

Company public relations statements went on to say that there would be profitable new markets for a huge volume of crops that are easily raised and in ready supply. This would lead to profitable new markets for a huge volume of area products.

"The potato patch is full of power and heat," proponents of Vegaline said, using the example of an airplane "flying ninety miles an hour with apple cider fuel." Other examples of promotional hype come in a steady stream from the public relations department.

Despite all the enthusiasm and promises, the company rather quickly came up with serious problems in both production and pricing practices. Gasoline sold for about 20¢ a gallon, while Vegaline was marketed with a 2¢ a gallon discount. The 2¢ spread was thought to be an enticing differential. But marketing efforts and public demands failed to provide the desired volume or profit required for a successful business operation.

The real irony is that now, some eighty years later, the bio-fuel market is again in everyone's thoughts. and currently there are huge investments in energy sources to free us from foreign petroleum dependence.

The expression "what goes around comes around" seems fitting. With Spokane's recent efforts to "Go Green," the attempt to increase energy efficiency, maybe Vegaline will make a comeback.

Mike Runje, now ninety-four years old, was born in southeastern Europe and came to America as a baby. His family's story is one of realizing the immigrant's quest for the "American Dream," A final footnote is that Mike has some claim to local fame in fly-fishing circles, being one of the oldest members and a past president of the Spokane Fly Fishing Club.

Photos, Glenn Lenz

December 2006 Nostalgia Magazine 21

Note: Mike passed away November 11, 2006

George Potter commented that Mike had a pump dedicated to dispensing Vegaline.

Thanks to Hubert Langenhorst for sending me a copy of this article. Bob Bates

FLY OF THE MONTH

Conehead Whatsit

September, 2007

A Tyer at the Gathering

At the big FFF Fly Tyers conclave in Ellensburg, there were many artists at the tying vice creating every sort of fly one could imagine – some were very complex, some were rather simple. One that struck my fancy was an easy-to-tie pattern that I thought would be a great pattern for pink, sockeye, and silver salmon in the Alaskan waters I occasionally fish. We could find uses for it in our streams also. I also think that the same fly tied in blacks and olives would be very effective in our lakes. The cone head and marabou tail produce an enticing leech-like action when retrieved in short strips. It is certainly worth a try.

Hook: #8 – 4 3X long Silver for salt water, regular bronze for fresh water

Thread: 6x mono

Head: Black cone head

Tail: White marabou fibers with three strands of pearl Krystal Flash or Flashabou

Body: White medium sparkle chenille

Hackle: Sparse ginger hen

Gill: Red floss



1. Pinch the barb and slide the cone up to the eye of the hook and line the hook shank with tying thread. Tie in the marabou fibers and Krystal flash for the tail.

2. Attach the chenille and wind the body to just behind the cone. Tie in and wind a sparse hackle at the same place.

3. Place the red floss just behind the cone and wind in a narrow band, forcing the hackle back toward the rear of the hook. Whip finish and cement.

Note: Try the same thing in all black, brown or olive for other options.



GEL

INLAND EMPIRE FLY FISHING CLUB

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



CHARTER MEMBER and MCKENZIE PLAQUE WINNER

DOUGLAS LAKE RANCH

By Frank Faha

A trip to Douglas Lake Ranch is being organized. We have three slots open. The dates are 30 May to 2 June, 2008. Cost is \$750 for four days fishing, all meals and lodging included. Contact Frank Faha, 448-6605, if interested.



*A nice fish caught on a 2003 trip to
Douglas Lake Ranch*

FISHING KIDS

By Floyd Holmes

Here is the list of guys that were at the kids fishing on May 5, 2007 on Clear Lake.

Jerry Harms	Ray Kranches
Frank Faha	Tom May
Fred Shiosaki	Steve Aspenwall
Dave Orahood	Floyd Holmes
Harry Calhoun	Dick Odell
Jim Athearn with two guests	Keith Kuester

ROD FOUND AT WEST MEDICAL LAKE

By Den Motiyoshi,

I found a fly rod and case laying on the ground at West Medical Lake on Friday, June 8th. I wont describe it because I don't want some yo-yo to call and claim it. So whoever lost the rod call me and describe the rod. I want to get it to the rightful owner. My phone number is (509) 466-4249.