

THE BROKEN BARB



The Newsletter of the Clark Skamania Flyfishers

May 2018

<http://www.clark-skamania-flyfishers.org/>

Volume 40 Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from John Bohrsen

I again want to give a tip of my Clark Skamania Flyfishers' cap to **Sue Cox** and the banquet committee for another successful banquet and auction. We raised considerable funds for our conservation and education grants and we all had a good time doing it.

If you have a child, grandchild, spouse, partner, or good buddy whom you want to get into flyfishing, be sure they sign up for our Beginning Fly Fishing School Saturday, April 28 at Camas Meadows. It is also a great place to refresh your skills if you have not been fishing for a while. The school is led by Don

Starkin and he has enlisted **Robert Ritchie** as a casting instructor.

Speaking of casting, CSF will be holding its Spring Casting Clinic at Lewisville Park Sunday, April 29. We will meet at Dogwood Shelter and begin at 9:00 AM. There will be a warm fire, coffee and donuts, door prizes, and good camaraderie. Oh yes, I almost forgot we have excellent casting instruction provided by **Kent Grey** and **Dennis Ward**. I know I can improve my casting and plan on attending. How about you?

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SAVE A NATURAL RESOURCE -- RELEASE ALL WILD FISH

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CSF Meeting May 16, 2018

This month's speaker is our friend **Justin Waters** who guides on Hood Canal. He will fill us in on fishing the saltwater there.

Again, anyone who is willing to tie for us at the meetings should contact me (360-772-5081, AQBD@earthlink.net) and I can put you on the list of tiers for the meetings.

Calendar of Events

April 28	CSF Beginning Flyfishing School, Camas Meadows
April 29	Spring Casting Clinic, 9:00 AM, Lewisville Park
May 2	CSF Tiers' Night, 7:00-9:00 PM, WDFW
May 6-10	Central WA Lakes Outing, Ephrata
May 14	CSF Board Meeting, 5:30 PM, Camas Meadows
May 16	CSF Membership Meeting, Camas Meadows
June 9-10	Deschutes River Outing
June 16	Kalama River Outing
June 30	Coldwater Lake Outing

The Clark Skamania Flyfishers meet on the third Wednesday of the month, except for March, July, and August. The public is invited and families are welcome.

Camas Meadows Golf Course

4105 NW Camas Meadows Drive
Camas WA 98607
360-750-6511

6:00 to 7:00 is Wet Fly Hour

At 7:00 PM there is a short business meeting with fishing reports, wind knot award and the educational short program. This is followed by the main meeting.

Directions: From SE 192nd Ave, go east on NE 13th St to Camas Meadows Drive. Find more complete directions from your location on [maps.google.com](https://www.google.com/maps).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

Outings are always a good way to get your fishing season going. We have four opportunities in the next two months: the East Side Outing in May, and the Deschutes River, Kalama River and Coldwater Lake outings in June. Read on for further details.

Saltwater like Hood Canal or fresh water like the East Fork of the Lewis or big water like the Cowlitz or small water like the upper North Fork...it's all fishing so get out there and enjoy it.

See you on the water.

APRIL FISHING REPORTS

By Don Kohler

The weather has improved and more and more of us are getting out. The following members gave fishing reports at the April meeting.

Richard Bowers fished Kline Pond after the Kid's Derby and had fun with some nice fish. He did concede that he was using gear.

Paul Smith and **Jim "Hutch" Hutchison** fished Lenice Lake in mid-March and then made a trip to the Quincy Lake area. At Lenice, the fishing was very good and Paul said he had Dusty Lake in the Quincy area all to himself.

Don and Carol Kohler gave the Owyhee River another chance with the same results: no fish. From there they fished the Crooked River and did better.

John Bohrsen hosted some club members and their wives at his Lake Mason place. The boys fished Hood Canal and I didn't hear any bragging being done. The boys were **Dean Potter, Forrest Koponen, Steve Muhich,** and **Chris Strawn.**

Joey Stanley fished the Metolius and had a lot of fun.

New Members

Jon Miller	360-695-4333	jmm2@comcast.net
Joe Pfeifer	631-355-4800	jepdc@comcast.net

CSF OUTINGS FOR 2018 -- FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

May 6-10	East Side Lakes Outing--WA Fishmaster: Carol Whitney, 360-607-9343 Overnight Trip; Wade or Float; Trout
June 9-10	Deschutes River Outing—OR Fishmasters: Gene Reinert, 503-341-1085 & Kirby Franklin, 360-869-2199 Overnight Trip; Float or Wade; Trout
June 16	Kalama River Outing -- WA Fishmaster: Mike Carroll, 360-254-1673 Day Trip; Wade or Float; Steelhead
June 30	Coldwater Lake Outing -- WA Fishmasters: Julie & Frank Berge, 360-256-2335, Marilyn & Mike Seitzinger, 904-302-4597 Day Trip; Float; Trout
July 14-15	Upper Lewis River Outing -- WA Fishmasters: Tim & Megan Wickersham, 360-574-3464(Megan) Overnight Trip; Wade; Trout
August 24-25	Puget Sound Outing -- WA Fishmaster: Dean Potter, 360-921-0580 Overnight Trip; Wade or Float; Sea Run Cutthroat or Coho
September 8-9	Cowlitz River Outing -- WA Fishmasters: Al Wood & Diane Schmitt, 360-904-7797 Overnight Trip; Wade or Float; Sea Run Cutthroat and Steelhead
September 22-23	Olympic Peninsula Outing--WA Fishmaster: John Bohrsen, 360-281-6035 Overnight; Wade/Float; Steelhead
September 29-30	Merrill Lake Outing—WA Fishmasters: Julie & Frank Berge, 360-256-2355 Day Trip; Float; Trout
October 6-7	Klickitat River Outing -- WA Fishmasters: Don & Sherry Starkin, 509-637-4405(Don) Day or Overnight Trip; Wade or Float; Trout or Steelhead
October 13	Kalama River Outing -- WA Fishmaster: Steve Jones, 360-834-1265, sjones022@comcast.net Day Trip; Wade or Float; Steelhead
November 10	Wind River Outing -- WA Fishmaster: Mike Hoover, 360-887-0965 Day Trip; Wade; Steelhead

UPCOMING OUTINGS

By Don Kohler

Coming up in June we have three outings to plan for.

First, will be June 9-10 on the **Deschutes River**. This is an overnight outing so please let the fishmasters know if you are planning to attend; this allows them to better plan for the potluck. The fishmasters are **Gene Reinert**, 503-341-1085, reinertgene@gmail.com, and **Kirby Franklin**, 360-869-2199, kirbyfranklin@hotmail.com. Also, be sure to get a boater's pass if you are planning to float the river.

On June 16 we will have a day outing on the **Kalama River**. After a day of fishing, we will be hosted by **Michael Golob** for a barbecue on his property on the upper Kalama River. The fishmaster is **Mike Carroll**, 360-254-1673.

The **Coldwater Lake** outing will be on June 30 for fishing and lunch. Please let the fishmasters know your plans to attend. The fishmasters are **Julie & Frank Berge**, 360-256-2335, swatberge@gmail.com and **Marilyn & Mike Seitzinger**, 904-302-4597, seitzmike@yahoo.com

NEW OUTING: Lastly, you will want to add this new outing to your calendar. We have added a second **Kalama River** outing for October 13 on the flyfishing only stretch of this river.

APRIL WIND KNOTS

By Don Kohler

It really does not seem fair that I write a Wind Knot report on myself. After all, it was just a small thing, a very small thing, just the size of a barb on a size 12 hook. Well someone had to take one for the team and I hope a lesson is learned by my lack of detail. The fly that cost me ninety bucks was given to me by a fisherman I didn't know. I was too lazy to really double check the barb. Along with my ticket, the game officers wrote seven tickets that day for the same infraction. Lesson learned the hard way. Do yourself a favor and double check. On a side note, I'm glad to see enforcement out there.

P.S. I was the winner of the April Wind Knot.

SPRING CASTING CLINIC—SUNDAY, APRIL 29

CSF will be holding its Spring Casting Clinic at Lewisville Park Sunday, April 29. We will meet at Dogwood Shelter and begin at 9:00 AM. There will be a warm fire, coffee and donuts, door prizes, and good camaraderie. **Kent Grey** and **Dennis Ward** will lead the casting instruction and will be assisted by other CSF members. This event is open to the public so invite your friends!

CSF FLY TIERS' NIGHT -- MAY 2

By Gary Bevers

The CSF Tiers' Night offers our members and guests the opportunity to gather for fellowship and fly tying. Participants informally teach each other new flies and tying techniques. The event is designed to accommodate all levels of fly tying skills and typically includes individuals new to tying all the way up to professional tiers. It has become a very popular club activity. Please join us if you can.

The CSF Tiers' Night will usually be held the second Wednesday of every month except July and August, from 7:00-9:00 PM at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife building in Ridgefield. The address is: 5525 South 11th Street, Ridgefield, Wa 98642.

Directions: Take the Ridgefield exit (exit 14) west toward Ridgefield. At the first roundabout, take the 3rd exit south. Follow the road until you get to the stop sign. Turn Right. Turn right again at the street just before the Parr Lumber. Go to the end of the street and the WDFW is on the left. You can see Parr Lumber from I-5. It's not far from I-5. Call Gary if you get lost: 360-270-1470

The May fly tiers' night will be May 2. **Gary Bevers** will demonstrate the Griffiths Gnat, Pseudo Spey, and Quill Gordon. This is the plan for the tying evening. Directions are on the next page.

HERL AND DUBBED BODIES CLASS –MAY 2

(Note the class is the first Wednesday this month because of the Central Lakes outing)

Types of Bodies

Peacock Herl: magic material for nymph bodies

Ostrich Herl: for pseudo speys and collars

Stripped Herl: Catskill style dry flies, for smooth water

Biot Bodies: similar to stripped herl, treat like stripped herl especially if dyed, nymphs or dries

Reinforcing Herl Bodies

Dubbing loop herl reinforcement: I will demonstrate Griffith's Gnat

Alec Jackson metal reinforcement: I will demonstrate Pseudo Spey

Handling Stripped Herl and Quill Bodies

Stripped herl body: I will demonstrate Quill Gordon

Soaking Stripped Herl for wrapping

Stripping Herl: eraser, chemicals (3 parts water, 1 part Clorox), use 3 Tbsp. baking soda to neutralize the herl

See the next pages for tying instructions.

CSF FLY TIERS' NIGHT -- MAY 2--FLIES FOR THE NIGHT By Gary Bevers

Griffiths Gnat

Hook: Size 14, 2x long hook

Thread: Black

Body: Peacock Herl

Hackle: Grizzly Hackle

1. Wrap black thread to back of the hook
2. Tie in three peacock herls by the tips and wrap forward
3. Tie in grizzly hackle and wrap forward.



Pseudo Spey

Hook: Size 4 or 6 steelhead hook

Thread: Red

Body: Back 2/3 orange yarn, front 1/3 orange ostrich herl

Rib: Small silver wire

Hackle: Orange hackle

1. Wrap thread to the bend of the hook
2. Tie in silver wire
3. Wrap the wire and yarn together and wrap forward 2/3 of the hook
4. Tie in ostrich herl and more silver wire
5. Wrap the wire and herl together and wrap forward to behind the eye
6. Wrap the orange hackle for four turns and tie off
7. Whip finish



(continued on page 8)

CSF FLY TIERS' NIGHT -- MAY 2--FLIES (continued from page 7)

Quill Gordon

Hook: Size 10 dry fly hook

Thread: Black or Gray

Tail: Wood duck flank

Body: Stripped peacock herl

Hackle: Gray brown hackle

Wing: Wood duck flank

1. Tie the wing in 1/4 of the way behind the eye of the hook
2. Wrap the thread to the bend of the hook
3. Tie in the wood duck tail about 3/4 of the way to the eye and back to the bend
4. Tie in the stripped herl
5. Apply super glue or head cement to the body of the fly and wrap the stripped herl forward to behind the wing 1/16 inch
6. Make 3 wraps of hackle behind and 3 in front of the wing
7. Whip finish



GILLIE NEWS By Rosanne and John Hatfield, Gillies

A board raffle for a CF Burkheimer graphite rod (8'3", 4-piece, 3,4,5 weight), custom built by master rod builder **Ralph Randall**, will begin at the May general meeting and run until the blocks are filled. A chance to win this beautiful rod can be yours for \$5 a square.

We will continue to offer bags of fly tying items that were not previously sold at the April meeting. Prices range from \$3.00 to \$20.00 a bag, offering a wide assortment of items including feathers, fur, thread, dubbing, and more. If you are a fly tier, check out the great deals at low prices.

The May back issue of free magazine offering will be *Rod & Reel*.

Central Washington Outing
(formerly Ralph Randall's Soap Lake outing) May 6 - 10
By Carol Whitney

For those who are planning to be at this outing, now is the time to make reservations.

Where to stay - most participants stay at one of the following:

For motel reservations at **Best Western in Ephrata**

Group # B0 1217 for Clark Skamania Flyfishers

Arrival: May 6, 2018; Departure: May 10, 2018. Rates apply through May 11

Room types: Double queen or king; Rate: \$99.99 + tax. Free full breakfast included

Local phone: 509-754-7111 (best way to make reservations)

Website: <http://www.guestreservations.com/best-western-rama-inn-ephrata/booking>

For those who prefer to camp with full accommodations, 2 miles from Best Western is the Oasis Resort.
oasisrvandgolfcourse.com, 509-754-5102

Several people will likely camp at Coffeepot Lake which is a primitive, no fee, no reservations, no water campsite. The 10 or so campsites include a table under a tree. There is one vault toilet (bring TP just in case.) There is a sign warning that rattlesnakes are in the campsite area. Several of our members have seen and heard them.

Windknot avoidance-

Renew fishing license

Bring Discover pass

Because this is a spread out outing, I'm not likely to see everybody or even know who came. For that reason **I would like to know where you will be staying, your email address, and cell phone numbers.** Raising your hand at the meeting was appreciated, but I didn't take names. I can be reached at aviatrix@iinet.com or 360-607-9343.

NEW INFORMATION: Group Gathering from 4:30 – 6:00 PM in the Best Western hospitality room Tuesday, May 8. If anyone has a birthday that week, we'll happily celebrate it. Bring appetizer type treats, including liquids. I'm not assigning any categories. Plates, cups, napkins, forks will be provided by CSF.

The outing is from Sunday, May 6 through Thursday, May 10. This is a weekday outing because of the 6 hour drive to central Washington Lakes. We have 3 full days fishing on about a dozen lakes in the area. Most of the lakes have easy access. Sun Lakes State Park has 3 lakes we fish that require a Discover Pass.

Fishing information for this outing can be found on pages 16-18 of the April Barb.

2018 MERWIN KIDS' FREE FISHING DERBY
SATURDAY, JUNE 9--VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
By Kuni Masuda

It's that time of year again and we need 16-18 volunteers for the derby June 9, Saturday. We will have a CSF booth at the event. The setup will begin around 7:30 AM, and the event runs from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. This year, we expect more than 500 kids.

The objective of the Merwin Kids' Free Fishing Derby is to encourage family fishing opportunities while promoting partnerships, community collaboration, and educational opportunities for kids. All activities and events are free to provide maximum opportunities for the local community to enjoy the derby. Hotdogs and beverages are provided.

NEEDED: Volunteers to staff the CSF booth and assist at the event. We are hoping to get 16-18 volunteers from CSF.

The possible volunteer activities include:

- Tying flies and managing the CSF tables by handing out brochures, and giving information (4 people)
- Teaching fly casting to kids (4 people)
- Helping net the fish for the kids (6 plus people)
- Attending registration table. (2 plus people)

Please contact **Kuni Masuda** at klmasuda@yahoo.com , 360-573-3310 to volunteer.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Get on I-5 N and take the Woodland Exit 21
2. Go east on WA-503 S/Lewis River Rd for approximately 11 miles
3. Go right on Merwin Park and follow the sign; tell them you are a volunteer for CSF
4. The CSF booth is located at the first shelter facing the lake.

LIBRARY NEWS
By Dan Green, Librarian

Patrick F. McManus, 1933 – 2018

Fly fishers joined with his family and uncounted other fans throughout the world in mourning the passing on April 11 of **Pat McManus**, outdoor humorist, college professor of English, husband, and father.

McManus and his older sister Patricia (whom he calls “the Troll” in his books) were raised in Sand Point, Idaho, by his widowed mother and grandmother. Pat attended school, helped with the family farm, and hunted and fished the nearby creeks and woods. His books relate with affection and humor his boyhood in this rather female-dominated household where money was tight but a trout stream was in the back yard. The hunting and fishing, I suspect, went some ways to putting food on the table.

I have read and own several of his books: *A Fine and Pleasant Misery* (1978), *The Grasshopper Trap* (1985), *They Shoot Canoes, Don't They?* (1981), and *Never Sniff a Gift Fish* (1983). In all, he wrote 15 collections of outdoor humor. With a dry, self-deprecating wit that will send you into stiches, McManus describes a lifetime of hunting and fishing accompanied by a cast of rogue characters, such as “Retch Sweeny,” and “Rancid Crabtree.” His stories will also gently burst the pretensions of those (me included) who from time to time take sports like flyfishing a little too seriously. If you haven't had the opportunity to read these books, you are missing out on a lot of fun.

Our library, I am surprised to find out, does not contain any of his books. I would like to remedy that. If you don't have one of his books and would like to read one, I'd be glad to loan you one of the above books until the library gets a few. Just email me at dgreen066@gmail.com. If you have a McManus book you would like to donate, please let know.

Now, some evening when I'm out fishing and getting a little bit too wrapped up and pompous, perhaps I'll hear, over my shoulder, an old guy softly chuckling. Thanks, Pat.
Pat McManus, Rest in Peace.

CSF FLY TYING DEMONSTRATION—APRIL 28-29
POMEROY LIVING HISTORY FARM'S COUNTRY LIFE FAIR
By Warren Bieker

After the CSF Fly Fishing School on Saturday, April 28, or after the spring fly casting clinic at Lewisville Park on Sunday, April 29, plan to drop in at the Pomeroy Living History Farm's Country Life Fair to see **Shawn West and Al Wood** demonstrate fly tying while they promote membership in CSF. The Country Life Fair is an excellent “family fun” activity for kids and adults of all ages, and the hours are 10 to 4 on Saturday and 11 to 4 on Sunday. Admission is free. The farm is located on the East Fork of the Lewis River just a few miles northeast of Battle Ground.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MERRILL LAKE CLEANUP

By Warren Bieker with photos by Kemper Hall

CSF members came through with record numbers for the thirteenth annual spring cleanup. There were 39 people at the Cougar Bar and Grill for breakfast and there were an astonishing 50 volunteers at the lake.

Number thirteen. Superstitious? Some are and some aren't. I'm not, but in the beginning, this cleanup effort looked pretty grim. With only slightly more than two weeks until the cleanup, there were only seven people signed up to help. The February CSF meeting where volunteers usually sign up had been cancelled and few people had responded to the notices that **Sue Cox** had sent out for me via email.



Right: **Chis and Signe Strawn**

Left: **Chuck and Jan Holstein**



The tide turned when several volunteers signed up at the last banquet committee meeting. Then several more volunteered at the banquet. The response was also good when the April edition of the BARB newsletter came out with another plea for help. And finally there was a notice in the Columbian on Thursday, March 28, just three days before the cleanup.

We were blessed with good weather this year and, when our 50 volunteers descended on the park, DNR's

Josh Riepe and **Dominic Martinez** were ready for us. A long list of work to be accomplished had been prepared and everyone set off to work. Each of the nine campsites had the old fire pit removed and replaced with a new improved fire ring. Each campsite also received a new picnic table which had to be assembled and placed. All the paths in the park, including the mile long interpretative trail, were cleared of leaves and debris. Our litter patrol collected all visible litter from the park. All the drainage culverts were cleared of blockages. Some new signs and signposts were installed. Two additional postholes had to be dug for the installation of bollards, posts blocking vehicles from driving into one of the campsites. The Fly Fishing Only sign created by CSF member **Ken Winkleblack** and installed at the lake in 2009 had to have its protective tarp removed for the season. All of the roads, launch, and parking areas were graded. (continued on page 13)

MERRILL LAKE CLEANUP (continued from page 12)



Rachael and Steve Colgrove

Thanks to all 50 of the volunteers who made this a success. I hope that I have not missed anyone, but those who helped were: **Doug Anderson, Jan Bohrnson, John Bohrnson, Steve Carpenter, David Christiansen, Rachael Colgrove, Steve Colgrove, Roger Cox, Steve Cushing, Roy DeRousie, Marty Fish, Kirby Franklin, Marta Franklin, Gary Gerhardt, Katelan Gerhardt, Todd Gerhardt, John Geyer, Dan Green, Phil Gulling, Dave Gutschmidt, Kemper Hall, Lonnie Handsaker, Bob Harrison, Jeff Hollis, Chuck Holstein, Jan Holstein, Bonny Houghton, Dibb Jamison, Steve Jones, Don Kohler, Kuni Masuda, Linda Masuda,**

Brian Mayers, Patti Moyer, Steve Muhich, Donna Newcomb, Jim Olson, Pete Sloniker, Sydney Sloniker, Brian “Joe” Smith, Jim Stewart, Chris Strawn, Signe Strawn, Lynn Volz, Ed Wickersham, Megan Wickersham, Tim Wickersham, Jim Williamson, Steve Wright, and Warren Bieker.

Special thanks should be given to the following individuals:

Ed Wickersham who once more brought his tractor to the cleanup and is responsible for grading all the roads, parking areas, and what could be seen of the boat launch. **John Geyer** for being the official photographer and slide program creator. **Kemper Hall** for being one of our official photographers, and with **Jim Stewart**, for being responsible for covering and uncovering the Fly Fishing Only sign.

We’ve helped prepare the park for everyone to use and enjoy for the 2018 season. I hope that those who volunteered enjoyed the experience, and that each of them and each person who is reading this will visit the park this year. Fish, picnic, hike the interpretive trail, observe the improvements that DNR has been steadily making since CSF has begun to partner with them. But don’t forget your **DISCOVER PASS**. There’s a wind knot out there waiting for someone!



Ed Wickersham with his tractor

CONSERVATION NEWS

By Steve Jones, Conservation Chair

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on Saturday April 14 directed staff to rewrite rules governing suction dredge mining in the state. The decision is a major victory for Clark Skamania Flyfishers and several other environmental groups in the Fish Not Gold coalition. For the past three years coalition members have lobbied for changes to WDFW rules governing the practice.

Commissioner **Kim Thornburn** moved to begin the process and cited the information various sportsmen and environmental groups had provided for spurring the commission to action. No commission members voted against the motion. One abstained.

Washington Trout Unlimited led the Fish Not Gold coalition and deserves our thanks for gathering other environmental groups in a unified campaign. Credit also goes to our own **Mark Heirigs** who was one of the first to raise the issue with WDFW fisheries managers in 2015. He was a persistent voice for change and he, along with other fishers, were finally heard.

Now, the next challenge begins. WDFW has set a goal for publishing new rules a year from now. To make sure those new rules put a priority on preserving spawning habitat for salmon and steelhead, we have to stay engaged with WDFW habitat staff. Washington should not allow motorized suction dredges on any water that provides spawning habitat now or could become spawning habitat with reasonable restoration expense.

Conservation groups and public agencies have spent millions to restore spawning habitat. Allowing hobby miners to mine that same habitat for trivial amounts of gold is both a costly mistake and down right foolish. We've taken a big step toward change, but there is more to be done. Contact conservation director **Steve Jones** if you would like to help in the effort to monitor and influence the rule making process.

HISTORIC LODGE IN NY CATSKILLS COMING BACK TO LIFE

Don Starkin was recently sent this article by a friend, obtained permission for us to print it, and passed it along.

Don's introduction: From the mid 60's until the late 70's, when I moved out West, I spent many a day fishing the infamous streams of the Catskills Mountains. Considered by many to be the birthplace of flyfishing in the USA, this article brought back pleasant memories. Some of the names mentioned are folks that I had the good fortune to bump into, whether on the stream or at the Antrim Lodge. The lodge was located at the junction of two rivers: The Beaverkill and the Willowemoc. Eventually, they become the Delaware River. I hope you enjoy reading the article as much as I did.

A Catskills legend making a comeback

By Rick Methot

Reprinted by permission of the NJ Federation of Sportsmens News

Red Smith was at the bar with a drink in his hand and a Pulitzer in his pocket. Vodka and tonic; no lime.

I remember, since I was sitting next to him at the downstairs bar, aka "Keener's Pool" to anglers or "Mahogany Ridge" to hunters, at the famed Antrim Lodge in Roscoe, NY which bills itself as "Trout Town, USA." It was close to 40 years ago, but never forgotten were those days of the "Two-Headed Trout Dinner" started by Smith in the late 1950s. He was with the NY Herald Tribune until it folded, and then was hired on by the NY Times at age 66. He wrote four columns a week for the next ten years, winning the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1976.

I started making fly fishing trips to the Beaverkill and Willowemoc in the 1970s with a couple of Marine Corps buds, Mike Della Pella of Whippany and Tom Leahey of Plainfield. We camped out steamside, and awoke on at least one occasion on an opening day with snow covering our tent. When making solo trips, I eschewed canvas and cold, and stayed at the Antrim with its tiny upstairs rooms, a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling and a shared bathroom at the end of the hall. I recall paying \$7.50 a night back then. The primo rooms ran \$16. There were guys tying flies on tables set up at the landings between floors.

All these images came flashing back to me at the Fly Fishing Show in Edison a couple months ago in January. I was with Tom, each of us remarking – upon eyeballing the tons of fly fishing gear over a space large enough to host a football game and the Senior Prom simultaneously – that we sure as heck didn't need any more "stuff." With more than 50 years each of flinging feather and fur into some of the most famed trout waters across the country, we figured we'd have to live to be 200 years old to use all the gear we have stuffed in basements, garages, and man rooms. It was a getaway day in mid-winter, however, and our stated goal was only to stop at talk to outfitters and guides, which we did. I passed on the \$3,995 show special for a week's brook trout fishing in Labrador, but was happy to see a booth boosting the attractions in Roscoe, NY.

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HISTORIC LODGE IN NY CATSKILLS (continued from page 15)

Yes, the Roscoe Diner on Old Route 17 is still there. There's also a distillery and brew house in town, which I doubt were up and running last time I visited, eight years ago. I would have noticed. But the big news (after we old you-know-whats regaled the youngsters manning the booth of our days fishing there and visiting the Antrim) was when one said, "they're rebuilding the Antrim; it's supposed to open in the Spring of 2020." Joy to the world.

Upon returning home, I immediately took to Google and found that indeed the lodge is being rebuilt, a \$6 million restoration according to a story in the Times-Herald Record of Middletown, NY. The project got a little help from an \$800,000 state grant from the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council. The new owners, David and Diane Beveridge (he's a mega-bucks global law firm guy), first tried to resurrect the fisherman's mecca in 2006, only to have two years' work into the rebuild destroyed by fire. The plans, according to the newspaper, include 14 bedrooms with bath... no more trekking, or waiting, at the end of the hallway. The basement bar will be redone as well as the dining area, and there are plans for private fishing cottages along the Willowemoc. I'm curious as to where those cottages will be located; they would have to be below Junction Pool.

Also, the story in the Times-Herald says the original Antrim Lodge, opened in 1890 and closed in 1990. I don't think so, since I have a typewritten announcement of the annual Two-Headed Trout Dinner "in Honor and Memory of Lee Wulff" that was held on March 28, 1992, and I was there. The story also mostly dismissed the angling luminaries in favor of guests at the Antrim, including Jimmy Carter, Gene Shalit, and Rod Serling. But for fly fishermen and women, the dinner guest list is far more impressive than a politician and a couple of TV celebs. It includes Lee's widow Joan Wulff, Poul Jorgensen, Ed Van Putt, The Dettles, Judy Darbee, Nelson Bryant, Nick Karas, Mrs. Art Flick, Eric Leiser, John Randolph, Jerry Kenny, Howie Brant, Don Ecker, and even myself... not a prime-time luminary.

At that time the place was run, unsuccessfully, by a guy named Socrates, albeit he threw a great dinner and party. The Antrim closed a year later, according to newspaper reports of the time.

The most familiar name associated with the Antrim Lodge is "Bury," other than a back-in-the-day owner, Fred Keener. Doug and Anna May Bury named the place out of sentiment to Anna Mae's mother who came from County Antrim in Ireland. It was just called "The Central House" before that.

In 1977 I did a newspaper story for the old Home News of New Brunswick, and spoke with Doug Bury. He dropped some other names that should be familiar to Catskills anglers and fly tiers: Ruben Cross, Roy Steenrod, and Al McClane.

I doubt if the new lodge will be exactly like the old. You would be hard-pressed to be profitable just counting on fly fishing guests six months of the year. So look for a rebuilt Antrim offering more to families as far as recreational activities go besides fishing, which is still the historic allure of the lodge but realistically can't sustain a business unless there's no other game in town, such as a fly-in camp without any neon lights or roads out within 100 miles.

Still, it is a most welcome development, if it happens; a hallowed destination literally rising from the ashes. Just don't look for the prime rib special at \$7.95, as I see on my copy of an old menu.

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The **Clark Skamania Flyfishers** (CSF) is a federally registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Washington. Founded in 1975, CSF is dedicated to the preservation of wild fish stocks and the natural resources that sustain them. CSF is further committed to the promotion of fly fishing as a method of angling and, through it, an understanding and appreciation for the diversity of nature.

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