



The Windknots

A Publication of Overlake Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 52894 Bellevue, Washington 98015-2894

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August 2008

♦♦ 2008 Officers & Board ♦♦

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Windknots: Tim Langton (360)863-0998

Website: Michael Alfe (425)391-3658

Ghillie: Rich Streifel (253)277-2583

♦♦ Club Meetings ♦♦

Club Meetings

Place: *Holiday Inn of Issaquah
1801 12th Avenue NW
Issaquah, WA 425-392-6421*

Time : *6:00 PM Cocktails & Tales
7:00 PM Dinner*

Board Meetings

Place: *Issaquah Library
10 West Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA*

Time : *6:45pm to 8:58pm*

Chubski Roundtable

Place: *Brew Pub (across from Issaquah Library)
35 West Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA*

Time : *6:30pm Check for date changes*

♦♦ OFFC Calendar ♦♦

August

- 9 Outing - Snoqualmie River – Trout
- 11 Chubski Roundtable/Board Meeting
- 26 Dinner Meeting - High Alpine Lakes – Dave Weyrick

September

- 2 Board Meeting
- 8 Chubski Roundtable
- 23 Dinner Meeting – Wenatchee River – Steve Joyce (Red's Fly Shop)
- 27 Outing – Cooper Lake (BBQ)- Trout

October

- 7 Board Meeting
- 13 Chubski Roundtable
- 25 Outing - Lone Lake - Trout
- 28 Dinner Meeting-Grande Ronde Steelhead- Ron Romig & Bonefish on a Fly – Ed Kane

November

- 4 Board Meeting
- 10 Chubski Roundtable
- 25 Dinner Meeting-Coastal Conservation Association-Gary Loomis

December

- 2 Board Meeting 6:45
- 9 OFFC Holiday Party

♦♦ Visit our website ♦♦



OFFC's website is a great resource for up-to-date information. With links to contact officers; Library info; Flytiers page; Topo Maps; Entomology; Post a Picture; Bulletin Board; Calendar dates; Outing times and Locations; etc...

Please send picture files to:

webmaster@offc.org for publication.

OFFC website, make it your resource.

<http://www.offc.org/members.htm>

President's Message



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Bill McKay on August 7. Bill was a Past President, a long

time member of OFFC, one of its greatest promoters, our Conservation Chair and a terrific role model for the fly fishing community. His conservation efforts were recognized by the Washington Council of the FFF at the recent conclave in Ellensburg.

July was a very busy month and here it is August already. OFFC participated in the Trailfest exhibition at Rattlesnake Lake outside of North Bend. A booth was rented and set up by the NW Women Flyfishers, and they asked the Seattle area clubs to participate and help promote fly fishing. Cynthia Hickey organized our booth and put together a very well done 2-page handout summarizing the fly fishing opportunities in the Seattle area. It contained a brief summary of fly fishing, a list of local fly shops and a list of local fly clubs. In addition, she paid for a large banner that contained the names of all the clubs that participated in manning the booth. Our club members who participated included Dick Lange, Brian Ayers, Joe Kristoff, Carol & Ed Kane and Bruce Tyson. Other clubs who participated were Washington State Hi-Lakers and the Washington Fly Fishers. Joe spent a few hours in

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the morning tying some of his famous Sculpin fly pattern which was a featured attraction that generated a lot of interest and inquiries. Dick provided a number of great pictures that were hung along the top of the booth. These caused a great number of people to stop and ask about what we were all about. We had many inquiries from people who wanted to get more involved, and since most of them were from the Eastside they were steered toward contacting OFFC. This recommendation was made not only by the OFFC participants but also by the NWF members who were there all day. All in all it was a great opportunity to promote both fly fishing and to also promote OFFC. Since she said that they would like to do this again next year, I told Cynthia that we would like to help out again. It was great fun and an excellent opportunity to promote the sport we all enjoy and love.

We, unfortunately, missed the picnic because we were up at Deception Pass vacationing. Feedback we received was that it was a good time for all who attended. I want to extend the thanks of the club to Dave Casey for again providing the venue and for his hospitality again this year. Thanks is also extended to Andy Wade who organized the event.

I have received some feedback on the note in last month's President's Corner concerning the idea that the club subsidize the Dinner price at the monthly meetings. The recommendation was that we announce just prior to the dinner portion of the meeting whether or not we reached our minimum number required by the Hotel. If not, we will encourage those who have not bought dinner to reconsider and participate. Since the food and service has been consistently excellent, we could do this in good conscience. If you have any further thoughts, please e-mail me with them at president@offc.org.

Tight Lines!
Ed Kane

A Tribute to a Special Man – Bill Mackay



OFFC Obituary for Bill McKay
by Jerry Wire

Our dear friend, prominent OFFC member, fly fisherman and fisheries conservation activist Bill McKay passed away early August 8. Although until lately one could hardly know it, Bill had been treated for prostate cancer for some time and more recently disabled with a broken leg. Through all this his spirit was a strong, positive and consistent inspiration.

I first became acquainted with Bill when he joined OFFC about 1995. He immediately became active and prominently known. He became VP-Membership in 1997 and president in 1998. He was a strong and inspiring leader, and his tenure saw strong growth and club activity. In 2000 he let the then presidents (Judie & I) know that he would be interested in the Conservation Chairmanship, but didn't want to be a Vice President, having been president. This presented an opportunity, as we (I) were interested in gaining a strong personality and competence in that position and felt that Education was more suited to Vice President status. This was proposed to the membership, approved and the By-laws changed. Thereafter and until recently Bill served as our conservation Chairman.

Bill was passionate about fly fishing, conservation and ecology. In addition to his membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers, Bill is a long standing member of Trout Unlimited, American Rivers, and the Nature Conservancy where he has also been an active contributor. He remains a Charter Member of: Puget Sound Anglers, Mid Sound Enhancement Task Force, Stilly-Snohomish Enhancement Task Force, and the Hood Canal Enhancement Task Force. This summer Bill was nominated by Pat Peterman for a conservation award at the Washington State Council of the FFF. He received the award in person in July at the FFF Conclave. The award is now the Bill Mackay Conservation Award

He had the quality of effectively bringing to the table ideas and often controversial issues without contention and in his special way encouraging discussion rather than confrontation. Things just kind of get done when he is involved. And the doing is that much more fun with his good-humored leadership. Bill participated in "Casting for Recovery" tying beautiful pink fly pins sold, by Bill and others, to raise funds for that breast cancer post surgery therapy foundation. He helped establish and participated in Project Healing Waters Flyfishing. This is a Fort Louis' Madigan hospital program to aide disabled veterans teaching them to tie flies as both physical and mental therapy.



Bill just kind of got things done because he put a lot of time, energy, effort and his special personality into the project, and very often important to our sport and OFFC.

Bill was born in Seattle in 1923 and lived there through his Roosevelt High School graduation. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1948 after volunteering to put his college on hold and serve in the Army for three years. He continued his service after graduation in an active and reserve capacity and retired as a Lt. Co. in 1966. As family commitments became more demanding he adjusted his

military career from full to part time and began working for Pacific Northwest Bell, holding a variety of staff and management positions until his retirement in 1982. And Bill is a family man. He is survived by his wife Mavis and four children, daughter Candice, sons Willie, Joe and Don (twins), who have blessed him with 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Bill had a special fondness for Puget Sound fishing. At his family retreat at Indianola he spent youthful summers fishing the salt for salmon and cutts. When in Seattle he and friends would ride their bicycles to the Cedar or Lake Washington. He has fished waters around the country and around the world but still considers the Kalama and Cowlitz and Methow favorite waters.

There will not be any services at Bill's request. The gist of his message was that Bill found services for deceased depressing and wanted people to celebrate his life rather than mourn his passing.

Bill was a rare and special person, one we are fortunate to know in our lifetime. He is and will continue to be sorely missed. Our love and most sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

The family recommends contributions in memoriam for Bill as follows:

- Casting for Recovery - www.castingforrecovery.com
Bill supported by tying fly pins for sale at events.
- Project Healing Waters Flyfishing - www.projecthealingwaters.org
Bill supported by teaching wounded vets at Madigan to tie flies.
- Swedish Cancer Institute Foundation: Dr. Philip Gold's General Research Fund, 747 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98127; 206/386-2738.

A Tribute

by Martin Kasischke

There's much to remember and celebrate about the life of Bill Mackay.

Bill attended schools in Seattle and spent his summers at the family beach house in Indianola where he enjoyed crabbing, digging clams and salmon fishing. An Army veteran who landed on the beach during the WWII invasion, Bill fought for our country across France and Germany. After the war, Bill earned his degree from the University of Washington and returned to Army Reserve service from which he retired as a Lt. Colonel. While in the military, he represented the Army in marksmanship competition throughout the U.S. Bill's skill with the rifle led him to become an active skeet shooter, hunter and gun collector. Throughout his life, he was a true sportsman.

I was fortunate to have spent many hours fishing and hanging out with Bill, and receiving and witnessing his generosity. But, it wasn't until after he died, and I took time to reflect, that I realized his life was mostly about serving others. Yes, he served our country and fought for our freedom. Yes, Bill served as president and conservation chair for OFFC and, before that, as president of Puget Sound Anglers; and yes, he labored for many years as a member of the Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee in a successful effort to bring a full-scale Sockeye hatchery to Lake

Washington. These are high visibility activities for which Bill received recognition and we are duly appreciative. He enjoyed those high posts, but I now know that Bill's life was mostly about acts of kindness for which he received a great deal of pleasure but little or no recognition.

Bill Mackay delighted in bringing smiles to the faces of others. He remembered peoples' birthdays and their favorite brand of whiskey. He took time to listen so he could recall details about friends and their families and ask about those matters. Bill liked to make people feel good about themselves. He always had time to help solve a problem or lend his experience and judgment to an endeavor. When I became Membership V.P. and later OFFC President, Bill was there to keep me from dropping the ball. For club activities, he was a participant and a contributor. At OFFC auctions, Bill not only contributed many auction items but also brought his family and friends to help make the event more successful. He was there to instruct at Chubski Roundtable fly tying training events, help arrange outings and lend assistance with fly fishing techniques.

Bill generously supported sportsmen's, conservation and charitable activities with his time, talents and donations. He made frequent trips to Madigan Army Hospital where he worked with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. which is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings. Jesse Scott, who headed up the Project at Madigan had this to say about Bill: "I had the pleasure of working with Bill at the wounded veterans tying sessions at Madigan Army Medical Center. He was truly one of the greatest generation. His "little boy" smile was so infectious. I remember his conservation award at Ellensburg last year. He had that smile on and it lit up the room. What a fine, fine gentleman." Bill also tied pink fly pins for fund raising by Casting for Recovery which provides fly fishing retreats specifically designed for women who have or have had breast cancer.

Bill Gilbert said Bill Mackay is the only man he's known who's been both a good friend and a father figure. To that I'd like to add that Bill MacKay is also a role model for us all. Bill requested that there be no memorial services for him. He didn't want people mourning his passing. Instead, Bill wants us to celebrate his life!

An American Hero

OFFC's own Bill Mackay made history when he captured and occupied the Castle Marksburg during WWII.



The Castle occupied a prominent position on a high cliff overlooking the east bank of the Rhine river in Germany from which to detect activity up and down the river as well

as in the hills to the west. Until Bill's fearless assault, Marksburg was the only German hill castle so well constructed and formidable that it was never seriously attacked in over 800 years! Upon taking control of the castle, Bill's team set up a forward observation post in the tower from which they directed bombardments and artillery fire against Nazi forces. The Nazi's retaliated against the well directed onslaught by shelling the castle, inflicting the only damage Marksburg has ever suffered (see following excerpt). Needless to say, enemy salvos were unable to dislodge Bill and his cohorts from their vantage point. Because of Bill's efforts and those of other brave men, Allied forces prevailed in the battle for the Rhine and Axis troops were vanquished.

The following is from the web site:

<http://www.roadstoruins.com/marksburg.htm> . "A rare example of history virtually undisturbed by the march of time, Marksburg has become a most appropriate home for the German Castle Association. It sits above the town of Braubach, which is also the castle's original name, with a commanding view from the East bank of the Rhine river. Other than the additions and maintenance over the centuries Marksburg remains much as it was when it served its original function as the fortified residence of some of German history's more notable names. In fact, the only serious damage the Marksburg ever suffered in hostilities occurred near the close of WWII when it was shelled from the west bank of the Rhine."

OFFC was indeed fortunate to include members of the patriotism and quality of Bill Mackay among it's ranks.

Access to Ebey Lake

I just wanted to update you on the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club effort to gain access to Ebey lake. As you may remember last May we requested your support by signing a petition to WDFW to address the Ebey lake issue. I presented the petition to the Fish and Game Commission this morning at their meeting in Lynnwood. In June I was asked by the Lands agent for WDFW region 4 to accompany her to visit the lake. She brought documents showing that WDFW, in fact, own one mile of the Ebey Lake access road. We proceeded as far as the locked, keyless entry, wrought iron gate. Her GPS confirmed that the gate is on the WDFW portion of the road. The Director of WDFW is now aware of this situation.

The session will air on "TV Washington" at some future date. I will advise you when the schedule is known. I want to thank the clubs that lent their support and invite those who did not to once again consider supporting this effort to gain access to the sole "fly fishing only" lake in Snohomish County.

Have a great day and hope to see you on Ebey Lake in the future - Jesse Scott

OFFC Conservation

Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force



North Fork Stilliguamish River Cleanup

When: August 23, 10am-1pm

Where: Near Arlington

North Fork Stillaguamish River Clean up, near Arlington. We need your help to recruit volunteers! Help the Task Force recruit more volunteers to help ensure our mission of preserving and restoring salmon habitat!

If you have questions or would like to RSVP please contact Cara at 425-252-6686 or cara@stillysnofish.org

Holiday Slide Show

The first day of Summer has come and gone which means we are headed for the Holiday season. If you can afford gas money for a fishing trip or two take along your camera to capture some images of your fly fishing adventures for the OFFC Holiday Slide Show on December 9, 2008. For new members, or those unfamiliar with this show, we collect images from the members' year's fishing outings, put some music with the images, and call it a show. This will be the last year that I will be doing this presentation. I did the first one in 1978 and, after thirty years of tackling this project between Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is time for change. Change is good and I'm sure the Holiday Party will only get better. You can email me your images, or if you have lots of them, get them to me on a CD.

Lory Watkins
lorywat@cs.com

2008 NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy



by Mike Clancy, Secretary, WSCFFF

There was no finer opportunity for 24 youth, ages 12-16, to learn about conservation and fly fishing than at this serious, no nonsense, five day fly fishing experience. Dick Nye, the

founder of the Academy, has done an incredible job organizing this 100% volunteer event. The students bunked in cabins at the Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, Wa. along with their advisors. The June 22-28, 2008 event was sponsored by the Olympia Chapter of TU and the South Sound Fly Fishers of Olympia, Wa. Some students were sponsored by various fly fishing organizations throughout the State of Washington.

Carl Johnson, President of the Washington State Council FFF, along with Gary Kellog, President of the South Sound Fly Fishers, Ron Smorynski of the Olympia TU and Paul Sparks, Washington Council TU, were invited to speak at the Opening Ceremonies.

To develop the student's fly fishing skills, the 24 students were divided into eight groups rotating through the three skill development sessions in casting, fly tying and knot tying.

Wake up was at 6am, with classes and various activities all day till lights out at 11pm. Groups were transported by volunteers to the local Dechutes River for evening fishing, while the others stayed back at camp to fish Hicks Lake, study, practice casting or tie flies.

The fly tying classes were conducted by Skip Morris, Janet Schimpf and Karen Royer, all well known and respected fly tyers. The curriculum is structured to provide students with a background in fundamental science and includes

presentation on ecology, hydrology, aquatic entomology, invasive species, watersheds, wildlife management, and fish behavior. The students will also learn the essential fly fishing skills that include fly casting, fly tying, fly selection, stream side ethics and etiquette, knot tying, reading water and water safety.

Major contributors to the event were Cabela's, Sportsman's Warehouse, Outcast Sporting Gear and Office Max. The WSCFFF awarded each student with a one year youth membership to the Federation of FlyFishers.

For application or additional information – visit website www.nwycffa.org or contact Dick Nye @ 2008academy@comcast.net



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