



Newsletter January 2008

January Meeting on the 17th

The January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 8:00 PM. The nominations for the annual elections will be announced. We'll make plans for 2008 and Spring season. The stove will be hot,

so come on down and spend some time discussing fish, past and future (have you noticed the fish are always bigger in the past and future than in the present?).

Membership Renewal

The renewal reminder letter was mailed to all current and recently lapsed members last month. The board has decided that dues will remain unchanged for 2008 (\$125 for adult members). Most of us realize what a bargain this is; don't forget

to renew - you need the card to fish the club pond.

As of the end of 2007, 34 members had paid their 2008 dues.

December Meeting

The December meeting featured and excellent meal, thanks to Paul Defellipo and Jon Cave. The clubhouse was festively decorated thanks to Rollie Johnson and Bill Hagar. Add to that the

peerless accordion playing of Floyd Alwon and it was a great party. Oh, and there was some business too - Dave Matthes appointed the committee to make the nominations for the annual elections.

Forget about luck, make yourself lucky

By Jim Boesel

Fishing is a lot like poker, it has nothing to do with luck and everything to do with being lucky. There's a reason the same people seem to make it to the final table or catch the most fish; yet, when they get lucky, how come it was them and not you?

The simple answer is preparation. They prepared for the moment by studying, annualizing, practicing and just plain fishing a lot more than most people. However, there are some things you can do without much effort or expense that

can greatly increase your odds of success. None of these alone will make much difference but combined you might actually catch more fish.

Most unsuccessful fly fisherman never gives much thought to their setup. They just take it out and use whatever fly suits their fancy. They cast and cast not catching anything never knowing how a few simple changes would greatly increase their odds. They're also often frustrated with their casting abilities figuring they'll never get better so why bother trying. Sorry if this is hitting a bit to close to home but here's some simple improvements you can make that'll increase your odds.

Leader – If you don't think your leader makes a difference try casting without one. Great fisherman will have multiple leaders to accommodate different size flies and fishing conditions. Others simply tied on whatever they had lying around without giving it a second thought. Having the right leader makes all the difference in how you present your fly at the end of the cast. If it's too light or too long and you've cast beyond your abilities it bunches up around the fly. Investing \$12 in a couple of quality leaders and some extra tippet is an excellent investment. As you use up tippet you simply tie a little more on. For the pond with a 5-6 weight rod I'd use a 9 foot 5X for your floating line. For a sinking line the leader only needs to be about 3 feet of 4X.

Knots – I'm always amazed at some of the creative ways I've seen people tie the leaders on but these big turbo granny knots scare away the fish! The correct knots are actually easier to tie and make your line more stealthy gliding through the water. Anything that makes a wake increases your chances of scaring away the

fish and Trout are especially spooky. The five minutes it takes to master the correct knots especially the one you use to tie on a fly. Also, always cut out wind knots from your leader because they really do create a breaking point. It's like when you first fold a piece of paper before you tear it in half because it makes a weak point. The simple knots you should tie prevent this from happening.

Line – Hardcore fisherman will sometimes replace their line 1 -2 times a year at over \$60 a pop! Others bought that bargain basement line and have been using it for years. The problem with cheap line is memory, which greatly restricts your casting and makes you catch less fish. When your line doesn't lie straight it creates a lot of surface noise that scares away the fish. To a trout your line is about what a garden hose would look like to us so imagine one with all the memory of yours being dragged through the water. Add to this the friction of curly line going through the guides and you wonder why you're not casting further? I'll admit to using the same line for several years but given how much I'll use it and for what purpose, I spend the extra \$20 and get a good line. Where's the benefit of saving \$20 over several years for a line that's preventing you from catching more fish? You can buy an excellent line for \$60-\$75.

Clean and stretch – Even a top shelf line needs to be cleaned due to the dirt that builds up on it. Try running your old line through a paper towel and see what you've been fighting. This dirt creates friction, which shortens the length of your cast especially with line memory problems. Ideally you should clean your line daily but I try to clean mine every 4 -5 times I've used it, it does make a difference. Stretching your line, especially if you wind it up tight and/or if it's a

cheap line should be done every time you fish. The plastic coating of the line always has some memory so stretching it on the clubhouse stretching post will make it lie straighter. Also, always wind your line up as loose as possible since this reduces memory problems.

There are many other things I could go into, many of which I've written about before, like casting and equipment. Today I've just addressed what I feel are some of the major things that prevent you from catching fish. Remember, there is no

magic fly and the fish couldn't care less who is on the other end of the line. What matters most is that it never occurs to the fish there is a line in the water, which is why this simple preparation is so important. OK, sometimes against all odds you just get lucky with the worst possible setup, but wouldn't you rather just catch more fish? Remember, fishing has nothing to do with luck and everything to do with being lucky. Being lucky requires being in the right place at the right time and most important being prepared to seize the moment.

Decision 2008

The annual election cycle has started. We won't have any televised debates or mudslinging, (maybe a little fly slinging, but that's OK), but the decision is important to the club. The positions to be filled are all the officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) and 3 board members.

On December 20th, the nominating committee of Ed Van Sickle, Bob Proctor and Floyd Alwon was appointed by the president.

January 17: The slate prepared by the nominating committee is announced at the monthly meeting.

February 1: Nominations from the general membership are due to the secretary.

February 21: The elections are held at the annual meeting.

For details on the election process, see the club charter, which is available on the web site.

Any candidates for office may submit a brief statement (200 words) to the newsletter editor for publication in the February newsletter. If you want to submit a statement, please send it to the editor by email before February 10th.

Participation

The turnout for some of our recent events has been very high, notably the spring opening day and the Fall clean up day, which is encouraging. It would be great to see more members at the monthly

meetings, especially during the winter. Come out - a lively meeting makes the club better for all of us. What else have you got to do on a cold Thursday night?

Fishing Report

There's some open water at the pond, but I haven't heard of anyone fishing.

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