

**Subject:** AFF Kenai River Cleanup!

**Date:** Monday, December 12, 2016 at 10:15:48 PM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

**From:** Alaska Fly Fishers

**To:** Casey Andrysiak

*Featuring the President's Hook, more about the Kenai River Cleanup, fly tying clinic news, Facebook news, and more!*



# FLYLINES

*Official Newsletter of the Alaska Fly Fishers*

*September 2016*

## *PRESIDENT'S HOOK*



It has been a productive season of fishing this year. More for some than others, but just getting out there can be enough to make your day. As summer transitions to fall, Silvers are in full swing, Dollies and Rainbows are hungry, Steelhead are starting, and the Kenai River Clean Up is only 2 weeks away.

There have been some changes on the AFF executive board. Secretary Bob Pawlowski has resigned due to time conflicts. Board member Leslie Holland-Bartels will take over as our new Secretary. Cheryl Cline has been appointed and confirmed as the new Fly Tying Coordinator. We are also in search of a Ghillie, as Josh Shearer is being deployed overseas with the Air Force – Good luck and stay safe Josh. And with the passing of Mike Malone, we have two positions to fill. If you are interested in filling either the position of Ghillie or Member at large, or know of someone who might be willing to step in -please let me or any member of the board know. Also, on a similar note we have a nominating committee who is actively searching for nominees to serve on the 2017 executive board. If interested, you can contact myself or any other board member. The nominating committee consists of Mike Harsh, Brenda Brown, and Bill Huber who will all be happy to discuss roles and responsibilities, as well as benefits of being on the board.

The AFF Fall Fundraiser Raffle is under way – for only \$10 each or 3/\$25, you could win a 12'6" 7wt Sage Method Spey Rod, with a Sage 6280 Reel, and line. Only 300 tickets will be sold so when they are gone, they're gone. Tickets are available from any board member, at the tying demonstration at the Alaska State Fair, the Kenai River Clean Up (9/9 - 9/11, 2016), and the General Membership meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The drawing will be held at that meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ The Anchorage Elks Lodge. You do not need to be present to win, but I'm sure we will have a great speaker and some desirable ghillie prizes.

After much deliberation I decided that I would put together a segment for the Fly Lines to pay tribute to My Dad. I did some reflecting on how his passing has affected my thoughts on Fly Fishing, but also life in general. I will always remember the last trip I went on with him, a float tubing trip to a lake on JBER. It was so great just having the opportunity to get out on the

water, in fact we almost didn't get to wet a line. The winds on the lake we planned to hit were way too high, but I highly encouraged that we check out another location instead of calling it a day and trying another time. Fortunately my persistence paid off and we found another lake that was much more sheltered and calmer waters provided for a pleasant afternoon/evening of fooling fish with flies. I didn't get to spend all day on the water with him, but thoroughly enjoyed that short time that we were able to fish together. I did have a couple other chances to go with him after that trip, but "other things" came up and missed the opportunities to wet some lines. I would highly recommend that if at all possible, don't take trips with your loved ones (or even trips of your own) for granted. You never know if it might be your last chance.

Now get out there and rip some lips,

Patrick Malone, President, AFF

## ***the KENAI RIVER CLEAN UP is the SEPTEMBER MEETING***

Come and join us at Sportsman's Landing in Cooper Landing for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual event. There will be food, prizes, musical entertainment.

Friday night come find a good RV or parking spot and join in a potluck, and socialize around the fire- While others will enjoy dipping a line. Don't forget your chair.

Saturday morning we gather for a continental breakfast before collecting bags, gloves and safety vests for picking up trash along the river, and sand bars. For those drifting the river, lunch makings will be available to pack your own lunch. For those cleaning along the highway, launch ramps and parking areas lunch will be served in the big tent from 11:30 – 1. The final event of the day is the BBQ, prize drawings and music by Bob Fairchild and group. Quite a memorable evening.

Sunday you are on your own for fishing, packing up and riding home.

This is considered our September meeting, a conservation project, getting to know other members better, enjoying nature, and winning prizes! What more can the club member ask for? We hope to see you SEPTEMBER 9-11 at Sportsman's Landing/Russian River Ferry Campground.

From [Mariann Malone](#)

## ***TYING CLINIC NEWS***



A first — our monthly fly tying was held next to the flowing waters of the Eagle River. Of course the main event was all things Spey but what an enjoyable afternoon to be tying along the river bank! A few people took at turn at the vise and many others looked at tube and other flies particularly suited for spey fishing. If the weather holds next year, this might be an annual repeat!



Sorry for the late notice this year.

The clinic on September 17th (the 3rd Saturday of the month) again will be at the William Jack Hernandez Fish Hatchery on Reeve Blvd at Post Road between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. We look forward to members stopping in as well as late season visitors to the Hatchery and new comers who want to know more about fly tying. It is open to the public, materials and vices are on hand so all can participate. Think steelhead secrets!

Pick up materials and rules for the One Feather - One Hook challenge that is starting up. Find out the details and about the nice prize for this fun event, to be awarded to the winner in December. Materials will only be available at the tying clinics in September, October, and November.

[Cheryl Cline](#), *Tying Clinic Coordinator*

## **FISH TALK** by Bill Hauser

### **Salmon Die?**

This FISH TALK is a sequel to last months: "The King is Dead, Long Live the King."

Salmon deposit eggs during summer that incubate until mid-winter when the fish hatch as alevins and, in spring, become free swimming fry. After some development and growth, they become juveniles called parr or fry until they become smolts that migrate to the ocean. In the ocean, they grow and mature until they migrate back to freshwater. After salmon return to their stream of origin, they spawn and die.

And then they die.

Is that the end?

No. After salmon die, their carcasses provide food directly to more than a hundred other vertebrates, including other fishes such as rainbow trout, sculpins, and juvenile salmon; mammals such as bears and mice; amphibians, reptiles; and, birds such as eagles and gulls. (In the Kenai River, one estimate showed that rainbow trout gained 70% of their annual growth during the several months of the year when salmon are spawning and dying.) In addition, many aquatic insects such as caddis fly larvae feed on the carcasses. These carcasses become an invaluable part of the food chain.

Indirectly, these carcasses do even more. In the process of rotting, nutrients from the bodies are released into the water to become fertilizer that stimulates the food web from the bottom up. These nutrients are called marine derived nutrients or, simply, MDN because these nutrients – most importantly – nitrogen and phosphorous – are accumulated while the salmon feed in saltwater and are distinguishable from freshwater nitrogen and phosphorous by a chemical analysis. The MDN are stored in the muscle and oil of salmon, transported to freshwater, and released. Some scientists refer to salmon as bags of fertilizer with propellers.

When the MDN is released from the body of the dead salmon, it becomes dissolved in the water and can be traced into the groundwater and into the riparian zone, trees and other vegetation overhanging the stream. Some flows downstream to a sockeye salmon rearing lake. Here, they stimulate growth of microscopic algae which, in turn, provide food for the next generation juvenile salmon.

In southcentral Alaska, most freshwaters originate as rainfall, snowfall, and ice melt; i.e., distilled water. If no salmon are found in a stream, the water remains quite sterile and

unproductive – which translates into poor native fish populations.

One scientific report calculated that the anadromous fish returns in Washington and Oregon is only about 3% of what it had been prior to installation of dams and other barriers and habitat loss. After scientists made this determination, they analyzed salmon carcasses and compounded pellets to drop in streams. This helped to fertilize the streams but not as well as when they dropped frozen salmon carcasses from hatcheries into streams from bridges. Studies demonstrate that in streams in Alaska with spawning salmon, the basic food chain origins and aquatic insects are 25 times greater than in streams without spawning salmon.

Simply put, salmon make a tremendous contribution to our lives and to Alaska and to other fishes and to the entire ecosystem.

The king is dead, long live the king.

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Do you have a question for FISH TALK? Contact Bill at [karellbill@gci.net](mailto:karellbill@gci.net).

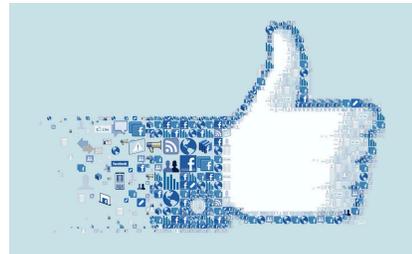
Bill has published *Fishes of the Last Frontier, Life Histories, Biology, Ecology, and Management of Alaska Fishes* and *Letters from Alaska, The Inside to the Outside*. Read sample chapters and find other information at [www.billhauserbooks.com](http://www.billhauserbooks.com).

## SURVEY RESULTS

The president of the club asked for the results of the survey to be reviewed by the board prior to publication. Since no response has been received from the board, results will not be published. Your AFF president also requested no survey be included in this newsletter.

## FACEBOOK UPDATE

We'd like to thank everyone that follows AFF's Facebook page, especially Jake Zirkle, who became our 1,500th follower! AFF's Facebook page is where we share information about upcoming events, club photos, and local and national fly fishing news stories. Visit our page at [www.facebook.com/alaskaflyfishers](http://www.facebook.com/alaskaflyfishers).



## MEMBERS' CORNER



I'd like to invite AFF members and their friends and family to a screening of the 2016 International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4™).

IF4™ consists of short and feature length films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly fishing. Films at this popular event are capturing the attention of anglers



9/22 Glenn Massay Theater, Palmer  
6pm - IF4™ 2012 Winner "The Costa Rica Challenge" \$5  
7:30pm - IF4™ 2016 Advance \$15, Door \$18

9/29 Wendy Williamson Auditorium, Anchorage  
7:30pm - IF4™ 2016 Advance \$15, Door \$18  
Advance Tickets also available at Mossy's Fly Shop

Frontiersman



around the world. IF-4™ contains exclusive content and is a must see experience!

9/22 Glenn Massay Theater, Palmer 6pm - 2012 IF4™

Best in Show "The Costa Rica Challenge" 7:30pm - 2016 IF4™

9/29 Wendy Williamson Auditorium, Anchorage 7:30pm - IF4™

Tickets available at Mossy's Fly Shop and [www.flyfilmfest.com](http://www.flyfilmfest.com)

from Ben Rowell



## PROJECT HEALING WATERS NEWS

### Tying Clinics

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and veterans through fly-fishing and fly tying education, rod building and outings. The Anchorage program offers weekly tying classes at the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery located on Reeve Blvd on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and in Wasilla at the Wasilla Veteran's Center on West Point Drive on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 5 to 7 PM. Refer to our Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Healing-Waters-Alaska/123753750975528> to obtain updates on activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [PHWAlaska@gmail.com](mailto:PHWAlaska@gmail.com).

### Volunteers Needed

PHW Anchorage is seeking volunteers who are willing to help staff tying clinics in Anchorage and Wasilla. If you know how to tie flies and want to share your expertise with others and be able to talk about fishing, please stop by one of our tying clinics and check out the action. You will meet some new fishing partners who are eager to learn and have fun fishing.

### Upcoming Events

September 9 – 11 – AFF Kenai River Clean Up Trip lead by Bob Pawlowski. There are still spaces available for this trip so contact [PHWAlaska@gmail.com](mailto:PHWAlaska@gmail.com) to sign up for it or see Bob at one of the upcoming tying clinics.

September 10. AFF Kenai River Clean Up Event. This event, held at the Russian River Ferry Crossing, is sponsored by the Alaska Fly Fisher and is open to anyone including families. Attendees provide their own transportation to and from the event. See above for more details

September 17 – 18 – Middle Kenai River Trip for rainbows with Damond Blankenship lead by Jan Schnorr. This trip is filled but anyone may sign up as a back up in case someone is unable to participate.

September 24 – 25 – Upper Kenai River Trip for rainbows with Bob Rima lead by Jan Schnorr. There are still some open slots available for this trip so contact [PHWAlaska@gmail.com](mailto:PHWAlaska@gmail.com) if interested.

## Tribute to Mike Malone



Mike teaching at a PHWs casting session

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of AFF Life Member, [Mike Malone](#) on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mike was a dedicated Project Healing Waters volunteer who had been associated with the program since it began in 2010. Although he lived more than 55 miles from Anchorage, he routinely traveled to Anchorage to assist with tying clinics every week. Mike participated actively as a member of the PHW leadership planning team, which required monthly meetings. In addition to teaching fly tying every week, he taught casting classes, and led numerous trips. Several years ago, we also implemented a winter “float tubing program” and he coordinated all the details for these classes including locating a facility to allow us to use our float tubes in their pool as well as store the tubes in a secure place between classes. It was a marvelously fun program that fit perfectly into the cold February schedule. I can still remember moving the float tubes into the Bartlett Pool during a raging blizzard.

During 2015, the Wasilla Vet Center contacted our program and asked to establish a tying clinic at their facility. Mike graciously volunteered to meet with VA staff members and developed an extended program site for us. He personally staffed the tying sessions and invited Anchorage volunteers to join him as the number of participants increased. He was a great mentor for both young and older Vets. Mike will be greatly missed by everyone and we will all remember his dedication to the program and his desire to “share his knowledge and expertise” with all.

Mariann, Mike’s widow, indicated that individuals who want to honor him may make a donation in his memory to “Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing” or AFF. If writing a check to PHWFF, please list “Anchorage Malone Memorial” on the memo line. Donors will receive a letter from PHWFF recognizing their donations. For cash or other in-kind donations, please contact Jan at [PHWAlaska@gmail.com](mailto:PHWAlaska@gmail.com).

from [Jan Schnorr](#)

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*Calendar of Events - please refer to the website for more information*

**Most General Meetings:** First Monday of most months, 7:00 pm at the Elks Lodge, Northway Mall, 3101 Penland Parkway, Suite A14, Anchorage, 99508.

**All Tying Clinics:** Third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the WJ Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery at the corner of Post Road and Reeve Blvd.

**Special Events:** Please check the calendar on the [AFF website](#)

Mailing address: PO Box 3211 / Anchorage Alaska 99503-3211  
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