

**Subject:** 'Tis the Season!

**Date:** Monday, July 3, 2017 at 2:28:37 AM Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time

**From:** Alaska Fly Fishers

**To:** Casey Andrysiak

*Featuring Fish Talk, Spring Seminar Wrap-Up, Tying Clinic News, and more!*



# FLYLINES

*Official Newsletter of the Alaska Fly Fishers*

*June 2017*

## *PRESIDENT'S HOOK*



There was nothing submitted from President, Patrick Malone this month.

President, Alaska Fly Fishers  
[PMHSE@hotmail.com](mailto:PMHSE@hotmail.com)  
[907-354-8781](tel:907-354-8781)

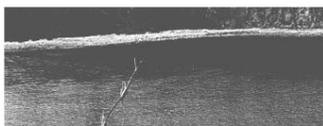
## *MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING*

There was nothing submitted from Vice President, Brenda Brown

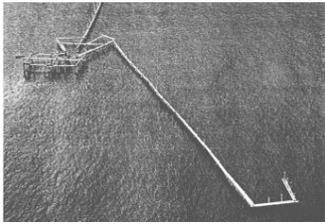
[Brenda Brown](#) - AFF Vice President

Please note: All general meetings are the first Monday of the month. General meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at the Northway Mall, 3101 Penland Pkwy A14, Anchorage. There is no general meeting in April, August or September, other club activities take place those months. Please check the calendar on the website for more information.

## *FISH TALK* by Bill Hauser



We are Alaskans and we like to catch fish. Each of us has our own special reason to catch fish. Many of us are commercial fishermen and want to catch fish for economic reasons. Others of us are subsistence fishermen and catch fish for food, cultural, and religious needs. Still others are sport or recreational fishermen who enjoy supplementing their diet with a unique



food source.

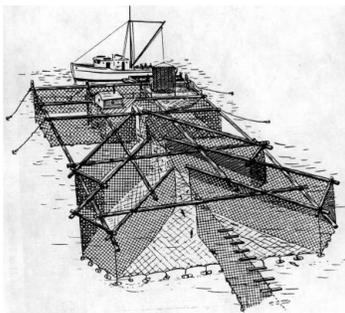
I can only guess, but I suspect that there is a larger number of fishing rods in Alaska homes than people. Most Alaskans are familiar with different kinds of sportfishing gear and most have a favorite fishing method of casting, spin, or fly-fishing gear. Many Alaskans may be less familiar with gear used in commercial or subsistence fishing.

The earliest fisheries in Alaska were for subsistence and trading. Alaska Natives took advantage of whatever fish resources were available and they applied whatever technique necessary. Hook and line, dip nets, seines, small traps, spears, weirs . . . whatever worked for that particular species and situation.

After white people arrived from the Lower 48, fish harvesting, especially for salmon, slowly evolved from a traditional subsistence activity to commerce. Fish became a trade commodity and a direct commercial product. Commercial fishing in Alaska began in the mid-1800s and the first salmon canneries were built in 1878. By 1920, over 100 canneries were operating in Alaska. The canneries needed raw materials for production and the migrating salmon populations were soon being mined by fish traps to fuel the commerce.



Fish traps were amazingly simple and strikingly efficient. Fish traps were first operated in the Pacific Northwest in the late 1800s. Some fish traps were fixed permanently in place; others were floating. Floating fish traps were more versatile and could be moved to fish in different locations. The traps were located in saltwater along a salmon migration route and constructed of vertical walls of netting or leads that floated on the surface and hung down to the bottom. One end of this curtain was attached to the shore and extended up to a mile offshore where it was attached to a large box through a series of several funnels. Salmon would encounter the lead, turn offshore, pass through the funnels and become trapped in the box that was equipped with a mesh lining. Periodically, a cannery scow stopped beside the trap. The mesh lining was pulled up and the salmon were dumped into the scow. Some harvests amounted to 40,000 salmon in one lifting. In 1924, 351 fish traps were operating in southeast Alaska. In fact, fish traps became a huge economic engine for the Territory of Alaska, however, fish traps were abolished in Alaska in 1960, soon after statehood was achieved.



Okay. What is going on here? What is this all about? When Alaska was a territory, fishery management was decreed from Washington, D.C. and Washington politicians made management decisions that were based on directions from out of state fishery harvest barons. Local territorial pioneers and Natives recognized that the highly efficient fish traps were also highly destructive to the escapement and survival of the salmon runs. This led to an outcry from residents to allow local government to manage the fisheries. So, how does this happen? Simple. Make the territory a state. Aha. But first, a constitution.

One of the very first acts for the new state and new constitution in 1959 was a provision to abolish those fish traps.

So there you have it. Fish traps: so simple, so efficient, but so indiscriminant and destructive and so important in the process of the Territory of Alaska becoming the State of Alaska.

References: Colt, 1999; Denton, 1998; Southcott, 2003; State of Alaska website.

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Do you have a question for FISH TALK? Contact Bill at [karelbill@gci.net](mailto:karelbill@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 at [www.billhauserbooks.com](http://www.billhauserbooks.com)

## TANGLE LAKES SOLSTICE TRIP, JUNE 23-25



This could be your trip of a lifetime! If you have never caught a grayling, this is the trip you want to go on. During June, the ice melts off the lakes and rivers and the grayling come alive. They are ravenous and eager to take almost any fly that you cast. Bring all your camping gear and enjoy 24 hours of daylight and fishing opportunities for grayling, white fish and Lake Trout. We also host a Saturday evening potluck so bring a dish to pass! Tangle Lakes is located approximately 300 miles north/northeast of Anchorage. The recommended route to Tangle Lakes takes you through Glennallen to Paxson and then west 21 miles along the Denali Highway (all paved roads) to the entrance of the BLM Campground. Remember to fill your gas tank in Glennallen because there are not many gas options along the route. If you plan to participate in this trip, please RSVP to Jan Schnorr at [Janiceinak@gmail.com](mailto:Janiceinak@gmail.com) listing your name, email address, number in your group, and phone number by June 16th so we know how many members want to participate in this trip. There is limited cellphone and internet service in the Tangle Lakes area. Some members arrive prior to June 23<sup>th</sup> and stay several days after June 25<sup>th</sup> just to take advantage

of the awesome fishing!

[Jan Schnorr](#)

## SPRING SEMINAR - WRAP-UP

We had another great Spring Seminar full of enthusiastic of people this year. Attendance floated between 40 to 50 each session, including couples and family groups. Thirty of our attendees decided to join the AFF and become full members. I truly hope we see their faces at upcoming meetings and functions. Please make sure to extend a warm welcome to all our new members as you meet them.

I'd like to extend a special Thank You! to Jolynne Howard for working the registration process. It's always a bit chaotic, but Jolynne was excellent keeping it flowing smoothly, despite the bumps.

Another special Thank You to master casting instructor Mark Huber; who not only lead our casting instruction with his normal finesse, but ran the entire session for me as I had a conflict come up and couldn't be there for the evening. It's such a treat to have his talent available to our group.

My sincere appreciation to AK Dept of Fish & Game, and in particular Jay Baumer and Shane Hertzog, for taking personal time to participate on our Panel Discussion the third session. Members Damond Blankenship, Keith Graham, and Orlando Gonzales rounded out the discussion panel. (As a side note: Shane works the Sportfishing information counter at ADF&G and is a great source of information throughout the year.)

As always, I am truly appreciative of the support the Seminar receives from individual AFF members for each of the sessions. The Seminar would not function without their volunteer efforts.

In addition to those mentioned above, my list of special AFF members included: John Magee, Jan Schnorr, Dave Rooker, Tom & Lea Rueter, Bob Wrentmore, Bob Wallick, Brenda Brown, Chad Gage, Kevin Kleweno, Frank Stevens, Michael Zavosky, Cheryl Cline, Martha Peck, and AFF President Pat Malone (If I missed someone, and I've been told I might be from casting, you probably forgot to log in as a member on the session sheet; but know you're still appreciated.)

This year the attendees were overwhelming interested in local native species, so Steve Johnson (AFF's Ghillie) came up with a Redington 5wt rod/reel combo as the Grand Prize. Fished out with a couple of leaders, tippet spools, and a dozen flies, attendee Anita Hegner owned the lucky ticket that set her up for getting out this summer with a brand new outfit.

I offer a personal welcome to all of our new members who join AFF through the Seminar. Thanks to all those who helped make this year's Seminar a success. And remember; it takes all of us working together to be successful caretakers of our precious resources. I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Rich Johnson - Seminar Chair

## ***FUND RAISING AUCTION DONORS***

THANKS To Alaska Fly Fishers' Supporters – the Donors to our Annual Fundraising Auction for 2017. Let them know that you appreciate the support for our club.

Alaska Fly Fishing Goods	Mahay's Jet Boat Adventures
Alaska Kenai Fishing for Fun	Major Marine Tours
Alaska on the Fly	Mariann Malone
Alaska Raft and Kayak	Mission Lodge
Alaska Railroad	Mossy's Fly Shop
Big Sky Inflatables - Water Master	Mountain View Sports Center
Brenda and John Brown	Vernon Neff
Cabelas	Northern Knives
Cheryl Cline	Orca Adventure Lodge
Dave Coolidge	PenAir
Copper River Fleece	Project Healing Waters, Alaska
William Elliott	ProLite Electronics – Alert Stamping
Eskimo Kisses	Rapids Camp Lodge
Bob Fairchild	REI
Fincognito	Don Roller
Fish Alaska & Hunt Alaska Magazine	Ross Reels
FisheWear	Mary Schmitz
Folstaf	Scientific Anglers
Full Swing Golf	Sea Hawk Air
Jim Galea	ShuzyQ Shoes
Galven Fly Reels	Sidestreet Espresso
Great Harvest Bread	K G Smith
Jolynne Howard	Ron Smith
Inlet Tower Hotel & Suites	Snake River Net Company
Rich Johnson	Sportsman's Warehouse
Katmailand - Kulik Lodge	Brianna Stuhr
Kevin Kleveno	Trout Unlimited
Lake Clark Air & The Farm Lodge	Tim Weglarz
Carlton Locke	Don Wells
Maclaren River Lodge	Women's Flyfishing
Madison River Fishing Company	Mike Zavosky

Submitted by [Cheryl Cline](#)

## ***TYING CLINIC NEWS***



This month the clinic will be on the June 17th, 2017 (as always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month) from 9 am to 3 pm at the William Jack Hernandez Fish Hatchery on Reeve Blvd at Post Road -- upstairs. (In May there was a last minute ADF&G need for the classroom so we met on the first floor by the elevator. A sign on the door will always indicate any changes.)

With all of the exposure that the club gets in the spring at the GASS, auction, and seminar we had lots of beginners at the May clinic. It was really fun and I hope that we see these new faces again at clinics and other events. (All of the club vises and a couple of spare personal ones were in use all at one time and one new tier left with a FULL box of hand tied worms and eggs!) As we move into the summer months, many members are out on the water testing their flies and clinic

attendance is low. But at least one club member will always be scheduled to show up and be available for guidance. It is a great time to develop your skills. Our club is rich in a high level of tying expertise.

The clinics are open to the public. Materials and tools are on hand if you choose to tie and don't have your own things. And don't be shy about using a hand cart to wheel in your own tools and supplies as there is an elevator.

In May, Bob Wrentmore proficiently stepped in to host the table for **beginners**. We hope to see Dave Rooker return in June.

No Slack on the water or on the bobbin,

[Cheryl Cline](#), Tying Clinic Coordinator

## FISHING BUDDIES

Are you ready to go fishing and you want to go with a "buddy"? Join the Fishing Buddy Program so you can link up with others who want to fish on lakes or rivers, etc. It includes beginners who want to learn how and where to fish as well as seasoned Alaskan fishers who are eager help others learn to fish in Alaska. If you want to link up with others who have a passion for fishing, meet with Jan Schnorr at the June meeting to get the latest information about this fishers' network or [click on the link to the form below](#). After you fill out the form, please email it to Jan at [Janiceinak@gmail.com](mailto:Janiceinak@gmail.com). When completing the form, include specific comments. Here are some examples: List experienced, intermediate or beginner fly fisher. The type of fishing you want to pursue: float tubing on lakes for rainbows & grayling; salmon fishing for silvers; river fishing north of Matsu. Times Available: evenings and weekends, any time. The list will only be distributed to AFF members who sign the consent form. This network enables members to connect with others who have similar fishing interests. Fish ON!

[Jan Schnorr](#)

[Fishing Buddies Form](#)

## FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Did you know, AFF is a charter member of the *Fly Fishers International*? Formerly *International Federation of Fly Fishers*, FFI's mission and motto are posted below. If you need new logo wear, or just want to see what more they offer, please check out [their website](#).

### *Mission*

Our Bylaws state the purpose of the Federation as follows:

1. Advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as a way of fishing most consistent with the preservation and use of game fish resources;
2. Be a political voice for organized fly fishing;
3. Promote conservation of recreational resources;
4. Facilitate and improve the knowledge of fly fishing;
5. Elevate the standard of integrity, honor, and courtesy of anglers;
6. Cherish the spirit of fellowship among anglers everywhere;
7. Establish and maintain liaison with other organizations of anglers and conservationists and government agencies concerned with the sport of angling; and
8. Keep its members informed of developments of interest to



the membership.

## Motto

*Conserving, Restoring, Educating through Fly Fishing(sm)...aka "We are haunted by waters, so we choose to make a difference for the fish that live in them."*

## ALASKA FLY FISHERS - HERS PROGRAM

Alaska Fly FisHERS return to Jewel Lake!



This will be the one year anniversary of the monthly gatherings of women anglers and their supporters called Women in Waders Wednesday and Alaska Fly FisHERS. This is a group organized by our club members to reach out and welcome the women anglers in our community.

Once again there will be a potluck picnic and everything fly fishing on what promises to be a beautiful mid summer eve on Jewel Lake. June 27 is the tentative date. Watch Facebook and your email for final details. A large group enjoyed this event last year.

Mountain View Sports hosted the May gathering where the subject was "filling the flybox". A big thanks to them and all other community supporters who over the last year have stepped up to make these gatherings very special. Brenda Brown is the coordinator.

[Brenda Brown](#), Coordinator and AFF Vice President (submitted by [Cheryl Cline](#))



## MEMBERS' CORNER

If you have an item to sell, something to share, or even a picture to post, please share it with the club. Contact the editor at [aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com](mailto:aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com)



## PROJECT HEALING WATERS UPDATE

## June PHW Update

### PHWFF National Destination Trip Reports - Jason Boyd, Smith River Trip



My Smith River fishing trip was from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup> with Lewis & Clark Expeditions through Healing Waters Lodge in Twin Bridges, Montana. We launched at Camp Baker and the take out was 59 river miles at the Eden Bridge. Floating in rafts for five days and camping for three nights and one night hosted at a local family's fishing camp was a trip to remember. The catch was split between rainbow, brown trout with the occasional white fish all caught with San Juan Worm's with a trailing stonefly. The white fish is the only native fish on the river. The fishing was slow due to the snow melt causing high muddy

conditions and cooler water temperatures.

Mike, the owner, lead this trip along with three other guides. This is the only trip he has time for because his duties at the lodge keep him occupied during the fishing season. It was Jeff's first trip guiding and just another season in Brian's 30 year career. Peter was taking a break from work before starting medical school and just guiding this trip with his father. We were the first trip of the season for Lewis & Clark Expeditions and it was interesting to watch the guides work out how they were going to operate for the rest of the season. The details included how and where to set up the camp, identifying missing or broken items and preparation of the meals. Each day included fresh fruits and vegetables; full breakfasts and lunches. For dinner it was soups and salads along with entrees including pork, chicken and beef. This was not roughing it.

The other participants included Lee Barbee, Beth Steinberger, Pamela Wright and Matthew Hoalcraft all from the Walter Reed medical center and Son Tao, currently stationed in Indiana. You can view Son's incredible tying skills and on Instagram- [http://exonline.pw/user/son\\_tao](http://exonline.pw/user/son_tao). Meeting all the participants on this historic river was an enriching experience.

### National PHWFF Bamboo Bend Event - Dale Aki

During the past year, I have been participating in Project Healing Waters in Anchorage and the program leaders recommended me for a special Bamboo Rod Bend event held in Grayling Michigan May 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>. This event consisted of 5 days of bamboo rod building and then 2 days of guided fishing trips on the famed Ausable and Manistee Rivers. The day came to leave for Michigan as most Alaskans know that to get anywhere east in the lower 48, you need to leave a day earlier than anyone else. I was picked up at Traverse City airport to travel one and a half hours to Grayling Michigan. Our accommodations were at a one hundred plus year old private club named the Oxbow on the South Branch of the famous Ausable River, where I waited for the rest of the members of the 2017 Bamboo Bend class. These PHWFF veterans came from different parts of the country as well as military services and eras.



The week of cane rod building started on Sunday at 0830 sharp to meet the instructors/ mentors to guide us through this build. By this time, I was overwhelmed knowing that the instructors who were gathered here are masters in their craft and are well known in the cane rod community. All the while, I kept thinking of the words of the newest president of the Bamboo Bend, Mark Mackey, saying just have fun and every participant will leave with a finished rod in their hands. The 5 days melted together as over a hundred combined years of cane rod building information flooded the Lovells Township Hall. As the class worked feverishly thought-out the day, the nights were our time to relax at the Oxbow club. Many of us fished until dark catching Brook and Brown trout, the rest just relaxed in front of the fire or alongside the river listening to the tranquil sound that it made. As darkness hit the river, we all gathered around the fireplace inside the club and got to know one another.

Friday and Saturday were the guided fishing trips. The guides took us out in drift boats or the famed Ausable river boats. The weather on Friday went from cool to hot in what it felt like minutes, but the fish didn't mind as they rose up to take each fly that was presented to them. Saturday was a different story; it started out as

overcast then started to rain off and on. It seemed to me that after each turn of the river held a different weather system. Everyone caught fish and enjoyed themselves. As the class fished, the bamboo fairies were hard at work giving the bamboo rods a second coat of varnish so that they would be dry for the presentation on Saturday Night at the club. That night as the rods were presented to us by our mentors, I looked around the gathering of cane rod builders, fishing guides, and club members and I saw the love and caring that this community showed veterans. Our mentors/ instructors not only gave up their time and knowledge, but their passion of cane rod building that came with every step of the build. This is the passion that brings them back every year. As the fire continued to burn, the PHWFF participants settled down for the last night before parting ways the next morning. As like every night, our discussions were revealing as we shared stories, remembered our fallen comrades, listened to each other, and of course made fun of one other. We came to the Oxbow as participants of Bamboo Bend and parted the program as brothers.

(Photo above: L to R: Kenneth Hicks Jr, Steve Christopherson, Bob Delanoy, Duke Davis, Dale Aki, James Christian, Rob Beam, Mitch Dziduch)

### **Wasilla Tying Clinic Update**



Mike Harsh reported that 16 to 18 participants have been joining the tying clinics on a weekly basis. They are bursting from the seams and may need to add more tables and chairs to accommodate everyone.

### **JBER Safety Fair**

The PHW program was invited again this year to teach “fishing safety” at the JBER Safety Fair on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers and participants taught knot tying, rigging for “red” salmon, hook removal and fishing techniques and etiquette. Jan Schnorr coordinated the event along with Mike Harsh, Frank Stevens, David Rooker and other volunteers.

### **New PHWFF Region**

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. announced the formation of a new region – Alaska. The Anchorage program was previously in the Northwest Region but will now be part of the Alaska region. Jan Schnorr was appointed the Regional Coordinator and will assume her responsibilities on June 1<sup>st</sup>.



### **Donations**

PHW is looking for both cash and in-kind donations to support participants in the program. All donations help fund year round activities for participants. Please consider cash/check donations to our program; checks should be made out to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. If you want this local program to be the recipient, list “Anchorage” in the memo section of the check. On line donations can be made at <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/donate/>. In-kind contributions of fly tying materials, equipment, rods, reels, etc. are also appreciated. Please consider “paying it forward” in support of veterans with disabilities.

## Volunteer Opportunities

AFF members who have tying, rod building, fishing education, and casting skills are invited to become volunteers for Project Healing Waters. The number of participants has increased substantially during the past several months so additional volunteers are needed. Please consider donating your time to help veterans with disabilities learn how to fly fish and welcome them into our fishing community. Our meeting times and locations are listed below along with other contact information.

Anchorage: William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery, Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Wasilla: VA Clinic, Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Email: [PHWAlaska@gmail.com](mailto:PHWAlaska@gmail.com)

Facebook: Project Healing Waters Alaska

Submitted by [Jan Schnorr](#)

Submissions to the newsletter are due no later than 2 Wednesdays prior to the first Monday of the month. Please type all considerations in a word document, in Arial font, size 12. Photos are to be attached separately in a .jpg file. Email to [aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com](mailto:aff.flylines.ed@gmail.com).

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Mailing address: 200 W. 34th Ave, Box 1233 Anchorage, AK 99503

[Facebook](#)

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