"Cultivating the art of fly fishing through a spirit of fellowship and resource enhancement"

washingtoncountyflyfishers.com

Issue 299 **June 2026**

Meeting Location

Westbrook Club House
14255 SW 6th Street (one block east of SW Murray)
Beaverton, OR 97005

Next Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday June 3, 2006

May Agenda

6:30-7:00	Welcome
7:00-7:15	Club business and Fishing Reports
7:15-8:15	**Guest Speaker – Nick Wheeler, Summer and Winter Steelhead fishing**
8:15-8:30	Raffle, Door Prize and adjourn

President's Message

June 2026

May was a terrific month for the club! It started with a great presentation from our own Chris Wilson and ended with one of the best outings I have ever been on! There are photos in this newsletter showing the beautiful Kingsley Reservoir that had plenty of healthy stockers for our fishing pleasure! They were feisty, nice sized and very healthy. Seven members had a great day.

Our June speaker will be Nick Wheeler on the difference between summer and winter steelhead fishing. He has been working on this new presentation that explains flies, gear, techniques, locations and everything you need to know to decide which or both of these seasons to chase the illusive steelhead. See you at the club house June 3 at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7.

Our fly-tying class was so successful, the board decided to have another one this fall. It will probably be four sessions on Monday evenings tying flies that continue to fill out the menu for catching trout. The patterns are being determined, but Dave's damsel nymph and the purple haze will be two of them. This class will be a bit different as members will be sharing materials since we exhausted our tying grant for the first class. Many members have plenty of materials so this shouldn't be a problem.

We also plan to have two casting classes this summer. Marc Williamson will be showing us how to haul (as in single haul and double haul) in the first class, and we will be having a beginning/intermediate general casting class for the second. Location and timing are TBD but probably July/August.

We have two outings tentatively scheduled for June, Trillium Lake June 4 and possibly Harriot Lake June 25th. Mark Bray will be emailing more information so watch your inbox.

August 8 (Saturday) will be the club picnic in lieu of a normal meeting for August. It will be at the club house around 4 pm. The club will furnish the main course with member pot-luck for the rest. We are planning a raffle and silent auction of some nice items and also a casting clinic. Save the date!!

Finally, John Gillingham has notified the Board that he will be retiring as Treasurer next February after well for over 14 years of outstanding service. We really appreciate all he has done to keep the finances in order. Dave Eisenhauer has agreed to run for treasurer to take his place. We therefore will need a new Vice President. Please consider running to help your club - we need you!

We are always looking for new members so if you have a friend or acquaintance who fishes, tell them about the club. We currently have 45 members and would like to develop at least five more.

This summer and fall could be tough on fishing and fish health due to low, warm water conditions, so get out there now and enjoy the Oregon Country while conditions are good!

Tight Lines,

Rick Pay, President

Washington County Fly Fishers

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Club Calendar

- June
    - 3 – Club Meeting – speaker Nick Wheeler – Equipment and flies for summer vs winter steelhead
    - 20 – Breakfast - Peppermill Lounge
- July
    - 1 – Club Meeting – speaker Chris Williams – Orvis - Carp
    - 10 – Deschutes fishing with Rob Crandall
    - 15 – Breakfast - Peppermill Lounge
- August
    - 8 – Club Picnic
    - 15 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- September
    - 2 – Club Meeting – speaker Kevin Stertz – ODFW
    - 19 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- October
    - 7 - Club Meeting – speaker Brian Bangs – US FWS – Willamette Valley Non-game Species and their interaction with game fish
    - 17 – Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- November
    - 4 – Club Meeting – speaker Jennifer La Follette – Golden Trout at June Lake
    - 21 - Breakfast – Peppermill Lounge
- December
    - 2 – Christmas Dinner
- January
    - 6 – Club Meeting
    - 16 – Breakfast
- February
    - 3 – Club Meeting and Annual Meeting/Elections
    - 27 – DRA Auction

Tungsten vs. Brass Beads: When to Use Each

7 Dec 2025

When selecting the perfect fishing weight, one of the most critical decisions anglers face is choosing the right material.

A crucial factor in this decision is the density comparison of the material, with tungsten and brass being two of the most popular options.

Tungsten beads, for instance, offer superior durability due to their extremely high density and are ideal for heavy fly tying presentations.

On the other hand, brass beads provide a more subtle presentation and better sound as they emit a softer clinking noise when they hit the water. This subtle noise can be effective in drawing in fish in clear water or when finesse presentations are needed.

When choosing between bead materials, anglers must consider the specific fishing conditions and the type of fish they are targeting. The density comparison of the various fishing weights will determine the optimal fishing tackle to use for effective fly tying and bead materials selection to enhance underwater visibility.

Understanding Tungsten and Brass Beads

Crafting the perfect fishing setup often comes down to selecting the right materials, and the choice of bead has a significant impact on the outcome of the trip.

When it comes to fishing, the right bead material can increase your chances of landing a catch.

In fact, the material of the bead can make the difference between a successful catch and a lost one.

Tungsten beads have a higher density and weight compared to brass beads, which means they exhibit superior sinking speed in the water, allowing anglers to reach greater depths.

This makes them ideal for deep water and heavy cover fishing.

Brass beads are more cost-effective and widely available than tungsten beads, making them a more affordable option for anglers on a budget.

Brass beads offer excellent durability and corrosion resistance, withstanding the rigors of repeated use and harsh marine environments. On the other hand, the new material's improved sinking speed, buoyancy, durability, corrosion resistance, cost-effectiveness, and longer casting distance make it a superior choice for this application.

When to Choose Tungsten Beads

Precision-engineered spheres that deliver unparalleled balance for lure effectiveness. When accuracy and consistency are the order of the day, they turn to tungsten, a metal renowned for its exceptional weight distribution.

Here's why:
Fishing techniques demand a perfect weight-to-buoyancy ratio, and when trying to entice that shy fish, having too little weight can be detrimental – it's all about presentation.

This is precisely what tungsten beads were built for, their compact metal bodies designed to get past the most finicky quarry.

By using precisely-weighted tungsten spheres for tackle customization, one secures the optimal approach at the water's edge and beyond.

When to worry about sinking speed matters with brass and steel. Unfortunately, they pale against their tungsten counterparts in terms of weight distribution, fishing techniques, tackle customization, lure effectiveness, color options, and bead size.

Tungsten Beads Benefits

- Tungsten beads provide unparalleled balance for lure effectiveness.
- Tungsten has exceptional weight distribution compared to brass and steel.
- Using tungsten spheres for tackle customization secures the optimal approach at the water's edge.
- Tungsten beads can get past the most finicky quarry due to their compact metal bodies.

Brass Beads for Fly Tying

Fly design is elevated by the strategic addition of a carefully chosen component, which can significantly impact its performance in diverse aquatic environments. When designing a fly, the addition of a brass bead can greatly enhance its performance in various fishing conditions, thanks to its unique properties.

Benefits and Applications
Brass beads offer a unique combination of properties making them ideal for fly tying.

Their ability to withstand the rigors of freshwater fishing and compatibility with fishing line make them a popular choice among fly tyers.

They are also suitable for both saltwater fishing and fishing lines, although the knot strength and line strength should be taken into account when choosing the right size and design.

Understanding Brass Beads
When compared to other materials, such as tungsten, brass is characterized by its lower density and lighter weight, weighing in at approximately 1/3 to 1/2 the weight. The line also offers impressive hook compatibility, resistance to wear, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, and knot strength.

Impact of Bead Materials on Fishing Success

The effectiveness of a fishing trip hinges on a variety of factors, including the selection of lures, tackle box contents, and angler preferences. Fishing weights are a crucial aspect of every angler's sporting equipment, as they help to manipulate the presentation of a lure and ensure optimal depth.

A key component of fishing weights is the bead, which not only affects the overall performance but also influences the overall experience.

Physical properties of materials, including density and weight-to-density ratio, play a critical role in determining how a fishing weight functions.

Architecturally, the design of the bead itself is significant in angler preferences. Different materials used in bead design can greatly impact the presentation and effectiveness of the lure.

Material science behind fishing weights is a crucial aspect of angler success, as it directly relates to the functionality of the weight. Durability is also a vital factor in the performance metrics of tackle box, sporting equipment, angler preferences, bead design, and environmental impact.

Material Properties	Design Considerations	Durability Factors	Environmental Impact
Density and weight-to-density ratio	Architectural design of the bead	Resistance to corrosion and wear	Material sourcing and recycling
Physical properties of	Angler preferences and	Impact on tackle box	End-of-life disposal and

materials	presentation	performance	reuse
Material science behind fishing weights	Effectiveness of lure presentation	Longevity of sporting equipment	Reducing waste and pollution

Density Comparison of Bead Types

Weight category. The choice of weight category can significantly influence line compatibility, making it a critical consideration in fishing.

The right weight category can increase your catch rate, while the wrong choice can lead to lost fish and frustrated fishing trips.

It all starts with understanding how fish respond to different bead styles.

Background: Bead Characteristics
Fish responses can vary greatly depending on the type of bead used. Different types of beads are designed to mimic specific baitfish or provide a unique presentation method, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

* Jigging beads: designed to mimic injured baitfish, often used in deep-water jigging applications
* Finesse beads: used for light-line fishing in weight categories such as ultralight to light, often used for fishing styles such as drop shot, Texas rig, and Carolina rig
* Bead styles: come in various shapes, sizes, and materials, such as spherical, teardrop, and cone-shaped beads, offering versatility in fishing applications
* Application scenarios: fishing beads are used in different fishing scenarios, including freshwater, saltwater, and ice fishing, depending on the environment and the type of fish being targeted
* Fishing regulations: check local.

Casting Distance and Weight Distribution

In the realm of fishing, a delicate balance between precision and power is essential for a successful catch. The intersection of these two variables is significantly impacted by the materials used in a tackle setup, particularly the weight distribution and casting distance achieved with the right choice of beads.

Tackle Innovation and Bead Choice
Tungsten beads are renowned for their exceptional weight and are widely used in sinkers due to their high-density characteristics, which enable them to cast farther and deliver a more direct line, thereby reducing the likelihood of tangling.

Brass beads, known for their durability and corrosion resistance, offer a reliable alternative to tungsten.

Their resistance to rust and corrosion makes them suitable for long-term angling success in both freshwater and saltwater environments. They can be heavier than tungsten, which may affect the casting distance and weight distribution. In the manufacturing processes, angling success, fishing

accessories, tackle innovation, brand selection, and performance characteristics, the lead was based.

Tackle Innovation and Bead Choice

1. Tungsten beads are 7 times denser than brass beads, making them more suitable for casting and weight distribution.
2. Brass beads are more durable and resistant to corrosion, making them suitable for long-term angling success in both freshwater and saltwater environments.
3. The weight of brass beads can be up to 25% heavier than tungsten beads, affecting the casting distance and weight distribution.
4. Tungsten beads are widely used in sinkers due to their high-density characteristics, which enable them to cast farther and deliver a more direct line.

Environmental Considerations in Bead Selection

As anglers continue to refine their fishing strategies, the unassuming bead in their tackle box deserves attention, for its material can either inadvertently harm or responsibly complement the underwater ecosystem.

Fishing gear choices have a profound impact on marine ecosystems, and one often-overlooked aspect is the type of bead material used.

Fishing gear can harm marine life, from entanglement and bycatch to habitat destruction and pollution, with the effects of these impacts often masked by the complex dynamics of underwater currents.

The Role of Beads in Fishing Tackle
Beads are used in various fishing applications, including lures, sinkers, and jig heads, where their material can significantly influence the presentation of bait and, by extension, the success of species targeting. Bead Materials and Sustainability
When selecting beads, anglers must consider the environmental implications of their choice, including recyclability and durability, to minimize waste and promote long-term sustainability in fishing practices.

Maximizing Lure Effectiveness with Beads

In the world of fishing, the subtle nuances of gear selection can often make all the difference in the outcome of a fishing experience. The choice of bead material, for instance, can significantly impact the effectiveness of a lure, as different materials present the bait in unique ways to attract fish.

The fishing community has long recognized the importance of bead selection, with many anglers swearing by the use of tungsten beads for their exceptional density and ability to get lures down to deep-water species.

On the other hand, brass beads are often preferred for their lighter weight and ability to provide a more natural presentation.

When targeting specific species, such as bass or walleye, expert recommendations suggest that the key to success lies in experimenting with different bead weights and materials to find what works best. For instance, a tungsten bead may be used to target deep-water bass, while a brass bead is more effective in fishing for shallow-water structures like rocks and weeds, with expert recommendations in fishing gear selection varying by regional fishing experiences and local knowledge shared by the angling community.

Key Considerations in Fishing Gear Selection

- Tungsten beads are preferred for their exceptional density and ability to get lures down to deep-water species.
- Brass beads are often preferred for their lighter weight and ability to provide a more natural presentation.
- Experimenting with different bead weights and materials can be key to success when targeting specific species.
- Regional fishing experiences and local knowledge can influence expert recommendations in fishing gear selection.

Fly-tying Knowhow: Hackle Grading

Most tyers building a hackle bench do the same thing: buy one cape or saddle in one color, run out of the colors they use most, then go back and buy another cape…

FLYLAB

MAY 1 · PREVIEW

By the J. Stockard Team - FlyLab

You've heard the conversations in fly shops and online forums: a fly tyer holds up a Platinum cape, notes the price and concludes that the flies tied from it will be better than flies tied from, say, a Bronze. Which is obviously a pretty reasonable assumption. It's also completely wrong. Well, sort of. It's more of a

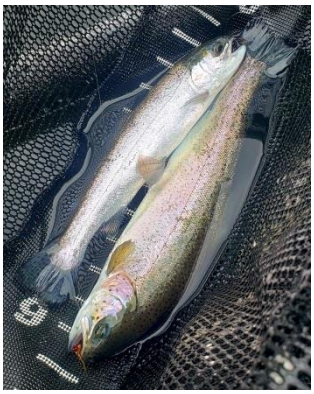
misunderstanding that costs tyers money in a way that's easy to fix once the hackle grading system is actually explained.

Whiting Farms grades hackle by quantity, not quality. Every dry fly feather on every Whiting pelt–Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum–meets the same baseline standard: supple quill, void of twist, dense barbing and greater than 85% web-free. The feather quality is identical across grades. What differs is *how many* flies each pelt will produce. Platinum doesn't mean better hackle. It means more of it.

That's the thing worth understanding before the next hackle purchase...

Outings

We have photos from two recent outings at Lost Lake (coast) and a new location Kingsley Reservoir. WCFF had a great outing at Kingsley Lake May 23rd. What a beautiful lake. Seven members showed up for a good day of fishing and a great day of catching. We will definitely be doing this lake again next year.



Fly of the Month

Lil' L Pupae

Hook: Curved nymph hook or 3XF emerger hook #8-24
Thread: Black Veevus 8/0
Body: Black Peacock or Peacock Krystalflash
Wingpad: White foam with three strands of Krystalflash
Thorax: Black or Purple-dyed peacock herl
Gills: White craft foam

Few flies tie “right” in a wide range of sizes. Sometimes the natural materials don’t exist to make a macro version of a standard, so we don’t see spey-sized Snipe and Purples. Other times, the proportions of natural materials can become cumbersome when tied in extreme

sizes, like crafting size 22 Wulffs. Still other times, physics prove impossible to overcome, which is why you won't find any duck-winged Green Drake No-Hackles.

That is why I like a pattern I where I can just blindly grab into my 48oz "orphan hook" cup and crank out a bunch of flies, an assortment of sizes and proportions, confident that they will all be fishable.

The Lil' L is one of those simple material patterns where you just add a couple extra strands of Krystalflash to the body on larger sizes, or trim down the foam post on small versions. I fish it up to a size 6 as a general attractor and down to size 24 for winter midges. On the Crooked last week, a "medium" size 16 was my best nymph before and after the blue winged olive hatch that consumed the entirety of the midday hours.

The body color can be altered by just changing up your Krystalflash, so if you're like me with a Crayola box of leftover hues in a drawer, it can be worth slapping some on and giving it a go.

A quick word about the foam—it is purely a visual trigger for chironomid gills, not to float the fly. This is meant to be fished sunk, though the foam impedes the pattern's sink rate, which can be useful for fish cruising in very shallow water.

The "Lil' L" was originally tied for the red-ear sunfish that allegedly inhabited the Adair Pond north of Corvallis at the regional ODFW offices. In the spring, you could spot sunfish soaking up in the shallows to spawn and feast on midge pupae and backswimmers. In this thin water, you couldn't fish an "indicator pattern" without risking a noisy splash, and beadheads or epoxy nymphs would sink and get stuck in the scrubby weeds. The Lil L gave off enough sparkle and sank just slow enough that I managed to catch buckets of… 4" bluegill. Three springs of my life, and maybe 800 4" bluegill later, and nary a red-ear sunfish. Thanks, ODFW, for crushing a kid's dream.

Jeff Morgan

Author, Tyer, and all-around Fly Geek

Courtesy of Northwest Fly Fishing Outfitters

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