

# Happy Holidays

C A S T A W A Y G U I D E S E R V I C E

- As we have been so busy as of late between the Deschutes and the birth of our second child we have not stayed on top of our recent newsletters. We finally got caught up and got to the holiday newsletter. Hope you have a great Thanksgiving and a happy Holiday season.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Winter Steelhead	2
Castaway Baits	2
Easy Winter Steelhead Flies	2
Affiliated Guide News-Anglers Guide Service	3
Affiliated Guide News-Raincoast Guide Service	3
Nate Cornelius on Siletz Winter Steelhead	3
Easiest Winter Steelhead Flies	4
Gift certificates	4
Indicator Fishing for Winter Steelhead	5

**A S U C C E S S F I L L E D S E A S O N**

I was lucky enough to learn what I know about the Deschutes from friend and fellow guide Rob Crandall of Water Time Outfitters. His many years on this amazing river make him an expert in finding these summer Steelhead. Thankfully in working with him, he has shared much of his knowledge with me. Specializing in the water between Trout Creek and Harpham flat our season didn't start until mid-September. When the day finally came we launched on an empty river. Fully expecting to be mostly a trout fishing trip with a steelhead or two mixed in we pulled into a run we call Christmas morning and strung the spey rods for Rob Fuentes's first spey casting lesson. About six



Two of the nicest Deschutes Steelhead I saw all year. Both caught on the last trip



casts in, his lesson was rudely interrupted by the vicious take of an angry steelhead. Two more fish followed in the first run and as the scenario repeated itself many times over the next few days I knew it was going to be a season to remember. Amazingly every trip seemed better than the last and it was an incredible season.

Many thanks to all of you who helped make this our most successful season ever, and for those who did not have a chance to make it this year we are taking deposits on dates for the 2010 season. We have already started to fill the prime dates, so let us know if you are interested so we can get you out on this unbelievable river.

**A N E W A D D I T I O N T O T H E F A M I L Y**

On Monday, November 2nd at 8:06 am my wife and I had our second child, Liam Trask McNamara. Thankfully he waited until I was able to finish a three day Deschutes trip that ended on the first of November. Weighing almost nine pounds he was fat and healthy

and despite keeping us up for extended feedings could not be better. Between Ezra, Liam, and Myself we seem to be well on our way to a full crew.



## W I N T E R   S T E E L H E A D   S E A S O N   I S   H E R E

It's that time of the year again. Wind, rain, snow, sleet, hail; all the things that make "normal" people want to stay inside and watch TV. Not so for the die hard winter steelhead fanatic, as we know that the nastiest weather of the year coincides with the arrival of the west coast's premier game fish, the Winter Steelhead. The Winter Steelheads reputation as a game fish is well deserved as once hooked get-

ting it to hand provides a real challenge. A fierce fighter these fish will make repeated leaps, try to get under every obstacle in the river, and are capable of running long distances with bursts of speed of up to twenty-six miles per hour. Add into this the fact that these chrome rockets average around ten pounds with the occasional fish topping twenty and you can see why they are tops on many anglers lists.



Fish like this can be the payoff for braving a cold day on the Oregon coast

"There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot."

Steven  
Wright

## C A S T A W A Y   G U I D E   B A I T S

Over the past few years sidedrifting steelhead has become the go to method for most northwest guides and under the right conditions it is absolutely deadly. While loving the effectiveness of this method of fishing; both the hassle of dealing with bait all of the time and the fact that I was unnecessarily fishing eggs on a lot of native fish led me to look for a better option.

For a while I thought yarn balls were the answer but they take time to make and get disgusting if left in the boat on the leader rolls. I then switched to EZ eggs but found that having to tie them on in the rain with freezing fingers was less than satisfactory when you are trying to keep both clients fishing all day. Eventually I just decided that I could make my own

mold and the Killer Clusters were born. They are about the only bait that I sidedrift any more and are extremely effective. Just poke a hook through it and fish. I pour them in lots of colors and scents. Go to our website to order them and give them a try. You will not be disappointed.



## A   R E T U R N   T O   T H E   N O R T H   F O R K   N E H A L E M

During the first few years of my guiding career there was one small river that was consistently my most popular destinations, the North Fork Nehalem. This small river, not much more than a creek, was one of my favorites for many reasons. First, it is one of the most consistent early steelhead runs with fishable

numbers of hatchery fish from Thanksgiving through mid-January. Second, its small size makes it perfect for fly fishermen, with many days offering a chance to sight cast to waiting steelhead. Finally, it has some of the best scenery around, with approximately thirty waterfalls between the hatchery

and Aldervale, you won't want to leave your camera at home. Thanks to our new 14ft NRS Otter raft with its super trick fishing frame we will now be offering trips on this amazing river once again. Call now to get your dates on this great little fishery as they are filling up quickly.



**A S S O C I A T E G U I D E N E W S**

**Anglers Guide Service-**

Bob Kratzer, Bill Meyer, Ryan Celusta

The Bogachiel is most noted for its very popular run of Hatchery Steelhead that returns in the early winter each year. Starting in mid November hatchery steelhead swarm into the Bogy in huge numbers lasting into mid January. These little chrome bullets put up a fight that is well beyond there

size with an average of 6-8 pounds. This is a great way to start out the winter steelhead season. As the hatchery steelhead start to slow down the first of the big wild Steelhead start to show up.

By late January we are knee deep in big Chrome hard fighting wild Steelhead that may weigh into the high 20's. Each and every year we catch steelhead of awesome size and that only dreams are made of. This run of

fish will last into the later part of April before we start seeing the first of our Summer Steelhead.

Join us on a float down this great river in search of that trophy you have always dreamed of.

**A S S O C I A T E G U I D E N E W S**

**Raincoast Guide Service**

Jim Kerr

Winter season on the Olympic Peninsula is here! And this is what it looks like. From today, until the second week of January we will be catching hatchery fish and an ever-increasing number of native steelhead in the five rivers (Sol Duc, Callawah Bogachiel, Hoh, Queets) adjacent to Forks. By January 15<sup>th</sup> the hatchery fish should be badly outnumbered by the big natives, and those fish will keep rolling in until the end of March.

Although the bulk of our December hatchery fish return to the Bogachiel and Callawah rivers there are small hatchery and native runs going on at the same time in many other places nearby. Given good water conditions we can hit two rivers in a day and target big upriver native steelhead in the morning and hatchery fish in the afternoon.

Most of our fishing in the mid-winter months is nymphing, but if the water is low enough we can generally find a few victims to the swung fly.

The best thing is because most of the traffic is on the Bogachiel if conditions permit us to go elsewhere we can of-

generally find a few victims to the swung fly.

The best thing is because most of the traffic is on the Bogachiel if conditions permit us to go elsewhere we can often fish totally alone and find nice numbers of fish.

Look forward to seeing you here.  
Jim Kerr  
Rain Coast Guide Service



**S I L E T Z W I N T E R S T E E L H E A D**

**North Coast Angling**

Nathan Cornelius

The first winter steelhead are taking advantage of this early high water and making their way up the Siletz River. The Siletz offers some excellent opportunities for the fly fisherman as well as being an ideal river for side drifting. Good

fishing starts early on this river with good numbers of steelhead moving into the system in early December and continuing through March. Come join North Coast Angling for a great fishing experience on one of Oregon's premier coastal fisheries.

Nate is a good friend and excellent angler, many of you have had the pleasure of fishing with him as the second boat on a trip with me. If you have any inclination to fish the Siletz he can be reached at 1-541-961-7749

“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”

Henry David  
Thoreau

**T H E E A S I E S T W I N T E R S T E E L H E A D F L I E S**

When Fly fishing for Winter Steelhead there is one thing for certain, if you are not getting stuck on bottom you are not fishing correctly. The only trouble with this is keeping your fly boxes full takes away from your time on the water. The best solution that I have found for this is to fish a bead like you would for Trout. All you do is take a bead and slide it on your leader, then use a toothpick to peg it on the line about two inches above a plain hook. Cut the toothpick off flush and you are fishing. Pegging the bead above the hook is important, if the bead is too close to the hook there is not sufficient hook

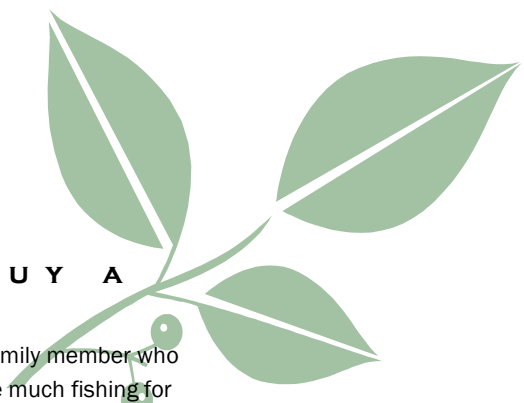
gap for a good hookup as the bead blocks the hook.

Beads come in an almost endless variety of colors and can be painted with paints, markers, and nail polish to offer almost endless possibilities. As for sizes I will use sizes as small as six and eight millimeter in low clear water, all the way to ten, twelve, and even fifteen millimeter in dirty water.

Often when fishing beads color is the real key so don't be afraid to experiment a lot during the day. A really great color trick is to peg two contrasting colors together such as hot pink

and chartreuse.

One last thing, this is not just a fly fishing trick. The beads can be deadly when fished under a float in low clear conditions. Fish your beads either as a dropper from a regular jig or as a stand alone bait with just a few split-shot to keep them down in the water column.



**N E E D T H E P E R F E C T G I F T ? B U Y A G I F T C E R T I F I C A T E**

Often times people struggle to find the right gift for the fisherperson they know. Either they don't know enough about the sport they love to participate in, or it seems that they already have two of everything someone could possibly need to participate in any leisure time activity. Something that always goes over well is a gift certificate to get out and spend time doing something that they love and learning while they are at it.

Castaway Guide Service offers gift certificates in any denomination. You can buy that special fisherperson a trip and after they receive the certificate it is up to them to decide when to use it. Maybe they would like to use it for a couple of days of learning Winter Steelhead fishing on the Oregon Coast. Maybe getting over to the Deschutes for some Trout fishing during the Salmonfly hatch is more their speed. Maybe getting out with

a friend or family member who has not done much fishing for a fun day of catching smallmouth in the sunshine is right up their alley. Whatever they like you will have gotten them the perfect gift because they decide when and how to use it. From just a single day fishing locally to the deluxe five day outfitter trip on the Deschutes we can help you make sure to have the perfect gift. For your convenience, we accept Visa, Mastercard, cash and check.

**N O M O R E J E T B O A T**

Unfortunately due to the recent economic times it became a wise decision for us to get rid of our jetboat. Recently our large group and or corporate trips that made it an effective tool for growing the business have all but disappeared, coupled

with our rapidly expanding business on the Deschutes, made us sit down and take stock of when we were using this boat and its real cost to us.

For those of you who were used to sturgeon and Springer

fishing with us on the lower Willamette and Columbia we regret to inform you we will not be offering those particular trips anymore. Instead we will be focusing on Trout, Salmon, and Steelhead from the drift boat and raft.

## C A S T A W A Y   G U I D E S E R V I C E

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**Castaway to your fishing destination**

I started Castaway Guide Service in 2002 to share my love of Salmon, Trout, and Steelhead fishing with others. Since then it has undergone many changes, some large others small, to expand the opportunities available to our clients. From our original destinations of only a few rivers on the North Coast we have grown and expanded, and through our network of contacts can now offer our clients a chance to fish with ourselves or other excellent guides that share our passion for guiding in amazing destinations like the Deschutes, Washington's Olympic Peninsula, and Alaska. Whether you fish with myself, one of our associate guides, or one of the many other guides and outfitters that we have developed a strong working relationship with you can rest assured that your guide has the knowledge, patience, and attitude to make your trip a success.

Adam McNamara  
Castaway Guide Service

## W I N T E R   S T E E L H E A D   W I T H   A N   I N D I C A T O R

Indicator fishing is very similar to float fishing in that you are trying to drift your offering through a piece of holding water to the fish. Most people choose to indicator fish with a single handed fly rod. I use the Redington CPS 1074, I load these ten foot seven weight rods with a 8 weight long belly weight forward line. Having a longer front section on the line is important because it allows you to mend more line, therefore extending your drift farther down river.

Just like float fishing, the flies should be suspended at or slightly above the level where the fish are holding. This will usually require a weight to pull the flies down to the depth that you want before they are swept through the run.

I find that while split shot are the cheap option they tend to hang up a lot forcing you to retie often, tungsten putty is much more expensive but tends to hang up very little, meaning more time on the water.

The basic indicator fishing rig that I use is set up as follows. First, I attach a straight piece of twelve pound leader approximately six feet long to the butt section at the end of the fly line. Next, I will attach another two and a half feet of the same material using a bloodknot. This small knot is to help keep your weight from sliding down too close to your flies. Next, I will attach a piece of ten pound leader about two feet long at the end using another bloodknot, making sure I leave the tag

end from the section of twelve pound leader at least six inches long. To rig the terminal tackle on this set up all you do is attach the indicator at the desired depth, put the weight right above the first bloodknot, and attach the flies; one on the dropper from shorter piece of twelve pound mono, the other at the end of the ten pound mono.

There are some advantages to rigging your flies this way. First, if you hang up you will usually only loose one of the flies and not the whole set up. Second, if you have a fish on the top fly and the long dropper gets hung up and breaks off at the knot you will still have the fish on a full strength twelve pound line.