



March, 2002

3rd Edition

The Evening Hatch Post

www.theeveninghatch.com

Welcome to The Evening Hatch Newsletter. Your reliable monthly update



on Washington fishing.

The Evening Hatch is your personalized fly fishing guide service to the fantastic outdoors of Washington State and Patagonia, Chile. We are the largest guide service on the Yakima River & in Central/Eastern Washington and provide our clients with what they want most - exciting, fun, fly fishing adventures plus unequalled personal attention. The Evening Hatch is proud to offer world class catch and release fly fishing for Rainbow, Brown and Cutthroat Trout, Steelhead and Salmon from **Our Home Waters** of Central Washington's spectacular **Yakima River** to the lush jungles and high pampas of Patagonia, **Chile**.

Photo of the Month: Al Cassaw with a Chilean Sea Run Brown!!!

Top Stories...

Isaaks Ranch Lake Dates available for Spring 2002;

April 16, 18
May 8, 21, 30

Limited slots available on some of these dates.

Yakima Fishing Turns On!

Just another day in paradise and every meal is a banquet! Spring means active hungry trout in beautiful colors, abundant wildlife, near perfect river conditions and little pressure. This all adds up to why February, March and the first part of April is one of our favorite times to fish. Shallow water nymphing can be very productive technique while the dry fly game can be absolutely fantastic on select days and on others non-existent.

Here is a quick reference to “bugs” on the water.

<u>Yakima Hatches</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Adult Color</u>
Amelytus	Mayfly	#16	Tannish, Olive
Blue Wings	Mayfly	#16-18	Grey, Olive
March Browns	Mayfly	#12	Tan, Brown
Skwala	Stonefly	#10	Dirty Yellow, Black/Olive
Midges		#20	Black, Olive

Skwala Time Is Now!

The Invisible, Imaginary and Important Skwala Hatch

Family – Perlodinae - Sub Family - Perlodinae
Genus - Skwala Curvata and Americana or Parellela

Nymph Characteristics

Body length 1/2" (abdomen and thorax), with antenna and tail - 1 1/4"

Long Tails 1/2"

Color- Tan to Olive Dun

Adult Characteristics

Body length 1/2" (abdomen and Thorax), with antenna and tail - 1 1/4"

Long Tails- 1/2"

Color- Dirty yellow to bright yellow to dark/olive-black

Skwala - Fact or Fiction?

Some would say they don't exist and others say they are prolific. Neither is true. Then what is there importance? Why the big talk of the Skwala?

The Skwala Stone is a typical stonefly in that it prefers faster oxygenated water. As with most stoneflies the life cycle is one year and it survives as a predator by eating other aquatic insects. They are an important food source for trout for many reasons:

1) As active nymphs they are often found in the water/food column for the trout, being knocked loose and free drifting. This is especially true during pre-hatch periods when their movement activity increases dramatically.

- 2) They are also available to the trout as the female adult returns to the water to lay eggs.
- 3) On a windy day as the adult is blown on to the water, and;
- 4) As a spent adult that falls on the water to die.

The Skwala nymph becomes fairly active at around 40 degrees and the adults will generally hatch around the 44-47 degree mark. The nymph generally emerges in the late afternoon and into the evening. **This is a perfect time to book a guided trip with the Hatch and join the hunt for Skwala's!**

Skwala – A Personal Testimonial

In 14 years of fishing the Yakima River, March 15th, 1989, will go down in my journal as the best dry adult Skwala day I have ever seen. I was fishing with Tim Irish, one of the original guides on the Yakima and well known author Steve Probasco. While we only counted maybe 250 adults, the fishing was automatic with trout slashing Skwala's on the surface at will. It's a day I will never forget.

It's true that I have seen over the years almost comparable hatches and activity as in 89'. One of the Evening Hatch guide's, Keith Wersland and I have given names to quite a few specific runs on the river after a day of fishing Skwalas. We also have a pattern called "The Wersland Big Dog Stone" that was developed by Keith specifically for the Skwala hatch. Last year while fishing the upper canyon with good friend Mike Watt, we were fortunate to see a nice group of 16-20 inch Rainbows chowing down on Adults!

The Skwala activity is strong beginning mid February and generally lasting until mid April. Certain years don't offer as good of dry fly opportunities as others; It would be fair to say that dry fly Skwala action in February is certainly a lower percentage occurrence than in March, yet it has happened and will most likely happen again. The nymph migration however is always a key factor at this time of year.

This is fishing folks. Things change and not everything is constant. Insects are cyclical, and every day is different. If I were to pick what would usually be the **best adult Skwala weeks over the years** I would have to say the last two weeks of March and the first week of April. During those three weeks three to four days will be optimal, 4-5 days will be good, and the rest of the days will be, just average fishing!

The Skwala is a very important hatch in that it is the first Big Mac, Double Quarter Pounder, Super Big and Tasty meal of the season. Regardless of how many adults there are, the fish know they are there. Fish make there living on eating the predominant insects and food sources of the season.

On or about February 20th on the average (every year) the water temps start to increase a bit. Water temps are the impetus for insect emergence and the

Skwala nymph gets real active around 39-40 degrees. Just think about it; It has been a long cold Winter--The trout is pre-spawn at this time of year and therefore the larger trout are thinking about perpetuating the species. Their metabolism is starting to pick up a bit from the previous two months of water temps in the 34-38 degree mark and they will most certainly optimize on food sources as they due year round and also to prepare for the spawn. The Big Mac is most certainly a good food choice at this time of year for the native trout but is not the only bug prevalent. In fact over the years, especially lower water years the Midges of the Late Fall, Winter and early to late Spring can be a major food source as they have been this season! The Blue Winged Olive, March Brown and Ameletus are also very important food sources at this time of year.

So to set the record straight, to tell it how it is, to hopefully enlighten those of you interested, the Skwala hatch is the **real deal!** It is not a prolific hatch yet it is an important food source that helps kick off every year here on the Yakima as well as on the Bitterroot and the Clark Fork Rivers in Montana.

The Yakima River – Home Sweet Home

We have spent 14 years on the river and continue to enjoy and appreciate the resource more and more every day. We have however branched out to offer new adventures that we know you will enjoy. Many of these excursions will be offered **only** during **prime time** and will fill fast, so we urge you to schedule **now** to ensure space available.

The Grande Ronde—Come fish the best of the best dry line steelheading in the Northwest with the Hatch. We are fortunate to have lead guide Joe Threadgill who has fished the river system for 15 years. His passion for the Grande Ronde metal head has compelled him to snorkel the river in search of prime lies. Our two and three day riverside camp adventures are a perfect fishing get away. We will offer the Grande Ronde overnight packages this Fall from October 4 until October 27.

Coastal Steelhead—After 25 years of fishing the West coast of Washington, Jeff Brazda our lead guide for the coastal waters is ready to show you the best of what Washington has to offer for nickel silver bullets. As always, steelhead fishing is subject to suitable river conditions and we want to take you fishing on some of the legendary waters at prime time. For the 2003 season we will be offering 1-3 day trips from Jan 20th until April 15th.

The Kettle River—Located in the Northeast corner of Washington, the landscape that surrounds the Kettle river resembles the Bighole River country in the Ruby Valley of Montana. Rich in biomass this freestone river originates in Canada and fishes well from post run-off until winter. We

choose to promote the best of the terrestrial season and therefore offer two-day packages from July 26th to August 11th.

Chile—After spending 6 of the last 8 winters in Chile developing new fishing programs, exploring new waters and walking many a trail, we are excited to offer you what we believe to be the **Absolute Best of Patagonia!** Stay-tuned as our web-site portion on Chile is about to evolve!

Riverside Adventures—The Evening Hatch offers you a state of the art riverside camp from post run-off until mid November. Our facilities are absolutely perfect for overnight trips and corporate getaways. We will also make similar camps available waterside on the Grande Ronde and the Kettle River.

The Best of Washington Trout Adventure

Four-person minimum. This 5-day adventure offers a variety of fishing experiences and locations, including the Yakima, a desert creek and the Kettle River. Featuring either our incredible tent camp accommodations or local lodging. This package is most definitely the premier trout adventure of Washington.

Wishing you and yours all the best.
Respectfully and fish-on,
The Hatch.

