

Fly Fishers of Ak,

Symbiosis: The interaction between two different organisms living in close association, typically to the advantage of both.

As protectors of the Alaskan aquatic environment, you all understand this concept very well, and I am co-opting the biological for the cultural, namely the relationship of the Anchorage Elks Lodge and the Fly Fishers of Alaska. I cannot speak for you but we greatly appreciate being your hosts. You might be asking, what benefits accrue to the Elks? Number one is the possibility of new members. Just recently we added to our roles Stan Bissonette, who is a fine example of what our lodge needs. We are always open to sponsoring more of you into Elkdom. A second benefit is of course monetary. Your board has graciously agreed to a modest rental fee for the use of our facilities. In addition, the purchase of food and beverages is a positive to our bottom line. We will continue to make adjustments for your convenience in this area. Thirdly, we proudly point to your association with us in promoting our Lodge to others. We all think highly of you, what you are trying to accomplish and your dedication to a noble sport.

What do you get? I think it can be wrapped up in one word: support. Support of your meeting together, support of your facility requirements and support of your organization. In fact, I am quite sure you will be gaining some members from us.

In conclusion, I definitely view this as a symbiotic relationship that will be of great benefit to us all. Thank you.

Todd Schlegel

Exalted Ruler

Anchorage Elks Lodge #2868