

# Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)



MMXVII NO.5

MAY, 2017

## President's Riffle

First up on my list for this month's riffle is a heartfelt "Thank You" to 1st VP Rich Gaspar for filling in for me at the April Dinner Meeting. While I was busy in California trying to help out with first time grandfather things Rich was busy hosting the best meeting of the year which included bringing forward six new members for induction into the club. Great job Rich and to all our new members, welcome!



At the last couple of Board Meetings there has been talk of what our club is versus what it should and could be. Of course opinions vary but there seems to be a strong underlying current that we should actually spend a good deal of time fishing. What a concept! Our Outings Committee Chair, Dave Schorsch has suggested a great idea to increase the fishing opportunities for members. Essentially Dave's idea is to supplement our traditional half dozen or so outings a year with more casual member lead events. This could be as simple as opening up a private outing you have planned with an invitation the rest of the club. We have this wonderful new web tool that allows us to let the rest of the club know where and when we are headed at a moments notice. If you and your fishing partner have planned a day at Rattlesnake lake for example how about sending out a notice letting the rest of us know your intentions. Something along the lines of; "Hi all, Jen and I are planning to spend next Saturday at Rattlesnake. Would love to see you there as well. Bring something to throw on the coals and we will light the BBQ at noon. Let me know if you will be joining us, Al Smith 425-666-5757". Send webmaster Jim Goedhart the text of your message and he will see that it gets blasted out to the membership. This seems like a great way to increase your days afield and meet new like-minded

folks in a low key manner. What have you got to loose?

When I think about what I would like the club to be, I can't help but notice how my own expectations have morphed since I joined the club some 14 years ago. In the early years I was looking for and found several fishing partners who like me had a thing for drifting rivers. I was very pleased that both Bill and Jim were willing to take the oars occasionally on my recently built drift boat. This was very cool as it meant that I also got to wet a line from time to time. Fast forward 10 years and Bill has moved out of the area and Jim and I have lost touch. Katherine and I also recently retired and now find ourselves able to combine our love of travel with fishing new rivers domestically and occasionally, internationally. The drift boat hasn't seen much action in the last few years. Instead I have been able to tap into that lucky group of WFFC anglers who travel the world with rod in hand. Their willingness to share ideas along with tips and tricks for the traveling fisher person have been invaluable.

The point is that fishing, if we are lucky, can be a lifelong pursuit and can take a person in many directions. Where are you in your lifetime fishing journey? What features of the WFFC do you like? Where are we lacking? Shoot me an email and let me know your thoughts. I would really appreciate hearing from you.

As you may have heard, The Creel Notes is taking the  
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## Chopaka in May

It's time for the Chopaka outing on Memorial Day weekend, May 27,28,29. This is the beautiful lake above Palmer-Tonasket that anglers wax poetic about. Mayfly hatches in the shallows on bankers hours, damsels in the weeds, black caddis and traveling sedge in the evenings, black leeches in the moonlight. You can fish till you drop. Or at least until happy hour and dinner!

We will be gathering in the meadow campground on the lake. This is an "on your own" campground, meaning pit toilets and you bring everything you might need for a few days of fun. The weather can be a little unpredictable, but is usually quite nice. Bring rain gear and sunglasses.

We will have the usual great happy hour Saturday around 5 ish. Bring your favorite appetizers, the club provides

beverages. The grill will be set up for everyone to use, and we can always use tasty side dishes! Musical instruments (even blunt ones) are encouraged around the fire. Another happy hour Sunday, and possibly the famous tempura night, assuming volunteers who aren't afraid of flames show up. The Sunday pancake breakfast may happen too!

Brace yourself for "cowboy coffee".

Dry lines, long leaders, and lots of mayfly and chironomid emergers, damsel nymphs in olive and yellow (yep, yellow), damsel adults, black ants, black wooley buggers, and dirty brown leeches with a hint of orange..... just a suggestion or two.

Sign up on the website for head count, and let us know when you are coming and going, and what you can haul or help with. Thanks in advance, and we'll see you there!

## President's Riffle cont.

summer off to go fishing. This will be the last issue until September. Anything crucial that comes up will go out via an email blast. Again, if you have anything you think should be shared with the club, shoot a note to one of the club officers and we will see that the announcement reaches the membership.

Well, the weather is finally turning. Actually had a few nice days already this month. Looking forward to long lazy days on the rivers and lakes. The club already has had one successful outing this season and by the time you read this the close in Lake Hannan day trip will be a fond memory. I'm looking forward to the clubs annual jaunt to Chopaka at the end of the month as well. Have a great summer, John.



## Creel Notes

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Rich Gaspar

### 2nd Vice President (Programs)

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Pete Crumbaker '16 Ron Little '16  
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*Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website in the roster area.*

*The venerable Gil Nyerges welcomes new members (right to left) Debra Katz, Marc Crichton, James Enswiler, Jerry Kindinger, Phil White and Ben Porter.*



## On the Fly

### The Meeting in Reel Time

by David Ehrich

April 18, 2017

As the gavel came down on Tax Day, so too did it hit the table hard at tonight's meeting, this time in the able hands of VP Rich Gaspar. Sadly he stopped the good conversation at my table as a few veterans were enjoying the company of new members (following protocol in case you wondered) who talked of new rivers, enhanced techniques, and interesting facts. However, start he did with a quiz on the length and breath of the club asking members how many meeting the WFFC had held up until now? Answer: 709. Don Barton got the correct answer and the award of one of Rich's favorite flies.

Mike Mosczynski, Vice President in charge of membership, got us off with a series of introduction of soon to be inducted and looking to be inducted guests. We enjoyed a wide variety of men and women. I will

### Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.



have to teach a course in microphone management for next meeting, but I think I heard some very clever anglers about to take up the challenge of casting into the waters of the WFFC.

Pete Baird delivered the sad news of the passing of Dick Scales and Bob Bendzak who members honored with stories. Dick was remembered as an expert and exacting fly tier and originator of a famous muddler pattern. Bob owned the lease to the lodge at Hi Hume and hosted many a club gathering. Gil Nyerges noted that Bob also liked a good round of golf and was known to scavenge errant golf balls off the forth tee in Gil's yard. Rich brought the gavel down on a heart-felt moment of silence.

Fishing reports, thanks to spring, were numerous. Bob Burdick reminded us to keep track the WFG stocking report, especially when they put in the five pounders. The trip to Dry Falls induced all of four members to enjoy fat fish in high water, tasty snakes, and good times. Other members talked of the Missouri, the Bitterroot, the Panama Canal, and various lakes in the area and east of the Cascades. David Schorsch took the liberty of telling us about the next clubs trip to Hannan Lake on May 13 from 8 - 4 PM along with the lure of his famous savory chili.

From there Mike began the process of inducting new members. Six new members and their sponsors heard the gentle admonishment from Gil Nyerges who spiced the offer to get involved with some of his special flies from which he expects fishing reports soon.

Even though it felt like the closing gavel might come down, in fact it was time for our program. Bob introduced Ray Hilborn, from the UW, to talk about fisheries around the world. The author of over 300 scientific papers



on fisheries, he has taken an active role in debunking myth making in the world press when it comes to the real status of global fish stocks. His work, he points out, is the work of thousands of fellow experts.

To start with, Ray sees fish as a food source, often to feed the poorest  
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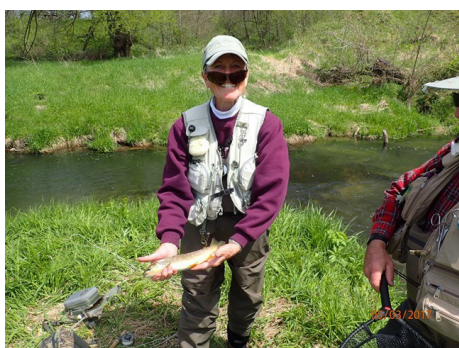
*Robert Tovar ties some impressive flies at the April meeting.*

## Fishing Reports

“Ye Olde Native Guide” John “Lucky” Townsell helps out a friend fly-fishing on a spring creek in the “driftless area” in Northwest Wisconsin. Mostly naturally reproducing brown trout but there are brook trout in the colder upper reaches and some rainbows in certain streams in the warmer lower reaches. These streams



are very similar to the famous spring creeks in Pennsylvania but have much better access. There are “miles and miles” of spring creeks with fishing access easements.



Currently, fishing the mayfly, caddis and the midge hatch is productive but terrestrials are coming on.

John “Lucky” Townsell

### 20/20

I first became aware of the informal 20/20 club in the 1960’s, when Arnold Gingrich wrote about it extensively in his book “The Well Tempered Angler”. Membership was achieved by catching a 20+ inch trout on a #20 or smaller fly. It was a standing challenge for well-heeled New Yorkers in a pri-

vate stretch of the famed Beaverkill. It seemed like an interesting possibility, but as the years passed the likelihood of my reaching it receded into the background, given that it requires fishing over 20 inch trout that are willing to eat something this small.

### April 27, 2017 Rocky Ford Creek

Scared off my plan to fish Dry Falls by a forecast of high winds, I drove to Rocky Ford without a lot of enthusiasm, not having had great success in a few previous visits. With no wind and a cloudy sky, there were fish sipping in one of the few places where the stream has a distinct flow. A #18 baetis brought no response, so I tied on a #20 OR 22 little piece of fluff called a Griffiths Gnat. By and by, a great rainbow took and ran and jumped all over the stream. Amazingly everything held together, and I touched the fish, 20-22” and very fit with great color. Eventually I changed to a #16 Parachute Adams variation and caught what appeared to be the twin of the first fish in all respects.

### April 28, 2017 Dry Falls Lake

My first time at Dry Falls in a few years, I found no access by boat to my favorite south parts of the Lake (Aquarium and South Arm) from the one remaining boat launch; everything choked with cattails. About 2 to 3 pm, there was a light Callibaetis hatch and commensurately light response to it from the fish in Browns Bay. Finally a relaxed confident rise to a cripple and another great rainbow, this one about the same length as the Rocky Ford fish but even deeper bodied, about 4 pounds and explosive; my biggest resident rainbow in Washington. That was it; only three fish in two days, but what fish.

Bill Redman

### Nawatzl Lake

Local personalities express their character at Nawatzl Lake. The shore

fisherman, after catching a huge stringer of trout, shouted out plenty of four-letter expletives as we rowed by some 60 yards offshore.

A happier story unfolded as I rowed my 17-foot canoe back to the parking lot. Upon falling out of the canoe on shore a very kind teenager ran up to me to offer help carrying my canoe to my truck. Shortly his dad and friend came over to help out. The canoe was much lighter with four kind souls carrying it. We had a nice long chat about the fishing at Nawatzl. They were surprised we knew about their special fishery on the triploids. We have Dave Schorsch to thank for the research on the lake. See you there next year.

Tom Neu

### Munn Lake May 7, 2017

After hearing rumors for a couple of years, “huge trout”, “close to home”, “you won’t believe it!”, etc, etc., I finally decided to investigate Munn Lake in Tumwater, Washington. A perusal of the WDFW website showed a small lowland lake, minutes from the freeway, that is being managed as a catch and release mixed species lake. Further peeking my curiosity were the braggarts overheard at the club outing on Newatzl lake, claiming to have taken 48 pounds of trout from Munn in 4 hours! An exploration was mandatory!

Arriving at the lake at the crack of ten on a Sunday (the worst possible time to go fishing) I was pleasantly surprised to find a relatively undeveloped shoreline, and a very rich lake with the characteristic tannic water. There were a few folks casting flies, and several more trolling around in circles with hardware. I had been warned that this was mostly a bobber and chironomid show (even says so on the WDFW site) yet I saw nobody fishing that way. Lilly pads surround the lake, which seems to drop off fairly deeply a short distance out.

I started to fish in open water, along the shoreline, in classic “wet line exploring for trout style”. An hour and a



half later, bumpless, I decided to check out the little rises I was seeing in the lily pads. Probably baby bass. About three casts later, I was into a 17 inch rainbow, right in the lilies! The next trout, five minutes later was a solid 3 pounds and 20 inches. Five minutes later, the Chinese Fire Drill commenced when a 6 pound rainbow ate my fly ten feet from the boat, again in the middle of the weeds! In the weeds, around the anchor line, under the oar, wouldn't fit in the net! Holy crap! Landed it against the odds! At this point, I'm a believer! The fish were planted big, but had obviously not missed any meals. All were bright, fat, and strong. A couple coughed up bugs as I released them.

I continued to fish along the logs and weeds, and found large schools of crappie a little too eager for the fly, and enormous bluegills. This would be a great place for a foam popper in the pads, really fun! A couple more trout ambushed my fly on the way back to the launch, both over 17 inches. A cold beverage and lunch on the boat launch, and home I go. The travel time to Munn from North Seattle is about an hour and 15 minutes.

My quest this year is for quality waters on the west side of the state. It seems that at least a couple of state biologists are on the same page. Check out the information available on the "fish Washington" link on the WDFW website, and GO THERE! Tight Lines! Dave Schorsch

### ***Fish Lake, May 4, 2017-***

Off Hwy 2, with no wind, 65 degrees, and bluebird skies we set off on a weekday trip to celebrate Mark Pratt's 58<sup>th</sup> birthday. Paul Wyckoff came because he loves fly fishing and a good party too.

I have a new Dave Scadden Dragonfly, three-man raft with rowing frame [94 lbs.] that I was itching to try. We had originally planned to be on the Yakima River, but it was blown out and dangerously high and fast, plan B was Fish Lake, [ice out had only been in the last 2 weeks]. The water was cold, fish

were lethargic and down deep most of the day and up on the surface with dry flies, later in the afternoon. Paul used an intermediate line with a green bugger and I used a full sinking line with a brown leech pattern.

Mark was fishing from his pontoon boat with a red glass bead head green bugger, which he had great luck with last month at the outing at Lake Newwassel [near Shelton].

Three sizes of Rainbows in the lake; 8-9 inchers [recently stocked], 19-20 inchers [hold overs cartwheeling like little steelhead, and a few triploids up to 26 inches that fought like salmon.

I was catching more fish on the full sinker than Paul on his intermediate, so I offered to switch rods with him. Wouldn't you know, the fish Gods were with Paul that day, the next cast he lets



out a howl, with my 4 wt. Sage bending over, I thought he had snagged the bottom, good thing I had brought my largest landing net, in case we got into a big Brown trout like other trips in the past.

We took numerous photos, this way and that, with the snowcapped mountains in the background to record the spectacular catch, and being a put and take hatchery lake, we agreed Paul should keep the fish to show his "Bride to Be" who was maybe getting a little suspicious of the "catch and release"

attitude, and never bringing home a fish. Was he really out fly-fishing, or was Hawk leading him astray at the

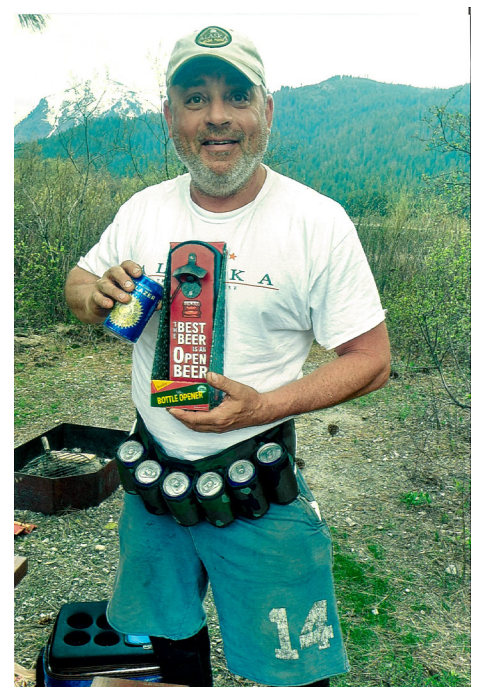


Lusty Lady for the afternoon?

We had a great late afternoon, steak shore lunch, celebrating with many toasts to the fish and to the birthday boy, and to getting off the lake before the big lightning storm that came over Stevens Pass.

Our timing was impeccable, and all had a good time.

David "Hawkeye" Hawkinson





## Project Healing Waters

### Lake Langlois

On April 15<sup>th</sup> the Project Healing Waters Northwest Region took 29 veterans on an outing sponsored by Issaquah/Bellevue TU. WFFC is the sponsor of the Project Healing Waters program for the Seattle and American Lake Veterans. This was the third year for the outing. WDFW stocks the lake a few days before the outing. The lake is restricted to PHW Veterans and they need no license and they get to keep five fish each! It is a big deal for them.

We had 16 boats provided by volunteers from all over the state. Our local Seattle VA group had 8 veterans. Rich Gaspar, 1st VP membership, and prospective member Dave Spratt provided boats for us. I was the PR guy; see photos! The DAR Chapter from North Bend provided coffee, doughnuts and goodie packs for the vets to keep them happy until the TU crew served the BBQ lunch. It was a great day weather wise! The fish were very friendly and eager to play!

Jim McRoberts



*One Vet takes hold of a trophy (top) while the group assembles tired from a great day of fishing made possible by Project Healing waters.*



### On the fly cont.

people in the world. Fish is protein. So when we read articles that predict the “desert oceans” and crumbling fishing stocks, it sounds like nothing but doom and gloom. Such dire predictions motivated Ray to challenge this thinking. Researchers then went to work to measure fish abundance rather than monitoring fish catches which vary historically and offer a poor means of measurement.

The website, [www.legacy.org](http://www.legacy.org), keeps more accurate correlation of datum that measure fish abundance worldwide. Yes, fish stocks plummeted during the era of industrial fishing that began in 1950. But since 1990, fish stocks have rebounded and fishing pressure has decreased. In other words, fish populations took a big hit in the mid century, and in many cases leveled off and started to increase. For places with data, South America and the Mediterranean are notable exceptions to improvement along with regions in Asia where no data exists. Stocks globally sit at about half the abundance as they did before industrial fishing began, but they have leveled off at a place where food production and fish abundance have reached stasis.

Should I stop eating fish? Sushi? Ray’s answer; if you don’t eat fish, what are going to eat? If I substitute fish with beef, pork and chicken then I add to the system many harmful by-products and increase use of water in production, I might produce more harm than fishing. Green house gases serve as a case in point. Many fish and shellfish have low carbon footprints. All commercial meat production, in contrast, has high carbon footprints. Fishing does not remove bio-diversity at anywhere near the level of farming, organic or not. Fishing pressure has never reduced bio-diversity according to Ray.

Closer to home, Alaska and West Coast fisheries have had down cycles, but just one example, Sockeye, have remained healthy in most places and in many years have enjoyed increases. Down the coast news is not so good. You know the sad story. Except for Pinks, every other stock is depleted.

Member questions were brisk and dour in tone. Ray punted on ethical questions like, “Should we kill sea lions?” and stuck to the science. “Do hatcheries impact wild populations?” Not always.

Rich brought things to a close with profound thanks and applause.

## Misc.

### 2016 AWARDS PRESENTATIONS AND RECAP

By: Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

We tried a different approach to our Awards for the year 2016. Rather than having all presentations made in one focused meeting, we spread them over two—January and February. This permitted having a fishing-oriented program at each meeting. One of the objectives was to encourage attendance, and we accomplished that with excellent programs at both meetings. We also relaxed the dress code for the January meeting, which I think also encouraged attendance, although our communications about this were inconsistent. In all events, I would recommend using this approach for the 2017 Awards.

Our *Creel Notes* Editor David Ehrich has done an excellent job of reporting on the activities at each meeting, including the Awards presentations. I refer you to the *Creel Notes* for February and March. I will do a summary recap here, with a bit of brief narrative.

*Empty Creel Award*, to a member for service to the Club—presented by Pete Baird to PATRICIA BECKER for, among other things, outstanding service as our Ghillie. Pat is the first woman recipient of this Award, although, of course, gender is not relevant factor.

*Tommy Brayshaw Award*, to a member for service to the fly-fishing community—announced by your reporter and presented by President John Gravendyk to PAT PETERMAN for his work in teaching and promoting fly casting and his activity on the FFF Casting Board of Governors.

*Wet Socks Award*, not one of our “regular” Awards, but periodically presented to a member for continuing to fish without regard to personal

risk or creature comforts—presented by Chuck Ballard to JIM McROBERTS for continuing to fish in the rain at the Lake Hamman outing while others had retreated indoors for shelter and a chili lunch.

First *Special Award*—presented by Kris Kristoferson to JIM GOEDHART for his exceptional service to the Club in managing from start to finish the task of website development and implementation.

Second *Special Award*—presented by Ron Dion to BOB BURLICK for exceptional service as Second Vice President in planning and organizing creative and informative programs for Member meetings during the past five years.

Third *Special Award*—presented by Chuck Ballard to Kerry Oldenburg, now KERRY HODGES, for her outstanding work in organizing and managing two very enjoyable and financially successful Christmas parties.

*Dunkers Award*, to one who has fully immersed himself/herself into the fly fishing experience—presented by Dick Brening to RON LITTLE, followed by ceremonial initiation by prior recipients, for twice falling out of Mark Pratt’s boat.

Finally, thanks to the other members of the 2016 Awards Committee: Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Ron Dion, and Kris Kristoferson.

### Help the Ghillies enjoy Dinner Meeting’s by Prepaying for Dinners

Since the first of the year, 56% of all dinner meeting attendees have elected to pay at the door for their dinners rather prepay for them using our new website. Interestingly, 73% of the pay at door attendees paid for their dinner using credit card.

You may not know this but if you prepaid for your dinner this greatly simplifies the check-in process for the Ghillies and yourself as all you need to do is pick up your dinner ticked off of the table and go enjoy the Wetfly Social.

But, if you pay at the door, you must be checked in by the Ghillie to take your cash or check or process your credit card which they are glad to do, but adds to their administrative work during and after the Dinner Meeting (i.e. count the cash-checks, total the Credit Card charges, prepare the Dinner Meeting Accounting Sheet and Deposit the Checks-Cash at BECU).

So please consider prepaying for the next dinner your sign-up for to help reduce the Ghillies administrative check-in work load and give them more time to enjoy the Dinner meeting activities.

All you have to do is click on the Prepay by Credit button rather than the Pay at Event sign-up button, to with your credit card. By the way it is just as secure to pay by credit card on the website as by paying by a credit card at the Dinner Meeting as both are processed using a PCI compliant secured system.

We don’t expect all of you to prepay for your dinners but would greatly appreciate it if more of you would to help the “volunteer” Ghillies out by make their job easier at the Dinner Meetings.

Tight Lines – Jim Goedhart,  
WFFC Treasure & Webmaster



The President has other duties





**Washington Fly Fishing Club**

**P.O. Box 639**

**Mercer Island, WA 98040**

**May 2017**

**Meeting Announcement**



**Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.**

**This month's program is on April 18. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.**

**This month:** Chester Allen is going to be our speaker for our club meeting on May 16th and will talk on "The Northwest's Desert Rivers." As you may remember Chester talked to us last year about fly-fishing for searun cutthroat in Puget Sound and gave an excellent presentation. Not only was his presentation excellent with great pictures, but he is also an outstanding speaker. He is going to give us a tour of Oregon's Deschutes River, the Crooked River, Columbia River and the Yakima focusing on trout and bass. He will also add in a little bit about how to fish---and gain access to---all the great ponds and little lakes on private farms and ranches. Growing up in Washington and Oregon and fishing all his life locally he has an intimate knowledge of these subjects and I expect we will be treated to another superb presentation.

Bob Burdick, assistant to Mike Wearne, 2nd VP for presentations