

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



International Federation of
FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



MMXIV No. 7

July, 2014

President's Riffle

By President Michael Mosczynski



Bits 'n' Pieces

A good time was had by all and the fish were biting at our last outing to Leech Lake. Maybe it was the Solstice. Thanks to **Dave Schorsch** for another great outing.

After a long hiatus, The WFFC is once again a member in good standing with the International Federation

of Fly Fishers (IFFF and formerly the FFF). See **Don Simonson's**, IFFF, our IFFF Coordinator Chair's, piece later in this issue of the Creel Notes for more information.

Congratulations are in order to **Vicki Hoagland**. Vick has been nominated by the Washington State Council of the IFFF for the Council Award of Excellence to be given at the IFFF Fair in Livingston, MT this August. Good Luck, Vicki!

Congratulations to the McKenzie Flyfishers of Eugene, OR on their 50th Anniversary Reunion and Picnic on July 17.

The June membership meeting speaker, Marc Williamson, fly tyer, fly caster, and guide, was great hit. Many members expressed that evaluation to me, some saying it was among the best speakers they have heard at our dinner meetings. Thanks to **Bob Burdick** for lining up these great speakers. Keep them coming, Bob!

Reminders

July 15, Membership Meeting, STC, **Jim MacDonald**, 1st Ghillie

August 18-24, Crazy Mountain, Montana high-lakes outing, **David Ehrich**, organizer

September 13, Hood Canal Outing, **Dave Schorsch**, organizer

September 27, Lake Hannon, **Mike Wearne**, organizer

October 21, **WFFC 75th Anniversary Gala**, STC, **Dave Schorsch**, organizer

The two best times to fish is when it's rainin' and when it ain't.
Patrick McManus

Be well.

July Program

Fly Fishing Africa's Wild Rivers "A Once in a Lifetime Experience"

Dan Eastman and Erica Varga

By **Bob Burdick**, 2nd VP (Programs)

Dan Eastman and Erica Varga, are a husband and wife team whose unique interests in fish and Africa have come together for this program. Their journey started in Ithaca, New York where they went to grade school together in the 80's. There they passed each other in the halls of Lansing High for 12 years, graduated and went their separate ways in 1990.

Dan studied at Cornell University for four years and then his passion for fishing turned towards a career through a Masters program at UW's Alaska salmon program. He worked in the Bristol Bay region's salmon producing lakes and stream for several years where he collected data for his thesis by probing small streams for salmon, trout, grayling and char with his fly rod. He graduated from UW in 1996 with an advanced degree in fish biology and new appreciation for fly fishing!! After spending several years working for the Quinault Indian Nation on the Washington Coast as a salmon biologist, learning every inch of the Queets and Quinault Rivers, his paths crossed again with Erica.

Erica had graduated from Hartwick University where her interest in Cultural Anthropology had taken her to Africa -

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planting a seed of passion for Africa that would remain with her forever. She had led guests from around the globe on overland safaris across Botswana and into Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe where she also worked as an Assistant Anthropologist.

July's Program

"Has some teeth to it!"

Their travels together have taken them throughout Southern Africa over the past 10 years. Erica's passion for Africa started to grow strong again, culminating in the creation of Acappella Safaris in 2009. Her contagious excitement for Africa, combined with deep connections in the travel industry has made her very successful. She specializes in sending clients on "once-in-a-lifetime" adventures in southern Africa. Dan is closely involved as a sound board, accountant and fishing tour guide!!

Program Chairman's Note: Should this program excite you enough to want to do a safari with Dan and Erica, their next trip is scheduled for October 21 through October 30th

“Thank you very much for having me. The venue, food, & everything was wonderful. You have a great group I especially enjoy questions from the group. Thanks again for everything.”
-Marc Williamson

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

2014 was another exciting year in the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition. Many great and creative patterns were submitted for judging by the members at the May meeting.

Walt Swanson was the overall winner—his third time to win this Competition. We have two other three-time winners. The first was **Dick Scales**, followed by **Bob Burdick**, who has the distinction of winning three years in a row. In winning this year, Walt also distinguished himself by being the first overall winner to place first in each of the three categories. Way to go, Walt!



Here are the complete results, with first, second, and third place finishers listed in order:

Mouse pattern

Walt Swanson; Chuck Ballard; Bob Birkner

Sofa pillow

Walt Swanson; Pat Becker; Ron Dion--Dick Brening *tie*

Chernobyl Ant

Walt Swanson; Pat Becker--Ron Dion *tie*; Chuck Ballard

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...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

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Charles Davis

2nd Vice President (Programs)
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Ghillie 2
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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting **email** (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

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.

Overall

Walt Swanson; Pat Becker; Chuck Ballard--Ron Dion tie



Walt Swanson receives 2014 Aigner Award from Bill Neal

The Competition was again open to participation by individuals outside the Club who were involved in Club-supported programs. They submit the same patterns, and there were two participants this year. David Hart was the overall winner being David Hart, with Ray Ostman, second—both are from Healing Waters .

Thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to **Bob Burdick** for his help in selecting the patterns and to **Pete Baird** for handling the judging at the May meeting.



Ron Dion receives Last Years (2013) Winner's Pin

And....After All These Years!

WFFC Reinstated in the IFFF

By Don Simonson IFFF WFFC Coordinator

After almost 18 years the WFFC has rejoined the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) to become a member affiliated club. In 1965 the WFFC was one of the founding clubs of the FFF (now the IFFF). In 1996 because of our single gender status, the FFF ruled we could no longer be a member club. When the WFFC membership voted to remove the word "male" from our by-laws the IFFF was open to our reinstatement.



As IFFF coordinator for the club and a life member of the IFFF, it is gratifying to know that the club and the IFFF can again work together to attain the goals of better fly fishing through conservation and education.

Through these past years there were several members of this club who gave a lot of their time helping with the Washington State Federation of FFF (WSCFFF) fair in Ellensburg, becoming IFFF certified casting instructors and supporting Project Healing Waters for our wounded veterans.

If you are a current IFFF member I thank you. If you are not, I

ask you to consider joining. Way back in the late 70's when **Gordy Young** asked me to become a member, I accepted and even though I did not agree with the then FFF's decision to suspend our membership in the 90s I continued to be a member of the then FFF. To learn more about the IFFF see <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Home.aspx> or select the IFFF logo button on the bottom of our public homepage.

I hope to see you in Livingston, Montana at the IFFF fair August 5-9.

Don Simonson

IFFF WFFC Coordinator

MCI IFFF, member of IFFF Casting Board of Governors

Youth Fly Fishing Class

Volunteers Needed!

By Patricia Becker, Youth Committee Chairman

"Introduction to Fly Fishing" for Issaquah High School at Rattlesnake Lake, August 6, from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. This is a short half day class.



There are 22 unsuspecting teenagers in a summer school who need experienced teachers to learn how to cast a fly, tie a fly, knots for fishing, some etymology and what the gear is used for. It is half a day at a beautiful location, under an hour from Seattle with young people from 15-18 years old.

Please help the club put on a great showing about how much fun and addicting this sport can be. Please contact **Pat Becker** at 419-310-9723 (cell) or 206-523-5031 (home).

WFFC Membership

WFFC Membership Connection

By Charlie Davis, Membership Chairman

It brings a smile whenever a person with a passion for fly fishing connects with the Club. This often happens without the draw, at first, of a personal connection: someone may hear of the Club or more narrowly its education or conservation activities, visit our website, perhaps attend a class or meeting. Then, it is easy and fun for members and guests to share common interests and experiences.



It seems that just as frequently those who join and become active with the Club emerge from the ranks of member buddies and acquaintances. Some of these are actually children of members who attend outings, meetings and at some point decide to themselves become members.

We encourage you to encourage them, those you know and those whose paths you might simply cross. If these family members, friends and others who you might meet streamside, in a fly shop, at work, conservation activity or elsewhere have a passion for fly fishing, there is a good chance they have something to offer WFFC and the Club to them. So, every once in a while, grab one (gently) by the ear and let him or her know what we, in our 75th year, are about.

Welcome 3 New Members

Bill McMillan

Biography

Bill McMillan started fishing at age 5-6, and after some fisheries studies at UW, he decided that he could be more effective in his vision of fisheries science through activism outside the system. Fishing became a primary means for data collection. In 1983 he initiated the first snorkel surveys of Wind River to document declining wild fish numbers. He co-managed a research camp on the Kamchatka Peninsula during joint Russian/American research expeditions. Bill is currently very active in many Washington conservation activities. In July 2013 Bill was the WFFC's guest speaker on the topic of "Hatchery Impacts on Wild Steelhead Populations".



Bill's Response to Honorary Membership

I am very appreciative of this honor from a club that has such a long and rich fly fishing history in Washington, and a storied history of members whose names remain fly fishing legend on the West Coast. My wife and I were particularly impressed by WFFC and the spirit of the membership when invited to provide the presentation to the group last summer.

I will look forward to the Creel Notes and to keeping a line of communication open with you and WFFC about things of potential mutual interest regarding conservation issues. Seems like I fish rarely anymore, so reading a good newsletter will at least keep me connected to the fly fishing that I continue to revere for teaching me a love of nature, wild fish, and the sound of flowing water over stones.

Please provide my thanks to the membership. I seldom get to Seattle, but when time becomes available I will look forward to attending a meeting. Some of the members I have known for a good many years, but with visits few and far between due to my tendency toward the solitary and out of the way places.

With very best regards,

Bill

Kerry Oldenburg

Biography

First let me thank the members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club for allowing me to become a member and for the excellent classes I have had an opportunity to take. I have learned a great deal regarding casting and fly tying techniques and hope to continue improving my skills in the years to come.



I grew up in a fishing family as both my father and mother grew up in western Montana where plying the waters borders somewhere between religion and philosophy. I was born in Portland, OR to a large Irish family and we traveled each summer to visit grandparents in Anaconda Montana. My grandfather kept a log cabin on the Pintler Scenic Loop, east of Deerlodge, where we often stayed. I spent many a happy summer roaming the forests and streams of the surrounding area.

My father and uncles were avid fishermen, and patiently took us along. We fished Georgetown Lake and Flint Creek, later on Rock Creek, and the Big Hole. I learned the exciting tug of a fish on the line at an early age and it has never lost its pull on my heart. My older brother Jim migrated to fly fishing and after my husband John passed, gave me my first introduction to fly fishing on the Deschutes. I never looked back. My brother Jim and brother in law, Mike became my fishing buddies and patiently tutored me in the sport. I traveled the I-5 corridor many a time to head Eastern Oregon with them to fish the Deschutes, Crooked, Fall and Metolius Rivers as well as East-lake for somewhat larger trout.

I've lived in the northwest all my life, was married 35 years to a wonderful Midwest man, We raised two lovely daughters on Mercer Island and spent most of our free time enjoying the many outdoor activities the area has to offer including camping, hiking, cycling, and skiing.

A few years ago I was fortunate to retire early from a 35 year banking career and hope to spend a great deal more time out of doors. I look forward to WFFC outings and to learning more about fly fishing, entomology, and opportunities in Washington. I currently volunteer with two nonprofit groups, Invest in Youth, where I serve as a board member and tutor in inner city Seattle schools and the Washington Women's Foundation. I also volunteer with The Mountaineers as a certified hike leader and enjoy introducing others to the joys of nature. My hope is to eventually do the same with WFFC while continuing to hone my fishing skills and share my enthusiasm for fishing and the great outdoors.



AND.....Kerry proves her fish catching capability!

How about the rest of you? Lots of 'big' talk, but few pictures to go with it.

Creel Notes Editor

Doug Mollet

Biography

As a Puget Sound native I spent my early years with a Colorado spinner and a worm on small rivers and streams. Advancing to an army surplus rubber raft I started floating the Yakima River in the mid 70's. We threw rooster tails under the brush, I remember the fish hitting it before you could flip the bail. Upgrading from rubber to fiberglass in the late 80's my fishing credits were spent trout fishing in Lake Washington, steelhead fishing and catching and occasional salmon in Puget Sound.

Retiring from The Boeing Co. in 2007 gave me the opportunity to invest my time getting involved in fly-fishing. After a couple dozen floats on the Yakima River, two solo trips to Montana, a handful of outings in a float tube (donated to me by one of your members) and catching my first steelhead on a fly rod. It's clear I'm just getting started in this sport. Thank you for including me in the WFFC.



Oh....and Future WFFC Member

Congratulations!

On Saturday, 6/28, **Peter Crumbaker** and his wife Emelie welcomed **Jackson Lamont Crumbaker** into their world.

The 7.6 lb. baby boy is healthy, hungry and at home and both parents are proud and tired. No fishing trips are planned yet.



June 17, 2014



'On the Fly' (Diluted Edition')



My feeble attempt to transcribe last month's general meeting - *The Editor* (Our superb 'On the Fly' writer, David Ehrich, is taking the summer off)

The meeting opened with the abrupt announcement that our President **Michael Mosczynski** just had leg surgery and is in recuperation. 1st Vice President **Charlie Davis** ably stepped right up and led our general meeting with out missing a beat

Prospective new member **Kerry Oldenburg** introduced herself to the membership. **Bill McMillan**, a recent program speaker, was proposed as an inductee honorary member. A few other prospective members from around the tables introduced themselves to club membership. Hopefully they will be voted on soon and become full fledged members.

Fishing Reports included Peterhope Lake, British Columbia where **John Narver** and party braved strong winds but nevertheless took fish to 6 lbs with several in the 4 lb range. Damsels, sedges and callibaetis were the ticket. **Rocco Maccarrone** and party visited Horseshoe Lake (3 Lakes) out of Chewelah, WA. Floating docks with electric motors are the platforms for fishing these lakes. Thin brookies 12" to 14" and occasional large rainbow 24" -30" were the fishing fare. The retreat/ranch house has wonderful accommodations. **Gil Nyerges** gave a 'I had a dream

speech' fishing many of his old fishing haunts this last month only to wake up and find he hadn't brought any of his fishing gear and his fishing buddies had deserted. **Bob Birkner** hit Rocky Ford for what he considered "3 smaller than usual fish" than went on to Walker Lake near Wauconda WA. Place has a nice lodge and a limit of 10 rods per day. Caught many over 20" with 26", the largest. Mouse patterns right along the shore took some of these large fish. **Jim McRoberts** commented about the recent outing at Chopaka taking many fish along the shore sight casting. Mentioned this was one of his better fishing outings at Chopaka. **Kris Kristoferson** went to the Deschutes River in Oregon. Had a good trip, good company, but lots of people on the river. **Bob Burdick** fished Isaak Lake a private fishery near Coulee City. Great fishing for fish 3 to 6 lbs and wound up with blisters on his fingers the trout were so strong. Bob also fished Corbett Lake but the fishing was so so. Callibaetis hatch wasn't as prolific as it had been in past years although it appears the lake has a good population of fish.

Dave Schorsch gave an overview of our upcoming outing to Leech Lake and urged people to sign up and take advantage of the White Pass condos available for rent.

Presenter for the evening was Marc Williamson, a 'now retired' college professor. Marc gave a rundown on Central Oregon. A special place of his is Fall River where he has spent many vacations and a lot of time as a youth, a crystal clear stream that has numerous trout that are not easy to catch. Marc also described numerous favorite lakes in the Bachelor Mountain and Newberry Crater areas in detail including Big Lava, South Twin, Crane Prairie, Hosmer and East Lakes. This detail included best areas to fish, the importance of a fish finder to know the bottom and thermocline, best fly patterns and time of the year. He did mention that ODFW has quit stocking Atlantic salmon in Hosmer Lake (*a favorite of WFFC members in past years*) in favor of cutthroat and is apparently fishing well. The Crooked River is an also a great place to fish, especially in the fall. Check out the Big Bend campsite, its one his favorites on the Crooked. Davis Lake is now mostly a bass lake and no longer has the trout fishing it was once famous for. Finally Marc urged members to check out his website: fallriverflyfishing.weebly.com

Kerry Oldenburg and **Bill McMillan** were voted on for membership and both were accepted.

Committee Reports:

Bill Neal, Awards Chairman, presented **Ron Dion** with his 2013 pin award then went on to announce our winner of the 2014 Boyd Aigner fly tying award. **Walt Swanson** was the grand recipient who swept 1st place in all 3 categories (patterns).

Doug Schaad, Conservation Chairman filled the membership in on a lawsuit filed by a collation of 13 organizations (*Earth Justice, Federation of Fly Fisherman were mentioned*) against the Bonneville Power and the entire management of the Columbia River management. Other lawsuits have apparently haven't been enforced and this one, if won, will hopefully be more effective.

Dave Schorsch, 75th Anniversary Chairman is putting together a '75th celebration braggin wall' of all WFFC members favorite fishing picture, especially targeted are photo's of each

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(Continued from page 5) - On the Fly

member as child with a catch of fish or fish. Dave urged members to dig through old photo albums and find something to send Dave. If not digital copy, Dave will scanned it then return it to you.

With Committee Reports complete, Charlie Davis deemed meeting adjourned.

I stand comfortably, back to the sun as the cool rain splashes on my face, fills my cup and washes me clean. Far to the north and south the ends of the rainbow touch the sea. Four rainbow ends and no pots of gold, but the treasure is mine nonetheless. Perhaps until now I have always looked for the wrong kind of coin.

From Adrift, 76 Days lost at Sea – by Steven Callahan

NW Youth Academy

2014 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

By Bob Young

I had the opportunity and pleasure of participating in the program which exposes young people from ages of 12 to 16 to all aspects of fly fishing and demonstration of many considerations regarding conservation. This week long 'camp' is primarily sponsored by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and Washington State Federation of Fly Fishers and is hosted by members of the Olympia Chapter of TU and the South Sound Fly Fishers. Enrollment fee is \$275 and each student is required to include an essay along with his application. Not everyone is accepted.

Activities are conducted on the grounds of a Christian church group located on Hicks Lake in Lacey. The site offers group 'bunkhouse' accommodations for all students, a large meeting facility which includes a dining room and food preparation kitchen, a large lawn area for casting instruction and two fishing piers on the lake front. Three meals are provided each day. I stayed in cabin by myself.

The students, 16 boys and 2 girls, and parents arrived on Saturday morning for final registration. The students were all assigned seating and each was supplied with a hat, fishing vest and some reference material including a basic fly-tying manual. A short indoctrination speech was presented describing the planned activities for the week and providing assurances for the parents of students well being.

After dorm assignments, each student was assigned a rod and reel and instructed in stringing them up followed by a casting demonstration. Classroom instruction then followed. Divided into three groups, each group attends one of the fly fishing skill development sessions consisting initially of three basic topics: casting, fly tying and knot tying. During casting sessions students are required to wear eye protection. The skill development



classes are conducted for three days running.

Other presentations are provided to fill days completely. These include programs on:

- Water safety
- Streamside ethics
- Stillwater fishing techniques (Mike Croft)
- Etymology
- Fish biology
- Sustaining living rivers (Dr. James Karr)
- Matching the hatch
- Fisheries conservation/principals of ecology (U.S. Fish & Wildlife)
- Invasive species (USFW)

Bob Triggs of Port Townsend made a presentation on searun cutthroat trout.

Most mornings and evenings the students were driven by counselors in county vans to various fishing spots. The destination was either to a stream environment (the Deschutes River) or a nearby catch and release pond. I usually went along on the ventures to the pond and provided guidance on casting, retrieving and, on occasion, playing and landing a fish. On those days it was 5 AM departure (yawn).

Thursday and Friday mornings a trip to a Puget Sound beach was undertaken. This was the first year for this activity and I was happy to act as the leader for these outings. One morning we faced rather tough conditions with wind right in our faces and somewhat roily water but the kids were exposed to the salt water fishing opportunities right here in our front yard.



Friday afternoon the fly casting instructor, Robert Gerlach, conducted a casting competition with rings and hoops and distance measurements. I thought that some of the less capable casters might be reluctant to try, but every student stepped up and took a shot. It was impressive to see some young people who had never handled a fly rod cast up to 56 feet with some very nice loops. That evening there was a BBQ dinner and a big campfire.

Saturday was getaway day starting with a clean-up of the fly tying area, cleaning and stowing all the rods and reels and packing up and cleaning of the dorms.

After lunch the parents started arriving. Each student was presented with a certificate of completion and a couple of awards were presented. I had the honor of presenting the Bruce Ferguson award to a young lad who "demonstrated the highest dedication to developing his fly fishing skills and who has demonstrated the most improvement in the practice of these skills."

Just when everybody stood up in anticipation of departing, a shout arose and all the grads were told to form a line on one side of the room and each was presented with a 5 wt. rod, reel and line package. Surprise!



Turneffe Flats, Belize

Golden Bones and Permit

By Scott Hagen

Stephanie and I were up at 02:30 AM on June 14th to get to SeaTac in time to meet Jack Tonkin and get on the plane to DFW and then on to the Belize City airport. We were met there by the Turneffe (pronounced turn-eff) Flats crew, transported to their shuttle boat and took a thirty mile ride to the lodge. The lodge will handle about twenty-five guests. Our week was evenly divided between fishermen and divers.

Jack and I signed up for this trip to fish for permit, and Stephanie said I was not going to Belize without her! We made arrangements with the lodge so that Jack and I fished together and Stef was assigned a different guide so that she could target bonefish.



Scott Hagen with a Nice Permit

The permit fishing was tough, because of an unusually stiff wind. It was too strong to allow the guide to pole the skiff, so we had to motor along, looking for permit in a chop, then try to get ahead of them, and get one or two casts off before they went by. I never even made a cast until the afternoon of the third day. We finally encountered a feeding school and after many tries and fly changes, I managed to hook and land a pretty nice permit. I had one other "take" the next day, but managed to yank the fly out of the fish's mouth. We never got a shot the last two days.

Meanwhile, Stephanie was having a very good time. She landed two bones the first day, seven the second, increased her total every day, and on Thursday landed thirty bones to four pounds. On Wednesday, she landed a "golden bone". The lodge had been seeing a few of them for a couple of years, but no one had ever landed one. The guide was really excited. One of the camp managers, who is in process of getting his masters in marine biology, called it a genetic variant to a regular bonefish. On her last day, she told the guide she wanted to target a bone over five pounds, and landed one that looks like about six to me.

All in all, a very nice trip, with excellent guides, very nice rooms and very good food.... If only it hadn't been so windy.



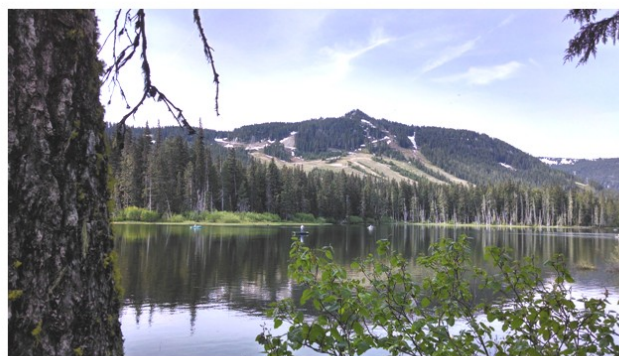
Stephanie Hagen, Freshly Caught Bonefish

Leech Lake Report #1

July Outing at Leech Lake, Best Ever!

By Ron Dion

Thanks to **Dave Schorsch** for a very enjoyable, tasty BBQ dinner on Saturday evening and thanks to him and **Jim MacDonald** for a hearty pancake/bacon breakfast the next morning.



Leech Lake

Photo taken by Pat Becker

This year's outing at Leech Lake was one of the best ever. The dry fly fishing rivaled that of Chopaka, each day with several hours of dry flies catching triploids 17" - 20" and several brookies in the 12" - 15" range, with the usual smaller brookies.



Phenomenal that the fire is still going
With all the B.S. being thrown about



15" Brookie taken by Ron Dion



Ron Dion's son, Tim, with a Triploid Rainbow

Leech Lake Report #2

Leech Lake, July 21 and 22

By Dave Schorsch

What a great time! The fishing was great, the weather nice, no mosquitoes, no big crowd on the lake, good happy hour and barbeque, what more could you want?

18 club members convened on Leech Lake at White pass for the weekend. We moved the outing up two weeks to avoid the crowding we experienced before, and to miss the blood sucker hatch. It worked!

The triploid rainbows were numerous and hungry for anything near the top, and the brookies were bigger than any of us remembered. I lost count at 28 rainbows and 13 brooks on Saturday, guys like **Pratt** and **Davidson** did even better! Many of the rainbows were 18 inches or better, and I caught several brooks over 16 inches. Unheard of in a lake famous for 8 inch-

ers! Most were taken on dry flies, with mayfly duns being very effective. Absolutely the best day I've had in three decades of fishing here.

Happy hour was well attended, and well stocked with side dishes and desserts for the steaks. We had 16 for Sunday pancake breakfast at the White Pass Village Inn, and most went back out on the lake!

Thanks to all who helped. Especially Jim (batter boy) MacDonald for his family recipe pancakes for the third year running!

As you go your way of life you will see a great chasm.

Jump

It is not as wide as you think.

-Painted on rock, west of 100 mile House, British Columbia.

75th Anniversary Celebration

Hey folks! It's time for the 75th Anniversary of the WFFC!

By Dave Schorsch

We will be celebrating at the Tennis Club on our usual monthly date in October. Mark your calendar for Oct. 21, and make sure your significant other is available as well! We will have live jazz, displays of historical and hysterical significance, skits, poetry, and other various efforts at entertainment. Dinner is by reservation only, and we have a limit of 150 attendees, so sign up early! We will begin taking reservations in August.



There will be no fundraising at this event (unlike the Christmas party), but there will be some really nice door prizes! We are also going to attempt group pictures (including one of past presidents!) during happy hour, so dress like you're meeting your mother in law for the first time! This is gonna be fun! Tickets will probably be about 75.00/person, which will include dinner and wine on the table. The official registration form will go out with the August Creel Notes, and on line @ WFFC.COM at the same time. Heads up! Heads up! Mark your calendar now!

PS: One of the displays we're really excited about is the picture wall. We want pics of everybody with their first fish! You know! That pic of you with the bullhead you caught on a worm in Green lake in 1959, or one with long hair and pork chop sideburns and a nice flounder. Everybody should be on the wall! I have one of me fishing in a diaper in soap lake!

They lied about the damsel hatch! I already have some incriminating evidence on some senior members, but need much, much more! Send electronic images to me @ colvosdrifter@aol.com, or mail actual pics (which will be returned) to David Schorsch 1425 Broadway #234, Seattle, Wa, 98122. ALSO! Grip and grin pics welcome too! Your best big fish shot would be nice to compare with your bluegill from childhood! So send it in!

Dave Schorsch 206-227-6134

August Outing—Its Not Too Late!

High Lakes Trip 2014 Crazy Mountains, Montana August 18 to 23

By David Ehrich

The High Lakes Planning trip was sparsely attended (Mike and Mike, president and past president) and interest in the trip at the May meeting was the sort of interest that comes peppered with advice about how I should have done this sooner, better, and the like. Frankly, after another depressing "Our Rivers are Screwed" talk and scant interest of the sort I just described, I was ready to give up. But then, when I got home the map I had ordered from mytopo.com came in the mail. One look at the terrain and I said to myself (and perhaps, only to myself), "Game on!"



The Crazies are a range of 11,000+ foot peaks, that create a significant basin chocked full of big lakes with, I hear, lots of trout. We start hiking above 6400', hike about 1900' vertical total in four miles to Blue Lake and we should have the entire basin at our reach. With over two dozen lakes, feeder and outlet streams and even a river or two, fishing terrain will not be a problem. I think a couple base camps will do, and the rest of the time will be pack free, rod in hand day hiking. You would have to be crazy to miss it if you are still healthy enough to hike.

Details:

Where: Meet at Half Moon camp ground on Big Timber Creek, accessible from the Big Timber Creek road, west off Highway 191 which comes off I-90 in Big Timber, Montana.

When: The evening of August 18. Maps and Guides available at all the fly shops in Livingston and can be purchased through www.mytopo.com.

Call **David Ehrich** at 206-498-7241 or email at davidehrich@rocketmail.com.

Wise Guy

Godfather Of Fly Fishing South Whidbey Master Shares 'No secrets' From the South Whidbey Record by Justin Burnett

A lot of words can accurately describe **Gil Nyerges**: teacher, artist, craftsman. To some Whidbey Island anglers, he's a legend.

But the 93-year-old Langley resident waves off such compliments. He maintains he's just a guy who fell in love with fishing, a long time ago, on the shores of Lake Erie in Ohio. Armed with a 20-foot bamboo pole and a bit of line on the end — it had no reel — he learned from his father the basics of a past time he would later characterize as a "science," an "art form."

Well, when it comes to fly fishing that is.

"It's the only way to fish," said Nyerges, with a knowing smile

and a twinkle in his eye.

Spin casters would have something to say about such a claim, he admits, but Nyerges maintains it's the far superior form of angling. And he would know, for the veteran fisherman has come a long way from those days with his father.

Nyerges would later develop a passion and great skill for tying flies, so much so that a few of his most successful designs can be found in tackle boxes across the country. Indeed, "Gil's Monster" — modeled after a dragon fly on a Canadian lake — and the "Nyerges Nymph" — inspired from tiny shrimp crawling on a raised anchor — have been slaying fish for more than 50 years.



Gil Nyerges, a Langley resident, ties a fly at his home shop. Nyerges, 93, is a long-time fly fisherman, and has been tying his own flies for more than 50 years, some of which are still sold in shops around Washington.

— image credit: Justin Burnett / The Record

"He's the guru of fly fishing, that's for sure," laughed Scott Waltenbaugh, a member of The Fishin' Club's board of directors. "He knows just about everything there is to know about fly fishing and tying flies."

Nyerges, a retired Boeing engineer, is generous with his gifts. The past few years he's made "plates," framed cases of flies he's personally tied, to be raffled off at the club's annual December dinner. Waltenbaugh said the proceeds are put toward the club's scholarship program for South Whidbey seniors who are pursuing careers in a related marine industry.

"Mathematicians are out of luck," he said.

Nyerges has been a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club for more than half a century, and has had an impact on a generation of fishermen, said Jeff Dodd, president of the Whidbey Island Fishing Club.

"He's one of the guys who developed the patterns [of flies] and techniques we're using today. ... He's a pretty special guy," Dodd said.

Nyerges helped found the Whidbey club, which meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month at the Race Road fire station on Central Whidbey. For nearly 30 years, he taught fly fishing classes in the spring and fall to students both young and old. He doesn't teach any more, except for special requests, but

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(Continued from page 9) -Gil 'The Godfather'

he's kept his registration book of all his former students. It contains hundreds of names.

Nyerges does still tie flies, but only for fun and for friends. He insists that anyone can learn, and that there are "no secrets" to tying a successful fly — just steady hands and patience. In fact, crafting something that fish will hit is far simpler than most think.

"It seems paradoxical, but it's a fact," Nyerges said.

He recalled one frustrating day on a mountain lake where the fish just weren't biting. But instead of making a long march back to his cabin for something else to put on the end of his line, he found a twig, secured it to a bare hook and spent the rest of the day hauling in fish.

"Just about everything you put out there when the fish are hungry, they'll hit it," he said.

But while Nyerges doesn't sell his flies for money, his designs aren't lost; they can still be found in tackle shops across Western Washington, and in an impressive collection on his wall at home.

It will be on special display at the South Whidbey Bayview Senior Center for 30 days, beginning July 1.

When asked about the honor, he shrugged and smiled.

"That's fine with me, I'll just have bare walls for a month," he said.



'Reeling' in the Years



'Dog Day Fishing' Fishing the Summer Months by the late Dick Thompson

Dick Thompson provides a summary of some of the things he has learned about hot weather fishing in the lakes of eastern Washington

After a season of experience I believe that fly fisherman are not fully utilizing lowland lake fishing technique for hot summer months when fishing generally is considered to be at a "low ebb". This is not a new idea but from the observations of many fisherman that are not applying and consequently missing out on some good fishing.

I shall use Jameson Lake as the example since it is generally known lake to illustrate the technique.

June 24 we arrived at the south end of the lake at 1 PM Hot temperature! Few people about and fishing. Fishing said to be "poor" We fished S.E. corner of main lake and along the cliff, fishing in 25 to 50 feet of Water using wetcel lines and seal fur nymphs. We anchored the boats, then using long casts allowing

flies to settle for a slow count of 50 to bottom. Then a slow retrieves in.

It seemed that the fish would strike just as the fly started up. Between 1-and 4 pm we brought 16 trout of 1 1/2 to 3 pounds to net. Released all but 8. Lots of missed strikes and 6 flies lost to big fish.

July 1, Fished 10 AM to 2 PM in the same general area. Lake beginning to develop a heavy bloom. Fishing a little slower. 12 bought to boats--but fish averaged Larger mostly 2 and 3 pounders.

July 3. A heavy north wind had brought heavy algae growth to south end, main lake unfishable. Caught 5 in the small lake but generally slow. Believed due to development of bloom.

Sept 4" Fished center of the small lake and some of the large lake. Six fish in all in the 2 lb class. Not bothered with small fish. Lots of strikes but hard to hook. Again lost flies to fish and had a number of fish that were hooked come off.

The Principal Ingredients:

1. Fish daylight when sun is well-up. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2. Get out in water of 20 to 60 ft. Anchor boat, the hotter it is the deeper. We believe that this actually tends to concentrate larger fish.
3. Rapidly sink fly line. seal fur nymph "seems to be more effective".
- 4' Long cast. Allow to sink one to two minutes depending upon depth. Mend off line to allow cast section to sink uniformly level. Slow retrieve of 12" to 15". Stiff rod tip. Watch tip for slightest movement and strike.
5. Equipment should include insulated plastic bag with canned ice. Clean fish when caught (*or better yet, release them—Ed*); wipe dry, and place immediately on refrigeration. Never wash cleaned fish in lake water.

Suggestion: unhook fish, make a cast and while line is settling clean fish (*let it go - Ed*).

This is most gratifying type of fishing for it is a challenge to catch those nice fish when everyone claims fishing is poor.



Rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis)
Wenatchee National Forest



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Mercer Island, WA 98040
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Stamp
here

July, 2014

Meeting Announcement



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

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month:

Fly Fishing Africa's Wild Rivers

"A Once in a Lifetime Experience"

Dan Eastman and Erica Varga