

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



MMXV No. 3

March, 2015

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



At our January meeting the Membership amended our Bylaws. Those who have been members for at least one year may now sponsor prospective members. Prior to the amendment one needed to be a member for two or more years to sponsor a prospective member. The amendment added a new twist by providing at least one of the sponsors act as a mentor the new member.

I have been asked "what does being a mentor mean? According to Webster's New World College Dictionary "mentor is defined as: "1. In Greek mythology Mentor was the loyal friend of Odysseus and teacher of his son, Telemachus, 2. a wise, loyal advisor 3. a teacher or coach." My take on this as applied to us is: a teacher and coach as to the mysteries of fly fishing but also an advisor on the workings, if you will, of the Club.

Teaching and coaching is pretty straight forward although to do it well is an art. But what I want to focus on is the advisor part of a mentor's duties

In talking with Scott Hagen about this he noted that, in most cases, one of the sponsors is really the "prime sponsor. Scott is right. Imposing, if you will, a responsibility of mentorship on a sponsor is not out of place and is, in my view, a reminder to him or her that a new member is pretty much a stranger to other members and cannot help but benefit from being introduced to other members, being brought in to conversations and invited to dine at your table.

Some of us who have been members of the WFFC may have forgotten this but coming into this organization as a new member can be a little intimidating. I know it was for me. One of my sponsors was in-active due to living out of state and my other sponsor, my "prime sponsor", was experiencing serious health issues and, as I recall, never attended a meeting after I became a member. I can tell you the initial years of my membership were lonely. Due to other demands on my time I was not able to attend Outings so my exposure was pretty much limited to meetings. Although there was some interaction with other members there was little of it and I, frankly, found I had to force myself to attend as many meetings as I did. At some point not too far into my membership the deci-

sion as to whether I would remain a member was pretty much up for grabs. My own fault? Yeah maybe so. It is with some difficulty that I say this lest it be taken in the wrong manner. I was not abandoned by my sponsors, one a dear friend. Circumstances took them from being able to remain active members. Life happens. A sponsor cannot be at all meetings and outings, life is more complicated than that.

Taking this one step further, it is the obligation of all of us as members to have a sense of those of us who are new or

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March Program

Mark Titus Presents

"The Breach" Film

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP (Programs)

I hope you all enjoyed Kelly Glissmeyer's "Spring Creek Tactics" at our February meeting as much as I did. His parasol flies were exquisite, and I think in certain situations should be quite useful.

This month we will be screening the movie "The Breach", an exceptional movie about the decline of NW as well as world salmon runs made by Mark Titus, a Seattle filmmaker. This is an exceptional film with outstanding photography and as of this writing

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50 guests have signed up to view it with us. The Seattle Tennis Club seats a maximum of 121 people in their downstairs auditorium and I expect that we will hit that maximum. The happy hour will start as usual at 5:30, and salad and a main course will be served at 6:30 sharp. There will be no salad bar, and no room for folks who only want to come to see the movie. The movie will start at about 8:30 and run for 1 hour and 20 minutes, and will be preceded by abbreviated fishing reports and a short business meeting. The function should be over by 10 pm.

On April 21st we welcome back Leland Miyawaki, a former longtime WFFC member, and mostly retired manager of the fishing department at the Orvis store in Bellevue. Leland is presenting a program on how to tie, use, and be successful with his unique Beach popper, which he has developed and refined over the last 15 to 20 years. Good for searun cuts, dollies, coho, and blackmouth, Leland will show pictures of fish off the beach that will make your eyes pop out.

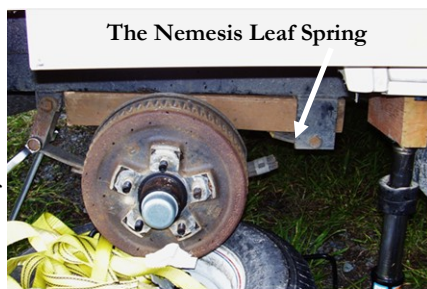
This is a 'must be there' demonstration for all who aspire to being successful at salt water fly fishing.

Awards Wrap up 2014

2014 Awards Final and Errata

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

As our final Award for 2014, we took the *Andy Award* out of seeming retirement and presented it at the February members' meeting. This is an Award to a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law". On behalf of the Awards Committee, **Dick Brening** presented this Award to **Dick Stearns** and **DeVonne Wells** for numerous misfortunes with the suspension on their RV, the first of which occurred at a Club outing at Lake Chopaka. This was the first ever "dual" presentation of the Andy to two Club members, much less to a husband and wife team. This also set another record as the second presentation to the same person—Dick received the Award for 1996 as a result of several incidents involving a boat drain plug that managed not to be where it was supposed to be.



Dick and DeVonne's Misfortunate #1



Dick Brening presents the *Andy Award* to DeVonne Wells and Dick Stearns

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Creel Notes

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President

Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Scott Hagen

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

Treasurer

Jim Goedhart

Secretary

Stephanie Hagen

Ghillie 1

Jim Macdonald

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Trustees

Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13
Mark Pratt '14 Maury Skeith '14
Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

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

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.

(Continued from page 2) - Awards

As Errata to information reported at the January members' meeting and in the February *Creel Notes* concerning certificates for long term membership in the Club: **Don Gulliford** and **Curt Jacobs** will be members for 50, not 60, years; **Robert Bendzak** will be a member for 40, not 50, years; **Victor Kalata** will be a member for 40 years; and **Dick Stearns** received his 40-years' certificate in 2014. Don was at the February members' meeting, and we presented to him a proper certificate. We will mail certificates to the others. Your humble reporter sincerely apologizes.



A happy Don Gulliford with his 50 year membership certificate
(from Awards Chairman Bill Neal)

Call for Help

Transferring Airline Miles By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

Everyone,

Do any of you know the intricacies of transferring airline miles?

As program chairman, once or twice a year, I find a speaker who lives so far away that he needs to fly in to present to us. This costs us in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year or 20 to 30% of the programs budget. Some have suggested there may be a way for various members of the club to donate their unused airline miles to help buy such a ticket and allow us to use the savings to get better speakers from even further away.

If anyone knows whether this is possible would you please contact me by e-mail or call my cell phone at 206-920-5948.



"Fly-fishers are usually brain-workers in society. Along the banks of purling streams, beneath the shadows of umbrageous trees, or in the secluded nooks of charming lakes, they have ever been found, drinking deep of the invigorating forces of nature - giving rest and tone to over-taxed brains and wearied nerves - while gracefully wielding the supple rod, the invisible leader, and the fairy-like fly."

-James A. Hensall, MD, 1855

(Continued from page 1) - President's Riffle

newish members (we are not yet so large that we do not know who we are) and bring them into our conversations. Get to know them. Allow them to know us.

This issue is nothing new....Back Casts describes a proposal made to the Board to "outlaw" members reserving dining chairs at meetings to help break apart cliques. While some things may never change our openness to new members needs to improve.

Greek mythology is silent as to whether Mentor taught Telemachus the double haul.

March Outing

Lone Lake Outing, Saturday, March 21!

By Dave Schorsch, Outings

This is the first club outing for 2015! We will gather at Lone Lake, on south Whidbey Island, for a one day trip. Fish all morning, enjoy lunch and share notes and stories, then fish the rest of the afternoon!

This is a very fertile lake for the "West side", and has already started to fish well this spring. Full sinking lines and gold bead wooley buggers are the usual thing here in the spring, with the usual flotilla of bobber and chironomid guys around the edges all day. Micro leeches worked great last Sunday, with the shallows on the south side producing some really nice fish. March is usually a little too early for top water action, but you never know with the weather we've been having lately.



The club will be set up at the park/boat launch, and will provide lunch around noon. Sponsors of new members for the last year or two should share this info for sure! Lone is a great place to hone those still water skills, and pick up tips that will make for success in other places!

Lone is a protected water, so most any floating craft will work, from float tube to drift boat. Just don't be "that guy" who showed up last weekend with a Boston Whaler and 70 horse, throwing wakes and washing down anglers! Lets share this great lake! See you there!

Dave Schorsch 206-227-6134



Nice Launching at Lone Lake

February 17, 2015



'On the Fly'

A Synopsis of Last Month's General Meeting

By David Ehrich



Gary gave his signature gavel pounding to open up our meeting tonight. **Chuck Ballard** was over heard saying, "his clip is half empty." Gary led off the introduction of guests with three fine gentleman who he claimed to have secured their recent parole. Those fellows were just three of several who helped fill up a full house.

Fishing reports started, naturally, with **Scott Hagen** who described the environs of his Argentina swing with several friends. They saw fish in excess of 20 lbs., his on a size 16 scud. Only **Greg Crumbaker** dared compete with tales of heavy dam release, turbid water on the Crooked River. But good water was found, fish were caught and whiskey enjoyed. **Dave Schorsch** brought down the level with a trip to Rocky Ford on Super Bowl Sunday with a couple dozen other rejects of The 12 on Super-bowl Sunday. Despite low water, some strange bonefish flies worked. Go figure.

Gary picked up some unfinished business with undelivered awards and corrections which netted **Curt Jacobs** a forty year plaque. **Dick Brening** then picked the rare Andy award, given just 8 times in the last 30 years and made history by giving the Andy Award to a couple, **Devonne Wells** and **Dick Stearns**, to commemorate the overriding power of "Murphy's Law". Why did they do to deserve the honor? To make a long story sort of shorter, Dick and Devonne have had repeating troubles with the suspension of their RV. Now, we said that the award was rare, but hear this, Dick is a repeating winner, which is another way of saying, living a less than charmed life.

Bob, the Julia Child of Fly Tying, Burdick ran down the next few months of programs with Leyland ???in April who will show us his famous salt water popper but probably won't tell us where to use it. Next month, the club will screen *The Breach*, a film by Mark Titus, described as a photographic essay about the decline of NW Salmon. Members can sign up with pre-pay only starting now. Expect a full house, so register early. And with that, he introduced Kelly Glissmeyer from Rigby Idaho.

Kelly specializes in spring creeks where he started "cracking the code" in some of Idaho's most challenging waters. Although we will never know the name or whereabouts of these precious waters, he showed us his techniques. His success starts with his favorite technique - using the Parasol Emerger as an indicator. After getting a few "wows" for some picture of splendid fish and beautiful water, he dug into technique. Kelly got some parasol emergers hoping they would get some good strikes, but found little success until he dangled various flies under the parasol, including scuds, mayflies, renegade and damsel nymphs, midges and BWO emerger. The method, still a secret, works on tail waters as well and just about any slow moving water. His list of rivers was long.

Technique. Stealth counts. Wade carefully and wade slowly. Sight fishing requires a keen eye protected by polarized glasses

to see all the tells and camouflaged fish. His rod is a 9' 3 to 5 foot rod with floating line and a 9 - 12' leader. He uses fluoro-carbon tippet. Plan ahead because most visible fish will give you only one chance. Read the water and put the fly in the sweet spot the first time. In the same spirit, get the fly right. He pumped a few stomachs over the years to catalog the food.

Method. You really need to see this because words may fail me here. From the rod, first comes a floating parasol, with the appropriate emerger 1/4 to 3/8" below the floating parasol, next a bead-head nymph for weight and then typically a scud or whatever they're eating 18" below. For a two fly rig, use a bead-head scud or nymph on the bottom. The trick here is that he ties the tether to the parasol the fly. So it looks like a scud is parachuting below a parasol. The parasol won't spook the fish. And the first emerger just below the surface gets attention. The rest of the rig is food on a conveyor belt heading to the hungry. The parasol detects subtle action below the surface. The fish take the parasol as just the usual floating junk they'd see in any stream.

Well, this whole technique starts with home-tied flies for home waters. Kelly showed us a few of his creations. I'm no fly tier, so I will defer. Fortunately, Kelly is well published so you will see his writing in several magazines. Sometimes it pays to come to the meeting. Kelly showed some flies he'd won national awards with. I liked the pictures.

Members peppered Kelly with questions so one could tell the club was engaged with the secrets of fishing the sorts of water that humbles most of us. The questions were technical and engaging. He ended with some glory shots of big fish he and his family have caught.

Honest Man of the Month



Our February meeting presenter, Kelly Glissmeyer, made the mistake of admitting to having gotten skunked during his presentation, and wore the skunk hat for the remainder of his presentation.

Of course we members of the WFFC never get skunked..... D-O-O W-E-E :-)



Vedder River, British Columbia

February Trip Across The Border

By Bob Burdick

John Gravendyk and I visited the Vedder River in Chillawack, BC on February 23, 24, and 25 as guests of April Vokey's Fly Gals, having successfully bid for the trip in 2012 at the Christmas Party.

The river, (3 hours from here) which I had never fished, flows through downtown Chillawack, is about the size of the Stilla-guamish, and holds good numbers of both hatchery and native steelhead. Access is easy from roads that roughly parallel both sides of the river, and the bottom 2-3 miles of river below the city as well as the 5-7 miles above the city have many pools and runs conducive to spey casting. There were fish in the river as evidenced by the catch of various bait, spoon, hotshot, and float fishermen, but we were not as fortunate and had to rationalize our trip as a 3 day casting lesson.



Tierra de Fuego, Argentina

Sea Run Brown Trout(Big One's!)

By Jim McRoberts

Scott Hagen & I made the annual trip to Tierra del Fuego Argentina. We fished February 1st through 6th. There were 12 "rods" in camp, six from Ireland and the British Isles, two from Colorado, two from Olympia and Scott & I.

220 fish were landed. 34 fish over 15 pounds, 9 of these were over 20 pounds. The average weight was 9,8 pounds.

Fishing was very good. The river was in excellent condition with low and very clear water. There were few showers during the week but no heavy rains. It was very windy the first two days, 30mph plus and then quite normal, 15 to 25mph. There were even some calm evenings. Air temperature ranged from 32 F to 65 F. Water temperature was between 48 F and 56 F.

Since the river was so low and clear there were some new things we had to overcome. For one thing the low water caused many back eddies in the places where a normal swing should have been.

This meant lots of mending changes from up-stream to down-stream in order to keep the fly in the narrower current seam and still moving correctly with no cross current drag.

Scott Hagen was top rod with 24 fish landed. Scott's biggest fish: 22 pounds. It was taken on his 6 wt. 10'9" Sweet Grass Bamboo rod on a #16 bright green scud pattern!!

I caught 19 fish with biggest at 22.5 pounds caught on a #8 char-treuse prince nymph.

The last evening was great fun. The guide had me using a "collie dog tube fly" on a floating line. The sun set at 9:30pm as it became darker; the fish started charging the fly as I stripped it across the current. Between 9:30 and 10:30 pm I hooked 5 fish and landed 3 weighing 4#, 8# & 10#. A great last day on the water!



Jim McRoberts
Leaving No Doubt!-#1



Scott Hagen
Leaving No Doubt!-#2



Photo's From

75th WFFC Anniversary Celebration October 21, 2014



75 Years of WFFC



Memorabilia Galore



Richard Embry and Pat Peterman



L/R (Back) Perry Barth, (Facing) Dick Levinthal, Gil Nyerges, Tom Campbell, Paul Lingbloom, Don Simonson



Julie Davis / Bob Burdick



Ron Mazurek



Chuck Ballard, John and Katherine Gravendyk



Don Gulliford with John Narver looking on



Jim and Caroline Goedhart



Pete Crumbaker / Dave Hawkinson



Mark Pratt / Ben Davidson



Gil Nyerges



Fran Wood with his rare 1984 'East Indian Manseer'



Gene Gudger



Jim Young and Curt Jacobs



Dick Sterns and DeVonne Wells



Past Presidents—Washington Fly Fishing Club 75th Anniversary

Left to Right (Standing) Greg Crumbaker, Bill Redman, Mike Wearne, Paul Lingbloom, Ron Mazurek, Kris Kristoferson, John Callahan,
Rocco Maccarrone, Richard Embry, James Schmidt, Pat Peterman, Chuck Ballard
Left to Right (Seated Front) Bob Birkner, Dick Sterns, Ron Dion, Gil Nyerges, Michael Mocysnski, Don Simonson, Pete Baird



What a Bunch!—75th Anniversary of the Washington Fly Fishing Club

Conservation

Open Cycle for Proposal Submittal

By Doug Schaad, Conservation Chairman

Colleagues – The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has opened a new cycle for proposing changes to current regulations west of the Cascade's crest. This includes all streams that drain west into the Puget Sound basin or the Pacific Ocean, precluding the Columbia and its tributaries. The request also includes all lakes west of the crest. If you have a proposal that you wish to submit, and desire Conservation Committee endorsement, please send me an E-Mail at conservation@wffc.com or dcschaad@comcast.net and I will distribute for review.



Update: Proposed Bylaw Change

Nominating Committee Process Revision

By Mike Wearne

Members of the WFFC:

At our **April 21st** meeting, I will be making a motion for a minor change to our bylaws. This amendment was discussed at the board meeting in February as well as last year and was given approval by the board.

Under the heading of Election of Trustees and Officers, Article VII, Section 1, paragraph A reads as follows: "A Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the September meeting each year. The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes."



My proposal is simply to start this process earlier to allow for the Nominating Committee more time to complete their task. I believe the committee should be formed at the July meeting. It seems to me that there is a rushed process with the selection of the officers to serve for the following year. Ideally this Nominating Committee can take some time, set the tone for the future of the club, and make wise choices in their deliberations.

After the change in the bylaws, this paragraph would read as follows: *"A Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the July meeting each year. The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes."*

Thanks for your consideration of my proposal.

"Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done."

-Charles F. Orvis, 1886

Northwest Upcoming Events



Linn County Expo Center Albany Oregon March 13th and 14th

2015 Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo will be held in Albany, Oregon on March 13 and 14th at the Linn County Expo Center.

Lots of good fly tiers show their stuff.

WFFC members are encouraged to attend this event.



IFFF Regional Fly Fishing Fair May 1st & 2nd, Fairgrounds Ellensburg WA

- Free seminars
- 100 tiers to observe
- Casting demos throughout the show
- Federation Fly Fishing 9 Hole Casting Course at the Park, it's free.
- Private lessons with a Certified Instructor. *Cost is cheap for a one on one lesson.* Sign up on-line (space available)
- Numerous vendors



Jake's Lake, South Side of Mt Fernow, Snohomish County
Where I caught my first (and only) Golden Trout! –Ed

Upcoming March Program

IT'S MOVIE NIGHT AT THE WFEC !

We've recently discovered an opportunity we couldn't pass up. A superb salmon conservation documentary called the "Breach" has been made by Mark Titus, a local film maker, who has agreed to come to our March 17th meeting and screen this blockbuster for us. Four years in the making, this film, which has not been released to the public, will knock your socks off. Because we're expecting as many as 150 attendees, this will be a pre-paid dinner function (At our standard club rate of \$29 for both dinner and movie), like our recent 75th Anniversary Party and the Christmas party, so sign in on the website early with as many guests as you want and don't get left out! We will not be able to accommodate movie only reservations.



"The Breach" is a product of Seattle writer/director Mark Titus's personal journey with the ancient and mythical wild salmon as well as a call to action for all who, as stewards of the wild, care about sustainable natural resources. Combining stunning wilderness photography and graphics with insightful dialogue from outspoken advocates Alexandra Morton of Canada, Billy Frank Jr, first head of the EPA Bill Ruchelshaus, Chef Tom Douglas, author David James Duncan (The River Why), actor Tom Skerritt, Kurt Beardslee from the Wild Fish Conservancy and others Mr. Titus paints a picture of the salmon's meteoric crash over the last 50 years, and occasional recent triumphs. Castigating destruction of habitat as evidenced by the destruction of the Tongass Forest, the 4 Snake River Dams, the 2 Elwha Dams, plus other perils such as Vancouver Island farmed salmon net pens, salmon hatcheries, and impending disasters such as the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, Mr. Titus will enthrall you with his storytelling and bring your passion for salmon to the boiling point.

Mr. Titus is the founder of August Island Pictures in Seattle, and spent his 20s as an Alaskan fishing guide while working on the craft of screenwriting. Since then he has written and directed brand films for clients like Amazon, T-Mobile, and Microsoft. He has produced 3 short documentaries which have screened at film festivals worldwide. He directed the short documentary, "Fins" in 2003 as part of the Seattle International Film Festival's Fly Filmmaking Program. "The Breach" is Mr. Titus's first feature documentary, taking 4 years to make, and won Best International Documentary in its first film festival—the 2014 Galway Film Fleadh. The "Breach" was just selected as one of the "Best of Fest" films at its North America Premiere at the 2015 Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival in January. The film runs 82 minutes.

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for programs



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Stamp
here

March, 2015

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:

Mark Titus
Film Writer and Director
Film Presentation "The Breach"