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May Program

Joe Bogaard (Director of Save Our Wild Salmon) *By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs*

Joe Bogaard, from Save Our Wild Salmon will present a program at our May meeting (May 20) that will be directed at the problems of the Columbia Basin.

This will be a wide ranging program, and the third in a series of programs over the last year addressing problems with anadromous fish in Washington.

I've encouraged Joe to include in his program, if appropriate, the legal status under the endangered species act of upstream migration of adults, downstream migration of smolts, sea lions, dams, and the negative effect of hatchery smolts on native smolts. I find it difficult to separate fact from fiction in Eastern Washington rivers and I hope Joe is able to shed some light on the situation.

Unfortunately Chris Caudill, fisheries biologist from the U. of Idaho, who had volunteered to be a co-speaker with Joe, will be unable to attend this meeting.

Fly tier: **Jim Goedhart**

May Program, Speaker Biography

Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director, SOS

Joseph began working for Save Our Wild Salmon in 1996.

He first got hooked on Northwest salmon restoration efforts while in graduate school where he authored a paper in the early -1990s, exploring the then-relatively recent Snake River salmon listings under the Endangered Species Act, and how it might impact the region and its federal lands and dams.



Joseph has an undergraduate degree in Zoology from the University of California at Davis and a Masters in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Michigan. Before joining the SOS team, Joseph spent years teaching and working in the forests and mountains of the West.

Today, Joseph lives on Vashon Island with his wife Amy and children Liesl and Jeremiah. He is the past president of the board for the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust and served commissioner for King County Water District #19 during 2000-2006.

Outings

Chopaka Lake, May 24th through 26th

The club's annual Memorial Day weekend at Chopaka Lake is always a blast, no matter the weather! We gather in the main camp area at the lake, Saturday thru Monday, May 24-26. Look for the club banner!



This is our most heavily attended outing of the year for good reason! It's a beautiful place, with great fishing, and usually fine (if mixed) weather. Bring all of your mayfly emergers, spinners, and duns. You'll also need damsel nymphs, little black caddis, ants, and black leech patterns.

We'll camp in the big meadow on the lake, with canopies set up for sun or rain. The Saturday potluck happy hour/dinner is terrific, with the club grill set up for everyone to use. Bring your best appetizers and side dishes. The club will provide beverages, beer, and cheap fireside wine. Starts around 5:00. Bring musical instruments if you like, it's always a great night around the fire.

(Continued on page 3)

Creel Notes

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

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WWFC 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)

Sunday is the group breakfast (not too early) followed by "the hatch" around noon. Fish all day and retire to the second happy hour featuring tempura hot from the wok, and cold brews. Another potluck is inevitable; way too much food. don't forget the desserts!

Camping is "rustic", so bring everything you'll need including water. Firewood is sometimes gathered by work party Friday or Saturday, but it doesn't hurt to bring some anyway.

For those that have never been; Chopaka sits above the town of Loomis, westerly of Tonasket, Washington.

Carpool with another member if you can arrange it and be sure to sign up on the website so the club can provision a reasonable headcount.

Youth Fly Fishing Class, Instructors Needed

Youth Fly Fishing Class In August

By Dick Brening

The WFFC has been contacted through our web site by a teacher from the Issaquah High School Physical Education Department. The Club has been invited to assist with teaching fly casting and fly tying as a part of the school's summer session on Wednesday, August 6th. There will be 22 students between the ages of 14 to 17 years old. We will run sessions from 9:00-11:00, have a half hour lunch and run the final session from 11:30-1:30. The Club will provide rods/reels, fly tying equipment and materials for the classes.



Issaquah High School

Dick Brening is coordinating this activity and will need your help. We will need 4 or more instructors for the casting classes and 4 or more instructors for the tying classes. Please let Dick know if you can help out.

Mark the August 6th date on your calendars and give Dick Brening a call.

New "Fly Only" Lake, Chelan County

Open Upper Wheeler Reservoir for "Fly Fishing Only"

From the WDFW Via Don Gulliford



Action: Change fishing regulations at Upper Wheeler Reservoir from closed waters to fly fishing only.

Effective dates: May 17, 2014 through Sept. 12, 2014.

Species affected: Trout and all other game fish

Location: Upper Wheeler Reservoir, located approximately 11 miles southwest of the town of Wenatchee (Chelan Co.).

Reason for action: Upper Wheeler Reservoir is owned and operated by the Wenatchee Heights Reclamation District (WHRD) and has been closed to public access. WDFW has made arrangements with WHRD and the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers (WVFF) to grant public access to recreational anglers under Fly Fishing Only regulations. The agreement includes fish stocking and a Land Use Agreement by WDFW and site maintenance by the WVFF. While there are currently 15 other Fly Fishing Only waters throughout the state, there are no such waters currently open in Chelan County.

Other Information: Catch and release for Trout species only. Statewide general rules for size and bag limits apply for all other game fish. Fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is prohibited. Anglers should consult the current sport fishing rules pamphlet for a definition of Fly Fishing Only regulations.

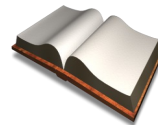
Book Review

Author, Harry Middleton

By Mike Wearne

This is meant to be a review of the books written by Harry Middleton. The most prominent aspect of the author's life is that he held three jobs at the same time he wrote.

He was a janitor at a shoe factory, he stocked shelves in a grocery store and he worked on a garbage truck. It is exhausting to think about.



The first book he published was The Earth is Enough. The other titles include On the Spine of Time, The Starlight Creek Angling Society, Rivers of Memory, and The Bright Country. After his death a series of his essays was published in an anthology titled In That Sweet Country.

All of the books after the first are, in a way, an offshoot or an expansion of the first. The first story is about a boy who is the son of a member of the military. The boy is shipped from Okinawa to Arkansas after experiencing a tragic accident. The boy lives with his grandfather and his great uncle. Both of these men are fly fishers who are, in addition, extremely poor financially. They are rich in a sense of spirit and purpose of life. There is another character, a Native American, WWI veteran, and also a fly fisher. The young man does not attend school until high school. However, the adults have amassed a huge library of classical literature, and evenings are spent reading and discussing philosophy and fly fishing. As a "novel", The Earth is Enough is wonderful; as a discussion of the abuse of nature it is as good as it can be.

I did not read The Starlight Creek Angling Society. This book is very rare and very expensive. I did read On the Spine of Time and Rivers of Memory. Both of these books cover the same ground as the first book. However, On the Spine of Time reads like a tour guide of the best fishing in the Southeast. Rivers of Memory was edited by Nick Lyons. Both books are filled with wonderful essays on nature, and particularly nature and fly fishing.

The Bright Country is all about Middleton's continued depression. I gave up pretty early in the book. I am simply not in the mood for a downer book.

I recommend the other books in the highest regard. I would suggest reading the books in the order of their publication. The Earth is Enough should be in every fly fisher's library.



Hannan Lake, Snohomish County

Revisit To An Old Haunt, April 26, 2014

From Don Gulliford

Thanks to the efforts of **Mike Wearne** in working with CYO, owner of Lake Hannan, WFFC had a great early Spring outing at an old stomping ground, with cutts, rainbows and several lunker browns taken on an increasingly sunny morning, supervised by a large osprey overhead.



Also a gratitude of thanks to **Dave Schorsch** for putting together a fabulous chili, rolls, cookies and home brewed coffee.

All agreed that the relatively close location and lovely surroundings made for a very enjoyable fly fishing experience, renewing many yesteryear memories.

A sincere note of thanks to Catholic Youth Organization was endorsed by all.



WFFC Banner Proudly Graces the Waters Edge



Beachfront Assault, Hannan Style



Per Note on the Photo



Hannan Lake Lunch Bunch



'Motley Crew' (aka Pete Baird and Jack Crowley)



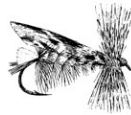
Andwe all had a real good time

Fly Tiers Roundtable

May 14, 2014

By Dick Brening

We have one more Fly Tier's Round Table scheduled before our summer break. This coming Wednesday evening we will be meeting at the church on Mercer Island at 6:30.



This will be a good time to freshen up your collection of flies for the spring and summer months. I'll probably be tying something for the up coming Chopaka Lake Outing.

Come and join in, share a new pattern or a new material. Or ... just come and join in the conversation.

See you there!

Project Healing Waters



Project Healing Waters Fishing Trip

May 10, 2014

By Bob Young

Many club members are active in support of the Project Healing Waters program which exposes military veterans to the wonderment of fly fishing.

In addition to teaching fly tying at the Seattle and American Lake Veterans Hospitals and Compass Housing for homeless veterans in Renton the program also includes getting vets out for a days fishing. Here (photo) are the results of a recent Saturdays action. Some of the participants have departed before the picture was taken.

The fish are taken to be smoked and returned to the hospital for lunchtime enjoyment. Club members pictured include **Bob Birkner, Bob Young, James Schmidt, Scott Hagen, Hugh Clark and Chuck Ballard.**

Our club has been involved in this program since 2008—Ed



Photo by Jim McRoberts, Program coordinator for WFFC.

Membership News

New Member, Doug Mollet

From Charlie Davis, 1st Vice President (Membership)
Doug Mollet will be inducted as new member at the upcoming general meeting. Please welcome him and make him feel at home.

2 1/2 Year Agreement Reached

WDFW and Wild Fish Conservancy Settle Lawsuit Over 'Early Winter' Hatchery Steelhead Releases



From the WDFW Via Don Gulliford

OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced today it has reached an agreement with the Wild Fish Conservancy that will stop litigation against the department over its Puget Sound hatchery programs for 2½ years and permit the release of hatchery steelhead this spring into the Skykomish River.

No early winter steelhead will be released into other Puget Sound rivers in 2014.

The agreement is reflected in a federal court consent decree signed by WDFW Director Phil Anderson and Conservancy Executive Director Kurt Beardslee. The decree is designed to settle a lawsuit filed by the Conservancy last month in U.S. District Court in Seattle.

In its March 31 complaint, the Duvall-based non-profit group claimed the department's Puget Sound hatchery steelhead programs violate the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) by impairing the recovery of wild steelhead, salmon, and bull trout. All three species are listed as "threatened" under the ESA.

While acknowledging that certain hatchery practices may pose risks to wild fish productivity and recovery, WDFW officials denied the Conservancy's claim and said the department has taken numerous steps based on current science to ensure its hatchery operations protect wild steelhead and other listed fish species.

The department's Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) are designed to ensure that all steelhead hatcheries support wild fish recovery, but those plans are still under review by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

"While I am disappointed the agreement does not allow for the release of more of the early winter hatchery steelhead we have on hand into Puget Sound rivers, I am gratified that we were able to reach agreement to release fish from our Skykomish hatchery in 2014 and support a popular recreational fishery," Anderson said.

He added that the most important element of the agreement is the 2½-year suspension of lawsuits initiated by the Conservancy over the department's Puget Sound hatchery programs. The sus-

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pension will allow the department to work with tribal fishery managers to resubmit HGMPs for other species raised in Puget Sound hatcheries for NMFS' review and approval.

The federal court agreement includes the following provisions:

- WDFW may release up to 180,000 hatchery steelhead in 2014 and again in 2015 into the Skykomish River, which flows into the Snohomish River near Monroe.
- The Conservancy will not sue WDFW over its Puget Sound hatchery programs during the next 2 ½ years, or until NMFS approves those programs, whichever comes first.
- WDFW will refrain from planting early winter (Chambers Creek) hatchery steelhead into most rivers in the Puget Sound region until NMFS completes its review.
- A 12-year research program will be established in the Skagit River, during which no early winter steelhead will be released into the watershed. In cooperation with the Conservancy, WDFW will work with tribes to evaluate and potentially implement a steelhead hatchery program in the Skagit River using native steelhead.
- The department may release hatchery steelhead into other rivers around Puget Sound when NMFS approves the department's HGMPs. This provision will not apply to the Skagit River watershed, which will not receive early winter hatchery steelhead releases during the 12-year study period.
- Early winter steelhead from WDFW hatcheries that cannot be released into Puget Sound-area rivers will be released into inland waters that have no connection to Puget Sound. The department will give the Conservancy 14 days' advance notice of those releases.

WDFW will pay the Conservancy \$45,000 for litigation expenses.

Jim Scott, who heads the WDFW Fish Program, said that until the Conservancy filed the lawsuit, the department had planned to release about 900,000 juvenile steelhead this spring into several rivers that flow into Puget Sound. The settlement means that hatchery steelhead will continue to be released into the Skykomish, while the remaining steelhead will be used to enhance the state's inland trout fishing programs, he said.

When the lawsuit was filed, WDFW officials said the department was vulnerable to litigation because its hatchery steelhead operations had not been approved by NMFS following the ESA listing of Puget Sound steelhead in 2007. Scott said WDFW worked with tribes to revise and update its HGMPs for all Puget Sound steelhead hatcheries, and resubmitted them to NMFS earlier this year.

With the litigation settled, Scott said the department will work with tribal and federal officials on an aggressive schedule to complete the NMFS review.

Comment: And sort of a bitter laughter: *Treaties (=Boldt Decision) are the law of the land, UNLESS abrogated by Congress, and many times, including testimony at the time, it has been held*

that the ESA abrogates treaties. E.G. in Minnesota., and Florida, Indians shot an eagle in Minnesota. and a panther in Florida., HELD: ESA abrogated their treaty rights. So WHERE is such litigation around Puget Sound??? Don Gulliford

"How many arms do you have, how many fly rods do you need?"
Daughter to Father

Conservation

Lake Trout Cull Could Boost Cutthroat And Feed Grizzlies

Study Shows Dramatic Decrease in Numbers of Spawning Fish

From Jackson Hole News and Guide via John Callahan

Grizzly and black bears that once feasted on cutthroat trout spawning in Yellowstone Lake tributaries will readily return to the food source if the species bounces back, this study predicts.



The study, Contrasting Past and Current Numbers of Bears Visiting Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

Streams supports a multimillion-dollar effort to reduce invasive mackinaw in Yellowstone Lake.

"We suggest that the number of spawning trout per stream will have to reach approximately 400 fish per kilometer of stream before large numbers of grizzly and black bears once again specialize on this food again" (says researcher and chief author Justin Teisberg of **Washington State University** (*he must be genius level!* -Ed))

If the Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout population can recover to such levels, grizzly and black bears that still reside within the lake basin will readily find and use this high quality food resource, potentially returning both species to higher use of back-country habitat.

Teisberg, who conducted field work from 2007 to 2010, suggests the cutthroat numbers have a long way to go before the species is a dependable food source for bruins once again. A similar survey of spawning activity and grizzly bear use was conducted between 1997 and 2000 providing comparable data.

The decline in cutthroat trout spawning activity was more widespread than previously documented. The median peak [spawning fish] count on streams decreased by a median of 98.4 Percent or 71 fish."

In Teisberg's study, the median number of spawning trout counted per Yellowstone Lake tributary was a dismal 2.5 fish. Only 15 out of 35 known cutthroat spawning streams sampled had spawning activity, on average, each year. No cutthroats were ever observed over three years on 20 percent of the known spawning streams sampled. Historically, 59 of Yellowstone Lake's 124 feeder streams supported cutthroat trout. Grizzlies and black bears once congregated around the streams during the spring spawn.

As recently as the late 1980s, grizzlies in the Yellowstone Lake area ate an estimated 21,000 cutthroat a year, Teisberg wrote.

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By the late 1990s consumption dipped to 2,300 trout a year. During Teisberg's study, the estimate was just 302 cutthroat a year, seven cutthroat a year for every male grizzly, three trout a year for every female.

Lake trout, believed to have been introduced to Yellowstone Lake illegally in the late 1980s (*there is much debate about this, this is only one biologist's opinion. There is also good evidence from other biologists that they the lake trout were introduced from Lewis Lake as early as 1920's by park / contract workers in the area - Ed*), are thought to be the primary cause in the collapse of the cutthroat population. Fatal whirling disease and habitat-degrading drought are also implicated in the decline

Lake trout, summer spawners that lay their eggs in Yellowstone Lake, are not an accessible food source for terrestrial wildlife. Over the course of Teisberg's research an increasing number of spawning cutthroat were observed.

More than 1.3 million predatory Lakers have been netted and killed in Yellowstone Lake since the reduction effort began in 2000, and park biologists say cutthroat numbers are starting to respond. Rising cutthroat numbers, however, now have no bearing on the location or number of grizzly bears near Yellowstone Lake.

"We found no relationship between trout numbers and numbers of bears in the current study," he wrote, "presumably because the low density of remaining trout (less than 1 percent of historical numbers) can no longer be efficiently exploited by grizzly bears."

Grasses, sedges and forbs have replaced trout as the primary bear foods found along Yellowstone Lake stream corridors.

The number of grizzly bears using the stream corridors for any reason decreased by an estimated 63 percent between the turn-of-the-century study and Teisberg's study. Black bear use of the feeder streams decreased by "64-to 84 percent," the study said.

Grizzly distribution also shifted from backcountry streams located on Yellowstone's Lake's inaccessible east and south sides to the lake have more developed sides.

The relative abundance of cutthroat trout may influence bear mortality rates. For other major food items (e.g., whitebark pine nuts, ungulates and army cutworm moths), conflicts between grizzly bears and humans increase in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during years of low availability but decrease when these preferred foods are abundant.

Teisberg is confident that grizzly and black bears could one day relearn how to use cutthroat as a seasonal food source.

"We considered whether the use of cutthroat trout by future generations may be in jeopardy because of the loss of traditional foraging knowledge passed from mothers to cubs," Teisberg wrote. "However, with a well-documented natural history as an opportunistic omnivore and are certain that bears, if abundant, will once again return to the use of this high-quality food resource."

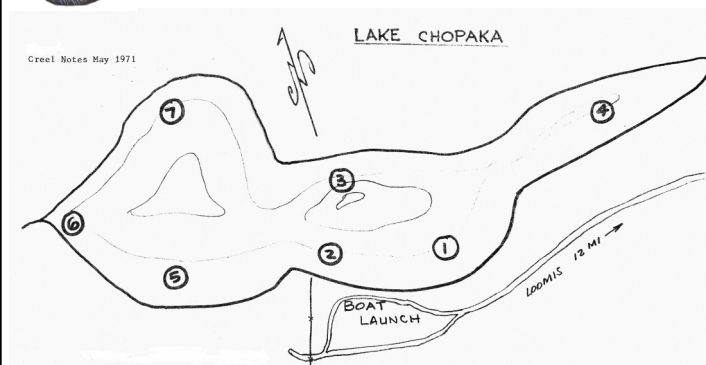
"For these reasons, we endorse the ongoing gillnetting efforts to control numbers of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

'Reeling' in the Years



About Chopaka

Thanks to a couple of WFFC old timers
Dawn Holbrook and Jack Hutchinson



Chopaka! Chopaka! Chopaka!

by Dawn Holbrook

From Creel Notes, May 1971

There no doubt are lakes in Washington that offer bigger trout, but Chopaka has a charm all its own. Snuggled in a high valley in the beautiful Western Yellow Pine are of North Central Washington, this fly only lake offers challenging dry fly fishing that will drive a normal fly angler out of his mind.

Anchor in some of the deeper water, will also provide excellent wet fly fishing for good sized fish. Another very effective method is to cast out all your fly line, row about 30 feet and strip your fly to the boat. Effective pattern for me have been the Needle Fly Nymph for wet and the Blue Upright for dry.

Loc 1. The water here is 10 to 15 feet deep and is excellent for drifting, casting or trolling a fly. Frequently overlooked by many anglers, it has produced very well for me.

Loc 2. This should probably be included with Area 1 as the area also produces very well and at times has been very good dry fly fishing from the bank. Stand well back from the shore (20 feet or so) and fish will feed within 10 feet of the shore

Loc 3 My favorite area. Both wet and dry are very effective. Out from the north shore is deep hole which produces well in the hot weather. Cruising fish take dries right in on shore. You should anchor about 110 feet from shore and lay your fly right in on the bank. The shore provides very good dry fly action on down to **Loc 4**.

Loc 4. The water is very shallow at this end of the lake and offers some very challenging angling both wet and dry. Sometimes when the wind has been right it has been possible to drift along within casting distance of the shore and fish all the way to the end of the lake.

Loc 5, 6, and 7. These areas hold fish and are not subject to the pressures of the other end of the lake. There is a very nice camping place at **Loc 6**, where the inlet stream is found. A good way to cover this water is for one angler to cast the shore while the other trolls a fly.

So now you know one of my favorite haunts. Good Fishing!

Insect Observations at Chopaka

Chopaka Lake

by Jack Hutchinson

Compiled May 29 thru June 3, 1982, Creel Notes

This is an attempt to impart some information which may be of use in the future. This trip's 'bug study' turned up some interesting results regarding stomach contents

Measurements: Water Temperature 59 to 61 F (measured at 10' to 12 deep) , pH 7.6

1. Predominate ingested food varied from one area to another, some areas were only 100 yards apart.
2. A fish Hutchinson caught off the corner reed bed to the right yielded medium sized 13mm green bodied chironomid pupae. From the same area an evening caught Thompson fish contained fully winged chironimids with only a couple being the penultimate (emergent) state. However, this fish took (what else?) a TDC.
3. A Clough fish contained a good mixture of various chironomid species plus quite a surprise, Phantom Midge (Chaoborus) larvae in numbers estimated at 50% of stomach contents. These are the first specimens I've ever collected, although I've heard reports some Sno-King lakes contain them. A few medium green- bodied chironomid pupae were found along with the large black pupae which occurred in varying quantities in most samplings and comprised the major fly-model for both anglers.
4. Scud specimens to 20mm (largest ever found here) were collected along the shoreline but none by autopsy. Color – usual pale grey-green.
5. Although some damsel and many mayflies were airborne, damsel, dragonfly and mayfly nymph were almost totally absent from my samplings which suggest the fish hadn't transferred their attention to these insects – a condition which could be expected to change gradually.

Since the large dark chironomid pupa holds everyone's attention as a fly-model for this lake. I made a special effort to study this bugger in detail in order to give you a pattern which would closely approximate the living insect. Simplification will be left to your discretion. I would advise a trial of this pattern at Dry Falls Lake next spring too since past samplings include an insect of similar size and coloration.

Insect size range	12-15mm
Hook	Mustad 37160 (12 or 3399A #8) I favor curvilinear patterns when fishing mid water
Tail	Off-white marabou fluff, sparse clump 1/8" long
Underbody	Swannundaze, #22 clear, medium width (sub -PVC). This combination creates an effect closer to the natural than that obtained solely through the used of colored transparent Swannundaze

Rib

Single strand reddish-brown floss following segments (#75 Danville's now disc.)

Wing, pads & legs

Tan sparkle yarn, short single strand or loop tied in under and parallel to shank

Gills

White ostrich herl, two turns medium length flue. Divided on top (half-back style) by a dark head of any feather fiber

Once again many successful anglers appeared to be using the floating line with long vertically sunken leader in a 'sink and draw' technique. Since the only fast element of this type of fishing is the sink-rate of the swannundaze fly, occasionally I switch rods and use something else to relieve the tedium. One fish to Aigner's Chopaka May, one on Al Knudson's Wet Spider in salute to departed friends.

An Extra Tip

Cleaning Velcro

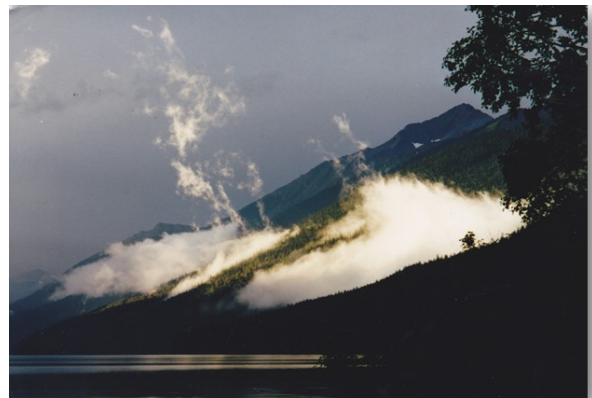


Don't fret if the Velcro flaps on your booties or Velcro float tube straps gets full of stuff like pond moss or worse.

A Velcro strip will give up this debris if you use a pet hair brush that has short wire bristles. The brush will also remove fly tying materials that get stuck in your Velcro fly tying bag

Northwest Fly Fishing Event

From the IFFF Northwest Chapter News
Atlantic Salmon Fly International Expo
May 17-18, 2014
Renton Pavilion Event Center
Renton, WA
www.asfi-expo.com



Storm "A Brewing"
Isaac Lake, Bowron Provincial Park
British Columbia, Canada



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

Stamp
here

May, 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:

Joe Bogaard (Save Our Salmon)

On the state of salmon & steelhead in the Columbia River drainage