

President's Riffle - April 2017

I was doing some yard work this morning and in the space of two hours I basked in warm bright sunshine, hid from torrential rain and was pelted by a really violent hail storm. A lot going on weather wise this Spring!

There is a lot going on at the club as well. Maybe the brightest note is the recent Nahwatzel lake outing led by Dave Schorsch and his intrepid "black ops" outdoor committee. The reports I've heard were that even though the weather was challenging the fish were there as suspected. I keep hearing the word "slabs" in reference to the catch. Nice! By the time you read this the Dry Falls outing will be in the bag as well. Looks like a great group of people have signed up for that event. I'm jealous but have been told I need to stay close as I'll be catching the first plane south once my overdue daughter gets busy delivering our first grandchild.

Closer to home, the education committee along with member volunteers is deep into the second week of both beginning and advanced casting classes. We had so many signups for the beginning class that Committee Chair Pat Peterman had to cap the class! Pretty exciting that there is so much enthusiasm out there for becoming a fly fisher or at least a better caster. As with our fly tying class earlier this year, I look forward to inviting interested members of this group to an upcoming dinner meeting in the hope that they will like what they see and consider joining the WFFC as well.

Doug Schaad has graciously allowed me to dip my toe in the doings of the Conservation Committee. What a great group of dedicated conservationists we have leading this aspect of our club. Folks like Jim McRoberts, Bill Redman, Scott Hagen, Gary Bergquist and of course Doug with decades of experience in all aspects of our fishery. These fellows help to formulate the action plans and policies of the various coalitions we have partnered with. I sat in on a conference call yesterday with coalition members who are trying to determine how best to react to the failed policies of three different states as reflected in the dismal 2017 Columbia River steelhead returns prediction. Very complex politically but easy to decide what's right if we follow Doug's admonition that; "The WFFC always comes down on the side that is best for wild fish."

It's been an extremely busy month for our webmaster, Jim Goedhart, First VP for Membership, Rich Gaspar and the entire Board of Directors as they tweak our new member process to address our own "low returns" of new members over the last 10 years or so. Great progress has been made and we now have a process in place that enables us to bring on new members who are right for our club quickly and efficiently. As a result of all this hard work several new members will be inducted at the April dinner meeting. I look forward, as I know you do, to welcoming these new fly fishers to our club.

A lot going on—must be Spring!

Tight Lines, John