

Creel Notes from the



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

www.wffc.com

Founding Club of the FFF & members active in the FFF



Monthly Meeting Notice

January 21, 2003

LIII No. 1

The College Club, 505 Madison St.

Seattle, Washington

Phone: 206-622-0624

Wet Fly Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:45 PM

Award Presentations Highlight January Program



by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

January is Awards Month at WFFC, when we take time to recognize our members or other flyfishers who have distinguished themselves through service to the Club and the community, as well as some who may have distinguished themselves in less complimentary ways. Please join with us for presentation of these Awards:

Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsmanship Award, presented to a flyfisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing.

Empty Creel Award, presented to a member for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the Club.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, presented to a member for distinctive and meritorious contribution to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club.

Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition, presented for excellence in fly-tying.

Andy Award, presented to a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law."

Half-assed Award, presented by last year's recipient to a member for, well, acts of "half-assedness."

The Awards Committee reserves the right to present other Awards, laudatory or embarrassing, as appropriate.

Friendly Reminder

Jacket and tie are mandatory at the January meeting.

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New Creel Notes Editors

Preston Singletary and Leland Miyawaki will be taking over the editing of the Creel Notes in February. Bob Young will assume digital production. Brad Boardman will continue to process the mailing list.

Please send all submissions via mail or WORD attachment for The Creel Notes to:

Leland Miyawaki
c/o MIYAWAKI CREATIVE
1201 First Ave. So. #321B
Seattle, WA 98134
Voice: (206) 263-0609
Fax: (206) 264-0483
Email: miyawaki@iswnet.com

Club News

Fishing Anyone?

Looking for a great fishing trip next summer? Here are a couple that might be of interest to you.

GYPSY LAKE, May 25 - June 1st. Excellent Northern Pike fishing. If you have not fished for these “fresh water alligators” before, you should consider joining this trip. They are a “hoot” and they take flies and poppers readily. Fine lodge, excellent food, top of the line equipment, etc. Call Perry Barth at 425-774-0762

ELIGUK LAKE. We have guy's going on two different weeks this year. Fantastic R.B. fishing. Moe and Jeannette Schiller offer a week to club members and their friends at 1/2 price. \$1300 for the week and that includes the float plane flight in to the lodge. For June 7 to 14, contact Peter Baird at 206-232-7682. Several spots open. For June 14 to 21, contact Perry Barth at 425-774-0762. Room for 4 more this week.

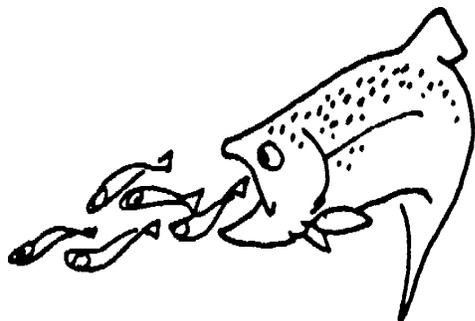
Dues are Due

by Bill Kuper, 1st Vice President

Don't forget—it's a new year and time to pay your club dues for 2003! Bring in your cash or check for \$50 to the next meeting and look up Bill Kuper, or you can mail them to Bill at:

3800 Aurora Ave. N. #280
Seattle, WA 98103

The sooner the better guys!
Thanks, Bill.



WANTED: Fishing Reports

In a club that is as large in member size as it is in tradition, surely, there are more people fishing than just a select few. That said, the Creel Notes needs your fishing reports.

If you have proof of someone fishing, and in the following Creel Notes there is no documentation of the event, please report this violation.

Fishing reports and violations shall be reported to:

Leland Miyawaki
C/O MIYAWAKI CREATIVE
1201 First Ave. So. #321B
Seattle, WA 98134
Miyawaki@iswnet.com

Creel Notes is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Saturday at noon.

New Officers and New Board Members for 2003

President	Richard Embry
1st Vice President	Bill Kuper
2nd Vice President	Jimmy LeMert
Secretary	Brian Hata
Treasurer	Jim Sokol
Ghillie	Mark Pratt
Trustee	Dave Schorsch
Trustee	Jim Hanson

Roster Updates

Brad Boardman (in charge of mailing list, and the physical portion of mailing the Creel Notes), E-mail: br.boardman@verizon.net

Jim McRoberts, E-mail: jim4fish@comcast.net

John Williams, E-mail: JonWilliams@attbi.com

Holiday Party Report

by Leland Miyawaki

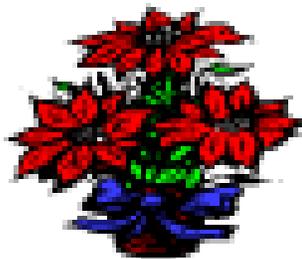
On December 17, a couple hundred of us flyfishers gathered together at the College Club for our annual bit of holiday revelry. Check-in was to begin at 5:30pm but many of the guys began filtering in at 4pm – some to get an advance peek at the raffle items and some to get a parking space downstairs in the garage. Earlier in the day, while we were setting up, the Seattle Opera Guild, were having their holiday luncheon. Between their departure and our early arrivals, the parking attendants experienced an almost unimaginable geriatric gridlock.

For the record, we consumed 161 prime rib and 54 salmon dinners as well as 96 bottles of wine. The two bars did the usual brisk business and the smoked salmon Dave Schorsch brought performed it's usual quick disappearing act. Paul Lingbloom and his buddies, Jack Boyer, Tom Grow and Greg Gallagher provided the hot bluegrass pickin' during wet fly practice. Peter Sparling, Mary Pat and good ol' Nancy and the crew at the College Club did another terrific job. They did a yeoman's job just getting things ready for us. Besides the Opera Guild luncheon in the big room, there were two other events that finished between two and three pm. It's amazing that we had enough white tablecloths to go around!

This year, we had a fun little telephone sketch written by Steve Raymond, produced by Rocco Maccarrone and performed by Dave Schorsch, who I understand left immediately for New York to audition as both actor and caterer for Saturday Night Live. Bill Kuper continues to bring our club into the 21st century with his computerized slide shows. We all have to remember to take more photos on our fishing trips this year so we can have an even better slide show at next years party!

Captain Keith did his auctioneer thing again this year. He was in especially good form as he enthusiastically pushed the smoker at his place, Tini Bigs. The night was still young when John Farrar put down his beer and began prepping to be Jimmy Lemert's designated driver. The two bottles of single malt whisky and cigars were won by Steve Raymond. Rumor has it that only the cigars survived the carpool trip back to Whidbey. The two bottles of bourbon won by Earl Harper were consumed on the banks of the San Juan River sometime between Christmas and New Year's Day. Dick Robbins is going to learn how to speycast from Brian Lencho, Steve Sutton purchased the beautiful Al Pratt color cartoon and Peter Sparling found one reel case and two rod tubes after everyone had left.

Other than the wireless mike developing volume problems, a lack of printed receipts for credit card payments and confusion by yours truly over the Corbett Lake prize, our 2002 Holiday Dinner and Auction was a success. A special thank you to Bruce Clingan, who despite being very ill with a fever and infection, showed up to deliver a box of flies he had promised for the raffle, then turned around and drove back home. It's guys like Bruce that make our club so special. Happy New Year!



Grad Student Publication

by *Doug Schaad*

All — I'm pleased to report that one of our graduate students has just co-authored his first paper in the scientific literature.

To refresh your memory, we have provided limited financial support to Jon Honea in his investigations of the differential benefit of chum carcasses in the production of aquatic insects in a tributary of South Puget Sound.

Jon's first co-authored publication is "Increased individual growth rate and community biomass of stream insects associated with salmon carcasses," *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* 2002, 21(4):651-659.

The first line of the abstract reads: "We showed that salmon carcass tissue can increase the growth rate of individual caddisflies as well as increase the local biomass of the aquatic insect community in 3 major stream habitat types."

Another line "Asynarchus pacificus (ed's note, caddisfly) grew significantly better with a combination of salmon and conditioned leaves than with either conditioned leaves or salmon muscle tissue alone."

My reading of the discussion section suggests the following conclusions: 1) salmon carcasses are beneficial to the aquatic insect community, 2) deciduous trees whose leaves fall within the aquatic environment are beneficial to the aquatic insect community and 3) the interaction of these two components are more beneficial to aquatic insects than a simple additive equation would suggest.

If we take these results and combine them with the research that Carol Volk (another graduate student receiving limited support from the WFFC) has been doing on the benefits of alder in the riparian zone; I think we could suggest a healthy riparian ecosystem for production of salmonids would include lots of marine-derived-nutrients (salmon carcasses) and a canopy of alder extending from each bank.

Fishing by the Book

This Month's Focus is on Author Stephen Meyers

by *Mike Wearne, Book Reviewer*

Stephen Meyers is a fly fishing guide in Durango Colorado. He is also the author of numerous books. I am familiar with three of his books. The first, Nature of Fly Fishing, is a coffee table book that highlights the thrills of nature and fly fishing (the artwork and photography in this book is extraordinary).

The other two books with which I am familiar with are, Notes from the San Juans, and the subsequent companion volume, San Juan River Chronicle.

Meyers' area of expertise is southeast Colorado and northern New Mexico. His extensive knowledge of fly fishing is apparent in his writing. The observations of the various personalities in the Durango area add an intriguing attribute to the books. Meyers' social and political commentary is spiced with humor and skepticism.

There is a wealth of knowledge, freely shared in both of these books. Only a portion of portion of which relates to fly fishing. His wife died of leukemia. His son does not find fly fishing as interesting as does the author. Meyers celebrated good and true friends through the prism of time; both fishing partners and local residents. Through both of these books runs the story of one man's passion for fly fishing set amid everything else we must confront in life.

Both books demonstrate a respect for other writers, which encouraged me to read other fly fishing writers. I find it delightful when one writer's work creates a natural progression to another writer. His reverence for Hewitt and Bergman was evident throughout the books.

One aspect of fly fishing I enjoy is the "surprise factor." This is that moment when I see or experience something I had not expected. I had several of those moments while reading, and rereading Notes from the San Juans and San Juan River Chronicle.



President's Riffle

by Richard Embry, President 2003

It is with extreme excitement and trepidation that I write my first President's riffle. Excitement because it's such an honor and a privilege to be selected as the year 2003 leader, the 64th anniversary, of the august membership comprising the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Trepidation because of the august membership comprising the WFFC! Our membership boasts some of the most revered and respected fly fishing individuals in the Northwest. And, following the more than capable and exemplary leadership over the past 4 years exhibited by Kris Kristofferson and Greg Crumbaker before him, well, it will be a daunting task.

Someone asked me the other day what I plan for this year. There's an old saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." The WFFC currently does a lot of things right, and by a lot of accounts ain't broken. However, I also believe in remodeling and updating. To that extent, over this next year I plan to review a few of the WFFC procedures, in concert with the Board and with input from the senior members, to determine if some of our procedures and processes should be revamped, streamlined, or modified. For example, our membership count is declining at a steady rate, and we need to assess various ways to halt or reverse this trend. That should include even reviewing how we go about recruiting and instituting members.

Fishing Tip of the Month. A WFFC member recently sought my fishing advice for an upcoming trip to Christmas Island, and I said the most important tip, in my opinion, was to get his own guide. Whether Christmas Island or Montana, when fishing new waters and a totally new fishery and style, a guide can be invaluable. To quote Perk Perkins of Orvis, "I almost always fish with a guide, because a good guide enhances my experience on the water. I learn new techniques; I get the most productive water at the most productive time; I pick-up local lore; I enjoy their company; and if I have a learning angler with me, I don't need to play teacher." I agree!

The *Creel Notes* is a publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscriptions are free with membership. Articles and other materials appropriate for publication in *Creel Notes* may be sent to: *Creel Notes* Co-Editor, Leland Miyawaki, C/O MIYAWAKI CREATIVE e-mail to miyawaki@iswnet.com (e-mail is preferred). This issue of *Creel Notes* was produced by Kyle Looney. ***Creel Notes is printed by the second Tuesday of the month; article submissions must be received by the previous Saturday at Noon.*** Mail roster updates directly to Leland Miyawaki at the above address. The WFFC may be visited on the internet at <http://www.wffc.com>.



Bill Kuper, Mission Lodge Alaska, Fall of 2002

The following is an excerpt from Bill Kuper's recent trip to Alaska. Please e-mail Bill at billk@digitalfarm.com for the rest of the report.

Many of you are well aware that Alaska is where some of the best fishing in the world can be had. Sometimes it's a do-it-yourself trip, roughing it with the fellas. Sometimes it's full-on deluxe with gourmet meals, hot showers, and massages. But nearly always it's great fishing. I've done several D-I-Y float trips, but this report is about the deluxe edition—a week's stay at Mission Lodge outside Dillingham, AK, the week of September 13-20.

I'll be honest with you—at roughly \$6000 per person I probably wouldn't have gone on this trip had it not been because of a trade I was able to do with Fishing Pursuits, the managers of several lodges around the globe. Earlier in the year my company created a marketing DVD for Fishing Pursuits, and are working on a CD-ROM now. In return, I was able to book a week's trip for myself and one other at their flagship property, Mission Lodge. I decided this was a great opportunity to bring my Dad along as he never had the opportunity to do something like this.

To get to the lodge, we flew to Anchorage, and from there flew to Dillingham, a small town at the mouth of the Nushagak river on Bristol Bay in western Alaska. From there we were greeted by a driver from the lodge and hopped in a van for a forty-minute drive then a short boat ride to the lodge, which sits on the southern shore of Lake Aleknagik. Although it is possible to fish near the lodge, the lodge has three Beavers in which to fly guests out to prime spots around the region every morning. This is a huge advantage, as they can take guests to wherever the action is hot instead of being stuck in one spot.

The lodge accomodates roughly 22 guests, each with a private room or a double room for couples. Showers and toilets are shared with several of each on each floor. As the guests arrived and settled in, we were able to indulge ourselves with the open bar, appetizers, and stories of great fish. All the meals at the lodge were excellent, with menus such as Surf 'n Turf, Osso Bucco, Duck prepared Two Ways, fresh Halibut, and even Mexican Night. Our palletes had never had it so good.

Every evening after dinner the head guide would chat with us and discuss where we'd like to fish the next day. He then convenes with his staff and then the guides hook up with the guests and discuss details such as gear needed (the lodge can provide everything if desired, from waders to rods, and all flies), departure times, etc. The ratio of guests to guides is 2:1.

Our first day of fishing was on the Aguluwok, which was the short stream which flows into Lake Aleknagik from the lake above, and was about a half hour boat ride up the lake (the only non-flying destination). This day turned out to be the coldest and wettest day of the trip, but we still managed to land a bunch of nice rainbows and a few Artic char. The river was still full of spawning Sockeye, so most of the action came on what the guides call "The Bead Show." It's simply a bare hook, about size 16, with a painted bead about 2 inches above it. The guides all have huge collections of painted beads, representing the possible shades of eggs present in the stream. Above the bead about five feet is a strike indicator. This setup would prove to be very effective over the course of the week. The other method used most commonly for the big trout is leech-swinging. This is usually a sink tip line with a weighted leech/wooly bugger concoction, cast straight out and swung until directly downstream. This technique was great fun as the fish would hit extremely hard, usually right at the apex of the swing.

DAY TWO sent us to an amazing destination, the Brooks River. Many of you have probably seen the Brooks from photos and National Geographic specials of the bears standing above the falls waiting for sockeye to jump in their mouths. The Brooks is a short river (about a mile long) connecting two large lakes. It is part of the Katmai National Park. As our Beaver was approaching the shore, we saw our first bear wandering along the beach a hundred yards away. We thought it was pretty exciting, but it was nothing compared to what was to come. All guests here are required to attend a short orientation from a ranger about proper behavior around the bears. We were told to stay at least 50 yards away at all times, and to talk to the bears without yelling, just to let them know we were humans. We were not allowed to have any food whatsoever with us on the river, so we had a quick snack before making the walk up to the head of the river. Along the way, a big sow crossed the road in front of us, about 30 yards away. We just waited quietly until she disappeared into the woods. The river was even more full of Sockeye than the 'Wok. It was a much smaller river, very wadeable, and extremely clear, so we were able to target the Rainbows feeding behind pods of salmon. But even as we started making our first casts, we were joined by feeding bears. Mind you, these were not little Black bears, but very large Brown Bears, the coastal cousin of the Grizzly. I can't even describe the adrenaline rush of sight casting to large trout whilst a 700-pound flesh eater lingers a few yards away.... ***Please e-mail Bill Kuper at billk@digitalfarm.com for the rest of his report!***

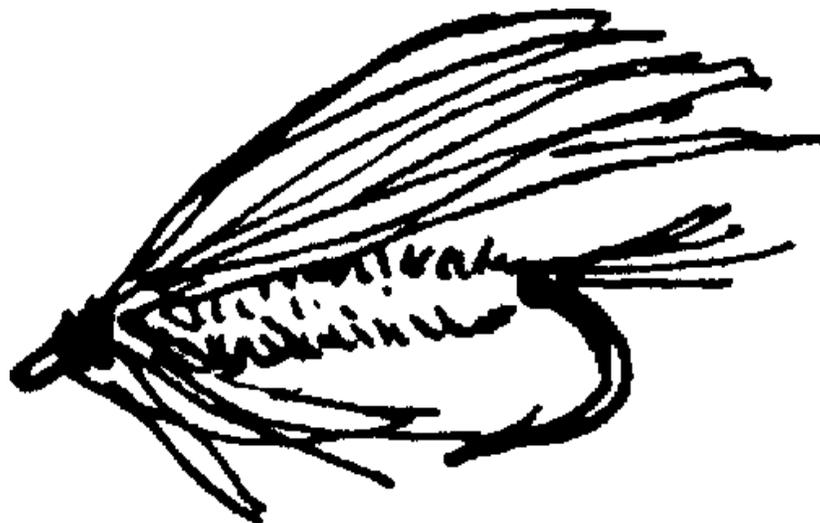


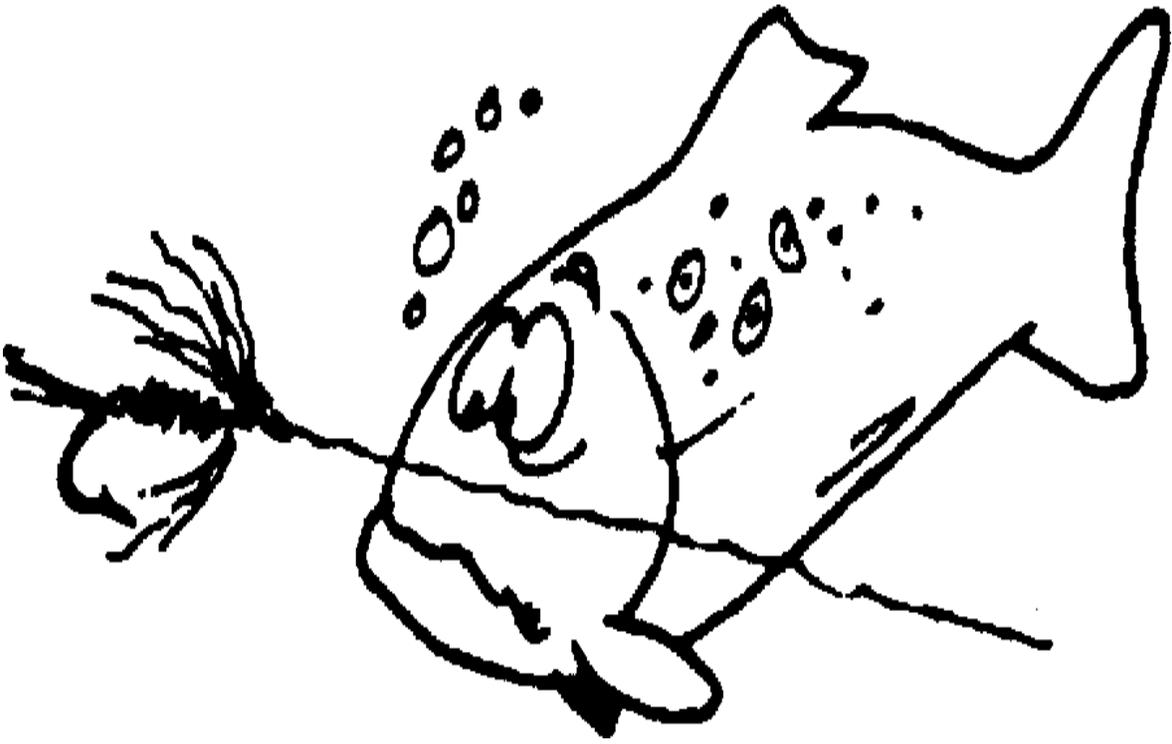
January

January 21st- Club Meeting/ Awards Ceremony College Club
5:30 pm
Jacket and Tie Please

February

February 3rd- Board Meeting, College Club 7:00 pm
February 8th- Creel Notes submissions due by noon to Leland
Miyawaki, co-Editor Creel Notes





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Mercer Island, WA 98040
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To: