

# Creel Notes from the



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



January, 2005

## President's Riffle, *By Bob Birkner*

Greetings to you all for a Happy and Prosperous 2005!

The WFFC Board of Trustees held its first meeting of 2005 on January 3. Responsibilities, files, and advice were transferred to the new officers and trustees and the Board is off and running. A number of the members are continuing from previous terms and those stable elements are appreciated.

The WFFC Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the College Club. You are certainly welcome to attend. The Board is here to serve you and we look forward to your suggestions.

We will have challenges this year that range from declining fish populations to a multitude of activities in our state and federal governments. Please be prepared to assist with contacting our legislators and attending meetings when called upon to help preserve and protect our resources. Our heirs should be able to enjoy the trout at least as much as we.

---

The January meeting has traditionally been a coat and tie affair, continuing the holiday dinner theme.

---

If you know a non-member who is interested in fly fishing, I encourage you to invite him to our meetings and outings. I would like to see our club continue to grow and prosper and bringing in new members is critical.

Get your vices and bobbins tuned up so you can participate in the Boyd Aigner Fly tying Competition.

The Beginning Fly Tying class started on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Don Simonson also has the 2005 Beginning Fly Casting, and Advanced Fly Casting classes scheduled. (see the WFFC website at [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)) If you want to build a rod or try Spey casting let Don know soon. If there is enough interest in either he will schedule those sessions as well.

Dues are due. Please pay them promptly and it will save a lot of wear and tear on our First VPs. They have plenty to do without running a phone reminder campaign.

And last, but not least, here's a special thanks to everyone who helped make our 2004 Holiday Party a success!

## Inside.....

Awards highlights	2
Bruce Babbitt reprint	3
Club News	4
Creel Notes Deadlines	5
High Lakes news	5
Poets Corner	5

**AWARD PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT**  
**JANUARY PROGRAM**

*By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

January is Awards Month at WFFC, when we take time to recognize Club members or other flyfishers who have distinguished themselves through service to the Club and the community. Here is a brief description of the primary Club Awards:

**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.

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

**Letcher Lambeth 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.

There will also be presentations of individual and team awards to Club members who distinguished themselves at the 2004 Fly Casting Expo. The Awards Committee reserves the right to present other Awards, laudatory or humorous, as appropriate



*Creel Notes*

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

Leland Miyawaki...Co-editor  
206-264-0609 miyawaki@iswnet.com  
Preston Singletary...Co-editor  
206-524-3151 psinglet@gte.net  
Bob Young...Publisher  
206-782-7544 fishbum@seanet.com

**President**

Bob Birkner *robirkner@spro.net*

**Co-1st Vice President**

Ed Sozinho *sozinho@earthlink.net*

**Co-1st Vice President**

Mike Wearne *micheal\_wearne@msn.com*

**2nd Vice President**

Jack Berryman *cohojack@hotmail.com*

**Secretary**

John Gravendyk *john.gravendyke@boeing.com*

**Treasurer**

Steve Sunich *qualitypacific@cs.com*

**Ghillie(s)**

Don Schroder *donsch99@yahoo.com*

Doug Smith *dtennessee@msn.com*

**Trustees**

Jim Hanson '03 Dave Schorsch '03

Hugh Clark '04 Paul Lingbloom '04

Kris Kristoferson '05 John Schuitemaker '05

**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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

*Reprinted from the Seattle Times, Jan. 4, 2005*

## **An administration roadmap to salmon extinction** *By Bruce Babbitt*

Wild salmon are drifting toward extinction in the northern Rocky Mountains. Last fall, the Bush administration delivered a decision that will be the death blow, if it stands: Four obsolete dams on the Snake River in eastern Washington state will not be dismantled.

The Snake River dams were conceived on a field of industrial dreams. The idea took root in the 1960s, when local boosters persuaded Congress to authorize a huge project to transform Lewiston, Idaho, 400 miles from the Pacific, into a seaport. The Army Corps of Engineers then proceeded to subdue 140 miles of the wild Snake, remaking it into a slack-water barge channel. The dream soon turned into a nightmare for people and towns that depend on wild salmon. The fish began disappearing from the lakes and rivers upstream from the dams. In one year, only a single sockeye managed to find its way up to Redfish Lake, in the Sawtooth Mountains, to spawn. Prized chinook runs vanished throughout central Idaho. Fisheries and fishing jobs in the Northwest and as far away as Alaska, tribal fisheries included, declined with them.

Meanwhile, the promised inland seaport boom did not arrive. The volume of barge shipments never reached expectations, in part because many farmers in the region still found it cheaper to ship by rail to the deep-water port at Tacoma. That didn't deter the corps, which continues to spend \$36 million a year to operate and maintain the four Snake River dams, their locks and the navigation channel. Yet, even at this late date, there is still a chance to save the salmon. The corps, the farmers and the fishermen could cooperate to get the wheat off the river and onto rail-

roads where it belongs.

The track is in place. The mainlines of the Burlington Northern and the Union Pacific run right through this wheat country and then west to Washington ports at Pasco, Vancouver and Tacoma, and Portland, Ore. The state of Washington just purchased the short lines that feed the mainlines. This system already ships a lot of local wheat, and, with modest further investment, the Burlington Northern says it will be ready and willing to handle what is now shipped by river. Farmers near the river who use the channel to transport grain are the main voice for keeping the dams, because they save 3 to 7 cents per bushel compared with shipping by rail. What stands between waters alive with salmon and the silent expanses of extinction is that 3 to 7 cents per bushel.

All of this cries out for a common-sense solution that takes all sides into account. There is one that has yet to be considered: Simply shut down the barge traffic, take out the dams and then dedicate a small part of the annual \$36 million that would be saved to making up the shipping differential with the farmers. In contrast, the administration's plan to keep the dams and "save" the salmon has an estimated total cost of \$6 billion over the next 10 years. Much of that would go to various schemes to barge, truck, pipe and steer migrating salmon around the dams.

Scientists have repeatedly concluded that these proposals offer little hope of restoring the wild salmon to fishable abundance. Neither science nor logic - nor economic theory - supports the administration's plan. The dams could be dismantled, the farmers who ship on the river compensated and the relatively small amount of electricity the dams generate replaced, for about one-third of the \$6 billion. A restored fishery would be worth at least \$1 billion a year to Pacific Northwest states.

The administration's plan is a very

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

expensive roadmap to salmon extinction. It's time to admit a mistake and set about fixing it - for the sake of fishermen, farmers, Native Americans, the salmon, the inland Pacific Northwest ecosystem - and the taxpayers.

*Bruce Babbitt was secretary of the Department of Interior from 1993 to 2001. He is a former governor and attorney general of Arizona.*

---

## **Fly Tier's Round Table**

*By Dick Brening*

**HELP! The Ghillie has run out of flies for the New Member Packets** and is requesting a special meeting of the WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table to restock his supply.

The meeting will be held on the 25th of January (4th Tuesday). Please come and help fill this request. Tie your favorites and donate them to the club.

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and SE 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

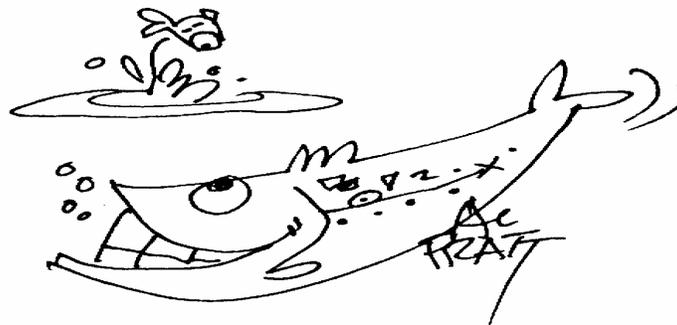
## **Gordy Young Under-the-weather**

Long time member **Gordy Young** is in Swedish Hospital with complications from a long time ailment. He's feeling chipper and can receive, and would welcome visitors or a phone call. The number to reach his (direct line) is 206-386-2969. He is in Room 1213W.

---

The Board of Directors meeting was held on January 3rd, 2005. Actions included:

- Discussion of updated Operating Procedures.
- New officers were present and the transition was completed smoothly.
- A draft 2005 budget was discussed with the new board members and committees.
- Club presence at the upcoming Flyfishing show at the Maydenbauer Center in Bellevue were discussed. Sharing a spot with the Washing State Council of the FFF is an option. No participation in Puyallup or Monroe shows is planned.
- "Home Waters" project. The club is endeavoring to find a site on a body of water which would be appropriate for outings, casting classes and youth programs. Sharing such a site is under discussion.



## 2005 High Lakes Trip Info

There will be a "spouses invited" gathering at Pete Baird's on Feb 18 at 7:30 PM to summarize our progress to date for the 2005 trip and coordinate remaining pre-departure actions. Beverages and a light desert will be served. -- 2004 trip highlights by attendees will also be shared. Please identify plans for trips to be shared and coordinate display media requirements with Pete beforehand. Thank you!

## 2005 CREEL NOTES SUBMISSION CLOSING DATES

Please make sure Leland or Preston receives your snailmail or email submissions by these dates for inclusion in the Creel Notes:

February 7  
March 7  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13  
July 11  
August 8  
September 12  
October 10  
November 7  
December 12



## The Song of the River by W.R Hearst

The snow melts on the mountain  
And the water runs down to the spring,  
And the spring in a turbulent fountain,  
With a song of youth to sing.  
Runs down to the riotous river,  
And the river runs to the sea,  
And the water again  
Goes back as rain  
To the hills where it used to be.

And I wonder if life's deep mystery  
Isn't much like the rain and the snow,  
Returning through al eternity,  
To the places it used to know.

For life was born in the lofty heights,  
And flows in a laughing stream,  
To the river below  
Whose onward flow  
Ends in a peaceful dream.

And so at last,  
When our life has passed  
And the river has run it's course,  
It again goes back,  
O'er the selfsame track,  
To the mountain which was it's source,

So why prize life  
or why fear death,  
Or dread what is to be?  
The river ran  
It's allotted span  
Till it reached the silent sea.  
Then the water harked back to the mountain  
top  
To begin it's course once more.  
So we shall run  
The course begun  
Till we reach the silent shore.  
Then revisit earth  
In a pure rebirth  
From the heart of the virgin snow.  
So don't ask why we live or die,  
Or whither, or when we go  
Or wonder about the mysteries  
That only God may know.



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

Stamp  
here

## Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St.

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

**THIS MONTH IS OUR AWARDS DINNER. DON'T MISS THE HONORING OF OUR EXCEPTIONAL MEMBERS.**

**MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE TWO INSIDE.**