

Creel Notes from the



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



January, 2009



President's Riffle

Hello and Happy New Year!

Hope all of you are staying above high water...literally and figuratively, I suppose. The New Year evoked the seating of your new elected officers and board,

and they seem a robust group. I believe they all intend to serve you the best they can. For example, we can now sign up and pay for dinner meetings on the Web site to eliminate the lines at the dinner meetings. Print your receipt and bring it with you when you sign in.

Kudos and thanks to **Craig Koeppler** and his band of fellows for a great Christmas Party.

Most of what we get accomplished will, as always, depend upon the level of support from the membership. I took some time this winter to re-read Backcasts, the history of the first 50 Years of our club written so well by **Steve Raymond**. It stands out that the membership body was nurtured by the frequent participation of a lot of folks, especially at outdoor events. In 1980, the season opener outing at Pass Lake saw the consumption of 93 steaks by attendees. Our trout season 'opener' is the weekend before the general opening at Dry Falls. It would be great to beat that number. Sign-ups will be available on the Web. Our Outings chair, **Robert Tovar**, will be asking where else you might like to go this year. Let him know.

Participation in the administration of the club is perhaps the second best way to get to know your fellow members. Each of us has something unique to contribute. Nearly everyone I have asked to take a job has eagerly agreed to do it. The Nominating Committee has said the same thing. **Paul Lesh** is looking for members for the Youth Committee. Every committee is looking for members.

Also, we have a couple of new committees that need to be formed and staffed. First, the Publicity Committee is tentatively being headed by **Leland Miyawaki**. With as many authors, lawyers, and marketing professionals as we have in the club, getting information to the community and other organizations should be a snap. Please let me know if you're interested. If you can write, we need you.

Second, we have an urgent need to form a committee to manage our presence for our home waters site. The membership voted for the Home Waters Committee to enter into an agreement with the land owner for a site on the Yakima where we could hold meetings, outings, and group educational activities. They are finalizing that and we need to figure out how to manage our engagement there, i.e., how do you book the site, what is required for access, how do we maintain the site, etc. If you want to chair, co-chair, or participate in that committee, let me know. Yup, there's a job available for everybody and we need your help.

Finally, don't forget to go fishing...and take a friend.

Pat Peterman

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Notice: January Meeting Day Change by Bill Kuper

Due to logistical issues at the Seattle Tennis Club, the Washington Fly Fishing Club's general meeting this month will be held on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21st, instead of the usual Tuesday.

As a reminder, this is our annual Awards Night, and as such is a coat-and-tie event.

All other details remain the same. The location is still the Seattle Tennis Club; the Wet-Fly Hour still begins at 5:30 pm.

Award Presentations Highlight January Program

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

January is Awards Month at WFFC. Please join us in recognizing club members who have distinguished themselves through service to the club and the community. Here is a brief description of our primary 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 Lambuth Angling Craftsmanship Award, presented to a fly fisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing.

Half-Assed Award, presented to a member for, well, you know.

There may also be other presentations to recognize accomplishments by members—good or bad!

See you there. Please remember to wear a coat and tie for this meeting.

Creel Notes

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Rocco Maccarrone '08 Ed Pettigrew '08
Scott Hagen '09 Jim Young '09

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 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.

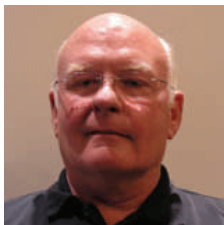
WFFC 2009 Officers and Trustees

by John Callahan

The following men have stepped up to be your officers and trustees for 2009. Welcome, guys, to your positions!

President: **Pat Peterman** (2004)

He is kind of a serious type who is well-organized and fishes a lot. This past year he served as our 1st V.P., and did a very good job of conducting interviews of prospective members. We are honored to have nominated him to be our president for 2009.



1st Vice President (Membership): **Bill Deters** (2005)

This guy has been around the outdoor and conservation arena for a long time. He is a past president of The Mountaineers. He has been on several WFFC high-lake trips dating back to 1975, though not a member then. With a very strong conservation ethic, he is a natural to interview prospective members to make sure they understand the aims and purposes of the Washington Fly Fishing Club.



1st Vice President (Christmas Party): **Peter Crumbaker** (2004)

This is one of our younger members who has a lot of enthusiasm for the WFFC, fly fishing, and conservation. He also has a lot of contacts, which is a big plus for our Christmas Party.



2nd Vice President (Programs): **Steve Sunich** (2003)

We have a member who has helped with Programs. He has been treasurer for three years and was on the casting team for three or four years. He is a perfectionist. All you have to do is look at his clean truck and more importantly his skillfully tied flies, for which he has won the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition.



Treasurer: **Robert Burdich** (1983)

As Al Pratt used to say, this job requires that you know how to count. Our new treasurer has been in the fly club for 25 years. He can count exactly the number of deer hairs needed to tie a perfect sculpin, so much so that he won the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition this year.



Secretary: **Jim Morrison** (2002)

Our secretary fishes a lot: a few trips to Montana each year, club outings, but generally prefers rivers over lakes. He also writes well, as he should, because he has agreed to be our secretary for another year.



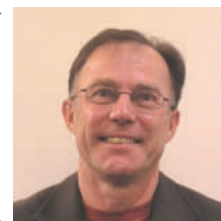
Ghillie: **James Macdonald** (2003)

This job requires a friendly guy who is kind of a jack of all trades. The ghillie is a sort of unsung hero. Our current ghillie has done roster photos, he is always willing, and he has a friendly can-do attitude. These are big shoes to fill, so we asked Jim to wear those shoes again.



Asst. Ghillie: **Michael Santangelo** (2008)

There are numerous chores for a ghillie to do, so an assistant is needed. This is a good way for a new member to get to know his fellow members. Our choice is a real high-energy guy who has attended all our meetings and outings since joining the WFFC. He was thrilled to be asked to help out with the ghillie's job.



Trustee: **Scott Hagen** (2000)

Trustees are members who have been around the club for a while and can offer a steadying hand to the board. Scott is leaving as our current treasurer and has agreed to be a trustee. Scott has worked for the club since day one. He worked on the conservation committee and attended a ton of



(Continued on page 4)

meetings mainly dealing with his favorite fish, the beautiful wild steelhead.

Trustee: **James Young** (1993)

Our other trustee was vaccinated at birth with the WFFC doctrine, because his Dad and Mom were Gordy and Jean Young. So Jim, thank you very much for accepting a trustee position on the WFFC Board.



Thanks to all of the above who have so generously agreed to serve as officers in the Washington Fly Fishing Club for 2009.

Stepping Down

At the end of December, the following officers and trustees handed off their duties (excluding those who assumed a different office). Thank you for an excellent year!

President: **Bill Kuper**

Co-1st Vice President: **Craig Koeppler**

2nd Vice President: **Keith Robbins**

Ghillie: **Marty Leith**

Trustee: **Richard Embry**

Trustee: **Gene Gudger**

The Nominating Committee

The following members served on the Nominating Committee: Chairman **John Callahan**, **John Schuitemaker**, **Jim McRoberts**, **Ed Sozinho**, and **Hugh Clark**. Thank you!

Christmas Party 2008

This year's Christmas Party was a resounding success in a number of ways: as a fundraiser, as a means of acquiring quality fishing goods, and as a rollicking good time. Many people contributed significantly to making the party a success. Let's start the kudos with a big thank you to our outgoing Co-1st Vice President, **Craig Koeppler**. Craig spent many months preparing for the party, and did an outstanding job in both planning and execution. Thanks also to his direct assistants and the many contributors and volunteers who made the event go. Here's to you all!

For 2009, our new VP for the party is **Peter Crumbaker**, who is already starting plans for the next party. Please give him your support.



The Goods for Auction Were Outstanding



...and the Elves Added Their Charm

WFFC Programs 2009 @ 1-11-09

by Steve Sunich, 2nd Vice President (Programs)

The following meetings are planned for 2009. Put them on your schedule—you are not going to want to miss them. We will fill the open dates at a later point.

February: **John Herzer—Western Montana guide & outfitter**

John is an extremely experienced guide from Missoula and will talk about Western Montana fly fishing. John is a very enthusiastic fly fisher who has an intimate knowledge of Montana rivers and lakes.

March: **Zeb Hogan—National Geographic MegaFishes Project**

Aquatic ecologist Zeb Hogan leads the MegaFishes Project to identify and protect the world's largest freshwater fishes. He travels to the most endangered of the freshwater ecosystems, striving to save critically endangered fish and the livelihood of people who share their habitats.

April: **Nathan Mantua – "The Future Ain't What It Used to Be: Why climate change makes habitat recovery for salmon and steelhead even more urgent than you might have thought."**

In this talk Nate will review projections for Northwest climate in the next century. He will then show how these climate changes map onto freshwater and marine fish habitat, and discuss how this will likely impact Northwest fisheries for salmon and steelhead. Nate will finish with ideas for protecting our fish populations from the risks of a warming climate, and highlight opportunities for making a significant difference for the future of salmon and steelhead fisheries. Nate is an Associate Research Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, and adjunct faculty in Atmospheric Sciences, at the University of Washington. He has been a member of the UW's Climate Impacts Group since 1995. His research focuses on climate impacts on the water cycle, forests, and aquatic ecosystems, and how

climate information is or isn't being used in resource management decisions.

May: **Les Johnson – Our own member will talk about Fly Fishing for Salmon**

Les has written books on the subject, with the latest release last year. It will be a good informational program with opportunities for questions and answers about our Northwest salmon fishery.

June: **"Significant Others Outing"**

Back due to popular demand, this outing welcomes our significant others to the Palace Ballroom, where we will see famous chef Tom Douglas cook one of his favorites. This program will not be held on the typical third Tuesday, but will be the next day, Wednesday the 17th. This will require reservations.

July: Open

August: **WFFC Round Table Discussions**

Everyone will have an opportunity to hear members of our own club share their special skills, experiences, and knowledge. More details later.

September: Open

October: **Dave Hughes**

Dave does many programs and workshops around the country on fly fishing, fly tying, entomology, tactics, etc. He is known for his many fly fishing books and has worked with the Whitlocks, Krieger, Hafele, Schollmeyer, and many others, famous and infamous.

November: **Heritage Month - Open**

Boyd Aigner Competition for 2009

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

Gentlemen, get out your vices. The 2009 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition is underway. We are again doing this on a “best” fly basis, with each participant submitting for the respective categories a fly that he thinks best demonstrates his tying skill and creativity. Members of the Club will be the judges so everyone will have an opportunity to participate in the process.

The fly categories for 2009 are the following: (1) Green drake nymph (wet), size 14; (2) Tom Thumb, size 10, and (3) Yellow jacket, size 10. Each participant may submit only one set of flies.

Display boxes will be distributed at the February members meeting—please note that all flies submitted for the competition must be mounted in the display boxes. Flies will be due by the March meeting so that they can be displayed and judged at the April meeting, with the award presented at the May Meeting. Thank you.

Dick Scales and I are the coordinators for the Competition. Please contact us if you have any questions:

Bill Neal (w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603; wneal@staffordfrey.com.

Dick Scales (425) 898-1608; rls2arc@earthlink.net.

Club Bylaw Review *by Jim Young*

Each year one of the responsibilities of the trustees is to conduct a review of the club bylaws. If you have suggestions for changes or additions, please contact **Jim Young**, Trustee. Please include your reason(s) for the change.

WFFC Awards Scholarship to Conrad

Gowell *by Doug Schaad, Co-Chair Conservation Committee*

This past month the Conservation Committee awarded a \$450.00 scholarship to **Conrad Gowell**, a new member of the WFFC. Conrad had previously been awarded a Campbell Fellowship to allow him to study the interactions of recreational fishing, indigenous populations, and regulatory decisions in the management of bonefish in the Turk and Caicos Islands of the Caribbean. The additional funding provided by the WFFC may allow him to extend his studies to both permit and tarpon along the Yucatan Peninsula or the coastline of Honduras. In creating his proposal he benefited from the local knowledge of both **Dave McCoy** and **Andrew Bennett**. Discussions with Val Atkinson and Brian O’Keefe provided multiple pointers to creating a photo journal documenting his experience.

The Conservation Committee has never funded a research proposal that was NOT based in the Pacific Northwest. In deliberations about Conrad’s proposal, two themes emerged. First, we should support club members who are engaged in scientific inquiry. Second, we have many club members who have traveled the globe in pursuit of bones, permit, and tarpon – for which there is comparatively little research data and no sociological network analyses of local communities, recreational fishers, and management officials. With these factors in mind, the Conservation Committee made the award. Congratulations Conrad!

Dues Are Due

Don’t look now, but it’s dues time. Please use the insert in these Creel Notes, or the easy on-line procedures, to re-up to your favorite fly club. Thank you.

The Secret Weapon: Grande Ronde Rat

Tier: Scott Hagen

Originator: Scott Hagen

Hook: Alec Jackson gold Steelhead Iron, size 3
(size 5 or 1 optional)

Thread: Black Uni-thread, size 8/0

Tag: Small oval silver tinsel

Rib: Medium oval silver tinsel

Tail: Dyed yellow Gray Squirrel tail

Aft body: Insect green Kevlar thread

Mid wing: Dyed orange Gray Squirrel tail

Fwd body: Small black Antron chenille

Fwd wing: Dyed red Gray Squirrel tail

Throat: Black hen hackle

Head: Tapered black Uni-thread, size 8/0



Tier's Notes:

Fish this fly in the classic style: cast quartering down and across, let the fly swing down to the dangle, take two steps downstream, and cast again. Since the hook is the up eye style, I suggest the user tie it on with a double turl knot to optimize the hooking angle.

Note: The Secret Weapon highlights new patterns originated by, or standard patterns uniquely modified by, club members. If you have a secret weapon that you would like to share, please let your Creel Notes editor know.

Fishing by the Book *by Mike Wearne*

Fly Fishing the 41st: Around the World on the 41st Parallel by James Proesk

In the world of fly fishing literature, James Proesk would probably be considered a rock star. He is 32 and has authored six books on fly fishing. I would suggest that you avoid the paperback version of this book as the 17 watercolor illustrations in the hardback version add to the book. The premise of the book is to follow the 41st parallel around the world, fly fishing in nearby waters.

The 41st parallel connects New York, Paris, Lisbon, Naples, Istanbul, Tashkent, and Peking. It also includes Bridgeport CT, the home of the author, where the adventure begins. This book is as much a travelogue as a fly fishing book. The first adventure occurs in the city of Paris, on the Seine River. There is a group of dedicated fishermen successfully concentrating their fishing endeavors within sight of the Norte Dame cathedral in Paris.

Mind you, this book is not only about fly fishing, but it is highly entertaining!

The author's companion throughout much of the book is Johannes Schofferman, a baker from Sankt Veit and der Glen, Austria. Proesk was introduced to Schofferman by Dr. Robert Behnke, the eminent fish biologist at Colorado State University. Behnke was impressed with the research produced by Schofferman. Behnke did not know that he was a baker. Schofferman's primary method of collecting fish samples is to scuba dive with a net to collect samples. Let the games begin! These two, together with Schofferman's wife, Ida, travel though Turkey, Italy, Armenia, Spain, Portugal, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia.

Dr. Behnke returns in the last portion of the book as the author returns to the U.S. I thought it was a wonderfully reflective ending of the book. The author was anxious to return to his home in Bridgeport, yet he stopped to spend time with his mentor.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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here

January, 2009

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: Awards Presentation

We will recognize club members who have distinguished themselves through service to the club and the community.