

Creel Notes from the



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



January, 2010



President's Riffle, Jan. 2010

I am humbled and honored thinking of all the great men who have held this position before me—some were even great fisherman. Since joining the club in 1997, I have spent seven years working on various positions on the board. I

have seen the club struggle year after year trying to revitalize itself and attract younger members.

I believe the club is suffering from exposure, the kind of exposure that weathers and ages something that has been placed on a shelf with good intentions, but has been forgotten about. Our beloved club has been lacking the kind of exposure you feel when you go out into the woods on a fall day to fish a favorite stream. We need to change things, and change things now for the betterment of the club. This year the board will be looking at four items that will start to help revitalize the club.

1. **A Large Conservation Program.** The board along with the conservation committee is reviewing five possible projects for the club to sink its teeth into. My goal is to form a coalition with other major conservation groups already doing good work to help leverage the exposure of the club and the work. We do not need to, nor should we, start from scratch.

2. **Virtual Fly Club.** We need to use the tools available to us for a more robust club. The board is reviewing social networking, our Web site, and other online tools to allow our members easier access to one another, and to allow the public to join the club with political letter writing and lobbying.

3. **Create the NW Casting Competition.** The NW does not have a regional fly-casting competition that invites the best in the county to participate. This will be a great venue to reach out to the public and to watch great casting.

4. **Sponsor the Fly Fishing Film Tour.** Every year we have a film tour come to town that draws 500 people under the age of 40. We need to be in front of this group promoting the WFFC.

Lastly, I believe that the club is hindering its own efforts in achieving its Aims and Purposes because of the single-gender issue. We should no longer exclude women from the WFFC. In today's world, this is absolutely crippling the club's ability to connect with the public. Effective promotion and exposure of the WFFC will allow the public to understand who we are and what we stand for. We cannot truly achieve the Aims and Purposes of WFFC until we can truly reach out to the public. We are hamstrung by one of our own policies and it is affecting the health and effectiveness of our club.

This is going to be an amazing year. We have an energetic board and a great group of committee chairs this year. With the Yakima Home Waters project being built this year, and the four initiatives, our club will be taking a great step forward.

Grab your rod and go fishing.

Ed Sozinho, President 2010

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January Awards; Letcher Lambuth Presentation

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

January is Awards Month. Please join us in this opportunity to recognize club members or others who have distinguished themselves through service to the club and the community in 2009.

We will be presenting the Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award to Jesse Scott of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club. This award is the club's highest and is presented to a fly fisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia who has made original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing. Among his many accomplishments, Jesse developed the Evergreen Hand, a vise that permits tying flies with one hand, which has been quite significant in the club's work with disabled veterans. Please welcome Jesse and Doug Nordstrom, President of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, who will participate in the presentation.

Here is a brief description of the club's other 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".

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

We may also be recognizing other members for their special "accomplishments"—meritorious and otherwise.

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

Dues in by End of January

by Peter Crumbaker, 1st Vice President

Just as a reminder to any of you who have not yet sent in your check or paid through the Web site: WFFC membership dues are due. If you have not yet paid, please try and have that in by the end of January. You can mail a check to me at:

Peter Crumbaker
3546 S. Brandon St.
Seattle, WA 98118

You can also pay online in the membership page, if that works better for you. If dues are not received by March 1, 2010, you will be dropped from the roster and mailings. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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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.

On the Fly *by David Ehrich*

News Flash. I didn't win the raffle. After two years in a row and four of the last eight, I have gotten rather used to taking home a new rod for Christmas. My favorite was the year **David Schorsch** handed me his clump of tickets and I was taking home a new steelhead outfit before he even left the College Club garage. Last year, since both my children were paying college loans, if it hadn't been for the raffle, there would have been nothing under the tree. In other words, I'm a little disappointed this year.

Let's be honest. Four wins ain't bad. And this month's missive may earn the only hate mail I've gotten (and deserved) for "On the Fly." But still, I was surprised how much fun winning is and how much I missed it. That got me thinking about the whole point of the Christmas Program: expectation. For small change, any member or guest can take home a nice pile of loot. For flusher members, auctions create wonderful opportunities for the fishing year. I watched guests glow in the hope they would take home something special. I watched veterans carefully crumple their tickets in hope this year would be the one.

From my first years as a guest, the Christmas Program has always been something to look forward to. And this year was no disappointment. The food was delicious, the setting festive, the drinks affordable, and I got to have a drink and to sit down with some fine gentlemen. Some of these guys are actually good friends now. That's worth a lot of tickets. And as **Captain Keith** reminds us, it's all about giving the club a few bucks.

I can't wait for next year. I'm due.



Boyd Aigner Winner Plate at Auction

2009 Christmas Party Update

by Peter Crumbaker, 1st Vice President

I just wanted to let everyone know that the Christmas Party for 2009 was a wonderful success! I thank everyone who helped out in the planning, organizing, and donations. This is not an event that can be put together without some help, and I think the success of the event reflects the great support that was received.

The venue is what I have received the majority of the feedback on, and it has honestly all been very positive. The raffle and auction packages were fantastic as usual, and I hope all the winners are very pleased with their winnings.

If anyone has suggestions or thoughts for the 2010 Christmas Party, I highly recommend that you contact **Earl Harper** while it is still fresh on your mind. He will be handling the next Christmas Party and would love to hear suggestions from any, if not all, WFFC members!

Thanks again for making the event in 2009 a successful one, and hope that 2010 is a pleasant and productive year for you.

Sincerely,
Peter Crumbaker



2010 WFFC Meeting Programs

by Keith Robbins, 2nd Vice President

We have the following presentations lined up for 2010:

January 19 Awards Night

No good deed goes unpunished and we even recognize and document those moments the honoree might just as soon forget! Coat and tie.

February 16 Jim Klug presents: “Making of *DRIFT* and *RISE* (Behind the Scenes)”

Jim Klug has worked in the fly fishing and outdoor industry since the age of 14. Jim is the founder and Director of Operations for Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, a Bozeman, Montana-based fly fishing travel company that specializes in booking and arranging fishing trips all over the world. Over the past 25 years, Jim has worked in the fishing industry as a guide, sales rep, travel coordinator, photographer, and as past National Sales Manager for Scientific Anglers.

Jim has guided extensively in Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oregon, and has fished throughout the world in over 35 different countries. With a particular love of saltwater flats fishing, Jim spends a lot of time in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. His articles and photos have appeared in numerous magazines, including *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Fishing in Saltwater*, *Fly Rod and Reel*, *American Angler*, and several others.

Aside from his work with Yellow Dog and his photography, Jim is also a partner in Confluence Films, where - along with cinematographer Chris Patterson - he teamed up to create the 2008 fly fishing movie *DRIFT* and the 2009 movie *RISE*. Jim is the executive producer and writer for Confluence's projects. Jim lives in Bozeman, Montana, with his wife Hilary, daughter Carson, and son Finn.

March 16

Paul Mosely presents: “Wild Trout Adventures in Montana”

Paul is the owner of Ruby Springs Lodge. His interests include spending time with family and friends (preferably with a good scotch and a better cigar), fly fishing, reading, skiing, tennis, mountain biking, and soccer.

A lifetime member of Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Rifle Association, Paul has served on the Board of Directors for Federation of Fly Fishers, Simpson Investment Company, and Campfire Boys and Girls Club of America (Missoula Chapter), and currently serves on the boards of The Stewardship Council of Trout Unlimited for Montana, Kamilche Company in Seattle, Madison County Economic Development, and the Board of Trustees for the University of La Verne.

Now 44 years old, Paul grew up in Seattle, Washington, and attended Lakeside High School in Seattle and La Verne University in Los Angeles, CA. He met his wife Jeanne, a Montana resident and graduate of the University of Montana, in 1992. Together, they started a fly fishing lodge in Southwest Montana and have been operating the business for 15 years. They currently live in Missoula with their two children.

April 20

Dave Delisi presents: “Bamboo: From Shoot to Rod”

(A visit to the source of Tonkin cane, and a very brief primer on rod building at Sweetgrass Rods)

Dave Delisi is the latest addition to the Boo Boy team. With a strong background in business and finance, his gifts differ from the traditional rod-builder. Responsible for much of the Sweetgrass back-office necessities, he may represent your first encounter with Sweetgrass. Building rods is an ethereal art, but Dave brings a sense of organization that anchors Sweetgrass to the necessities of the business world. He is also a student of the rivers and is learning, under Jerry and Glenn's patient tutelage, to build rods in the time-honored tradition.

May 18

Chad Jackson (WDFW Fish Biologist) presents: “New Flyfishing Opportunities”

Chad has a B.S. in Fisheries Management from the University of Idaho, and 13 years experience managing both inland and anadromous species for WDFW. He has spent most of his career in Region 4 as the Inland Fish Biologist for King, Snohomish, and Island counties; as District Fish Biologist for the anadromous fish in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds; and currently serves as the District 5 (Grant and Adams Counties) Fishery Biologist.

June 15 – To be announced

July 20 – To be announced

August 17 – To be announced

September 21

Palmer Taylor & Justin Coupe present: “Rivers of a Lost Coast”

Justin Coupe is a sixth-generation Californian, living in the greater Sacramento area. Justin is a board member with the Capital Film Arts Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the growth and development of Northern California’s filmmaking community. Justin first fly fished for steelhead at the age of 12 on Southern Oregon’s North Umpqua River. Justin received his B.A. in Film and Digital Media, along with Literature/Creative Writing, from the University of California at Santa Cruz. In October of 2008, Justin finished principle photography on *Cloud’s Rest*, a documentary that follows Austin Taylor, an inspirational man disabled by cerebral palsy, along his amazing, off-trail journey to the top of Cloud’s Rest Peak in Yosemite National Park.

Palmer Taylor is 27 years old and received his B.S. in Applied Physics with a minor in Electronic Music from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Palmer currently works with audio production and sound design, recording audio in the Bay Area and composing music for various projects. Working with the latest audio hardware and software, Palmer enjoys combining synthesized sounds with acoustic instruments to create unique sounds and scores. Palmer is currently working on the sound design and score for the documentary *Cloud’s Rest*.

October 19

Conway Bowman: “Fly Fishing the Ragged Edge - Mako Sharks on the Fly!”

Conway Bowman, west coast fly fishing pioneer, will take you on the most extreme fly fishing adventure of your life when he talks about fly fishing for the ocean’s apex predator: the mako shark. This is the “Ragged Edge” of flyfishing!!!!

Conway Bowman’s name is synonymous with “extreme” fly fishing. For Conway, home base is San Diego, where he guides for Bluewater species on the fly – most notably killer mako sharks. His exploits have been chronicled in various books and magazines, including *Field & Stream*, *Men’s Journal*, *Saltwater Sportsman*, and *Wild on the Fly*. But Conway’s fly fishing prowess doesn’t stop there. As former host of ESPN’s “In Search of Fly Water,” Bowman has traveled the world in search of Atlantic salmon, wild trout, bonefish, and tarpon. Conway has also hosted ESPN’s cornerstone adventure series on sharks, “Primal Predator”, and is now the host of “Dollar Wise Fly” on the Versus network. Conway has appeared as a guest host on “Cabra’s Adventure Quest”, Versus’ “Escape to the Wild”, Shaw Grigsby’s “One More Cast”, and ESPN2 “Going Coastal”. He currently holds the IGFA world record for redfish caught on the fly. Bowman is now principal owner of the “Ragged Edge Fly Fishing School.”

Check out www.bowmanbluewater.com.

November 16 – To be announced

December 21

WFFC Annual Christmas Party and Auction

Boyd Aigner Competition for 2010, with Additional “Incentives”

by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

The 2010 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition is underway. Each participant is to submit what he regards as the “best” fly in each of three categories. The intent is to enable the participant to demonstrate creativity as well as tying skill. Members of the club will be the judges.

The patterns for 2010 are the following: (1) parachute hopper, size 12; (2) muddler minnow, size 10; and (3) trico dunn (not spinner), size 18. Each participant may submit only one set of flies.

Display boxes for use in the competition will be distributed to participants 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.

The club is again providing \$500 in financial incentives to participants. This year, these will be \$50 for the winner in each of the three categories; \$150, \$100, and \$50 for those who finish first, second, and third overall, respectively; plus \$50 for the first-time participant who finishes highest overall. For this purpose, a “first-time” participant is anyone who has not participated in the competition since 2003.

To create even further incentives, members **Bob Burdick** and **Kris Kristoferson** have each agreed to put up a \$250 prize, that is, a total of \$500, for the individual who finishes first overall. Thank you, gentlemen!

I will serve as the coordinator for the competition. Please contact me if you have any questions. (w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603; wneal@staffordfrey.com. Good luck to all.

A Bit of Doggerel by Preston Singletary

I wrote this to mark the passing of the greatly-honored Half-Assed award to **Frank Vulliet**. The occasion was on a trip to Christmas Island when he decided to change his flyline in a fast-moving boat while heading out in the morning.

A group of northwesterners, tired of the rain and in search of the sunshine, boarded a plane. The cold and the gloom had been driving them batty so they flew to the island of Kiritimati.

To Christmas Island, far out in the sea, as warm and as pleasant a place as can be, they were hoping to rack up an impressive tally of speedy bonefish and the giant trevally.

These men were flyfishers and true to the last, they were looking for fish and they wanted them fast. They located their quarters as quick as may be and soon found a guide, with a boat, for a fee.

One early morn found them, loading their gear in the guide’s speedy craft, in a mood of good cheer. And they all piled aboard, clutching their hats, as the boat roared away toward the bonefishing flats.

As their guide’s boat went racing across the lagoon, the wind in the rigging was whistling a tune, when one of their number decided that he should change out his fly line immediately.

Since the line that he wanted was the one he was lacking,
he needed to change it, clear down to the backing.
So he stripped off the flyline right down to the end
and it billowed and swirled in the freshening wind.

The others leaned back and they all looked aghast
as yards of his flyline went whistling past,
they sat there amazed, startled and blinking,
and each of them wondered, *what had he been thinking?*

But the job was accomplished, no harm done, at last.
The line was replaced and the crisis had passed.
So let’s all give a hand and a modest hurray
to this year’s recipient, our friend, Frank Vulliet.

New Member: Larrie Elhart

Larrie was recently inducted into the club. Here's his story, in his own words:

"My fly fishing history started in about 1952 when I was working after school at a sporting goods store. They had this great sale on all bamboo fly rods, 40% off, because the new glass rods were mainly in demand. I still have the Montague Rapi-dan bamboo fly rod and Pflueger reel that I purchased at that time. I did not do much fly fishing though until sometime in the 60's after I took a course in fly tying taught by Roy Patrick. I was amazed when a fish would actually take one of my home-tied creations.

"I have taken many fly fishing trips in the Northwest, B.C., and Alaska in pursuit of trout, and a few trips south for bone fish. A good share of these trips were with my friend and club member Richard Pierson, whom I have known since our days in law school. I also went on a steelhead fishing trip with Ted Pearson to Prince of Wales Island in Alaska. Ted, who passed away earlier this year and was a member of your club, was a very good fisherman who wanted to be out fishing it seemed from sunrise to sunset.

"I look forward to getting to know the members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and to go on some of the club fishing outings."



New Inductee Larrie Elhart

New Videos in the WFFC Library

by Mike Wearne, Librarian

At the February meeting, Jim Klug is the featured speaker. He is the producer of the fly fishing videos ***Drift*** and ***Rise***. Both of which illustrate the diversity in the world of fly fishing. Think the French Quarter in New Orleans to Kashmir in Pakistan.

In addition to these two great videos, we have added to the library the following selections.

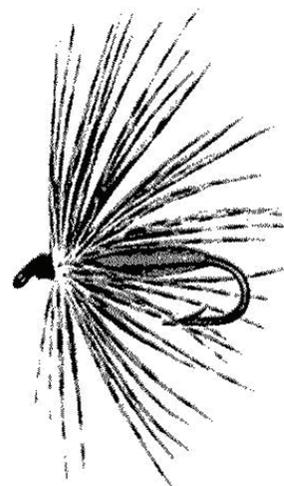
- ***Soulfish***. This video travels to Mongolia, the Amazon, and Belize.
- ***Fish Bum I: Mongolia***
- ***Trout Diaries, Volume 1, Patagonia, and Volume 2, New Zealand.***

We also have two DVDs of **Tim Borski** fly tying DVDs. How could someone forget his demonstration to the club?

Looking back into the history of fly fishing, we have ***The Lost World of Mr. Hardy*** and ***Rivers of a Lost Coast***. Both of these are priceless.

Let's review: ***Drift, Rise, Soulfish, Fish Bum I: Mongolia, Trout Diaries, Volumes 1 and 2, Tim Borski, The Lost World of Mr. Hardy, and Rivers of a Lost Coast.***

If these DVDs don't get your fly fishing juices flowing, you are dead!





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

Stamp
here

January, 2010

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 Meeting!