

# Creel Notes from the



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



January, 2013



Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am honored and pleased to serve again as the president of this wonderful organization for 2013.

We got the word from **Don Barton** that our Christmas party and fundraising effort was a huge success. I think every member should

personally thank **Bob Young** for his effort. Bob, Don Barton, and **Jim Macdonald** were wrapping up the event until sometime after 11:30—a special thanks to each of them. This event has a direct impact on the viability and strength of the WFFC for the following year.

Finally, while I am acknowledging members who have gone “above and beyond”, the success of the Christmas wreath sales program sponsored by **Mike Hurt** and **Chapin Henry** was extraordinary. We almost reached the sales level of 2011.

This year I want the WFFC to present itself as one of the predominant fly fishing clubs in the area. I think we can make our presence known by demonstrating our passion at every opportunity.

**Bob Burdick** has lined up a great group of speakers for the upcoming year. They are identified on the website by our master webmaster, **Roger Rohrbeck**.

We had some successful events in 2012 that will be occurring again in 2013. Last year we had an event during Seafair for Navy personnel. It turned out everyone who attended was based locally. I would like to have this event again, not necessarily on Seafair weekend, but again go to Rattlesnake, fish, eat burgers, and introduce people to fly fishing. We had several membership outreach events in 2012, particularly in Everett and Kenmore. In 2013 the Fly Fishing Show is returning to the Pacific Northwest, and we will have a booth at their Lynnwood show. These are great opportunities to attract new members.

At the February general meeting, we will discuss the operating budget for 2013. This budget will be assembled at the February WFFC board meeting. As a club member, you are welcome and invited to attend the monthly board meetings. If you have suggestions, comments, complaints, or any other input, please feel free to contact me at 206.784.8609, 206.949.3162, or 253.272.2720. My email address is michael\_wearne@msn.com.

Included in this issue of the Creel Notes is a notice of a motion to change the bylaws to allow the membership to include women as members of this club. I encourage all members to discuss this among themselves. I encourage members to attend the February meeting, voice their opinion, and vote their feelings. You have my phone numbers, which are identified above. Call me, let's talk.

During the year of 2012 I had a serious illness which required a stay in the hospital, and a long recuperation. Late in the year I lost my best friend. All in all it was not the best year for me. Time and time again I was approached by members of this club wishing me well, a firm handshake, a pat on the back, a smile, a thoughtful comment. I cannot say this enough: thank you.

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Let's go fishing!

Mike

Thanks again for this opportunity.

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## More Thoughts *by Mike Wearne*

Two specific events occurred during the holiday season that reminded me of the constant joy provided by fly fishing.

Several years ago I went on a week-long fly fishing trip to Yellowstone with Rod Jones, at that time a coworker. I casually knew Rod, but I knew he was a fly fisher. We had a great time together exploring Heart Lake and Slough Creek among other sites in the park. A few years later I received a journal that Rod publishes that documents his year of fly fishing with his sons. The format has changed (read improved) and the production quality is now fantastic. The message is the same: he is describing the joy of fishing with his sons and extended family. I treasure the copy I receive.

Over the holidays I attended an annual party with a running group of which I am a member. We share our aches and pains, review a specific run together. I fly fish with Chris Kearns who is a member. Several years ago we were in a group that hiked into Castle Lake near Mt St Helens. It rained the entire time we were there! The same thing happened on a trip into Elwha. Again, good memories.

Recently I have been rereading Friends on the Water, Fly Fishing in Good Company, which speaks to the joy of fishing with friends and the memories that are a result.

One of the joys of the Washington Fly Fishing Club is companionships that are cultivated, nurtured, and sustained over time. What a joy it is to be a part of that process!

## Creel Notes

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### President

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### 1st Vice President (Membership)

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### Trustees

Bob Young '11 Chapin Henry III '11  
Don Schroder '12 Gene Gudger '12  
Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13

### 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, steelhead, and salmon 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.

## An Open Letter to the WFFC membership December 21, 2012

Gentlemen of the WFFC:

We all have watched the WFFC membership decline and grow older in the last ten years. Our membership is down about 20% in this period, and 30% over the last 20 years, and our average age continues to increase. This trend is unsustainable for the long-term viability of the club. There are readily apparent reasons membership is on the decline. Not only do our bylaws automatically exclude half of the population, they also offend a significant portion of the men and women born in the last half of the twentieth century – men and women who are potential members.

When the WFFC was conceived nearly 75 years ago, exclusive organizations were common, and generally accepted. Times have changed. People growing up in the sixties, seventies, eighties, and (how time flies) early nineties have been exposed to and expect more inclusiveness in all aspects of our society. By excluding women, the WFFC also drives away many of the younger, better-educated, and energetic men who we need to maintain a healthy and vigorous membership. If we wish to be a vibrant and active organization in the future and avoid becoming a small group of old men, we must change.

Women can and women do make significant contributions to the art and science of fly fishing, fly tying, and fly casting. Welcoming qualified women fly fishers as members of WFFC will improve our organization, not degrade it.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, representing the wishes of the majority of our members, and in accordance with our bylaws, wish to announce that we will offer a motion for discussion and a vote at the business portion of our February 19, 2013, monthly club meeting to change the language of our bylaws to be inclusive to women who are active fly fishers. Our aim is to reinvigorate our club's membership and vitality so we may ensure that we continue to be a great club worthy of our heritage and our mission as set forth by our founders.

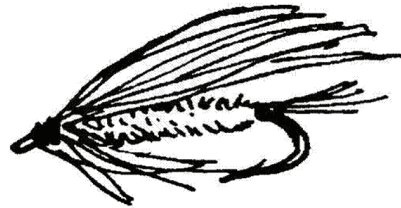
Currently, bylaw Article II, Section I, Qualifications for membership states that we will only accept: "Any male person over 21 years of age who is dedicated to fly fishing and is willing to sign this pledge".

We will move that the word **male** be deleted from this sentence, which would then read: "**Any person over 21 years of age who is dedicated to fly fishing and is willing to sign this pledge**", and that all other references to the male gender in the bylaws be changed to reflect both sexes.

We urge each and every member to reflect personally on this issue and to discuss this matter with friends outside WFFC and your fellow WFFC members.

Sincerely,

**Robert Burdick, Hugh Clark, Greg Crumbaker, John Gravendyk, Scott Hagen, Kris Kristoferson, Craig Koeppler, Jim McRoberts, John Schuitemaker, and Jim Young**



## Christmas Party *by Jim van de Erve*

The WFFC Annual Christmas party is a fundraiser. So, how come it's so much fun? Could it be the zany antics of the guy who won a raffle prize, and in his exuberance fairly pranced to pick it up, saying, "Make way for a winner! Make way for a WINNER!" (Yes, **Peter Crumbaker**, that was a hilarious way to revel in it, you lucky son-of-a-seacook, getting to do it not just once, but twice.)

Maybe it was **Pete Baird** reciting "The Cremation of Sam McGee" from memory, as he regaled us in the tale of the night on the marge of Lake Lebarge, an outdoorsman's delight, without a single glitch? (Pete not only did it, but he did it *under pressure*.)

How about the cunning and bravado of those bidding for a trip to **Doug Schaad's** Oregon cabin, whose sphincters tightened as the bidding reached rarefied heights because more than one group knew how fun the weekend is and how awesome the steel-head are in that gorgeous stream, with the result than cunning and bravado weren't enough to scare off the rival bidders? (It takes cold, hard cash...)

The holidays are all about magic and so is fishing. A monster steelhead dancing on the Hoh with a fly planted in its mouth and a 20-inch, football-fat brown submitting to a 5x tippet on Dry Falls are magical moments. The Christmas Party, which is just a bunch of friends getting together to marvel in fishing magic and lore, and make the club money doing it, was a grand pleasure.

The party was a success not only in the fun had, but also in the funds raised. Many thanks to **Bob Young** for all his work on it, and the many people who helped him.

And there is evidence of the fun, courtesy of **Jim Macdonald**:



*Perry Barth and Bob Young receiving the trailer hitch or half Assed Award for an incident involving a flying boat.*



*Fly plate for this year's auction.*







*Pete Baird reciting the annual reading of a Robert Service poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee".*

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## This Year's Officers and Trustees

*by Pete Baird*

The officers and trustees of the Washington Fly Fishing Club for 2013 are:

President: **Mike Wearne** (2nd Term)  
 1st VP Membership: **John Gravendyk** (2nd Term)  
 2nd VP Programs: **Bob Burdick** (2nd Term)  
 3rd VP Christmas Party: **Dick Robbins** (member since 1996)  
 Secretary: **Gary Bergquist** (member since 2008)  
 Treasurer: **Don Barton** (3rd Term)  
 1st Ghillie: **Jim McDonald** (6th Term)  
 2nd Ghillie: **Ron Little** (member since 2004)

New Trustees:

1st of 3 Year Term: **Roger Rohrbeck** (member since 2007)  
 1st of 3 Year Term: **Dave Hawkinson** (member since 1985)

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## January Awards and Letcher Lambuth

**Presentation** *by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

January is Awards Month. Please join us in recognizing club members and others who have distinguished themselves through service to the club and the community in 2012.

We will be presenting the Letcher Lambuth An-

gling Craftsman Award to Gene Lorensen of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in Spokane. 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, Gene is a talented wildlife artist specializing in fish and is an accomplished illustrator using line drawings. Please welcome Gene along with Chester Allison, President of the IIFFC, and Leon Buckles, fellow IIFFC member.

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".

We will 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.

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## This Year's Speakers

*by Bob Burdick, Program Czar for 2013*

Thanks for your leads that have helped me put together one of the best schedules of speakers ever for 2013 as outlined below. I have tried to create a balance of research and information presentations with "where" and "how to fish" programs, with the "how and where" programs covering the NW states with a few exotic destination programs thrown in, such as Coach Duff and Hawaii bonefishing and David Lambroughton's photographic travelogue of New Zealand.

These programs will introduce us to new insights, such as Bill McMillan's talk on hatcheries and steelhead, and George Pess's talk on rehabbing the Elwha. Bruce Staples, who gave such a stirring travelogue on East Idaho fisheries last year, has agreed to

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return and talk about his favorite haunts in Yellowstone Park. Eric Skaaning will talk about three or four western British Columbia rivers: the Pitt, Lilloeut, Squamish, and Frazer that are close by, but little known to most of us. Dick Stearns will remind us all of the WFFC’s successful efforts to institute catch and release for South Sound Cutthroat, and Gene Gudger and Chad Jackson will tell us where and how to fish the central Washington and BC lakes.

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### 2013 Speaker and Tier Schedule *by Bob Burdick*

January 15<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Awards Presentation  
Tier: **Preston Singletary**---will unveil his choice by the time of the meeting

February 19<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: George Pess from NOAA: Ecosystem response to the removal of the Elwha River dams.  
Tier: TBA

March 19<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: **Gene Gudger**: An update on 320+ BC lakes and how to fish them  
Tier: **Gene Gudger**: Will tie the world’s best chironomid.

April 16<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Chad Jackson: Will bring 2 other regional fisheries biologists from the WDFW and to give us a tag team update on Central Washington Lakes.  
Tier: TBA

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Speaker: Jim Cox. Jim comes to us from the Western Rivers Conservancy, and will present a program about his or-

ganization, and the work it does to save access and improve habitat on western rivers.  
Tier: TBA

June 18<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Eric Skaaning. Eric is a British Columbia guide living outside Vancouver who will share with us his experiences on primarily the Pitt, Lilloeut, Fraser, and Squamish Rivers for steelhead, king salmon, sockeye, chum, coho, rainbow, and sturgeon.  
Tier: Eric Skaaning.

July 16<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Bill McMillan. Bill has recently published a book called “May the Rivers Never Sleep”, and he and his son who works for NOAA will be discussing “How Hatcheries Impact Wild Steelhead Populations”.  
Tier: Bill McMillan

August 20<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Bruce Staples. Bruce, who spoke to us last year on East Idaho rivers and streams, will return and talk about fly fishing Yellowstone Park.  
Tier: Bruce Staples

September 17<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: Coach Duff. Coach Duff will discuss the Hawaii bonefishing opportunities he has developed on Oahu.  
Tier: Coach Duff

October 15<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: David Lambroughton is a world-famous photographer and fly fisherman who will share with us his experiences and photos from New Zea-

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land, Ireland, BC, and Oregon. David, who makes his home in Vancouver B.C., spends six months a year in New Zealand. He prides himself on inexpensive trips and will share his tips on how to fish New Zealand and other places on less than \$100 per day.

Tier: TBA

November 19<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: **Dick Stearns:** Dick was scheduled to speak about “The History of the WFFC’s Efforts to Preserve Cutthroat Trout in Puget Sound” last year, until he was forced to re-schedule because of illness. I’m delighted that he is willing to return for this presentation.

Tier: **Dick Stearns**

son needs to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and personal items. All fishing gear is provided, except waders and/or hip boots. All fly tying gear will be provided. Many will catch their first fish on a new fly they tied.

Cost is still \$275 for the whole week, but there are sponsorships available and no one will be turned away because of money. The event is sponsored by WCTU and WSCFFF, and hosted by the South Sound Fly Fishers, Puget Sound Fly Fishers, and Olympia Chapter TU. We will limit enrollment to 24 boys and girls.

There is classroom time, but we spend a lot of time casting, tying, eating, sleeping, and learning what’s in our streams. We are fortunate to have an excellent staff of volunteer teachers. We had over 50 volunteers in 2012, and I’m sure we will have the same number again in 2013.

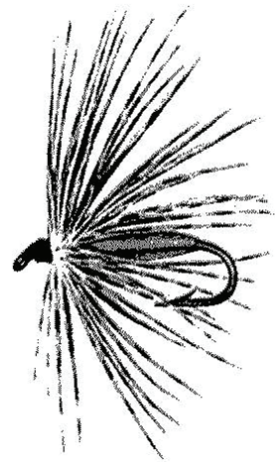
So mark your calendars for the last week of June, the 23<sup>rd</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a golden opportunity for our youth to learn a lifelong activity. The youth of today are the guardians of the future sport of fly fishing. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, 360-753-1259, and Jim Brosio, Co-Director, 360-943-9947. (Sponsorships are available, just ask us.)

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## 2013 NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy *by Mike Clancy*

It’s just around the corner, the opportunity of a lifetime for our youth 12-16 to learn conservation and our sport of fly fishing. Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2013, for the NWYCFE Academy, June 23<sup>rd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> at Hicks Lake, Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey, WA. The applicant must submit a written essay, explaining why they would like to attend, and a letter of recommendation is needed from their school counselor or science teacher. Applications are available on our website – [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com) or contact me at [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net). We also have a Facebook site with lots of pictures, showing what we do during the week.

All meals are included, everyone will stay in warm comfortable cabins with bunk beds. Very clean facilities with good clean showers. Each per-





Washington Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 639  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
[www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

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here

January, 2013

## 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**