

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



Happy New Year!



MMXVI No. 1

January, 2016

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



January
2016 Creel
Notes



Well, 2015 is but a memory. As you may have noticed in a pitiful short article in the Seattle Times, the WFFC has joined with the

Wild Fish Conservancy and other organizations in sending a formal notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service of the intention to sue for failure to Prepare Recovery Plan for Threatened Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment. That was a mouthful...too bad our government agencies are so damn lethargic. If you want more information contact me or a member of our Conservation Committee. Sorry if I start the year off with another rant; however, I just re-read the main article in the May 2015 issue of *The Osprey*; *Faith in Nature: The Missing Element in Salmon Management and Mitigation Programs*. Yes, now is December and I am talking about the May issue. So I am a little slow on catching up on my reading. If you have not read it do so.

Thanks again to Kerry Oldenburg, Third Vice President, December Fundraiser. For those of you who have had some hands on experience with events of this nature, you have a notion of the time and effort to make these events work well. Kerry put in a lot of time and effort to make this work. What you may not realize is the level of effort put in by Jim Goedhart, Treasurer. Have you ever seen such a seamless check-in process? The January meeting will be held on the FOURTH Tuesday of this month. That is a change. January is our Awards Dinner hosted by Bill Neal. Be there. This is the time when the WFFC recognizes those whose outstanding efforts make this club what it is.

Our "Ghillie for Life" Jim MacDonald has resigned (retired) to allow him to focus on regaining his health. Jim, our thoughts are with you. At the January Board Meeting Pat Becker was appointed as Ghillie Number One for 2016. Pat has the commitment from the Board to give her all the help she may need in taking on this task....I will be right behind them with a big stick to ensure Pat has all the help she needs.

At the January meeting I will be making a motion to amend the Bylaws to establish a new position, Senior Ghillie. This position will not be a replacement for our Ghillies but more of a supplement to our Ghillies particularly at our meetings and interacting with our new members and guests as well as special assignments. This will, I believe, give us more flexibility and another set of hands and I would like your support for this amendment. If you are not there you cannot give me your support.

Dues are due. Members' dues are \$80 and Associate Members dues are \$50. Pay early and make Chapin Henry's job as First Vice-President, Membership easier. Please do not make him chase after you for renewing your membership. Yeah, this is an increase....who can recall the last time dues were increased. This increase will not fully cover the increased costs (that would be you) approved so we will still need to keep our costs under control.

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Presidents Message continued:

Based on an increase in meal costs our dinners at the STC for 2016 will be increased from \$29.00 to \$33.00. The Club does not make money on the dinners...costs are passed through without any mark-up. I want to remind all that NO ONE is required to purchase a dinner to attend our meetings. Here lately, I find myself too busy to eat at our meetings and do not purchase a dinner and there are a number of members at each meeting who also elect to attend without purchasing a dinner. The cost of a dinner is not an excuse to not attend our meetings.....grab a burger on the way in or the way home but attend our meetings. Meetings are an important part of being a member of the WFFC and YOUR attendance does make a difference.

The yearend financial results were presented to at the January meeting and, over all, we did a pretty good job. Keep in mind the budget for 2016 will be presented at the February membership meeting. This is your club, your money, be there and find out how the Board propose to spend it.

Work on creating a new website is now in progress. If you are asked by a member working on this project to lend a hand do not demur.....yes, we all are busy with work, family and even fishing. You don't think those in the trenches are also busy?

See you at the January meeting....remember, it is on the Fourth Tuesday this month, January 26th. Awards Dinner. Dress: Coats and ties for the gents and comparable attire for the ladies.

Creel Notes

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President

Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Chapin Henry

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

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Secretary

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Ghillie 1

Pat Becker

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Trustees

Mark Pratt '14 Ron Dion '14
Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15
Pete Crumbaker '16 Ron Little '16

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting email (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

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.

Awards

January AWARD Ceremonies; LETCHER LAMBUTH TO BRIAN CHAN

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

January is Awards Month. Please join us in this opportunity to recognize Club members and others who have distinguished themselves through service to the Club and the community in 2015.

We are especially pleased to announce that the *Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award*, the Club's highest Award, will be presented for 2015 to Brian Chan. Those who fish BC lakes and others who have attended fly fishing expos and other programs where Brian has spoken are probably wondering why presentation this has not happened sooner. Brian is a legend, and Mike Wearne, who nominated Brian for the Award, has this to say:

Brian has become one of the "go to" individuals for still water fishing in the Pacific Northwest. For years Brian's career as a provincial fisheries biologist has enabled him to enjoy the wealth of lakes in the Kamloops area.

Brian has been involved in writing of numerous books on lake fishing, including "Morris & Chan on Fly fishing Trout Lakes", "Fly Fishing Strategies for Stillwaters", and "Stillwater Solutions Recipes – 30 Proven Patterns". In addition Brian, together with Phil Rowley, has produced a variety of highly instructive DVDs related to fly tying of chironomid and other lake patterns. These DVDs detail both how to tie the flies and how to fish them.

This Award is well deserved.

Unfortunately, Brian will not be able to join us for the presentation, but we intend to have an appropriate recognition of Brian, despite his absence.

Here is a brief description of the Club's more regular 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

Muphy's Law"; and *Half-Assed Award*, presented to a member for, well, you know what—and it will be presented.

We also have a number of special Awards that we will be presenting to recognize other members for their accomplishments and contributions, laudatory and otherwise.

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

Upcoming Programs

Future Programs Planned for 2016

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

The following is for those of you who plan ahead. I've obtained commitments from speakers for the first 5 months of 2016 as follows.

January 26th ----No speaker. Awards night

February 16th---Tom Larimer of Larimer outfitters will enlighten us all with a discussion of "Is there any truth in all those myths about how to catch a steelhead on a fly?"

March 15th---Members Denny Westover and **Gene Gudger** will give a presentation on "Everything you ever wanted to know about chironomid fishing"

April 19th---Chad Jackson, WDFW regional biologist from Moses Lake will give an update on Central Washington Lakes.

May 17th---Ray Hilborn, UW professor of fisheries, will discuss "A global view of salmon fisheries from

Everyone,
Just wanted to extend my thanks for the excellent speaker suggestions you've given me over the last year which has resulted in one of the highest quality schedules in my club memory. Please keep those suggestions coming! Your program crew has expanded a little to better serve you by adding Mike Wearne as an assistant program chairman, and Walt Swanson as director of the fly tying demonstrations.

Tom Larimer, Steelhead guide, spey line developer, fly innovator, published author, conclave speaker, and DVD producer will be our speaker for our next meeting on Feb 16th. Tom is a transplanted mid-westerner who fell in love with the Northwest and has been running a guide service out of Troutdale, Oregon for the last 16 years concentrating on the Sandy, Clackamas, and Deschutes rivers. He recently accepted a position with G. Loomis Fly Fishing and will be phasing out of the guiding part of his career. He has titled this talk "Is there any truth in all those myths about how to catch a steelhead on a fly.

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

The Ice Fly in Winter

By Ollie Cobb

Well I probably shouldn't tell anyone about this because it sort of a secret, but I don't want to carry all my secrets to the grave and as most of you are catch and release guys I realize you won't do any real harm to the trout population. In 40 years of intermittently fishing the Yakima River I've yet to see a significant hatch of Baetis mayflies and I suspect there are more Blue Wing Olive duns and spinners with no.16 hooks out their ass in a tackle store then you'll ever find on any 10 miles of the Yakima River. Most of this big hatch stuff is just guide talk and 'you should have been on the river yesterday.'..

However we know these flies can work, even in winter, and I particularly recommend a Baetis ice fly in February on the Yak when there is snow on the banks and a skim of ice along the pool edges, Just take your favorite Baetis spinner or dun or another fly of your choice, tie on 18 inches or so of 4x leader as a dropper, center the fly in its own ice cube slot and freeze using distilled water (less bubbles).The fly is now immobile and easily visible in the center of the cube. Extract and fish the cube with S shaped curves in your line and drag won't be a problem. This offering will scare off smaller trout and the ice cube makes a nice strike indicator. Should you momentarily lose sight of it, not to worry, a large trout will indicate its feeding presence with an audible crunching noise when it smacks the cube so, be alert, keep your ears open at all times and wait two seconds after the crunch before you strike. Small trout; never again...

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Questions? Catch up with me or Doug at the next meeting...



Fly in Ice by Ollie Cobb

Lone Lake



1-8-2016 Here is a photo of Mike Milner who is about to fish on Lone Lake, using per his successful devices, a #10 Bloodworm below a 1/2" cherry bobber for a strike indicator.

Don Gulliford, at-large contributor

Holiday Dinner Update

WFFC Holiday Dinner and Auction a Great Success!

Over 100 members and guests attended the WFFC Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction last month held at the Seattle Tennis Club. The evening festivities were enhanced by the beautiful decorations, service and holiday music of the Seattle Tennis Club. Members and guests arrived to mingled over cocktails, catch up with old friends and new acquaintances, and peruse the wide variety of auction item offerings. The annual holiday dinner and auction is the primary fundraiser for the WFFC's conservation and public service programs such as Heeling Waters and Reel Recovery.

As dinner was served, President Gary Bergquist quickly suspended business to allow Master of Ceremonies Kris Kristoferson to introduced Peter Baird who kicked off the evening with a lovely recitation of the Robert Service poem "The Ballad of Hard Luck Henry".

The fun began in earnest when auctioneers John Schuitemaker and Peter Crumbaker took the stage with Kris to entertain the crowd and whip up the bidding on a wide variety of auctions items. Like hungry trout during a spring hatch the crowd went wild for condos and cabins, private guide trips, original artwork, wine and rod and reel packages making the 2015 fundraiser a great success. Greg Crumbaker led a heartfelt raise the paddle for the WFFC Foundation which was also well supported along with auction items specifically designated for WFFC Foundation funding.

As a first timer chairing the Holiday Committee I would like to express my sincere thanks to fellow committee members, Ann Bergquist, John Gravendyk, Rocco Maccarrone, Stephanie Hagen, and Dave Hawkinson and unofficially Gary Bergquist who put in hours of prep time as well as worked the event. Thanks and applause to Kris Kristoferson, John Schuitemaker, and Peter Crumbaker for a historically funny evening, you guys were a blast as auctioneers! Special thanks to Dick Brening and Chuck Ballard for organizing and hosting the fly box raffle and to the club member fly tiers and wood craftsmen for these special creations. Thanks as well to Roger

Rohrbeck for web site work and Jim Goedhart who ran the finances and designed a data base of master spreadsheets to keep track of everything for us with Pat Becker and Mike Moscynski working check in/checkout.

Finally, A BIG THANK YOU to our club members for your great donations and support of this very special evening. and a very special thank you and recognition to our vendor partners for their generous support and donations:

Holiday Party continued on next page



Holiday Party Continued

Avid Angler, Emerald Waters Anglers, FireSteed Winery
Hedges/Goedhart Winery, Sage Rods, Tenkara Rods
Winston Rods, Norvice, Outdoor Emporium,
Rock Creek Diner, Orfeo Restaurant, Seattle Tennis Club
Jack Mitchell, Black Bear Lodge, Orvis, Bern Helmets/POW Gloves
Seattle Skeet and Trap Club, Joel Peplow and Canopy Tours N.W.

We couldn't have done it without you! Looking forward to a new year of fishing, friendship, conservation, community service. Happy New Year WFFC 2016!

Kerry Oldenburg
Third Vice President



Volunteers Needed

Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show

Lynnwood Convention Center

February 13-14

Contact Jim McRoberts for more information

Creel Notes

Hello-My name is Deanne Ederer Emmons and I am the new Creel Notes Editor. If you want to contribute something please email me at deanne@edererinvestment.com by the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

One ship sails east, another west
On the self-same wind that blows.
It's the set of the sail and not the gale
That determines where each ship goes.

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Chaborus Larva (Ghost Shrimp) Till Lake, British Columbia



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January, 2016

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday January 26, of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E. January's Meeting will be the Awards Meeting so men, please wear a coat and tie. Ladies please wear party attire.

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

This month:

A Photographic Essay XXXXX
with
Adam Tavender