

# Creel Notes from the



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



**February, 2005**

## President's Riffle *By Bob Birkner*

Here's a list of some items your club will work on this year. This is just a starter. We need input from anyone with an idea of something that will help or improve our club.

The Membership Committee determines, with applicants for membership, to which committee the new person wants to be assigned. The Committee will review the assignments of members who joined in 2003 and 2004, and forward, to see if the results are satisfactory to the club and the assigned members. Most are working out just fine. If they aren't, we'll work with the member and his sponsors to come up with a more suitable arrangement.

In the spirit of inspiring excitement through competition, the Awards Committee will review and perhaps revive the Gold Button Award for those who catch trophy trout in public waters of Washington State. It would not require that fish be killed which was the major and legitimate objection to the award previously. It may require a witness and photographs to verify measurements in spite of our inherent honesty.

A Website Committee is being appointed by

the 1st VP with the goals of keeping the website current and adding more functions - particularly for benefit of the Board and WFFC members. We will work toward developing a Member's Only area where we can keep a current Roster and other information that will not be available to the public.

The WFFC Long Range Plan was reviewed last year and we will continue to review and use it.

The **Club Aims and Purposes** are always printed in the Creel Notes. To accomplish all of them could keep us very busy indeed. For example - How should we even go about working to the outlaw the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season? We need your ideas.

Get your vises and bobbins tuned up so you can participate in the Boyd Aigner Fly tying Competition. See the article in this issue.

Please document your fishing reports and send the information to the Creel Notes Editors. That way the information gets dispersed to a greater audience than just discussing at the meetings. Maybe there are times when you want to limit the size of the audience but some of your interesting trips really should be documented.

## 2005 Outings Schedule

April - 15-17	Dry Falls
May - 26-30	Chopaka Lake
July TBD	High Lakes Trip
Sept - 30-Oct 2	Dry Falls
Nov - 5-6	Wet Buns

I need volunteers to head each of these events. Please respond by e-mail or by phone 206-276-8134.

Thanks, **Mark DeWitt**

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# Creel Notes

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## Beginning Fly Casting Class

Date: April 7, 2005  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: Greenlake casting pier  
Cost: \$35.00  
Registration is required: To register call **Bob Birkner**  
206-542-4623 or **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925

## Advance Fly Casting Class

Date: April 6, 2005  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: Greenlake casting pier  
Duration: 4 weeks  
Cost: \$40.00  
Limit 10 students, first come first served.  
Registration is required: To register call **Bob Birkner**  
206-542-4623 or **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925

## Rod Building Class\*

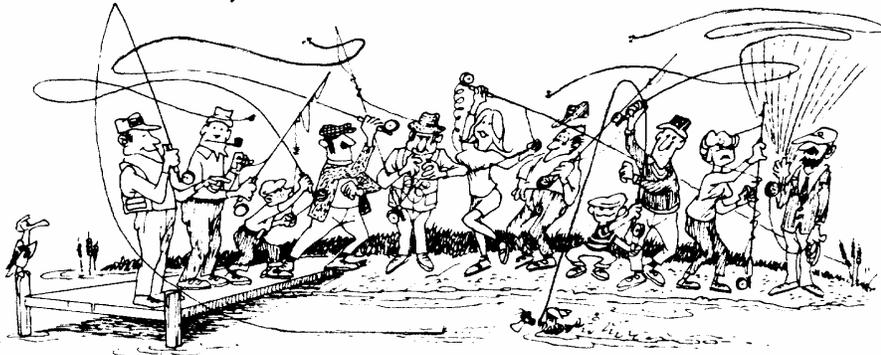
If you are interested in taking a rod building class please call **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925.

## Two-Handed Casting Class\*

If you are interested in taking a two-handed casting class please call **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925

\*If we get enough interested members we will consider conducting the above two classes.

**Don Simonson**, Education Chair



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### 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.

## GORDY YOUNG

I first met Gordy Young a month or two after joining the Washington Fly Fishing Club in 1964. I was still a little intimidated, wondering if I really belonged. All that changed when Gordy introduced himself to me at a Club meeting and invited me to sit with him at dinner. He was genuinely friendly, interested in people, upbeat and encouraging. In short he was being Gordy. From then on, I was okay with the Washington Fly Fishing Club. I would venture that many others have had similar experiences with Gordy.

We fished together from time to time, served the Fly Club together, and fought the conservation battles of the late 1960's, sharing our frustrations about the flat earth people then largely in control of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council.

It was Gordy who never let me forget my Fly Club roots during my 18-year absence from the Northwest from 1969 to 1987. He and Jean visited us twice during their wide ranging travels in the little Alaskan camper. In the mid 1970's, they parked the camper in our Connecticut driveway and, we made a brief pilgrimage to the Beaverkill. Several years later, we rendezvoused in Vermont for a wonderful country inn dinner and several fishless hours on the Battenkill. Treasured times both.

Reentry to the Northwest was made much more welcoming because our younger children looked at Gordy and Jean as surrogate grandparents. Gordy and I picked up again, seeing each other at Club meetings, lunches and outings. In October 1991 Gordy and I spent three nights and two days on the lower Grande Ronde River. He was 80, and I think it was the last time he fished for steelhead. Fishing was good. But my fondest memory is of the last evening in the camper, where the French Beaujolais flowed, the conversation turned to the outlandish Wretched Mess News, and we laughed until tears streamed down our faces.

In the Fly Club, Gordy pretty much did it all. He was Second Vice President in 1966 and President in 1967. He was awarded the Empty Creel for contributions to the Club in 1969, the Tommy Brayshaw Award for contributions to the general community in 1973, and in 2000 the first and still only Lifetime Achievement award. For years he was the Club's liaison to the Federation of Fly Fishers, and was regularly the one who welcomed new members to the Club. He did that through the end of last year, and no one could do it as well. But more than anything else he was

simply our most loved member. And how he loved the Club.

Gordy became a charter member of the Federation of Fly Fishers and immediately became active. In 1969 he was co-chair of the annual FFF conclave. He served a term as an FFF Vice President, and was a long time Senior Advisor. In 1989 he was awarded the Federation's highest award, the Lapis Lazuli. The citation named Gordy as the Federation member who had brought more new members into FFF than anyone else. Reading between the lines, that was simply Gordy being Gordy.

Gordy and Jean have taught us all how to age gracefully. They planned ahead. When it became too hard, they gave up fishing and driving, but remained enthusiastic about life. They shared a strong faith. And the countless hours, days, weeks, and sometimes even months they spent happily in the tight quarters of the camper are ample testament to a wonderful marriage. They stayed interested and mentally alert. Gordy was upbeat almost to the very end.

To summarize Gordy's life, I chose a few sentences by the President of a college I was privileged to attend, in his charge to the graduating class of 1993. It might seem strange to choose a passage intended to look ahead, but as we look back, these words to me describe the life of Gordy Young. "At this moment of passage, then, may I simply say that what I would wish for you over the years to come is that you be chastened by the call to serve, and blessed by the ability to respond; that you be unafraid to lead and unashamed to follow; that you be hesitant in your righteousness, generous in your compassion, and loyal in your friendships; that you be magnanimous in your enjoyment of success and resilient in your encounters with defeat; that you be comforted in your hours of loneliness. And in your moments of great darkness - for surely they will come - that the Lord will extend over you the shelter of his peace. For in him is the well of life. His is the day, his also the night. Deep darkness he turns into morning, and in his light shall we all see light."

**Bill Redman**

## On the Fly, Awards Night, January 18, 2005

By David Ehrlich

**Jim McRoberts** turned over the gavel to cat-calls of "that's a hell of a bailout," as **Bob Birkner** took the gavel firmly in hand. Articles of impeachment were summoned from the peanut gallery. New officers took their places against the wall and the ample crowd of nearly 100 took aim with fleshy palms.

**Leland** subbed for **Les Johnson** as he introduced his guest, Joe Brown, among other guests too numerous to mention. One glib guest managed to multitask the meeting with his AA meeting.

Fishing reports varied from bright Coho on the Wallace and 20" Dollies on the Skagit to ice fishing in Oregon and Minnesota. The word "cold" was used frequently, often in the same sentence as #24 midges. **Rocco** hit a 15 lb native Steely on the Queets at the "awesome drift below the clay bank", worth checking out if you can blow the gear heads out of the riffle. Nature took care of the problem today with a 22" rise in 10 hours, promising to wipe out any holes and riffles you might remember. The rain continues as the first and foremost Pineapple Express of 2005 melted the weekends snow and swelled many a river to the bank. Other reports included spawned-out Coho on the Sky. Epic battles were recounted of plunkers and crossed lines, but no casualties were reported.

Our awards Chairman, **Bill Neal** started the main festivities: Empty Creel Award for a person who has given of himself generously to the club was introduced eloquently by **Pete Baird**, member since 1959 and past winner. Recent recipients of the venerable award, dating back to 1941, included many in attendance. The Tommy Brayshaw Award, for service to

the community, was introduced by **Bill Redman** and presented to **Jack Berryman**. The Half Assed Award wasn't presented as **Frank Vulliet** couldn't come up with a suitable recipient. The Andy Award, for those subservient to "Murphy's Law" went un-claimed. Members were asked to keep their eye out for victims of fate, witness protection is available. The Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award, for significant contributions to the art of fly fishing, was introduced by **Dick Brennan** and **Jim McRoberts**, and presented to **Norm Norlander**, noted for his contributions to the art of fly fishing and the significant contribution of the Nor-vise fly-tying system. Going back 30 years, Norm has demonstrated methods that have revolutionized tying methods. Having tied flies since age 12, he entertains hundreds of visitors to fishing shows who enjoy his techniques as well as his wit and charm. Norm bade us to sit as he regaled the crowd with stories of Greenlake casting classes in 1963, sea run cutthroat that dwarfed his native Californian cutthroat, and the discovery and near instant recall of the "super-vise."

Special thanks to the all members of the 2004 Awards Committee: **Bill Neal, Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Ron Dion, Kris Kristoferson, and Don Simonson**.

Regular meeting remarks included an early warning about threats to fisheries, including, the increase "incidental mortality" of wild winter Steelhead on the lower Columbia. Stayed tuned to your email. Other witnesses urged our vigilance on recent attempts to pare down habitat rulings. Stayed tuned to the Seattle P-I for further examination. **Gil Nyerges** mentioned the threat of Brazilian Elodea going unchecked in Lone Lake. Keep an eye out for email calls to action. The raffle included a Nor-vise, generously donated by **Norm**.

### Wooden Badges

By Don Schroder

I am taking orders for the wooden badges that some of us are wearing. For those of you that are interested in purchasing one, I will have a sign up sheet at the Gillie's desk at the next meeting. The cost is \$10.

Bring those old cell phones that you no longer use to the next meeting. As you are aware, we are supporting the NWF in their conservation effort. I will have the box at the front desk at you disposal.

In December' 04, I purchased some new merchandise. We have more coats with the sizes up to 2XL. I also purchased some navy blue polo shirts and some new hats. The coats are \$45, hats \$12, and the shirts are \$22.

**GORDON WALLACE (GORDY) YOUNG,  
1911 - 2005**

There was nothing Gordon Wallace (Gordy) Young enjoyed more than a good conversation with his fellow fly fishers. A lifetime Seattle resident and prominent member of the national fly-fishing fraternity, Mr. Young passed away February 5, just five weeks short of his 94th birthday.

He was born in West Seattle March 14, 1911, graduated from West Seattle High School and went on to earn a degree from the University of Washington in 1935, where he rowed on the lightweight crew. Except for four years building ships in Portland during World War II, he spent his entire career in the food brokerage business in the Seattle area.

But his life changed at the age of 10 when his father and an uncle from New Zealand introduced him to the art of fly fishing in the Cle Elum River near the family's vacation cabin in the Cascades. Gordy, as he was affectionately known to legions of fellow anglers, remained an avid fly fisher the rest of his life.

"He fished with his college buddies and later saw to it that his sons and I caught the spirit," his wife, Jean, said in an article she later wrote when Gordy was recognized by the international Federation of Fly Fishers for his service to the sport.

Gordy became a charter member of the Federation—his membership card bore number 13—when it was founded in Eugene, Oregon, in 1965. He was elected a director of the organization in 1968 and was co-chairman of the Federation's national convention at Sun Valley, Idaho, in 1969.

Mr. Young later became first chairman of the Federation's Northwest Regional Council,

encompassing Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia. He also served as a vice president of the FFF and as a member of its executive committee, then for many years as a senior adviser to the organization. His frequent attendance at national meetings made him a familiar figure among fly-fishing circles throughout the country, and he had legions of friends.

He joined the Washington Fly Fishing Club, Seattle, in 1956, served as president in 1967 and received the club's "Empty Creel" award for conservation achievements in 1969. In recognition of his service to the community, the club in 1973 presented him its Tommy Brayshaw Award, named after the late British Columbia angling artist and woodcarver.

Mr. Young later served as a senior adviser to the club and unofficial greeter to guests at its monthly meetings. In 2000 the club honored him with a lifetime achievement award, the only such award presented in the 66-year history of the organization. In recent years, Gordy officially welcomed each new club member with a short, humorous speech about membership obligations and duties.

Mr. Young is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean Macklin Young; two sons, James G. Young, Bellevue, and Robert W. Young, Wheaton, Illinois, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests remembrances to the Washington Fly Fishing Club Foundation, P.O. Box 630, Mercer Island 98040, or to the Exeter House Foundation, 720 Seneca St. Seattle 98101. *Steve Raymond*

*Gordy and Les at the  
2004 Holiday party.*



## NOTICE - 2005 BOYD AIGNER COMPETITION

The 2005 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition is starting! Like last year, this will be a “best” fly competition, reducing the structure and permitting each member to demonstrate his creativity by submitting a pattern that in his opinion best represents the specified natural insect. Also, like last year, judging will be by members of the Club, giving everyone an opportunity to participate in the process.

For the 2005 Competition, participants are to submit their best pattern to imitate (1) a grasshopper, (2) a caddisfly emerger, and (3) a March brown dun. Each participant may submit only one set of patterns. Patterns are due by the March Members Meeting and will be displayed and judged at the April Meeting, with the Award presented at the May Meeting. The Coordinators for the Competition are Dick Scales and Bill Neal. Please contact them for a full set of the Competition Guidelines, details, and procedures. Bill Neal (w) (206) 667-8211; (h) (206) 232-0603; wneal@staffordfrey.com; Dick Scales (425) 898-1608; rls2arc@earthlink.net.

### Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition Year 2005 Guidelines

The purpose of the Competition is to honor the memory of Boyd Aigner and his contributions to fly fishing, particularly fly-tying, through a friendly, annual event that will encourage participants to improve their skills, develop patterns and techniques, and share ideas and information with other Club members.

1. The Competition will be conducted under the Awards Committee, who will designate the Coordinator(s) to administer the Competition. The Coordinator(s) shall have the discretion and authority to consult with others on any aspect of administering the Competition.
2. All members of the Club may participate in the Competition, including those who are on the Awards Committee, except that the Coordinators shall not be eligible to participate. All participants will compete on an anonymous basis, except that their identity will be known to the Coordinator(s), and all participants shall compete in one class.
3. The Competition Coordinator(s) will specify one or more categories of flies to be submitted by the participants. Each fly specified will be a “natural”, that is, one that is primarily an imitation of an insect, baitfish, or other life form found in waters of the Pacific Northwest. The Coordinator(s) will have the authority and discretion to determine how narrowly or broadly to define each category and to establish any specific requirements.
4. A participant will submit what he regards as the “best” fly to imitate the specified natural for each of the categories, together with a pattern recipe for each fly. A participant may submit more than one pattern in any category.
5. The judges for the Competition will be the members of the Club, including those who are participants in the Competition, except that the Coordinator(s) shall not vote. Members shall vote for the “best” fly in each of the categories and will have one vote for each category. All voting must be done in person. The winner will be the participant who receives the most votes for all flies submitted by him. In the event two or more participants tie, the winner shall be chosen from among them based upon the participant who received the greatest number of votes for any one fly.
6. All flies submitted in the Competition are to be judged primarily on “fishability”, creativity, and like factors and to a lesser extent on the more technical aspects of fly-tying.
7. The Competition and the categories of flies for each year’s Competition will be published in the *Creel Notes*, together with a cutoff date by which participants must deliver their flies to the Competition Coordinator(s).
8. The judging for the Competition will take place at the beginning of the next Members Meeting after the cutoff date for delivery of the flies. The Coordinator(s) may announce the winner at that Meeting or at the next following one. They may also announce the second and third place finishers.
9. The name of each year’s winner will be engraved on a permanent, rotating trophy featuring a Chopak May dry fly pattern developed by Boyd. The trophy will be presented to each year’s winner to be held by him for one year.
10. All flies, pattern recipes, and other materials submitted as part of the Competition will be the property of the Club and may be used for fly-plates, *Creel Notes* articles, or other purposes as the Club may determine.

## February Speaker, Thomas P. Quinn, University of Washington, School of Fisheries

Thomas Quinn grew up in New York City and was interested in tropical fish and fishing in the Adirondacks from a young age. He majored in Biology in Swarthmore College and then moved to Seattle in 1976 to do graduate work. His PhD dissertation revealed the ability of young sockeye salmon to use the magnetic field of the earth for orientation. Mr. Quinn then worked for four years in Nanaimo, B.C. for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, studying various aspects of salmon migration and life history. He returned to the UW in 1986, joining the faculty of the School of Fisheries. Tom's teaching duties in recent years include undergraduate classes in fish ecology, salmon and trout life history and behavior, and a hands-on field class taught in the summer at the UW's research camps in western Alaska. His research program is entirely devoted to salmon and trout behavior, ecology, evolution, and conservation, including projects on spawning behavior, bear predation, differentiation of populations, interactions between wild and hatchery populations, olfaction, migration and homing, habitat use, evolution of transplanted populations, such as chinook in New Zealand etc.

Tom has recently completed a book, "The Behavior and Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout." In writing it, *"I became increasingly aware of the many fascinating aspects of salmon and trout biology that remain poorly known. I believe that the conservation of these fishes may hinge on resolving some of these uncertainties, and so the presentation will go through the salmon's life cycle, pointing out some exciting areas where more research is needed."*

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### Conservation Corner

*By Doug Schaad*

In November of 1999, the membership of Washington Fly Fishing Club voted to enter a 5-year program of financial support for graduate student research studies at the University of Washington. A critical component of that agreement specified that the WFFC would only support studies that were aligned with the mission and goals of the WFFC. In the five years since that program was implemented, the WFFC has provided partial support for 7 gradu-

ate students. Their investigations have spanned the issues of Northwest coldwater fisheries and include: hatchery and wild steelhead interactions in Forks Creek, Chum salmon and insect productivity on Kennedy Creek, the importance of Red Alder in riparian restoration and salmon recolonization of the Cedar River above Landsburg Dam. Three students have been awarded the PhD and two students have been awarded an MS. The remaining two students are likely to complete their degrees this spring.

The Conservation Committee initially reviewed this program in October of 2004 and the committee voted to continue the program. An E-mail poll was taken during December and affirmed at the Conservation Committee in January with unanimous support to continue the program for another five years. The Conservation budget for 2005 was submitted to the Board of Trustees and approved on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

The By-Laws of the WFFC state that any expenditure of the WFFC that exceeds \$500 needs the approval of the general membership. The Conservation Committee and the Board have approved \$1500 for this endeavor in the calendar year 2005. The Conservation Committee has further recommended that a budget of \$1500 be included for each of the next 5 years (expiration February 2010). The Conservation Committee intends to bring this to a vote of the membership at the February general membership meeting.



### Frank Headrick

If you knew and conversed with Frank Headrick thru the years, I'm sure he would appreciate a call or visit.

Richmond Beach Rehabilitation Center  
19235 15th N.W.  
Shoreline, WA. 98177  
Room 310, bed #2  
206-546-6058

### Pete Baird



Washington Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 639  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
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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 MONTHS PROGRAM IS BY THOMAS QUINN, WHO IS A TEACHER AND RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. HIS EMPHASIS IS ON THE LIFE AND BEHAVIOR OF SALMON AND TROUT. (MORE ON OUR SPEAKER ON PAGE 7.)**