

Creel Notes from the



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



February, 2010



President's Riffle, Feb 2010

Well, we are underway for 2010 and the membership is coming alive with talk about the vote in March. This month we will be having a discussion about no longer excluding women from the WFFC.

The intention is not to ram a vote through early in the year; the intention is to have a dialogue about this issue so both sides can understand each other. The board did not make this decision lightly and feels strongly that we need to evaluate this policy as a club and evaluate how it is affecting the future of the WFFC.

I have heard from many about their concerns on both sides of this issue. We will start the discussion with two speakers from each side of the issue and then open the podium to individuals who would like to speak to the club. We are all gentlemen in the WFFC and will be courteous to the member speaking and respect their opinion and their time at the microphone. If we decide after the meeting that another discussion needs to happen in March, then we will do so.

In our endeavors to find some great large-scale conservation projects, the board will be interviewing conservation organizations at its monthly meeting. This month we met with a group that has two possible projects for us to get involved in. The board hopes to have a list of projects by the middle of the year to present to the general membership.

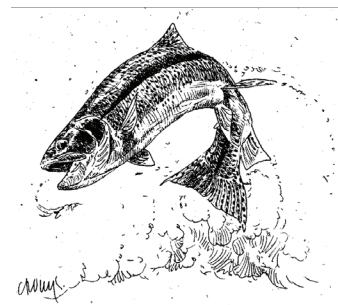
In an effort to make the general membership meetings livelier, we are changing the format slightly. First, the salad buffet line will start 15 minutes earlier, and dinner will be served 15 minutes earlier as well. I have heard for years about the length of the meetings going too long, and having members sleeping during the speakers. To allow the fine speakers we are having this year to have a captive audience, we are starting the pres-

entation right after dinner. Any business that is not handled through the Creel Notes and Web site will happen after the break. This will allow members and guests who need to leave early to excuse themselves without missing the speaker.

If you missed the great videos playing in the main room last month during Wet Fly, no worries, we will have another playing this month as well. Don't forget to see what **Chuck Ballard** is tying as you walk in.

Grab your rod and go fishing.

Ed



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**On February 16, Jim Klug presents:
“The 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, and Central 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.

The Creel Calendar

The River Why, starting February 9th and ending March 7th

A play based upon the bestselling fishing book, at the Book-It Repertory Theatre.

Rick Hafele, March 22nd

Rick will give a workshop at the Royal A. Gove Masonic Lodge in Tacoma, sponsored by the Puget Sound Fly Fishers.

Beginning Fly Casting Class, Thurs., April 1st

The beginning of the six-week course. Starts at 6:30 pm at the Green Lake Casting Pier.

Advanced Fly Casting Class, Wed., April 7th

The beginning of the four-week course. Starts at 6:30 pm at the Green Lake Casting Pier.

Dues are Due

If you haven’t sent in your dues yet, you need to sign up by the end of February, or face the consequences. Check with **Peter Crumbaker**.

Creel Notes

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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.

2009 Awards Recap

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to the winners of club awards for the year 2009. At our January meeting we had the opportunity to recognize those who have contributed so much to further the Aims and Purposes of the club, as well as those who have given us a laugh or two. Here is a short recap.

The club's traditional awards were presented to the following individuals:

Empty Creel Award, to a member for service to the club, was presented to **John Schuitemaker** for his service as President, Trustee, Roster/Labels Committee Chairman, and backup Creel Notes Editor/Publisher. John was not able to attend the January meeting, but will be at the February meeting for actual presentation of the award and the traditional wine toast.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, to a member for service to the community, was presented to **Keith Robbins** for his sustained work, often single-handed, in the North of Falcon process representing the interests of recreational anglers in Puget Sound and advocating selective fisheries that will not imperil endangered species.

Half-Assed Award, to a member for various and repeated acts of "half-assedness", was presented by last year's recipient **Bob Burdick** through a creative

poem, entitled "Deschutes Follies", to **John Schuitemaker** and **Hugh Clark**. The presentation recounted in particular detail the antics of the recipients in failing to anchor securely and then attempting to retrieve their drift boat. Perhaps John saw this coming and thus missed this meeting, but Hugh was present to accept the "honor".

Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award, to an individual residing in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for significant contributions to the knowledge, art, philosophy, and techniques of fly fishing, was presented to Jesse Scott of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club for a variety of achievements, most notably his development of the "Evergreen Hand", a fly tying vise that permits someone to tie flies one-handed, and then making the concept publicly available so that it can be freely copied by others. This vise has been used in the club's work with disabled veterans. Doug Nordstrom of the Evergreen Club was present and gave a recount of Jesse's accomplishments.

Andy Award, to a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law," was presented to **Jim McRoberts** for the torment he has suffered, but endured as a gentleman, involving several incidents of lost or AWOL hats and fishing gear, but most significantly an incident involving the attachment hardware for the side awning of his travel trailer, which failed unexpectedly, causing the flailing awning and frame to extend wing-like from the side of the trailer, creating unusual aerodynamics, as well as wiping out numerous roadside markers along I-90.

Gordy Young Life Time Service Award. In 2000, the club presented to member **Gordy Young** the first Life Time Service Award and at that time declared that it would thereafter be called the *Gordy Young Life Time Service Award*. This award is presented to a senior, active member of the club who has contributed significantly to the Aims and Purposes of the club through sustained service and leadership, particularly during the years prior to presentation. Those who knew Gordy know that he was a unique individual and was well qualified to be a recipient of this award. The award is not regularly presented, and in fact it is expected that presentation

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Keith Robbins receiving the Tommy Brayshaw Award



Jim McRoberts receiving the Andy Award

is rather infrequent. However, it was appropriate to present it again, this time to **Gil Nyerges**, who has been a member since 1956 and throughout his membership, continuing through today, has contributed greatly to the club as well as to the sport of fly fishing.

Current President **Ed Sozinho** presented a Past President's pin to the club's outgoing President **Pat Peterman**. Presentation of the traditional fly fishing reel to the outgoing president was postponed due to a delay in shipping, but this task was handled at the February Board Meeting.

The Awards Committee always reserves the right to give special recognition to other club members for their accomplishments, and it made two presenta-

tions for 2009. For the first of these, **Ron Dion**, on behalf of the committee, presented to **Dick Brening** the *WFFC Cowboy Coffee Award*, a camp-style percolator pot with engraved plate, in recognition of Dick regularly providing the first coffee of the morning at the Lake Chopaka outings.

The committee also recognized **David Ehrich** for his undertaking the task of reporting the various goings-on at the monthly members meetings, giving those who may not be able to attend an opportunity to keep up with events. David was presented the *WFFC "On the Fly" Reporter Award* for his regular reporting and witty commentary.

The club continued the practice of recognizing individuals for their long-standing status as members. Certificates for 40 years of continuous membership and support were present to **John Callahan**, **Robert Day**, **Ron Dion**, **Dave Round**, **Bill Rundall**,



Gil Nyerges receiving the Gordy Young Lifetime Service Award



Ron Dion, John Callahan, and Don Simonson receiving 40-year awards

Don Simonson, and **Dave Wands** (associate). Also, 2010 is **Frank Headrick's** 70th year as a member, and he will be recognized for this at a subsequent Meeting.

Finally, we again recognized **Bob Burdick** for earlier winning the 2009 *Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition*. Details of the 2010 competition were discussed, and this information is also available in the January *Creel Notes*. Special thanks to **Dick Scales**, who has provided invaluable help in running these competitions.

Thank you to the other members of the 2009 Awards Committee: **Pete Baird**, **Chuck Ballard**, **Dick Brening**, **Ron Dion**, **Kris Kristoferson**, and **Don Simonson**.

Bylaws Changes by *Jim Young*

The club will be voting at the March 2010 meeting on whether or not to allow women fly fishers into the club. The revision is to delete the word “male” in Article II, Section 1, “Qualifications for Membership”. All other proposed changes are to make the document gender neutral, such as replacing “Chairman” with “Chair”, or deleting the word “he” or “his”. The entire document with proposed changes is on the Web site in the Members Section. There will be a discussion at the February meeting. Please see other references in these Creel Notes.

The Gender Issue by *Greg Crumbaker*

Our club, the Washington Fly Fishing Club, was founded in 1939. That was yesterday, a time when there were few fly anglers and very few women fly anglers. It was a time when we found ourselves in a second world war. A war in which women per se did not have a military role except in nursing and promotional work like Rosie the Riveter, Tokyo Rose, and of course, the countless pinups. In the 1960s, I attended an all-male high school and an all-male college. That was over 40 years ago and a world of change away. Today, both my high school and college are co-ed. Today, 25% of all fly fishers are women. Today, Casting for Recovery includes 4,000 women annually in their program. Today there are 50 Orvis-endorsed women fly fishing guides. Today, the military is comprised of 20% female active service personnel. And the harsh realities of today’s military means that Healing Waters-Fly Fishing, a program supported by our club, both financially and through active member participation, has a number of women war veterans in the program.

Our male-only stance is at odds with our current environment and the world in which we live. Corporations get sued for bias, and they will not fund gender-biased organizations such as ours (even if they like the project and want to). We could be partnering with some of these companies to make real change happen for our fisheries. We find ourselves behaving awkwardly in promoting the club. At every turn we have to “explain” how we only allow men in our membership. It hobbles our ability to do good work in a world where notions of “male-only” appear more pathetic or antiquated than quaint.

At the WFFC, we are fortunate to have a forward-thinking group of officers, trustees, and members. We want to see our club return to a leadership role. That will not happen with yesterday’s attitudes. Our founders set forth in our Aims and Purposes: “To improve and increase the sport of fly fishing.” To really follow that aim, we must be open to let the best in. To be acknowledged and respected among the finest organizations today, membership in the WFFC has to be open to all fly fishers. Let us change the by-laws and remove the exclusion of women. Let us reclaim the high road and continue the work our founders and early leaders had in mind. Vote for open membership. Then, let’s do the work of partnering with companies and organizations on conservation projects, improving our fly fishing resources, and strengthening our club in the process. We’ll be better for it.

Comments, clarifications, or discussion can be e-mailed to greg@mistymtn.com.

An Open Letter to WFFC Members

by *Steve Raymond*

Gentlemen:

Our new board of directors has decided the club should change its membership policy. I believe this decision was made in the belief that the change could solve a number of perceived problems, especially membership recruiting. But I also believe the decision was based on a premise that is inherently false, and if the change is made, it will cause irreparable and perhaps fatal damage to the club.

Let me explain:

Over the years it has been my privilege to visit nearly every fly-fishing club in Washington State, some on numerous occasions. Nearly all those clubs now have unrestricted membership policies, but—guess what?—as far as I can tell, they all have the same recruiting problems we have. New members, especially younger members, are everywhere scarce, and some clubs face very uncertain futures. This alone leads me to believe that an unrestricted membership policy is not the solution to recruiting problems. I believe those problems are caused by societal changes that are beyond our ability to control. But that doesn’t mean we can’t do a more effective job of recruiting. The truth of the matter is that we have

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never really had a well-organized, targeted recruiting program using all the tools available to us.

That's one side of the equation. Here's another: Our existing membership policy is the primary thing that distinguishes us from nearly every other club in the region; it gives us our unique identity. It may actually even give us something of a recruiting advantage. If we change it, we will lose both that distinction and that advantage. We will become just like every other club. Is that really what we want?

There's more: Many of the other fly-fishing club meetings I've attended had women present. I also belong to the Whidbey Island Fly Fishing Club, whose meetings are usually attended by female members. All are convivial groups, but without exception, their meetings have a distinctly different atmosphere from the WFFC. The relaxed, easygoing camaraderie and uninhibited humor that always has been a trademark of WFFC meetings seems to be missing from these other clubs. I realize these things are intangible and difficult to measure, but they unquestionably exist—and they are vitally important. Indeed, I think they are the primary reason most WFFC members attend meetings; I know they are the reason I do. If we change our membership policy, it will inevitably change the dynamic of our meetings. The WFFC will no longer be the same. It will not be the club that you joined or that I joined. Is that really what we want?

The board also suggests that the club is somehow failing to live up to its Aims and Purposes, and its membership policy is to blame. I reject that notion. I believe the club has done an admirable job of fulfilling its founding principles, and to suggest otherwise is to insult and demean the hard work of countless officers, committee chairmen, and volunteers. If you look at our accomplishments, and consider the quality and variety of our ongoing programs, I don't see how anyone can conclude that we aren't living up to the vision of our founders. I'm proud of what this club has done, and what it is doing.

In summary, I believe our membership policy is our strength, not a weakness. If we change it, we will lose our unique identity and become just like every other club in the region. We will also forfeit what actually may be our only recruiting advantage. Most important, we risk losing the vital glue of

fellowship that has always bound this club together. And for what? Nothing but a vague, unsupported assertion that things will somehow get better.

I just don't buy it.

One more thing: If the policy is changed, and it turns out to be a disastrous mistake, then we will not be able to fix it. If this step is taken, there will be no going back.

So I urge you to give careful consideration to all these matters and join me in voting to sustain our current membership policy. Then we can put this all behind us, roll up our sleeves, and get back to work.

Fraternally,
Steve Raymond

Home Waters Report

Yakima Home Waters Committee

To bring you up to date on the Yakima Home Waters project: the contract is signed and the Yakima Home Waters are ready to fish. The Yakima Home Waters are accessed through the Yakima River RV Park, which is just north of the the Ringer Road launch. Maps and driving directions are located in the "Member Section" of the WFFC Web site. Follow the link entitled "Yakima River Home Waters" in the **Home Waters** section.

Also located in the Yakima River Home Waters section are the rules that WFFC members need to follow while on the property. Please read the rules and follow them. Most are common courtesy. Two rules to be aware of are that WFFC members need to display their parking pass on their vehicle's dash while on the property, and they need to have their WFFC ID card in their possession in case the property owner asks them to identify themselves.

To obtain your parking pass and ID card, there are links in the "Yakima River Home Waters" section to print out your member-specific "Parking Pass" and your member-specific "ID Badge". When you look at both the parking pass and ID badge, you will see that they are color-coded to the year. Unless you are current on your dues, you will not be allowed access to print either the parking pass or ID badge. Now may be a good time to pay up. This also means that both the parking pass and WFFC ID must be printed on a color printer to be valid. If you

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don't have access to a color printer, please contact the Yakima Home Waters Chair, Michael Santangelo, to obtain both the parking pass and WFFC ID card.

Also, on this page are links to the Yakima River RV Park, another to the Home Waters Proposal for the Yakima River, and a Google Map of the Yakima Home Waters. Finally, saving the best for last, is a neat system that **Roger Rohrbeck** developed so that WFFC can track the time spent on the water and the number and types of fish caught.

Let us know what you think.

Fly Casting Classes Starting *by Jim Higgins*

On Thursday, April 1, 2010, we begin our six-week Beginning Fly Casting Class and on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, we will begin a four-week Advanced Fly Casting Class. Both classes will start at 6:30 pm at the Green Lake Casting Pier. The legendary **Don Simonson** will again be the lead instructor, helped by other members of WFFC. Be sure to remind your friends and family to sign up for these classes. To register or for more information, call **Bob Birkner** at 206-542-4623.

Rick Hafele Workshop

On March 27th, the Puget Sound Fly Fishers will sponsor a workshop by Rick Hafele. A leading fishing entomologist, Rick has the gift of transforming a complex subject into easy-to-learn and memorable portions. A few examples of Rick's work are the books *Nymph Fishing Rivers and Streams* and *Western Mayfly Hatches*; and DVDs like *Anatomy of a Trout Stream* and *Advanced Nymph Fishing*.

Check out his Web site:

www.laughingrivers.com. Enjoy "The Legend of the Bugwan" at www.laughingrivers.com/bugwan2.html or "The Three Essentials of Fly Fishing" at www.laughingrivers.com/rick-essentials.html. If you like those, then check out, "The Anatomy of the Hatch" at www.laughingrivers.com/rick-anatomy.html. These learning resources are typical of Rick's engaging style.

Another resource that is great is: *Aquatic Insects - Articles by Season* at www.laughingrivers.com/aquatic_insects_by_season.html. Rick has a comprehensive fly fishing interest—just take a look at his list of programs from the Web site, www.laughingrivers.com/programs.html.

This event is at the Royal A Gove Masonic Lodge in Tacoma. It will start at 9 am and end about 4 pm. You can register by sending a check for \$55 for non-members to the following address: Puget Sound Fly Fishers (PSFF), P.O. Box 99961, Lakewood, WA 98496-0961.

You'll save \$10 if you register before March 20th (no refunds after March 20th). It is a fundraiser for the Puget Sound Fly Fishers. All the profits will go to funding conservation projects.

The River Why *by John Schuitemaker*

As someone who appreciates the art of fly fishing and the myriad of benefits experienced while engaging in the sport, I have a soft spot in my heart for Gus Orviston, the fictional character who comes of age in the excellent novel *The River Why*. Written by David James Duncan, a fellow angling enthusiast and curator of the art, *The River Why* is a must-read for any person who claims to be an angler. Since its publication in the early 1980s, an ever-growing number of readers have connected with fishing prodigy Gus Orviston's hysterically funny yet perceptive and moving journey of self discovery and realization. When Gus—the spawn of two fishing-obsessed parents—finally flees his quirky family in the Portland suburbs for blissful angling solitude on a remote Oregon river, his trip becomes far more than a drive to the country.

It is no wonder that Seattle's local theater, Book-It Repertory Theatre, has chosen to produce this exceptional book, and I encourage everyone to see *The River Why* while it is on stage, starting February 9th and ending March 7th. And it is not surprising that American Rivers, a national river conservation organization with a regional office in the Northwest, will feature David James Duncan at their annual event this spring. This is another event not to be missed, and I invite you to join me and many other river-fans for this fun evening. Duncan is sure to deliver an entertaining, yet thoughtful speech.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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Stamp
here

February, 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 6:30 PM.

This month:

Jim Klug: "The Making of *DRIFT* and *RISE* (Behind the Scenes)"