

# Creel Notes from the



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



February, 2011



## President's Riffle

The Holidays are over ... and now it is time to get down to business and get involved! Being involved within the context of the WFFC means several things:

Number 1 ... get out and go fishing and enjoy yourself. Club matters—even your job—take a place in the list of priorities **after** you and your families. Fishing keeps you young physically and mentally. Take care of yourself first.

Number 2 ... being involved with the WFFC means get out on **group outings**. The first one of the year will be upon us in no time ... **Lone Lake on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. This is our **annual New Members outing**. Invite one of the new guys to come with you, or better yet, bring a prospective club member out. We will supply the burgers, brats, and beer. Lone Lake fishes VERY well around the end of March ... and better yet, this is a perfect one-day outing. The lake is just minutes from the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry dock on Whidbey Island. We have a whole bunch of members who know the lake better than I know my own wife. **Dave Schorsch** and **Mark Pratt** will lead this event. Ask them how to fish the lake AND ask them how you can help out on the outing. **JUST GO!** By the way, **Gil Nyerges** and **Steve Raymond** live just minutes from the lake. They are the ol' pros and would be happy to give you the rundown. Schorsch and Pratt will be talking details at our next two club dinner meetings.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> way to get involved, and maybe most importantly, is to **help out on a committee**. If you haven't yet served on a committee within the club, now is the time you **MUST** help out ... especially if you are a new guy. Even you old farts who haven't served in a while need to re-connect with the day-to-day needs of our club. The Christmas Party committee (**Mike Santangelo**) sure

could use some help. Give him a call or call me (425-785-0338). If our club is to be robust and survive down the road, ALL of you need to get involved.

By the way, we are instituting a **new contest**. Every time you bring a guest to an outing or a club meeting, you will get credit for one ticket to go into a special drawing at the Christmas party at the end of the year. That drawing, for a new fly rod or reel, will only be eligible for those with those special tickets. If you bring, say, eight different guests throughout the year, you will get eight tickets into the hopper for the prize. This is a terrific incentive to bring a guest.

February's meeting will be terrific! **Dave Williams** is the guest speaker and will be speaking on stalking "Eastern Washington Bonefish" ... aka, carp. Flatwater, warm-weather sight fishing. Should be interesting. Also, we need to approve the budget for 2011. The WFFC had been running a deficit the past couple of years. We're lucky for the deep reserve funds our club had built up. But we cannot continue on the same path of deficit spending for much longer. With that in mind, the Board did a terrific job of coming up with a **BALANCED**

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budget for 2011. Our Treasurer, **Don Barton**, will have hard copies at the tables. We had to make some sacrifices and cut quite a bit. We also raised expectations for revenue from our Christmas Party. **Everybody** needs to help out in that regard. Santangelo will be looking for your help on donations ... from **everybody**. Finally, I want all of you reading this to think about a good fishing story ... true or not ... funny or sad ... skunked or several. I'd like to have one or two told at the top of the meeting. I want to see a big turnout at the February meeting ... see you there.

Your WFFC President for 2011,  
Rocco Maccarrone

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## February's Meeting: Fly Fishing for Carp *by Mike Wearne*

This month, Dave Williams will be speaking on fly fishing for carp on the Columbia River. The article in the July 2009 Northwest Fly Fishing publication suggested heavy rods and 12- to 20-pound tippet. This is not a #24 dry fly adventure. Dave will have suggestions about flies to use and places to fish for carp.

Also on the docket for this month's meeting is approval of the WFFC budget. Hard copies of the budget will be available at the meeting.

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## 2011 Boyd Aigner Incentives and "Coaching"

*by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman*

The club is providing \$250 in financial incentives for participants in the 2011 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition. This amount will be awarded as \$100 to first overall and \$50 and \$25 to second and third overall, respectively, plus \$25 to the first-place finisher in each of the three fly categories. For more information on the competition, see the January, 2011, *Creel Notes*.

Even better, **Bob Burdick**, who has been the overall winner in the past three competitions, announced at the January members' meeting that he will not be competing in 2011. Instead of competing, Bob, **Gil Nyerges**, and **Preston Singletary** are offering their services as coaches on fly tying techniques to any participant in the competition, but particularly to one who is a first-timer or who has participated before, but feels that he could use a bit of help in developing his tying skills. This offer is intended to encourage more participation, and the coaches are willing to make "house calls" and otherwise to go anywhere, any time (all within reason) to provide their services. Please contact any of them for details.

## Creel Notes

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Jim van de Erve ... Editor  
425-489-0971 jimvde@comcast.net  
Ron Tschetter ... Publisher  
425-746-6652 batribble@juno.com

### President

Rocco Maccarrone [maccarrone@frontier.com](mailto:maccarrone@frontier.com)

### 1st Vice President (Membership)

David Ehrich [demuslindley@yahoo.com](mailto:demuslindley@yahoo.com)

### 2nd Vice President (Programs)

Mike Wearne [michael\\_wearne@msn.com](mailto:michael_wearne@msn.com)

### 3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Mike Santangelo [Mikeonthefly@gmail.com](mailto:Mikeonthefly@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Don Barton [dbarton44@comcast.net](mailto:dbarton44@comcast.net)

### Secretary

Ron Tschetter [batribble@juno.com](mailto:batribble@juno.com)

### Ghillie 1

Jim Macdonald [macdonaldco@msn.com](mailto:macdonaldco@msn.com)

### Ghillie 2

Conrad Gowell [CGowell@pugetsound.edu](mailto:CGowell@pugetsound.edu)

### Trustees

Scott Hagen '09 Jim Young '09  
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Bob Young '11 Chapin Henry III '11

### 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.

## 2010 Awards Recap

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to the winners of Club Awards for 2010, and thanks to all members who attended our January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, ceremonies to recognize those who have contributed so greatly to the club and the community. This is a short recap for those who were not able to attend.

The club's traditional awards consist of the following:

*Empty Creel Award*, to a member for service to the club—presented to **Mark Pratt** by **Pete Baird** for Mark's many and varied contributions that include service as Outdoor co-chairman; organization and promotion of back-country fishing trips and conservation activities; and general enthusiastic support of club outings, as well as service as bartender at the College Club meetings.

*Tommy Brayshaw Award*, to a member for service to the community—presented to **Don Schroder** by **Rocco Maccarrone** for Don's consistent and significant help and services in the Reel Recovery and Healing Waters programs, as well as club-sponsored fly tying and casting classes, and the Youth Program at Garfield High School.



*Don Schroder Receives the Tommy Brayshaw Award*



*Mark Pratt Receives the Empty Creel*

*Andy Award*, to a member who has “suffered most cruelly from fate and the vagaries of Murphy’s Law”—was not presented this year, although it is not expected to be an annual award. The committee had a couple of candidates, but ultimately concluded that they were themselves responsible for their predicaments, rather than “fate”. The committee always welcomes information from members on possible candidates.

*Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsman Award*, for significant contributions to the knowledge, art, philosophy, and techniques of fly fishing—was also not presented, and again it is not expected to be presented annually. The committee has some names for possible consideration next year, but welcomes nominations from the members. Please see me if you have someone in mind. Recipients are not limited to the club, but can be anyone residing in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia.

*Half-Assed Award*, to a member for various and repeated acts of “half-assedness”—was expected to be presented, but was not. This award is presented by the prior year’s recipient(s)—in this case, **John Schuitemaker** and **Hugh Clark**. A suggestion to present the award again to them was deferred for further consideration. Since the meeting both gentlemen have advised that they have a candidate, but were unable to attend the

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January meeting due to work-related travel and other “marginal” excuses. They have promised to present “the dreaded award” at the next available meeting, most likely March.

*Gordy Young Life Time Service Award*, 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 throughout his membership and particularly during the years prior to presentation—presented to **Pete Baird**. This award is not presented often, and the only prior recipients are **Gordy Young** and **Gil Nyerges**. The award was presented to Pete for his service, which includes President, Vice President, numerous terms as a Trustee, WFFC Foundation Board, organizing committees for the club’s anniversary parties, one of the main organizers of the High Lakes outings, Reel Recovery outings, Awards Committee, Chairman of the Fruit and Flowers Committee, and entertainer at many club Christmas parties with his recital from memory of many Robert Service poems. He was also a recipient of the Empty Creel and Tommy Awards.

The Committee always reserves the right to give special recognition to other club members for their accomplishments and did so for 2010. The following awards were presented:

*On Time Once*—presented to **Jim Macdonald**. This is a one-time-only award, in the form of a poem written and presented by **Chuck Ballard** recognizing “Leech Lake Jim” for a fine and on-time breakfast.

*All the News*—presented to **Jim van de Erve**. This award was presented in recognition of Jim’s continued excellent work in compiling and publishing the *Creel Notes* as a first-class newsletter that not only keeps members informed, but also through its broader circulation promotes the club to the fly fishing community.

*Teach a Man to Fish*—presented to **Per Olaf-Christiansen** by **Greg Crumbaker**. Sometimes people do remarkable things, and this award was

presented in recognition of Per’s skill, creativity, sensitivity, and patience in teaching a blind man to tie a fly, cast it, and catch a fish.

*NW Website, Works Best After Midnight Guy*—presented to **Roger Rohrbeck**. This award was presented in recognition and appreciation of Roger’s continued exceptional work with the website and his help in bringing the club into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We also recognized **Keith Pickrell** and presented to him a 40-year membership certificate. We also recognized **Hu Riley** for 60 years of membership, but he could not attend the meeting, so his certificate will be mailed to him.

**Rocco Maccarrone**, our new President, presented to outgoing President **Ed Sozinho** the club’s Past President’s Pin and a Sage model 4560CF reel in appreciation of his service.

Finally, we again recognized **Bob Burdick** for his overall win of the 2010 *Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition*—his third straight. For more about the 2011 competition, see the related article on P. 2 of this issue.

Special thanks for their help to the other members of the 2010 Awards Committee: **Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Ron Dion, Kris Kristoferson, and Don Simonson**.

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## **Wretchedly Unprepared** by Mark Pratt

As most of you in attendance at our last month’s meeting probably could tell, I was completely caught off guard when my name was announced as the recipient of the Empty Creel Award. As I stood before all of you stunned and in a mild state of shock, I kept thinking to myself: any second now Bill Rundall is going to jump out of a cake and say, “You’ve been punked!”

Yes, that’s what goes through the mind of a Pratt set off tilt—P.S., Don’t give Rundall any ideas like that, he might just do it. That scenario would’ve made more sense to me, plus given all of us something to laugh about for years to come. Instead, I being startled by a large clapping mob of fly fisherman

and instantly had my adrenaline level skyrocket to an uncomfortable plane, which left me shaken and near speechless. I thank you all for your friendship and believing that my name is worthy for such an award. In truth, the simple thank you's that I've gotten on so many occasions over the past ten years are more than enough to keep me smiling and on track. In the future I'm going to shoot for at least in my mind more (Realistically Deserved Awards) such as maybe the Ultimate Wind Knot or better yet the Ropeless Encore Award, yes indeed.

Well, anyway, as once again your fearless outdoor co-chairman, I hope this year's outings are as grand and well attended as 2010's. I'm looking forward to burning a few steaks over the grill, warming our bodies around the fire, and of course battling a few fish along the way. Thanks again. See ya on the water.

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## **New Members Outing for 2011**

*by Dave Schorsch*

This year's new members outing will be held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at Lone Lake on the south end of Whidbey Island. We are encouraging all sponsors of new members in the last TWO YEARS to contact your guys and prod them to attend, preferably with you! It's a great way to increase participation in all aspects of the club, as well as show new guys local waters and how to fish them. As always, all members and friends are welcome!

Lone lake is one of the few very fertile lakes in western Washington. It holds a nice population of fat rainbows, protected by quality water regulations. Open all year, it's a great cabin fever getaway, within an hour and a half of Seattle! A little research fishing by Outing Committee members on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> produced 14 fish to hand and many more lost in about 4 hours for two anglers. All 14 to 17 inches, and in nice condition. Bead heads on intermediate lines did the trick.

We are planning a day trip to the lake, with some canopies set up at the park/boat launch area. The club will provide lunch, probably served around 1:00. Come on down in the morning, learn the lake, catch some fish, have some lunch, catch a few more fish, and home in time for dinner. Can't beat that!

Need more info? You can e-mail me at david-schorsch@aol.com or call 206-227-6134.

## **Lone Lake** *by Mark Pratt*

January 27<sup>th</sup>, as predicted by our local weatherman (Steve), was indeed very foggy and never really burned off. I arrived at the lake around 10:00 along with a dozen or so other crazy fools to a flat calm body of water.

As I was setting up, I saw two fish being played straight out from the boat ramp by a couple of chironomid flingers. That method not being my style, I chose to mooch slow and deep with a leech. After an hour or so and not a strike, I abandoned the idea of fish being on the bottom, grabbed my sink-tip dragonfly combo, and started casting into the shoreline, instantly producing fish. From 11 to 3:00, landed 7 and lost 3 others. All the fish were 17 to 19 inch bows in good shape, but still a little sluggish from this winter's cold water temps (40 degrees)? This was my first January trip ever to Lone—all told not a bad day.

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## **Lone Lake 1-29-2011** *by Don Gulliford*

Yuasa's column in the Seattle Times reported that black and green leech patterns were red hot on Lone Lake—THEY WERE! At least as I viewed them in my fly boxes on the ramp in 40+ raw south winds in an empty parking lot, in this virtual reality report. Attractive kiosks and some landscaping have been done by the Evergreen and Whidbey Island clubs. I retreated and called nearby resident **Gil Nyerges** to invite for lunch, but he was off to Oak Harbor.

Reliable sources confirm to me that the grass carp are growing to great sizes in Lone. Maybe a Cheeseball Dough nymph??

## Letter on the Effect of Dams on Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Returns

by William W. Stelle, Jr.,

forwarded by Don Gulliford

*Editor's Note:* Don Gulliford received the following letter from William Stelle, Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, about the effect of dams on salmon and steelhead returns in Columbia Basin rivers. Stelle's letter was in response to a letter than Don had sent him.

December 7, 2010

Dear Mr. Gulliford,

Thank you for your letter posing the question: *are there more salmon now in the Columbia River system than before any dams on the Columbia?* In short, the answer is a definitive "no."

I suspect that the genesis of such assertions is a misinterpretation (or misrepresentation) of recent news accounts reporting "record" salmon returns to the Columbia River basin. Indeed there have been encouragingly strong returns in recent years, particularly of sockeye and Chinook salmon. While these robust returns may represent the highest abundance levels since the construction of the mainstem dams from the 1930s through 1970s, they are far below historical levels.

For example, in 2010 the total return (including both hatchery and wild fish) of sockeye salmon over Bonneville Dam was in excess of 386,500 fish, eclipsing the previous returns since the dam's construction in 1938. However, it is estimated that the historical sockeye run to the Columbia and Snake rivers may have been in the neighborhood of 3 million fish a year. Similarly, the total return of spring- and summer-run Chinook over Lower Granite Dam to the Snake River in 2010 was nearly 135,000 fish, up considerably from the 25,200 fish that returned in 1992 when Snake River spring/summer Chinook were first listed under the Endangered Species Act. Again, the recent high levels of abundance are far below the estimated historical returns of approximately 1.5 million fish. Although these recent returns are encouraging, the Columbia and Snake River populations listed under the Endangered Species Act remain below their recovery goals, and far below historical levels.

It is important to put the recent high returns in further context. A high proportion of these returns, from 60 to 95 percent depending on the species, is composed of hatchery fish. While hatchery production of salmon and steelhead is an important tool for sustaining fisheries, meeting our tribal trust and treaty obligations, and in some circumstances sustaining and recovering local at-risk populations, the high proportion of hatchery fish returning to the Columbia Basin underscores that we are far removed from historical conditions. The recent increases in returns are largely attributable to favorable ocean conditions, with salmon restoration efforts and fish-friendly improvements to the basin's hydroelectric dams providing substantive contributions as well.

I thank you for your letter, and particularly for your healthy cynicism of statements like the one you highlighted that, frankly, misinform and obfuscate the challenges that must be addressed to recover and conserve Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead.

Sincerely,

William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator

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### New Trustee: Steve Sunich

A WFFC trustee position recently opened up, and **Steve Sunich** has agreed to step into that position. Steve has held a number of positions in the club, been very active in many ways, and is a heck of a good fisherman. Thank you for stepping up, Steve!

## 2011 Outings Schedule *by Dave Schorsch*

This is the outings schedule for 2011 as it stands today.

March 12<sup>th</sup>

**Lone Lake.** New members outing/ day trip.

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

**Dry Falls.** Spring season kickoff weekend.

May 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

**Chopaka Lake.** Memorial Day weekend.

June 18<sup>th</sup>

**Fish Lake.** Day trip.

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

**Leech Lake.** Brookies and steaks weekend.

Aug. – mid

**Scottish Lakes High Camp.** Weekend TBD.

Sept. – mid

**Hood Canal.** Weekend/day trip TBD.

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Dry Falls/Sun Lakes.** Fall outing/weekend.

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>

**Penrose Point.** WETBUNS weekend/day trip.

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## Creel Notes Distribution Changed

*by Jim van de Erve*

In an effort to control club costs, the WFFC board has decided to make the WFFC Web site the primary distribution point for the *Creel Notes*. All members who have an email address will receive a monthly email with a link to that month's *Creel Notes* on <http://www.wffc.com>. These members will not receive a paper copy of the *Creel Notes* via U.S. mail. Only those members without an email address will receive a paper copy of the *Creel Notes* through the mail.

## Dry Falls Water Level Committee

*by Jim van de Erve*

The falling water level in Dry Falls Lake is an issue of intense interest to us in the WFFC. It is having a devastating effect upon the fishery that many of us have long treasured. To address the issue, President **Rocco Maccarrone** has asked me to form a committee. This committee will gather facts about the issue, discuss it with the appropriate authorities, investigate how the issue can be addressed, and see what we in the club can do about it.

The committee is formed, and currently includes **Steve Raymond, John Callahan, Dave Schorsch,** and myself as chairman. We have started the fact-finding phase, and will routinely report our progress. If you have information and/or opinions about the issue, or would like to be involved in any phase of the process—please let any of us on the committee know (my email is [jimvde@comcast.net](mailto:jimvde@comcast.net)). Hopefully, this will turn into a boots-on-the-ground effort that will help—in whatever small or large way we can—restore those beautiful shallows as a viable fishery once again.

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## Cost of Dinner Meals to Increase in February

Beginning with our February 15<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting, the cost of our dinner meal will go up \$2, to \$29. The WFFC Board was given the option of maintaining the same meal price but with a plated salad, or increasing the price and keeping the salad bar. Aware of the tradition and importance of the salad bar to our membership, the Board voted in favor of the price increase and keeping the salad bar. Please be aware, folded into the \$29 cost of the dinner meal is room rental, staffing, and all other catering expenses. It remains a darn good deal.



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

Stamp  
here

February, 2011

### 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:

**Dave Williams: Fly Fishing for Carp**