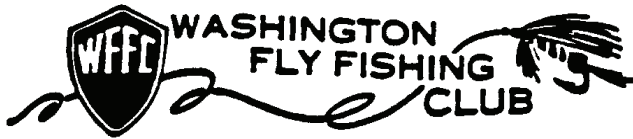


Creel Notes from the



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



February, 2012



President's Riffle

Greetings.

Two specific events occurred during the recent holiday season which 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. It turned into a memorable trip. At the beginning of the week I only 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 began receiving a journal that Rod publishes which 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. I received the 2011 edition of this publication about the same time of the year, just before Christmas; it is an occasion to look forward to with anticipation. I treasure my friendship with Rod, and have fond memories of the Yellowstone trip.

Over the holidays, I attend an annual party with a running group of which I am a member. We share our aches and pains, review specific runs which we have each participated in together. I fly fish with Chris Kearns, who is a member. Several years ago, we 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. I particularly enjoy discussing fly fishing with Chris.

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. This book is an anthology of excerpts from a variety of publications. All of the articles focus on the joy of

sharing fly fishing with your friends or family members. The book is illustrated with extraordinary photographs by R. Valentine Atkinson. I would recommend this book as a gift for someone with whom you share time fly fishing—a parent, a sibling, or simply a good friend.

One of the many joys of the Washington Fly Fishing Club is companionships that are cultivated, nurtured, and sustained over time. What a pleasure it is to be a part of that process! So there you have my message to you this month, two short memories of the holiday season past, a quick book recommendation, and a reminder why we are members of this club.....the friendships we share with other members.

Let's go fishing.

Mike Wearne,
President

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February Meeting

This month, club member **Preston Singletary** will present on “Aquatic entomology.”

Preston Singletary AutoBio

I was born in a small logging camp in southwest Washington, and grew up with tales of salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat (harvest trout) ringing in my ears. My father was an avid fisherman and hunter, so even though we moved to Seattle when I was very young, I was introduced to fishing at an early age. My father was not a fly fisherman, but I was attracted to that aspect of the sport and by my early teens had begun the time-consuming process of teaching myself to fly fish. Few today realize how little good information was available to the novice fly fisher in the early fifties.

For quite a few years, I concentrated on anadromous species of fish, and entomology was of little concern to me in a culture of gaudy attractor patterns. But in time, I found myself fishing more frequently for trout in lakes and streams, and I discovered that, since trout eat bugs, it was worthwhile to learn a little more about the ways in which trout interact with their primary food source. I have no academic background in aquatic entomology, but over the years have amassed a pretty fair body of knowledge on the subject, and after having written a few articles about aquatic insects and having been exposed to the woeful lack of knowledge concerning entomology in a large segment of the fishing populace, I decided to put together an extremely non-technical presentation about some of the aspects of aquatic entomology that I hope will be of interest to the fly angler.

After nearly forty years with a large aerospace firm, I am now retired and since 1995 have been fortunate in having had the opportunity to write a regular product and book review column for *Fly Fishing & Tying Journal*.

Fly Fishing Movie *by Mike Wearne*

In the May 2010 issue of the Creel Notes, there was a review of the book *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* by the British author Paul Toray. I noticed that a movie based on the novel is to be released in March. The main character, Dr. Fred Jones, is played by Ewan McGregor. If you have seen McGregor’s two motorcycle documentaries, *A Long Way Around* and *A Long Way Down*, you can understand how much he commits to his part in any movie.

I watched a few minutes of the trailer for the movie on the web; it looks as if they captured the magic of the book.

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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, 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.

2011 Awards Partial Recap and Extended Presentations

by Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

The weather wreaked havoc on the presentations that we had planned for the January meeting. We were, however, able to accomplish several of them, and we will complete the others over the next couple of months. Here is a recap of those presentations that were made, as well as our plans for the others:

Empty Creel Award, to a member for service to the Club, was deferred for later presentation. We are planning to do this at the February meeting.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, to a member for service to the community, was presented to **Greg Crumbaker** for his sustained work in supporting and carrying out numerous programs to benefit those who are disabled or are otherwise disadvantaged, particularly his development of the Casting Forward program. An excellent introduction was made by **Kris Kristoferson**. (We are all saddened by Greg's recent illness and wish him a speedy and full recovery.)

Half-Assed Award, to a member for various and repeated acts of "half-assedness". Most of you know that this award of dubious distinction was presented to **Mike Wearne** at the Christmas Party by the recipients for 2009, **John Schuitemaker** and **Hugh Clark**. We felt obliged to take a moment at



Dave Schorsch receiving the Ladle and Hammer Award

the January meeting to remind members and particularly Mike.

Letcher Lambeth 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. The recipient, Bill Kindler of the Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers, and other members of his club could not make our meeting. This award will be presented at the February meeting. Please welcome Bill, who will be on hand during the Wet Fly Hour with his wife Trudy; Dean Childs, President of OPFF; and other members of that club who will be here for the presentation.

Andy Award, to a member who has "suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy's Law", was not presented and will not be presented for the year 2011. We are always seeking information on possible candidates so if you know of someone appropriate, please share this with a member of our Awards Committee.

Chuck Ballard made a special presentation to **Dave Schorsch** of the *Ladle and Hammer Award*. This award recognized Dave for his outstanding efforts in revitalizing the club outings (the "ladle" part) and helping to complete the Home Waters on-site structures (the "hammer" part).

In 2000, the club presented to member Gordy

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Greg Crumbaker receiving the Tommy Brayshaw Award

(Continued from page 3)

Young the first Life Time Service Award, thereafter know as 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. The award has since been presented to **Gil Nyerges** and **Pete Baird**. It will also be presented for the year 2011, most likely at the March meeting.

Current President **Mike Wearne** presented the traditional fly fishing reel to outgoing President **Rocco Maccarrone**. Presentation of the Past President's pin will be handled in February.

The club continued the practice of presenting certificates to individuals for their long-standing status as members. Active members **Perry Barth** and **Jerry Sugamele**, and associate members **Harlan French** and **Jack Troutman**, were recognized for 40 years of continuous membership and support.

Finally, we again recognized **Walt Swanson** for earlier winning the 2011 *Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition*. Details of the 2012 competition were discussed, and this information is also available in the January *Creel Notes*. **Bob Burdick**, who will be working with me to run the 2012 competition, made a challenge or two to motivate participation.

I want to thank all those members who braved the elements to attend this meeting—it means a lot to the



Rocco Maccarrone receives the outgoing President's reel

award recipients. I also want to give special thanks to the other members of the 2011 Awards Committee: **Pete Baird**, **Chuck Ballard**, **Dick Brening**, **Ron Dion**, **Kris Kristoferson**, and **Don Simonson**.

March Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

It's time for our first outing of the season! This year we're starting off with our annual "new members" outing at Lone Lake on Whidbey island. All members are invited, of course, but those who sponsored a new member in the last two years are encouraged to bring him along! It's a great time to meet other members and learn our local water. We also use this outing to "network" with other clubs in the area, sharing interests and renewing friendships.

We will be setting up some canopies in the park, and providing lunch and beverages around noon. Probably burgers and dogs with some side dishes. Feel free to bring some potato salad or something if you like. Fish in the morning, have some lunch and visit, fish in the afternoon. How tough is that?

Getting there is easy. It's on the south end of the island, about 15 minutes from the ferry dock. I'll put more specific directions on the club website. (Whole trip from Seattle, around an hour and a half.)

The fishing at this time of year is pretty easy. I do really well with an intermediate line and a buggy fly with some movement. A black wolley bugger with a gold bead head was the killer fly last year.

Carey type flies with oversized hackles (Gil's Monster?) work great, too. This is a boat lake, so you'll need a floating craft. Anything will work, as it's a small, protected water. Good float tubing and pontooning. Skiffs are great, but leave the Boston Whaler at home. The fish can be surprisingly large, so don't skimp on the leaders!

Sign up in the outing area of the website if you plan to attend, as a head count is handy for food planning. Or call me for more info. at 206-227-6134.

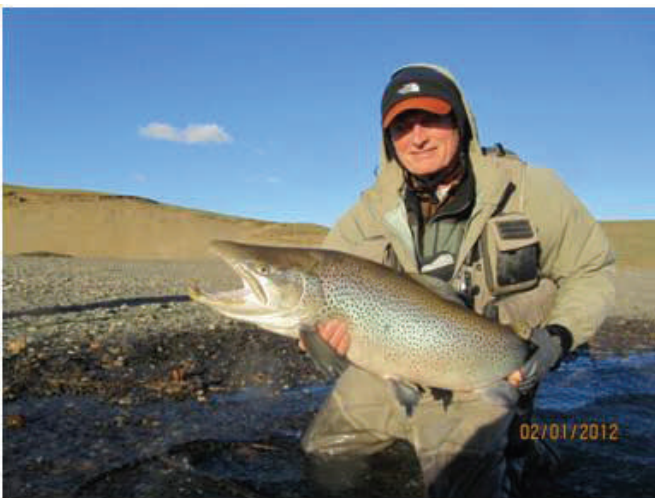
See you there! Tight lines!

REPORTS

Rio Grande River, Terra del Fuego Argentina (53.7 degrees south) *by Jim McRoberts*

Scott Hagen and I departed for Argentina on Thursday morning, January 26th, just after the big storm! After about 15 hours of flight time, we arrived in Buenos Aries, which is 5 hours ahead of Seattle, at 10 am on Friday. The next morning we were up early for a 4 am pickup for a 6 am flight. After a 3 hr., 30 min. flight, we arrived in Rio Grande. The guides met us and we drove about 45 min. to the lodge. We were assigned our rooms and then a beer was in order! We put our rods together and shot the bull with the other guests. Our lodge had 12 rods. There were two other lodges on the estancia that have six rods each. There were six from the USA and six from Britain & North Ireland.

The fishing schedule is divided into two sessions: leave the lodge at 0830; fish until 1230. Back for a big lunch and refreshments, then a nap. Leave the lodge at 6:30 pm and fish until 10:30 pm, sunset was 9:30 pm. The magic hour is the last one, usually! The water was low and very clear on this trip. Lower than any of our previous trips (Scott's 7th, my 6th). The wind was our only full-time hassle! We had 20-30 mph almost all day, every day, except for a few short periods in the morning and evening. One day, however, we had 50 mph all day! We still found places to



20 Pounds on a blue & black intruder



Fun to Fish in the Dark

fish so that the wind was at our back, sort of! The water temperature ranged from 47F to 60F.

Scott used his new "Sweet Grass" 9' 3", 8 weight cane rod, and landed several fish on it in spite of the wind. One was 15#. However, at times he had to surrender and go back to the two-handed spey rod. I used my 13' 6", 7 weight and my 13' 9", 8 weight. We used anything from floating lines during the day to type 8 or 10 feet of T-14 sink tips at night. We each caught a 20 pounder! Two other fish were taken that were 24 and 25 pounds. All in all, there were 15 fish of 20 pounds or more. We caught fish on a variety of flies ranging from size 10 nymphs with rubber legs to four-inch Intruder and/or tube flies.

The last cast of the last evening session was rather exciting! My red and black tube fly landed about a foot from the far bank (30' away) and was immediately attacked! The water near the bank exploded and the fight was on, or so I thought. The line was going upriver at a good pace, and then I could feel that the line was dragging on something! The guide said, "The line is going behind some broken off bank." I put more pressure on the line. The guide's next expletive was, "Crap, it's climbing up the bank"! About a 30-40 pound beaver was foul hooked on some unknown body part! I had to break my 12# test tippet and let it go on its merry way wearing a bit of "BLING"!



Cane Rod and 15pound sea-run brown trout

Elwha River Legal Action

The following is a press release from the Wild Fish Conservancy about the Elwha River, passed along by **Doug Schaad**, chairman of the WFFC Conservation Committee.

WILD FISH CONSERVANCY
PO Box 402 Duvall, WA 98019 . Tel 425-788-1167 . Fax 425-788-9634.
info@wildfishconservancy.org

Contact: Kurt Beardslee, Wild Fish Conservancy, 206-310-9301 Brian Knutsen, Smith and Lowney, PLLC, 503-287-4194

Citing warnings from agency and independent scientists, four conservation groups filed suit today against several federal agencies and officials of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (in their official capacities) for violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and ignoring the best available science and threatening the recovery of killer whales, Chinook salmon, and native steelhead by funding and operating fish hatchery programs in the Elwha River. The groups agree with federal and state scientists and a recent review by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) that restoration of the lower Elwha River and recolonization of the pristine upper Elwha River above Elwha and Glines Canyon dams should prioritize recovery of wild fish. The proposed reli-

ance on large-scale hatchery releases undermines ecosystem recovery and violates the ESA. Wild Fish Conservancy, The Conservation Angler, the Federation of Fly Fishers Steelhead Committee, and the Wild Steelhead Coalition have brought the suit against the Olympic National Park, NOAA Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and representatives of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

The federal government is spending nearly \$325 million for the dam removal project, opening nearly ninety miles of pristine riverine habitat in Olympic National Park, much of which is designated a wilderness area. Rather than allowing wild salmonids to naturally colonize this pristine habitat, the agencies and the Tribe are going ahead with a plan that will release approximately four million juvenile hatchery salmonids annually throughout the recovery, including the continued release of non-native steelhead during a five-year fishing moratorium. The hatchery releases will be supported by a new fish hatchery on the Elwha River built with \$16.4 million of Stimulus Act funds. State and federal agency scientists pointed out that the current plan gives no measurable goals for wild fish recovery, provides no timetable for ceasing the hatchery production, and that ultimately, wild fish recovery is going to be hampered by the hatchery fish. A review released this week by the independent Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG), which was organized and funded by Congress, has echoed these concerns.

"While the Tribe played an essential role in removing the dams," said Kurt Beardslee, Executive Director of Wild Fish Conservancy, "their intent to now plant millions of hatchery fish in disregard of the scientific evidence undermines salmon recovery in the Northwest and the goals of the ESA. However you look at it, it's a horrible precedent if left to stand."

Will Atlas, chair of the FFF Steelhead Committee, stated "The science does not support planting of hatchery fish into this productive, pristine habitat."

"This action is necessary," said Rich Simms, president of the Wild Steelhead Coalition, "so that wild, not hatchery, steelhead will be restored to the Elwha and the Olympic Wilderness."

"Their plan is vague and uncertain about how and when these hatchery interventions will end," said Pete Soverel, president of The Conservation Angler. "The Elwha deserves far better but will end

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up compromised like most of our other rivers if this plan is implemented."

The groups believe that spending \$325 million to open a wilderness watershed but then stocking it with hatchery fish is poor public policy and will likely provoke taxpayer skepticism toward salmon recovery and future efforts at dam removal. The groups support the right of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to harvest salmon and steelhead, but argue that intensive hatchery production throughout the recovery will reduce the capacity of wild salmon and steelhead to recolonize the newly available habitat, harming ESA listed Puget Sound steelhead, Chinook salmon, and southern resident killer whales that depend on Chinook salmon for their survival.

The groups are represented by Smith and Lowney, PLLC, of Seattle.

WFFC Board Approve Dues Rollback for 2012

by John Gravendyk, 1st VP Membership

Good news for our dues-paying membership! The WFFC Board has decided to return annual dues to 2011 levels. Both Regular and Associate dues structures are involved in the rollback. Regular annual membership dues will return to \$70, and Associate dues will return to \$45.

During the February Board Meeting, the membership committee brought forward a number of member concerns relative to the impact of the recent substantial dues increases. During the subsequent discussion, it became apparent that the dues increase announced late last year represented a thoughtful board response to projected year-end financial results based on trend data available at the time. No one on the 2011 board could have predicted the remarkable monetary results from the 2011 Christmas Party! With the actual year-end results now in hand, a quick analysis by our Treasurer, **Don Barton**, revealed that returning to our prior dues structure would still result in a balanced budget without drawing down our capital reserves. The board felt that in order to keep our membership base intact and to encourage the next generation of WFFC candidate

members, this dues reduction was in the club's best interest.

Refunds to those members who have already paid dues for 2012 will be in the form of a \$30 refund check. Refund checks will be mailed ASAP.

Dues are still due! If you haven't renewed your membership please do so without delay. Time is running out, and dues payments delinquent as of March 1st will be subject to a reinstatement fee.

P.S. *Be sure to give Mike Santangelo and his 2011 Christmas Party committee a pat on the back the next time you see them!*

WFFC Outings Schedule *by Dave Schorsch*

A revised outing schedule as of Feb. board meeting.

- March 10 Lone Lake, Whidbey Island New members and friends
- April 14,15 Dry Falls spring outing
- May 28-30 Chopaka
- June B.C. trip. Lake and dates to be determine.
- July 14,15 Leech Lake
- August 18,19 Scottish High Lakes
- Sept. 8,9 Hood Canal, Jay Deeds place
- Oct. 6,7 Dry Falls fall outing
- Nov. 3,4 Wetbuns, Penrose/Joemma St. Parks



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

February, 2012

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:

Preston Singletary will present "Aquatic Entomology".



Washington Fly Fishing Club

WFFC Membership Dues Notice

2012 Dues are due on January 1...

Let's all renew by the end of January!

Pay via website (preferred), or by mailing this form with your check

Type of Membership:	Dues Amount:
Regular	\$70.00 *
Associate	\$45.00 *
Senior or Honorary	\$ 0.00

*** Renewals after February 29 are subject to \$30 reinstatement fee**

Please fill out completely and note any changes for the Roster:

Last Name: _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Date of Birth ____/____/_____

Spouse: _____

Address:

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Check if you want in roster)

Home: _____

Work: _____

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