

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)

Member of



International Federation of  
**FLY FISHERS**  
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



MMXV No. 2

February, 2015

## President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



In the Riffle.

Late last month my wife and I spent a few days in a cabin on the Skykomish River. As luck would have it the Sky was running high and fast carrying a lot of color. Riffles they were none. The cabin sits very close to the river and while I would have preferred to have been swinging flies, sitting in a warm cabin sipping on a glass of

scotch was not all that bad. Listening to the muffled roar of the river it did not take long for my mind to wander. I found myself recollecting the days when I would spend hours upon hours wading and fishing the Sky for steelhead. Some days were cold enough ones line and reel froze, some days would bring torrential rain, other were spring-like. Fishing first with a single handed 10' 8wt with custom (read that as home-made) lines then with the obligatory spey rod and allegedly high performance super-duper lines (it costs how much!). Not so many years ago anglers would flock to the Sky to fish its famed March steelhead run. Some would take the entire month off work in their quest. Not anymore. The Sky suffered closures with such regularity it is now closed as per standing regulation each year, January 31<sup>st</sup>. How many anglers, such as I, have simply stopped fishing the Sky and how long has it been since he/she has fished the Sky? As our memories of what the Sky once was dim I fear the pressure on WDFW for meaningful action has, over time lessened.

Drifting on....

Many of us rarely fish for steelhead in Washington State and longer, at least seriously, the rivers of Puget Sound closing with distressing regularity and with no desire to contribute to the overcrowding on the Peninsula. Wild steelhead are fantastic creatures and we can do so much better for them. How, you say? I defer to the professionals at my favorite conservation organization...the Wild Fish Conservancy. Here is some of what the Wild Fish Conservancy has to say:



Wild steelhead have declined 97% in Puget

Sound since 1895. Of the remaining populations, more than half are at high risk of extinction.

Habitat destruction, dams, harvest, and poorly conducted hatchery practices have all contributed to the decline of wild steelhead. Based on the theory that hatcheries could make up for habitat losses, overfishing, and dams, steelhead hatcheries became popular in the 1960s and 1970s. Current wild abundance is likely only 1%–4% of what it was prior to the turn of the 20th century, and cannot be explained by loss of habitat alone. In addition, NOAA Fisheries Service recently assessed twenty Puget Sound wild steelhead popu-

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## February Program

Kelly Glissmeyer

Spring Creek Strategies

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP (Programs)

February's speaker is Kelly Glissmeyer from Rigby Idaho, who will talk on "Spring Creek Strategies: A New Take on Fishing Technical Waters". As most fishermen know, fishing spring creek waters such as Rocky Ford Creek, or Upper Crab Creek in this state, or Silver Creek in Idaho, or the Metolius River in Oregon is particularly challenging because the water is usually gin clear, with a smooth non-rippled surface giving the fish a clear vision of what's going on around them. Kelly, through demonstrations at Fly Fishing events, through his

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regular column in **Flyfisher** magazine, and at club presentations has developed successful stealth techniques that he will share with us to tip the odds in our favor. This is a very informative presentation and something none of you will want to miss.

## Speaker Biography

### Kelly G. Glissmeyer Of All Things Fly Fishing Tying, Writing and Photography

Kelly G. Glissmeyer has been involved in fly fishing and fly tying for more than four decades. He began his passion while living in West Yellowstone, MT and has never looked back. An accomplished demo fly tier with many effective patterns to his credit, focusing on spring creek patterns for wary trout; he began seeking out and fishing spring creeks to avoid the crowds on many western rivers. He participates in numerous fly tying expos, fairs and conclaves throughout the western United States, as well as being a featured speaker and lecturer at many western fly fishing venues.

In addition to fishing and tying, Mr. Glissmeyer has numerous magazine articles to his credit along with the photos for those articles and is editor of the *At The Vise* column in the International Federation of Fly Fishers membership publication *Flyfisher* magazine. As a fly tier he has been featured in several western fly pattern books such as Bruce Staples' *Flies for the Greater Yellowstone Area*. He is also on the Pro Staff of Loop U.S.A. where he serves as an ambassador for Loop products. He lives in Rigby, Idaho with his fly fishing wife Cathy. Mr. Glissmeyer can be reached at kggliss@hotmail.com



## January Awards Night

### 2014 Awards Recap

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

At our January Members meeting, we recognized those who had made significant contributions to the Club and the community for the year 2014, as well as those who have entertained us with their misdeeds. Congratulations and thank you to all. Here is a brief 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 **Jim Macdonald** for his continuous, dedicated, and seemingly unending service as 1st Ghillie.

*Tommy Brayshaw Award*, to a member for service to the community, was not presented, primarily because of the special and other Awards that will be presented for 2014. We intend to present this Award in following years, and nominations from the members are always welcome.

*Half-Assed Award*, to a member for acts of "half-assedness", traditionally presented by the prior year's recipient (who declined), but presented this year by **Kris Kristoferson**, on behalf of the Awards Committee, to **Bill Redman** for his repeated attempts to shorten the length of his car top pram by crashing it into numerous overhead structures. The traditional poem that accompanies the presentation of this Award was expertly crafted by Kris, who should unquestionably be appointed poet laureate of the Club.

AWARDS  
NIGHT

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## Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

**President**  
Gary Bergquist

**1st Vice President (Membership)**  
Scott Hagen

**2nd Vice President (Programs)**  
Bob Burdick

**3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)**  
Kerry Oldenburg

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**Ghillie 1**  
Jim Macdonald

**Ghillie 2**  
Abe Lillard

**Trustees**  
Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13  
Mark Pratt '14 Maury Skeith '14  
Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

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

## Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.



*Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsman Award*, to an individual residing in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for significant, lasting contributions to the sport of fly-fishing, was presented to **Les Johnson** for his contributions as an author, individually and as co-author, of numerous books to educate us on successful techniques of fishing for sea-run cutthroat trout and salmon, his development of many related fly patterns, and for his work as an advocate for salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. Les was not able to attend the meeting, but **Gary Bergquist**, **Bob Young**, and your reporter presented the Award to Les at his new home near Silvana on Saturday, January 31. Les was most appreciative of this recognition.



Letcher Lambeth Award



President Gary Bergquist, Awards Chairman Bill Neal and Bob Young present Les Johnson the 2014 Letcher Lambeth Award

*Andy Award*, to a member who has “suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy’s Law”, will be presented, although that is delayed until a future meeting.

In 2000, the Club first presented the *Lifetime Service Award* to Gordy Young. This Award is presented a senior, active member of the Club who has contributed significantly to the Club through sustained service and leadership throughout his membership and particularly during the years prior to presentation. The Award is seldom presented, but at our January meeting it was presented by **Ron Dion**, on behalf of the Awards Committee, to two individuals. The first presentation was to **Hugh Jennings** for his long standing service both to the Club and to The Washington Fly Fishing Club Foundation, particularly as its Treasurer. The second presentation was to **Bill Redman** for his long term service to the Club beginning as a Club President and committee chair and continuing as an advocate for wild steelhead.



Lifetime Service Award's to Hugh Jennings (above photo) and Bill Redman (below photo), both presented by Ron Dion

The Awards Committee also made two special presentations. The first of these was made by **Chuck Ballard** to **Jim McRoberts** in recognition of Jim's continuous and exceptional support of wild steelhead and Project Healing Waters. The second presentation was made by your reporter to **Dave Schorsch** in recognition of Dave's continuous service to the Club in general and in particular his work on conservation and expansion of Club outings, as well as exceptional service as Third Vice President for the year 2014 in organizing the very successful Christmas and the 75th Anniversary Parties.

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Several individuals were recognized for their long term membership in the Club—**Don Gulliford, Curt Jacobs, and Fran Wood** for 60 years; **Robert Bendzak** for 50; and **Ron Mazurek, Dick Stearns, and Victor Kalata** for 40. Fran was presented with a certificate; certificates for the others will be presented at the next meeting or will be mailed to their homes.

Current President **Gary Bergquist** presented a past President's pin to outgoing President **Michael Mosczynski**, as well as a Ross Gunnison 2014 Limited Edition #3 reel. Many thanks to Michael from the Club.

We again recognized **Walt Swanson** for winning the 2014 *Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition*. The patterns for the 2015 Competition were announced, and details for it are in separate article in these *Creel Notes*. Special thanks to **Bob Burdick** for his help with the 2014 Competition.

Finally, thanks to the other members of the 2014 Awards Committee: **Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Ron Dion, and Kris Kristoferson**.



Special presentation to Jim McRoberts by Chuck Ballard



Presidents gavel is passed, Michael Mosczynski to Gary Bergquist



Fran Wood—60 Years a member!  
(Presented by awards chairman Bill Neal)



2014 Half Assed awarded to Bill Redman  
(Presented by Kris Kristoferson)

## Outings

### Outings for 2015

*By Dave Schorsch, Outings Chairman*

This year we're going to try something a little different. We will still have the usual outings that we all love and attend, with the difference of an outing "host" for each outing. We may have a different host for each outing all season long. ALSO, we will put any outing, especially day trips, on the web site with each "host" listed. Anyone who wishes to host an outing to his or her favorite water need only contact me (Dave Schorsch) with the details, and I will see to it that it's posted on the web site. Club members can then contact the outing host for details and what to bring or help with.



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(Continued from page 4) - Outings

I am hoping this change will add options for those that may want stream outings, or trips to those "road less traveled" locations. This can also be a place for smaller, less formal day trips, for just a few anglers. Going to the desert lakes on a Wednesday in March? Put it on the outing schedule, and have a group of like minds share the experience! A great way to teach/learn about fly fishing, and have fun doing it! Heading for Lone Lake next weekend? Share the ferry! I can think of a lot of uses for this outing tool.

Lets fill in those big blanks between the regularly scheduled "traditional" outings! Speaking of which, the following is a rough draft of the outings I have so far....

**March 21 Lone Lake** Day trip. Club provides lunch. A great time for sponsors to invite their new members, to meet the club, and learn the lake. It's been a warm winter, so should be pretty good by then.

**April 11, 12 Dry Falls** Our long standing spring outing. Yeah, I know the water's really low, and access is not as easy as walking into the Southcenter mall, but the fishing can still be great. Some of us will be there when it opens on April 1, and will have a fish/water report prior to the outing. Changes can always be made....

**April 25 Hannan Lake** Tentative date for revisiting a great outing at a local favorite. Club will provide chili lunch, and expect to find rainbows and resident cutthroat in the weed beds. Mike Wearne outing host.

**May 23, 24, 25 Chopaka** The usual Memorial day outing at one of our favorite places. A three day weekend, with barbeques, tempura nite, and pancake breakfast, in addition to multiple happy hours. Oh, and did I mention great fishing, sometimes terrific fishing...

**June 6 Lost Lake** Tentative schedule for day trip outing to "drive in" high lake near Snoqualmie Pass for big rainbows and pretty brookies. Still working on group lunch/barbeque details. Ron Little/Dave Schorsch/Mark Pratt hosts.

**June 20, 21 Leech Lake** Weekend trip to super productive mountain lake at White Pass. Big triploid rainbows and hefty brook trout on dry flies. Great hatches! Steak barbeque and happy hour at White Pass Village Inn Saturday, pancake breakfast Sunday. Dave Schorsch outing host.

**Sept 12, 13 Hood Canal** Another great trip to Seabeck hosted by Jay and Jone Deeds. Sea run cutthroat and the occasional coho on the beaches of Hood Canal. Fish all day, then retire to Jays beach house for a happy hour pizza feed!

**Sept 19 Puget Sound HUMPYS!** Catch lots of 4 to 7 pound salmon on flies, cast from the beach or boats. Location to be determined, as the runs appear in strength in different places each season. These are hands down the easiest salmon to take on the fly! And on a 5 or 6 wt rod, a bright Pink can be a handful! This date is tentative for the same reasons. Almost always peak in the month of September.

**Oct. 3, 4 Big Twin Lake** Near Winthrop, this lake boasts a nice campground, some pretty darn good fishing, and a plethora

of other fishing opportunities nearby. Club provides steaks for the Saturday happy hour. A fun outing, with beautiful fall weather.

**Nov. 7, 8 Wetbuns** Our traditional outing for sea runs, chums, and late coho on the South Sound. We meet at Penrose Point State park in the afternoon, where we put together a great pot of seafood stew. Happy hour and a big fire go along with the usually wet and cold weather. The meal is so good, a lot of members attend just for the meal! See you there!

Dave Schorsch outing host.

## Fly Tiers Roundtable

### New Start Time for Roundtable

*By Dick Brening*

The Fly Tying Round Table for February will be held this coming Wednesday evening at the Evergreen Covenant Church on Mercer Island. We are moving to a new start time 7:30 PM to avoid the traffic congestion on I-90. Hopefully that will make it easier for you to attend.

There will not be a round table in March because of a schedule conflict with the church.

We will resume the round table meetings in April and May if our attendance at the February meeting justifies it.

Hope to see you there.



Last Month's Roundtable  
in Session



## 2015 Boyd Aigner

### Boyd Aigner Competition For 2015

*By: Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman*

The 2015 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition is under way. This is a friendly Competition, with each participant demonstrating his or her creativity and tying skills. Each participant is to submit a "best" fly in each of three categories and may submit only one set of flies. The Members of the Club will be the judges.



Here are the 2015 patterns:

- (1) **Tricorythodes** female dun, size 22—standard hook gape, no 2XL or longer shank
- (2) **Chironomid (midge)** parasol style, size 16—see Kelly Glissmeyer instructions on the internet and be at the February meeting to meet and hear Kelly

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(3) **Intruder style streamer**, tied with trailing hook but not a tube fly), any size body, hook, or color—see Kelly Galloup (speaker for October 2014 meeting) streamer tying instructions on the internet

The schedule for the Competition is as follows:

February Members' Meeting Display boxes distributed

April Members' Meeting Flies due

May Members' Meeting Judging

June Members' Meeting Winners announced

We will be presenting to the winner a special WFFC pin created for this Competition. Bob Burdick and I will serve as Coordinators for the Competition. Please contact either of us if you have any questions. Thank you for your participation, and good luck to all.

Bill Neal: (w) 206.892.2116; (h) 206.232.0603

E-mail: [william.neal@stokeslaw.com](mailto:william.neal@stokeslaw.com)

Bob Burdick: (h) 206.329.5948

E-mail: [reburdick@comcast.net](mailto:reburdick@comcast.net)

"Put backing on your line; even if you never use it. It helps you dream"

- Jimmy D Moore

## Proposed Bylaw Change

### Nominating Committee Process Revision

By Mike Wearne

Members of the WFFC:

At our February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, I will be making a motion for a minor change to our bylaws. This amendment was discussed at our December board meeting and was given approval by the board.

Under the heading of Election of Trustees and Officers, Article VII, Section 1, paragraph A reads as follows: "A Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the September meeting each year.

The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes."



My proposal is simply to start this process earlier to allow for the Nominating Committee more time to complete their task. I believe the committee should be formed at the July meeting. It seems to me that there is a rushed process with the selection of the officers to serve for the following year. Ideally this Nominating Committee can take some time, set the tone for the future of the club, and make wise choices in their deliberations.

After the change in the bylaws, this paragraph would read as follows: *"A Nominating Committee shall be elected by written ballot of members present at the July meeting each year. The Committee shall consist of the five (5) nominees receiving the largest number of votes."*

Thanks for your consideration of my proposal.

(Continued from page 1) - Presidents/Wild Fish Conservation

**lations and found that twelve have a "high" risk of extinction.**



**Contrary to popular belief, WDFW steelhead hatcheries are not helping to recover wild steelhead; instead, research shows hatcheries are harming wild steelhead and impeding their chances for recovery.**

Hatchery releases of "Chambers Creek" winter steelhead were initiated by WDFW in the 1940s. By the early 1970s, this domesticated stock had become the dominant winter-run hatchery source for all western Washington river systems. To this day, many facilities continue to plant large numbers of Chambers Creek steelhead in rivers of Puget Sound, the Olympic Peninsula, and the Lower Columbia River basin. Nevertheless, a growing body of [scientific evidence](#) clearly demonstrates that steelhead hatchery programs

- impose harmful genetic effects on wild steelhead,
- adversely affect wild steelhead through ecological effects, and physically block fish passage and exert other "facility" related effects.



**There are important and well-documented reproductive differences between hatchery steelhead and wild steelhead. Hatchery steelhead parents produce fewer than half as many successful offspring as wild steelhead parents.**

The vast majority of hatchery steelhead are from "segregated" programs where the broodstock is genetically distinct from the wild steelhead of the system. These fish are mainly produced to subsidize harvest and are never intended to enhance steelhead recovery. Numerous scientific studies and science panel reviews have demonstrated that these fish reproduce poorly relative to wild fish. When Chambers Creek steelhead escape commercial and recreational fisheries to spawn in the wild, offspring of these fish demonstrate 1/10 to 1/2 the return rates of wild fish. With such [poor reproductive potential](#), self-sustaining hatchery stocks cannot be attained.



**When hatchery steelhead reproduce with wild steelhead, they degrade the health and abundance of wild populations.**

Escaped hatchery steelhead that interbreed with wild steelhead produce offspring which demonstrate significantly reduced survival and reproductive success. For every 10 wild offspring returning to spawn, only 3 to 7 hybridized hatchery-wild offspring will return to spawn. As a result, [interbreeding between hatchery and wild steelhead diminishes the reproductive potential](#) of the entire population and enhances risks of extinction.



**Public dollars spent on habitat and restoration are investments that will pay dividends into the future, but public dollars spent on hatcheries are investments that compromise the future.**

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Immediate benefits can be attained through the elimination or reduction of Chambers Creek steelhead programs. Millions of taxpayer dollars which currently fund hatchery practices and hinder wild steelhead recovery can be reprogrammed to purposes that boost recovery. By investing in habitat and improvements in fish passage, minimizing detrimental hatchery practices, and reducing fishery bycatch of wild spawners, we can increase returns of wild steelhead. In the face of a rapidly changing climate and increasing anthropogenic stressors, only immediate action can enable conservation of wild Puget Sound steelhead. Wild Fish Conservancy is working to [reform steelhead hatcheries](#) and remove these obstacles to wild steelhead recovery.



**The time to save wild steelhead is now.**

**Voice your support for a wild, sustainable, and fishable future. Learn the facts and hold your resource managers accountable.**

<http://wildfishconservancy.org/what-we-do/advocacy/steelhead-hatchery-reform>

Why is it organizations such as Wild Fish Conservancy can do so much with so little when the State of Washington and the federal government seem to be stumbling around in the dark when it comes to wild fish? Different constituencies, I guess.

## Conservation

### Legislative Report

*By Doug Schaad, Conservation Chairman*

A new legislative season has begun. As always there will be bills that deserve our support and several that should never be considered.

Let's begin with a promising piece of legislation (House Bill 1162) to restrict the use of motorized mineral prospecting (suction dredging) without scientific study of the effects (both acute and cumulative) on native fish species and related habitat. As you might expect, there is substantial opposition to this bill by extractive industries. The bill has already moved out of committee with a formal hearing scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to support this legislation.



At the other end of the spectrum we have two bills that deserve our opposition. While neither has yet moved out of committee, they need to be on our watch list. The first is House Bill 1056, which in essence prohibits the use of small parcels of public land (less than one-quarter of a square mile) to access public waters, unless a parking lot is provided for public access. This is simply nonsense. We are talking public land to access public waters.

The second bill deserving our opposition is Senate Bill 5551 concerning the disbursement of salmon recovery project funds. The critical language in this bill states: "The board may not award funds, including grants or loans, for any project or activity of the project sponsor has, within ten calendar years prior to the date of the grant application, brought any legal action before

any court or administrative tribunal against the state relating to hatchery facility operations." That verbiage, if accepted, would prohibit funding to many of the conservation organizations that have filed suit against WDFW for outplanting of Chambers Creek Steelhead, the 4(d) take of native fish caused by hatchery operations and many other deleterious effects of hatchery operations.

Undoubtedly, additional bills will be forthcoming. As we learn more, we will keep you informed.

On an entirely separate topic:

### 100 Year Anniversary of Rattlesnake Lk!

*The below information was sourced from Issue 18 of the Cedar River Watershed Newsletter, which can be accessed at:*

<http://www.seattle.gov/util/CedarriverwatershedNews/>

Join us for a tour to celebrate the anniversary of the formation of Rattlesnake Lake. We will explore the Rattlesnake Lake shore by foot and the Masonry Dam by van. Learn how the thirst for power changed the landscape and the people that once called this place home.

Event takes place April 4 & 5, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ages 10 and up

Tour is FREE. [Registration](#) required. Space is limited



Rattlesnake Lake

Have you walked along the shores and looked at the strange shapes of the stumps and wondered "What happened here?" For thousands of years, Native Americans camped beside the wet Rattlesnake Prairie. They tended, weeded, and burned shrubs and trees to nurture a healthy crop of edible camas bulbs. Early settlers called camas "rattlesnake grass" for its dry seedpods, which rattle in the wind

In the early 1900s, settlers came to the area and logged the massive trees around the prairie. By 1907 the [Milwaukee Railroad](#) ran along the prairie's edge and rail workers spurred the growth of the town of Moncton, which boasted 150 new buildings including a school, store, churches, and a motel. The quiet summer prairie and rainy-season lake were now part of a thriving town along a busy rail line.

However, a transformation was about to overtake the prairie, new town, and railroad. A few miles away, Seattle's Cedar Falls [power plant](#) was undergoing improvements. In the fall of 1914, City engineers began to raise the water behind the new Masonry Dam, two miles and 600 feet above the town. Seepage through the north bank of the Masonry Pool, the new reservoir, was an immediate problem. In the spring of 1915, Rainy Season Lake water levels rose to the point of flooding the town and threatening the railroad. In the months that followed, many residents were forced to move away until the town was completely abandoned.

Wildlife and humans were drawn to the newly formed Rattlesnake Lake for fishing and recreation, but the settlements and railroads disappeared. Few buildings remained by the late 1940s and then the last train passed through in 1986. Much has changed over last 100 years, but Rattlesnake Ledge still stands sentinel, and people and water still gather below.



## Project Healing Waters

### Project Healing Waters Washington Fly Fishing Club WFFC Foundation 2014 Wrap Up

By Jim Roberts, Program Lead



The members of Washington Fly Fishing Club became a part of *PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING* in July 2008. WFFC President **Bill Kuper** signed a Memorandum of Agreement. We have been active with the **PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM** which serves both the Seattle Hospital and the American Lake Facility. We have fly tying classes every Tuesday 1000-1200 at the Seattle VA hospital and at American Lake facility every Thursday 1445-1615. We have 12 full time volunteers who are club members and four club members who work as needed. We also have two non-members who work only at American Lake.



Bill's Fishing Hole in Orting

Every year we have seven outings at **Bill's Fishin' Hole** in Orting, a private facility. The outings are monthly April-October. This facility very nicely accommodates our wheelchair veterans who are driven by their Recreational Therapist from Seattle. The outing at Bill's start at 10:00am and last until 3pm or until everyone has landed a fish. There are three ponds available and a large grassy area which we use for casting instruction. One pond we use for casting practice and to get the feel of a fish (we use rubber leg flies with no hook point). One pond has trophy fish over 6 pounds. The one pond we use most has fish from 1 ½ pounds to 5 pounds or more! Photos of all the fun are taken then the fish are cleaned and taken to be smoked. After they are smoked they are taken back to the facilities for everyone to enjoy! During these outings the veterans landed 92 fish over 2 pounds and three over 6 pounds and 3 over 9 pounds! All this was covered by the WFFC Foundation.

We also have other outings. We go to **POOH'S POND** in May.

It is about 15 miles west of Port Angeles. It is also a private (by invitation only) set of two large ponds. This outing is sponsored by the fly fishing club in the Port Angeles area. This is all catch and release; however, they provide a very nice lunch.



"Coach" Chuck Ballard mentors some finer points of fishing

This past July we had another by invitation chance to fish at **LORD'S LAKE** near Monroe. This is also catch and release at the home of a police officer.

The big outing is the NW 2-Fly on the Yakima. This is a combined outing for all PHW groups in the northwest. This outing is held on the third weekend in September at the KOA campground in Ellensburg. This is again all catch and release fishing. We had 24 boats with one veteran one rower (boat owner) and one volunteer. With all the support volunteers there were more than 100 people involved.



One Satisfied Veteran!

So how much effort does this take from our members?

- This year we volunteered 1113 hours
- We were at the Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show for 2 days in February
- We gave 100 fly tying classes
- We helped 19 veterans at Seattle VA (2 of them built rods)
- We helped 174 veterans at American Lake

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(Continued from page 8) - Healing Waters

So if you want to come out and play with us, just contact me I am in the roster!

Jim McRoberts, Program Lead

## Throat\* (Stomach) Pumps

### Stomach Pumps and the Culture of Convenience

By Robert "The Bug Guy" Younghanz  
Trout Magazine. From John Callahan



For some reason unbeknownst to me, I received an overwhelming amount of feedback to my last article in which I mentioned the use of stomach pumps. With this in mind, I thought it would be a beneficial to address the topic in a bit more detail.

I would never deny the examining gut content of trout through the use of a stomach pump can yield some insight into what the trout are keying on. The question is whether pumps should be used regardless of the information they help us extract (pun intended) and whether or not there are better options available to us and, more importantly, for the trout. There must be a better way than to shove a turkey baster down a trout's throat, and sucking out all its hard earned food just so we can match up our flies to what its consumed for dinner the night before. Sadly, the "culture of convenience" that permeates all of society has inevitably extended its tentacles in the world of fly fishing in countless ways; my goodness, how many more variations on vests, waist packs, chest packs, sling packs and lanyards do we need?

While using a stomach pump is more certainly a better option than killing the trout and cutting open its stomach to have a peek inside, I would argue not by much. And I still consider it cheating.

Yes, I often hear, "If it is done right, it is not harmful to the fish." This is simply not true. For every step we add that keeps a trout from being returned to the water as quickly and with much urgency as possible, the more trout we kill. End of discussion. It's really a no-brainer; simple intuition tells us that removing the food from a trout's belly is a bad thing and it is completely unnecessary for a successful day out on the water. Furthermore, even if performing this horribly invasive procedure did not raise the mortality rate in trout brought to hand, I say, who cares? I've no doubt that my gastroenterologist has been trained in how to properly and efficiently perform a colonoscopy on me, but it still sucks and unfortunately, must be done. There are no other options.

Here's the good news, ITS ALL RIGHT THERE....in front of you, behind you, above you and under your feet. The first rule of fly fishing is to be an observer; take the time and become one.

**Notes:** John Callahan doesn't like them, neither does your editor. \*Brian Chan always carefully refers them as 'throat pumps', I suspect for good reason. I'm guessing he's seen some severe abuses of this tool. ~ Ed.

## WFFC Website Primer

### Personal E-mail Available on the WFFC Website

Did you know that an internal e-mail exists on the WFFC website? Your editor found this out when our president told me he had forward an e-mail to me but I never received it on my on-line e-mail account. Upon inquiring further I found out it was forwarded to my internal WFFC e-mail box.

I didn't know this existed.

How do you check? Log on to your WFFC member menu. Look up in the left hand corner. I found I had e-mail's from back in 2013!

Check it out. You may have some e-mails awaiting.

"The trout do not rise in the cemetery, so you better do your fishing while you are still able."

- Sparse Grey Hackle



Swimming Cougar, Lac La Hache B.C.

# Upcoming March Program

## IT'S MOVIE NIGHT AT THE WFEC!

We've recently discovered an opportunity we couldn't pass up. A superb salmon conservation documentary called the "Breach" has been made by Mark Titus, a local film maker, who has agreed to come to our March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and screen this blockbuster for us. Four years in the making, this film, which has not been released to the public, will knock your socks off. Because we're expecting as many as 150 attendees, this will be a pre-paid dinner function (At our standard club rate of \$29 for both dinner and movie), like our recent 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party and the Christmas party, so sign in on the website early with as many guests as you want and don't get left out! We will not be able to accommodate movie only reservations.



"The Breach" is a product of Seattle writer/director Mark Titus's personal journey with the ancient and mythical wild salmon as well as a call to action for all who, as stewards of the wild, care about sustainable natural resources. Combining stunning wilderness photography and graphics with insightful dialogue from outspoken advocates Alexandra Morton of Canada, Billy Frank Jr, first head of the EPA Bill Ruchelshaus, Chef Tom Douglas, author David James Duncan (The River Why), actor Tom Skerritt, Kurt Beardslee from the Wild Fish Conservancy and others Mr. Titus paints a picture of the salmon's meteoric crash over the last 50 years, and occasional recent triumphs. Castigating destruction of habitat as evidenced by the destruction of the Tongass Forest, the 4 Snake River Dams, the 2 Elwha Dams, plus other perils such as Vancouver Island farmed salmon net pens, salmon hatcheries, and impending disasters such as the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, Mr. Titus will enthrall you with his storytelling and bring your passion for salmon to the boiling point.

Mr. Titus is the founder of August Island Pictures in Seattle, and spent his 20s as an Alaskan fishing guide while working on the craft of screenwriting. Since then he has written and directed brand films for clients like Amazon, T-Mobile, and Microsoft. He has produced 3 short documentaries which have screened at film festivals worldwide. He directed the short documentary, "Fins" in 2003 as part of the Seattle International Film Festival's Fly Filmmaking Program. "The Breach" is Mr. Titus's first feature documentary, taking 4 years to make, and won Best International Documentary in its first film festival—the 2014 Galway Film Fleadh. The "Breach" was just selected as one of the "Best of Fest" films at its North America Premiere at the 2015 Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival in January. The film runs 82 minutes.

***Bob Burdick, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for programs***





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here

**February, 2015**

**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:**

***Kelly Glissmeyer***  
**Spring Creek Strategies**  
**A New Take On Fishing Technical Waters**