

Creel Notes from the



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



LIV No. 3

March, 2003

Conservation Lobby Day 2003 *By Jim McRoberts*

On February 20th the conservation/environmental organizations held a lobby day in Olympia. There were over 250 people from all over the state in attendance. We had meetings with the legislators from the districts in which we live. Almost all of the legislators in the Puget Sound Basin were personally contacted and they were presented with a package containing the following:

Dear Governor Locke/Legislator:

Participants of Citizens Lobby Day thank you for the work you have done to protect and restore the land, air and water of Washington State. The following bills and issues are high priorities of the environmental community and we ask for your support.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, which is especially hazardous to pregnant women and children. **SHB 1002 & SB 5124** are common-sense bills that focus on pollution prevention. They phase out the use of mercury in products where readily available alternatives exist.

Environmental De-Regulation

The environmental community supports measures that will streamline regulatory processes provided that they do not undermine protection of our air, water, and other natural resources. Below are only a few examples of bills we urge you to oppose.

SB 5255 would prevent the Department of Ecology from implementing its water pollution and other programs clearly needed to protect human health and the environment.

SB 5655 would prohibit the state from setting standards, which exceed federal minimum standards.

Budget

Every two years, three separate budgets, transportation, operating (General Fund), and capital (note: Funding is by 1. *General Obligation bonds*, 2. *Trust revenues* and 3. *Other dedicated fees and taxes*) are developed by Washington State to prioritize public investment.

- Specific proposals we are supporting include:
- ❖ Adequate fees for users of public agency resources (i.e., water permit applicants only pay \$10 --a small percentage of the cost for state agencies to properly process the permits)
 - ❖ Elimination of environmentally harmful tax credits like that for wholesale fuel distributors who get a \$3 million tax credit for losses of fuel
 - ❖ Limit the \$103 million sales tax exemption on fertilizer and chemical sprays for commercial agriculture
 - ❖ Support the \$55 million capital budget request for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.
 - ❖ Support the \$50 million capital budget request for the Trust Land Transfer Program.

Information on legislative activity is available at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>. March 19th is the last day for the senate or house to consider their own bills.

Please feel free to contact me about these and other legislative matters. jim4fish@comcast.net.

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Creel Notes

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Leland Miyawaki...Co-editor
206-264-0609 miyawaki@iswnet.com

Preston Simletary...Co-editor
206-524-3151 psinglet@gte.net

Bob Young...Publisher
206-782-7544 fishbum@seanet.com



WASHINGTON FLY FISHING CLUB

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Dick VanDemark 1934 - 2003

Dick VanDemark of Bellingham died on Monday, February 24, 2003 from complications following heart surgery. He was 69 years old. Dick grew up on a farm in Ferndale and attended Western Washington University. He served in the army, worked at Boeing in Seattle and retired from the physical plant of Western Washington University.

Dick had a deep and uncompromising love of the outdoors. He was concerned for the welfare of the earth and worked to maintain the environment for future generations. He was a long-time member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and a founding member of the Fourth Corner Flyfishing Club in Bellingham. He spent many days casting flies on bright waters whether the fish were to be found or not. He is the author of "Steelhead Fly Fishing in Low Waters". In retirement Dick took up painting with the same verve and artistic ability that he brought to his flyfishing. As a result he had several exhibits at local art galleries. Dick was known to spend all hours viewing the night sky with his telescope.

He is survived by Diane, his wife of 44 years; a daughter, Jennifer, and a much-loved granddaughter, Laurel.

Memorial services will be held at a future date to be announced. Donations in Dick's memory may be made to the Whatcom Land Trust, 100 Central AV, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Ken Jarvis Estate Sale at March meeting

Join us for a Ken Jarvis Estate "fishing gear" sale at this month's meeting. There will be a large selection of rods, reels, flies, fly boxes, hooks, and tools and including some collectable flies, some of which are framed. Joyce has already donated Ken's library to the club, so let's help with a good showing of support for some great values!

Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

Club News

Creel Notes—Digital or Paper? *By Bill Kuper*

We still have many members who haven't responded about their preference for receiving the Creel Notes. If you would like to receive them electronically in a PDF file, please let us know. It will save the club a few bucks a year, save a few trees, and you'll get them faster! E-mail your preference to Bill Kuper at billk@digitalfarm.com. Even if you'd still like to get them via regular mail, please let Bill know.

Proposed By-law Change 4/10/03

The Board of Directors has approved a motion to amend a section of the club by-laws.

By-laws section 3.B currently states: *“Each applicant for active and associate membership must have two (2) sponsors, each of whom must have been an active member for two (2) years or more. A member is limited to one (1) fulfilled sponsorship of proposed active member per calendar year.”*

The proposed revision is to allow for members to sponsor two(2) proposed members instead of only (1) as the By-laws currently allow. Therefore, it is proposed that section 3.B of the by-laws be revised as follows: (proposed revision in bold for emphasis)

*“Each applicant for active and associate membership must have two (2) sponsors, each of whom must have been an active member for two (2) years or more. A member is limited to **two (2)** fulfilled sponsorship of proposed active member per calendar year.”*

This proposed By-laws amendment will be voted on at the April, 2003 general membership meeting.

Video Projector and Speaker system

By Bill Kuper

This months Board of Directors agenda will include voting on whether to spend \$1800 to acquire a video projector and speaker system for club use.

Over the past year, we've used a projector and speaker system many times for various events. Many members have assumed that that equipment belongs to the College Club, but in fact, it is personally owned by a club member who has been donating its use and bringing it from his office every time the club needed it.

The new equipment would be used to support guest speakers' presentations, Holiday Party and other special club presentations, fly-tying classes, and other club needs.

The projector we would like to purchase is an In-Focus X1. It utilizes state-of-the-art projector technology, and is capable of displaying both computer and video inputs. The price is approximately \$1500, which is about \$1000 less than similar projectors a year ago.

We would also like to purchase a portable powered speaker system - the Cambridge Sound Works Model 12 portable system with sub-woofer.

New members to be inducted *By Bill Kuper*

Our two newest members, John Gravendyk and Steve Sunich, will be inducted at the March meeting. We look forward to Steve and John's contributions to the club!

Fly Tying Round Table *By Dick Brenning*

The February round table was well attended and one of the highlights of the meeting was the attendance by 3 young men from Garfield High School. Although I wasn't able to attend the meeting, several of the members that did commented on the enthusiasm and tying skill shown by these young men. The results of this Dragons and Damsel fly tying session (including some tied by the 3 visitors) will be on display at the March dinner meeting.

At the March Round Table the subject of interest will be "spinning of deer hair". If you have questions such as: how do you do it, why doesn't the deer hair I have work or you just don't believe it really can be done,

you should plan now to attend. If you know how to do it, have a favorite pattern using spun deer hair and are willing to teach others please come and show us how!!!

You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas. If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

March Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 7 to 9 PM , at the Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and SE 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

Outing Schedule *By Dave Schorsch*

March

Several club members have been going to the Columbia basin lakes in March for years. It's kind of an unofficial club outing, run loosely and free form. Generally involves hike in fishing, cold/sunny weather, hotel rooms, beer, and pizza.

April

The opening day question. Got a lot of mixed and noncommittal responses last year. So didn't hold an official club outing. Several members went to Dry Falls on the opener and plan to return. Do we want to restore the traditional opening day festivities of the past or continue as an unofficial outing? Tell me what you want.

May 24-26

The first official club outing! As always, Lake Chopaka on Memorial Day weekend, May 24,25,26. Always a great turn out and always some fish around to outsmart. Mayfly hatches in the afternoon, chironomids all day, and sometimes great damsel migrations depending on the weather. Let us not forget the reel screaming slams in the dark on big black leeches! Enjoy a potluck dinner and lots of fun in beautiful surroundings with *very* changeable weather. This is a "rustic" camp area that requires you to be somewhat self-contained. Bring your own water, as the well there may not be trusted. I will be looking for helpful volunteers to haul material and club equipment over and back. I will also need helpers for tempura and breakfast events.

The month of May could also hold a work party at Griffin Creek for the conservation committee. We haven't gotten a date from the county stream rehab folks that are our partners on this project yet. This is one of the most important and visible things the WFFC has done in years, and deserves status as a club outing. Date to be determined.

June

There was some discussion at the board meeting about re-establishing the annual "Fish-in" with other clubs in British Columbia. The tradition was to have several clubs meet and fish on one lake together. Peterhope Lake was a popular spot both because of its size, and the mid-late June Traveling Sedge hatches. The Totem Flyfishers are friends of

ours and could probably teach us a few things. Sounds like a great time. I may need some help networking this outing, but I'll do it if there's interest. Timing of this outing would be set by advice of local "experts" from the area clubs. Anybody have any good contacts/information for me?

July

The month for the "High Lakes Trip" organized by gnarly heroes like Pete Baird and Fran Wood. As of the February board meeting the dates and destination are to be determined. There was some discussion of the Enchantments chain as a destination. Stay tuned.

August

The annual club family picnic. Location and date to be determined. Also possible Griffin creek work party.

September 9

The annual "New Members Outing" will be Sept. 9. While we don't *have* to fish saltwater, it's a humpy year and there should be thousands of them at Kayak Point Park again. It's a great time to get a new member into loads of big bright fish, close to home. The 2001 outing at Kayak was relatively lightly attended, but every body got into fish and the reports at the next club meeting were great. The club provides lunch, so there's no excuse not to come down and meet and *fish* with the new members. That's really the point of this outing. I will be contacting all of the new members and their sponsors from the last two years personally. All club members are invited to participate and share their knowledge, or glean some. See you there.

November 8-9

The always great "Wet Buns" outing. Held at Joemma Beach State Park on the Longbranch Peninsula. Super food, a great fire, great company, and occasionally good fishing. Rain or Shine. The Outing chair promises to show up sooner with the canopy this year. The Queen and her "probe" will also attend. *Do not* miss the bouillabaisse! (did I spell that right?) See you there!

(Cont. next page)

(Outings cont.)

Please feel free to suggest other outings. Offers of help with logistics are always gladly accepted. More information will be made available each month as dates and volunteers become available.

Music and entertainment

Musicians are encouraged to bring their talents, large and small, to all outings! Don't be shy! There's safety in numbers! Bring your musical friends. Maybe they'll take up fishing if the food's good and the beer cooler's full.

See you at the outings! Fish! Fish! Fish!

Dave Schorsch 206-227-6134 avidschorsch@aol.com

WFFC High Lakes Outing *By Ron Dion*

On Thursday, March 6, we received confirmation from the Leavenworth Ranger District on receiving our permit for this summer's hike into the Enchantment Lakes. The starting date is **Thursday, July 31, 2003** with a trip ending date of **Aug. 05, 2003**. Our permit is for entering and exiting the wilderness via the Snow Lakes trail. This was the only option available since starting July 15 the Forest Service will be replacing the bridge over the Icicle River that leads to the Colchuck trailhead. So we won't be climbing Aasgard Pass! Those 8 persons who paid their \$18.00 for the permit can now mark your calendars. Any questions - contact Pete Baird (206-232-7682) or Ron Dion (425-485-0363).



(Cont. from below right)

During the next ten years, we fished that stretch of river many times, sometimes together, sometime by ourselves, and sometimes with our sons. We often saw deer and elk, and once, I encountered a large black bear who studied me from fifty feet away before gracefully turning and ambling off through the salal across the river. My son caught his first steelhead there one summer morning when he was ten years old.

All this was made possible by my friend and fishing partner for forty years. The above true story is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Bruce Greene.

A Report from the Good Old Days (Now It Can Be Told *By Bruce Clingan*)

It was still dark. The campground was quiet except for the gentle murmur of the river in the background. We crawled out of our sleeping bags and had a quick breakfast of cold cereal and milk with sliced peaches. Then we climbed into our vehicle and drove across the Graves Creek bridge, following the dirt road up the hill to the trail head in the dark. The first hint of the dawn's light was beginning to filter through the tall evergreens of the rain forest as we started our hike. The trail led us to the Pony Bridge and beyond into the enchanted valley above the canyon. The distinctive one note call of the Varying Thrush echoed through the forest as we walked along the trail. By the time we reached the first drift above the canyon dawn had broken, revealing a clear and cloudless sky. The water was blue in color but clear enough for good steelhead fishing. We had the place to ourselves. Everything was perfect. Our fingers trembled with excitement as we rigged our gear and began to fish.

Bruce Greene was our guide. He had discovered this beautiful, wild place the week before and had taken a bright ten pound summer run steelhead. Always a generous soul, he was now sharing his precious secret with two of his friends, Frank Bond from eastern Washington, and myself, his frequent steelhead fishing partner.

Frank had never fished for steelhead before; but he hooked the first fish, a four pound Dolly Varden. He very much wanted to keep it, but Bruce talked him into releasing it. He gently persuaded his friend that he wouldn't want the Dolly as part of his limit after he had seen his first summer steelhead.

Frank didn't have long to wait. Before that magical morning was over we each landed at least one beautiful, chrome bright summer steelhead. We hiked out with heavy packs and joy and thanksgiving in our hearts, and resolved to keep the secret of the enchanting valley. That was almost thirty-eight years ago, before the need to release wild fish became apparent.

(Cont. at left)



Editor's notes

The Power of Email!

On Friday, Feb. 14, 2003, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks denied a request from ESPN to grant a waiver to allow a fly-fishing contest to be held in Missoula-area rivers April 8-10. The contest required a waiver from the agency because Montana's fishing rules prohibit contests that impact wild trout. Most streams in the state contain only wild trout and are not stocked with hatchery fish.

In a letter to ESPN, FWP Director Jeff Hagener explained that the network's request was denied based on the agency's "responsibility to uphold the laws and rules governing fishing contests in Montana and the voluminous and thoughtful public comment."

ESPN and Barrett Productions then travelled next door to Idaho. The event will be held on the Henry's Fork near Twin Falls, April 8-10. Oh well.

Kennedy Creek Update

At a Feb. 10 meeting, the Washington Department of Natural Resources initiated the management planning process for the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve. Kevin Ryan reports that "no one appeared to be opposed to fishing per se but the trash generation was cited as a problem. The primary discussion was centered around maintaining access consistent with preserving the values of the estuary which is, after all, the point of the NAP (Natural Area Preserve) in the first place. The WDFW numbers indicate about 40-80 people utilize the site during the 6 week fishing period. The plan is as follows - Public scoping process - 2003, Ecological assessment - 2004, Completed mgmt. plan - 2005.

North of Falcon

Keith Robbins, Bob Young, John Thompson and I attended the North of Falcon meeting in Olympia this past March 3 where we were given the 2003 salmon forecasts. Keith is a veteran of these salmon wars and knows the players well. The three of us were there to listen, get the lay of the land and give a show of numbers in support of Keith. Keith has been working, virtually alone, for a statewide, fresh and saltwater, catch and release day (to promote the concept of C&R to the masses) as well as a catch and release salmon season in Area 9. The next meeting will be March 20 in Olympia again where the real work (and fights) will happen. Stay tuned or join in.

WDFW Salmon Policy Coordinator Pat Pattillo said salmon numbers in general look good and indicate 2003 will be another good year of salmon-fishing opportunities in both ocean and inside fisheries, within the harvest constraints for chinook and chum salmon from the Columbia River and Puget sound regions as required by the Endangered Species Act.

The following alert has been sent us by Methow Valley Fly Fishers:

THE METHOW VALLEY'S BIG AND LITTLE TWIN LAKES ARE IN TROUBLE - YOU CAN HELP SAVE THIS PREMIER SELECTIVE FISHERY

History: In 1999, the Wolf Creek Reclamation District's leaky, earthen canal was piped to enact enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. As a result, since then, the Twin Lakes aquifer and the Twin Lakes have dropped 11 feet. If nothing is done NOW, the lake and aquifer levels will continue to drop by at least another 8 feet, to pre-1920's levels. Little Twin will become a marsh.

Current Impacts:

- Twin Lakes, a nationally registered wetland has been severely compromised, effecting fish, bird and wildlife habitat.
- Domestic wells are going dry. Water quality is deteriorating. Real estate values and tax revenues are declining
- Selective gear recreational fishery is in jeopardy, impacting tourism, lodging, campground, local economy.
- Summer 2002, Little Twin had a thermal/oxygen fish kill.
- Barnsley Lake is dry. It has lost its turtle populations. Deer and waterfowl habitat is gone.

Actions:

In May 2002, the Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition (TLAC) was formed. TLAC received grant money from Department of Ecology to assess the problem. TLAC has substantiated the following recommendations to the State Legislature for funding to create a five-year project.

Steps:

- Drill a well on the Methow River and pipe to Big Twin Lake on the north end of the campground. This requires an emergency water right, to be used during high water. This water right request has to be serviced first, above all others, because of the enforcement actions by agencies and the choices made by Wolf Creek Reclamation District to pipe the ditch and the cumulative impacts on the environment and water availability.
- An interruptible diversion from Thompson Creek to be used during off-season.
- Water would be piped into an infiltration point near Big Twin. Emergency water right will be needed.

Bottom Line:

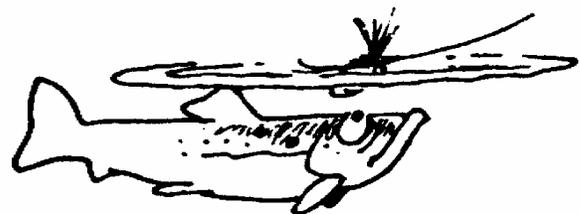
We are asking the State legislature to fund a budget estimated at \$675,000 over five years.

It's a lot of money and a lot of time---and we believe worth it.

We hope you think so too. Act Now--- help get Twin Lakes full again.

For info: contact Dick Ewing, TLAC chairman at 509-996-2098 or at fawn@mymethow.com, or Ben Dennis, TLAC Board member, president Methow Valley Fly Fishers 509-996-2784 / flyrodbranch@mymethow.com.

Write your legislators and State agencies---tell them how important Twin Lakes is to all of us.





Fly Fishing Show Success! *By Bill Kuper*

"A hearty Thank You to all that manned our table at the recent Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue. By all accounts, the show was a huge success, with better-than-expected turnout. For us, it was a great success as well, as we gave out over 200 brochures, and got over 70 folks signed up to receive more information about the club. Great job everyone!"

FOR SALE:

2-piece, 12wt, St. Croix, Avid, fly rod outfit; Redington AL 11/12 reel. 220 yds 30lb backing; .031 running line, three shooting heads, flies, hooks, and assorted leader material and accessories; \$450.00 total. (Rod, Reel, and Lines may be rented) Contact Dick Thompson or Gil Nyerges.

SOZINHO SWEEPS SAGE SLINGERS AT SHOW!

Ed Sozinho took home a brand new Sage 9' 6wt XP by taking First Place in the Sage Casting Competition at the recent Fly Fishing Show held at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

In the Saturday qualifier rounds, in which all competitors cast a Sage 9' 5wt SLT, Ed hit 2 of the 3 rings and cast the maximum 70 feet for a score of 90 points to qualify for the Sunday finals. Twelve semi-finalists were reduced to three on Sunday. The three finalists scored 90 points each for a three-way tie! In the next round, one finalist, who shall remain anonymous, was eliminated, while the other caster scored 93. In front of a standing room only crowd of over 100 people, Ed calmly made the 20' ring, missed the 35' ring and under tremendous pressure, calmly potted the 50 footer. After a few false casts, our man Ed shot a tight, little honey of a loop through the goal posts and beyond to the base of the fence. The crowd went beserk as Barry Beck called out the distance - 64 feet! Congratulations Ed!

Garage Sale! The Overlake Fly Fishing Club will be holding their 'garage sale' on Sunday, March 30th in the parking lot at Creekside Angling in Issaquah. The address is 1180 NW Gilman Blvd. Hours will be from 10am to 4pm.

Fishing by the Book

A Book Review by Michael Wearne

I was initially hesitant to report on The Founding Fish by John McPhee. This is the Washington Fly Fishing Club, and I was not sure how extensively fly fishing was discussed in this book. In fact, at one point the author admits that he is not a fly fisherman. My concern was, however, reduced when McPhee mentioned bringing his fly rod on one of his trips early in the book.

The Founding Fish is about shad. Everything you could possibly want to know about shad. The biology of shad, the ecology of shad, where to catch shad, and the involvement of shad in the Revolutionary War are all discussed in this book.

If you are not familiar with John McPhee, I would recommend picking up The John McPhee Reader. This anthology of his work will provide a glimpse into the range of topics he has covered.

The Founding Fish is similar to Looking for a Ship and The Survival of the Bark Canoe in that McPhee inserts himself into the narrative. This book, like so much of the author's work, gives the reader the sense of being on a roller coaster. The reader may well ask, "How did I get here?"

McPhee is prone to including extraneous facts which can give his narrative a "cluttered" nature. He seems to enjoy lists, no matter the subject. I would say this book is filled with facts. At the same time, it is not burdened with facts.

One chapter is devoted to the issue of dams on rivers and their impact on migrating fish, in this case, shad. McPhee visits Augusta, Maine and witnesses the breaching of the Edwards Dam. In another chapter, the author fishes for shad near Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. The book focuses primarily on the shad in the Delaware River system.

There are two interesting chapters which examine the Revolutionary War and shad; and the post revolutionary period and, again shad. There is a pattern to this book - everything shad. The last section even includes recipes for preparing shad.

The Founding Fish is not necessarily a fly fishing book; it is definitely a good read.



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

Stamp
here

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St.

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

This months program titled “Fly Fishing Steelhead on the Equinox” is by club member John Farrar. When winter turns to spring and summer turns to fall, Washington State steelhead turn off. John, a veteran fly fishing guide, shows us where and tells us how to catch them. Learn why steelhead trout reign as the Pacific Northwest’s premier game fish for sport fishing with the fly.