

# Creel Notes from the



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



March, 2005

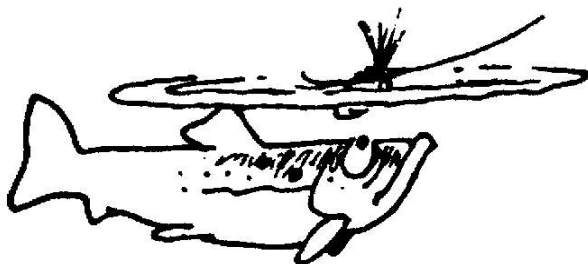
## President's Riffle *By Bob Birkner*

The last of the eight sessions of the Fly Tying Class was held on February 24th. It was interesting and rewarding to observe the students progress from beginner to accomplished tier, some better than others of course. The questionnaires completed by the students were positive, evidencing the quality of the curriculum put together by Don Simonson and the support and guidance of the WFFC teachers. Probably the most rewarding thing to me was the report by some of the students who said they had gone fishing and caught fish on the TDCs and Woolly Buggers they had learned to tie in the class. They were really excited. A couple of them had been steelheading and did well on the Snoqualmie. Such enthusiasm is great! Hopefully we'll see some of them at our regular meetings in the future.

On April 7th we start the Beginning Fly Casting class at Green Lake. Again I expect we will see many of the students progress from "pole" holders to accomplished casters who use a fly rod. The students' accomplishments are what make the classes really fun for the WFFC instructors. The people working with the Youth Program tell of similar rewarding experiences seeing the youth develop. It's great!

Recently **Gene Gudger** reported on the waflyfishers list server that he and his wife found Lake Lenice was cold but the fish were biting. Perhaps he will have a detailed report in this issue of the Creel Notes. Allen "Swede" Peterson reported great fishing and many fishermen on Amber Lake. The ice is off so it's time to think of hitting some of the eastern Washington lakes as kind of a tune up for our Dry Falls Lake outing in mid-April.

On the topic of fishing reports - many of you are equipped with digital cameras so if you take a photo of that nice fish please include it with your fishing report. Then all of us can enjoy your success!



### Inside.....

CELP Yakima River fund Raiser	2
WFFC Outing Schedule	2
"On the Fly" Meeting Report	3
Don't Spread Invasive Species	4
Club Badges and Apparel	4
Griffin Creek Signage	5
Board Activities	5
Classes	6
March Speaker	6
Boycott planned over wild steelhead	7

# Float and Fish the Yakima River with a guide AND support CELP On Friday, April 15

By Fran Wood.

Five guide services have agreed to participate in CELP's 3rd annual "Waters of Washington" Fly Fishing Adventure. These guides are donating their services to CELP (the Center for Environmental Law and Policy) and CELP's efforts to provide and sustain clean, flowing waters for Washington. Your payment of \$250 per angler, or \$450 for two goes directly and entirely to CELP. This, of course, will be added to yours, and the WFFC's ongoing strong support of CELP and its goals.

We will meet at Red's Fly Shop in the Yakima River canyon at 8 AM Friday April 15. Lunch, beverages, snacks, and shuttle services to and from Red's will be provided as well as professional guide service.

For an application form or more detailed information contact Sims Weymuller – the CELP Board member who organized this event at (206) 386-5566 or email, [sims@johnsonflora.com](mailto:sims@johnsonflora.com), Karen Allston – the Executive Director of CELP, (206) 223-8454 X15, [kallston@celp.org](mailto:kallston@celp.org), or me, **Fran Wood**, also a CELP Board member at (206) 323-2296, [fbwood@u.washington.edu](mailto:fbwood@u.washington.edu).

A few overnight cabins may be available at Red's, call (509) 929-1802. NOTE: This is the Friday leading into the WFFC Dry Falls Outing weekend. Consider coordinating your visits to the Yakima and Dry Falls.

---

## WFFC Outings Scheduled for 2005

April - 15-17	Dry Falls
May - 26-30	Chopaka Lake
July TBD	High Lakes Trip
Sept - 30-Oct 2	Dry Falls
Nov - 5-6	Wet Buns

I need volunteers to head each of these events. Please respond by e-mail or by phone 206-276-8134.

Thanks, **Mark DeWitt**

## Creel Notes

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

Leland Miyawaki...Co-editor  
206-264-0609 [miyawaki@iswnet.com](mailto:miyawaki@iswnet.com)  
Preston Singletary...Co-editor  
206-524-3151 [psinglet@gte.net](mailto:psinglet@gte.net)  
Bob Young...Publisher  
206-782-7544 [fishbum@seanet.com](mailto:fishbum@seanet.com)

### President

Bob Birkner [robirkner@spro.net](mailto:robirkner@spro.net)

### Co-1st Vice President

Ed Sozinho [sozinho@earthlink.net](mailto:sozinho@earthlink.net)

### Co-1st Vice President

Mike Wearne [micheal\\_wearne@msn.com](mailto:micheal_wearne@msn.com)

### 2nd Vice President

Jack Berryman [cohojack@hotmail.com](mailto:cohojack@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

John Gravendyk [john.gravendyke@boeing.com](mailto:john.gravendyke@boeing.com)

### Treasurer

Steve Sunich [qualitypacific@cs.com](mailto:qualitypacific@cs.com)

### Ghillie(s)

Don Schroder [donsch99@yahoo.com](mailto:donsch99@yahoo.com)

Doug Smith [dtennessee@msn.com](mailto:dtennessee@msn.com)

### Trustees

Jim Hanson '03      Dave Schorsch '03  
Hugh Clark '04      Paul Lingbloom '04  
Kris Kristoferson '05      John Schuitemaker '05

### 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.

## On the Fly *By David Ehrich*

General Meeting, February 15, 2005

Bob Birkner opened the meeting amidst lots of hungry tables longing for turkey and taters. Guests were introduced to the usual clatter of silverware and applause, peppered with wry asides. Kris Kristoferson introduced special guests, Sophie Egan, president of the Seattle Youth fly fishers and Ben Kusak. Both students attend Seattle's Garfield High School. Ben admitted he has yet to catch a fish, but sounded hopeful.

*Ben Kusak and Sophie Egan of Garfield High thanking the members for their support.*



Our table was informed that a "terrible mistake" was keeping our meals in the kitchen. Les asked, "how terrible?" and the waiter repeated "very terrible." Very terrible included a mix of grilled chicken, broiled steak, fried chicken and no turkey.

Fishing reports included a request by Les to keep the stories short. Stories of beautiful days and slack lines earned Doug Smith the skunk chapeau. Sadly, that didn't deter others from chiming in on seen fish that went un-caught.

The chair shared Oregon news regarding Norm Norlander's recent award, calling the Letcher Lambuth Award, "the most prestigious award in the region." The youth chair invited Sophie up to describe the impact of WFFC on the youth club and to thank the Club for donations of gear and instruction. Ben reported his new success in tying wooly buggers and casting weighted line.

Bob took a moment to remember

those who have passed. Ironically, he recalled a recent email from Gordy Young asking the club to remember Don Minden, a member active in the 50's and 60's. Sadly, Gordy passed away this last week. While we recalled his great service to the club, members acknowledged this wonderful gentleman with a moment of silence.

The treasurer's report, always a highlight, came next. The proposed conservation budget, described as our most significant contribution to the cause, was discussed and the \$7950 budget was put up for a vote of the membership and moved, seconded and passed without dissent. Steve Sunich offered the general budget to the membership who failed to ask any questions, and quickly passed the budget without dissent.

Membership chairs, Mike and Ed, reminded members to pay their dues and introduced the first of this year's new class of able-bodied men to the club, including yours truly, sponsored by Larry Karlovich and David Schorsch. Membership was almost rescinded by the chair when Larry was named sponsoring culprit.

*David Ehrich receives the club information package from Gil Nyerges.*



After the break Thomas P. Quinn from the UW School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences spoke on "The Behavior and Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout." We still have lots to learn. Tom's talk, the first of the year, was well received despite Tom's admission that he's not "much of an angler".

Dr. Quinn highlighted areas of salmon study where much is yet to be learned. For example, scientists have only a faint idea how adult salmon orient themselves to-

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

ward spawning grounds, somehow combining the ability to understand the calendar, work a compass and read a map. Predicting arrival in home river systems affects fishing (and over fishing) as fishery scientists are asked to set seasons based on partial information.

*Dr. Thomas Quinn enlightening and educating the membership*



Tom left members with much to consider in our mutual desire with conservationists to repair and preserve salmon runs. Questions from the audience indicated strong attention to Dr. Quinn's well-articulated ideas and challenges. *(Editor's note: Dr. Quinn's book was released on March 7th and should be on store shelves shortly.)*

Committee Reports: Conservation; Oregon F&G has taken a hard look at incidental Steelhead take in the lower Columbia and lowered the level to last year's numbers. Fruit and Flowers; Pete thanked members for attending Gordy's memorial service that he described as "a wonderful sharing of reminiscences." High Lakes Trip; Members and guests will meet at Pete's house to discuss the trip to the Wind River range from July 22 to August 1. Home Waters; Rocco reported that the committee is looking to find nearby waters to fit the current recommendation of acquiring a close-by stream with space to build a structure. Rocco appealed to those who might have location suggestions and/or wish to join the committee.

## ATTENTION ANGLERS AND RIVER USERS

Help prevent the spread of invasive species like New Zealand Mudsnaills, Whirling Disease etc.

- Do not transport fish or fish parts from one drainage to another. Disposing of one infected fish in a clear drainage provides enough spores to start a new infection.
- Rinse all mud and debris from waders, shoes and equipment.
- Completely dry all wading equipment before wading new water.
- Drain water from boats and rinse off all mud before leaving infected waters.

---

### Wooden Badges *By Don Schroder*

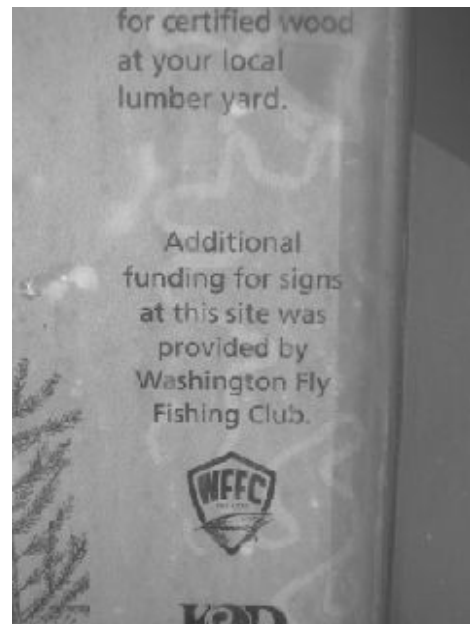
I am taking orders for the wooden badges that some of us are wearing. For those of you that are interested in purchasing one, I will have a sign up sheet at the Gillie's desk at the next meeting. The cost is \$10.

Bring those old cell phones that you no longer use to the next meeting. As you are aware, we are supporting the Northwest Women Flyfishers in their conservation effort. I will have the box at the front desk at your disposal.

In December '04, I purchased some new merchandise. We have more coats with the sizes up to 2XL. I also purchased some navy blue polo shirts and some new hats. The coats are \$45, hats \$12, and the shirts are \$22.

## Griffin Creek Interpretive Signs *By John Gravendyk*

I only live a few miles from Griffin Creek and after Don's surprising report at the board meeting I couldn't resist taking a peek. I shot these pic's this afternoon (Monday 2/14). The quality isn't so great but at least it gives an idea of what they've done. The signs are on the railroad jogging path just north of the trestle that spans Griffin Creek. Anyone reading these signs would be facing east and overlooking the meadow that we have been clearing of blackberries on our last couple of work outings. The WFFC didn't get a whole lot of mention (see enlargement of lower right corner of southern most sign below right) but the story the signs tell is pretty neat!



### Board Activities:

Senior Advisor **Andy Hall** and **Gil Nyerges** taking on new assignments.

Andy and Gil agreed on the following arrangement.

Andy will attend board meetings in a Senior Advisor capacity and Gil will assume the duties of initiating new members.

2005 president **Bob Birkner** wants to see some action. He has asked all committee chairmen to review their needs with new member interests and see if we can put some of the new members to good use.

Everyone has had 2 notices regarding the payment of dues. Next comes the phone call and a late fee.

## Beginning Fly Casting Class

Date: April 7, 2005

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Greenlake casting pier

Cost: \$35.00

Registration is required: To register call **Bob Birkner** 206-542-4623 or **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925

## Advanced Fly Casting Class (Sorry, it's full)

If we get enough interested members we will consider conducting these additional two classes.

## Rod Building Class or Two-Handed Casting Class

If you are interested in taking a rod building two-handed casting class please call **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925.

**Don Simonson**, Education Chair

## More on Scott Richmond, our March speaker.

This month's speaker, Scott Richmond, is a full-time outdoor writer living in West Linn, Oregon. He is the author of eight fishing books, including: Fishing Oregon's Deschutes River (two editions); Fishing in Oregon's Best Fly Waters; Fishing in Oregon's Endless Sea-son; Fishing in Oregon's Cascade Lakes; The Pocket Gillie; River Journal: Rogue River; River Journal: Crane Prairie

His books have won numerous kudos from critics and anglers, including "best book" awards from the Northwest Outdoor Writer's Association and the Northwest Association of Book Publishers. In addition to his books, Scott is a regular contributor to Northwest Flyfishing, and Flyfishing and Fly Tying Journal magazines.

In 1999, Scott Richmond started Westfly ([www.westfly.com](http://www.westfly.com)), which has grown into one of the most popular and respected fly fishing destination sites on the internet. While Westfly began as a for-profit website, it soon re-invented itself as a non-profit corporation that informs and educates western fly anglers, building a strong interactive community, and raising money for fish conservation projects.

---

(Continued from page 7)

Washington that have steelhead run sizes that approach anything close to their escapement goals, yet intense harvest fisheries have meant that Hoh River steelhead spawner escapements have missed the escapement goals in 7 of the last 13 years. Members of our organization and many other anglers are concerned that the Hoh River's intense harvest fisheries are unsustainable, and we have been voicing those concerns with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife since our organization's inception.

In Washington, steelhead are categorized as a game fish and *not* a food fish. Almost all of the wild steelhead populations in Washington have been classified as either *endangered* or *threatened* with extinction by the National Marine Fisheries Service. It is illegal for anyone except a treaty tribe to sell steelhead. Your purchase of wild steelhead has served to hasten the demise of this noble fish.

The Wild Steelhead Coalition believes that as an environmentally conscious northwest company, you will stop providing a market for wild steelhead and join us in our fight to preserve this precious natural resource. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you or other company representatives to share further information regarding the status of wild steelhead and will call next week to schedule a mutually agreeable time to meet. This is a win-win opportunity and we look forward to your partnership.

Thank you,  
Richard Simms  
President  
Wild Steelhead Coalition  
[www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com](http://www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com)

cc: Attila Szabo, Director of Operations for Washington, James Welch, Chairman  
Don Adams, VP Creative Development, David Johnson, VP Purchasing/Distribution.

## Restaurants Unlimited Boycott *By Leland Miyawaki*

A few weeks ago, it was announced on flyfishingforum.com, piscatorialpursuits.com, washingtonflyfishing.com, flyangersonline.com, and westfly.com that Cutters Bayhouse was serving "Hoh River Wild Steelhead" on their menu.

Concerned fisherfolk immediately rose to the occasion and a boycott, led in large part by WFFC possible member-elect, Ryan Petzold, began immediately.

To this date, dinner reservations have been cancelled, including a banquet hosted by a parent company headquartered in Quebec, Canada and hundreds of emails have been sent from all across the country to Restaurants Unlimited headquarters here in Seattle. Many people have vowed to never eat at an RUI restaurant again until they cease buying wild steelhead.

On March 3, Restaurants Unlimited responded by removing wild steelhead from their menu and are presently serving wild Alaskan halibut that has *coincidentally* come into season. But they have not yet agreed to NEVER serve wild steelhead again.

Restaurants Unlimited is a Seattle-based company that owns 40 restaurants across the U.S. They include: Clinkerdaggers - Spokane, WA, Horatio's - San Leandro, CA, Maggie's Bluff - Seattle, WA, Palamino - Seattle, WA / Charlotte, NC / Cincinnati, OH / Dallas, TX / Denver, CO / Honolulu, HI / Indianapolis, IN / Los Angeles, CA / Minneapolis, MN / Pittsburgh, PA / San Francisco, CA, Scott's Bar & Grill - Edmonds, WA, Skate's on the Bay - Berkeley, CA, Cutters Bayhouse - Seattle, WA, Kincaid's - Bloomington, MN / Burlingame, CA / Honolulu, HI / Norfolk, VA / Oakland, CA / Phoenix, AZ / Redondo Beach, CA / Redondo Beach, CA, Palisade - Seattle, WA, Ryan's Grill - Honolulu, HI, Simon & Seafort's - Anchorage, AK, Stanley & Seafort's - Tacoma, WA

Following is a copy of a letter sent to RUI on March 7 by The Wild Steelhead Coalition.

Mr. Steve Stoddard  
Chief Executive Officer  
Restaurants Unlimited Inc.  
1818 N. Northlake Way  
Seattle, WA 98103-9097

Dear Mr. Stoddard,

We are writing you to respectfully request that Restaurants Unlimited take and keep wild steelhead, especially "Hoh River Wild Steelhead", off of the menu now and in the future at Cutters Bayhouse and your other fine restaurants. The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) is an organization that is dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the rivers and waters of the Pacific Northwest. The WSC has been working to ban the intentional harvest of wild steelhead, a state symbol, since our inception in 2000, and selling them for food defeats these efforts.

We are also writing to you to provide some information regarding the plight of wild steelhead on the Hoh River especially, and offer to partner with you to help preserve this icon for the future.

For the past two years (2003 and 2004) Hoh River wild steelhead have not met state and tribal determined "spawner escapement goals" (the number of adult steelhead that escape fishers and actually have a chance to spawn). The primary cause for failing to meet the spawner escapement goal has been harvest - sport and tribal fishers have simply caught and killed more steelhead than warranted by recent steelhead returns. The Hoh River is one of only a handful of rivers in

*(Continued on page 6)*



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, "Ten Tips for Better Trout Fishing on the Deschutes, is by Scott Richmond"**

*"After 20+ years of fishing that river and two guide books about it, these are the ten tips that I think will result in the most trout and best experience for fly anglers who come to the Deschutes." For more on Scott and his program see page 6.*