

Creel Notes from the



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



March, 2007

President's Riffle

It's March and the sights and smells of spring are all around us. Not far behind pink cherry blossoms and yellow daffodils are trout beginning to move more aggressively to the fly and shaking off their winter lethargy. Some hearty souls have not allowed winter to dampen their fishing enthusiasm – steelheaders and salt fishermen have been plying the waters with dogged determination. Others have aimed their piscatorial sights on other locales, preferring to dip their lines outside our local waters to satisfy their avocation. I sampled the first familiar tug of the year landing a 16" rainbow that feasted on a skwalla nymph drifted just upstream of a large boulder on the Yakima River.

Meantime, your Board and Committees are in full swing with a flurry of activities:

- We have a great opportunity for you to experience a club outing this month with a one-day outing to Lone Lake on Whidbey Island on Saturday, March 24th. Let **Ron Dion** know if you're attending so he can plan food accordingly. Rumor has it the lake is fishing very well.
- The March dinner meeting program will feature our very own Andrew Bennett who will share with us the secrets of hunting bonefish on South Andros Island.
- The relocation committee has been reviewing sites for our club meetings. As you know the College Club building is slated for redevelopment and we have only until the end of this year and perhaps early next to find a new meeting venue. The search has revealed several possibilities. Making sure we balance our various criteria (cost, food, parking, storage, quality, bar, etc) are met has been the task of the committee. One thing is clear – the cost of dinner will almost cer-

tainly rise with our move.

- The education committee has casting classes for beginning and advanced students starting in April. Contact **Don Simonson** or **Bob Birkner** for details.
- Our Conservation Committee is always a center of activity. River Cleanup Week this year is scheduled for June 2nd to June 10th. The WFFC is planning a one-day outing to do our part. Location is probably on the Stillaguamish and probably the first weekend of June. Look for more details from the Conservation Committee soon.
- This is your last chance to get your membership dues to the Membership Chairman, **Pat Peterman**. Remember, if you have waited until March to pay, dues increase by \$10 to \$60 for regular members and \$45 for associate members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The College Club has requested that we no longer double park in their garage. Double parking has not been working, and has caused complaints from building tenants who are trapped behind cars. If

(Continued on page 2)

Inside.....

Casting Classes	2
Outings Schedule	3
Tiers Round Table	4
Sauce for Trout	5

(Continued from page 1)

members continue to double park they could be towed or the College Club will institute and collect parking fees on ALL who park in the garage. There are numerous low cost parking options in the vicinity. The Renaissance Hotel next door also has underground parking. There is usually free parking on-street to the East across the freeway. The weather is improving and the walk will do you good.

Tight lines,

John Schuitemaker

Beginning Fly Casting Class

Starts: April 5, 2007 Thursday evening at 6:30 PM

Location: Green Lake casting pier

Duration: Six weeks

Cost: \$40.00

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

Advanced Fly Casting Class:

The student **MUST** be able to cast tight narrow loops on both the forward and back casts and able to double haul as a qualification for enrollment.

Starts: Wednesday April 4, 2007

Location: Green Lake casting pier

Duration: Four weeks

Cost: \$50.00

Limit is 10 students.

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

Thanks, Don



This is an early reminder that the June Meeting will be offsite at the Palace Ballroom @ 2100 5th avenue at the corner of fifth and Lenora. Details will follow. Tom Douglas will be teaching us how to cook fish.

Creel Notes

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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 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.

2007 WFFC Outings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>
March 24	Lone Lake	Whidbey Island (1 day). WFFC hosted & invites the Whidbey Is. Fly Fishing Club. BBQ burgers, hot dogs, libations, etc. Paul Mesner to coordinate.
April 21-22	Dry Falls	<u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck dinner (Steaks & libations provided)
May 5-6	Big Twin Lake	Winthrop. <u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck dinner (Steaks & libations provided) Campground reservations recommended: 509-996-2650.
May 19	Yakima River	A 1 day outing floating the river.
May 26-28	Chopaka	(Libations, Tempura, Sun. breakfast provided) <u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck dinner. <u>Sun</u> : pancake breakfast, Tempura & Pot Luck dinner.
June 16	Rocky Ford Creek	<u>Fri</u> : Dinner at DelRed Tav/Soap Lake. <u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck in parking lot. (Libations provided) Bob Birkner to coord.
Aug. tbd	Scottish Lakes	Leavenworth, High Lakes. “ Pot Luck ” dinners. Steaks provided 1night. Wine provided.
Sept. 8-9	So. Whidbey St. Pk.	Coho fishing. <u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck dinner. (Steaks & libations provided)
Sept. 15-16	Big Twin Lake	<u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck dinner (Steaks & libations provided)
Sept. 22-23 or 29-30	Hood Canal	Camping at Scenic Beach S.P. Boat launch at Misery Pt. Evening “social” at Jay Deeds beach. (Libations provided)
October 6-7	Dry Falls	<u>Sat</u> : BBQ Pot Luck dinner (Steaks & libations provided)
October 5-14	Grande Ronde	(Steaks & libations provided) Bill Redman & Jim McRoberts to coord.
October tbd	Methow River	Steelhead fishing. Pending WDFW opening. Chuck Ballard to coord.
November 3-4	Wet Buns	Penrose State Park. <u>Pot Luck</u> dinner (Bouillabaisse & libations provided)

Other possibilities:

Prices Lake Near Lake Cushman State Park
 Lenice, Bobby, Mary Pass Lake

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

High Lake Trip In addition to Scottish Lakes

Rufus Woods Reservoir Behind Chief Joseph dam.
Bob Birkner has the scoop!

Squalicum Lake Mt. Baker Hwy. 3/8 mile hike-in. Mainly cutthroat.

Contact **Ron Dion** if you have a recommendation on one of these possibilities, or if you would like to have a WFFC outing at a location of your choice.

The Outdoor committee includes:

Tarp, Grill, big pot & ladle

Ice Chests/libations

Chopaka

Tempura

Breakfast

Firewood

Whidbey Is. Liaison

Wet Buns

Jim McRoberts

Dick Brening & Mark Pratt

Scott Hagen, Mark Pratt, Jim McRoberts

Dick Brening & Chuck Ballard

Paul Lingbloom

Paul Mesner

Chuck Ballard & Hugh Clark

Anyone planning to participate in the festivities at any outing needs to either sign the sign-up sheet at a WFFC meeting or contact **Ron Dion** and let him know of your intentions.

WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table *By Dick Brening*

The next round table will be on the 2nd Wednesday, April 11th, 7 to 9 PM.

Ron Dion, our WFFC Outdoor Chairman has planned a full calendar of outings for 2007. We can use our April Round Table sessions to share some fly patterns that you may be wanting to try this year at one of those outings. **Dick Burdick** has been tying a sculpin pattern that he is willing to demonstrate and has said he would do it in April. Come prepared to show us your special fly pattern.

Place: 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.

If you have any questions on directions contact **Pete Baird** or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

Members might be interested to know that member **Greg Hicks**, a respected professor at the UW Law School, has been named Interim Dean of the Law School. Greg also serves on the Board of the Nature Conservancy. Congratulations on this significant achievement. (This tidbit was passed on to us by **Don Gulliford** 206-232-0183)

WANTED: Small boat (big Gregor 12 ft.) trailer. **Don Gulliford** 206-232-0183

Sauce for Trout

The proper sauce for trout, of course - the one requisite sauce - never appears on the platter. It is finely and inimitably blended of the wind in the cedars, the ceaseless gurgle and gossip of the stream, the odor of clover, perhaps - or of wet leather - the chill of a forest twilight, and a pervasive, healthful weariness that is itself a blessing.

We were four on upper Drift Creek when last I tasted trout that were cooked as I would have them. And Herman, the reformed barber who now practices real estate, reddened his round countenance above the battered frying pan. Of food other than trout there was little. A mere hand full of coffee for the blackened lard pail. A fragment or so of stale bread. And if you looked away across the ranges, the tumbled, waiting hills, across forest and canyon and creek and river, you might perceive the general direction of the nearest grocery store, but naught else. However, there was bacon in thick strips - and he complains of the fare while bacon is yet in the pack and trout are in the creel or creek, would grumble at the hostelries of heaven. And night came on with vast and velvet strides. A star burned over the clearing. Herman's face was ruddy as a smith's the while he turned the

fish and tended the coffee. Into the night, wandering off to perplex some distant, moody predator, to disturb the bear, perhaps, and fill him with a vain unrest, went the unified fragrance of cutthroat trout and smoking bacon grease. Thus presently we fell to, and afterward knew a deep content, and spread our blankets and smoked, speaking only as the spirit moved.

From *A Leaf From French Eddy* by Ben Hur Lampman



More on our March speaker:

Andrew Bennett was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and grew up with a love for the outdoors. Following a stint with Onyx Software, a small enterprise software company formerly based in Bellevue, Andrew decided to build a small business focused on a product he loves, and started Deneki Outdoors in late 2003. Deneki Outdoors owns and operates fly fishing lodges on the Kanektok River in Southwest Alaska, and on South Andros Island in the Bahamas. Andrew lives in Seattle with his wife and one-year-old daughter, and spends a lot of time in airports.

WFFC Members, -- Betty Thompson has fought the infirmities of life for many years, but on March 7 at age 80 the struggle ended. Many of you long time members have many fond memories of both R.B. the Fish Doctor, and originator of the TDC, and his good wife Betty since 1982. They've shared many a campfire and contributed to lively conversation and antics at Dry Falls and Chopaka, along with numerous other fishing destinations over the years.

A memorial service and celebration of Betty's life will be held on Sunday, March 18 at the Ellensburg Inn located at 1700 Canyon Road, in the Great Northern room at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Betty's honor to the American Cancer Society. -- I'm sure that a ride pool or two in attendance would be greatly appreciated by the family. -- More complete detail may be found in the obituary that appeared in Sunday's Seattle P.I. paper. -- Pete Baird, Fruit & Flowers --



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

March, 2007

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 month: Bonefishing on South Andros Island

The slideshow will focus on bonefishing on South Andros Island, and will include background information on the island and bonefishing in general. We'll discuss different techniques involved in bonefishing and how they're applied to the four different elements of the fishery on South Andros—tidal creeks, hard-bottom flats, West Side flats and inland flats. More on Andrew on page 5.