

Creel Notes from the



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



March, 2009



President's Riffle

Hello all!

We are into the third month of our seventieth year as a club. What was it like around here when those few fishermen gathered around a table about this time of year in

1939? There had not been much upbeat financial news for about a decade...unemployment had been running at twenty percent or higher in many places for much of that time. The uptick in gross domestic product that would put people back to work was still a couple of years off. Yet they decided to get together and see if they couldn't make a contribution to their sport and to each other and they did. What a bunch! They knew that things would be looking up pretty soon and we do too.

I hope that you are surviving the challenges that today's events are throwing at us. Maybe it allows us to think about our fellows a bit more. It doesn't take a huge contribution to make an impact. **Pete Baird** is looking for some folks who live near a member who may have trouble driving to meetings to offer them a ride. Maybe someone you know would like an offer to share expenses on an outing? Might be a fishing buddy is waiting for a call from a friend to grab lunch or a cup of coffee and just grin for a while.

This month's program looks like a world-class event. Zeb Hogan from National Geographic Megafishes Project will be our speaker and additional information is available at megafishes.org. Talk about defining your perfect job... I think I'd like to travel the world catching enormous fish and get paid for it. If **Scott Hagen** figures out how Zeb did this, we may never see him again.

The club is supporting the Washington State Council of FFF Fly Fishing Fair by helping with the casting competition judging this year in Ellensburg on May 1st

and 2nd. Our casting team is competing as well. **Ed Sozinho** is leading that activity and will be looking for help. If you have an interest in casting or helping, let Ed know. We have in the past fielded more than one team when participation has warranted.

Don Simonson is coordinating casting events for the Council. Several of our members are tying during the two-day event and will be passing on pointers. If you want to go, there are rooms at a favorable rate set aside at three motels, but I would make reservations soon to assure yourself a bed.

Sign-ups for outings are coming along. Our first one is April 18th and 19th at Dry Falls, and hope to see you there. There are others on the Web site and I invite each of you to go online and sign up for a couple this year. The sooner we all commit to the outings, the easier it will be for our outdoor folks to plan. I need to get out there and am looking forward to a little fishing with the crew. What a bunch!

Pat Peterman
WFFC President 2009

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March WFFC Meeting:

Zeb Hogan, National Geographic Megafishes Project

Aquatic ecologist Zeb Hogan leads the Megafishes Project to identify and protect the world's largest freshwater fishes. He travels to the most endangered of the world's freshwater ecosystems, striving to save critically endangered fish and the livelihood of people who share their habitats.

Upcoming WFFC Outings

The following outings are on the docket for the near term. Get them on your calendars now—you won't want to miss them.

* **Dry Falls Lake**, April 18th and 19th

A club tradition, the weekend before the lowland lake opener.

* **Lone Lake, New Member Outing**, May 9th

Special 1-day outing for new members and their sponsors, with all members welcome.

WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair *by Ed Sozinho*

May 1st and 2nd are the dates for this year's Washington State Council FFF Fly Fishing Fair. There has been a long-standing volunteer force behind the WSCFFF public outreach programs. This year will be no exception. The WFFC has volunteers throughout this year's event. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Casting Competition. The WFFC will provide all of the referees for the event this year. We are also looking for individuals who would like to participate in the competition itself. We have a long history of bringing club members to this event to participate in the team and individual classifications. We will start meeting at Green Lake the week of the 15th, date to be determined.

If you are interested in either being a referee or participating in the competition, please let **Ed Sozinho** know at esozinho@earthlink.net.

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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.

WFFC February Meeting

by Rocco Maccarrone

Business

At the beginning of the February general meeting, the budget for 2009 was presented. After a couple of questions, the budget was approved unanimously by a vote of hands.

Keith Robbins then received the *Skunk Award* and donned the appropriate headwear (which, by the way, looked remarkably like a bad mullet). He was awarded based upon being skunked on national TV. The show, "City Limits", recently aired on Versus. The Captain offered several excuses for the skunking, some actually true.

Bill Deters, Membership Committee Chair, reminded us that 2009 dues are now due. Most have paid already, but if you have not, please pay. It's \$70.

Our illustrious president, **Pat Peterman**, encouraged members to pre-register their dinners online on our Web site. This is a new feature of our Web site and allows you to pay in advance. If you do so, please allow 24 hours prior to the meeting for the transaction to actually "show". This method will allow better planning for the number of dinners and save the club money in the long run.

Bill Neal spoke regarding the upcoming Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition. \$500 in award money is now being put up: \$250 for 1st place, \$125 for 2nd, \$75 for 3rd, and \$50 to the first-time participant (since 2002) to place the highest. **Bob Burdick** is the defending champion and has defied anybody to unseat him.

Doug Schaad, Conservation Committee Chair, spoke on Senate Bill SB 5127, which would remove the WDFW Wildlife Commission as we know it now. He labeled the bill "toxic". Doug has spoken with the sponsor of the bill, Senator Ken Jacobson, about the WFFC's stance on this bill. Jacobson was "dismissive" of our position. Members are encouraged to write to their state senators about this proposed legislation.

Doug also went on to say that our WDFW is in a severe budget crisis. Look for major hatchery closures, including the Puyallup hatchery that suffered severe damage from this winter's flood.

Keith Robbins mentioned the upcoming, March 3rd, North of Falcon hearings. He invites all members to attend. He will personally charter a bus if

enough members will go. He also mentioned that as part of the WDFW budget crisis, enforcement may be rolled into the State Patrol.

Dyke Kinder spoke on the DNR (Dept. of Natural Resources) action regarding buffers on streams. They are about to adopt a policy that would affect many, many streams in this state. No buffers would be needed on streams less than 2 feet across.

Don Simonson (Education Committee) indicated that casting classes commence on April 1st. Fly tying classes are over with. We need someone to take over registration for fly casting from **Bob Birkner**.

Robert Tovar (Outings Chair) told us that the schedule for this year's club outings is complete. Check out the Web site for the list and you can sign up online. Dry Falls is scheduled for April 18th and 19th. Steaks will be provided for all who attend. But remember to sign up.

Kris Kristofferson spoke about a possible kids outing on his lake up on Camano Island. He's looking at March 29th or April 5th. Club members can invite their kids, grandkids, or close friends. Members are encouraged to bring their boats.

Don Simonson (WFFC Foundation) said that for 2009, \$2500 has been earmarked as a donation for Reel Recovery, \$500 to Casting for Recovery, and \$7500 towards capital improvements for our new Home Waters site on the Yakima River.

Two new members were inducted into the club: **Jon Goin** and **Larry Palmer**. Congrats, gentlemen! **Joe Kristof** was voted on and will be inducted at the next club meeting.



Gil Nyerges presenting new members Larry Lee Palmer and John Goin with some really good flies

(Continued on page 4)

Speaker: John Herzer, Blackfoot River Outfitters

John gave an excellent, well-organized presentation supported with many quality photos. The presentation focused on Western Montana waters where he has 20 years of guiding experience. Those waters include the Bitterroot, Blackfoot, Clarks Fork, Rock Creek, Flint Creek, etc. All are waters close to Missoula where there is much to do for the non-angling companions. The fishing experience can accommodate a wide range of budgets, and there is also a wide range of dining options, as well.



John Herzer of Blackfoot River Outfitters

One can enjoy dry-fly fishing from the middle of March up until the end of October. Many species are available, including rainbows, cutthroat, browns, cutbows, bull trout, and even some grayling. All fish are wild as there is no stocking. Whirling disease has affected Rock Ck., but browns have been filling the void. The Clark Fork has not been affected nearly as much. Pretty much any technique will take trout at certain times. 4 – 6 wt. 9' rods are good all-around sticks to use. Dries as small as size 20's and as large as size 2 will work at various times. With bigger flies, you need big tippets. He rarely uses smaller than 3X tippet, going to 4X on a dropper to a nymph. Leave your 6X and 7X tippets at home. With any technique, a drag-free drift is essential for success.

Standard nymphs fish well: Prince Nymphs, PTs, Copper Johns, Hare's Ears. But **all of his nymphs are bead heads**. Change colors for variety. Better yet, change the length of your dropper. **Your dropper line needs to be tight between the bead head and the top fly.**

Streamers are very effective. Nothing special needed, as long as it looks sexy. **All** of his fishing is

done with a floating line. No sinking tips. Weight the flies, not the line. He showed a slide of one his fly boxes: nothing but San Juan worms. They work.

The primary rivers he fishes are the Bitterroot, Rock Ck., Blackfoot, Clark Fork, and Georgetown Lake. Others he fishes are the Smith, Dearborn, Missouri, and Big Hole rivers.

The **Bitterroot** is similar to the Yakima. More fish further up, but they are smaller. The further down you go, the fish get larger.

The **Blackfoot river** is very bouldery. It is John's favorite river. He prefers fishing it in a little higher water where the fish will be hugging the banks. They are easier to find. The river is recovering nicely. There are huge bull trout in there, but they are NOT legal to target.

The Clark Fork is formed where the Blackfoot and the Bitterroot join. The upper river is the area above the old Milltown Dam, upstream of Missoula. The dam was recently removed. Big rainbows are making a comeback.

Fishing during the salmonfly hatch on **Rock Creek** can be exceptional if the conditions allow. The water can be quite high and unfishable. Expect heavy boat traffic.

The **Smith River** is probably the most beautiful of the waters he fishes. They do a 5-day, 63-mile trip down the canyon. Best early in May, prior to run-off.

The **Little Blackfoot River** is very good. It is a smaller river as it is 30' wide on average. Much private property, but knock on doors and ask. The ranchers in that area are very nice.

Georgetown Lake is his favorite stillwater. There is a shallow bay at one end of the lake where there is a no-wake zone. Sight fish to big trout using a large parachute green drake.

Missoula sits at 3200' elevation, so mild temperatures prevail during the fishing season. March and April are pre-runoff time. John loves to fish in April. Skwalas are prevalent then. By mid-May and thru June, most rivers are blown out due to runoff. Use big streamers in higher flows. If the water has even slight visibility, fish it.

July through mid-Sept. is the time to bring out the dry flies. Low, clear water is the norm. Surprisingly, hoppers are not that effective, but big stonefly patterns work. He often fishes with a size 8 dirty yellow or tan pattern. From mid-September through October look for Baetis and Mahogany Duns.



Fishing South Andros *by Jack Crowley*

Fished WFFC member (and D '95) **Andrew Bennett**'s fish camp the week ending Valentine's Day. Full moon, windy, and cool air and water. Weather blew most of the fish off the flats into the ocean!

However, we stuck a ten-pound bonefish that went 150 yards into backing—a big shark nailed him, splashed the size of the skiff! A dozen fish in all.

Food and accommodations were excellent (private room!), ambience of the island superb, and the management, staff, and guides outstanding! The best lodge in the South, according to all! Try it!

Brayshaw Award Winner Responds: **Bob Young**

Gentlemen, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the wonderful honor you have bestowed upon me by presenting me with the Tommy Brayshaw Award. It came as a great surprise.

I never met Tommy Brayshaw, but I know those fortunate enough to have done so were, I'm sure, impressed by what he contributed to this wonderful activity that we all love so much. I am sure my contributions are miniscule by comparison, but I do what I can. And will continue God willing.

To be added to the list of recipients of this award who have preceded me is indeed a great honor. Again, let me say 'thank you' to the Awards Committee and any others who may have said something complimentary on my behalf.

In His Own Words:

New Member Joe Kristof

I am fortunate that my dad was an avid outdoorsman. He instilled in me, from the time I could walk, that same love of nature and the out-of-doors. Many years ago, he was an active member of WFFC. I remember spending many a trip with my dad and his friends: **Enos Bradner, Ralph Wahl, Steve Raymond, Gil Nyerges**, and many others. These were the formative years of my fly fisherman development. My father currently cannot fish anymore, but I cherish the memories, knowledge, and stories shared over many a campfire.

Over the years, I continued to add many new experiences, knowledge, skills, and a lot of equipment to my fishing grab bag. I have found that I enjoy every aspect of the sport. I love building custom rods and have taught classes for the Overlake Fly Fishing Club. I relish tying flies, whether a size 18 Hare's Ear or a full dressed 6/0 Atlantic Salmon fly. I look forward to each new fishing trip that I have on the horizon. I have fished in Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, B.C., Oregon, and Washington. My favorite type of fly fishing experience is a multi-day float/fishing trip on the Deschutes in Oregon, Smith River in Montana, Middle Fork of the Salmon in Idaho, Dean River in B.C., or the Alagnak and Kanektok in Alaska. I own a drift boat as well as two rafts and too many other watercraft to mention.

I do believe in actively supporting the conservation of our resource, as well as sharing time, energy, and knowledge with other fly fishermen who cherish the sport, fish, and camaraderie. To that end, I have been an active member in the following clubs and organizations:

Federation of Fly Fishermen (FFF)
Overlake Fly Fishing Club (Current Membership
VP)
Coastal Conservation Association (CCA)
Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Guild
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Expansion of Fruit & Flowers Support

Role by *Pete Baird, Fruit and Flowers Chair*

It was recently suggested by one of our club members that it would be nice if the club could offer transportation services to club members who find it difficult, or are unable, to transport themselves to and from WFFC monthly meetings. Of course, ride pools in general are always an excellent consideration, but a specific transportation service has been accomplished in the past, and in an ongoing capacity, by some of our members, including **Perry Barth, Fran Wood, John Townsell, Eric James, Roger Rohrbeck, and Greg Minaker**, to mention a few.

Since this is a function most logically falling within the purview of the Fruit & Flowers area, I would like to assure continuing and extending service to some of our other members who we see infrequently at meetings. Some of the Zip Code areas for members who could potentially benefit from transportation services are: 98006, 98036, 98125, 98133, 98125, 98102, 98101, 98007, 98040, and 98053. And there are probably others. So, this is an open invitation to any of you who reside within any of these Zip Code areas, or pass through them, to let me know if you would be a willing provider of transportation to another club member in need.

This is also an invitation to all members who would appreciate an opportunity to be transported to and from club meetings. If either of these opportunities applies to you, please give me a call, e-mail me, or otherwise get in touch, and we'll see what might be worked out. If this service becomes a very popular enterprise, I may be seeking another volunteer to join the F & F Committee.

Think FISHING guys!

WFFC Website Committee Expansion

The WFFC Web site has been significantly expanded during the last 18 months. This was largely accomplished through the addition of a member area, which is increasingly being relied on by members to communicate contact information changes; to sign up for outings; to make library requests; to renew membership/pay dues; to reserve/pay for dinner, etc. It is also being relied upon by the 1st VP - Membership for new member process support, by the 1st VP - Christmas Party for reservation/payment and check-in support, and by the Gillie for meeting check-in support.

As a result, the club is in an increasingly vulnerable position, as there is no redundancy (backup) for member area maintenance and development. In recognition of this vulnerability, the club administration requested an expansion of the Web site committee through addition of one or more members who would be interested in assisting with the Web site, and would be amenable to being mentored to develop the skills required for Web site maintenance and development.

At the February meeting, Web Site Committee Chairman **Roger Rohrbeck** asked that anyone interested (in helping on the Web site) communicate that interest to him. Somewhat surprisingly, by the end of the meeting, Roger had been approached by six members who expressed interest in helping support the website. Each has been asked to respond to a confidential questionnaire designed to assess their foundation skills, aptitude, and level of interest. The plan is to select a volunteer by the March meeting, and begin the mentoring process. Depending on how that progresses, Roger believes it may be practical to select a second volunteer at a later date.



The Secret Weapon:

Chironomid by Gene Gudger

Tier: Gene Gudger

Originator: Roderick Haig-Brown

Hook: Tiemco 2312, 14 or 16

Head: White painted brass bead - 2mm. I usually dip in metal paint and bake for 2 hours at 200 deg. I place two wraps of fine lead wire inside the head after mounting, followed by a touch of superglue to make sure the head does not move.

Underbody: Slight taper behind head using white floss thread

Body: White thread (or black if you wish) colored with black sharpie pen.

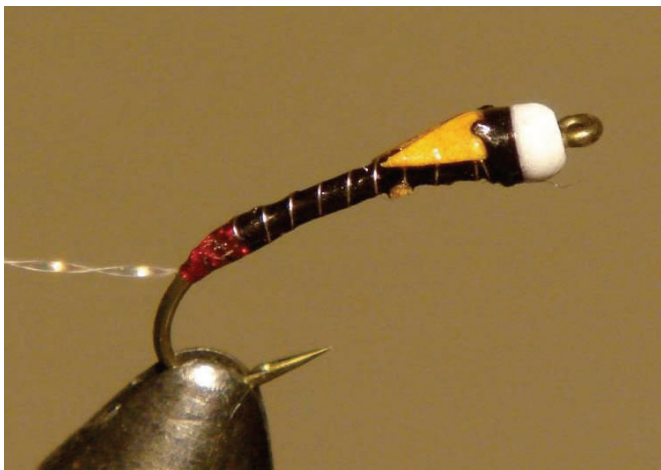
Butt: Red Flashabou

Tail: Pearl Krystal Flash

Rib: Fine silver wire or for a red rib, you can wrap the red butt forward spaced.

Wing Buds: Waterproof paper from waterproof paper envelope (Post Office sells these) colored with waterproof Chartpak Pale Sepia or similar. Cut a strip of this and fold. Using a razor blade and straight edge, cut 1/16th-inch strip, which includes the fold. This is then tied in behind and slightly on top of the head and whip finished. The folded paper is then lifted up and cut at about a 45 degree angle through the fold, which gives the wing a split or forked look.

Coating: Brush on superglue to provide a shiny appearance for gas-off sheen.



Chironomid tied by Gene Gudger

Tier's Notes:

Fish below an indicator or I prefer a slow hand-twist return using a small split shot and leader about 4 feet longer than the depth of water fished and floating line.

Note: The Secret Weapon highlights new patterns originated by, or standard patterns uniquely modified by, club members. If you have a secret weapon that you would like to share, please let your Creel Notes editor know.

Fit to Be Tied Together

(Impressions of a WFFC Fly Tying Round Table)

by Greg Asimakoupoulos

With your surgeon-like precision
you tie flies. But as you do
you sew stitches in a fabric
that gives warmth the winter through.

It's a fabric known as friendship
that is threaded by time shared.
It's a tent providing shelter
when you're stressed, quite ill or scared.

And it's friendship that sustains you
when you're tempted to give in.
When you're feeling lost or lonely,
aren't you grateful for your friends?

Like the wise men in the Bible,
you've attained a certain wealth.
You are rich in simply knowing
you can't make it by yourself.

Christmastime 2008

(Submitted by Dick Brening)



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Stamp
here

March, 2009

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: Zeb Hogan, Leader of the Megafishes Project

Come hear about this project that strives to identify and protect the world's largest fresh-water fishes.