

Creel Notes from the



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



March, 2012



President's Riffle

At the February general membership meeting, club members approved the 2012 annual budget. This tends to be a formality. This year, there were several thoughtful questions concerning the budget. I was asked about the president's

budget line item, whereupon I made an offhand comment about a seminar in Cabo. I should not have made that comment. The WFFC board and individual members, specifically **Don Barton**, have made a significant effort in assembling this year's budget, and my comment did not exhibit respect for their effort.

I want to speak to the president's line item in the budget. I am responsible for the rental of the room for the board meetings at the Seattle Tennis Club. These are monthly meetings, and again, you are invited. The other major expense is an event in December called the President's Dinner. Over the last several years we have met for dinner with spouses or partners. In 2011, the event was at a pizza place and it included only club members, no spouses. I hope to have a nice event in December to recognize members who invest time and effort for the betterment of the club. I did spend some of my line item already. **Bill Neal** expressed a concern to me about the budgeted amount of prize money for the fly tying competition. I indicated to Bill I would take funds from my budget to augment whatever additional funds he needed. Personally I like the fly tying competition; it gets members involved in the club.

I see my responsibility as president to ensure the long-term viability of the club, financially, with a strong membership base, and encouraging as much participation by as many members as possible. I think my job is as an independent referee when someone has an idea that may not be popular.

Personally, I think the best way to get involved in the club is to attend the outings. I think we should strive to have more day trips so that members who can't camp have an opportunity to participate. There is nothing better than late night conversation around a campfire. In August, I intend to take Anders, my seven year old grandson, to Scottish Lakes High Camp with his father, and really introduce him to fly fishing at Lake Julius. Until now we have been to Green Lake and Rattlesnake Lake. I want him to see the friendly interaction that occurs at a WFFC outing.

Again, I encourage you to contact me if you have questions, suggestions, or comments on WFFC activities.

Thanks.

Mike

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March Meeting Speaker: April Vokey by Bob Burdick

April Vokey lives in British Columbia and is an avid angler and steelhead, salmon, and trout guide. She was born with an unexplainable passion for fishing. As a young girl, she coaxed her father into going fishing and by the age of sixteen, when she was old enough to drive, she was devoting all of her free time to her local rivers.

April is passionate about Spey casting to wild steelhead, the environment, and tying salmon/steelhead flies. She has made it her mission to encourage and introduce aspiring anglers to the sport, in hopes that it will bring them as much pleasure as it has brought her. She takes pride in being an eternal student of fly-fishing and an active conservationist.

In 2007, she founded B.C. based guiding operation, Fly Gal Ventures, where she presently guides and instructs anglers on some of B.C.'s best steelhead destinations. Fly Gal's trips and events can be found at www.flygal.ca.

April is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor and fly-fishing columnist. She is the Canadian field editor for *Chasing Silver* magazine and the steelhead columnist for *Fly Fusion* magazine. Her works and photos can also be found in *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, *Salmon Trout Steelheader (STS)*, *Field and Stream*, *Canadian Fly Fisher*, *Flyfishing and Tying Journal*, and several other international publications.

April sits on the Board of Directors for the Steelhead Society of B.C. and the B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers.

She is the founder and director of the popular fundraiser, Flies for Fins (www.flies4fins.com), and in 2011 she proudly joined the Patagonia Ambassador Team, where she continues to assist in the design and direction of an upcoming women's line of fishing apparel.



April Vokey

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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, 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.

February Dinner Meeting Summary *by* *Rocco Maccarrone*

President for 2012, **Mike Wearne**, opened the evening's festivities having members introduce their guests. Not including the entourage present for the Letcher Lambuth award (presented a bit later), four or five guests attended the dinner meeting.

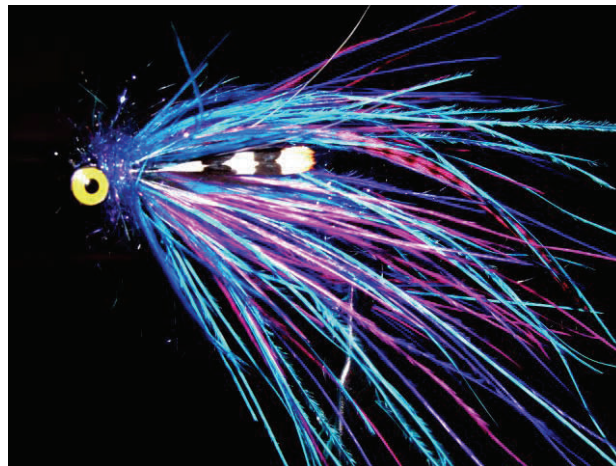
Next on the docket was fishing reports. **John Schuitemaker** reported his travels to New Zealand's North Island. He ditched his wife and non-fishing travel companions to do some fishing for large, 5 lb. browns. This was site fishing with a nymph. The interesting tidbit here is the "beats" were specific, with a sign-in sheet to indicate where you were walking to and what time you departed. A grand idea!

Dave Schorsch advertised the upcoming (soon!) Lone Lake New Members Outing scheduled for March 10th. Lone Lake on Whidbey Island is the location. If you recently sponsored a new member or have a guest who likes to fish, bring them to the outing! Burgers, hot dogs, beverages (adult and otherwise), and a bunch more other stuff will be available. The Fidalgo Club or the Whidbey Island Fly Fishers may join in, too. This is always a fun trip, and the fishing is good. Show up!

Steve Raymond reported he was contacted by a publisher who wants to re-publish Letcher Lambuth's *Angler's Workshop*. He also reported the family is thinking of donating all proceeds to the WFFC Foundation.

Pat Peterman announced that he and others will be attending the Fly Tyers Expo on March 9th & 10th in Albany, Oregon. **Bob Burdick** will be one of those attending, attempting to hone his craft (steal ideas??).

Next, it was on to Awards Night. **Bill Neal** began the annual festivities by introducing **Don Simonson**, who in turn gave the introduction for this year's recipient of the *Empty Creel Award*. *The Empty Creel Award* is the oldest of all of the WFFC awards, having first been awarded in 1941. *The Empty Creel* recognizes the person whom has exhibited exceptional contribution to the welfare of our Club. Simonson read out the names of each winner (still alive) and asked each one to stand. Then **Hugh Jennings** was named as this year's winner of the *Empty Creel Award* and the customary toast of wine was had by all.



A Joe Kristof fly

Introductions to the *Letcher Lambuth Award* then followed. This award is not given out each year ... only given on the basis of merit to a person who has added significantly to the sport of fly fishing in the Northwest. This is a very prestigious award, and the list of past winners reads like a who's who list of NW fly fishing legends. This year's winner was **Bill Kindler**. Bill had his wife and friends in attendance. **Dean Child** gave a very nice introduction and background on Bill. **Gil Nyerges** spoke on the history of Letcher Lambuth. Finally, yours truly, as Past-President, presented the Letcher Lambuth award to Bill Kindler to a rousing ovation. In his speech, Kindler showed tremendous humility and gratefulness.

After the break, **Preston Singletary** gave his presentation "What's Bugging You", a solid and thorough discussion of local aquatic entomology important to anglers. He started off with a taxonomy chart. Taxonomy is the naming of plant and animals ... from genus to species and everything in-between. One interesting note, the word "species" is used for both plural and singular.

Singletary listed the five groups of aquatic insects important to anglers: Caddis, Mayflies, Stone flies, True Flies (Midges), and Damselflies. For each group, Preston summarized the life stages and some of the important or interesting aspects for each of those stages.

** Author's note: At this point in the evening, I was on my 2nd martini without dinner, so my penmanship and note taking skills deteriorated significantly. My apologies if the report seems somewhat fragmented from this point on.*

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October caddis pupate in mid-September. One can ascertain how prolific the hatch has been by the number of shucks near the shoreline. End of September until the first part of November is best for October caddis.

Singletary addressed Stoneflies, particularly the Skwala stones. They are prolific in the Yakima River about March. He talked about mating (I'm guessing stoneflies), how the males were no longer needed after the ritual, and they fall in the brush and die. I could not help to think about my own mortality at that point.

After mentioning mayflies and damselflies (Preston wasn't sure why more people don't fish adult damsels?), Singletary concluded by speaking about his favorite patterns. Those included crane fly and alderfly patterns, October caddis larvae and adults, Skwala (rubber-leg nymphs), and callibaetis mayflies (emergers and adults). His presentation was an excellent primer for the entomological aspect of our NW fishing.

Wearne ended the evening with club business. Most important was the 2012 budget proposal. The Board and **Don Barton** did an excellent job developing a budget for 2012. It is a bit looser than last year's, but good nonetheless. It was unanimously approved by those members present.

Boyd Aigner: Pattern Revision and Other News *by Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

The 2012 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition has started. While a number of members signed up at the February meeting, it is not too late to do so. Patterns for 2012 are as follows:

- (1) Blue wing olive cripple, size 18;
- (2) Crayfish, any size; and
- (3) Damselfly, adult, size 10 long.

As announced at the February meeting, the previous specification of a 2x long hook shank for the damselfly pattern has been deleted.

The club is providing financial incentives in the form of gift certificates at the shops that supported the Christmas party. These will be \$25.00 for the first place finisher in each of the three pattern cate-

gories, and \$100.00, \$50.00, and \$25.00 for first, second, and third overall finishers, respectively.

Please contact **Bob Burdick** or me for information. Flies are due by the March Meeting, so that they can be displayed and judged by the members at the April Meeting, with the award presented at the May Meeting.

Bill: (w) 206.667.8211; (h) 206.232.0603;
wneal@staffordfrey.com

Bob: (h) 206.329.5948; reburdick@comcast.net

Dry Falls Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

Our annual spring outing to Dry Falls Lake is April 14th and 15th. While not as warm as our October visit there, the fishing's always great, and the large attendance makes for a fun Happy Hour.

We gather in the Sun Lakes State Park campground, toward the back, in one of the less windy areas. Usually around sites 26 or 27. You can make campsite reservations on line, or just show up, as there are always lots of spots available. We have a group Happy Hour around 5:00 Saturday evening, so bring your favorite appetizer to share, along with any side dishes you like. The club grill will be set up, and we will have steaks for those who sign up on the Web site or call the outing chairs. As always, the club will provide beverages, beer, and some wine. Harder choices are on those who don't mind sharing.... Bring firewood if you have it, the fire's pretty popular after dark!

The fishing on Dry Falls is pretty simple this time of year, with slow sink lines (read intermediate) very effective with buggy nymph-type flies. Hunting the shallows with dry lines and big weighted dragonfly nymphs works well if the weather has been warm at all, with an occasional olive damsel thrown in. Dry fly activity can happen, again based on weather and water temps, with some really nice Chironomid hatches most days. A beige emerger pattern works for those, with a slowly stripped T.D.C. as a deeper backup. A cream-colored mayfly shows up this time of year too, kinda small, 16 to 18.

Water levels on Dry Falls have been a constant topic for at least seven years, with very low levels bothering some anglers. As long as the water quality stays good, it doesn't seem to bother the fish. The old shallow areas may be less fishable, but new shallow areas have been created. Sometimes success is

simply a matter of changing the angler's perspective or location. No matter the lake level, we've had excellent fishing for the last several outings.

So sign up on the Web site or give me a call if you plan to attend, my number's below. See you there! Dave Schorsch: 206-227-6134.

Lone Lake Outing *by Dave Schorsch*

It didn't rain! It blew 20 to 30 all day, and was cold and cloudy, but it didn't rain. It was March all day.

Twenty-seven club members and guests participated in our first outing of the season at Lone Lake on Whidbey Island. The weather made for tough fishing conditions, but those who got out there found some really nice fish. A bead-head woolly bugger fished 5 feet below the chop seemed to do the trick for most, with fish running 13 to 20 inches. Most of the fish were 17 to 18, with very few of the smaller showing up. Abe Lillard picked up seven nice ones in two hours fishing the south corner. Not bad!

Several volunteers helped set up canopies and tables in the morning, allowing extra fishing time for the gear-hauler guys. Always appreciated! Hot coffee and cold beer were consumed as several experts worked the wind-troubled barbeques. Eventually, hot dogs and burgers did appear. Special thanks to **Jim "Costco" Macdonald** for providing the chow and hauling tons of stuff, as usual.

Even with the wind and cold, swallows were working the lake on some sort of "micro" hatch, and an occasional head-tail rise could be seen in the whitecaps. Should be great dry-line fishing here in just a couple weeks.

This is a great "backyard" fishery, with much higher quality than most on the west side. Give it a try soon!

Next stop, Dry Falls. See you there!

At one point, the conversation at the Lone Lake outing turned to limericks. These two were forwarded to me by my fishing partner the next day.

'Twas the outing of spring on Lone Lake
(Could the weather just give us a break?....)
We still had tight lines,
And quite dry behinds;
And plenty of new friends to make!

Got an invite to fish at Lake Lone,
(Braved a March wind that chilled to the bone...)
On a Schorsch bead-head leech;
I caught a 20 inch "peach"...
And the stories at lunch made me groan!

Interim Agreement Protects Wild Elwha Steelhead from Hatchery Release

This is a press release from the Wild Steelhead Coalition.

Non-native hatchery steelhead will not be released into the Elwha River and its tributaries this year, say four conservation groups that earlier this month filed suit against federal agencies and officials of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (in their official capacities) for releases of hatchery fish into the Elwha. The groups announced today that they have reached an agreement with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (LEKT), where the four groups agreed not to seek a preliminary injunction against the LEKT's release of hatchery-raised "Chambers Creek" steelhead, and the LEKT agreed not to release those fish this year. Normally, the fish would have likely been released sometime in April.

On February 9, 2012, the four groups, **Wild Fish Conservancy**, **The Conservation Angler**, the **Federation of Fly Fishers Steelhead Committee**, and the **Wild Steelhead Coalition**, filed suit in the US District Court for Western Washington in Tacoma against the Olympic National Park, NOAA Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and representatives of the LEKT, alleging violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The agreement on not releasing fish in 2012 was filed with the same Court, and was approved and signed by Judge Benjamin H. Settle on Monday, February 27, 2012.



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Federal and state scientists and a recent review by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) all argue that releases of non-native steelhead could slow natural recovery of the Elwha, and these same concerns were expressed by the groups in their suit. The Fish Restoration Plan for the Elwha outlines releases of hatchery-raised steelhead and Chinook salmon.

Kurt Beardslee, Executive Director of Wild Fish Conservancy stated, "Hopefully this agreement can be expanded in discussions with the Tribe and the agencies so we can give the Elwha's wild fish a better chance to recolonize the river."

"We are glad we could come to an agreement with the Tribe on this," said Will Atlas, chair of the FFF Steelhead Committee, "and want to discuss the HSRG's report and science with them on all of the planned hatchery releases and together develop a way forward."

"We appreciate the Tribe's flexibility on this matter," said Rich Simms, president of the Wild Steelhead Coalition, "and we recognize their special relationship to the watershed. We want to work with them to both restore wild fish and meet their needs."

"This is a good first step," said Pete Soverel, president of The Conservation Angler. "We hope to discuss all the issues and exchange ideas to make the Fish Restoration Plan a better one."

In the agreement, neither side has admitted to any claims or assertions made by the other party. In addition, the agreement does not apply to any possible releases in future years.

The four conservation groups are represented by Brian Knutsen with the law firm of Smith and Lowney, PLLC, in Seattle.



David Ishii by Mike Wearne

I regularly stopped by the wonderful bookstore that was David's place of business. There are so many stories.

On one occasion, we were discussing the plans for a new ball park for the Mariners when David jumped up out of his chair and exclaimed, "I have got to show you this." Rummaging around, he brought out the plans for the artwork that is now at Safeco Field. David had advised the Mariners on all of the various art pieces which are incorporated into the ballpark. Now when I see the "hit", as I call it, that arches over the entry at third base, I think of David.

I walked into his bookstore one day with my brand new WFFC windbreaker. David immediately started admiring the jacket. I took it off, gave it to him, and bought another. He wore it to spring training that year and mentioned to me how perfect it was to ward off the chill in Peoria.

I came into his store one and observed the only time I saw him angry. David was shouting at a young woman. She had suggested that she could give her art away to advertise her production. "Don't you ever give anything away!" he said. "It sets the price of your work. Rather raise the price. You have value, don't diminish your work or yourself." He shouted at her. He was upset, she was shaking.

Once in his shop, I had a two-fer. I got into a conversation with Emmett Watson and David. Emmett had just written an article about Bob Robertson, and I complimented him on the article. So for the next ten minutes, David, Emmett, and I discussed baseball and the announcing skills of Bob Robertson. It was pure heaven.

When David closed his store, he told me to go through the fly fishing books and add any I wanted to the club library and take the remainder to sell at the raffle.

I used to bring David the pocket schedules for the major league baseball teams. He would display the schedules in the window. Baseball fans would stop in and pick up whatever they wanted. One day I had just made a delivery of some Boston Red Sox schedules. A father and son came into the store, and the boy asked David if he could have one of the schedules. David looked at him and said, "Sure,

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take any of them that you want.” The young man was delighted and the father was pleased to share this with his son. After they left, David looked at me, winked, and said, “See, it works.”

When you bought a book from David, he purposefully wrapped the book in brown paper and tied up the wrapping with ribbon, with his name imprinted on the ribbon!

Fly Fishing Youth Academy *forwarded by Dick Brening*

The 2012 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy will be held from Sun., June 24th, through Sat., June 30th. It will be held on Hicks Lake in Lacey, Washington. It is hosted by the Olympia Chapter of Trout Unlimited and South Sound Fly Fishers. It is supported by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and the Washington State Federation of Fly Fishers.

The Academy has the following features:

- It is co-educational, ages 12 through 16.
- The curriculum focus on conservation, natural resource stewardship, and fly fishing essentials.
- Fly fishing classes include fly casting, fly tying, knot tying, reading water, and water safety.
- The Academy includes morning and evening fly fishing activities on scenic Hicks Lake and the Deschutes River.
- The Academy will include on-the-water aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling activity.
- The faculty and staff include wildlife resource professionals, Northwest fly fishing and fly tying professionals and enthusiasts, and local fishing club volunteers.
- The cost, including food and lodging, is \$275. The application deadline is April 15, 2012.

For additional information, visit the Web site <http://www.nwycffa.org>; email nwycffa@earthlink.net; or telephone Mike Clancy at 360-753-1259, or Jim Brosio at 360-943-9947.

WFFC Casting Classes *by Jim Higgins*

The season for casting classes is upon us. Our six-session beginning class starts on Thursday, April 5th, and the four-session advanced class starts on Wednesday, April 4th. If you or someone you know would benefit from a little tune up to their casting, call me for information and to register. We already have over half of the available student slots filled, so don't wait!!! Thanks.

Jim Higgins: 253-350-5085.

For Sale - Echo trip fly rod 590-8X *by Jim Higgins*

This is an 8-piece, 9' rod for a #5 line. \$150. Jim Higgins, 253-350-5085.

My Demo Equipment *by Gil Nyerges*

Due to my advancing age and decreasing ability to enjoy to the fullest my hobby of anything to do with fly fishing, I've decided to try to find someone to transfer my full set of rods, reels, and lines to. On the surface, it would seem to be something not worth doing and expensive, but read on and let it sink in—I don't think you'll find an opportunity like this during the rest of your lifetimes. I'm sending this to a number of clubs in the area to find a younger person to carry on the interest I've had for anything connected with this hobby during the last 15 years or so.

Read through the attachment [in Gil's recent email] carefully and decide if you can help this effort by seeing to it that the news editors in your clubs can find a way to enter a brief ad in your publications to contact me directly if there is any interest at all.

I'm including the attachment in the email for your background information so you can run an ad as a small item and I can supply all details as required for anyone interested.

Thanks for any assistance you may offer.

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Stamp
here

March, 2012

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:

April Vokey will speak on "Fly Fishing for Steelhead and Salmon in British Columbia".