

Creel Notes from the



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



March, 2013



President's Riffle

Mementos

I am sure each of us has a couple, maybe many mementos that remind us of the joy of the sport of fly fishing.

I have several myself.

I have an old fly reel which was given to me by a family in Princeton NJ. It now rests on my fireplace mantle. It is probably over 100 years old. The design and mechanics are almost primitive. It is a joy to handle. I am reminded everyday of the thoughtfulness of the gift I received in this reel, and the love I have for that family.

I have a simple tin box on my book case which holds an Olive Willy, size 14. There is a note which indicates that this was the first time I caught a fish with a fly I had tied. The date was April 14, 2007. Mark Pratt had given me a couple of Olive Willy patterns to try. At a subsequent WFFC meeting he provided me with the materials necessary to tie the pattern. All of the materials Mark gave me are in a plastic bag in that same tin box. Downstairs among the photos of the grandchildren is a wood box which holds 15 damsel flies in sizes ranging from 22 to 18. I received this box and the flies from Rod Jones, a former co-worker. It was quite unexpected and years later still brings me joy.

On my bookcase are three boxes of flies I won in the WFFC Xmas fly raffle.. I have a box of Callibaetis Dun flies tied by Bob Burdick. I have a box of assorted flies tied by Jim Higgins. I have a box of "Mayfly Medley" tied by Dick Brening. These boxes are created by Dick Brening and Chuck Ballard. Each year this aspect of the club Xmas party successfully provides the club with a huge amount of funds for our operation. Personally I

On my bookcase are three boxes of flies I won in the WFFC Xmas fly raffle..I have a box of Callibaetis Dun flies tied by Bob Burdick. I have a box of as-sorted flies tied by Jim Higgins. I have a box of "Mayfly Medley", tied by Dick Brening and Chuck Ballard Each Year this aspect of the club Xmas party successfully provides the club with a huge amount of funds for our operation. Personally I concentrate my ticket purchases in an attempt to win one of the boxes. I cherish these boxes of flies more than any of my many mementos' The contributors to this event do not, in my opinion, receive the proper recognition for their contribution to the club and its success. I am sure each of us has more than a few mementos by which we celebrate our sport.I am still of the belief that it is the friendships that we share and nurture which are the most precious o all of our mementos.

Michael Wearne, President

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Gene Gudger's Bio.

Born in the mountains of North Carolina, Gene began fly fishing small laurel bound streams for speckled trout at the age of 7. Outings expanded to include friends, overnight camping trips and quickly became a passion. After graduate school, he moved to Seattle, timing his cross country jaunt to allow a week fishing the Yellowstone during the fall brown trout migrations. More passion! Early years in Seattle were spent in pursuit of steelhead on the Stilly. The gradual decline of this fishery and a trip to Pullman with Al Pratt in the 1960's turned Gene's attention to Stillwater fishing in Washington. After the opening of the Coquihalla Highway in 1986 and the development of associations with Brian Chan, Phil Rowley and others familiar with BC fisheries, interest expanded to that venue. Much time was spent fishing the Gold Rush corridor from Merritt to Quesnel. A combination of reading, participating in forums, tying at shows, and time on the water has lead to some practical approaches to "where to go" question in British Columbia. This fishery, as is the case with most, is constantly changing due to normal lake cycles, regulation revisions, stocking revisions, ice out times, weather, route changes and other factors. Gene hopes to share what he has learned about BC fishing and to help you your way around the over 320 stocked lakes and many more naturally populating lakes in the Thompson-Nicola and Caribou Districts of BC.

By : *Robert Burdick 2nd* VP Programs

JAMES GUDGER will be our fly tier and Speaker for the March dinner meeting. He will be speaking on the Lakes of British Columbia.

Don't forget to check your Outing Dates on the WFFC Web site and sign up in advance so we know how much food we need to purchase.

Sincerely,
Jim Macdonald
 Ghillie 1

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, 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.

On The fly
by David Ehrich
February 19, 2013

Michael Wearne opened a very crowded February meeting. The weather was nice today, but I don't think that's why the crowd showed. Must be something afoot. After a few joined our hallowed ranks, including a professional parliamentarian to keep order, Mike asked on behalf of the Navy Seabees for donations to their charity affair.

Without ado, Chad Jackson took the mike to share with us "Quality Waters Summary for District 5 and other WDFW Business". Chad covers Grant and Adams Counties and brought his top five, south to north. Despite needing restoration badly, Lenice and Nunnally still produce great fishing with more than 10,000 fish planted and they should join 2 and 3 year veterans for up to 20+ inches. Don't overlook Nunnally, it may be trickier to fish but it may pay off.

Quail Lake is one of the few fly fishing only lakes. Just 12 acres, the stock gets lots of room and few anglers. That means big fish and anglers might not haul in great numbers but wee outstanding size. It's a short hike for you and your float tube or any other boat you can carry. All typical flies work at different times.

Desert Lake Chain requires a hefty hike of 2.5 miles in, these 64 acres of lakes offer almost guaranteed private fishing. This summer will be year three rehab, the magic year.

Chad continued the tour de desert with Beda and Dusty Lakes. Beda is located east off Dodson Road and offers year round opportunities. Reports are mixed, but if the plants hold, there should be some good rainbows. Dusty within the Quincy Wildlife Area near the town of George. Dusty got some massive plants and should fish best in April/May and then later in the Fall. Bring your float tube, walk almost a mile and get ready for private blue ribbon fishing.

Homestead offers the trifecta of isolated water, year-round fishing and "cast and blast" opportunities for those who bring a gun to protect their rod. WDF packs in thousand of rainbows, browns and tiger trout. Be prepared for a good walk, less than a mile, and be prepared for shallow water.

Lenore Lake seems to have something going on, but no one has a solid theory. Despite 70,000

fingerlings in the fall and some massive takes above 30", lots of anglers are calling in with disappointing reports. Next door Dry Falls has the well known hard hitting trout and still fishes well. But it's drying up as the Odessa aquifer is getting depleted by irrigation demands. Lakes are changing in Chad's area and the causes are well known. The problem is wading in the alphabet soup of agencies that might take notice like BLM, DR, Dept. of Ecology, etc.

Despite the bad news WFFC anglers are well aware of, Grant and Adams County waters are going to please the adventurous angler with massive fish after the opening window. Access may be lengthy, but its open and not too steep.

Now to WDFW business. The Department is concluding the Major Regulations cycle and now opens up to comments of the angling community and general public to do some house keeping and deal with suggestions and get input on same. For example, general east side streams might get openers pushed back to Labor Day weekend. They are looking to adjust the trout season on the Methow river to align more appropriately with steelhead season. Weigh in on these questions and other at the comment section at .wa.gov/fishing/regulations/.

Rocky Ford may get faster. As they pump in more water into the system, seepage will occur and "guesstimates" think 20-100 cfs will join the meager flow of today. In the rule of unintended consequences, Rocky Ford could turn into a lake and lose its spring creek nature or it could extend trout worthy flow well down the river. Drawing down Bank Lakes an extra 10', as they plan to do, might also beef up Dry Falls. Keep your eyes open and your phone on speed dial to WDFW.

President Mike asked members to take a look at the budget whilst we break. After a short time to plot the next fishing trip, bill Neal announced some new rules for the Boyd Aigner competition, too numerous to mention but available on Creel Notes and the website. Next Don Barton our Treasure took us on a fine tour of the budget which shows promise of stable numbers and consistent black ink. Questions were light hearted and the body moved tout suite to approve.

And now for the big kahuna of motions with help of Kevin, the parliamentarian. We start with the search for a quorum easily met. Kevin then read the

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rules for today's meeting. I can boil it down to Roberts Rules, the privilege of the chair to recognize members to speak with the limitation of one time per motion for a maximum of two minutes. These rules were adopted.

And hence we begin. The motion at hand basically amends Article 2; Section 1 of the by-laws to substitute "male" with "any person". Mike then called on speakers beginning with Steve Raymond who spoke of the "unintended consequences" of the "best intentions", suggesting that some might quit if the motion fails or passes, thus creating a no-win situation. His suggestion a way out by putting the debate back to committee. He went on to move to postpone the motion until the next meeting. Debate ensued. I'll spare you the details, but I am glad we had a parliamentarian to keep order in the rather individualistic command of details many members have. The motion to postpone went down in a hail of bullets.

Now back to the main motion....but no, Gil tried to bring up the voting rules, but was ruled out of order. The body at this point the will of the body was to move on to the main motion without delay. And now, drum role please, the august body of gentleman raised their voting cards to make, nearly a century after women got the vote, to allow the rest of the population into the WFFC.....And it is so. Welcome to the gals in 2013.

Fishing Italy *by Mike Santangelo*

While in Italy some time back, I fished two different Italian rivers. One river, the Tevere (Tiber) tailwater, is a relatively new fishery. About 10 years ago, this section of the Tevere ran dry in the summer due to irrigation needs. The other river was the Nera. The Nera is a classic spring creek that was harnessed to power Roman mills around 30 BC.

Both of these rivers are located in central Italy, about two to three hours driving time from Rome. The Tevere is in Tuscany and the Nera in Umbria.

While the Tuscan countryside is relatively hilly, it is widely cultivated. The river valleys are broad with large fields of wheat polka dotted with red poppies. In the late spring, everything is green with

abundant wildflowers rather than the ochre and browns that one normally associates with Tuscany.

Near the town of Sansepolcro, the Tevere flows through this Tuscan countryside. The river will eventually make its way through the center of Rome on its way to the Mediterranean Sea. Below the Montedoglio Dam, the Tevere is around 80 feet at the widest. It is braided in many places. This makes it easily wad able. It is hard to imagine that a decade ago this section of river ran dry in the summer and there were no trout in the river. It was then that the Italian fly fishing club "Mosca Club Altotevere" first planted approximately 30,000 grayling and 40,000 brown trout in the river. The number of fry and fingerling in the water indicates healthy levels of natural reproduction of both species. The club's fly fishing catch and release (No Kill) fishery is 8 kilometers (6 miles) long. What makes this section of the Tevere particularly fertile is that Lake Montedoglio lies in a limestone valley much like the Big Horn's Yellow-tail reservoir. Because this tailwater feeds from the bottom of the dam, the river runs cold and slightly alkaline. While I was there, the water temperature was 46° F.

I was there in May and Luca, my guide, told me that the fishing is best a bit later into the summer as water temperatures get up to 50° F. The tailwater is full of insect life. Despite the cool water temperature, multiple hatches were going on continuously. Fortunately, I didn't really need to match the hatch to catch fish. Luca showed me his method of skating a foam fly over some of the calmer waters found on the river. This is where many of the larger brown trout lurk. It was popper action at its best for brownies in the 15" range. All were healthy and strong.

The next day we fished the Nera River in Umbria. Traveling through the Umbrian countryside, you see that it is more rugged than in Tuscany. The hillsides are steeper. There is less cultivation, and in areas, it is densely forested. From the valleys, you see that many of the hilltops have some type of structure on them. The structures range from decaying castles to modern villas offering splendid views of the region.

The Nera is a spring creek that flows through a steep, narrow Umbrian limestone valley. We fished the 7 km "No Kill" section. This section of "No Kill" was put in place in 1994. Nearby is a hatchery and education center. This same hatchery provided the

fish stocked in the Tevere tailwater.

Where we fished the Nera, it was 20 feet across at the widest. For the most part this is a pocket-water type fishery. Due to fishing pressure, the Nera has some very specific regulations. For example, streamers or strike indicators are forbidden and in one section, so is wading. The water is more technical than the Tevere. Short and accurate casts are necessary. I always felt that I could hold my own in this type of fishing. After watching Mauro, my second guide, cast in this water, I realized that I had a lot to learn. Most fish were in the 12" to 18" range with some larger specimens up to 10 lbs. near the hatchery. These large fish are frequently targeted and it takes a skilled angler to get them on the line.

Since I was traveling on my own (my wife had to work and my daughter had to attend school), my meals were informal. The first evening I dined on my own in my hotel's restaurant. There some other hotel guests joined me. While they spoke little English and I speak even less Italian, I didn't need a translator to share laughs and enjoy a round of Grappa.

I also lunched at the Mosca Club Altotevere clubhouse where my guides Luca and Mauro are members. I learned that the club is working in conjunction with a local family to create a fly fishing center where anglers can dine, book a room for the night, and have lunches catered directly to the riverside if desired. The Mosca Club Altotevere has long-reaching plans to turn the tail water and its surrounding still waters into the premier fly fishing location of Italy and eventually Europe as well. The club hosted the World Tuscany Open Fly Tying competition in October of 2005, and to emphasize this vision, it has been an annual event since.

Gear requirements for both rivers are basic. An 8' four-weight travel rod strung with a floating line will do. Ideally a shorter rod works better for the Nera. Waders are a must. Add the basic items such as a leader and tippet (4X – 5X) and you are outfitted for the day. Also, carry a light jacket for any evening fishing. Air temperatures drop quickly as the sun goes down because of the cool water temperatures at the tail water. While I was there, it was 90° F during the day, and at dusk it was cool. I fished with two different guides, Luca and Mauro. Please note that I said "fished with". Unlike guides in the U.S., besides guiding you, your guide enjoys fishing with you as well. 1.March 2011 Fishing the Nere. 2 .Luca and Mauro with Monster Brown



If you are interested in a trip like this, contact Claudio Tagini at Western European Travel. E-mail: awaflyfish@aol.com, Web: www.westerneuropeantravel.com

Claudio can offer cultural events intertwined with fly fishing such as active sports, touring, art history, and culinary events. These excursions can range from a day trip to a multi-day event. Also, while you are on the river, they can arrange excursions for your spouse. Options range from museums and cultural events to shopping. One of the favorite shopping options is an Italian roulette mall appropriately named "The Mall". This group of outlet shops includes brands such as Gucci, Yves. END

Rat and Davis *by Jim van de Erve*

Last year, a group of my fishing buddies and I hit the Methow in November. While we had a fine trip, the fish were few, and I resolved that this year would be different. We would hit the Methow steelhead right after the opener in October, when they were not wary and the competition was light. A local guide at the Sun Mountain Fly Shop said that the river almost always opens by October 4th.

So we were at the cabin on October 4th. And the river not only wasn't open—it wouldn't open for another week and a half.

Fortunately, **Rocco Maccarrone** had suggested to everybody that to be on the safe side, we should all bring our trout gear. When it became apparent that we wouldn't be harassing steelhead in the river, we decided to hit the local lakes. On the first day, Rocco, **Robert Tovar**, Todd Kalamar, Bruce Lee, and Jim Bolin (up from California) settled on a lake that **Chuck Ballard** has been trumpeting: Rat Lake. We had a surprisingly good lunch at the gas station restaurant in Pateros, wove our way through beautiful downtown Brewster, and pulled up at a lake hidden in the bare hills just west of the Columbia.

Turns out Chuck was there, too. His was the only other car there. Our two parties basically had the lake, which is at least as large as Dry Falls, to ourselves. Bolin and I found Chuck around a point a third of the way up the lake, casting grasshoppers up against a steep shore and catching fish. We'd seen hoppers at the launch, and I should have taken the cue, but I resorted to my still water habit of dragging a green marabou damselfly nymph, a Peacock Carey, or a chenille Green Carey off shore. I had a fine afternoon and evening catching rainbows from 15 to 18 inches.

Rat is a peaceful lake partly because few people fish there, and partly because there's no through-traffic past the lake in the quiet and secluded hills. Next time I will start earlier and troll to the north end, a pretty good hoof in a float tube, but isolated because there's no public access. At that end of the lake, are there shallows primed for dry fly or chironomid action, away from competition, reward for the bold? Could be.

The next day, we were uncertain whether to go to Big Twin, venture further out to Elk or Black Pine, or stay local at Davis Lake. We decided on Davis, which is a magnet for local hardware fishermen and a lake I've fished a number of times with limited success. I've done pretty well on the west end of the lake by the put-in, but in past years, the fish have been on the order of 13 inches or less in water that seemed rather warm to me, perhaps because there isn't a substantial outlet. Like Rat, it's a pretty lake surrounded by mostly bare hills, but on this trip, when I started slow on the west end, near the plunkers, I wasn't sure the lake would offer up very much or very big.

The rest of the party kept going to the shallower water on the east end, and I detected activity, so I scooted toward them—at least as fast as I could in my float tube. Where the lake shallows up a little bit, I started catching nice fish on the Peacock Carey, which has become my go-to lake fly. They were up to 18 inches and hefty, a big upgrade from what I'd seen earlier, and when I shifted to a scud, the action continued. I got outfished by Bolin, but he'd paid extra dues in the form of a plane ticket from the Bay Area, so I was only too happy to see that the dues were paid off in low-register, cigar-fueled hoots.

Most of the group went back to Rat Lake the next day, and proved the grasshopper angle a fruitful one. In my lexicon, a hopper has always been a river, not a lake, fly. Not so, said the wise man. Not so.

REPORTS

Saturday morning dawned blustery and rainy and got worse as the day wore on . I left Des Moines about 8AM and missed the ferry. I got to lone lake about noon and set up for lunch. During lunch it rained, hailed and the wind was up and down all day probably hitting 15-20 on occasion. This is the third year that we have had cold weather with winds, Rain and hail. Everyone fished and most caught fish. We barbequed polish hotdogs and hamburgers with all the fixings. Hot coffee was a wonderful thing to have available when one came in for a break. All in all I would say it was not such a bad day after all.





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March, 2013

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:

tbd