

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)



MMXIV No. 3

March, 2014

## March Program

### Fishing Opportunities in the Columbia Basin

State Biologist Chad Jackson

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP (Programs)

Chad Jackson, WDFW regional biologist from Moses Lake will be our guest speaker for March and **John Callahan** our featured fly tier.

As many of you remember Chad is one of our favorite club speakers, and his visit on March 18<sup>th</sup> will be his fourth annual consecutive visit. Chad will share with us the fish and game departments most recent data on the lakes and streams of central Washington so join us and learn what's new on your favorite lake.

**John Callahan** and **Ron Mazurak** had some Spring success on the Teal Lake chain and hopefully will attend and discuss that with Chad. Chad always brings a power point presentation and hand-outs, so be ready for a real boots on the ground evening.

### Biography of Chad Jackson

*in his own words*

I began my career with WDFW in 1997, immediately after completing my Bachelor's degree in fisheries management from the University of Idaho. I have worked both in fisheries research and management.



Biologist, Chad Jackson

My first job was in Region 2 working for the Warmwater Fish Program performing applied research fisheries work. I was part of a research team that performed stock assessment surveys, analyzed

warm-water data, and authored agency reports. After two years in Region 2, I transferred to the same position in Region 6 out of Olympia, where I performed the same work.

In 2001, I promoted to Region 4 where I was the inland fish manager for waters in King, Snohomish, and Island counties. This move proved to be a tremendous professional opportunity and benefit where I was mentored by some of WDFW's strongest managers. I truly learned a lot about a variety of inland fish resources while in this position.

During my tenure at Region 4, I was suddenly moved into the District 13 fish biologist position as a result of WDFW staff cuts. In this position, I was responsible for salmon and steelhead management in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds. While salmon and steelhead management was not my professional preference (inland fish was) I decided to make "lemonade" out of these "lemons", and ultimately learned a lot from this unexpected move, ended up enjoying salmon and steelhead management, and in the end the move proved to be beneficial towards my professional development.

In 2010, I decided to move back to eastern Washington, accepting my current position as district fish biologist for Grant and Adams counties, a position once held by my father from 1979 to 1989. The reason for the move was to return to my preference for inland fish management. Since this move, I have been performing lake rehabilitations to restore trout fisheries, working on local and statewide inland fish projects, and learning about a new inland fish resource, white sturgeon, that I have never worked on before.

## Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1.....March Program
- ✓ Page 2.....Empty Creel Award
- ✓ Page 3.....April Outing
- ✓ Page 3.....WDFW Enforcement
- ✓ Page 4.....Bay of Pigs Incident
- ✓ Page 5.....Foundation , Flowers
- ✓ Page 6.....Tips, Fly, BBQ Salmon

## Awards Night Follow up

### WFFC Empty Creel Award for 2013

By Pete Baird

It's no mystery! Our recipient of the 2013 Empty Creel award is **Roger Rohrbeck!**  
(Roger was unable to attend our January Awards Meeting)

Roger has worked in a service role that has been essential to the successful operation of our beloved WFFC.

Since joining he has been a committed board attendee throughout these past years. The twinkle in his eye frequently foretells of the compulsive sense of humor that lies within. But, he is also ferocious in his pursuit to keep us on the straight and narrow path, making sure the Clubs Bylaws or other command media are called into play when matters need to be set on the right foundation. Further elaboration on his history within the Club will quickly reveal the year's winner of this coveted award.

His sponsors for Club membership in 2007 were **Dick Scales** and **Chuck Ballard**. The Committee for which he has been responsible since 2009 is commonly known as "Website". Rarely one to decline an opportunity, he has eagerly assisted and counseled newer members regarding service opportunities or how they might best accomplish their responsibilities.

More recently, in 2012, he was elected to a three year term as a member of our Board of Trustees. Other than Club Board members, few realize the magnitude of his time commitment that keeps our IT capability updated, ever improving, and generally running smoothly.

AWARDS  
NIGHT

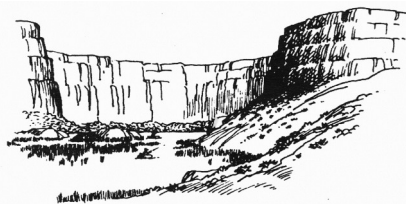
## April Outing

### Dry Falls Outing

By David Schorsch, Outings Chairman

It's that time of year again! Time to get up early to the calls of the Red Winged Blackbirds in the reeds, and the honking geese on the cliffs. It's time to see the backs out of water as hefty trout feed in inches of wet weeds. It's time to go to Dry Falls lake.

Shivering in the morning cold, as the sun lights up the eastern cliffs, is how I've started my trout season for more than four decades. I still get a thrill when the first "big grab" throws a bulge in the lake, and the fire drill of clearing line and obstacles begins. I love this place, and I'm not cold for long.



As we have for years, the WFFC will be having our spring outing at Sun Lakes State Park **April 12 and 13**. The campground does not take reservations at this time of year, but not to worry, there's always plenty of room. We will gather at the back of the campground in the loop from sites 26 through 30 or so. It's one of the more protected areas, as we tend to get some wind on this trip. The usual Saturday happy hour will happen around 5:00 or so, and we'll have a fire going by then too. The barbeque will be set up for everyone to use, and the club will provide steaks for those that sign up to attend. (on the web site)

As always, bring your favorite appetizer for happy hour, and side dishes for the barbeque are really welcome! Beer, pop, and cheap wine will be provided. Snazzy wine and hard stuff are on you.

## Creel Notes

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

Ron Tschetter—Editor

### **President**

Michael Moscynski

### **1st Vice President (Membership)**

Charles Davis

### **2nd Vice President (Programs)**

Bob Burdick

### **3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)**

David Schorsch

### **Treasurer**

Robert Young

### **Secretary**

Gary Bergquist

### **Ghillie 1**

Jim Macdonald

### **Ghillie 2**

Abe Lillard

### **Trustees**

Don Schroder '12 Gene Gudger '12  
Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13  
Mark Pratt '14 Maury Skeith '14

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting **email** (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

## 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.

The Creel Notes is a "Seahawk Free" Publication





Weather is always a crap shoot on these early trips, so dress and equip accordingly. The campsites have nice bathrooms and showers, and there are cabins available at Park Lake Resort. (In the park)

The lake itself has suffered from low water conditions for several years now, yet the fishing has been quite good. We occasionally run into a "turnover" condition in the spring, depending on the recent weather conditions. Last spring, many of the shallow areas were slow, with fish concentrating in five or six feet of water until later in the day when things warmed up. I managed to find several nice fish with my usual dry line or clear intermediate and a dragon type nymph. Those included a couple real "net stretchers" worth yelling at my fishing buds about.

Sign up on the web site for steak count, and start planning your happy hour food! See you on the lake!

**Dave Schorsch** 206-227-6134

## Fish / Wildlife Law Enforcement

### Upcoming Advisory Board Meeting

*By Don Gulliford*

On March 22nd, the WDFW Enforcement Advisory Group will have Quarterly meeting.

If any WFFC members have any items they would like discussed or addressed, etc. please advise me.

**Don Gulliford**

**Phone:** 206-232-0183

**e-mail:** [dongulliford@comcast.net](mailto:dongulliford@comcast.net)



**Dry Falls Lake**  
**Grant County**  
**98 acres**

**Shaded Areas**  
**'Good for Mooching'**

Could be 'very shallow'  
depending on the water  
conditions





**Jurassic Lake**



## Lago Strobel (Jurassic Lake)

### Bay of Pigs Incident, Argentina (No Shots Fired) By Scott Hagen

**Jim McRoberts** and I decided to do something a little different this year and added a stop at Jurassic Lake (actually Lake Strobel) prior to our annual trip to the Rio Grande. The lake is pretty famous for huge rainbow trout, and is located at 3000 feet, about an eight hour drive from the small town of El Calafate. The last 13 KM takes a little over two hours, fording the river that supplies the lake three times in the process. I can also say that was the first time I've ever gone 140 KPH on a gravel road! We got some great looks at several flocks of rheas, they are very similar to ostriches, about three quarter size.



**Rheas**

When we arrived at the lake, it was quite cool and the wind was blowing about 30MPH. Except for a brief two hour respite on day two, the wind never let up, blowing 30 to 40 MPH day and night. The fishing was excellent, if you could get a bead head nymph out into the lake about 70 feet with no room to back cast and the wind screaming from left to right. Challenging to say the least. That said, we did manage to catch several fish each, with my best two being seven pounds and one at fifteen and a half pounds that took me out into the backing twice and jumped several times. What a hoot!! Jim's best fish were 7, 8, and 11 pounds, all caught on bead head nymphs... the same flies we use for sea run browns on the Rio Grande.

The next day, the wind blew very hard, except for a couple of hours. I took advantage of the calm and used my new 10' 9" cane switch rod to hook and land the biggest rainbow of my life, 21 pounds. That fish was so fat, she had a double chin!

Day three, it was even windier, and 3 degrees C. We tried to fish the lake, but it was too tough. The guide suggested we move to the first pool on the river, where we were shaded from the wind a bit. We had a great time catching three to seven pound 'bows fairly regularly. One of them was as heavily spotted as any "leopard trout" I have seen in Alaska. Around 6:00 PM we moved back to the best spot on the lake, "the Bay of Pigs". Jim and I each landed several more fish, the biggest being a thirteen pound 'bow.

The food at camp was great, the fishing was amazing, the weather conditions were tough, and the bed was six inches too short.

Jim and I agreed that it was a great trip, glad we went, but we wouldn't need to do it again. I am already having second thoughts.... If I could get somebody to go with me, I think I'd go again.



**Jim McRoberts with Pig#1, Jurassic Lake Argentina**



**Scott Hagen with Pig #2, Jurassic Lake Argentina**

## Fly Tiers Roundtable

The Fly Tier's Round Table meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Evergreen Covenant Church on Mercer Island.

Address:  
**Evergreen Covenant Church**  
3200 78th Ave SE.  
Mercer Island, WA



It's nearing Spring. Time to tie a good stock of flies.



## Dues

If you have not yet paid your 2014 dues they are way late! **March 1st** was the deadline.

Shame on you if you haven't paid up—*Ed.*



## WFFC Foundation News

### Donations Hit A Record

*By Greg Crumbaker, WFFC Foundation President*

Thanks to the generous support received from WFFC members and guests at the annual Christmas party, a record contribution amount, the Foundation has been able to pursue more projects.

The most recent grant we have approved is to underwrite the training film for the casting rod being developed by the Olympic Peninsula Fishing Innovations. This is the group of which this year's WFFC Letcher Lambuth award went to it's president for the development of the Evergreen Hand fly tying device for people who have lost the use of their arm/hand. The new casting rod is called Casting Partner. Dean referred to this in his acceptance speech of the WFFC award at our January meeting. All vices and Casting Partner fly rods are provided free of charge to recipients, the majority of whom are veterans. The training video will be professionally produced and will have real demonstrators and not actors. The demonstrators include a male Iraq war veteran, a female Afghanistan war veteran and a Washington State stroke victim.

The Foundation trustees **Hugh Clark, David Ehrich, Chapin Henry, Mike Wearne, Doug Schaad**, myself and **John Schuitemaker** were unanimous in this decision. This grant follows ones made earlier this year to Project Healing Waters for their costs of taking veterans fishing and for purchasing equipment/materials and also a grant to provide sponsorship for two young people to attend the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy.

Again, thank you to all who so generously contributed at our last Christmas Party. You are making good things happen. If you missed the Christmas party and would like to donate that can easily be done thru the website or by sending a check made out to the WFFC Foundation to the Foundation Treasurer Chapin Henry at his home address. This donation is tax deductible and you will receive a receipt from Chapin to that effect.

## Fruit and Flowers

### Member Curt Carlson Improved

Long time member **Curt Carlson** is currently Evergreen Hospice & Palliative Care Facility at 12822 - 124th Lane, NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. Telephone 425-899-1040.

His condition is somewhat improved and stable. I'm sure he would appreciate having visitors, and receiving calls or cards from our WFFC members who know him. Prayers and well wishes are always welcome.

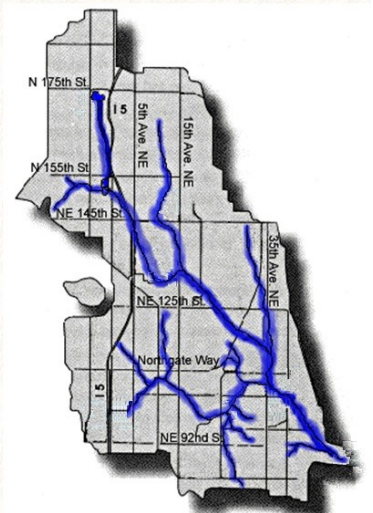
## Conservation

### Thornton Creek Had Salmon Runs

It is the largest watershed drainage in Seattle metro area. It encompasses nearly 20 miles of creeks and tributaries starting in the Shoreline area of King County. Thornton Creek (North Branch) headwaters originate near Ronald Bog. The North Branch then drains approximately 4,446 acres of Shoreline and Seattle. The South Branch originates west of I-5 near the North Seattle Community College and drains approximately 2,333 acres of Seattle. The creek and its tributaries flow over 15 miles and drain approximately 7,402 acres before entering the northern end of Lake Washington at Matthews Beach Park.



I spent my entire childhood living on Thornton just east of Northgate between Roosevelt Way and 15<sup>th</sup> N.E. In the early 50's that drainage area was so wild that all us neighbor kids were kept inside while a Game Department hunter worked the creek looking for a cougar that was roaming the creek drainage (I was later told "blackie" (the neighbors cat) was probably one of his victims.



What is surprising to some is that Thornton had some fairly substantial salmon runs that were still active as late as 1968. As a toddler my mom and me would watch salmon swaying in the pool right behind our house from our rear living room window.



This photo taken in the late fall of 1968 with the neighbor's Siamese cat feasting on an expired salmon.

Thornton creek has been abused and misused throughout the 50's, 60's and 70's. Encased in culvert for part of its length at

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

Northgate, it would periodically flows with radiant green dye (a detection method to uncover leaky sewer pipes). Builders have squeezed apartments, houses, strip malls without regards to environmental sensitivity.

In April 1977 a filling station leaked 300 gallons of gas into the creek just east of Northgate which eventually caught fire and had to be extinguished by the fire department. The resulting leak killed 15,000 Coho salmon fry prior to dissipating in Lake Washington.

On the bright side much has been done in the last 25 years to recover Thornton Creek's abused habitat, much of it done by neighborhood environmental organizations; a model recovery program for many other streams in the urban Seattle area.



Thornton Creek (North Seattle Area)

## Fly Tying Class Completes

### 7 Graduates Complete WFFC Beginning Fly Tying *From Dick Brening*

7 beginning fly tying students recently graduated after completing the required classes.

Club members; **Chuck Ballard, Pete Baird, Pat Becker, Dick Brening, Bob Birkner, Ron Dion and Walt Swanson** were the instructors.



Student to Instructor Ratio - Excellent!

## Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show Recap

### And....They Were Well Behaved Too! Healing Waters /WFFC Display Booth Representatives



(L to R) WFFC President **Michael Mosczynski, Scott and Stephanie Hagan and Pat Becker**

## 'Reeling' in the Years

Some photos from **Don Gulliford** taken in the early 1920's Hancock Lake ( northeast from North Bend) required a 30 mile hike in those days.

A catch out of Eagle Lake by Don's dad, Dennis Gulliford, era 1920's. Eagle Lakes (Big and Little) are now located in the Seattle City Watershed and closed to public fishing.



Hancock Lake ~ early 1920's



Eagle Lake Catch ~ 1920's (Dennis Gulliford on the left)



## Fly of the Month

### Chrystal Midge



#### Materials

<b>Hook:</b>	TMC 2487 size 16-20
<b>Head:</b>	Killer Caddis glass beads, pearl
<b>Thread:</b>	ULTRA 70 black
<b>Rib:</b>	ULTRA wire x-small
<b>Abdomen:</b>	ULTRA 70 black
<b>Wing:</b>	Krystal Flash pearl
<b>Thorax:</b>	UV Ice Dub black

#### Tying Instructions:

- Step 1:** Thread glass bead on to the hook and push up to the eye.  
**Step 2:** Place hook in the vise.  
**Step 3:** Wrap a thread base from behind the bead to ½ way down the hook bend and back to just behind the bead.  
**Step 4:** Tie in a piece of silver wire on top the hook shank extending past the hook bend. Now wrap the thread over the wire to half way down the hook bend and back to behind the bead.  
**Step 5:** Using the thread wrap a smooth tapered abdomen. Stop the thread behind the bead.  
**Step 6:** Wrap the silver wire rib forward to the back edge of the bead and tie off. Clip off excess wire.  
**Step 7:** Tie in 6 pieces of Krystal Flash on top the hook shank just behind the bead extending past the hook bend. Wrap the thread back 3 turns toward the hook bend.  
**Step 8:** Apply dubbing wax to the thread and dub on just a wisp of black UV Ice Dub for the thorax.  
**Step 9:** Wrap the dubbed thread forward forming the thorax and stop just behind the bead.  
**Step 10:** Whip finish.



**Sill Water Fisherman**  
Wyse Lake, British Columbia

## BBQ A Salmon Steak

### Blondie's Super Salmon Steak

(Trust me, eat the salmon skin)

This is one of the best salmon steaks you'll ever have tasted

Start about 5 hours before you want to cook.

First step is cut the salmon into the serving portions before marinating. I recommend 1" - 1.5" thickness so the meat can really absorb the flavor.



Choose a high sided Pyrex small enough to house your fillets snugly but with space between them on the sides.

Fill said Pyrex about 1/4" deep with extra virgin olive oil. Splash a significant amount of soy sauce into the pan. Douse with Worcestershire, really I mean it. Shake it till the olive oil is covered with little black dots of sauce. Then add salt, more than you would if you were salting a piece of salmon. Dust with fresh ground pepper, again be generous.

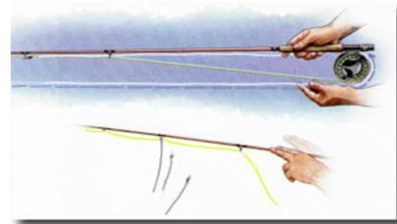
Nest the salmon, skin side down into the marinade. Swoosh the fish about and then flip. Let it sit, flipping every time you think about it for about 5 hours.

Heat the barbeque no more than 300 degrees, please. Spray the clean grill with oil. Lay the salmon skin side down onto the grill. Closing the lid cook for 18 minutes but don't let the heat get over 300 degrees. If it does open the lid and even turn off the grill for a while. If you aren't sure it's done, cut into the lateral line on one sacrifice piece. If it is pink but not raw it is actually done. It will continue to cook after you take it off the grill and as it gets served so it is better to have it a bit raw rather than cooking till you are sure it is done.

## An Extra Tip

### Wrap and Tap

*from Fly Fisherman Magazine*



**Don't** use the rod's hook keeper for your fly.

When you are fishing with a dry fly leader longer than your rod, and you secure your hook on the keeper, your leader butt bends around the rod tip and can develop a kink. And if you are nymph fishing with a strike indicator, the length of leader between the indicator and the last fly is often too long to even use the hook keeper.

Instead, wrap the leader around the rounded back of the reel, hook the fly in one of the lower snake guides, then wind the reel to tighten the line and secure the leader. Don't wrap the leader around the reel foot as this can also kink your leader.

Now for the magic act: After you take the leader from the reel, simply tap the rod, and the fly will fall to the water.



**Washington Fly Fishing Club**  
**P.O. Box 639**  
**Mercer Island, WA 98040**  
**www.wffc.com**

Stamp  
here

**March, 2014**

**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:**

**Fishing Opportunities in the Columbia Basin**  
**Biologist, Chad Jackson**