

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXVI No. 1

March, 2016

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



March
2016
Creel
Notes



Here we are ,well into the second week of March already; the last month of the first quarter of the year. Taxes just around the corner.

Last month's meeting brought us another superb speaker, Tom Larimer. His audience was as attentive as I can recall. Tom was answering questions until around 10pm. For those of you who may have missed it, Tom opened his talk by relaying to us his "introduction" to the WFFC. During the Wet Fly Tom was engaged in conversations a number of our members. Apparently during one of those conversations one of our members (whose identity I will reveal for a beer) Tom was advised it was important for him to realize that he will not be speaking to just any ole fly fishing club later that night. He would be speaking to **THE** fly fishing club. Just setting the record straight.

I promise you Bob Burdick's March program featuring a duo presentation by Denny Westover and Gene Gudger will be every bit as engrossing. Both Denny and Gene, being fully aware of our reputation, will need not to be forewarned.

Bob continues to bring us some impressive speakers. As you may be aware, Mike Wearne will be giving Bob a hand with our programs and Walt Swanson will be assisting with bringing in our guest tiers.

Before our program commenced at our February meeting I presented a proposed budget for 2016 in place Jim Goedhart our Treasure. Jim is recovering from a bit of surgery. In spite of my stumbling through the numbers membership approved the budget. I hope you all realize how much time and

effort Jim is putting in as Treasurer. He makes my job so much easier.

The February meeting also saw us voting in a new member, Gary Corra, whose prime sponsor is Rocco Maccarrone. Speaking of Rocco, my spouse was high bidder at the December fund raiser on the Famous Italian Dinner offered by Rocco and his wife. This event has been calendared for next month. Although I have not yet received an invitation I am sure one is on its way. Assuming I am invited to attend, I will give a report. On the other hand, maybe Rocco will be giving the report.

As reported at the February meeting, the complaint against NMFS for its failure to adopt a plan for recovery of Puget Sound steelhead recovery was filed on February 16 with the Western Washington Federal District Court, The WFFC is a party to that action. Stay tuned.

The Lynnwood Fly Fishing Show held February 13-14. If you went you may have crossed paths with members who hosted tables for the WFFC as well as Project Healing Waters: Doug Mollett, Rich Gaspard, Ron Dion, Jim Young, Hugh Clark, Tom Neu, Dave Hawkinson, Wearne. (I think I got them all.).

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I have promoted this before, but I think it merits another mention, the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo is March 11-12th in Albany, Oregon. Long drive down there but it is worth your time.

Every so often one needs to ensure his/her equipment is well oiled and working as it should. February 23rd. Four hours on Lone Lake. One broke off, one LDR and 5 in the net the largest of which was 18 inches. All on the same pattern. Equipment not working as it should. Some tinkering and then I will need to get back to testing. Hard work but cannot be left undone.

Work is progressing on a new web site. We are well into formulating what we need on our new web site as well as what we want and, I think, making good progress. Some serious hours are being logged by members on this project.

Membership dues. For those of you who have not yet paid your dues please jump on it. Yes there is a dues increase but so have our costs for this year and while I am on the subject of increases, the cost of dinner meals have been raised. Keep a couple of things in mind. First the Club does not make any money on selling dinners and the Club is not charged a fee for the use of the Seattle Tennis Club facilities for our membership meetings. Our use of the STC rooms is covered in the cost of the meals served by the STC and what it makes on the sale of alcohol to members and guests. At the next meeting. Look around. How much do you think it would cost to rent the space?



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Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Chapin Henry

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

Treasurer

Jim Goedhart

Secretary

Tom Neu

Ghillie 1

Pat Becker

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Trustees

Mark Pratt '14 Ron Dion '14
Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15
Pete Crumbaker '16 Ron Little '16

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.

2015 Awards RECAP

By: Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

At our January 26, 2016, Members meeting, we recognized a number of individuals who had contributed to the furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club for the year 2015. We also recognized those who have given us a laugh or two or otherwise entertained us. Not all recipients were present, but we managed to catch up with them at the February 16 meeting. So, congratulations to all. Here is a brief recap.

Empty Creel Award, to a member for service to the Club—to Ron Tschetter for his continued excellent work in producing and editing the *Creel Notes*.

Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsman Award, to an individual residing in Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for significant contributions to the knowledge, art, philosophy, and techniques of fly-fishing—to Brian Chan of British Columbia for his extensive work on still water fishing, including development and teaching of techniques and patterns, in addition to his conservation activities.

Half-Assed Award, to a member for acts of “half-assedness”—by Bill Redman, last year’s recipient, to Bob Burdick for a number of antics and/or lapses on a fishing trip on the Owyhee River—this is Bob’s second time to receive this Award.

Wet Socks Award, not one of our “regular” Awards, but periodically presented to a member for continuing to fish, in whatever manner and without regard to personal risk or creature comforts—to Mark Pratt—his second time to receive this Award—and Ben Davidson, for pursuing the sport at the Wet Buns outing while others were back in camp warm, dry, and sleeping snugly.

The Awards Committee always reserves the right to give special recognition to other Club members for their various accomplishments, and it made two presentations for 2015. The first of these was to Bob Young for his many hours and personal commitment to the Project Healing Waters program and in support of the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, sponsored by Trout Unlimited and the Washington State Chapter of FFF.

The second special recognition was to Roger Rohrbeck, made by Kris Kristoferson, for Roger’s “prioritizing WFFC business above everyday considerations of sleep . . . and marital harmony . . . [and] his superlative performance delivered at all hours despite combined perils of loss of friendship . . . and death by strangulation.”

We recognized two individuals for long standing membership in the Club—Gil Nyerges and Hugh Jennings, both for 60 years. Each was presented with a certificate.

We again recognized Chuck Ballard for winning the 2015 *Boyd Aigner Flytying Competition*. Special thanks to Bob Burdick for his help with the Competition.

Finally, thanks to the other members of the 2015 Awards Committee: Pete Baird, Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Ron Dion, and Kris Kristoferson.

Future Outings

Okay folks!

Here's a plan for outings for the next couple months. These dates are pretty good, but could be changed if there are some earth shaking, urgent reasons to do so. There are other outings in the works, but this is pretty advanced notice for a group that usually makes up it's mind a couple days in advance... I will have much more detailed information on the clubs web site "outings" area for each outing in the next few days. Please let me know if you have any objections or suggestions for the outings schedule!

Lone Lake	March 26
Dry Falls	April 16,17
Hannon	May 14
Chopaka	May 28,29,30

I intend to catch a lot of trout this year! Hope to have a bunch of you join me!

Dave Schorsch

New Prospective Fly Club Member

On Sunday, March 6th, Peter and Emelie Crumbaker welcomed a new son into this world. His name is Dean Reginald Crumbaker. Peter thinks he'll be a wrestler before a fly fisherman, but with Greg as the Grandpa, that could change.

Congratulations to the enlarged family.

Casting Forward Success Story

Casting Forward is the fly tying and fishing program run by several of the Club members at a homeless shelter house in Seattle. One of the residents, Gary, is blind due to diabetes. He was taught how to tie by Club member Per Olav Christiansen. The method used was to hand him each of the tools and handle them as Per explained each part and how to use it. He would not let Gary set it back on the table until Gary told him he had a mental picture of the item. Per did the same with the hook, bobbin, hackles, deer hair, etc. Gary became very proficient. He took 3rd place in a flytying competition sponsored by the Club and was a guest fly tyer at a Club meeting. Recently, Gary applied for a job at Lighthouse for the Blind. It turns out they had just received a contract from Boeing to inspect small metal parts that had been machined for production. The parts needed to be inspected for imperfections or scratches. Gary told them he could do that by feel. They gave him a box of parts and a perfect one as the sample. He felt it in his hand, got the image in his mind and quickly went thru the box. He correctly separated all the unacceptable ones and got the job. Gary no longer ties with us as his work days have been extended. He works a late shift and he is a full time employee bringing home a regular paycheck. I can't help but think that the fly tying with Per was a key element in honing his dexterity through his fingers. Gary can "see" when the Boeing part will work and when it is a reject. When we help people, we don't often know what will become of the experience, but I believe this one helped get a young man a full time job and to improve his life. Good work Per. We are proud to have you as a member of the WFFC and of Casting Forward.

Submitted by Greg Crumbaker

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Fishing Chironomids

Fishing chironomids is one of the most effective methods for fly fishing trout in lakes in the Spring as well as Fall. Although all of us would prefer to fish nothing but dry flies, lake hatches are often of a limited mid-day duration. Because chironomid fishing can be productive early in the morning, as well as mid-afternoon to evening, this type of fishing provides the fisherman with activity throughout the day.

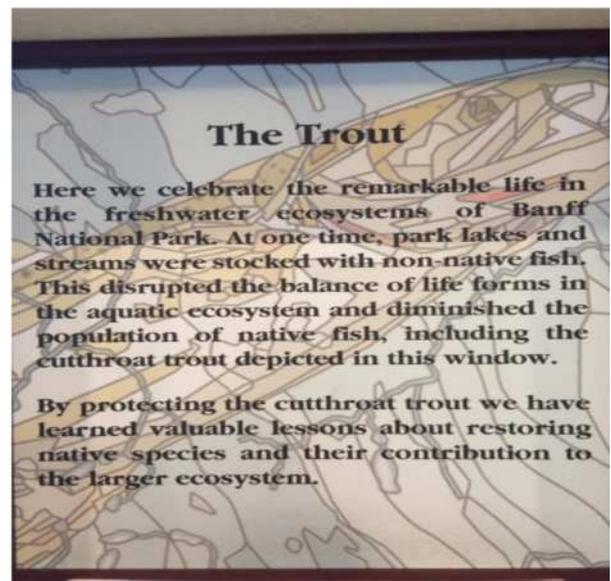
Although Brian Chan of British Columbia is acknowledged as one of the world's best at this technique, the WFFC has amongst its membership two of the very best Northwest fishermen who are masters of this art. After much coaxing Gene Gudger and Denny Westover have agreed to divulge their carefully kept secrets accumulated over 30+ years each during a tandem presentation at our regular monthly meeting On March 15th, 2016.

Come ! learn about when and how to fish blood-worms, when and how to fish the pupal form, and when and how to fish the adult dry. Hear about chironomids on a dry line with and without indicators, a wet line without indicators, and a wet line fished vertically. If you want to learn about this technique, or improve upon your current skills be sure to attend this dynamite presentation.

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for programs

Member Jaunts

This past week Deanne and Chip Emmons went to The Fairmont Chateau in Lake Louise, Canada. The hotel had a beautiful stained glass image of a trout and a description below. I hope you enjoy it!



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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: The presenter at our March 15 meeting will be Gene Gudger and Danny Westover who will make a presentation on How to master Chironomid Fishing