

# Creel Notes from the



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



LIV No. 4

April, 2003

## President's Riffle, April, 2003

### *Catch & Release*

The WFFC is all about conservation and the environment. As a club we support many worthy environmentally-involved and conservation-minded groups and individuals. Though the big picture is to improve and protect our environment, as the two "F's" in our club name represents, we're all about fly fishing. And, catch-and-release of fish is a huge component of our conservation approach.

Recently I fished Nunnally, and was fortunate to catch a half dozen beautiful trout, the smallest 18 ½ inches long, the largest 21 inches. As gorgeous as these fish were, at least 3 of them, though, had some type of major deformity or healed injury on their lip that would usually be associated with a hook yanking a hunk out of their lip, typically by a conservation-minded fisherman releasing his prize.

Fishing barbless is a requirement of these waters, but obviously some folks don't abide by that rule; I'd like to hope the folks are not WFFC members. For us, if we intend to release fish, barbless fishing shouldn't be a concept, it should be our mantra. To further our cause and substantiate what we, as part of the WFFC, are all about, we should do everything reasonably in our power to ensure the fish are released quickly and safely so they can live to be caught another day. A half-hearted attempt at pinching down the barb does not make the hook barbless; if you can stick the hook through your shirt material, and it grabs on the way out, it's not yet barbless. That's how the game warden determines if he gives you a ticket or not; if it grabs, you get a ticket. Many times I will double-check the hook I thought I'd already pinched, and sometimes

the barb needs pinched again because there is still a little "nub". And, if you do the shirt-check, and the barb grabs your shirt, it sure as heck will tear out a hunk of the fish's lip as you yank out your "barbless" hook to release your valuable prize.

Bottom-line, if you plan to release the fish for it to live another day, let's go the extra mile and ensure our pinch down the barbs (and, it might save you a ticket!).

### *Fishing Tip of the Month*

Another environmental issue: fluorocarbon seems to be becoming a more and more popular tippet material. This stuff supposedly takes forever to break down, making it even more important that, when you clip your leader tippets to add more tippet, you put those clipped fluorocarbon pieces in your pocket and dispose of them in a proper container, and not creek, river, lake, or beach side! I use a small ziplock baggie to accommodate my miscellaneous refuse (candy bar wrappers, fluorocarbon trimmings, etc.) so it's not loose in my pockets.

*Richard Embry*

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**GET INVOLVED!**  
*Spring, 2003*

The WFFC is looking for you to get involved!

We have several different activities and classes upcoming this spring (i.e. fly tying and fly casting) that require volunteer assistance. In the past when I've approached certain members about helping, excuses have been "Gee, I'm not that great of a caster" or "Shucks, I haven't tied that much."

Guys, the majority of the people attending our classes don't have any inkling of how to tie flies or how to fly cast. At whatever level you perceive your casting or fly tying skills to be, rest assured it's likely higher than the students. The success of these classes is hugely dependent on volunteers, our WFFC members, who help these students. And, think of what you will likely learn, too. I can very specifically recall one of our new, younger members making a comment to me, at one of the casting classes, about how much HE had learned by helping in the casting clinics.

We need you to get involved! Don't know who to contact? Read your Creel Notes; it's probably in there. If you don't find it, contact me at [rdredfield@msn.com](mailto:rdredfield@msn.com), or 206-362-1342.

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**Mark August 17 on your calendar for the  
WFFC Club Picnic at Meridian Park**

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## CREEL NOTES SUBMISSION CLOSING DATES

Submissions of reports, articles, musings, etc. for the Creel Notes will close on the following dates. No submissions will be accepted after these dates in order to make our mailings to the membership prior to club meetings.

May Issue - 5/11  
June Issue - 6/8  
July Issue - 7/6  
August Issue - 8/10  
September Issue - 9/7  
October Issue - 10/12



*Matching the hatch.*

## 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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

## WFFC members attend North Idaho Fly Casters event in Coeur d'Alene



*Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening, Peggy and Ron Mazurek, Tom Yost and Gil Nyerges enjoying themselves at the banquet*



*Chuck Ballard & Dick Brening represented the WFFC as guest flytiers at the second annual North Idaho Fly Casters Show in Coeur d'Alene on March 15th.*

## WFFC Represented at North Idaho FF Show.

In February, the North Idaho Fly Fishing Club invited WFFC members to be a participant or observer at their Second Annual Fly Show and Banquet on March 15th, 2003. Chuck Ballard and Dick Brening accepted their invitation and tied at their show as did approximately 50 or more other guest tiers from all over the west.

Also attending the banquet that evening was Gil Nyerges who was manning the booth for Eliguk Lake Resort and Tom Yost (ex WFFC member) who happened to be attending the show.

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## 2003 Oregon FFF Fly Tying Expo Rocks *By Les Johnson*

*Eugene, Oregon* – The Oregon Counsel of the Federation of Fly Fishers has put together one of the best events anywhere with its annual Fly Tying Expo held at the Fair Grounds Pavilion in Eugene. The brainchild of Gene Burkhart, this event brings together a jam-packed day of fly tiers that are going strong from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and finishes up with a banquet and auction. Proceeds support the Oregon Counsels conservation activities. The 2003 event held on March 22 was another winner showcasing **155** local, regional and nationally recognized and award winning fly tiers.

Members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club have been making the trip to Eugene for more than ten years. Some are there to demonstrate their skills at the vise while other attend to watch and pick up some new techniques or tying tricks. WFFC members who tied this year included **Bruce Ferguson, Preston Singletary** and **Les Johnson**. **James Schmidt** and **John Olson** wandered the pavilion picking up a few tips. If you haven't been to the Oregon FFF Fly Tying Expo put it on your list for 2004. It is simply too good to miss.

*This letter was received by club. It seems our funding is being put to good use.*

Center for Water and Watershed Studies  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

April 7 , 2003

Washington Fly Fishing Club  
PO Box 639  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear WFFC Members,

I am writing to express my tremendous gratitude for your continued support of my research on the effect of salmon spawning on aquatic insect production. The funding you have provided will allow me to hire and train an undergraduate student to identify aquatic insects this summer. Not only will this bring my project that much closer to completion, but it will provide important work experience to another student starting out on his or her career in natural resource research or management. One of the previous lab and field assistants on this project whose position was supported by WFFC funding just defended her Master's thesis on a devastating spruce beetle outbreak in the North Cascades near Winthrop. Work with insects on my project really stimulated her passion for entomology. Although she went on to focus on terrestrial insects rather than aquatic ones, it is clear that she will make valuable contributions to our understanding of how to manage natural resources. As a side note, she is in her 50's and continuing to look for new things to study and new ways to contribute with what she has learned. Your support was very important to her progress. Another assistant on my project supported by the WFFC just got a job with the Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife doing research on salmon in the Cedar River and Lake Washington. He tells me that he loves his new job, especially the night snorkeling to count fish in their new restoration projects. And still another got a job last year with an environmental consulting firm in Olympia where he has become their expert on aquatic insects thanks to his experience working with my project. I am looking forward to meeting my new assistant and watching yet another career develop with your help. Of course, I am also looking forward to putting that final period on this project and getting on with my own career development. I'll keep you posted on my progress. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Jon Honea, Ph. D. Candidate in Ecosystems Analysis, College of Forest Resources

#### Editors Notes.....

#### **This was posted on Waflyfishers.com:**

The WDFW has issued the final winter steelhead creel survey of the season, which you can find at: <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/fish/creel/coastal/steelhead.htm>

Using this data, here are the season totals for the Hoh River and the Quillayute System (including Bogachiel, Calawah, Sol Due) .

	Kept	Released
Wild Steelhead	681	569
Hatchery Steelhead	347	80

Here are some simplistic observations:

- 1) More wild fish were caught than hatchery fish
- 2) More wild fish were killed than hatchery fish
- 3) More wild fish were killed than were released

This must be stopped.

#### **Area 9 to close for salmon fishing**

Sometime between the Mill Creek and Seatac meetings of the North of Falcon process, it was decided to close Area 9 to all fishing. This includes fishing from the beach for the month of July, which was open last year.

It seems that the WDFW does not have a model that includes beach fishing. In other words, they don't know how many people fish the beaches in July for early coho in an area that includes: Point No Point, Eglon, Salisbury Park, Marrowstone Island, and all the west shore of Whidbey Island. Area 9 affords the most opportunities in Puget Sound for catching coho from the shore.

It seems terribly unfair to people who prefer to fish from the beach; don't have or can't afford boats; vacationing families at the State Parks (Casey, So. Whidbey, Flagler etc.) spending a summer vacation, including the 4th of July, especially during a down economy and fishing from the beach; and definitely those of us who catch and release while flyfishing. As of this writing, a last ditch email campaign to WDFW Director Koenings has been launched to get a last minute stay of execution at the North of Falcon meetings being held in Vancouver.

## Important April Guest Speaker!

The program for our April meeting is a very special one which you will not want to miss! Heather Bartlett, the WDFW Fisheries Biologist for Okanogan County, has prepared a Power Point presentation covering several topics that will be of great interest to most of our members. Following are several of the topics for her district that will be addressed or that Heather will be prepared to field questions on:

- > Lowland & alpine lakes, rivers & streams, their corresponding species, seasons, gear, and prognostications.
- > Updates on bass in Chopaka, the triploid program, golden trout opportunities
- > Palmer Lake collaborative research
- > Organization of the WDFW agency and the regions
- > Importance of legislative support

The program will conclude with a 15 minute presentation update by Dan Peplow, a graduate student at U of W, relating to mining activity and its affects on invertebrate species and subsequently resident fish species.

## Kudos to Jordy Isaiou!

*By Leland Miyawaki*

WFFC clubmember, **Jordy Isaiou** has been elected President of The Fly Fisher's Club of Oregon for the year 2003. The club has 250 regular members, 15 associate members, and 38 non-resident members. The club was organized in 1961 and is 42 years old. The mission of the club is "to preserve the art, science, and history of the sport of fly fishing in non political ways." And as of this writing, they are still a male only club, but according to Jordy, that may be changing soon. Jordy has extended an invitation to any WFFC members who are in Portland on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to please feel welcome to attend the meeting. The meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the University Club on 6th Ave & Jefferson in downtown Portland.

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## The Big Party *By Bill Kuper*

It may be only April, but it's not too early to be thinking about our big party. I'm talking about the December Meeting/Holiday Bash of course. And I need *your* help in making this a successful and fun event!

Please spend a few minutes thinking about what you might be able to donate, or in what way you might be able to help, so that we can continue to raise funds for the important work that we do. Then drop me a line at [billk@digitalfarm.com](mailto:billk@digitalfarm.com)--I'm open to hearing any and all ideas. Thanks!

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## Chopaka Help Needed!

It's time for planning and coordination of the WFFC Chopaka outing this coming Memorial Day weekend. We usually have a great turnout, and sometimes even the fish cooperate! Because of the size of the event, we desperately need volunteers to help haul items over and back, and to help during the event. If you are willing to pitch in, please call Dave Schorsch at 206-227-6134.

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## Fly Tying Round Table *By Dick Brening*

April Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 7 to 9 PM at the Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and SE 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E. The theme for the April round table meeting will be Emerger Patterns, which will be very useful in the near future. You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas. If you have any questions on directions contact Pete Baird or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

At the March meeting, two methods for "Spinning Deer Hair" were demonstrated:

1. The traditional method using loose tying thread wraps around bundles of hair allowing it to spin freely around the hook shank; which is so ably shown in closeup view on the latest WFFC DVD by Dick Scales
2. I demonstrated the making of dubbing brushes from deer hair and fine copper wire on a Norlander vise and using them to achieve a similar effect.



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## Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St.  
The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

This months program is by Heather Bartlett, the WDFW Fisheries Biologist for Okanogan County. She has prepared a presentation covering several topics that will be of great interest to most of our members.