

# Creel Notes from the



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



April, 2004

## President's Riffle *By Jim McRoberts*

If we still had "opening day" for all the lakes we would be at a state of high anticipation about now! However, since some of our best quality lakes are already open and producing great fishing, what are we waiting for? Our first outing was not well attended but fortunately those in attendance did not try to consume all the beer which our Outing Chairman brought! The next outing on April 17-18 at Dry Falls offers another opportunity to fish with your fellow members. Hope to see you there!

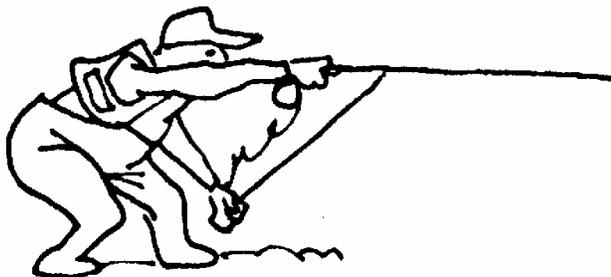
We had a fine turnout at Griffin Creek for doing battle with "upstart" blackberries. **Doug Schaad** managed to provide a fine lunch. Thanks Doug to you and your son!

Griffin Creek is such a beautiful small stream and it provides fantastic habitat for coho and cutthroat. We have an opportunity to protect Griffin Creek and all the small streams in King County. The county commissioners are having five public hearings on **Critical Areas Ordinance** this month: April 15 (too late) in Enumclaw; April 20 (same as our meeting) in Vashon; April 22 in Carnation; April 26 in Maple Valley and April 29 in Woodenville. The

meeting in Carnation on April 22<sup>nd</sup> is about stream and wetland buffers. The lead conservation group is American Rivers NW Region. We would like to have a good turnout to support this issue. I believe it is just as important as the wild steelhead issue we supported in December. It is closer to home and easy to attend. We will have a sign up sheet and more information at the meeting. Also the city of Bellevue has asked for help in some streamside planting. We will need about 8-12 diggers. The tentative date is May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am until noon. More details at the meeting.

The Roster committee is going to send the Roster for printing on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. This year we will include an updated copy of the Bylaws in the Roster. Thanks to all who helped with the review and update.

The committee for the July "Indoor Outing" with the other clubs has been assigned to work out the details. They are **Chuck Ballard, Pete Baird, Keith Robbins, Jim Morrison, Rocco Maccorrone** and **Jim McRoberts**. Please feel free to contact any of us about helping with this event.



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## North Idaho Fly Casters presents:

3rd Annual Fly Fishing Show and Banquet, Saturday, May 8th, 2004, at the Coeur d'Alene Inn, starting at 9:00 AM, ending at approximately 10:00 PM.

Expert Fly tiers from across the Northwest and beyond have been invited to demonstrate their individual finesse in the art of fly tying. The show will include extensive raffles and an auction that will appeal to both genders, young and not so young. Several fly fishing seminars will be presented throughout the day by invited experts. The guest speaker this year will be Bruce Staples, someone well known and familiar to the WFFC.

The primary purpose for conducting the event is to generate funds to financially contribute to the support of fish and riparian enhancement, conservation, and education projects for which the North Idaho Fly Casters have become well known as leaders. We work in conjunction with the Idaho Fish and Game, the US Forest Service, the BLM and recently participated in Cutthroat Migration tagging and tracking projects with both the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe and the IF&G.

We invite the Washington Fly Fishing Club to join us at this event and to learn more about the opportunities that lie just across the Washington / Idaho border.

Ron Mazurek, V.P.  
North Idaho Fly Casters

## Curt Kraemer, "Steelhead: Past, Present and Future"

Curt grew up in North Bend and received a degree in fisheries from the Uof W. and probably spends more time than we think on local waters with a rod in hand. His current position is the WDFW Regional Freshwater Program Manager for Region 4. He oversees all the freshwater fish management activities in the Puget Sound basin from the Green River basin north to the Canadian border. Those activities include stock assessment, establishing fishing seasons, monitoring those fisheries, basic biological studies, and interacting with various users groups, concerned citizens, and a variety of agencies as well as 9 local tribes with fishing rights. Curt has had direct steelhead management responsibility for the Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Skagit, Samish and Nooksack basins and has recently spent a large block of time on ESA recovery planning activities for Puget Sound chinook and bull trout. Please come make welcome one of the good guys.

## Creel Notes

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Leland Miyawaki...Co-editor  
206-264-0609 miyawaki@iswnet.com  
Preston Singletary...Co-editor  
206-524-3151 psinglet@gte.net  
Bob Young...Publisher  
206-782-7544 fishbum@seanet.com

### President

Jim McRoberts jim4fish@comcast.net

### 1st Vice President (membership)

Bill Kuper billk@digitalfarm.com

### 1st Vice President

Rocco Maccarrone maccarrone@email.msn.com

### 2nd Vice President (Programs)

Keith Robbins flymooch@aol.com

### Secretary

Walt Swanson wvsiii@aol.com

### Treasurer

Steve Sunich qualitypacific@cs.com

### Ghillie

Don Schroder donschr99@yahoo.com

### Trustees

Dick Brening '02	Jerry Sammons '02
Jim Hanson '03	Dave Schorsch '03
Hugh Clark '04	Paul Lingbloom '04

### 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 FOUNDATION NOTICE

*By Don Simonson, Foundation President*

The WFFC Foundation will be offering assorted art items to club members who may either purchase them outright or rent them on a term basis. These items have been donated to the foundation and will be on display during the social hour before the April general membership meeting.

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## Fly Tier's Round Table

*By Dick Brening*

April Meeting: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 , 7 to 9 PM  
Dry fly time is coming fast! This month tie up some of your favorite adult dry fly patterns. You and your guests are welcome. Come to tie, watch or just share ideas. Place: 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.

If you have any questions on directions contact **Pete Baird** or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

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## NEW MEMBER INITIATION THIS MONTH

**Ray Willms** will be initiated as our newest member this month after last month's affirmative vote. **Dietmar Lang**, who was also approved last month, will be initiated in May as he is unable to attend this month's meeting.  
Welcome to the club, Ray!

Opening Day Soon

## News Briefs

Forks fights back. The Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce of Forks petitions state to rescind proposed catch and release of wild steelhead regulations. Get more information at [www.forksforum.com](http://www.forksforum.com).

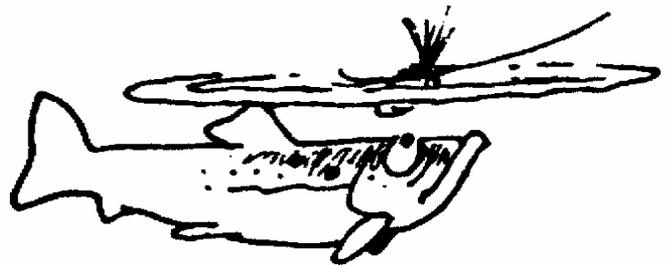
WDFW Commissioner Cahill has submitted his resignation.

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## So Much For That *By Gene Cates*

Some fancy stuff tied on a hook  
In a pattern you found in a book  
Though it looked like a dream  
Floating there on the stream  
Not a single fish gave it a look.

*(Well, maybe a little peek)*





## **Long Lake, March 13** *By Don Gulliford*

Saturday was a fairly nice 51 degree early Spring day at Lone Lake on Whidbey but with perhaps some disquieting observations. I interviewed 5 fly fisher types, 4 guys and a lady. To sum it up, all found themselves catching largemouth bass; two opined it was the best bass fishing (unintended) they had experienced in many a moon. For the whole day, according to three I talked with late in the afternoon, they had fished all day, primarily using chromomids and getting 3 rainbows in the 12 inch class, and somewhat colored (clearly not the triploids supposedly recently put in Lone), but all the rest were bass.

Summary: A not uncommon situation in Western Washington lakes. Addendum: One guy interviewed did release a 6 lb. wild steelhead off the shore at Lagoon Point on March 12th on the usual SpinNGlow + hootchie. I found no fisher types that had been at Pass or Cranberry.

## **Walker Lake, Nevada Report April 6-7** *By Dick Stearns*

Having driven past Walker Lake several times on our way to and from Las Vegas and other points south, I felt compelled to give it a try this time as we completed the final leg of our Grand Meander around North America in our motor home. Given the 17 mile length of the lake and the constant winds that make casting a challenge, I might not have tried it this time, except two months of seeing hardly a drop of water in the Desert Southwest left me with an urge to fish just about anywhere.

Walker Lake is a remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan that covered the Great Basin of Western Nevada. Home to the La-

hontan Cutthroat, its alkalinity makes it impossible for any other fish to survive, save for the Tui chub minnow which is the cutthroat's main source of food. Water demands on the Walker River have diminished the size of the lake over the past century, its level having dropped over 130 feet. Last year it dropped another three feet. Now, little water from the river enters the lake and fish must be stocked through valiant efforts of the Game Department. Because of the ever-increasing alkalinity from water depletion, hatchery fingerlings must be first acclimated to a 50% level of alkaline before being stocked to the tune of 200K six-inch cutthroats per year. In one year, they average 16 inches; two years: 19 inches and three pounds. Given their longevity of up to eight years, fish to 5 pounds are common. In a wise move to reduce catch and kill, the Game Department added a ten-dollar trout possession stamp on the licenses. No stamp: no creel fish.

Armed with this information and a two-day license obtained from Ed's Bait and Tackle in Hawthorne, some 12 miles south, I donned my waders and entered the lake just below our campsite. Trying first without success some baitfish imitations purchased for snook and sea trout in Florida, I finally resorted to the old standby which serves me well on our Eastern Washington seeps: the Carlton General. Within a few minutes, a strong take and ensuing battle resulted in a fine Lahontan of about five pounds gasping in my net. My first trout since leaving Montana last July, I examined it closely. Its gill plates reflected iridescent pink and orange in the bright sun. Large spots, not unlike those on brown trout randomly dotted its back, a few down the sides and on its tail. Pale yellow sides and stomach hinted that it would later seek out the shallows and a mate in a futile attempt to spawn. As it slowly swam away, I wished that it could, but with the ever-increasing demand for desert water, I know sadly, that the Walker Lake Lahontan may soon be just another memory.

# UNDERSTANDING THE CAST

## PART 6

By Don Simonson

### Analysis of the casting stroke

The term “casting stroke” can be interpreted several different ways. Some define it as moving the rod back and forth utilizing a hand, wrist, arm, and shoulder motion. I like to think of the casting stroke as the distance moved by the rod tip during a fly cast, from the moment the tip first starts to move in the direction of cast until the rod reaches a straight position at the end of the stroke. However we want to define it, the stroke still consists of three parts. Referring to the diagram we see part 1 is called the acceleration phase, (also referred to as the loading phase). Part 2 is the loop formation phase, (also called speed up and stop, and power snap). Part 3 is called drift or pause.

These three parts will have a different duration depending on how much fly line is realized outside the rod tip along with the bending characteristics of the rod. To quote a substance item, “short cast short

stroke, long cast long stroke”. This means when executing a short cast (20 ft or less of line outside the rod tip), there is very little acceleration or drift, parts 1 and 3. Mostly loop formation energy transfer. Analyzing the rod butt movement this movement should be approximately 30 to 40 degrees. As line is extended beyond the rod tip the acceleration and drifts phases increase to allow for the line to load, (bend), the rod and then allow for the line to straighten out after completion of the loop formation phase. To put this into perspective the butt movement on a long cast, 80 ft. to 100 ft., should extent to around 130 to 140 degrees. Remembering that the rod tip path still has to move in a straight-line path with a slightly elevated trajectory.

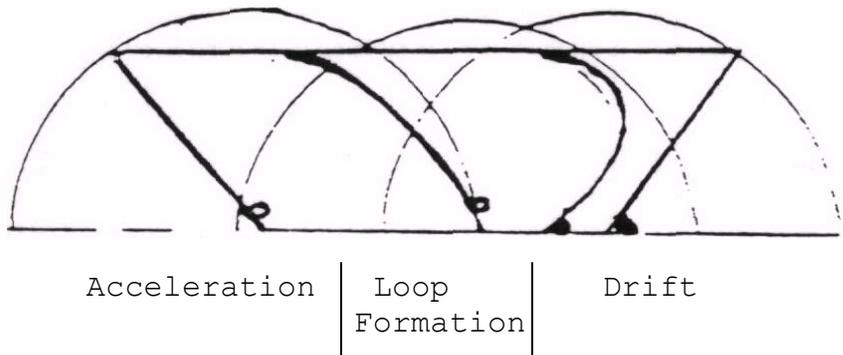
When teaching a first time caster I normally start the student with 20 ft. to 30 ft. of line outside the rod tip. With this amount of line the stop on the back cast is vertical, (90 degrees from horizontal). The stop on the forward cast about 50 degrees from horizontal. This would result in about a 40-degree movement of the rod butt. I don't like using clock face times because the old 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock saying assumes that angle for all casting distances.

### **BASIC CASTING PRINCIPLES : SUBSTANCE**

1. Terminal end of the fly line needs to be moving at the beginning of the casting stroke.
2. The more difficult the cast the longer the casting stroke.
3. The length of the loop formation and energy transfer phases; (speed up and stop) directly determine the size of the loop of the casting stroke.
4. The speed of the loop formation and abruptness of the stop affect the casting distance in the energy transition phase, (stop), of the casting stroke.
5. The fly line will go in the direction that the rod tip travels during the loop formation phase of the casting stroke.

**The Basic casting stroke  
Consists of three parts:**

- 1, Acceleration**
- 2. Loop Formation**
- 3. Drift**

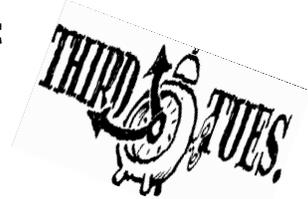




Washington Fly Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 639  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
www.wffc.com

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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 speaker will be Curt Kraemer. Curt is WDFW Regional Freshwater Program Manager for Region 4 which covers a lot of our favorite waters. He will be discussing "Steelhead: Past, Present and Future". Don't miss out on this opportunity to get some straight answers. See more about Curt on page 2.