

# Creel Notes from the



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



April, 2006

## Omnino physicus iactus muscarius

April 6<sup>th</sup> began the test of "Omnino physicus iactus muscarius" at the Greenlake Casting Pier under the tutelage of Certified Master Fly Casting Instructor, **Don Simonson** and his crew. Many of the people who run, walk, skate, etc. the path around Greenlake paused to try to figure out what those people with fly rods were doing as they said, "ssssssSSSTOP!, sssssssSSSTOP!, drift." A few thought there might be some drinking going on when they heard, "lift your elbow!" We've already identified one student who will probably show Don some new wrist techniques before the class is finished.

On the First of the month, we learned that an agency has decided to lump all fish in with the salmon counts on the Columbia and probably other river systems. A replacement to the Fish Passage Center directed its scientists to determine that any scaly things swimming around in a stream count as fish and therefore should be counted. Walleyes and smallmouth bass are scaly and should be counted along with salmon and steelhead. Turtles and sturgeon were excluded because they don't appear to be scaly. A public hearing was held immediately and no objections were voiced so the plan passed.

Also on the First, we learned that the government is allowing the industrial solvent, Dihydrogen Monoxide (DHMO), to be used by the agriculture industry in Eastern Washington. Large amounts will be applied to fields and any excesses will undoubtedly end up in the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. If you go near the streams or lakes in Eastern Washington remember that breathing DHMO can be fatal. You can learn more about this chemical at the website: <http://www.dhmo.org/>. The more you know about chemicals such as DHMO, the better we can

protect our valuable resources.

Now to the serious activity of fishing. Spring is here and it's time to get out and cast flies to hungry trout. **Ron Dion** has a number of outings scheduled. Dry Falls is on the list and though the fishing may not be up to par (based on last year's results) it's still a good opportunity to get together and try the lake. If Dry Falls is off, there are a lot of other opportunities in the area. The Potholes lakes were recommended by **Jeff Korth**, WDFW Region 2 Biologist. The WFFC used to have lots of fun at Windmill, Halfmoon, etc. There are nice fish in Coffee Pot Lake, north of Odessa. The Lahontan Cutthroat should be gathering and active at the north end of Lake Lenore. There have been good reports about Lenice and Nunnally. Pass Lake and Lone Lake have been getting good reports and Green Lake has been planted heavily.

GO FISH! – AND write up a summary of your results for the Creel Notes.

## All fly-casting is physics

**Bob Birkner**

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## On the Fly *By David Ehrich*

March 21, 2006

Our President opened the meeting with the call of “good evening gentlemen, my name is **Bob Birkner**, your president for 2006.” Guest introductions competed with some epic battle between cutlery and pork cutlet. In many cases, the cutlet held the upper hand. Some guests have reached the maximum number of “visits” and applications were delivered summarily. Of note, Neal Simms, president of the Whidbey Island Fly Fishing Club joined us at the head table. He invited us to club meetings at the Race Road Fire Station on the second Wednesday of every month.

Fishing reports, limited by Presidential dictum to 2.5 minutes, began with a non-fishing report by **Les Johnson** who has sent in proofs of his new book and looks forward to time on the water.

**Rocco** took on the Hoh, Queets and Quinalt with little success, but celebrated the success of gear anglers. Water was in good shape, clear with acceptable levels. I smell skunk.

The Yakima yielded trout to ugly wet flies. The Methow gave up Cutthroat, Steelhead and White fish to a variety of chironomides to **Jim McRoberts**. **Chuck Ballard** self-reported two dunks into 18 degrees of cold Methow water. The tarp was summarily provided and Chuck took it like a man. **Mike Wearne** drew our attention to the Tacoma New Tribune article on Curt Goudy that appeared in last month’s Creel Notes. **Pete Crumbaker** fit some fishing in between buying a house, dating (a dubious order of events) and caught a big rainbow on King Lake. **Jim McDonald** started off his report with a visit to the Ghillie’s basket due to failure to share his name. Life on the Green also smelled badly and amounted to a good wade in cold water with snow. I smell skunk again.

Mercifully, the skunky reports ceased before rumors of near total fish kill reverberated around the state. The Skagit produced bright, native Steelhead. **Don Schroeder** admitted to using gear to bring in the rare fish to hand on the Bogachiel.

**Mike Wearne** started off the new member candidate introductions. **Jim Weaver** and **Paul Mesner** enjoyed praises and membership approval.

Again, President Birkner invited members to join a visiting delegation to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inland Empire Fly-Fishing Club. Call **Perry Barth** for ride sharing.

During the break, yours truly took down the bar so I didn’t have a chance to catch the introduction of tonight’s talk. But Art Lingren’s first slide gave us an orientation to remote sea-islands near Prince George, British Columbia. We enjoyed slides of high-end resorts, small planes familiar to WW II pilots, helicopters and wild rivers. To say the least, this late spring and summer of remote fishing (65 days), was a once in a lifetime experience. The main competition seems to be whales and black bear and many trophy fish were brought to hand.

Committee reports were mercifully short and brief. Of note, the casting class is nearly full; the Youth committee will be calling the ready, willing and able; the Outing committee has a new schedule ready for view in this issue.

## Creel Notes

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

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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 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.

**2006 WFFC Outdoors:** The following outings are currently being planned:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>
Lone Lake	April 22	Whidbey Island Fly Fishing Club to host a 1 day outing, including lunch. <b>Gil Nyerges</b> is coordinating.
Dry Falls	May 6 - 7	Other local lakes will be open for fishing also.
Cady Lake	June 10	<b>Jay Deeds</b> to head this up. A 1 day outing. <a href="http://www.cadylake.com">www.cadylake.com</a> for info on directions and B&B at the lake. Camping available at DeWatto campgrd (360-372-2695) 3 miles away.
Chopaka	May 27 - 29	The usual Tempura, Sunday breakfast and pot-luck dinner are planned.
Yakima River	June 3	<b>John Schuitemaker</b> is heading this up. A 1 day outing. Boats required for floating. If you have a boat & can accomodate others, let John know. Contact Reds Fly Shop (509-929-1802) to reserve a boat.
Wenaha River,	July 16-22	<b>David Ehrich</b> to coordinate a N.E. Oregon hiking/fishing trip. Ref. Spring 2006 issue of Northwest Fly Fishing.
High Lakes (sign-up sheets at April mtg to aid In selection.)	Aug. 3 - 8 or Aug. 18-21	<b>Pete Baird</b> is coordinating selection of destination. Actual duration of hike will depend on destination. Scottish Lake High Camp. Ref. <a href="http://www.scottishlakes.com">www.scottishlakes.com</a> .
Dry Falls	Sep.30-Oct.1	The usual.
Methow River	Oct. tbd	<b>Chuck Ballard</b> to head up this steelhead outing. Date depends on WDFW opening.
Grande Rhonde	Oct. 7-14	Steelhead outing with <b>Bill Redman, Jim McRoberts, Scott Hagen</b> et al.
Wet Buns	Nov.4-5	The usual at Joemma State Park.

**The Outdoor committee includes:**

Tarp and Grill .....	<b>Jim McRoberts</b>
Ice Chest/Beer & Pop .....	<b>David Ehrich</b>
Chopaka .....	<b>Scott Hagen, Mark Pratt</b>
Tempura .....	<b>Dick Brening, Chuck Ballard, David Ehrich</b>
Breakfast.....	<b>Paul Lingbloom</b>
Fire Wood.....	<b>Hugh Clark, Chuck Ballard</b>
Wet Buns .....	<b>Ron Dion</b>
Chairman .....	

# **REPORTS**

A "Narrative Report" from **Don Gulliford**

**Lenice, Nunnally & Bobby**

**3-18-06 late PM**

Late Sunday afternoon, confronted with the temporary closure of Hwy 26 going from Othello to Vantage and requiring a lengthy detour to and on Beverly Burke Road, we opted for the more scenic Crab Cr. road down from Hwy 26 by "Brownie's" at Royal City to Crab Cr. valley (locals claim Grant Co. Road Dist. may have 26 closed for some time--this once-called Smyrna Road may be a more useful detour this spring.) With cold weather and late in day, we interviewed 6 or more at Lenice, Bobby and Nunnally parking lots who reported slow fishing (1-2 small ones only) at Lenice but no red-eared sunfish, even slower at Nunnally and no browns and zilch at Bobby. Interview at Nunnally spiced up by "FisherflyerMan" floating in from atop the Saddle Mountains--this gray haired macho said it is about a 30 minute float down and with good up-drafts he could stay up all day. Several overnight types, huddled by large fires, said consensus of more fishers earlier in day was that poison re-hab is needed for all three.

**3-20-06** **Crescent Lake (alongside Canal-north of Quail) South Teal**

Perhaps almost total lack of vehicles or fishertypes was an in-

dicator omen--neither patterns of any type wet or a small boy's lures got any strikes. At South Teal 4 baiters had neither trout or perch, also an indicator that temps need to rise---53F air temp, water must have been colder.

**3-20-06**

**Pit Lake**

Same indicia; probably water too cold. This lake with lots of food and weeds, is on our duck club lease, has triploids in the past but no bites on any patterns. Comment: Thumbs up to WDFW on the Potholes access road in from McManaman Road---apparently well graded and some aggregate spread, greatly reducing washboard effect.



WFCC'er **John Garland** strikes Skagit Stainless Steel - April 4, 2006. Fly: La Cucaracha. Guide: Club member **John Farrar**.

**Fishing by the Book** *Review by Mike Wearne*

Scott Waldie has written three fly fishing books which center around the life of a small Montana community, Travers Corner. The titles of the books are; Travers Corner, Return to Travers Corner and Travers Corner, The Final Chapter.

The books are a series of stories of everyday life in a small town in the West. The main character, Judson C. Clark is the proprietor of the Carrie Creek Boatworks and Guide Service. Jud Clark is the main character in the individual stories.

The businesses of Travers Corner include the Tin Cup Café, Dolores's Hair Salon, McCracken's General Store; you get the idea. Each of the stories includes an aspect of fly fishing incorporated into the plotline, but don't expect to pick up some advice on your casting or fly tying techniques.

The stories in these books are similar in nature to "The News from Lake Wobegon." They are equally as varied and as enjoyable as anything that Garrison Keillor has ever brought to life.

Whenever I read fiction I try on the persona of a character in the book. Unfortunately while I am in Travers Corner, I would remind everyone of Junior McCracken rather than Jud Clark.

I thoroughly enjoyed these books, I think you will also.

**WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table** *By Dick Brening*

The May Round Table will be on the 2nd Wednesday, May 10th, 7 to 9 PM.

Summer is fast approaching. Are your fly boxes stocked? In May we will be tying attracter and terrestrial patterns. Do it now so you can spend your summer days on the water.

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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**FOR SALE**

Gregor H-11 heavy duty rowboat. This brute is the "Cadillac", no rivets below waterline, forged or cast fittings in corners, some indoor-outdoor carpet (needs cementing down in some places). Boat handled 20hp motor easily in past. Old friend left to me. 1989 model, almost no wear and tear. Over \$2000 plus 8.5% tax new this spring at dealers. \$1000, details, photos (camo painted) from **Don Gulliford** 206-232-0183



*Above: Skunkee #1: Jim McDonald*



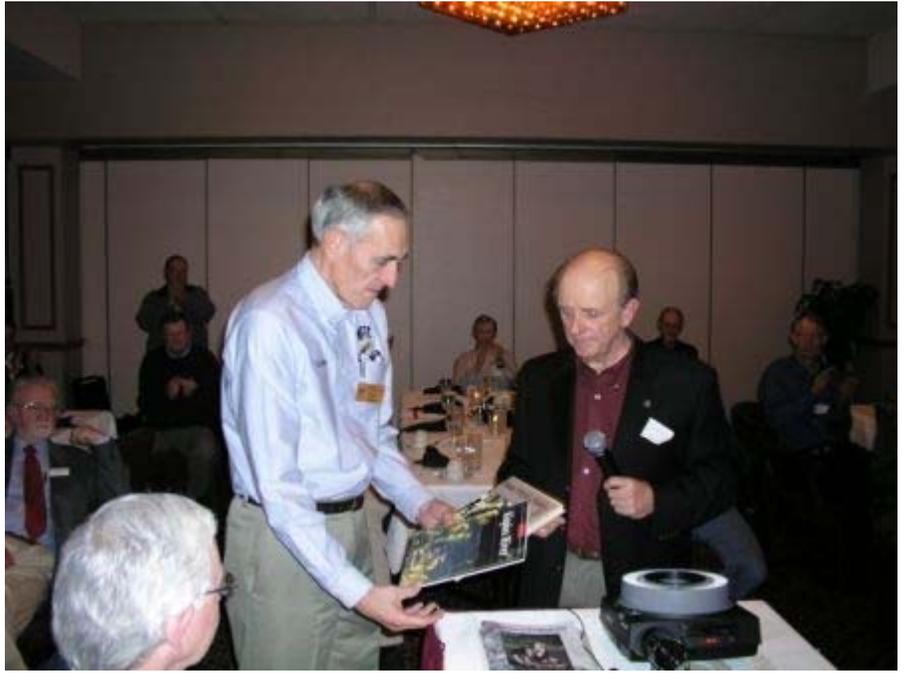
*At Right: Skunkee #2: Rocco Maccarrone*

*Below: Skunkee #3: Doug Schaad*





*Chuck Ballard awarded  
the Dunk Award*



*Art Lingren presents his books to Club  
President Bob Birkner*

*March Speaker Art Lingren*





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Stamp  
here

April 2006

**Meeting Announcement**  
**April 18th, 2006**



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

**Speaker of the Month, Doug Rose**

Olympic Peninsula guide, writer for journals and author of "The Color of Winter, Fishing the Olympic Peninsula" will be our presenter. Doug has slogged through the Olympic Peninsula rain forests and waded every major steelhead river and little-known creek from the Quinault north to the rivers of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. He is an insightful, resourceful and engaging speaker.