

Creel Notes from the



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



April, 2009



Hello All!

It is that time of year again...the season begins. I was out in the garage checking on my camping gear to prepare for the club outing at Dry Falls and yet again wished I had taken that little bit better care in storing things last fall. I noticed

myself smiling a bit at thoughts of past years' trips and the gift of the company on them. I like camping out. There is just something about it. Camping on a fishing trip is just right somehow. It is a reminder that amid the torrents of information about a myriad of causes and concerns, our club is primarily about fly fishing.

Just a reminder, we welcome spouses and family members and other guests at our outings and education events. At Chopaka last year, there were families who had been attending that outing for years. It was great to see and be a part of. The scenery at that lake is worth seeing and the fishing was not bad at all last year and should be better this year. Is this the year to take your family or friends?

Reports indicated that those who participated in the Youth event on Camano Island had a great time. Thanks to the **Kristofersons**. The Youth committee is looking for some trainers for a Venture scout leader training event on Friday, May 15th. Contact **Paul Lesh** if you have an interest. Keep up the good work, Paul. The more we can get our youth in contact with the outdoors and our sport, the better off we will all be over time.

The Washington State Council of FFF will be holding its third annual statewide get-together in Ellensburg this May 1st and 2nd. It has expanded to a two-day event this year and changed its name from Conclave to Fair. There will be many tyers showing their skills and patterns, and many from our club. There will also be casting and tying classes for a nominal fee and free seminars for attendees. Our club is providing judging for the 5-wt

casting competition and competing under the leadership of **Ed Sozinho**. **Don Simonson** is co-chairing the casting events, and there will be a wide range of class offerings. **Ray Willms** is chairing the food offerings, including the Banquet and Auction on Saturday night, May 2nd.

Our membership is strong and our club, like many others, needs good members to continue to thrive. I know that the things we are accomplishing today are entirely dependent upon the actions and support of the members. We each need to be aware of those around us who might become a contributing member and invite them to a meeting or on an outing. We want to meet them. There are naysayers who conjecture that folks just aren't joining organizations the way they used to. The fact is that there are organizations growing beyond all expectations. I believe our organization is outstanding in its contribution to our shared purpose and that if we invite people to come aboard and help row the boat, we will find many of the sort to carry us forward. You know them. Ask them to a meeting.

And above all, go fishing, and take a friend!

Pat Peterman, President

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This Month's Meeting

Nathan Mantua – “The Future Ain't What It Used to Be: Why climate change makes habitat recovery for salmon and steelhead even more urgent than you might have thought.”

In this talk, Nate will review projections for Northwest climate in the next century. He will then show how these climate changes map onto freshwater and marine fish habitat, and discuss how this will likely impact Northwest fisheries for salmon and steelhead. Nate will finish with ideas for protecting our fish populations from the risks of a warming climate, and highlight opportunities for making a significant difference for the future of salmon and steelhead fisheries.

Nate is an Associate Research Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, and adjunct faculty in Atmospheric Sciences, at the University of Washington. He has been a member of the UW's Climate Impacts Group since 1995. His research focuses on climate impacts on the water cycle, forests, and aquatic ecosystems, and how climate information is or isn't being used in resource management decisions.

The Creel Calendar

Washington State Council FFF Fly Fishing Fair, May 1st - 2nd

A celebration of fly fishing with fly tying demonstrations and classes, seminars, casting lessons, and the casting competition.

Lone Lake New Member Outing, May 9th

Special one-day outing for new members and their sponsors, with all members welcome.

“Rivers of a Lost Coast”, May 9th

Documentary film. Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus. Pre-screening reception from 6:00 to 7:45 pm. (Kane 225), film at 8:30 pm (Kane 120).

Venture scout leader training, May 15th

Contact **Paul Lesh** if you have an interest.

Chopaka Lake Outing, May 23rd through 25th

A classic club outing.

Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair and Casting Expo,

June 20th

From 9 am to 4 pm, at Lake Tye Park in Monroe. Designed to bring people into the sport. (Ask **Leland Miyawaki** about it.)

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 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.

REPORTS

On the Fly by David Ehrich

At the March meeting, in light of St Patrick's Day, a few members had worn a deep path to the bar trying to get a head start on the myriads of celebrants. Yours truly, dressed as usual in orange, took the high road and had a dry Merlot. After some good conversation with folks from Montana to Alaska, I got lined up for a camp, hike, and fish trip to Wyoming, and passed on a slightly more upscale trip to the Dean River, B.C., that would have required a new credit limit.

President **Pat Peterman** opened up the meeting with a warm and hearty welcome, and started off the introductions with his guest **Joe Kristof**, soon to be a member. Other introductions followed, including writers, guides, fathers, and sons.

Fishing reports included a "huge trout" on Lone Lake (no details) and a skunk from same. One member admitted to using San Juan worms on the Yakima (he deservedly caught lots of white fish). The Lower Columbia found a strange population of farm-raised fish being reared on a local Indian reservation, then released into the river from the pens and immediately caught on woolly buggers. Silvers were discovered on the beach at Leyland's secret spot at Lincoln Park.

Speaking of rare catches, the club finally caught up with **Bob Young** to award him the Tommy Brayshaw award.



Pres. Pat Peterman Awarding Bob Young the Tommy Award

Pat briefed members on the upcoming 2009 Washington Fly Fishing Fair on May 1st and 2nd. Since the city is also hosting a rodeo, hotel space is rare. The club has reserved rooms that will be available for a couple more weeks, so act quickly. **Ed Sozinho** asked members to encourage friends to attend and enjoy the wonderful array of classes.

Bill Neal hopes to get the Fly Tying contest going. Members should sign up, and give Bill the flies on or before the April meeting.

Pat encouraged committee members to get their information into the Creel Notes on a regular basis. According to the new protocol, only committee chairs with new business spoke, including **Robert Tovar** who gave us a briefing on upcoming outings. The **Kristoferson** family hosted a youth-oriented outing on Camano Island in April. The Dry Falls outing will be April 18th to 19th. Veteran members gave us a briefing on successful techniques and camping strategies.

Doug Schaad gave a morbid report about the prospects of Senate Substitute Bill (SSB) 5127 that would kill the WDFW Wildlife Commission, led by Senator Ken Jacobson who does not approve of citizen input into policies regarding recreational fishing. Call now, call often. Another bill to kill is SB 5870 that would turn upside down the Citizen's Clean Energy Initiative and reduce their goals of energy conservation by 70%. **Keith Robbins** briefed members on his work with the North of Falcon committee that saw some new interest in South Sound Coho. Runs are puny and protection is non-existent. Keith hopes to continue this work. Doug then ended the dirge with a moment of silence for the death of a very large steelhead on the Hoh. This travesty has prompted new discussion for slot limits, if not the outright banning of the catch and kill of wild steelhead.

Pat echoed the call to action before turning to the induction of a new member. **Peter Baird** did the welcoming, remembering Joe Kristof's dad who Pete knew as a member many years ago. Young Joe comes from good stock.

The membership was a tad slow to return from break, so the program got underway about 8:30. Steve introduced Zeb Hogan, Professor at the University of Nevada and the director of the Megafishes Project, whose mission is to find, study, and protect

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Zeb Hogan on some of the world's largest fish

the world's stocks of large fish. Starting with a disclaimer, Zeb noted that most of the fish he's talking about couldn't be caught on a fly. Catching fish around the world, Zeb looks for unique populations of freshwater fish, like the Mekong River in Cambodia, deep in Bhutan, and in remote parts of Siberia.

A megafish is any freshwater fish over 6 feet or 200 pounds. Many of these fellas are above 500 lbs. and rare. For example, the freshwater stingray was unknown until 1990, may be the world's largest fish, and may be disappearing. Twenty known species exist and members were treated to beautiful up-close photos of many of these varieties, including a 640-pound catfish from the Mekong river. Many of these fisheries are a shadow of their former catch and Zeb tries to get local anglers to release fish.

The giant Eurasian trout Hucho Taimen can be caught on the surface and with large streamers below the surface. These amazing trophies are prized by locals, but are beset by mines and overfishing. They live over 100 years. Getting a catch and release fishery is the latest promise to preserve Taimen stocks, with fishing fees used to support local people who guide, manage the river, and provide hospitality. Catch-and-release anglers support science by upping fish counts, helping with tagging, and providing transportation in and out of remote camps.

Taimen number around 40-50 fish per mile. They mostly stay in one spot, but will move 70 kilometers upriver to spawn before returning to their home water. Poachers prey on spawning fish in shallow water. After Zeb thanked members for their attention, he headed off to monitor sturgeon populations on the Columbia, and will then head to India for new megafishing.

Kristoferson Lake Member and Youth Outing, March 29th by *Paul Lesh*

Under beautiful blue skies with a pesky westerly wind, Kristoferson Lake was a wonderful retreat at the 4th generation **Kristoferson** family farm on Camano Island. Graciously hosted by the Kristoferson family, WFFC members and family were treated to a fun day of fishing, food, and friendship. While the fishing was a bit on the slow side, everyone was delighted by the sight of bald eagles, osprey, ducks, and even an otter working the far end of the lake.

Rainbows from 12-15 inches were caught and released by **Mark Pratt**, whose morning arrival allowed him to hone in on the early-morning bite. **Ron Dion** was also able to coax a rainbow to the boat. Along with Mark and Ron, other members were **Dick Brening, Don Simonson, Robert Tovar, Paul Lesh, Chapin Henry, Walt Swanson**, and of course the Kristoferson family: Kris and sisters Nancy, Betsy, Melissa, and Mona. Many sons, daughters, and grandchildren of members were also on hand.

After a wonderful lunch of barbecued hot dogs, cheeseburgers, chili, chips, and brownies, most everyone took to the water in boats. Although the afternoon fishing was challenging because of the wind, trolling seemed to be the method of choice by many. Could you imagine 2-3 kids, ages 5-10, casting from a boat in the wind??? Wasn't going to happen!

The thirty or so club members and their families who attended would like to sincerely thank the Kristofersons for their warm hospitality.



Don Simonson and grandson Erling Anderson on Kristoferson Lake

Lone Lake *by Gil Nyerges*

I first visited Lone Lake (about 101 acres) in about 1958 when I took a group of Boy Scouts (12 to 14 years of age) for their first try at fly fishing for rainbow trout. As I recall, we had four boats with two scouts and a parent in each boat. For safety reasons, we minimized our casting and concentrated on rowing around mooching flies to acquaint them with this species of fish.

Fortunately, the weather was beautiful and the fish were all in the 14" to 20" range, and were in a very cooperative mood, so everyone had a chance to at least experience proper catch-and-release procedure. Each group managed to boat at least one in the 20" class. Everyone took home a few to WOW their parents and to enjoy a meal of these tasty treats. After 50 years of intermittently fishing the lake, I find that it hasn't really changed much. Over the years I've found that the bass and trout seemed to live in peace with each other and maintain an equilibrium. There have been several rehabs and re-stocking programs when the spiny rays seemed to be getting the upper hand (or fin), but no real problems except for when the trout were re-planted. Somehow, the Whidbey cormorant population managed to sense when the tank trucks rolled up to do the job, to fill their bellies!

In spite of the fact that Lone is not a deep lake (20 to 25 feet maximum)—we of course do not experience winter kill because of our warmer waters—the weeds are very conducive to the production of insect life. There are many references in various writings, reports, and studies indicating that Lone Lake is considered to be one of the best producers of quality fishing on the west side of the Cascades. It is this quality that caused what could have been a real catastrophe, when sometime around 1994, an alien pond weed was detected to be wildly flourishing and crowding out all the normal weeds necessary for the quality fishing that we counted on. By the time 2003 rolled around, the home owners around the lake began to call for help, as it was beginning to develop into a total marsh. It is not known, in fact, how this infestation got started, but the most likely cause might have been from someone emptying into the lake an unwanted aquarium of fish with the accompanying seaweeds then sold in pet stores. The seaweeds were being imported from Brazil, and the aliens were quickly identified as Brazilian Elodea, a

very noxious water weed that chokes out everything else and has a phenomenal growth rate.

A call for help was made to many of the fly fishing clubs throughout the state for their backing of an attempt to clean up the lake, and they responded with vigor. The Washington Department of Game called upon Island County's Department of Noxious Weed Control to develop a plan for restoration of the lake to its normal condition. The plan was developed and put into operation some time in 2006. It included physical removal, herbicide (Fluridone) application, and the introduction of sterile grass carp, which target that species of Elodea in their feeding habits. At present the remaining traces of the herbicide are still remotely active, while the grass carp are doing their job very effectively, and Island County personnel continue to monitor the lake for any further outbursts.

In short, the lake seems to be back to normal, and with the introduction of triploid trout, everyone should have a good shot at quality fishing with a very good chance of hooking into large (24" to 26") specimens, and an average of from 16" to 19".

Flies may be dry, wet, nymphs, or streamers. If you're not certain which patterns to use, just ask your buddy—I'm sure he'll have a favorite. Sink tip and full sinking lines are recommended for this time of the season, but don't overlook the good old faithful floating line.

Anchoring, casting, and stripping is the recommended method for this lake, but many are still taken by mooching (not my activity!). Unfortunately, a great many are taken by using strike indicators (bobbers), fishing with small nymphs (again, not my activity!).

No matter what your chosen way of fishing may be, you will enjoy fishing this lake, but don't expect violent surface activity. If you detect rising fish, get close to them, and watch for feeding birds! Those are the indicators that I like!!

The New Member Outing will take place at Lone Lake on Saturday, May 9th. Come join us!

To Anyone Who Cares about Puget Sound Coho Salmon *by Keith Robbins*

I need some help protecting Puget Sound wild Coho via a letter-writing campaign to Phil Anderson and Pat Patillo. It seems that the WDFW does not think that anyone is paying attention to Coho. The truth is that because of ESA listed Chinook salmon, they don't have the time.

The numbers of Coho continue to decline in Puget Sound, and until some of the stocks have an ESA listing, they will continue to decline unless we help out ASAP. I was told by one member of the sport fish advisory board that I did not represent the majority of the recreational fishermen and only represented a few elite fly fishermen from the Washington Fly Fishing club who wanted to protect wild Coho salmon. I thought conservation was a universal theme, but I guess not.

Please ask them to protect wild Coho salmon in Puget Sound all year round, not just for a few weeks before the bulk of the run begins. It is still legal to kill two wild Coho salmon of any size almost all year round in most of Puget Sound.

Please contact Phil Anderson at anderpma@dfw.wa.gov and Pat Patillo at pattiplp@dfw.wa.gov.

Let them know that it is time to start protecting wild Puget Sound Coho salmon before it is too late, to let them know that you are passionate about Coho Salmon.

Together we can make a difference.

“Rivers of a Lost Coast” Seattle Screening, May 9th *by Jack Berryman*

The Wild Steelhead Coalition will be showing the highly acclaimed documentary film, “Rivers of a Lost Coast,” on Saturday, May 9th, in Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus. The film will be part of its annual fundraising event.

The producers and the narrator, movie and TV star Tom Skerritt, will be in attendance. You may remember Skerritt's role as Rev. Maclean in “A River Runs Through It.”

Please come for a pre-screening reception from 6:00 to 7:45 pm. in the Walker-Ames Room (Kane 225). This reception will include catered appetizers, wine, beer, raffles, and silent auctions. This is lim-

ited to the first 200. Tickets are \$35.00 and include the movie.

If you would like to attend the movie only at 8:30 p.m. (Kane 120), tickets are \$15.00 and limited to the next 200.

Purchase tickets and get more information at: www.wildsteelheadcoalition.org.

For more information on the film: www.riversofalostcoast.com.

Bylaws Update *by Jim Young, Trustee*

At the April WFFC board meeting, the trustees voted to approve amendments and changes to the club's bylaws and to recommend approval by the membership. The process goes like this: The changes are presented to the membership at the April meeting. The actual vote will take place at the May general membership meeting. A summary of the changes is below. The actual full-text markup is available on the Web site.

- The amount the board can authorize without member approval was increased from \$500 to \$1000.
- A 3rd Vice President position has been created to be in charge of the Christmas program.
- The preamble of the Awards section of the bylaws has been revised, and we have added three awards (to match current practice).
- The duties of the secretary have been updated to reflect current practice.
- The Conservation Committee member selection process and term have been updated to reflect current practice.

Other changes are minor, but we encourage you to review the full-text markup on the Web site.

2009 Membership Roster Available at Dinner Meeting *by John Schuitemaker*

The 2009 roster of WFFC members will be handed out at the April dinner meeting. **Roger Rohrbeck** and I have painstakingly gone through and reconciled the online roster with our current official roster, which I keep, in order to make sure that all updates submitted by members online are reflected in the printed roster. If you're reading this and want to make changes to the online roster, feel free to do so; however, your changes will not be reflected in the printed roster until the next printing in April 2010. More and more members are taking advantage of the online roster to get the latest information on their fellow members.

If you have not taken advantage of the great service that Roger and the Web committee have created, it's time you gave it a try. You will need a member ID and Password. If you have a current roster, it's easy to figure out your ID and Password:

Member ID - Your Member ID is your first name(s), a space, and your last name(s), as it is written in the roster. For example, **Jones Jr, John Paul** would result in a Member ID of **John Paul Jones Jr**. The only exception to this rule occurs when quotes surround a nickname, in which case it would be necessary to substitute parentheses. For example, a listing of **Johnson, Beauregard "Bo"** would result in a Member ID of **Beauregard (Bo) Johnson**. Be aware that if you go by Bob, the roster may have you listed as Robert, Jim as James, etc. Try both versions of your name if the first time it doesn't work.

Password - The password we've assigned for you is the last name of your sponsor(s) as listed in the roster, separated by a slash for two sponsors. For example, if your sponsors were listed in the 2007 Roster as **W. Husky**, and **Cougar**, your assigned password would be **Husky/Cougar**. Anyone desiring a different password is welcome to contact webmaster@wffc.com specifying the preferred password. Roger will make the necessary changes, and notify you once they have taken effect, as the nature of the security system requires centralized password control.

Simply go to our website, www.wffc.com. Once there, you will notice a **member login** button at the top-left corner of the page. Clicking the button will take you to a screen requiring entry of your Member ID and Password, which takes you to the member area menu.

New Holiday Party Location *by Peter Crumbaker, Co-1st Vice President*

After many phone calls, a couple spreadsheets, several locations visited, and basically scouring the city, a new location has finally been determined for our 2009 Holiday Party... or is it a Christmas Party!?! So many difficult decisions to make in life, but I believe this will conclude to be a fun one. The location is called Sodo Park by Herban Feast (<http://www.herbanfeast.com/venues-sodopark.html>).

This is an exciting location for many reasons. The space itself is unique with very high ceilings to accommodate its original purpose of building ships. There will be ample room for all our party supplies and celebrating. We will once again have more control over our libations! Alcohol will be available by donation only, and controlled by bartenders assigned by Herban Feast. The location is in SoDo on 1st Ave. & S. Hanford, which makes it very accessible from I-5, I-90, and Highway 99, as well as providing ample parking. Now I know what you're thinking... Peter, how's the food and what's the price like? The food is excellent and the price is fair at roughly \$45/person.

More updates on the December 15th WFFC Party to come soon. If anyone has questions about the venue, please don't hesitate to contact me at wolf_fenris2nd@hotmail.com. Thanks, and all the best.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Logo Wear *by Mike Santangelo*

The Washington Fly Fishing Club now has an online shop where you can buy clothes bearing the distinctive Washington Fly Fishing Club logo. Click on the Washington Fly Fishing Club link in the "Members Only" section of the WFFC website. (More details in next month's Creel Notes.)



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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Stamp
here

April, 2009

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: Nathan Mantua - "The Future Ain't What It Used to Be: Why climate change makes habitat recovery for salmon and steelhead even more urgent than you might have thought."

Come hear about the effects of climate changes on Northwest fisheries.