

Creel Notes from the



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



APRIL, 2013



President's Riffle

This edition of my contribution to the Creel Notes will cover a variety of items. The order of the items does not reflect on their importance.

The WFFC is moving in the direction of rejoining the national FFF. As a part of this effort we can expect to have the honor of hosting Philip Greenlee, the president of the FFF at a future general membership meeting. I have spoken with him and he is working on his schedule. At one time in the past, he was a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club!

There is an effort to organize an effort for an improvement of the ramp access to Dry Falls. Several members have volunteered to lead in this matter. As there is more news about this I will keep the club members informed. I have spoken with the *Archdiocese* of Seattle concerning access to Lake Hannon. This lake is located in Snohomish County south of Monroe. It has the possibility of either serving as a Home Waters or simply as a regular outing location, similar to Lone Lake. It has the advantage of convenience, good fishing and excellent facilities. Again, as the progress on this item develops I will keep the members informed.

Last year our club hosted US Navy personnel at an event at Rattlesnake Lake during SeaFair. It was a big success. The concept was to invite US Navy personnel who were visiting Seattle during SeaFair to go fishing for the day. Everyone that attended was based locally; Oak Harbor, Bremerton, and Seattle. I would like to repeat the event, however not focus the event on SeaFair, and possibly open it up to Army and Air Force

personnel.

Bylaw changes are not going to be an ongoing exercise, I promise! Hugh Clark has volunteered to look at making a series of recommendations for minor bylaw changes. This is more of a housekeeping exercise. Be forewarned, we will in the near future devote a short portion of a membership meeting to a discussion of various bylaw changes!

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact me.

Michael Wearne, President



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Guys:

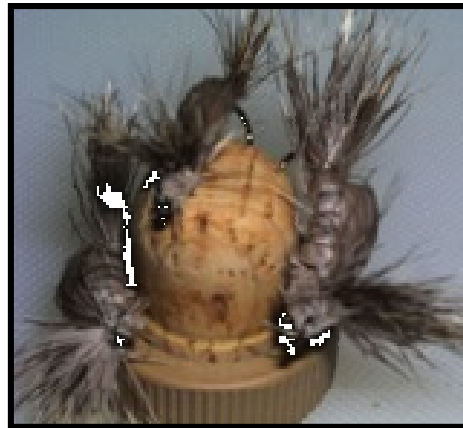
Received a note from George Pess indicating he will not be able to honor his commitment as guest speaker. In his place, Preston Singletary has graciously agreed to step in and give his talk on "Fishing for Cutthroat in rivers and estuaries". See Preston on bottom right-hand corner of pg. 6.

Bob Burdick, Second Vice President (Programs)

Bob Birkner, Past President will be tying flies this meeting. Bob will be tying the Tom Thumb on a size # 8 hook. See Lower right picture.



Gene Gudger



Tom Thumb

Gene gave a fantastic talk and slide show on the lakes of British Columbia at the March meeting. See **On the Fly** By *David Ebrich* for more notes on Gene's talk and slide show.



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, 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.

Mike Wearne reminded us he was president to applause and then opened up the festivities with announcements of immediate interest. Taking personal privilege, he brought forth the idea of creating a calendar made up of photos, not of "The Men of the WFFC," but of hand tied flies made by club members. Hold your excitement, please. Some members tried to stir up interest regarding the Occupy Skagit which purposes to get in the middle of a fight between WDFW, the Tribes and NOAA and do what Occupy does. Check out the website. Mike is also mingling with Catholics in pursuit of holy water, or at least Home Waters at one of the Archdioceses' properties.

Onward to guests, which were numerous and co-ed. Making historic company, Suni Pak Davies joined Bob Burdick for the evening. Jimmy LeMert brought Jan Jacobs. And with me, making the historic "first woman through the door on the first night of a co-ed club", drum roll please....my wife, Jennifer Salk, who many members have met at outings and other social events. And finally, Mary Chase, who found the club via our web site. Imagine that! Good thing we were coed, eh?

From there, Peter Baird took us to a somber place in remembering Dale Smith and Dyche Kinder, who just last month was in attendance. Mike also noted that Don Hanson, owner of Scottish Lakes, passed in a snow accident.

Fishing began with a report from Lone Lake from David Schorsch who remembered cold and wet and windy and then some. Other reports went off the map including a "pre-fishing" report by unreformed braggart, Bob Burdick, who looks forward to fish in BC with **April Volkey** who invited Bob and his guest to "sleep with her" in her lodge. Assuming nothing untoward, we look forward to the rest of the report. Perry's fall into the lake was re-lived by Maury Skeith to great applause. Ron Little saw some steelies caught while he waited to get his car fixed. Kris Kristofferson had an epic day on the Crooked River.

Remembering protocol, Perry was given the honorary dunking he deserves.

Thankfully, the mirth subsided and Bob introduced Gene Grudger, our keynote speaker. Gene,

who needs no introduction, took the helm and took us back to the 1960s, Chapel Hill, North Carolina and an early super-computer, a missing father and somehow, a father fishing in Canada. You had to be there. That all led into a short tour of lakes in BC. As a young man, Gene discovered that streams were losing fish and lakes were gaining them in number and size. Canada is just four hours away for Gene and there, he discovered a wealth of lakes.

"Unlocking BC" gave a comprehensive overview of the how, when and why of fishing lakes in BC. starting in central, southern part of the Province, he focused the 321 stocked lakes in the Thompson Nicola and Caribou areas and an equal number of un-stocked lakes. Focusing on the stocked lakes, which ones? Books are prone to being outdated quickly. Magazines can be more current, but in our modern world, websites and blogs are the most likely to tell you everything you need to know including BigFishSmallHook.com; bcadventure.com lists areas by geographical area, and his favorite; gofishbc.com. The latter covers the day to day information of stocking patterns and conservation reports along with accurate maps and up to date reports.

Blogs like <http://www.flybc.ca/> provides a forum for information, good and bad, including the official regulations which have a way of implying how the lake will fish by noting restrictions to limits of one fish limits. For example, "over 50 cm and no live bait" usually means you are fishing on big trout. Stocking reports can tell you where the triploids (AF 3N or 3N*) are, where the stocking occurs and when the "first year" of fishing resumes. Look out for altitude which determines the "ice-out" and "over" points. His favorite method outside of pouring over reports in the winter, is to buy an angler a Scotch and soda and ask him or her "Have you tried....?"

Getting there is next. Here the usual suspects are available: GPS, Back road maps,

Google Earth and gofishbc.com. Gene navigated us through this site and showed us the amount of available information including drawing a map between where you are and where you want to be. Truly amazing.

Gene also adding a warning; learn to speak Canadian and learn their holidays. Avoid any three-

(Continued on page 4)

day weekends in BC if you want to avoid ATVs powered on gin and noisy as hell Canadians.

Gene's favorite lakes: Vinson, Kid, Jimmy, Island (Big OF), Morgan, Hatheume, Roche, Campbell, Pass and Blue are free; Corbet, Stoney and Wasley are pay to play. But he provided a proviso; sometimes he's wrong. Ask Bob Burdick. Regardless, Gene went ahead and showed us some lakes, told us about big fish he has caught, and about great camping and convoluted roads. Buyer beware.

I would love to tell you everything that happened next, but Gene wore me out with good information and I only had time to hear about the next cycle of casting classes in April 4th (call Don Simonson), before I had to go to bed.

*AF 3N means all female triploid; 3N means male triploid.

END

Dry Falls Outing Trial Run

With the recent spate of reminders of mortality in mind, I decided to revisit a past habit. Opening the trout season, as the first angler of the year, landing the first trout of the year, on Dry Falls Lake.

Logistics require a 2 am departure for a pre-sunrise cast to undisturbed trout. Unloading boat and gear in the dark, tying knots with a flashlight in your mouth, and a lukewarm thermos of coffee are other requirements. Having an equally fanatical fishing partner like Mark Pratt helps.

A pleasant 3 1/2 hour drive, with free coffee at the rest areas, got us to the put in under the stars. A half hour later we were casting over what should have been easy and aggressive fish. No takers. An occasional half hearted bump was all we got for way too long. As it got lighter, I could see how murky the water was, with

clumps of dead vegetation floating around. The lake was already turning over! Probably a month early! I switched over to a gold bead head wooly bugger, something they could see, and got takes on the next several casts. For the next couple hours, as the other anglers started showing up, I picked up a fish here, a fish there, always in five or six feet of water. The shallows were vacant for the most part. Mark was doing the same, having figured it out before me.

It turned out to be a gorgeous day, with highs in the 70's, but the upside down lake was still cold on top. An intermediate line fished slowly, with a dragonfly nymph accounted for about a dozen more fish by the time it was beer-thirty. Most were big fat rainbows in nice condition, with a few of the largest fish being "spawner" dark. I caught no fish under 14", and most were 17 to 19. I did see some of those "little fatties" jumping occasionally, but caught none.

Late lunch on the beach, visit with some of the "tardy" angling horde, tie down the boats, and off to Seattle. Home for dinner. A long day, and kind of a young mans gig, but I'm really glad we did it. Just hearing the birds at sunrise there is worth the trip. Never mind the colors of spring in the desert.

We only have so much time. See you on the water.

Continued on page 5

Dry Falls outing:

Hey guys! It's time for the Dry Falls outing. April 20, 21 at Sun Lakes state park. The usual spring fishing followed by a 5:00 happy hour in the campground (in area 26 thru 52) with barbeque. Get online reservations for a campsite @ Washington State Parks web site. Bring an appetizer to share and some firewood if you have any. (No, not those stinky hedge trimmings you didn't haul to the dump) The club has site 26 reserved.

A mandatory early investigation revealed lots of nice fish in the lake this year, and water should be cleared up by then. Water is about a foot higher than last fall.

Sign up on the outings section of the club web site so we have a count for steaks! Club will provide beverages, so bring appropriate side dishes if you like. Hot stuff's always good.

See you there!

Dave Schorsch

4-10-2013 LONE LAKE report.....wind subsided and cold. Others fishers present former Pres. Don Clough and brother in law...TOTAL SKUNK!

This is all the more shocking because Clough is the Master of the Chironomid..no rises noted, perhaps water temp too low.

4-9-2013 FISHING REPORT LARSEN LAKE (BELLEVUE LAKE HILLS GREENBELT OFF 148th. Homesteaded since the 1890s when Ove Peter Larsen built a cedar cabin (imagine the size of those trees.....) between Phantom



Lake and Larsen Lake and now maintained by Bellevue Parks, Larsen is the headwaters of Kelsey Creek that drains to Mercer Slough and allows access by cutthroats to Larsen, which also has bass, large black crappie and catfish and I determined to hike around it and fly fish off a good quality dock. I planned to confabulate a glowing report when somebody remarked "Don!" and my creative dreams were shattered by Hugh Jennings who lives nearby on his morning (Truth Squad) hike. A Mr. Ronnie Gates soon arrived, who fishes there often for these listed fish, and also has caught monster crawfish. My wet Chadditch did not catch any of these, but the morning and company were great. Capt. Bill Hebner of WDFW Divn 4 graciously provided archival stocking records showing no less than 20,000 eastern brooks from 250 to 400 per lb (= pretty small and I bet local birds loved them...) in 1957-60, and several thousand Puyallup Hatchery rainbows in 1995-98, so the Larsen Lunkers are there if you have the right attitude. This will be the first of forthcoming never-before published reports on local lunker filled lakes.

By: *Don Gulliford*



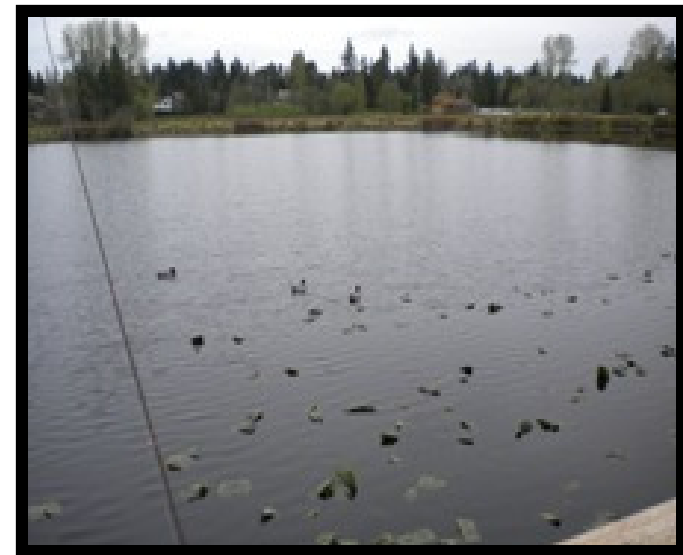
Larsen Lake tunkers' fair



Truth Squad Hugh Jennings 4/9/2013
Larsen Lake



Kelsey Creek Cuthroat channel out of Larsen Lake 4/9/2013



In The Beginning

Eggs deposited during the spring in four- to six-inch deep redds in the pea-sized gravel of small, low-gradient, tributary creeks will incubate there for six to seven weeks, and the newly-hatched cuthroat alevins will spend another week or two ingesting the contents of their egg sacs before struggling up through the gravel to emerge as free-swimming fry at a length of about one inch.

The cryptic coloration of the fry offers some degree of protection from predators as they take up their places in the ecosystem of the stream. Feeding at first on the tiniest of invertebrates, they will begin to seek out larger prey as they grow.

The WFFC has lost at least four

Members in the last couple of months, perhaps more. Cam Sigler, Dale Smith, Gordon Kinder and Marje Brening. You might say that Marje was not in the club but she was really. I think it was my second trip to Chopaka and I was walking up the same dirt road but



there was only one person walking toward me then and it was Marje Brening. That time of my life I was quite overweight to the tune of about 273 pounds. When Marje reached me she blocked my passage and then poked me in the stomach and said those things cause heart attacks, get rid of it referring to my belly. I laughed and she said no, I'm serious. Well she got me thinking that's for sure and with my wife's help signing me up at the gym I started to loose weight. Yes, that is Marje on the left with a couple of bad actors on the right and that's the way it goes up at Chopaka and when the sun comes out it is a wonderful place even if there is almost a guaran-

teed thunder storm in the afternoon. It just helps to keep the dust down. Fish are caught and rods get broken and stolen and fishermen fall out of their boats and there are potlucks and pancakes and sausage and new friends and old friends and steak night and cod tempura night and happy hour every night with all kinds of stuff to wash down your beer with and Marje we will miss you. I hope you go to a place where you can continue helping people in need. We all love you!

Sincerely,
all the members of the WFFC



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here

April, 2013

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:

Bob Birkner is going to be tying April 16th. Pattern to be announced. You will have to sneak over and look at what he is tying.