

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



International Federation of
FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



MMXV No. 4

April, 2015

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



So, where were you on March 17th, 2015? I, along with over 100 members and guests was at the Seattle Tennis Club for a screening of the film *"The Breach"*. A very animated and at times a somewhat raucous, crowd gathered to watch this film produced by Mark Titus which some feel will prove to be an important catalyst in galvanizing support for pro-salmon policies.

At little background on how this came about. Bob Burdick, 2nd VP Programs, learned about this film from Dave Schorsch. At one or more board meetings at which discussions were had as to speakers and programs for our meetings the prospect of bringing this film to the Club was tossed about. The general consensus was that, yes, it would be a good idea but more likely than not it would need to wait until some indeterminate date. As I understand it, not being satisfied with this uncertainty Bob commenced with some sleuthing around. (Picture this: Bob in his Sherlock Holmes hat and long cloak). Bob located Mark Titus' office and with a knock on the door introduced himself to Mark. After Bob described the purpose of his visit, Mark told Bob that he (Mark) was indeed amenable to having one of the initial screenings of his film hosted by the WFFC at one of its meeting; however, due to prior commitments a screening would need to be held at the March meeting or if not then, at some time in the indefinite future.

Bob relayed his conversations with Mark to board members and it was decided to rearrange the program schedule and to bring the film to the Club. For its March meeting. It was also determined to make this a rather special event for the Club and promote it both internally and to the general public. The February and March Board meetings were pretty much centered around considerations, tactics and logistics on how the Club and the Seattle Tennis Club would be able to attract, feed, entertain and manage a large crowd. The Club and the STC have more than a little experience with crowds of this size but it was more than a little tricky for the Club to resolve some of its administrative and technical issues as well as preparing a venue which would allow for viewing a longish film. Bob assembled a team to identify, manage and attend to all the various tasks. Kerry Oldenburg quickly took the reins and along with Roger Rohrbeck and Jim MacDonald developed a workable

plan for the event. Many hands were involved in implementation of the plan.

As the crowd descended on the STC, Chuck Ballard, Ron Little, Pat Peterman, Doug Mollet and Dave Hawkins acted as greeters and assisted in making sure all the attendees were checked in, advised of the locations of the two bars and then their respective tables. Handling all the "front end" of the checking in process were Ghillie MacDonald and Assistant Ghillie Lillard with Pat Becker keeping Jim and Abe in line. Thank you, Pat! Walt Swanson did the honors as the guest tier. Bob Burdick, leading from behind, kept everything on a somewhat even keel.

I do not know what the Club record may be for guests attending any particular meeting but I suspect it was broken....Jim Goedhart topped all members by bringing enough guests to fill an entire table and Kerry Oldenburg hosted an all-female table but for one dapper, mustachioed male Club member who professes that he was properly invited to sit at Kerry's table. (Talk about "fish stories"!!!!)

I want every member of this Club to know and appreciate the amount of work and effort that went into this event the time constraints within which all this was accomplished and the pressure under which this was done. Also a tip of the hat to Amy and her STC staff. Job well done!

Drifting along.....

- It was some 40 years ago the State of Montana ceased stocking trout in rivers and streams which were able to

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(Continued from page 1) - President's Riffle

support trout. I think we can all agree Montana has world class fisheries due in no small part to that decision.



- NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced it will be taking a short cut (an environmental assessment vs. an environmental impact statement) in assessing the releasing Chambers Creek steelhead in the Nooksack, Dungeness and Stillaguamish watersheds.



- WDFD submitted a budget to the Legislature for approval of \$38,000,000 in capital improvements for hatcheries. What was that definition of Insanity?



April Program

Saltwater Fly Fishing with Leland Miyawaki

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

A thank you to all 115 of you who attended last month's meeting and treated yourself to the conservation movie "The Breach"

This month, on April 21st, we welcome back Leland Miyawaki, a former longtime WFFC member, and mostly retired manager of the fishing department at the Orvis store in Bellevue. Leland is presenting a program on how to tie, use, and be successful with his unique Beach popper, which he has developed and refined over the last 15 to 20 years. Good for searun cuts, dollies, coho, and blackmouth, Leland will show pictures of fish off the beach that will make your eyes pop out. This is a must be there demonstration for all who aspire to being successful at salt water fly fishing.



Leland Miyawaki

In May, Chad Jackson, regional biologist for the WDFW in Moses Lake, will be coming to our monthly meeting to give us an update on central Washington Lakes. Chad is an excellent speaker, always has a lake handout, and has returned several times by popular demand over the last several years but was unable to fulfill his commitment to us last year due to the demands of the Wanapum dam crack and subsequent drawdown.

Note From Last Month's Speaker

Mark Titus, Producer of "The Breach"

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

I thought you might enjoy the following note that we received from Mark Titus, our March speaker and producer of the movie, "The Breach" that we viewed at our last club meeting. It's nice to hear how highly our club is regarded by the public.

Kerry and Bob -

Believe me, I can speak for both Susan and myself when I tell you the honor was ours to be able to screen our film for the Washington Fly Fishing Club. There was a deep amount of wisdom packed into that room and I feel humbled having people with that much knowledge and concern



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Creel Notes

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

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2nd Vice President (Programs)

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Abe Lillard

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Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13
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Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting email (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

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.

(Continued from page 2) - Note from Last Month's Speaker for salmonids watch our film. Thank you for the invitation and for the extraordinary generosity you have bestowed on us as we head into our national tour.

Mark Titus

Reeling in the Years

A number of years ago Leland (our club speaker this month) published this listing of which I've kept all these years because I thought his observations covers a lot of common sense about fly fishing in general—Ed

Things I Have Learned About Fly Fishing

By Leland Miyawaki

Thirty-eight years ago, (40 years+ now -Ed) I sent \$75 to L.L. Bean for a "Complete Fly Fishing Outfit" that consisted of a 7/2" Fenwick' fiberglass rod, 1494 Medalist reel, and weight-forward floating line. The day the outfit arrived in the mail, I set my spinning rod down forever. Two days later, my Orvis fly tying kit arrived. For the next year, I taught myself to fly cast, dress flies, and catch trout. I am a self-taught expert on mistakes.



The following is a short list, in no particular order, of what I have and have not learned to date:

1. If the water is full of naturals, and providing you know what they are, fish a size smaller pattern than what you think.
2. Cast to feeding fish, not the water.
3. Don't cast or fish as if others are watching you. So what if they are, who cares?
4. Don't think the hatch, when it happens, happens everywhere.
5. Use the same length leader for all dry line work. That way you will know where your fly is at all times
6. If you had buck fever when you began fly fishing, it will never, ever go away.
7. Do not lose the first fish of the day.
8. Slow down.
9. When swinging flies for steelhead, keep a tight line on the hang-down.
10. Don't fish murky water on the beach.
11. Kids need to catch fish.
12. Before wading and bushwhacking from the car to the river, see if there is a nearby field you can walk through.
13. Never leave fish to find fish.
14. Don't bring a camera with you if you want to catch steelhead.
15. Don't bring a cooler with you if you want to catch salmon.
16. Don't think "barbecue" if you want to land the big salmon you're playing.
17. Always take a crap before a long float trip down the river.
18. If you want to lose weight in the morning, eat greasy bacon.
19. You will always make your worst cast to the biggest fish.
20. Don't promise a fishing report if you want to catch fish.
21. The harder it rains, the more you will have to pee.
22. On a lake everything you say will be heard by everyone.

23. If you aren't catching fish, you don't have enough lead
24. There are no wind knots, only casting knots.
25. Use a tippet size that is commensurate with fly size.
26. Only tie and fish your best-dressed flies.
27. Tie soft hackle flies sparse.
28. The best steelhead fly is the one that last caught a fish.
29. Always walk through brush with your rod strung up.
30. Strip set when fishing poppers and streamers.
31. Remove your casting knots when you find them.
32. Always check your leader for knots after throwing a tailing loop.
33. Turning waders inside out will only weaken the ankle seams.
34. When fishing a pool, don't grow roots - keep moving.
35. Always buy something if you want the latest fishing info from a fly shop.

Programs 'On Tap' for 2015

Program Speakers for 2015

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

The following is a schedule of our speakers for the rest of the year. More detail on each speaker can be found on our website.

I think we've got a terrific selection, our best in 3 years, and I want to thank every one of you who contributed suggestions as to whom we should issue invitations.

Presentation Schedule for WFFC in 2015

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Jan 20 th | Awards |
| 2. Feb 17 th | Kelly Glissmeyer---Spring Creek Tactics |
| 3. Mar 17 th | "The Breach" |
| 4. April 21 st | Leland Miyawaki---Saltwater Poppers |
| 5. May 19 th | Chad Jackson---Current highlights of Central Washington Lakes |
| 6. June 16 th | Marc Williamson---"Reading water" |
| 7. July 21 st | Dave Fast---Yakima research projects/ Seychelles |
| 8. Aug 18 th | Round Table and Recycled fishing equipment sale |
| 9. Sept 15 th | Bill Kindler "In pursuit of Golden Trout" |
| 10. Oct 20 th | Adam Tavender--- A Photographic essay on pursuing steelhead in the NW |
| 11. Nov 17 th | Rick Hafele---"7 mistakes you don't need to make when fly fishing" |
| 12. Dec 15 th | Christmas Party |

WDFW Enforcement

Member Don Gulliford Reappointed to WDFD Enforcement Group

On April 8, 2015 **Don Gulliford** got a nice letter from WDFW re-appointing him to WDFD Enforcement Group for another term.

If any WFFC members have enforcement related matters, always let Don know.

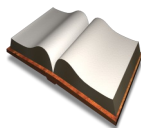


WFFC Printed Rosters

Club Rosters Available

The 2015 WFFC Rosters have been printed and will be available at the upcoming Dinner Meeting for you to pick-up off of tables laid out in alphabetical order.

If you know of someone who will not be attending the Dinner and you will be seeing them shortly, we would appreciate it if you would pick-up theirs too and give it to them as this will save the club the \$2 postage fee.



Upcoming Outings

Desert Lakes May 7th and 8th



John Callahan is leading this Thursday (May 7th) and Friday (May 8th) outing.

The plan is to meet at the Mar-Don grocery at 9:00 Thursday morning to review some recent fish info, then off to the best lakes. These are hike in/float tube fisheries, with perhaps a drive to lake included. Potholes State Park is available for staying over.

Sign up on the WFFC website or contact John for information and directions.



Roses Lake, Chelan County

Chironomids Do the Trick *By Chuck Ballard*

On Saturday April 4th I fished Roses lake in Chelan county. The weather was great no wind and temperature about 53F. The water temperature was still cold on top so the fish were deep.

I used a leech with a dropper chironomid pattern I call the Goldylocks. It is tied with a scud hook and a small gold bead the body is just stretchy chord over a bare hook then colored with an orange felt marker. The collar is peacock hurl. I caught and released 5 12" planters.

It appeared that the lake had recently been planted because the power bait guys were doing very well.

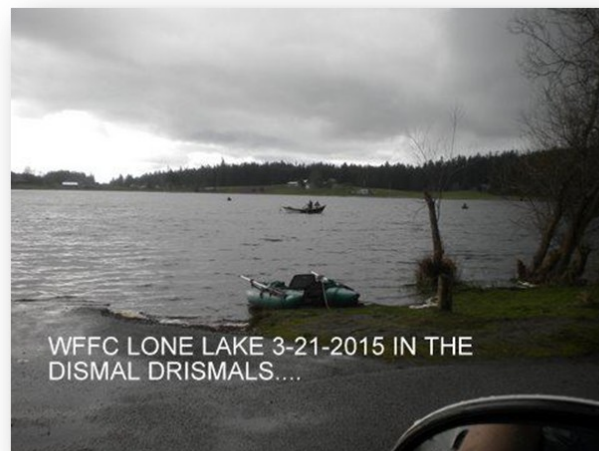


The 'Goldylocks'

Lone Lake, Island County

Operation 'Raincoat, Windbreaker, Hot Dogs and Chicken Soup'

From what the editor 'heard' is ~ 15 members showed up. The fishing was pretty slow and whether was 'uncomfortable', but the food was good.



Photo's by Don Gulliford

Oregon Coast Rivers

Four Days, Four Rivers

By Scott Hagen

I drove to the town of Netarts, Oregon, just north of Tillamook, on Sunday, March 15th through a pouring rainstorm and thirty MPH headwinds. Every river I looked at was high and brown and I was sure we were not going to find a fishable river on Monday. Mike and I met our guide, Chris O'Donnell for dinner and he assured us that the rivers were going to drop and we would have water to fish.

Chris picked us up at o'dark thirty on Monday and we drove to the Nestucca River. The river had about two feet of visibility and continued to clear throughout the day. Mike landed a six pound hen in the afternoon, and I landed a chrome 17" jack steelhead in the morning.



And.....Away We Go!

Tuesday found us on the Trask River. Conditions were perfect, with about four feet of visibility, and the water a nice "steelhead green". I hooked a pretty nice fish, had it on for several minutes, and had a good look at it before the hook pulled out.

On Wednesday, we went way up on the Wilson River and spent most of the day above a hairy chute that most people avoid by putting in below. We spent the day fishing some wonderful looking water. Mike never touched a fish. I had one fish on for just a few seconds, but lost it when it came out of the water. We went down through the chute in the afternoon and it was a genuine e-ticket ride... I can see why most people avoid it.

Thursday, Chris and I went to the Nehalem River, Mike departing for home last night. I drove my truck and camper as the ferry car, leaving it at the take-out, a huge gravel pit. Again the conditions were perfect, with at least three feet of visibility. We fished some very nice water, and I expected a pull at any moment, but it was not to be.

I had an easy drive home through Astoria, getting 14 MPG with my huge truck and camper, the best it's ever done.



Oregon River Country

Dry Falls Lake, Grant County

April 11, 12 Dry Falls Lake Yep, The Lake's Pretty Low!

By David Schorsch



Everyone launched at the west channel without any problems, only to find reluctant fish under the whitecaps. The big storms that moved into the Puget Sound area Friday night and Saturday morning provided enough push to funnel huge winds across the Columbia basin. We joined at least one other fly club there this weekend, and most anglers huddled in the lee side of the rocks, hoping not to lose anchor and get blown across the lake.



Dry Falls Vista by Pat Becker

At one point there were at least twenty boats/pontoons on the north side of the "point" in the middle of the lake. At least 19 of them were having really slow fishing! The winds finally eased up around 2:00, and a few chironomids started popping. The bobber guys were fishing 20 to 26 feet down, and picking up some fish. I kept trolling around in the deep water with an old school slow sink line and a dragon fly nymph or black leech, picking up a fish every 45 minutes or so. I only saw one shallow

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cruiser, and true to form, he ate the fly when dropped in front of him. Just like the good old days!

When we finally gave up, and headed for camp, the wind died down for at least an hour! It was a beautiful evening! 22 members and guests shared steaks and side dishes under a starry sky. The bonfire came in handy when the wind kicked back up to 40, and stayed there! A round the fire check revealed 15 skunks! We have set a record, and I'm not sure how the gillie will handle this at the next meeting. The food was great, and the company grand!

Plenty of help made cleanup quick and easy Sunday morning. Stops at a couple other "options" on the way home were stymied by the gale force weather all the way home. Oh well, that's fishing!

Skunk of the Month

Apparently His Hand Tied Flies Don't Work



He Wears It So Well

"Our tradition is that of the first man who sneaked away to the creek when the tribe did not really need fish."

- Roderick Haig-Brown (about modern fishing)
A River Never Sleeps, 1946

'Aw Shucks' Department

Spoken For

The one and only April Vokey, 'belle of the fly-fishing world', is now officially married!



If you were listening carefully, you may have heard the sound of a millions hearts breaking around the world when she said "I do."

Congratulations April!

April Vokey was one of our speakers a couple of years ago -Ed

New WDFW Commissioners

Governor Appoints New Fish & Wildlife Commissioners

*By Rich Landers
Spokesman Review, Spokane*

An expert birder and physician from Spokane is one of two new members of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission named by Governor Jay Inslee



Although the appointments have not been officially announced, the governor's office has confirmed that Kim Thorburn, former chief health officer of the Spokane Regional Health District and an officer in the Spokane Audubon Society, has been named to fill a long-vacant seat.

Thorburn has been heavily involved with the state Fish and Wildlife Department's restoration and monitoring of sage and sharp-tailed grouse in the Eastern Washington.

David Graybill, an angler from Seattle with life-long ties to

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fishing the upper Columbia region, will fill a seat vacated by Rollie Schmitten of Lake Wenatchee, appointed in 2009.

Schmitten was a director of the former state Department of Fisheries in the 1980s before becoming the National Director of Marine Fisheries.

Graybill has been a salmon advocate and organizer and is known for his FishinMagician.com updates.

Pending is the resignation of Miranda Wecker of Naselle and the announcement of her replacement, officials confirmed. Wecker is a former commission chair who was first-appointed in 2005 and reappointed.

The new appointments take affect on Monday, although they must eventually be confirmed by the Washington Senate.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission is a nine-member panel that directs policy for the Fish and Wildlife Department.

The commission is meeting today and Saturday in Moses Lake. On the agenda is a long list of proposals related to hunting seasons.

Kim Thorburn of Spokane was named the 2010 volunteer of the year by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for her work to monitor reintroduced sage grouse in Lincoln County. Thorburn is a retired physician and former Spokane Regional Health District director. Photo by Terry Allen (Photo by Terry Allen)



Under the Surface

Appearance of Color Underwater

From Michigan Fish and Game

As sunlight penetration in the water diminishes, so does the vividness of colors. In fact, as you go deeper, All colors eventually turn black but at incredibly different rates.

In the middle of the color spectrum is lime green or chartreuse, which shows up very well between 20 and 40 feet deep.

Bright red turns black underwater faster than any other color. That makes in most effective in shallow water, where light penetration is the highest. If you fish deeper than 40 feet in typical water clarity, red can lose its powers as an attractant. To the fish it will appear black. Best time to use red is when fish are feeding in shallow water and is especially effective in fall when fish feed close to shore in preparation for winter.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, blue is capable of reflecting the smallest glimmers of light. That is why blue is the most effective color when fishing deep or in low clarity. Some anglers have said never to use blue since it is disguise by the water and fish can't see it. According to numerous tests done by the Michigan Fish and Game, the opposite is true. Blue shows up in deep water better than any other color.

An Extra Tip

Cover Your Eyes!

By Kirk Mathew



Protect your vision while on the water. Whether from shore, in a boat, wading, or float tubing, there are some preventable hazards associated with fly fishing. As with all sports, there is a potential for injuries that occur suddenly and that have devastating results.

Fishing injuries now make up about 9 percent of all sports-related eye injuries, surpassing basketball and racquet sports that were the most common cause prior to 2005. A hook to the eye accounts for about 38 percent of fishing-related eye injuries. A sinker or the body of a lure striking an eye causes 44 percent of these injuries. While our group may not use to many conventional lures or sinkers, weighted flies such as lead eyed Clousers can have the same effect.

Although it may seem that a hook in the eye is the worst possible injury, a sinker or lure striking the eye can cause the eyeball to rupture, causing permanent blindness in approximately half of the cases. Most anglers I know wear sunglasses with polarized lenses while fishing so they can see through the water surface better. We all love to look into the water and see our quarry. Not all polarized lenses are sturdy enough to stop some of the heavier flies out there. The best way to protect your eyes while fly fishing is to be sure your sports eyewear has 3-mm polycarbonate lenses. Polycarbonate lenses are impact-resistant and are the thinnest, lightest lenses you can buy. Polycarbonate is also the most shatter-resistant lens material, and it filters 100 percent of ultraviolet (UV) light (which will help prevent radiation eye injuries).

Don't forget to protect your eyes at night. Though there is no UV light to shield, the traumatic risks still exist. Your regular glasses will do fine for this task, if they are impact resistant. So be smart, protect your vision, there are a lot of wonderful things yet to see.



Clear Waters



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Stamp
here

April, 2015

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:

Saltwater Fly Fishing
with
Leland Miyawaki