

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



MMXVI No. 1

April 2016

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



Licenses

are up.

Get yours renewed.

As some of you are aware, Pete Baird has relinquished his role as

our Fruit & Flowers chair. We owe a lot to Pete for the manner in which he discharged his duties over the last 10 years. Yes, Ten Years. Pete brought an unfailing sensitivity and grace in keeping tabs on those of us experiencing health issues as well as those in our immediate families. I mentioned Pete's "retirement" at our last meeting and before I left the meeting that evening Dr. Rick Dubose stepped up and agreed to take on this responsibility. Rick was at the April Board meeting along with Pete for an informal hand-off. Please give Rick your thanks for taking on this function as well as all the help he may ask of you. Well, maybe not wait for him to ask. Offer your help.

Last month's meeting was pretty special. How about that dynamic duo of Gudger and Westover? (Gudger & Westover....sounds like a law firm) Anyway, Gene and Denny made a truly outstanding presentation on just about anything one can hope to learn about fishing with chironomid patterns. I know some of our members profess to not fish with chironomid patterns: however, I did not notice any of the audience nodding off. Presentations like this do not come off of a shelf or out of a box. A lot of thought and work goes into making presentations of this caliber. Thank you Gene and Denny. Great work. Also a tip of the hat to Bob Burdick, VP of Programs, for making this happen. I cannot promise when this may happen or the form it will take but we intend to have the content of this program available for mem-



bers through the new website.

I attended the Northwest Fly Tying Expo in Albany, Oregon last month. Other WFFC members I ran into were Bob Burdick, Walt Swanson, Denny Westover and Pat Peterman. Bob and Walt were tiers, Pat was wearing his IFFF hat giving tests to candidates for fly casting instructors and Denny was just spending money. I have always learned something, at this event but I techniques or materials.

Rosters. After some waffling on my part, we will have new rosters printed and available at the April meeting. This year the roster will be abbreviated and only include member photo and contact information as well as listing current trustees, officers and committee chairs. Other options were batted around but that is what has been decided. My expectation is this will be the final year we have printed rosters as members will be able to print his/her own roster from that which will be on the new website. complete "mock-up" of what we have thus far developed.

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Presidents Message continued from page 1
 Due largely to Carol Anderson work we have been able to accomplish a tremendous amount of spade work for which we will not have to pay a developer of the new web site. You are going to get sick of hearing this but Jim, Carol Anderson and Kris Kristoferson have been largely responsible for the progress....particularly Carol. Understand the word "We" used in this context refers to Jim, Carol and Kris.....I am a nonfunctional hood ornament. We have a meeting scheduled for later this month and maybe able to get this project out for bid. No promises but that is our goal.

Jim MacDonald. It was real treat to see Jim MacDonald at the last membership meeting. Jim was looking good and appeared to be having a grand time. Thanks to Chuck Ballard for providing Jim with transportation to the meeting and then home again.

Pat Becker, Ghillie Number One, will no longer be serving as Youth Committee Chair or as our official photographer. Pat has been very busy as Ghillie and (how dare she) other non-WFFC matters. Pat, thank you for your time and efforts as chair and our photographer. I am now seeking replacements for a Youth Committee Chair and Photographer. Do not be shy. Step up. The only way the Club makes any progress is through our own efforts.

What else is going on? I see the Washington State Legislature has been busy attending to some of the pressing issues facing the recovery of our steelhead by jumping on the specialty license plate band wagon. , this time one for steelhead. You know the official state fish which we seem to have brought close to extinction. Those who wish to do so will be able to purchase a "Steelhead" license plate for somewhere in the range of \$54 to \$78. The WDFW press release states the department estimates this will raise an additional \$200,000. Wow, that is sure going to go a long way toward help solving the issue. I guess we can all buy one to make us feel better.

Last month WDFW announced

"Poor forecasts for returning coho salmon are prompting state and tribal fishery managers to consider closing all salmon fisheries in Washington's ocean waters this year as part of a federal season-setting process for the west coast. State, tribal and federal fishery managers have developed three options for non-treaty ocean salmon fisheries that reflect the anticipated low coho returns. Two options would permit some salmon fishing this year, but one would close recreational and commercial ocean fisheries for chinook and coho salmon".

Maybe the Legislature should be called back in session to enact enabling legislation to allow for the sale of specialty license plates for Salmon.

Italian Dinner

At the 2015 fund raiser, my wife Ann was winning bidder for the Italian Dinner offered by Rocco Maccarrone. Ann and I, along with our guests, were looking forward to the event. We all enjoyed a great dinner last night prepared and served by Rocco and his wife, Judy. This was the real deal! A traditional Italian dinner: antipasto, lasagna, meat balls, bread, salad, gelato, espresso along with uncounted bottles of red wine. Rocco and Judy worked very hard in the preparation, serving and clean up. All guests left with sated appetites, smiles on their faces as well as large containers of lasagna. Thank you. Rocco and Judy.
 Gary Bergquist



April Speaker Chad Jackson

Our April speaker is none other than Chad Jackson, known to most of us as the one of the best WDFW speakers. Chad is stationed in Moses Lake where he works as the district fish biologist for Adams and Grant counties. He has been coming to the WFFC almost annually to give us an update on the state of the lakes and rivers in the Columbia Basin and always has an handout detailing his details. If you fish the lakes of Eastern Washington you won't want to miss this! Arrive early, he often has a standing room only audience!

I'm pleased to also announce that the fly tier for the April meeting is our own Preston Singletary tying flies appropriate to Eastern Washington. Preston is one of the very best fly tiers in the Northwest and has several innovative Chironomid patterns as well as a skwala pattern that is a dead ringer for the real thing.

Chad Jackson's bio in his own words: "I began my career with WDFW in 1997, immediately after completing my Bachelor's degree in fisheries management from the University of Idaho. I have worked both in fisheries research and management. My first job was in Region 2 working for the Warmwater Fish Program performing applied research fisheries work. I was part of a research team that performed stock assessment surveys, analyzed warm-water data, and authored agency reports. After two years in Region 2, I transferred to the same position in Region 6 out of Olympia, where I performed the same work. In 2001, I promoted to Region 4 where I was the inland fish manager for waters in King, Snohomish, and Island counties. This move proved to be a tremendous professional opportunity and benefit where I was mentored by some of WDFW's strongest managers. I truly learned a lot about a variety of inland fish resources while in this position. During my tenure at Region 4, I was suddenly moved into the District 13 fish biologist position as a result of WDFW staff cuts. In this position, I was responsible for salmon and steelhead management in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds. While salmon and steelhead management was not my professional preference (inland fish was)

I decided to make "lemonade" out of these "lemons", and ultimately learned a lot from this unexpected move, ended up enjoying salmon and steelhead management, and in the end the move proved to be beneficial towards my professional development. In 2010, I decided to move back to eastern Washington, accepting my current position as district fish biologist for Grant and Adams counties, a position once held by my father from 1979 to 1989. The reason for the move was to return to my preference for inland fish management. Since this move, I have been performing lake rehabilitations to restore trout fisheries, working on local and statewide inland fish projects, and learning about a new inland fish resource, white sturgeon, that I have never worked on before.

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for programs.



Future Outings

Okay folks!

Here's a plan for outings for the next couple months. These dates are pretty good, but could be changed if there are some earth shaking, urgent reasons to do so. There are other outings in the works, but this is pretty advanced notice for a group that usually makes up it's mind a couple days in advance... I will have much more detailed information on the clubs web site "outings" area for each outing in the next few days. Please let me know if you have any objections or suggestions for the outings schedule!

Dry Falls	April 16,17
Hannon	May 14
Chopaka	May 28,29,30

I intend to catch a lot of trout this year! Hope to have a bunch of you join me!

Dave Schorsch

2016 Speakers Schedule

2016 Speaking Schedule

“ We’ve had a great run of speakers lately and we’ve more to come. Here’s the list for each month through September”

February---Tom Larimer talked on the myths of steel-heading to an overflow crowd and then stayed to answer questions until 10:30 pm

March-----Denny Westover and Gene Gudger divulged 80 years of Chironomid tricks to an appreciative full house.

April 19-----Chad Jackson will talk about the Columbia Basin Lakes

May 17th---John Covitch from Fly Water Travel will discuss Fly Fishing Cuba. Come take notes on how to do your own trip.

June 21--- Chester Allen is coming from Oregon to talk on “Fly Fishing for Sea Run Cutthroat trout”

July 19th--- Linda Mapes, a Seattle Times reporter who has written extensively about the Saga of the Elwha River will be coming

To talk about “The Elwha Reborn”

August 16th—6 table fly fishing seminar, barbeque banquet, and used equipment sale.

September 20th---Diane Ruoff, writer, casting record holder, and champion fisherwoman will present a program entitled

“Fishing around the world”

October 18th ----TBD

November 15th—TBD

December 13th Christmas Party

Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for programs

LoLone Lake Outing

3-27-2016

Dear Creel Notes:

A good time was had by all on a *fantastically* sunny day, replete with Dave Schorsch's& barbacue hot dogs; bead head nymphs seemed to score and attendees Schorsch, Ben Davidson, Jim Young, Rick DuBose, Mark Pratt and Tom Neu are *someplace* around the Banquet Table in the first picture. The food and beverages were super.

Sorry if I left out a member's name.

Don Gulliford

Contributing Editor.



Project Healing Waters

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

On Saturday April 26th our volunteers from WFFC, Bob Young, Scott Hagen, James Schmidt & Jim McRoberts and John Templar from American Lake, took 15 veterans and 2 drivers from the Puget Sound Health Care System (Seattle & American Lake) to a new venue. It is private lake on a ranch near Graham. It is about half the size of a football field. It is called Mallard Lake. The owner is very responsive to helping our group. He has been working with groups for many years. He buys his fish from the Nisqually Trout Farm where we fished last year. The lake is loaded with 3# and much larger fish. Everyone hooked fish but not all were brought to hand! Just like most of our fishing! Almost all the fish were taken using floating lines with wooly buggers or similar flies.

Jim Roberts



Wanted

Any WFFC Members know a graphite rod repairer/restorer? If you do, please contact Don Guliford

Fishing Report

Eastern Washington

On April 2nd I finally got over to eastern Washington for some fishing.

To my surprise two of the lakes I wanted to explore were still half covered with ice. Davis lake near Winthrop and Frost lake as well. So I retreated to Rat lake near Brewster WA. What I found there was very high water and it was also very dark green because the ice had just gotten off the lake maybe a week earlier. I did manage to catch one small recent plant (12") near the boat launch.

What I observed was very high water and the out-flow was a small river. The bad news is that the lake was planted about a week earlier and I believe these fish have mostly gone out the overflow and will be lost.

This lake was killed last fall and unless there was another plant shortly after that, the spring plant may have been wasted?

Chuck Ballard

Chironomids

Class: Insecta **Order:** Diptera **Family:** Chironomidae



Chironomid Pupa

Species of the Dipteran order have been buzzing around for over 200 million years. They have evolved into one of the largest and most diverse of all insect orders, with over 3500 species in North America alone. Literally translated Diptera means two (Di) winged (ptera) referring to the winged adult stage. Some of the better known members of this order include mosquitoes, crane flies, black flies and the common house fly. Diptera have a complete lifecycle or metamorphosis consisting of egg, larva, pupa and adult. From an aquatic perspective and a fly fisher's interest the Chironomidae family is without a doubt the most

Capable of incredibly dense populations chironomids or midges to some have more species than all other aquatic insects combined. For many anglers the chironomids often small size range, diminutive physique and technical presentation techniques are a source for disdain. Make no mistake; chironomids are of critical importance. From personal study these insects often constitute over 50% of stillwater trout's food intake in productive lakes. Trout consume so many of these insects, especially the larval or pupal stage, that they respond instinctively to a proper combination of presentation and pattern. If there is a hatch or not, trout can be taken consistently all season long on both moving and stillwaters with chironomids.



Capable of surviving in a diverse range of habitats and

conditions chironomids are found in bogs, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, salt water marshes even sewage treatment ponds. From the tropics to the Arctic chironomids are one hardy insect. Preferred aquatic environments feature soft stable bottoms and weeds, traits of slow moving stretches, spring creeks, tail waters, lakes and ponds. In western North America productive mud bottom lakes are home to a staggering number of species, many capable of attaining large sizes. Close to an inch in some instances, a definite contradiction to their midge moniker.

Depending upon species and habitat chironomids are found in a wide range of sizes, from too small to imitate to the monster "bomber" chironomids of the west, larva are close to an inch in length. Rivers and streams often feature smaller sizes due in part to multiple generations. Species capable of more than one hatch cycle per season are often smaller as a result of less growing time between hatches. Multiple emergences are common in southern latitudes and warmer water temperatures. Conversely, some species feature one year cycles and are typically large. Pattern choices range from #24 to #16. Depending upon the region stillwater fly boxes feature larger sizes, #18 to #6 in some cases. Clear water lakes and ponds tend to feature smaller sizes while rich mud bottom algae type lakes are ideal habitat for larger species such as Tendipes.

Chironomid larvae grow through 3 to 4 instars. Within species there is a downsizing between stages, a trait common to many insects. Larvae are larger than pupae which in turn are larger than adults, a key consideration when choosing patterns during an emergence.



Bloodworms

Slender and worm-like, chironomid larva have 9 body segments and short stubby pro-legs fore and aft. Successful larval patterns should be svelte and incorporate wire ribbing to suggest segmentation and weight the dressing, aiding presentation. Larval patterns should be presented near the bottom where naturals are most often found.

Pupa possess more definitive features, bodies are slim tapered and segmented, adopting a distinct comma profile. The thorax is distinct and bulbous featuring wing pads that are a worth imitating. The legs and antenna trail beneath the thorax, on larger pupa patterns these can be suggested using a beard hackle. Perhaps the most prominent feature on the pupa are the

stark white gills located on the front dorsal area of the thorax. These should be imitated. Favourite materials include white ostrich herl, Midge Gill, Antron, Polypropylene and Superwhite beads. Larger "bomber" pupa also feature less prominent caudal gills and are worthy of imitation. The critical key to a successful pupa pattern is maintaining a slim anorexic profile. Obese patterns should be avoided.



Adult Chironomid

Adults closely resemble their pesky mosquito cousins. Thankfully chironomid females possess no piercing proboscis. A stroll through a mating swarm may result in an accidental swallowing but no bites! Adult chironomids have slender tapered bodies similar to the pupa no tails and a pair of wings that trail back over the body when at rest. The thorax area is humped and they often feature prominent eyes. Males are easily identified by their plumose antenna is used to aid their search for a mate. Females on the other hand display fine difficult to see antenna.

Chironomid coloration is as varied as the individual species and the environments in which they live. Coloration is also affected during the transitional phases of their life cycle. Chironomid larva can be found in white, green, olive, brown, red and maroon. Free living species in lakes are often olive or bright green while those species living in the bottom ooze lean toward red or maroon. The red or maroon color larva common to stillwaters have been nicknamed bloodworms due to their distinct color.



This coloration is due to these larval species ability to generate

enables survival in anoxic conditions such as rotting debris along the bottom or when higher water temperatures reduce dissolved oxygen. Red or maroon larvae are common in productive algae type waters that can be less oxygenated than their clear water counterparts. Some species take on a banded red/green

appearance as their haemoglobin intake increases or decreases. Banded larva are common on many productive lakes during the early fall as the dissolved oxygen content increases due to reduced water temperatures.

Pupae come in a myriad of colors including black, maroon, brown, tan, olive and various shades of green. Maroon is a versatile pattern color as depending upon the light conditions it can appear as black, brown and its parent color. Black is another ideal color choice and a black body red rib is a favoured color combination for many seasoned chironomid fly fishers. The trapped air and gases the pupa uses to aid the pupal ascent and final transformation to adult has a distinct bearing on the overall color scheme of the pupa. Inflated pupae radiate a distinct shine depending upon their progression through the pupa stage. Pre

level of trapped air and gases increases so does their radiance.

Flex, Frostbite and Midge Stretch Floss are preferred body choices. Bright ribbing materials such as gold, copper or silver wire should also be employed for flash and contrast. From personal observation, the sheen of the trapped air and gases varies further adding to the puzzle as the pupa color changes as it rises through the water column. Many species retain haemoglobin from the larval stage manifesting around the body segments and the tip of the abdomen in particular. Red butt pupae are common on many waters and pattern design should take this into account.

Adult coloration varies little from the pupa, upon emergence however adult coloration tends to be brighter until their bodies harden. Trout preying on adults in selective situations can become color sensitive and brighter, recently emerged adults still unable to take flight until their bodies and wings harden are easy fare.

Chironomid life cycles are as varied as the individual species and the environments in which they inhabit. The worm-like larva can be free living amongst bottom debris or aquatic vegetation. Other species construct tubes in the mud water interface along the bottom. A number of river and stream species construct cases similar to caddis. Larval populations can be dense, especially on productive stillwaters with square

species larva can be herbivore or carnivore crawling about to feed. Feeble swimmers, exposed larva move through the water using a vigorous head to tail lashing motion taking rests in an outstretched posture. Slow paced retrieves coupled with pauses work best when imitating larva on stillwaters Free swimming larva are easy prey and trout feed upon them year long. During warm winter days river and stream anglers can do well dead drifting small Brassie patterns just above the bottom. Once the larva matures they either construct cases or transform into the pupa within the security of their burrows. Other larva are capable of transforming into the pupa within the boundaries of their larval skin.

The pupal stage is synonymous with chironomid or midge fishing. Ascending pupae expose themselves in large quantities and trout take full advantage of this opportunity. Fly fishers should spend the majority of their time, at least 70% imitating

the pupa. Recently transformed stillwater pupa often hover in clouds above the bottom 2-3 days before completing their trek to the surface. Perhaps a result of the time it takes to gather the air and gases needed to aid their adult transformation. It is common to find trout stuffed with pupa with little in the way of adults at the surface signifying an emergence is taking place. Pupa rise and wiggle slowly through the water column to the surface to completing their final transformation to adult, at the surface they suspend momentarily then adopt a horizontal posture. A split forms along the back of the thorax and the adult aided by the trapped air and gases crawls out in front of

the head. Observant anglers look for these shucks as a hatch indicator. Most trout prefer to feed just above the bottom where it is efficient and safe. However, concentrations and surface conditions allow trout will follow migrating pupa upwards. As with larval presentations floating lines and long leaders with and without indicators are the preferred presentation methods. In deeper waters over 20 feet sinking lines can be used. Not all chironomids emerge successfully and there are many stillborns available. Opportunistic predators, trout target both stillborns and suspending pupa. Observe the rise form. Gentle sipping or porpoise rises are a sure sign that trout are targeting prey just beneath the surface. At this time try creeping or drifting small soft hackles through the foraging pod. Emergences can be localized and observing bird activity can provide clues to hatch



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Emerged Chironomid

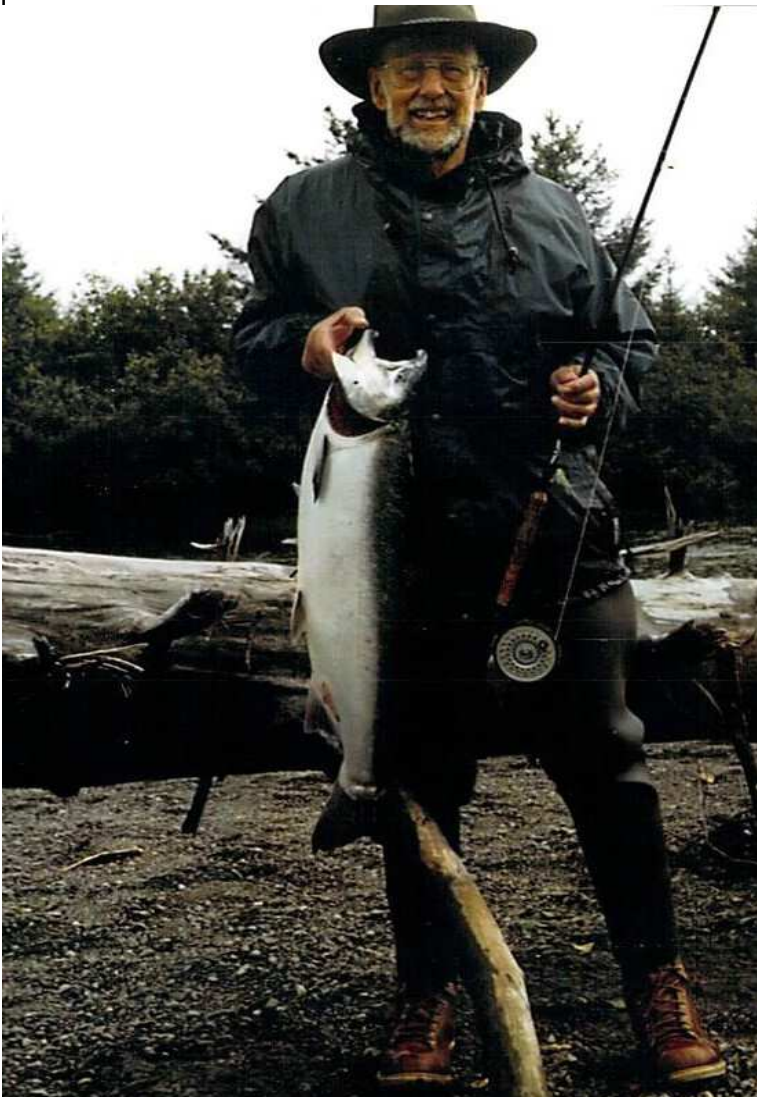
Once emergence is complete adults fly off to shoreline areas. Most adults do not feed and this stage is short lived, just long enough to propagate the species. Males form large swarms resembling dust clouds along the margins. Large concentrations of adults are audible from a distance and create a high pitched buzzing sound. Hence their English nickname, "buzzers". Males release pheromones to attract a mate. Mating takes place in the air or on the ground. During low light conditions when the water is calm on stillwaters and the risk of avian predation is reduced egg laden females return to the water to deposit their eggs. Females skate across the surface speed boat style or dive below to lay their eggs. Skittering females draw trout to the surface providing anglers dry fly opportunities. Adults often form huge mats on the surface and on rivers and streams collecting in calms and back eddies. Trout move into these areas sipping adult clusters with slow deliberate rises. Patterns such as the Griffiths Gnat are good choices in these conditions. Many times it is difficult to tell if a trout has taken the fly. Get into the habit of using the fly line as site and lift the rod smoothly if a rise occurs near the fly. It is surprising how often the rise is to the fly that otherwise would have gone unnoticed. This tactic has paid dividends on numerous occasions..

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Thankyou to Perry Barth for this great picture of Bruce Clinger. Bruce was WFFC President is 1962. This picture was taken in Yakatak, Alaska in August of 1997. This is his 12th Silver!!



Creel Notes

Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. 1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. 2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. 3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. 4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. 5. To encourage and assist others —particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

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1st Vice President (Membership)

Chapin Henry

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

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Jim Goedhart

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

Stamp
here

April, 2016

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: The presenter at our April 19 meeting will be: Chad Jackson with a "Update on Central Washington Lakes"