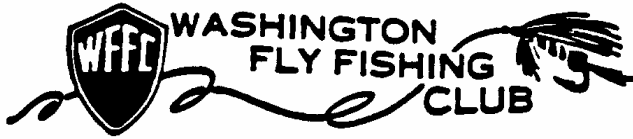


Creel Notes from the



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



LIV No. 5

May, 2003

May, 2003 Riffle *By Richard Embry*

Support your local Fly Shop

First, before we get going here, I need to write the disclaimer that I have no affiliation with or personal or financial interest in a fly shop or fly shops. So let's move on.

It's amazing how far fly fishing equipment has come. Each year the hooks are sharper, rods cast further, lines float higher, tippets get stronger, more machined fly reels are available, fly reel drags get stouter, and better quality tying materials reach the market – as fly fishermen, we are living in great times.

With these advancements and increase in quality have come high prices. To acquire a premium rod and reel almost requires a second mortgage in addition to driving folks to look elsewhere, other than fly shops, for "deals". The "deals" could be found via online fly fishing auctions, classified websites, eBay, or various mail order shops, like Cabela's.

However tempting these "deals" might be, we must patronize our local shops. These folks provide many needed services, at free or virtually no cost. I'm surprised at how many people get worked up when they take a line in to a shop to have it loaded on to a reel purchased from eBay, and the shop charges them for the installation and backing that was normally free of charge if the line and/or the reel was purchased from the store. Or, if a customer breaks a rod acquired from eBay, he expects the fly shop to process and handle the return and receipt, to the factory, of the broken rod. The customer should remember that the warranty technically is between the manufacturer and the customer and the fly shop shouldn't be involved, but sometimes does so as a customer-service activity.

And how many times have we moseyed into a shop looking for the secret spot where the fish eat any fly thrown at 'em; or when to expect the next humpy run; or which flies to use where; or advice on how to better apply that dubbing. You just can't get this

hands-on help over the phone, through the key board or at a discount mart.

These folks barely eke out a living and are usually running a fly shop, not because they're going to get rich, but because it's a labor of love. Most folks work in a shop because they flat like it. Some fly fishers tend to act as if the shop is lucky to have them as a patron but I look at it in the reverse. Fly shops provide a much needed service and I feel lucky we have so many good ones in the Puget Sound area. It would be pretty dismal around here if they all went out of business . . .

So, get out there and support your local fly shop!

Fishing Tip of the Month

Looking for a quick, easy way to convert your nymphs to the beadheaded variety? Just slide a bead onto your tippet before you tie on your nymph with the tapered hole side of the bead towards the fly. Tie on your nymph, slide the bead down to the fly, and you're in business! The tapered hole fits pretty well over your knot (unless you're using 0x on your #16 pheasant tail, like Bob Birkner typically does – I'm kidding!). Though not quite as stylish as the beadhead version, this method still works well. Having a few beads available in your vest could be useful in certain situations. If you don't tie your own flies, you're probably asking "where can I get these beads?" Your local fly shop should have a wide variety of bead colors and sizes (see above).

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This is the text of the letter sent to ONP by WFFC's Conservation Committee in response to the request for input on the park's proposed fishing regulation changes:

Susan K. McGill
Acting Superintendent
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, WA 98362

4 April 2003

RE: N1619 (OLYM-NRM)

Dear Ms. McGill:

The Conservation Committee of the Washington Fly Fishing Club recently met to discuss the changes in regulations which will govern recreational use and harvest of fish and shellfish resources within the Olympic National Park. The following responses reflect the consensus of the Conservation Committee and the larger membership of the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

Proposal 1 - Release wild salmon and steelhead caught in those portions of the Queets, Salmon and Quinault Rivers and Goodman Creek occurring within Olympic National Park.

WFFC Response: Very strong support of the proposal. Also, the WFFC recommends release of searun cutthroat and searun Dolly Varden within the Park. The WFFC also proposes that all hatchery production of salmonids be fin clipped. In this regard, the WFFC pledges 50 hours of volunteer support for fin-clipping.

Proposal 2 - Release of all native species within park-managed portions of the Elwha River system.

WFFC Response: Affirmation of the proposal and a donation of 200 dollars to prepare posters/handouts that will help anglers differentiate brook trout from other species of concern.

Proposal 3 - Adopt the recommendations from a panel of scientists regarding recreational fishing in Lake Crescent.

WFFC Response: The WFFC concurs with the recommendations.

Proposal 4 - Change the closing dates for the upper portions of the Bogachiel, Hoh, South Fork of the Hoh and Queets Rivers.

WFFC Response: The WFFC supports this recommendation conditional upon a review of the policy in 2010 to determine if reduced access/opportunity has benefited anadromous survival. If not, then return to 2002 seasons with C&R regulations. Members of the WFFC frequent many National Parks across the United States and recognize that each Park has its own regulations which are in variance with streams not located within the National Park System. The costs and difficulties associated with enforcing Park regulations are not sufficient to warrant the abandonment of the Park's mission as a preserve for native species.

Proposal 5 - Change the period of the year when portions of upper Hoh are restricted to fly-fishing only.

WFFC Response: The WFFC conditionally supports dropping the fly-fishing only designation from June 1 to 30 September. By the 1st of October the vast majority of non-local visitors are gone from the Park and the fish runs are beginning to build. Implementation of fly-fishing only regulations on October 1 will benefit fisheries survival during the spawning run. Our support is conditional upon restricting fishing gear to single barbless hooks and bait restrictions.

Proposal 6 - Eliminate the harvest of cutthroat trout in Lake Ozette.

WFFC Response: The WFFC expresses strong support for this proposal.

(Cont. on pg 3)

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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys—particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

(Cont. from page 2)

Proposal 7 - Restrict recreational fishing gear to single barbless hooks.

WFFC Response: Absolutely! The scientific literature is replete with documentation supporting the use of single barbless hooks on mixed-stock selective fisheries.

Proposal 8 - Limit the harvest of inter-tidal fish and shellfish species to those for which there is sufficient monitoring and/or population abundance information.

WFFC Response: The membership of the WFFC doesn't have the expertise to provide judgment on the proposal. In that regard, we accept the conservative approach to develop population abundance and monitoring protocols prior to continuing harvest.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Schaad, Chair, Conservation Committee
Washington Fly Fishing Club
5020 38th Ave NE
Seattle WA 98105-3023

On May 1st the Olympic National Park released the results of their deliberations which are summarized below:

Proposal 1: All wild salmon and steelhead in the Salmon and Quinault Rivers and Goodman Creek must be released. This regulation was NOT implemented for the Queets River.

Proposal 2: Effective June 1st all native fish within the park-managed portions of the Elwha River, with the exception of Lake Mills, must be released. The regulation will be implemented for Lake Mills on April 24th of 2004.

Proposal 3: The recommendations of a group of scientists will be adopted; the Lake Crescent sport fishery will become catch-and-release.

Proposal 4: NOT adopted; closing dates for the upper portions of the Bogachiel, Hoh, South Fork Hoh and Queets Rivers will not change. These rivers will remain open until the 15th of April unless emergency closure regulations are required.

Proposal 5: NOT adopted; the year-round fly fishing-only zone will be retained on the upper Hoh River.

Proposal 6: The implementation of the proposal to eliminate the harvest of cutthroat in Lake Ozette will not be implemented until spring of 2004. Doug Schaad notes that various regulatory agencies are fighting over the relative values of sockeye salmon and cutthroat in Lake Ozette and expects this to drag on.

Proposal 7: The restriction of recreational fishing gear within the

park to single barbless hooks was implemented effective May 1st. **Proposal 8:** The harvest of intertidal fish and shellfish species was limited to those for which adequate population information or sufficient monitoring is available. Further information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/olym/regs/fishregs.htm>

Lyn Gross 1921 – 2003

Lyn Gross was a much respected and longtime member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. He was born January 28, 1921 in Pacific, Mo., weighing barely 2 lbs. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1942, and was a captain in the field artillery in the Pacific campaign during World War II. Following the war, Lyn worked as a media director for a number of advertising agencies in San Francisco and Seattle. The wedding bells rang for Lyn and Ruth in 1948, and in the years following they were blessed with 3 boys, Paul, Jeffrey and Philip. But the field of advertising was too high a stress environment and it took its toll on Lyn who suffered the first of 4 heart attacks in February of 1968. It was shortly thereafter to help calm his nerves that Lyn picked up the sport of fly fishing and, sponsored by Vince Sellen, joined the WFFC. In 1983, after 37 years, Lyn retired from advertising. Before failing health caught up with him in the past year or so he faithfully attended club meetings and the Wednesday lunch gatherings at the Camlin Hotel. During his years as a club member Lyn served on the WFFC Board of Directors and also on the Foundation Board. He was also one of the regular fly casting assistants at Green Lake for many years, and served as a ghillie at Eliguk Lake for several years following his retirement. --- In September of 1998 Lyn was featured in an Eastside Journal article titled "One Fly Guy". The subtitle read "Growing sport of fly fishing relaxes and invigorates 77 year old Mercer Island resident". The photo accompanying the article was shot on the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River at Olallie State park. This was one of Lyn's favorite pieces of water. In the article Lyn presented 6 points associated with ways to release a trout. Many in the club know Lyn as a dedicated conservationist and for the simple and inexpensive cup hook fish releaser which he developed and promoted at every opportunity. --- I had the pleasure of sharing company with Lyn at many of the regular WFFC fishing gatherings as well as other outings. Lyn was on my route when driving to the WFFC meetings and the Camlin luncheons so we got to know one another quite well over the years. --- Lyn's struggle with life came to an end on Friday, March 14, 2003. He will continue to be a greatly missed fellow sportsman!

Pete Baird

Mark Your Calendar Now!

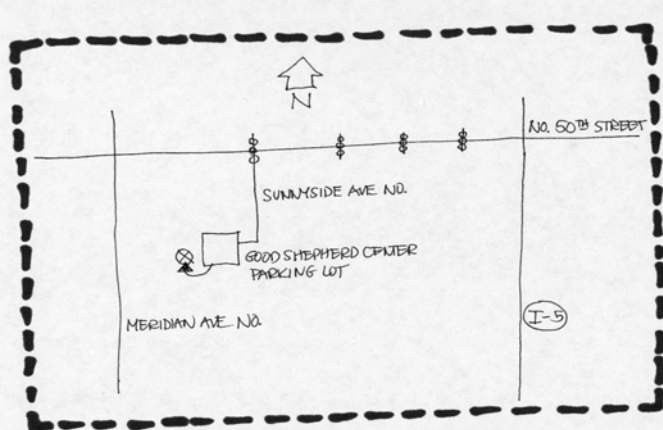
Bring Your Family to the WFFC Annual Summer Picnic!

Date: Aug. 17, 2003

Time: 12:30pm - 10:30pm

Place: Good Shepherd Center, Picnic Center

Directions: Exit I-5 at NE 50th. Drive west to the light at Sunnyside. Turn left. Turn right into Good Shepherd Center. Park in lot and walk around building to Picnic Shelter on west side.



What can we say about New Zealand that hasn't already been said in recent years by McRoberts, Wands and Stearns, and farther back by Steve Raymond, Gordy Young and others. Margaret and I were in the country for 22 days, including 11 guided fishing days. The country we saw was beautiful in many different ways. The people were genuine, and we made new friends. In most of our accommodations, we were welcomed as guests in their homes and treated royally. And the fishing was all superb, although the catching varied with the kind of day the angler was having.

We took our cue from McRoberts and Wands, using Rob and Jana Bowler to set up our itinerary, accommodations and guides. They are Americans who live part of the year in New Zealand and have researched their sources carefully and well. We would recommend them to anyone planning a New Zealand trip directed entirely or partly to fly fishing. (Contact information available on request) This was a dream trip for me for probably 40 years, and it lived up to our expectations. We went on the trip assuming it was to be a once in a lifetime adventure. By the end of the first week, we were talking about the next time. Only time will tell if that happens.

The fishing was as described by McRoberts, mostly sight fishing upstream with a polypro indicator and one or two nymphs, usually two. The upper nymph was, typically a #10 - #14, weighted with a bead head and maybe more to get the flies down; the point fly often a #14 - #18 pheasant tail or variation. Most of the takes were on the point fly. A brief river by river rundown on the fishing:

April 3: A long drive from Christchurch, South Island, to North Branch Hurunui River, the biggest water we fished. Combined with rugged wading and a stiff downstream wind, it was a challenging day. The guide said there are no small fish in that stretch; and when they say big in New Zealand, they mean it. I managed only one strike, in a riffle. By the time I got the loose line back on the reel and waded to shore, the hook pulled out. A skunk.

April 6, 7, and 8: The Maitai River is probably the most well known river on the South Island, with a much deserved reputation for outstanding brown trout fishing. It was easily the best fishing for browns I have ever had. Every fish was bright, fit, and active. Most jumped, unlike North American browns. One rainy day, I caught lots of fish. Other days it was much slower but still worthwhile. The fish ranged from ten inches to 3 3/4 pounds, with a good number around three pounds. Margaret had the biggest fish, taken on the lip of a long diagonal bar.

April 10 and 11: Time for a little humility. From Te Anau on the edge of Fjordland National Park, we fished the beautiful Eglinton River in the Park in a surpassingly beautiful setting; then the Oreti River with its reputation for BIG and difficult browns. Both streams were smallish and very clear; the fish big, wary and not very inclined to eat; and the angler inclined to blow opportunities. This was sight fishing at its most challenging and excruciating. Two skunks.

April 14: From Wanaka, a ride through several farmers' gates brought us to some backwater on the Matukituki River,

where we spent the morning. A few fish were cruising slowly and I managed to hook a couple of good sized rainbows, about 3 or 4 pounds. The first broke off when the loose line became thoroughly tangled in the meadow grass. The second took me on an incredible run downstream, probably 150 to 200 yards, and came unpinned close to the net. After lunch, we went to a pair of what the guide called tarns. With mention of tarns, my imagination brought up images of the Enchantments in the Cascades or Seven Lakes Basin in the Olympics. What we got was a pair of what John Voelker/Robert Traver would have called "malarial bogs" in the flood plain of the River, about a yard deep maximum, tannin stained, and a deep muck bottom. The first pond showed no fish, so we moved to the second, the big fish pond. Eventually we started to see a few fish. A #12 damselfly nymph cast in front of a cruising fish resulted in a take and, in due course, a 26 1/4", 7 1/4 pound male brown with a kype worthy of a mature male coho; easily my biggest brown. I later hooked another big brown, which jumped, ran, and came off. It was a fascinating day.

April 15: Again from Wanaka on our last South Island fishing day, we went to the lower Ahuriri River, where Margaret caught one rainbow, and I took two. All were 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds and bright, hot fish.

April 19: Now on the North Island, we fished the Whirinaki River from Rotorua and got a significant lesson on where the big fish are often found in New Zealand rivers. Fishing a short stretch of the lower river, we caught a mixture of small browns and rainbows in the morning. So we drove upstream, deep into the bush where the stream is only two or three rod lengths wide. Every few pools walking upstream, we saw a big fish or two, and once three. We cast to them all, spent an hour working on the three really big fish, had a few looks, but no takes. Nevertheless, this small water casting to visible fish is heart stopping exciting.

April 21 and 22: We fished two of the inlet streams to Lake Taupo, the smallish Tauranga-Taupo on the 21st and the fabled Tongariro on the 22nd. This fishing is like hybrid fishing to me, somewhere between steelheading and resident stream trout fishing. It's like trout fishing with the upstream approach using an indicator and small nymphs, and in the size of the Tauranga-Taupo. It's like steelheading in that the rainbows in these two streams run up from the Lake in the fall and winter and average four to five pounds; the fresh run fish are hot and bright, while the fish that have been in the River for awhile are darker and more sluggish; and the Tongariro is a steelhead sized river. We hooked five fish on the Tauranga-Taupo, losing two bright fish and landing three, one bright and two dark. On our last rainy afternoon, I took one bright four pound rainbow from the Tongariro. We also spent a couple of morning hours the 22nd fishing the inlet to Lake Otamanakau (called Lake O and noted for obscenely large browns and rainbows) without success.

To anyone who likes challenging fishing for big fish in a beautiful setting, along with good living, put New Zealand on your list. And to Fran and Hugh and any other birders, we also saw about 16 or 17 new birds without working at it too hard, most of them unique to that part of the world.

Editor's Notes . . .

On Friday, April 11, the WDFW announced their salmon seasons for 2003-04. A compromise on Area 9 was reached due to a large email response from Puget Sound beachfishers. Many from the WFFC! Following is an excerpt from the Seattle Post Intelligencer: "Marine area 9, the area from Kingston north to Port Townsend, will be closed July 1-15 (last year it was open all July), but 15 days will be added to next year's chinook season that opens Feb. 1, allowing a 2 1/2-month winter/spring season. *One proposal would have closed area 9 for July this year and opened it for April next year, but a compromise was reached because of concerns by beach anglers who fish in July.*"

Also, a Catch and Release in Area 10 from June 16-30. This was sponsored by member, Keith Robbins, who has been untiring in his efforts to open more C&R salmon seasons in Puget Sound. Hat's off to Keith!

Last year, residents along the shoreline of Lone Lake, on Whidbey Island, took it upon themselves to mow the milfoil in the lake to make it easier to waterski during the summer. The milfoil fell to the bottom and rotted resulting in a substantial fish kill. The Fidalgo Fly Fishers and Evergreen Fly Fishing Club are presently working with the homeowners to find a way in which the milfoil might be picked up and removed.

A Roach Coach in Ellensburg!

Last night at 9:30pm, five of us stopped to eat in Ellensburg on the way home from Nunnally. Instead of dining at the usual Taco Bell, we tried out a taco wagon parked on the left side of Main Street just past the Kentucky Fried Chicken. If you haven't been eating at these taco wagons in your hometown (there's one in Kent that is in a converted school bus), you are missing out on some truly delicious Mexican eats. This particular one in Ellensburg features a menu on the side of the wagon that is near to impossible to decipher and some excellent carnitas tacos that go for a buck apiece. Bon appetit!

Steve Raymond Sighting

This posting appeared on the WashingtonFlyfishing.com bulletin board Sunday, April 27:

"So back to this pro. I say pro because this guy was it. His cast was one of the best I've ever seen. He was throwing 60 plus feet of line with a 26 foot leader like it was nothing. A 26 foot leader!!??!! Around 3 p.m., This guy is getting his customized Steelheader loaded up when he comes over to us to show us something, a bunch of stuff he pumped out of a fishes belly. We start talking, and it's obvious this guy has been around, seen some things. Really nice guy, he gave us a b.c. lake gem. After we chatted for a bit, he busts out some fly boxes. His boxes were like nothing I've ever seen. Nothing from a shop, all custom, every last one. We chat some more, he takes off. As soon as he leaves, it hits me. That was Steve Raymond. We all just looked at each other..... So I honestly don't know, I guess I'll never know. But some of the things he said were just amazing. If this guy wasn't writing books about flyfishing, he should of been. A total professional fly fisherman in every sense of the word."

In response, Steve emailed me: "*Hey, Leland. I don't know who the mystery man was, but it wasn't me. Nobody would ever mistake me for a professional.*"



License Reminder

Don't forget to purchase your new 2003 fishing license. The old one expired the end of March!

Wooden Laser Engraved WFFC Name Badges

If you'd like to order these customized club badges, please contact Don Gulliford at (206) 232-0183 or dongulliford@comcast.net or fax him at (206) 275-3043. Cost: \$10 each (includes donation of \$2.50 to WFFC Foundation)

WFFC Casting Team Tryouts *By Don Simonson*

We have high hopes of entering two teams this year for the WCFFF Casting Expo at Trophy Lakes on Saturday, Sept. 20th. If you would like to compete and represent our club I will be holding tryouts at the Green Lake casting pier on Sat. May 31st from 10am to 2pm. Please call Don to sign up prior to the 31st. at 206-932-4925

BOAT RACK FOR SALE *By Don Gulliford*

Boat rack that fits an SUV with rain gutters. Originally made for a full size Ford Bronco. Price: \$25. Call Don for details at (206) 232-0183. All proceeds from sale goes to WFFC Foundation. (Thanks Don! - ed.)

HARDY ST. GEORGE FOR SALE

By Connie McLaughlin Bowser

3/4" fly reel and extra spool. Excellent condition and in original boxes. The fly lines are free! \$325 OBO. Call Connie for details at 206-930-1776 or Jo at 206-368-0681 to view.

Thank You Notes *By Richard Embry*

The club recently received two nice notes I wish to share with you. The first is from Ruth Gross, whose husband Lyn Gross, longtime WFFC member since 1968, passed away this spring. Her April 9, 2003 note reads:

"To the Washington Fly Fishing Club,

Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet of flowers in memory of my husband, Lyn Gross.

The fly fishing club meant a great deal to Lyn. I know he had many good times - and good friends - in the club. I am so glad to know that he was valued in return, and that you will miss him as I do.

Signed, Ruth Gross"

The second note is from Heather Bartlett, the WDFW biologist - Okanogan area, that spoke to us last month. Heather's April 28, 2003 note says:

"Dear WFFC members,

Thank you for inviting me to your April meeting so I could share fishing information about District Six. It is a pleasure to work with such active natural resource users and conservationists.

Sincerely, Heather Bartlett"



New Member Voting This Month *By Bill Kuper*

The membership committee is recommending three new proposed members on which to vote at the May general meeting:

Dave Walsh

Dave is a lifelong resident of Washington state, growing up in Bremerton. His business career has included 22 years in printing and the last five in the apparel industry. Dave has fished Washington since the age of five, has passionately pursued salmon in Puget Sound and elsewhere for over 20 years, and is interested in getting involved in our club's conservation efforts.

Dave's sponsors are Pete Van Gytenbeek and Bill Kuper

Jim Morrison

Jim grew up in the St. Louis area, and spent time in the NW before moving to Boston. He finally moved back to the NW for good in 2000. Jim is in software sales, and in addition to fly fishing, he is an avid skier and keeps a sailboat at Shilshole. Jim is very interested in serving on the conservation committee and helping out with the website, and says "What impresses me about the Washington Fly Fishing Club and why I want to join is it's long pioneering history and dedication to fly fishing. I consider the sport to be not only addictive but an art form which is a never-ending learning experience."

Jim's sponsors are Leland Miyawaki and Kris Kristoferson

Randall Bryett

If you've heard an Aussie accent at some of the recent club meetings, it was Randall's. He is currently co-owner of Australia America Fishing Connections, based here in Seattle, and is married to Pete Van Gytenbeek's daughter, Kate. He has worked in many aspects of the fishing industry, including specialty tackle shops, rod making, charter operations, tourism marketing and promotion. Although Randall's initial thoughts about fly fishing vs tackle fishing are not printable, he has come to love this new challenge in his life. He is also quite interested in putting his new web development skills to use on the WFFC website.

Randall's sponsors are Pete Van Gytenbeek and Richard Embry

Lake Washington Cutts and . . . *By Don Gulliford*

On April 23, I attended the Laebugten TU Salmon Chapter meeting at the Snohomish Senior Center, where WDFW biologists including Steve Foley gave a presentation on fishing in Lake Washington. Here is a short summary:

1. In February and March, WDFW biologists conducted a cutthroat spawning survey in upper Kelsey Creek. They checked a number of cutts, including a measured *thirty incher and a thirtysix incher* both in good shape!
2. Lake Washington is experiencing a cutthroat population explosion, and with increasingly large sizes (the 14.9 lb hog caught last August near Kenmore had two 12"+ perch in it's stomach).
3. Longfin smelt are the primary food and are increasing in population.
4. The fishery is water temperature dependent, varying from near surface at the present time to over 60 ft. down later in the summer.

The biologists hired a Lake Washington guide and trolled for cutts when they caught what appeared to be a *resident* chinook salmon, just like the ones that reside permanently in Lake Chelan.

"As they say, stay tuned" Don.

CONSERVATION

Orvis To Help Restore Salmon and Steelhead to Upper Deschutes Excerpt from: www.orvis.com/

Oregon's Deschutes River is renowned for its redband and steelhead trout. Nearly forgotten is the historic productivity of the Deschutes as a salmon river. While the lower river still produces runs of chinook, construction of the Pelton hydroelectric complex in the 1960s cut off access to the upper basin and led to the demise of the Suttle Lake sockeye salmon run, one of only two historic sockeye runs in Oregon. Where legendary Deschutes trout streams like the Metolius River once teemed with spring chinook and sockeye salmon, now there are none.

The good news is that these legendary fisheries are poised to return to the Upper Deschutes Basin. The Pelton hydroelectric complex is currently undergoing re-licensing with the federal government. Both Portland General Electric and its co-applicant, the Warm Springs Tribes, are strongly committed to restoring fish passage and have committed over \$68 million to fish passage at the dams. Given the efforts of PGE and the Tribes, local conservationists are confident that salmon and steelhead will soon move above the Pelton/Round Butte complex and reclaim their former habitat in the Upper Deschutes Basin.

All donations will be matched **three times** through the Orvis matching campaign. All the money will go directly to the acquisition of this land - called the Deschutes Basin Land Trust.

Orvis would like your tax-deductible contributions, made payable to:

Deschutes Basin Land Trust, Metolius Preserve Project
Orvis, Dept CR, PO Box 798, Manchester, VT 05254

Note: Please go to the web address above and read it carefully before you decide to contribute - ed.

Griffin Creek Cleanup - Saturday, May 17 *By Doug Schaad*

We will have another Conservation Outing at Griffin Creek on Saturday, May 17th. We'll begin at 8:30 (or whenever the first willing volunteer arrives) and finish up sometime around 12:30. Our primary task will be the elimination of encroaching blackberries in the North or South Meadow. We may be planting a few trees and adding additional composted mulch around existing plantings.

Lunch will commence around 12:30. I anticipate providing BBQ brisket of beef, chips, fruit and cold beverages for those in attendance. Come one, come all ... **we need your assistance.**

Directions to Griffin Creek

Go to Camp Don Bosco, located near Carnation, Washington, approximately 45 minutes drive from Seattle. From I-90, exit at Preston. Follow the signs through Preston to Fall City. At the stop sign, go straight continuing north. As you cross over the Snoqualmie River Bridge get into the left turn lane and turn onto Highway 203 (Fall City-Carnation Road). Continue approximately five miles to NE 11th. Turn right and follow the signs to Camp Don Bosco.

From State Highway 520 (Evergreen Point Bridge) continue to 1st stop light, turn right onto Highway 202 (Redmond-Fall City Road). Take a left on Tolt Hill Road (Sign to Carnation Golf Course). At the intersection with Highway 203 turn right (south), less than a mile, to NE 11th. Turn left and follow the signs to Camp Don Bosco.



Report: Lone Lake, April 10, 2003 *By Don Gulliford*
Nice April day (56 degrees) - water temp 48° at Lone Lake on Whidbey Island where I released several nice rainbows up to 16+ inches and some eight-inchers. A nearby float tuber caught a bass. There was considerable surface activity mostly close to shore. A beadhead #12 pheasant tail nymphs and my Corbett Lake favorite, a #10 Chadditch did very well.

Report: Mutiny Bay, April 10, 2003 *By Don Gulliford*
No cuts or anything else from shore. For once, the shoreline was free of vast amounts of floating eel grass. New July opening of Area 9 is the 15th. FYI: We experienced almost no fish until August.

Report: Price Lake, April 26-7, 2003 *By Leland Miyawaki*
Earl Harper, Ed Sozinho, Bob Young, and I met Greg Crumbaker at Brian Hata's summer home on Hood Canal Friday night for the lowland lake opener. Rather than driving, as we had in past years, we accepted Brian's hospitality in return for our spilling our guts in unlocking Price Lake's secrets. But first, the food. Brian whipped up some guacamole and chips. Then Greg and Brian stepped out into the backyard and picked a couple bucketful's of littlenecks and oysters. Greg shucked some of the oysters which we ate as quickly as he shucked them. Then he fired up the Weber and broiled the remainder while Ed steamed the clams and served them in a broth of melted butter, soy and salsa. Earl made a gargantuan salad that was followed by heaping bowls of Tarantula Jack's Award Winning Chili, made by yours truly, and fresh homemade corn tortillas that more than made up in flavor what they lacked in circular uniformity. We skipped dessert and got directly into the cigars, Knob Creek bourbon, and Lismore, and Knockando single malts outside on the deck. For breakfast, Earl served up some organic bacon and some of his special scrambled eggs with onions and garlic while Brian whipped up a huge batch of Belgian waffles.

At the lake, we caught wild cutthroat all day on dry flies. Saturday evening we had the traditional fish and chip feed at the Hoodsport Marina Café. For those of you who don't know, the couple that own this restaurant have made it into the only other reason to stop in Hoodsport besides the *virtually unknown, closely-guarded, underfished, world-class chum salmon fishery* at Hoodsport. The café features both handcut halibut and cod fish and chips as well as fried clams, oysters and shrimp and is well worth the drive. Later, we watched the Mariners play while we munched on peanuts in the shell from the game Greg attended Thursday evening in Seattle.

Brian baked a blueberry and apple coffee cake Sunday morning which we enjoyed with Torrefazione Italia coffee. It was a much simpler meal than the oyster and egg omelets Earl had planned, but still a fitting meal to add to another memorable opening weekend of the lowland trout season.

Later that morning at the lake, we caught more wild

cutthroats on dry flies before heading home.

Report: Nunnally Lake, May 5, 2003 *By Leland Miyawaki*
It was extremely windy. The weather report said SW winds 10-15mph. Actually, the wind was more like 25-30mph. The channel between the west and east ends was full of whitecaps and there was a current from east to west set up by the wind pushing water east and rebounding west. In the lee bays, Bob Young, Ed Sozinho and I found fish feeding on top (the swallows were up all day). If we could get the fly near the fish and keep it floating in the wind waves, we would get the rise. It was a midge show all day, first black then tan/ochre, then back to black. I ended up with seven to hand and, I believe Ed caught five. Bob enjoyed the tacos from the roach coach in Ellensburg.

Report: Lake Lenice, May 7, 2003 *By Leland Miyawaki*
The fish were on tan midges from the time we put in to about one o'clock. From 1-4pm, we entered the tough time where there were sporadic rises to black, green, and tan midges and an occasional calibaetis dun. Between 4:30 and 5pm, the west end, where we were fishing, suddenly erupted into a raucus, splashy, slurping, swirling feeding frenzy. Small black midges were everywhere and it seemed like every trout in the lake were on them. I fished a #20 black racoon and landed three and lost a few others. The trick was to find an active pod of feeders and lay the racoon in the midst of the naturals, take up the slack and wait without any movement for the fish to find your fly. If they didn't, move on to another pod. After the hatch ended, the wind came up, and until 7pm, there were sporadic rises to a stripped Griffiths Gnats. All in all, it was a slow day that had it's moments.

Hey guys, It's time for the Chopaka outing!

That's right, Memorial Day is celebrated on the weekend of May 24,25,26 and we'll be at Chopaka Lake catching rainbows on mayfly emergers and adult damsels! This is a fun outing at a beautiful place, and is usually well attended. We'll be doing the usual pot luck happy hour Saturday nite with the club barbecue set up for your charring pleasure. A new crew will be doing the Tempura nite happy hour on Sunday, and yet another crew will be doing a pancake breakfast! As always, people of a musical bent are encouraged around the fire. Talents large, small, and curious are welcome

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to haul, cook, and clean! And thanks in advance for all the great goodies you folks bring to the appetizer and dinner tables. Remember! This is a camp out, and you should bring your own drinking water. This is a popular place on Memorial Day, so go early for the best camp sites. Several of you signed up at the last meeting.

Please call me if you plan to attend, as I may need more help getting things over there. We'll talk about any last minute logistics at the meeting May 20.

PS: Don't forget black leeches for the killer night fishing.

Dave Schorsch

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Stamp
here

Meeting Announcement

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at
The College Club, 505 Madison St.
The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is at 6:45 PM



The May program will be "The Yakima...A River for all Seasons" by Jack Mitchell of The Evening Hatch

A slide presentation featuring Washington's Blue Ribbon Trout fishery and some of the ins and outs of the system!

The Evening Hatch began in 1989 and has grown from a small red pick-up and an Achilles raft doing 50 trips a year, to a year-round operation encompassing two continents and guiding over 1400 guests a year. They currently provide premier and world-class fly fishing excursions with state of the art Yakima riverside tent camps as well as 5-star guest facilities in Patagonia, Chile. The Evening Hatch has been featured in various national publications, videos and books. In 2000, they were featured in an ESPN2 program called "Destination Outdoors: A No Boundaries Experience." The Evening Hatch also hosted Reel Guys from ESPN2 in a two part feature that aired in the fall of 2002. Look for them in an upcoming episode of King 5's Northwest Backroads this month.