

Creel Notes from the



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



May, 2005

Presidents Riffle – May

Three items resulting from recent WFFC Board action:

1. **Dick Brening's** nomination to another term on the WFFC Foundation was approved. Congratulations, Dick!
2. The Website Committee was approved – The members are **Kris Kristoferson, Sean Overman, Ed Sozinho, and Joe Decuir**. They plan to improve the website with such enhancements as a Members Only section where the roster and other items for members eyes only will be posted. Access will be limited to current members via password control. Creel Notes and the roster on the website will be in color.
3. **Dick Levinthal** asked to be relieved of the duty of WFFC Photographer. Dick, we thank you for many years of service providing pictures for the Creel Notes and events such as the Christmas Party presentations. Dick recommended that **Jim MacDonald** replace him, Jim agreed, and the Board approved. I have asked Jim to have photographers at all the various club events so he may be asking for assistance from any members with cameras who are attending outings or activities such as the Griffin Creek Weed 'n Feed. Please let Jim know



how you can help. Digital cameras work best when they get used.

***** AND *****

Griffin Creek Weed n Feed – There's more in this issue about the WFFC Foundation's contribution to the interpretive signage along one of the trails at Griffin Creek, but here I thank the many **WFFC members** who did the weeding and **Doug Schaad** who did the feeding on April 30th. It was fantastic!

John Schuitemaker did a fine job producing the 2005 Roster. Please review your information and let John know if there are changes to be made. We'll publish updates to include members' pictures and keep the roster as current as possible but John needs to know what you need changed.

The Fly Casting classes for 2005 are nearly history. The Advanced Class is finished and the Beginning Class has just two sessions to go. Many thanks to **Don Simonson** and his **instructors**.

Now let's all go fishing!

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April 19, 2005

Bob Birkner opened the meeting with a few corrections to the Creel Notes, so noted. Guests were introduced, too numerous to mention. The future, if you take note of prospective members, looks bright. **Frank Headrick** was (re)introduced and noted as the oldest living member at 97. Preparations for Frank's 100 birthday are underway. Fishing reports included Bob's 26" trout to a dry fly at Rocky Ford and **Don Schoeder's** pant-wetting fight with an even larger quarry. Debate then ensued about the fining of Leland who offered a sketchy fishing report, journalistic standards cast aside, long on food and liquor reportage and short on details about who, what, when and where. Rocco admitted to being the only guy on the Yakima who didn't slay trout during a blue ribbon hatch. **Dave Hawkinson** braved the Ghillie and admitted taking 20+ browns and rainbows from Greenlake. Reports came in from Dry Falls and other eastern Washington lakes with low water, hopelessly small flies and sparse fish. Yours truly reported on Montana's Rock Creek with good water, plentiful March Brown hatches and big trout. Montana looks good now but watch out for low water later in the summer with the inevitable stream closures and forest fires.

Reports from the Queets had **Dave Schorsch** taking a Steelie early and not often. Rain storms (think inches here) made fishing adventurous and left the guides confused and other members of the trip smelling bad. Sacred Circle Lake yielded up trout on Chironomids, but with the report from **Dean Ingram** came bad news of the lake being developed.

Dunker Award members assembled, cup and spoon in hands, and heard stories of dogs getting knocked off into the Yakima along with **Earl Harper** who dove off the craft without invitation, leaving the oars in their locks. He took his ceremonial dunking in stride.

New members were welcomed including **John Charette** who is currently serving his nation in Afghanistan. Membership materials will be sent to keep John company in the barracks. **Joe Decuir** took applause. Prospective members were described and voted on. Somehow we got sidetracked on to **Don Simonson's** casting abilities that almost brought out the Ghillie. Voting commenced.

Washington State Council of the FFF needs members for a casting contest. Again, contact **Don Simonson**. Extra benefits include the usual Greenlake running path visuals.

VP of programs, **Jack Berryman** introduced our speaker, John Shewey. With 14 books to his credit, credentials from several magazines including editorship of Northwest Fly Fishing, John stepped up to deliver a wonderful address on summer run steelhead in the NW. He took a little of the mystery off one of our favorite quarries. Described as "the simplest form of fly-fishing," he described the wet fly swing in detail along with the qualities of winter and summer fish populations, patterns they like and of course, the unpredictable nature of steelhead. Key ideas included: 1) specific patterns aren't important - pick one with which you are confident; 2) location is crucial - fish are predictable and loyal to certain spots, and: 3) line presentation makes the difference - slow your line down with your rod tip as you cross the prime water. John ended his talk with a discussion of steelhead ethics.

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Leland Miyawaki...Co-editor
206-264-0609 miyawaki@iswnet.com

Bob Young...Publisher
206-782-7544 fishbum@seanet.com

President

Bob Birkner robirkner@spro.net

Co-1st Vice President

Ed Sozinho sozinho@earthlink.net

Co-1st Vice President

Mike Wearne micheal_wearne@msn.com

2nd Vice President

Jack Berryman cohojack@hotmail.com

Secretary

John Gravendyk john.gravendyke@boeing.com

Treasurer

Steve Sunich qualitypacific@cs.com

Ghillie

Don Schroder donsch99@yahoo.com

Trustees

Jim Hanson '03 Dave Schorsch '03
Hugh Clark '04 Paul Lingbloom '04
Kris Kristoferson '05 John Schuitemaker '05

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.

Corbett Lake, Merritt B.C. - May 4-8, 2005

By Don Gulliford

Fished Corbett Lake for 4 days with members **Don Clough**, **Bill Rundall**, **Al Green** who came up with wives and we enjoyed seeing **Greg Crumbaker** and **Kris Kristoferson** there for first two days. Fishing for fish actually going up to close to 20 lbs but most running 3-12 lbs was excellent. Most taken on intermediate weight lines with black nymphs or black, green or red chironomids like Clough uses. I used a sink tip with a chartruse green #10 damsel fly nymph or pheasant tail version.

Several times intense small black mayfly hatches came on, with instant surface slurping of huge fish. Four mating loons (3 vs. Ms. Looney) made a wonderful ruckus and threw water over most of B.C., and an occasional eagle grabbed a large fish. Proprietor Peter McVey trailered in 6 new Lowe jon boats. McVey encouraged me to kill several trout, which made fabulous breakfast fare basted in bread crumbs, all with great tasting red meat. Chemistry in the lake must be close to Montana quality because most fish had drainpipe dimensions.

Addendum: Situation has changed at Minnie and Stoney on Douglas Ranch. I usually fish Fridays at Minnie, but found that no day fishing is now allowed and guests have to stay in Stoney Lodge which in past had sky high prices. Price is now supposedly \$200 Canadian per day, including three meals and fishing at Minnie and Stoney. I inspected lodge last year and it was fairly nice. Water level at Minnie raised 4 feet and far "Red & White cabin end" not accessible. Douglas Lake details 1-800-663-4838. **Don Gulliford**

Wilson Lake, Oahu, Hawaii - April 17, 2005 By Don Anderson

In Hawaii, there's not much of an opportunity for fly fishing, particularly not for trout, and particularly not at our condo at Makaha Beach on the relatively isolated northwestern shore of Oahu - our winter place in the sun where surfers usually outnumber the tourists and flyfishers are rarely seen. Just too much surf for a WF8S to be very effective. But after going without casting a fly all winter, I finally, and perhaps in desperation, contacted a guide who agreed to take us to a lake near Schofield Barracks in the center of the island; not for trout, but for a freshwater fish I'd heard about while we were in Mexico several years ago: the Peacock Bass. According to *peacock-bass.com* this is "one of the toughest freshwater species in the world...it's bone-jarring strikes, aerial acrobatics and line-stripping runs make it the ultimate quarry...". Good enough, when there aren't trout about, I thought, as we drove through morning traffic on our way to meet Stan, our guide. Stan had a 18 ft. Flat bottomed aluminum boat with a 15 horse Honda for touring the lake and a smaller electric motor for getting close to fish.

Wilson Lake is man-made for flood control and is surrounded by eucalyptus, palm, banana trees and some flowering trees. Fish of various species could be seen under logs that were left along the shore at the behest of local bass clubs. Sally had the first hookup, a spiny-ray-type the locals

call a Red Devil Fish. Bright Chinese red and about one to two pounds, it provided the only entertainment for the morning as we had yet to spot our quarry. Moreover, my casting arm was getting sore, not having been adequately exercised since the Vaughn Bay Coho run last October.

Around 10:30 Stan took us up the lake about a mile and a half to a narrow inlet where we found bass guarding their nests. Water was somewhat green in color with visibility at a foot and a half. Casting now only 30 or 40 ft, my fly landed on top of a couple of peacock bass with one big daddy actually blowing the fly away from his territory. On the next cast he hit the fly and took off in a manner similar to a huge Rainbow. We all know the drill: on for 20 seconds and then nothing!

On to another inlet, we found another nest with two larger bass. A few casts to get on top of them and I hooked another. This time a tangled log release! Casting to the same nest, I hooked one that took off for parts unknown. With line whizzing off the reel, he displayed his beauty via several acrobatics until after a prolonged battle, Stan netted the handsome bright red and orange five pound peacock male, so identified by the large bump on the back of his head and the peacock-like spot on his tail.

Photos were taken before he

was released to swim back to his guarding position. We called it a successful fishing morning and headed to the shore and the Lakeside Cafe where we dined with some of the young men and women who are defending our country in the

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middle east and are stationed at Schofield barracks. Awesome experience. Guides name: Stan Wright, 808-3526197 or...e-mail me at saldonand@aol.com

April 27, 2005 Lake Hannan

By Don Gulliford

For older members of the Club, this was the "quality" lake around here, a few miles out of Duvall alongside Lake Fontal and for fly fishing only in older second growth timber. Large healthy rainbows and lots of Eastern Brookies abounded. In the 80s or earlier it was announced that the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) had bought it from Weyerhaeuser for what was to be called Camp Hamilton. WDFW's predecessor pleaded the usual lack of funds (no effort made for private underwriting) and a beautiful wooded lake was lost. A doctor fly fishing friend from Great Falls and I drove up to see if we could find it after all these years, about a week before any opening anywhere and we found Camp Hamilton clean as a pin, numerous Catholic school 6th graders having "field trip courses" on wildlife, etc. on a beautiful day, with the surroundings around Hannan kept in good woodsy tradition. CYO Ranger Pat Samson was very hospitable and chatted with us for some time. The old launch access area remains recognizable but has swimming floats and canoes on the same old tea colored clear water. Pat told us somebody came up from the WDFW last fall and sampled the fishing, taking several large trout. A masonry contractor was allowed to fish the beaver pond on the way in on the right and supposedly caught several large ones last fall.

Other interesting items: Lake Fontal was sold to Mr. Chen and is apparently not "walk-inable" as I had heard in prior years. There are a number of private homes and

side roads off in the woods on the way in on what is now called "Lake Fontal Road" and a road into "Kayak Lake" where some private homes in development exist. Most interestingly, (get this) underground power and phone lines have been buried all the way to Hannan. One can only wonder what THAT cost. Much "third growth" now exists along the original road on the way in, not like the decades old woodsy Weyerhaeuser second growth of years ago. Some Club members may also recall the "Cherry Valley Truck Trail" taking off from the right of the road to Hannan and eventually winding up at Stillwater. Try as I might, I could not find it.

April 30, 2005 - Opening

Day By Leland Miyawaki

"Hey Brian, do you have any aspirin?" was the plaintive call of **Greg Crumbaker** from somewhere upstairs on the morning after Opening Day. **Greg and his son Peter, Ed Sozinho, Earl Harper, Jim McDonald** and myself gathered together at Brian Hata's summer home on Hood Canal for our semi-annual opening day sojourn to Enos Bradner's favorite lake.

I arrived sometime after 8pm after taking the Bremerton ferry from downtown Seattle. As soon as I turned the corner back around the deck, Greg handed me a freshly shucked oyster. I couldn't help but notice the growing pile of discarded shells down on the beach below the deck rail. While Greg, Peter and Brian were outside giving the oysters a workout, Earl and Ed crafted the evenings vittles in the kitchen.

They did it again. After the oysters on the deck at sunset, we were treated to steamed clams swimming in a broth that was seemingly made for dipping garlic bread. An hour later, we were licking our fingers as we peeled and ate platefuls of garlic shrimp. Next

the boys brought out Pinchos, a Peruvian skewered barbecued pork with cayenne, paprika, cumin, coriander, and oregano. At midnight, we groaned as the Paella was laid upon the table.

The never-ending dinner and one bottle of Knob Creek, five chardonnay's, a cabernet, two bottles of fine port, including one of over 40 years Jim donated to the cause, a fine bottle of Madeira, and too many Arturo Fuente cigars all helped account for Greg's call of the wild the next morning.

Fishing? The lake has always featured a Callibaetis hatch on opening day and today was no exception. The largest rainbow of 18", a cutbow of 16" and cutthroat from 12-15" were all taken on top with #12, 14 and 16 Parachute Adams and Quiggly Cripples.

Thanks Enos!

Blue Lake (Sinlahekin Valley) **- May 1 - May 3, 2005**

By Rocco Maccarrone

I met my buddy Jim Van De Erve and his friend, Tom, at Sun Lakes State Park campground on Sunday morning as our plan was to fish Dry Falls for a couple of days. Upon arrival, I was surprised to see they were sitting at camp (not fishing). They said they fished hard for two days and said it was very poor ... 3 fish between the two of them for two days. In their words, the lake was dead. I was hoping the bad Dry Falls reports that I had been hearing was only a temporary thing ... guess not. Without me even unpacking a single beer, we decided to head for new and different water. Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin Valley (south of Loomis) was our choice for a number of reasons. Number one, however, was the fact the lake was poisoned off two Autumns ago. The fish would have had an entire year and a half to grow. The camping is excellent there, as you can launch your boat right at your campsite and keep it there ready with rods

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rigged and beers on ice. Also, the sites are grassy and shady. So, it was off to Blue, about a two hour drive north.

I had fished Blue only a couple of times in the past and only briefly, usually on my way back from Chopaka, and caught a few fish here and there. But I had never really FISHED it. It was time to hit it hard. Upon arriving, we were startled to see the south campground fairly full, and with many fly fishermen who were geared up properly ... hmm, interesting. It occurred to us that this was opening day weekend, and this lake had just opened on the day before, hence the number of people. It should also be noted that Blue is managed as a selective fishery. We headed up to the next, more northerly campground ... better camp spots at that one. There, we had our choice of spots. I should note that all the camp sites at Blue Lake are without picnic tables or running water. Be sure to pack both, a table and water, should you go. After setting a fine camp with plenty of firewood, we set about trying to find fish. A word of caution ... although I did not see any rattlers around camp, they are in the area around the lake. I saw two on the road coming in.

Blue Lake sits in a northerly-southerly valley, narrow across, but about a mile long. The lake is roughly divided into 3 distinct "bulbs", each connected with a narrow "neck." The most northerly bulb is the largest and is where we camped. A good sized creek flows in at the top end. I think this creek is seasonal, as I don't recall seeing it before. What is also a little weird, I believe the outflow is at the same end. At that end is a big broad shallow bar. I hooked a few fish up there, but it was difficult to navigate. It appeared the lake was in the process of turning over as it

was cloudy and there was a lot of crap in the water. On the morning of day two, I noticed the lake level had risen about 4-5 inches in the middle of night. Wow!

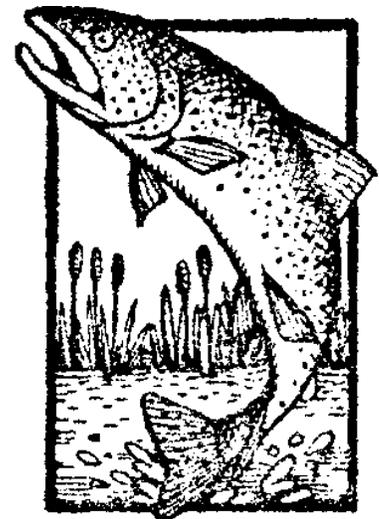
The middle bulb was where most of the action was taking place, for the other fishermen and myself. All those "in the know" fly fishermen in the other campground were fishing this area. That portion of the lake is a little shallower and with a few weed beds. Now, I know why the south campground was full ... it's a lot closer to the better fishing. I learned something. (However, it is only about a 10 - 15 row from the north campground to the south campground). As for the fishing ... I landed 3 to 6 per day for 3 days of fishing. Many more fish were hooked and lost. The good news is ... **THESE FISH ARE FIGHTERS AND STRONG!** The size range was 12" to 20." They are fat, healthy fish. Even the 12" fish gave me a battle. Out of the bunch, I caught two brown trout. As for flies .. I never caught more than a couple of fish with one pattern. A small green scud was the most consistent for me, but I also caught fish on chironomids, PTs, Sunich's S.S. Minnow, and a flashback Hare's Ear. Many chironomids hatching. Each day at 1:00, was a good Callibaetis spinner fall, followed by just a very few duns. I tried a dry, but nothing doing. In all, the surface activity was very, very sporadic and mostly non-existent. A couple of the "old pros" did very well, using chironomids, I believe. I witnessed one guy who caught 10 - 15 fish on one day ... not bad. The weather was overall pretty good. Sunny and warm and windy one day, overcast and fairly calm the next. Air temps 60 - 70 ... water was 58 degrees. One had to work for their fish. But they were healthy and full of fight and for the most part good sized. Would I go back? Yes. Blue Lake was a pleasant "new" venue. Don't expect 20 fish days and

you'll be satisfied. Who knows? If you unlock her secrets ???

Lake Keechelus, Noon-2:30 pm - April 21, 2005

By Don Gulliford

Being advised by my daughter (on way home from Domke for 4 days) that Keechelus had no snow and risen somewhat, I drove up to the mouth of Meadow Cr. and found the lake had not backed up into the John Wayne Trial area to allow jon boat launching, but I was able to do so about 200 yds out in the stumps and fish mouth area and the rest of the lake in vicinity. The temp was a fabuolus 68 degrees, and geese were nesting on several small islands. But although the water was icy cold and gin clear, this was a skunk, and not even a squawfish, my usual barometer for big cutts. One insect observation was a first: considerable number of yellowjackets twitching around on the water surface, why I don't know (flooded ground nest???) but no activity whatever drawn by them. Shoreline appeared neutral, neither coming up or going down (my guess is they will hold as much water as possible this year). Back in a few more days.



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He reminded us to work through the pools, top to bottom with room for the angler in front of us and to respect the time of year. Remember in April, those summer-run steelhead were fair game last October and have wintered in the river since their entry last summer and are waiting for the ice to melt in the feeder streams so they can just head up to their spawning beds. "Give those fish a chance to spawn," says John. He looks to members of clubs like ours to discourage illogical season openings, and avoid taking advantage of those seasons where they remain.

Conservation report: April 30, Griffin Creek will have media along. Regulation changes need to be presented to the committee by April 28. The state Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to set an in-stream flow on the Stillaguamish. Speak up, especially if you are a citizen of Snohomish County.

Fruits and Flowers: please join in signing a card to **Les Johnson** who is recovering from hip surgery. The **Gordy Young** foundation has enjoyed the largest number of givers in club history.

Lake Chopaka trip: sign-ups are available.



Above: Griffin Creek running clean and clear. A very large percentage of the Coho salmon that emerge from the Snoqualmie River are spawned in this stream.

At left: Hugh Jennings presenting a \$3000 check to King County Parks to help pay for signs at Griffin Creek describing the benefits of the riparian zone.

Pictured from left to right are Bob Birken, WFFC Pres., Hugh Jennings, Dave Kimmitt, King Co. Parks; Kirk Anderson, King Co. Watershed Steward; Bill Knudsen, Watershed Council Rep.; and Doug Schaad, WFFC Conservation Chair and chef extra-Ordinaire.



A Lake Lenice "Tiger".



May Speaker – Kim Chandler
Fish and Wildlife Sergeant, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kim Chandler is a New York native who attended college in Michigan and then obtained a BS degree in Wildlife from Utah State University. He moved to Washington in 1975 and started work for the Game Department as a fish checker when the Boldt Decision was first implemented. He later took the enforcement exam and was hired as a Wildlife Agent assigned to King County where he has been ever since. He is currently the Fish and Wildlife Sergeant for Detachment 10, a group of 7 officers. Kim deals with a variety of situations involving fish and wildlife in

King County. His duties cover everything from fish and game poaching to dealing with bear and cougar conflicts with humans and livestock. Kim's father, Leon Chandler, was well known in the fly fishing community as America's Fly Fishing Ambassador. Prior to his retirement in 1992, Leon Chandler worked for the Cortland Line Company for over 50 years serving most of that time as vice president in charge of sales. He was also National Director of Trout Unlimited and served on the board for many years.

Kim is a fly fisherman and says he really didn't have much choice in the matter because of his family background. He has two sons who also have developed a keen interest in fly fishing, assuring that their grandfather's legacy will live on.



Ron Dion and friends getting ready to hit the lake on Saturday morning. Ron reported tough going the day before with only one fish to hand all day. The days results are known.

The lovely Katherine Gravendyk (aka; She who must be obeyed) leaving the lake after a tough morning of rain, slow fishing and a leaky boat.. Note that she is smiling due to her husbands ability "now when to fold 'em". Skunk all around.



The WFFC hatch at Dry Falls. Taken from the Interpretive Center about noon on Saturday. If you look closely, Mark DeWitt can be seen standing in his john boat casting to the reeds at the left edge of the photo. Mark did better than most and without totally revealing his secret I think it is fair to pass on what he told me; "Think bone fishing the flats...only cast to fish you can see and resist the urge to cast at other times."



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

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 served at 6:45 PM

May Speaker - Kim Chandler

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is currently the Fish and Wildlife Sergeant for Detachment 10, a group of 7 officers.