

# Creel Notes from the



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



May, 2006

The Lone Lake outing took place on April 22 and I missed it because I was on my way to Thorne Bay, AK with **Ted Pearson** and **Don Schroder** where we didn't catch as many fish as **Hugh Clark** did. The unfortunate thing was we missed a great fishing outing at Lone Lake complete with a significant swimming demonstration. All **Dunker's Award** certificate holders are encouraged to attend the May meeting. You may want to bring a larger spoon than the College Club teaspoons. Something like a ladle would be appropriate. This should really be a big soaker to match the proportions of the Lone Lake Swimmer's activity.

I missed the Dry Falls outing and the Lone Lake clean up too. This time the date was in conflict with my wedding anniversary. Some prioritization is very necessary.

The WFFC 2006 Beginning Casting Class is completed. We started out with 53 students and ended with about 35 survivors who have become capable casters. The student whom I thought might teach **Don Simonson** some new wrist techniques decided she couldn't/wouldn't follow what the instructors were saying and didn't show up after the first class. That's probably best for all concerned because I don't think Don's wrist is capable of flapping around as much even when he's demonstrating the "wrong way" to cast.

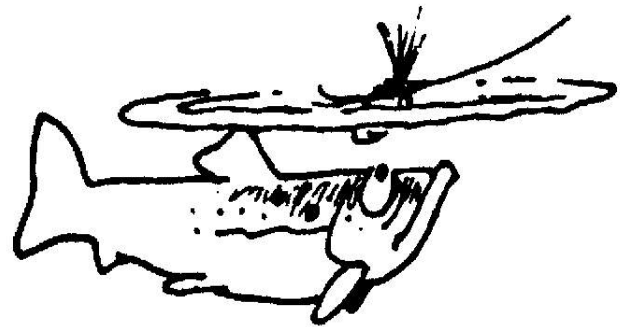
WFFC Student Progress and Success – Tammy Grogan, one of our Fly Tying and Fly Casting students announced that she went on an outing to Cady Lake with the Northwest Women Flyfishers where she caught her first trout on the first fly she tied in our 2006 Fly Tying Class!

Back to Thorne Bay, AK. We found out that most of the Steelhead on Prince of Wales Island are wild. The rule there is that a wild steelhead may not be kept unless it is over 36 inches long. Then you are limited to keeping

one with one in possession. I think that rule has some good merits. Those who want to keep a few fish may do so if they can meet a challenging size requirement. I'm guessing, but I think fish that size have been to sea more than once and probably have spawned at least once and are nearing the end of their life. On the other hand if the fish grew large by staying at sea longer and hadn't spawned yet someone should correct me.

GO FISH! – AND write up a summary of your results for the Creel Notes.

Bob Birkner



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Pictured above is the new vault toilet installed at the Ringer Road access on the Yakima River. This project was initiated and followed through on by the Northwest Women Flyfishers. The Washington Fly Fishing Club was one of several groups who helped support the NWF in their endeavors. They had tried to utilize portable outhouses at other sites but vandalism was a major problem, so this time they have upgraded to a permanent facility. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will assume ownership. *(Photo courtesy of Stacy Stratton, NWF)*

# Creel Notes

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

Leland Miyawaki...Editor  
206-240-2937 miyawaki@iswnet.com

Bob Young...Publisher  
206-323-2189 fishbum@seanet.com

### President

Bob Birkner [robirkner@spro.net](mailto:robirkner@spro.net)

### Co-1st Vice President

Ed Sozinho [sozinho@earthlink.net](mailto:sozinho@earthlink.net)

### Co-1st Vice President

Mike Wearne [micheal\\_wearne@msn.com](mailto:micheal_wearne@msn.com)

### 2nd Vice President

Les Johnson [les.johnson5@verizon.net](mailto:les.johnson5@verizon.net)

### Secretary

David Ehrich [rimroq57@yahoo.com](mailto:rimroq57@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

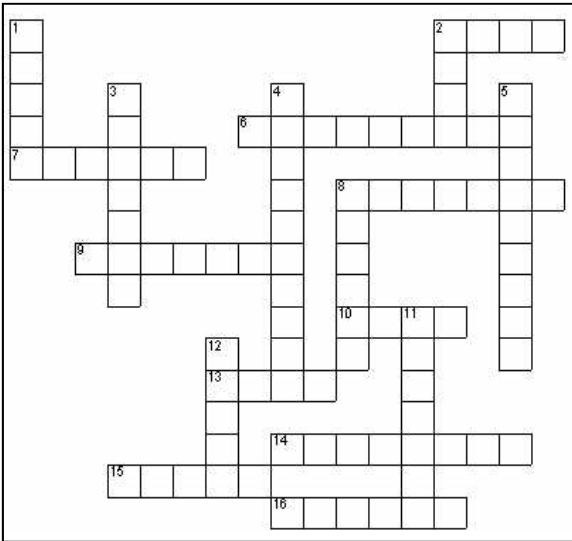
Steve Sunich [qualitypacific@cs.com](mailto:qualitypacific@cs.com)

### Ghillie(s)

Pat Peterman [patpeterman@verizon.net](mailto:patpeterman@verizon.net)  
Peter Crumbaker [wolf\\_feris2nd@hotmail.com](mailto:wolf_feris2nd@hotmail.com)

### Trustees

Hugh Clark '04 Paul Lingbloom '04  
Kris Kristoferson '05 John Schuitemaker '05  
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### ACROSS

- 2 Salmon or pal
- 6 Coastal\_
- 7 City or river
- 8 Gil's\_
- 9 Captain K
- 10 Island rod maker
- 13 Fish nest
- 14 "Selective gear hook"
- 15 Dry\_
- 16 Miyawaki is famous for it

### DOWN

- 1 Past president
- 2 A salmon
- 3 Royalty
- 4 Peter's namesake water
- 5 WA state fish
- 8 *Salmo*\_ (see 5 down)
- 11 Fine collector
- 12 Newsletter word

### 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 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.

## Griffin Creek Riparian Restoration

We will gather once again to decimate blackberries, pull fence and tend to our developing forest on the banks of Griffin Creek. The work party begins 8:30 on Saturday the 17th of June (the day before Father's Day) and will end at 12:30 with cold libations and BBQ brisket of beef. Though the work is hard, I'll do my best to reward your efforts with a decent lunch. The salmonids of Griffin Creek are most appreciative!

Should you need driving directions, please contact Doug Schaad at <mailto:dcschaad@comcast.net>.

Members new to the club in 2005 and 2006 are encouraged to attend. While the aging among us are willing, we are quick to recognize the difference between the wisdom of the years and the impatience of youth.

Hope to see you there,

Doug Schaad, Co-Chair  
Conservation Committee

(Publisher's note: When Kurt Kraemer, then the Griffin Creek regional biologist for the WDFW visited the club, I asked him if the club's work on Griffin Creek was worthwhile. He said definitely "Yes" as Griffin Creek produced a very large percentage of the Coho salmon produced by the Snoqualmie River system.)



### Prince of Wales Report, April 20-26 *By Hugh Clark*

Steelhead report. Fished Thorne River and Stainey River on Prince of Wales Island from our home base in Thorne Bay. My son, Hugh, and I hooked thirteen steelies and landed 10, all over thirty inches. Largest was 33.5 inches. For two days the fishing was hot, and then it simply turned off and we hooked none for three days. Rivers were easily wadeable but I used a staff. Birdlife was abundant with eagles, varied thrush, kinglets, winter wrens, greater yellow legs, dippers and chickadees commenting on our casting ability all day. Temperatures April 20-26 ranged between 34-48 degrees with some rain each day but two days with nice sun.

### Rattlesnake Lake *by Bob Young*

I know, I know. It's put and take, but the fish are pretty tasty and there are quite a few fairly nice fish, 14" to 18". I have heard reports of some very substantial triploids hooked. Hey, it's close (low gas bill) and a pretty setting with several Ospreys soaring overhead and occasionally slamming down and snatching up a trout. I have been there twice in the last two weeks. The water is quite low and a lot of water is

available by wading. I kinda like just kicking around in my pontoon boat on a sunny afternoon and waiting for the lake to get flat and watching for rising fish. It seems that many patterns work.

There is a mild calibaetis hatch in the afternoon. There was a guy fishing the shallows and telling his buddy who was wading that he was getting rises on a calibaetis emerger pattern that had been developed for Chopaka. I did pretty well with a calibaetis nymph fished on a floating line.

So, if you want to wet a line where there is a known population of fish that is within easy driving distance and maybe bring home dinner for two, lower your standards a little and try Rattlesnake Lake.



**Lone Lake Outing** *by Ron Dion*

Thanks to the Whidbey Island Fly Fishing Club for hosting the outing at Lone Lake and especially Jeff Phillips for serving as chef-for-a-day. The chow was enjoyed by all after braving a chill wind on the lake. From my perspective, it looked like everyone caught fish in the 10 to 18 inch range. Especially note the dunking of Mike Wearne. He lost his balance while out in the lake in his canoe. Lucky for him there was another angler nearby to tow him and his canoe to shore. He did have the presence of mind to hang on to his fishing line, so was able to retrieve his rod.



*Mark Pratt & Perry Barth enjoying lunch.*



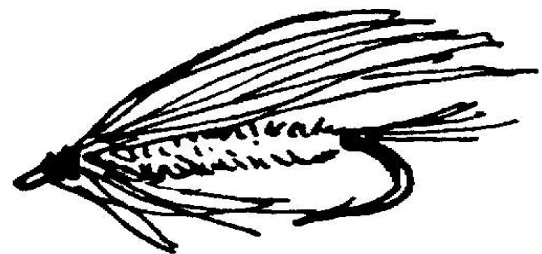
*Chapin Henry, Steve Raymond & John Callahan awaiting lunch.*



*Above and below: A wet fly!*



*Whidbey Island FF Club member Jeff Phillips serving Dick Brenning.*



**2006 WFFC Outdoors** The following outings are currently being planned:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>
Cady Lake	June 10	Jay Deeds to head this up. A 1 day outing. <a href="http://www.cadylake.com">www.cadylake.com</a> for info on directions and B&B at the lake. Camping available at DeWatto campgrd (360-372-2695) 3 miles away.
Chopaka	May 27 - 29	The usual Tempura, Sunday breakfast and pot-luck dinner are planned.
Yakima River	June 3	John Schuitemaker is heading this up. A 1 day outing. Boats required for floating. If you have a boat & can accomodate others, let John know. Contact Reds(509-929-1802) to reserve a boat.
Wenaha River,	July 16-22	David Ehrich to coordinate a N.E. Oregon hiking/fishing trip. Ref. Spring 2006 issue of Northwest Fly Fishing.
High Lake	Aug. 3 - 8	Pete Baird is coordinating selection of (sign-up sheets for destination. Actual duration of hike will depend on destination.
Scottish Lake High Camp.	Aug. 18-21	Ref. <a href="http://www.scottishlakes.com">www.scottishlakes.com</a> .
Dry Falls	Sep.30-Oct.1	The usual.
Methow River	Oct. tbd	Chuck Ballard to head up this steelhead outing. Date depends on WDFW opening.
Grande Rhonde	Oct. 7-14	Steelhead outing with Bill Redman, Jim McRoberts, Scott Hagen et al.
Wet Buns	Nov.4-5	The usual at Joemma State Park.

**The Outdoor committee includes:**

Tarp and Grill	Jim McRoberts
Ice Chest/Beer & Pop	David Ehrich
Chopaka	Tempura
	Breakfast
	Fire Wood
Wet Buns	Chairman

David Ehrich  
 Scott Hagen, Mark Pratt  
 Dick Brening, Chuck Ballard, David Ehrich  
 Paul Lingbloom  
 Hugh Clark, Chuck Ballard  
 Ron Dion



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

Stamp  
here

May, 2006

### Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St. This month that's the 16th.

The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

This months speaker will be Don Roberts, a veteran Lake Oswego, Oregon based fly fisher and outdoor journalist and author of the book, "Fly Fishing Still Waters". His articles have appeared in Fish & Fly, Salmon Trout Steelheader, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Fly Fisherman and the Patagonia Annual to name a few of his credits. He will speak on "Steelhead fishing the Columbia River Tributaries." Don has fished extensively over the past thirty years on all of the Columbia River tribs including; The Deschutes, Grand Ronde, John Day, Okanogan, Methow and other noted summer steelhead rivers.