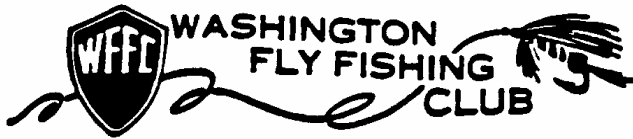


Creel Notes from the



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



May, 2007



President's Riffle

Wow! Things are hopping at the WFFC. Here are just some of the activities that are going on. We just returned from a great club outing at Big Twin Lake near Winthrop - great job by our outdoor committee led by Ron

Dion. The fishing at nearby Davis Lake was also outstanding.

Our Relocation Committee has been hard at work and has proposed three sites to the Board for their review. We will make a decision on the final location at our June Board meeting. Our membership committee has prepared two new members to induct at this month's meeting, Dave McCoy and Bob Aid. Based on popular demand and to ensure good attendance we've decided to reverse our previous decision and open the June meeting (now officially called a WFFC "event") at Tom Douglas's Palace Kitchen to guests of the opposite gender - this means, wife, significant other, or guest (hopefully a prospective member). And the education committee is wrapping up another year of fly casting lessons (beginner and advanced) at Green Lake.

With all that's happening you're probably wondering, "How do I get in on the action?" Simple. There are three ways in the next month that you can positively contribute to the club.

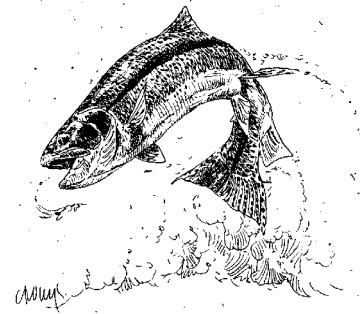
First, commit to bringing a guest to the next meeting. All guests are welcomed of course, but guests that have an interest in membership are encouraged - especially those of younger years that will help build the future of the club.

Second, make a note on your calendar now for River Cleanup Day on June 2nd. Doug Schaad is leading the

planning on this effort, but suffice it to say that we will be helping to clean the Stillaguamish. We'll have food and refreshments and Doug will be sending out more information regarding helpful gear to bring, and location and timing specifics. This is a great way to give back to the resource that we so enjoy.

Third, write a fishing report and send it into our Creel Notes Editor, **Bob Young**. It doesn't have to be fancy. A simple format of where you fished, what pattern(s) worked, any special technique, and an optional story of interest that made the outing special. As I write this I'm reminded of all the ways club members participate to make this the best fly fishing club in Washington - thanks to all for all you do. See you at the May meeting.

John Schuitemaker



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Fishing by the Book *A review by Michael Wearne*

One of my favorite fly fishing writers is Nelson Bryant who contributed fly fishing columns to the New York Times which were printed in the Outdoors column. Bryant's columns were collected in a book several years ago appropriated titled Outdoors. It is a delightful book.

I am not sure what prompted to New York Times to publish a similar collection of essays from the newspaper titled Upriver & Downstream. Frankly I don't care. All I know is that this book is a gem.

The Outdoors column in the New York Times appears on an irregular basis, and most often in the sports section. A majority of the time the articles are about fishing, and a majority of the fishing articles are about fly fishing.

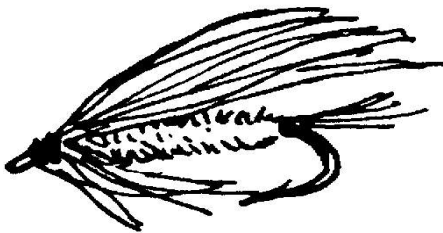
There are seventy separate columns; most are only a couple of pages long. The reader has the luxury to read a column, put the book down for a day, pick it up, and go on with a completely different adventure with another writer.

There are a variety of authors, Nick Lyons, Thomas McGuane, Nelson Bryant, Peter Kaminsky, Ernest Schweibert, Margot Page, Greg Thomas, and Robert H. Boyle, to name just a few of the contributors.

The book is edited by Stephen Sautner, who is also a contributor. The introduction is by Verlyn Klinkenborg, who is also a contributor.

The series of essays span a wide variety of locations and seasons. In fact the book is formatted by the type of fishing, Coldwaters, Warmwaters, Saltwaters, Oddwaters, and Farwaters. This provides for a wonderful selection of pieces.

Upriver & Downstream has just been published. It is so new it may not even be in some of the stores yet. I mentioned it to the guys at Creekside Anglers and they were not even aware of the book. If someone asked you about gift suggestions for Father's Day, this would be an opportunity to acquire a first class, and quite enjoyable, fly fishing book.



Christmas 2007 seems a long way off but will be here soon enough. Now that we are in the heart of this years fishing season I'd like each of you to begin thinking about our photo wrap up of the years action. Please email your contribution of streamside and lakeside photographs for our annual Christmas Party montage presentation. We can prepare a very nicely organized program if we have your pictures early. Like any Christmas present remember to "mail early". Please forward your digital images to ckoeppler@qwest.met.

Craig Koeppler

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 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.

WFFC Outings.

Dry Falls, April 20-22: There were 12 attendees at the Saturday evening festivities. Everyone enjoyed the steaks, libations, pot luck and bonfire until the sky let loose about 9:15p.m. The weather was great all weekend with very little wind and little rain except for Saturday evening/night, . The lake water was very clear, no bloom yet, and the level was up about a foot from what it was last autumn. Fishing was generally tough, but on Saturday afternoon down at the end of the shallow arm, Jim McRoberts, Jack Crowley and I

happened on a grey callibaetis hatch that lasted a couple of hours. It was great dry fly activity with the fish mostly in the 18"-20" range. For 3 days of fishing, my catch included many rainbows in the 8"-10" range, 4 about 15"-16", quite few in the 18"-20" range and a

single 24" rainbow. Other than the callibaetis hatch, the best flies for me were Mark Pratt's size 10 sub-surface chironomid and a size 10 black fly that Jim McRoberts gave me last autumn. It was one of the better fishing experiences for me at Dry Falls.

Yakima River, May 19: This is a one day float trip and **Sean Overman** is coordinating the time and location of the drift. If you want to join the fun, contact Sean (360-652-7636).

Scottish Lakes High Camp, Aug.15-21: This is the same high lake outing we had last year. It is located just west of Leavenworth. The owners drive each person, along with their gear up a gated road to their camp at 5000' elevation. There they have cabins, a hot tub and shower for guests. From the camp there are 6 hike-in lakes varying in distance from 6 miles round trip to 11 miles round trip. Last year, those who went the 11 miles to/from Larch Lake reported great fishing and high country scenery, so this year some folks are planning an overnigher there. Since reservations are required, and they are already starting to fill-up on weekends, if you would like to join the group, (guests, both male and female are invited) select the dates you desire and contact **Ron Dion** (425-485-0363) soon for making reservations. A deposit of 50% of the trips total cost is required for reservations.

Ron Dion

Notice—Notice—Notice

Due to the special nature of our June dinner with the noted Seattle chef and restaurateur Tom Douglas, the board has decided to share the wealth. To help assure the success of this outstanding event members are being given the opportunity to bring along your spouse, significant other or a guest.

The dinner price remains the usual \$22 but you will be receiving a grand gourmet feast prepared by noted Seattle chef and restaurateur Tom Douglas. Tom, a Delaware native, grew up on blue crabs steamed with loads of Old Bay spice, but for the past 20 years he has lived in Seattle, where Dungeness crab is king. Along with his wife and business partner, Jackie Cross, Tom owns four of Seattle's most exciting restaurants: Dahlia Lounge, Etta's, Palace Kitchen, and Lola, Serious Pie as well as the Dahlia Bakery and a catering business, Tom Douglas Catering and Events. Tom is the author of *Tom Douglas' Seattle Kitchen*, which won a James Beard Award, and *Tom's Big Dinners*.

It is requested that those planning on attending RSVP to **Keith Robbins**, our Program Chairman so Tom can devote his full attention to each meal. The dinner will be on June 19th at the Palace Ballroom, 2100 5th avenue, one block east of the Cinerama Theater. Tom will be demonstrating the art of cooking fish.

Pay Parking lots are available behind the Cinerama and a better bet is at sixth and Lenora next to Piranha studios. Last I checked it was \$6. There is also on street parking and the Westin parking lot one block south on fifth avenue The dinner will be sit down and the schedule will be the same as the College club except the bar will be 'no host'. This is a fantastic deal. Tom is really taking care of us. Any other group would be paying at least twice as much. They need to know how many meals to prepare and how to configure the room. Since we have never done anything like this before we need to get a good idea how many people will be attending.

If anyone has RSVP'd please do so again and include the total number of people attending including yourself. Please RSVP to flymooch@aol.com and put RSVP in the subject line.

Dry Falls is BACK!

Jon Williams and I drove to Dry Falls on Friday April 20th for the Spring Outing. We were on the water Saturday by 08:30. A very pleasant morning, no wind! There were only a few people ahead of us one being Rocco. No one was in the Aquarium, good news or bad? Jon went right into the deep section. I opted for the Aquarium. There is plenty of water this year, at least three feet. No more digging mud with each stroke! There was one big, 18-20" trout working when I arrived. Soon a chironomid hatch started and the swallows went nuts! So did a pod of smaller fish. I was using a dry line and a #18 bead head pheasant tail nymph. I pick up 7 fish between 9" and 14" in about 25 minutes. Then I changed to a #14 Nyerger nymph and picked up 5 more. I gave Jon a call on the secret radio. He said nothing was happening in the deep. He started over to meet me and by the time he arrived I had tallied 17 in the same size range! I gave him a couple of Nyerger nymphs. Then I saw Jack Crowley trying to sneak by me for the south arm! I said hi and he replied something about bothering small fish and something about a big may fly hatch in the afternoon. I followed him down the south arm. We saw big fish working occasionally. He landed one of good size over 20" on a secret fly given to him by the game warden on Friday, no fair! I connected with my Nyerger nymph to a 19" rainbow. I switched to a damsel nymph and caught a 22" beauty. Time for lunch and give the trout a rest! About this time Ron & Ron Dion and their lab arrived. As Jack had said there was going to be a big may fly hatch. I saw a bunch of what I thought was cattail fluff on the water carried by a slight breeze. I queried Ron if there as any action near him, about that time the fish erupted all over! The fluff was really a blizzard callibaetis hatch! The swallows went nuts again! We all switched to dry flies. I used a parachute Adams #14. From 3 until 4:15, I landed 5 fish between 19" and 22". WOW! I like Dry Falls again. Jack and the two Rons also caught several big fish in the south arm during this hatch. I owe my training in how to fish the south arm to my mentor, Gil Nyerger. Thanks Gil! Jon caught many on Gil's nymph at the spot where I originally started. Must be a good fly!



Jim cleaned his plate like a good boy

Respectfully, Jim McRoberts

Here is some supplemental input from Jack Crowley

One 18" and thick fish Friday on chiro w/bobber, under bright clear sky. Joe Miller, Region 2 Fish Biologist, told me of a humungous Mayfly hatch on the pond south end of Arm a couple weeks before. Said because of cold weather I had no dry flies. Joe gave me a couple light tan elk hair caddis, size 14-plus a couple size 12 beadhead olive flash shorthook streamers. Paddled down Arm Saturday, two good fish 18" and 20" on streamers. Jim McRoberts, after catching 20 10" fish, zeroed in on the big boys as we fished either side of the Arm. About 2 PM comes the Dions, the rain, and the giant Mayfly hatch!!! Big # 12 gray bugs and all the fish in the pond up!! Broke off the first elk hair, spent 15 minutes tying the second on (cement in the eye), and landed two big horses 20" plus!! You know the fish nuts to eat light tan when gray all around!! Meanwhile Jim and the

(Continued on page 5)

Rons drilling them. Fish frantically feeding, me blown around in circles in canoe, rain at times- then, all quit about 4 PM.

Jim and Lynne Macdonald trip to Moclips and the Bogachiel River.

Drove over to Ocean Crest Resort located in Moclips on the ocean about 30 miles north of Ocean Shores. We stayed in one of their duplexes as we had our dog with us. It was real nice with a wood stove and a great view of the ocean. We stayed from Friday the 20th and came home the following Friday. I tied some flies while I was over there, predominantly red and yellow on # 4 hooks although I did tie one all white and cream color as the razor clam season was open that Saturday and Sunday. A fellow from NOAA was the only other person I saw who was also fishing for Surf Perch. He had a monster spinning rig with a very large pyramid shaped weight and was using razor clam guts for bait. It became apparent that the flies needed to be weighted to get them down on the sand where the Surf Perch apparently were. I did not catch any but had a great time refining my technique. Rain squalls with sun breaks and wind in the twenties with large waves made fishing exhilarating to say the least.



Jack Crowley, Jim Van De Erve and guests

A long bitch paddle upwind to bar, steak cookout featuring Mama Maccarrone's Eggplant Parmesan casserole, and early to bed. Water high and clear, and a super outing for all!!!

J W Crowley

I fished the surf from the Moclips River to a little over a mile south of there. I noticed brown algae in the water and on the beach was heavier right below Moclips than it was further down the beach below where we were staying. I wondered if this is a result of the larger population at Moclips releasing more septic effluent that then finds it's way to the beach sand and water.



Ron Dion, Jr. and John Huey. I guess nobody took their camera to the lake.



Wednesday we drove up to Forks, Bogachiel State Park and accessed the river through the State Park. I thought the river might be out of shape from all the rain we had been having but it looked great with a

(Continued on page 6)

Ron Dion adds his story in the lead in to his outings info on page 3.

(Continued from page 5)

fairly large volume of water coming down. You really had to watch your step while wading. Fished for about three hours late afternoon until about 2030 then we drove down to La Push just to look around and then drove all the way back to Moclips.

Great trip, No Fish. Did harvest some razor clams though which were very tasty.

Photo Gallery

April Meeting Highlights



Greg Crumbaker gets the Dunkers Award for playing through on his back.



Gil lays the law down to new member Roger Rohrbeck

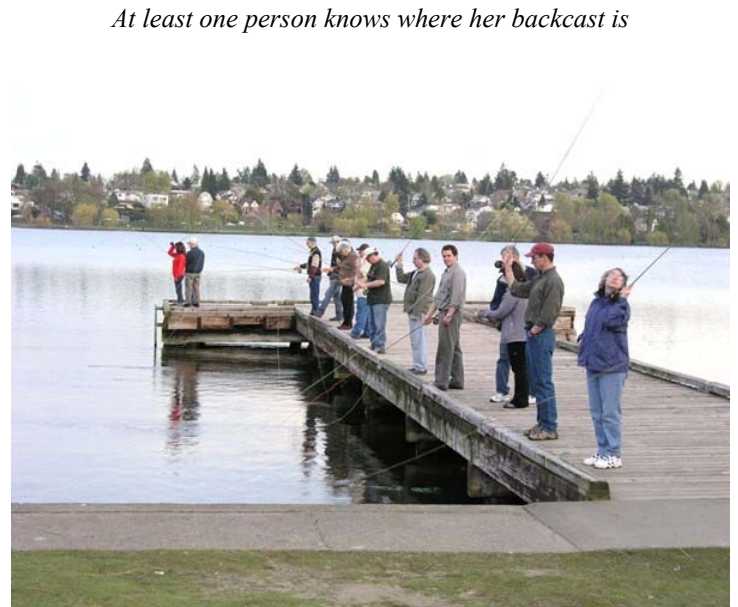


Don Simonson directs this years casting class

At least one person knows where her backcast is



Now which number was it that Steve told me to vote for.



Conservation Outing

10:00 Saturday, 2 June 2007
North Fork Stillaguamish River Clean-Up

As part of the American Rivers National River Cleanup, the WFFC has registered for the North Fork of the Stillaguamish. Though detailed planning has not yet finished, here's what's known at the moment.

The WFFC will provide Brisket, Buns, Beer, Water, Pop and other ancillary munchies for participants. We will need pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks, drift boats as well as pedestrian (wading) volunteers to scour the river for retrieval of the trash that has accumulated. We will also need a couple of rigs to haul trash for disposal (the Club will reimburse costs). I hope to have more details for distribution at the membership meeting. I will also send updates as the plans become more definitive. Bring your cameras; with the right photo you could win a nice prize from the corporate sponsors.

Check out www.NationalRiverCleanup.org for the scope of activities from previous events. The Conservation Committee

Invitation to help another service oriented club:

The Hi-Lakers urgently need fly fishermen to fish Leech Lake up by White Pass before a new triploid plant occurs at the beginning of June. The limit is one fish a day over 14", which in all probability will be a triploid rainbow that was planted last year. The Hi-Lakers need length, weight, and stomach content of any triploid rainbow we catch.

REASON: The WDFW is gathering data to see how well the holdover triploid rainbows act as predators on resident brook trout. The data collected so far indicates that new plants of triploids are not good predators on the Leech lake brook trout. The question is: Do they finally learn to eat brook trout?

Examine the stomach contents for any evidence of fish. Watch even for undigested backbones. -- If you are inexperienced in examining stomach contents, put the intestines in a plastic or glass container and ice or freeze it and deliver it to me. I will see that it is turned over to the appropriate contact within the Hi-Lakers. Thank you!

-- **Pete Baird** --

Hoh River Trust Event

The Hoh River Trust is having its first "Hoh-Down" May 10 from 6-9pm at Seattle's Pyramid Ale House for an evening celebrating the conservation accomplishments of the Hoh River Trust. WFFC members are invited to attend. There will be the music of Big Dirt and the Washington Middle School Jazz Combo. Door prizes from Orvis, Patagonia and Sage will be awarded. They will also have the new Sage Casting Analyzer to fine tune your casting stroke. Please send them your RSVP by going to <http://www.hohrivertrust.org/rsvp.html>.

More background on Dave McCoy who will be presenting this month's program.

Born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, I can't exactly recall when I was first exposed to fly fishing...too young to remember. My father, both grandfathers and family friends are to be jointly accused!

Growing up in the Eugene area and spending occasional summers in Seattle, my stomping grounds were Crane Prairie, Davis, Hosmer and Gold Lakes, the Deschutes, Nestucca, McKenzie and Umpqua Rivers. I quickly discovered the thrill of having a fish on, especially large ones.

My father introduced me to fishing as well as experiencing and enjoying life in the outdoors. I have acknowledged my need for the outdoors and have grown to share this love with people as a ski race coach by winter, soccer coach and fly-fisherman by summer. Now guiding and teaching fly anglers is 100% my dedicated profession.

This passion has catapulted me from the best steelhead fishing in Oregon to the best trout fishing in Colorado and other species worldwide. For the past 13 years, I have enjoyed guiding beginners to experts throughout central and southwestern US and all over the PNW. Now, my vision is to bring to Seattle and the Pacific NW a guide service that will set a new standard for other guide services in the industry.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

May, 2007

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

This months speaker will be Dave McCoy. Raised in Oregon, Dave is now mastering the waters and fly fishing opportunities around the Seattle Area. Everyone will probably pick up something about fishing close to home. More info on Dave on page 5.