

Creel Notes from the



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



LIV No. 2

February, 2003

President's Riffle *By Richard Embry*

An Old Dog's New Tricks . . .

I met one of my new best friends about 3 years ago. We met through a fly tying group put together by a mutual friend. We tried to get together each month, and would have some type of fly theme for our session. One month I suggested leeches and woolly buggers. My new friend (let's call him "Steve") was appalled at the thought of tying woolly buggers, because "you can't catch anything on those." Stunned, I didn't know what to say. This guy was (is) a very experienced fly fisherman, and I couldn't believe my ears. After lifting my jaw from the ground and regrouping my thoughts, I told him that if I had one fly in the world to use, my toughest decision would be what COLOR woolly bugger. Steve 'fessed up that he had only tried them a couple of times, obviously with no success. You see, Steve fished the Yakima, Silver Creek, the Big Wood, et al, and fished dry flies or small nymphs.

I am happy to report that I have since corrupted Steve, and he now has a fly box FULL of woolly buggers, and is actually looking for a larger fly box to add MORE buggers! He caught his first trout over 20 inches fishing buggers this past fall. I think a #10 beadhead olive woolly bugger is in the running to be his favorite fly.

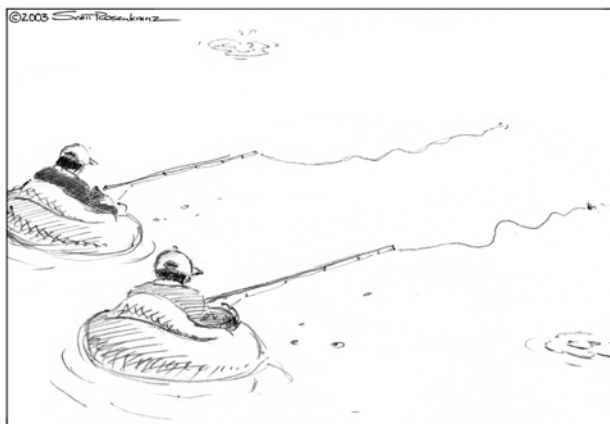
The moral of the story is not to be afraid to try different techniques and methods. Don't have a sinktip fly line? Get one! A sinktip fly line will open up a whole new world of

fishing for you. It can be used in lakes and rivers, but really shines in the rivers. Don't have a sinking line or have never fished a lake? My gosh are you missing out! Until last fall, Steve had never fly fished lakes, and since discovering the value of sinking lines and woolly buggers when fishing lakes, I have numerous photos of him with beautiful 20'+ rainbows.

Fly fishers all love to see that nose dimple the surface and suck the dry fly under. But 90% of what a trout eats is under the surface and the BIG fish eat meat, not always a little blue wing olive spinner. You owe it to yourself to broaden your fishing horizon and experiences and try streamers, leeches, buggers, sinktip lines, and sinking lines. If not, you are missing out on a lot of tremendous fishing/catching!

Fishing Tip of the Month

"A clean fly line is a happy fly line." Actually, I'm happy when my floating fly line is clean; it casts further, easier, and floats easier. I regularly use fly line cleaner on my lines, or at least after every other trip. You would be amazed the gunk that comes off my line! The line lasts much longer too. With many of the premium the Scientific Angler, Cortland, Orvis, Rio, et al fly lines priced now over \$50, it's a worthwhile investment to purchase a line cleaner and regularly use it on your floating line; you'll be glad you did. Good fishing!!!



By the way, your fly's down.

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George Martin, 1910 - 2003

George Martin was a member of the WFFC from 1967 when he was sponsored by Russ Light, until 2001. George was an active member, attending many of our club outings throughout the years, and regular meetings until about 1998 when he made his last trip to Eliguk lake. George was also an active member of the Camlin Wednesday lunch group until about year 2000 the ravages of Alzheimer's disease finally necessitated his total withdrawal from club activities. -- George had an illustrious career with the Boeing Company as one of the major contributors to aviation science in the Pacific Northwest. During his 41 year career with Boeing he rose to the position of vice president of engineering and was considered by colleagues to be an expert in the structural design and analysis for the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-29 Superfortress bombers. He was also the chief project engineer for the XB-47 "Stratojet".

George was born May 16, 1910, in Everett and as a child he spent countless hours fly-fishing on the Stillaguamish River. After graduating from Everett High School he attended the University of Washington, graduating with a bachelors degree in aeronautical engineering in 1931. Several months after graduating George took a position with Boeing and remained with the company until 1972 when he retired. George died of pneumonia on May 21 at the Horizon House retirement community in Seattle.

Fenton Roskelley Retires *By Richard Embry*

Fenton Roskelley, venerable outdoor column writer for the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, officially retired (again) on May 29, 2003, after filing his last article for the Review. Many of you have likely read Fenton's columns on the outdoors. He began writing for the Spokane Daily Chronicle in 1958, and became the outdoor writer for the Spokesman-Review when the Review and the Chronicle merged staffs in 1983. Fenton first retired in 1982; he wrote over 2,000 (!) columns, published twice a week, from that first retirement date to his current retirement date.

Fenton was instrumental over the years in educating many people on the where, why, what, how, and when on the outdoors. My in-laws live in Coeur d'Alene, and many has been the time I would peruse Fenton's column, prior to travelling to see the in-laws, to obtain tips on the hot fishing spots.

Let's all congratulate Fenton on his retirement. However, I know that I am one of many that will miss his informative and insightful columns.

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.

TOM REESE / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Thur. June 05, 2003

It an elevated restaurant-lounge once considered Seattle's own slice of heaven, a group of fly fishermen who have met there for lunch every Wednesday since 1968 take the bait. What do they think about rumors that the historic Camlin Hotel and its 11th-story Cloud Room will be turned into a private vacation resort? "You mean what do I think about them ruining it?" 78-year-old **Perry Barth** asked. The rumors are true. Another Seattle institution is going bye-bye.

Months of speculation ended yesterday when Trendwest Resorts of Redmond announced it had purchased the landmark hotel from Camlin LLC for an undisclosed price.

Trendwest plans to convert the hotel's rooms into 100 fully furnished suites, including four top-floor penthouses where the Cloud Room now dwells. The Camlin thus will become the private province of approximately 181,000 households — including 39,000 from Washington state — that have spent a minimum \$9,300 to be a member of Trendwest's vacation club, WorldMark. "So this is progress," lamented Don Uppendahl, 67, a regular attendee of the fishermen's social. "I don't mind progress. It's change I don't like." A closing date has not been announced, but Sonia Tolbert, Trendwest's public-relations manager, said her company hopes to reopen the restored Camlin — which will retain its name — early next summer. The hotel's 85 employees — many of whom have been looking for new jobs — had a good idea the end was near. The hotel has been taking reservations only through early August.

Gallows humor has been a coping mechanism. The Cloud Room's chef-special omelet on Sunday morning was the S.O.S. (sausage, onion and Swiss). But the distress call turned out to be too little, too late for a hangout that has attracted a mix of neighborhood regulars, downtown workers, conventioners, young professionals, lounge lizards, bachelorette partygoers and older people who have fond memories of the place. "Most hotel bars only bring in hotel guests," bartender John Baker said. "The Cloud Room brings in everybody." The fly fishermen are one of a handful of social groups that use the Cloud Room as their headquarters. **Gordy Young**, elder statesman at age 92, said the group hosted baseball great Ted Williams and hotel magnate Charles Ritz, both avid fly fishermen, at Camlin lunches in

the past.

"The Cloud Room was once *the* room in Seattle," Barth said. "There's a long tradition here of good food and good fun." **Ron Dion**, 65, treated his date to dinner at the Cloud Room before his O'Dea High School prom in 1955. "When I was in high school, I was kind of intimidated by this place because it was so tall," said **Dion**, a member of the fishermen's group. "It was quite the big deal for a high-school senior like me to come up to a place like this that had such a tremendous view. We could see the water back then." The Camlin's clear-shot view of Elliott Bay became blocked over the years by downtown development. As the views disappeared, so did its reputation as one of Seattle's most sophisticated nightspots. The



Trendwest tosses fly fishers from Lake Camlin!

After meeting weekly for lunch at the Camlin Hotel since 1968, a group of fly fishermen will have to find a new eatery when the Cloud Room becomes a private penthouse suite.

Gordy Young, 92, right, is the group's elder statesman. At left is member Perry Barth, 78.

lack of TLC over the years turned the lounge into a divey piano bar, its threadbare teal-and-pink floral carpet suggesting better days. Management played the room's retro charm to the hilt. On Sunday morning, the recorded music of Donovan, Chicago, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Sly & the Family Stone played through restaurant loudspeakers. "None of us have any illusions about the Camlin," said Deanna Gimmi, the Camlin's controller. "We understand its charms but also understand that the place needs a lot of work." The Cloud Room, bathed in dark-stained wood walls, actually is four distinct rooms and an open-air patio, with a

fountain featuring a boy urinating.

The hotel often houses road crews and cast members from shows passing through town. Whenever the Godfather of Soul, James Brown, rolled into town, his band would stay at the hotel and jam the night away at the piano bar with Martin Ross, who has entertained there the past 14 years. Business at the hotel — and the Cloud Room's crowd — fluctuated with who was appearing across the street at the Paramount. When heavy-metal band Slayer played there last fall, an exuberant fan managed to climb on the neon "Camlin" sign and yell "Slayer rules!" Baker said. The Camlin is a city landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Any alterations to the building's terra-cotta facade, lobby, sign and rooftop architectural elements must be approved by the city, but the city has no authority over how the building may be used. Tolbert said Trendwest considered keeping the top floor a public space but the challenges of

Thanks WFFC!

By Kirk Anderson, Snoqualmie Steward for King County
and David Kimmett, Natural Resource Coordinator, King County Parks Resource Section

Thank you to the 21 volunteers who attended the May 17th work party at Griffin Creek. WFFC's thorough and regular blackberry removal effort has yielded excellent results. We've gotten ahead of the invasive plant growth and the native plants are thriving. Special thanks to **Chuck Ballard, Dick Robbins, John Gravendyk, Dave Schorsch, Steve Spear, Mark Pratt, Shawn Pratt, Ben Pearsall, Jim McRoberts, Scott Hagen, Walt Walkinshaw, Fran Wood, John Callahan, Ron Dion, Ron Hofmeister, Brain Hata, Alisa Hata, Pete Baird, Bob Birkner, and Greg Crumbeker.** And those who have eaten the WFFC-sponsored lunch after the work party know that everyone appreciates **Doug Schaad's** critical role as chef. This has been a highly productive partnership for King County. We wish every restoration site could receive the kind of attention WFFC has given to Griffin Creek. Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you sometime in August or September.



This was the easy part.



Round up the usual suspects.



Everybody is all smiles until Dave hands out the shovels.



I saw a nice cutt take a #22 baetis by that tree.

Also, and this is important:

After two years of delay, King County has finally created the administrative rules that will allow the WFFC to be recognized as the Stewards of Griffin Creek. That process, initiated by the WFFC, is now complete. While the WFFC will have to contribute the majority of the costs, King County is providing some matching funds. As a club, we need to determine whether we choose to be recognized in our role. Signage to that effect would be placed on the trellis crossing Griffin Creek. As one of the Conservation Co-Chairs, this seems a no-brainer. I can't see a downside to being the Steward of a creek that produces nearly 25% of the entire coho production in the Snohomish basin.

– Doug Schaad

He Was a Fisherman *by Lelend Miyawaki*

On April 21, **Tom Campbell** and I had a pleasant trip to Dry Falls Lake. When we were through fishing we had to proceed several hundred feet to a place we could turn the truck around. There was a small green GEO parked there, with another fly fisherman hauling his float tube up to it preparing to also leave the lake. We turned around and left. When we got to our cabin we discovered that Tom's rod had apparently shifted in the bed of the truck, and in passing by some of the enemy sage bushes, one of them reached out and grabbed it, and dragged it into the road. We immediately retraced our route and carefully examined all places that it could have fallen - but it was gone - and so was the GEO. Upon reporting it to the Ranger, who promised to keep a lookout for it, he ventured the opinion that we would never see it again. I replied that it was a fly fisherman that we encountered, and that I was hopeful.

The next morning we went to Rocky Ford to fish, and at the end of our fishing, on the way out along the Creek we saw another small green GEO parked in one of the Public Fishing areas - No sign of the occupant, but Tom left a note on his windshield explaining our predicament - hypothesizing that he might have been the next one following us out of Dry Falls, and may have picked up his outfit - and left his name, address, and phone number..

On May 2, Tom received through the mail an unsigned, no return address, package containing his complete, undamaged outfit.

Our faith has been renewed and the Ranger duly notified. **HE WAS A FLY FISHERMAN!**

WFFC 2003 High Lake Outing/Meeting. *By Ron Dion*

A meeting to finalize the plans for this year's hike into the Enchantments is scheduled for 5:00p.m. Tuesday, June 17 at the College Club, (just prior to the WFFC June meeting). Topics to be discussed include; departure time, vehicle pooling, hiking route and schedule, tenting and food arrangements. Hopefully all 8 persons who have paid for our hiking permit are able to attend. However, if you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact **Pete Baird** (206-232-7682) or **Ron Dion** (425-485-0363) prior to the meeting. If you have paid and will not be making the hike, please let us know as we have a backup waiting list and would like to let them know so that they can be at the meeting.

REFLECTING ON WFFC CASTING CLASSES *by Don Simonson*

When the first of June rolls around I know that once again the WFFC has introduced about 50 potential fly fishers to our wonderful sport. Some have experienced the exasperations of trying to learn on their own how to present a fly in a manner to entice a fish. Some others have decided it might be a good idea to learn that task correctly before they develop bad habits from not having good formal instruction. In either case, our club members answer the challenge during an 8-week course each year to produce a group of folks who have attained the basic skills in fly-casting. This could not happen if it were not for the commitment of our mem-

bers, including those who are FFF certified instructors and

other highly qualified non-certified instructors. I sincerely believe we offer the best, most concise, basic fly-casting class anywhere. One might ask why I am so high on our class. Well, I know it's because of the FFF instructor certification program. Because our club as two Master Certified instructors along with two Certified instructors we have been able to instill good fundamental instruction disciplines in all our instructors. No other organization or club can match our qualifications.

I have always wanted to conduct an advance casting class, as there is no such class offered in the Puget Sound area. This year I held our club's first such class that was open to the public. It was a 4-week class limited to 10 students. The class was well received with the graduates learning several specialty casts along with enhancing their distance casting based on good casting stroke fundamentals.

Last I would like to thank the club members who assisted with the teaching during the recently completed 8-week course.

Proposed \$500 Donation - Casting for Recovery

In the June, 2003 WFFC Board meeting, the Board discussed donating funds to Casting for Recovery ("CFR"). Per the CFR website, *"Casting for Recovery provides fly-fishing retreats specifically tailored for women who have or have had breast cancer. We seek to enhance the lives of breast cancer survivors by providing retreats designed to promote and support mental and physical healing. We are committed to socioeconomic and cultural diversity."*

During the Board meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to provide \$500 to the CFR program. A second motion was made, seconded, and passed to provide a second \$500 donation to CFR. The second \$500 requires a notice in the Creel Notes and a vote by the general membership. If the second donation proposal is approved by the general membership, the sum of these two donations will match what the WFFC donated year before last.

The proposed second donation of \$500 will be discussed at the June 17, 2003 general membership meeting.

(Cont from pg 3)

mixing private and public use were too significant to overcome. Trendwest's 48 WorldMark properties in the U.S., British Columbia, Mexico and Fiji are almost all for the express use of its vacation-club members and their guests, she said. "We have the utmost respect for the history of the Cloud Room and the affinity that Seattle has for it," Tolbert said. "We knew it was a sensitive issue and we really did try to include it within our plan."

Young said the fishermen have not decided where to move their weekly gathering, only that the lunches will continue. Every Wednesday. At noon. Some things never change.

By Stuart Eskenazi Seattle Times staff reporter

Editor's notes

Two new member candidates *By Bill Kuper*

The Membership committee is recommending the following candidates as new members:

Doug Donaldson

Doug was born and raised in Salt Lake City, and flew for the Air Force for 26 years. Doug moved here after leaving the Air Force, where he worked for IDS/American Express as a financial advisor for another 16 years before retiring. In addition to fly fishing, he likes to golf, hike cross country ski, backpack, salt water fish, and does a little bit of hunting. He is a member of the Mountaineers, Trout Unlimited (Edmonds chapter, also servers on their board), and Mill Creek Country Club. He also has spent time leading youth as a Cub Scout Leader, a Scoutmaster, and Explorer Post Advisor.

Doug's sponsors are Dale Smith and Dave Wands.

Greg Bush

Greg began fly fishing in 1977 on the Kings River in California while attending grad school, and has been fishing with Doug Schaad since 1974. He lives on Vashon Island where he plies the waters in his skiff, builds rod, and ties flies. When not on the water he can be found in his shop making furniture and guitars. He's been married for 27 years and has a 16 year old son who also fly fishes.

Greg would bring a wealth of conservation-based experience to the club. He has worked for Metro/King County since 1981 as an environmental planner, manager and engineering project manager. Currently, he is the Planning and Compliance Manager in the Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks. He has worked on various environmental initiatives including salmon stream restoration, mitigation projects, land banking and wetlands enhancement, and is a charter member of the Society of Wetland Scientist and the Water Environment Federation.

Greg's sponsors are Doug Schaad and Bill Rundall.

One Last Chance *By Bill Kuper*

Our records show the following fellows still may not have paid their dues for 2003. *Please keep in mind that it has been difficult getting the data transferred and up to date, so there may well be some mistakes in this list.* If your name is on this

list, and you have already paid, just drop a note to **Bill Kuper** at billk@digitalfarm.com, or leave a message at 206.545.9350 (h). If your name is on the list and you haven't paid, but still want to remain a member, please notify Bill and get your payment in asap or you will be dropped from the roster. The fee for dues is \$55. Thanks!

Dick Ballinger
Tim Coleman
Don Davidson
Mark DeWitt
Dyche Kinder
Stephen Langdon
Ted Rogowski
Robert Tarleton

Tim Bohlin
Jim Creim
David Demarest
David Essick
Ron Kusunose
Michael Racine
Paul Wiltberger

The Roster Grows *By Bill Kuper*

A hearty welcome goes out to the club's newest members, **Randall Bryett, Jim Morrison, and Dave Walsh!** The trio was unanimously approved at the May meeting, and formal induction will take place at this month's meeting. Congratulations guys, we look forward to your contributions to the club!

(cont. from pg. 7)

fished the night twice, and I hooked up twice. The first fish I caught broke me off right at the boat after about a half-hour fight. That fish weighed about 80 pounds. The second one I had on for 5 to 10 minutes before his rough lips "sawed through" the 80 pound bite/shock tippet on the end of my line. It weighed well over 100 pounds, and I would have been tied up with him for more than an hour to get him in. Back at the house, I would cast a Clouser into the canal in the evenings . . . some barracuda own a few of those flies now.

It was a cool trip, even though I didn't catch many tarpon, I'm confident I can hook one. I also learned a lot, such as where to cast to the fish, how much to lead the fish coming from the varying angles, etc. I also confirmed what I already knew - that I can't see fish for crap. I really need to practice, which should greatly improve my chances for hooking moving, migrating tarpon. I understand the migrating fish are fickle most of the time, but they will go through spells where they will bite a well-presented fly. Keith proved that with at least three biters!





Chopaka Lake, May 21-25 *By Dick Stearns*

I've gone to Chopaka now, for the last 28 years, often two times each: once for the Spring outing and later in the Fall when the crowds have diminished to but a few boats on the south end, leaving my favorite area around the Lone Pine pretty much to myself. I don't think I've missed a year, but with retirement, I've become ambivalent to certain passages of time. In those years, I've experienced the agony of defeat of different colors and hues, but for the most part, the memories have held Chopaka as one of my favorite places.

Some of the less pleasant memories have been mostly unrelated to fishing: like the Grand Combined Chinese and Chopaka Boat Drills, a term coined by Al Pratt, in which boats were either sunk, stolen or otherwise rendered nonuseable; tents were blown down en masse by gales whipping down the lake; and members and nonmembers alike were rescued from potential drownings. I, myself, rescued two; but this year, it was my turn to be rescued.

The Chopaka Size Twelve May Hatch started on schedule, and large trout were slurping them along shore. I was anchored about 75 feet away, a distance somewhat difficult to reach in a sitting position; so against my better understanding of the dynamics of a less than fully inflated rubber raft, I stood to make a better cast.

I can't remember if it was on the first or second half of the double haul, but I can vaguely remember the raft going one way and me the other. Pratt best described his many boat dunkings as surrealistic views of the underside of his boat as it swam away on its own, glad to be free of its occupant.

In my case the raft was anchored, but if you've ever tried to pull yourself into a rubber raft with no means of foot support, it's pretty much the same. Try as I may, I failed to kick my way more than halfway over the side before I fell back, exhausted, wet clothes not helping in my struggle.

No need to panic: I could pull up my ten pound anchor, heave it into the raft and paddle to shore. But the water was getting cold, and I hoped for a better way.

That way was embodied in **Peter Sparling** and his son Frank who, in their handsome drift boat, were sole

witnesses to my half gainer. Seeing my apparent struggle, they quickly came to my aid, rowed me ashore, then retrieved those items left floating on their own, including the wayward raft.

Fortunately, the only items lost were my prescription polaroids and the chair in which I should have remained sitting. Did my pride take a dunking also? Yea, but I figure after 28 years, the last 12 of which bore witness to me standing up in that stupid rubber raft...my time was overdue.

Florida Keys Tarpon Fishing (not Catching)

By Richard Embry

I just returned from a weeklong trip to the Florida Keys. I was there to fly fish for tarpon as a guest of fellow WFFC member Captain Keith Robbins. For those of you who don't know him (and it's your loss), Capt. Keith guides locally on Puget Sound as his regular job. We stayed and fished the area around Islamorada, which is about half way down the Keys.

Keith fished there earlier in May for about two weeks. Fishing was tough up to the last 3 days, when he hooked 8 tarpon, 7 of them on flies. I was pretty jazzed to be there the last week in May, which should have been prime time. Of course, that assumes the weather would cooperate; it didn't. On Wednesday night, Fort Lauderdale (north area of Miami, and about 100 miles away) got over 10 inches of rain in ONE day! We got the edge of that storm about 2 am on Thursday, and couldn't sleep because of the thunder and lightning. The rain came down in buckets; I've never seen anything like it. It actually got kinda scary at times. We couldn't fish on Thursday, which of course I meant I had to go to the World Wide Sportsman store and spend some \$\$ (like I need more stuff, right?).

Fishing was good, though the catching wasn't so good on flies. We saw quite a few fish, many of them on Wednesday. It's pretty cool to see a 5 to 6 foot fish moseying toward your boat, casting to it, and waiiiiting to see if he'll eat it. I didn't get any to eat my flies, but Keith got two to eat, and he hooked one. He had it on for 5 minutes before it came unbuttoned on the second jump. We fished a couple of nights, doing what Keith calls "drifting and dreaming." This entails using casting/spinning gear with a blue crab about 5 feet under a float and fishing just before sundown into the night while drifting along with the tide, sipping Scotch, and waiting for a tarpon to grab the crab. We

(Cont. on pg.6)



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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 served at 6:45 PM



This months program , on June 17th, is “Fly Fishing Yellowstone Park Backcountry Waters” with Bruce Staples

Bruce will take us off Yellowstone Park’s beaten paths. His presentation will concentrate on backcountry waters that require a walk of only a few hundred yards or a journey of many miles. Bruce has information not found anywhere else on waters such as Fall River Basin, Heart Lake Basin, the Lewis River drainage (featuring Shoshone and Lewis Lakes), upper Slough Creek, Gallatin River tributaries, and high quality lesser-known locations in the upper Madison and Yellowstone drainages.

Bruce Staples has combined information from thirty years of Yellowstone Park fly-fishing experience. He has authored the **Yellowstone Park River Journal**, one of the River Journal Series published by Frank Amato Publications. Other books by Bruce are **Snake River Country Flies and Waters** and **Trout Country Flies**.