

Creel Notes from the



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



June, 2004

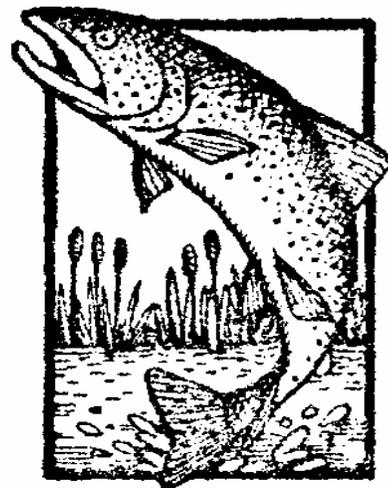
Presidents Riffle *By Jim McRoberts*

While on a condominium exchange near Blanchard, Idaho, I went fishing for whatever was in Lake Blanchard. **Ron Mazurek**, a past president of WFFC, who lives in Rathdrum, Idaho, said I might find some bass or sunfish in it. It is a shallow, round lake about a half-mile across. It was a windy afternoon and the water was well churned up. The visibility was only about four inches, so I tried a bushy olive woolly bugger. It was windy enough that I had difficulty staying out of the brush while trying to cast toward shore. I caught a 10-inch large mouth bass, a three pounder and a 15-incher. I thought about keeping the big one but trying to fight the wind with a live bass between my legs (I had no way to "bonk" it) was not such a good idea. I tried to give it to a guy in an eight-foot sailing pram but he said just put it back! While getting tired of fighting the wind, I saw three young 10-14 year old boys in an aluminum johnboat about ten feet long. They were fighting the wind with one small plastic paddle and a four-inch diameter tree branch about three feet long for the other paddle. The third boy was in the stern fishing while bailing with a small can. They seemed to be having a great time! Next to arrive on the scene was a big tournament-type bass boat. The father was in the bow with his electric motor and not having any problem with the wind! There were five youngsters in the back casting in all directions with plastic worms, spoons and plugs. They were also having a great time while catching a few bass.

Just a reminder, we will have a sign-up

(RSVP) sheet at the ghillie's desk so you can let us know if you plan to attend the July 20th regular meeting. **We need to know your intent by July 6th**. If you are not at the June meeting, please call **Bill Kuper, Rocco Mac-carrone** or me. Since we are inviting five other clubs we need to have an accurate count for the College Club. You **do not** have to pay in advance. One other change for the July meeting is that you will pay for your drinks at our bar (same price as the Holiday Party).

Tim Borski will be the featured speaker and will talk about the Florida Keys.



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Flyfishermen respect their environment and take care of their waters, right? These trophies, box included, were collected as I was leaving Rocky Ford Creek recently.
Bob Birkner

Creel Notes

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WFFC Casting Team

By Ed Sozinho

Any club members interested in trying out for this years WFFC Casting Team, tryouts will be held at Greenlake on Wednesday July 7 and Thursday July 8th. As you may remember the WFFC has been cleaning house the last couple of years at the annual FFF casting competition. The top eight casters will form this years team and will practice once a week at Greenlake. Schedule for practices will be determined once the team is formed. Tryouts will consist of both accuracy and distance casting. If you have any questions, please give me a call (206) 706-7235 or email me at esozinho@earthlink.net.

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.



D-Day Remembered, Hu Riley on Omaha Beach

In the Sunday, June 6, edition of the Seattle Times, reporter Ray Rivera writes:

"For decades, Huston Riley has quietly held the belief that he was the soldier shown struggling through the surf in a famous D-Day photograph.

The grainy black and white image, taken by Life magazine photographer Robert Capa, conveyed at once terror and courage and came to represent the collective will of the nameless GIs who stormed Normandy that day 60 years ago.

Life didn't identify the soldier, but Riley's mother instantly recognized the sharp nose, the angled chin. It was her son.

For the full text of this fascinating story and photo, go to: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2001949047_dday06m.html

Suspended Animation

By Gene Cates

An intrepid fly fisher named Spence
Wearing waders climbed over a fence
But astride the top rail
Snagged his crotch on a nail
Which held him in cruel suspense.





Lake Chopaka Report, May 26 - May 31 *By Preston Singletary*

I left Seattle at 4:00am on Wednesday May 26 for Lake Chopaka, hoping to be early enough to get my choice of campsites (fat chance!). A pleasant and almost traffic-free drive over the North Cascades Highway and Loup Loup Pass, with a few stops for breakfast and to pick up a few forgotten essentials, brought me to Chopaka at about 10:30. The road is certainly no better and there appears to have been a fire with subsequent salvage logging some way up.

My hopes for a prime campsite being dashed, I set up my tent just across the line fence on a place that looked fairly level at the time (how often initial impressions are wrong). After setting up my tent I began struggling with the framework of my 10x10 cooking pavilion; I later found the schematic that tells where each of the pole sections goes, but in the meantime I gave up for a while, the sound of fish rising in the shallows right along the beach becoming too much of a temptation. A Chopaka Emerger took two fat rainbows of about 18 inches before the action slowed and stopped.

On Thursday morning I rose early and worked up and down the beach a little way to rising fish which were apparently feeding on a midge hatch. I took a couple of this year's six- to eight-inch stockers before nailing another fish of about seventeen inches on a size eighteen trailing shuck parachute midge. The rest of the day was pretty much a wait for the afternoon's Callibaetis hatch which didn't come off until about 2:00 in the afternoon and during which I took three decent fish down along the reed beds on the southwest side of the lake.

The next couple of days were a mixed bag of weather with rain, sun, wind and even a little hail following each other in rapid succession in typical Lake Chopaka fashion. My best fishing continued to be over the afternoon Callibaetis hatch. The club's activities; Saturday's grill night, Sunday morning's pancake breakfast and, of course, the Sunday night tempura fish fry were great fun and I would certainly recommend that any members who have not attended this outing make a firm commitment to do so next year.

On the whole, the fishing was good but not as great as it has been in other years; perhaps the lake's lower level, some eight feet below its usual height, is responsible. The Callibaetis hatches seem to be coming off later, usually at about 2:00 in the afternoon, lasting for a much shorter period, usually not much more than half an hour, and don't seem to be as prolific as in previous years.

As usual, my standby Callibaetis imitation was the Chopaka Emerger although it didn't seem to be quite as effective as it has been in the past. During Monday's hatch, on the last day I fished, I gave up on the emerger after a short time and went to a dun imitation and took three nice fish in no more than eight casts.

Spada Lake Report, May 14, 2004

By Ron Dion

On Friday, May 14, I fished Spada Reservoir from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. I launched my boat from launch #2 and fished down that arm of the lake. The water being a little cloudy, probably accounted for the low-catch day. I don't know why the lake was cloudy, because the inlet stream is gin clear. Inlet stream temp. was 46 degrees while the lake was 56 - 59 degrees. That's probably why the fish were not close to the inlets but were more out in the lake. Caught 6 trout 8" - 14" all on a red beadhead olive soft hackle casting and stripping a sink tip line.

A very pristine location without seeing another angler all day, however, I did observe a successful catch by an Osprey and watched 2 beavers hauling limbs near the shore, but didn't see any lodge. Maybe they were just beginning.



Pete Van Gytenbeek, New FFF Executive Director

Our own **Peter Van Gytenbeek** will assume the duties as Executive Director of the Federation of Fly Fishers beginning June 1. Van has proven business, leadership and development skills. He is currently a member of the Fish and Wildlife Commission for the State of Washington. He is past president of the FFF and has served as the Executive Director of Trout Unlimited. He is also a pretty good fly-fisher and a darned nice guy.

Congratulations Pete!

WILD STEELHEAD ALLIANCE SUMMIT IV DRAWS CROWD

By Les Johnson

The fourth Wild Steelhead Alliance Summit hosted by the Wild Steelhead Coalition with grant support from Patagonia, Inc., met at the Sheraton Hotel in Bellevue on Saturday, May 15. **Jack Berryman**, past-president of the Wild Steelhead Coalition opened the proceedings. Berryman was followed by Dave Bailey, Summit Chair and Dick Burge who introduced the morning session on hatchery reform. The day-long meeting was attended by 42 people who represented twenty-one fishing and conservation organizations that are members of the Alliance which supports the Wild Steelhead Coalition and its commitment to protect wild steelhead.

The morning lineup blue-ribbon list of speakers included; Lee Blankenship of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group, who addressed Principles and Recommendations for

Hatchery Reform, and Kaitlin Lovell of Trout Unlimited, who introduced The Trout Unlimited Hatchery Policy. Ramon Vanden Brulle of Washington Trout spoke on Hatchery Genetic Management Nathan Mantua of the Wild Steelhead Coalition capped the morning's proceedings with a talk on the Summit Hatchery Committee Draft Policy.

After the morning break, a lively panel discussion on Washington Hatchery Reform headed by Dick Burge, included; Lee Blankenship, Barbara Cairns of Long Live the Kings, Kaitlin Lovell, Nathan Mantua of Wild Steelhead Coalition and Nick Gayeski of Washington Trout.

Barry Berejikian of NOAA opened the afternoon session with a report on the Hamma Hamma Steelhead Research Project. **Jack Berryman** followed with committee reports. Rob Masonis of American Rivers, briefed attendees on the Columbia and Snake Rivers Hydro Systems. Bill Redman representing the Federation of Fly Fishers Steelhead Committee talked about ESA steelhead listings and catch-and-release mortality. Steve Mashuda of Earthjustice updated attendees on the Central Valley (Irrigators) Steelhead case. Norm Ploss of the Northern California Chapter of Federation of Fly Fishers talked about the California Coastal Conservancy Fish Passage Barrier Removal Program.

The final session of the day covered education and public outreach, law enforcement by Jim Tuggle, the proposed rewrite of the steelhead management plan by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and a report from the harvest committee. Dave Bailey discussed the importance of communication between all of the organizations in the Alliance and answered questions on planning for the next Summit which is scheduled for November. **Jack Berryman** closed the meeting.

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 20, 2004

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr.
Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
Dept of Commerce
Fourteenth and Constitution Avenue, NW - Suite 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Admiral Lautenbacher:

On April 29th, the *Washington Post* reported that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) intends to issue a new policy that would allow hatchery-raised salmon in the Pacific Northwest to be included in the wild salmon population counts. Officials within NOAA Fisheries have stated that this change will take place at the end of May 2004. We are very concerned that this policy change is without scientific support and will be used in salmon decisions before a formal public review takes place.

According to reports by internal NOAA Fisheries scientists, independent scientists and the National Research Council, this change could have a significant effect on the 27 evolutionary significant units (ESU) of salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

Numerous independent scientists agree that hatchery raised salmon should not be included in assessments of wild salmon populations. The independent panel of scientists commissioned by NOAA Fisheries to study the potential threats associated with counting hatchery populations toward wild populations, the Recovery Science Review Panel, concluded that this policy could have devastating consequences to wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, in the peer-reviewed journal *Science*, the Recovery Science Review Panel found that including hatchery fish with wild stocks in an ESU, "compounds the risk of extinction in the wild with ease of captive propagation and ignores important biological differences between wild and hatchery fish."¹ NOAA Fisheries own scientists came to similar conclusion. In a draft policy proposal issued in July 2002, NOAA Fisheries indicated that counting hatchery fish was no way to judge the health of wild salmon runs. The law, they wrote, requires NOAA Fisheries to list a species as endangered or threatened, "based on whether they are likely to be self-sustaining in their native ecosystems."² In addition, the National Research Council recommended shutting down a hatchery operation in Northern California due to its negative effects on wild salmon stocks. They found this hatchery to have, "a suppressive effect on coho salmon through predation and competition."³

We are also very concerned with press reports that the people responsible for forming this policy do not have professional fisheries or scientific background and have worked against protecting wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest. This runs counter to the Administration's repeated statement that they want to use the best science and resources in all natural resource policy decisions.

Salmon in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California were once the cornerstones of this region's resource-related jobs, economy and culture. However, over the past 50 years, salmon populations throughout the Pacific Northwest have plummeted to less than 10% of their historical numbers. More than 25,000 commercial and more than 10,000 sportfishing jobs have disappeared due to these salmon losses. Additionally, fishing

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dependent communities in Southern Oregon and Northern California haven't had a commercial fishing season for the past 13 years because of depressed salmon stocks. These fishing closures and job losses ripple throughout the entire region, affecting the tourism, food services and hotel industries to name a few.

Congress has provided hundreds of millions of dollars to restore or reclaim wild salmon habitat. Citizens involved in watershed restoration efforts throughout the Pacific Northwest have donated their efforts to making their home rivers hospitable for salmon once again.

We recognize that the responsible use of hatcheries can help provide recreational, commercial and tribal fishing opportunities. But we are concerned that NOAA Fisheries' proposed policy change could jeopardize wild salmon stocks under the false assumption that artificial propagation and supplementation are sufficient enough to bypass any need to protect, restore and conserve salmon habitat.

We believe that NOAA Fisheries' proposed policy change fails to address the concerns of the scientific community and therefore should be abandoned. At the very least we urge NOAA Fisheries not to adopt a final policy until it has formally gone through an independent scientific, public and final review process. During this review, no final listing, re-listing or de-listing decisions should be made. Pacific Northwestern communities are entitled to participate in scientifically based decisions that could potentially have devastating effects on once abundant wild salmon stocks, and your agency would be wise to solicit their views.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely, (the signatures of 73 members of Congress listed below were affixed to the letter)

¹Science. "Hatcheries and Endangered Salmon." Vol. 303, p.1980. 26 March 2004

²Egan, Timothy. "Shift on Salmon Reignites Fight on Species Law," New York Times. May 9, 2004

³National Research Council. "Endangered and Threatened Fishes in the Klamath River Basin." p. 263. October 2003.

Mike Thompson	Edward Markey	William Lipinski	Christopher H. Smith
Christopher Shays	Tom Lantos	James Moran	Sherrod Brown
Sam Farr	Edolphus Towns	John Conyers	Pete Stark
Norm Dicks	Tammy Baldwin	Maurice Hinchey	Nita Lowey
John D. Dingell	Jay Inslee	Mark Udall	John Oliver
George Miller	Robert Wexler	Stephen F. Lynch	Lane Evens
Nick Lampson	Chris Bell	Patrick Kennedy	Lucille Roybal-Allard
Dennis Kucinich	Adam Schiff	James McGovern	Howard Berman
Leonard Boswell	Susan Davis	Robert Menendez	Robert Matsui
Betty McCollum	Nick Rahall	Rosa Delauro	Tim Johnson
Jim McDermott	Brian Baird	Eliot Engel	Maxine Waters
Lois Capps	Karen McCarthy	Sander Levin	John Larson
Micheal Eshoo	Raul Grijalva	David Wu	Tom Udall
Lynn Woolsey	Niel Abercrombie	Earl Blumenauer	Danny K. Davis
Ellen Tauscher	Juanita Millender-McDonald	Loretta Sanchez	James Langevin
Barbara Lee	Grace Napolitano	Allen Boyde	Bob Filner
Ron Kind	Dale Kildee	Bobby L. Rush	James T. Walsh
Carolyn Maloney	James Leach	Jerry Costello	
Chris Van Hollen		Jerrold Nadler	

Ed.'s note: This document is known as the Thompson-Shays letter.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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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.

June Speaker: Brian H. Bell, "Birds and the Fly-fisher"

Brian H. Bell has been birding for over 30 years, in Washington, California and throughout the U.S. He is a Birding & Natural History Guide, taking visiting and local birders to see interesting birds and locales in Washington. He is a Seattle Audubon Master Birder, leads field trips and teaches birding classes for Seattle and East Lake Washington Audubon and at community colleges. He is President of the Washington Ornithological Society.