

Creel Notes from the



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



June, 2010



Presidents Riffle, June 2010

This month we will be voting on the proposed change to the bylaws. To accomplish this efficiently and accurately, we will have two check-in's. The first check-in will be for members, to have their membership status verified, and then they will sign for a ballot. **Roger Rohrbeck** has graciously stepped forward to provide check-in and ballot hand-outs. The second table will be the normal dinner tickets with the Ghillies. Please be courteous and helpful to fellow members so the line will move quickly. I would also like to remind everyone to be gentlemen and respect your fellow members. Once the vote results are revealed, please do not showcase your happiness or rejection.

Let's talk about getting the day off to go fishing and hanging out at the Home Waters project. If you are planning on attending what will surely be a historic general membership meeting on the Yakima, you must register by June 20th. Please go online and sign up. We will be collecting monies and have a signup sheet at the meeting if you so desire, as well. This will be a lot of fun and I hope you can make it.

Well, what can I say, **Bob "The Man" Burdick** took the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying competition again this year, for the third year in a row. He did a beautiful job tying the flies and also had a poetic verse for his acceptance speech last month. Good job to everyone who submitted flies. They were all beautiful.

The fishing reports have been good, so I hope you are out enjoying the sport.

Grab your rod and go fishing.

Ed.

Sign Up for the July Party/Outing!

The Home Waters Ribbon Cutting/Take the Day Off Work Party/Outing will take place on Tues., July 20th, at the Home Waters site, on the Yakima River, and at Red's Fly Shop. This will be your chance to inaugurate the Home Waters site, fish the Yakima, party with your friends, enjoy a cocktail (beer) party at Red's, and in general whoop it up! And there's transportation from the west side for you.

But you must sign up by Sun., June 20th. If you are planning to attend, whether by taking the bus or just coming to the ribbon cutting for dinner, you will either need to pay online via the member area of the WFFC web site, or send a check for \$30 (per person, made out to WFFC) to Keith Robbins. The address is 2585 Magnolia Blvd. West, Seattle 98199. Online payment or mailed checks must be received by June 20th.

And if you are interested in renting/hiring one of Red's boats or guides, you must contact Red's Fly Shop directly at (509) 933-2300 or www.redsflyshop.com. Cheers!

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June Meeting: Simon Gawesworth presents “Fly Line Design”

So you think the fly rod is the most important part of your tackle? Most anglers do! Simon’s fascinating and in-depth talk on fly line design will prove otherwise. Any fly rod can come alive and any size or weight of fly can be cast with the right line. Do you want to know what type of taper gives the best presentation? or what weight distribution is best for fast rods..... or slow rods? How about the best taper design for deep wading, or for fishing in a boat, or distance casting from the shore, or mending when nymphing? The right fly line design can enhance any fishing or casting situation and Simon’s talk goes a long way to educating anglers on what to look for in a line to get the very best performance.

Simon’s father taught him to fish at the age of 6. Now 45, he has been teaching fly casting professionally since he was 16. He has both cast and fished for England in British, European, and World Championships, and was elected Captain of the England team for the 2003 World Fly Fishing Championships. Simon is A.P.G.A.I. and S.T.A.N.I.C. certified in the U.K. and C.I., Master, and T.H.C.I. certified in the U.S. He also sits on the F.F.F. board of Governors and the T.H.S.I. committee. His website is www.speyborn.com.

Meeting tier: Dick Brening tying Moose Hair Up-right / Sub-shank Parachute.

Gender Bylaws Change Vote at June Meeting

The club will be voting at the June 2010 meeting on whether or not to allow women fly fishers into the club. The revision is to delete the word “male” in Article II, Section 1, “Qualifications for Membership”. All other proposed changes are to make the document gender neutral, such as replacing “Chairman” with “Chair”, or deleting the word “he” or “his”. The entire document with proposed changes is on the Web site in the Members Section.

The Creel Calendar

Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair and Casting Expo,
Sat., June 19th

"Home Waters Ribbon Cutting/Take the Day Off Work"
Party/Outing, Tues., July 20th

Leech Lake, August (tbd).

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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.

On the Fly by David Ehrich

The innovations at the WFFC never cease to amaze me. While mid-salad, they delivered the desert to avoid the interruption. Jeez, what will they think of next?

Mike Wearne substituted for **Captain Keith** and introduced Regional Biologist, Chad Jackson, from the WDFW. Chad wasted no time and described “quality waters” in Central Washington, District 5, in Grant County. All of the lakes below are on maps Chad provided to the WFFC website.

Starting with the familiar, Chad reported that Lake Lenice got off to a good start with a ready combination of triploids, tiger, and brown trout on streamers to shore, and chironomids in the middle. Nunnally has been a bit less of a slam-dunk. We are starting to see some sunfish, and the WDFW is looking to rehabilitate things in the next few years.

Lenore has been a challenge. The fish tend to pod up, so anglers need to row to find them and hope the wind does not pick up. The trout population remains stable, but anglers have found the water challenging. Lake Dusty sports the same conditions, but has fewer rods on the water and is yielding double-digit fish, some even up to 20”. The rehab in ’04 has set a good stage and crowds are low. Prepare for a short walk. As a hint, look for Cliff Lake on the same loop trail with Crystal and Dusty Lakes. It gets planted and gets much less attention.

Dry Falls has had excellent fishing barring tough winds. Most people are doing well fishing

chironomids in 20-25’ of water. Deeper does not always yield better results. Quail Lake is a fly-only lake a bit off the beaten trail. Trout are abundant with some rainbows measuring 15- 20”, and anglers are getting to 6-12 fish per outing, according to rod surveys.

Rocky Ford hasn’t yielded many reports and that usually means the fishing is too good to report on or the anglers are staying away. You can skip Beda and Brookies lakes. Beda is due for rehabilitation. Homestead is still at low water and will get a big plant soon.

East of Mardon rests a chain of lakes (Corral, Blythe, and Chukar) that were all rehabilitated in 2007. The survivors are broad-shouldered and above 15”. The large fry plant may have fallen victim to cormorant predation. Drains 645 and 239 in the Frenchman Hills waterway have been planted and are providing a Rocky Ford style experience.

The WDFW has started to look at the Desert Lake chains. In the general vicinity of Beda Lake, they hold good water, but have warm-water fish and are slated for rehab this fall. Look out for good fishing, hopefully in 2012 for some planted catchable trout and 2013 for mature plants over the next year or so. These are all hike-in lakes and the hike in will deter most casual anglers, making for less competition on the water.

Most of us remember some of these lakes with higher levels, especially Dry Falls. The Bureau of Reclamation is considering providing more water in the Columbia Basin to make up for overuse, deeper wells, and dried-up lakes. They would like to increase the water table, but sometimes this ends up as a case of “robbing Peter to pay Paul.” The WDFW can’t predict how more water in the system will change their baseline and the BoR is really not too interested in fisheries. We’ll see.

Members asked questions about tiger trout. WDFW likes the “return to creel” rate of these new tigers. They also eat sunfish fry. **Rocco** asked if the tigers were simply dumber, getting a few jeers like, “who are you to call trout ‘dumb’?” Another angler wanted to know why people couldn’t fish at night? WDFW finds night fishing creates rowdy behavior of non-anglers, more car prowling, more snagging, and difficulty with rule enforcement. **Dyche** asked a 10-cent question filled with 20-dollar words that amounted to “show me the money.” His small



Chad Jackson, WDFW Regional Biologist, presents

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change netted a long-winded answer that included “declining revenues”, “slices in the budget pie”, and “ever-shrinking general fund.” You can add that up on your own. Chad thinks we have about reached bottom in terms of budgets, meaning there’s nowhere to go from here but up.

Chad gave a good presentation, evident by the number of members clamoring for the maps and fish data.

President **Ed** started off the fishing reports by showing us a bent hook that a tarpon must have bitten nearly in half. Ed’s wife took the top catch with a 130-lb killer. The Deschutes gave up big trout near the bank, Lone Lake is fishing well, but **Gil** put the kibosh on Lone Lake with reports of poison algae that has killed pets and may even harm people. Some private lakes yielded good catches. **Rocco** took an early trip to Chopaka, and found great weather, windy afternoons, and great afternoon hatches (1:00 – 2:30 pm). Chironomids worked all day in deep water and leeches in the morning and afternoon. Expect crowds, the word is out. **Mike Wearne** hiked up to Cypress Lake and used a lightweight boat to cast off shore. The banks are a bit hairy. **Hugh Clark** and **Maury Skeith** fished the Big Horn in freezing temperature, high winds, and rain and snow, but were unfazed and filled the creel. They repeated this experience on Wyoming’s North Platte, but caught big fish in weather that drove even the guides indoors.

Bob Burdick took the mic and shared stories about prostate problems that led to performance problems that led to doctors that led to pain that led to complications. Hearing nothing of fish and hearing many disturbing images involving diapers, catheters, and smelly bathrooms, I reserved his warnings for my next decade.

Pete relieved the embarrassment by reminding us of the June 2nd celebration of **Walt Walkinshaw**’s life at the Seattle Arboretum at 4:30 pm.

Keep track of the master calendar on the WFFC Web site. Committee chairs should talk to **Roger** about posting their events.

Mike Santangelo reported that we are halfway through the permitting process for our Home Waters project, and a crew is ready to prep the site and make way for a bigger construction crew. We hope all of this will be done by the July meeting. Sign up online. **Rocco** stood up with cash in hand and called all the fly tiers up for the Boyd Aigner Award. **Bob Burdick** shared the podium with a few different people, but he seemed to place in each category: muddler, hopper, and trico, thus Bob took the whole salami. 4

Mr. Burdick accepted his award by offering members who failed to vote for him a quick lesson in judging. The Muhammad Ali of tiers may have taken the cash, but the real payoff was a chance to deliver a gloating doggerel that left most members personally insulted in some small way.

The Reel Recovery trip will be at Red’s Ranch on Sept 14th -16th, on the Yakima River. Give **Kris Kristoferson** a call if you wish to help.

Next month, members will get to finally vote on the membership question. MEMBERS MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE. **Gil Nyerges** got in a few words to remind us that no matter how the vote goes, we all lose if you quit the club.



*Boyd Aigner Fly Tying competition Award Winners:
Ed Sozinho, Bob Burdick, Walt Swanson, and Joe Kristof
(order of finish below)*

Boyd Aigner Results

The overall order of finish in the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition was the following:

- 1st Place: **Bob Burdick** for the third time in a row
- 2nd Place: **Dick Brening**
- 3rd Place: **Walt Swanson**

Activity Calendar Added to Web Site

At the request of **Ed Sozinho**, **Roger Rohrbeck** has developed an activity calendar, and added it to the members-only section of the WFFC Web site. The calendar link is located on the left margin near the top. All WFFC activities are listed with a green background. Relevant non-WFFC fly fishing related activities are listed with a yellow background. If you have an activity that you would like listed on the calendar, please contact **Don Barton**.

REPORTS

Chopaka Outing Report *by Dick Stearns*

Chuck Ballard related as to how this year's one-o'clock mayfly hatch was like it use to be in yester-years, except it seemed like I could replace a size 16 Chopaka May a lot faster back then. And yes, I had to tie on quite a few this year, because the fish were BIG and feisty, bright and strong, with a penchant to dive for the weeds when you could finally get them near the boat. Mercifully for my less-than-agile fingers, once the hatch started, using **Dick Thompson's** theory of tossing them a Big Mac while they're gorging on sliders, I could resort to my supply of #10 Parachute Adams with no noticeable change in the action.

Dick Brening sent this report to **Preston Singletary**, who chose to dodge the weather...and the fun:

The weather was not good, but the fishing was exceptional. It rained sometime everyday. Last Thursday was the worst. We came home yesterday (Wednesday) and when we left in the morning, the clouds were down to the lake surface. As we drove up the hill along the lake, the lake just disappeared into the fog.



Ron Mazurek at Chopaka



Chefs Pratt and Barton with server Macdonald

Luckily the weather was good for Saturday evening, Sunday morning, and Sunday evening for the club festivities. We had a good turnout.

Everyone had good fishing. I had my best luck on a Mayfly emerger pattern. The hatch came off promptly at 1:30 pm, and I was successful using Hare's Ear Nymphs up until the fish started rising, then I switched to emergers and was able to fish successfully with them until 3 pm or later. My Mayfly dun pattern (Upright Moose Mane/Subshank Parachute), fished dry, also worked near the end of the hatch. I had some luck with a damselfly nymph, but not consistently. I had no luck with leeches, but others did and I spent little time trying them. Of course, chironomids were working for those who had the patience to fish them. I found my biggest fish at the south end of the lake and along the west shore up tight to the reeds. But, fish were being taken everywhere on the lake.

Most of the fish were between 17 and 20 inches, all bright and very strong fighters. Some reported 20-inch and larger fish.

So there you have it: the weather after Thursday was iffy, but manageable with no or little wind, and the campfire gatherings were exceptional, with grazing tables laden with food, wine, and beer. Special recognition must be given to co-Ghilles **Macdonald** and **Barton**, and co-Outdoor Chairmen **Schorsch** and **Pratt**, for getting everything set up and taken



A focused Pete Baird on Chopaka

(Continued from page 5)

down; and to chefs **McRoberts, Hagen, Baird, and Brening** for their excellent fish tempura and pancakes. As a personal thanks: DeVonne and I want to recognize **Ron Mazurek** and **Jim Macdonald** for crutching the broken spring on our camp trailer so we could limp back home. If I keep breaking things like trailer springs, fly rods, and such, I fear I may qualify for permanent retention of the Andy Award. Now that I think about it, fly rods and the weird ways I've managed to break them over the years, could be a subject for another, and lengthier, story.



Campfire Musicians Ballard and Lingbloom

Fishing Reports *by Don Gulliford*

Lake Keechelus—5-13

Nobody around but the wildlife, lake much lower than in prior years, should have been about 12 ft. higher. Water probably too cold—felt colder than my QFC bottled water. I tried everything without success, primarily anything looking like a black terrestrial (ant, etc.) and surprisingly got not only no cutthroats, but no squawfish (Columbia River Pike minnow) either, which usually have a 5:1 ratio with cutts. Weather sunny, 58F.

Goss Lake Whidbey Island—5-21

Continuing my reports on lakes never reported on, I turned down the excellent WDFW access road; nobody there but a young NAS Whidbey A-6 mechanic who was a recruiting poster for our Navy, fine young man who could be forgiven his bait fishing, who helped me without being asked with my jon boat. Clear cold water at Goss is 60 ft. deep at 55 acres, totally *loaded* with hatchery rainbows that I tired of releasing after about an hour on a lovely day. Fishy shoreline. I saw tiny day or so old fawn that mother doe watched nervously from a few feet away.

Lone Lake—5-21

Drove my own way back (Goss Lake road is off Andreason Rd, which goes by Lone access turnoff). Saw lots of large rises, but no fisher folk on Lone, and the reason is that the Island Co. Health Dept has more or less closed Lone for everything due to toxic algae. In Lone's parking lot, saw WFFC stalwart **Gil Nyerges** with a lady from the Health Department, which was a pleasant chat and coincidence—only future will apparently determine status of toxicity. Department's position was closure for animals, swimming, and consumption of any fish.

Jimmy Green Fair *by Leland Miyawaki*

The fly shops, fly fishing guides, outfitters, fly fishing clubs, and organizations present the 2nd annual Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair and Casting Expo. It's going to be held Saturday, June 19th, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Lake Tye Park, 14964 Fryelands Blvd., Monroe, WA.

Named for the Jimmy Green, the famed flyfisher who, besides pioneering modern fly fishing rods and lines, worked tirelessly to bring new people into the sport he loved. As with Jimmy Green, this show is intended to bring new people into the sport we all love.

At the fair, families can meet and talk to the owners of your local fly shop; meet the local guides and outfitters who ply our waters; meet members of your nearest fly fishing clubs and organizations; learn to cast a fly rod; go to a Fly Fishing 101 class; learn to tie essential knots and what equipment you'll need; basic bugs and how to tie them; attend seminars on Puget Sound beach fishing; lake fishing; and river fly fishing. For those who are already into the sport, there will be "for fun" casting competitions for both single- and two-handed rods. And look for the free raffles at the participating fly shop booths.

Best of all, it's all free—free admission, free food, free drink, free seminars, free classes, free casting demos.

For more info, call **Leland Miyawaki** at 425-452-9138 or visit <http://www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com/>.

Project Volunteers Needed

by Peter Crumbaker

I have chosen to volunteer the club for a project coming up that is being put on by the Friends of the Cedar River. They are organizing an event called the "Fly Fishers Weeding Event." The purpose of this event is to connect the fly fishing community with the community interested in preserving and sustaining the natural habitat of the Cedar River. I think this is an excellent opportunity for the club to: (1) show people that the fly fishing community helps the environment, (2) educate more people about the sport of fly fishing, and (3) educate people about the WFFC.

I'm not sure how many volunteers are necessary, but my belief is the more the merrier. If we have a

fair amount of club members volunteering, we could possibly set up workshops on fly tying, entomology, how to fly fish, etc.; games involving prizes; and/or just have a table with info. Emerald Waters is already doing a casting demonstration.

When: June 12th, 9 am to 2 pm

Where: Cavanaugh Pond Natural Area in
Maple Valley

More Info: <http://www.cedarriver.org/>

Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering some time or have any questions. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Lake-Friendly Yard Care Workshop

*by Stacy Smith, Natural Resource Planner,
Whidbey Island Conservation District*

Please plan to join us on Saturday, June 26th for a FREE workshop!

"Lake-Friendly Yard Care: Living Responsibly in Your Community. Tips & Tricks for Yard Care to Protect Water Quality"

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about yard chemicals and nutrients, and how they move through the system from our guest speaker: Dr. Frank N. Dost, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural Chemistry and Forest Toxicology, Oregon State University. Following Dr. Dost, WICD staff will share alternatives and things you can do at home to help protect water quality in Lone Lake, as well as Puget Sound and our drinking water.

Please RSPV (to stacy@whidbeycd.org) if you plan to join us, thank you.

We have also set up a Web site for our project and outreach efforts—please visit <http://whidbeycd.org/LoneLake.aspx> when you have a moment.

If there are other resources that would be useful, please let me know and we will work to get them posted.

If you have questions, comments, or any suggestions, please feel free to contact Stacy Smith at 360.678.4708.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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Stamp
here

June, 2010

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

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

This month:

Simon Gawesworth presents "Fly Line Design"