

Creel Notes from the



Happy Father's Day



Take Dad Fishing!



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



International Federation of
FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing

MMXV No. 6

June, 2015

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



At a recent meeting, Doug Schaad alerted us to an attempted end run by the National Marine Fisheries Service, aka National Oceanic and Atmospheric Fisheries and NMFS. Rather than following up on its promises to conduct a full scale environmental impact statement on the effect of Puget Sound hatchery production and planting on wild steelhead and salmon populations NMFS announced it would now opt for a far less stringent environmental assessment. At Doug's urging a number of WFFC members logged on to the Wild Fish Conservancy Web Site and to forward objections to this nonsense.

Guess what? Apparently some 2,000 individuals registered their objections. NMFS has reversed its tack and now will require an environmental impact statement for Puget Sound hatchery steelhead programs. Short term this means the WDFW will not be releasing Chambers Creek hatchery steelhead this year in the Stilligumish, Nooksack and Dungeness systems.

So, now what to do with the steelhead which WDFW intended to release? Why not release them in inland lakes just like last year? Well that is just what the muckey-mucks in Olympia have decided to do although it has yet to determine in which lakes the releases will be made. According to the WDFW web site the department will need to find homes for some 290,000 fish. Maybe this is all part of a secret plan to restore the glory years of steelhead fishing albeit in still water habitat.

Director Jim Unsworth is reported on the WDFW website as saying "The decision by NMPS to conduct a full and potentially lengthy EIS process will delay approval of these hatchery programs and have serious impacts on recreational fishing on several Puget Sound rivers." Think about that statement. First we have Washington State bureaucrats blaming federal bureaucrats and then the WDFW portending "serious impacts on recreational fishing". Given WDFW's assumption the review will merely "delay approval" It has already formed its conclusion. This leads me to ponder if the WDFW is concerned only about recreational fishing and selling fishing licenses maybe it is time to consider whether another agency should have the charge to manage the resource. Fish factories do not work for either steelhead or salmon.

For more bureaucratic infighting we need look no further than recent announcement the EPA and the DOE have reached another what I expect will be a "do nothing" agreement vis a vis the clean-up at Hanford in which EPA "fines" the DOE a grant total of \$125,000. I bet that fine will turn some heads. Given the torrid pace of that project we can be sure to see glow in the dark salmon and steelhead in the near term.

Note: At our July meeting we will be electing members of the Nominating Committee. This is a change we adopted earlier this year. Before the change the Nominating Committee was elected at the September meeting. Nominations will be made from the floor. The 5 nominees receiving the most

(Continued on page 3)

June Program

"Reading the Water" with

Marc Williamson

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

Everyone,

Our speaker this month is Marc Williamson from Scappose Oregon whose talk will be on "Reading Water" Marc is an excellent speaker, and received raves for his performance with us last spring when he talked on "The Lakes of Central Oregon". Marc will come with handouts. His presentation on reading water has been given several times at various fly tying expositions in the NW and has been very well received. In

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1.....June Program
- ✓ Page 2.....In Memoriam
- ✓ Page 3.....June Outing, Conservation
- ✓ Page 4.....Reports
- ✓ Page 8.....Youth, State Budget Cut
- ✓ Page 10....August Roundtable Fliers
- ✓ Page 12....Dinner Payment Guidelines

(Continued from page 1) - Program

essence he will demonstrate how to examine the various parts of moving water and to figure out why the trout's needs are met in various segments. I think everyone will add to their fund of knowledge after hearing him.

Put our August 18th fly fishing seminar on your calendar. I continue to add excellent speakers such as Dave McCoy of Emerald Waters Fly Shop in West Seattle who is going to talk about steelheading and Anil Srivastava from Puget Sound Fly Co in Tacoma who is going to talk about fly fishing for coastal silver, kings, pinks, rockfish, cod, and albacore! This program is just packed with information that every fishermen will find useful.

Marc Williamson Biography

My love of fly-fishing began on Fall River, in Central Oregon. My dad, my best friend, and I, we always did everything together. He bought me a JC Higgins fly rod and reel. It's has been a love affair with fly- fishing ever since.

I got my start in the fly fishing industry in 1983 at Stewart's Custom Tackle. In that time I taught fly tying classes from beginning to advanced. I instructed fly fishing seminars. In those seminars I did in-store demonstrations on knot tying, entomology, reading streams. I co-taught the on-the-river portion which covered instruction on casting and general fishing techniques.

I am currently the Director of Masters of Arts in Teaching and Professor at Warner Pacific College. As an educator I recognize the importance of teaching and learning. As a Fly Fishing Instructor I present both substance and styles of fly fishing to all of my students. It is also of the utmost importance that they enjoy, have fun and want to come back to the sport.



Marc Williamson

I was contacted by ISE Fly Tying Director, Pete Parker, to present in the International Sportsman Exposition, Video Theatre. I did so for seven years. I joined with other tiers and demonstrated techniques in the "how to" area during the years the show was in Portland. I presented at the ISE shows in both Portland and Seattle until they left the area.

I have presented fly tying and fly fishing at clubs, and shows throughout the Pacific Northwest and Montana.

I am a co- founders and Director of the Northwest Christian Fly Flyfishing Inc. We

(Continued on page 3)

In Memoriam



Andy Hall January 10, 1925—May 23, 2015

Andrew Peter Hall, 90, passed away in Seattle, WA on May 23rd, 2015. He was born on January 10th, 1925 to Peter and Eline Hall, in Omaha, Nebraska. Andrew enjoyed as career as an engineer for the Boeing Company.

He is preceded in death by the love of his life Lorraine, and is survived by his daughter Barbara Stanton (Howard), as well as many friends and relatives who will remember him forever with love.

June 14th, during Sunday Service, a tribute in Andrew's honor will be held at St. John United Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Ave, in Seattle WA.



Creel Notes

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

President

Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Scott Hagen

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

Treasurer

Jim Goedhart

Secretary

Stephanie Hagen

Ghillie 1

Jim Macdonald

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Trustees

Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13
Mark Pratt '14 Ron Dion '14
Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting email (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

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, steelhead, and salmon 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.

(Continued from page 1) - President's Riffle

votes will form the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will later report to the membership its candidates for officers and trustees for 2016. This is an important role and you need to carefully consider who will best perform this job. Current officers are precluded from serving on the Nominating Committee.

June Outing

Leech Lake June 20th and 21st By Dave Schorsch

This year's outing to Leech Lake is on the summer solstice! A guarantee of awesome bug activity! (Maybe...) We will be fishing all day Saturday, then gathering on the lawn of the White Pass Village Inn next to the lake for happy hour and a steak barbecue! Let's start the appetizers around five, and fire up the grill a little later. The club will provide steaks for all who sign up on the web site. Bring your best side dishes to share!

The fishing should be great, if last year was any measure. The winter was mild, and this little mountain lake has been open since the beginning of April! Figure on floating lines, mayflies, damselfly, and the occasional midge. A clear intermediate and callibaetis nymph can work wonders on the triploid rainbows and husky brook trout.

The lake sits right next to the highway at White Pass. Pass the summit ski area, and look for the gravel road on your left just past the gas station. There are a few nice campsites on the lake, but expect the locals (the buzzing variety) to visit. It's protected, and small, so any floating craft will work. This is not much of a shore fishing lake.

The folks at the White Pass Village Inn 509-672-3131 have always treated us really well, you can get a room that sleeps five for about 120.00 a night. (fully furnished, including kitchen!) They also have smaller units available.

We will be hosting a pancake breakfast Sunday morning for anyone who shows up, usually starting around 8:00. Please sign up on the web page for steak head count, and we will see you on the lake!

***Check out page 7 for some tips on fishing Leech Lake from an old 1971 Creel Notes article by Steve Raymond**

(Continued from page 2) - Marc Williamson Biography

put on a complete fly fishing camp every year in May. It is a complete fly-fishing event with casting, fishing, flies tying, knot tying and discussion groups. You can view more about the camp at www.cffr.info.

I am on the Professional Staff for the following companies: Dai-ichi Hooks, Temple Fork Outfitters, Peak Vice and Whiting Feathers.

Conservation

WDFW to Release Hatchery Steelhead into Inland Lakes Again This Year From Doug Schaad, Conservation Chair via WDFW

OLYMPIA - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fish managers will release "early winter" hatchery steelhead into inland lakes again this year, now that federal fisheries officials have decided to conduct a full-scale environmental impact analysis of all Puget Sound hatchery steelhead programs.



WDFW leaders announced the action after learning that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has decided to develop an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of early winter steelhead hatchery programs on the survival and recovery of wild Puget Sound steelhead and chinook salmon, which are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. The decision was based, in part, on more than 2,000 public comments to NMFS that expressed a wide range of questions and concerns about the environmental impact of hatchery steelhead programs.

In March, NMFS (also known as NOAA Fisheries) published a draft environmental assessment of hatchery steelhead programs in three river basins. WDFW officials had hoped NMFS' completion of the assessment would lead to approval of WDFW steelhead hatchery operations and clear the way for the release of steelhead into several Puget Sound rivers under terms of a federal court settlement last year. However, the additional time needed to complete a more detailed EIS means that a decision on approval of these hatchery programs will come after the release window for 2015.

"We support the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead, but we are disappointed that NMFS has been unable to complete the review of these programs," said WDFW Director Jim Unsworth. "The decision by NMFS to conduct a full and potentially lengthy EIS process will delay approval of these hatchery programs and have serious impacts on recreational fishing on several Puget Sound rivers."

However, Unsworth said WDFW understands the controversial nature of the subject, as well as the federal government's desire to analyze hatchery programs within a full-scale EIS that stands up to potential legal challenges and clears the way for hatcheries to stay in operation for the long-term.

Last year the Wild Fish Conservancy of Duval sued WDFW, alleging that the department's Puget Sound hatchery steelhead programs violated the Endangered Species Act by impairing the recovery of wild steelhead, salmon, and bull trout. In settling that case, the department agreed to refrain from planting early winter (Chambers Creek) steelhead into most rivers in the Puget Sound region until NMFS completed its environmental review.

Until recently, WDFW officials believed the federal agency's timetable would allow the release of juvenile steelhead into sev-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) - Conservation

eral rivers this spring, but those plans have now been canceled. One exception is the release of 180,000 early winter steelhead into the Skykomish River, which is permitted under the federal court order approving the settlement.

Jim Scott, head of the WDFW Fish Program, said rivers that will not receive steelhead in 2015 include the Nooksack, Stillaguamish and Dungeness, which would have received 150,000, 130,000, and 10,000 steelhead, respectively. Earlier this year, NMFS announced it would conduct a full EIS for hatcheries that release steelhead into the Snoqualmie and Green rivers, which were slated to receive 74,000 and 70,000 fish, Scott said.

Instead of releasing juvenile steelhead into those five rivers, WDFW will plant them into inland waters that have no connection with Puget Sound, he said. WDFW will announce its fish planting schedule as soon as possible on the department's website: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/reports_plants.html.

Thanks to all the WFFC members that helped make this decision a reality. – Doug



Big Twin Lake

May 30th and 31^s

By Chuck Ballard

This weekend I fished Big Twin and did well on a mayfly nymph fished over a shallow marl bottom (i.e. Sight fishing).

The fish were mostly on adult damsels just like they were at Chopaka but these fish would take the mayfly nymph in between damsels.



Chuck Ballard hoping for a hookup

Corbett Lake, B.C. #1

Corbett Lake Lodge, BC

May 18th-May 22nd

By Bob Burdick

Gary Bergquist, Walt Swanson, I and 9 other rabid fly fishermen from all over the NW and the East coast took our usual



Doug Larson w/ Corbett Lake Beauty

soiree over the border to Corbett Lake where we were greeted by 5 days of sunshine, temps in the 70's, and lots of comradery this being our 7th or 8th year on the lake. An early spring likely led to a sparse callibaetis and chironomid hatch but offered an early primer on adult damselfly tactics.

Everyone caught fish, some more some less, with an average of 17-18 inches, a few 3 and 4 pound fish, and topped by **President Bergquist's** 27 inch, which he was proud to describe as too big for his net.

If it weren't for his selfie with the fishes head occluding the mouth of the net we might have thought that he was smoking something more potent than his triumphant cigar.

Peter McVey, former proprietor, and current stocking manager made a token appearance. Peter, who must be 85 is no longer cooking, and seems content to count his fortune having sold his land and lake to 3 Merritt businessmen 2 years ago.

This trip remains one of the outstanding bargains in the fly-fishing world. Sharing a 6 bed cabin and cooking for ourselves our cost per person was just at \$513. Since it's only 4 ½ hours from Seattle, this privately stocked lake should be a must on everyone's short list.



Surface Action on Corbett Lake



Corbett Lake Bow

Corbett Lake, B.C. #2

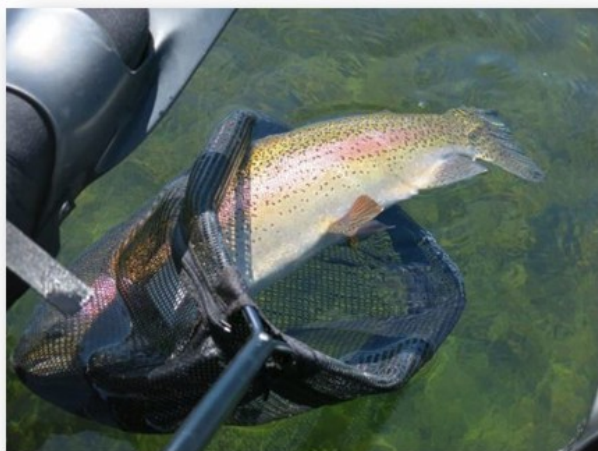
Corbett Lake 2015

By Gary Bergquist

May 16th, about mid-day, I left Seattle and drove to Merritt, British Columbia rendezvousing with **Bob Burdick**, **Walt Swanson** and several other anglers. That evening was a rowdy dinner at a local pub.

The following day we checked in to Corbett Lake Lodge where we fished for six days. Exercising great self-sufficiency we prepared our own meals. The recipes did not come from Weight Watcher's.

Most evening saw **Bob Burdick** and others sitting at a vise creating the flies which would "knock them dead" the next day. For those who were not tying, well, there was always some Scotch to help round out stories of the day's fishing. As a group I have no idea how many fish were landed. For myself, I am not much into counting how many fish I catch on any particular day; however, I can report the lowest number of fish I caught in a day was 3. Other days I was able to coax more fish in my net, some days, quite a few more. It is a safe bet that other members in the group saw significantly more success than I. The smallest fish I caught was 17 inches with most in the range of around 20 inches.



Gary's 27 inch Rainbow, Corbett Lake



Good Looking Rainbow

My pontoon boat was towed about the lake by a 27 inch rainbow which I was barely able to net....sorry for the quality of the photo but I was lighting a cigar with my other two hands. The other photo is of a 20+ inch which I caught using a 7 1/2 foot bamboo rod. Over the days we fished Corbett I was able to take a fair number of fish on the surface. The consensus seemed to be the callibaetis hatch was both inconsistent and perhaps not as heavy as in past years perhaps as a result of the warmer than normal weather. This situation lead us to engage in a little more experimentation which, in some respects was more interesting than relying on the tried and true patterns. Bob handed out several Dali Lamas among the group. This pattern produced a sizable number of hits and fish in the net although it was not a consistent producer.

One evening early in the trip, well after we were off the water, a strong storm swept in bringing thunder, lighting, rain and sleet. It was one of those storms during which conversation ceases and people wordlessly look in to each other's faces. I do not know how much rain and sleet came down that night but the "road" at the put-in was heavily rutted and all boats needed to be bailed out the next day. My pontoon boat is a self-bailer so I was off fishing while those using boats were busy getting them in fishing order.

Not what one could call a remote location, Corbett Lake is easily accessible and does have some large fish.



Too big for the net (a good problem to have)

"I have found that some of the simplest things have given me the most pleasure. They didn't cost me a lot of money either. They just worked on my senses. Did you ever pick very large blueberries after a summer rain Walk through a grove of cottonwoods, open like a park, and see the blue sky beyond the shimmering gold of the leaves? Pull on dry woolen socks after you've peeled off the wet ones? Come in out of the subzero and shiver yourself warm in front of a wood fire? The world is full of such things."

— Richard Proenneke

Skeena River Country, B.C.

Tale of Two "Blown-out" Rivers

By Jim McRoberts

In September of 1957 my parents and I drove from our home in Ketchum Idaho to the Skeena River country to fish for the giant steelhead. My father's partner had caught the 2nd largest steelhead on a fly in the Field & Stream contest in 1955 on the Kispiox, 26lb 9oz. We knew we would have a chance! The second day we fished the rain started and by the next day the river was OUT! We were told to go to the Morice. There I landed an 8 ½ lb bright fish using a ten foot Browning Silaflex rod. One week later my dad's partner caught a 28lb 4oz steelhead on the Kispiox, no justice!



Jim McRoberts, Morice River B.C. 1957

Fast forward to May 2015. Pete Soverel, who has run a scientific steelhead study program on the Kamchatka Peninsula, for many years, invited me to fish with him on the Skeena near Terrace, BC. He took all my gear with him in March with his 14' jet sled. I flew to Terrace. When he picked me up he said the Skeena is OUT! UGH! Not again! Well there is a beautiful river, Kitsumkalum, they call it the Kalum. It is about the size of the Methow and it was clear and low. The first day I landed a 40" buck Steelhead! Wow this is going to be great. The run we were fishing was where Pete said he caught most of the fish in the Kalum. No more fish that day or the next. On the third day we went to the Kitimat, still no more fish. So on the last day we went back to the Kalum to the same run. This time I landed a 20 plus pound Chinook! All is right with the world!



Jim McRoberts, 2015!

Chopaka Lake #1

Chopaka Outing Report

By Dick Brening

All Chopaka Photo's By Ron Dion

It is Wednesday morning, Fran Cella and I are sitting in our camp chairs besides the lake shore just north of the boat ramp. We are enjoying our first cup of morning coffee. The stillness of the lake and the silence in the campground is very relaxing. The sun has just topped the ridge to the east and is illuminating the lake bottom in front of us like a light in an aquarium. We can easily see in the still water a couple of larger bows patrolling their respective feeding areas. Now and then, they aggressively charge small intruding fish.

As the wind picks up from the north the sun brightly reflects off the wind ripples like the most spectacular twinkling star lit heaven you have ever seen. The reeds in front of us are being illuminated like moving neon signs from these same sun light reflections. Lake Chopaka certainly can be a special place!

Yesterday, the remaining WFFC outing attendees left the campground headed for home. Only Fran and I, and **Jim Mc Donald** in the next camp site, remain. Sometimes, I think this is the best



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) - Chopaka

part of attending the Chopaka Outing.

I never did get an official head count of the outing attendees but it was somewhere between 40 and 50 people. The Saturday evening potluck was a major success with food of all descriptions available for the hungry. A special thanks to the people who transported the grill, supplies and beverage coolers required for the weekend. The Sunday morning Blue Berry Pancake breakfast was attended by many of the group and the traditional Cowboy Coffee helped to awaken those that stayed up late the night before. Many of the club members pitched in as cooks and servers. My thanks to all of you who helped. Sunday evening's Tempura Fish topped off the outing with fish cooked expertly by **Jim McRoberts** and **Scott Hagen**. A job well done and appreciated by all attending. Even if you didn't have a successful fishing experience you certainly couldn't complain about the food and drink.

The fishing was a mixed bag. Some did better than others, but, all in all, I think it was a typical Chopaka Lake experience. The fish were definitely feeding on the adult Damsels giving us all a sense of frustration when our adult Damsel fly patterns remained untouched by the splashy takes of the active fish.

Personally, I had some luck with my size #14 mayfly emerger pattern, on most days they worked just before and just after the short mayfly hatches that seemed to occur at different times each day. I also had one great day during a mayfly hatch using some size #12 Comparadun flies tied by **John Callahan** that I had won in a past club raffle. The next few days, however, I could not touch a fish on the same Comparaduns.(??) An occasional fish was taken on a small nymph pattern that **Walt Swanson** developed this last year.

I try to attend the Chopaka Lake Outing each year and have never been disappointed in the experience. This year we had temperatures approaching the 90's on one day followed by temperatures in the low 60's the next day. Even the hail storm on the following Friday afternoon was a welcome experience. As for the wind, you just put up with it!

The big news for the outing is that **Charley Wyman** and his long time girlfriend Terresa will be married in early July. Charley attended his first WFFC Chopaka Lake Outing at the early age of 7 days and has attended many more through the years with his family. Congratulations to the happy couple.



17" Chopaka Rainbow



Now Serving "The Ptomaine Brothers"
Tempura Chefs Scott Hagen & Jim McRoberts
with Jim Macdonald serving

Just kidding guys - The tempura is always great-Ed



Charlie Bohlin, Chuck Ballard & Pat Becker Trio
'w/Stephanie Hagen Conducting'

Chopaka Lake #2

Outing Report, Another View

By Ron Dion

This year's outing was unusual based on the following: arrived on Wednesday & left on Tuesday.

The good news; great weather, 4 days with little/no wind, no rain, warm days, campground not as crowded as in the past; large, 14"-20", feisty fish, delectable pot lucks, tasty tempura and all the trimmings.

The bad news: the fish mostly keyed on adult damsels fluttering about 2 inches off the lake surface or clinging to reeds, ignoring any other offering. Damsel hatches out-performed the callibaetis, many skunk days for members who usually did very well.

It was a fun & challenging fishing opportunity. The last day was my best using a Mark Pratt chironomidemerger, greased, stripped very slowly with a floating line.



Scott & Stephanie Hagen waiting for the hatch



Hatch Found! Scott with a nice rainbow



Guess who!

Youth Fly Fishing Class

Volunteers Needed!

By Pat Becker

Fishing school for Issaquah High School summer PE class is scheduled for the 15th of July. We need lots of volunteers to spend a day with kids casting and fly tying.

This year we have two PE classes totaling over 40 kids, a 100% increase! Volunteers will be needed for four casting and tying sessions. **This will be an all day event**, so if you can do only a half day, that's OK.



Issaquah High School

These students are bright and very quick to learn. Gary had some of the students double hauling in an hour last year!

Last year it was at Rattlesnake Lake. Rattlesnake Lake is not an option for two classes due to heavy use by the general public. The current option is at the high school where we can cast on the field or lawn. More information will follow!

Please email **Pat Becker** at plbecker@gmail.com or give me a ring at 206-523-5031.

State Funding Cuts

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Slated to be Removed *Reconstructed from e-mails*

The current budget proposal the Senate released eliminates all funding for backcountry recreation and conservation projects. These are valuable investments that preserve our natural heritage and guarantee that these lands and waters are open to the public forever. Senators have defended their significant changes to WWRP by saying they want to invest in outdoor recreation projects instead.

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is the best tool we have for to protect these rivers, but unfortunately the recent Senate budget cuts out every one of its conservation projects. What we lose as a result is a large number of critical conservation projects necessary for promoting hunting, hiking, fishing, camping and other great activities



It's critical that we restore this program and we need your help. Call your Senators and Representatives this week—tell them that we must invest in protecting our rivers.

All recreation deserves the support of our state. Contact your legislators right away—tell them to restore WWRP. We can't afford to lose it this year.

Flyfishing is impossible without access to our incredible rivers and waterways, and it will go away if we don't have the tools to conserve these incredible natural treasures and ensure continued public access to them.

Comments from Conservation Chairman Doug Schaad

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition has been more effective at preserving public access to public lands than any publicly funded organization. The removal of state funding from their stream of funds, makes them just another conservation organization working without the public support of state citizens.



The Conservation Committee endorses this alert.

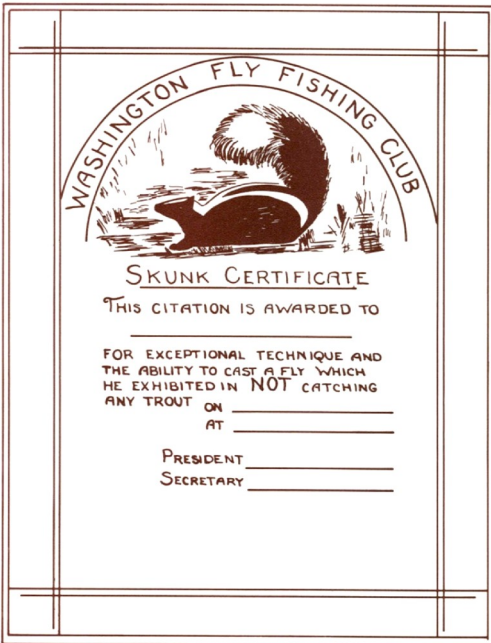
Overheard at a casting clinic, in Bellevue Washington regarding an individual's casting accuracy.....

"He can't hit Black Beauty in a lawn full of white mice"

Skunk of the Month

No Nominations this Month

(Some members may be **'in hiding'** after the Chopaka Outing)



'Reeling' in the Years



Tutorial on Leech Lake

By Steve Raymond

Reprint from the Creel Notes July 1971

Leech Lake, at the summit of White Pass, is one of the finest fly lakes in the state. It's small, shallow and easy to cover. The water is usually clear, weed growth heavy and hatches plentiful. The trout, eastern brook, are not large but there are lots of them and they make wonderful eating. *(I might add that there are now triploid rainbows that add to the fishing bonus, some in the 18+'' range -Ed)*

Leech is at an elevation of 4,700 feet. Usually the snow is gone and the lake is accessible by Memorial Day. The best fishing is usually the last 2 weeks of July and all of August no matter when the snow goes off.

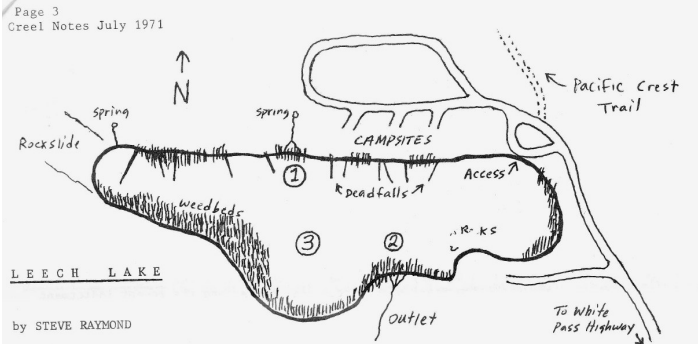
In most areas the lake is 3 to 5 feet deep. Because of the clarity of the water, it's often possible to see the fish rise or strike at the end of a long cast. The trout average is about 10 inches, but you can count on picking up several 12'' to 13'' fish in a day's fishing. I like to use a 6 foot, 2 ounce midge rod with a sinking line. Even a 10 incher will put a good bend in such a small rod. *(but the triploids are good size and more than make up for smaller*



average size brookies—Ed)

There are campsites all around the lake, maintained by the forest service. Get there early on the weekends. There are outdoor toilets and good fresh water from the springs. However, check around before taking the water from the spring nearest the campground; last year some people were using it instead of the outdoor toilets.

Gas, food and booze are available at the White Pass Summit, about 1/2 mile from the campground.



The best spots are numbered:

1. The hottest place on the lake. Brookies congregate off the mouth of the spring where the cool water comes in. Anchor close to shore and put your fly near weed bed or along the windfalls. I once caught and released 106 trout in this spot during a five hour period.
2. Best spot for bigger trout. The brookies spawn in the outlet and the bigger fish tend to lie off the weedbed during the summer months before they move into the creek to spawn in the fall.
3. Good when others fail

Best all around pattern is a damsel fly nymph, light green, tied on size 8 4X long hook. A self Carey works sometimes. On bright days, a size 12 TDC on a thin leader sunk deep works well. Of course, the most elective pattern of all is Raymond's Reliable, but most of you guys are too clumsy to tie it.



Paska Lake near Lac La Jeune, British Columbia

Live Music



Open to the Public

**Washington Fly Fishing Club Fly Fishing Destination Seminar
And Fly Fishing Gear and Swap Sale
August 18th, 2015**

Join us for a barbecue dinner at the beautiful Seattle Tennis Club and Participate in 8 separate 2 hour destination seminars. The seminars will cover multiple fresh and salt water fly fishing destinations in the Northwest and will be led by some of the local areas best fly fishing rockstars (see reverse). Bring your surplus fishing gear to sell or trade and buy other's surplus at tremendous bargains.

**Save the
Date**

- 5:30 pm---Happy hour and barbecue dinner
- 7:00 pm---Seminars begin
- 9:00 pm---Seminars close
- Goal-----Everyone is more knowledgeable

**Bring your
Friends**

Each seminar session will run for 40 minutes, and at the sound of a bell participants will have the opportunity to move to a different seminar or stay put for a repeat of the session. Participants may shop/trade/sell fly fishing flies and gear from 5:30 to 9 pm.

Non-members may sign up by emailing plbecker@gmail.com

Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd E, Seattle, Washington 98112

**Gear, Fly
and
Boat Swap Sale**

Buffet Dinner Option
Pulled pork sandwiches,
3 salads, baked beans, corn
on the cob, apple crisp & ice
cream
\$29.00

Entry Ticket
entitles you to enter
Fly Box Raffle

Fishing Destinations Within Driving Distance From Seattle

Table 1: Salt Water Beaches: Ryan Smith, owner of the Avid Angler will discuss best location, access, species, tidal influence and tactics for successfully fishing North, South, and Central Puget Sound beaches for cutthroat and silvers.

Table 2: Washington Streams: Kris Kristopherson and John Schuitemaker of the WFFC will discuss location, access, season and tactics for successfully fishing the Yakima, Naches, Crab Creek, Rocky Ford, the Methow etc. They will provide a hand-out.

Table 3: British Columbia Lakes: Gene Gudger of the WFFC will discuss best success, location,, access, planting, and Best BC web sites to optimize the planning of your trip to such B. C. lakes such as Dragon, Hathhume, Fire, Forest, Vinson, Irish, etc.

Table 4: Eastern Washington Lakes: John Callahan and Chuck Ballard of the WFFC will discuss best success, Access, season, size, and tactics to be successful on such E. Washington lakes as Lenore, Lenice, Nunnally, Pigeon Series, Quail, Amber, Coffee Pot, Leech, Rat, etc

Table 5: Oregon's Umpqua: Bob Tovar and Rocco Maccarone of the WFFC will discuss topography, season timing, and tactics for successfully catching summer run steelhead on this fabled river. They will provide maps and diagrams.

Table 6: Western Washington Lakes: Brita Fordice of the Avid Angler will discuss best success, location, access, timing, size, and tactics for being successful on Pass, Cady, Lone, Cranberry, Alice, Rattlesnake, and Merrill Lakes. She will be handing out aerial maps, lists and photographs.

Table 7. Washington Steelhead: Dave McCoy of Emerald Waters Anglers will discuss best success, location, access, timing and tactics for being successful on such rivers as Methow, Similkameen, Wenatchee, Hoh, Bogachiel, Kalama, Grande Ronde, Klickitat, Tucannon, Stillaguamish, Skykomish, etc. Dave will run a slide show on his laptop and provide handouts.

Table 8. Coastal Salmon and Albacore: Anil Srivastava, owner of Puget Sound Fly Co. in Tacoma will discuss tactics and opportunities for pursuing these two species with the fly at such places as Neah Bay and Westport.

Each of these talks will run for 45 minutes, and be repeated 3 times during the evening.

WFFC Dinner Meeting Payment Commitment Guidelines



By Jim Goedhart, WFFC Treasurer

As you probably know, we commit to the Seattle Tennis Club to pay for a certain number of dinners for each monthly meeting. If we are off in our count, we are faced with the issues of either having to pay for the unserved meals, or being unable to provide meals to unexpected members and guests. Gary Bergquist, our President, reviewed this situation in last month's Creel Notes. However, as a refresher, guidelines are stated below:

- **Online commitments:**

- ⚙ A member who has internet access to the member area menu of our wffc.com website can click on either [dinner prepayment \(paypal\)](#), or [dinner commitment \(non-PayPal\)](#), depending on whether the preference is to pre-pay for dinner by use of our secure PayPal interface, or pay for dinner at the door upon arrival at the meeting.

- **Email commitments:**

- ⚙ A member who doesn't have access to the website, but does have email, can send an email message to ghillie@wffc.com requesting a "pay-at-the door" guaranteed dinner payment reservation be made.

- **Phone commitments:**

- ⚙ A member who has neither online access, not email access, can phone the 1st Ghillie and request that a "pay-at-the door" guaranteed dinner payment reservation be made.

- **Dinner commitment cancellations:**

If a dinner commitment is made, but circumstances prevent showing up for dinner, a member is expected to cancel the commitment as soon as possible, but before midnight of the Thursday preceding the meeting dinner meeting. This is done by one of the following methods:

- If prepaid, an email should be sent to webmaster@wffc.com, and a PayPal refund will be issued, if the request is received before the cutoff deadline.
- If not prepaid,
 - ⚙ a member can either click [dinner commitment cancellation](#) on the member area menu, and then click the [cancel](#) link on the screen that appears,
 - ⚙ or send an email to ghillie@wffc.com,
 - ⚙ or phone the 1st Ghillie leaving an explanatory message.
- Any member who fails to use one of the above described commitment cancellation methods before the cutoff will be expected to mail a check to the WFFC Treasurer covering the cost of no-show dinners.
- A member who arrives at a dinner meeting without having made a dinner commitment is welcome, but must pay an additional \$5 meal service fee. Walk-In meal availability is subject to the Seattle Tennis Club's ability to accommodate the non-planned-for dinner.
- And of course, a member is not obligated to buy dinner in order to attend a monthly dinner meeting.



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

Stamp
here

June, 2015

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:

Marc Williamson
on
“Reading the Water”