

# Creel Notes from the



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



July, 2010



Presidents Riffle, July 2010

**There will not be a meeting at the Seattle Tennis Club this month!** We will be at home waters on the Yakima enjoying some sun.

I'm pleased to announce that the general membership voted to have

**David Ishii** become an honorary

member of the WFFC. He shall pay no dues and have a membership for life. David has been a member since 1971; although he attended very few meetings, he was always quick to put together a small package of books and send them to individuals who found themselves on the fruit and flowers list. Congratulations to David for this distinct honor.

The general membership also voted on the proposed bylaw change last month. The bylaw change received the majority of the vote, 59%, but that is not enough for change according to the bylaws, which require a super majority of 66%. So as it stands, the Washington Fly Fishing Club will continue to exclude women from its membership.

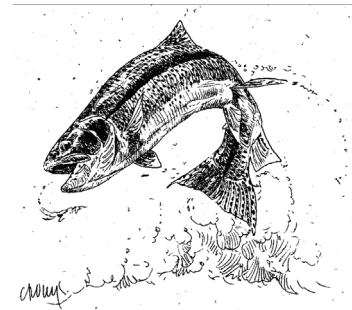
On June 19<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo. What a great event that **Leland Miyawaki** has helped conceive and develop. It puts the sport out in the open air and allows the public to try fly casting and check out boats, anything the sport has to offer. The best thing about it is no one is there to sell you a thing; its focus is to get the public involved and educated about the sport of fly fishing. Sound familiar? As is to be expected, there were many WFFC members helping out with instruction.

Last, but not least, we will be at the Yakima for our general membership meeting this month. It sounds like close to 50 members will be enjoying the warm weather and the fishing our blue-ribbon river has to offer. Not to mention the taco truck for dinner and drinks at Red's. It's true the bureaucracy that is the permitting process

has not allowed us to start the two structures, but that will not stop us from having a good time.

Grab your rod and go fishing.

Ed.



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## No July Meeting at Tennis Club *by Chuck Ballard*

There will not be a July meeting at the Seattle Tennis Club. Those who have signed up will be meeting at the new Home Waters on the Yakima River. Those who have not signed up, we will see you back at the Tennis Club in August for a garage sale (bring some fishing gear to sell or trade).

Don't talk about it—do it. GO FISHING!

## Award-Winning National Editor to Speak *by Keith Robbins*

Nationally known fly-fishing writer, editor, and publisher, Tom Pero, will speak at the Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting of the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

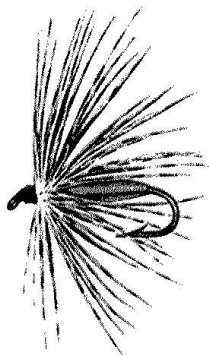
Tom Pero will read from stories he has written on exotic fishing destinations—from Russia to Cuba to Guatemala to the Amazon—and discuss his many adventures and colorful characters he has met along the way. He will also read uncensored excerpts from his book, *Till Death or Fly Fishing Do Us Part*, a collection of humorous essays about what happens when one person's obsession for the sport collides with his or her romantic relationship.

## *The Creel Calendar*

### **"Home Waters Ribbon Cutting/Take the Day Off of Work"** **Party/Outing**, Tues., July 20<sup>th</sup>

**Leech Lake**, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

**Scenic Beach Hood Canal**, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>



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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, 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.

## Upcoming Outings *by Dave Schorsch*

### Leech Lake, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

August outing is Leech Lake on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a small campground at the lake, and lodging available across the highway at White Pass Village Inn, a condo with units that sleep up to four for around 79.00/nite. Dry fly fishing for brook trout can be very good along the shoreline, with triploid rainbows cruising the weed beds in the middle. The drive up to White Pass is worth the trip. Wildflowers are all over the alpine meadows, and the scenery can't be beat! I am currently negotiating for the use of a group area at the White Pass ski area for a Saturday happy hour/potluck. More info to come. Try the two-man system of "brookie bracketing", where one casts to the left and the other to the right of a rise, to see who gets the take! It's really fun! I'll have more specifics in the next few days. Fish! Fish! Fish!

As of Sunday, the Fourth of July, there are still lots of rooms available at White Pass Village Inn across the highway from Leech Lake if you are interested. Some of us will be camping at the lake, but get there early for a spot. Figure on the usual fishing on Saturday, with a happy hour/potluck around 5 or 6. Where we gather in the evening will depend on how many sign up. Maybe at the lake if it's a small group, or across the highway at the ski resort's group area for a larger party. Everyone who signs up will be contacted in advance either way. The lake is icing off nicely, and the fishing should be fine. I will forward any early reports and rumors. (Don't forget your Caddis patterns.)

### Scenic Beach Hood Canal, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Good tides are on schedule for this sea-run and silver trip to Hood Canal. **Jay Deeds** has generously volunteered his place for the outing on Saturday. Personal watercraft (float tubes, pontoons, dinghies) can be put in on his beach, with larger boat launches available within two miles. Scenic beach park (very close to the Deeds estate) has campsites available, but get reservations in soon—it's popular and fills up. We are planning to fish the beaches and bays, then gather back at Jay's around 5:00 for beverages and pies from Seabeck Pizza. No muss, no fuss. As

always, a boat is pretty necessary to fish saltwater. Some beach fishing is available in the area, but a boat increases your options by about 500 percent. True in ALL of the Salish Sea. (That's what we're supposed to call Puget Sound now, according to the politically correct.) Bring your attractor flies in orange, yellow, and green, along with clousers and candlefish patterns.

See you there!

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## Events from your Membership Chair

*by Peter Crumbaker*

### Friends of the Cedar

Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the WFFC helped out and also set up a table at the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed Fly Fishers Weeding Event. I thought this was a great event since it was put together by this organization, and they recognize that fly fishers are interested in habitat and restoration. So they reached out to the fly fishing community asking to support that notion, and the WFFC helped respond. We had several guys in attendance pulling blackberries, organizing an entomology lesson, and basically helping out. After pulling weeds for several hours—and frankly making one heck of a dent in that project!—it was lunch time. Sandwiches and other tasty morsels were provided, and to follow was a moment for fly fishing. The **Crumbakers** manned a table set up with literature on the WFFC and also had the heritage display looking sharp. **Roger Rohrbeck** helped put together a wonderful entomology lesson, catching insects from the river, and showing a surprising diversity in the water life. Why, even Dave McCoy of Emerald Waters managed to learn something from the lesson! Apparently mayflies in their nymph state have 3 tails. Huh, who would have thunk!! As you can tell, fun was had by all. Not much in terms of membership information gathered, but a productive, enjoyable time that was good for the river and the community.

### Jimmy Green Event

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, there was a fly fishing fair in Monroe that the club supported with a table set up to introduce people to the club and possibly attract new

*(Continued on page 4)*

membership. Since this was a family event, I took the liberty to set up a ring toss game where a winner would get a brand new goldfish housed in a sandwich bag!!! This game was an attempt to try and draw those fathers walking with their child in hand to the booth since every kid wants to win a goldfish. What I never thought of was that maybe not every parent wants their child to own a goldfish. At 10 goldfish for a \$1, I think it was worth it, because it also provided some entertainment for me at the booth. Until I ran out of goldfish. Anyhow, I would say the event was moderately attended at best, given the gloomy weather and morning rain. But I did still manage to get over a dozen names and contact info from folks interested in the WFFC. Plenty of brochures were handed out, as well. Unfortunately, my followup on these “prospects” has not produced any responses, so we can call this one a work in progress.



### 1<sup>st</sup> Steelhead! *by Peter Crumbaker*

On the last day of June, my pops and I met up with guide JD Love for a day of fishing on some river around Forks. We were playing it by ear to determine which of our options might be the best fit for us that day given the weather, and also to avoid crowds. We pulled up to a put-in spot just a couple miles from the main drag in Forks, on the Bogachiel river, and to everyone’s pleasant surprise, there was not a car in the lot. So we dropped the boat in, and it wasn’t much of a drift before a steelhead was spotted rolling. JD parked the boat, checked our lines, and pointed out where we should start casting. My dad and I worked our way up and down that stretch seeing steelhead roll occasionally, but not biting. We were certain we had presented our flies in front of at least one. So we headed further down river wondering what to expect from the rest of the day given that we had already spotted more than one, but hadn’t felt any.

In working the 2<sup>nd</sup> run of the day, I was fishing a red, weight-free, bait fish pattern. And while on the swing I felt the bite! Then the tug of war began.



*Peter Crumbaker with first steelhead*

It was a beautiful 27” chrome hatchery steelhead that took roughly 15 minutes to bring in. Good times! JD said this was likely the 1<sup>st</sup> hook the fish had ever felt since they were fresh from the ocean. A few pictures were snapped and it was back to fishing. I felt one more bite, but wasn’t able to set the hook, and that was it for the day. We spent the rest of our time enjoying the release of many cutthroats ranging from 4” to 14”. Dad seemed pretty good at catching the 4” ones!

It was a great day for learning more about the techniques of swinging a fly, spotting steelhead water, and also using a switch rod for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. At the end of the day, we thanked JD, and started our drive for Seattle, enjoying a 3½ hour conversation about landing my 1<sup>st</sup> steelhead, and what a good day on the water it was.

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### Eliguk Lake – 2010 *by Bob Young*

The annual trek to Eliguk Lake up in central B.C. happened as usual in early June. It seems that some of the usual attendees are dropping out, as this year there were only six participants. There was a seventh fellow from Hope, B.C., who joined us at Williams Lake and spent the week at the lake with our group. Club members who ganged up on the trout – actually, fishermen were outnumbered by a huge margin – were **Perry Barth**, myself, **Gil Nyerges**, **Ron Pera**, and **Chuck Ballard**. Chuck’s fishing partner, John Stachurski, was the sixth member of our group.

As usual, there were plenty of fish to go around. This year, like last year, the fish averaged about 14 inches. There were any number of techniques em-



ployed to get the fish to strike. When the fish were not feeding near the surface, trolling or casting and retrieving fairly large flies was most often successful. I fished a lot with a black bead-head bugger with a wad of red flashabou for a tail, on a 30' type 3 sinking shooting head. Others were successful using white buggers and a sink tip line. Fish could be had on almost anything tossed at them including chironomids on sink tips using a very slow retrieve. When the fish were feeding near the surface, which was obvious from the myriad of rises, Ron had success with a Sheep Creek Special, and he often switched to a Stimulator and had good action also. Ballard as usual tossed some of his 'specialty' patterns, such as the Cheer Leader and the Psycho.

Perry Barth had this to say: "A wonderful week for me. The fish gods were most generous and three times during the week, I experienced that fun time when the minute you got the fly out, you had a fish on. Each time, that lasted about 20 minutes to 1/2 hour. Once, a white marabou, once an 'Egg Sucking Leech', and the last time was a 'Bead-Head Gil's Monster'. I have no idea why the leech was in my fly box!"

One afternoon a number of Callibaetis started to come off. They appeared to be what I would call a Gray Drake. I watched a number drift by for as far as I could see them. The fish generally ignored them, but were taking something else off the surface. I tied on a Chopaka emerger and had a number of hook-ups. Who knew?

The weather cooperated, as we were never prevented from fishing. It was somewhat unsettled, but never really bad. Fortunately, it was cool enough that mosquitoes were not a problem. Also, most everyone complained about weight gain.

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### **Corbett Lake, BC, May 23-27** by Bob Burdick

Despite gusty winds and intermittent drizzle, the fishing this year on Corbett was awesome for **Walt Swanson, Joe Kristof**, and myself. The fish seemed to be bigger and more plentiful than ever before, the biggest in our group running 10-12 #, with several in the 5-6 # range. Chironomids worked well early and late in the day, and the Callibaetis hatch at midday was exciting, with many big fish chasing the adults in 1 to 3 feet of water. Fully 50% of our fish were

taken on Callibaetis dries, or chironomid dries such as the Lady McConnell and Tom Thumb.

Peter McVey, the lake owner, is retiring this year and has announced that he will not be offering his trademark luxurious meals next year, but the cabins are all equipped with small kitchens, and he indicates that he will continue his stewardship of this private lake and his careful stocking program.



*Bob Burdick on Corbett Lake*

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### **Fishing Report: Rat Lake** by Chuck Ballard

I fished Rat Lake near Brewster WA on Thursday, 7-1-10. Saw lots of smolts and worried that this was all I would see. However, by noon things picked up. I was using a damsel nymph, light green color, and to my surprise caught two browns and one rainbow, all 15". This may not be a big fish for many, but for Rat Lake, they were big.

Friday I went to Antilon Lake above Lake Chelan near Manson. I fished the upper lake, which now has a boat access that was put in last year. The weather was great, but I was only able to catch crappie. They were very large, though (12"), and those who have fished for crappie will know that a twelve-inch fish is a big one.

## Project Healing Waters *by Jim McRoberts*

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we had an outing to Bill's Fishin' Hole in Orting. We took 10 veterans, and one veteran's wife and little girl. Anne, the Physical Therapist from the VA, also went along. It was her birthday and she was given a present by **Bob Birkner**, which was to fish in the \$22 fish pond. She landed an 8.75 # rainbow.

WFFC members were: **Jim Higgins, Don Schroder, Bob Birkner, and Jim McRoberts.** Vicki Hoagland also helped. We had the fish smoked, then taken to the VA hospital for a nice party a week later.

Then on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we took seven veterans from Seattle and three from Fort Lewis to Pooh's Pond near Port Angeles. This outing was put on by the Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Club and the Grey Wolf Fly Fishing Club. These two clubs provided all the rods, casting instruction, and a great lunch. They gave each veteran a box of flies, a cap, and a Project Healing Waters logo pin for the cap. A great time was had by all!

June was even busier for the veterans. We had three outings. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, some attended the Jimmy Green Fly Fishing Fair at Monroe. Our own **Les Johnson** and his wife Carol attended. Les received some instruction on the use of the Evergreen Hand fly-tying vise for one-handed use. Jesse Scott was the inventor and also our last Letcher Lambuth Award winner.

Also on the 19<sup>th</sup>, several more vets went back to Bill's Fishin' Hole. Here is a photo of our oldest member with a nice fat trout, which we smoked and had another happy party at the VA. The WFFC



members were **Hugh Clark, Bob Birkner, and Jim McRoberts.**

Trophy Lake was our last outing on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We had eight veterans and one vet's son. We arrived in the morning and fished from 10:30 to 12:30, then had a nice lunch at the club house. We switched ponds with our two groups and fished until 15:30. Another great trip. Our WFFC members were **Scott Hagen, Perry Barth, Chuck Ballard, Hugh Clark, Randy Hieronymus, and Jim McRoberts.** Also, we were assisted by Vicki Hoagland and Frank Yandrasits.

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## Remembering Ed Foss *by Steve Raymond*

Many WFFC oldtimers remember Ed Foss, one of the club's most beloved members and its most dependable volunteer. Whenever there was a job that needed doing, Ed was always first to step forward. He was also a great fishing companion who introduced many WFFC members to sea-run cut-throat fishing in Puget Sound and the then-fabulous Atlantic salmon fishing in Hosmer Lake, high in the Oregon Cascades near Ed's hometown of Bend.

When Ed passed on, all too early, WFFC members gathered for a "floating wake" at Tanwax Lake in Pierce County, one of his favorite fishing spots. His ashes were committed to the lake, along with one of his favorite fly patterns, and we toasted him with Jack Daniels, one of his favorite beverages. It was a pretty amazing scene, with dozens of boats and prams drawn up in a circle, a mark of the genuine respect and affection in which Ed was held by his fellow fishermen.



(Continued from page 6)

But it turns out that not all of Ed's ashes were committed to Tanwax Lake. Millie Putnam, his significant other, kept some of them, which ended up in the custody of Wade Foss, one of Ed's sons, now a resident of Redmond, Oregon. The following report is from Wade, printed here with his permission:

FOR EDWIN A. FOSS, BY SON WADE N. FOSS

June 20<sup>th</sup>, Fathers Day, at Hosmer Lake, 2010.

When Dad was put into Tanwax Lake by the WFFC, Millie, and myself, Millie had kept some of his ashes. I finally gave them up to Hosmer Lake, another one of Dad's favorite waters, as well as my favorite place on the face of the earth!

The day was overcast with rain and drizzle taking their turns. Anitra (Ed's daughter) and I, after a fun day on the lake, made our way to one of Dad's, Marc's (Ed's son), and my favorite spots. We found a thick, square piece of lava rock that came from camp spot #22, which holds so many memories for all of us. I had chiseled E.F. into the rock. We anchored where the small red lily pads come to a point that Marc and I have called our "secret spot" for years. The rain had suddenly stopped as we looked up, and there was a circle of blue sky directly overhead.

We said our words, put his ashes in the lake, dropped the rock, had a snort of Jack, then gave one to Dad. Just then a beautiful brook trout jumped off the sterns of the boats, causing Anitra and me to smile at each other.

It was then that an otter broke surface, taking its time, and swam right by the port sides of the boats and disappeared. We smiled again at each other. Then an osprey flew over the tree line, swooped down, flew just off the starboard sides of the boats and disappeared over the tree line. Our jaws dropped! This is when three deer, one a newborn, broke through the trees right beside us and fed on the bank of the lake, not afraid that we were there.

I still miss Dad, I love Hosmer, and that was the best Father's Day I have ever had!

All Atlantic salmon and brook trout we caught this June were on flies tied by Anitra. She did great! Thanks, Dad, Grant Putnam, **Steve Raymond**, **Pete Baird**, Alan Pratt, the old WFFC, and never forget

Mr. "Al Poltroon" (and Jack) for teaching me, so I could teach her.

AS DAD WOULD SAY, YEAR AFTER YEAR, "I'VE DONE DIED AND GONE TO HOSMER".

--Wade Foss.

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## WDFW Enforcement Advisory Meeting

by Don Gulliford

I attended my first WDFW Enforcement Advisory meeting in E-burg for most of today, and was very favorably impressed with the already existing members, Chief of Enforcement Bruce Bjork and E-Burg resident enforcement Sgt. Mike Sprecker, whose name I hope I spelled correctly. Fellow members new and existing came from law enforcement, Lacey & Kelso police chiefs, retired WSP and a very savvy media member from the Wenatchee area, along with a cross-section of long-time hunter/fisher business or retired types.

Many enforcement topics, e.g., TIP 411, which will be accessible on cell phones, Twitter, etc., and other I.T. things beyond my ken, along with direct 800 # contact to WDFW instead of via WSP, and a comm system going *directly* to enforcement agents in the field, were all reviewed.

The main topic, not as gripping or galvanizing as luscious Russian lady spies, was THE BUDGET crisis, and Gov. Gregoire and others' targeting WDFW and other places—and one EAG member from the beginning, Ed Owens, a lobbyist in Olympia for sports groups, among others, seemed to me to be VERY knowledgeable. He warned of dire consequences, including the "forbidden words" **season closures**. Message: Maybe contact your representatives and urge no or minimal WDFW budget cuts, assuming, hopefully, that state elected officials pay any attention.



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Stamp  
here

July, 2010

### Meeting Announcement



Each month, except this month, meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the 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:

**No meeting at the Seattle Tennis Club this month. Instead, those members of the club who signed up will be meeting at the Yakima River Home Waters.**