

# Creel Notes from the



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

Website: [www.wffc.com](http://www.wffc.com)



MMXIII No. 8

August, 2013



## President's Riffle

By 2013 President Mike Wearne

### Black Canyon Hydro Project

I attended a presentation of the proposed Black Canyon Hydro project on June 30<sup>th</sup> at the North Bend Train Museum.

The presentation was sponsored by Tollhouse Energy Company which has proposed building a power generating dam on the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River. There were two groups in charge of Tuesday's presentation. One was Alex Grant, a representative from Tollhouse Energy and the second were the consultants responsible for collecting information concerning the recreational aspects of the North Fork. The event I attended was focused on fishing. On the previous evening the focus of the inquiry was on white water activities.

The participants attending included members of Trout Unlimited from the Bellevue – Issaquah chapter, fishing guides, and numerous fly fisherman who seemed to be residents of the North Bend area. As an observation, most of the people attending, the active fly fishers, were young, say 25 – 40 years old!

I won't go into the details of the proposed project. I strongly recommend looking at the website; [www.blackcanyonhydro.com](http://www.blackcanyonhydro.com). All of the aspects of the proposed project are detailed on the website, the location, maps, photos, etc. The web site for the project manager is [www.tollhouseenergy.com](http://www.tollhouseenergy.com).

The individuals who made comments after the presentation were almost unanimously opposed to the proposed project. Almost all of the fishers were intimately familiar with the North Fork. None of them wanted any development which would allow for an easing of the access to the North Fork.

Again, I would recommend members of the club become familiar with the proposed project and the permitting process.

Thanks



## August Program

### 'The Fishing Wonders of Yellowstone'

Speaker: Bruce Staples

By Bob Burdick, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for programs

Our August speaker is **Bruce Staples** who comes to us from Idaho Falls, Idaho. A fisherman, author of several books on fishing his geographic area of the world, recipient of many fly tying awards, an excellent speaker and outstanding human being, he will be making his second presentation to the club in as many years.

Those of you who were lucky enough to hear him speak last year about fishing opportunities in SE Idaho raved about his facts per minute delivery, and his complete coverage of how, where, when and why to fish those out of the way places that are off the beaten path.

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I'm sure this presentation will be equally appealing. He will also touch on the disaster that lake trout are now inflicting on Yellowstone Lake cutthroat.

### Mini Biography

**Bruce Staples**, of Idaho Falls, Idaho has fly-fished the Greater Yellowstone area for thirty-five years. He began tying flies in the 1970's and during the 1980's began writing of his Greater Yellowstone angling adventures.

His literary contributions include articles to Fly Tyer, American Angler, Fly Fishing the West, Yellowstone-Teton Country and Fly Fisher magazines. During the 1990s he was a columnist for the Idaho Falls Post Register. His three books, Snake River Country Flies and Waters (1992), The Yellowstone Park River Journal (1996), and Trout Country Flies (2003), are published by Frank Amato Publications. Currently he is contracted with Stackpole Books to author "Flies for the Greater Yellowstone Area". Bruce is an advocate for protection and preservation of regional coldwater fisheries and is active in preserving the fly-fishing heritage of the Greater Yellowstone region.



**Bruce Staples**

## August is WFFC 'Garage Sale' Month

### 'You Weren't Using it Anyway'

Along with this months program our August general membership meeting is also the traditional **WFFC 'Garage Sale'**.

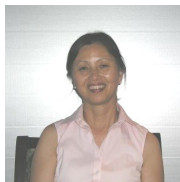
This is where members can bring gear to sell to other members and guests. The club gets a cut in the process.

Do yourself a favor (and the club too) and bring that no longer used or needed fly fishing gear to our August meeting.



## Introducing a New Member

### Suni Pak Davies



New member **Suni Pak Davies** being inducted by Senior Advisor Gil Nyerges.



# Creel Notes

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## Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To 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 September Outing

### Jay Deed's Place, Hoods Canal September 14th and 15th

By Dave Schorsch

It's that time of year again! Sunshine, beaches, coho, cutthroat, beer, pizza, and good times! We're going fishing at Jays!

Yes, Jay agreed to host our now annual outing for cutthroat on Hood Canal again. You'd think he'd learn after a while....September 14 and 15. We'll be fishing all over the place, in the Seabeck area, and retiring to Jays for a pizza feed sometime after 6:00 on Saturday. All the dinner and drinks are provided! Those wishing to fish Sunday can stay at Scenic Beach state park, right down the road. Reservations are strongly encouraged!

There is a lot of beach available at the state park, but real success here generally means using a boat. The public boat launch is located on the south side of the park, just north of Jays place. It's all rocky beach here, so it's all good water. Pontoon boats and prams can fish the park, and the bay at Seabeck, but motor boats will get you to Stavis Bay to the south, and the salmon and searun stream mouths farther out. Bring a boat if you have one!



Gear is the usual saltwater combo of sinking shooting heads, and intermediate lines, with attractor flies. You can get all fancy-schmancy with eel patterns and stuff, or fish an orange fly with white wing all day. Both have their moments. Coho have been known to stir up the mix during cutthroat fishing, so be prepared! It can get windy out there, so dress accordingly, and watch the tide....

Most of us put in at the boat launch after the tide comes in a little, and fish until it's time to look for the beer cooler at Jays. His address is 15350 N.W. Maple lane, Seabeck. Easiest way there from Seattle is to drive to Silverdale near Bremerton, and hang a left over the hill to Hood Canal.

There will be detailed instructions to his place and the boat launch on the web site when you sign in for the outing. Please do so for pizza head count!

This is a great trip, and close to home. This is why we are a club. Come join us! See you there!

## Project Healing Waters



### Dateline, Bill's Fishin' Hole July 13<sup>th</sup>

By Jim McRoberts

Project Healing Waters took two groups of veterans from The Seattle VA hospital on an outing.

We had nine veterans all from the Vietnam era. Five have been with for about three years. However, some were there for the first time.



Bill's Entrance, Orting WA

The first group was our regular bunch, we had them come early to catch their fish and then we could devote our full attention the second group.

In the second group, three were in wheelchairs monitored by two Recreation Therapists. One of the vets has only the use of his left arm so we let him use an automatic fly reel (you remember those!). He does pretty well playing the fish with it.

It was a bright sunny day and almost everyone caught fish.



Some 'Networking'  
Chuck Ballard



Bob Young works with a veteran on some casting

The fish were taken to be smoked and returned to the VA 10 days later for a feast!

Some of the smoked were donated to the vets at American Lake.



First Group of Veterans & WWFC Volunteers



Second Group of Veterans & WWFC Volunteers



## Chilko River B.C. Expedition

July 7th through 14th  
By Hugh Clark

Five of us spent the week of 7/7-14 at the Tsylos Lodge on the Chilko River south west of Williams Lake British Columbia.

We flew in from South Vancouver over and under spectacular peaks and glaciers, landing a few hundred yards from the Lodge. You could drive in,

one day to Williams Lake and a 4-5 hour drive to the lake, primarily on well maintained gravel roads.

With high water, we largely fished from sleds motored up to the mouth of the river and floated, guided by oar 5-15 miles of crystal water. We waded some, and hooked several bull trout on streamers. Using only dry flies for rainbow, we hooked 12-25 fish a day and each day produced several rainbows over twenty inches. Smaller flies in the morning, but large stones in the afternoon. Chernobyl ants and variations of the same were very productive and durable, and every fish is returned to the river.

Karen McLain and Josh now own and manage the operation that was founded by her father, Bud McLain in the mid-fifties. Housing and meals were very fine, and entertainment around the lodge is provided by free roaming horses, this year including a charming new foal who required lots of patting and rubbing.

My fourth trip to the lodge was as fulfilling as the first over fifteen years ago, and the fishing was even more productive than remembered. The whole show gets my highest recommendation.

As we left, we greeted **Chapin Henry, John Narver** and **Tom White** taking our places for the third week of July!. Contact [www.tsylos.com](http://www.tsylos.com) or email, [Tsylos@tsylos.com](mailto:Tsylos@tsylos.com)

## The Jinxed Highway?

Hitch, Boat & Trailer = Success  
By Bob Young

**Perry Barth** and **Bob Young** arrived at the Leech Lake outing with boat and trailer intact.

**Footnote:** On their return through the park we encountered a couple with a disconnected camping trailer.

The trailer stayed on the asphalt and in the proper lane. They had just departed a campground and encountered some lumpy road. The trailer had a tongue jack but as the tongue was sitting on the pavement it could not be employed. The trailer exhibited quite a heavy tongue weight and could not be readily lifted. Another vehicle stopped and the driver who weighed about 250 pounds and suggested he stand on the rear end of the trailer for counter-balance. So he and the campers wife, who added an additional 130

pounds, stood on the rear bumper. This was enough to allow lifting of the tongue off the road enough to get the jack locked in place. In a moment we had the hitch hooked to the ball.

Ironically this incident happened within a mile of where last years (**Barth-Young**) event happened.

**Ed Note:** Last year (2012) Barth-Young tandem arrived at Leech Lake minus their boat and trailer which somehow became unhitched on the way up to Leech. A Mt Rainer Park ranger found the trailer/ boat combo in the woods just off the highway a week or so later.

## Methow River

July 29th and 30th

By Hugh Clark

Former WFFC member **Bill Booth** and I fished the Methow with a guide the afternoon and evening of Monday and morning of Tuesday July 29 and 30.

Temperature in high eighties and low nineties may have kept larger fish on the bottom in spite of slight over cast. I had eight fish to the boat on Monday including an 18 inch cutthroat and twelve to the boat on Tuesday, all under twelve inches. Foam flies size 8-10 were most productive. Essentially no rises were seen and only a rare mayfly in the air. Stone fly shucks were common on the rocks on the shore.

The Twisp Pub offers a surprisingly interesting menu and lots of good stuff out of bottles.

Consider this river when the temperatures moderate.

## Lake Domke, Chelan County

July 26 through August 3

By Don Gulliford

Lake Domke My 63rd year (sigh).



Warm weather put the cutts and rainbows down to

about 35+ft of depth. Bead head or damsel fly nymph on sink line, especially in evenings, got a hit on almost every retrieve..once 6 in a row.

Here is a shot of a nice cutt about 14 inches, great eating.



## Priest Lake, Idaho

July 24th through August 2nd

Fished inlet creeks Upper Horton, Hunt, Two Mouth and Indian Creeks with assorted flies.

Good catch and re-release fishing for small cutthroats and brookies, most in the 7"-9" range. Some creeks better than others.



Most folks boating and sunbathing on Priest Lake and have little interest in fly fishing the creeks.

A beautiful lake / area with lots of activities.

## A Fly Fishing Essay

In the Beginning

By Bob Burdick

For most of us the process of casting, hooking, playing and landing a trout on a fly rod is so ingrained we've forgotten all the baby steps that gave us the final product. A recent fishing trip with my 12 year old grandson Cooper jolted my memory about how adverse this process can be. As Cooper has matured I've been able to whet his fishing appetite by introducing him to fly tying, providing him an opportunity to land a salmon in Commencement Bay, and catch a nice 16 inch rainbow in Lone Lake, but a relative dearth of fish has limited his ascent of the fly rod learning curve.

Our luck changed, however, in early July when we found ourselves North of Cle Elum on Cooper Lake, in my 10 foot pram, and stumbled into a swarm of 8 to 11 inch rising rainbows. Excitedly, I considered this the perfect opportunity to teach him to cast but after twice ducking hooks destined

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to remove pieces of my scalp and several capsized threatening yaws to the boat as he careened around the small stern space I recognized my unrealistic expectations and quickly terminated this experiment.

Positioning Cooper in the stern, rod in hand, I took the oars and we commenced to troll. Immediately, we were into fish eager to attack his #16 pheasant tail nymph. The 1<sup>st</sup> fish went aerial as it quickly spit out the hook, as did the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> fish while Cooper, totally transfixed, stared in amazement. Fighting the urge to scream "Set the hook!" I gently asked for the rod and through clenched teeth demonstrated the hook setting technique. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fish were much better hooked but easily escaped capture as Cooper, in his excitement, tried to reel them into the boat through his rod tip.

After 6 muffed fish Cooper was on the verge of tears, but listened intently as I urged him to consider the impossible physics of attempting to squeeze a large fish through the very small rod tip. The 7<sup>th</sup> fish was struck, the hook was set, reeling was appropriate, but just as the tired fish neared the boat, Cooper, using his best Olympic hammer throwing technique, wrenched it from the water and swung it onto the floor of the boat, where, squealing with delight, he pounced on securing it with a double handed clutch. Stifling my feeling of horror, I made sure I first congratulated him on his success before I launched into lecture #3 rhapsodizing about the symphony and beauty of gently playing the fish to the point of fatigue prior to leading it to the captivity of the net.

The 8<sup>th</sup> fish was landed in style but failure to keep the rod tip elevated resulted in a slack line loss of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> fish accompanied by Cooper's foot stomping and several under the breath "damns". After another erudite lecture about the necessity of keeping the rod tip high the 12<sup>th</sup> fish was captured, but the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> fish escaped as they ran toward the boat faster than poor Cooper could reel. Further insightful coaching ensued with explanations about stripping being faster than reeling to keep a tight line. Subsequently the 16<sup>th</sup> fish was landed with a little more élan.

Fish 17 and 18 became unpinned when they initially ran toward the boat, then turned away when Cooper stepped on his hastily stripped line. A totally annoyed look at his grandfather followed

for the seaming stupidity of the stripping suggestion. Finally Fish 19 was hooked, played, and netted in style with high fives, filling his limit of 5, at which point Cooper, mesmerized by the fish in his pail and with an ear to ear grin, reverently asked "Grandpa, is 5 trout enough to feed my family?"

## Leech Lake Outing

### Leech Lake (White Pass)

July 19th, 20th, 21st

By Dave Schorsch

Had a great time at Leech Lake (White Pass)

Talked **Mark Pratt** into riding over there in my rickety old Toyota, loaded to the gills as usual, on Friday morning. We fished Friday over fish that had an embarrassment of riches. The bugs had been hatching in incredible numbers for days, if not weeks. Mayfly spinners by the thousands detracted from the damselfly that blew sideways across the lake in blue clouds.

In spite of all the obvious food, we still caught fish. The lake is stocked with triploid rainbows that run to a couple pounds, on top of a healthy population of brookies. No particular fly did really well, one here, one there. They were all over an olive damselfly for a couple hours, then nothing, then a mayfly nymph, then nothing again... The other club members dribbled in over the next day or two, with the same reports. "I went through twenty different flies to catch five fish!"

Weather was "too beautiful", with bluebird skies and sunburns all around. Mark and I averaged six or so "trips" to hand each day, and a bunch of brookies, some of which were really nice fish! Others did better, or worse, it's fishing! Some guys even fished in the dark! (**Ben Davidson**, fish hound)

The Saturday happy hour started off slow, but picked up immensely when the girls started showing up with the good stuff to go with our steaks! Dinner was great, with 22 steaks served, and much happiness spread



Skillet and Spatula  
Operator  
Dave Schorsch

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around. Special thanks to the gals that put up with us! Bonfire was good, in spite of the skeeters.

Sunday morning belongs to **Jim Macdonald**, and his secret family recipe blueberry pancakes. Breakfast was served to two dozen hungry anglers at the White Pass Village Inn unit we stayed in. **Ron Dion** kept the coffee coming while cakes and bacon flew. Several hours, and a huge cleanup later, it was time to fish again.



MacBlueberry  
Pancake Creator  
Jim MacDonald



'The morning rise'  
Breakfast at Leech Lake

We hit the lake for a couple more hours after breakfast, and got into some really weird hatch activity that we never really figured out. Whatever they were doing, a tiny "chromie" mayfly nymph worked for some really nice brooks and a trip or two. Pack up and a cold beer later, we're on the road. Home for dinner.

A damn fine outing! Thanks to everyone who pitched in, and showed up to share what we have. See you at Hood Canal!



Anise Swallowtail, Rock Island Lake B.C.  
Photo Credit: Hugh Jennings

## An Extra Tip

From Don Gulliford



In the past several days, an old fishing buddy on Whidbey wanted to replace 2 guides, and I found to my surprise, a real shortage and absence of fishing stores that carry a good line of guides.

The famous "John's" on I-99/Broadway in Everett no longer stocks and referred me to "Greg's Custom Rods", Box 732, Lake Stevens WA 98258, whose nice lady knew all there was to know, and gladly mailed out even my small order.

Their phone is 425-335-1391, fax 425-397-9212, email [greg@gregscustomrods.com](mailto:greg@gregscustomrods.com)

I send this on after being impressed with her pleasant and *very* savvy knowledge of rods and fishing things.

## Fly of the Month



### Rocky Road Caddis

Credit: Warren E. Schoth

#### Dressing:

**Hooks:** Daiichi 1180.

**Thread:** Tan 6/0.

**Body:** Spun clipped tan elk (deer can be substituted).

**Thorax:** Fine tan dubbing.

**Hackle:** Brown neck hackle, 1 size under hook size.

**Wing:** Well mottled turkey, peacock, reeves pheasant tail, etc.

**Covert:** Lapped extension of wing.

**Antennae:** Fine stripped hackle stem.

**Detail Tying Instructions:** [www.flyanglersonline.com](http://www.flyanglersonline.com)



25" Redband Rainbow—Elbow Lake, Ferry County



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Stamp  
here

**August, 2013**

**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:**

**'The Fishing Wonders of Yellowstone'**

**Presenter: Bruce Staples**