

Meeting Announcement

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

This month our speaker will be Denny Rickards. Denny is a noted expert in still water fishing for large trout in western waters and is an innovator in techniques for taking fish in lakes and still waters.

For more on Denny's background, see page 3.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about fishing still waters.

Creel Notes from the



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



September, 2004

President's Riffle *By Jim McRoberts*

Last month I told about fishing in Idaho. I will cap off that story by saying I did fish Silver Creek two days in windy conditions. One day I landed a 17-inch rainbow on a hopper and the next day several smaller fish on nymphs. You will read about the disaster of a trip that **Scott Hagen** and I took in an another article! I did catch two cutthroat trout in Hood Canal fishing with **Jay Deeds** using **Leland Miyawaki's** poppers.

Sixteen of our members went to Bremerton to testify before the WDFW Commission to retain the no-kill moratorium on wild steelhead. Some spoke as members of other organizations and some spoke as concerned individuals. The Commission voted to lift the moratorium but to only allow the killing of **ONE** wild steelhead. This is to remain in effect until the department finishes the "Steelhead Management Plan" that has been languishing ever since Bern Shanks was fired as the Director of WDFW. **Doug Schaad, Leland Miyawaki and I** will be advising the Director of WDFW as members of the *Steelhead Cutthroat Policy Advisory Committee*. This 23 member committee is composed of about 50-50 of catch-and-release versus kill more wild fish. Members of "The Wild Steelhead Coalition" represent other members of our club on this committee. On Tuesday the 9th, I testified before the Board of Natural Resources. This was a public hearing on the Final EIS for increased logging on state lands. These are lands

under the control of the Department of Natural Resources. Despite overwhelming testimony against increased logging, the board agreed to increase the logging by about 30% for the next decade. This will mean more clear cuts and heavier thinning along steams. Even though by the DNR's on analysis this is not sustainable and will be detrimental in the long run. Please visit this web site for more details, go to: <http://www.wecprotects.org/home/index.cfm>. The **Washington Environmental Council**, Audubon and other groups were represented. WFFC is a member of **WEC**.

September is the month we select the Nominating Committee (Bylaws: Article VII, Section 1. A & B) who will put together a slate of candidates to be voted on in November. We must choose five members for the committee. Incumbent officers are not eligible to be on the committee.

This month we will vote on the proposed bylaw change to ARTICLE II, Section 2. This proposal was posted in the Creel Notes in July and August.

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At the September 7th Board meeting your Board passed the following:

"There will not be any solicitation allowed for outside groups during regular meetings. WFFC members who are members of other organizations will be allowed to distribute information during "Wet-Fly" and at the breaks. Any member who wishes to make a presentation to the Conservation Committee seeking aid for their cause must contact **Doug Schaad** or **Preston Singletary**. Their case will be discussed at the next Conservation Committee meeting."

2004 CLUB AWARDS *By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

Even though the ceremonies are not until January, it is never too early to start thinking about the Club's various Awards and the selection of deserving members to receive them. Here is a short summary of the main Awards:

Letcher Lambeth Angling Craftsmanship Award (last presented for the year 2002), for a flyfisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia who has made original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing—*please contact me for more information and nomination procedures.*

Empty Creel Award, for exceptional dedication and contribution by a member to the welfare of the Club.

Tommy Brayshaw Award, for distinctive and meritorious contribution by a member to the general community through furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Club.

Andy Award (last presented for the year 1998), for a member who has suffered cruelly and repeatedly from the dictates of Murphy's Law.

The Awards Committee welcomes suggestions from members. Please note that nominations for the Letcher Lambeth Award are due by November 1.

Thank you.

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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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

September Speaker, Denny Rickards, "Stillwater Tactics"

For the past thirty years, Denny Rickards has had an opportunity to fish and guide anglers over some of the most challenging trophy trout waters in the Western United States. His simplistic approach and techniques on presentation have accounted for browns over 20 pounds, cutthroat to 15 pounds and rainbows in excess of 16 pounds.

Today, Denny is a full time guide on Upper Klamath Lake. Over 250 days a year are spent doing what he loves best: guiding, writing, tying flies, conducting fly fishing schools, and field testing and developing tackle manufacturer's products. His newly developed Crystal Creek Series graphite fly rods by Diamondback are being compared to the top rods in the industry.

As a professional fly tier, his suggestive patterns have appeared in various outdoor magazines and are on display at Cushner's Fly Fishing Museum in Florence, Oregon. Based on past reviews, his books and companion videos are now considered the "bibles" for fly fishing lakes.

When Denny isn't fishing or guiding, many hours are spent studying trout be-

havior, their habitat and the various insects found within their environment. His knowledge and ability to teach others were a prerequisite to establishing his fly fishing schools/clinics which have become a priority for anglers seeking the ultimate from their angling experiences.

Eyes In The Woods Training Class

A non-confrontational expert witness program class will be taught by the Department of Fish and Wildlife at 7:00 PM on Monday October 18, 2004 at the Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, Room 102. When we are out fishing or hunting and we see a violation being committed I am sure we would all like to know what we should do and how we should report the violation.

For an answer the above question plan on attending the above class. If you would like more information on the class or Eye In The Woods Program go to <<http://www.eyesinthewoods.org>>WWW.eyesinthewoods.org.

Don Simonson, Education Chair

NEWS RELEASE

Commission lifts wild steelhead moratorium, adopts annual one-fish rule on 12 rivers

OLYMPIA - The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission today lifted a measure it approved last February that imposed a two-year moratorium on retaining any wild steelhead caught in state waters.

By a unanimous vote, the nine-member commission instead will allow anglers to retain one wild steelhead per year on a dozen rivers - all but one of which is on the Olympic Peninsula - affected by the moratorium.

The new annual limit for those rivers, which takes effect Oct. 3, is more conservative than the annual five-fish limit in effect before the moratorium was enacted last spring, said Will Roehl, commission chair.

"For all the discussion about what the annual limit should be on those rivers, any long-term decisions about steelhead management need to be based on the best available science," Roehl said.

Toward that end, the commission has directed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to update its comprehensive plan for managing steelhead throughout the state. That plan, now being developed in conjunction with treaty tribes and other interested parties, is scheduled for completion in late 2006.

Rivers and streams affected by today's action by the commission include the Bogachiel, Calawah, Clearwater, Dickey, Goodman, Green, Hoh, Hoko, Pysht, Quillayute, Quinault and the Soleduck.



Rocky Ford Report, August 24

By Bob Birkner

Left Shoreline on 8-24 and started fishing RFC about 3:00 PM. I headed for home the next day about 3:00 PM. Third cast with a Crackleback fished dry hooked a nice fish that went LDR. Water is up a bit so boots are quite handy. Weeds in the water are up a lot. It's a real salad by the lower hatchery. Reeds and stinging nettles are up to over 6 feet high. The reeds and higher water prevent access to some of my favorite spots (unless you want to wear waders) but when I got to the other side I found those places had lots of water weeds anyway. Somehow I managed to avoid taking a bunch of nettles in the face but there were close calls.

Air temperature was very nice. There was some rain and an abundance of wind. Caught fish from 20 to 22 inches, all on dry flies. Cracklebacks, stimulators, grass hoppers and double humpies did the job. I had one fish take an egg pattern in its mouth three times and it never hooked him. I switched to another egg with a larger hook gap and naturally the fish wouldn't take that one.

Maybe 6 or 8 others were fishing while I was there. They were mostly fishing nymphs. One guy had three fish on a small red brassie. It will be much nicer when the water weeds die off and float away but it can be fished now with accurate and high back casts.

Report, Aug. 19 - Newport, RI.

By Leland Miyawaki

I was in Newport for my sons wedding. Tim St.Laurent, a flyfisher I met over the flyfishingforum.com, put my son the groom into a blue and I also was able to

see my popper work in the Atlantic.

We were out at Sakonnet Head chasing down blitzes, hoping some would be bonito or stripers. After Andrew caught his fish (on a feather jig), I was under a lot of pressure to succeed. I was making some casts on my forearm side (my backhand casts sucks cause I never use it) towards the blitzing blues when two of them began chasing my #2 grizzly popper. The lead fish nailed it at the boat. All I had to do then was to make sure the line "spaghetting" off the deck didn't wrap my feet or foul the guides on it's way out and onto the reel.

Tim said it weighed about 8lbs on the Boca as he snapped the photo.

The doubled 25# Maxima that connects the stinger hook (Gamakatsu #2 Octopus) was chewed up pretty good and will make a good memento of the trip.

Oh yes, the wedding was nice too!

Tofino, Sept 6-10 By Leland Miyawaki

I spent most of Monday futilely casting my popper over 40' feet of water looking to get coho to come to the surface. I finally got with the program and learned to bucktail the Weigh West way, which is to troll the fly five feet behind the boat very, very slowly on a 350 grain sink tip. If a concentration of fish was found, then everyone would begin blind casting. The accepted B.C. stripping motion is long and slow pulls.

The takes on the trolled flies were always visual, that is, if you could deal with the tedium of staring down at your fly - sometimes for hours on end. The coho have been known to hit the boat and have even ground their noses in the prop as the rocketed to the surface. The prevailing theory is that the boat bottoms are painted black and that the coho mistake the hulls for bait balls as they look up toward the surface.

Tuesday morning and afternoon were extremely slow until we hit a spot at 6pm that had been hot a few days previously. My trolled chartreuse clouser hadn't been in the water for more than ten seconds when I hooked my largest coho of the trip, a brute of a hook-nosed beast between 12-15 pounds. After releasing the fish, I immediately grabbed my dry line

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setup and tossed my popper out. My boat-partner, Craig Nakagawa, continued to bucktail while I experimented with my popper in the propwash. I found that if I zigzagged my fly by tossing short left and right mends, I would get the fish to rise. The slashes and strikes this evening were downright violent. I caught two more big coho on my popper before we had to leave in order to make the docks at 7:30. We couldn't wait to hit this spot the next morning.

It rained all during the night and the wind was howling as we left the dock. The fishing sucked for all of our last day except for a brief period in the afternoon. I saw some fish jump and we immediately motored over and trolled until Craig hooked up. I tossed and trolled my popper to no avail and I caught and lost a couple more trolling. At the end of the day, one good-sized fish slashed at my popper and grabbed Craig's fly as it went by.

Dean River, Aug.13 - 21

Jim McRoberts and **Scott Hagen** departed for their week on the Dean on Friday, August 13th, a very appropriate date, as things turned out. Learning from the past, Jim reserved a spot on the 3:15 ferry from Tsawwassen to Duke Point on Vancouver Island. The ferry departure was delayed to 4:30 because of "mechanical problems". After an uneventful drive to Campbell River, we met the rest of our group at the Ramada Inn. They had held off ordering dinner while waiting for us and were pretty well lubricated by the time we arrived. After a great dinner and free entertainment provided by a bunch of folks celebrating their 20th high school reunion, we turned in for the night. Our flight on a Beech 18 float plane was favored by clear, calm skies. There was a lot of smoke from forest fires, and we all marveled at how little snow there was on the mountains. As we flew over the mouth of the Dean on our landing, the river was very dirty, kind of a gray-green color, indicating lots of glacial silt. The guys coming out said the fishing had been pretty tough, with only knee deep visibility for most of the week. According to Adam Tavender, the lodge owner, there had been very low snow pack last winter and a warm spring and summer, resulting in the glaciers being fully exposed to the sun.

After lunch and the license drill, Jim and I headed up to the river. The visibility was barely knee deep, but Jim and I each hooked and landed a steelhead before the day was done. The next day, the visi-

bility was down to 10" in the morning, and decreased throughout the day. There were rumors of a glacier collapsing in a tributary way up river. Tuesday, it rained and things got even worse. There were no fish caught and damned little fishing done through Thursday. By Friday, the river had cleared to about 10" of visibility, and we decided to try fishing again. Three of the guests caught a total of four fish. Saturday, our fly-out day dawned with low clouds and rain. Our flight was delayed, delayed again, and finally cancelled, a first in all the years Adam has run the camp. As the morning progressed, the rain turned into a monsoon, well in excess of four inches as measured by a crude rain gauge (the dog's food dish). The river went up about five feet, all the campers along the river ended up in the trees, and there were some rock slides, one lasting nearly 20 minutes. Worst of all, we nearly ran out of whisky!! The next morning, when we flew out, the mud from the river extended out into the Dean Channel nearly thirty miles.

Oh, well, we will do better next year, I hope.

Remember there is a fly club outing this coming weekend on the Yakima River. The "new member" outing is for all club membership to get to know the newer members. There will be pancake breakfast 8:00-9:00 Saturday am at **Bill Kuper's** place, and the BBQ will be hot around 6:00 pm with a potluck and BYOB (bring your own beef) I'll bring the beverages. Its only a little over an hour drive to Bill's so come and join us. He has plenty of tent camping room if you need it. If you need directions: go East on I-90 to exit 78 (Golf Course rd) then North over freeway, and left (West) on Hundly Rd to Elk Meadows Road. Go Right and follow near end. His place is at 731 Elk Meadows Road. Hope to see you there.

Mark DeWitt, WFFC Outdoor chairman

For Sale: Natural Gas Charmglow

Barbecue from the good old Charmglow days---\$50 all payable to WFFC Foundation by the lucky buyer freeing themselves from the dangerous shackles and chains of propane.

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