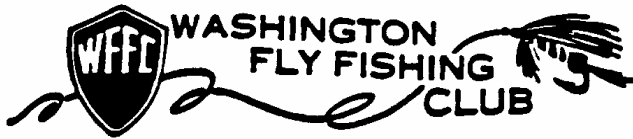


# Creel Notes from the



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



September, 2006

## President's Riffle

Fishing Reports were discussed at the last board meeting. Some members think they are a waste of time and others think just as strongly that they are vital to passing information to the membership.

So we are continuing the fishing reports asking that some specific information be provided:

- Fly used: Pattern, size
- Place, date and time of day
- Weather, etc
- Results

A little humor is encouraged – remember Al Pratt's reports?

For example, I fished Rocky Ford Creek the afternoon of August 22, from the large pool and riffle below the parking lot on the west side of the road to the lower foot bridge. A size 12 olive stimulator landed two 21 inch fish. One at the little riffle half way to the foot bridge and the other just upstream from the foot bridge.

The next morning I used my cane rod with a size 12 egg pattern below a strike indicator and landed a 19.5 and a 21.5 inch fish. Both in the vicinity of the little riffle half way to the foot bridge. Saw no grasshoppers the first day but there were some the next day. Just a few other fishers both days.

Air temperature reached 90 degrees but the wind made it tolerable. I measured the water temperature close to the bank at various locations and found it to be between 58 and 62 degrees. Water level was about as high as it gets. The Tumbleweed Café in Soap Lake is a great place for breakfast.

September is the month we select the **Nominating Committee** to put together a slate of candidates to be voted on in November. We will choose five members for the committee. Incumbent officers are not eligible to be on the committee.

Computer guru Kim Kommando sent one of her e-mails with a recommendation for fishing. She said, "Summer's almost over, but that doesn't mean it's too late for one of the best pastimes, fishing. Fishing is a great way to spend time with your family. Unlike other sports, there's plenty of time to talk and catch up on things. At the website [Take Me Fishing.org](http://TakeMeFishing.org), you can find places in your area where you can fish and boat. I never realized there were so many fishing spots in Phoenix. But finding a spot is just the first step. There are guides that will teach you more about fishing. For example, learn how to identify your catch or simply catch more fish. There are even links to help you get a fishing license." See [www.takemefishing.org](http://www.takemefishing.org)

Please remember that our October meeting will not be at the College Club. It will be at the downtown Seattle REI store for the Winslow Homer slide show. The question is -- Should **Dave Hawkinson** set up an office pool card with the winning number being that closest to the number of members who somehow don't get the "word" and still show up at the College Club in October?"

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## More on this months program

Andy has worked with bamboo since 1994 and has been supplying Tonkin cane to rod makers since 1997. He has helped the resurgence of the art of hand-built, split cane flyrods by importing hand-selected, high quality bamboo poles to the worldwide market. He assumed the role of executive producer of "Trout Grass" by default since he was the only one who would do it. The "producer" title came later as Andy discovered that once he got the ball rolling, he would actually have to keep the damn thing moving by force. Both titles were henceforth earned by spilling beer, sweat, tears into the production for four years.

Trout Grass is an insightful story that tells us about Tonkin cane from the moment it is cut in China until it is turned into an exquisite fly rod in Twin Bridges, Montana. The program features novelist and fly fisher Thomas Mc Guane and noted rodmaker, Glenn Brackett. Andy will have copies of Trout Grass available for sale at \$25.00.

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Included in this month's Creel Notes is a page that contains the updates to the WFFC Roster for 2006. There are a couple of ways you can use this update. Take the data from the update and hand write the changes into your roster, or cut and paste the individual records over the top or at the end (for new records) of your roster.

I've included underlines to highlight what has changed. Sometimes it's a new address, phone number, etc. If everything is underlined it means that member is not in your roster and should be added. If nothing is underlined it means that member did not have a photo in the roster.

Remember that if you have changes in your contact information, or in how you receive your Creel Notes (email vs. paper copy) please send me an email (preferred) to [jschuite@comcast.net](mailto:jschuite@comcast.net), or call me at 206-322-0655. **John Schuitemaker**

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WFFC Fly Tier's Round Table *By Dick Brening*

The next round table will be on the 2nd Wednesday, October 11th, 7 to 9 PM.

Fishing at the Wet Buns Outing requires a good supply of saltwater flies. Bring a saltwater pattern or two to share with the other tier's. Come to tie or just kibitz.

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (S.E. corner of 78th S.E. and SE 32nd). Just south of the Mercer Island business district. Off street parking is available off 78th S.E.

If you have any questions on directions contact **Pete Baird** or me at the club meeting or give me a call.

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### **Club Aims and Purposes**

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

# REPORTS

Dean River August, 2006 by Scott Hagan

**Jim McRoberts** and I departed for our annual week on the Dean about 9:00AM on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. After an easy drive to the border, we each purchased some recreational drinking material at the duty free and then proceeded on to the ferry terminal at Tsawwassen. The ferry took us to Dukes Point and we then drove through the sunshine to Campbell River where we spent the night.

By 9:00AM Saturday morning we were winging our way toward the Dean River aboard a specially modified Beach 18 (vintage 1940s) on floats. Unlike the last couple of years, the weather was clear and we had a spectacular view of the rugged countryside while flying directly to the mouth of the Dean. Upon deplaning, we met old fishing friends coming out and they assured us that the river was low and clear and the fishing was much better than the last two years. It didn't take long to validate that!! After the usual drill with unpacking, licenses and briefings, we went up river and hooked five steelhead, each of us landing one. The next five days were a hoot!! Jim hooked and landed fish every day.



*Jim with one the many.*

On Tuesday he hooked nine steelhead, landing seven, with the largest at fourteen pounds! All on one fly!! We all bowed to the master at dinner that evening.



*The magic fly! (It's purple and blue)*

I hooked two that day on a skated dry fly, landing one. On Friday I hooked four fish; one that I had on for several minutes that I couldn't budge, then I landed eighteen and fifteen pound bucks and lost another at the last moment that we estimated at around fourteen.



*The 18 pounder?*

In addition to the wonderful fishing, the food was excellent, the wildlife viewing was most entertaining, and the other four guests were all great guys. We enjoyed some very pleasant evenings, swapping stories and insuring that our drinking material wasn't going to waste. As you might expect, we will be back again next year.

Scott Hagen

## Fishing Report: Slate Lake, Okanogan County By Don Simonson

Twisp River Drainage, elevation 6650 ft.  
Date; August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

My high lake trip off the Twisp River drainage for 2006 leaned toward Williams Lake, which lies to the south of the Twisp River. After hearing and reading a stocking report of Slate Lake in 2002 at the Methow Valley fly Club meeting I decided to try Slate Lake instead of Williams Lake. So, at 6:30 AM on the 8<sup>th</sup> **Pete Baird** joined me at the trailhead, elevation 2900 ft. After we climbed to 6400 ft. in 3 miles and walked the ridge another 2.5 miles we arrived at the lakeshore around 1:00 PM. Like most high lake enthusiasts we started scanning this pristine remote lake for rises and cruising fish. We observed no fish activity. During our lunch and setting up camp we continued to scan the lake for fish. Still nothing. Having finished dinner we again watched for signs of fish..

You guessed it, not a fish to be seen.

By early morning on the 9<sup>th</sup> we had our rafts on the lake with both of us using subsurface patterns. After approximately 3 hours of steady fishing we had to conclude that the lake was barren. Pete, using his forceps attached to the end of the fly line sounded the lake to find out the maximum depth to be about 10 feet. We assumed the lake encountered a winter kill probably in 2005/2006. There was a good supply of aquatic insect life present, ie: shrimp, chironomids, cocopods, may flies and caddis. So at 2:10 PM we decided to head out, arriving back at the trailhead about 6:30 PM. I must admit I was one tired puppy after descending about 3500 ft in three miles. Of course the old mountain goat Pete was little worse for wear. To **Ron Dion** and **Dick Brening** you both made a good decision not to join us.



## AWARDS! AWARDS! AWARDS!

*By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

Well, not yet, but soon. The Awards presentations in January are really not that far away, and the Awards Committee is seeking nominations of individuals who might be recognized for their accomplishments—good or bad. The primary Awards are listed below:

*Empty Creel Award*, presented to a Member for exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare of the Club.

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

*Andy Award*, presented to a Member who has “suffered most cruelly from the vagaries of Murphy’s Law”.

*Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsmanship Award*, presented to a Member or other fly-fisher within Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia for original, significant, and lasting contributions to the art of fly fishing.

*Half-Assed Award*, presented to a Member for significant acts of half-assedness.

If you have a nominee, please contact a member of the Awards Committee: **Pete Baird**, **Chuck Ballard**, **Dick Brening**, **Ron Dion**, **Don Simonson**, **Kris Kristoferson**, or your writer.

## GOLD BUTTON CERTIFICATES

*By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

We will be presenting at the January 2007 Awards ceremonies Gold Button certificates, recognizing Members' angling proficiency (and luck) for fish caught between December 15, 2005, and December 14, 2006. Applications are due by December 31, 2006. Here is the basic program information:

### "GOLD BUTTON" Awards

- a. Gold Button Awards, each in the form of a certificate, shall be presented at the January meeting each year to Members qualifying with the largest fish caught during the prior qualifying year in the below-listed classes, which may be modified from time to time by the Board.

This awards program is modeled after an earlier "Gold Button" award, which featured the presentation to winners of a replica of the regulation Club button with fish species and weight inscribed. Although the earlier program was discontinued because of its conflict with a catch and release philosophy, these buttons are still proudly worn by WDFC members. The new program, which is intended to be consistent with a catch and release philosophy, carries forward the tradition.

Largest fish for purposes of this award shall mean the longest fish, measured from tip of the nose and the extreme tip of the tail, in accordance with WDFW regulations. Measurements shall be made in a manner that is least traumatic to the fish. The Board has established minimum sizes for fish, which it may modify from time to time.

STEELHEAD TROUT	31"
RAINBOW TROUT (caught in waters where natural or artificial barriers prevent anadromous fish from reaching them)	25"
CUT-THROAT TROUT	21"
BROWN TROUT	24"
BROOK TROUT	20"
GOLDEN TROUT	14"
KING or CHINOOK SALMON	38"
SILVER or COHO SALMON	34"
PINK SALMON	28"
CHUM SALMON	34"
LOHANTON CUT-THROAT TROUT	24"
DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT	28"
ARTIC CHAR	28"

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

- b. The certificates presented to winners shall give the data on each fish as regards to length, date of catch, and related information. They shall bear a likeness of the regulation Club button and shall be signed by the President.
- c. Each qualifying year shall run from December 15th to December 14th.
- d. Fish entered must be caught in waters of the state of Washington that are open to the general public.
- e. Fish entered must have been taken on a fly in regulation manner, without the use of spinner or bait, and otherwise in accordance with all applicable fishing regulations. No fish caught from state, club, or private hatchery or pond is eligible for entry. All fish must be caught by a WFFC member in good standing.
- f. The regulation manner of fly-fishing shall be with a fly and leader attached to a fly line, carried on a fly reel; said fly line to be of such weight that the weight of the line combined with the action of the fly rod shall be capable of controlling the presentation and action of the fly.
- g. Entry form applications, as per copy here included, must be properly executed and delivered to the Awards Committee by December 31 following the qualifying year then ended.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

GOLD BUTTON AWARDS APPLICATION

SPECIES: \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH: \_\_\_\_\_ inches      FLY (pattern, size): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CAUGHT: \_\_\_\_\_      TIME OF DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE CAUGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CAUGHT BY: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Washington.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

# NOTICE

Next month, October, our regular meeting will be held at R.E.I. in conjunction with the Northwest Women Flyfishers. You will be on your own for dinner and there will probably be a parking fee. More information will be in the October Creel Notes.

## In other news:

The Rogue Flyfishers are having a Steelhead Tournament and Auction on September 23rd. This is a fund raising event.

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I found this in a recent issue of "Flyline" a publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon. "Flyline" had credited it to "The Creel" of Nov. 1978. It is originally from "A Leaf From French Eddy" by Ben Hur Lampman.

## Sauce For Trout

*The proper sauce for a trout, of course-the one requisite sauce-never appears on the platter. It is finely and inimitably blended of the wind in the cedars, perhaps-or of wet leather- the chill of a forest twilight, and a pervasive, healthful weariness that is itself a blessing.*

*We were four on upper Drift Creek when last I tasted trout that were cooked as I would have them. And Herman, the reformed barber who now practices real estate, reddened his round countenance above the bat-*

*tered frying pan. Of food other than trout there was little. A mere handful of coffee for the blackened lard pail. A fragment or so of stale bread. And if you looked away across the ranges, the tumbled, waiting hills, across forest and canyon and creek and river, you might perceive the general direction of the nearest grocery store, but naught else. However, there was bacon in thick strips-and he who complains of the fare while bacon is yet in the pack and trout are in the creel or creek, would grumble at the hostelryes of heaven. And night came on with vast and velvet strides. A star burned over the clearing. Herman's face was ruddy as a smith's the while he turned the fish and tended the coffee. Into the night, wandering off to perplex some distant, moody predator, to disturb the bear, perhaps, and fill him with a vain unrest, went the unified fragrance of cutthroat trout and smoking bacon grease. Thus presently we fell to, and afterward knew a deep content, and spread our blankets and smoked, speaking only as the spirit moved.*  
(Sounds like a great read.)



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Stamp  
here

Sept. 2006

## 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.

The September meeting program will be *TROUT GRASS*, a film by Andy Royer. The story of those special stalks that through a lot of dedicated care and labors of love are transformed into those magical wands that are revered by many and which led to the special art of casting a fly on the waters. For more see page 2.