

Creel Notes from the



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



September, 2007



President's Riffle

Feel that chill in the air when you step outside these mornings? I know that summer is not officially over, but I just can't shake the feel of autumn creeping into my bones. I'm of two

minds: I don't want summer to end, but I sure enjoy the fishing opportunities that come with fall. The Yakima will lower its flows, making the river wadeable again. Desert lakes will begin to cool and the fish will sense the approach of winter and feed with just a bit more abandon. Oh and those fall colors! It's as if the trees are trying to compete with the fish for a beauty prize.

Our club, too, has its seasonal rituals that call our attention. September's meeting is when we select our Nominating Committee. This committee will suggest to our membership our next slate of officers for 2008. This is an important ritual and one that all members should take seriously. WFFC Nominating Committees have had a long history of blending wisdom and foresight to bring us a slate of officers that will carry the club forward. Your attendance and participation in selecting our Nominating Committee should be considered a priority. Remember that Nominating Committee members are limited to five club members who currently do not hold office on the Board of the WFFC.

Our Outings Committee is back into full swing with a slate of opportunities to fish with fellow members. Check out the outings schedule on our website at www.wffc.com, and on page 2 of this edition of the Creel Notes.

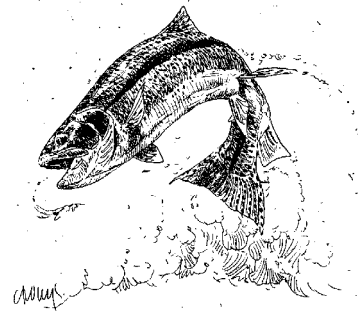
The Conservation Committee is the most popular committee selected by new members when they join the club. I think most of us want to do what we can to preserve and protect the resources that we so enjoy. Well,

here's your chance. The Conservation Committee is calling on all hands to help with a river cleanup on the Stillaguamish on Saturday, September 22nd.

Doug Schaad is heading the effort and will be providing information on where and when. members who have kick boats, drift boats, etc., are encouraged to bring them along to reach areas not accessible by foot. Put this on your calendar and earn some karma points from the fish and rivers we enjoy.

"Fishing is a laborious way of taking it easy." - Franklin P. Jones, author

Tight lines,
John Schuitemaker



Inside.....

Upcoming Events	2
Conservation Alerts	3
August Round-Tables	3
Raymond Round-Table Recap	4
Scottish Lakes Outing	5
South Whidbey Outing	6
National Award for Berryman	7
Helping Others Through Fly Tying	7
Status on Nyerges and Walkinshaw	7

Creel Notes

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

Jim van de Erve...Editor and Publisher
425-489-0971 jimvde@comcast.net

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

The next round table will be on the second Wednesday of next month, October 10th, from 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 tiers. Come to tie or just kibitz.

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th S.E. (southeast corner of 78th S.E. and S.E. 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 (**Dick Brening**) at the club meeting or give me a call.

President
John Schuitemaker jschuite@comcast.net

Co-1st Vice President
Pat Peterman patpeterman@verizon.net

Co-1st Vice President
Craig Koeppler ckoeppler@qwest.net

2nd Vice President
Keith Robbins flymooch@aol.com

Secretary
David Ehrich rimroq57@yahoo.com

Treasurer
John Huey john3@vikingbank.com

Ghillie(s)
Peter Crumbaker wolf_fenris2nd@hotmail.com
Jim Macdonald macdonaldco@msn.com

Trustees
Kris Kristoferson '05 Don Schroder '05
Richard Embry '06 Gene Gudger '06
Mike Wearne '07 Ed Sozinho '07

North Fork Conservation Outing *by Doug Schaad*

Save the Date – On Saturday the 22nd of September, the WFFC will have a conservation outing to clean up the North Fork (and selected mainstem stretches) of the Stillaguamish River. The event will begin at 10:00 am at a location to be determined, and lunch will be served from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm.

We encourage you to use a canoe, kayak, drift boat, or pontoon boat to help cover the water that is not easily accessed. If you have a particular beat in which you have interest, please let **Doug Schaad** know at dcschaad@comcast.net. A sign-up sheet will be available at the September general membership meeting.

Upcoming WFFC Outings

The following outings are scheduled for September and October. Signup sheets will be available at the September WFFC meeting. If you do not sign up, but still want to attend and participate, please contact Ron Dion.

- Sept. 29-30. **Hood Canal**, Saturday steak dinner at **Jay Deeds** beach.
- Oct. 6-7. **Dry Falls**, Saturday steak dinner in the State Park.
- Oct. 5-14. **Grande Ronde**. Contact **Jim McRoberts** or **Bill Redman** for details.
- Oct. 20. **Methow River**, if the WDFW opens fishing. Contact **Chuck Ballard** for details.

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.



Conservation Alerts *by Doug Schaad*

Steelhead Management Plan Commentary

In response to a request for public commentary by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Conservation Committee has reviewed the WDFW Statewide Steelhead Management Plan and DEIS (see <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/release.php?id=aug1707a>). The Committee has submitted a letter in support of Alternative 1. Alternative 1 provides the most stringent protection to the wild steelhead resources of the citizens of the state of Washington. Written comments were due by the 10th of September, though the issue will remain alive for some time. We suspect that additional commentary will be allowed at a later time.

Aside from blanket approval of Alternative 1, the Conservation Committee recommends a statewide ban on the harvest of wild steelhead AND spawning refuges (refugia) on each major river basin in Washington.

Major Rules Cycle Commentary

WDFW has also issued a request for public commentary on the WDFW Major Rules Cycle (see <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/release.php?id=aug3007a>). The Conservation Committee welcomes input from members of the Club in determining which proposed changes to angling regulations should be supported (or denied). Send any commentary to dcschaad@comcast.net. The Conservation Committee needs to finalize comments prior to the 20th of October. There are 78 new rules under consideration (a few of which are not germane to our interests).

August Round-Table Discussions

On August 21st, six WFFC members led us in round-table discussions. The leaders presented facts, advice, and skill-enhancing tips-and-tricks that many of us will make great use of. The only unfortunate part of the evening was that logistics dictated that we only had time for two full sessions apiece, and picking those two sessions was agonizingly difficult.

Many thanks to the presenters:

- **Leland Miyawaki:** Low-water summer steelhead.
- **Ed Sozinho:** Photography on the water
- **Doug Schaad:** Freshwater Salmonoids along the Oregon coast
- **Steve Raymond:** How to write a fishing story & why you shouldn't
- **Don Simonson:** How to improve your casting
- **Keith Robbins:** Fishing around Islamorada, Florida

See page 4 for a recap of **Steve Raymond's** round-table.



Gil Nyerges and sponsor Les Johnson welcome Tom Dillon to the Club at the August meeting

Round-Table Recap

Steve Raymond on Writing

When Steve gives a master class on writing, writers sit up and take notice. Steve's writing is like a long, tight-looped cast that places the fly exactly where you want it with a feathery touch and a perfectly led-out leader. It sounds easy when you read it, but of course that ease is the product of craft. At the round-table, Steve gave us some insight into his craft. Writers, take note.

On Preparation

It's more than grabbing a pen and paper, or turning on the computer.

- If you think that you'll be able to make a living writing about fishing, take a good hard look in the mirror and consider seeing a therapist. It is very difficult—and rare.
- Keep a detailed fishing log with observations about the fish, the fishing, the fishermen, the weather conditions, the conversation, the food and drink, and funny and terrible things that happened.
- Read about writing and seek the company of other writers. That includes professional organizations such as the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association.
- Build your knowledge of the history and intricacies of the sport of fly fishing. Readers expect expertise.

On the Writing Craft

Good writing has as many stages as good fishing.

- Write, cut; write, cut; cut, cut, cut.
- Let your writing simmer. If you set a piece of writing aside for a couple of weeks, imperfections will magically percolate to the surface.
- Read your writing out loud. If it sounds awkward, it reads awkward.
- Write a first paragraph high in impact—and with a different or original twist. It's your best, and often only, chance to grab your readers' (and editor's) attention.

On Publishing

While many writers dislike the business side of

writing, getting writing to people is the point of the endeavor.

- If you think that you'll be able to make a living writing about fishing, take a good hard look in the mirror and—you get the point.
- Know your reader and know your editor.
- Don't give up and don't let rejections get you down.
- Scotch and aspirin are great writing and marketing aids.

Notes from Steve

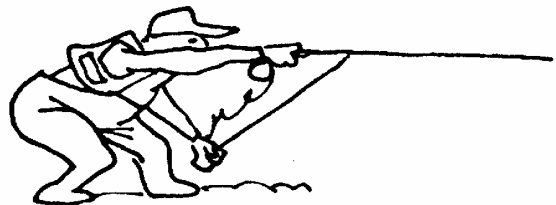
The following is material that Steve used in the round-table:

“If you want to get published and you haven't been doing a lot of writing, then it's past time you got started. You need to practice, practice, and practice. You also need to subject your writing to criticism from others, and ask them to be as brutal as possible. That requires a thick skin on your part. You have to learn not to take it personally.

“Why go through all this? Well, you wouldn't expect to take your first-ever turn at bat in the World Series, would you? You have to start out in the minors and work your way up if you want to play in the big leagues.

“I can't emphasize strongly enough the need to study the magazines you want to write for—first, so you don't duplicate stories they've already published, and second, so that you can get a feel for the type of articles they like, the kind of writing they like, and the general tone of the magazine.

“Most fly-fishing magazines buy stories and photos as a package. That means you have to be a good photographer as well as a good writer—either that, or you need a friend who is a photographer.”



Scottish Lakes High Camp Outing

August 16-20

by Ron Dion

This high country outing was attended by **Dick Pierson, Mark Pratt, Mike Wearne & friend, and Ron & Tim Dion**. To get to High Camp, we drove over Stevens Pass and Don Hanson (owner) picked us up at their parking lot located just across the highway from the Nason Creek rest stop. In a four-wheel drive vehicle, he took us eight miles up a gated dirt road to High Camp, which is located in a secluded valley at 5000' elevation. On the drive up, we encountered a U.S. Forest Service Fish Biologist on his way to check the fishing situation at lakes Julius & Eileen.

High Camp is a collection of nine cabins, a small lodge, an outdoor wood-fired hot-tub, and other buildings. The hot-tub is especially refreshing after a day hiking in the wilderness. From High Camp there are six nearby hike-in lakes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The hikes vary in distance from six miles round trip (Lakes Julius & Eileen) to 11 miles round trip (Larch Lake). Mark, Tim, and I hiked to Larch Lake and camped there Friday night. Larch Lake sits in a scenic alpine basin at 6078' elev., and has mostly cut-throat trout ranging from 4" - 12". Mark caught one 14". Obviously, natural reproduction is occurring in the outlet stream. Mark also caught two rainbows.

Meanwhile, Dick, Mike, and friend enjoyed the amenities in High Camp, and spent the days pursuing the brook trout in Chiwaukum Lake and the cutts in Julius and Eileen.



Tim and Ron Dion at Julius Lake



High Camp lodge with Mark Pratt, and Tim and Ron Dion enjoying morning coffee by the stove

By Saturday evening everyone was back in camp and enjoyed a steak and wine dinner with wild huckleberry crisp dessert in the main lodge. Sunday, Dick, Mike, and friend left for home and Mark, Tim, and I hiked to Eileen. As usual, Mark got an early head start and in his float tube was struggling against the wind and rain when Tim and I arrived. We attempted casting from the shore, but the increasing wind/rain kept blowing our lines into the trees! So we ate a snack and watched Mark brave the weather in his float tube, catching the gullable cutts.

When Mark gave up, we all hiked down to Lake Julius where Mark launched his float tube and proceeded to harass the cutts at the north end of the lake where the wind was less of a factor. Tim and I went around the lake and attempted to cast, without much success. After a soggy day in the wilderness, we really enjoyed the burgers, beer, and comforts of camp.

The next morning we all left for the big city.

South Whidbey State Park Outing

September 8

by Ron Dion

This was an attempt at fly fishing for coho from the beach by **Paul Lingbloom, Mark Pratt, Dick Brening, Paul Messner, Ron Dion,** and from the Whidbey Fly Fishing Club, **Clarence Hein.** As we were told by a resident at Lagoon Pt., and we were soon to find out, we were a week late for the pink salmon and a week early for the coho. However, Mark did hook two coho, although both outsmarted him! The only fish to hand were bullheads/sculpins.



Don Uppendahl, Paul and Evie Lingbloom, Mark Pratt, John Rorher, and Dick Brening feasting on steak and wine



Clarence Hein, Paul Lingbloom, Mark Pratt, Paul Messner, and Dick Brening hanging out on Whidbey

We were joined by **John Rorher, Don Uppendahl,** and **Evie Lingbloom** for the steak and wine dinner. The camp fire and camaraderie were exceptionally enjoyable without the nuisance of insects.



Fire marshal Mark Pratt

National Award for Berryman

WFFC member **Jack Berryman** has won first place in the book division of the Excellence in Craft Awards sponsored by the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA). Jack won for “Fly-Fishing Pioneers & Legends of the Northwest”, which chronicles the lives of 23 legendary Northwest fly fisherman, including a number of WFFC members. The OWAA presented the award in mid-June at their 80th anniversary meeting in Roanoke, Virginia.

Congratulations, Jack!

Helping Others through Fly Tying

Those of us who tie flies know the feeling of getting absorbed in it. You can lose hours tying your favorite bug. It is therapeutic, a great way to forget about the stress of everyday life.

Members of WFFC and other Western Washington fly clubs are putting that principle to good use for people who have been under much greater stress than our own. They are helping American servicemen and women deal with injuries and the stress of combat by tying flies.

Once a week for over a year, members of those clubs have been making the trek to the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma. They have taught soldiers how to tie flies—and have helped them in other, more personal ways. Some soldiers can only tie with one hand, so members help by holding the materials. A lot of the soldiers have had injuries to their wrists, so increasing their small motor skills through tying is very helpful to them.

“But even more important is to allow them to talk about their experiences, if they want,” **Jim McRoberts**, one of the helpers from WFFC, said. “The fly club members are sounding boards or helping hands.”

For the WFFC members, it’s not just a one-way experience, as Jim pointed out. “As a retired military man, it’s an opportunity to give back to the people who are in Iraq, maybe this will make up for the lack of support that was given to the service members when they returned from Vietnam, and to help them out,” he said. **Jim, Dick Stearns, John Townsell, Walt Swanson, and Don Donaldson** have all

participated in the program.

There’s an article about the program on page 22 of the Sept./Oct. issue of “Northwest Fly Fishing.”

Fruit and Flowers Report *by Pete Baird*

Gil Nyerges

It's called a procedure these days! I talked with **Gil** this evening at Providence Everett Medical Center- Pacific Campus (425-258-7123, Room 816) as his anesthesia was wearing off. Several of you had preceded me in contacting him. The news is good, that he is doing well and the “procedure” that involved enlarging the passages in the vertebrae that surround his spinal cord, was deemed successful by the surgeon with no surprises encountered. Gil says that he has traded one set of pain for a different kind of pain, but hopefully this new pain will subside with time as healing takes place. He was in good spirits and encourages calls for the remainder of his stay at the hospital, hopefully not exceeding Sunday, or after he arrives back home (360-341-5320).

Walt Walkinshaw

Most of you know **Walt Walkinshaw** who has been attending meetings lately in a wheel chair, ably attended and cared for by our very own **Dr. Fran Wood**. Walt is approaching 90 years of age. On the Friday just before Labor Day, Walt stretched his balancing abilities to excess and fell over on the floor. I talked with his wife, Jean, recently and Walt is presently at Harborview in Room 303, having exited the ICU on Sept 5th. His most serious injury is to neck vertebrae and he is wearing a collar, making mobility and phone conversation difficult, but otherwise progressing. He hopefully will be returning home around Tues., Sept 11th. At that time calls (do that first) and visitations will be welcome.





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

Stamp
here

September, 2007

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: Diana Rudolf - Saltwater Flyfishing Florida Keys-Style

In 2004, 31-year-old Diana Rudolph became the first woman angler to win the prestigious Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Tournament in the Florida Keys. In the past two years she has also broken the 16-pound IGFA women's tarpon record, the 12-pound permit record, the 6-pound bonefish record, and the 4-pound snook record. We will uncover a little of the ritual and right-mindedness behind her phenomenal success.