

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



International Federation of
FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



Fall is in the Air

MMXV No. 9

September, 2015

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



How about last month's meeting?

Over 80 attendees, eight separate concurrent seminars. **Bob Burdick** pulled off another great program: if you were not there you missed a great evening of table-centric discussions/seminars as well as picnic style buffet by the Seattle



Tennis Club catering and kitchen staffs. Many thanks to those who made presentations: Dave McCoy, Anil Srivastava, Ryan Smith and Brita Fordice as well as WFFC members **Kris Kristoferson, John Schuitemaker, Gene Gudger, John Callahan, Chuck Ballard, Robert Tovar** and **Rocco Maccarrone**. I can tell you that Bob is already at work planning a similar program for next year.

A bit of a sour note; however, we had four members and/or guests who did not pay for a meal but had no apparent problems working their way through the line and loading up dinner plates. There was no salad bar at the last meeting but we seem to have had a similar problem at other meetings with nonpaying members cruising through the salad bar helping themselves to a plate of this and that and one or two rolls as well. I have been told by members who have been in the club longer than I that this is not a new problem. Old problem or not it is neither cute nor funny. I do not have any children so I have no relevant experience on how to handle adolescent behavior and I am not particularly inclined to start learning now. I have no tolerance for this type of behavior.....unethical conduct, theft....I honestly cannot say how I will react if a member is identified to me as pulling a stunt like this. It may be less than pleasant. I expect we will now have to institute some new procedures on how we manage the meal portion of our meetings and I hope you will bear with us as we work this out.

On a more fun note, someone flipped a switch and it feels like we are full on into autumn, we have had some rain and

some of the rivers under the "Hoot Owl" rules can now be fished under their respective normal rules and regulations.

A heads-up. Your board has been discussing how the club should handle what most other organizations have been doing for many years. Requiring a waiver/release from liability from those who participate in outings and classes sponsored or put on by the WFFC. This should not be any surprise and we will be working to develop one or more procedures on how this will be implemented. If you have some thoughts on this, let me know I would like to hear them.

(Continued on page 3)

September Program

A Quest for Native Golden Trout with Bill Kindler

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

This month, on September 18th, Bill Kindler is coming from Port Angeles to present his program on "In pursuit of wild native golden trout in the Sierras".

Mike Wearne has seen this presentation, thinks it's outstanding and has recommended it to us.

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(Continued from page 1) - Program

In his biography Bill comments that he and a hiking partner had a goal of catching each of the 3 subspecies of gold-ens in their native waters which necessitating backpacking for 2 weeks in the high Sierras.

This presentation will celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of the fish along with some spectacular scenery.



Bill Kindler's Biography

Bill Kindler is retired in Port Angeles where he builds wooden boats, hikes, fishes and does volunteer work. Mostly, he hikes and fishes in the Olympic Mountains with his good friend and hiking partner Cliff Schluesner.

A few years ago, Cliff and Bill decided to spread their horizons and hike the Southern Sierras in search of Golden Trout. They set a goal of catching each of the three subspecies of golden's in their native waters which necessitated two weeks of backpacking.

The September presentation will celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of the fish along with some spectacular scenery.



Bill Kindler

From Our Vice President for Programs

By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

I want to thank everyone for making our August 18th Fly Fishing Seminar such a great success.

Chuck Ballard's quartet established a nice ambiance, the barbecue buffet was popular, the raffle was well received, the used equipment sale was popular and the 8 discussants were outstanding! The 83 attendants also established a high for the year, topped only by the 115 at the preview of the conservation movie, "The Breech".

I hope to repeat our success at next years August meeting and would welcome your suggestions for how to make the next one even better, especially suggestions for other speakers or topics that you think would be interesting to the group.



Officer Selection Committee Commences

WFFC Selection Committee is currently working to select leadership positions for 2016.

Those selection committee members are:

Jim McRoberts
Greg Crumbaker
Dick Brening
Ron Dion
Chuck Ballard

Creel Notes

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

President

Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Scott Hagen

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

Treasurer

Jim Goedhart

Secretary

Stephanie Hagen

Ghillie 1

Jim Macdonald

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Trustees

Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13
Mark Pratt '14 Ron Dion '14
Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting email (upper right corner). Button selection and message box will appear on scroll down

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.

(Continued from page 1) - President's Riffle

The Guys from Duval are at it again. You may have seen it in the news, Wild Fish Conservancy has given the Environmental Protection Agency and National Marine Fisheries Service notice of intent to sue for violations for the Endangered Species Act in connection with the establishment and operation of feed lots in the Puget Sound. Did I say "feed lots"? I did. Some refer to them as fish farms but that is a bit of a euphemism. We do not call cattle feed lot operators "farmers" or "ranchers". Fish pens are industrial feed lots and are not "farms" and they generate far more harm to the waters and natural fish than most people think after all, they are largely out of sight. Check out the Wild Fish Conservancy web site for more information on this subject as well a number of other subject important to anglers.

Kerry Oldenburg and her committee are hard at work nailing down contributions for the WFFC annual fund raiser. If you are contacted please extend them every courtesy and, if you are able to do so help us out with a donation. The WFFC is your club.

Be sure to sign up for the September Membership meeting and pay attention to the choices when you sign up for a dinner.....- ***any member who either prepay for a meal or requests a meal at a Membership Meeting will have to pay for it if they have not cancelled their request before the Thursday Midnight Cut-Off time.*** If you want to attend the meeting without making arrangements for a meal we can accommodate you but it will cost an additional \$5 and be subject to there being a meal available. There is no charge if you want to attend the meeting without purchasing a meal you are certainly free to do so. I hope to see you then.

Outings

Hood Canal Outing September 12th and 13th

Our good friends **Jay and Jone Deeds** have again graciously offered to host an outing at their home on Hood Canal near Seabeck. This is a salt water fishing experience for sea-run cutts and maybe a few silvers. Past fishing has been pretty darn good, and the weather is almost always fall fantastic.

There is a boat launch just north of their home and Scenic Beach State Park. You can launch your boat there, and run a half mile or so south to the beach at Jays house. Look for the giant tree covered in Ivy.

We have found good action on the beach all along Scenic



Beach Park, and south to Stavis Bay on the near shore. It can also be good north around Misery Point, and into Seabeck Bay. For those with more ambitious power craft, crossing over to the points and bays toward Quilcene can pay off, with more salmon in the mix there. Use shooting heads, or sink tips with baitfish type patterns.

Olive Clousers, candlefish, Dali Lamas, work really well, and don't forget the orange and white attractors we all like.

Dinner is at Jay and Jones, and in the past has been pizza, salad, and beverages provided by the Deeds' and the club. There is no charge. Happy hour is usually well under way by 6:00 Saturday.

Camping is available at the state park, literally next door, if you're so inclined.

It's easy to get there from Seattle. I drive to Bremerton, then continue toward Silverdale. Take the Newberry Hill road exit, and follow the road up the long hill to the top where there is a sign pointing toward Seabeck and Hood Canal. Follow the road down to the water, and continue through the berg of Seabeck. Turn Right on the first road around the bay, and follow it to the State park entrance. Turning Left there puts you on Maple Lane, where Jay hangs out on the right side, down near the end. You will also see boat ramp signs on the way to the park, that will guide you to the ramp and parking area. Jays info is:

15350 N.W. Maple Lane 360-830-4885 He can also e mail you some directions that are better than mine.

Big Twin Lake Outing October 3th and 4th

Assuming the fires have subsided, October 3 and 4 is our October outing at Big Twin Lake Campground .

Barbeque is the fare, with the club providing steaks for those that sign up on the website and the usual terrific happy hour Saturday evening around 5:00. As usual bring your favorite appetizers and side dishes for the dinner, and desserts are always good! The club always provides beverages, including pop, beer, and crappy wine. Harder choices are on you, expect to share!



The fishing is pretty easy, with sinking lines and leechy-buggy patterns out in the middle doing well on hot days, and dry lines and nymphs just killer around the edges and in the shallows in front of camp.

One thing I've learned over the years is that Big Twin is much better fishing when there is a slight riffle on the surface. If it's glass smooth it is generally tough fishing.—Ed

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) - Big Twin

The campground is really nice, and easy to find, only 15 minutes from Winthrop.



Big Twin Lake

You can make reservations at bigtwinlake@comcast.net, or call 509-996-2650. The address is 210 Twin Lakes Rd. There are three boat launches on the lake, including two free ones across from the resort. Another lake nearby is Davis Lake which is a day option that can be good fly fishing according to our resident seminar experts **Chuck Ballard** and **John Callahan**.

Sign up on the website for steak headcount



Big Twin Campground Information

E-mail: bigtwinlake@comcast.net

Phone: (509)-996-2650

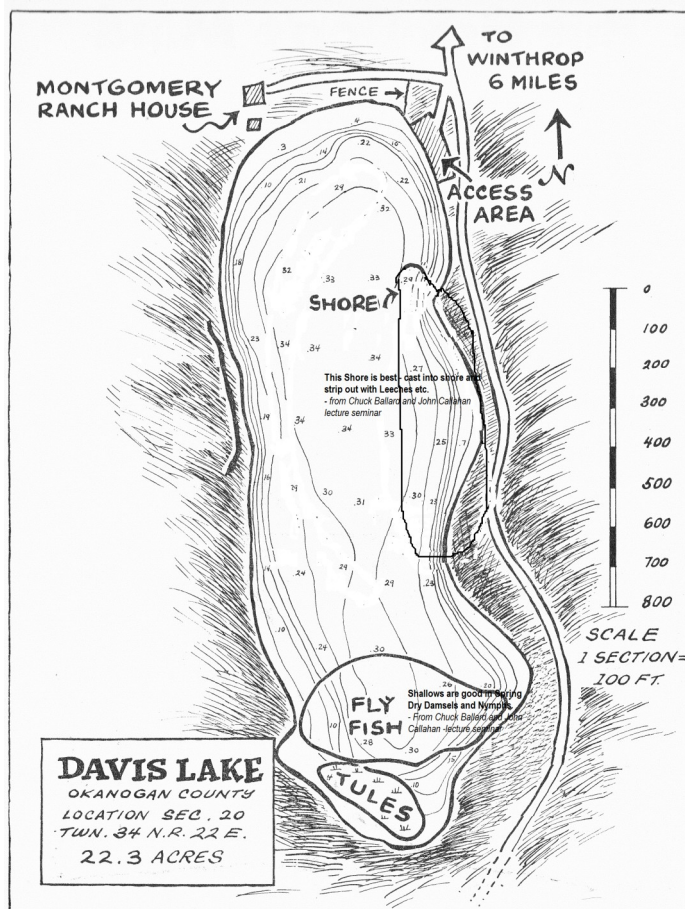
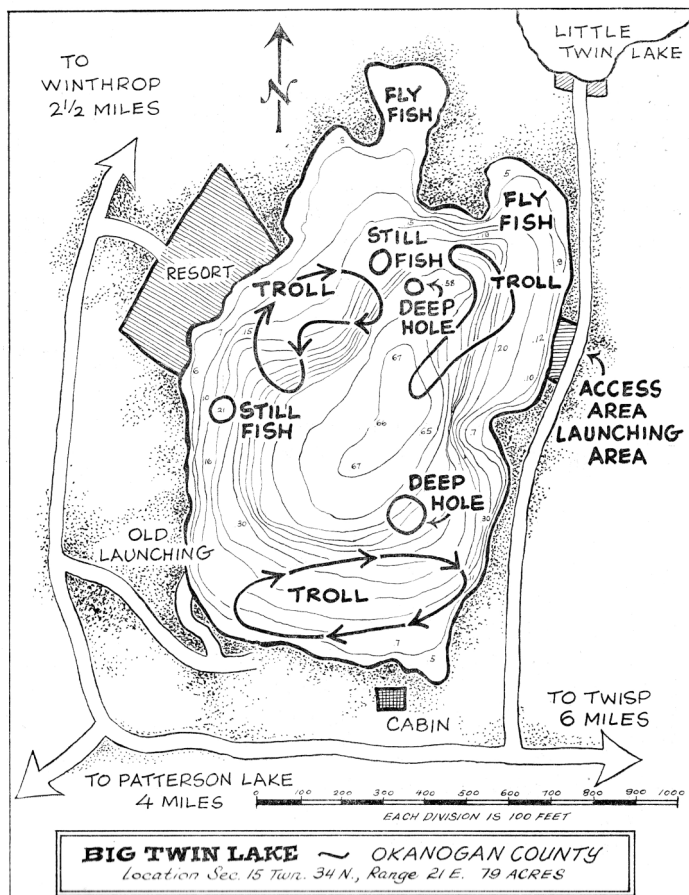
Tent sites: \$25.00/nite

Hookup sites: \$30.00/nite

Extra Person \$7.00

Extra Vehicle \$7.00

Rowboats \$25.00/day



Map Credits: Fred 'Piscatorial' Peterson, era ~1968



None this month

Columbia River System

Potential Columbia Salmon Predator: Northern Pike

From Colville Tribal News

Northern pike have bared their teeth in Lake Roosevelt this year, bringing to mind the early 2000s, when the non-native predators first showed up in significant numbers in the Pend Oreille River. Fishermen have been catching some whoppers near Kettle Falls.



Northern Pike, Caught Near Gifford WA

"While jigging for walleyes near the mouth of the Colville, I caught a 15-pounder," said Sean Hansen of Vancouver. "My friend who lives at Kettle Falls has caught more than 20 in the past couple of months.

"We were getting bit off last year while fishing for walleye and smallmouths and we didn't put it together until I had a pike follow my lure all the way in."

But pike enthusiasts shouldn't get their hopes up that the fishery will boom in the Columbia River reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam as it did in the late 2000s behind Box Canyon Dam: the habitat isn't the same.

State and tribal fish managers already are making plans to suppress the pike with gillnets.

Funding is being sought and northern pike in the Columbia Basin are on the agenda for the June 9 Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting in Coeur d'Alene. "We're not going to mess around with these things," said Chris Donley, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife inland fisheries manager. "This is about salmon recovery and other complexities down the river

we want to avoid." "There's been some concern that fish would come down into the Columbia from the Pend Oreille," says Chuck Lee, the department fisheries biologist who's assessing the situation.

"A 2006 survey in the Pend Oreille estimated about 400 adult northern pike in Box Canyon Reservoir," he said, noting that the fish apparently came downstream from illegal introductions in Montana. "A 2010 survey indicated the population had boomed to about 5,500 fish. "The expansion happened very quickly. The Pend Oreille River has a lot of sloughy vegetated shallows that support spawning."

The state and Kalispell Tribe began using gillnets to suppress northern pike. From 2012 to 2014 they removed 16,000 pike from the reservoir downstream from Newport. Suppression netting this spring removed only 751 pike compared with about 5,700 netted in 2012 and about 6,000 in 2013. "Mechanical suppression on a large scale is very feasible," said tribal biologist Jason Conner, who helps manage the netting program. But the effort hasn't prevented some pike from moving downstream, into Canada and the Columbia.

Two years ago, British Columbia biologists started identifying pike below Keenleyside Dam. A 2014 survey in that area estimated a population of 500-2,700 northern pike. "Based on the concern for predation on sturgeon and native salmonids, they began pike suppression in 2014 and removed about 18 percent of the population," Lee said. "They determined the pike diet was 76 percent salmonids - 44 percent mountain whitefish and 17 percent rainbow trout, plus kokanee."

Canada plans to continue pike suppression in the Columbia, he said. Washington and the area tribes plan to follow suit.

Pike first started showing in Lake Roosevelt fall walleye index study gillnetting in 2011, Lee said. "We caught only one in the Marcus area that year and up to seven last year, all just north of Kettle Falls, but the survey doesn't extend into the Kettle River. "We've had limited reports of pike harvest from anglers in the past, but never identified one in the creel until this year," he added, noting that anglers have showed them to creel checkers at the Kettle Falls boat ramp. The fish have been in the 24- to 36-inch range, caught roughly from the mouth of the Kettle River to the mouth of the Colville.

Fish managers plan to do a pike netting survey starting this spring. Work on the Pend Oreille River has shown the best time to target pike is during May as they're spawning. But Lake Roosevelt is still in a drawdown and wa-

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(Continued from page 5) - Columbia Pike

ters aren't flooding most of the shallows where pike would prefer to spawn. Fish managers are waiting for the dam to refill, which started this week, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says. "The pike larvae need vegetation to cling to, and Lake Roosevelt doesn't have much of that right now," Lee said. "We're holding off, probably until early June. "Peak spawning usually happens in March and April. In Lake Roosevelt, that may not happen."

Meantime, DNA testing is underway to determine if the pike showing up in Lake Roosevelt originated in the Pend Oreille River, in Canada waters or in the Kettle River Arm.

"That will give us an idea if pike are spawning in the Kettle," Lee said.

He noted that northern pike have been found in Lake Spokane for years, but no pike spawning has been documented in the reservoir behind Long Lake Dam. "That indicates those fish are coming down from Lake Coeur d'Alene," he said. "We're mostly concerned where pike might be spawning."



Near Kettle Falls

"There's a lot of work that's been done on redband trout focused on the Kettle River and tributaries of the Upper Columbia, as well as the sturgeon," he said. "We need to get a handle on the pike."

Meanwhile, Sean Hansen and his Kettle Falls friend, Chris St. Clair, are enjoying their occasional run-ins with the toothy large predators. "They've hit spinners, spoons, crankbaits, plastics - just about everything," Hansen said. "I caught the big one on a jig. It was 15 pounds, full of eggs and had an 18-inch northern pike minnow in its stomach. The pike fillets were delicious."

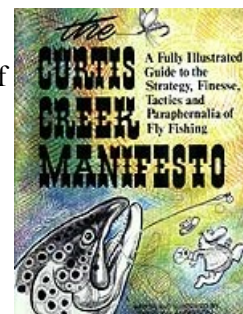
"We would like it if anglers would catch them and kill them," Donley said. "We don't need another predator in Lake Roosevelt. It's got plenty now."

Hypothetical Question

Question: If you could give someone just one book to get them interested in fly fishing, what would that be?

Answer: If you're talking about fly fishing for trout, I think that's an easy one. The **Curtis Creek Manifesto**, by **Sheridan Anderson**. There are a ton of good books that will help a novice angler improve and progress into an "intermediate" fly fisher, but for simply laying out the basics, the Manifesto is hard to beat. Written in comic-book form, with lots of humorous asides, the book takes

the reader through the basics of trout behavior, insect biology, necessary gear, and fly-fishing technique. Because it's a comic book, the information is in no way intimidating to the complete novice. Plunk this 48-page comic book in front of them, and they'll feel as if they can get a handle on it pretty quickly. By starting a newbie out with a book that conveys the humor, pathos, and fun of fly fishing—rather than its more serious side—is also a good way to keep from scaring that person off.



Because the book was published in 1978, some of the information (especially the gear section) is dated, but the basics for creating a strong foundation of fly-fishing knowledge are all there. But for easing a novice into the complex world of fly fishing, Anderson's book is deceptively information-packed. Plus, when you're first starting out as a fly fisherman, a sense of humor is vital, and Anderson delivers on that score.

Once the person has read and absorbed the info in the Manifesto—and has, perhaps, gone fishing a few times—then it's time for one of those bigger, more encyclopedic books.

"There is always a sadness about packing. I guess you wonder if where you're going is as good as where you've been."

— Richard Proenneke

Enterprise at Work

'Somebody's Thinking' Ephrata WA

This fly shop in Ephrata isn't going to loose out on potential customers. A vending machine stands tall out front ready to dispense those extra items an angler needs!

This one contains tippet, leaders, indicators and other odds and ends are available for the fly fisherman on the run...around the clock!



Annual Fly Fishing Destination Seminar And Fly Fishing Gear and Swap Sale



A Good Turnout



Gene Gudger, British Columbia Fishing Expert



Chuck Ballard/John Callahan
talk Eastern Washington Hot Spots



John Schuitemaker presents Washington Streams and Rivers
.....coaxing attendance with a free glass of wine



Brita Fordice of the Avid Angler Fly Shop
discusses fishing Western Washington Lakes



Dick Brening calls a winning ticket—Bill Redmond!



Ryan Smith, owner of the Avid Angler, gets a question from member Don Barton on Saltwater Beach fishing



Lot's of gear for swap and sale
(This is Hawkinson's Stuff)

Thanks To Those Who Made The Roundtable A Success

- Thanks to the band, members: **Dr. Jim Blue, Kenny Reid, Jack Boyer and Chuck Ballard** who provided great music
- Thanks to **Bob Burdick** who set up and coordinated our August seminar
- All the **table instructors** who shared their area of expertise

"Whether I caught fish or not, just the thrill of rolling out that line and watching my fly turn over has been good enough for me. That and the hundreds of treasured memories I have of this wonderful sport."

- Curt Gowdy

'A Steward Of Our Resources?'

Tulalip Tribes Fish & Wildlife Director Arrested in Poaching Investigation

*By Amy Clancy – KIRO News
Via Don Gulliford*

State Fish & Wildlife officers have arrested two men suspected of running one of the largest seafood poaching operations ever in western Washington.

One of them is the director of fish and wildlife for the Tulalip Tribes.

Washington State Fish and Wildlife officers seized a truck, because they believe its owner, Anh Le, of Bothell, bought and sold poached seafood.

Investigators believe Le is just a middle man. They say the big fish in this operation is Joseph Hatch Sr, the director of the Tulalip Tribes' Fish & Wildlife unit.

Hatch and his son, Joseph Jr., were arrested late last month and booked into the Snohomish County Jail on suspicion of felony shellfish trafficking. Hatch Sr. also was booked on suspicion of theft after a months-long joint state and tribal investigation.

"We were surprised at the extent of the poaching, and we realized when it involved a tribal member we reached out to that tribe, and we started a very successful investigation in collaboration with the Tulalip tribe," said Deputy Chief Mike Cenci, with the State Department of Fish and Wild-

life.

The Hatches are believed to have harvested crab and shrimp, violating both state and tribal laws, because they allegedly fished during closed season and after dark. Investigators say the father and son then sold the product to Le and others for around \$6 a pound -- less than a third of retail cost.

Le denied any wrongdoing when confronted by WDFW police Friday, but he also faces possible felony charges. His vehicle was seized. Investigators believe Le sold the shrimp he bought at rock bottom prices from Hatch Sr. to the New Seoul and Phoenix restaurants on Highway 99 in Lynnwood.

On Friday, officers inspected both places, and the restaurants received warnings for missing seafood invoices.

But employees at both also denied buying any poached seafood, as officers with Fish & Wildlife claim.

The investigation continues, and witnesses are still being interviewed. The Hatches have bailed out of jail and are awaiting possible criminal charges in Snohomish County.

"What you saw today, Amy, was us addressing the market end," Cenci told KIRO 7 reporter Amy Clancy. "I mean, if shellfish is so cheap that it's too good to be true, then it's probably not going to be legal.

We've got to do something about this illicit marketplace that is providing the incentive to poach, and that's what we did today."



Anh Le, Bothell may have brought and sold poached seafood

Below is a written statement from Cenci:

This case represents a collaborative and coordinated effort between State and Tribal enforcement. On July 24, the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Police (WDFW) and the Tulalip Tribal Police concluded a joint and long term

investigation involving large scale shellfish poaching and trafficking by serving a number of state and tribal arrest and search warrants.

Two suspects were booked into the Snohomish County Jail for their role in closed season and undocumented crab and shrimp harvest, along with the theft of a boat motor. The poaching occurred during the hours of darkness and/or under the guise of a subsistence fishing when commercial harvest and sales were closed. As is usually the case, the illegal harvests were encouraged by the illicit seafood market ready to purchase undocumented product and closed season product.

Clearly the Tulalip Tribal police and WDFW Police recognized that a joint and comprehensive approach was needed to address the full scope of this illegal operation and take out both the source and receiving end for the illegal seafood. And they did. When the dust settles and some reports are available for sharing, resource managers are going to need to discuss some disturbing trends that compromise fishery management.

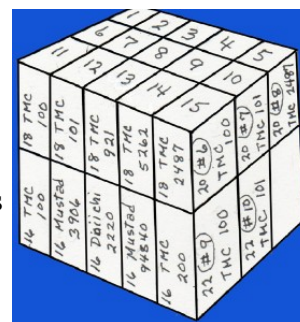
An Extra Tip

Repurposing A Dubbing Box

by Elaine Cook

One way to consolidate and organize your hooks is to use one of the plastic containers that dubbing comes in. These are sold in many fly shops. (See diagram)

You can actually house 30 different hooks. Use stick-on labels cut to size for hook designations.



San Poil River, Ferry County



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

Stamp
here

September, 2015

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:

A Quest for Native Golden Trout

with

Bill Kindler

(WFFC Letcher Lambuth Award Winner, 2012)