

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXIII No. 10

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President's Riffle

By 2013 President Mike Wearne

What follows may be classified as a rant, it is my opinion alone.

Several months ago I misplaced lanyard that I use. I was able to replace each item on that lanyard except for a set of nippers.

My commute takes me near a "big box" outdoor retailer and I thought I would just stop in and pick up the nippers. I was wandering around in the fishing area and asked a clerk where to find the nippers. He admitted he had no idea what nippers were! I was stunned.

Several weeks earlier I had been in Puget Sound Fly Anglers, a great shop in Tacoma near the Tacoma Mall. Anil Srivastava, the owner, was involved in a conversation in which he was encouraging a sea-run cutthroat novice on where to fish. The instructions went something like this, "After you cross the bridge, park your car, go just past the green house, you can get on the beach there. On an out- going tide you should be able to slay them."

Stop for a second and contrast that helpful, encouraging, and knowledgeable comment with the following, "I don't know what nippers are."

Over the last couple of years I have been provided with service above and beyond the normal by personnel in several local fly shops. I remember once I went into Kaufmans and asked **Bob Aid** a question. He grabbed some dubbing out of a package, some hackle from another, and showed me how to resolve my dilemma with a tying problem. Just recently I received exceptional service from Brita and Ben at the Avid Angler in Lake Forest Park. I don't know how many times I have left Patrick's Fly Shop with just what I wanted and needed. I rarely go to Creekside Anglers since I am rarely in Issaquah. However, I do stop there on the way to Snoqualmie Pass, I like their extended hours. I

am rarely on the Eastside, however if I find myself in downtown Bellevue I make a point of stopping by the Orvis outlet, there is something about the infectious smile of Leyland's face that makes the trip worthwhile.

I guess you get what you pay for. I rarely go to a restaurant unless I can talk to the owner of the business; so this obsession goes way beyond fly shops.

My model of a perfect fly shop would include a large couch with some books nearby, a pot of coffee available, maybe even a tying vise which is open to the public. One other item, I like an accessible restroom. I hate to end this on the subject of restrooms, however I will. If you are ever in West Yellowstone, and at Blue Ribbon shop, Craig Mathews' shop in town. Check out the restroom, it is a hoot, the walls are covered with bumper stickers from all over. That is a great store, setting aside the restroom issue.

Thanks for letting me rant.

Mike



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October Program

David Lambroughton

World Famous Photographer and Flyfisher



By Bob Burdick, 2nd VP for Programs

David Lambroughton is our speaker for October and comes to us from Vancouver BC where he sometimes makes his home. David is one of the foremost (if not the world's best) flyfishing photographer and has traveled the world for the last 30 years fishing, photographing, and presenting shows of the world's most famous, and sometimes less well known waters.

He spends 6 months in New Zealand before he begins his annual migration first to the Chalkstreams of England, then back to the lakes of B.C., and then off to the Henry's Fork and Montana. July finds him in the B.C. Rockies and the Fernie Area. In August he's chasing summer runs on Vancouver Island and fishing and floating the Dean River. In September he fishes the Skeena drainage, October the Umpqua, and then returns to the rivers and spring creeks of both islands in New Zealand.

He does all this with a fast moving show of 450+ images and suggests that this will be the best presentation our club has ever seen. He will also offer copies of his famous fly fishing calendar. This should be a smashing slide show---don't miss it!

Fly tier: Walt Swanson

Membership Report

By Charles Davis, 1st VP for Membership

This has been a special year, both for new members and for the Club's protocol for bringing members on board. As those involved with the Club are aware, this spring the Club amended its Bylaws to admit female members for the first time in its storied history. Interest in the Club has percolated from many quarters. For those of us involved on a regular basis with membership matters it seems that we have rolled right from the car to streamside; then found ourselves smack in the middle of a caddis hatch!

In 2013 to date the Club has welcomed eight fly fishers to the new member ranks: **Steve Boyer, Michael Brown, Jesse Fowl, Rich Gaspar, Stephanie Hagen, Suni Pak, William Wheeler**, and the under-signed. In addition, **Andrew Bennett** and **Marty Leith** have rejoined the Club. WFFC extends a warm welcome to all – with a special welcome to **Suni** and **Stephanie**.

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.

Member Biography

Suni Pak

First, I'd like to thank the members of the WFFC for allowing me to be a member of the iconic club.

I grew up in South Korea until the age of 15 at which point my parents decided to move the family to the United States. Native as I was I believed we were moving to the "D.C." Washington so upon our approach to SeaTac I kept looking for the White House, Capital building etc., but all I could see was green and it went on forever. The year was 1974 in early November and I didn't speak a word of English.



My late father was a sportsman hunter and fisher all his life and my two younger brothers walk in his footsteps.

Several years ago my husband and I took a trip through Montana; we fell in love with its pristine beauty and welcoming people. As we drove by the town of Craig I told my husband that someday I'd like to have a scotch on the bank of that beautiful river. A year later I had that scotch and began my journey into the world of fly fishing.

1. Beauty - one must seek a lovely place with pristine body of water where fish are healthy and active
2. Science - study the water, study the fish behavior and the insect life
3. Art - the art of casting and tying flies
4. Lifestyle - a sport of lifetime, a sport for all ages and a sport I could potentially be good at. I never could run and never related to most complete sports. Love all the elements of the fly fishing.

On a whim I decided to take the fly tying and casting classes offered through WFFC, through which I was introduced to some of the club members. Not only did I learn a tremendous amount but I found the people to be kind and engaging

Most of my fishing experience is limited to our annual outings in Montana, but I 'm looking forward to exploring some of the local waters here in the north-west. So currently I do not have much to offer in the way of fish stories but with a few more trips as well as a few more club meeting, where I can absorb more of the fine art of slight exaggeration, I too may someday become a respectable fly fishing person.

'On the Fly'

A synopsis of last month's general meeting

September 17, 2013

By David Ehrich



On a lovely September night, to a small crowd, in a beautiful setting, President Mike Wearne introduced himself to an enthusiastic crowd filled with fans of our speaker, Coach Duff, several guests and many members with fishing reports. My favorite was Professor Shaad who detailed sunny, warm conditions on HiHume down to the quarter inch, once and foot of depth. Key details: 15 fish a day average and \$1000 total expense for booze. More reports took us from coastal BC, the Mathias in Oregon to big times on the Skagit, to Rock Creek and Boulder in Montana in warm, low water yielding modest sized trout, to over fished waters on the Dean, to great Coho in Alaska, to my four Brookies on the Hamma Hamma. The sublime to the ridiculous. Perry, after confessing that he was two Cuba Libres south of coherent, fished Canyon Creek. He put on a sized twelve cad-dis on a four weight rod to find a few trout and ended up catching the Pinkest trout he'd ever seen, in fact it was a Pink Salmon in closed waters; a clear case of when it's better to ask forgiveness than permission.

From there, we moved on to business, including a mea culpa on forgetting to post a fishing report by the Hawk in Creel notes. First order of business was to nominate the nominating committee. Pity the poor suckers who weren't here to resist nomination. As luck would have it, we introduced two new members with the usual warning from Senior Sensation, Gil Nyerges. Our new members, Stephanie and Steve, received flies worth fishing with.

Gil Nyerges then took a moment of personal privilege describing his last meeting with Dick Thompson along with some fellow club members to celebrate Dick's birthday. Members enjoyed Gil's memories of Dick and a recounting of his last days. A great club member who will be missed.

Without hesitation, our speaker, Coach Duff got right to work with the warning that he needs to make money and promotes his gig hard with plenty of loud music, good time, and enormous fish. Moving on from his promo video, Coach took a more studied approach to explaining why they call him the "Pioneer of Bone Fishing in Hawaii." A long time steelhead bum from Queen Anne and O'Dea High School, Duff served eight years in the Marines in Recon, enjoying combat in Desert Storm and Somalia, before coaching his way from high school to the University of Hawaii, earning a Sugar Bowl ring along the way. Moving to Hawaii, he'd heard there were Bone fish, and got going on the search while recruiting for UH.

On to the details, Coach Duff competes for clients with Belize, the problem being his coast of living ain't cheap. He tries to keep it reasonable and accessible. What Hawaii has to offer is plenty of flats,

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most accessible by boat only. You might think the capital is a bad place to look for fish, but Oahu is home to the kings and queens for a reason. Get a few minutes over the mountains from Honolulu, and you'll see why. He's got great water, almost too much for clients and rumor hunters alike to appreciate and access. He likes Kaneohe Bay, Keehi Lagoon, Chinaman's Hat, Hickam Air Force Base and Haai'i Kai.

The local species, *Albula Glossodonta*, is the biggest species of Bonefish, found from Hawai'i to South Africa. Known as O'io in Hawai'i, as he spell it, locals still consider it a food source and Duff has had to defend the fisheries against locals who claim them a food source but then trade the meat commercially. His goal is to get the Bone named as a game fish to protect it against exploitation.

O'io feast on small Mantis shrimp, perhaps the most studied member of the lobster family, because this rather "smarter" fish known for antics like stacking the carcasses of their prey outside their hole, staying married for life, and moving at 78 mph. The punchers shatter aquarium glass and the stabbers kill like a Preying Mantis. The punchers eat crustaceans, the stabbers eat fish. The stabbers live on the flats.

From there Coach got into technique. Let me start with his premise; there's five pound bone fishing which you can do anywhere, anytime and with little innovation, and then there's trophy, or weight fish, that take a whole other level of technique. He prefers the latter. He leads his Bone by a rod length or more, makes long slow trips unless the fish tell you otherwise, wiggle when the fish is near, keep your rod down three quarters to side-arm, keep the tip in the water. Duff likes specific water at specific depth, so he watches the mild tides of the Islands closely. He invented a now world famous "Spam & Eggs" fly based on the Mantis. He likes dark brown and mimics the local shrimp.

With pictures of trophy fish behind him, Duff took up through some good stories about learning the subtle techniques of finding in big fish. He likes an 8 to 9 wt rod with quick action, Bonefish take weight forward lines in clear floaters, 12 foot leaders with 50 to 20 pound tipped and amber lensed glasses.

Wrapping up. Coach Duff's got friends and more friends so he's got great rentals on the East side of the Island, a long way from Walmart and the crazy beach scene. Self-guided anglers can find plenty of boat rentals. On the soft sell, Coach Duff invited us to give him a call but acknowledged that with all the experience in the room, some of us might like to find the fish on our own.

In short: get to the east side of the island, look for good flats in low tide or rent a kayak or boat, and stick with dark brown or contact:

www.coachduffshawaiianbonefishing.com

Committee reports were few and far between due to attrition. Look forward to the Twin Lakes outing near Winthrop that replaces our traditional Dry Falls outing on October 5th. See the website for details.

Christmas Party 2013



Attention, Members

Save the Date!

**By Dick Robbins, 3rd Vice President
Christmas Party**



It's now time to be looking ahead to our annual WFFC Christmas Party and Auction!

It will be celebrated at the Seattle Tennis Club on the second Tuesday of December, the 10th. This year we will be welcoming our new women members and guests who are fly fishing enthusiasts. Please mark your calendars for December 10th. To accommodate more people we will be expanding our space so that we can display the offered prizes and seat more to enjoy the delicious food and libations, music and fun, and trade stories with our fly fishing buddies.

There will be a great selection of fishing gear and guided services, trips and member donated fine art and crafts such as fly plates and custom display boxes. There will be hundreds of items which can be acquired at the raffles and silent auctions and a limited number of special items to be bid on at the live auction.

This is also your chance to add your 2013 fishing pictures to the large collection which our ghillie/photographer **Jim Macdonald**, is now organizing for projection.

Because this party serves as our annual fund raiser, we do need your donations to support the Club. Please consider your desirable paraphernalia, services and, yes, cash. Please be generous and charitable. This party is our opportunity to provide the funds for the important work our committees perform in Education, Conservation, Youth Activities, Veteran Service through Healing Waters and the Homeless through Casting Forward.

Remember, now is the time to invite the friends you want to include and to organize your own contribution. You can expect to hear from one of several fishing friends with suggestions, more news and details of the party. The registration forms will be sent to you to insure you get in on the fun.

Christmas Raffle Feature



Christmas Party and Fund Raider Is Approaching

By Dick Brening



The annual WFFC Christmas Party is only two months away. This year the Hand Crafted Fly-Box Raffle will feature newly designed fly boxes filled with great flies tied by some of the club's best fly tiers.

Here is an example of the new wooden fly-box design containing Skeena Slammers tied by **Tom White**.



Don't miss out! Plan now to attend and bring a few friends. How could you pass up the opportunity to own one of these fly-boxes and the beautiful flies they will contain?



Big Twin Lake, Okanogan

Great Weather, Camping, Food and Fishing October 5, 6 2013

By Dave Schorsch

Spent the weekend with Lynn at Big Twin Lake near Winthrop. We joined 24 club members and guests at the resort there. A nice place with big lawns, and lots of geese and deer.



Big Twin Lake

The weather was perfect for fishing and the fish cooperated nicely, mostly 13 to 14 inch rainbows, with a bunch of 17 inch fish showing up on Saturday, particularly in the shallows.

Happy hour was great, and dinner was terrific, with Mike Moszynski providing and cooking some of the best grilled corn ever to accompany the steaks and

side dishes for dinner.

Special thanks to all who hauled gear over there and back. We had a great time, see you at the November outing!

Superb Corn

Mike Moszynski has the 'magic hands' (with welding gloves on of course) to shuffle around freshly picked cornstalks on an exceptionally hot barbeque pit.



After 15 minutes on the barbeque I thought 'he's just making 'Carbon 12'. Was I ever wrong! Peel back the burnt husk and it's perfect! The best corn-on-the-cob I've ever had! Thanks Mike!



Alan and Hugh Jennings



Chuck Ballard



Jim Young and David Ehrich work the shallows as the geese keep a watchful eye



The 'well fed' enjoying the campfire

Rogue River, Oregon

"O, what a Rogue...."

By Hugh Clark

I fished the Rogue River October 3-7 with Helfrich River guides. This trip is a lodge to lodge affair to adequate riverside lodges with excellent beds, hot showers and OK food. One dinner and all lunches done by Helfrich's crew themselves were all excellent and included hot soup and fish (hatchery) less than one hour out of the water!

Heavy rain the prior week and on Oct 2 left the river slightly off color but certainly ok to fish. Consecutive days saw zero fish, two fish, 24 fish, and 6 fish (in two hours) on the final day.

The Rogue has a steelhead population that returns after just one year in the salt. Our fish were 12-19 inches, strong fighters and with a native to hatchery ratio of 3/1. Five and six weight rods, short sink tips, and heavily weighted, leggy flies were up to the job. Even fishing in the middle of the day was productive as long as we were in the shade. Hookups were less frequent in the bright sun.

My wife, a non-fisher, accompanied me and enjoyed the fabulous scenery and bird life on this remote section of the Rogue. Certainly this is a trip to consider for September or October!



Rogue River Fall Colors

Upcoming Outings

Wetbuns

November 9th and 10th

By Dave Schorsch

It's that time of year again! Soon it'll be windy and cold, with rain threatening every day, perfect weather for a beach cookout!

Our annual WETBUNS outing will be held at Penrose State Park Nov. 9 and 10. We'll be cooking a great big pot of Bouillabaisse next to a nice fire, with garlic bread around the pit. A group effort of shelling shrimp, cracking crabs, chopping fish, and drinking wine will result in one of the best meals of the year!



We reserve the group site at Penrose for Saturday night, which includes several campsites as well, so you can spend the whole weekend if you like.

The fishing can be quite good for sea-run cuts in the Penrose / Lakebay area, and chums are abundant in

several nearby estuary streams. Several members fish in the Allyn area as well.

We'll start preparations for the seafood stew around 4:00. Come on down for the dinner, or come on down for the weekend and fish some of the most beautiful beaches in the Sound. Sign up on the web site for headcount (really helpful), and we'll see you there!

Club Member Receives IFFC Award

Don Simonson Receives the Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructor's Award

By Jim Higgins

Club member **Don Simonson** received the Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructor's Award at the IFFF Fair in West Yellowstone MT on Wednesday September 25. The award was presented by David Diaz the president of the CBOG.

The Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructor's Award is given by the International Federation of Fly Fishers Casting Board Of Governors in recognition of those who have made significant contributions to the IFFF Casting Instructor Certification Program, have dedicated themselves to fly casting instruction and have shared their knowledge with others.



Congratulations Don!

Project Healing Waters



September 7, 2013

Nice day for a trip to Orting and Bill's Fishing Hole. Another Saturday with the Healing Waters veterans.

Fish were real stubborn this trip. It was surmised that our middle fishing pond suffered from low oxygen levels due to a stand pipe that got knocked off in another feeder pond. In any case, the fish seem to suffer from lockjaw. Fish pellets, their favorite food, didn't even seem to interest them much which is highly unusual.



8+ lb Rainbow

Nevertheless, all veterans eventually got their fish allotment and everyone left satisfied.



'Usual Suspects' Veterans and Club Volunteers

Hosmer Lake Oregon

Potential Trouble for Hosmer By Friend of Hosmer Lake

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced plans to end the Atlantic salmon program in Hosmer Lake next year. The decision is based on budget cuts and hatchery capacity. The agency says it will seek public comment on future management of the lake, but concedes that might include an end to the catch-and-release regulations, which would be a terrible step backwards. The fly-fishing only regulations also could be at risk.

This year, without public notice, ODFW planted rainbow and cutthroat trout in the lake and allowed anglers to keep them. Both species are early spring spawners, which means they will be in poor shape for the spring dry-fly fishing that has made Hosmer famous for so many years. At this point ODFW does not know whether these fish or some other species will replace the salmon.



Contrary to ODFW's reasoning there is evidence the Hosmer Lake salmon program is actually self-sustaining and may even make more money than it costs. This is true because Hosmer annually attracts many anglers from out of state who purchase expensive nonresident licenses and spend money locally. The hatchery capacity issue is also bogus. ODFW has proposed combining the Fall River and Wizard Falls Hatcheries, but the latter, where the salmon are now reared, currently has so much surplus capacity there will be continue to be room for the salmon even if the consolidation takes place. The salmon program's only significant cost is the expense of netting salmon brood stock from the lake, and the ODFW personnel who do that work would still be on the payroll even if the program is ended. So ending it for budgetary or hatchery capacity reasons makes no sense.

Of anyone in your club fishes Hosmer, or plans to do so in the future, or values the continuance of fly-

only and catch-and-release fisheries, they need to make their feelings known – now. A petition from your club in support of salmon program and current regulations would be even better.

Comments should be submitted to:

Roy Eicher, Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E.
Salem OR 97302

Want Ads / Buy and Sell

Wanted: Old Issues of Creel Notes

By Ron Tschetter

Wanted, old issues of Creel Notes, 1950, 1960, 1970's.? Apparently there is NO archive . Talked to numerous club members to no avail.



A few members have expressed interest in some historical fishing reports, articles from the past etc. I'd like to look through them and scan a few old interesting articles for the current Creel Notes publications.

Ron—**E-mail:** batribble@juno.com

For Sale: Springcreek Fiberglass, 8 foot

65 # Pram,

By Bob Burdick

With new seat and new oars. \$700 or best offer. Call Bob Burdick at 206-329-5948 or e-mail me at reburdick@comcast.net.

This boat is guaranteed to catch fish as illustrated in the second photo.



Nesting Bald Eagle

Rock Island Lake, British Columbia

Photo Credit: Hugh Jennings



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Stamp
here

October, 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:

David Lambroughton

World Famous Photographer and Flyfisher

Shares his experiences and photos from all over the world