

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

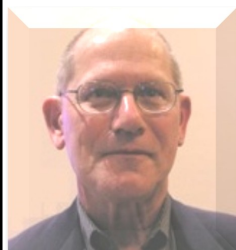


MMXV No. 10

October, 2015

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



Last month, September 9th, a man with whom I crossed paths died. I first met him at the May 2014, Corbett Lake Rod Builders Gathering held over the course of four days at Kamloops, British Columbia. Andy Royer was his name. He conducted business in Seattle as the

Bamboo Broker. Andy was not a rod builder nor a fly angler. He was a businessman who imported bamboo; and not just any bamboo but that which bamboo rod builders use, Tonkin Cane grown in Southern China. Andy regularly traveled to China to personally handle and select only those culms possessing the qualities to be shipped and sold under his name.

Andy was a speaker at the gathering and, not surprisingly, his talk centered around how he went about acquiring the cane; where and how it grows, how it is harvested, gathered, the perils to which it is subject (natural and man-made), sorted, graded, bundled and then shipped. Andy also talked about his cancer. Unaware of the back story, I was mildly surprised to hear someone address customers and business colleagues about health issues (for me an intensely personal matter); however, I came to understand Andy's cancer was general knowledge among most of the attendees and, even if that were not so, I later realized Andy's persona was such that he would damn well tell them whether they knew or wanted to know. Later in the gathering I learned of an event for raising funds to help Andy to meet costs of his medical care which was to be held at a church on Capitol Hill in Seattle a few weeks hence.

At the end of the gathering I drove south to Corbett Lake to join **Bob Burdick**, **Walt Swanson**, and 3 other anglers for 6 days of fishing. This was the second year I had been invited to fish with these guys. Due to my attending the Corbett Lake Rod Builders Gathering, I arrived a half day after they descended upon Corbett Lake Lodge. At Corbett Lake



Lodge we share a somewhat crowded building, take turns at preparing some pretty decent meals for each other and enjoy each other's company or, at times, are subject to some good natured barbs. After the first evening's meal, prepared by **Bob Burdick**, its dishes and pots/pans cleared, washed and dried, corks were removed from bottles containing differing colored liquids. We settled into conversation among and with each other. Since I was the one who showed up a half-day

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October Program

A Photographic Essay of Steelhead Fly Fishing in the Northwest with

Adam Tavender

By **Bob Burdick**, 2nd VP for Programs

Fisherpeople,

On Tuesday, at our monthly meeting, our presenter will be Adam Tavender, former steelhead guide and Dean River lodge owner, and now a professional steelhead photographer who will illustrate his talk about all those wonderful B. C. rivers with a world class series of photographs. Adam grew up in Western Canada's Water-

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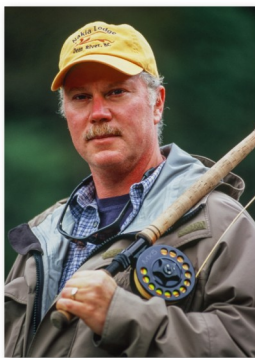
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ton, Glacier and Jasper National Parks which instilled his passion for fly fishing at an early age and his river obsession. If you've yearned to explore the wonderful rivers of B. C., join us for a delightful evening of story telling, fishing technique, and catch pictures to give you enough stimulus to put at least one of these rivers on your bucket list.

Also, take your November calendar and reserve the night of November 17th for the next WFFC meeting. I'm delighted to have Rick Hafele, fly fisherman, fly tyer, book author, and entomologist present "Five Mistakes You Don't Need to Make" while trout fishing. Rick is a prolific author, lives in Oregon, and one of his books is likely to grace the shelf of every member of the club. We don't often get a chance to hear and quiz a presenter of Rick's background and knowledge so bring your lists of questions and plan on being enlightened.



Adam Tavender

(Continued from page 1) - Riffle

late I was soon subjected to a softball interrogation as to where I had been, what went on and the like. I recalled the events at the gathering, including a general and probably somewhat vague description about a guy from Seattle who imported and sold bamboo for making bamboo rods. After I completed my little report, **Bob Burdick** shot me one of his looks: "What did you say his name was? The one who sells the bamboo."

Cutting to the chase. Bob knew and was friends with Andy Royer's father who predeceased Andy.

I did not spend too much time speaking with Andy at the Kamloops gathering and not much of a relationship can be formed on a few casual conversations. I am unable to articulate just why I thought I should attend the Capitol Hill fund raiser for Andy. I attended the event. Bob attended as well. I was able to spend some time visiting with Andy but he needed to circulate so our conversation was neither very long or of any substance. Taking measure of the persons at the event, whom I perceived to be a rather eclectic group, I sensed it may have been reflective of Andy Royer which I later learned to be the case. One of the attendees, and the principal speaker at this event was a guy from Montana, David James Duncan. Some of you may have heard of him (*The River Why, The Brothers K*). I was able to rub elbows and exchange small talk with Duncan as he and I ogled and fondled some of the bamboo rods which were in the silent auction. These were nice, very nice! I did not believe I was worthy of any of these bamboo rods. I walked out the door as the owner of one; a rod bearing the inscription "Trout Grass", #2 of 5": Maker: D. L. Whitehead. Pretty big grin on my face.

Later that year, 2014, I contacted Chet Croco, owner of Bellinger, a company which makes reel seats, bamboo rods and bamboo rod making machines located in Lebanon, Oregon. After a few back and forth emails, Chet and I were able to schedule a few days for me to take instruction on bamboo rod making from him. In one exchange of emails with Chet I mentioned the only bamboo rod I owned was the one described in the preceding paragraph to which Chet responded: "I know the rod well". Really?

I drove to Lebanon and over several days flamed/charred, split, planed, meas-

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Creel Notes

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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 2) - Riffle

ured, planed, measured, re-measured, re-planed strips of bamboo, bound them with string and glued them together. The instruction was one on one. Chet and I talked a lot. I learned a lot. We had, I think, some terrific conversations.

"Trout Grass" is a documentary written and narrated by David James Duncan. Not only is Andy profiled in the documentary, he was one of its producers. With a portion of the proceeds realized on the documentary Andy commissioned Darryl Whitehead to make 5 bamboo fly rods to be presented to selected individuals who assisted in the financing of the production. Chet Croco has a long relationship with Darryl and helped make these rods. As an aside, in a break from the rod making instruction I spent the lion's share of an afternoon with Chet and Darryl in Darryl's rod making shop listening to stories, talking bamboo rods and makers of bamboo rods (me mostly listening and nodding and grunting when appropriate). I also got to see and handle some of the rods in Darryl's collection.

I returned to Seattle with a new and mostly completed bamboo rod.

On my September calendar for the last 6 to 7 years I have inked-in Reel Recovery. Reel Recovery sponsors fully funded 3 day retreats at various venues in the US for men with cancer. Profound and powerful conversations and interactions take place among the participants in these retreats. Fishing Buddies are an integral part of the retreats. **Kris Kristoferson** is the Washington State Coordinator for Reel Recovery and for 2014, I assisted Kris in that capacity rather than as a Fishing Buddy. Some weeks previous to the Washington retreat I provided Andy with contact information for him to explore what Reel Recovery is all about and suggested to him he consider attending the upcoming Reel Recovery retreat to be held at Red's on the Yakama River. Andy was able to attend the retreat. Andy made a lasting impression on all the other participants. At the conclusion of the retreat Andy told me he was pleased he attended and I know he made an impact on not only the other participants but the Fishing Buddies and retreat staff as well.

I last spoke with Andy a few weeks prior to his death. The next shipment of Tonkin Cane, he told me, was due to arrive in Seattle within the next few weeks. If you have not already seen it, get your hands on a copy of "Trout Grass" and meet Andy.

(A post script. Some days after writing this I pulled a culm from a bundle of cane I purchased from Andy last year. As I was hefting the 12 feet of cane in my hands I could not help but consider my brief acquaintance with the man who was responsible for it being in my hands.)

Outings

Hannan Lake

October 17th

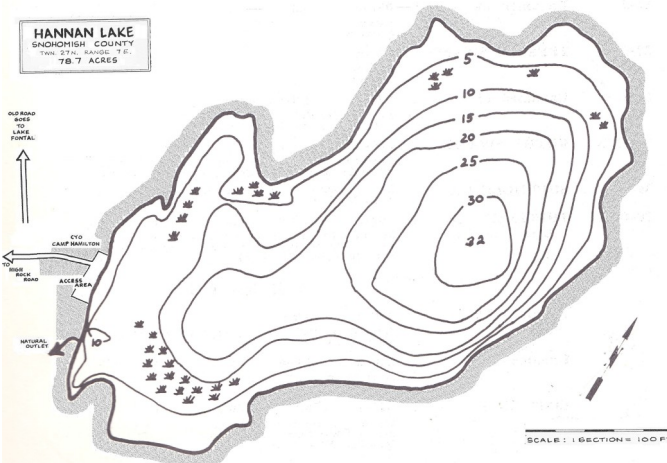
By David Schorsch - 'One of the outing guys'

The outing to Lake Hannan is October 17!

We will be joined by the Overlake and High Lakers fly clubs this year. Group lunch will be served about 1:00 with soft drinks and water, respecting the churches strict no alcohol rule at Camp Hamilton. We have exclusive access from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday.



Maps are available from **Mike Wearne** at mwearne@columbiabank.com. sign up on the website for lunch headcount. This is always a great, close to home fishing trip. See you there!



Wetbuns 2015 November 7th, 8th

Please see WFFC website for details for this outing as they become available.



Club Announcement

Waivers of Liability and Insurance

By Gary Bergquist, President

At the October 6th WFFC Board Meeting, the Board voted in favor of requiring waivers of liability from all WFFC members and their guests attending Outings. This will be implemented in the near future through "click through" acceptance of the terms of the waiver when signing up for Outings on the WFFC web site. For those who attend an Outing without signing up on line the Outing sponsor will have liability waivers to sign at the Outing. The Board also approved requiring liability waivers

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from those attending WFFC casting and fly tying classes.

Also at this Board Meeting I presented to the Board my recommendations for acquiring additional insurance coverage. One portion of the additional insurance will be for WFFC trustees, officers and committee members and is generically referred to as "Director and Officer or "D&O" coverage. The recommended policy has much broader coverage. I also recommended the WFFC acquire additional insurance for its internet operations; "internet coverage". Since the WFFC web site went live it has averaged 5,000 visits per month. You can do the arithmetic. How many of those eye balls can we anticipate may not be friendly? There will also be additional coverage for discrimination and harassment claims.

The additional insurance coverages are separately priced; however, they aggregate approximately \$1700. The Board unanimously approved acquiring this additional coverage. Since these costs are not included in the current budget and exceed \$1,000, they must be approved by the membership. This will be on the agenda for the October meeting with a recommendation it be approved by the membership. If you want more information or have any questions please contact me directly.

Fly Tiers Roundtable

Roundtable Begins

By Dick Brening

This month we will begin the 2015 - 2016 fly tying round table.

The round tables are held on the second Wednesday of the month, with the October meeting being on the 14th. Again this year the round table meetings will be held at the Evergreen Covenant Church located just south of the main business section of Mercer Island. The meetings begin at 7pm and last to roughly 9pm. Contact **Pete Baird** if you need directions.

Everyone is invited, tyer or not.



Hood Canal

Club Outing Near Seabeck

By Ron Dion

WFFC outing near Seabeck this September was quite spectacular. Weather was warm, water was smooth, fish were accommodat-ing and the festivities at **Jay Deeds** were delicious.



My son Dan and I fished near the beach directly across from the boat launch. Using an S.S. Minnow we caught a few cutthroat and 2 coho, the first a wild fish was released, the second a hatchery fish is shown in the photo.



Ron Dion at Misery Point Boat Launch



Dan Dion with a Nice Coho



View of Hood Canal and Olympics from Jay Deeds Place

Big Twin Lake Outing

Club Outing at Big Twin Lake

By Chuck Ballard

To all who missed it you really messed up! The weather was wonderful and fishing was too.

The flies that worked well we're a #16 mayfly nymph on a dry line cast to the shore. And in deep water a lecherous leech was **Ron Dion's** go to fly. The pattern was created by **Scott Hagen** so ask Scott for the recipe .

Mike Mosczynski did his corn on the cob and the club furnished steaks were great as well. Thanks to Mike also for sponsoring this outing and to **Dave Schorsch** for buying some Black Butte Porter for Me! The real disappointment was the poor attendance (only 9 were there).



Big Twin Lake

People you need to make this trip a priority! It's the only way new members can really get integrated into the club is at these outings.

Wet buns is coming up in November the last outing of the year so why not try it.

Upper Columbia River

Fishing the Upper Columbia

By Brian McGee

From what I hear, it's very difficult to find a river in the lower 48 (let alone Washington State) where you have a better than average chance of catching 22+ inch rainbow trout. But that's exactly what members **Gary Bergquist**, **Greg Smith** and I did, along with Greg's brother Charlie and our guides Justin Hotchkiss and Al Parke (shutupnfish.net). The river? None other than the Upper

Columbia from Northport to the Canadian border.

After a 6 ½ hour drive from Seattle on September 23rd we arrived at our lodging in Northport, the Lazy Daze Retreats. We weren't scheduled with our guides until the 24th, but eager as we were after the long drive we all built our rods, tied on flies and hit the water. It was good to get the kinks out, but no fish that afternoon.

The weather the next morning started out about 45 degrees, but promised to be calm with a high near 80. We met our guides for breakfast at the Mustang Grill, and were on the water by 9 AM. It's a big river and the best way to fish the UC is by boat with a good motor to get you to the top of a drift, oars to float the drift, then motor to the next drift. You can also anchor in spots to fish riffles. The fall is often a good time for big dry fly patterns, but a cold snap put many of the October Caddis down during our stay. Nymphs under an indicator were the best bet for action, but we still nabbed a few on the dry.

We fished the riffles and runs up to the Canadian border and back for two days and caught about 40 fish total, 80% or so over 20 inches, all catch and release. The vast majority were rainbows with some cutthroats sprinkled in. There were also big eastern brooks in the river, but we weren't able to catch any. Charlie lost his hat trying to land a big 'bow, but the guide was able to deftly net both fish and hat (see picture). If you look closely you can see the big October Caddis imitation still in the fish's mouth. The biggest fish to the boat was about 28 inches and close to 12 pounds. Each evening was topped off with a bottle of scotch and some fine cigars. On our way back to Seattle we stopped at Lara's Kitchen in Hunter for breakfast. If you ever get a chance check it out. Good food in a unique setting!



The fish and "hat" are in the bag

"The simpler the outfit, the more skill it takes to manage it, and the more pleasure one gets in his achievements."
- Horace Kephart

Mt Baker Area, Whatcom County

Brook Trout Stream September 11, 12, and 13th

The stream I had such fantastic luck last year was a whole different story this year. The water flow was 2/3 of last year's and, from my observations, the number of fish available were much fewer in count.



Normally Great Brookie Water

It also didn't help that a 6 member hiking party got off the main trail wound up on my fisherman's trail ruining any stealth I was attempting to protect.

Furthermore, my fishing time was curtailed when I fell and broke my hand made 4 weight rod. Last year, 20+ fish day. This year, a measly count of 3.

The rest of the day I put things into perspective and enjoyed the beautiful outdoors and wonderful weather.



Largest one I caught—measured 13"

"Water is the driving force in nature"

- Leonardo da Vinci



This large brookie had lockjaw, but fun to watch



Gallup Creek, Whatcom County
Mt Baker National Forest
Numerous spawning Pink Salmon

Whidbey Island

'Doin' It The Right Way' A Couple of Flyfishers Off Whidbey

From Don Gulliford

Rarely do we see fly fishing off our beach on west side of Whidbey Area 9 (Ebb Tide Lane), usually too much weeds, BUT they got 2 small silvers!



These Guys Have The "Right Stuff"

Project Healing Waters



Project Healing Waters

Nisqually Trout Farm, September 19th, 2015

By Jim McRoberts Lead PHW

On September 19th WFFC chapter of *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* took 14 veterans plus two VA helpers from Seattle VA and American Lake VA to the Nisqually Trout Farm just east of Nisqually flats.

Our crew consisted of **Dave Wands, James Schmidt, Deanne Emmons, Hugh Clark, Mike Santangelo, Bob Young, and Jim McRoberts**. It is catch and release except that we allow each vet to keep one fish for smoking or to take home.

Everyone caught many fish. There were four fish over 5#! Could not have asked for a better day on the water! Our thanks to the WFFC Foundation all that support it!



Jim McRoberts Manning the Net



A Good Catch



Club Photographs Announcement

Dick Thompson Photographs

By Mike Wearne

The club recently received photographs and negatives from the estate of Dick Thompson.

Is there anyone in the club that can make contact prints from these negatives? Is there anyone in the club that knows someone that can make contact prints from these negatives?

Please contact **Mike Wearne**, thanks.



"Poets talk about "spots of time", but it is really the fishermen who experience eternity compressed into a moment. No one can tell what a spot of time is until suddenly the whole world is a fish and the fish is gone."

- Norman Mclean

Waders Have Leak?

Turn them inside out, fill with water, the I put baby powder on the outside (old inside). The water shows on the powder and gives you a starting point.

Fly of the Month

Muddler Minnow

The Muddler Minnow was developed in 1937 by Dan Gapen Sr. of Ontario Canada. The fly has seen many adaptations and improvements over the years.

Jack Dennis claims it is the best fly ever tied. Without a doubt it is a great fly, used world wide to represent a sculpin minnow and a wide variety of other fish foods.

Materials

Hook: 1x to 4x Long, size 1/0 to 12

Thread: Black 3/0

Tail: 2 slips of brown turkey feather

Body: Medium flat gold tinsel

Under-wing: Red Squirrel tail hair

Over wing: Two sections of brown turkey tail

Hackle: Spun brown deer hair

Head: Spun brown deer hair clipped and shaped

Tying Sequence

1. Attach and wrap the thread from the eye to the bend of the hook. Prepare a matched set of slips from turkey feathers with about ½ hook gap width. Attach them at the bend and bind down the butts to a point 1/3 of the shank behind the eye.

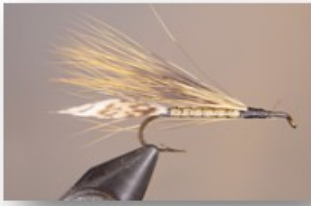
2. Tie in the foil and make closely spaced wraps back to the tail and forward and tie down. Measure a small amount of red squirrel tail to extend just past the tail, and secure as the under-wing.

3. Select two matched sections of turkey tail whose width matches the hook gap. Holding them back to back, mounting them over the base of the under-wing and extending just past the under-wing.

4. Spin a clump of deer hair around the hook in front of the wing base. Trim so that the tips of the hair will remain as hackle and the butts form the head. Whip finish and apply cement to finish.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Finish

An Extra Tip

Fishing Multiple Flies

By Roy Gunter



Fishing multiple flies on the same leader has always intrigued me. I formerly believed it was the smorgasbord approach. The more different flies, the better the odds to catch a fish. While that opinion still holds true to a certain degree, I have refined my opinions and techniques in regard to fishing streamers as follows:

1. Whenever possible, multiple flies should be independent of each other. This means they should be different types and/or sizes. If you fish a leach pattern, then you might combine it with a callibaetis or

other nymph.

2. Large flies like leeches and minnow imitations are fished and stripped faster than nymphs, because nymph insects do not move as fast. If you have a large and small fly on the same leader, you can strip hard and fast for the large fly and also barely twitch or inch the nymph.
3. Flies should be tied so that they have the greatest movement. The dropper fly should not be tied to the turn of the hook of the first fly. Instead, tie the dropper leader to the eye of the first fly. Better yet, both flies should be tied with knots similar to a Duncan Loop which allows maximum movement.
4. I like to have the dropper tied 3 feet to 4 feet off the first fly.
5. If you are fishing one bead headed fly among multiple flies, then the bead headed fly should be the fly tied furthest from your reel. This allows the terminal fly to move up and down between strips.
6. An exception to having the beadheaded fly last is fishing the shallows with a dry fly line. The objective is to fish nymphs approximately 6" below the water surface. The first fly should be a beadhead, such as a Copper John, and the dropper a beadhead or non-beadheaded nymph. The first fly will sink the leader with both flies stripped in slowly one inch at a time.

I hope this advice helps you catch more trout .

Purina has a "cheese and bacon" trout chow that rainbow's will exclusively key in on. Use the "underhand toss" presentation with no retrieve for best results.

— B.C. Biologist discussing a tactical approach to a certain 'pay to fish' lake near Merritt B.C.



Flying Kamloops, Dragon Lake British Columbia



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Stamp
here

October, 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 Photographic Essay
of Steelhead Fly Fishing in the Northwest
with
Adam Tavender**