

Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2005

President's Riffle *By Bob Birkner*

The Wet Buns outing was indeed wet and if exposed to the west or southwest it was very windy at times! Some fish were caught in spite of the weather. Members and guests who attended were treated to a fine dinner with an outstanding bouillabaisse. Thanks to **Mark DeWitt**, Outdoor Chairman; **Dick Stearns**, Head Chef; **Chuck Ballard**, Provisioner; and all who helped with the tarp and food preparation.

At the November Board meeting, Ghillie **Don Schroder** showed off the new Skunk Hat and several members modeled it. Don will have it available at the November General Membership meeting. It's quite handsome so those who report a "skunk" will certainly enjoy wearing it.

If you have photos taken at WFFC outings or other activities please make them available to **Leland Miyawaki** for the Creel Notes and **Kris Kristofferson** for the website. Kris would like to update the website photos frequently.

The Nominating Committee has been working diligently and promises to have a full slate ready for the election of officers to be held at the November meeting. The Ghillie has reviewed all the procedures and guarantees there will be no discrepancies in our ballot counting.

Mark DeWitt would appreciate your suggestions for WFFC outings in 2006. Please give your ideas to either Mark or **Bill Deters**

Holiday Party reservation forms will be available at the November Dinner meeting, just in case you haven't been able to receive yours via e-mail. Please get your reservations in soon because, as always, our space is limited.



And, some items from the Conservation Committee:

1. A payment of \$500 for the purchase of grass carp for restoration of Lone Lake was sent.
2. Please urge your federal legislators, Patty Murray in particular, to continue funding of the Fish Passage Center. Contact Patty Murray at (206) 553-5545 or see <http://murray.senate.gov/contact/>
3. We are on record in opposition to the NMTA salmon derby on Willapa Bay.
4. We will be providing funding to Fred Goetz for purchasing additional acoustic tags for tracking the movements of searun cutthroat in Puget Sound.
5. We will provide manpower to support creel surveys on the harvest, C&R as well, of Puget Sound searuns and bulltrout. Details to follow.

Remember our WFFC matching programs for member donations to both CELP and The Osprey.

Inside.....

<i>Dave Demerest passes</i>	2
<i>On the Fly</i>	3
<i>Reports</i>	4
<i>Classes</i>	4
<i>Cutthroat Symposium</i>	10
<i>NWWFF Fund Raiser</i>	11
<i>Gold Button Update</i>	11

DAVE DEMAREST, July 26, 1924 – October 24, 2005

By Bill Redman

It seems to be the year for losing long time friends.

I first met Dave Demarest in 1964 when he moved to the neighboring apartment on Lakeside Avenue South. We were both bachelors and quickly discovered a mutual passion for fly fishing. Later that year I sponsored his membership in the Fly Club.

Through the mid and late 1960's we fished, camped and back packed regularly, with special attention to the lakes of the Cascades and Eastern Washington and the Grande Ronde River. Sometimes we were joined by his Father, who visited from New Jersey, and sometimes by his two sons. Dave served the Club as Ghillie in 1968.

Dave was a big man with big appetites: for food and drink; for fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, tennis and golf; and for laughter. He brought style to our hikes and camps: a flask of whiskey, a big steak for the first evening, bacon and eggs for breakfast, and resulting heavier packs. As I learned through the years, he also had a great capacity for family and love.

In 1969 he married Peggy, and shortly thereafter, I moved east. He and Peggy had a life long love affair. They joined his sons and her three children into one family, raised them to be five fine adults, and eventually there were eleven grandchildren. We stayed in touch, and he and Peggy were great encouragers when my family moved to the Northwest in 1987.

Again we fished, but not as often as in the bachelor days. Our annual October trip to the Grande Ronde was a favorite, with long lantern lit evenings laced with good food, wine and laughter. Sometimes we even caught steelhead. As the years passed, Dave seemed to enjoy the rituals around camp even more than the fishing.

Ironically, the first of his five strokes came on October 7, 2000, the day after our return from the Grande Ronde. Each stroke took away something more from his ability to function. He had a great will to live and recover, and continued to talk about going back to the Ronde until his last stroke early this year, but it was not to be. He died surrounded by love of family and friends.

Margaret and I miss Dave and Peggy enormously.

Creel Notes

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

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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 work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist young persons—particularly of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

On the Fly *By David Ehrich*

October 18, 2005

Bob Birkner opened the meeting with the call of "good evening gentlemen," and requested the introduction of guests. A wide range of guests competed with clashing flatware, earning frequent applause. Of note, a member of the HiLakes club, Bill Henkel, asked for our help in providing much needed reports on hard to reach lakes (www.hilakers.org). Access the website after you return from a lake and your observations will help keep track of the health of various lakes in Washington.

Bob opened the fishing report with good fishing at Lenore and Dry Falls. The Lahonton trout smoked well, contrary to those who frown upon trout from alkaline waters. A new product, Fliagra, was advertised - "guaranteed to keep your fly up." The Dry Falls trip members reported fish seen, but hard to catch. Cigars and beverages replaced strategy until the rains came and then the fishing opened up. The beaches off West Seattle netted 4-6 lbs Coho. Lenice gave up big browns of size and the occasional rainbow. The Grande Ronde yielded more than enough steelhead for anglers to lose their breath and check their heartbeats for a group of five Club anglers. The Clearwater produced good "A-run" steelhead. Late October through November are good times to visit. Next time you drive by on your way to "blue ribbon" water in Montana, plan to stop. Strangely enough, bream in Africa came to net via corn on a bobber. The Ghillie immediately went to work. Low water on the Yakima

means great wading. Small Mayfly patterns (18-20), especially emergers, did well.

Bill Neal, Awards Chairman, revitalized the Dunker's Award. Members on the Situk heard report of a big splash, repeated several times courtesy of a flooded stripping bucket, Bob still managed to land the Coho. Donning the protective cloth, Bob Young faced the wrath of fellow Dunkers, but lived to tell the story. The Gold Button rules were reviewed (see September Creel Notes for criteria). Look for awards at the January meeting. We voted on changes in wording to our mission statement. Bob led the acknowledgement for the Griffin Creek work party who did battle with invasive plants. Plan ahead for next spring.

The Holiday Party committee report asked for casual volunteers to work the day of the party on easy tasks like signing people in and helping set up. Those who want to help find products for the raffle can go to the club website, grab some letterhead and customize the letter to help contact potential donors. Talk to Ed Sozinho. While you're at it, send Ed digital images for the slide show via email (esozinho@earthlink.net) if you can or send prints to 1106 NW 60th St, Seattle, WA 98107.

Induction commenced with welcoming Robert Thorpe, who quickly learned that membership has its privileges and responsibilities, emphasis on the latter. Mike Wearne, our librarian, discussed new additions to our dusty shelves, including a 1936 self published edition called Fishing in the Olympics, by E.B. Webster.

After discussion of poten-

tial members, we moved to our guest speaker, Rick Hafele, entomologist and author of, Complete Book of Western Hatches, Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects & his newest book, Western Mayfly Hatches, who delighted the membership with information on matching the hatch on Western Lakes. Rick mixes an interest in insects with fly fishing. He reviewed hatches, patterns and tactics. When he gets to a new lake, the first puzzle is "what to put on?" Besides timing, geography, altitude and water chemistry all factor in. Where does one start? Hafele recommends looking "at edges" of vegetation or structure where fish find food and cover as well as access to open water. Edges where water drops off provide the same. When you don't see flies on the water or rising trout, Hafele suggests taking a net and scooping up the area you plan to fish. Empty your net in your handy white specimen tray and look for bugs. Take a note of quantity and match you fly to that color and size rather than assuming "bigger is better." Size matters here boys and the good news is that small is often the right size. Hafele sticks with basic patterns, mindful of color and current stage.

Calibaetis tactics start with a dry line, a leader long enough to reach the bottom and a long cast. Let the fly sink and start a twitch-type retrieve. Let the fly sink every 3-4 feet and rest before you strip. Don't chase the fish around in your boat. Watch for circular patterns. Stay put in a good spot. When you see the fish rising, take a minute, cast in the general area and let the fly rest a while stripping

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

rather than froth up the water with needless casts.

Dragonflies either sprawl on the bottom (fat and hairy) or swim. The swimmers require stripped nymphs to imitate their method of movement (breathe in and squirt). Dragonflies like lots of organic material near shore. Toss out your nymph and strip and rest back to shore, avoiding hooking the logs and vegetation. Fish rarely jump for adult dragonflies, but the nymphs are important. Chose you fly for body shape and color, fish to structure and strip back 2-3" on slow retrieve. Because nymphs are very active at night, try casting after sunset, especially on hot summer days where the fish have hidden all day.

Closely related to the dragonfly is the Damselfly. They feed on small insects on the bottom and provide lots of moving food. Pull up a shore plant and look for damselfs or dragonflies on the reeds, The damsel nymph crawls to the vegetation and climbs up. Fish are never too far from shore and moving to shore. Immitate accordingly as you cast.

Caddis, or Sedges, are fun to imitate, especially the Traveling Sedge which literally runs across the water inspiring big trout to make big takes. Usually the last week of June and early July find the Sedge in BC lakes.

Chronomids, or true flies, have 1000s of types, leaving lakes filled with many sizes and colors. The larva live in the mud in deep

water and aren't a food target. As they emerge, however, the pupae wiggle up to the surface slowly and hang in the surface film for a minute or two as the adult leave the casing. The trick is knowing the feeding depth. If you see midges on the surface and no rises, you can assume the fish are feeding on the emerging pupae. Match your pattern to depth changing flies to find size and color. Hafele uses dry lines, very long leaders and a glacial retrieve (20 minutes per retrieve). Find the correct depth and retrieve speed and you're dialed in for the day.

Check out Rick,s website, www.laughingrivers.com for more information.



Salt water *By Leland Miyawaki*

After two fruitless trips to Harper last week, I fished Yo-Mama (that's what Hamilton calls Joemma). I fished the last two hours of an incoming tide with my pink popper. I was finally rewarded with a beautiful 19" bright silver cutthroat. She struck once and missed and came back to my next cast about ten feet away. I caught only the one cutt but what a beautiful fish! The rest of the time was filled hooking and releasing small silvers between 10" and 12" that were traveling in small rat packs along the shoreline.

Tide: High - 5:58 AM 12.9' Low 11:32 AM 5.9'

dark, he and his partner were fishless, until they saw splashing moving up the river. They then each hooked eight in the next hour, and then the pod moved on. Hootie had a long battle with his largest fish, and when released, it lodged under a rock with its head down-river, a certain drowning. He was unable to reach it in spite of efforts, so he took off his clothes, and was able to retrieve the fish, and after ten minutes of resuscitation, it streaked to mid stream. "That native was too beautiful to die under a rock".



John Day Report, Oct. 8-9 *By Hugh Clark*

The John Day River in central Oregon has been hot this fall. Fishing the private water section as a guest of my son and the John Day River Club on the second weekend of November we had success using a variety of bead headed wooly buggers, especially olive and purple. My son Hootie caught 8, showing up his father who caught two. Each of us got a large fish estimated at 34-5 inches. I chatted with a man who has fished the river for 25 years. On Sunday evening as it began to get

Beginning Fly Tying Class

Date: Thursday January 5, 2006

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church

Basic Cost: \$35.00

Registration is required: To register or further questions please call **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925 or **Bob Birkner** 206-542-4623

WFFC Holiday Auction Donations

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Large items go to:
Earl Harper Studios
5531 Airport Way S.
Studio C
Seattle, WA 98108
206-764-1775

This donation form goes to:
Ed Sozinho
1106 NW 60th St.
Seattle, WA 98107

206-914-0983
esozinho@earthlink.net

Make sure to send in the donation form to Ed, even if you send the actual item to Earl’s studio—we need to plan for the items!

DONOR: _____ **Phone:** _____

Item Description:

Value: _____ **Restrictions:** _____

Item Enclosed: ____

Item Sent to Earl Harper Studios: ____

Item needs to be picked up: ____

Draft Letter for Donation Request

Dear (),

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Fly Fishing Club to request donations for our 67th annual Holiday Banquet and Auction.

The Washington Fly Fishing Club founded in 1939, is one of the Northwest's leading voices for conservation and sportsmanship. In 1940 it was responsible for establishment of the first fly-fishing-only regulations in the Western United States and it has led the fight for conservation-oriented angling regulations ever since. Its public fly-tying and casting classes have taught these skills to hundreds of anglers, and its youth programs have educated generations of children in outdoor crafts and sportsmanship. With a membership that has included several world-champion fly casters plus many well-known fly tiers, rod builders, writers, and photographers, the club also has contributed significantly to the art, literature, and technical development of fly-fishing.

The WFFC continues to work and support conservation issues around the Pacific Northwest. The WFFC funds the work of promising graduate-level fisheries research. It sustains continued education both directly and through its support of other conservation organizations. WFFC works hard on public policy involvement to make sure the waters and the fisheries they support are well represented in policy deliberations and don't suffer under the political pressure. The Washington Fly Fishing Club is active in stewardship and the restoration and improvement of local fisheries. As designated stewards of Griffin Creek the club works with King County to both plan and implement a variety of riparian improvement projects.

This is our only fundraiser of the year, and we expect over 200 attendees at the big event. I would like you and your organization to be a part of this special evening, and would appreciate a donation of any kind. Please let me know if you can help. I will be happy to send you shipping location information or arrange to pick up the donation.

Sincerely,



Ed Sozinho
Donations chairman
206-914-0983
esozinho@earthlink.net

P.S.--

As a bonus to our valued sponsors such as you, we are offering to put your logo and a link to your website on the WFFC website. We also plan on highlighting sponsors in the evening's program and on-screen during the auction. If interested in these visibility opportunities, contact Ed Sozinho our banquet chairman, at esozinho@earthlink.net.

The 2005 Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium -
Preston Singletary

Many thanks to the Conservation Committee for making it possible for me to attend the Coastal Cutthroat Trout Symposium at Fort Worden on September 29-30 and October 1. Unlike the 1995 symposium at Reedsport, OR, which limited itself to the sea-run form of the coastal cutthroat, this one undertook to look at all of the life histories exhibited by this little-studied member of the salmonid family. Sponsored by the American Fisheries Society, the results of over thirty studies were presented by scientists who are examining various aspects of the life of the coastal cutthroat throughout its range from northern California to Alaska. Much new and interesting information has been brought to light concerning both the structure of coastal cutthroat populations and their life histories, including their migratory habits, in the decade since Reedsport.

One rather disappointing report was that of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife concerning the status of coastal cutthroat stocks in Washington state; not so much that any disastrous declines have occurred but that, since the initial assessment of 40 identified stock complexes in the state in 2000, the status of 32 remains “unknown”. This became the source of a rather quiet and well-mannered brouhaha later when it was suggested that the decision, by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, not to list the sea-run cutthroat of southwest Washington (the 7 stocks assessed as depressed) as

threatened, let the WDFW “off the hook”, so to speak, in its efforts to study Washington’s cutthroat populations.

Some of the presentations strained the limits of my understanding of the variety of tools available to the modern biologist, but most of them were well within the comprehension of the layman and their implications to the management of cutthroat stocks in our rapidly changing environment were readily apparent. In a nutshell: coastal cutthroat are under threat from a number of sources but, while not existing in historical numbers, and in spite of declines in some areas, seem to be holding their own fairly well in the face of increasing urbanization with its concomitant pollution and habitat degradation. On the brighter side as we gradually come to understand more about the biology of the coastal cutthroat, the knowledge, applied to improved management programs, can help to keep these populations healthy.

Additional financial support for the symposium was provided by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington Fly Fishing Club, Washington Trout, Trout Unlimited, South Sound Fly Fishers, G. Loomis, **Bruce Ferguson**, and **Les Johnson**. After being reviewed and edited, the proceedings of the symposium will be published; this rather lengthy process will probably take the best part of a year, which will put the publication date at some time in the late summer or fall of 2006.



IMPORTANT HOLIDAY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT

By Ed Sozinho

The Holiday party is fast approaching. Please get your reservations in for the party. If you wish to donate or have made arrangements with a third party to donate items for the party please contact me directly. Please see the attached reservation sheet for sending in your information and payment for the party.

The Northwest Women Fly Fishers & Kaufmann's Streamborn, Inc.

Would like to invite all club members and area fly anglers to a fundraising open house being held Thursday November 17th, 2005.

From 10:00 am to 7:30 pm at the Kaufmann's Bellevue Store.

Help support The Northwest Women Fly Fishers in their efforts to build a permanent vault toilet at the Ringer boat launch on the Yakima River. Something that will benefit us all.

10% of all retail sales that day at Kaufmann's Bellevue Store will be donated to this project. So if you have been thinking about a new rod, reel, line, waders, or maybe some tying supplies come on in and support this fundraising effort.

Kaufmann's Streamborn, Inc. has also donated over \$3000.00 in items that will be used in raffles and door prizes. Including rods, reels, lines, waders, a float tube and more.

Along with helping a worthy cause, come and join in for free snacks and refreshments, fishing stories, fly fishing expertise, and an all round great time.

See You There at:
Kaufmann's Bellevue
15015 Main Street
Bellevue, WA 98007
425-643-2246

Gold Button Awards Length Determinations *By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

The Club has implemented the revised Gold Button Awards program, effective for 2005, and at last month's Members Meeting, I announced that the length of a fish was to be measured from snout to fork of tail. This was believed to involve the least handling of the fish. Since then, some Members have proposed that we adopt the measurement method set forth in the WDFW regulations. The Board reviewed this at its last meeting, determined that the WDFW method would not increase the risk to the fish, and adopted this method for the Gold Button Awards.

Length as determined under the WDFW regulations is as follows: "The shortest distance between the tip of the nose and the extreme tip of the tail, measured while the fish is laying on its side on a flat surface with its tail in a normal position." There is an illustration in the "definitions" section of the regulations that helps to explain this.

Since other WDFW regulations prohibit the removal of certain fish from the water, measuring them in strict compliance with this definition and those regulations probably cannot be done. Even for those fish that can legally be removed from the water, but are to be released, unnecessary handling should be avoided. For purposes of our Award, the most important part of the WDFW method is the standard being the length from nose to extreme tip of tail. It is expected that Members will act responsibly in determining this length for any fish so that is done in a manner that is legal, is reasonably accurate in relation to the length that would be determined under the full WDFW definition, and does not involve unnecessary handling.

Anyone who has previously caught a fish and measured it according to the "snout to fork of tail" standard may submit an application for the 2005 Award. The measurement method must be noted on the application.



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

Stamp
here

Nov. 2005

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

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: In recognition of the WFFC's "Heritage Month," the November program will be presented by Jack Berryman, Ph.D., professor of Medical History in the School of Medicine at the University of Washington and our own Vice President in charge of programs. Jack is the author of the "Pioneers & Legends" section in every issue of NORTH-WEST FLY FISHING magazine and thus far has written twenty-two of these columns. Four of these featured prominent members of the WFFC— Ralph Wahl, Enos Bradner, Letcher Lambuth, and Tommy Brayshaw. Berryman's slide presentation will honor these four men and their many contributions to fly fishing in general and the WFFC in particular. This should be helpful to many of the newer members of the WFFC, since two of the most prominent awards have been named after Lambuth and Brayshaw.