

Creel Notes from the



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



November, 2011



President's Riffle

Decisions, decisions. Spey outfit or new shotgun? Daughter's education or new car? Thanksgiving steelhead on the coast or pheasant hunting near Pomeroy? Ginger or Mary Ann? Is it just me, or are these tough questions for all of you? Really, the daughter's education trumps them all, so I guess I will be driving my pickup for at least the next six or seven years or more. For me, it was always Mary Ann. I don't have a Spey outfit, so I do need one, but I also need a new shotgun since the one I am using is an old 16 gauge from my Grandpa ... so both.

That leaves me with the question I am faced with every year ... steelhead on the coast or pheasant hunting for my extended Thanksgiving weekend. For as long as I can remember, my personal tradition has been to bolt for the outdoors immediately following Thursday's dinner. My family understands. I have three days, sometimes more, to either hunt or fish. For many years, it was a no-brainer ... head up to the Forks area to target the early hatchery winter steelhead. I would get a cheap room at the Forks Motel and hit the Bogey and Calawah for a couple of days. But it was always a crapshoot ... it always seemed to rain like heck before I would go, so there was always a chance the rivers would be unfishable due to high water. I can't tell you how many times those trips turned into nothing more than a long, expensive drive over and back.

Four years ago, another factor entered into the equation ... we got a yellow Lab puppy. These dogs are meant to hunt. Not taking Maggie hunting would not be fair to her. I hadn't hunted for many years, but now I had to get back into it. I'm glad I did. I am a terrible shooter, but watching Maggie work the field and brush is a lot of fun and good exercise. She has a terrific nose, but somewhere along the way the "retriever" part of her

bloodlines acquired a myopathy ... the birds don't always come back completely intact. But despite all that, we both really enjoy pheasant hunting. So, back to Thanksgiving weekend ... what to do? Last year, I was planning on going to Pomeroy to hunt all along, until my hunting partner bailed, and all my fishing buddies said they were headed to the coast. I changed my mind at the last minute and went steelhead fishing. Glad I did, because we all knocked the crap out of 'em. This year? For now I plan to go hunting, but who knows, I may change my mind!

The year is quickly coming to a close. That means our annual fundraising Christmas Party is coming up before you know it. It happens on December 13th (note – this is the 2nd Tuesday of the month – not the traditional 3rd Tuesday). This is our club's main event to raise money that pays for programs like Reel Recovery, Project Healing Waters, Casting Forward, and conservation projects as well. Invite guests to the party – the more the merrier and more money! Think about what you can donate to the party. Let **Mike Santangelo** know if you can donate new fishing gear, non-fishing services, time

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shares, wine, anything of value, including cash. Let's rally together and make this a successful party.

The next general meeting is scheduled for November 15th. It will be Heritage Night, when our club celebrates our deep-seeded history and heritage. WFFC member and noted fly fishing historian, **Jack Berryman**, will give a presentation on Ben Hur Lampman. The nomination committee will also unveil their slate of officers for 2012. Finally, I will announce dues increases for 2012 ... something nobody really wants, but is absolutely necessary for the financial well-being of the club.

It's been a great year so far. Let's keep it going and end with a bang! I hope you all get out and go fishing (or hunting) soon.

Rocco Maccarrone, President

November Meeting *by Mike Wearne*

Jack Berryman is the featured speaker at the November meeting of the WFFC. He is the author of *Fly Fishing Pioneers and Legends of the Northwest*. This publication is a collection of his articles in *Northwest Fly Fishing*. At our November meeting, he will discuss Ben Hur Lampman. Lampman was a longtime editor of *The Oregonian* in Portland. He is remembered for his essays on nature and fishing.

Holiday Fundraiser *by Mike Santangelo, 3rd VP*

The time is coming close. We are just over a month away from the WFFC Holiday Fundraiser. Have we got some goodies for you! Awards and poetry, a Winston "Leetle Feller" bamboo rod, the new Sage "One" rod, Douglas Lake, casting lessons, and lots of beautiful flies, just to name a few.

As a final reminder, the Holiday Fundraiser is on Tuesday, December 13th, at Seattle's Herban Feast in SODO. This is the second Tuesday of the month and not the traditional third. The party starts at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Please be aware that there will be a "cash" and not "donation" bar this year.

The good seats are going fast so get your RSVP's in now. In this case, the early bird gets the San Juan Worm. You can make reservations by enclosing a check with the attached "Reservation Form" and mailing it to me. Or better yet, go to the WFFC Web site and make your reservations. This saves you some snail mail time and gets you into the queue faster. Also, the dinner price goes up significantly after December 1st.

Some of you are still planning on making donations, which is great. We need them. However, if you have a donation in mind or on the way, please let me know what is coming so I can plan for it. I would hate to see good stuff sitting on the back table, when with a bit of

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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.

planning, it could have been a live auction item. I will be at the November meeting to accept any donation items that you may have.

Kent Lufkin currently has around 150 photos. Unless you just want to see a picture show of all the steelhead that I caught this year, you all need to send some photos in. Kent will be accepting photos until December 6. Ideally they should be .jpeg files in the 3 to 5 megabyte size range. Contact Kent at kent@L2D.com if you have any question about how to get the photos to him.

Michael Santangelo, mikeonthefly@gmail.com.

The Christmas Party reservation form has been added to the end of the Creel Notes. You can print it by right-clicking page 9, clicking "Print", clicking "Pages", entering "9", and then clicking "OK".

Wreath Fundraiser *by Mike Hurt*

The WFFC is trying out a new fundraiser this year by selling three types of locally handmade fresh wreaths at great prices. You can view and purchase them directly from our Web site at <http://www.wffc.com>. If you committed to purchasing a wreath or two at our last meeting, please place your order ASAP. All orders must be in by Wednesday, 11-16. There are two options for delivery: picking up the wreath(s) at the designated Seattle location to avoid shipping costs, or having them shipped to your home address via UPS Ground at an additional cost of \$17.05 per wreath. I would recommend the first option if the wreaths you order are for you, your friends, family, or co-workers in the Seattle area. If you wish to ship a wreath to an out-of-town friend or relative, please select the shipping option. The shipping recipient should receive their gift from you anytime between December 4th and 7th. We will include a nice handwritten holiday card inside the package noting that this gift came from you with any special wording you wish to enclose. If you want to bring your handwritten cards to next week's meeting, please feel free to do so and tell **Chapin** or **Mike** who the cards go to.

Please place your order(s) ASAP. We will also have an order form at the November WFFC meeting. Let's make this new fundraiser a huge success this year!

There will also be a photo shoot fundraiser in January. More next month.



On The Fly *by David Ehrich*

Rocco Maccarrone introduced himself to great applause and opened up the floor for introductions and fish stories. The highlight of these trips included skunk on the Deschutes, good steelhead hunting on the John Day, new techniques on the Yakima, trip-loids in Chopaka, and big white fish on the Bitterroot. As if that wasn't enough, we got a report from waters near Detroit that gave up some serious fish (between 3-6") and nearly ended a brotherly relationship. **Dave Schorsh** made the Dry Fall outing sound like one I shouldn't have missed to grade papers. Dry flies all day with some jumping a yard or more to catch damselflies humping in the wind. The trick was to get the fly to rest a few inches above the water. The **Hawk** broke protocol and decency to talk bedroom habits of other members and jumping fish. **Mark DeWitt** took us to Hosmer Lake for some good times, along with frustration hunting coho on the Puget Sound.

From there, we moved onto duties most club members are familiar with: get your flies to **Gil** for the club plate, call **Mike Santangelo** with our donation for Christmas, get your reservations in before December 1 and save \$15, line up your guests for the Christmas meeting. After announcements, we headed into new territory. New member **Mike Hurt** and **Chapin Henry** explained a novel fundraiser for the club: "Sell a wreath, save a trout." Mike has put together the opportunity to buy our wreaths through the club (home page on the Web site). We can sell wreaths to our neighbors and work mates and most importantly, fellow anglers. As a pilot year, the club hopes to bring in between \$1k and 3k of lean green. Members got a load of the goods and information on the process.

All orders, including those sent to remote buyers via UPS, can be placed on the club Web site and paid with PayPal. The deadline is Thanksgiving. Discussion followed. The most salient point is that the wreath sale is a cash-forward arrangement, so each member is responsible for placing orders on

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behalf of their amigos or directing each of their friends to place his or her own order (as long as he or she has a PayPal account).

Doug Schaad filled us in on an impending tragedy, that being the introduction of Chambers Creek hatchery fish into the Elwha. The tribes are solidly behind the premature introduction in hopes of quick returns rather than a healthy native stock in hopes of establishing healthy runs for the long run. As Doug said, "There are still wild steelhead coming up the river and I don't want those bastards breeding with native stock." The conservation committee has gone in whole hog with \$5000 of their savings to support a lawsuit to stop this abomination. Such expenditure then faced membership approval. A motion was made to authorize the CC to make the expenditure. Motion passed unanimously.

Abe Lillard was voted into the club and will be inducted next meeting.

Mike Wearne introduced Gary O'Keefe from Puget Sound Partnership. Greg moved to the Northwest in 1984 and soon learned that if he didn't recycle, care about the environment, and own a Subaru, he wouldn't fit in. His family quickly got fascinated with high lakes, western streams, tide pools, and mountain trails. It looks good on a day like today. But truth be told, Puget Sound is in trouble. Four and half million people line the Sound. Salmon runs are below 10% of historical runs, Orcas carry more PCBs per pound than any animal on the planet, our shorelines bleed human waste, and we can't stop building bulkheads. Even though it's fair to say we don't know what causes the high mortality rate of juvenile salmon, we can probably look to a combination of the above.

More than 135,000 businesses line the Sound in part because they and their employees want to live here and enjoy the natural beauty, bounty, and experience. PSP wants to have it all: jobs, quality of life, and a healthy environment. How do we have it all?

We know that density creates waste and it can cure waste. Sloppy management of storm water creates direct problems. On the other hand, density allows for more efficient land use, recycling, and efficient transportation. PSP has created a list of targets for what they want to maintain as a healthy ecosystem on all levels. Targets for Puget Sound health

then get filtered to county, state, and federal agencies, and give shape to subsequent policies by same. Working without regulatory authority, budget beyond basic expenses, and other overhead, PSP acts as the architect for how public and private agencies can build a better Puget Sound.

Since the introduction of PSP, the feds have coughed up several times the amount that similar agencies had access to before. When the Navy builds shore facilities, monies become available to PSP for a special project to mitigate the impact. PSP acts as a backstop to permit pushback and works to convince communities to put in the time and effort to get it right. Take, for example, the Nisqually Delta improvements, which are a culmination of 40 years of effort by federal and state agencies. As a result, Puget Sound has in place among the best environmental procedure in the United States. Yet it's going to get tough and legislators need to hear from each and every one of us to promote the good work of PSP to our legislator, continue to get people out enjoying our environment, see first hand what we have here, and work on a club level to further these goals.

Greg invited questions and they came hot and heavy because, as you can imagine, PSP hits a lot of members right where they live, literally and figuratively. For example, what about those unnatural "creeks" flowing into the sound? Answer: we need to budget people on the ground to inform and enforce septic rules. Are sewage treatment plants emitting safe outflows? No, we are on a learning curve. Based on what we knew before, we are doing okay. Based on what we know now, we have much to improve. We don't know how various pharmaceuticals affect fish and other sea life. Studies suggest we need a new level of waste treatment.

On a more personal note, **Pete Baird** remembered **Hu Reilly**, who passed away just a couple weeks ago. Hu, who joined the club in 1951, was a veteran of WWII and part of a famous photograph (see next page) by Robert Capa of soldiers hitting the beaches at Normandy, made famous in Life magazine. Pete asked for recollections from those who knew him. Members reported Hu was a generous and humble man who stayed active and fished into his 90's, and gave many a Fenwick rod (where he worked) to the club raffle. Pete followed up with a moment of silence.



Hu Riley in Robert Capa's photograph

WETBUNS Report *by Dave Schorsch*

Wow! What a great day! Nice weather, good fishing, great food, and superior company! A WETBUNS for the record books. We had sunshine all day over an incoming tide busy with sea-run cut-throat trout. Boats fishing out of Vaughn Bay and around Stretch Island did very well. The crew gathered at the group camp area at Penrose Point State Park around 4:00 and commenced with chopping, peeling, and cracking for the seafood stew.

This year we grabbed the tempura guys' burner to cook with instead of melting down another Coleman stove—it worked great! Skilled labor and a better cooker had the pot ready for sampling by 5:30 instead of 7:00. Happy Hour was indeed happy, with 14 club members and guests working on the cheese and wine while the fish stories came to life around the fire. The bouillabaisse was outstanding! The garlic bread was rolled on the fire with skill, and the dessert trays were splendid. A meal to remember!

Many and special thanks to all who joined us at WETBUNS this year. All the help putting the pot together is most of the fun! If you haven't experienced this trip yet, you should! What a good time. See you there next year!

Jameson Lake Report *by Chuck Ballard*

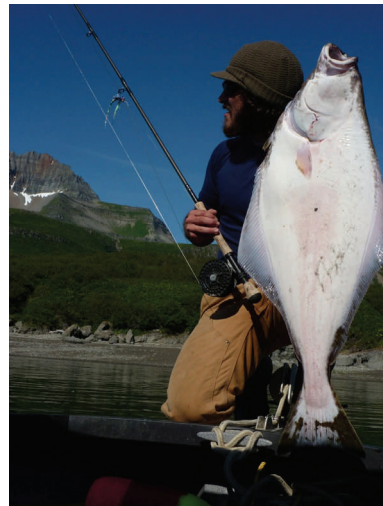
When I left for Jameson Lake from the condo in Chelan, I sure didn't expect the fishing to be so great! I got there at about 9:30 am and found out that the resort at the north end was closed, so I didn't have to pay to launch my boat.

I began at the north end and before I got 10' from the dock, I caught a 16" rainbow and it got better yet. The fish were a mix of recent plants 8" and BIG holdovers that were amazing. I caught and released 35 fish in five hours and three were 20" fish caught between the weed beds and the shore on the very north bay near the old barn that has fallen down. The pattern was a yellow dyed pheasant rump hackle over an olive body number 10 2X hook fished on a dry line. The fish would hit the fly as soon as it touched the water, didn't even have time to strip.

With as many holdovers and the larger plant size of the new fish, the fishing is expected to be great next spring when the lake reopens.

Alaska Report *by Conrad Gowell*

Summer in Alaska was very good. Where else can you catch halibut on a fly and walk amongst the bears in a single day?



Methow Report *by Chapin Henry*

On Thursday, November 3rd, **John Narver** and I arrived to meet our guide, Kevin, at Carlton for a day of fishing on the Methow River. The forecast called for wind, rain, and snow, but luckily we had a day of broken clouds with some sun in the afternoon. Our float started eight miles above Carlton.

The river was low and very clear. We fished with black stoneflies with a red plastic bead dropper. Our day produced three wild steelhead to 14 pounds, one 22" cutthroat/rainbow hybrid, two 20" west slope cutthroat and a 20" bull trout, which were all released. It appeared that the hatchery fish had gone through, which resulted in very little fishing pressure on the river.

We took out around 5:00 pm, had dinner, and arrived back in Seattle 3½ hours later. It was a great day!

Fish on!

Donations to the Washington Fly Fishing Club Foundation *by Greg Crumbaker*

As year end rolls around and some tax planning may take place, please remember the above 501(c)3 organization. This past year the Foundation has given financial assistance to Project Healing Waters (Veterans outreach program), Reel Recovery (male cancer outreach program), and partial funding of the club's Home Waters Project on the Yakima River. There will be a "Raise the Paddle" opportunity to contribute to the Foundation at the club's gala holiday party on December 13th. If you wish to consider a bequest to the Foundation, the following is an example of a simple way to do it.

WFFC Foundation Bequest: I give, devise, and bequeath \$xx,xxx of my estate, after taxes and debts have been satisfied, to The Washington Fly Fishing Club Foundation, a Washington state nonprofit corporation and a 501(c)3 charitable organization located in Seattle, Washington.

The above is meant as an example and actual wording should be reviewed with your financial planner.

WFFC Christmas Party - Flybox Raffle Preview *by Dick Brening*

This year's donations of flies tied by WFFC members are very impressive. All of them are of collector quality. As a result, a large number of handcrafted wooden fly boxes filled with these beautifully tied fly patterns will be offered in a special raffle where each raffle ticket will have multiple chances to win a fly box of your choice. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Join in the party festivities and make sure to buy some of the special fly box raffle tickets.

Here are some samples of the flies that will be available:

Robert Tovar - Summer Berry, Purple



Gene Gudger - Red Butt Black w- Silver Rib



Steve Sunich - Spruce Fly



Jim Higgins - Blue Quill #18



Mark Pratt – Pratt's Mickey



Preston Singletary - Callibaetis Nymph



John Callahan - Seep Lakes Still Water Collection



Mike Santangelo - Spey Fly Collection4



Ron Dion - Mayfly Dunn



Tom White - Babine Slammer, Pink



Roger Rohrbeck - Ice Cream Cone #18



Fly Tying Class Starting *by Jim Higgins*

It is time to sign up your friends and family for our fly tying class. The class starts on Thursday, January 5, 2012, and goes for eight Thursdays. It will be held at 6:30 pm at Mercer Island Covenant Church located at 3200 78th Ave SE on Mercer Island. Our gifted instructors start with the basics and lead the students through some of the more advanced tying steps by teaching them to tie 15 different patterns—"the ones that catch fish". I am sure you know someone who would benefit from this class or you may just want to brush up on your own tying skills. Only \$35 to take the class. A DVD of the instructors tying the flies is available for only \$10 more. To register, or for more information, call **Jim Higgins** at 253-350-5085.



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

Stamp
here

November, 2011

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:

The Washington Fly Fishing Club Christmas Party/Holiday Fundraiser

GENTLEMEN

THE 2011 WFFC CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATIONS ARE \$60

Dinner price will increase to \$75 each if reservations are received after Dec. 1st., so **RESERVE NOW!**

FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR RESERVATIONS TO BE ACCEPTED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 2011

SoDo Park by Herban Feast
3200 1st Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98134

FEATURING THE 2010 WFFC CHRISTMAS BANQUET & RAFFLE

5:30 PM: Wet Fly Practice, Raffle Tickets Sales, Review of Auction Items

7:00 PM: Dinner: Choice of Beef Tenderloin, Black Cod, or Squash Ravioli.

Dinner until closing: Merriment, Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction, and More Merriment

IF YOU BRING TWO OR MORE GUESTS, WE WILL RESERVE YOUR TABLE SPACE IF YOU RESERVE BY Dec. 1, 2011.

Credit Card registration in online (the Members section at WFFC.com). For checks, use the form below. If you have not yet contributed to the auction or raffle and want to, get in touch with Michael Santangelo (206) 465-4032 or mikeonthefly@gmail.com. If you would like to make a cash contribution, fill in the appropriate space on the form below and include that amount with your reservation fee.

(CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE AND MAIL FORM WITH PAYMENT)

MAIL IN THIS RESERVATION FORM NOW!!!
Checks Only, No Credit Cards Accepted With Mail-In Reservations

Name: _____ # in party: _____ # of reservations: _____

Names of Others in Party: _____

Dinners - Total: _____ Tenderloin _____ Black Cod _____ Ravioli _____

Total payment enclosed: _____ dinners x \$60 each = \$ _____

I would also like to make a cash contribution toward the WFFC Fund Raiser \$ _____

Send this reservation form along with check to:

Michael Santangelo
6351 SE 24th St.
Mercer Island, WA 98040