

Creel Notes from the



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



December, 2004

Presidents Riffle

By Jim McRoberts, "Lame-Duck" President for 2004

This year we asked you to help us by doing "ONE-MORE-THING" for WFFC. Sponsors, did you talk with the new members and encourage them to participate? Did you attend an outing this year? Our Outdoor Chairman, **Mark DeWitt**, gave you many from which to choose. We owe him our thanks for a job well done!

Many of you work behind the scenes and your efforts are appreciated. There are many ways to improve the WFFC. Speak up if you have ideas and offer to help!

I will turn over the helm to Bob Birkner at the January meeting. His Officers and Board of Trustees are:

Co-1st VPs

Mike Wearne

Ed Sozinho

2nd VP

Jack Berryman

Secretary

John Gravendyk

Treasurer

Steve Sunich

Co-Ghillies

Don Schroder

Doug Smith

New Trustees

Kris Kristoferson

John Schuitemaker

Continuing Trustees: Paul Lingbloom, Hugh Clark, Jim Hanson & Dave Schorsch

I will replace **Richard Embry** as the *New "Past President"*. I owe all my Board and Committee Chairmen a deep debt of gratitude for their help this past year. **THANK YOU ALL!**

More than likely we will have a new governor by January! The conservation organizations are all ready starting to plan for the start of the next legislative session that begins January 12th. The Washington Environmental Council and others will sponsor a legislative workshop on January 8th. Then on February 17th, several hundred citizens' lobbyists will descend on their legislators in Olympia. This is a budget year and we want our fair share, which is about 2%! I would be happy to discuss these items with any of you.

The College Club has notified us, in accordance with our agreements, that they will raise the meal price by \$1.00 to \$22.00 beginning in January 2005

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The Big Event is here!

This month is the WFFC Holiday Dinner, Auction, and Raffle!

Where: College Club (of course)

When: Tuesday, Dec. 21st-- Wet Fly hour at 5:30,
Dinner at 7:00.

Raffle, Auctions, and Entertainment throughout the evening.

Attire: Coat & Tie

How Much: If you've not yet paid, it is \$40 at the door,
CC's accepted.

Wine/Beer \$2, Mixed drinks \$3

It's shaping up to be another great evening:

*Live music will be provided during Wet Fly hour by Dave Montgomery's band, *Hurricane Ridge*

*As usual, there will be a "year in review" slide show and other video entertainment

Many exciting items will be available for auction and raffle, such as:

- The Ultimate Sage package (rod, reel, line, and more)
- Amazing artwork
- Guided trips
- Various supplements for your den
- A spey casting package
- A beautiful wooden tying box
- A complete steelhead outfit
- More, more and more!

We are essentially full, but if you haven't yet reserved a seat for dinner, you are still welcome. There are usually cancellations and no-shows, so some seats will open up for the dinner, and of course you can always participate in the raffles and auction.

See you Tuesday night for some great holiday spirit!



Creel Notes

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Jim Hanson '03	Dave Schorsch '03
Hugh Clark '04	Paul Lingbloom '04

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 boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

The following is the text from Rich Simms, President of the Wild Steelhead Coalition, presentation to our own tireless defender of Wild Steelhead, Bill Redman. – ed.

Wild Steelhead Coalition Honors WFFC Member Bill Redman

“The Wild Steelhead Coalition’s ‘Conservation Award’ is presented to an individual or group that, through their actions and/or accomplishments, have made significant and noteworthy contributions to the protection and/or propagation of wild steelhead.

This, our first ever Conservation Award winner, began fishing for steelhead in the Northwest in the late 1950’s, catching his first steelhead in the Pilchuck River on a spinner in the winter season of 1960-61. His first fly-caught steelhead came in August of 1961 below Deer Creek on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River. He caught more fish while gear fishing during the early 1960’s, but the turning point for him came on the Grande Ronde in September 1965 when he caught two fish on a fly about five cast apart. He remembered that “They were both absolutely wild and tore up the river, that did it, I was a steelhead fly fisher.”

After almost 40 years, he still calls the Grande Ronde his “home river” but also has enjoyed the North Fork Stilly, Wenatchee, Methow, Clearwater, Deschutes and the North Fork Umpqua, among a few others. And like many of us in this room, once he began to pursue steelhead, he noticed a difference between hatchery fish and wild fish, and began devoting his time and energy to conservation oriented groups and clubs.

He became a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club in 1964, served as it’s president in 1968. Enos Bradner presented the WFFC’s first Tommy Brayshaw Award to Bill that same year. He was also a founding board member of the Washington Environmental Council from 1967-69. Around this time, our award winner became a charter member of the Federation of Fly Fishers and since 1995, has been a member of it’s Steelhead Committee. He has been the chairman of that committee since 2000 and in that role, contributes regularly to The Osprey, the newsletter of the FFF Steelhead Committee. He has also been a regular participant in all 5 of the

Steelhead Alliance Summits sponsored by the WSC and authored the recently completed position paper on the Endangered Species Act listings of steelhead which has been co-signed by many other groups including the WSC.

Our award winner is passionate about steelhead and notes that it is their “romantic and dramatic life history and the out of control feeling of a fresh, hot steelhead on the end of the line that keeps me coming back through all the dry trips”. He has also observed that “the wild fish seem to make a leisurely migration, spreading themselves out through the river at various times. The hatchery fish came like lemmings, all at once, and go rapidly to the release point, and hang around there. The wild fish migrations are much more likely to spread the anglers out, creating a much better social experience.”

Our award winner retired in 1993 after 34 years with IBM and he and his wife have 4 grown children. And he has not slowed down! He just returned from a trip on the Grande Ronde.

It was the unanimous vote of the WSC Board of Directors to honor this man with our first Conservation Award. The WSC is extremely proud to present our Conservation Award to Bill Redman.”

New Roster is in the Works by Don Schroder

We are getting an early start in updating the club roster for 2005. There will be a master roster at the party this month which I will have in my possession. Each of you should check it for accuracy and make any changes. Please mark your address as being **OK** if the information is correct.

Bob Birkner will be there with a camera to take your picture. He will be set up in one corner of the wet fly room. (And you’ll be all dressed up).

For those of you who cannot attend, please check your own copy of the roster and any changes should be emailed to **John Schuitemaker** at: johnschuitemaker@covad.net.



Skagit River Report, December 9, 2004

By Leland Miyawaki

John Farrar and I fished the Skagit today. I left the house at 5 AM and arrived at the North Cascades Inn at 7:15. After breakfast, we launched at Rockport and were on the water at 9 AM. The water was in perfect shape at 6650 cfs. If anything it was a little too clear.

We fished the Mixer without any action then moved upstream past Rockport. After lunch, we fished a new run that looked promising. John took the upstream portion at the head and I walked down to a small break in the current. The river was splitting off into two side channels and the main body continued downstream. I was standing in calf deep water and casting across into the main current. The fly swung out of the current and would flow towards the first side channel. As I stepped downstream, the fly swung out of the main current and dropped in to the soft "v" between the two currents that was approximately 3 feet deep. I was fishing a black/purple/red violet marabou spey and it was HAMMERED by a beautiful, chrome bright 14-15lb hatchery buck.

Beginning Fly Tying Class

Thursday January 6, 2005

Duration: 8 Weeks every Thursday evening

Time: 7PM to 9PM

Place: Mercer Island Covenant Church, 3200 78th SE Mercer Island

Cost: \$30.00 base cost. \$20.00 for DVD

Registration: Required. To register or further questions call: **Don Simonson** 206-932-4925 or

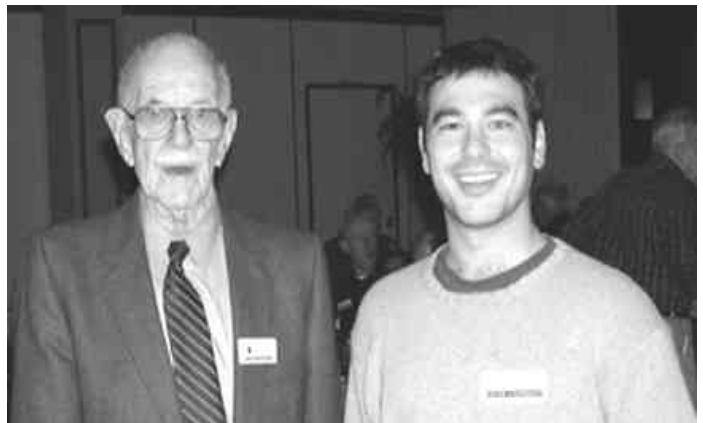
Bob Birkner 206-542-4623

Don Simonson, Education Chair

2005 HIGH LAKES TRIP

The High Lake trip this year is in the planning stages for the Wind River Mts. in Wyoming. The time frame is the last week in July. There are 6 openings available. The cost is approximately \$350 per person. This is the cost of hauling our packs in on horses and then having our gear hauled out a week later. The tentative hike would be 10 or 12 miles. We would do day hikes from a main base camp. We need to finalize our arrangements by mid January. For further information call **John Callahan** or **Pete Baird**.

There will be a "spouses invited" gathering at Pete Baird's on Feb 18 at 7:30 PM to summarize our progress to date for the 2005 trip and coordinate remaining pre-departure actions. Beverages and a light desert will be served. 2004 trip highlights by attendees will also be shared. Please identify plans for trips to be shared and coordinate display media requirements with Pete beforehand. Thank you!



Frank Headrick, the oldest member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, and **Peter Crumbaker**, the youngest member. Frank joined the club in 1940 and served as its president in 1942 and 1943. Born in Bellingham, Frank currently lives in Seattle and is looking forward to his 96th birthday. Peter, who was just recently inducted, is 26.

New Member, John Charette

Sponsors - **Rocco Maccarrone & Dean Ingram**

John Charette grew up in Manchester, Connecticut. He went to college at Saint Bonaventure University and earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda Maryland. He is an Emergency Medicine physician and lives in Bellevue with his wife Janice and their two Labrador retrievers (Amber and Jasmine) and two cats (Rambo and Einstein). When not providing adult supervision to her husband, Janice works as a radiologist in downtown Seattle. John served 25 years in the United States Army, and ended his military career as the Chief of Emergency Medicine at the Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis.

John has been fly fishing seriously for 12 months. His past fishing experience has been primarily trolling for salmon in Puget Sound. He caught his first "respectable" fish on a fly rod at the new member outing. Since then he has caught nice fish in high mountain lakes in British Columbia and trout streams of central Connecticut. When not flyfishing or working, John is kayaking in British Columbia and the Puget Sound region. He is working out the finer points of flyfishing from a kayak.

John hopes to continue learning about the art and science of flyfishing while contributing to the "Band of Brothers" spirit of the WFFC and would like to help with our website.



WFFC Library Report *By Michael Wearne*

This message is meant to bring the membership of the club up to date on the WFFC Library.

There has been an effort to develop a current list of the books and videos. While the list is not guaranteed to be accurate; it is available for review during the meetings. Eventually the list of books and movies will be available on the website.

Over the last couple of years we have received significant donations of books from the estates of Ken Jarvis and Bruce Greene. In addition the club has recently received generous contributions of books from Gordy Young and Lyle Manson. Many of these books have been added to the library

We have located a relatively small group of books which were in the storage facility maintained by the club. Many of these books were duplicates, however a few were added to the collection in the library

The capacity of the storage space of the library does not provide space for the duplicates. A program has been initiated to donate the duplicate volumes to public libraries throughout the Pacific Northwest. After an initial offer was made, we have received an indication of interest from numerous libraries in small communities. The intent is to provide a library with a number of books, including fly casting techniques, guide books, fly tying instruction, entomology, and general texts. As part of this contribution of books; the club would expect to receive recognition in the form of a book plate in the book and a notice in the local newspaper.

The WFFC library is an asset of the club. At a future meeting you are encouraged to come and check out the wealth of good books and videos available.



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Stamp
here

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 7:00 PM

This month is the WFFC Holiday Dinner, Auction, and Raffle! See more on Page two!