Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com





MMXV No. 12

December, 2015

President's Riffle

By President Gary Bergquist



We had a pretty busy November Membership Meeting.

Officers and Trustees were elected for 2016

President. First Vice President (Membership) Second Vice President (Programs) Third Vice President (December Program) Secretary Treasurer Ghillie Number One Ghillie Number Two

Trustee Trustee

Gary Bergquist Chapin Henry Bob Burdick Kerry Oldenburg Tom Neu Jim Goedhart Jim MacDonald Abe Lillard Peter Crumbaker **Ron Little**

Completing their service to the Club will be **Scott Hagen**, First Vice President, Stephanie Hagen, Secretary, and Trustees Dave Hawkinson and Roger Rohrbeck. Many thanks to Scott. Stephanie. Dave and Roger for serving as officers and trustees. Many of us have served as the club in differing capacities and well know the time and effort it takes to discharge the duties of the offices which we held .it is only through the efforts of our members that this organization survives. Thanks again to the Nominating Committee, Craig Crumbaker, Jim McRoberts, Dick Brening Ron Dion and Chuck Ballard. The Nominating Committee generally operates below the radar in its efforts to recruit officers and trus-

At this meeting the membership approved the expenditure of funds for the redevelopment of the WFFC website and confirmed the appointment of a Website Redevelopment Committee of Roger Rohrbeck, Jim Young, Kris Kristoferson, Peter Crumbaker, and Elizabeth Hendrix to be chaired by Jim Goedhart. If you are contacted by members of this committee to help with the redevelopment of the website please give him/her your full cooperation. The website is

terribly important for the WFFC for our members use as well as serving as our public face.

Continuing on. The November meeting also saw us voting in three new members, Alexander Caskey, Chuck Just and Richard DuBose. Gil Nverges presided over the induction of new members Elizabeth Hendrix, Alexander Caskev and Richard DuBose.

At the December Board meeting. The Board voted to

(Continued on page 2)

December Program

The Time to Register is NOW for WFFC **December Holiday Gala!**

By Kerry Oldenburg, 3rd Vice President

Registration closes Thursday December 10th at midnight for the WFFC December 15th Holiday Dinner and Auction. Be sure to visit our web site to register vourself and your guests as all attendees must be preregistered and prepaid by Thursday December 10th!

Come one, Come All! Bring your sweetheart, family (adults) and friends for a fun, entertaining, and delicious Holiday Evening Event. Support our club's annual fund raiser, and our meaningful community service programs such as Healing Waters and Reel Recovery while reeling in some fabulous auction items and having a good time!

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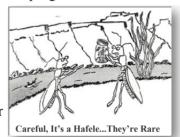
increase dues by \$10.00 for Members and \$5.00 for Associate Members. This increase will go a long way toward offsetting the cost for additional insurance for the WFFC which was approved by the Membership at the October meeting. The form for renewal of membership is included in this issue of Creel Notes. Please renew early and make Chapin Henry's job as First Vice President easier.

This will be Ron Tschetter's last edition of Creel Notes. We are indebted to Ron who has given of his time as Editor of Creel Notes. Ron has done an incredible job and please let him know you appreciate his work. Ron, it has been a damn good run. You have done Creel Notes and the WFFC proud. Thank you very much.

I am terribly pleased to announce that **Deanne Emmons** has accepted the editorship of Creel Notes. In discussing this position with Deanne I gave her assurances that I will be involved, at least in the initial months, with the publication. **Mike Wearne** has also agreed to put his oar in the water for Creel Notes as has **Don Gulliford** (Rumors of Mike being water-boarded immediately prior to making this commitment are false). I predict more names to be added as 2016 progresses.

Not sue this fits in here but USPS recently delivered my copy of the Winter issue of *Fly Fusion Magazine*. This issue contains a feature article by Rick Hafele, who you will recall presented our November program. The article,

Summer Advice for the Winter Vise, is well worth your time, cute title. So cute I was passing over it until on the next page I noticed the photographs of the patterns under discussion. Spiders. Simple effective patterns, often over looked. If you are not familiar with this publication, check it out. I think it is one of the better fly fishing magazines.



(Continued from page 1) -Party

Join your fellow club members **Kris Kristoferson**, our Honorary Master of Ceremonies along with **John Schuitemaker** and **Peter Crumbaker** this year's Auctioneers, as they outdo each other to win your hearts and dollars while they entertain you throughout the evening.

As our annual and **primary** fundraiser, we count on your support through attending and participating in the silent and live auctions and raffle selections. We want to thank our wonderful local vendors, guides, and of course club members who have pro-

local vendors, guides, and of course club members who have provided a tremendous selection of wonderful donations. Here is just a sample of some of the live and silent auction items:

- New Sage and R.L. Winston Rod and Reel packages
- Professional and Member hosted guided fishing trips
- Condos, Cabins and B&B stays in Whistler, Sun Valley, Friday Harbor or Lake Chelan
- Hosted Dinner Parties for 8 or more
- Dinners out for 2 or 4 at Seattle fine restaurants
- Fine wine beer spirits and cigars
- Original Paintings, Limited Edition Prints and Photography by Ralph Wahl and Dave McCoy

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Creel Notes

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

President

Gary Bergquist

1st Vice President (Membership)

Scott Hagen

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Bob Burdick

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Kerry Oldenburg

Treasurer

Jim Goedhart

Secretary

Stephanie Hagen

Ghillie 1

Jim Macdonald

Ghillie 2

Abe Lillard

Trustees

Roger Rohrbeck '13 Dave Hawkinson '13 Mark Pratt '14 Ron Dion '14 Walt Swanson '15 Robert Tovar '15

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:

- To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
- To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
- To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
- To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
- To encourage and assist others particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.

(Continued from page 2) - Party

All this and of course the Raffle Can and Fly Box Raffles! Take some time during happy hour to peruse the terrific Raffle selections this year and enter to win a custom fly box filled with flies tied by the best fly tiers in the state. What a night!

Join the gang at the WFFC 2015 Holiday Party at the Seattle Tennis Club. Happy hour starts around 5:30 with plenty of time to visit with a hundred of your closest friends! Dinner will be served at 7:00, with wine on the table. Entre choices are Roasted Alaskan Halibut with ba-



con/Brussel sprout slaw, Beef Tenderloin with blue cheese demi glace, and a Creamy Vegetable Risotto. All followed by a yummy dessert and the auction fun begins.

Registration is available on the WFFC web site for dinner and menu selections and for you to register guests. You can pay online via credit card or pay-pal. Sign up now to reserve your spot! Registration closes December 10th at midnight! The cost for this gala event is \$85.00 per person. This will include dinner, salad, and entrée of choice, dessert, and wine. Support your club, Support your Friends!

Contact Kerry Oldenburg at <u>kerry.oldenburg@gmail.com</u> or Cell: 206 226 8828 with questions.

Register now and see you at the party!

Date Change - January Meeting



Please make a note: January's Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26th, 2016

Dues 2016

Dues, Per Bylaws

"ARTICLE III requires the following be published in the December Creel Notes:

"ARTICLE III,

SECTION 4. Dues Notices. A statement of dues payable shall be sent to each member by the First Vice-President with the mailing of the December "Creel Notes" each year. One (1) additional notice shall be sent by the First Vice President of Membership to members whose dues are unpaid as of January 30.

SECTION 5. Delinquent Dues.

- A. Any member delinquent in dues payment on March 1 of each year shall automatically be dripped from membership and the Club mailing list, without notice.
- **B.** Delinquent members may regain active or, (if eligible) associate membership by payment of a late fee and the appropriate annual dues, providing reinstatement occurs during the year in which the dues became delinquent. Otherwise, regaining membership shall be through the Readmission of Former Members process."

The Hatchery Issue

Puget Sound Steelhead Update By Scott Hagen

Most of you know that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife stopped planting hatchery steelhead in many of our Puget Sound Rivers last year. This was done due to the threat of a suit by many of the conservation organizations in the area claiming that the continued planting of hatchery steelhead was damaging wild steelhead populations and thus violating the Endangered Species Act. The WDFW knew that the science and evidence was solid and that they would lose in court, so they agreed to stop planting hatchery fish in most of the rivers in Puget Sound.



A Pair of Steelhead Spawning

Now NOAA, the Federal agency responsible, is proposing an alternative to a full environmental impact study that should be done prior to reintroducing hatchery steelhead into these Puget Sound Rivers. I waded through the ninety pages of their proposal a few weeks ago and concluded that it was an attempt to do an end around the intent of the ESA so that the WDFW and the tribes could start planting hatchery steelhead in Puget Sound Rivers this spring without doing the full environmental impact study required by law. I was not alone in reaching that

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conclusion.

Several of the area's most respected conservation organizations are preparing to file a notice of intent to sue NOAA for not following the law. Because I had made several written comments on NOAA's proposal, I was asked if my organization would like to be a signatory on the intent to sue letter. I presented the situation to the Board on December 1st, and after a spirited discussion, the Board voted to sign on to the letter. I would like to thank our President, **Gary Bergquist** and our Conservation Committee Chair, **Doug Schaad** for their strong support.

I am proud that the WFFC is signing on to this letter and once again becoming a voice for the conservation of one of our precious resources, wild steelhead.

WFFC Foundation

Year End Giving By Greg Crumbaker

As most of you know the above Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that was started in 1974 to be "operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes...".

Programs supported by the Foundation in 2015 included Project Healing Waters, Reel Recovery, Casting For Recovery and the NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. In the past, the Foundation has also financially supported graduate students in the U of WA. school of fisheries. At the upcoming WFFC Christmas party, the Foundation will conduct a 'Raise the Paddle' for contributions to support the Foundations activities.

All donations are tax deductable for Federal income tax purposes. Paddle brackets will range from \$500 to \$50. Please give consideration to a donation. Thank you.

Passing the Torch Rod

The Passing of the Rod, Gil's Gift to Peter By Gil Nyerges

I was really amazed at the low response that I received when I asked the audience at the Induction Ceremony in November "how many people remember Charlie Schroeter?" It opened wide to me the way the club's personality has changed since I became aware of its existence in 1954, and after a few guest meetings joined it when Don Sachs sponsored me to join in 1956. Charlie was brand new to the oddities of fly fishing when he was invited and applied for membership, but being a true European/Swiss

Continental gentleman he was great for being an intense listener in order to join our group of "ruffians" and in a short while he became one of our beloved comedians and clowns to be "One of the guy's". He did, however, become a fairly competent caster and sportsman, and since he was within a month of being my own Dad's age, we had no problem becoming attached to each other for many, many fishing forays in the future right up until the day he unexpectedly died. During his "apprenticeship" he worked his way through several different makes of gear, but was never really satisfied with his casting ability until he became acquainted with Winston gear and eventually, for about \$1600, arranged with the "Master" to custom-build for him a beautiful cane rod that he could use to concentrate on Rainbow trout, and the wily Steelhead. He became quite proficient with it, bringing to net a satisfactory quantity of his favorite species. I was overwhelmed when his estate executive informed me that he had left his Winston rod to me! Gen, my wife reminded me of the care he took of his prize possession, so I rarely used it, -- but I did use it a few times and DID bring in to release a couple of Steelhead, Salmon, and a few Dolly Varden

Now, in my advanced years I no longer CAN fish. but certainly I can try to keep what I have tied up in me or pass it on to others I think might want to use some of, so as a start I choose to pass Charlie's prized rod on to some young person in the Club who I feel is not afraid to wade into the maelstrom of trying to maintain the original purpose of it, and to thereby honor and continue the traditions and aims of the nine Charter Members who started this whole ball rolling 75 years ago in Enos Bradner's old book shop in Downtown Seattle. My first choice is the son of a member that I sponsored in 1983, **Greg Crumbaker**' son, **Peter**, who also has the advantage of having a young son to whom he has the privilege of passing things to in another 15 to 20 years.

So, good luck Peter - I wish you as much enjoyment and luck as I've had in my 60 years with the Club - maybe even more! Your family's "Forever Friend"!



Peter and Gil

Date Change-January's Meeting



Reminder!

January's Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26th, 2016



Cajun' Style

Louisiana Redfish Trip Report

By Scott Hagen

Jack Tonkin and I flew to New Orleans on November 11th and then took a taxi to Chalmette where we stayed at the Best Western, a fairly popular spot for visiting fly fishermen. The morning of the 12th dawned windy and rainy and we elected to not go out. The three pairs of fishermen that did go out with their guides were all back at the motel by mid morning and reported waves to three feet. The next two days were not quite as windy, but less than ideal, with poor visibility due to cloudy skies, some light chop on the water and the water being somewhat muddy due to all the wave action. That said, we did land a few fish, Jack's biggest was 12# and my biggest weighed in at 8#.

Stephanie arrived on the evening of the 14th, as planned. Jack joined a group from the Avid Angler and Stephanie became my new fishing partner. She is much better looking!

The 15th had the best weather conditions of the trip. I landed several redfish to 9# and Stephanie landed an 8# fish. In the afternoon, she hooked a very large fish, I am sure it was over 20#. After a short range tussle for a few moments, it took off on a long run and broke her 12# Maxima tippet! The 16th was quite windy. We fished hard all day and only had three shots at fish, none of which showed the slightest interest in our flies. I saw Jack at the boat take-out and the Avid Angler folks had a similar experience. The 17th, our last day of fishing, was so windy that we didn't go out. Instead, we went to the Battle of New Orleans site, it is actually in Chalmette, and spent several hours there. We spent the next two days staying in the French Quarter of New Orleans, checking out the sights and had a great time.

I am told that the weather we encountered was very unusual, so we will probably try it again next year.



Steph Hagen w/Redfish



Scott Hagen w/Redfish

Mma Precious Ramotswe Country

Trip Report, Botswana, Africa By Scott Hagen

After Dan Eastman finished giving his presentation to the WFFC last fall, some of you may have noted that Stephanie wasted no time in getting up and pumping him for information. This culminated in Stephanie and me signing up for a Safari in Botswana, which included several days fishing for tiger fish at two camps in the Okavango Delta. There were also several days spent doing "game drives" and touring Cape Town, South Africa, but this is a fishing report.

The first place we stayed, Jacana Camp, was situated well down the Delta, on the Jao River. In October, just before the rainy season, the water barely flows, and you are fishing in open areas between

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reed beds. We fished two afternoon sessions and two morning sessions. We hooked but lost tigers the second and third sessions and finally landed a couple of tiger fish the last morning session. They hit the fly very hard, but are difficult to hook because their mouths are so hard, kinda like a tarpon with teeth.



"Hold That Tiger", Scott

We then packed up and were driven to a dirt air strip, flew to another dirt air strip, took a twenty minute Rover ride to the Kavango River, and a two minute boat ride to Nxamaseri Island Lodge. After unpacking and a light lunch, we were off fishing by 16:00. The Kavango is a river more like we are accustomed to, about 100 feet wide, with papyrus reeds on both banks. The reeds start out in about five feet of water, and run back around twenty feet to dry land (this time of year). The river will rise about eight feet during the rainy season. We encountered "the barbel run" only a few minutes upstream from the lodge. It is one of the most amazing things I have ever seen! The barbels (shovel mouthed catfish) run from four



Steph Hagen with a Tiger

to forty-five pounds and they are in a feeding frenzy on bait fish that are trying to mate and spawn in the reeds. Imagine these barbels, shoulder to shoulder, in a pack about twenty feet wide and two hundred yards long, moving through the reeds at walking speed, gorging on bait fish. They splash and gurgle, and break papyrus reeds as big around as my wrist. It sounds like a large herd of elk stampeding through dry underbrush, you can hear them several hundred yards away!



Scott Hagen, Tiger

The tiger fish follow the barbel run and feed on the bait fish the barbels chase out into the open river. The technique is to anchor the boat above the run, about fifty feet from the edge of the reeds and then cast a dumbbell eye weighted clouser fly to the edge of the reeds and strip. No gentle takes here, they hammer the fly, but you have to strip strike, because their mouths are so hard. Most of them make several Jumps and I was taken into the backing many times. I used nine weight rod, a heavy sink tip, 15# Maxima and six inches of 17# braided steel at the fly, and was broken off more than once. The fish are beautiful, like a striper with an orange and black tail, until you get to the mouth. After the run has passed you by, you up-anchor, run up river, and set up again. We did this for two and a half days, morning and afternoon sessions, and I would have liked to stay longer. The tigers ran from four to nine pounds, but I suspect the ones that broke me off were bigger. We also hooked the occasional barbel, and the biggest one (15#) even gave me a water clearing jump.

Dan advised us on tackle and flies and he was right on.

Erica Varga, Dan's ex-wife, who runs **AcappellaSafaris**, worked with us and set up all of our travel and logistics. Everything went off without a hitch and if you are thinking of going to Africa, I give her my highest recommendation.



Scott Hagen w/"Catfish "Type Critter

"There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a gentleness of spirit and a pure sincerity of mind."

- Washington Irving

Upcoming Programs

Saving Aqua Seal and Fixing Waders by Elaine Cook



Aqua Seal is a great product for mending neoprene and breathable waders. However, it usually doesn't take the whole tube to do the repair and when you go to use it the next time, the glue has hardened in the stem. This issue can be resolved by freezing the tube after each use. Just defrost it to use again.

Holes in breathable waders:

Aqua Seal and Loon Wader Repair glues work well for me. To find a hole, I use one of 3 methods:

- 1. Turn breathable waders inside out. Rub a generous amount of rubbing alcohol on area of leak and look for area to darken or turn purple or blue. Mark with Sharpie pen.
- **2.** Turn any wader inside out. Fill one leg with water

(best done with two people) using a hose. Mark leak with Sharpie pen. This is not a preferred method considering the drought.

3. Turn breathables inside out. In a darkened room, put a flashlight inside and look for the hole(s) to light up. Once again, mark with Sharpie pen.

Fly of the Month

Drowned AntFrom the Central Oregon Flyfishers

Hook: 1xl nymph hook, sizes 12-22

Thread: color of natural, usually black, 8/0

Hackle: black or brown

- 1. Make two thread bumps, with the rear bump slightly larger. Both thread bumps need to be smaller than the desired finished product.
- **2.** Coat with Sally Hansen's Hard As Nails and set aside to dry. Apply two coats to get a nice finish.



3. Put a little UV resin in the area where the feather will be wrapped. Wrap the feather through the resin and use the UV light to set the resin.

NOTE: The new UV resins make this pattern much easier and faster to tie. The UV resin binds the feather to the hook and makes it virtually indestructible.

Five minute epoxy can also be used. For an interesting effect, mix enough rubbing alcohol into Rit dye to liquefy it, and then mix the dye into the epoxy. Use this mixture to coat the thread bumps; it will create an interesting transparent effect. The alcohol will increase the drying time of the epoxy, so use just enough to liquefy the Rit dye.



"Probably Too Big For Our Net"

December, 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:

2015 WFFC Christmas Party

THE 2015 WFFC CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATION FORM





TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015

AT THE SEATTLE TENNIS CLUB 922 McGivra Blvd. E., Seattle, WA 98112

DINNER RESERVATIONS - \$85 EACH

Price will increase to \$95 if payment is received after December 10, 2015

Full payment must accompany your reservations to be accepted

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30 PM: Wet Fly Practice, Raffle Tickets Sales, Review of Auction Items **7:00 PM**: Dinner

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

If you have not yet contributed to the auction or raffle and want to, please contact Kerry at 206-236-2127 or kerry.oldenburg@gmail.com. If you would like to make a cash contribution, please fill in the appropriate space on the form below, and include that amount in your check.

(For online payment via our secure PayPal interface, please access member area of the website)

(For payment by check, please c	ut along dotted line above. and	l mail in below form w	ith your check)	
	please circle desired entrée			
Member name:	Beef Tenderloin	Alaskan Halibut	Vegetarian Risotto	
Guest name:	Beef Tenderloin	Alaskan Halibut	Vegetarian Risotto	
Guest name:	Beef Tenderloin	Alaskan Halibut	Vegetarian Risotto	
Guest name:	Beef Tenderloin	Alaskan Halibut	Vegetarian Risotto	
# of Beef Tenderloin # of Alaskan Halibut		# of Vegetarian Risotto		
Total # of dinners x \$85 each	eh = \$			
My check also includes a cash contr	ribution toward the WFFC I	Fund Raiser of \$		
Send this reservation form along wi	th check to:			

Kerry Oldenburg 9120 SE 50th St. Mercer Island, WA 98040



WFFC Membership Dues Notice

2016 Dues are payable on January 1... Please renew by the end of January!

Online payment (preferred), or mail this form with your check

	Honorary	Dues Amount: \$ 80* \$ 50* \$ 0 \$ \$ 30 ====== \$	
Please fill out completely, and circle anything that has changed:			
Last name	Fir	t name	
-	er name		
Address: Street			
City	Zip		
Home phone _			
•			
Mail to:	Attn: Chapin Henry WFFC PO Box 639 Mercer Island, WA		

Active in Conservation & Education Since 1939