

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



International Federation of
FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



MMXVI No. 1

June, 2016



Corbett Lake Rodmakers gathering 2016. This event took place over May 12th, 13th and 14th at Kamloops, British Columbia. Corbett Lake Rodmakers has been meeting for 30 years and is regarded as the “grand daddy” of the bamboo rod makers gatherings now held around the world. This year a special recognition was given to the late John Bokstrom who exemplified the best in bamboo rod making and life. John Bokstrom was awarded the Lechter Lambuth Award by the WFFC in 1991. Hoagy Carmichael attended the gathering as an invited guest.

A Master's Guide to



Building a Bamboo Fly Rod, a book by Everett Garrison and Hoagy Carmichael, is generally given credit for a resurgence of handcrafting bamboo fly rods. This book, published in 1977, is in its eighth edition and among the aficionados of bamboo fly rods is simply referred to as “The Book”, or for some “The Bible”. Garrison and Carmichael’s collaboration ended with Garrison’s death before the book was actually written; however, Carmichael stayed with the project, writing and later publishing the Book. But for this collaboration and Carmichael’s perseverance the art of handcrafted bamboo rods would most likely have died many years ago. Why? Because those who were making bamboo fly rods were, for the most part, doing so on a commercial basis and were pretty secretive on not only their methods of making rods but of the all-important tapers used for the various rods. Yes, one can always take measurements of a particular rod but first you had to get your hands on one. The Book revealed all of Garrison’s processes and methods he used in hand making bamboo rods with tolerances of .001 of an inch. Yes, one-thousandths of an inch.

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Perhaps more importantly Garrison provided Carmichael the tapers of his rods with permission for them to

At the end of the first day's formal presentations the attendees adjourned outside to look over and cast bamboo rods brought by participants. As I joined the group milling around outside I noticed Carmichael fussing around with a couple of vintage appearing rod tubes. I watched as he strung up one of the rods and when completed he announced in a loud voice to no one in particular; "Would anyone like to cast a rod made by Mr. Garrison?" Not wanting to offend Carmichael I trotted right over to him with my out stretched hands. It was pretty special for me to hold a Garrison made rod. To be invited by Carmichael to cast it? Hard to wipe that smile off my face, still now. More than a little nervous I took the rod and cast the line. Truth be told I was a bit timid in working the rod and did not fully appreciate how well it cast a line.....No frufru in a Garrison rod. One of simple perfection. Built for an angler

At the closing dinner Carmichael give an informal and casual talk, very personal and somewhat poignant, about his relationship with Garrison, Garrison as a craftsman and a person. Carmichael also spoke of the not insignificant hurdles in bringing the book to publication and its reception. There were more than a few in the room whose lives were changed by The Book. Yes, other rod makers have followed with their own books, articles, classes on rod making, lectures and the like. Now we have

the internet and UTUBE. For a lot of us, The Book provided the initial spark.

An interesting several days among and interacting with some truly talented, creative and entertaining people. They are out there making not only some fine bamboo fly rods but the tools, machines and jigs used to make these things we use to fish. If you get a chance to fish with a bamboo rod and I do not mean lawn-cast, fish. Do it. You may find you like it

Next on my agenda was an hour's drive south to Corbett Lake. (Yes, Corbett Lake Rod-makers met at Kamloops, not at Corbett Lake.) At Corbett Lake I met and fished with 5 other anglers including Bob Burdick and Walt Swanson. In building next to ours was another group of anglers which included Denny Westover. Accommodations were simple. No television or internet access. I did not take a survey but I would estimate the number of fishing years represented by the members of our little group to be somewhere around 300 years. Probably double that if those in Denny's group were included. While matters other than fishing were discussed, much of the conversations centered on fishing stories (some of which may have been true), tackle and techniques. One cannot help but absorb some of the experience of these anglers and while fishing is the reason we get together, camaraderie is shared and built. Sorta like being in the WFFC but on a smaller scale.

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Creel Notes

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

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Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website then selecting email (upper right corner). Button selec-

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.

Getting away from the “News” and our political romper room all brought to us by breathless television newscasters for a few days was a nice break. Early next week I will again be headed out of town in a few days on another fishing trip north. Burdens like this come to us all; however, I suck it up and go fishing. I am doing my part. How about you? Besides, I have a newly built 4^{wt} bamboo rod which needs some on-the-water evaluation.

Perry Barth has sent a copy of a news article appearing in the April 19, 2016, issue of *Monroe Monitor & Valley News* pertaining to the Snohomish County PUD’s proposal to blast subterranean water diversion tunnels in the Sunset Falls area of the Skykomish River. These are to be used in sending water to a proposed power house to be sited on or adjacent to the river. An additional insult to the Skykomish....this time by another public agency. Project documents are found at www.snopud.com/PowerSupply/hydro/sfpep/sfdocs.ashx?p=1959. *A never ending battle.*

Further in this issue of Creel Notes is a copy of a letter I recently sent to the reviewing agencies on a request for permits to bring more salmon net pens into the Puget Sound. We are requesting more time for parties to comment on this ill-conceived proposal. The “regulators” are unable to “manage” our dwindling stocks of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Introducing more Atlantic Salmon into our waters is just plain wrong.

Fish pens, stockyards are what they are, have proven their sorry track records in Chile, Norway and Canada. Those we have in Puget Sound do not give me much comfort that the industry is able, or willing, to operate them in a manner which does not introduce parasites and or other organisms which endanger our native species.....How many inadvertent releases/escapes of these penned up Atlantic Salmon are ever recaptured?

Gary Bergquist

June Speaker

Our speaker for the June 21st meeting is Chester Allen who will talk on How to catch more cutthroat in the Puget Sound area.

Chester will be following in the footsteps of other great cutthroat fishermen that we’ve been privileged to hear from over the years including Les Johnson, Preston Singletary, and Dave Schorsch all from the WFFC. A fly angler since childhood, Chester grew up in South Sound area, and in 1996 took a job with the Olympian newspaper eventually becoming it’s outdoor columnist. He worked for a variety of Northwest newspapers and magazines for some 20 years, and currently is editor of Sports Car Market magazine. His book Flyfishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat was published in 2012. Chester still makes the short run to Puget Sound several times a month and loves to explore our world-class cutthroat fishery. He will discuss in detail how to find a good beach and how to use a tide table to improve your odds of hooking fish.

Chopaka Lake & Corbett Lake Outings

The Spring in the Merrit, BC valley was early this year which may have resulted in mediocre fishing for my group of 12 fanatics that annually invade Corbett Lake before Memorial Day. Gary Bergquist and Walt Swanson and I represented the WFFC, and member Denny Westover brought his usual carload of friends from Montana. The usual florid Callibaetis hatch was tepid, the chironomid hatch was mediocre, and it seemed too early for the damselfly. Each of us netted one to 12 fish a day, almost all in the 18 to 20 inch range, with Denny, as usual topping everyone with a 24 fish day mostly caught on a fast trolled white zonker. Other than the Zonker, the majority of the fish were caught on chironomids, a few on midge emergers, occasional fish on damselfly, a fair number on wooley buggers, Dali Lambas, and orange Stillwater nymphs. Gary Bergquist’s dragon fly nymph was also effective.

Once a high end culinary establishment, Peter McVey, fish keeper and lodge owner, has retired and the lodge is now run by a local BC consortium. Staying in a cabin duplex with beds for 6 guys at the Corbett Lake Lodge, and cooking for ourselves, this continues to be a fishing bargain. Each person’s 6 day, 5 night stay with private lake fishing privileges came to \$453, aided of course by the 23% exchange rate bonus currently applied.

Bob Burdick

Chopaka Outing report continued on p 8

LIVE MUSIC



**OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

Casual Attire

**Washington Fly Fishing Club Fly Fishing Destination Seminar
And Fly Fishing Gear and Swap Sale
August 16th, 2016**

Join us for a barbecue dinner at the beautiful Seattle Tennis Club and
Participate in 2 of the 9 one hour seminars. The seminars
will cover multiple fresh and salt water fly fishing destinations in the
Northwest and will be led by some of the local areas best fly fishing
rockstars (see reverse). Bring your surplus fishing gear to sell or trade
and buy other's surplus at tremendous bargains.

- 5:30 pm---Happy hour and barbecue dinner

**SAVE THE
DATE**

- 7:00 pm---Seminars begin
- 9:00 pm---Seminars close
- Goal-----Everyone is more knowledgeable

**Bring Your
Friends**

Each seminar session will run for 50 minutes, and at the sound of a bell
participants will have the opportunity to move to a different seminar or stay

Gear, Fly and Boat Swap Sale	<u>Buffet Dinner Option</u> Pulled pork sandwiches, 3 salads, baked beans, corn on the cob, apple crisp & ice cream \$33.00	Entry Ticket entitles you to enter Door Prize Raffle
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FLY FISHING SEMINAR TOPICS

Topic 1: Yakima River: Kris Kristopherson and John Schuitemaker of the WFFC will discuss location, access, season and tactics for successfully fishing the Yakima. They will provide a handout

Topic 2: Cutthroat: Brita Fordice, lead salesperson and guide of the Avid Angler will discuss best location, access, tidal influence and tactics for successfully fishing North, South, and Central Puget Sound beaches for cutthroat.

Topic 3: Stillaguamish River: Greg Minaker, WFFC member and avid photographer will discuss when, where, and how to fish the Stillaguamish River for steelhead. Handout provided.

Topic 4: Aquatic Entomology: Preston Singletary, WFFC member, and outstanding fly tier will review what we need to look for at streamside or lakeside. Preston will provide a handout.

Topic 5: Dave Schorsch: “When and how to fish the Owyhee” This storied small river in NE Oregon holds large numbers of big browns. Come listen to Dave unlock it’s secrets. Map and handout provided.

Topic 6: Missouri River: Mark Shimazu from the Avid Angler will expound on the secrets of this fabled Montana River and will whet your appetite for an encounter on one of our nations blue ribbon steams.

Topic 7. The pay to play lakes of the Pacific Northwest: Bob Burdick. There are many lakes in the NW that meet this definition, each with it’s own fish size and density, cost structure, amenities, and distance obstacles. Think Isaac Lakes, Corbett Lake, Walker Lake, Moccasin Lake, Lund Lake, etc.

Topic 8. Carp and Bass: Matt Palch from the Desert Angler in Ephrata will discuss “How, When and Where to fish for carp and bass in the Pacific Northwest”

Topic 9. Knot Tying: Richard Embry, WFFC member, will discuss “Which knots are useful to fishermen and how to tie them”

Each of these talks will run for 45-50 minutes

Chopaka 2016



McRoberts' Chopaka Assault Rig
Gassed and Ready for the Trip



'Brake Failure Grade'



It's a Slow Go



We Made It!
Looking Down from 'Cell phone Reception Hill'



Moose
First Chopaka Resident we Saw'



Using Fly Rods for a Perch
Doesn't know we use feathers for fly tying



Jim McRoberts
Serious Concentration



Jim McRoberts
Success!



Some Rainbow's Nearly 18"



Average Size Rainbow
~ 16"



Charcoal Ready
Saturday Nite Steak Night



Cooking Commences
Steaks, Wieners, Corn—you name it



Let the Eating Commence!



Jim McRoberts & Chuck Ballard



Cod, Batter Ready for the Deep Fryer



Sometimes you gotta call the B.S.



He will now attempt to Juggle 2 Beers
And....drink them at the same time



Chuck Ballard / Deep Fryer



Dick Brening and Fran



Becker, Ballard, Tschetterl



Pat Becker's Camp 'Signified'



Dion's



Hanson's



Goodbye till Next Year

Chopaka Outing & Corbett Lake report continued from page 3

The weather was as usual windy and some rain mixed with sun at times.

The fishing for me was very good at 10 or more fish per day. The flies that worked were the usual mayfly imitations plus a few leech and damsel nymphs. Later in the trip I put on a new creation I had experimented with and wished I had tried it earlier. It is a evazote foam shellback emerger with an extended wing over the hook eye. It was deadly when the hatch was on.

Pat Becker ,Ron Tschedar and I played some tunes on our guitars The breakfast , tempura ,and Saturday night dinners were all great There was a yearling cow moose sighted twice near the entrance to the campground .A very dangerous animal if one were to annoy it for any reason. Looking forward to next year.

Chuck Ballard

Corbett Lake

Corbett Lake May 15th-May20th

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Bob Burdick



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Stamp
here

June, 2016

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday June 21, 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 presenter at our June 21 meeting will be: Chester Allen who will talk on "How to catch more cutthroat in the Puget Sound area."