

# Creel Notes from the



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



June, 2005

Last Thursday, Kim Komando, who usually gives computer tips on her show, discussed the history of fly fishing and said, "Now, I have never tried fly fishing. But for some reason, I have always wanted to give it shot. From what I have seen, there is truly an art to it."

How much do you know about its history? Did you know fly fishing was first mentioned in writing around the year 200(BC)? Or that it originated in Macedonia? That's just the kind of information you'll find on the Fly Fishing History website.

You'll learn plenty of interesting facts about fly fishing. If you're like me, the history will amaze you. For example, fishing hooks didn't always have an eye in them. I bet that made tying them to a line difficult.

"This site is a must for avid fishers, or for those who seek esoteric knowledge!" To visit Fly Fishing History go to: [www.flyfishinghistory.com](http://www.flyfishinghistory.com)

Kim Komando's website is at [www.Komando.com](http://www.Komando.com)

Here are some items from the last WFFC Board meeting:

1. A dinner option of salad only without the entree was raised and after discussion of the necessary logistics involved, we'd have to go to an advance reservation system, the Board voted it down. Therefore, the options will continue to be either buy the full dinner or eat nothing at all.

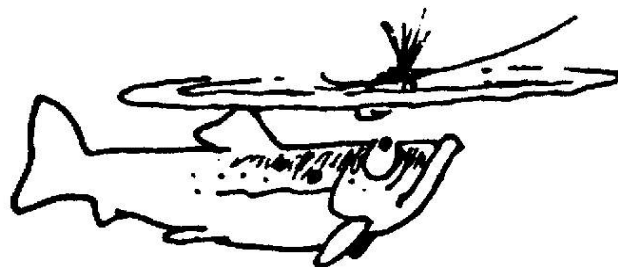
2. The Skunk Hat is missing after one of our recent General Membership meetings. Our Ghillie has talked to the College Club management and staff and they didn't see the hat after the meeting. It's possible that it was swept away with the leftovers on the tables and it's remotely possible that it was purloined by a WFFC member. I can't imagine why anyone would want it unless he's failed to report a series of "skunks" and his conscience is bothering him. It would be considered a theft and the member would not be eligible to vote in future elections in the State of Washington.

3. **Jim McRoberts** and the Trustees reviewed the WFFC Long Range Plan. Several changes were recommended and the Board voted to approve them. See if you can tell what the changes are by closely reading your Creel Notes.

And, for those interested in local fishing spots, there have been some good reports about fishing on the Cedar River. Most fish are in the smaller ranges but a twenty inch Rainbow was landed and released! Green Lake has also produced some decent fish for fly fishers. Enjoy!

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(August 8-15) on the wild stretches of the Missouri river, mostly in the Missouri Breaks and White Cliff Area. As a student group, we would be honored for any members to come along. We would not expect you to do anything more than mild supervision and pitching in on work details. Casting lessons would be a plus. Price estimate at this point is \$500 including canoe rental, shuttle and food. Call **David Ehrich** at 297-3989 or email me at [dwehrich@seattleschools.org](mailto:dwehrich@seattleschools.org).



## Northwest Fly Casting Exposition

WFFC is again going to be participating in this year's "Northwest Fly Casting Exposition" and need you to tryout for the team. As in years past we meet at Greenlake weekly to practice our skills and form two teams of four to participate in the annual casting competition put on by the Washington State Council of the FFF. If you are interested please contact Ed Sozinho (206) 706-7235 or show up for the first day of practice at Greenlake on Wednesday June 29th. This year's competition will held at the Tacoma Elks Club on September 24th. Our teams have done very well in the past and we hope to continue that tradition.

## The Salmon of the Pacific Northwest By Bernie Taylor

We often travel long distances in pursuit of salmon and steelhead only to learn that we were too early or late for the run. We flog the water in earnest, hoping that one fish will ascend to the river to meet our call. We ask if it is the environment, such as a lack of rainfall, or the fish's inability to tell time that resulted in our misfortune. They were there on the same day last year. Author Bernie Taylor studied this question while researching his book *Biological Time*. What he discovered in the process was that all plants and animals have their own sense of timing. They are never early or late, only on a different clock than we measure them against. In his program, Taylor shows that the salmon have precisely timed movements, and critical events such as spawning, that can be calculated to almost the day. His program chronicles the life of a salmon and weaves in stories of how native peoples gauged the strength and movements of the runs. This program is not only helpful for the angler who is looking to better plan his fishing excursions but also for the conservationist interested in learning more about the nature of animals.

Bernie's presentation goes beyond the right flies and terminal tackle, delivering an extraordinary perspective on how these animals navigate time and space.

Bernie Taylor is a widely traveled lecturer and writer whose work has appeared in magazines such as *Fly Fisherman*, *American Angler*, *North American Fisherman* as well as publications in Japan, Australia, South Africa, France, Spain, Italy and Germany. He is the author of two books: *Big Trout* (2002) and his recently released *Biological Time* (2004).



## Creel Notes

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

## On the Fly

By David Ehrich

May 17, 2005

**Bob Birkner** opened the meeting with a note that Creel Notes looks better on the web site because the pictures are in color. Look for a myriad of new features on the web.

Introductions made all around included a few well-placed barbs, most of them directed at Les. Members introduced several future and hopeful members. One introduction included a plea to allow his guests into the club in order to force his "honored guests" to start buying his drinks and dinner. Bob pointed out Don's new accomplice in the Ghillie role, **Pat Peterson**. Despite doubling the threat of punishment, reports continued to be long of wind, short on fish and filled with rebuttal, correction and wry asides. Opening day on Deer Lake defied expectations. Belize yielded fish to **Jimmy LeMert** on his latest trip to warm waters, including feeding sharks with hooked bonefish. Leland spoke at the Inland Empire Fishing Club, a venerable all-male club in Spokane founded shortly after the WFFC. Jokes, too risqué to repeat here, focused on the current mayoral troubles. No fish were caught, it seems.

**Doug Smith** hit the big Montana rivers in Twin Bridges, catching browns with all patterns, celebrating with good meals available at the Stone Fly Inn. This seems to have inspired more talk of restaurants than fish. **Richard Embry** slayed 'em early at Nunnally while his partner (unnamed out of respect) skunked. Fishing cooled after morning and sunfish were the main prey. Perhaps it's time for a rehab. Jack thanked the membership for our participation in the NW Steelhead Alliance.

NOAA's listing of fish seems mired in politics and Steve raved about the Bitterroot. **Dick Scales** honored our finest tiers as judged by the members. Richard Embry took third honors, Steve Sunich at second. The plaque had **Ron Dion's** name etched on it and Don acknowledged the praise of his peers.

New members, **Bill Deters** and **Chris Benson**, took stern warning and a warm welcome from **Gil Nyerges**. Both immediately headed to committee assignments.

Prospective member, Marty Leith, was praised in ab-

stentia. (Game 5: Sonics 50, San Antonio 50 at the half). **Jack Berryman** introduced Sergeant Kim Chandler, Department of Fish and Game. Kim boasts deep fly-fishing roots. An avid fly fisherman, he took after his father, known in the fly fishing community as America's Fly Fishing Ambassador. As his introduction, Kim assured the membership that no one would be escorted to his car. However, some anglers at Rattlesnake were not so lucky as Kim shared stories of barbed hooks, power bait chuckers and over limiters raking up \$152 fines per violation. Twenty folks took home a rod and reel's worth of fines on Opening Day. "Sign here, press down hard, five copies, last one's yours." King County Courts have mixed reviews with judges failing to see the importance of reining in illegal fishing given the variety of cases they hear each day. However, three hunting or fishing violations in 10 years nets a "three-strikes, you're out" two-year suspension of fishing and hunting privileges. Kim reported that any law officer could write up fishing or hunting violations. Most don't because they lack experience with various species. But Fish and Game supports all King Co law enforcement organizations. (Sonics 68, San Antonio 78 at the end of third quarter). Reading regulations matters to enforcement officers. You are expected to know the regulations in all waters. Posted signs are expensive and vulnerable to vandalism, so Fish and Game depends on officers to quiz offenders. A spotting scope serves as a good backup. Club members served up good questions, many focusing on our desire to hinder violators and inform anglers about good practices. For example, a snagged salmon nets a \$500 fine. Yet most violators don't set out to snag that fish, but do so out desperation and make an unfortunate ethical compromise. Kim shared typical mistakes: "Two Poling" means using two rods at the same time; pinching down barbs are often neglected by even experienced anglers who make excuses for leaving on barbs on small flies. Kim tests "pinched down" by hooking the angler's clothes. If it doesn't tear clothes the hook won't tear a fish's mouth.

Kim doesn't recommend confronting violators. Sneak away, call 9-1-1 and let the professionals handle the situation. "Salmon snaggers are not nice people." License plate numbers are also a helpful.

On a personal note, the Roosevelt High School Outdoor Club will take a weeklong canoe trip

*(Continued on page 1)*

# REPORTS

**Lake Wenatchee, June 4, 2005**

*By Don Schroder*

What a trip. The weekend of June 4<sup>th</sup>, a small group of us, including **Bob Birkner** and **Ted Pearson**, fished Fish Lake near Lake Wenatchee. Friday was an extremely windy day, but we caught fish. On Saturday the weather changed with little wind and lots of sun. Late morning I hooked a fish that felt like a log. I exerting pressure on the rod and the fish took off. After a 20 minute struggle I landed a 26 inch Brown Trout. The biggest Brown I have ever caught. A great fish that was released. I ended up with 10 fish for the day. The rest of the fish were rainbows that ran about 12 inches. You can't beat that weekend.

**Chopaka** *(a photo only report)*



Above: Mark Pratt and co-pilot Coby

Below: Paul Lingbloom and Chuck Ballard pickin' and grinnin'.



Above: The 'hog' line. That's Preston Singletary backing out with a big 'un.

Below: New member Marty Lieth with his first Chopaka fish.



Below; Craig Koeppler with a fish on.







Above: Cookin';  
Below: Eatin'



Above; More cookin'



Then more fishing.  
Below; Chuck Ballard is after 'em.



Above: Even our hosts Jim McRoberts and Scott Hagen had to cook  
Then more eating.





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### 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

This months program is by Bernie Taylor, Author and world traveler. His presentation will be about natures biological clock, with particular regard to how salmon navigate time and space.

More on page 2.