

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXVIII NO.3

MARCH, 2018

President's Riffle

A Time of Renewal....

We're having a streak of three sunny days in a row with two of them actually kind of warmish here on the West side of the state. Spring must be right around the corner. In order to confirm this annual phenomenon we took a hike along the river today. Sure enough, lots of buds on the bushes and trees and while the water is still pretty high, the color and clarity look awfully fishy! The magic of springtime renewal on full view. Time to sort through the fly boxes and tune up the rest of the gear.

Speaking of renewal, this all got me to thinking of the other kind. That's right, all those people who finally awake from their long winters nap, fire up the computer (or find an envelope and a stamp) and renew their WFFC Dues for another year. Thank you and thanks to Membership VP Mike Mosczynski for lighting appropriate fires where necessary.

Which got me to musing about our club and what drives us to re-up year after year (many of our members have been renewing for 40 years or more). Is it the top notch classes we have been running for years? How about those wonderful monthly dinner meeting gatherings where we get a chance to catch up with our friends, exchange a few half truths, enjoy a fine meal and listen to an interesting fishing related presentation from the top folks in the field? Certainly the twice monthly fishing outings are a huge draw where classic WFFC destinations along with some new spots are



carefully selected and fished by members and lucky guests. Still, there must be something more fundamental at work here. That's why my ears perked up when one of our new committee chairs for 2018 offered the opinion that for him the draw of the club was being a part of a legacy organization known for consistently doing what's best for the fish first and foremost, reaching out and sharing the joy and serenity of fly fishing with members and non members alike. Gently teaching stream side etiquette to youngsters just starting their fish-ing journeys and, finally, being a part of the power of the WFFC and our network of like minded organizations as we lobby for policies and practices that protect and enhance the environment that supports our shared love of fly fishing.

What's your reason for being a member? Something to think about.

John

DO NOT FORGET, THE MARCH 22 MEETING IS ON A THURSDAY. WHY? COME AND FIND OUT

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For the Good of the Order

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE:

At the May membership meeting I, or someone acting on my behalf should I be unable to attend that meeting, will make a motion to change the WFFC Bylaws to permit notices to members be made electronically. This has become relevant for proposed changes to our bylaws. Our bylaws currently require written notice of proposed changes to be published 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the proposed change is to be considered. The WFFC no longer publishes Creel Notes in a "written" manner. You will note this issue of Creel Notes has been printed in hard copy and mailed to each member who is entitled to vote. The sole purpose of that mailing is to comply with our bylaws as they now stand. Absent this amendment being adopted, all future proposed amendments will need to be similarly printed and mailed at increased costs and additional administrative handling by our officers and board members. The proposed amendment will permit electronic notice for not only proposed amendments to our bylaws but for special or regular meetings of members and trustees.

Bill Neal and I have worked together in drafting the proposed amendments and reviewing them with the officers and Board. The proposed amendments include language required by Washington law that includes obtaining a member's consent to receive notices electronically. Should this amendment be adopted, I believe the Board will then undertake such administrative tasks as obtaining written consent from members.

The Board has reviewed the issue at its last two meetings and passed resolutions which recommend the membership approve the proposed amendments.

Gary Bergquist

If adopted the following changes to the WFFC Bylaws will be implemented:

ARTICLE IV, Section 3, is changed to read in full as follows:

Section 3. Notice of Meeting. The date, time and place of meetings of the Members shall be published each month in the "Creel Notes" or otherwise given as permitted by these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI, Section 2, is changed to read in full as follows:

Section 2. Advance Notice. Notice of any proposed amendment to the Bylaws shall be published in the "Creel Notes" or otherwise given as permitted by these Bylaws at least thirty (30) and not more than fifty (50) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

New ARTICLE XV. NOTICES is added as follows:

Section 1. Generally. Notices to Members and Trustees may be delivered in writing either personally or by mail, at a Member's or Trustee's last known mailing address, as it appears in the records of the Club, or may be delivered electronically; provided, however, that for delivery electronically, the Member or Trustee must have consented to such delivery, provided or confirmed an address to which delivery can be made, and not revoked such consent. Any inability to transmit two consecutive electronic notices to a Member or Trustee shall be treated as a revocation of consent when such inability becomes known to the person responsible for delivering notice, and in such event, notice will be delivered personally or by mail. Notice of any special meeting of the Members or any regular monthly meeting of the Members (including the

Creel Notes

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Trustees

Gary Bergquist, Past President; Peter Crumbaker '16; Ron Little '16; Hugh Clark '17; Robert Birkner '17, James Young '18; John Narver '18

Club officers and chairmen can be contacted by logging in the WFFC website in the roster area.

annual meeting) at which there may be a vote on a change to the Bylaws of the Club or a vote on any other extraordinary matter shall include a statement of the purpose of such meeting or a description of such matter.

Section 2. Time for Notice. Regular meetings of the Members (including the annual meeting) shall be held as scheduled in these Bylaws, but subject to change as approved by

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NW Fishletter #379, March 5, 2018 [9] Sea Lions Being Re- located To Save Wil- lamette Steelhead

A California sea lion that has frequented Willamette Falls on the Willamette River since 2009 to dine on salmon and steelhead was relocated Feb. 7 to a beach south of Newport, Ore. Three days later, he was back at Willamette Falls, hungry for more fish after a return journey involving a 200-mile swim. Another sea lion--relocated a day later--was back in six days.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says Willamette steelhead are on the verge of extinction, due to a growing number of sea lions that find their way to this easy fishing spot at the falls each year. A program to capture and relocate sea lions is the agency's latest effort to discourage these predators, now considered one of the greatest threats to the survival of wild Willamette steelhead, as well as Willa-

mette Chinook, sturgeon and lamprey.

Last year, an all-time low of 512 steelhead crossed the falls after sea lions gobbled up about 25 percent of returning adults. This year, so far, 527 steelhead have made it over the falls in another year of predicted low returns. Steelhead will continue to migrate through May, but the run typically peaks in late February and March.

The agency, which has permission to euthanize California sea lions that prey on salmon at Bonneville Dam, applied in October 2017 for authorization to kill sea lions at Willamette Falls, and expects a decision sometime late this year.

The issue is primarily an unintended consequence of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which puts strict limits on what the state agency can do, even while trying to protect threatened or endangered fish, Shaun Clements, ODFW's senior policy advisor told NW Fishletter in an email.

A recent study by NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center found that sea lions are also responsible for taking a significant portion of the returning spring and summer Chinook below Bonneville Dam.

Clements noted that sea lion recovery has been wildly successful, to the point where there's not enough habitat to support a growing population. Instead, the mammals are moving into new environments, and have discovered the Columbia River as an abundant feeding ground.

This situation has grown over time. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, two to four sea lions could be seen catching fish at Willamette Falls, he said. Last year, there were as many as 41 in a day, all eating about three fish every day. In addition, the California sea lions--all of them males--are arriving at the falls from their breeding grounds in California earlier in the season, and staying longer. And now, biologists are

spotting them at the Clackamas River, downstream of Willamette Falls.

In 2010, ODFW started hazing the sea lions, hoping to scare them away from the fish ladder entrances at the falls. Their attempts included using underwater firecrackers, and pyrotechnics discharged from a 12-gauge shotgun. Those attempts were generally unsuccessful. Once the sea lions got used to the noise, they would continue fishing, or quickly resume foraging when hazing ended for the day.

In his email, Clements said removing, or euthanizing, the relatively few sea lions that habitually return to Willamette Falls to eat steelhead, salmon, sturgeon and lamprey will have no impact on the sea lion population. Authorization would likely come with limits.

Currently, both Washington and Oregon have authority to euthanize up to 93 California sea lions each year that are eating threatened salmon and steelhead at Bonneville Dam. But before action is taken, those sea lions must be individually identifiable, and the agencies must show they were not responsive to hazing. They must also be seen eating salmonids in the Bonneville Dam area for at least five days between Jan. 1 and May 31 of any year.

According to Oregon's application to euthanize sea lions at Willamette Falls, California sea lions have recovered from fewer than 75,000 individuals to nearly 300,000. The application notes that multiple factors unrelated to sea lions were the initial cause of declining Willamette fish populations--primarily the impact of dams for hydropower and flood control, along with harvest and hatcheries.

Regardless of why fish numbers initially dropped, the application states, "in areas where salmonid abundance is low, even a modest increase in predation by pinnipeds

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.

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Book Review by M. Wearne

Jeffery Skeate *Familiar World*

In 2006 I went to the Grand Ronde to make a stab at steelhead fly fishing. I stayed at Boggan's Oasis. While I was there I roomed with Steve Matter. Steve, at the time, was the owner of the Decorah Chick Hatchery in Decorah Iowa. The chick hatchery is just that a hatchery for baby chicks which were sold to chicken farmers. Being in downtown Decorah, Steve had branched into selling outdoor gear. The building is still called the Decorah Chick Hatchery; however, now it is entirely an outdoor gear store, think a 2,000 SF REI outlet.

Steve regaled me with stories about the great fly fishing in the "Driftless Area" near Decorah. I kept thinking, yeah but this is Iowa you are talking about. Last summer I was speaking with John Townsell at a WFFC meeting. John spends his winters in West Salem, Wisconsin, also part of the "Driftless Area". John also regaled me with stories about the great fly fishing in this area.

The Driftless is an area of northeast Iowa, southeastern Minnesota, and western Wisconsin. It was not covered by glaciers. And, as such, has numerous springs that provide the local streams with year-round cold water. The fly fishing is good year round. I have been on-line in the Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota "WDFW"

websites. You cannot believe the thoughtful efforts these states have gone to in an effort to protect streams and provide access to good fishing.

Then I scheduled a business trip to Minneapolis in June of 2018, which brings me to this book review.

Jeffery Skeate is a writer from Decorah Iowa. He has written three books on fly fishing in the Driftless. The other two titles are Riverweather and A Winter's Tale. I have only read Familiar Water.

This book is 22 chapters which are more reflections on fishing in the author's backyard. There is one chapter about fishing near Rapid City, otherwise everything is local. There are fly suggestions, rod discussions, and stream discussions. The chapters are each less than ten pages. Each chapter is sort of a stream-of-consciousness, which found easy to follow. Each chapter is separated by a page of poetry from the author, which did not relate to fly fishing. The book is personal. The author describes his failures and successes as a fly fisherman. It is not a guide book. I found the book a delightful read, and recommend it.

In June I am going on my trip to Minneapolis, Greg Crumbacker is joining me after my meetings for a few days of Driftless fishing, which will be a new experience. I am looking forward to the trip.

Members Looking to Arrange a late summer float on the Lower Salmon

Kerry Hodges and Stephanie Hagen are interested in a Club float trip down the lower fork of the Salmon River later in September. Anyone interested to contact Kerry or Stephanie.

Sea Lions continued

can result in serious negative impacts to the survival and recovery of individual salmonid populations."

Clements noted in his email that although predation is a recent threat, if nothing is done, investments made to address other threats to salmon and steelhead recovery are at risk. "Sea lions are not a scapegoat for addressing other threats to fish persistence. That work is ongoing and the region continues to invest millions in recovering salmon/steelhead," he wrote. -K.C. Mehaffey

By-Laws Change continued

the Trustees. Notice of any change to a scheduled regular meeting (or the annual meeting) shall be given not less than ten (10) days prior to that meeting. Notice of any special meeting of the Members shall be given not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days prior to the date of that meeting. If the business at any regular (or the annual meeting) or at any special meeting of the Members includes the discussion and possible vote on a change to these Bylaws or on any other extraordinary matter, the minimum notice shall be thirty (30) days prior to that meeting.

Section 3. Use of "Creel Notes". Notice of any Club business matters, including, but not limited to extraordinary matters, may be included in the "Creel Notes". Notice in the "Creel Notes" shall be sufficient if given in accordance with Section 1 above and within the time period specified in Section 2 above. Any mention in these Bylaws of notice being published, mailed, or otherwise delivered shall mean notice given in any manner permitted in this ARTICLE XV or otherwise under Washington law.

On a Lighter Note:

By popular demand, re-known master fly-tyer Bob Burdick has volunteered to come out of semi-retirement to disclose the secrets of how to tie a delectable flying carpenter ant that is irresistible to the trout of rivers and lakes in the Spring and early Summer and is virtually indistinguishable from the swarms of the real thing!

Bob



Fishing Reports

Reporting from the east side of our state our fishing has been limited to the Spokane River, although heavy flows, there are pockets in the river that are producing some very nice red band rainbows. Some of these pockets are 20-25 feet deep and only can be accessed with a sink tip line. Streamers and stone flies fished on the swing are best this time of year and the shop has developed some very nice ones. Be advised that the river closes mid March for spawning but will re-open June 1st. Swede's has map of lower river and where best pockets are.

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River always fishes well through the winter for west slope cutthroat using small bead headed nymphs (prince, hare's ear, copper John's) and even some small BWO's work well. Swede's has maps available denoting best areas.

Crab Creek off the Harrington road fished west toward Ritzville on DNR land can be surprising with some very energetic rainbows and the occasional brown trout. Small scuds, pheasant tails or red AP nymphs fished under an indicator is working well.

Most of the lakes are still frozen as of March 1st when we had our opener of some specific low land lakes, such as Medical, Coffee-pot, Lenore and Nunally. Given a little wind and warming temps I'd give it another few weeks before attempting. Chironomids are the most popular pattern used this time of year, but Swede's olive willy

with the red bead would be one pattern to fish as soon as ice breaks.

Lower Columbia River has been amazing. Have included a photo of one of the rainbows (about 14 pounds) that was among the 20-25 caught in a single day. Most will average 8-12 pounds but the occasional "fatty" would even surprise Gill Nyerges. Used a Swede's electric bugger for the most part on a RIO deep 7 line fished in 8-12 feet of water with a short strip retrieve. Fishing can be spotty when Grand Coulee is letting out water during the spring thaw. Call Swede's for up to date information.

Miss seeing all the members there at WFFC and hope to get a chance to visit some month this year for a meeting.

Cheers!

Allen Peterson
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www.swedesflyshop.com
"May your anchor be tight,
your cork loose, your rum spiced
and your compass true"



Allen Peterson displays a Lower Columbia River rainbows (about 14 pounds) that was among the 20-25 caught in a single day.



Washington Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 639

Mercer Island, WA 98040

March, 2018

Meeting Announcement

ATTENTION: The March meeting is on THURSDAY, March 22 at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. E.

This month's program is on Thursday March 22. The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM.

This month's Program: Tom Quin of the University of Washington School of Aquatic Fisheries Sciences will be speaking on the various species of trout in Alaska. Tom has been involved in research at the University of Washington's field camps in southwestern Alaska since 1987, and those projects include long-term analysis of bear predation, differentiation of sockeye salmon populations, and other aspects of the ecology, behavior and evolution of salmon, rainbow trout, and char (Dolly Varden and Arctic char).